

Unemployment Ranks Grow, But Lag Behind U.S.

By Wally Trabing

1500 persons in northern Santa Cruz county drawing weekly unemployment insurance they are out of work.

Director of the state department of employment, Santa Cruz branch, said their weekly checks average \$40.

Neef said the total dole is \$600,000 a week.

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gum plant the Lockheed missile testing base personnel officer said 47 persons are awaiting jobs there; 82 have filed for jobs with the northern PG&E facilities, many of which are from out-of-county and even out of state.

Pacific Coast Aggregates in Davenport have laid off around 20 men since November and have 60 applications for work.

A. G. Athearn, manager of Pacific Telephone, said he has very few applicants on hand.

Muriel Keesler of the Santa Cruz Service Bureau, an employment agency, reported: We are feeling the recession, especially in the placing of unskilled workers. We are just not moving them at all."

Raymond H. Ansell, director of the social welfare department for the county, reported a 10 to 11 per cent increase in welfare recipients during the past six months.

He said this county was an exception, however. Other counties have reported a 100 to 150 per cent increase in the same period.

A poll of Santa Cruz area union offices reflected this picture of the unemployment situation.

Laborers union Local 283: About 75 of the 300 county members out of work, but if the weather holds, most of those "on the board" should go to work, according to William L. Hockman, business representative. A few weeks ago the jobless list reached an all time high of 100. Average year around is about 20.

Carpenters Local 829 — 500 members: Dave Bujese, office secretary, said jobless number around 80 to 90. About 10 on the list are from other areas. Hotel, Restaurant and Bartenders Local 483: "Plenty out of work," according to a spokesman.

Electrical Workers Local 526: Very few men idle. President Ed Jambes said the job picture is actually better this year than last.

Teamsters Local 912: President Richard F. King said unemployment was "great" among the 3000 workers. About two-thirds of the members are seasonal workers. Among the unemployed are people who follow cannery, produce, ice making, fruit shed truck driving, and construction work.

"I think we've hit the bottom, and are now starting upward again," King said. "It has been much worse this year than last,

and we've had a number of people seeking jobs from Salinas, Hollister, San Jose and the bay region."

In Watsonville, the picture is slightly brighter. Carl A. Anson, manager of the state department of employment office there, said the 1000 persons drawing weekly unemployment insurance there is about 6 per cent less than last year.

This office finds jobs for 5700 field workers and food processors each year. This does not include the 3000 Mexican nationals which are brought into this area to help with crops.

To sum up — the situation is neither bad or especially good, according to general views by those associated with employment.

It's not as bad in Santa Cruz county as elsewhere in California and the U. S. The 1500 persons taking unemployment checks may deem conditions startling, but as Anson commented, "Many of these people are always here anyway, good times and bad times."

A steady increase in population has also clouded the employment picture and the traditional seasonal problem here confuses it.

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TASK FORCE DEPARTS
Honolulu (AP). — The Honolulu Advertiser said today a Navy task force headed by the carrier Kearsarge left Pearl Harbor Saturday to join the U.S. 7th Fleet in the

Funeral services will be conducted at the Irvin M. Smith and Son chapel Wednesday at 2 p.m. Inurnment will be in the IOOF crematory.



This is the daily pattern at the California department of employment office, 1725 North Seabright avenue, where 1500 men and women call weekly for their unemployment checks which average \$40. More than half are seasonal workers, but others are people of many trades who can't find a steady job. Probably the majority are unskilled, for most industries in northern Santa Cruz county do not report an extra large job waiting list.

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