

In Memoriam



Hugh T. Walker

A pioneer avocado and citrus grower, Hugh T. Walker passed away on September 11, 2002 — a few days prior to his 87th birthday.

He was born on September 22, 1915 in Orange, California. Following graduation from Pomona College in 1936, he began managing the family citrus groves, located in the Orange County cities of Orange, Tustin, Irvine and El Toro. He implemented an ongoing program of interplanting this citrus acreage to avocados and by the early 1950's had considerable acreage in various avocado varieties. Some of these varieties did not prove commercially suitable and he had those groves topworked to more marketable varieties such as Fuerte, Bacon, Hass, and Zutano.

He joined the California Avocado Society in his younger years and gradually become more active in this organization. He served as a director and as president. He was presented the Award of Honor in 1958 for his service to the California avocado industry.

He also served as one of the founding directors of the El Toro Water district, was on the board of the Irvine Valencia Grower's packing house, and served as a director of Mission Bank among other business positions. He is survived by a sister, Evelyn Lewis, of Newport Beach, California, and by his son, Richard, of Irvine, California.