

ALBERT JOSEPH THILLE

IN MEMORIAM



ALBERT JOSEPH THILLE

Albert Joseph Thille died suddenly and unexpectedly February 7, 1970. His passing marked the end of an 81-year lifetime of generosity and service to others that set this man apart from the throng.

In the words of his friend and fellow pioneer in the avocado industry, the late George B. Hodgkin, "The best way to find out about Albert is to take him one of your troubles. In helping you, he will show his true colors—his enthusiasm and earnestness will overcome his modesty."

Mr. Thille was a native of Santa Monica, and a long-time resident in Santa Paula, where he developed extensive and highly productive farm lands. As a grower of walnuts, oranges, lemons, and avocados, he typically gave of himself to serve the organizations of producers of those crops. He served on numerous boards of directors of agricultural cooperatives, in several instances as president. He was for 20 years a director of Calavo Growers of California, and was its president for 14 years.

In 1943, the California Avocado Society gave to Albert Thille its award of honor for outstanding meritorious service. It was said on that occasion, "As Calavo's President, Albert Thille led the organization forward through periods of trouble and calm with wisdom and skill. His philosophy of leadership is characterized by moderation and firm adherence to principle, never swerving from what he considers right and sound to avoid criticism or to earn approbation."

The record of the good works of Albert Joseph Thille would fill a thick book. It would be

presumptuous to try to summarize them. His deeds have already spoken for themselves, and he has earned his high place in the regard of his fellows. He needs no spokesman for him.

Now Albert Thille is gone. Another of our scant store of wise leaders has been taken from our midst. It is a loss we can ill afford.