

KENTHERE'S HOPPING - OLD AND NEW

The hop-pickers are busy again as the men pull down the long vines for the hops to be picked off by hand. Each year London families make it a holiday with pay. It's open-air work that old hands can do as well as young - maybe she's gone hopping ever since she, too, was a baby on her mother's knee.

They're paid by the bushel of hops picked. In some places small hops meant more work for the same money. That's enough to make anyone hopping mad - anyone, that is, except the mechanical picker. Here the vines, fastened to a belt, are carried slowly past the picker which strips them, dropping the hops onto a conveyor belt.

With the mechanical picker 30 people can do the work of 300 and do it in comfort. Finally the hops are fed into sacks, ready for drying. By the way, hops put the bitter in your wallop - not the wallop in your bitter!