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MARKETING THE MICHIGAN POTATO CROP  
1946-47 Season

by  
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The following summary is a compilation based on Market News reports issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, Production and Marketing Administration, Fruit and Vegetable Branch, from October 1, 1946 to April 4, 1947 at Benton Harbor, Michigan.

National Situation

The national 1946 potato crop was estimated by the Crop Reporting Board, Washington, D. C. as of December 1, 1946 at 474,609,000 bushels, 2% above the previous record high crop of 464,999,000 bushels harvested in 1943. Production this year exceeds the revised estimate of the 1945 crop of 418,020,000 bushels by 14% and is 27% above the 10-year (1935-44) average of 372,756,000 bushels. This record-large crop was harvested from only 2,578,000 acres, which is the smallest acreage since 1892. In 1945, potatoes were dug from 2,696,000 acres and the average is 2,968,000 acres. The 1.8% abandonment of planted acreage is the lowest since 1931.

Estimated production in the 30 late potato producing States is 357,865,000 bushels, compared with 324,529,000 bushels harvested in 1945 and the average of 293,111,000 bushels. The 1946 crop is 6 million bushels below the 364,011,000 bushel crop produced in these States in 1943. In the Eastern part of the country, production in the late States exceeds the 1945 crop by 37% and is 47% above average. Production of 85,698,000 bushels estimated for the 10 Central late States (Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa) is 9% below the 93,866,000 bushels harvested in 1945, and 15% below the average of 101,043,000 bushels. Production of the late-crop potatoes in the Western States is about the same as the 1945 production and 35% above average. Acreage harvested is above average in Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, and California. However, only in Montana, Washington, and Arizona does the late acreage exceed the acreage harvested in 1945. Growers in Idaho reduced acreage 16% from the record harvested last year. Production in Arizona, Oregon, and California is a record-high this year.

Michigan Situation

Michigan's 1946 potato production was estimated by the Crop Reporting Board as of December 1, 1946 at 18,327,000 bushels, slightly above the 1945 crop of 18,040,000 bushels and 17% below the 10-year (1935-44) average of 22,006,000 bushels. Acreage for the 1946 crop was estimated at 149,000 acres compared with 164,000 acres in 1945 and 224,000 acres for the 10-year average. Average yield per acre was estimated at 123 bushels per acre compared with 110 bushels per acre in 1945 and 99 bushels per acre for the 10-year average.

Quality of the 1946 harvest was considered about average. A long dry Fall was beneficial in harvesting and storing the crop. Some frost damage was reported in the late Fall but was barely negligible. Size was good and approximately 90% of stock met Size A specifications.

Marketing

Most of Michigan's potato holdings were placed under the Government loan program by growers, especially the Russet Rural variety in the Northern part of the State, and to a great extent the Chippewa or white varieties in the Central part of the State. For Russet Rurals, demand and trading were very slow throughout most of the winter, f.o.b. values were considerably under support, and shippers could only offer stock not under loan and which could be purchased at a price in line with market trends. Offerings of Chippewas were more liberal and demand better, prices were below support throughout the Fall and early Winter but after this period prices held at support levels or slightly above. Prior to March 1, most of the Michigan movement was of the white varieties. Russet Rurals were held by growers for support price with no appreciable movement until announcement of including Michigan in the Government export program, which occurred around March 1. Prices increased to or near support by commercial trade and this, coupled with shipments of several hundred cars under the Government export program, relieved the situation considerably. However, heavy holdings remain to be moved during the months of April and May.

F.o.b. sales for U. S. No. 1 Size A stock in 100-lb sacks or 50-lb paper sacks cwt basis ranged for the season as follows by months: October, Russet Rurals \$1.65-1.80, Chippewas \$1.90-2.10; November, Russet Rurals \$1.60-1.80, Chippewas \$1.75-2.05; December, Russet Rurals \$1.65-1.80, Chippewas \$1.85-2.10; January, Russet Rurals \$1.85-2.00, Chippewas \$2.20-2.35; February, Russet Rurals \$1.80-1.85, Chippewas \$2.10-2.30; March, Russet Rurals \$1.80-2.35, Chippewas \$2.10-2.50.

Shipments, Rail and Truck

Rail shipments of Michigan potatoes through April 3 amounted to 2,843 cars compared with 4,091 cars a year ago to date and with final 1945-46 shipments of 4,631 cars. Truck shipments through April 3, Federal-State inspected only, totaled 1,582 carlot equivalents, however, this figure does not indicate actual truck movement, due to discontinuance of compulsory inspection early in the year, and compares with 3,339 carlot equivalents a year ago to date and final 1945-46 truck movement of 3,651 carlot equivalents.

**ACREAGE HARVESTED, YIELD PER ACRE, AND PRODUCTION POTATOES BY STATES, 1946 SEASON WITH COMPARISONS**  
(Released by Crop Reporting Board, U. S. D. A., Washington, D. C. December 17, 1946)

GROUP AND STATE	Acreage Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	1935-44	1945	1935-44	1945	1935-44	1945
	- 1,000 Acres -		- Bushels -		- 1,000 Bushels -	
<b>SURPLUS LATE POTATO STATES:</b>						
Maine	165	209	219	275	261	355
New York, L.I.	53	72	72	217	270	330
New York, Up State	154	110	99	105	100	190
Pennsylvania	179	137	127	117	121	158
3 Eastern	551	528	517	171.1	192.4	271.5
MICHIGAN	224	164	149	99	110	123
Wisconsin	194	128	113	80	95	105
Minnesota	236	174	151	84	110	110
North Dakota	138	170	148	104	138	120
South Dakota	32	31	29	65	95	98
5 Central	824	667	590	90.6	113.6	114.2
Nebraska	80	69	67	119	170	175
Montana	17	15	16	102	110	130
Idaho	134	200	168	227	225	245
Wyoming	18	13.5	13.5	124	175	185
Colorado	84	91	86	183	195	230
Utah	14.1	18.0	15.0	165	180	185
Nevada	2.5	3.8	3.2	175	200	210
Washington	44	38	44	197	240	230
Oregon	40	52	52	191	237	250
California 1/	35	46	40	284	290	345
10 Western	467.0	545.3	504.7	188.2	214.7	233.0
TOTAL 18	1,842.0	1,741.3	1,611.7	139.7	169.2	201.9
<b>OTHER LATE POTATO STATES:</b>						
New Hampshire	8.1	6.8	6.1	148	150	190
Vermont	13.6	9.8	8.7	132	125	160
Massachusetts	18.5	22.3	21.2	137	130	165
Rhode Island	4.8	7.2	8.1	186	185	215
Connecticut	17.1	19.9	18.3	166	175	230
5 New England	62.3	66.0	62.4	149.0	150.9	192.3
West Virginia	34	29	27	87	100	110
Ohio	101	59	54	103	119	140
Indiana	52	27	26	102	135	120
Illinois	38	19	18	80	95	98
Iowa	60	25	24	88	110	120
5 Central	284	159	149	94.5	114.0	122.8
New Mexico	4.6	4.5	4.0	77	75	85
Arizona	2.5	6.0	6.8	154	255	270
2 Southwestern	7.1	10.5	10.8	105.7	177.9	201.5
TOTAL 12	353.5	235.5	222.2	104.9	127.2	146.1
30 LATE STATES	2,195.4	1,976.8	1,833.9	134.2	164.2	195.1
7 INTERMEDIATE	2/279.0	241.4	236.4	111.9	129.8	154.1
37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE	2,474.5	2,218.2	2,070.3	131.7	160.4	190.5
<b>EARLY POTATO STATES:</b>						
TOTAL 12	2/493.6	478.0	507.3	97.6	130.1	158.3
TOTAL U. S.	2,968.0	2,696.2	2,577.6	125.8	155.0	184.1

1/ Early and late crops shown separately for California; combined for all other States.  
2/ For 1946, estimates include 125,000 bushels from 455 acres in Virginia and 1,379,000 bushels from 4,470 acres in North Carolina unharvested but purchased by Gov't under price support program.

**POTATOES (IRISH): MERCHANTABLE STOCKS IN HANDS OF GROWERS AND LOCAL DEALERS JANUARY 1 AND MARCH 1 IN THE 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES - CROPS OF 1945, 1946 AND 1947**

GROUP AND STATE	January 1			March 1		
	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946 1/	1947
	- Thousand Bushels -			- Thousand Bushels -		
<b>SURPLUS LATE STATES:</b>						
Maine	29,800	31,720	49,470	17,800	18,800	28,600
New York	7,100	5,870	13,400	3,800	2,200	5,000
Pennsylvania	6,350	4,800	7,570	2,800	1,600	3,600
MICHIGAN	6,250	5,540	7,940	3,650	3,050	5,600
Wisconsin	2,060	2,700	2,680	1,200	1,400	1,700
Minnesota	4,600	8,300	7,440	2,300	5,000	3,500
North Dakota	7,550	10,330	8,900	4,400	6,700	4,800
South Dakota	600	850	810	270	380	450
Nebraska	3,050	5,200	5,000	500	1,550	1,350
Montana	900	650	910	400	350	500
Idaho	14,600	20,620	18,450	6,350	9,700	9,000
Wyoming	1,010	1,260	1,360	240	520	700
Colorado	6,300	6,430	7,350	2,600	2,700	3,500
Utah	990	1,220	1,010	460	470	500
Nevada	260	450	410	80	250	270
Washington	1,500	1,480	2,030	550	500	800
Oregon	3,100	4,200	5,000	1,300	1,600	2,300
California (Late)	1,980	2,400	2,800	400	850	950
TOTAL 18	98,000	114,020	142,530	49,100	57,620	73,120
TOTAL 12	5,220	5,480	6,740	2,150	2,050	3,000
OTHER LATE						
TOTAL 7	660	780	960	240	300	350
INTERMEDIATE						
TOTAL 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES	103,880	120,280	150,230	51,490	59,970	76,470

1/ Revised.

POTATO CARLOT SHIPMENTS 18 SURPLUS LATE STATES 1941-46 SEASONS

18 SURPLUS LATE STATES	Crop Movement Season					
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946*
	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars
California, N. Dist.	6,151	4,331	6,097	6,166	5,657	4,223
Colorado	5,737	12,591	13,285	15,527	15,085	14,534
Idaho	30,985	28,190	39,006	34,065	41,815	33,431
Maine	43,906	43,957	62,684	50,321	54,302	43,067
MICHIGAN	3,573	3,001	5,241	5,372	4,631	2,635
Minnesota	9,310	9,867	11,898	8,611	11,729	7,614
Montana	468	402	890	823	1,240	618
Nebraska	9,035	10,434	8,408	8,471	9,459	9,299
Nevada	128	204	278	275	350	156
New York, Up State	5,611	2,032	3,186	5,563	2,000	3,963
New York, Long Island		6,444	9,619	6,694	17,181	16,405
North Dakota	16,311	15,892	20,155	18,768	21,993	10,693
Oregon	6,185	5,152	7,816	9,265	9,915	9,105
Pennsylvania	533	334	1,046	1,000	521	799
South Dakota	289	682	1,372	1,026	1,455	632
Utah	503	871	2,129	1,235	2,259	1,476
Washington	2,793	3,370	4,759	4,582	7,831	8,563
Wisconsin	3,413	1,989	4,648	3,150	4,018	3,831
Wyoming	1,483	1,498	1,512	1,747	1,533	1,612
TOTAL 18 LATE STATES	#	153,612	206,794	186,345	216,616	176,045
TOTAL UNITED STATES	199,217	211,975	286,728	252,430	291,200	268,826

(\* Figures are through March 29, 1947; subject to revision.  
 (#) Unavailable.

MICHIGAN TRUCK MOVEMENT POTATOES FEDERAL-STATE INSPECTED REDUCED TO CARLOT EQUIVALENTS

Months	1946-47 #	1945-46	1944-45	1943-44	1942-43	1941-42
July	80	27	90	13	265	256
August	370	385	321	310	465	564
September	119	417	290	377	387	656
October	199	724	508	487	597	967
November	166	400	392	300	453	763
December	125	353	317	222	301	813
January	98	438	489	316	353	655
February	134	278	488	212	344	642
March	283	337	478	260	360	681
April	8*	165	347	299	319	563
May	-	118	208	237	55	415
June	-	9	12	43	34	26
GRAND TOTAL	1,582	3,651	3,940	3,076	3,933	7,021

(\* Total through April 3, 1947.

(#) Does not constitute entire truck movement due to discontinuance of compulsory inspection.

WEST MICHIGAN CASH TO GROWER POTATO PRICES PAST 3 SEASONS

(Sales arranged weekly, dates as of the 1946-47 season. Prices for U. S. No. 1 stock bulk per cwt.)

Week Ending	S E A S O N S					
	1944-45 R. Rurals	1944-45 Chippewas	1945-46 R. Rurals	1945-46 Chippewas	1946-47 R. Rurals	1946-47 Chippewas
Oct. 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	\$1.60-1.70	\$1.70-1.90	-	-	-	-
19	1.60-1.65	1.70-1.90	\$1.40	\$1.50-1.61	-	-
26	1.60-1.65	1.70-1.90	1.40	1.50-1.61	-	-
Nov. 2	1.60-1.70	1.70-1.90	1.30-1.40	1.50-1.61	\$1.00-1.20	\$1.35-1.55
9	1.60-1.70	1.70-2.00	1.71	1.71	1.00-1.15	1.35-1.55
16	1.60-1.70	1.70-2.00	1.71	1.71	-	-
23	1.60-1.70	1.70-2.00	1.71	1.71	-	-
30	1.60-1.70	1.70-2.00	1.71	1.71	-	-
Dec. 7	1.65-1.80	1.85-2.00	1.81	1.81	1.10-1.25	-
14	1.75-1.85	1.85-2.00	1.81	1.81	1.15-1.25	1.30-1.40
21	1.80-1.85	1.90-2.00	1.81	1.81	1.15-1.20	-
28	1.80-1.90	1.90-2.10	1.81	1.81-1.90	1.15-1.20	-
Jan. 4	-	-	1.81	1.81-2.00	-	-
11	2.00-2.25	-	1.81-1.85	2.00-2.10	1.25	1.65-1.75
18	2.10-2.25	-	1.81-1.85	1.90-2.10	1.35-1.40	1.70-1.75
25	2.10-2.25	-	1.81-1.85	1.90-2.10	1.35-1.40	1.70-1.75
Feb. 1	2.20-2.25	-	1.81-1.85	1.90-2.00	-	-
8	2.20-2.25	-	1.81-1.85	1.90-2.00	-	-
15	-	-	1.85	-	-	-
22	2.35	2.35	-	-	1.25	1.60-1.75
Mar. 1	2.35	2.35	1.85-2.00	-	1.25-1.35	1.60-1.75
8	2.35-2.45	2.35-2.45	2.00-2.10	-	-	-
15	2.35-2.45	2.35-2.45	2.10-2.25	-	-	-
22	2.35	2.35	2.10-2.20	-	-	-
29	2.25-2.35	2.25-2.35	1.90	-	1.75	1.90-2.00
Apr. 5	2.25-2.35	2.25-2.35	1.90-2.00	-	1.75	1.90-2.00

SHIPPING POINT PRICES OF MICHIGAN POTATOES SEASONS 1944-45 TO 1946-47

Sales arranged weekly, dates of 1946-47 season. Sales are for delivered sales shipping point basis, sacked per cwt, U. S. No. 1, Cadillac rate.

Week Ending	S E A S O N S					
	1944-45	1944-45	1945-46	1945-46	1946-47	1946-47
	R. Rurals	Chippewas	R. Rurals	Chippewas	R. Rurals	Chippewas
Oct. 5	-	-	\$1.80-1.90	\$1.90-2.10	-	-
12	\$2.10-2.25	\$2.20-2.40	1.80-1.90	1.90-2.10	\$1.65-1.75	\$1.90-2.05
19	2.10-2.25	2.25-2.40	1.80-1.90	1.95-2.10	1.65-1.80	1.90-2.05
26	2.15-2.25	2.30-2.40	1.75-1.90	1.95-2.05	1.70-1.80	1.90-2.10
Nov. 2	2.10-2.25	2.25-2.40	1.75-1.85	1.85-2.05	1.60-1.70	1.85-2.05
9	2.10-2.20	2.30-2.40	2.20	2.20	1.60-1.70	1.75-2.05
16	2.10-2.20	2.35-2.40	2.20	2.20	1.60-1.70	1.80-2.05
23	2.10-2.20	2.30-2.40	2.20	2.20	1.70-1.80	1.90-2.05
30	2.15-2.25	2.25-2.45	2.20	2.20	1.70-1.80	-
Dec. 7	2.30-2.35	-	2.30	2.30	1.70-1.80	2.00-2.15
14	2.30-2.45	-	2.30	2.30	1.70-1.80	1.85-2.10
21	2.40-2.50	2.65	2.30	2.30	1.65-1.75	1.90-2.10
28	2.50-2.60	-	2.30	2.30-2.40	1.70-1.80	1.90-2.10
Jan. 4	2.70-2.84	2.70-2.84	2.30-2.35	2.45-2.50	-	-
11	2.84	2.84	2.30-2.45	2.45-2.60	1.85-1.95	2.20-2.30
18	2.84	2.84	2.30-2.40	2.40-2.50	1.95-2.00	2.25-2.30
25	2.84	2.84	2.30-2.45	2.40-2.60	1.90-2.00	2.25-2.35
Feb. 1	2.84-2.89	2.84-2.89	2.30-2.40	2.40-2.50	1.80-1.85	2.25-2.30
8	2.89	2.89	2.30-2.35	-	1.80-1.85	2.20-2.30
15	2.89	2.89	2.30-2.35	-	1.80-1.85	2.15-2.30
22	2.89	2.89	2.30-2.35	-	1.80-1.85	2.10-2.30
Mar. 1	2.89-2.99	2.89-2.99	2.40-2.50	-	1.80-1.90	2.10-2.30
8	2.99	2.99	2.45-2.70	-	2.00-2.15	2.15-2.30
15	2.99	2.99	2.65-2.90	-	2.25-2.30	2.35-2.50
22	2.99	2.99	2.70-2.85	-	2.30-2.35	2.40-2.50
29	2.99	2.99	too few sales to quote	-	2.30	2.45-2.50
Apr. 5	3.09	3.09	" " " " " "	-	2.30	2.45-2.50

WEEKLY PRICE RANGE MICHIGAN POTATOES IN IMPORTANT MARKETS 1946-47

Price range does not include Saturday prices. Quotations are for U. S. No. 1 stock. Price range quoted weekly.

Week Ending	D E T R O I T						
	Russet Rurals	Chippewas	Menominees	Cobblers	Gr. Mountains		
	100-lb sacks	50-lb sacks	100-lb sacks	15-lb sacks	100-lb sacks	100-lb sacks	15-lb sacks
Oct. 5			\$2.10-2.75	\$ .40		\$2.25-2.30	
12			2.10-2.40	.36- .38		2.15-2.25	
19	\$2.10		2.00-2.35			2.15-2.25	
26	2.10-2.15		2.15-2.35		\$2.20-2.30	2.25	
Nov. 2	2.05-2.20		2.00-2.35	.38	2.25-2.30	1.75-1.90	
9	2.00-2.20		1.90-2.35	.37- .38	2.25		
16	1.90-2.15	\$1.15	1.75-2.40	.36- .38	2.30-2.35		
23	2.00-2.15		2.15-2.35	.36- .38	2.25-2.35		
30	2.00-2.10		1.90-2.35	.37			
Dec. 7	2.00-2.10		2.00-2.35				\$ .35- .35½
14	2.00-2.10	1.00-1.10	2.15-2.45		2.00-2.25		.36- .38
21	2.00-2.10	1.00-1.10	2.30-2.50	.37- .38			
28	2.00-2.15		2.00-2.40	.37½- .38			
Jan. 4	2.10-2.25		2.00-2.40	.39			
11	2.25-2.35		2.25-2.65				.45
18	2.25-2.50		2.25-2.60	.41- .43			
25	2.25		2.25-2.50	.42- .43			
Feb. 1	2.15-2.25		2.25-2.50	.42- .43			
8	2.00-2.25		2.25-2.50	.41- .43			
15	2.10-2.25	1.10	2.25-2.50	.41- .44			
22	2.20-2.25		2.40-2.60	.42- .43			
Mar. 1	2.20-2.25		2.40-2.75	.42- .43			
8	2.25-2.35		2.50-2.75	.43			
15	2.50-2.60		2.60-3.00				.47½
22	2.50-2.75		2.40-3.00				.47
29	2.45-2.60		2.65-3.00				.46- .47
Apr. 5	2.50-2.60		2.75				.45- .56

C I N C I N N A T I

Week Ending	Pontiacs	R. Rurals	Chippewas	Week Ending	Pontiacs	R. Rurals	Chippewas
	100-lb sacks	100-lb sacks	100-lb sacks		100-lb sacks	100-lb sacks	100-lb sacks
Oct. 5	\$2.35-2.50			Dec. 14	\$2.25-2.40	\$2.35-2.50	
12		\$2.10-2.25		21	2.25-2.35		
26		2.05-2.35		Feb. 8	2.60		
Nov. 9	2.00-2.25		\$2.00-2.25	22		2.25-2.40	
16	2.00-2.35	2.00	2.00-2.25	Mar. 1		2.50	
23		1.85-2.00	1.85-2.15	29	2.85-3.00	2.75-3.00	\$2.75-3.00
Dec. 7		2.00-2.25	2.15	Apr. 5			2.90

PRIMARY DESTINATIONS TRUCK SHIPMENTS MICHIGAN POTATOES 1946-47 SEASON

(Figures compiled from Federal-State Inspection short forms for period October 16 through April 3)

State and City	100-lb sacks	State and City	100-lb sacks	<u>SUMMARY BY STATES</u>	
<u>Georgia</u>		<u>Michigan (Cont'd)</u>		<u>Georgia</u>	150
Atlanta	150	Flint	13,331	Illinois	6,693
<u>Illinois</u>		Gladwin	50	Indiana	25,597
Chicago	6,693	Grand Haven	100	Kentucky	1,858
<u>Indiana</u>		Grand Ledge	120	Michigan	174,491
Anderson	2,191	Grand Rapids	54,844	Ohio	12,844
Decatur	420	Greenville	30,183	West Virginia	1,625
Elkhart	200	Hastings	1,070	<u>TOTAL</u>	223,258
Evansville	80	Hazel Park	600	Unknown	122,459
Fort Wayne	6,525	Holland	1,157	<u>TOTAL</u>	345,717
Goshen	450	Ionia	145	Total reduced to	
Indianapolis	9,115	Jackson	1,618	c/l equivalents	961*
Madison	1,265	Kalamazoo	3,906	Unreported destinations	
Michigan City	490	Kent City	240	prior to October 16	621*
Muncie	1,848	Lake Orion	225	<u>TOTAL CARLOT</u>	
South Bend	1,718	Lansing	15,744	EQUIVALENTS	1,582
Spencer	545	Lowell	30	(*)Carlot equivalents based on	
Terre Haute	750	Mark Center	130	360 sacks per car.	
Total	25,597	Marshall	100		
<u>Kentucky</u>		McBrides	128		
Louisville	1,858	Midland	98		
<u>Michigan</u>		Millington	550		
Ada	57	Muskegon	4,969		
Adrian	75	Mount Pleasant	55		
Alma	667	Owosso	140		
Bangor	300	Oxford	1,905		
Battle Creek	1,674	Petoskey	330		
Bay City	866	Pontiac	711		
Belding	1,080	Port Huron	690		
Benton Harbor	1,059	Posen	180		
Birch Run	616	Remus	2,098		
Blissfield	220	Saginaw	2,905		
Brighton	60	Spring Arbor	190		
Byron Center	90	Sturgis	240		
Cadillac	135	Traverse City	2,275		
Caro	270	Ypsilanti	210		
Cassopolis	90	West Branch	100		
Ceresco	420	Total	174,491		
Charlotte	538	<u>Ohio</u>			
Chippewa Lake	130	Columbus	300		
Coldwater	240	Finley	150		
Coral	205	Lima	150		
Detroit	24,099	Mark Center	200		
Dexter	105	Toledo	11,844		
Edmore	128	West Unity	200		
		Total	12,844		
		<u>West Virginia</u>			
		Huntington	1,625		

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Released: Benton Harbor, Michigan  
April 15, 1947.