

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.

Eventually they became successful full farm operators in Washington that on Cerna has ever received in 1940 they sold out and came a welfare check.

He keeps working. Cerna raises sugar beets, alfalfa to the Yakima Valley after he.

"Pappa always says that after already in the Valley," he says. "I bought a small place and of her children, think it is about of his daughters, Mrs. Adolph raised some hops on the South 80 work."

Mr. and Mrs. Cerna live in a bought 10 acres on the Fort Road 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 the Maroon Drain and leased part schedule is some leased land on sets of land here and there the Roza.

Tomas Cerna is the father of 20 Earlier this year he sold the 200 children, 14 of them living and acre section, taking part of the But at 71 he still has more married with families of their own payment in Columbia Basin land spring to him than the jaws of a

"He's never had the time to sit. With his farming operations heavier part. The only time that down and count up the exact num rounded out he built a few houses he has been seriously ill that Katherine of grandchildren but 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 strike.

There are two great-grandchildren. He finally sold the For three months he was con-store and Katherine now handles filled in bed paralyzed from the waist down. After his recovery his were 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-plety. Last year he handled 300 Last Holdings

When Tomas and his wife. They got out. "I and Phyllis, were married in Chilchuta "Pappa isn't very bat," said most of his own irrigating.

Mechuan, Mexico in 1904. Cerna Katherine the can walk under the Since the 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 now and then for a quiet siesta.

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



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.

Businessmen To Be Hosts To Rural Young People

Yakima businessmen will be quet will be Charles J. Quinn of 104 FFA, 4th and FFA Hartline in Grand County Quinn delegates Wednesday during the Yakima Chamber of Commerce's Exchange delegates who in 1954 spent four months with farm families in Utah.

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

Guests at Dinner The young people will also be guests of the Merry Thalers at a matinee.

Two-Way Matter Purpose of the annual Rural Youth Day is to acquaint the club Ruches, Washington State's Cattle-man of the Year for 1956, and L. and provide an opportunity for the outa Rotun, county Grassman of the Year, Mrs. Rodney Hanson, president of the Yakima County 4-H Council, and various civic leaders have also been invited.

Sidney Martin, chairman of the chamber's agricultural committee, will be master of ceremonies.

Merl At Hotel The day will start at 10 at a with recreation at the drive-in 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.

In addition to Quann the young people and their hosts will hear an explanation of Yakima Valley Junior College's agricultural program from John Griffith, head of the department.

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 firm home was dispersed to the areas 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 furniture, the refrigerator and the freezer stocked with 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 count themselves.



MRS. TOMAS CERNA, 67 and the mother of 20 children, feed 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 anment Assn. reported other production record to it. Both planted their foundation seed for the national market.

During the 1956 season two Yakima Valley growers, Harold Stephenson and Emma Jones, both of foundation seed for the national market.

The seed was cultivated as a row crop and was hand weeded. Sprinkler irrigation with weed free water was used.

Hand Weeded 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 ounces per acre on 10 inch rows. Masse said. The seed was cultivated as a row crop and was hand weeded. Sprinkler irrigation with weed free water was used.

Farm Calendar

- April 1 Adult leader training meeting, Sun Valley Grange Hall, 1 p.m.
- April 1 Meeting of 4-H members in horse process, 4-H Building, Fairgrounds, Yakima, 8 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 3 Prizes awarded.
- 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 5 Range ball trading tour, Reservoir, 1 p.m.
- April 6 Annual meeting of Klickitat County Livestock Assn., Goldendale Grange Hall, 1:30 p.m. banquet at 7 p.m.

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.



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 Seed Growers, Inc., Union Gap.