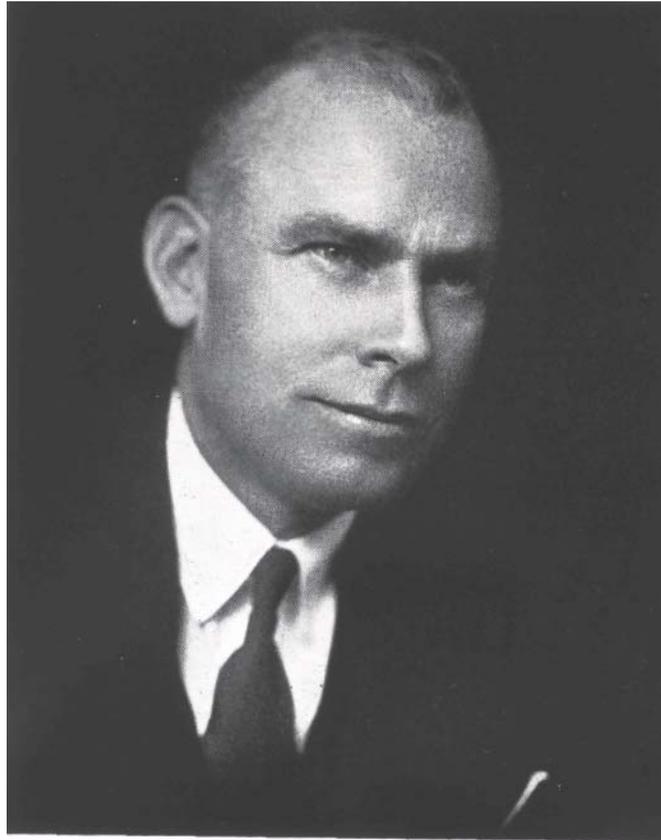


## California Avocado Society 1943 Yearbook 27



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KNOWLES A. RYERSON

### **Knowles A. Ryerson**

#### *In Appreciation*

Knowles A. Ryerson was born in Seattle, Washington, October 17, 1892. His boyhood days were spent at Pasadena, California, where he attended grade and high school. During vacations he worked at D. W. Coolidge's Rare Plant Gardens, and later at West India Gardens at Altadena where he became much interested in avocados and other subtropical fruits. He graduated at the University of California in 1916 from the Berkeley Campus where he specialized in subtropical pomology. He took his master's degree at the same place in 1923.

Ryerson's college work was interrupted by service overseas in World War I. He spent twenty-two months in France, first with the 10th and 20th U.S. Engineers, then

Agricultural Damage Section of American Peace Commission, and later, agricultural officer of the American Embarkation Center. He entered the University of California Extension Service in 1919; became Assistant Farm Advisor specializing in avocados and subtropical fruits, and later was Farm Advisor of Los Angeles County. During this time he served two years as chairman of the Variety Committee of the California Avocado Society. Published University of California Bulletin 365, Part I, "Avocado Culture in California." In 1925 he went to Haiti as Horticulturist of Service Technique. He studied avocados of Haiti, Santo Domingo, Cuba, and Puerto Rico at this time.

In 1927 Ryerson served as Horticulturist on the Elwood Mead Commission to Palestine and adjoining countries. He was for several years head of the Division of U.S. Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction, succeeding Dr. David Fairchild. In 1934 he became Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U.S.D.A. In 1937 he became Professor of Horticulture and Assistant Dean of University of California College of Agriculture in charge of the Davis campus.

In 1943 Ryerson was appointed American Delegate to Pan-American Agricultural Congress in Mexico. At present he is on leave from the University of California, and is serving with the Office of Economic Warfare, South Pacific Project, being Special Representative in that area.

Ryerson was married August 3, 1921, to Miss Emma Freeman at Pasadena, Calif.

#### **HONORS:**

Awarded Chevalier de Merite Agricole (France)

Ouissam Alouite Officer (Morocco)

Bronze medal, Societe de Acclimatation de la France

Honorary Member California Avocado Society

Chairman, Advisory Committee on Inter-American Cooperation in Agricultural Education, U.S. Department of State.

Member, Advisory Committee on National Arboretum.

Present addresses: 16 College Park, Davis, Calif.; Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C.

See article on avocado industry, page 71.