

## **A TRIBUTE TO OUR HONORARY PRESIDENT, EMERITUS PROFESSOR HOMER D. CHAPMAN**

**A Brief History:** He was born October 4, 1898, in Darlington, Wisconsin, USA. After he graduated from Darlington High School, in 1917, he earned three degrees from the University of Wisconsin, including the Ph.D. degree in 1927. In 1927, he joined the then Department of Agricultural Chemistry, Citrus Experiment Station, University of California. During his long career, he pioneered the use of plant tissue analysis in the diagnosis of mineral element deficiencies and excesses. He authored or edited 4 books in this area. His most recent book **Diagnostic Criteria for Plants and Soils**, published in 1966, remains the standard reference in the field today. His work in the area of citrus nutrition is world renown.

For one of the University of California's centennial celebrations, he organized **The First International Citrus Symposium**, which was held March 16-26, 1968, in Riverside, California. Approximately 800 persons from 53 countries attended. The symposium consisted of 240 papers in 22 sections. Those who attended had the opportunity to participate in two tours. Homer served as editor of the symposium proceedings. The proceedings were published one year later as a three-volume set.

The symposium was so successful that many participants recommended organization of the society we now know as **The International Society of Citriculture**. As some of you know, Homer agreed to serve as the founding Secretary/Treasurer. Also, he agreed to draft the initial set of by-laws. The society was founded in 1970 and congresses have been held in Spain (1973), USA (1977), Australia (1978), Japan (1981), Brazil (1984), Israel (1988), Italy (1992), South Africa (1996), USA (2000) and we are here in Morocco for 10<sup>th</sup> Congress.

In 1985, Homer (at the age of 87) stopped serving as Secretary/Treasurer and became our Honorary President during which he has given valuable advice to ISC officers.

Apart from the fact that we have added poster sessions to our congresses, we are using essentially the same format Homer and his committee utilized when they organized the 1968 symposium.

**A Bit More History:** Homer was chairman of his Citrus Experiment Station department (Department of Soils and Plant Nutrition) for 23 years (1938-1961). He became Emeritus Professor in 1966. Among his many honors, he is a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and in 1969, he received an honorary L.L.D. (Doctorate of Law Degree) from the University of California.

Throughout his career, Homer entertained many people from many walks of life with his unique style as a piano player of popular tunes. In fact, during his student days at the University of Wisconsin, he played in a jazz band to help put himself through school. In addition, he is an expert poker player.

Homer married Daisy Elizabeth Ernst in 1928. They had no children. I submit that in some respects, we are his progeny. He is 105 years of age, heading to 106. He lives in a retirement center in Irvine California. His sight, hearing and ability to walk are limited, but his mind is clear. If you want to send a note of appreciation or congratulations to him, please use large print. His address is:

**Homer D. Chapman  
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Please join me in a standing round of applause expressing our admiration of Homer Chapman and his many accomplishments and contributions to the International Society of Citriculture.

Thank you.