

THE WILLIAM T. HORNE MEMORIAL AVOCADO LIBRARY

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In comparison with fruits of Old World origin such as the date, apple, fig, and orange, the avocado is new. However this New World fruit has been accorded a large amount of publicity, especially during the last few decades as exemplified by the number of references in the "Bibliography on the Avocado" and the subsequent citations to literature in Yearbooks of the California Avocado Society. Many years ago some prominent members of this Society began accumulating and preserving literature regarding the avocado. Such material as news items for scrapbooks, bulletins, circulars, and other publications which might have practical or historic value was collected.

In the Avocado Society Yearbook for 1952, Chairman Marvin Rounds and members of the Library Committee gave the following report: "Tentative plans have been made—to establish a section of the Citrus Experiment Station Library for the purpose of bringing together all of the literature possible on the avocado, beginning with that already in the possession of the Library. This Avocado Section will be known as the William T. Horne Memorial Collection. This Collection will be available for use by anyone interested in the subject matter pertaining to the avocado."

An initial gift of \$100.00 was made by the Society and additional funds have since been provided for purchase of literature, indexing and arrangement of material. Further references to this "Memorial Library" are to be found in reports of the Library Committee for 1953, 1955 and 1956.

As the title of this article indicates the collection of literature is best designated as the William T. Horne Memorial Avocado Library. It is now housed in a special enclosure in the Citrus Experiment Station Library, Riverside, where upon request to the Librarian it may be consulted.

Good progress has been made in classifying the material for the use of future visitors and students. A cursory glance at the shelves or files may give the impression that the Collection is not particularly voluminous. A more thorough investigation however, should convince the visitor that this Library represents the most complete historical, cultural and commercial information on the avocado extant. For example, the eleven large scrapbooks are replete with items about the early history of the industry, varieties being grown, orchard culture, Calavo Growers, Pilgrimage to Mexico in 1938, photos of prominent avocadoists, and other miscellaneous matters. There is of course a complete set of the California Society Yearbooks, The Texas Society Yearbooks, Reports of Calavo Growers, Calavo News, and an incomplete set of Annual Reports of United Avocado Growers. Pamphlet files contain 100 avocado bulletins and circulars, several

translations of foreign articles, copies of nursery catalogues, and many miscellaneous publications. In special folders are to be found items by the Avocado Growers Department of County Farm Bureaus, of "Aristocrats" from copies of Pacific Rural Press, of "The Avocado Parade" in Citrus Leaves, releases by County Agricultural Extension Services, and variety descriptions with photos. Books containing avocado material are gradually being added to the Memorial Library. Members of the Avocado Society, visitors, and special students are urged to visit the Library to see for themselves the wealth of material it represents.

The Library Committee of the Avocado Society will welcome copies of literature to be added to the collection even though they may be duplications.