

## IN MEMORIAM

### ELWOOD E. TRASK

1894-1973



The avocado industry has lost another of its most valuable pioneers. Elwood E. Trask was one of its most enthusiastic promoters, for he clearly saw the potential of this exotic fruit as a great contribution to the agricultural industry of California.

He was a dedicated student of the avocado and spent an uncountable number of days at his own expense traveling around the avocado growing areas of California to evaluate new varieties, distribute budwood, and encourage qualified growers to try new varieties on an experimental basis. He participated in many schools, institutes and tours for avocado growers and gave freely of his time and experience to help other growers obtain the best and latest information on avocado production and marketing. He was truly an outstanding scholar of avocado production.

Elwood spent his entire life in subtropical agriculture. He was born in Ontario, California, was graduated in Agricultural Economics and Subtropical Horticulture in 1917 from the University of California at Berkeley where he studied under Dr. J. Elliot Coit who became a lifelong friend. He worked at the USDA Data Experiment Station at Indio until he joined the United States Air Force and received his basic training at March Air Force Base near Riverside, California. After the war he took a management position of a large citrus farm at Falfuriss, Texas where he stayed nine years.

In 1928 he moved to the Carlsbad-Oceanside area and purchased an acreage which he dedicated to experimenting with all types of subtropical fruits. At that time he managed the Rancho Leucadia for the Hoffman Brothers.

He was an agricultural consultant and land appraiser, a Federal Land Bank appraiser, Trustee of Carlsbad-Oceanside High School District, member of the American Society of Appraisers, member of American Right of Way Association, Past President of the Carlsbad Rotary Club and member of the California Macadamia Society and for many

years editor of its yearbook. He was for many years a Director of the California Avocado Society, its President in 1950 and 1951, the recipient of the Society's Award of Honor in 1947, Associate Editor of its annual yearbook for many years, and Director Emeritus from 1963 to 1973.

Elwood is survived by his wife Elsbeth, his daughter Mrs. Duane Cosart and four grandchildren.