

THE INCREDIBLE LYCHEE COMES OF AGE— FLORIDA LYCHEE GROWER'S ASSOCIATION

ARTHUR M. HILL, JR.

Vero Beach

At the call of Chairman of organizational executive committee, Mr. Earl Wirt, Jr., the Lychee growers of the State of Florida met November 5, 1953, at 2:00 p.m., at the Sereno Hotel in St. Petersburg. Judge Ware of Clearwater, chairman of the constitution and by-law committee, presented suggested charter and by-laws which were adopted by the Lychee growers at this meeting, thus forming the Florida Lychee Grower's Association, P. O. Box 888, Winter Haven, Florida. The Board of Directors elected were: Col. W. R. Grove, Jr., Laurel; C. E. Ware, Clearwater; Arthur M. Hill, Jr., Vero Beach; Earl Wirt, Jr., Babson Park; Col. Grey Trevalyan, De Soto City; Henry A. Simpson, Geneva; and John Lynch, Miami. Officers were Col. W. R. Grove, Jr., President; C. E. Ware, Vice President; and Gordon Palmer, Sarasota, Secretary-treasurer.

Thus the Lychee of China came of age in Florida in the United States. The history of efforts to establish the Lychee as a commercial crop in Florida dates back approximately 75 years. Even the records of the Florida State Horticultural Society have records of papers over 37 years ago. Thus generations of work, hope and endeavor were fulfilled.

The Florida Lychee Grower's Association, a cooperative chartered under the laws of the State of Florida, and operated under the Capper-Volstead Act of the United States, started its career by marketing, during this past mar-

keting season (June-July) 9,162 pounds of fresh Lychee fruit for its grower members at a price, net to the grower of 69 cents per pound. This one act answers the last question very important to commercial production of fruit: the how, where and for what price can I sell the fruit?

The Florida Lychee Grower's Association is further authorized by its by-laws and charter to carry on research in cultivation, production, and methods of marketing fruit, and this past season gave 300 pounds of fruit to Dr. Stahl, of the University of Miami, to further study problems in marketing and processing Lychees. A grower who belongs to this association is a member of a team of common interest to help each other with their problems by united effort and cooperation.

My wife, Margaret, and I have for twelve years been interested in Lychees. Thirty five years ago, at Vero Beach, my father and mother planted a Lychee tree, an original Brewster layer introduction. It is still growing vigorously and bearing fine crops. For ten years I have planted, experimented and worked with Lychees, taking blocks of trees and going to the extreme of trying to kill them to find out facts about them, such as critical temperature, fertilizer needs, soils, and production. Two years ago, my information convinced me that they were not just charming temperamental door-yard pets, but can be grown successfully and profitably under commercial orchard practices. We will be pleased to have any one interested come visit us at Vero Beach and see our plantings.

SOLANUM HYPORHODIUM OR COCONA

J. J. OCHSE

University of Miami

Coral Gables

In technical Publication No. 24 of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences in Turrialba, Costa Rica,* Mr. J. L. Fennell, introduced *Solanum hyporhodium*, the cocona of the upper Amazon, as a fruit plant that

might have acquisition to warm climate horticulture.

Fennel in his above named publication does not know to what extent the cocona may have reached the gardens of the outside world and describes for that reason the cocona as a desirable new fruit as follows:

"The ovoid fruits, which are suggestive of large red or yellow apples, are held in compact clusters close to the trunk and branches. The plants are heavily produc-

* "Cocona"—A desirable new fruit. Foreign Agriculture 12 (8): 181-182. 1948.