



**J. B. KENDRICK JR.**  
*Vice President  
Agricultural Sciences  
Director, Agricultural  
Experiment Station  
University of  
California*

## "MANY HAPPY RETURNS"

*. . . a century of research and service*

**T**HE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION, research arm of the Division of Agricultural Sciences, has reached an important milestone. It has completed 100 years of commitment and service to agriculture and the people of California. In California, more than in any other state, the success of the agricultural enterprise has reflected the application of expert knowledge and scientific methods. This is true because we harvest crops in areas with more variations in elevation, rainfall, and temperature than any area of comparable size in the world. The high degree of specialization in California agriculture also presents more hazards and requires more expert knowledge of soils, more precise knowledge of the nurture and protection of plants and animals than any other similar region.

It is fortunate, therefore, that a century ago there were men of vision and purpose who saw to it that California was in the vanguard in establishing University-based instruction and scientific research in agriculture. As early as 1857, the President of the State Agricultural Society called for the establishment of an agricultural college to advance "knowledge of the laws of nature, particularly relating to agriculture as a science." He predicted that a "judicious appropriation" by the Legislature "would, in due time, produce a ten-fold return." In the act of 1868, creating the University of California, the Legislature stipulated that the College of Agriculture should be the first among the colleges to be organized.

In 1874, Eugene Woldemar Hilgard, the University's first researcher in the agricultural sciences, was appointed Professor of Agriculture, Chemistry, Horticulture, Agricultural Chemistry, Botany and Related Sciences. He founded on the Berkeley campus what has been described as the oldest college-created agricultural

experiment station in continuous operation in the nation.

Establishment of the Connecticut experiment station in 1875, by a special act of the state legislature, is usually regarded as the official beginning of the nation's experiment station program. In any case, during the 1974-75 academic year, the nation's experiment stations are joining together in a centennial celebration, and we are happy to join our colleagues in observances celebrating the birth (and wisdom) of publicly-supported agricultural research in the United States.

### **Pioneering**

If there is some debate about who was "first" and "oldest," there is no question that California was a pioneer among the states in establishing a scientific base for its agriculture—years before the Hatch Act in 1887 provided for the establishment and support of similar experiment stations in all states and territories of the union.

As California's Agricultural Experiment Station begins its second century, it is altogether fitting that we pay tribute to the men who began the process whereby scientific research has been directed toward the continuous improvement of agriculture in California. It is a time to pay tribute to the dedicated men and women who continued, and accelerated, that process during the century that followed. It is a time to acknowledge the magnitude of their achievement and its widening impact on human welfare in California, in the nation and in the world.

In the coming months, in this publication and other forums, we look forward to looking back at some of the people and programs that were a part of the Experiment Station's first successful century.