

Local Produce Report

by Joe Gabriel

The summer growth burgeons. Hot sunny days and warm nights are a paradise for fruits and vegetables. Tomatoes are appearing at the Farmers' Market and in stores, as are eggplants and peppers. Green, Yellow Wax and Purple Snap beans can now be easily obtained. Garlic is in abundant supply. The mild winter and warm spring followed by a hot summer has meant the garlic is well cured and the quality is excellent. Elephant, purple and silver skinned garlic are grown and sold locally. Purple garlic is favored because it peels easily and the flavor is strong. Garlic braids can be found in local stores and at the Farmers' Market.

Root vegetables have matured and are being harvested. Local carrots are back in your grocer's produce section. Harold Chase, east of Springfield off Camp



Creek Rd., has the first organic carrots this year. All you juicers can now enjoy juice from local carrots. Bunched beets are also in season. Potatoes will be on the market no later than August 1. Red potatoes will be the first to be harvested, then Yellow Finns.

The lettuces have been hard hit by the heat. Supplies will be tight the first week of August, but should bounce back by the second week as long as the weather stays in the 80° range. Spinach should remain in steady supply after a short absence. Yellow Crookneck, Gold Rush, Patti Pan and Golden Patti Pan are the summer squashes besides Zucchini.

Red, Green and Savoy cab-

bage are sweet, tender and perfect for cole slaw. Broccoli and cauliflower supplies will dip the first two weeks of August; supplies should stabilize the latter part of August. Organic celery is being harvested by Winter Green farm in Noti; and last but not least, cucumbers are beginning to emerge.

You can now get peaches from local sources. Detering, Ratliff and Thistledown are a few of the growers. If you want organic peaches, Saunders in Salem is the closest producer now that De Cou's is no longer in business. Lodi and Summer Transparent apples, the first of the apple crop and the best for applesauce, are now ready. Blueberries remain in ample supply and will continue through August. The Farmers' Market is one of the few places where local plums can be found. Local plums will be excellent this year with all the sun. What a treat!

Canners, look forward to an abundance of local tomatoes. And, a hearty thanks to all those who have been supporting our local farming industry.



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A Scenic Bike Tour

McGOWAN CREEK

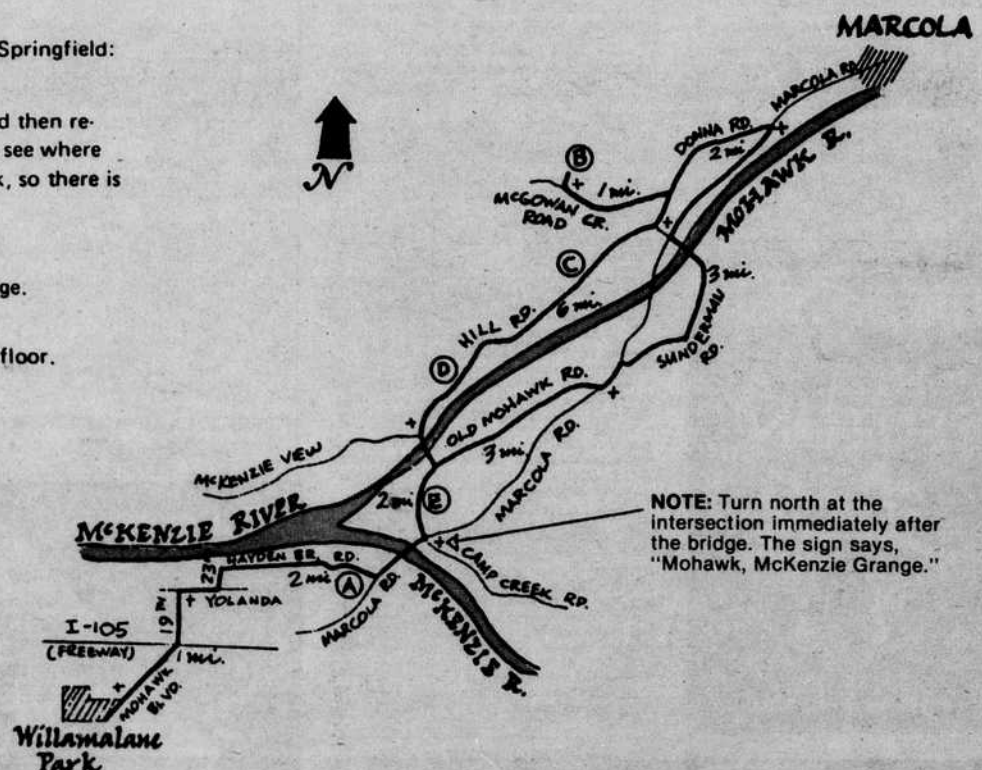
Terrain: Low rolling hills on the north side of the Mohawk River. Flat on the south side.

Road Conditions: Old Mohawk Rd. is bumpy for about one mile. Donna Rd. is bumpy. Portions of Hayden Bridge Rd., Sundeman Rd., and McGowan Creek Rd. are uneven.

Total Distance: Leaving from and returning to Willamalane Park in Springfield: 24 miles.

Comments: This route brings you close along the Mohawk River and then returns along a road part way up the valley wall allowing you to see where you've been. The road continues on past McGowan Creek Park, so there is your opportunity to explore after lunch.

- A. Eugene Water Filtration Plant - visitors welcome.
- B. McGowan Creek Park - picnic tables, toilets, and a rifle range.
- C. Look for colts and calves in the springtime.
- D. Stop for a moment and enjoy the view out over the valley floor.
- E. Picturesque red barn.



NOTE: Turn north at the intersection immediately after the bridge. The sign says, "Mohawk, McKenzie Grange."