

John Edward Miller (1888-1965)

GEORGE M. KESSLER

Late in November, 1965, the Secretary of the American Pomological Society received a letter from a California attorney informing him that the Society had been named in the will of John Edward Miller, of Paradise California, as the recipient of a bequest of cash and property amounting to \$4,163.71.

Although I did not know John Miller personally, we had exchanged letters several times during the past ten years or so, particularly with reference to the Pacific Gold apple, which he introduced. And I was very impressed by his deep interest in fruit variety improvement. Although I have no way of checking, I suspect his association with APS goes back many years.

I was of course saddened by Mr. Miller's death. At the same time, those of us who are active in the Society

are sincerely grateful to him for the very handsome and unexpected bequest, which I am sure will be put to very good use.

John Miller's sister, Mrs. Jessie L. Feller, of Menlo Park, Cal., was kind enough to write to us during April, 1966, about her brother as follows:

"John was born in Missouri, and came West as a young man. He served in the army in the First World War, and then settled in Oregon, near Oswego.

"He was married in 1940, and several years later lost his wife by accidental death, and never remarried.

"He established a nursery near Oswego, and called his place Treasuredale. It is here that he successfully developed the Pacific Gold apple. He later sold his property there, and bought an acreage in Paradise, Cal., where he again started propagating the Pacific Gold apple.

"Ill health made it impossible for him to carry on his work, and he passed away from cancer Feb. 15, 1965.

"It is sad that he passed on before fulfilling so many of his dreams and ambitions; but while he lived he enjoyed life to the fullest, and I am sure that, if he has the opportunity, he will be grafting Pacific Gold apples in the next world."

It seems fitting at this time to include a quotation taken from an undated newspaper clipping from an Oregon newspaper sent to me by Mrs. Fuller, which deals with John Miller's Pacific Gold apple. It reads as follows:

"An excellent fall and early winter apple, the variety is crisp, and juicier

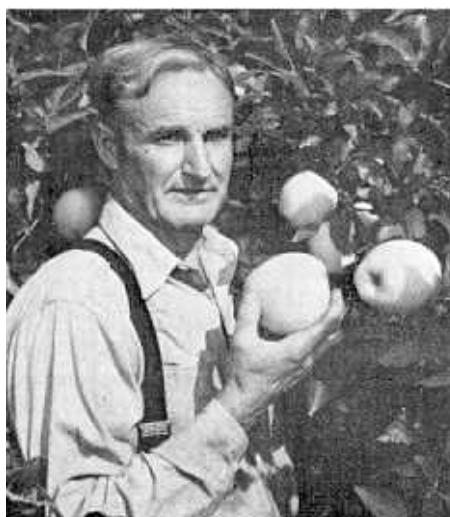


Fig. 1. The late John Edward Miller with the Pacific Gold Apple which he developed.

than its nearest competitor, the Golden Delicious, but is not a winter keeper. That the variety is a prolific cropper can be ascertained from the heavy cluster of large apples as shown in the photograph.* Miller obtained a scion from the original tree at Myrtle Point one April, which is very late in the year for a graft; and by the second year, the tree was bearing clusters of apples, and has been bearing annually since.

"The last time President and Mamie Eisenhower were in Portland, Miller delivered a box of the apples to the Multnomah Hotel for them. In her letter of appreciation, Mrs. Eisenhower wrote that she was so impressed with the apples that she took the entire box back to Washington, D. C. with her."

In recognition for his special interest in fruit variety improvement, and as an expression thanks for his very generous bequest to the American Pomological Society, we dedicate this July, 1966 issue of *Fruit Varieties and Horticultural Digest* to John Edward Miller.

Peach Trends in Northeast

In a talk at the last National Peach Council Meeting, E. G. Christ, of New Jersey, reported that there is a considerable interest among growers in the Northeast in the variety Washington for the season preceding Sunhigh. There is also a trend toward using Loring and possibly Redglobe for the season following Sunhigh, and preceding Blake. Jerseyqueen and Jefferson may replace Redskin and Elberta. Jerseyqueen looks very good in New Jersey. It is large, firm, attractive, and of good dessert quality.

*Reprinted from the APS Proceedings, for 1917.

*The photograph mentioned appears on the front cover of this issue.

Act of Incorporation of the American Pomological Society, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1887†

Section 1. Patrick Barry, of Rochester, New York; Charles W. Garfield, of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Benjamin G. Smith, of Cambridge, Massachusetts; J. J. Thomas, of Union Springs, New York; Prosper J. Berckmans, of Augusta, Georgia; Robert Manning, of Salem, Massachusetts, their associates, the Officers and Members of the Association known as the American Pomological Society, and their successors, are hereby made a corporation under the name of "American Pomological Society," for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the culture of fruit, with all the powers and privileges and subject to all the duties and liabilities set forth in the general laws which are now or may hereafter be in force applicable to such corporations.

Section 2. Said corporation may, for the purposes aforesaid, have and hold by purchase, grant, gift, or otherwise, real and personal property to an amount not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars.

Section 3. Said corporation may hold its annual meeting, or any special meeting in any place, state or county it may determine, provided that due notice shall be given to the members thereof of the time and place of said meeting.

Section 4. Any two of the corporators above named are hereby authorized to call the first meeting of said corporation in the month of September next ensuing, by due notice to each member of said Association.