

Employment Shows Gain, State Reports

Seasonal employment gains continued through the early week of September although early layoffs in some food processing plants produced scattering upturns in initial claims for compensation, the state unemployment compensation commission said Thursday. Preliminary estimates of non-agriculture employment last month showed 15,800 more persons working than in mid-July but the total of 459,100 was under the year-ago figure of 488,100 and eight per cent under the all-time high of 495,700 in the late summer of 1952.

Meanwhile continued claimants have dropped off nearly a thousand in the past month but a rise in new applications usually is an indicator of increases in the number of unemployed.

About 22,900 workers still were involved in labor disputes when the August count of non-farm jobs was made but nearly all now are back at work.

Below Peak
Employment in lumber and logging, however, rose 7,800 from July to 64,200, still 4100 under last winter's mark and 32,100 below the August, 1952, peak of 96,300. Metals and shipbuilding increased slightly from the previous month but with machinery manufacturing continuing to lag considerably behind recent years.

Food Processing helped take up the job slack last month, with 26,500 workers reported. This was the highest since September 1949. About 5000 employees were added by canning plants, mostly because of an earlier bean harvest in western Oregon, fish canning also picked up appreciably. Textiles and apparel reported small gains with a 5400 total slightly above recent summers.

Construction Gains
Construction also gained over July adding 2800 workers but still short of the seasonal highs since 1949. Little change was shown in trade, transportation and utilities, still running a few thousand behind last year.

Nut Harvest Demonstration Set Sept. 28

Filbert harvest equipment demonstrations have been set for Tuesday, Sept. 28, at the Joe Ryan farm in the Mission Bottom district, 10 miles north of Salem. The orchard is one and a half miles east of Wheatland Ferry. Filbert growers and others interested in the nut industry are invited to attend the demonstrations at 10:30 a. m. and 1:30 p. m. Manufacturers of filbert harvest equipment are invited to demonstrate their machines at these times. D. L. Rasmussen, Marion County extension agent, reports. Actual demonstration of the machines will depend on the weather and the condition of the orchard, and equipment owners are asked to contact Rasmussen at the Marion County Courthouse prior to the meeting. If the soil is too wet, the machines will be displayed at the end of the orchard or other suitable location on the farm.

Rasmussen points out that mechanical devices reduce the cost of harvesting filberts. Visitors at the Ryan farm Tuesday will see also the effects of nitrogen fertilizer program on filbert trees. Rows fertilized with nitrogen may be compared to adjoining nonfertilized rows.

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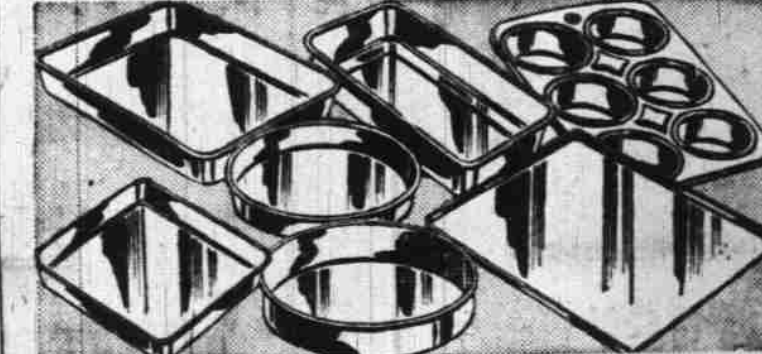
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