

## PARENT FUERTE AVOCADO TREE AT ATLIXCO

(As described by Carter Barrett)



Photograph of oil painting, by Maria Garcia Leon of Atlixco; parent Fuerte tree. Original painting in office of California Avocado Association.

Dimensions:

Height—29 ft. 7 in.

Spread—42 ft. 4 in.

Circumference of trunk—1 ft. from ground—4 ft. 9 1/2 in.

One large, low, horizontal limb extends 24 ft. 2 inches from the trunk. There is little doubt that the so-called "strong arm" tendency of the Fuerte is an inherited trait.

Contrary to the impression given by most of the previously published pictures, the parent Fuerte is a rather low, spreading tree. It is impossible to get camera perspective to bring this out because of other trees crowded closely about it in the garden.

## CONDITION OF PARENT FUERTE AVOCADO

Because of the financial difficulties of the owner during the past several years, the Fuerte tree is in a serious condition, due largely to insufficient irrigation. The foliage was sparse; there was considerable evidence of die-back at terminals, and many badly

decayed spots in the main body of the tree. A very good crop of young fruit was set in view of the tree's condition but it is doubtful how much of this set can mature



Camera view of parent Fuerte tree, with commemorative tablet.

—Photo by Dr. H. J. Webber

There was evidence of various molds, scales, leaf galls and wood decays throughout the tree. Wilson Popenoe felt it might last a year, but the writer, after climbing all over the tree, feels that with the better care it will now receive as a Municipal Monument and the remarkable recuperative powers of the Fuerte variety, that the tree may exist for a number of years. With expert attention, it might, even yet, be reasonably vigorous for possibly twenty-five years.

As a protege of the municipality, the tree is now in a favorable position to receive those attentions, it has so long needed. The action of the Association in recognizing its value to California has strongly impressed the people of Atlixco with the fact that they have a tourist attraction in the tree, which constitutes a great asset for them. Under the leadership of Colonel Cuevas, their Mayor, who has an unusual breadth of vision, it may be that the Atlixicans will succeed in prolonging the life of the parent Fuerte many years.