

Mild Construction Work Boost Seen, House Building Increasing, Board Reports

By CHARLES MOLOYN
 WASHINGTON, Aug. 18 (AP)—A forecast of further moderate increases in construction work in the near future came from the federal reserve board yesterday.

Because construction is one of the main bulwarks of business activity and employment, this furnished some backing for a prediction by Secretary of Labor Tobin that employment will go up by 1,500,000 the rest of this year. Tobin made the prediction at the White House yesterday.

The reserve board, in a publication, noted contract construction was providing jobs for more than 2,000,000 workers at mid-year.

Even while activity declined substantially at the nation's factories and mines in the spring and early summer, the board report showed, construction was scoring a more than seasonal rise from its low winter levels.

That was one factor credited by the commerce department with cushioning the decline in the total output of goods and services—the "gross national product"—during the second quarter of 1949.

This output was at an annual rate of \$256,100,000,000 in the second quarter, down 2.4 per cent from the preceding quarter and down 5.3 per cent from the peak reached in 1948's final quarter.

The commerce department

blamed a cutback in business inventories for the decline since that cutback narrowed the market for goods and services.

The reserve board bulletin credited a pickup in private housing re-including:

1. "A small decline in interest rates generally," and "perhaps more important—the availability of federal funds to buy mortgages from institutions which felt 'loaned up,' thus providing them funds for use in new lending.
2. Availability of new houses "at somewhat lower prices," a shift to construction of smaller homes, and improvement in "the quality of design, equipment and workmanship in most areas."
3. The fact that many families, all set with plans to buy and bolstered by relatively high level incomes and savings for the nation at large, simply "have become reconciled to the high level of prices."

PORTLAND, Aug. 18 (AP)—A shortage of irrigation water in the Baker area has caused a dry range situation there to become worse the past week.

The department of agriculture reported the prolonged dry weather throughout eastern Oregon has forced stockmen to continue sending their animals to market before they are finished.

Greek Grandmother Lonely For Home

ALBANY, Ore., Aug. 18 (AP)—An 89-year-old Greek grandmother, who came here a year ago to live in this country, is so homesick for Greece she is going back there.

Mrs. Mary Christie said she could no longer bear living in a country where she does not know the language and whose customs are foreign to her.

The aged woman, whose home is 40 miles from Salem, Greece, flew here last year to live with her son, James Christie, an Albany restaurateur.

But she missed her other children, back in Greece. She missed talking—she loves to talk.

So Christie is sending her back home on a plane next Saturday.

All Hands Busy Except The Stork

PORTLAND, Aug. 18 (AP)—Raymond E. Barringer hit the climax of trouble today when, rushing his sister-in-law to the hospital ahead of the stork, his car wiring short-circuited and burst into flame.

Except that he burned his hands trying to beat the fire out, it all turned out nappily, however.

A fire truck came and put out the flames.

Two passing patrolmen grabbed the sister-in-law, Mrs. Edith Hawthorne, and rushed her to the hospital.

To cap it all, the stork wasn't in as much of a rush as Barringer thought.

Several hours later, Mrs. Hawthorne's baby still hadn't been born.

Don't miss a good bet—shop the Want Ads every day! It pays!

Red Cross Sends Tents To Ecuador

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 18 (AP)—Forty-five tons of tenting, enough to shelter some 3000 persons, are being shipped by the American Red Cross to earthquake devastated Ecuador where thousands are homeless.

It was announced by Basil O'Connor, president of the American society.

O'Connor said the tents already had been drawn from U.S. army quartermaster stores in the Panama canal zone and would be sent to Ecuador by the fastest possible means.

Also to be shipped are 2000 blankets, 500 pounds of DDT, 10 liter bags and calcium hypochloride for water purification. The American Red Cross will reimburse the army for the supplies drawn.

County Displays

SALEM, Aug. 18 (AP)—Fourteen Oregon counties will maintain agricultural and industrial displays at the Oregon state fair in Salem, Sept. 5 to 12.

Manager Leo Spitzbart reported here that Benton, Clackamas, Coos,

Curry, Douglas, Lane, Linn, Harney, Hood River, Marion, Malheur, Polk, Yamhill, and Tillamook counties would be represented at this year's exposition.

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