

Fire Hall Dedication Marks New Chapter Locally

Early Department Begins With \$125

Hillsboro Argus

Fire Department Growth Recalled

Early City Fathers Dig Well in Courthouse Square But Find No Water to Put Out Fires

The dedication of Hillsboro's \$100,000 fire hall marks another progressive step in long and colorful history of the city fire department. The new and modern facilities now available for fire protection and fire fighting cannot be compared technically with the equipment early firemen used, but reflects more the actual progress of the community's growth from a small town to the present-day city.

Fire Chief Dillon Observes Changes Since Early Days

The state legislature approved the Hillsboro city charter on September 26, 1876, and the city fathers signed the document on October 19, 1876, but it wasn't until 1880 that the town board sold land for a fire department. The city fathers authorized the expenditure of \$125 for the formation of the first fire department. Before that time, fire fighting and fire protection was strictly a home-made proposition.

The original city ordinance, providing funds for a fire department, called for the expenditure of \$125. As soon as the fire company was formed, the early city fathers dug a well in the area now occupied by the city fathers' office. The legend goes that the 25-foot well was dug but no water was found. The early firemen used buckets to draw water from the river and carry it to the fire.

After the council approved the ordinance, the first fire and ladder company was organized and the general operation scheme as outlined by the city fathers came out exactly as planned, with only one exception. The legend goes that the 25-foot well was dug but no water was found. The early firemen used buckets to draw water from the river and carry it to the fire.

The early volunteer fire department operated the bucket brigade system of fire fighting for early years. The city fathers' office was built on the site of the well. The city fathers' office was built on the site of the well. The city fathers' office was built on the site of the well.

to Chief W. A. Dillon and his fire crew in their new Fire House. Continue to do the fine job as you did in the past.

W. H. "Bill" Wieber
FIRE INSURANCE
316 E. Main — Phone 841

Good Luck
Hillsboro Fire Department
in your new home!
Fire Prevention should be a year round task!
FARMERS' MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE ASSN., Inc.
G. E. MONTGOMERY, Secretary and Manager
1st and Main St. Hillsboro, Oregon

"Well Done" . . . to the
HILLSBORO
Fire Department
For past deeds and the best of success in your new Fire House.
WEATHERS & WILCOX
REAL ESTATE — INSURANCE
E. Baseline at 10th Phone 422
Let's all practice Fire Prevention all the time

As one of the leading Insurance Agencies in Washington County, we wish to congratulate Chief Wilbur Dillon and the Fire Department for a job well done and wish them luck in their new Station House.
Griffith & Meeke
INSURANCE — REALTORS
Phone 171 Hillsboro Phone 671 Aloha

Hillsboro, Oregon, Thursday, October 13, 1949

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HILLSBORO VOLUNTEER AND PAID FIREFMEN are pictured above in their recreation room. Shown (left to right) are: First row—Antoine Chioti, John Laurs, Vern Hadley, Paul Ringle and Chief Wilbur Dillon. Second row—Laurie Hadley and assistant chiefs. Second row—John Loftis, Neil Ward, Paul Matteson, Ken McGrath.

Imperial Fire Tops Them All; Fire Losses Said Low In 1949

Fire Takes Heavy Toll of Property During Past Years

Hillsboro and its immediate rural area have been both lucky and unlucky during the past five years. Lucky from the standpoint that possible major fires have been nipped by an alert and vigilant fire department and unlucky in that some of the blazes got out of hand before the swift working crew was called or could control them.

Probably the most disastrous fire in the city's history occurred in July of 1947 when flames destroyed the Imperial Feed & Grain company's plant to the tune of \$200,000. Beginning from an unknown origin, flames originated in the main building, were fanned by a north-west wind and had engulfed the SP depot and warehouses across the tracks before the Hillsboro volunteer fire department could reach the scene.

Coming at the critical harvest season, flames destroyed the company's feed mill, feed plant, and wiped out warehouses capable of holding thousands of bushels of grain.

It was only 10 months before the costly Imperial blaze that fire destroyed the \$150,000 Cornelius Feed company in September 1946. Again in October, 1948, flames destroyed a newly-built, Consolidated Feed company warehouse at Cornelius.

Legion Hall Damaged
A fire, striking before dawn in the early morning of November 21, 1947, destroyed part of Hillsboro's \$15,000 American Legion building, including the kitchen, club room, lounge and fountain. Origin of the fire was undetermined but fire officials believed at the time that it had been burning for more than an hour before a city night officer discovered the flames.

Hillsboro's most costly fire in 1948 was centered about a burning grain elevator. On September 9, 1948, flames gutted the Tualatin Valley Cooperative on West Main street in Hillsboro causing over \$85,000 damage. An electrical short in machinery was believed to have been the cause of the costly fire.

Men working in the bins near the bottom of the five-story elevator building discovered the blaze in machinery located above where they were working. When the alarm was sounded the fire was raging in the elevator and efforts of the Hillsboro fire department first on the scene, were directed toward holding it within limits of the towering structure. Department crews from Cornelius, Forest Grove, Beaverton and Cedar Mill also answered the alarm.

Fire Takes A Life
On January 4, 1949, an elderly Hillsboro woman, Mrs. Edward Welch, died in a fire at her home.

HATS OFF
to the
HILLSBORO
FIRE DEPARTMENT
for a job well done in the past and Best of Luck in their new Fire House.
Fire Prevention Pays Off!
J. M. PERSON
FIRE & AUTO INSURANCE
238 S. 2nd Ave., Hillsboro
Phone 631



THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S Brownie captures the attention of most of Hillsboro's younger population and many of the older citizens. Pictured greeting the department mascot, who is seated in his favorite spot on top of the chief's truck, are Steve Word, left, and Bob Gabelman.

Favorite Fireman is Brownie, the Mascot

One red haired gentleman who probably has more friends than anyone else in town is "Brownie," the mascot of the Hillsboro fire department. The rust-colored pooch is just as much at home sleeping on fire trucks as he is on a couch.

Brownie started his career with the firemen when a little boy came into the city hall crying and said he had to get rid of the dog. His parents had moved to the city and the puppy "was just playing around with the chickens" until the neighbors complained. Wilbur Dillon, fire chief, said that he would find a home for the dog. "It was so small that it looked just like a bundle of wool," said Dillon.

And "Brownie" was once in the hoosegow. That cry went up through the streets of Hillsboro and was the main topic of conversation among the town folk. Yes, the fire department mascot had the privilege of being the first dog to be caught in Washington county after the new dog catcher was appointed.

At many fires, the children who gather are more interested in Brownie than the fire. **Precedes Firemen**
Once at a fire at the old Black Hawk, just outside the city limits, Brownie missed the trucks but beat the department there by cutting across a field and was barking excitedly as if to say "What's been keeping you slow pokes?" when the trucks arrived.

Brownie attends all drills and meetings with the rest of the fire eaters. A favorite habit of the rusty chow is snapping at branches as the truck whizzes down the streets. One day he grabbed a branch and when he let go the truck wasn't there. He went around limping for a couple of weeks after that, but he learned his lesson.

Unlike most dogs Brownie ignores smoke and follows the fire chief into all buildings. When the fire bell rings he is usually the first one on the trucks and barks with excitement. It is not uncommon to see him riding through the streets on the canvas tops with his legs planted wide apart and his nostrils sniffing for the scent of fire.

Extra Care Urged To Maintain Good Record for 1949

Hillsboro so far has had no major fires during 1949, but the three danger months of October, November and December are still ahead. However, if care is the by-word during the next three months when furnace stoking is routine, the city may yet get through the year with a good record.

So far this year, Hillsboro firemen have answered 53 alarms within the city and 61 in the rural area surrounding the community, according to Fire Chief Wilbur Dillon. The total estimated fire loss in Hillsboro during the nine months of 1949 is \$1,122,460. Last month firemen made a total of 18 fire runs with only one call within the city limits.

A single fire at the Tualatin Valley Co-operative grain elevator on September 9, 1948, caused a total of \$85,000 damage and ruined the year's record. Total fire losses in 1948 amounted to \$39,589.13. Aside from the single large fire at the grain elevator, the total damage in 70 calls was a little over \$3600.

Fire Prevention Urged
National fire underwriters maintain that fire prevention work materially aids in keeping down the incidence of fires in any community. Jay Stevens, national board member and former veteran Portland fireman, reports that many communities throughout the United States have demonstrated many times that the number of fires in any town, city or fire district have been reduced considerably after intensive fire prevention campaigns.

Hillsboro Fire Chief Wilbur Dillon reports that the local department practices fire prevention throughout the year aside from the intensified campaign during National Fire Prevention Week. He said that the local department makes inspections of all buildings within the city and recommends corrections where hazards exist.

As the winter season approaches, first one on the trucks and barks with excitement. It is not uncommon to see him riding through the streets on the canvas tops with his legs planted wide apart and his nostrils sniffing for the scent of fire.

Department Grows from Hose-cart to Include Five Trucks, 3 Paid Firemen, 35 Volunteers

By Jack Craig, News Editor

The Hillsboro fire department has undergone a remarkable change since its organization in 1880. From a hand-drawn hose cart and a few men it has grown to include five trucks, three paid firemen including the fire chief and between 30 and 35 volunteer firemen. Three trucks are equipped with two-way radio communication.

The paid firemen and volunteers meet twice a month for drills, unless special sessions are called, and meet a third time during the same period for a business meeting.

To answer country alarms, the regular firemen call for the assistance of two or possibly three volunteers. However, if a general alarm is sounded for a major fire, the siren at the city hall is sounded and all volunteers are called to duty.

During 1948, the Hillsboro fire department answered 71 calls within the city and 35 calls in the rural area. Department trucks traveled 974 miles and crews laid-in 23,600 feet of hose. Nine hundred and seventy man hours were required in answering calls within the city and rural area.

The following is a complete list of Hillsboro volunteer and paid firemen which designates the years of service, and regular occupation of the individual:

Name	Service	Occupation	Years
Wilbur Dillon	Fire Chief—Paid Fireman		29
Paul Ringle	Asst. Chief—Portland General Electric		24
Vernon Hadley	Asst. Chief—Cady Motor Co.		13
John Gardner	Royal Soda Works		8
Ambrose Chioti	Portland General Electric		8
William Freeman	Royal Soda Works		8
John Laurs	Asst. Chief—Hillsboro Argus		7
Harry Aldinger	Union Oil Service Station		7
Paul Matteson	Cady Motor Co.		6
J. B. Thomas	Hilli Teacher		6
W. B. Gabelman	Oliver Sales & Service		5
Earl Fullmer	Hillsboro Bakery		5
Roy Spears	Paid Fireman		5
Neil Ward	Portland Gas & Coke Co.		4
Lyle Oakes	Oakes Grocery		4
Harold Goff	Paid Fireman		3
Ray Ostlund	Paid Fireman		3
Bob Reilly	Don's Plumbing Service		3
Ed Quier	Taylor's Sporting Goods		3
Kenneth McGrath	Farm, Home & Auto Supply		3
Perry Dumas	Carpenter		3
J. W. Loftis	Refrigerator Repair Co.		3
Bob Smith	Spencer Motor Co.		3
W. C. Hammelman	Nelson Refrigeration		2
Robert Jackson	Birds Eye-Snapper		2
Fred Andersen	Fred's Furnace Service		2
Don Anderson	Aldinger Service Station		2
Bob Lewis	Superior Grocery		2
Larry Sisson	Sisson Electric Co.		2
N. M. Robinson	Cady Motor Co.		2
John Loft	Hillsboro Sheet Metal		1
Keith Bechtel	MacKenzie Motor Co.		1

Dillon warned local people to be on the alert for chimney burn-outs and heating facilities. As a suggestion to rural residents, he recommended that each farm have a large ladder that can be used in fighting fires.

The fellow who drives through stop signs and red lights might get pinched for it—and then again, he might not live long enough.

Rear-end collisions are usually hardest on the follower. Give yourself plenty of room to stop when following another car.

All local, social and fraternal news should be turned in at the Argus for publication in that week not later than Tuesday morning and earlier if possible.

Keep Up the Good Work . . .

Chief W. A. Dillon, you and your Fire Boys have done a wonderful job in the past and we wish you the Best of Luck in your new Fire House.

Let's All Be More Careful About Fire Hazards

DAVIS & COMPANY

FIRE INSURANCE
227 E. Washington, Hillsboro Phone 2391

We are pleased to . . . CONGRATULATE

the HILLSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT on the opening of their new Fire House. We urge Chief Dillon and his boys to keep up the good work.

Washington County Agencies

337 E. Main Street Phone 223
Hillsboro, Oregon
Let's All Work to Prevent Fires

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Our Best Wishes to Chief W. A. Dillon and His Fire Boys!

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