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### Cranberry Ranch Is Taking Shape

#### Beds Being Built Near Manitowish

By Thanksgiving of 1946 twenty cranberries from seven cranberry ranches now being constructed near Manitowish Waters will be on the market.

The seven ranches are seven separate business enterprises all in the same area. They are located in 1,100 acres of swampland and the total acreage of the cranberry beds is about 200.

The idea from which the ranches grew came to Vernon Goldsworthy of Wisconsin Rapids some two years ago as he studied an aerial map of the Manitowish region. He saw what appeared to be marshland that was well suited to cranberry ranches.

Suiting action to his thoughts he came to Manitowish Waters and looked the swampland over carefully. Deciding that it was a land area well suited to cranberry growing he interested John B. McFarland of Madison in the possibilities there.

#### IS YEARS EXPERIENCE

Goldsworthy had some 15 years of experience with various aspects of the cranberry business and McFarland had learned about it through his father in law, a cranberry grower.

Since it seemed to be too big a project for one man to handle Goldsworthy interested five others in the possibilities of cranberry ranches. Those who now have cranberry ranches under construction in the area are in addition to Goldsworthy and McFarland, Frank Keller of Wisconsin, Richard J. Heston of Wisconsin, Robert J. Downman of Berlin, Germany.

Mr. Downman is now a lieutenant colonel in the army on duty in the Berlin area. While it is not yet certain when he will arrive in Manitowish Waters the others are already there and working on the cranberry beds.

McFarland started work on the site of his ranch in February, 1946. The first job was to "scale" 10 inches of moss from the surface of the beds and to use this to build runways around the beds for use during harvest time.

#### ACID HELPS CRANBERRY

Marshland is best suited to cranberry raising because of the high acid content of the soil. The built acid serves to hold down the vine growth on the plants and allows for longer gaps between pruning periods. Too much vine growth also impedes pollination.

The beds are 125 feet wide and from 80 to 1,000 feet long. A narrow ditch is dug around each bed with a shovel. Because the ditch must be dug to exacting specifications hand labor is preferred to a mechanical digger.

The ditches must be as near perfectly straight as possible and must have a uniform "radius," or curve, at each corner of the bed. The beds themselves must be just about as smooth and as level as a billiard table.

The ditches are used to prevent frost damage to vines and berries. When there is danger of frost in the air the elaborate system of ditches from the reservoir (in this case the reservoir is Trout lake, just west of the cranberry beds) is filled with water.

#### FOG KEEPS FROST AWAY

As the water flows around the cranberry beds it forms a fog that keeps frost from the plants. Another use of the ditch system is to flood the beds and freeze the plants in water through the winter.

The beds and ditches must be so carefully laid out, McFarland explained, that when water splits

over the edge of the ditch into the bed it flows over at every point at the same time.

The final operation in making the beds level is to "water level" them. This is done by allowing the water to just cover the ground and then sending workmen into the beds with pushforks to level the ground to the surface of the water.

After the beds are fully prepared the cranberry plants are planted. Cranberry planting is a little different from the average method used by planters. Any part of the vine will grow in suitably acid soil. The vines are first gathered and cut into four inch lengths.

#### PLANTER SETS VINES

"They are then sown by hand-planting them over the surface until the ground is covered. Next the vines are rolled with a drum called a planter. The planter has strips two inches wide which are at a 90 degree angle to the drum.

The planter then travels across the bed forcing portions of the vines down two inches into the ground. From this point on cranberry raising consists of cleaning the ditches every other year, pruning the vines occasionally, keeping frost away with the system of ditches, winter flooding the beds, harvesting the crop.

The first plants in the Manitowish beds were planted this spring and most of them already have runners a foot long. While the plants have berries on them now the crop is not heavy enough to harvest for raising this year.

The first crop is expected in 1948. Cranberry yield is measured in barrels, a barrel of cranberries is 100 pounds. Minimum yield per acre is 95 barrels, or 1,000 pounds. Yields of 80 to 85 barrels per acre are common and the top 2-300 is 100 to 110 barrels.

#### National Commander At Badger Legion Meet

Yost Alderman, Wis.—(AP)—Griping a "stone wall stand against expanded Communism," Robert F. O'Neil, new national commander of the American Legion, told southern Wisconsin conferees yesterday the United States must have universal military training as the backbone of our future comprehensive defense establishment.

O'Neil said "we are criminally lacking" in necessary preparation "in a word that is filling upon a powderke."

"The American Legion today rails and supports the United Nations on mankind's last best hope for achieving enduring world peace," O'Neil said. "Our aim is to seek to develop American military and economic strength."

O'Neil said the Legion plans an overland expedition around the world in 1948 in which 10,000 American homes would receive a monthly illustrated pamphlet stressing the superiority of the American way of life.

The conferees said he would meet with the Legion's training committee October 8, 9 and 10 in

Washington to discuss legislation needed for "some sort of stabilized national housing program."

Brig. Gen. William E. Brougher, post commander at Camp Gordon, Ga., who is a survivor of the Italian "death march," warned against "false prophets" who "will tell you death and destruction, or loss of your precious freedom, in the name of economy."

O'Neil, in urging military training, said "it is not enough to be good. We must also be strong."

Nearly 10,000 Legionnaires attended the three day conference which ended yesterday.

The state of Washington has 45,000 miles of highways.

**CRANBERRY BED**—This is one of the 125 by 1,000 foot plots of ground being readied for cranberries near Manitowish Waters. The ditch at the right of the bed is the "drainage." When water is run in this ditch a fog rises over the vines in the bed and frost is kept away from the plants. Further work on this bed is necessary before the vines are planted. (Daily Globe Photo.)

**HURRY-UP PUMPER**—While most of the water needed for cranberry beds comes through the system of ditches as a normal flow from the reservoir the pumper is kept on hand for use as needed. A portion of the main ditch can be seen at the right. (Daily Globe Photo.)

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**Announcement**

Dr. J. E. Droppow, 114 S. Lowell St., Ironwood, is attending the Optometric convention in Detroit.

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