

# NO TIME FOR SIESTAS

## Yakima Sunday Herald

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AT ONE TIME a wealthy land owner in Mexico, Tomas Cerna lost everything and rebuilt a successful farming career in the Yakima Valley. He has been in the Valley since 1940.

# Hard Work Is Key To Cerna Success

By SAM CHURCHILL  
Herald Farm Editor

At 71 years of age Tomas Cerna has more bounce than a Mexican jumping bean and more fire than a mouthful of chili peppers.

Born in Mexico, the unburied land of the siesta, Cerna has rarely sneaked an afternoon nap since he crossed the border into the United and started a new life in the States back in 1918.

"To busy," is the explanation. The only assets they salvaged of this wily little man who owns were a few clothes, their two and leaves 360 or so acres of hands and the will to work.

Yakima Valley farm land and starts his work day as soon as it is light enough to see.

**He Keeps Working**

Cerna raises sugar beets, alfalfa to the Yakima Valley after he had boys.

"Pappa always says that after already in the Valley," said one of his daughters, Mrs. Adolph raised some hops on the South 80-acre (Katherine) Martinez, "but he Wapato Road. Later he bought 11-room house on the Fort Road where the family home is 11 1/2 miles west of Toppenish.

"They used to need all of the rooms," said Katherine, "but now there is just the two of them."

Father Of 20

Tomas Cerna is the father of 20. Children, 14 of them living and acre section, taking part of the married with families of their own payment in Columbia Basin land. He's never had the time to sit. With his farming operations beaver trap. The only time that down and count up the exact number rounded out by a few houses he has been seriously ill that Katherine on the Fort Road property for nine can remember was in 1947 says the number "15 at least 100" rental properties and put in a small and sun stroke.

There are two great-grandchildren. For three months he was con-store and Katherine now handles filled in bed paralyzed from the waist down. After his recovery his Pappa Cerna's most reliable. Tomas Cerna has no use for al-orders were to take it easy and labor force. "All we worked in colic beverages or tobacco don't work in the mid-day heat of the fields," said Katherine. More than one surprised them the sun.

Pappa had to hunt around for discovered Pappa Cerna's disap. So far Cerna has managed to workers when we got married," proving of dressing the hard way—ignore his medical advice com- a quiet siesta.

Last Holdings

When Tomas and his wife, They got out. Phyllis, were married in Chilchuta. "Pappa isn't very fat," said most of his own irrigating. Michacuan, Mexico in 1904. Cerna Katherine the can walk under the Since she sold the 20-acre sec- as a wealthy land owner. His little strand of a five-acre fence tion his work load is reduced but hands were soft and white and "but when he would tell someone the family worries.

any afternoon he settled down to get out, they would get out." Mamma Cerna and now then or a quiet siesta.

But along came the revolution. Know it. There isn't a one of a little title in a mixture of Eng- the Cernas fed across the border that has had the courage so far fish and Spanish but Pappa just



COMFORTABLE and sturdy home of Mr. and Mrs. Tomas Cerna reflects the stability and determination of this Spanish-speaking couple who have become a respected place in the community of the Yakima Valley.



FIFTY-THREE years of married life were celebrated by Mr. and Mrs. Tomas Cerna March 4. Seated with them are two of their one hundred or more grandchildren. Fourteen of their 20 children are living.

**Learned Lessons**

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nodes and grins and finally brings an abrupt end to Mamma's torts with the Spanish equivalent of "Now that enough."

Tomas Cerna has made mistakes in farming but most of them are the result of his early training in Mexico. For long time he felt the land should do the same as he gave everything it had for as long as it could. The program resulted in instances of over-crowded land and reduced quality but Tomas is enough of a man of the soil that he would never intentionally rob it just for profit.

He is also a pretty good hand with an automobile but there are those who keep an alert eye peered guests of the Merry Thalers at for a sidekick when they see him coming.

**In A Hurry**

"He is a good enough driver," explained one person, "but when delegates for someone he is in and provides an opportunity for the busy to get there some businessmen to meet and get to the Year. Mrs. Rodney Hanson, times forgets about those little incidental items such as stop signs, which will some day be his custo-

Mr. and Mrs. Cerna for many years were on first rate terms with the work but they were the 4-H and FFA members for a job old fellow in a frazzle and he has well done.

**Grandchildren Now**

"I have four," said Katherine. "and I'm about ready to give up. I don't know how mother man- aged so many."

"Jess and his wife have the most but their total is only 8. Raymond and his wife have 7, Gerald, 5, Tomas Jr., Gonzalo and Albert, each 4."

**Four In Mexico**

Four children are living in Mexico and one in California. Last March 4 Mr. and Mrs. Tomas Cerna celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary.

"Every anniversary is the signal for a family reunion," said Katherine. The 52nd was no exception. The old 11-room farm home was disassembled to the core with new generations of Cernas.

**Like Children**

"Pappa likes to have his grandchildren around," said Katherine. And Mamma is just as fuzzy about them, though they were her own.

Mamma is a far more modern woman than on that day in 1918 when she and her husband fed the gentle life of Mexico behind them.

She enjoys her electric range, her comfortable living room refrigerator and the freezer storing every kind of food.

**Place In Community**

Mamma and Pappa Cerna have carved a place for themselves in their community but money-wise and land-wise they will never again reach the position of wealth and power they once enjoyed in Mexico.

But here they have most of the things they had before.

And in addition they have security and the love of family and peace of mind.

And those things they have, they earned themselves.



MRS. TOMAS CERNA, 67 and the mother of 20 children, feeds her husband to the safety of the United States in 1918 after Mexican revolutionists confiscated their lands.

# Two Valley Growers Set Seed Production Mark

The Yakima Valley's climate and Washington State Crop Improvement productivity have added an amount Ass. reported other production record to it.

Both planted their foundation seed for the national market. During the 1956 season two Yakima Valley growers, Harold Stephens and Emma Jones, both of the Wapato area, produced 58,000 pounds of alfalfa seed per acre from their 1953 spring planting foundation seed.

Allocated To West

The foundation stock was then allocated to 12 seed-growing western states and (Canada) to be planted for the production of certified seed for the national market.

Quarantined

Quarantined alfalfa seed from the entire United States.

**Hand Needed**

Mrs. Jones harvested 140 pounds per acre of foundation Vernal from her 1956 spring planting.

Both planted their foundation seed at the rate of 14 pounds per acre on 100 inch rows. Masse said the seed was cultivated as a row crop and was hand weeded.

**Farm Calendar**

**April 1**

Adult leader training meeting, Sun Valley Grange Hall, 1 p.m.

**April 2**

Adult leader training meeting, Grange Headquarters Bldg., Yakima, 1 p.m.

**April 3**

Rural Youth Day sponsored by Yakima Chamber of Commerce.

**April 4**

4-H dairy judging, Ray Meyer farm, Yakima, 12:45 p.m.

**April 5**

4-H dairy judging, Jess Wiant farm, Grandview, 12:45 p.m.

**April 6**

Annual meeting of Klickitat County Livestock Assn., Goldendale Grange Hall, 1:30 p.m. banquet at 7 p.m.

# Businessmen To Be Hosts To Rural Young People

Yakima businessmen will be quet will be Charles J. Quinn of 145 FFA, 4-H and FFA Hartline in Grand County Quann delegates Wednesday during the Yakima Chamber of Commerce's Exchange delegate who in 1954 spent four months with farm families in Uruguay.

The young people will also be given a demonstration in music by H. Lohr Leuder, the chamber's public relations director.

**Guests At Dinner**

Special guests at the banquet will include outstanding farmers from the area including Frank Bucher, Washington State's Cattleman of the Year for 1956, and L. O. Reing, county Grassman of the Year. Mrs. Rodney Hanson, Yakima County 4-H Council, and various civic leaders have also been invited.

**Merl At Hotel**

The day will start at 10 at a picnic with recreation at the given entrance to Hotel Chook at 11 a.m. businessmen will pick up their assigned guests and take them to their places of business. The luncheon banquet will start at noon.

**Pick Delegates**

Each club and chapter selects its own delegates to the special day. The delegates then report back to the clubs on what happened.

**Stockmen Set Meeting At Goldendale**

GOLDENDALE — Members of the Klickitat County Livestock Assn. will hold their annual meeting and election of officers Saturday. The annual banquet will be at 7 p.m.

The main feature of the afternoon program will be a panel of the old 11-room farm home was disassembled to the core with new generations of Cernas.

**Panel Listed**

Panel members will include Bruce Brooks, Washington State College, extension marketing specialist; Fred Rubie, Portland Union Stockyard Co., Harry Heron, H&H Packing Co., Yakima; Clarence Courtright, president of the Toppenish Sales Yard; John McMinnie, Outlook, feeder and president's Assn.; Bud Matson, Bickleton; Max Maurer, Goldendale, and Olie Kreps, Glenwood.

Members will also hear a report on the annual meeting of the National Cattlemen's Assn. from Kretz.

The afternoon program and evening banquet are open to all cattlemen and their wives. The Goldendale Grange women will serve at the banquet.

There will be a social hour from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Goldendale Golf Club clubhouse. Grand Harris WSC range manager, specialist, will be the banquet speaker. Russell Kreps will be master of ceremonies.



ALFALFA foundation seed for planting in the Yakima Valley is examined by Harry Hillborn, Zillah group, left, and Larry Burgett, production manager for the Central Washington State Growers, Inc., Union Gap.