

Potato Eyes

RONA MORRIS WORKMAN
ROCKING W RANCH

We celebrated the Fourth in a rather peculiar manner on the Rocking W this year. Knowing that practically every man, his wife and dog would be heading for the coast or other wide-open spaces, we decided it would be safer, far more comfortable and doubtless more productive if we remained at home and planted potatoes.

Now to the average consumer of the lowly spud, I can well believe that the task of planting them must seem a most uninteresting one. I have indeed often heard the expression "as uninteresting as a potato" used to describe some particularly stupid person, but I don't think that is fair to the potato. Heaven knows that I get tired of cooking them, for my Big Boss is one of those "meat-potato-and-gravy-men" and I could have macaroni, rice, spaghetti and bread and beans on the table at the same time, yet he would look questioningly around and inquire mildly, "What, no potatoes?" So I have cooked the darn things at least twice a day—and often three times—for thirty-two years and doubtless will continue to do so until he or I move on to the place where, I fondly hope, there are no potatoes to peel or cook.

However, my personal feelings toward a potato does not destroy the fact that they are interesting. They apparently have that certain something which appeals



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to the masculine nature; in that respect they do resemble blondes, although I have never heard of a wife being jealous of a potato.

One can do a lot of thinking while cutting potatoes for planting. Our New Daughter helped me cut them the other day. She confided to me that she, being reared in the city, had never thought how potatoes were propagated. Had she been asked, she would probably have replied that they must come from little seeds, like carrots or radishes, and the idea of their having "eyes" seemed very amusing to her. Potatoes not only have eyes, but they have as many diseases as a neurotic woman and can prove just as exasperating. Sometimes they make a fine showing of growth, like some folks I have known, but when you start digging you find that they have produced nothing but a few warty, scaly little runts fit only to be thrown into the discard. A bad potato can also infect the soil where it grows just like a bad human being and make it unsafe for another generation, and if your seed is not clean and good, you cannot expect, no matter how careful you are, to raise a firm, healthy crop. Yes, potatoes are really like folks.

And I was thinking, as I cut two eyes to a piece, that planting potatoes is like living. Some of us are rather "small potatoes" in this big world, but if we come of good stock, if we have no inner rot and we "winter well," then we can add our quota of "eyes" to the common good of the future. If we are free of the disease of hatred and fear and greed we shall not infect the portion of the earth in which we have grown, nor will the "seed-eyes" we give to the world carry any taint of destruction.

If one grows good disease-free

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Banks Bank Name Changed

Earl A. Bowman, vice-president of the Washington County Bank of Banks announced this week that the name of the institution has been changed to The Commercial Bank of Banks. This bank has been affiliated with The Commercial National Bank of Hillsboro since January, 1944.

The officers of The Commercial Bank of Banks are: J. L. Searcy, president; Earle A. Bowman, vice-president; George Laver, cashier; and R. E. Coe, Jr., assistant cashier.

Total resources as of June 29th, 1946, were \$1,262,000.00.

potatoes and sends them out into service, he is doing his best for the food supply of the world. If the eyes of these potatoes are planted, the good is multiplied. I wondered as I sat in the occasional bits of sunshine by the barn and plied a busy knife, if our thoughts and words could not be compared to seed-eyes. They are a part of us; they embody the wholesomeness or the rot of our inner core, and they produce their like if they are planted in the soil of a receptive mind.

Scientists are just beginning to realize the importance and the actual force of thought, although two thousand years ago a Master Psychologist said "As a man thinketh—so he is," and He but repeated a truth which had been handed down from the remote past. Modern phychologists have re-discovered that thoughts not only affect the one who thinks them but also others within the radius of that thought—and they have not yet found out exactly how far a thought can travel. You can no more know where your seed-thoughts go, or in what gardens they are planted, than you can know where your seed potatoes go when you send them to market.

It has been my observation that folks are more concerned with the seed they plant in their gardens than they are about those they sow in their minds, and they certainly do a great deal more fertilizing and cultivating of their vegetable gardens than they ever think of doing for their mind-gardens. Yet it is reasonable to believe that you cannot raise anything worth having in a mind that is fed constantly with trash, gossip and petty fault-finding. The seed-thoughts which may come from such barren hungry soil will never produce "good potatoes."

I think potatoes are very like use common folks. They and we form the foundation of meals and of a country, yet there are so many of us that we, like potatoes, are taken for granted. But I am very sure that it is upon us, the common people of the world, that the real responsibility for the future of our civilization rests. If we can keep free from the rot of greediness, the scale of political corruption, the blight of racial hatred and misunderstanding, and will realize our value in the scheme of things, the future of the world is safe.

I have been sitting at the edge of the clover field while writing this and watching the Big Boss mowing. It is quitting time. The big grays are looking longingly toward the barn and their supper of oats and hay. Perhaps the Big Boss is also thinking of his supper. I must wander back to the house, build a fire and peel potatoes. I think I'll give him ham and brown gravy with his potatoes tonight, with fresh strawberries and perhaps hot biscuit and gooseberry jam. After all, my man has had a busy day.

TAKE A TIP FROM THE WISE OLD OWL—
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New War Assets Office Opened

War assets administration, the government agency handling 90 per cent of all surplus property sales, will open for business in its new location at Swan Island, Monday, July 8.

All activities, including those of the public interest and veterans' division which issues eligibility certificates to ex-GIs, will be housed under one roof, the former personnel building.

The new location provides ample space for parking and the Portland Traction company will start running buses direct from Fifth avenue and Stark street to the WAA building. Office hours will be 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The new telephone number will be TRinity 1121.

The question of a new building passed the debatable stage when the Portland regional office took over the sale of consumer type of goods in Oregon, which formerly was handled in Seattle, as well as the sale of defense plants, airports and similar real property in the northwest, according to C. T. Mudge, regional director. Mudge announced also that Klamath and Lake counties, which had been in the San Francisco region, had been added to the Portland region.

July 4 Visits Are Tabulated

KEASEY—Mrs. O. B. Bittner has been visiting in Portland the last few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Chet Fugate, Mr. and Mrs. Norgard and children of Portland and James Bonnick celebrated the 4th together at the Fugate home on Rock Creek.

Those who celebrated the 4th at the D. R. DeVaney home were: Mrs. L. C. Boesk, Mr. J. L. Counts, Mr. and Mrs. B. Burndt, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. DeVaney Mrs. A. B. Counts and Mr. and Mrs. H. Counts and daughter.

Mrs. Julia Boeck has been visiting her sister, Mrs. D. R. DeVayel, and brother, Herb Counts. V. E. Cleveland went to Hillsboro over the 4th.

Visitors at the O. B. Bittner home in the past week were Mr. and Mrs. W. Lindsey, Mr. and Mrs. Pope, Mr. and Mrs. Laycox, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Osborn. G. O. Brown's sister from Port-

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land, has been visiting with relatives over the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller called at the Herb Counts home Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hall and Mrs. Nan Hall were callers at the A. B. Counts home a few days ago.

Loans, Discounts Show Increase

A record-breaking increase in loans and discounts handled by the United States National Bank has been announced by C. H. Vaughan, manager of the St. Helens branch.

In its statement of conditions to the comptroller of currency, as of June 29, 1946, the United States National bank reported loans and discount amounting to \$82,888,257.11. This figure represents a gain of \$36,092,899.41 over the corresponding call date in 1945 and a gain of \$14,407,369.78 over the December 31, 1945 call.

Resources as of June 29, 1946, amounting to \$570,921,112.72, indicate an increase of \$40,856,189.79 within the 12-month period. Deposits now stand at \$543,773,775.34, an increase of \$34,178,210.93 in the same period.

Navy Engineer Returns From Australia, Guests Being Entertained

RIVERVIEW—The C. I. Anderson home is alive with happy guests this week. Mrs. Norma John of Portland came out Saturday to join her daughters, Donna and Lea, who spent a week at grandfather's house and Mrs. Sam Anderson and children, Leon and Linda of Ocean Lake arrived the latter part of the week and all will be here until the coming week end.

Alfred Sanders, 3d assistant navy engineer wrote his father, George Sanders, that he had arrived in San Francisco July 2nd from Brisbane, Australia, and expected to get home this week.

Phil Johnson of Eugene was an overnight guest at the Bert Bassett home Wednesday while on his way to Longview, Washington, to celebrate the Fourth.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Buttenhoff of Portland surprised the Wyckoff family Sunday by driving out for a visit. Mr. Buttenhoff and Mrs. Wyckoff are cousins.

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