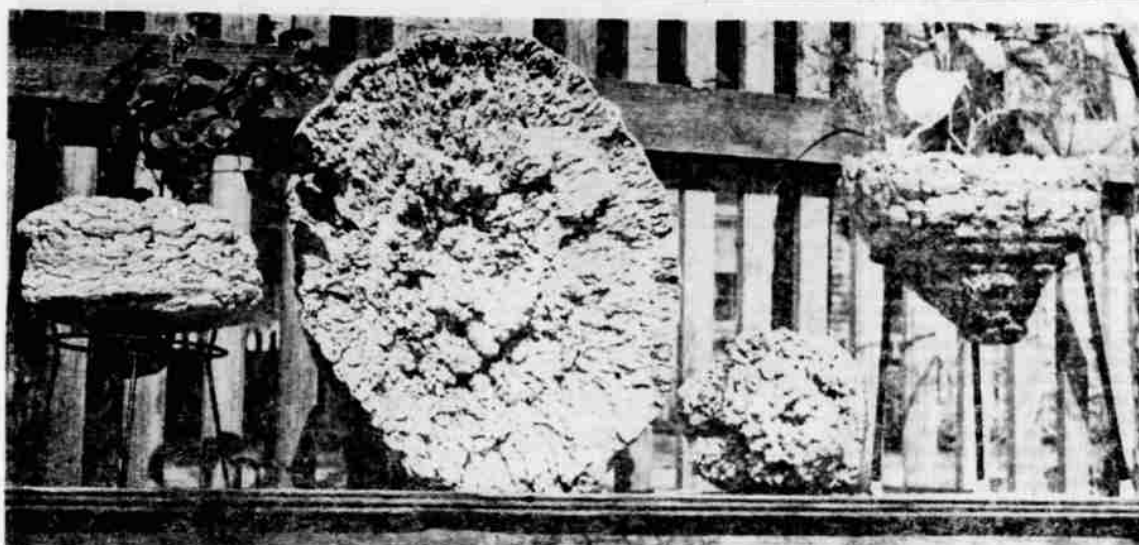




MUGWUMPS, picked up on dry lake beds, are used in the Van Keuren home in McCloud as planters. The oddly

shaped calcium growths resemble petrified mushrooms more than anything else.

Mugwumps Put To Use In John Van Keuren Home

By RAY KITE

McCLOUD—Many collect them, many store them, but it took Mrs. John Van Keuren to find a practical use for mugwumps: one of nature's oddest formations. She decided to try them as planters. They were naturals. Just what plants wanted.

Across the California state line in Nevada between Eagleville and Gerlach is to be found the dry lake bed where the mugwumps are found. Many are broken from filling with water and freezing. Many have been taken away by rock-hounds. The usable ones must be dug from the dirt and sand. Many are so large they can't be moved.

Each mugwump has a rock as a base. The size of the rock de-

termines the ultimate size of the odd formation. Calcium particles build up over the centuries and water action no doubt determines the shape. Chemical analysis of the calcium deposits show they are neutral, neither acid nor alkaline. Layers of "growth" are plainly visible. In appearance they are like petrified mushrooms. The base is usually a piece of obsidian.

"No other name is known for the odd formations, it is somewhat like thundereggs, designating glades, only there is no other name among rock-hounds, for the mugwumps," said John Van Keuren, collector of the oddities.

Many of the beautiful calcium deposits adorn the Van Keuren home. Some contain as many as five different plants.



JOHN VAN KEUREN poses here with three planters he has made out of the oddities of nature called Mugwumps.

County Agent Reports Farm News Briefed From The County Agent Radio Programs

By WALT JENDRZEJEWSKI

Late crop growers intended to plant only 4.3 per cent less potato acreage than last year when they reported for USDA's March 1 planting intentions report. USDA's late crop planting guide recommends a 12 per cent acreage reduction.

Acreage guides for 1959 were set up to provide 230 million cwt., anticipating a combined food and seed utilization of 209 million cwt. and 21 million cwt. of shrink and starch and livestock use.

Production in 1958 totaled 264 million cwt. of which 181 million were late crop. Acreage totaled 1,498,000 acres of which 948,000 was late crop. Guide acreage for 1959 totals 1,523,000 acres of which 834,000 acres are late crop.

Percentage reduction from 1958 recommended by the planting include: Idaho, 15 per cent; North Dakota, 15 per cent; Maine, 11 per cent; Washington, 15 per cent; California, 14 per cent; Oregon, 12 per cent.

Planting intentions for the same states are: Idaho, a 2 per cent increase; North Dakota, 7 per cent decrease; Maine, 6 per cent decrease; Washington, 10 per cent decrease; California, 4 per cent decrease; Oregon, 7 per cent decrease.

Except for Idaho, late states

plan less acreage but probabilities are that too many late crop potatoes will be produced again this year unless growers, including those in Idaho, make further reductions in planting intentions before the crop is planted.

Winter, early spring, and late spring growers reduced acreage in line with guide recommendations but yield prospects are much better than a year ago. The summer crop guide is 10 per cent less; planting intentions are 11 per cent less than a year ago.

The three states, Idaho, Maine, and North Dakota grow over 1/2 of the late crop production. The late crop makes up two thirds of the nation's potato production. As a rule, winter, early and late spring and summer crops account for 1-3 of the total.

USDA's statements that no diversion program is contemplated for 1959 and that, if diversion is provided, it will be available only to areas which plant within guide acreage indicate that growers may not have this assistance if they persist in producing too many potatoes.

A. E. Mercker, Executive Director of the National Potato Council, speaking to Klamath Basin Growers at Tulelake, last Friday evening, deplored the widespread impression that 1959 is the year to plant potatoes.

Cypress Knees Now Aid In Making Psychiatric Study

MIAMI (UPI)—Psychiatrists can tell a lot about you by the way you look at knobby knees.

Not the kind connecting a well-turned ankle and a shapely thigh—cypress knees.

Cypress knees are the gnarled, twisted outgrowths from the roots of cypress trees and they often look like modern sculpture gone haywire.

The idea, says Dr. Edward F. Kerman, Boston psychiatrist, is to give a third dimension to the widely-used Rorschach ink blot tests by using the weirdly-shaped knees.

Here's how it works: A mentally-troubled patient is asked to inspect a half dozen or so cypress knees. He then is asked to give his reaction to the shapes; to make up stories in which the knees become characters in the plot.

Through the reactions and stories—some of them are real dandies, says Kerman—a skilled examiner can learn much about the patient's hidden feelings and problems.

He says that one type of knee seems to appeal to persons suffering from guilt complexes, another to the aggressive type and still another to schizophrenics.

Strangely, the idea is not the brainchild of a psychiatrist but of a Florida woodsman with only a high school education and an inquisitive mind. He is Tom Gaskins, operator of a cypress museum at Palmdale, Fla.

About two years ago, Gaskins noticed that tourists visiting his "cypress knee exhibit" were fascinated by the strange shapes and visualized all sorts of images while studying them.

Gaskins, an amateur psychologist, recognized that the tourists were reacting very much as they would to the ink blot test—only this was in 3-D.

He became so intrigued with the

idea that he wrote a letter to the Psychiatric Quarterly, a magazine of the profession, and sent the editors a sample of a knee.

Later several psychiatrists took time out from Florida vacations to visit Gaskins and look over his collection. Kerman was one of them. He became so interested he made a careful study of the idea.

SIX MONTHS' WORK

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—"Porgy and Bess" has been completed as far as the main part of the photography is concerned, and the next six months will be devoted to technical work on the 2½-hour-long film. Producer Samuel Goldwyn expects to have its American premiere in New York in July.

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