

Florida Flyers Establish Operation Xmas Tree to Take Oregon Greens South



FLORIDA MAY HAVE its oranges and big blows but Oregon has lovely forests and greens as crew members of a C-47 and a B-25 found out this week. This picture page tells the story of four United States air force men, who embarked on a Herald and News sponsored tree hunt off the Lake o' the Woods road, to load up the C-47 with trees and greens to take back to MacDill air force base, Tampa, Fla. It all came about when a northbound flight of the B-25 was cut short as a motor started acting up over Crater lake. Shortly after, the crew made it here where the C-47 flew in a new motor. In the meantime, the greenery of the country intrigued the boys from the South and the tree hunt resulted.

1—Sizing up a big cedar. 2—Lt. Harry D. Barnes, Capt. Ernest T. Nance and M/Sgt. James D. Copeland start for the Christmas tree area. 3—Sgt. Copeland and Lt. Anthony J. Abad, hold off the others in a snowball fight. 4—"This one's for the kids," the fliers decided. 5—Lt. Abad finds a fine cedar tree for greens. 6—Oregon grape intrigued Lt. Abad, the pilot, and he filled an old box with the pretty stuff. 7—A tree for the officer's room at MacDill is lugged down the road by Capt. Nance. 8—Sgt. Copeland and Lt. Barnes are just plain tuckered in this high altitude. 9—A truck was provided through courtesy of Balsiger Motor company to bring home the loot. Lt. Copeland hangs on to the greens with Hale Scarbrough at the wheel. 10—The trees and greens are unloaded at the airport. 11—Lt. Abad tags the tree he wants for his house. 12—Moving a big tree over to one side of the fuselage of the C-47. 13—Capt. Nance hands a smaller one to Lt. Abad. (Story on page 14).