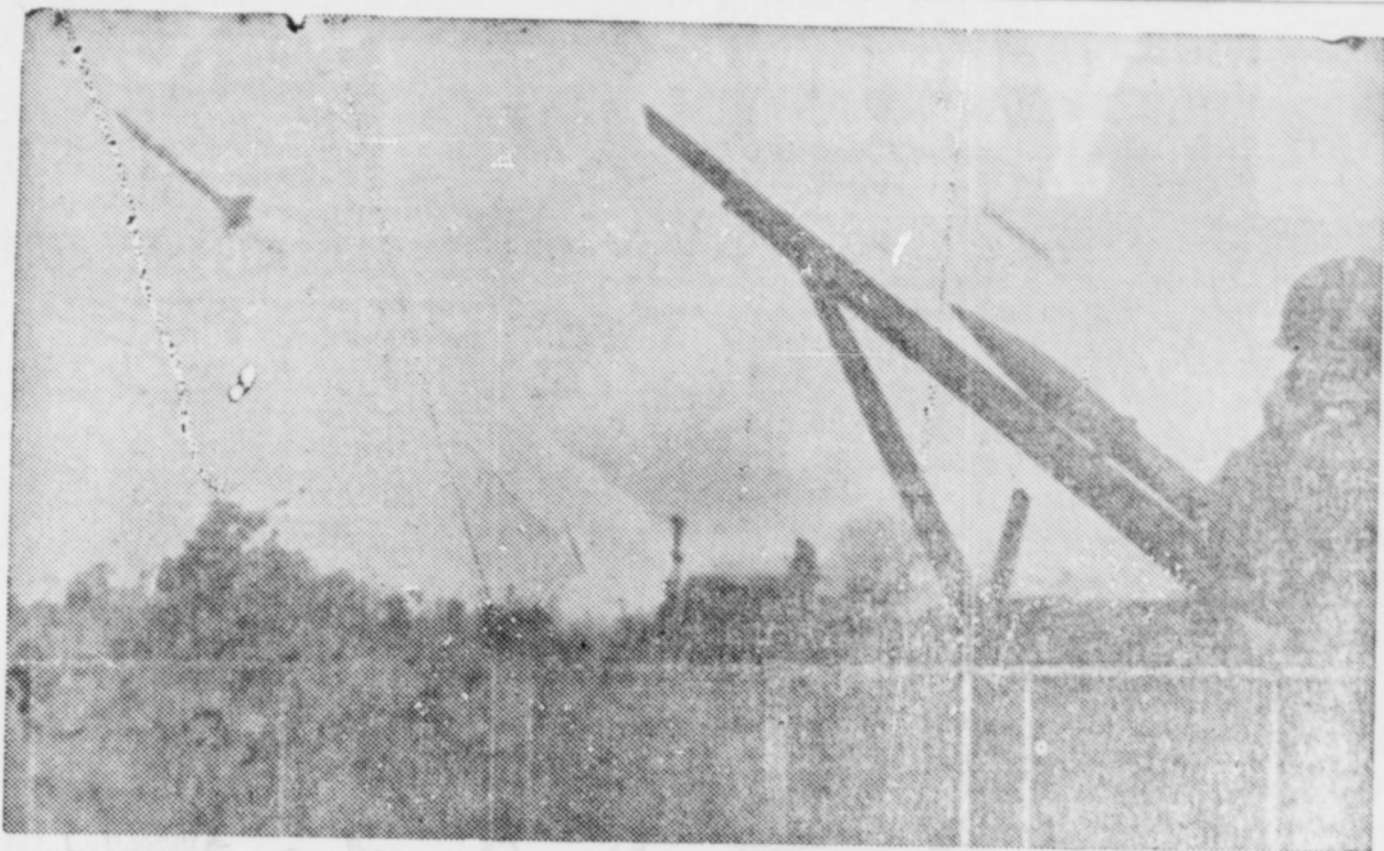




ON THE WAY—An Honest John of the 82nd Airborne Division is fired at Fort Bragg, N.C., while another of the long-range artillery rockets perches on its launcher, ready to go. Honest John is part of the arsenal of Army units in the Far East and Europe as well as in the U.S.

Logging, Mild Weather Helps Labor Market

SALEM — Slowly improving lumber operations and sustained mild weather have combined to ease downstate Oregon's heavy unemployment load slightly during the past month but an increase of nearly 5,000 in the Portland area lifted the total of Oregonians seeking work to 75,000, highest number since the cold winters of 1949 and 1950.

Coastal areas made the best showing over the first month of the new year but the number of active jobseekers continued well over the figures reported by employment offices a year ago. The metropolitan four-county district counted 30,700 persons without jobs against 22,300 at last winter's peak, while down state had 44,300 unemployed, comparing with 41,500 in early 1957.

Many sawmills and logging operations were re-opened after year-end shutdowns, but about 15,000 from this top industry still were filing claims, slightly fewer than a month ago. Increases among construction, miscellaneous industries, utilities, trade and service were heavy up to nearly double, however.

Insured claimants remained close to the recent peak of around 50,000 a week but a gradual decline was anticipated if the weather continues favorable. About 105,000 workers have filed claims since the start of the benefit year last July and first payments have gone to 70,000. Maximum annual benefits have been recorded against 6,000 persons and the number now is rising at the rate of nearly a thousand a week.

Payments for January broke all records with \$6,-

884,704 going out in 200,801 weekly checks. The monthly total was two millions higher than the former high of \$4,802,113 for January, 1950. The average check now has passed \$34 a week compared with \$21.50 at that time.

—CP—

Slight Upward Trend Starts In Lumbering

EUGENE — Oregon's lumber industry moved on a fairly even keel last week with a slight upward trend in lumber offset by the break in plywood prices. Random Lengths the weekly lumber market newsletter, reported a continuing pickup in orders and some increase in prices for Utility grade Dimension from the larger mills and increased activity among mills specializing in Cutting and specified Dimension orders.

The drop in Plywood prices brought Sanded panels down to the \$68 level for the third time in 16 months. The price drop came at a time when Plywood orders were more than four per cent greater than a year ago, but when production was some six per cent greater than in January, 1957. Producers blamed this excess of production for clouding what would otherwise be a bright Plywood outlook.

Mill shipping mixed cars of green and dry lumber reported their general sales volume very low except for the lower grades of Dimension which are now in short supply. In past years a strengthening in the low grade market has been the forerunner of a pickup in the higher grades.

Green mills specializing in industrial orders and specified Dimension were on a firm price basis. Prices for these items and most others are substantially below those of this time last year.

Most of the lumber being shipped by water was booked to the California market. The East Coast markets were weatherbound and showed no life.

Pine buyers remained choosy about quality and prices, but Pine manufacturers reported a moderate increase in certain types of buying.

Plantings Hit 33 Million In State Woods

SALEM — More than 33,000,000 forest tree seedlings have been planted on 40,377 acres of state owned forest land and 54,472 aerially seeded since Oregon's multi-million dollar forest rehabilitation project got under way on July 1, 1949, according to J. H. Hann, state forestry department official who is in charge of the project.

Hann pointed out that the largest and most important

part of the work has been in rehabilitation of the 350,000-acre Tillamook burn where a pre-planting survey of the 257,000 acres of state owned land has indicated that 113,000 acres was in need of reforestation. Up to the end of the year 30,000 acres of this area had been planted to 25,129,000 seedlings and 47,565 aerially seeded.

The accomplishments elsewhere in the state include 7381 acres planted to 5,261,000 seedlings and 5532 acres aerially seeded in Clatsop and Columbia counties; 2248 acres planted to 1,486,300 trees and 750 acres aerially seeded in Clackamas and Marion counties, and 301 acres planted to 142,800 trees and 625 acres aerially seeded in Benton, Lincoln, Linn, Polk and Klamath counties, the forester added.

Hann stated that the total

cost of the entire project up to the end of the year was nearly \$5,000,000 which is considerably below the annual expenditure of \$750,000 authorized. He added that the funds are available through a bond issue.

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Minister

Parsonage MU 7-3065

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