

California Avocado Society

In Memoriam*

Alva Snider
(1916-2012)



Alva Snider passed away in May 9, 2012 at the age of 95. He was born in Salem, Oregon in 1916. After a successful career as chemical engineer with Shell, Al became an avocado grower in Fallbrook, CA in 1968. Alva Snider is survived by Frances, his wife of 72 years. Al was the father of five children and nine grandchildren. Alva is remembered by his youngest son Tom as a scientist, writer, teacher and world traveler. Tom also remembered his “dad” as President of the Uniondale, New York School Board and for his involvement with the Boy Scouts, and in the garage as a mechanic with his sons. He and his wife also volunteered their time assisting at the Camp Pendelton Pharmacy, near their home.

No stranger to volunteer efforts, Alva Snider was a loyal long-time member of the California Avocado Society (CAS), and as part of his service, he served as a Director of the Society from 1992 to 2005, and was accorded the title of Director Emeritus in 2006. Al received the CAS Award of Honor in 1995. Always expanding his crop knowledge,

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Al was also a member of the Rare Fruit Growers Association and the California Macadamia Society.

Alva Snider was an avocado grower for Calavo Growers, Inc. for 44 years. Al served as Director on the Calavo Board from 1984 up until his passing in 2012. Rarely was there an avocado meeting, especially in San Diego County, that Al did not attend. While always seeking new knowledge, Al often brought us history and wisdom to the gatherings. Al was a consistently reliable resource who always had his handwritten charts comparing avocado seasons, their volume, prices and crop values for all to share.

Alva Snider faithfully served the industry as a California Avocado Commission Director or Alternate from CAC's formation in 1978 through 2010. During the course of over 30 years of service, Al served for at least one term, if not more, in each of the four seats of the CAC Executive Committee (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary). In addition, Al played a key role in CAC's reapportionment efforts, serving on Redistricting Committees during his CAC service, which included his appointment as Chair of the that Committee on multiple occasions. People like Al don't come around very often, and he will be truly missed.

**Contributed by Rob Wedin, Vice President Fresh Sales and Marketing, Calavo Growers, Inc.*