

ROBERT M. HOWIE TRIBUTE SECTION

Riverside County Administrative Center

ROBERT M. HOWIE PLAZA

DEDICATION CEREMONY



Tuesday, December 12, 2006

8:30 a.m.—9:00 a.m.

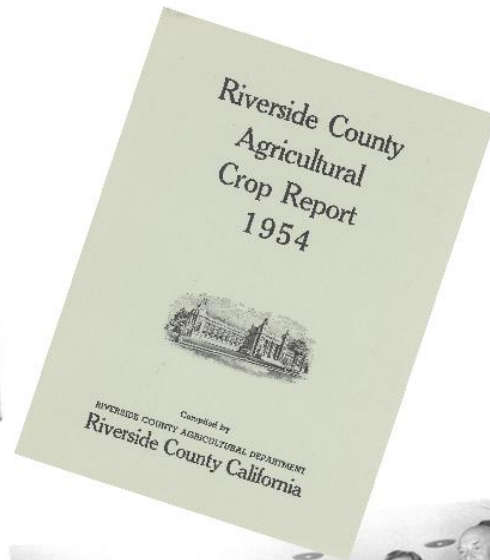
REPRODUCED FROM DEDICATION CEREMONY PROGRAM

"CULTIVATORS OF THE EARTH ARE THE MOST VALUABLE CITIZENS. THEY ARE THE MOST VIGOROUS, THE MOST INDEPENDENT, THE MOST VIRTUOUS, AND THEY ARE TIED TO THEIR COUNTRY AND WEDDED TO ITS LIBERTY AND INTERESTS BY THE MOST LASTING BANDS."

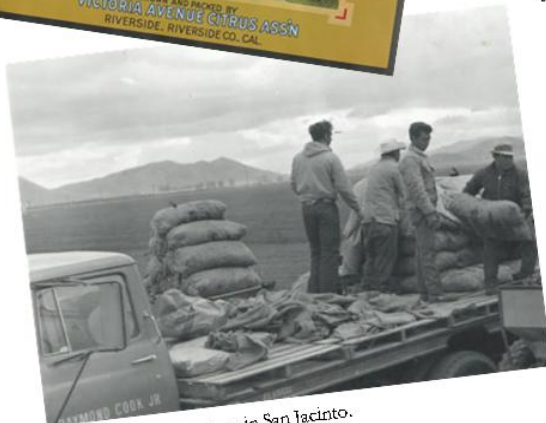
- THOMAS JEFFERSON



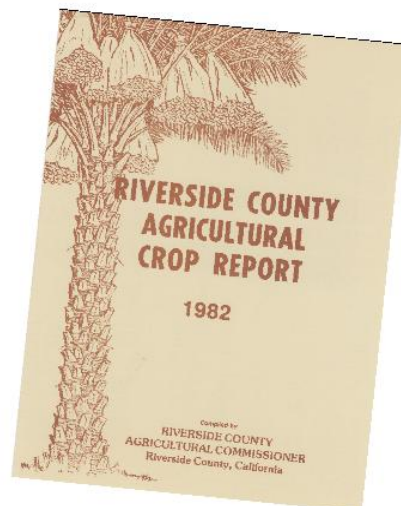
Agricultural Commissioner Robert Howie assists tomato growers with the development of a new field fumigation technique to combat soil pests.



Mr. Howie meets with members of a Russian Trade Delegation and Coachella Valley date growers in 1962.



Workers plant potatoes in San Jacinto.



REPRODUCED FROM DEDICATION CEREMONY PROGRAM

MONUMENT FRONT SIDE TEXT

NO INDIVIDUAL HAS CONTRIBUTED MORE TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY AGRICULTURE THAN ROBERT M. HOWIE. FROM 1954 UNTIL 1982, MR. HOWIE SERVED AS AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY.

DURING HIS TENURE, CROP VALUES ROSE BY 650%, CITRUS ACREAGE DOUBLED AND AGRICULTURAL VALUES IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY INCREASED TEN-FOLD.

UNDER MR. HOWIE'S GUIDANCE, RIVERSIDE COUNTY RESPONDED TO CHALLENGES WITH INNOVATION. NEW APPROACHES TO PEST CONTROL, WORKER SAFETY AND MARKETING WERE DEVELOPED HERE AND BECAME INDUSTRY STANDARDS.

AS YOU PASS THROUGH THE ROBERT M. HOWIE PLAZA, TAKE A MOMENT TO EXPERIENCE THE LIFE-AFFIRMING QUALITIES OF THE NINE WASHINGTON NAVEL ORANGE TREES. THESE TREES REPRESENT OUR HERITAGE AND ARE A TESTAMENT TO THIS LAND'S RICHNESS. THEY WERE PLANTED IN APPRECIATION OF THE PEOPLE WHO LABOR TO PROVIDE THE BOUNTIFUL HARVEST THAT SUSTAINS US ALL.

MONUMENT REVERSE SIDE TEXT

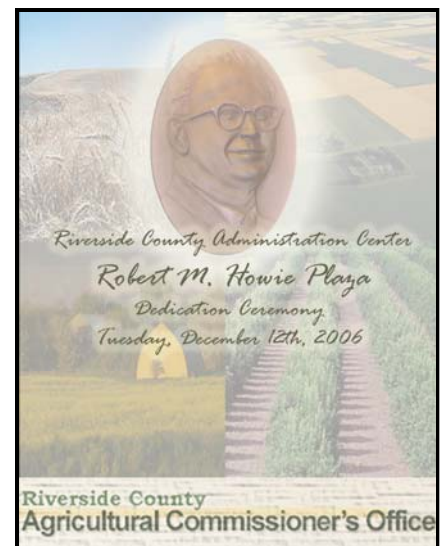
"CULTIVATORS OF THE EARTH ARE THE MOST VALUABLE CITIZENS. THEY ARE THE MOST VIGOROUS, THE MOST INDEPENDENT, THE MOST VIRTUOUS, AND THEY ARE TIED TO THEIR COUNTRY AND WEDDED TO ITS LIBERTY AND INTERESTS BY THE MOST LASTING BANDS."

-THOMAS JEFFERSON

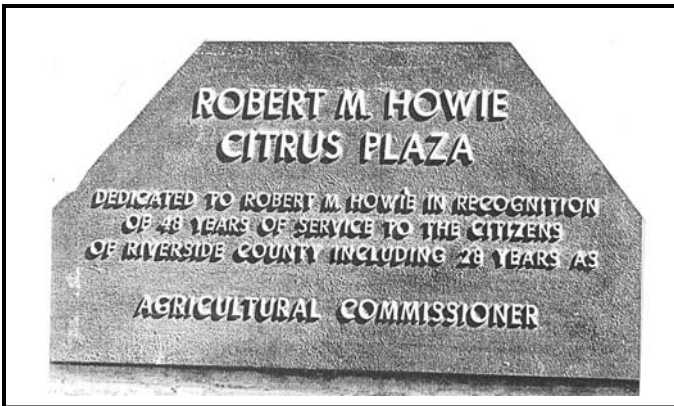
AGRICULTURAL SUCCESS BEGAN IN THIS AREA WITH THE RAISING OF GRAIN AND CATTLE IN THE LATE 1700's. TWO WASHINGTON NAVEL ORANGE TREES PLANTED IN 1873 TRANSFORMED THIS REGION INTO A CITRUS EMPIRE. DURING 2005, RIVERSIDE COUNTY AGRICULTURALISTS PRODUCED 128 DIFFERENT COMMODITIES AND EXPORTED FARM PRODUCTS TO 53 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE. THE ECONOMY, LIFESTYLE AND CULTURE OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY ARE DEEPLY ROOTED IN AGRICULTURE.

THIS MONUMENT IS DEDICATED TO THE VIRTUOUS, VIGOROUS AND INDEPENDENT PEOPLE WHO CULTIVATE THE EARTH IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY, AND TO ROBERT M. HOWIE, WHO DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO PROTECTING AND PROMOTING AGRICULTURE.

DECEMBER 12, 2006



Clockwise from Top Left: Bob Howie, former Agricultural Commissioner (1954-1982); John Snyder, current Agricultural Commissioner (2003); Leon Spaugy and Jim Wallace, former Agricultural Commissioners (1982-1988 and 1988-2003), and the poster from the ceremony.



Clockwise from Top Left: Bob Howie, wife Betty, and daughter Marty, at original dedication in 1983; Bob Howie and Betty Tavaglione; Bob Howie with Marty and son Richard; Original plaque honoring Bob Howie in the plaza area of the County Administrative Center.





Clockwise from Top Left: Bob Howie with Supervisors Ashley, Tavaglione, and Buster; John Snyder addressing the assembly; Bob Howie talking with Lee and Linden Anderson; Supervisor Buster addressing the crowd; Crowd assembled to honor Mr. Howie.



Agriculture chief ¹⁹⁶⁷ gets Jaycee award

Robert M. Howie, Riverside County agricultural commissioner, today received the Jaycees' annual Good Government Award.

The award, given to a city or county employee who has made an outstanding contribution to local government administration, was presented at a Youth in Government Day luncheon sponsored by the Jaycees.

HOWIE, 54, has been head of the county agriculture department since 1954. The department promotes the agricultural industry in the county as well as protecting it from fraudulent products and services and protecting the public from fraud and deception in the sale of agricultural products.

He became an employee of the department in 1934, shortly after graduating from the University of California at Davis, as an inspector in the Coachella Valley.

He was born in Riverside and graduated from Poly High School.

Howie was a member of two delegations of U.S. farm officials which made tours of the Soviet Union in 1962 and 1963 under an agricultural exchange program.

HE IS A former president of the state agricultural commissioners' organization, the downtown Riverside Kiwanis Club and the County Employees Assn.

Recipients of the award are nominated by city councilmen

and county supervisors and selected by a panel of three judges not connected with either government, according to Alan Hackett, chairman of the sponsoring Jaycee committee.



ROBERT HOWIE

YOUTHFUL VETERAN

2Decades of Experience Aid Agricultural Commissioner

Robert M. Howie, Riverside County's new agricultural commissioner, is only 40 but he's a 20 year veteran with the County Agricultural Department.

He has dealt with the department's procedures and problems from one end of the county to the other as inspector, district inspector, deputy agricultural commissioner and chief deputy agricultural commissioner.

He begins his duties as department "head man" with a wide friendship among the county's farmers and a broad knowledge of their problems in growing the county's diversified crops.

Attended School Here

"Bob" Howie's years in Riverside County go back beyond his working life, however. He was born in Compton but part of his schooling was at Palm Avenue Grammar School here. And he graduated from Riverside Polytechnic High School in 1939.

His first job after graduating from the University of California

College of Agriculture at Davis was with the Victoria Avenue Cactus Association. In May, 1934, he was hired by A. E. Bottel, Riverside County agricultural commissioner, as a fruit and vegetable inspector in Coachella Valley.

In PV Two Years

Slightly more than a year later, he was appointed district agricultural inspector for Palo Verde Valley, a position he held for two years.

From 1937 to 1941 he held the same position in the San Geronimo Pass and Palm Springs district.

On Nov. 1, 1941, the late Commissioner W. H. Wright appointed him deputy agricultural commissioner, and a year and a month later, he became chief deputy agricultural commissioner.

Howie is grateful for his association with Wright, who was highly praised for his able administration of the department for 15 years.

"I know that I have a bit pair of shoes to fill," Howie says.

As to appointments in the department, he says: "Mr. Wright had spent 15 years building a good staff and I don't intend to disrupt it."

As for future policy: "We will carry on Mr. Wright's long-standing policy of performing the functions of the department, as required by law, and rendering any other service within our province that will benefit Riverside County's multimillion dollar agricultural industry."

Other positions and honors have come to Howie through the years.

Other Offices

In 1946 he was elected president of the Riverside County Employees Association. He was past president of the Southern California Deputy Agricultural Commissioners Association. He was past president of the Southern California Weed Conference.

During his years in Palo Verde Valley he became charter member and president of the Blythe 20-30 Club.

Howie married the former Betty Attridge, daughter of Mr. Attridge, in 1937. They have two children, Dick, 11, and Martina, 5. The family lives at 4442 Linwood Place.



ROBERT M. HOWIE

Mrs. George Attridge of Riverside, in 1937. They have two children, Dick, 11, and Martina, 5. The family lives at 4442 Linwood Place. Howie's mother, Mrs. Cliff Pond, also lives here.

16 RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1954 DAILY PRESS

Longtime county agricultural chief knows this is year to ask new term

By JOHN SCHWADA
Press-Enterprise Staff Writer

It has slipped Robert Howie's mind in the past to reapply for yet another four-year term as county agricultural commissioner.

Not that it mattered. The Board of Supervisors went ahead and reappointed him anyway.

This year, however, Howie recalled that his current term was about to expire, and he wrote Robert Fitch, county administrative officer, asking for another term.

"This year when I read about Ray Sullivan (county counsel) being reappointed," said Howie, "I remembered that, by golly, his reappointment came just little ahead of mine, so I got my letter in (asking for another term)."

Today, on Fitch's recommendation, the supervisors are expected to reappoint Howie to his seventh four-year term.

Howie has been county agricultural commissioner since 1954. He first joined the department in 1941 as a deputy agricultural commissioner. According to Howie, only one other person in the state has served longer than himself as a county government department head.

As agricultural commissioner, Howie's staff of 41 is responsible for enforcing state agricultural laws which deal with the detection and eradication of farm pests, the maintenance of minimum shipping standards for agri-

(See DIRECTOR, Page 2)

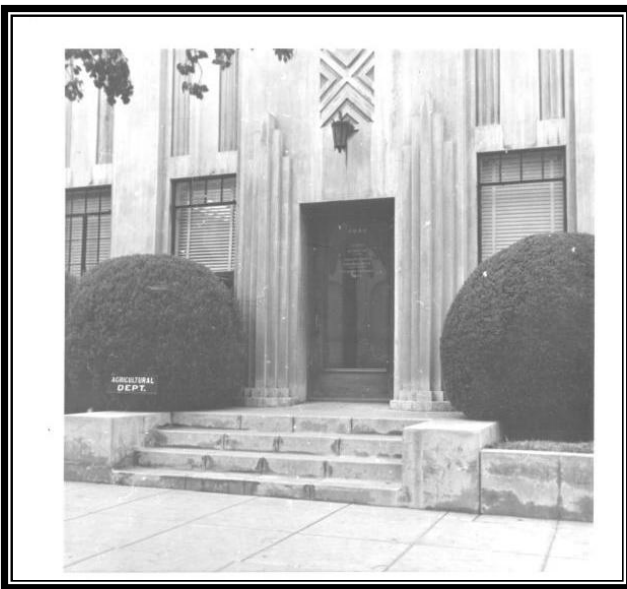
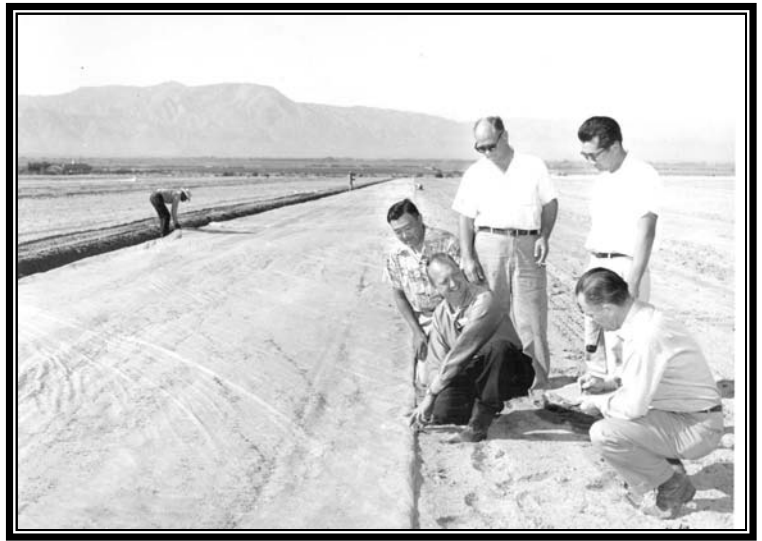


Staff photo by Bob Ringquist

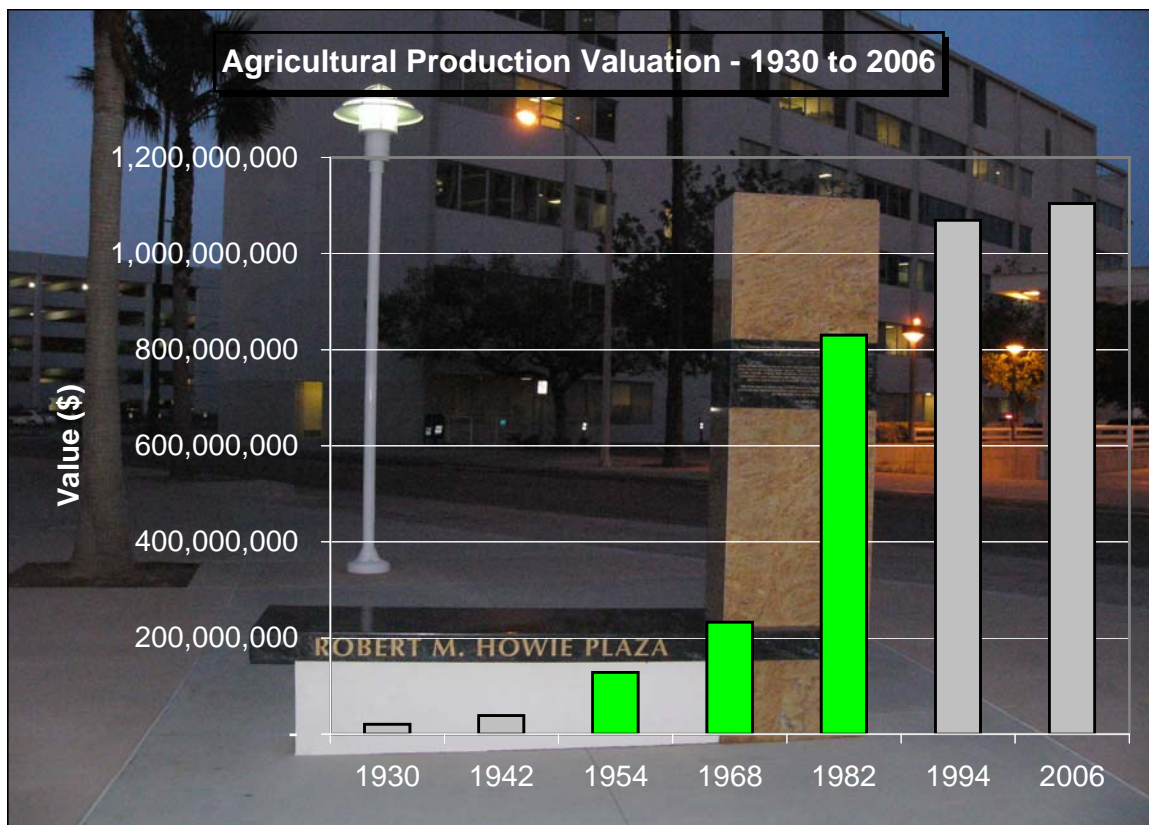
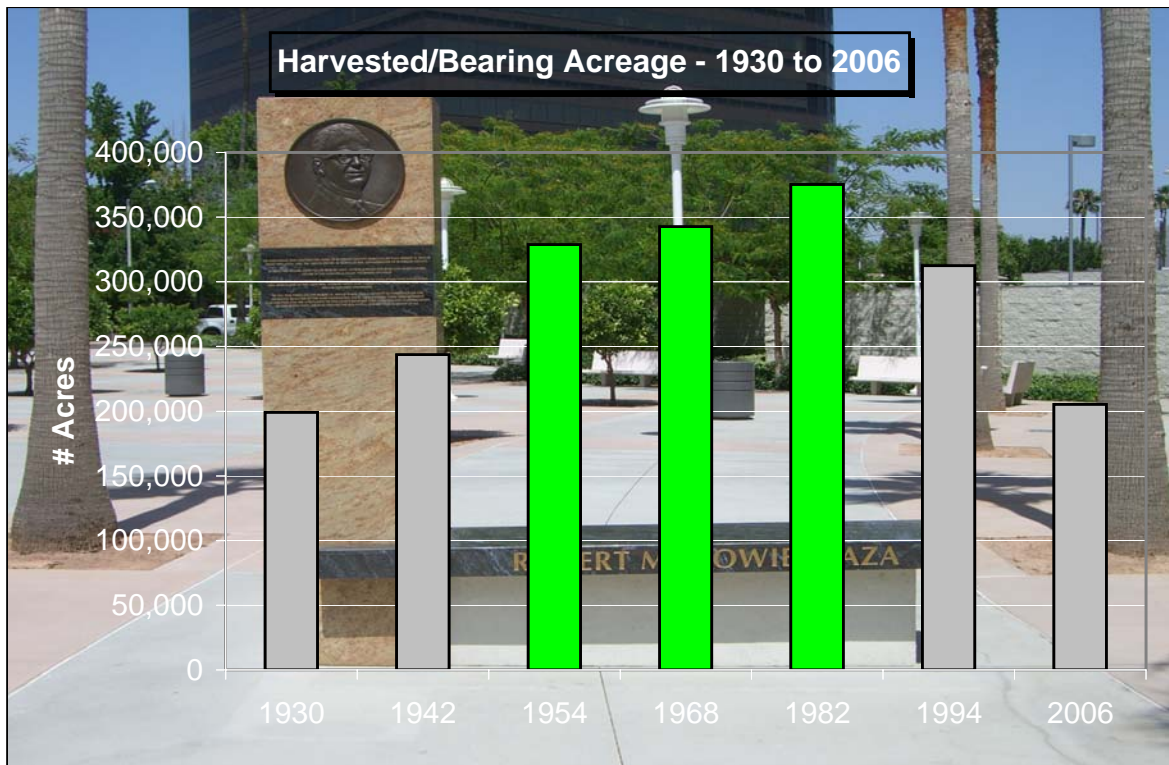
Robert M. Howie

Agricultural commissioner asks new term

Clockwise from Top Left: Mr. Howie received the Jaycees' annual Good Government Award (1967); Robert Howie's initial appointment as Agricultural Commissioner (Daily Press, 1954); News article detailing the seventh 4 year appointment as Agricultural Commissioner for Mr. Howie (Press-Enterprise, 1978).



Clockwise from Top Left: 1934 photo of employees (Bob Howie, lower left); Bob Howie (lower right) observing fumigation techniques in the Coachella Valley (1950); Bob Howie's office (1960); Bob Howie and Dave Kelley, with award from Farm Bureau named after Mr. Howie; Early Agricultural Commissioner's office on Orange Street; Bob Howie's office (1970).



Robert M. Howie, Agricultural Commissioner

Historical Crop Acreage and Valuation - 1930 to 2006

		Year						
		<u>1930</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>2006</u>
Citrus	Acres	21,111	25,480	22,097	37,578	40,779	31,078	18,568
	Value	11,733,400	10,274,300	21,387,500	32,610,200	103,793,900	107,022,600	107,897,000
Tree/Vine	Acres	25,147	23,065	22,549	19,332	26,175	30,347	27,501
	Value	2,223,000	5,114,800	12,716,600	24,649,900	145,740,300	214,397,400	191,321,200
Vegetables	Acres	12,811	19,394	46,338	42,938	50,274	38,121	34,057
	Value	2,400,100	6,046,600	27,463,300	39,497,300	135,383,600	141,751,000	213,643,300
Field/Seed	Acres	139,977	172,597	230,231	229,866	246,998	201,369	125,311
	Value	4,171,200	6,833,300	20,288,000	23,052,300	69,525,300	82,186,100	68,611,700
Apiary	Value	-	124,800	236,400	395,800	3,008,600	5,815,100	3,554,300
Nursery	Value	-	206,000	2,082,100	3,510,900	23,166,700	79,537,200	270,992,800
Livestock/Poultry	Value	-	9,990,000	44,313,400	109,792,200	349,392,700	423,781,200	234,903,400
Aquaculture	Value	-	-	-	-	777,500	14,995,400	13,367,300
TOTALS	Acres	199,046	240,536	321,215	329,714	364,226	300,915	205,437
	Value	\$ 20,527,700	\$ 38,589,800	\$ 128,487,300	\$ 233,508,600	\$ 830,788,600	\$ 1,069,486,000	\$ 1,104,291,000

Robert M. Howie - Agricultural Commissioner

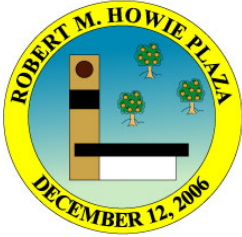
Leading Crop Valuations - 1930 to 2006

<u>1930</u>			<u>1942</u>		
<u>Rank</u>	<u>Crop</u>	<u>Value (\$)</u>	<u>Crop</u>	<u>Value (\$)</u>	
1	Oranges, Navel	6,637,507	Oranges, Navel	5,099,650	
2	Alfalfa, all	2,289,100	Alfalfa, all	3,117,773	
3	Oranges, Valencia	2,277,439	Cattle/Calves	2,430,510	
4	Lemons	1,489,179	Grain, all	2,109,770	
5	Potatoes	1,313,240	Eggs	2,106,000	
6	Pomelos	890,828	Oranges, Valencia	1,918,892	
7	Cotton, all	771,200	Butterfat	1,879,200	
8	Grain, all	613,920	Dates	1,712,865	
9	Dates	596,209	Lemons	1,442,097	
10	Watermelons	404,925	Potatoes	1,187,139	

<u>1994</u>			<u>2006</u>		
<u>Crop</u>	<u>Value (\$)</u>		<u>Crop</u>	<u>Value (\$)</u>	
Milk	288,279,600		Nursery	270,992,800	
Grapes, table	118,753,600		Milk	156,809,400	
Nursery	79,537,200		Grapes, table	105,524,300	
Eggs	74,557,500		Peppers, Bell	62,075,700	
Dates	58,089,300		Eggs	53,551,800	
Hay, all	56,327,100		Hay	49,212,000	
Cattle/Calves	55,114,400		Grapefruit	41,501,100	
Lemons	33,075,600		Lemons	39,679,400	
Grapefruit	30,910,300		Avocados	39,621,200	
Avocados	29,712,100		Dates	38,572,200	

<u>1954</u>			<u>1968</u>			<u>1982</u>		
<u>Rank</u>	<u>Crop</u>	<u>Value (\$)</u>	<u>Crop</u>	<u>Value (\$)</u>		<u>Crop</u>	<u>Value (\$)</u>	
1	Oranges, Navel	10,919,430	Grapes, Tabel	13,487,766		Cattle/Calves	210,013,500	
2	Potatoes	8,651,250	Grapefruit	10,649,859		Poultry	88,864,900	
3	Cotton, all	8,185,690	Oranges, Navel	9,283,094		Grapes, Table	87,572,600	
4	Grapes, Table	5,677,280	Carrots	8,274,284		Grapefruit	36,075,500	
5	Grain, all	4,062,100	Dates	8,072,427		Dates	35,112,500	
6	Lemons	3,978,100	Lettuce	6,750,480		Lettuce, Head	28,322,700	
7	Dates	3,847,500	Cotton	6,572,505		Alfalfa	26,276,300	
8	Alfalfa, Hay	3,646,740	Alfalfa, Hay	6,451,863		Beef	25,881,200	
9	Grapefruit	3,422,000	Lemons	5,863,784		Cotton	23,341,500	
10	Tomatoes	3,213,960	Potatoes	5,633,506		Oranges, Valer	23,303,000	

Robert M. Howie, Agricultural Commissioner



Robert M. Howie - Milestones



1934 – Robert M. Howie is hired as an agricultural inspector with the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office in the Blythe district.

1954 – Mr. Howie is appointed Agricultural Commissioner by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors.

1962 – Mr. Howie participates in a month long fact finding, agricultural trade development and goodwill tour of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

1972 – The Agricultural Commissioner's Office becomes responsible for the enforcement of statewide regulations to protect employees, fieldworkers, and the environment from exposure to pesticides.

1973 – The United Farm Workers' Union organizes protests, strikes, and boycotts of lettuce and grapes in the Coachella Valley.

1975 – Citrus acreage in Riverside County peaks at 54,372 bearing acres.

1982 – Mr. Howie retires from the Office of the Agricultural Commissioner, stating, "It has been a great privilege for me to have been associated with and served the agricultural industry of Riverside County for over 48 years."

1954 to 1982 – As Agricultural Commissioner, Mr. Howie witnessed the following:

- Total crop valuation increased by 650 %.
- Citrus acreage increased by over 200 %.
- Total agricultural income in the Coachella Valley increased by 900 %.
- Nursery stock valuation through out the County increased by 1,100 %.

1983 – The Riverside County Farm Bureau established the Robert M. Howie Award, presented annually to individuals that have provided outstanding service to agriculture in the County. The award was created to remind others of the dedication that Mr. Howie demonstrated and to recognize and encourage that kind of dedication in others.

1983 – The original Robert M. Howie Citrus Plaza was dedicated on the southwest side of the County Administrative Center (CAC).

2001 – Construction begins on the Annex to the CAC. The Marker (Plaque) for the Howie Citrus Plaza is removed to make way for the new building.

2006 – The Robert M. Howie Plaza and Monument were re-dedicated in the area adjacent to the County Administrative Center Annex, amongst nine Navel orange trees planted several years earlier.