

## IN MEMORIAM

### CARTER BARRETT

1893 -1973



Carter Barrett spent 61 years of his working life in the avocado industry. He was an enthusiastic promoter of that exotic fruit when the industry was in its commercial infancy. In the early years when the avocado was considered by many as a retired person's hobby, he steadfastly proclaimed that it was a fruit of such specifically superior and extraordinary qualities that it was destined to be of growing commercial potential.

Carter was born at Lawrence, Kansas, January 29, 1893. He planned to attend college and study agriculture but was invited by Mr. F. O. Popenoe of the West India Gardens in Altadena, California to work for him to experiment with the propagation of tropical vegetation. Here he met and became a life long friend and admirer of Wilson Popenoe, a recipient of your Society's Honor Award who now resides in Guatemala. The West India Gardens under Mr. Popenoe's ownership was the earliest effective promoter of the avocado as well as other tropical exotic fruits. In 1911 they introduced the fruit that they later named the "Fuerte." It was from his work at the "gardens" that Carter became so intensely interested in the avocado and its development. He left the Popenoe Nursery to free lance and run a ranch of his own.

During World War I he served in the 144th Field Artillery and for most of two years was in France. Upon his discharge he returned to ranching in La Puente and La Habra areas of California.

He married Elizabeth Trumbull Dodge of Pasadena in 1922. They had five children of which two were twins, and seven grandchildren. They all survive him.

Carter was a member of American Legion La Puente Post #75 and Co-founder and member of Whittier Post #51. He was associated with the Boy Scouts for more than 30 years and served as Scout Master Field Executive and Commissioner. He was twice National President of the Pan American Friendship Club and President of both the

Pasadena and Whittier chapters. He was active all his life in the affairs of the Episcopal Church and Lay Reader in the Pico-Rivera Mission for six years. He taught avocado culture at Fullerton Junior College for five years in the Adult Education Department. He made 19 trips to Mexico to teach avocado productions and advise growers. In 1948 he made the dedication speech (in Spanish) at the occasion of placing the California Avocado Society's plaque at the site of the original Fuerte tree.

Carter became a member of the Avocado Society in 1919 and worked diligently to promote the Society and to serve it. He was the society's fourteenth president in 1936 and received the Award of Honor in 1941.

For many years he served on the Variety Committee as its chairman and as a member. He was constantly searching for and testing dozens of new varieties and assisting in distributing buds of the most promising ones to growers in all the then known avocado districts of the state.

In his later years it was necessary for him to curtail his activities in the avocado industry. He did, however, until his death on May 9, 1973, maintain his interest and enthusiasm for the industry.

The Avocado Industries of California and Mexico are indeed indebted to Carter Barrett for his skillful, determined and optimistic influence on their development.