

**W.R. (RAYMOND)
COWLEY**

Mr. W.R. (Raymond) Cowley, age 90 passed away Monday, October 27, 2003 in Harlingen. Mr. Cowley was born April 17, 1913 to Aaron and Nannie Smith Cowley in Wise County. Mr. Cowley graduated in 1939 from Texas A&M College and went on to receive a Masters Degree in Horticulture and Agronomy. In 1947, he joined the staff of the Texas A&M Agricultural Experiment Station at Weslaco and became the Superintendent the following year. Mr. Cowley would thereafter remain the Superintendent, and later the resident director, until his retirement from Texas A&M, he was joined by many talented professionals who together made lasting contributions to South Texas Agriculture.

During the 1960's, he experimented with sugar beets as a possible crop for the Valley. When testing proved disappointing, he began research on sugar cane and those efforts, as well as the efforts of The Valley Chamber of Commerce, Art Beckwith, Sam Tatloe and many others, led to the granting under the Sugar Act of a Quota for growing Sugar-Cane in Texas. In 1973, a cooperative of growers, formed as The Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc., opened it's Raw Sugar Production Facility near Santa Rosa where he served for many years as Advisor and Consultant following his retirement from Texas A&M.

Mr. Cowley was presented with the A.T. Potts award by the Valley Horticultural Society, and in 1973, was named outstanding citizen by The Weslaco Chamber of Commerce.

Survivors include his son Raymond A. Cowley and wife Trisha, of McAllen; daughter Beaty Fomby and husband Dr. Ed, of Crockett; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

Preceded in death by his loving wife of 60 years Mildred Thompson Cowley in 2001.

Funeral services for Mr. W.R. (Raymond) Cowley were held Wednesday, October 29, at 1:00 p.m. at McCaleb Funeral

Home in Weslaco:

Pallbearers were Wally Buntton, Bud Wentz, Jack Nelson and grandsons Chris Cowley, Jay Smith and Michael Fomby.

Honorary Pallbearers were Jack Holcomb, Dr. Jose Amador, Sam Sparks, Norman Maxwell, Wayne Showers, Bob Peterson and Andy Scott.

McCaleb Funeral Home