



Nearly condemned only a few short months ago, the airport control tower (left) at the Arcata strip has become the nerve center for scores of aircraft using the McKinleyville facilities for

rescue and supply operations. As hundreds await air transportation out of the area, Navy and Marine helicopters, passenger and airlift craft arrive and depart on their errands of mercy.



People hoping to catch flights to other areas to join relatives or friends for the holidays jammed the waiting rooms at Arcata-Eureka Airport today. Weather conditions hampered flights in and

out of the area. Last night, an estimated 300 persons flocked to the airport hoping for flights.

This is what I saw when I came into the airport

despair



This U. S. Coast Guard amphibious jet helicopter, with three men aboard, went on rescue operations in the Fernside area late yesterday afternoon and has not been heard from since. It was last seen about 4:05 p.m. at the Arcata-Eureka Airport, where it

refueled. This picture was taken by Eureka Newspapers photographer Neil Hulbert about two hours before the 'copter disappeared. Bright white spots on the picture are raindrops reflected by the camera's flash.



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