

# War Casualties Take Spotlight in 1944; Basin Men Honored

War takes the front page these days as it has since long before December 7, 1941. Scattered through the news columns almost daily are references to the many honors which have been bestowed upon Klamath county's 5000 men in uniform, men who fly planes, man the guns, work in the ground crews of the air force, drive the tanks through the mine fields and wear the crossed rifles of the infantry.

Air Medals, Bronze Stars, Oak Leaf clusters in lieu of the first award, scores of Purple Hearts, Presidential Citations and other medals, these have been bestowed upon the men wherever the United States army or navy has sent its men to foreign soil or into alien seas.

Many of these awards have been made posthumously. To these men who will not return stands a monument on the courthouse lawn that those who pass by may remember with reverence the sacrifice made by these young soldiers, sailors, marines, Seabees and merchant mariners.

To the best of our ability, The Herald and News has compiled a list of men who have been killed in action, those who have been listed as missing in action, and those who are prisoners of war since January 1, 1944. If there is an error in this report, we sincerely regret that it has been made. In many cases the original status of a man was reported to this paper, but when a change was made the proper information was not received. This then, is our honor roll.

- Killed in Action**
- Lt. John Paul Sevcik, USA.
  - Pvt. Victor Feldner, USMC.
  - Pvt. John Spence, USMC.
  - Pvt. Clarence W. Luce, USA.
  - John Russell Fielder, coxswain, USN.
  - T/Sgt. Douglas M. Elder, USA.
  - Harry A. Wiechmann, CSF, Seabee.
  - Wesley D. Premo, USA.
  - T/Sgt. Theodore Schatz, USA.
  - Wesley Sylvester Davis Jr., USA.
  - Lt. Jack P. Laird, USA.
  - Glen Fields, USN.
  - S/Sgt. John W. DeMille, USA.
  - John T. Watta, ARM 1/c, USN.
  - S/Sgt. Orville Carmichael, USA.
  - Lt. Charles H. Semon, USA.
  - 1st Lt. Donald F. Turner, USA.
  - Eugene Garrett, Merchant Marine.
  - Pvt. William F. Murray, USA.
  - Sgt. Albert Werner, USA.
  - S/Sgt. Alex Sundberg, USA.
  - 2nd Lt. Bill Behorn, USA.
  - Merlin Brown, USA.
  - PFC Chad Reid Hartley, USMC.
  - Reginald Gleisz, USN.
  - S/Sgt. Clarence L. Anderson, USA.
  - Joe Francis Roofner, MM, USN.
  - Charles Marple, USMC.
  - Sgt. Tyrus Rishline, USA.
  - S/Sgt. Alfred D. Giles, USA.
  - PFC Oscar Andrews, USMC.
  - Pvt. Van Meter, AOM1/c, USN.
  - Pvt. Arthur W. Bergquist, USA.
  - Corp. Rollo B. Cheyne, USMC.
  - PFC Tony Degerlamos, USA.
  - Pvt. Walter A. Bulck, USA.
  - Pvt. Ned Moss, USA.
  - Pvt. Robert Shadduck, USA.
  - James Orland McKeehan, BM2/c, US coast guard.

## Changing Times Bring Many Service Men to Klamath, Plus Women in Uniforms

Old timers in these parts can remember when a navy man was a fellow that stepped off the train en route from San Diego to Bremerton, and a marine uniform was seen only on Armistice Day on Carl K. Cook.

But times have changed and Klamath Falls has become a three-way military installation with the Marine Barracks sprawling 800 feet above the town, the Klamath naval air station to the south, and just over the California line the military guard of Camp Tulelake.

Hundreds of men in uniform, a generous sprinkling of WAVES and a few of the Women's Army Corps, now rub elbows with the civilian population, all this with the exception of Camp Tulelake, having had its inception since January 1, 1944.

Bluejackets started arriving in Klamath Falls as personnel attached to the Klamath naval air station which was officially commissioned Saturday, February 12, with Lt. Cmdr. L. H. McPherson as the skipper. He was succeeded by Cmdr. R. R. Darnon. WAVES arrived with the platoon of facilities for them and they have entered into the social life of the community.

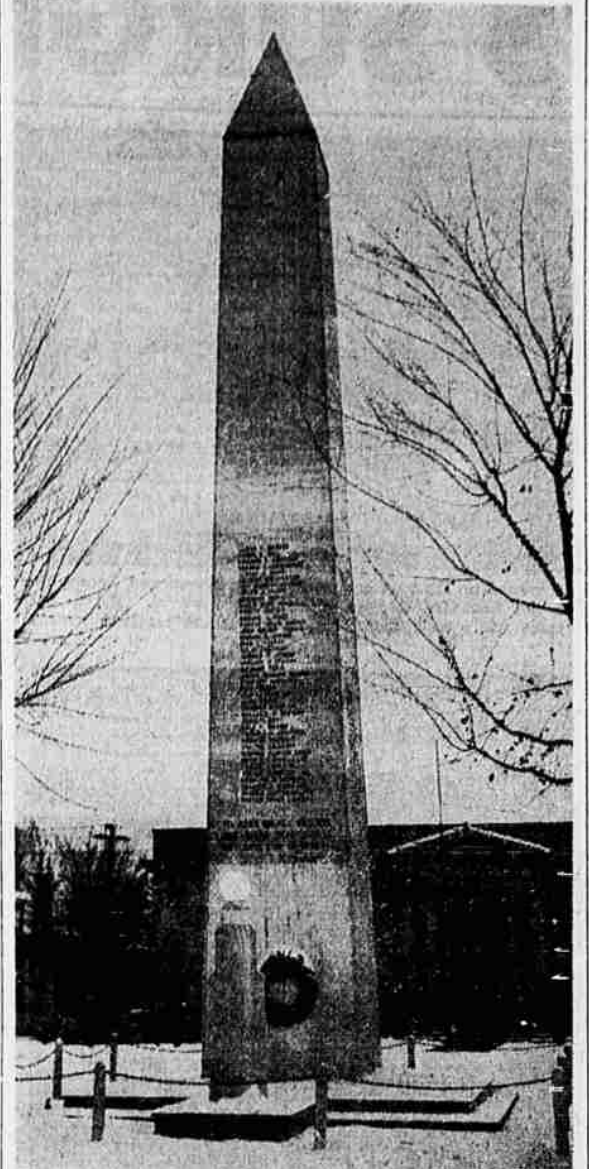
Not long after the air station got under way and the town accustomed itself to the presence of navy men and women on the streets, work started on the Marine Barracks with Brennan and Cannon awarded the initial contract of \$1,510,700. Since then the construction figure has jumped to \$5,340,000 and this, along with the navy installation which cost \$6,353,000, constitutes a sizable sum which has been spent on the two plants.

Marines started pouring into Klamath Falls in late May, fresh from combat duty in the South Pacific. Since that time contingents have continued to arrive as here. Some have completed their stay here and shipped out to other points. Formal commissioning of the Barracks took place on Saturday, September 30, with townspeople witnessing the presentation of Purple Hearts and Presidential Citations in a formal ceremony on the parade grounds.

Col. B. Dibel was the commanding officer at the time of the commissioning, succeeded in November by Col. George O. Van Orden.

There was no gradual acceptance of service men. As a whole the town turned out to live up to Klamath's reputation as an hospitable place to live. Officers and enlisted men found friends among Klamathites who were eager to show them the countryside. Much of this was due to the program instituted by the Commandos who have since disbanded.

## Against a Wintry Sky—



Stands this shaft as a memorial to Klamath county men who have paid the supreme sacrifice since December 7, 1941, the day of the Pearl Harbor attack. It bears the legend: "We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—from Lincoln's Gettysburg address. An eternal light burns at the base of the shaft."

## Klamath Basin Farmers End Year of Outstanding Food Production, Break Records

By J. R. McCAMBRIDGE, Assistant County Agent. Farmers of the Klamath basin have just finished another year of outstanding food production, with potatoes reaching an all-time record of 26,000 acres producing 12,000 carloads, which is an increase of 2748 cars over 1943. At the present time 8000 cars of potatoes of the 1944 crop have been shipped, which is three-fourths of the total production and 25 per cent above normal shipments at this time of year. The state department of agriculture records show that shipments have reached as high as 130 cars a day, with a daily average shipment of 85 cars. This is the heaviest and fastest movement of potatoes ever going to market from the Klamath basin. Generally, throughout the basin the quality or percentage of U. S. No. 1 has been slightly lower than the 1943 crop. This was due primarily to the cold unfavorable spring of 1944.

Cattle, in general, throughout the entire area have been decreased. This means that cattle going to market during the 1944 season were about 5 per cent greater than in 1943, leaving a lower inventory of January 1, 1944, than January 1, 1943. This increased marketing is in line with the national, state and county goals as it was necessary to bring livestock numbers in balance with the feed supply. This season also saw a heavy marketing of hogs. The sheep population in the Klamath basin has been reduced approximately 30 per cent to somewhere around 40,000 head remaining in the county at the end of the year. A small reduction was asked for in sheep numbers but it is felt by some agricultural people that this decline is a little too rapid.

**Meat Demands**  
Poultrymen demand their demands for holding a bout the same production 1,800,000 dozen eggs and 450,000 pounds of poultry meat being produced. Turkey production was slightly lower, with approximately 450,000 pounds of turkey meat going to market.

Grain growers did not reach their 1943 record-breaking production of 4,250,000 bushels. This was due primarily to the severe spring frosts and adverse weather conditions. Many acres were reseeded but all told the grain crop was fair, with barley leading, then oats and wheat. The season experienced some chances for the better and some for the worse. Generally, the farm machinery supply was improved, with more machinery being made available and going off ration, but supply is still not sufficient to meet the tremendous demand. Again, old machinery has been kept in production pictures much longer than usual. Mechanically minded operators have been rebuilding these machines as well as building new ones from old ones.

**Problems Met**  
A greater number of potato harvesters and packers have been built and used in this district. After all is said and done, the basin farmers have met their machinery problems of re-building, building new machines, borrowing and trading equipment, doing custom work for one another, and working long hours. Thus, the basin crops have been grown and harvested during the normal period.

Local labor was not as plentiful this year as more and more of the basin's young farmers are in the armed forces and the itinerant workers were not of pre-war quality. However, the harvest would not have been completed had it not been for the excellent harvest weather throughout September and October, plus the fact that over 50 per cent more Mexican nationals were used and the help provided by school children, non-farm people of the basin, prisoners of war, and men from the local marine, navy and army bases. To harvest this year's crops, over 150,000 man-days were required.

**Improvements Made**  
During these years of tremendous high-gear farm production, farmers of this county are looking ahead on a long-time agricultural program. There has been a great increase in land-leveling and solid building practices in general, spurred on by the benefits derived under the agricultural conservation program. A total of 69,102 cubic yards of re-organized irrigation ditches were constructed, leveling was done on about 3000 acres, 42,217 lineal feet of drain ditches constructed and 10,060 feet of 24 inch cement pipe used in re-organization of irrigation and drainage systems. Most growers are holding their cropping program in balance by keeping at least 30 per cent of their acreage in legume crops or growing and turning under green manure crops.

Approximately 1000 acres of green manure crops were turned under this year. Nineteen hundred and forty-four saw the Klamath experimental area expanded into a full-fledged experiment station, with experiments to include some land on Lower Klamath lake and also some of the higher producing soil on the Klamath project.

**Increases Planned**  
An agricultural advisory committee has been formed to give accurate and unbiased agricultural information to returning veterans of World War 2 interested in agriculture. All of these things indicate that the farmers of this area are looking and planning ahead and 1945 will be another year of increased food production. Our government is asking the farmers for an increase in some crops, such as five per cent in hay, 125 per cent in Australian peas, 20 per cent in common rye grass seed, and all possible of seeds of alfalfa, alsike clover, ladino clover and red clover. Slight increases in milk, oats and corn are asked for; and the same production maintained as in 1944 of milk cows on farms, chickens to be raised, turkeys,

## DEATH TAKES KLAMATHITES DURING YEAR

As the months rolled up to close the year of 1944, they brought death to many Klamath county pioneers, as well as men and women who had lived here a lesser time but who had taken their place in the civic and social life of the community.

It is always a sad task to compile the names of those beloved among their fellow townsmen. With the assistance of Ward's and Whitlock funeral homes, there follows a list of men and women who passed during 1944 and whose residence here extended beyond a period of 10 years:

- JANUARY**
- Mary E. Lusk, James W. Hilton, Henry C. Hammond, William E. Moody, Margaret Joseph, Elizabeth K. Water, Joseph C. Clark, Ruth E. Russ, Marjorie Louise Hedrick, Ruth Beckstrom, Vera A. Cunningham, Shirley E. Gandy, Gladys Beatrice Powers, Lillian May Henderson, Sweden, Delpha L. Holstrom, James Mustard.
- FEBRUARY**
- William Henry Thompson, Margaret Ellen Duval, Richard James Marston, Napoleon Hamel, John Thomas, Margaret Watah Taylor, Lora Belle Smith, Daniel Wilson, Isaac Wenzel, Bernard, Bird G. Lookey, Isaac Wenzel, Bernard, Bird G. Lookey, Olive A. Rice, Arnie Adams, Adna M. Lumford, J. Floyd King, F. D. Lohmeyer, Martina Audrey, Lillian Sadonia, Rossi, Estill R. Wertz, Paul Lambert, Charles Owen Welch, Elsie B. Schuit, William Byron Spencer.
- MARCH**
- Emanuel Sanders, Alma Viola Merrill, George E. Comstock, Hazel B. Frye, George E. Comstock, Hazel B. Frye, Stanley Ray Hedley.
- APRIL**
- Henry Hettler, Frances P. Moss, Maude J. Doeg, Annie E. Steen Kidd, Mildred Johnson, Bernice Johnson, M. Gurney, Stonewall Jackson, Lillie Allen, Nell P. Napier, Ada May Thompson, Emma M. Johnson, Elizabeth Smith, Henry Duffy, Nellie Elizabeth Smith, Albert Langer.
- MAY**
- Henry J. O'Brien, James E. Swanson, Alice L. Anderson, Leah Morgan Smith, Napoleon Hamel, Jackson E. Kestel, Elsie E. Stearns, Christian George, Charles Shulmer, Patricia S. Cooper, John Roberts, Carolyn Robert Benjamin, Spencer, Gladys M. E. Lofland, James Riley, Leva Polivka, Tomasso A. Ambrogio, John J. Freeman, Joseph A. Truchon, Beattie B. Dunbar, John Calvin Rutenic, Herbert LeRoy Wood, Frank John, Louis M. Lumford, J. Floyd King, Holzhouser, Wainkin Davis, Erskine Beal.
- JULY**
- Joseph Newton, White, Stanley E. Barry, Donald Angus McDonald, Donald Bennett, Wicker, Leo Otto Smith, John W. Cabell, John W. Cabell, May Thompson, Bella Watah, Eliza W. Long, Jennie Agnes Patterson, Pauline O. Schorn, Mrs. M. Barnes, Mary E. Matt, Maylen T. Prince.
- AUGUST**
- Carl A. Marshall, John R. Herberberger, Jackson S. Horton, Magda Terrell, Amy Estella, Charles E. Beez, Bunch, Tiburcio Juan Solo, Henry Ernest New, James Marshall, Duncan.
- SEPTEMBER**
- James Oscar Harney, Vinko Malin, Mary Margaret Caldwell, George Hiram Fenlon, Ellen Brown, August Eckstein, William Shields, Sallie Jackson, General Francis Mann, Myrtle Myrtle Griffin, Thomas P. Michael, Clara Matilda Brock, Jennie Maude Faus, William H. McPherson.
- OCTOBER**
- William F. Nieman, Edward Daniel Briscoe, Gloria Bernice Johnson, Joseph W. Leard, Walter Floyd Cullen, John Wicker, Parent, H. A. N. Elizabeth, Michael, Ruel, Carl George, Rufus, Alfonso Marion Crystal, Hazel A. Ronoy.
- NOVEMBER**
- Mable Irene Madson, Maggie Chilton, Flora Aggie Brown, George Douglas May, Joseph, Bernice, John, Margaret Agnes Peck, Cain Schenck, Lena B. Logan, Carl George, Rufus, Michael, Ruel, Carl George, Rufus, Mabel E. Fowler, Otto George Barff, Charles Sherman, Aldridge, James Washburn, Myrtle Myrtle Griffin, George E. Comstock, Hazel B. Frye, Stanley Ray Hedley.
- DECEMBER**
- Scott Hartford, Barbara, Charles A. Carlson, Henry Asabel Tablot, Anna John, Edwin A. Lucas, John Bruker, Ernest, Mary Eugene, Edwin, William, Thomas Osborn, Dorothy Gladys Anders, Arthur Risler, Rosemary, Jackson, Myrtle Myrtle Griffin, George E. Comstock, Hazel B. Frye, Stanley Ray Hedley.

**HUMAN ELEMENT**  
The human element in our community may well be termed a great asset and the possibilities of its development should not be overlooked. These developments would lie in the direction of better educational facilities as well as providing various institutions for the advancement of the social status of our population, such as a more progressive school program, a community center or a YMCA, and enlarged church activities. These institutions and facilities can only be made available through the generosity of our citizens in the way of contributions or through general tax levies. A very great responsibility will rest upon this community towards the full development of its young men and women after the war is over and our loyal veterans have returned.

We are now carrying a heavy tax load and if we are to be able to provide for additional levies in the future and at the same time leave our tax structure so that it will not be a barrier to private enterprise and initiative, it may call for thorough cooperation of all tax levying bodies so that the more important functions of government and future development might be provided for in order of their importance.

**Financial Gains**  
Much has been done by far-seeing citizens in providing a program for bond reduction and if in the future tax levying bodies, in the absence of city or county management, could cooperate to hold the overall tax burden to a reasonable point and allocate the amounts derived from taxation to the institutions and activities in line with their economic and social importance rather than from a sectional desire or political expediency standpoint it would seem that an additional forward step would have been taken.

Upon plans such as these will depend the general future characteristics of the population of this area and these characteristics will either be outstanding as to high quality or otherwise to the degree that the community will provide.

By nature we are richly endowed. The management of these resources seems to be our challenge.

## STORK BEATS 'GRIM REAPER' DURING 1944

The stork was far ahead of the "grim reaper" in the race of 1944, according to the local health unit in Klamath Falls. The monthly tabulation of births and deaths for the entire year is as follows:

Month	Births	Deaths
January	70	39
February	86	38
March	86	33
April	71	27
May	85	25
June	73	27
July	75	30
August	85	37
September	87	26
October	83	33
November	68	24
December 15	41	23
Total	881	362

**STORK RACE**  
DELTA, Colo., Dec. 30 (AP)—Answering a call from a woman expecting a baby, Dr. R. A. Underwood drove his car into the wrong yard.

As he was backing out, the car got stuck in the snow. Dr. Underwood thrust his foot out the open door to give the car a boost and it struck a gate post, breaking his leg.

Another doctor won the race with the stork.

sheep on farms, potatoes, barley and peas for processing. Slight decreases are asked for in wheat, rye and oats to farrow in next spring. Decrease is also asked for in cattle and calves on farms by January 1, 1945, except on farms in March 1, 1945, in dry peas up to 40 per cent, and also in most vegetable seeds.

## Klamath Hits Peak In Business in '44, Local Bankers Say

By G. C. BLOHM, Manager, U. S. National Bank. A brief summary of conditions in the Klamath Basin at the close of 1944 again emphasizes how fortunate we are situated socially, economically, and from a climatic standpoint.

Agriculture has again realized a very profitable and successful year. Despite some unfavorable weather conditions, the harvest was, in general, gratifying. The future seems to hold greater development of our agriculture both as to additional acres, more intensive farming, and still more improvement of quality of our farm products.

The timber situation, as pictured by the forestry people recently, not at all optimistic, but demonstrates clearly that immediate steps should be taken toward making more extensive use of the remaining stand of timber if we are to realize the maximum economic results from this great natural resource.

The more forward-thinking timber people envision a greater remanufacture of the log in this vicinity creating additional payrolls of high-quality workmen and producing the extra test amount of payroll dollars per tree felled. This would not only include cut-up plants, but would also include manufacturing plants in the plastic field where waste materials may be profitably used.

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## Violent Death Toll Surges to Old Level

Violent death went back to pre-war levels in Klamath county in 1944, with 40 such deaths reported as against 29 in 1943, it is shown in the annual report of Dr. George Harold Adler, coroner. Natural death investigations by the coroner also showed a gain—from 30 to 38.

Five of the violent deaths were being the results of accidents to airplanes of the Klamath naval air station. These were accidents that occurred in Klamath county only and do not include plane deaths in Lake Modoc and Siskiyou counties, where other planes from the navy station crashed.

Suicide took an unusually heavy toll here in 1944. The total was eight, as compared with five in 1943.

Auto accident toll, which declined during the early years of the war period, rose again in 1944. The total was 12, as compared with three in 1943.

Here is the coroner's complete report for 1944:

Natural causes	38
Suicides	8
Shooting	5
Hanging	3
Homicides	2
Slabbing and beating	1
Beating	1
Accidental causes	30
Confignation	1
Fall	1
Gunshot wound	1
Drowning	1
Farming	1
Industrial (lumber)	4
Motorcycle	1
Train	3
Automobiles	12
Airplane	5

**B-24 Bomber Crashes, 10 Crew Members Die**  
MERIDIAN, Idaho, Dec. 30 (AP)—A B-24 bomber from Gwenn army air field crashed and burned near here last night, killing 10 crew members. Col. John R. Kane, commandant of the base at Boise, said.

Classified Ads Bring Results.

## PRECIPITATION FOR '44 DROPS BELOW NORMAL

By R. S. HOPKINS, Watermaster, Klamath Falls Office, Bureau of Reclamation. Precipitation for the year 1944 was 12.27 inches, which is slightly below the normal of 12.98 inches for Klamath Falls. It was the driest year since 1939 and was reflected in the inflow to project reservoirs, which was about 75 per cent of the average, and an increase in the amount of water diverted from the project canals.

The total amount of water in storage in project reservoirs, available for irrigation, is approximately 357,000 acre-feet, which together with an average inflow of about 1,400,000 acre-feet, assures an ample supply of water for all purposes during the coming year.

The mean temperature for the year was 47.5, which is slightly below normal, which is 47.8 for Klamath Falls. The hottest days of the year were July 17 and August 27 when the thermometer registered 94 degrees. The hottest day in the past 39 years was 105 on July 27th of 1911.

The coldest day of the year was January 7, when four degrees above zero were registered. This is much warmer than the 16 degrees below zero on December 13 of 1919, the coldest day on record for the past 40 years.

During the growing season, April through September, two months, May and September, were slightly warmer than the average, while April, June, July and August were cooler.

During the same period, June and July were above the average in precipitation while the remaining months were below. The average precipitation for the growing season is 3.69 inches, and in 1944 it amounted to 4.99 inches.

## BUILDING LOW FOR PRIVATE JOBS, REPORT

Building in the Klamath basin, which reached great proportions as far as military installation and related work was concerned during 1944, saw few private jobs under way as compared to pre-war years.

Total private construction for the past year, under war-time restriction, reached \$98,755, or 10.3 per cent of the 1940 building figure of \$933,727, highest of early pre-war years.

Alva Downs, city building inspector, prepared the following comparative figures for 1941, \$836,289; 1942, \$152,900; 1943, \$73,540; 1944, \$98,755. By months, with the exception of December not yet totaled, the private construction picture looked like this:

January: Residences remodeled, 4, \$850; business houses remodeled, 3, \$1200; total, \$2050.

February: Residences remodeled, 1, \$250; repairs to business houses, 3, \$1400; new business houses, 2, \$7500; total, \$8950.

March: Residences remodeled, 5, \$7250; business houses remodeled, 5, \$1475; new businesses, 2, \$2500; total, \$11,225.

April: Residences remodeled, 14, \$3875; business houses repaired, 4, \$1050; new business, 1, \$1500; total, \$6425.

May: Residences remodeled, 24, \$6750; business houses repaired, 4, \$775; total, \$7525.

June: Residences remodeled, 20, \$4045; business houses remodeled, 7, \$5200; total, \$9295.

July: Residences remodeled, 24, \$4050; business houses remodeled, 9, \$8015; total, \$12,075.

August: Residences remodeled, 22, \$3170; business houses remodeled, 4, \$915; garages, 4, \$1300; industrial remodeling, 2, \$635; apartments remodeled, 2, \$450; gas tank, 1, \$45; total, \$6515.

September: Residences remodeled, \$2903.40; business houses remodeled 10, \$4545; garages, 3, \$550; industrial, new, 1, \$5000; total, \$13,908.

October: Houses remodeled, 12, \$3750; business remodeled, 4, \$1850; garages, 3, \$550; chicken house, 1, \$50; churches, 1, \$150; new business, 1, \$350; new garages, 1, \$450; remodel apartment, 1, \$750; total, \$7700.

November: Residences remodeled, 6, \$3330; business houses remodeled, 8, \$2712; garages, 1, \$50; business, 1, \$25; total, \$6387.

December: Residences remodeled, 9, \$4370; business houses, 1, \$400; total, \$4770.

SALEM, Dec. 30 (AP)—On the basis of past experience, five to eight persons will be killed in Oregon traffic over the New Year's weekend unless drivers care than in the past, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell Jr., warned today.