

OSU Attempts To Build Machine To Pick, Decap, Destem Berries

Oregon State University's attempt to build a workable mechanical strawberry picker is being matched with equal effort to find a mechanical method of decapping and destemming the berries once they reach the processing plant.

Dr. Dale Kirk, OSU agricultural engineer, feels that the development of the two must go hand in hand if the needs of the Oregon strawberry industry are to be met.

Hand pickers now decap berries in the field and some processing plants are using machines to take off caps and stems the pickers miss. But processing berries picked by machine is a different story. Dr. Kirk said that a Canadian machine tested by OSU engineers this season capped up to 90 per cent of hand-picked berries but dropped to 30 to 50 per cent on mechanically-picked berries.

With the Canadian machine, berries are raked over a series of alternating rubber and fluted metal rollers which grab the stems or caps and pull them through. If the berries are over-ripe or damaged, sometimes it pulls them through, too, according to Dr. Kirk. In addition, if long stems or runners are left on the berries, they have a tendency to wrap around the rollers, causing stoppages. Kirk said OSU engineers also

have looked at machines made in the United States and Germany and plan to investigate an Italian built machine next year. It has an added feature that decaps the berry with a knife if the stem is not taken off by the time the berry reaches the bottom roller.

One major problem, according to Kirk, is that present Northwest varieties are bred for yield, disease resistance and color, texture and flavor

LOCAL STUDENTS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY completed the one-year Practical Nursing program at Treasure Valley Community college. They are (l to r) Gladys



Somers, Jeanne Hardman and Suzuko Hori. Graduation exercises will be held at 8 o'clock Thursday evening, August 8, 1968 at the Weese building on campus.

OSU Official Lists Plans For Centennial Celebration

Oregon State University, Oregon's oldest state-supported institution of higher learning, has announced plans for its 100th Year observance beginning this fall.

The Centennial celebration will begin on Charter Day, Sunday, Oct. 27, according to President James H. Jensen. It was on that day in 1868 that the Oregon Legislature officially designated tiny Corvallis College as the state's land-grant college.

A public convocation is planned for 2 p.m. in Gill Coliseum to launch the school-year-long observance. Representatives of other U. S. colleges, universities and learned societies will join with OSU faculty members in a colorful academic parade preceding the convocation.

Convocation speaker will be Dr. Fred Harrington, president of the University of Wisconsin. The speaker for the Centennial dinner that evening will be Dr. W. Robert Parks, president of Iowa State University.

Like OSU, those universities are land-grant institutions that developed from the Morrill Act signed by President Lincoln in 1862. The act provided federal land grants to the various states to help finance public colleges and extend the opportunities of higher education to all.

The winter term highlight will be a Symposia Series in February. Some of the nation's top leaders in OSU fields of specialization will come to the campus for lectures and discussion sessions.

Climax to the year's events will come at the 100th commencement June 8, 1969. Diplomats of graduates -- members of "The Class of the Cen-



Mr. and Mrs. Garry Bybee of Scottsdale, Ariz., became the parents of a son, Garry Todd, born July 25, 1968, weighing seven-pounds, three-ounces.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Bybee of Nyssa, and Mrs. and Mrs. Ron Butters of Logan, Utah.

The Bybees recently moved into a new home at 8530 East Mulberry street, Scottsdale. Garry is an employee at the Motorola manufacturing plant.

Mr. and Mrs. William B. (Virginia Lewis) Mannewitz of Dallas, Texas became parents of a daughter, Christine Marie, born May 28, 1968. She joins a 14-month-old sister, Mary Elizabeth.

Grandparents are Mrs. T. R. (Dorothea) Mitchell of Nyssa, and Mrs. M. A. Mannewitz of Dallas.

qualities, but are not bred for easy capping or stemming. There are two approaches to take in solving the problem, says Kirk.

One is to look to plant breeders for new strains or varieties, such as those grown in eastern states or Ontario, Canada, which cap and stem more easily. The other is to develop new concepts in

mechanics of stemming and capping. One idea would be to find a way to place the fruit in a cell or trough with the stem end exposed and pinch or cut off the stem and calyx.

"The present system of random tumbling and pinching between rollers does not appear adequate for present Northwest berries," Kirk noted.

BEAUTIFUL WITHIN

Some folks in looks take so much pride, they don't think much of what's inside. Well, as for me, I know my face can ne'er be made a thing of grace; and so, I rather think I'll see how I can fix the inside of me, so folks'll say, "He looks like sin -- but ain't he beautiful within!" - John Kendrick Bangs - House Of Sunshine.

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