

'Little Guy' Has Problems In Christmas Tree Industry

By PEGGY WALSH

DUNSMUIR—"I'm just a little guy," Joe Martinotti of San Francisco says of himself in characterizing his role in the Christmas tree industry. "The big operators, they have big problems. . . I got little problems."

Martinotti on his annual tree cutting expedition has become a welcomed late fall guest at Cedar Lodge Motel in Dunsmuir. He has 1,200 silvertip trees stored in an unused lumber warehouse belonging to the Ralph Smith Company. He is currently cutting on Ralph Smith land along the backbone of mountains that divide Shasta and Trinity counties. Before he leaves for the city he plans to harvest 1,200 white fir and Douglas fir trees.

The trees are slated for retail

sale at the Clement Nursery in the Richmond district of San Francisco, a business owned and run by Martinotti. A one-man operation from Slope to store, Martinotti says he even delivers some of his trees to the homes of his customers.

He used to buy trees from wholesale jobbers, he said, and got into the tree cutting business to have better trees to sell. Now he returns every year because he enjoys the experience. "I lose a little weight and get a lot of fresh air," he comments. He says he now cuts only to meet his needs on the basis of a fairly well established clientele.

Martinotti's problems stem from contracting to cut in natural stands of trees on privately owned holdings. "Some days you walk a long way," he says.

He used to harvest from forest service lands but feels the forest service was more interested in tree thinning than good Christmas trees for market.

Like the big operators, Martinotti is concerned about the illegal tree cutter. He says he has had a timber operator's license for years and always properly contracts for cutting rights, both required for lawful Christmas tree harvesting.

But he says he's never been stopped by any law enforcement agency and asked for proof of his legal status.

"If they don't ask me, who do they ask?" he wonders, but adds with true Joe Doakes philosophy, "The day I leave my papers at the motel, I'll be stopped."

Martinotti states he is a conservationist at heart. "Some of the fellows, they don't care. I prune, I thin because it improves the forest. I know I won't live long enough to see the result but who cares, it isn't much more work."



JOE MARTINOTTI, left, and helper Eddie Ritchie, both of San Francisco, are shown here stacking their day's cut of Christmas trees in a Dunsmuir warehouse. These trees will find markets in the Richmond area.

Druggists Fined For Substitutions

NEW YORK (AP)—Two Long Island pharmacists have been fined \$1,500 each and placed on three years' probation for using penny tablets instead of expensive antibiotics in preparing prescriptions.

Brought in for sentencing Friday in Brooklyn federal court were Charles P. Greenberg, 30, Plainview, N.Y., and Marvin W. Goldstein, 29, East Meadow, N.Y. The pair operated a pharmacy in Bethpage, N.Y.

Judge Leo F. Rayfield sentenced each man to one-year prison terms, then fined them and put them on probation.

Greenberg and Goldstein pleaded guilty last Nov. 10 to using "cold tablets" costing them one cent apiece to fill a prescription by a physician for antibiotic tablets costing 41 cents each.

Work Dips In November; Season Labor Completed

Unemployment continued its seasonal increase through November as construction contracts were completed and sawmills began reducing crews, Guy Barker, manager of the Klamath Falls office of the state employment service, reports in his December labor market bulletin.

"We find that at the end of November Klamath County had 35 per cent less unemployed workers in 1958 than in 1957," Barker said. "Employment and payrolls have been substantially higher all through 1958 than during 1957."

A statistical study covering the first three months of 1958, recently released by the Oregon State Unemployment Compensation Commission, has substantiated Barker's statement from the early part of the year. These statistics showed that, for Klamath County, 1958 produced increases all along the line, with one exception. The number of employers jumped from 716 to 725. The average number

of employees covered by insurance increased 10.9 per cent. Employment in logging and lumbering jumped 12.7 per cent, while that in construction increased 20.4 per cent. Payrolls covered by insurance increased 16.1 per cent. The one exception was in reference to employment in wholesale and retail trade, which decreased 7.5 per cent.

Other points made in Barker's December bulletin were:

"The extremely high unemployment which occurred during the winter of 1957-58 is not expected to occur this season. Many of the construction workers who

came to Klamath Falls for seasonal work are now returning to their homes in other areas.

Merchants report some increases in sales personnel for the Christmas season, with business on the increase.

Oregon's unemployment reserve fund has shown a steady increase since July, when a low of \$22,828,167 was shown and a 2.7 per cent tax rate went into effect for all employers. As of November 7, 1958, the commission reports the reserve fund reached \$32,206,608. One year ago it stood at \$48,411,550.

For the week ending November

20, 1958, Klamath County had 6.1 per cent of the average covered workers claiming benefits. For the same week in November, 1957, there were 7.7 per cent claiming unemployment benefits.

The annual program of general aptitude testing of Klamath Union High School seniors was carried out during November. This program, undertaken in cooperation with the school, assists school counselors in advising those seniors who do not plan on entering college. These test results show those graduating students who plan to enter the labor market which occupations would best fit their aptitudes. The screening process shows that a high percentage of graduating seniors plan on entering college.

During November, 1958, 257 workers were placed in non-agricultural jobs. This was an increase of 43 per cent over the number placed during November, 1957.

Lumber Prices Steady In Week

PORTLAND (AP)—Lumber prices were steady this past week, but trading was sluggish, Crow's Lumber Market News Service said Friday.

Prices held firm for green Douglas fir studs, fir and hemlock for water shipment and utility grade green fir dimensions, while prices weakened for economy grade dimension and green board.

Ponderosa pine common board prices were unchanged, but the drop for kiln-dried Douglas fir was reflected in a similar drop of dry dimension from western pine region mills. Quarter-inch, index grade Douglas fir plywood sanded on one side varied between \$72 and \$76.

Troops In Iran New Red Threat

MOSCOW (AP)—The Soviet Union hinted to Iran today that signing a defense agreement with the United States would give the Soviet Union the right to send troops into Iran.

Iranian officials deny that this right from a 1921 treaty still exists.

The Soviet warning was published in Pravda, the Communist party newspaper, and signed "Observer." This signature is used on important but unofficial statements of Soviet foreign policy.

Except for the additional hint of sending troops, the warning was similar to earlier Soviet attacks on a U.S.-Iranian agreement. On Nov. 8 Iran rejected a Moscow note warning it not to sign.

Woman Feted On Birthday

TULELAKE — Social activities have dominated the late November and early December calendar.

Mrs. A. E. Ryckman, born in Iowa and resident of the Tulelake community since the family homesteaded in 1938, was honored on a birthday anniversary, November 25, at the home of Mrs. Hildur Larson when old friends and

neighbors arrived to offer congratulations.

Five tables of pinocle were in play with all gifts going to the guest of honor.

A late November party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Thomas brought enough friends to play two tables of pinocle. Present from a distance was Mrs. Mae Herwick, Portland, mother of Mrs. Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Haynes, who have recently completed extensive remodeling of their home, were presented with a housewarming gift, an electric clock, when friends and neighbors called. Five tables of pinocle and one of canasta were in play. Mrs. Stone Bowen and Carl Jensen won high in pinocle. Low prizes went to Mrs. Hildur Larson and Leonard Meshke.

Most people on earth belong to four major religions: Christians, Mohammedans, Brahmins and Buddhists. There are also about 11 million Hebrews.

Group Leader Draws Retainer

PORTLAND (AP)—Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton appointed William J. Daw, Portland, special assistant attorney general assigned to the Centennial Commission with a \$100 a month retainer fee, it was revealed Friday.

Thornton reportedly felt the commission needed a disinterested legal advisor rather than Jack Lively, Springfield.

Lively, a Centennial Commissioner, was the only commissioner who objected to the appointment.

Radio Telescope Fails On Rocket

JODRELL BANK, England (AP)—The world's biggest radio telescope tracking equipment broke down Saturday while trying to trace the U.S. Army's Juno 11 moon shoot.

Prof. Alfred Lovell, the astronomer who runs the huge telescope, said the trouble was in a special

amplifying device on its radio antenna.

The telescope got a brief fix on a signal from space at 6 a.m. (11 a.m. EST), 15 minutes after the launching of the rocket at Cape Canaveral, Fla., but there was no confirmation that the signal was from Juno.

THE GIFT-SPOTTER

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