

In This— Our Valley

Cultivating One Very Tall Tale



• HIGHER than an elephant's eye. Closer, probably, to a giraffe's adam's apple.

That's the best way to describe the corn in Beatriz Escobar's back yard, grown from seed imported from her native Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Miss Escobar, who teaches Spanish and social studies at August Boeger Junior High School, grew homesick for something from her home country, and prevailed upon a visiting friend to bring some fertilized Bolivian corn.

She planted it in tight, narrow rows in a 10x15-foot plot at her home at 1443 Essex Way, and carefully tended it. Soon it took on the flourishing dimension of the fabled beanstalk.

As of last week, it topped 15 feet and is still growing. The ears are just as oversized, she says.

Miss Escobar can't figure what makes it so healthy. It could be that the corn grows at 8,000 feet altitude in Cochabamba and is trying to reach that height from sea level here. Nor is the corn hybridized. It's just corn.

County agricultural extension agent, please note.

Miss Escobar may just cause a great deal of consternation if she enters her corn in next year's Santa Clara County Fair.