



Opportunity News

Noticias de los centros de oportunidad del VML

A publication of the VALLEY MIGRANT LEAGUE, Woodburn, Oregon

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Mechanization replaces hand-picking

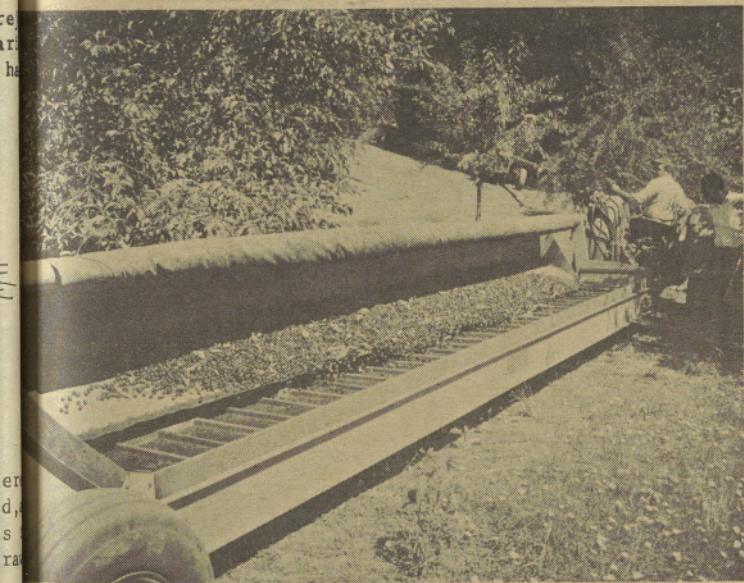
By Ivan Wells

A crew of six men harvesting a daily average of 12,000 pounds of pie cherries per day! Defruiting a tree in less than ten minutes! Less damage to tree and fruit than by hand picking!

As you travel throughout the area served by the Valley Migrant League this summer, you will see more and more crops that are being converted to mechanical harvesting. Bill McDowell, the user of the equipment shown here, says the conversion to mechanical harvesting is necessary because he fears a shortage of pickers in the near future. He is currently using two pieces of equipment, one to shake the tree, the other to pick up the fruit.

A tractor with a long arm with soft fingers at the end, supplies the power to shake the tree as two men stand by with long poles to shake loose the more stubborn cherries.

The cherries drop loose from their stems onto a large tarpaulin that covers the ground beneath the tree. As the two men lift the far corners of the tarp, a power unit on the second machine begins to reel in the tarp that by now is covered with ripe cherries. A long catch basin tips up, and the fruit is gently dumped on a conveyor belt. Cherries move along the belt, up a small incline on the machine and then drop into a tote box filled with water and chunks of ice. As the fruit drops into the boxes, a steady



stream of air blows away most of the twigs and leaves.

Using these two pieces of machinery, and six men, and reducing the picking time per tree, the cost of picking is cut in half to about 1½ cents per pound. This is all done with less damage to the tree and better quality cherries to the processor. It would seem the day of machine assisted harvesting of fruit is here now. The only question that remains is what jobs are available to those people who are now depending upon picking crops as their main source of income?

Un grupo de seis señores están piscando como unos doce mil libras de cerezas al día! Piscan un árbol en menos de diez minutos! Hacen menos daño al árbol y la fruta que piscar a mano!

Al viajar por el área que se sirve por el VML este verano, Vd. verá cada vez más cosechas piscadas mecánicamente. Bill McDowell, quien emplea el equipo que se ve aquí, dice que la automatización es necesaria por la falta de piscadores en el futuro inmediato. Actualmente, está empleando dos máquinas, una para sacudir el árbol y

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Leon Gurney, new VML area supervisor at Independence

Leon Gurney is the new VML area supervisor at Independence. He was born in California and he grew up in Skagit Valley, Mt. Vernon, Washington. He has recently worked on an urban slum project in Venezuela, South America.

Gurney invites all permanent and migrant residents in the Independence area to continue to come into the VML center to get acquainted and talk over problems.

Leon Gurney es el nuevo supervisor de VML en el área de Independence. Nació en California y pasó su infancia en el Valle Skagit en Mt. Vernon, Washington. Hace poco trabajó en un proyecto en un barrio pobre de Venezuela en Sud América.

Gurney convida a todos los trabajadores migratorios y residentes de área que sigan visitando el centro de VML y que se conozcan para llegar a un buen entendimiento de sus problemas.

ВНИМАНИЕ!

В настоящий момент в нашей конторе ВМ занимается пост Мр. Леон Гурней, который сменил в этом месяце предыдущего деректора, который очень желает помочь руским в их нужде. Прошу обращаться к нему со всеми просьбами.

