

Farewell, Crawford Teague

Avocado-land has lost an irreplaceable citizen whose career-long contributions to the building of our industry earned for him the respect and gratitude of everyone who benefited from them—and they are legion. Crawford Pinkney Teague, born in San Dimas, California, and a resident of Corona for 60 years, died in Corona of heart disease on July 5, 1999. He was 84 years young.



Crawford Teague's father— Robert M. Teague—founded a business in San Dimas in 1889 that became one of the largest citrus nurseries in the world. Robert's son Crawford, his grandfather's namesake, likewise pursued an agricultural career that included his 20-year development of the wholesale avocado and citrus nursery in Corona where he eventually established his own commercial avocado grove and testing

ground for promising new avocado varieties.

Active particularly in the Corona area also as a grove advisor, Crawford was for several years superintendent of the Jameson Ranch (his wife Evelyn, who preceded him in death, was a member of the Jameson family) and as manager of the A. F. Call Estates—a citrus firm that later became part of the Foothill Ranch. He later managed groves and traveled abroad for the Wayman Co. in Indio.

A matriculant in the University of California at Berkeley, Crawford studied entomology, then transferred to UCLA to study subtropical horticulture, graduating in 1935. His young career interrupted by World War II, he saw service in the U. S. Army as a paratrooper and a glider pilot, and became an aide to the commanding general of the 17th Airborne Division in Europe. His post-war career included stints as citrus specialist in the Agricultural Extension Service at Riverside, entomologist with Sunkist Growers, agricultural instructor at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and a period of management of holdings of Calavo Growers of California in Florida.

Among other leadership positions held by Mr. Teague at various times, he was the charter president of the California Citrus Nurserymen's Society, chairman of the board of directors of the California Avocado Commission, and a member of the board of directors of the California Avocado Society (serving as president in 1969-70), and a prominent member of its variety committee. In 1977, our Society's board of directors awarded to him its prestigious Medal of Honor for Outstanding Meritorious Service in Behalf of the Avocado Industry.

Men like Crawford P. Teague are a rare breed. We were privileged to have him among us for many years as a wise mentor and effective leader. He will be missed.

—J.S.S.