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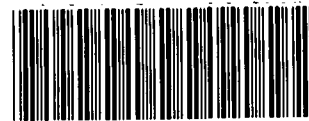
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Ferenc (Frank) Gyorgy Maria Ugody 1925-2005

With the passing of Frank Ugody earlier this year, South Australia lost an expert nurseryman and plantsmen.

Born in Danszentmiklos in Hungary, Frank spent his younger years in the family's 55h estate, 50km from Budapest, which his father had extensively sought to plant. This setting inspired Frank to study at the University of Agriculture in Budapest, but with the invasion by Soviet troops in 1945 the family was dispossessed.

Following time in detention centres, prison and concentration camps, he escaped to Austria, and served with the French occupation forces in Innsbruck.

In 1949 Frank migrated to Adelaide and worked for two years at the Port Adelaide woolsheds and at the General Motors- Holden plant. In 1952 he commenced a nursery and garden design business called 'Garden Health and Spray Service' at his home in Parkholme. His services encompassed garden design, construction, arboriculture, plant disease assessment and treatment, lawn mowing and renovation, supply of advanced plants, pruning and the supply of garden materials. By 1980 the business had grown into Ugody Landscaping Pty Ltd.

Underpinning the strength of Frank was his wife Lois. The two met five months after his arrival in Adelaide. Lois taught Frank English, they were married in 1954, and she inspired his nursery business and his approach to life.

Frank was instrumental in gathering most South Australian landscape businesses

together under the 'Garden Designers & Contractors Association', serving as its inaugural state president and as a foundation member. He shifted this organisation into the South Australian Association of Nurserymen serving as its state president in 1977-79 and later winning the Association's Award of Honour. He was a life member of the Royal Australian Institute of Parks & Recreation, a life member of the Arboricultural Association of Australia (now the International Society of Arboriculture, Australian Chapter), and a winner of the Landscaper of the Year award in South Australia.



Philosophically, he often remarked: "I was born lucky. I had exceptional parents and at birth we had opulence. We did better than average, even during the depression years. Then the sky fell in." He never lost his Hungarian roots, becoming a foundation member, former vice-president and life member of the Hungarian Cub. In 1983 he

was the first person awarded the 60-year Jubilee Cross of Merit by the High Commissioner of the Order of Vitez, in recognition of his work for Hungarians in exile.

To many South Australians he was a well respected landscape design, gardening and nursery expert, and a regular Saturday morning voice of radio 5AA's Environmental Update.

David Jones

Dr Jones is Head of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Adelaide and a member of the editorial advisory panel for Australian Garden History.

Pictured: Frank Ugody