

The Porterfields

INVESTING IN

AGRICULTURE'S FUTURE

by Settle Madden
Editor, UA Foundation

A farmer who "landed in Tucson to enroll at the University of Arizona with \$5 in my pocket," has joined his family in giving nearly \$3 million for the UA College of Agriculture. To date, it is the college's largest gift.

Harry and Elsie Hautsger-Porterfield and their daughter, Stephanie, have donated irrigated Harquahala Valley farmland valued at nearly \$3 million to the UA Foundation. The 960 acres is about 40 miles southwest of Buckeye, Arizona.

"The future success of Arizona agriculture in an increasingly competitive international environment," says UA President Henry Koffler, "depends to a large extent upon an innovative college of agriculture that educates the adaptable agriculturist to tomorrow, provides new knowledge and new technologies, and helps practicing farmers to adopt these new technologies. The generosity of the Porterfield family helps ensure that the UA agriculture college will be in a position to respond to these important challenges. The university as well as Arizona agriculture owes the Porterfields a great debt."

"The Porterfields are helping ensure that the UA College of Agriculture, in its second century, will provide the same quality research, education and public service to the people of Arizona that it has given during its first century," adds Agriculture Dean Emeritus Bartley Cardon. "We are most grateful for their generosity and foresight."

The Porterfields asked that their gifts begin the Harry W. and Elsie M. Porterfield Endowed Chair; set up scholarships; fund research; and—with interest income only—buy equipment and materials for the research their gifts finance.



Harry and Elsie Porterfield

"I'm an agriculturist and what wealth we've accumulated has been in agriculture so anything I can do should be given to the UA College of Agriculture," says Harry Porterfield of why they made the gift. Both Harry and Elsie are UA alumni.

Stephanie Porterfield adds that her father had hoped to make such a gift for several years and said her parents' foresight enabled her to join them in the gift. She is an Arizona State University alumna.

The family made their gift to the UA Foundation with two charitable remainder unitrusts. A charitable remainder unitrust is a trust into

which a donor puts some asset which can include cash, stocks, bonds, land or other items of value. The donor retains the right to receive the income generated by the trust at a rate of return the donor establishes. That right to receive income may also be for the life of the donor's spouse, children or any other person that the donor wishes. After the deaths of all persons that receive the stated income payment, the trust assets are then used for the UA purposes the donor designated.

Mr. and Mrs. Porterfield began a joint unitrust; their daughter a separate one.

The UA Foundation will sell the land and invest the proceeds. Until then, Mr. and Mrs. Porterfield are leasing the land and living there, farming wheat and cotton.

Harry Porterfield grew up in Colorado and Arizona. After high school, he says, he worked as a California "fruit tramp," and arrived to enroll at the UA with only \$5 in his pocket. He worked his way through college, delaying graduation to finish Army Officer Candidate School and serve in World War II. In 1947, he received a B.S. from the agriculture college with a major in dairy science and a minor in agronomy. He worked with Swift & Co. in Idaho and Carnation in Phoenix before starting the family farm in 1960.

Elsie Hautsger Porterfield is an Arizona native reared on a farm near Phoenix's Glendale Road and 31st Avenue. She earned a B.A. in liberal arts from the UA and was a homemaker when their daughter was young. She later taught grades four through six in Phoenix's Alhambra School District before moving to the Harquahala Valley. 