

Log Production Soars In West

Pine Cut Gain Of Five To Seven Per Cent Expected In View Of Growing Demand

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 12 (AP)—Saws of more than 3000 mills in the West Coast woods are screeching off record lumber production in California and near records in Oregon and Washington.

Billions upon billions of board feet of fir, pine, redwood, spruce and other woods are being turned out to fill the spiraling demands of the building and construction industries.

This area produces more than a third of the nation's lumber. From it will roll around 13,000,000,000 (billion) board feet of lumber this year.

The total was nearly 12,500,000,000 (billion) in 1946.

In Oregon and Washington the outlook is for production of around 7,400,000,000 (billion) board feet of fir alone, about 100,000,000 (million) ahead of 1946 and the best since the year of 1926.

Production of pine in the two states is expected to be 3 to 7 per cent ahead of 1946 and may set a record. State totals are not yet available. The western pine region—12 states—is expected to hit a new peak of 6,500,000,000 (billion) board feet, however.

An estimated 1961 mills are operating in the fir and pine regions of Oregon and Washington. Many of the Oregon mills were forced to close periodically or to operate reduced shifts in the late summer when lumber stacked up because of car shortages. Otherwise new production highs might have been established this year.

California's output is soaring because of more normal activity in the redwood region and increased production of pine. Redwood was

curtailed last year by a strike in major mills. Figures at mid-year indicated the 1947 redwood cut would double that of 1946, according to Richard May of the California forest and range experiment station at Berkeley.

Production of pine in the state was running about 40 per cent ahead of last year, May said.

About 1130 mills are operating in California. Last year there were 906.

Despite heavy production in the three states, ample timber stands and reseeded programs assure virtually perpetual cutting.

May estimated there are about 243,400,000,000 (billion) board feet of uncut timber of all species standing in California. Much of it is in national parks or otherwise inaccessible. He put standing commercial timber at 172,000,000,000 (billion) board feet.

The West Coast Lumbermen's association, at Portland estimated conservatively that there are about 450,000,000,000 (billion) board feet of fir still standing in Oregon and Washington and close to 150,000,000,000 (billion) of pine.

Lucky Vet To Get Housing

SEATTLE, Dec. 12 (AP)—If he has "not less than" two children and was an enlisted man in the service, a lucky Seattle veteran is going to have a chance to rent a new \$15,000 home for two years at \$60 a month.

This GI dream-come-true resulted from an unusual decision by U. S. District Judge Lloyd L. Black. R. F. Allison, a builder, pleaded guilty to using veterans' priorities illegally to build houses, one of which Allison occupies. Judge Black ruled that Allison's house must be rented unfurnished for not more than \$80 a month to a veteran with the qualifications he specified.

The requirements for a non-officer with children, the judge explained, were made with the idea of excluding veterans most able to pay high rent.

Judge Black appointed R. C. Atwood, federal area rent director, to handle renting of the house and to supervise a drawing December 22 to determine a winner.

The Allison, who have four children, must move out by January 1.

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Truman Asks Funds For USBR Work

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 (AP)—President Truman asked congress today to appropriate \$29,375,000 for the reclamation bureau to enable it to continue work on four big western reclamation projects.

He asked that \$11,725,000 be appropriated for the Columbia basin project in Washington; \$10,700,000 for the Central valley project in California; \$4,150,000 for the Colorado-Big Thompson project in Colorado and \$2,800,000 for the Davis dam project in Arizona-Nevada.

The president said these additional amounts are required to permit continuation of work during the remainder of the fiscal year, ending June 30, on existing contracts and other work under way; to award small contracts incidental to the big ones and to permit ordering at the earliest possible date of three additional turbines and generating units for the Wright power house at Grand Coulee dam.

The president's request was transmitted to the house interior department appropriations subcommittee by the budget bureau.

The committee was called into a closed-door session today to consider the request.

The amount asked by the president is approximately \$10,000,000 less than the reclamation bureau has said is necessary to continue work on the four projects this fiscal year.

Representative Jensen (R-Iowa) said he planned to push the hearings to completion as quickly as possible and hoped to have them ready to report to the house early next week.

Missionary Trip Ends

BELLINGHAM, Dec. 12 (AP)—Two former GI's who set out in a small sloop two weeks ago to carry Bibles and religious "help" to Gilbert island natives were back home today after drifting and tossing for nearly a week off the Washington coast.

The two 25-year-old youths, Marvin Norstedt and Jack Maier, both of Bellingham, left Seattle November 28 for a coral atoll in the Southern Gilbert Islands to repay natives there who had aided Maier and other seamen when their freighter was shipwrecked during the war.

Their storm-battered 35-foot sloop, The Despy, was picked up by a Seattle otter trawler off Tatoosh island last Saturday and towed into Neah bay where they made repairs.

"We ran into some waves 50 feet high, which was too much for us," Norstedt said. "We lost our life raft and drifted about a week."

"Apparently this is the end of our missionary trip."

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Court Okays Recording

SEATTLE, Dec. 12 (AP)—For the first time in Washington legal history, a wire recording of a confession to police was admitted yesterday to evidence.

It was introduced in the first degree assault trial of Charles A. Cooper by Deputy Prosecutor Francis A. Walteerskirchen, without objection by defense counsel.

Cooper, 32, is charged with shooting and seriously wounding his former son-in-law, John C. Schultz, during a quarrel July 5 at the Cooper home.

"I have a vision, gentlemen," Superior Judge Chester A. Batchelor said, "that in trials of the not too distant future courts will permit recordings and even television."

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