

# Rains Hold Up Crops Over Deep South, Shortage Of Fertilizer Crop Threat

ATLANTA, March 31 (AP)—Down south where the sugar cane grows it has been raining heavily. In between the cane fields of Louisiana and Florida and northward along Dixie's sprawling cotton belt the rain also has come down in torrents. The same was true in the more northerly states of Kentucky and Virginia where grain, livestock, tobacco, peanuts and fruits are major crops.

The weather was wet, very wet, when the year began. It stayed that way for weeks and months. It was especially bad early in February. By mid-March in Georgia, livestock was dying of pneumonia. Fields were unplowed, roads were sodden and miry.

Finally, the spring sun did shine. But the farmers and their helpers were from two weeks to a month behind with their spring work.

New farm hands and owners are busy all day and part of the night, eager to make their full contribution to the nation.

And what are the prospects for 1948?

Well, it's hard to say. It will depend on the weather from here on out. It will depend on how well Dixie's farmers fare in the age-old battle with bugs, plant diseases and such problems as help, machinery and fertilizer—to name only a few.

Staples such as cotton, tobacco, peanuts, potatoes and rice will all be affected by the same factor—the lateness of spring preparation and planting and the resultant added hazard of a short crop season. Another handicap is a shortage of an essential fertilizer, Potash, another important fertilizer, also is short in some areas.

Generally, the outlook is from fair to good, depending, of course, on developments.

Tobacco, a tremendous money crop in seven southern states, will be grown this year on a greatly reduced acreage.

Dixie's specialty crops are something else again. Here is a quick look at some of them.

**CITRUS**—Florida growers of oranges, grapefruit and tangerines are in tears. They produced a bumper current crop but while the prices of everything else was going up, citrus prices went down—down to the rock bottom. The growers took a licking, but they are all optimists. They are getting ready next year to turn out an even bigger crop—maybe 120,000,000 or 125,000,000 boxes, or a third more than the present crop. The early bloom was dandy and the prospects are good, barring freezes and other troubles.

**PEACHES**—An Easter Monday frost settling on the pink blossoms and buds all the way from the North Carolina sandhills down through Piedmont, South Carolina to mid-Georgia made a big dent in the peach crop. Growers estimated the damage from 10 to 95 per cent. Some thought the loss, running into thousands of carloads, might cut the prospective yield into half. This consolation remained however: What peaches do get through will be bigger and fancier because of the thinning accomplished by the freeze. A small crop also will cause higher prices.

**APPLES**—The Virginia crop, the principal one in the south, was almost halved last year by a mid-May frost. Shenandoah valley orchardists, looking at a week of summer-like weather this month, are fearful that the trees are coming along too fast and may suffer a similar disaster this year. The Virginia crop is normally well over 10,000,000 bushels worth more than \$20,000,000.

# No Housing Shortage For Peter Bilecki

SEDRO WOOLLEY, Wash. March 31 (AP)—A cedar stump beat the housing shortage for Peter Bilecki.

The 54-year-old Polish immigrant, a former cook in Seattle restaurants, hewed a home in the stump with five months of spare time labor and has lived in it for 22 months. A cat is his only companion.

The 10-foot high by 7-foot thick stump offers Bilecki what he was seeking in a home: a good roof, sunlight and low initial cost and upkeep.

A built-in slab bunk is his bed and his chair; a converted milk can is his stove. The stump's heavy sides are cut by two windows and a door. Bilecki keeps a garden nearby.

"In the city you need money every day," he explained, discussing his assault against the high cost of living. "Here I don't pay any rent; I get my fuel out of the woods. I don't need much money."

# VFW Joins In Italy Fight

BUFFALO, N. Y., March 31 (AP)—A Buffalo Veterans of Foreign Wars unit will appeal to Italian voters through eight Italian newspapers to "block the tide of communism in Europe" in the April 18 election.

The advertisement will appear in journals in Rome, Milan, Florence, Genoa, Venice, Turin, Naples and Palermo.

City Judge Jacob A. Latona, past commander of Bison post 284, said yesterday the post had voted \$400 to pay for the plan. The copy reads in part:

"Let not the Russian beast desecrate Italian soil hallowed by the blood of those who fought for liberty."

"These honored dead, who fought for the rights of free men and now lie buried in this Italian soil, appeal to you to stop the crushing boot of communism from profaning their graves. The eyes of the world are upon Italy, the cradle of Christianity."

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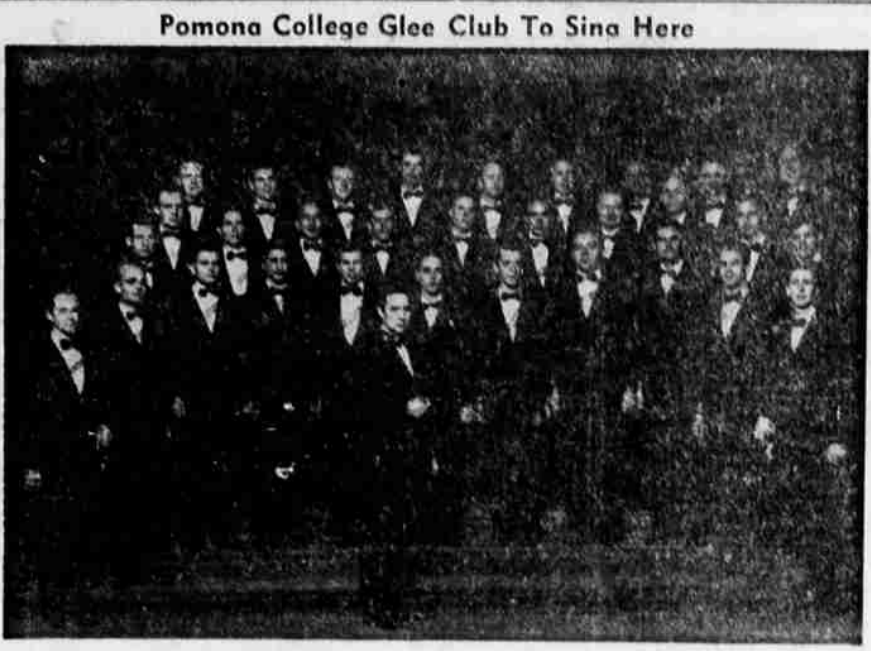
Main at Esplanade Ph. 3121

See the KUHS Student Body Play "The Black Flamingo" A 3-Act play of French Revolutionary Days presented by the School Drama Dept.



Pictured left to right, on the balcony, Joe Demetras as the priest; Bob Platt, Francois de Lussac. On the stairway, Darlene Knowles, Charlotte Rex Mills, Pope, Erika, Clara, Claret, Rosemary Davis, Madame Bodier; Jim Crisman, Felipe Bodier; Cy Newman, Eugene de Lussac; Leroy Overen, Trigand; Dorothea Cogdill, Diana; Bob Mahoney, Bourlain.

Thursday, April 1 KUHS Auditorium—8:00 p.m. Admission—Adults 75c, Students 40c



A concert featuring the Pomona college men's glee club under the direction of Arthur B. Hitchcock will be presented Tuesday, April 6, in Klamath Union high school auditorium at 8 p. m. The sponsor group is the Klamath County Junior chamber of commerce. The concert will be presented as part of the Pomona club's spring tour through the Pacific Northwest.

# Masonite Corporation To Build West Coast Plant

CHICAGO, March 31 (AP)—Masonite corporation, manufacturer of wood fiber hardboard, announced plans today for a multi-million dollar program of expansion to the west coast.

Eugene Holland, president, said the corporation will exercise an option to buy a tract of more than 30,000 acres of timber in Mendocino county, Calif. This will be preliminary to construction of a plant probably near Ukiah, Calif., although the specific site has not been chosen, Holland added.

Masonite has operated a hardboard plant at Laurel, Miss., since 1926. Holland said opening of the California plant will not affect activities at Laurel. The west coast program will involve a capital investment of "several million dollars," but no public financing will be required, the announcement said.

The California timberland is one of the large tracts of red-wood held by non-operators. The seller is the Southern Pacific Land company.

Under present plans, masonite will build a private truck road more than 30 miles long from the vicinity of Ukiah to the timber tract, known locally as Albion. Road construction will start in a few weeks, and require a year to complete.

Holland said steadily rising demand for the company's product was the principal reason for the expansion. Another factor, he said, was the need for extending the corporation's timber reserves.

"It is still necessary for us to distribute our output on an allocation basis, despite a substantial increase in productive capacity obtained last year through addition of a fourth

manufacturing unit to our Laurel plant," Holland said.

In connection with the expansion program, Holland said "we also intend to conduct an intensive research program on the development of new uses for wood products and an educational campaign for the utilization of waste timber ordinarily left in the woods by lumbering operations."

Operations of the California plant, Holland said, will supplement the Laurel production which, even at its present high level, is not enough to satisfy current demand.

He said some products dropped or curtailed at Laurel will be resumed.

**FBI To Get Torso Murder Case**  
OREGON CITY, March 31 (AP)—The torso murder case—a two-year mystery here—will be turned over to the federal bureau of investigation shortly.

District Attorney Stanley Mitchell said that local investigation had come to a dead end, and that all evidence would be turned over to the FBI.

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# Vets Picket Soviet Ship

JERSEY CITY, N. J., March 31 (AP) Catholic war veterans began picketing a second Russian freighter, the Volga, Tuesday—their lines set up a half mile from the pier where the vessel is docked.

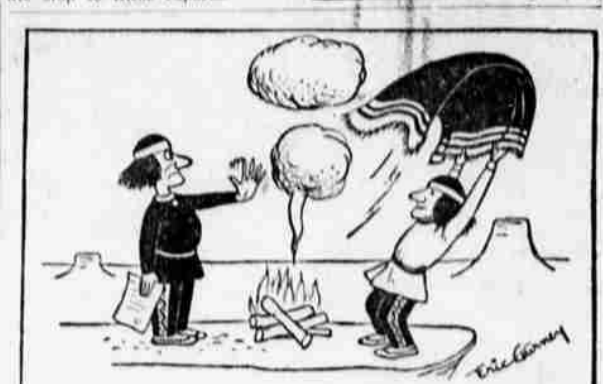
The picket line was posted outside the Claremont terminal of the Lehigh Valley railroad.

Thomas J. Carlin, Hudson county commander of the CWV, first to appear to picket, said he would not withdraw his pickets this time in a fight to the finish against shipment of war-potential goods to the Soviet Union.

Two gangs of stevedores of the International Longshoremen's association (ILA), totaling 62 men, res-

spected the CWV picket lines and did not go to work loading the vessel.

Carlin said pickets would continue "until either the red ships leave the port or the government does something to put an immediate stop to these exports."



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