

S H O T L I S T
WILD RICE HARVEST

278' Fine Grain
Positive

1. L.A.M.S. Driver of rice harvester
2. M.S. Out thru blades of harvester
3. M.S. Along blades of harvester, pan to can
4. L.S. Passing rice field
5. M.S. Man filling can with rice
6. L.S. Two Indians in canoe thru rice field.
7. L.S. Side view two Indians in canoe thru rice field.
8. L.S. No. of canoe's beached
9. L.S. Two squaws, piling rice into bag from canoe
10. C.U. Two squaws, piling rice into bag from canoe, tilt.
11. L.S. Other Indians, ditto
12. L.S. White man with barrow up trail, 2 squaws follow,
pan with
13. L.S. All into mill, wild rice weighed
14. C.S. Squaws get receipts.
15. M.S. White man at work in mill.
16. C.S. Rice in hopper
17. M.S. Bagging rice - tilt down
18. L.S. Exterior pan, truck leaves with bagged rice



WJF

Release Dec 15

Release

A NATIONAL FILM BOARD

THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA, OTTAWA

Setup & Camera: Cable Code - RICE Production No.52-311-9

W. Hewitson Cable Address - STARK, CANADAFILM, OTTAWA

278' Fine Grain Pos.

W I L D R I C E H A R V E S T

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INDIAN PICKERS IN CANOES
COMPETE WITH UNIQUE MECHANICAL HARVESTER
TO BRING IN BUMPER CROP OF RARE GRAIN

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ANCIENT INDIAN FOOD NOW WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE CEREAL
BRINGS JOY TO GOURMETS EVEN WHEN IT COSTS THEM
\$3.50 PER POUND!

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Point du Bois, Manitoba, October, 00, 1952

When the fall season arrives, the shallow marshes around Lac du Bois, 97 miles east of Winnipeg, are invaded by a strange craft. A large scow supporting revolving beater arms, and propelled by an old truck engine, its a home-made harvester for wild rice, the world's most expensive cereal. Built by Bill Williams (King of wild rice producers), from odd scraps, this unique craft weighs 4000 pounds yet draws only nine inches.

On the Williams Wild Rice farm, 500 acres of muskeg-fed lakes and ponds grow thick with this natural grain. If wind and sun cooperate, the crop ripens without any cultivation, and the kernels are easily knocked from the stalks. Thousands of pounds are harvested daily, and when processed, bring a high price from buyers in the U.S.A.

In the traditional Indian method of harvesting, stalks are briefly bent, and tapped with a stick when they are over the canoe. The kernels drop into the boat, and a skilled team under ideal conditions can gather more than a hundred pounds in one hour. Wild rice is a traditional Indian food and the mechanical harvester is only used when the local tribes have harvested all they want. They harvest for sale as well as their own needs and have their own methods of processing for use, but the rice they sell to Williams is green, and they let him do the work. Even so, during harvest season, hundreds of dollars a week are earned by active harvesters, young and old.

In Williams home-built processing plant, rotating drums and friction hulling machines replace the old Indian method of dancing on the roasted rice in a hole in the ground. The inner kernels are soon on their way to become deluxe stuffing

*7/3
3
21/7
2/3
2/6*

34/6

*7/3
3 1/2
24 110 1/2*

Wild Rice Harvest Cont'd

for wild fowl, or to be baked with oysters - rare dishes for the gourmet.

The notorious muskeg country, bane of trapper, prospector and roadbuilder, finally yields a precious harvest.