**VARIE TIES**

Walnut Breeding

H. I. Forde, P. E. Hansche

Five new crosses were made from which we harvested 236 seeds. Seed of 1973 crosses was planted; 284 trees grew from this seed. Seventy seedling progenies 1972 numbers were grafted into the test orchard. Three 1968 numbers were grafted into the test orchard.

Field notes and nut samples, from trees in the test orchard at Davis, were gathered and evaluated.

Larger samples were also gathered from the variety and selection block at Davis, and from test plots in various counties. These samples were graded by Diamond Walnut Growers, Inc.

Walnut Variety Testing

L. C. Hendricks, H. Forde

The walnut variety plot established at the Hector brothers orchard in Westley in 1968 by Dave Ramos was modified in 1974. Ashley was top-worked onto the following varieties: 61-25, 59-165, and Midland. (The varieties and selections 59-124, Vina, Chico, Tehama, Amigo, Serr, Gustine and Pedro remain.) These were top-worked primarily due to light yields in the 59-165 and poor quality in the 61-25 and Midland.

The 1974 samples have not yet been analyzed by Diamond Walnut Growers but 1973 samplings indicated that Serr and 59-124 had outstanding quality. The Serr still is not bearing heavily on trees of 6th to 7th leaf.

Amigo, Tehama and Vina have had excellent quality. Ashley and Payne are still considered excellent westside varieties.

Selection 64-172 appears to have great promise and harvests with Hartley.

Selection 56-184 has poor shell seed and insect problems.

The variety evaluation by Diamond has been extremely valuable in this work and should be continued with the newest selections and varieties. The yield evaluation on the established varieties and the yield estimates published by the Diamond Walnut Growers as in the December 1974 issue of the Diamond Walnut News are extremely valuable to farm advisors and growers alike in selecting varieties for commercial planting. Every effort should be made to encourage Diamond to continue this work.