involvement in the selection of the root rot tolerant rootstocks ‘Jovo’, ‘Latas’ and ‘Dusa’.

Joe Darvas was talented, passionate about his work, and determined to follow his vision. He was prepared to enter the unknown. The avocado industry is the better for it.

* Contributed by Derek Donkin, CEO of Sub Trop and the South African Avocado Growers Association, Tzaneen, South Africa

Editor’s Note: Another wonderful reflection on Joe Darvas’s contributions to his industry was penned for the 2007 Yearbook 90 pages 103-105, by his friends and colleagues, Jan Toerien and J.M. Kotze.

In Memoriam

Lois Madden (Lohneiss) Todd
(1923 - 2010)

Lois Madden (Lohneiss) Todd of Strathmore passed away Christmas day at the age of 87. She spent most of her life farming, growing and marketing avocados, citrus, Christmas trees, and figs for the family businesses. Lois will be interred with her late husband, Theodore J. Todd, in Prescott, AZ.

She is survived by her brother, Harrington Madden (Virginia); her five children: Marla Lohneiss Dike (Bakersfield), Ellen Lohneiss (Torrance), William H. Lohneiss, Jr. (Escondido), Ann Burruss (Strathmore), and Carol Martinez (Camarillo); her seven grandchildren: Lori Pesante, Mark Blomer, Ian and Matthew Roberts, Elaine Burruss, and Kyle and Caitlin Martinez; and two great-grandchildren: Sean and Myra Blomer.

Lois was born June 21, 1923, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, to Harrington and Edith Madden. In 1948 she was the first woman to graduate from North Carolina State University with a degree in Chemical Engineering. Fifty years later, in 1998, she established the Lois Madden Todd Library Fellow which specifically supports the Chemical Engineering program at NC State.
In Memoriam*

Johannes (Jan) Toerien
(1941 – 2010)

Jan was born in the Cape Province of South Africa in 1941, graduated from the University of Stellenbosch in 1965 and started his scientific career in the South African office of Chesterford Park Research based in Cambridge UK. In 1971 he joined Ciba-Geigy and in 1973 he started his career with Westfalia Estates (a major producer of avocados and timber) near Tzaneen in South Africa.

At that time Phytophthora cinnamomi root rot was rife not only at Westfalia Estates but also in the avocado industry throughout the world and the control methods available were very limited. Jan set about finding effective yet practical control methods. He wrote in his memoirs “The California Avocado Yearbooks became the ‘avocado bible’ to me and I studied it in depth.”

In 1976 he undertook a study tour to Israel and California where he was well received by a large number of researchers. A breakthrough came when Prof. George Zentmyer showed him some Phytophthora cultures. He observed a dramatic inhibition in one culture treated with a Ciba-Geigy product.

Back home he perused this observation with Ciba-Geigy who formulated a wettable powder based on the codified fungicide in Prof.