

Housing Forces Citrus Industry to Modernize

By DICK BIESER
LOS ANGELES, July 27 (AP)—California's fabulous citrus industry, dating back to the 18th century Spanish missions, is in the throes of a gigantic upheaval.
Residential subdivisions are springing up on land once devoted to orange and lemon groves. Some citrus districts are disappearing.
While the effect of suburban expansion has been great, particularly in inland areas of southern California, a study of the situation shows the industry is countering with some effective alternatives.
In recent months, tremendous plantings have taken place in central California and southern coastal sections—a total of some 100,000 acres of nonbearing trees have been counted. Nursery stock is being ordered for several years ahead in almost every county.
In addition, new cultural techniques have increased production on per-acre basis.

Market Sales Yet

Other plus factors: new methods for processing; new products and by-products; sustained domestic markets; and the fact export sales last year were the biggest ever.
The only outlook for citrus is a promising one in this state. The latest growing of the 46—but there is evidence the transition it will prove highly favorable.
Economic advantages through increased mechanization are anticipated since the new groves will be composed of smaller, less-irrigated trees. Scientists say this will facilitate the use of pruning machines as well as making it easier for the pickers to do their jobs and for spray rigs to get down the rows.

How serious, then, are the changes made by the real estate developers?
To be sure, California citrus acreage during the 1956 season totaled 220,000—down one quarter from the 213,700 acres of a decade earlier. But production is off only about one percent.

Marginal Acreage

Industry leaders say this indicates much of the land which has gone out of production was marginal acreage anyway. Some growers, they report, obviously had let their holdings run down—just waiting for the right bid from a developer.

One important development in the period of change is the growing importance of the San Joaquin Valley in the citrus picture. This district, in the heart of the famous Central Basin, has long been noted for its early navel oranges. The variety not only ripens earliest in the valley, but attains larger size there than elsewhere in the state.

Excellent land is available in the San Joaquin and water is plentiful. As a consequence the valley is experiencing some of the best of the new plantings. An estimated 3,000 acres of new trees have been set out in Tulare County alone.

8,000 Acres

Along the southern coast, Ventura County has nearly 8,000 acres of new trees. Santa Barbara County has 5,000 and San Diego County more than 1,000. There also has been definite expansion on the coast—a rise in grapefruit and tangerine plantings in the Coachella Valley.

The traditional competition from Florida, which has nearly twice the acreage, remains an active factor in marketing of the orange crop.

Scientists at the University of California experiment station at Riverside believe California growers can meet this competition if they continue to produce normal sized quality fruit without raising production costs.

Water in Mine Runs Uphill

BIRMINGHAM, July 27 (AP)—Water is running uphill in U.S. Steel's Edgewater coal mine with little help from a pump.
G. Jackson, an assistant foreman, provided the solution to the problem of getting water out of a main haulageway without expensive pumping.

Parallel to the haulageway but separated by a solid wall of real concrete, ventilator fans draw air from the mine by way of an aircourse, causing fresh air to flow into the mine.
At the point where the water enters the pressure of the air flowing into the mine is greater than that of the air being pumped out.

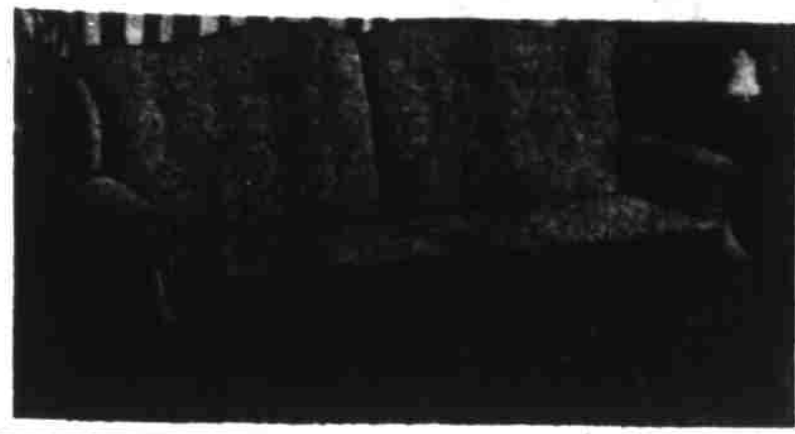
Jackson drove a hole through the separating wall and inserted a two-inch pipe, tilting upward from the haulageway in the air passage.

Through the pipe and toward the way ran the water, just as a banana soda being sipped through a straw.

Langley Charge Dismissal Asked

PORTLAND, July 27 (AP)—The state has asked Circuit Judge James Crawford to dismiss an indictment which charges former Multnomah County Dist. Atty. William Langley with malfeasance.
Asst. Atty. Gen. John Nichols asked the dismissal on the grounds that the charge is moot, since Langley already has been removed from office.
Langley, 43, was removed following his conviction for failure to prosecute gamblers, in the first major trial stemming from Portland's long vice probe.

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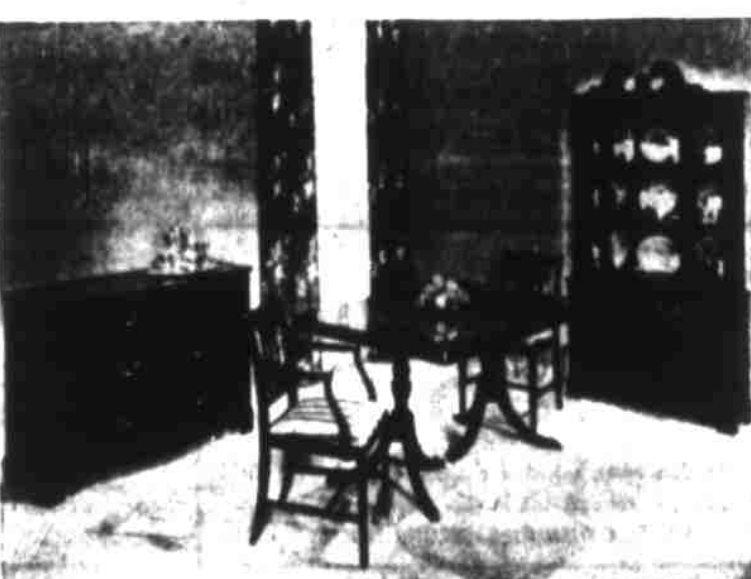
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reg. \$119.50 chest-on-chest **\$99.50**

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