

### Local Berries Delayed Until Next Week

By LILLIE L. MADSEN  
Farm Editor, The Statesman

Local strawberries would not be on the market in the mid-Willamette area until early next week, grocers interviewed in Salem, Dallas, Stayton, Woodburn and Silverton, said Thursday.

One Salem grocer said he had "hoped" to have some Saturday, but the cloudy weather slowed up the ripening and probably Monday would be the "first day."

Surprise and some chagrin were expressed in the Salem area that the counties to the north had local berries on the market by Wednesday of this week. Reports showed that the offerings were small. Ripening was reported in Clackamas, Washington and Multnomah counties. Processing plant fieldmen here explained the earlier season was due to a difference in soil.

**Late Next Week**

The strawberry processing season in the Salem area is expected to get going in a small way late next week. Should hot weather set in, packers said that their plants would be putting up a few by Thursday. Should cooler weather hold, processing won't get underway until Saturday of next week. Walter Leth, head of the field department for Blue Lake cooperative, said that it was quite likely Blue Lake would "get going on strawberries" by Thursday. United Growers didn't expect to get any berries until "early June." The bulk of the berries for this plant comes from the hill areas and will be a couple of weeks later than the valley berries.

**Prices Discussed**

Talk in the industry as to price has been ranging between 15 and 16 cents a pound. Processors' opinion was that the huge crop in prospect in California and the improved prospects here might take care of any large price increase hoped for earlier. However, two northern packers from Canada and Northern Washington have rented buildings in Oregon and plan to operate small processing plants, and will probably take care of any surpluses should they develop. Speculation among growers and local processors alike was Thursday as to how much tonnage these northern concerns would obtain.

Neither growers nor processors here are expecting the same tonnage from the same acreage as last year. Winter damage to many fields is still quite noticeable, although some have made excellent recovery. Larger acreage is expected to make up for some of the shortage in yield.

### Canada, U.S. Plan Border Water Talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department announced Wednesday the United States and Canada will meet later this year to talk about the waters which flow across their boundary.

This will be the first such meeting since the boundary waters treaty of 1909. This treaty set up the international joint commission which has been handling water problems along the U.S.-Canada border for 46 years. The site of the meeting was not fixed.

The State Department announcement Wednesday said Development of the Columbia, St. John and Yukon basins—all of which lie across the boundary—require "the solution of various complicated, legal, economic and engineering questions."

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