



1890 to 1967

The Carriere family first came to Northern California in 1890 when Albini Carriere arrived from Canada to find work in Glenn County. Albini worked for the Spooner Ranch as a ranch hand where he met his wife Rosanna Spooner. After their marriage on November 15th, 1893, they moved to a small farm near the Sacramento River. He and Rosanna lived a typical farm labor life. Albini worked to clear the land of berry vines and willow and oak trees so that they could plant their crops. They had chickens, cows, a garden, and 5 children: Edmond, Anna, Victor, Wilfred and Isadore.

The foundation of the Carriere Family Farms operation was established by Wilfred A. Carriere (Papa), the oldest son of Albini and Rosanna's 5 children. Wilfred loved living on the small family farm and showed a mechanical inclination from an early age. He dreamed some day of owning his own farm and building a shop where he could fabricate his own equipment.

Papa married Martha Maisonnave on November 18, 1922 and they continued to live with Albini and Rosanna on the farm for some time until they rented a nearby farmhouse that they eventually purchased. That farmhouse would be their home for the rest of their lives.

Through his 20's and 30's Papa farmed dry land crops and held jobs that would allow him to farm as much as he could. Even through the great depression he still continued to farm. For many years he had a night time job working for an irrigation district and farmed in the daytime just to make ends meet.

Papa established a reputation of being a hardworking responsible farmer. During the depression a lot of land was turned over to the irrigation districts and the banks because the owners couldn't pay the taxes. This is when rice became the foundation of our entire farming heritage. Bank of America approached Papa and begged him to buy as much rice land as he could. Rice growing was just being established in the Sacramento Valley at that time. Papa had been struggling just to make ends meet and doubted whether farming was worth it. Because of his love for farming he started developing a rice operation. With the backing of Bank of America he bought 200 acres of potential rice ground and began to clear it to make rice paddies. Papa used dynamite and small tractors to remove trees and brush from the fields. The work was long, hard and tedious.

During the 40's and 50's Papa expanded the rice operation to 1,100 acres, some of which was leased land. During this time he and his wife Martha ("Gram") had a daughter, Mildred, and two sons, Herb and Dick. The two boys loved the farm, but Papa insisted that they leave the farm temporarily to get a good education since he had only finished the 8th grade himself. After high school both boys went on and earned degrees from U.C. Davis. Herb, the oldest son came back and started farming with Papa. After finishing college and spending two years in the army, Dick decided to return to the farm as well.



Newly married and tired of commuting daily from Willows to the farm, Herb bought a 30 acre walnut orchard on the Sacramento River in December 1963 near his parents' home. Papa told him and his new bride, Aileen, that they had paid way too much for the property and they were crazy since they knew little about growing walnuts. Little did he know that it would be the start of a very successful business.

Herb persisted and over the next few years tried to learn as much as he could about growing and developing walnuts. After some a few years of frustrations, he progressively became more knowledgeable about the ins and outs of the orchards. Herb was able to convince his father Wilfred and brother Dick, to continue to plant and develop more walnut acres on the fertile soil of the Sacramento River banks over the next 15 years. One of Herb's favorite things to do was to plant a new walnut orchard.

By 1967, the rice operation was well established and Herb and Dick went into business together under the name Carriere Brothers. Although Papa officially retired that year, he never missed a day of work until the day he passed away in 1999 at 100 years old!

Herb continued to develop the growing walnut business on the property that Papa had purchased along the Sacramento River and Dick took over the rice operation. Some of the walnut property included the small farm that Albini Carriere had originally farmed.

1970's 80's & 90's

Through the 70's and 80's the farming operation continued to expand. Shortly after Dick joined the farm, he and his wife Nina bought an adjoining property, also perfect for growing walnuts. In just a few years the walnut operation had grown from 30 acres of Payne and Franquette trees into 400 acres of productive walnuts and the rice operation had boomed to 1,350 acres.

Another expansion came in 1974 when Carriere Brothers utilized one of the barns on the property to further develop and vertically integrate the walnut operation by building a walnut huller and dehydrator.

With all of this growth, Herb and Dick became well known in the farming industry. More importantly, both Herb and Dick were becoming important leaders in their respective industries. Dick was serving on the board of directors of several industry boards, including Rice Growers Association and the California Rice Research Board. Herb began serving on the Diamond Walnut Growers board and the Walnut Marketing Board. Carriere Brothers was also custom farming and hulling walnuts for several neighboring farms.



By 1985, the Carriere walnut operation had an excellent reputation with over 450 acres. It was that reputation that led to Borges S.A. to offer the Carriere part ownership and the job of managing an orchard that they purchased in nearby, Butte City. Borges S.A. is a large buyer of California walnuts with well-known bulk and retail brands in Europe. Borges was looking to expand their operation by buying an orchard in California as a source of information and supply of California walnuts. This partnership created Borges of California, Inc. and as a result, doubled the amount of orchards that the Carieres were farming. The Borges ranch acquisition also offered the opportunity to take over a second hulling and drying operation. This second, and larger huller, allowed the Carieres to provide even more options for expansion into the custom hulling and drying services.

The Borges expansion created a perfect situation for another family member to return to work on the ranch. Herb's son Bill Carriere returned to the farm from UC Davis in 1986, and Bill worked on the Butte City ranch for several years while helping to manage the information flow to Borges on their investment. Today, the Borges partnership continues to be an important part of the Carriere operation.

Also seeing a need for more help in the rice operation Herb and Dick decided to bring in their nephew Gary Enos who is Mildred's oldest son. In 1992, Gary joined the operation and became a partner in the business. Gary brought with him over 20 years of Pesticide Control Advisor experience as he had been working for local farm chemical companies right out of Chico State. Gary and Dick ran the rice operation together for nearly 20 years. In 2011, Gary started the process of passing the torch to his son, Jason, who is now in charge of Rice Operations.

The relationship with Borges of Spain continued to grow as did the Carriere operation. In 1997, Rick Enos, Mildred's second oldest son, joined the farm. Although Rick had quite a bit of farming experience from working on the Enos Ranch in his youth, Rick was a contractor with many years of construction experience. Initially he found many projects: fixing barns, building houses, and general repair work. Meanwhile, Herb was teaching him everything he knew about walnuts. The Carriere/Borges ranch was now over 1,000 acres and Herb, Bill and Rick were busy covering the duties involved.

In 1998, tragedy struck as Herb was diagnosed with a fast growing brain tumor. Herb passed away in November of 1998. Sadly, this was just as he was beginning to take more time to play golf and do a bit of traveling. Fortunately, Herb and Dick had set things up well by bringing in family members to help with the farm so that Carriere Family Farms and Herb's legacy could continue.



2000 to Present

In 2000, Gus Lohse (married to Rick and Gary's sister Donna) joined the ranch. Gus also had a background in farming since he worked for several years on the Lohse family ranch. Prior to joining the Carriere Family Farms team, Gus managed a local water district.

The year 2000 also brought a new level to the Carriere Family Farms operation. In October of that year, Borges of California opened the in-shell walnut processing plant. This was a major turning point for the farm. The Carriere operation made its transformation from simply farming and selling products at the farm gate to becoming a handler, processor and buyer of other farmer's products.

Initially Gus took charge of the in-shell plant and off season he managed a newly purchased property in Colusa County for the development of a new walnut orchard. Gus was joined by his son, Matt Lohse, in the management activities of the in-shell plant and orchards.

In 2004, Matt Doyle, married to Dick's daughter Alison, also joined the team. Matt brought his ten years of experience working for Applied Materials to the sales and processing side of the business. Matt quickly took over the management of the walnut plant and worked his way into the head sales position.

Part of the transformation and transition in 2004 was the purchase of a ranch in Artois. With that purchase, the opportunity to take on another new venture came about. That same year, Carriere Family Farms began planting olives for oil.

In 2005, Jason Enos joined the farm after gaining some valuable experience working for a pest control advising agency in the area. He worked as ranch manager on the Colusa walnut ranch for 6 years, and in 2011, he took over the Rice Operation Management with the help of his father, Gary's rice expertise.

In 2006, Jeni Carriere-LaDuke, Dick's youngest daughter, started working in the walnut shelling facility. Initially looking for a part-time job, Jeni eventually became a permanent member of the walnut plant supervision and operation. In 2011, she took over in her current position as Grower Relations Manager.

Nick Perez, a 5th generation family member, joined the walnut operation in 2010. He brought with him a degree in Ag Systems Management from Cal Poly in addition to an array of ag-related work experiences. He currently manages the Butte City, Willows, and Artois ranches.

The most recent family member to join the Carriere Family Farms team, Kevin Perez, started working in the shelling facility during harvest of 2011. He continues to be a dynamic member of the team for both of our processing facilities in Glenn.

We look forward to growing our business for more generations to come as we continue to write our Carriere Family Farms story.



Carriere Family Farms Today

Carriere Family Farms employees 75 full time employees including 10 full time family members whom represent the 3rd-5th generation of Carriere Family Farms tradition. Many of our non-family employees have been with us over 20 years and feel just like family.

Rice

- Grows & Manages rice in Glenn and Butte Counties

Walnuts

- Grows & Manages walnut orchards in Glenn and Colusa Counties
- Operates 2 hulling and drying operations
- Operates and processes both in-shell and shelled walnuts
- Ships walnuts domestically and internationally under the Carriere Family Farms and Borges of California brands

Olives

- Grows & Manages olives for oil in Glenn County

Almonds

- Grows and manages almonds in Glenn county



Honorable Mentions

Other family members and long-time employees have been an integral part of the success of Carriere Family Farms. We would not be where we are today without their contributions:

In 1976, Herb and Dick's nephew, Clifford Perez was hired on as the ranch manager while he continued to pursue his own farming ventures. Clifford was instrumental in helping Herb develop many of the orchards. He also maintained and ran the walnut huller and dryer during the harvest season. Clifford spent 11 years working for Herb and Dick. Clifford is still farming walnuts in the Glenn area today.

Michael Carriere, Ph.D., Dick's son, graduated from UC Davis in 1988 and received his Masters in 1992 in Plant Science Agronomy. Mike worked on the ranch for two years where he worked mainly in the rice production. Mike decided to pursue his doctorate and a career in research. He currently works for the University of California and is the Business Development and Intellectual Property Manager for UC Davis's Innovation Access department.

Julie Carriere, Herb's oldest daughter, returned home to work on the farm during Herb's illness. Julie became the office manager in charge of everything from paying bills to shipping product. After 5 years on the ranch Julie returned to her first career of teaching, and is currently teaching at North Monterey County High School in Castroville.

Lisa Berman, Dick's oldest daughter, worked as the Grower Relations Manager from 2008-2011. In the Fall of 2011, she enrolled in the Masters of English program at Chico State. She is looking forward to getting her degree and fulfilling her goal to become a Junior College professor.

Matt Lohse worked for Carriere Family Farms from 2001 to 2013 and helped develop many new farming and processing ventures for the farm. He left in early 2013 to pursue a career in pest management in the Sacramento area.