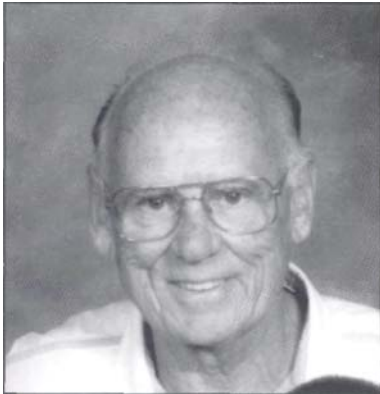


## California Avocado Society 2000 Yearbook 84: 29-30

### In Memoriam

#### Bertrand W. "Bud" Lee



The avocado industry has lost a good friend and colleague with the passing of Bud Lee. He was born in 1920 in Los Angeles and raised in Pomona. After serving in the Coast Guard during World War II, he continued his education at the University of California, Berkeley.

Bud began his association with the avocado and citrus industries in 1953 as a farm advisor in Los Angeles County. In 1957, he began his long career as a farm advisor in Ventura County. He was appointed Ventura County Director of the Agriculture Extension in 1966 where he combined administrative and field duties. He took great satisfaction in teaching and providing farmers with the tools and information to become more prosperous.

Bud was a prolific writer who published over one hundred articles in a variety of agricultural journals and periodicals. Topics of his research included testing new varieties, new chemicals for stump control, girdling to improve fruit set, methods for thinning crowded orchards, harvesting by shaking, aerial application of zinc, hillside planting, nitrogen requirements, and he initiated the testing of seed sources for sunblotch. He received the California Avocado Society Award of Honor in 1973, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Teaching by the University of California Cooperative Extension Assembly Council in 1984.

Bud was active in many agricultural organizations, including the California Avocado Society, the American Society for Horticultural Science, the American Phytopathology Society, the Lemon Men's Club, and the California Avocado Nurserymen's Society. He also served as a commissioner for the California Avocado Commission, and was Vice Chairman of the Lemon Administrative Committee.

He was a member of many civic and charity organizations: e:Lions, Ventura Retired Professional and Businessmen's Club, El Malaikah Shrine Temple, San Buenaventura Masonic Lodge, Ventura Friends of the Library, and the Scottish Rite Ventura Valley. He

was active with the Ventura Missionary Church.

In the final column Bud wrote for the Ventura Star Free Press, he said of a farmer that "nobody else is so far from the telephone or so close to God... A farmer is both Faith and Fatalist — he must have faith to continually meet the challenges of his capacities amid an ever-present possibility that an act of God (a late spring, an early frost, flood, drought) can bring his business to a standstill. You can reduce his acreage, but you can't restrain his ambition."

Bud's abundant energy and encouragement benefited two generations of farmers in southern California.