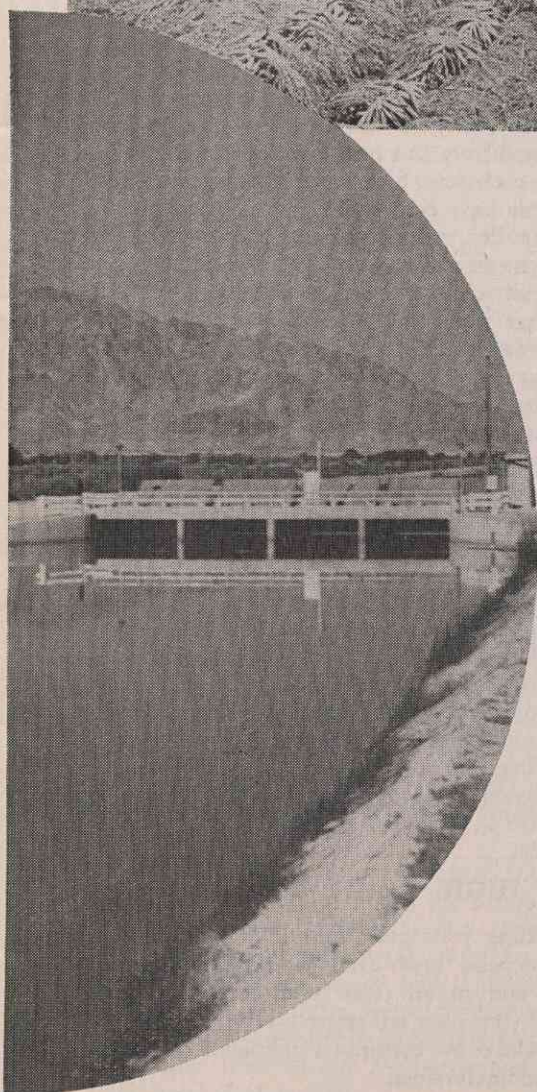




LEFT: Carrot harvest. The carrots are bunched in the field and transported to packing sheds for washing and crating. Photo courtesy of Caterpillar Tractor Co.

BELOW: The All-American Canal, crossing the desert waste between Yuma, Arizona, and California's Imperial Valley.



stantly deepening existing drains and digging new ones. Individual farm land owners have recognized the importance of soil drainage and the Valley office of the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service reports that as of December 31, 1949 there were 104,040 acres of Imperial Valley farm land tile drained.

Tile drainage is costly, averaging about \$60.00 per acre, but increased production justifies it. A case in point is rancher Harold B. Ross in the area southeast of Holtville, California, who tile drained 140 acres of alkali land in 1947 and upped his barley yield from 26 bushels per acre in 1947 to 97 bushels in 1948.

Visiting crop specialists are frequently amazed to discover lush crops of cantaloupes, tomatoes, watermelons and many other succulent crops flourishing in soils heated by the intense early summer sunshine.

The greatest harvesting and marketing activity takes place in late spring and early summer when carrots, cantaloupes, alfalfa, sugar beets, flax, barley, wheat, livestock and many minor products of agriculture are moving to market. Paradoxically this desert region yields its greatest harvest when "the heat is on" and while growing crops in other less favored regions are suffering from drought or from too abundant rainfall at harvest time.

In midwinter Imperial Valley is busy shipping its annual crop of crisp lettuce which in 1949 amounted to 17,455 carloads valued at \$25,973,000. The desert winter climate of the Valley is (Turn to next page please)