

## **J. NICHOLAS THILLE**

J. Nicholas Thille, a native son of California, was born in Santa Monica Canyon April 15, 1886; the second child in a family of four children consisting of John P. Thille, J. N. Thille, A. J. Thielle and Miss Mary Thille. The other brothers and one sister are still living in the vicinity of Santa Paula.

The Thille family settled in the Santa Paula Valley in 1890 at an early period when specialty crops had not been developed and when live stock was still the type of agriculture in Ventura County.

Nick and his family have gone through the experiences of growing apricots, beans, walnuts and the present day crops of citrus and avocados. He has been very much of an enthusiast in lemon and avocado production, and to a large degree in experimental work with these fruits involved with the improvement of their industries.

Much of Nick's time on this experimental work has been in co-operation with research workers in the University of California, and others in the State and Federal Agricultural Departments. This experimental work has been involved with planning and planting orchards, irrigation and drainage, fertilization, pest control, disease control and trials of varieties. He was especially interested in biological control of insect pests by means of beneficial insects and natural enemies. In fact his interests included all factors which would contribute to the success of these industries.

Much of Nick's time was spent in working on committees, on boards of directors where efficiency in marketing was uppermost. His contacts with others was carried on with great satisfaction to everyone concerned.

His work with groups and people in his community was directed toward all those actions which would desirably serve the district. Any political activity was toward the best interests of the area concerned. J. Nicholas Thille in 1947 was presented with the award of Honor for outstanding meritorious service in behalf of the Avocado Industry. He had served for many years on the board of directors of the California Avocado Society.