



JAMES GLENN FRANCE
1885 - 1956

JAMES GLENN FRANCE

In Memoriam

James Glenn France was born in Sycamore, Illinois on March 19, 1885. He was a graduate of the Michigan Agricultural College, now known as Michigan State University, in 1911. In his senior year, he was elected to Alpha Zeta, honorary horticultural fraternity. His first assignment was as superintendent of Stuart Farms, Marshall, Michigan; and his second, from 1917 to 1918 as Agricultural Agent for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway.

With the changes due to the war, he came to California and became superintendent of Fontana Farms, Fontana, California, from 1918 to 1920. In 1920, France became Farm

Advisor for San Diego County, a position which he held for fifteen years. It was during these years that "Jim", as he was known by horticulturists throughout Southern California, became interested in the avocado. He was recognized as a conservative on agricultural problems, but he was ever ready to assist by action, article, or address in the orderly development of the rapidly expanding avocado industry. He traveled in Cuba, Florida, Honduras, Mexico and Guatemala, studying avocado culture. Since 1937, he had been an independent horticultural consultant in the Vista, California area.

Long a member of the California Avocado Society, France was elected to the Board of Directors, where he served from 1937 to 1949. He served as president from 1940 to 1942, and received the Award of Honor from the Society in 1946. He was instrumental in designing the Honor emblem, using the Aztec pictograph meaning, "Place of the Avocado Tree", as a result of his travel in Honduras, where he collaborated with Wilson Popenoe.

In 1952, Mr. France was elected a director of Calavo Growers, Inc., where he served until his death on July 13, 1956.

James France was married in 1911 to Frances M. Main. There are two surviving daughters, Mrs. Marion James and Mrs. Harriet Ryland. There are four grandchildren. In 1948, he married Sarah Adeline Cooke of Birmingham, Michigan. His widow resides in Vista, California.