

Lumber mills reopen

An estimated 38,000 workers in the Western lumber industry were affected by sawmill closures and curtailments during the week ended May 30, the Western Wood Products Association reported.

That compares with 50,000 either laid off or working adjusted schedules for the prior week.

Major reason for the improvement was the return to operation of most of the 128 mills which had been affected by fallout from the May 18 eruption of Mount St. Helens.

The number of mills operating on curtailed schedules dropped to 217 for the week ended May 30, from the previous report of 310. There are 820 sawmills in the 12 Western states.

Because shipments continued to out-pace production, Western lumber inventories were cut by 50 million board feet during the week, to total 1.91 billion board feet. It was the seventh straight week of inventory declines.

Lumber mill closures, curtailments and people affected during the week ended May 30 in individual Western states are as follows (previous week in parenthesis): Oregon: 27 mills closed, 60 mills curtailed and 9,000 people affected (24,62 and 10,000); California: 14, 34, and 6,700 (14, 35 and 7,500); Washington: 22, 49 and 5,500 (22, 84 and 11,000); Idaho: 10, 21 and 3,900 (11, 51 and 8,000); Montana: 7, 16 and 2,600 (8, 37 and 5,000). In the other seven Western states there were 18 mills closed, 37 mills curtailed and 7,800 people affected (18, 41 and 8,500).

The association noted that all figures were applicable to Western lumber only. They do not represent plywood, paper, logging or any other segment of the forest-products industry.

School teachers' salaries increase

Oregon public school teachers this year earned an average of \$16,266, according to reports submitted by school districts to the Oregon Department of Education.

The 1979-80 salary is 9.1 percent above last year's average pay of \$14,904, the biggest increase since 11.6 percent in 1975-76. Increases were 6.1 percent in 1976-77 and 1977-78 and 7.8 percent in 1978-79.

High school teachers remain the highest paid. They average \$16,704, nine percent more than the \$15,330 they received last year. Junior high teachers are paid an average of \$16,595, 8.5 percent above their 1978-79 salary of \$15,300, and elementary teachers average \$15,897, 8.9 percent more than the \$14,601 they made last year.

The average salary for other positions with 1978-79 pay listed in parentheses: superintendents \$29,420 (\$27,068), principals \$27,146 (\$25,066), vice principals \$25,501 (\$23,565), librarians \$17,604 (\$15,964), and counselors \$18,794 (\$17,237).

Oregon now has 311 school districts. It had 312, but Rockville in Malheur County merged with Jordan Valley on May 31.

State parks center opens

The State Parks Division's Campsite Information Center has started operation.

Clerks will be on duty Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., until August 29, to answer questions about campsite availability in state parks and other recreation activities.

The center can be called from anywhere within Oregon by a toll-free number 1-800-452-5687. Portland and out-of-state residents should call (503) 238-7488.

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