

Bureau Of Reclamation Sees More Farms For Vets

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (AP)—The bureau of reclamation, advocate of small farms, estimated today that 3.7 per cent of reclamation-project irrigated land is held in large tracts.

"The 544,000 excess acres on reclamation projects represent potential settlement opportunities for 5440 veterans on farms of 100 acres each," said Reclamation Commissioner Michael W. Straus.

Furthermore, Straus said, one-fourth of the area of projects authorized for construction, or under construction but not yet served with water, is acreage in excess of that which may be served under present laws. Straus announced that a fact-finding survey—covering a \$6,500,000-acre cross section of projects in 16 of the 17 western reclamation states—disclosed:

1. On reclamation projects now receiving water, the holdings for the most part are fam-

ily-size. By ownership, only eight-tenths of one per cent is in excess holdings, although by area the amount is 3.7 per cent.

2. On projects authorized or merely under construction, 4.8 per cent of the ownership hold acreage in excess, and 25.7 per cent of the area served is involved.

Some of the land held in violation of reclamation statutes has been offered to the secretary of interior for appraisal and sale. Other portions have been excess in such slight degree as to make little difference.

Craft Union Negotiation Starts Here

Negotiations were under way here this week-end between the various crafts in the building trades and ABC and E, Association of Building Contractors and Employers, to stave off any interruption in construction as the AFL union members made demands for higher wages.

As sheet metal workers, members of local 320, remained out, a new angle was injected when it was learned that a possible settlement had been made by electrical contractors and workers, and that ABC and E announced wage adjustments were in the progress of negotiation "toward a reasonable settlement."

Contracts are expiring January 1, 1947, between the trades and contractors.

Local 109, which is the carpenters' union and embraces a membership of between 400 and 500 men, has made requests which cover a wide range, some up to as much as \$2 per hour, others at \$1.87 per hour. The present carpenters' wage scale is \$1.62.

Larry Watkins of the firm of Pinning and Watkins, president of ABC and E, advised The Herald and News today that the last general meeting of his group was December 13, but that committees have met with various crafts in an effort to arrive at a reasonable settlement. It is hoped, Watkins observed, that a settlement can be made to the satisfaction of both sides to avoid holding up the building program here.

Unofficial settlement was re-

Blast Rips Huge Elevator

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 30 (AP)—An explosion ripped the Brooks Elevator company grain elevator at Ninth avenue and Third street south this afternoon. Fire broke out immediately and a few minutes later was sweeping the huge structure.

First reports to the police and fire department said it was not known whether anyone was injured.

The building lies along the Milwaukee railroad tracks, in the heart of the city's milling industry area. It is about nine blocks northeast of the city's retail business district.

Within minutes after the blast, flames were shooting far above the roof and the whole building seemed to be aflame.

Gas Explodes On River Barge

THE DALLES, Dec. 30 (AP)—Two gasoline explosions on an Inland Navigation company petroleum barge rocked The Dalles yesterday, but firemen quelled the ensuing blaze within 15 minutes.

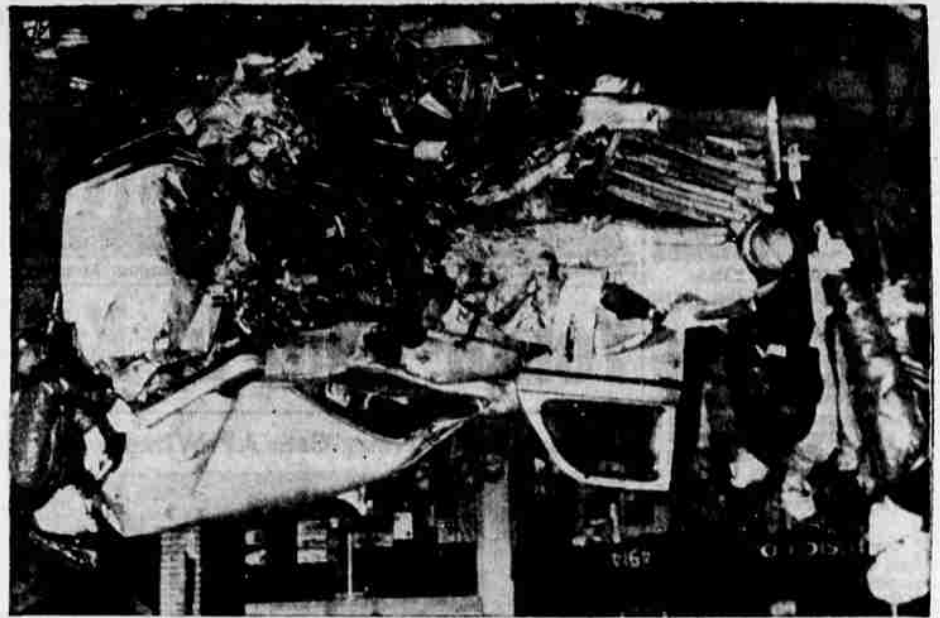
Damage to the barge, whose decks, tank, and compartments were ripped, was expected to reach several thousand dollars. Only a small quantity of gasoline was in the barge, which had delivered its 265,000-gallon cargo further up the river.

Well Digger Is Rescued



Donald Morris, 32, a well digger, was rescued at Norwell, Mass., after being trapped 23 feet below the surface of the ground by a cave-in for more than eight hours. An hour before rescuers reached him, they received the first assurance that he had survived as he shouted: "Keep digging. I'm alive. Don't stop now." —AP wirephoto.

Crash Takes Another Life In Los Angeles



Police ponder the best way of removing the body of Fire Captain Harold Lawrence, 34, from his wrecked automobile after it crashed head-on into a streetcar on slippery Los Angeles streets. His death brought to 38 the number of persons killed in Los Angeles during Christmas week in an unprecedented wave of traffic accidents. —AP wirephoto.

ported today when electrical contractors said they had met demands of electrical workers on expiration of the existing contract January 1, 1947, and the hourly wage will be \$1.87. This was the demand of the local and is said to be settled amicably. No contract has as yet been signed, it is understood.

Electrical workers, AFL, are now working at a going wage of \$1.70 per hour.

In the meantime, sheet metal workers remained away from their jobs, having refused the contractors' offer of \$1.87 per hour. The going wage is now \$1.62 per hour, the members of local 320 asking a straight 50-cent an hour increase which would bring the hourly wage to \$2.12. When contractors offered \$1.87 per hour, the local then counteracted with a straight \$2 per hour which was refused by the contractors. The local has been out since December 16, and negotiations today were at a standstill.

Painters, members of local 1279, were negotiating with Master Painters and Decorators of America association, and all negotiations have been on a mutual basis, it is understood. The painters' demands made so far have been "informal ones." The Herald and News was advised and the local is apparently waiting until the arrival of the state scale which is expected out of Portland.

13-Year-Old Boy Stabs Companion

(Continued from Page One)

a lunge at his companion as one of the boys yelled "Look out." The boy dodged but apparently not far enough as the knife caught him just below the shoulder blade and slashed through a leather sheep lined jacket and two shirts to cause a wound an inch and a half deep and as wide.

The boys, police said, proceeded to a small store at 2935 S. 6th, where they asked help from a woman and she called state police. The woman said she did not have anything to treat the wound but had applied a clean cloth and officers arrived with a first aid kit but seeing the severity of the injury took the youngster to Klamath Valley hospital where a physician took three stitches to close the wound. The attending physician told state police that an inch either way would probably have meant a fatal injury.

In the meantime, the alleged assailant was turned over to juvenile authorities and placed in custody at the detention home. Faye Blackmer, deputy juvenile officer, said Monday morning that some charge would be made against the boy said to have used the knife. Mrs. Blackmer said neither of the two had previous juvenile records.

Basin Potato Shipments In Carloads

	1946	1945
Dec. 26, 27, 28, 29	112	165
Dec. to Date	844	891
Season to Date	5398	6301

Sledding Areas Named For City

Now that a coat of ice and snow is covering Klamath Falls streets, three slopes have been designated as sledding areas and will be watched by city police, according to E. E. Hambrick, recreation officer.

The areas are on Worden from the top of the hill to Upham; on Portland from Pacific Terrace to the SP railroad tracks, and on 2nd from Lincoln to McKinley.

The designated areas are not yet posted by signs, but the areas will be supervised. Children using other slopes will do so at their own risk, Hambrick said.

He cautioned motorists to be careful in crossing the sledding areas.

Gunman Sticks Up Bus Drivers

PORTLAND, Dec. 30 (AP)—Two similar "end of the line" holdups were reported by city bus drivers today, and in both cases the assailant was described as "nervous."

About 11 last night James J. Turner handed \$32 to a gunman who boarded the bus at the end of the line and held a handkerchief over his face. An hour later Lynn Chamberlain was robbed of \$80 as he was changing the trolley for a return trip to town. This time the accoster's face was uncovered.

In both instances the bus was empty of passengers, and the gunman declined to return identification papers in the wallets.

Couple Held On Larceny Charge

PORTLAND, Dec. 30 (AP)—A couple was held today on charges of larceny from a store, the wife accused of giving her husband a stolen dress to return for a smaller size.

Detective Collie Stoops said Larverne M. Karn, 0, Gresham, attempted to exchange the garment and while being questioned at police headquarters his wife, Opal, 29, was attempting to turn over her three children to police women's protective authorities because she had no means of supporting them.

The detective said the couple had \$1000 in travelers checks, and \$284 in cash.

Baby Battles For Life After Injury

READING, Pa., Dec. 30 (AP)—A new-born baby boy battled for life today after the infant—his skull fractured—was found jammed into a rain soaked shopping bag in an alley.

At Community General hospital, Dr. Milan Chepko said the baby's skull was fractured and its body cut and bruised either from a beating or when thrown from an automobile. However, he said the baby has a "fair chance" of surviving.

Schools Open After Strike

ST. PAUL, Dec. 30 (AP)—Public schools of St. Paul reopened today, marking the end of the five-week shutdown brought on by a walkout of teachers to enforce wage demands.

The strike was called off Friday by the teachers, members of the American Federation of Teachers (AFL), after the city charter commission accepted a proposed charter amendment designed to take care of teacher wage adjustments and school improvements.

The adjusted wage scale had been approved previously by both the teachers and the city council which acts as a school board.

There were general expressions of satisfaction from the pupils as they trooped through snow and sub-zero cold to school, even though fellow students in neighboring Minneapolis were enjoying another week of Christmas vacation.

AP Official Discusses Atom

DETROIT, Dec. 30 (AP)—Kent Cooper, executive director of The Associated Press, expressed the belief in a radio interview yesterday that "no real advances can be made, no real security can be achieved unless the atomic issue is settled on an international basis."

"I am an optimistic realist. I believe an agreement will be reached because it has to be reached," he said.

The interview with Cooper from his home at Irvington-on-the-Hudson, N. Y., was broadcast over station WJR here.

Cooper declared that the atomic question looms larger in the forthcoming year than question of employer-labor relations which he said "appears formidable" but actually is "only on the surface."

Walker Takes Editorial Post

Clyde M. Walker, who served as forest guard at Lake o' the Woods for Rogue River national forest from 1936 to 1940, has been assigned to the editorial office of the division of information and education where he is undergoing orientation and training for his new position as editor of the California Forest Experiment station. Walker is a graduate of Oregon State college, school of forestry.

For the past six months he has been news editor of the East Oregonian at Pendleton, which position he held for over a year before entering military service. From May, 1943, to January of this year he was forecaster and instructor in meteorology in the army air forces. While at Oregon State he edited the college's monthly magazine and daily newspaper and was radio script writer for the school of forestry.