

Airlift Drops Continue

More than two tons of food, clothing, medical supplies, lanterns, stoves and other equipment were dropped into the Hoopa, Weitchpec and Pecwan areas during the first part of the week.

Two Marine helicopters dropped 1,500 pounds of food in Hoopa Monday, and 1,200 pounds of food and blankets at Weitchpec.

An Army Caribou dropped 1,500 pounds of food, gasoline and a specially filled medical prescription at Pecwan Tuesday. A second load of Red Cross family food packs was scheduled for Hoopa, but the weather closed in again before the mission could be successfully completed.

Pete Lewis, an Indian from Hoopa who came to Eureka on one of the Marine helicopters, flew as a spotter in the Caribou and planned Monday to go along today to show helicopter pilots some of the areas he believes may be cut off from emergency supplies by washed-out roads and bridges. This will make it possible to put family packs which contain enough food to take care of five people for two weeks right into a family's backyard.

Severe weather conditions over the 5,000 foot mountains between the supply base in Eureka and the Hoopa valley area prevented helicopters and airplanes from getting in Friday and Saturday. This created no serious problem however, as some 15,000 lbs., of food, clothing, medical supplies, lanterns and other equipment were flown in between Christmas Day and New Years when the weather stopped flights.

Many of the families are living in shelters established in the schools in Hoopa, Weitchpec, and Pecwan, and at Hoopa today, where four Red Cross workers including a nurse are working with local volunteers.

About 200 were served a hot lunch. Usually, only 75-100 people eat at the shelter there, but many residents came in yesterday to the Red Cross Disaster Recovery Center set up in the

nearby Presbyterian Church to discuss their losses. Long-term Red Cross aid to help families rebuild and re-establish their homes, to buy essential furnishings, occupational equipment and to pay for disaster-caused medical care is available to everyone without other resources.

Red Cross disaster worker, Ed Kimball, who has been in Hoopa since last Monday, said he authorized Red Cross funds be spent to purchase two chain saws which are being used now to cut firewood and at the same time clear the roads.