

## CALIFORNIA AVOCADO NURSERYMEN'S GROUP BECOMES A REALITY

For several years the possibility of forming an avocado nurserymen's group similar to the Citrus Nurserymen's Society has been discussed by avocado nurserymen, Farm Advisors and State Department of Agriculture representatives.

During last year's Mexican Avocado Growers Tour, under the guidance of Farm Advisor Don Gustafson, several avocado nurserymen on the tour from Ventura and San Diego counties discussed with Mr. Gustafson the possibility of forming an avocado nurserymen's group.

After the tour returned to the United States, plans were drawn up by the farm advisors of the leading avocado producing counties, Bob Platt, Extension Subtropical Horticulturist from the University of California at Riverside and avocado nursery representatives. The result was the first Avocado Nurserymen's Conference held February 29, 1968, with a program by University research specialists, which included: *Soil Sterilization and its Effect on Nursery Stock* by J. P. Martin; *Sun Blotch Virus in Avocados*, J. M. Wallace; *Propagation of Avocado Cuttings*, E. F. Frolich; and *Avocado Root Rot in Nurseries*, G. A. Zentmyer.

After the program, Oliver Atkins was appointed temporary chairman. He appointed a committee as follows: Hank Brokaw of Ventura County, Bill Frey of San Diego County, Lois W. Lohneiss of Santa Barbara, and Richard Bennett of Orange County to study and make proposals for a nurserymen's group.

After careful consideration by this committee it was decided that we were too small to go it alone. A tentative Fundamentals of Operation was then set up and a proposal was made to the California Avocado Society Board of Directors to accept our group as a section of the California Avocado Society under their guidance.

An Avocado Nurserymen's meeting was arranged by Bob Platt of the University of California Agricultural Extension Service at Riverside on September 5th. The nurserymen present voted to become a section of the California Avocado Society. The executive committee was organized as follows: Oliver Atkins, Chairman; E. W. Frey, Vice Chairman; and W. H. Brokaw, Secretary-Treasurer.

At the Society's regular Board of Directors meeting on August 2, 1968 they voted to accept our group to be known as the Avocado Nurserymen's Section of the California Avocado Society.

We will be subordinate to the Board of Directors of the California Avocado Society, but we will also have the autonomy to accomplish the things we wish to on our own.

It is sincerely hoped that this group will afford the State Department of Agriculture, University of California Research and Farm Extension personnel along with the California avocado industry as a whole a means to help coordinate research and raise

the best nursery trees possible. A few of the possible areas are as follows: A Review of the California Avocado Nursery Certification program and possible expansion to go into budwood and rootstock certification. Closer cooperation needs to be initiated between avocado nurserymen to take advantage of the fine work under way at the University of California at Riverside, the South Coast Field Station at El Toro, and other areas where avocado research is going on. If there are breakthroughs in root rot resistant rootstocks and clonal rootstocks, all avocado nurserymen will have an equal opportunity to produce the nursery trees with these qualities so much needed by the California avocado industry.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Oliver Atkins*, Chairman

*E. W. Frey*, Vice President

*W. H. Brokaw*, Secretary-Treasurer