

# Von Trothas Push Machine Thinning

By A. M. WATSON, Manager, Windsor

KEEPING up with the times in a fast moving world has been the secret of success for Von Trotha Brothers. Their father and mother came to the Poudre Valley from Ger-



Claude  
Von Trotha

many in 1886 with a family of nine children. Claude and Bodo formed a working partnership and saved their mother's place during the early days. They have continued to work together, Claude taking care of the farm-

ing operations and management, while Bodo looked after the feeding. Both have been very successful. Today they own or have interest in six farms which grow beets each year.

One farm farmed by Reuben Kerbs had 70 acres of cultivated land when they took it over and by leveling and feeding they have 110 acres under cultivation on this farm now.

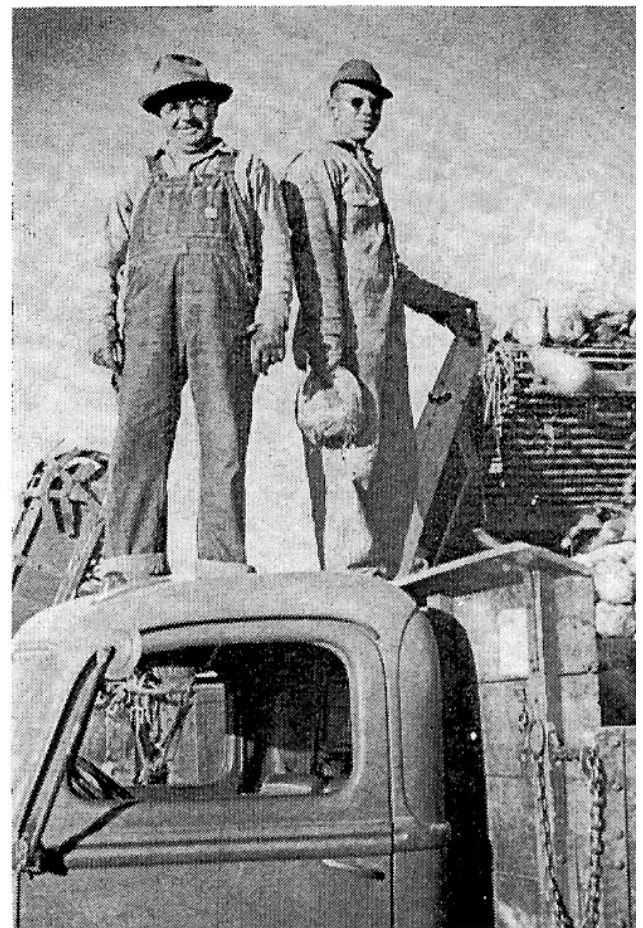
Conrad Firestien, a tenant on one of the Von Trotha places, purchased a G-W thinner in 1950 and has had very good results from its use, completely thinning 34 acres of beets in 1952 with his machine.

Claude remarked, "They had the machine two years before they realized how complete a job it would do." Of course, Claude has seen the beet industry develop from its beginning and has seen the passing of the horse power and much of our

hand labor. He has always been very progressive in his farm practices, being one of the first to realize the value of commercial fertilizer on all crops.

The Von Trotha Brothers are a guiding influence in the community and are counseled by many growers in the community.

*A high yield on mechanically thinned beets was harvested by Conrad Firestien, left, seen with his son-in-law, Reynold Herbst—typical of farmers encouraged in mechanization by the Von Trothas.*



*Through the Leaves, March 1953*