breeding projects over almost a century by a company of distinguished Frenchmen devoted to the task of revitalizing the vineyards of their country. Due to their marked resistance to disease and the preponderantly *vinifera* quality of their fruit, these varieties seemed to offer great promise as breeding material, considerably superior to most of our existing varieties. That promise, it now appears, is being generously fulfilled.

Among these French hybrids several, such as S.V. 12–375, S.V. 20–473 (now called Muscat de Saint-Vallier), Galibert 133–6, and Johannès-Seyve 26–205, have shown an extraordinary balance in qualities of vine and fruit, combining vigor and resistance to disease with fruit resembling *vinifera.*

With these selections and other promising material, both domestic and foreign, upwards of a thousand crosses have been made and many thousands of seedlings grown, the best of which are now being tested under widely differing conditions.

Some of these seedlings, undergoing their second test, are impressive by virtue of their vigor and health, rivalling S.V. 12–375, (which we may use as a standard of excellence). They are even more remarkable for their fruit, which is indistinguishable from that of pure *vinifera* in size and form of cluster and berry, as well as in texture of flesh and skin. In sugar content, they are comparable to the standard *vinifera* varieties. When eaten, the skin of several of these cannot be distinguished from the flesh, a characteristic of the choicest *vinifera;* and the flesh itself exceeds in firmness that of such classic *vinifera* as Ribier, Muscat of Alexandria, Black Monukka, and Blackrose, growing nearby. (See Fig. 1.)

These selections are, therefore, believed to be significant as proof that linkage between *vinifera* character of fruit and high susceptibility to disease is not as close as it has hitherto appeared. Furthermore, the performance of certain individuals over a period of years—nine consecutive crops of excellent fruit—offers reasonable assurance that the dream of our early hybridizers is now a practical reality.

Performance of New Strawberry Varieties in New Zealand

Marsh Bros., of Central Otago, New Zealand have been testing some of our American strawberry varieties. They are located in an irrigated district in the Southern part of the South Island, where conditions are similar to those in the Yakima Valley of our state of Washington. In Jan. 1962, Marsh Bros. made the following comments on the test varieties:

Earlidawn—Definitely earlier than any other variety which we have. Too tart in flavor to be really popular, but we expect it to play an increasing part in our overall production. Medium to good size fruit.

Pocahontas—We are planting this variety in increasing quantities. It produces more fruit than other early varieties we have. Flavor tart when compared with English varieties, however, it has produced a medium crop of medium-sized berries.

Armore and **Red Star**—Both these varieties have excellent flavor. Armore yielded a good crop but Red Star production was on the light side. Our present intention is to continue increasing plantings of both varieties.—*Paul Stark, Jr.*