

**Farewell, Gentlemen...**

**YOUR SHADOWS WERE LONG, INDEED!**

The avocado industry of today is the lengthened shadows of a thinning number of extraordinary individuals.

—*Ralph Waldo Emerson, paraphrased.*

- **James E. Bacon**, a member of this Society since 1954, died September 11, 1997. His passing was more comprehensively reported in the October 1997 issue of *The Avocado Quarterly* where it was noted that he had been described as perhaps "the world's first genuine avocado breeder." Seeking a cold-hardy avocado variety, he grew hundreds of Mexican and hybrid seedlings. Two achieved commercial importance: 'Bacon'—which was widely planted in colder areas—and 'Jim'.

As was also said in the *Quarterly's* encomium: "A quiet, modest man, James E. Bacon stands nonetheless among the giant figures in the California avocado industry who will long be remembered." And so he should be.

- **John ("Jack") Maddock**, a widely respected member of California's avocado growing community, died October 28, 1997, at his Fallbrook home.

Millions of avocado and citrus trees were produced by this prominent horticulturist over a 35-year time span to populate many acres of land in San Diego County and elsewhere and to supply stocks of merchandise to widespread retail nurseries. Propagated by Jack Maddock and his family, utilizing his knowledge, skills, and meticulous adherence to his high standards of quality, his products serve as splendid memorials to the greatly respected founder of Maddock Nursery in Fallbrook.

Born in Glendora, California, where he grew up on his parents' citrus grove, Jack and his wife and partner, Joellen, migrated to Fallbrook and purchased a citrus grove of their own. Employing his experience in tree propagation gained as a third-generation farmer, Jack grew nursery trees for their own grove and thereafter for friends. From these activities sprang the family's successful commercial nursery.

A member of the California Avocado Society and active in its Nurserymen's Section, Maddock also served as a member of the boards of such other agricultural associations as Fallbrook Citrus Association, California Citrus Nursery Society, Lemon Men's Club, and Farm Bureau. His constructive contributions to all of them were significant and will be missed.

Perhaps no more definitive description of Jack Maddock can be made than his wife's: "Jack was a good steward of the land and always enjoyed the relationships he had with people in agriculture." Enjoyment of those relationships was reciprocal, Joellen. Jack

will be long and dearly remembered.

- **Harlan Benham Griswold**, former president of the

California Avocado Association (1938) and re-named California Avocado Society (1946-47), died in Fallbrook October 24, 1997, in his ninety-fifth year.

A native of Seattle, Washington, Griswold attended the University of Washington as a pre-medical student. There met and in 1925 married Kathryn Gilmore.

In 1927 the Griswolds moved to California where Harlan opened a branch of his family's manufacturing business. Toward Harlan's desired career change, the Griswolds bought 90 acres in La Habra Heights planted to citrus and avocados. There he became actively interested in promoting the newly-patented Hass avocado that originated on the neighboring Rudolph Hass property. Philosophically cooperative-oriented and initially a member of the California industry's marketing association, Griswold felt compelled by the 1930s Depression to become an independent packer and marketer. He later joined the La Habra Heights Avocado Association—a small, local cooperative that eventually reorganized as United Avocado Growers—and became its president. His affiliation with the California Avocado Association/Society began in 1935 when he was elected a director. As a director, he served also as chairman of the Foreign Exploration Committee, having himself made visits to Latin American countries in search of new varieties and rootstocks. In 1948, Griswold led a goodwill "pilgrimage" to Mexico to commemorate the discovery of the Fuerte, then the industry's predominant variety. Mr. Griswold was honored by the California Avocado Society for his many achievements, as he retired from its board, by award in that year of its prestigious Medal of Honor and life membership.

In the 1940s, the Griswolds purchased 138 acres of unplanted land in Bonsall, San Diego County. They sold their La Habra holdings in 1949 and planted 9,000 avocado trees on the Bonsall property, including 3,000 trees of Hass that Griswold believed would one day become a variety of major importance. Harlan joined the local water district that became the Rainbow Water District, and in 1950 became its president.

Harlan and Kathryn sold their avocado orchard in 1963 and retired to a 14-year stay in Hawaii and thereafter several years in Leisure World. The couple moved in 1993 into a retirement apartment in Fallbrook, where Kathryn still resides.

- **Len Grey**, of New Zealand, and his family were awarded

New Zealand's Bledisloe Silver Challenge Cup at the 1997 New Zealand/Australian Avocado Conference. Posthumous tributes to Grey (1916-1993) as a pioneer New Zealand avocado grower included a description of him as "a man before his time experimenting with avocado seedlings raised by his [orchardist] father from imported seed. ... by the mid-1950s he had established New Zealand's only commercial avocado orchard. It was close to 15 years before orchard in other regions were producing and gave birth to what is now [in New Zealand] a vibrant and exciting export industry."

Before his death in 1993, Grey's important contributions had been recognized with other high honors. He was a member of several agricultural organizations—including the

California Avocado Society, and with his wife and family vigorously promoted avocado consumption in New Zealand. Grey was known to a number of California avocado growers and educators and corresponded with them. Two with whom he was especially close were the late Professor Robert W. Hodgson and Professor C. Arthur Schroeder. The work begun by Len Grey is currently being furthered by his son, David Grey—himself an avocado grower and a member of the California Avocado Society.