

# National Potato Letter New Potato Crop Shows Big Gain; Shipping Off Over Nation; Demand Slow

Supply  
New potatoes will dominate the market completely soon. The early crop estimate for May 1 puts the winter crop at only about 40 per cent of last year, and 64 per cent of the 10-year average. The early spring group stands at 60 per cent of 1946, but is almost square on the average. The late spring group is up at 65 per cent of 1946, but still is 112 per cent of average. Since this group accounts for 34 of the 38 million bushels estimated for the three groups, this excess over the average assumes considerably more importance than the declines in the other areas. Acreage in the summer sections (production report due June 10) is only 85 per cent of last year and 87 per cent of average. If yields come out in the same ratios as indicated for the earlier sections, however, production would be about 88 per cent of last year and 120 per cent of average. The weather is a doubtful factor, but our guess is that there will be plenty of early crop spuds from now on through August; probably no very serious surplus in actual supply, but enough overflow to be troublesome. Even the overflow will be moderated by the uniformly bad weather and may not be a factor until July.

**Movement**  
Shipments last week skidded off sharply to 4877 cars, with only 33 of these for the government. This leaves a daily average of 801 cars, which is not too bad. California is way out ahead with 2057 cars for the week; Maine second with 75 cars but pushed hard by Florida with 62 and Idaho with 58. Alabama moved 278 cars while Michigan with 141 and North Dakota with 107 were the only other states to pass the mark. The weather is a doubtful factor, but our guess is that there will be plenty of early crop spuds from now on through August; probably no very serious surplus in actual supply, but enough overflow to be troublesome. Even the overflow will be moderated by the uniformly bad weather and may not be a factor until July.

**Demand and Markets**  
Maine reports mostly a slow demand, but the market about steady and prices down 5 to 10 cents to 60 to 65 cents over the floor. Hastings, Florida, demand has been mixed—moderate to good to fair by way of slow—the market steady after dullness and weakness and prices down 60 cents to 20 cents over the floor. Washed basis. Southern Florida supplies have been insufficient to quote. Foley, Alabama demand has been slow to fair, the market about steady after weakening and prices down 65 cents over the floor on a washed basis. Wasco, California, has ruled slow improving to good, the market weak but turning steady and slightly stronger and prices down 5 to 10 cents at floor for washed stock.

Chicago reports demand mostly slow to fair, the market about steady to firm after early weakness on old stock with demand mostly slow to fair and the market weak for new. New York has ruled dull and weaker for old; dull and unsettled with some weakness for new. Atlanta, held steady for old, weak for new; Boston, dull for old, mostly weaker for new; Detroit, about steady to firm after early weakness on old, generally weaker on new; Minneapolis, steady on old, weaker on new California, steady on new Texas; Philadelphia, slightly weaker early but turning about steady for all stock. San Francisco held steady on old offerings, weak on new Long Whites but steady on new Reds. Trackholdings appear to be extremely high, although some undoubtedly are undelivered seed for areas now planting.

**Miscellaneous**  
We hear that several areas are actively interested in activating or developing marketing agreement programs. Colorado will operate under its state program, but Idaho and the 4-state central area (Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota) probably will activate the programs initiated in 1941 but dormant during the war. At least one other important area and two smaller ones have indicated a desire to explore the possibilities of similar programs of their own. Meanwhile, congratulations to all of them. Competition will be tough again, and the areas most willing to do their own "uplifting" will come out on top. Marketing agreements give the industry a chance to develop their own programs, and to operate them as well. An interesting commentary, as we understand it, is that these programs allow the industry to do what otherwise would amount to restraint of trade. Exports to Spain and Yugoslavia continued after the close of the army deal, but have now dried up completely. . . . Maine will see potato dusting by helicopter this year. Helicopter dusting avoids wheel injury, permits application without waiting for dry ground, and gets into corners and fence rows better than other air dusting. Maine potato growers are reported as responsible for the innovation. . . . Wonder what the U. S. average seed planted per acre is now? A few years ago it was 13 bushels. Then it was 17 bushels. Now we hear of record yields being made with 25 to 35 bushels per acre, and reduction in proportion of lumps, growth cracks, and hollow heart.

## Lanell Valle

L. A. Constans returned from Los Angeles last week where he attended the funeral of his sister who passed away after a short illness. Constans is moving this week to Dairy to make his home.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Gale have returned home after spending the past six months in Southern California and Arizona.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hodges of Merrill spent Tuesday at Bonanza with their sons and families.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Jones of Klamath Falls have bought the Watkins ranch, the former Pepple place, and will make their home in Lanell Valle.

Mrs. Lulu Brown of Bakersfield, Calif., is visiting her son Barney and family.

Mrs. Nellie Quick of Malin is with her daughter Vivian Sullivan. Mrs. Quick has been very ill but is reported improving.

Mr. and Mrs. Ora Johnson returned last week after spending the winter months in Arizona and California.

Joe Roads spent a few days in Sacramento last week.

Mrs. Ruby Brown and Mrs. Frank Brown and daughter visited on Mother's Day with Mrs. Wes Dearborn.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Jones spent Mother's Day with their daughter, Mrs. Bob Dalton and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Elliott House and sons spent Mother's Day with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Don Ross.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Barney Brown and their new baby son and to Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Pool who have a new baby boy. Both boys were born last week at Klamath Valley hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Teare have returned from a vacation trip to Portland and Seattle. They also visited at Cave Junction with Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Monroe.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Cain and his mother, Mr. and Mrs. Warner Fett and his mother, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Pinell, Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Batus and children, all of Klamath Falls, spent Mother's Day with Mr. and Mrs. Bill Burnett and family.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Neil Grohs who were married recently at Carson City, Nev. Mrs. Grohs was Clara Ritter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Ritter of Hildebrand.

Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Johnson and Mrs. Mary Dearborn were dinner guests at the Leavitt home on Mother's Day.

A large group of parents and friends attended the Mother Goose play at the Bonanza library on Friday evening. The play was given by the Blue Bird girls under the direction of the principal, Mrs. Daisy Cox, assisted by La Rue Markham.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Ross, Tom House and Mrs. Elliott House spent Tuesday sewing at the Leavitt home.

**Malin**  
Mrs. Naomi L. Jacobson, teacher of piano, will present her pupils in a recital Wednesday, May 21 at the high school gymnasium.

Mrs. Merle J. Loosley spent Mother's Day at Oregon State college with her son John, who is a sophomore.

Mrs. Carren Jobs and Mrs. L. W. Hartley visited with Mrs. John L. Barley last week. Mrs. Jobs is a former resident of Malin.

A submarine can crash in a matter of seconds, yet so smoothly that sleeping crew members are not awakened and there are no pressure effects from submerging.

## Klamath Men Bound For Visit To Old Ireland



Con McCarthy and the Rev. Michael Abern, both from Chiloquin, are pictured here at LaGuardia's International air terminal saying goodbye to McCarthy's two young nieces, 8-year-old Katherine and 12-year-old Katherine. Just before boarding the Shannon-bound American Overseas Airlines flagship, "Great Britain," McCarthy is a woodsman and said that he hadn't been back to the Old Country in 19 years. Father Abern, parish priest at Chiloquin and who is on his way to Waterford, Cappoquin county, Ireland, said they would spend four months there before returning to the United States.

## Mary McComb Shelf Ready

A collection of beautiful books, well illustrated, have been selected by the committee for the Mary McComb Memorial shelf at the Klamath county library, the funds donated by friends of the late Miss McComb, county librarian, who died December 21.

The selected books will first be placed on display and later distributed. One fourth of the sum was relegated to children's books, especially those for reading aloud. Another fourth will go toward the purchase of books on art and music and the remainder will purchase books on antiques, nature and literature.

Members of the committee making the selection are, Mrs. Andrew M. Collier, Mrs. Victor E. O'Neill, Miss Evola Hawkins, Miss Alice Waldron and Miss Margaret Steiner.

**Hager**  
Barbara Campbell of Bly spent the week-end with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Hess. She played and sang over the radio Saturday morning.

Bruce Hess of Lovelock, Nev., is spending his vacation here with home folks.

Mr. and Mrs. A. McDonald returned from Portland where they attended the funeral of his mother.

Fred Hess is the proud possessor of a new truck.

Mrs. Mae Anderson is on the invalid list due to minor surgery Monday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hayes were in this community Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Sheppard and Glenda and Charlene were visitors in Klamath Falls Monday evening.

**Merrill Girl Named To Sigma Xi**  
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, May 17 (Special)—Among students on the University of Oregon campus elected as associate members to Sigma Xi, national science honor society, was Della Martin of Merrill.

Miss Martin, who is a senior in chemistry at the university, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Martin of Merrill.

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## Boyle's Column Chanute, Kansas, Proves City Owned Utilities Okay

By HAL BOYLE  
CHANUTE, Kas., May 17 (AP)—You don't have to pay a city tax to live here and no resident has paid one since 1930.

But the city isn't in debt. It doesn't owe anybody a cent and has some \$350,000 to \$400,000 in its treasury.

Chanute, a beacon of civic prosperity in an America of debt-ridden communities, is the only debt-free, tax-free municipality of its size (11,000) in Kansas.

It didn't get that way through siphoning off part of the take from gambling dens and race tracks, as have some Florida and Nevada communities. Gambling is illegal in Kansas.

Chanute put itself into the black ink side of the civic ledger by going into business for itself. It took over the ownership of its own public utilities—water, gas, electricity—and pays for the cost of all municipal government through earnings from these services.

"But our utility rates are well within the average charged by other municipalities throughout the state," said Ross Cooper, 45, city clerk, "and most citizens approve of our way of paying city government costs."

**Part of Earnings**  
These costs are about \$125,000 a year, including police and fire department expenditures, but they measure only partly the earnings of the city-owned utilities.

Chanute issued \$44,000 in bonds to build a water plant in 1893. It bought out a private gas company in 1929 by threatening to build its own municipal plant.

In 1903 the city took \$32,000 from its municipal gas company earnings to buy out an unsuccessful private electric power company.

"The owner was glad to sell for \$32,000," said Cooper. "Now our electric power plant is worth at least \$2,000,000."

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## Dry Weather Harms Crops

PORTLAND, Ore., May 17 (AP)—The dry spell in Eastern Oregon's wheat fields has cut crop expectations to 70 per cent of normal, Muriel E. Cummings, state director of the federal crop insurance corporation, estimated today.

He said growth conditions were only 80 per cent of what they have been in the past five favorable years with northern Gilliam and Morrow counties the worst hit. Some fields will not be harvested at all unless rain falls soon, Cummings added.

He predicted Morrow county yields might be as low as 8 bushels an acre, compared with a long-time average of 16 bushels and an average in the past five years of 30 bushels. Cummings said heavy rains could increase this year's yield to a 12-bushel average.

## Chiloquin

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Elliott traveled to the Rogue River valley late Saturday night to spend Sunday with relatives.

Paint brushes have been busy these last weeks. Several homes are showing a new face, the Catholic church is gleaming white, and the interior of Glenger's store received a complete spraying of paint.

Mildred Bortoff, a resident of Pennsylvania, and Van Wyckoff, agent for Southern Pacific, were married at 8:30 o'clock Saturday evening in Reno, Nevada. They were Wyckoff's sister and brother-in-law.

Mr. and Mrs. Otho N. Poole, of Klamath Agency, the foursome returned on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Glenger, Bonnie and LeRoy Jr., and Mrs. Dora Glenger visited in Medford on Sunday, Mother's Day, with Mrs. Lanore Flury, Mrs. Flury's friends will be interested to know that she has sold her home in Medford and at present is making her home with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John Cox.

Mrs. C. E. Everett spent several days at the home of her sister, Mrs. Leonard Allen in Klamath Falls, helping to care for young Tim, a newcomer in the Allen family.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Schueck, Mr. and Mrs. Lon Kellison, and Bob spent Sunday in Oakridge.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Jones of Klamath Falls and Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Cook were Sunday visitors at Union Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Lawyer of Lapeer, Idaho brought Mr. and Mrs. Archie Lawyer and sons back from their vacation, arriving on Saturday. The senior Lawyer will return on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dumont of Myrtle Creek were here to try the fishing last weekend.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Don Ritzell are Art Jackson and Gordon Anderson of Vancouver, B. C. They flew in on Monday in their Culver two-seater.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lott, Crawford Lewis, and Mrs. Forest Freid were Elkton guests last Wednesday and Thursday. Mrs. Freid stayed with her parents, the Rev. and Mrs. L. S. Buck and her brother, Donald, joined the Lotts and Lewis on a fishing trip on the Umpqua river.

Seventh and eighth grade boys attended the play day at Atamont on Friday.

Dick Flury and Glenn Kircher traveled to Medford on Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Glenger in order to spend Mother's Day with their respective parents.

## Long Skirt Controversy Rages Among Women

(Continued from Page One)  
they're awfully ugly. Really terrible looking. I'll probably buy me new ones the new long length but I'll still wear my old ones. I can't afford to buy every time the styles change."

Young Mother—"Well, I think they should stay short but not quite as short as they've been. Perhaps an inch—maybe just the depth of the hem."

Beauty Operator—"It looks like I'll continue to wear what I have at the length they are. I'll not throw away my old ones."

Radio Woman—"I like them the way they are."

Radio Man—"As far as the male opinion goes—it's N.G."

## Howard Case Halt Called

After a run of 13 days in circuit court, a halt has been called in the suit brought by Frank Z. Howard against Klamath county for about \$9000 in back pay assertedly due him.

The direct testimony and cross examination being finished, Circuit Judge David R. Vandenberg has taken the case under advisement. There was no jury.

Frank Howard, county surveyor, was on the witness stand throughout the entire trial. Since the case involves an interpretation of a statute setting up the salary scale for county surveyors, it may eventually reach the state supreme court no matter what Judge Vandenberg rules.

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