

REPORT FROM THE NURSERYMEN'S SECTION OF THE CALIFORNIA AVOCADO SOCIETY 1977

The Nurserymen's Section had two meetings in 1977. The first, at Rancho California, featured Dr. Howard Orr of the University of California, Riverside, as the principal speaker. He discussed the current status of the investigations of "Black Streak." "Black Streak" has been known for 20 years and has been observed from San Diego to San Luis Obispo, and on all ages of trees, from nursery to mature.

It is not known if or how it is transmitted. A doctoral student at University of California, Riverside, is working with various methods— chemical, microscopic, etc.—to try to identify the causal agent. Transmission studies are being made to determine if it can spread by grafting and/or insects. Aerial photography is being tried to find a rapid detection system so as to observe the spread of the disease. So far, the disease is still a mystery.

A committee was appointed to work with the university faculty and legal department on trial distribution of fruiting and promising *phytophthora cinnamomi* resistant rootstock varieties.

Mr. Roy Matsumoto of the California Department of Food and Agriculture was introduced and reported on the current status of "Nursery Certification" and "Registration Program." It was felt that fees for certification and registration were unwieldy, so a new rate schedule was approved by the Nurserymen's Section of the California Avocado Society. This meeting was held in conjunction with the Varieties Committee, but due to the length of the program, the visit to the Rancho California Varieties Plot was postponed.

The September meeting was held in Visalia. A tour of the Lindcove Field Station and of avocado ranches in the area was arranged by Jim LaRue, the farm advisor for the area. At the evening meeting, Dr. Robert Rock, economist at the University of California at Riverside, was the principal speaker. Since most of the Nurserymen are from the southern counties, the tours were particularly enlightening.

As for finances, the Nurserymen's Section, as of January 31, 1978, has a balance of \$1,379.85. The membership fee is \$10.00 per year and we urge all nurserymen to join in upgrading the industry where it all begins—in the nursery.