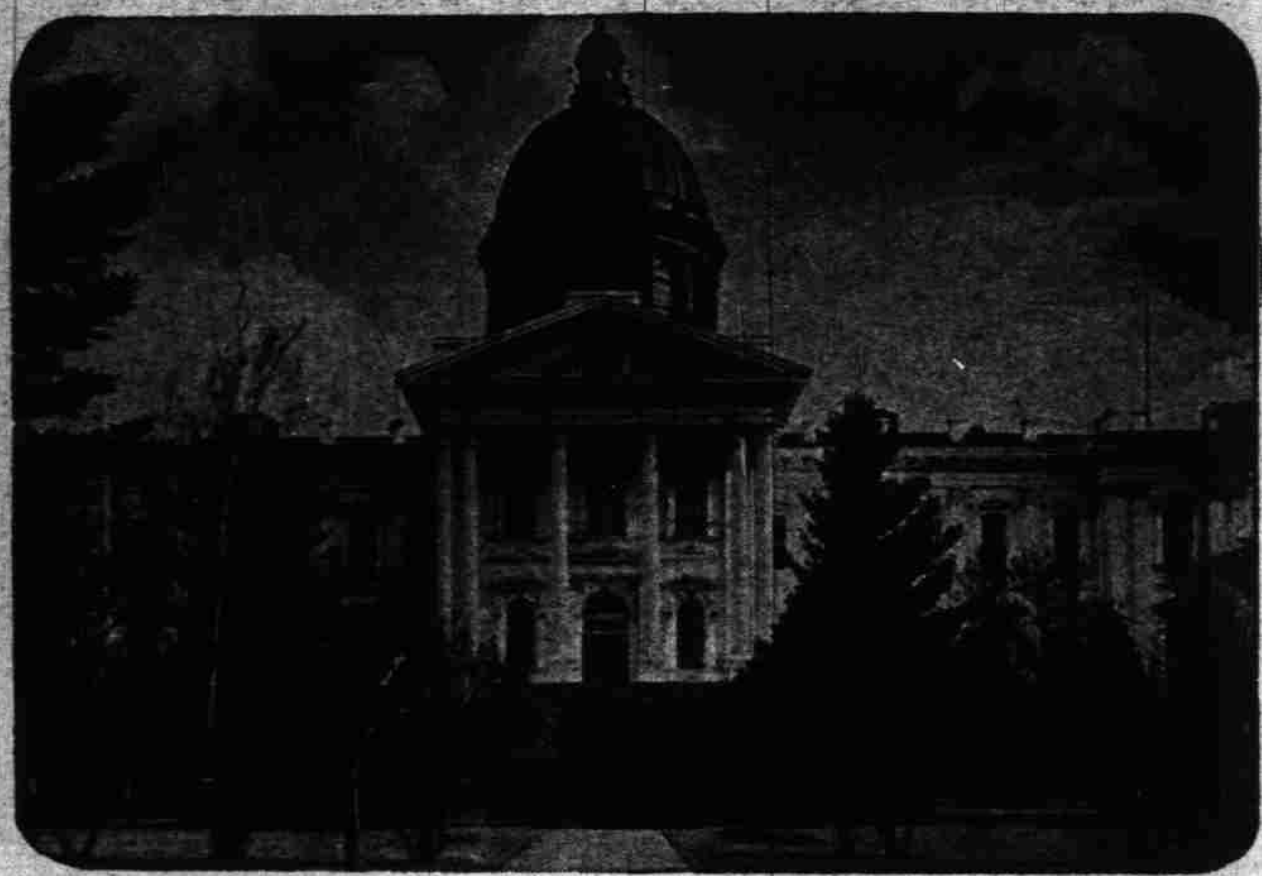


# Year of 1938 Sees Oregon's New Capitol Building Complete



The OLD CAPITOL served Oregon for 60 years that spanned from covered wagon days to the present. Authorized by the legislature of 1872, it was completed in 1876 at a cost of \$325,000. It was built almost entirely of brick with sandstone and limestone facing and trimming.

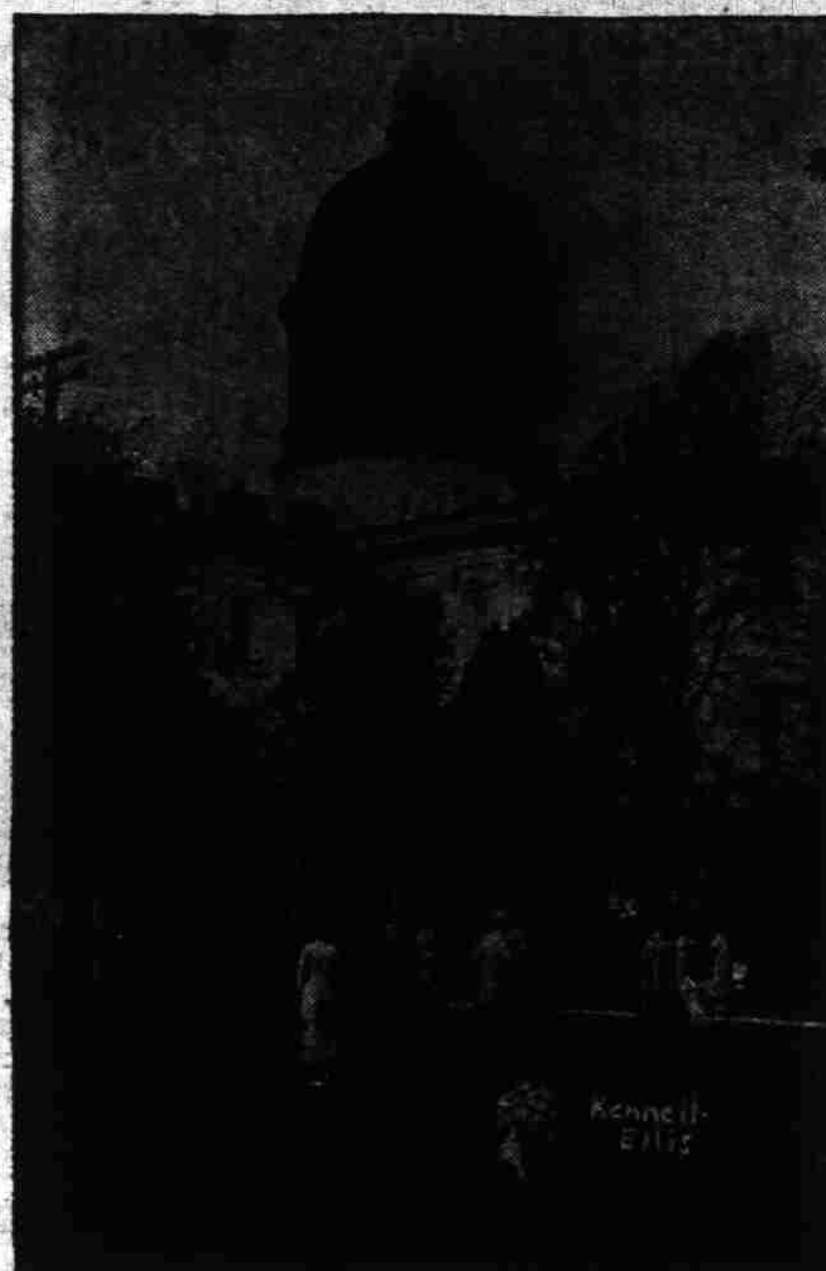
Originally it was without a dome, being built in the shape of a great cross in a parklike setting of native Oregon trees. The copper dome, most striking feature of the building, which rose several feet higher than the top of the new capitol, was added in 1893, bringing the total cost of the structure to \$450,000. The porticoes on the east and west sides were also not a part of the original structure, having been added in 1888.

The burnished copper dome, flashing in the sunlight, was a landmark to traveler and resident alike, visible for several miles on all sides of Salem. A stairway led to the cupola on top, a favorite mecca for sight-seers who could look over a large part of the Willamette valley and see several peaks in the Cascade range.

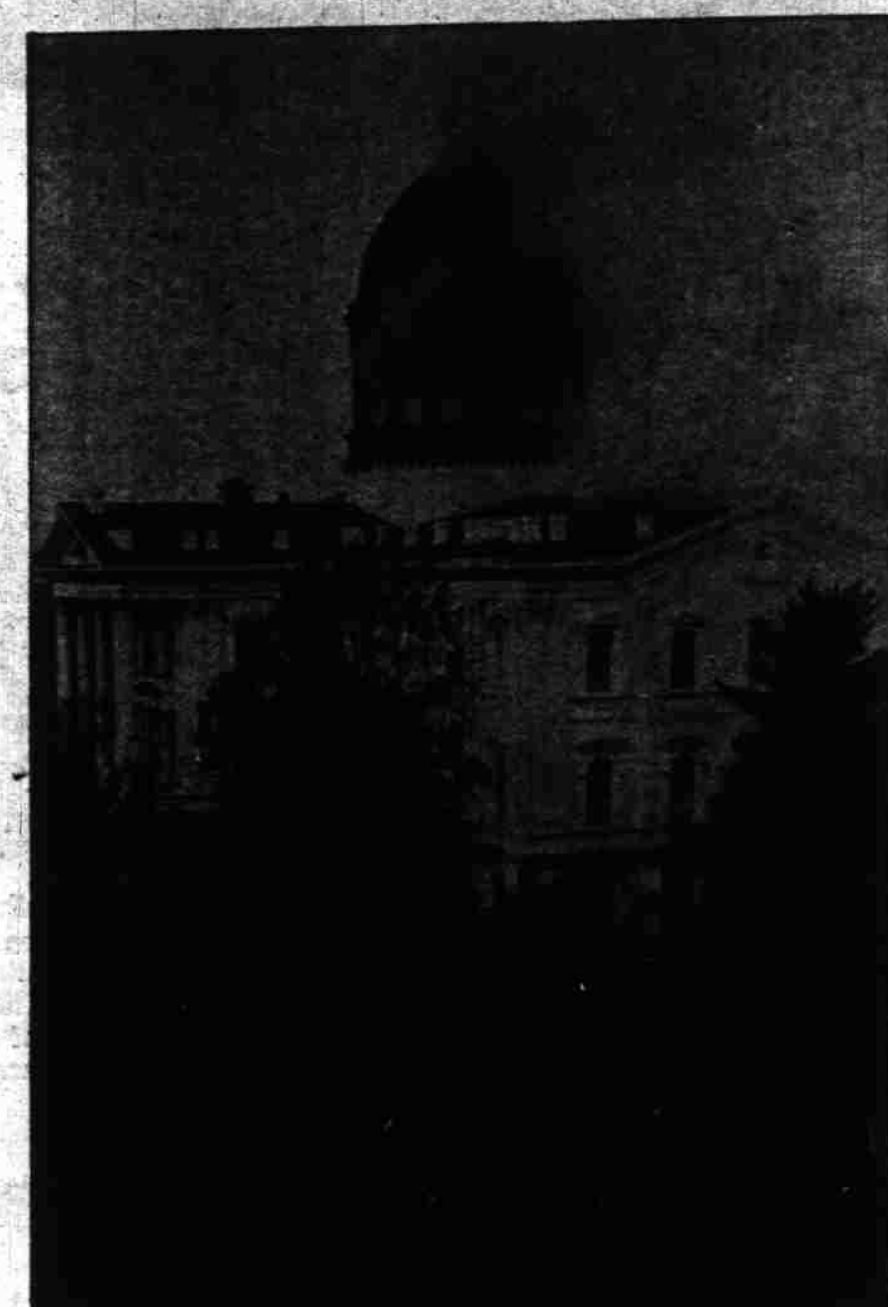
This famous old structure was loved by the citizens of Oregon for sentimental reasons and was maintained in as good condition as many old capitol buildings of other states. However, at the time it was built Oregon had a population of but 90,923, and was on the threshold of tremendous growth to over a million persons at the present time.

This tenfold increase in the state's inhabitants multiplied state departments and the old capitol was congested with offices by the turn of the century. In 1914, the \$320,000 state supreme court building was completed to house the overflow from the capitol. Other expansion from the statehouse's capacity soon became necessary and in 1930 the big five-story state office building in Salem was completed, in 1931 a two-story agricultural building was occupied.

In addition, a number of offices now maintain headquarters or branches in Portland, mostly in the Oregon building there. Thus it may be seen that the loss of the old statehouse, much as it may be regretted, made way for a much needed greater capitol building in a modern age and paved the way to better facilities for Oregon's state government. In fact, this statehouse also was erected to take the place of a capitol building, Oregon's first, destroyed by fire in 1854.



APRIL 25, 1935. The statehouse is burning! But Salem people, just at the evening dinner hour, were slow to realize that any fire in the substantial old statehouse could be very serious. In the twilight many sat about the lawns close to the building, as at a picnic.



A THIN WISP of smoke reached the dome as the blaze, in the basement, found the great center well of the rotunda a perfect flue for an outlet.



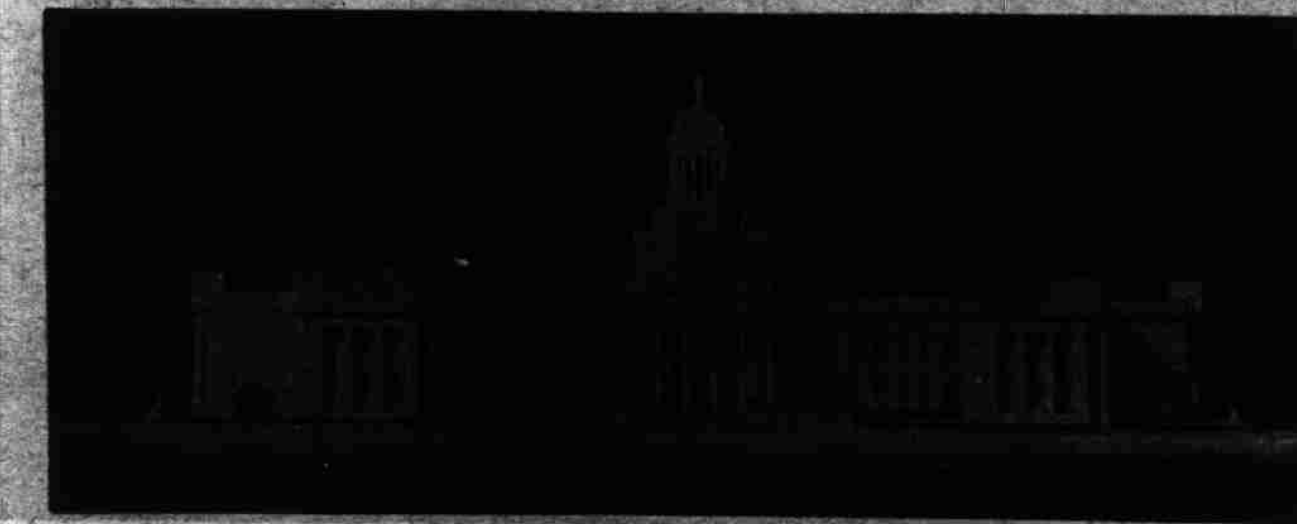
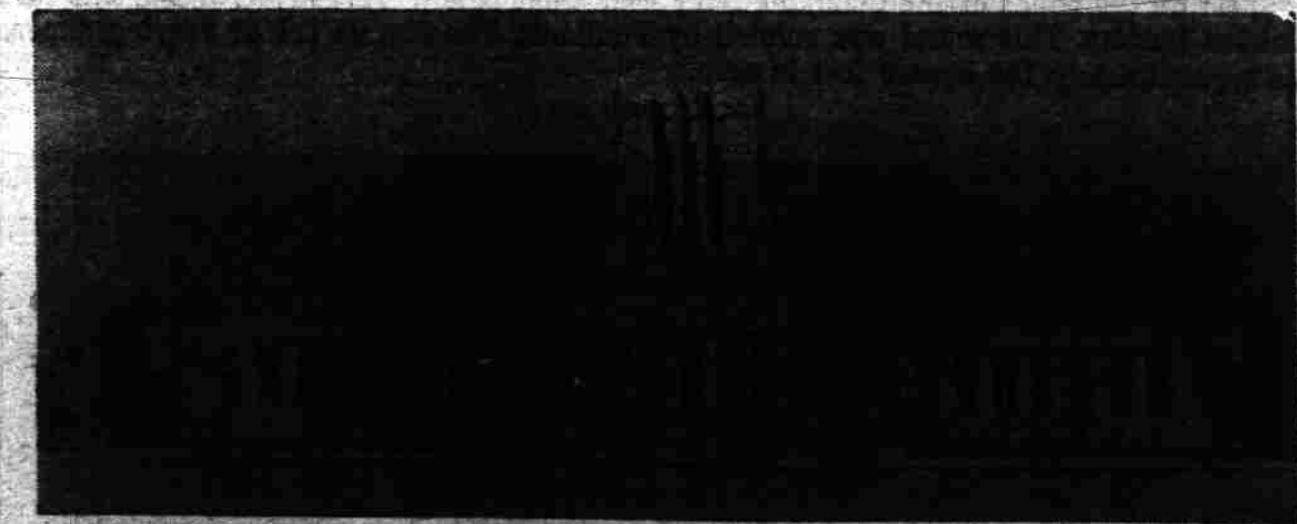
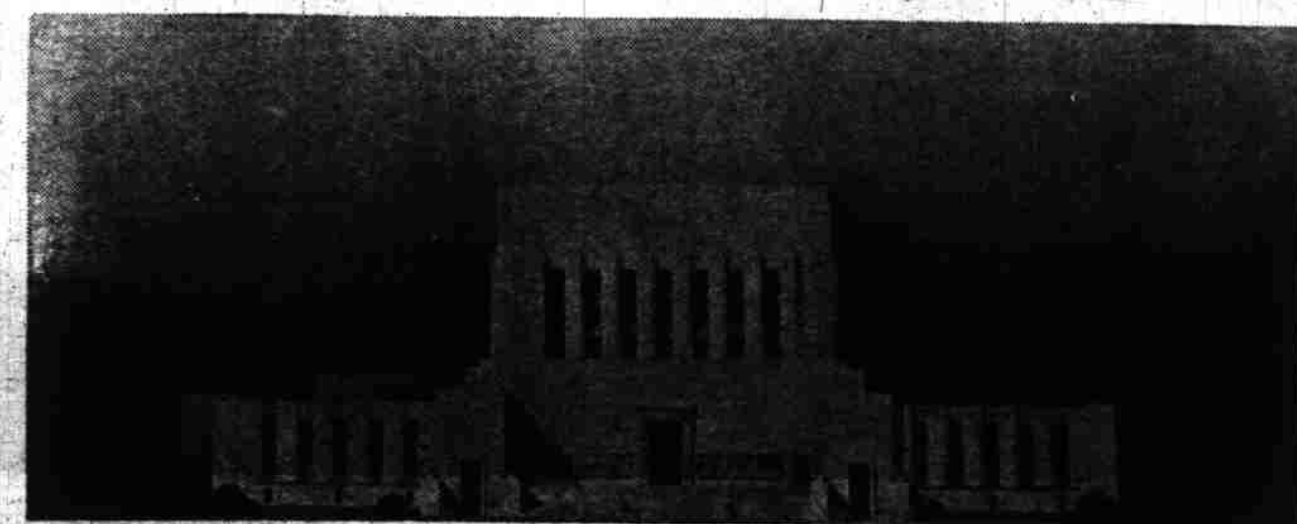
IN THE MORNING the fire was still smoldering as a pumper here keeps playing a stream of water on the ruins. Ghostly remains of the still-standing walls are all that are left to remind Oregon of its statehouse. One life, that of a firefighter, was lost and monetary loss including many valuable records was estimated at \$1,000,000.



AN INFERNO enveloped the building after dark despite the efforts of the Salem fire department and two engine companies from Portland. About 11 o'clock the dome crashed inward.



HOMELESS, the blackened walls encased an inferno of twisted steel and crumbling pillars as the spectacular fire lighted up the city for blocks around.



THE DESIGNERS, Francis Keally and George W. Jacoby, associates of Trowbridge and Livingston of New York, who drew the winning plans for the structure that was selected May 25, 1936, by a jury of five authorities. Jacoby is now deceased. Right, the new capitol as it was sketched by the architects. "built for Oregon and based on early Oregon history."

DESIGNS OF ALL TYPES, ranging from tall office buildings to the conventional dome-type capitol building were submitted to the capitol reconstruction commission. Above are some of the worthy ideas for Oregon's statehouse drawn in a nation-wide competition.