

**THE WEATHER HERE**

PARTLY CLOUDY with scattered snow flurries tonight. Tuesday. Continued cold. Lowest temperature tonight, 15; highest Tuesday, 28.  
 Maximum yesterday, 35; minimum today, 19. Total 24-hour precipitation: .05; for month, .11; normal, .23. Season precipitation, 15.10; normal, 17.60. (Report by U.S. Weather Bureau.)

# Capital Journal



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## 1949 Another Big Building Year in Salem

**Permits Total \$6,972,908 with Many Housing Units Included**

Salem building permits for 1949, shown by records at the office of the building inspector, totaled \$6,972,908.

That was \$940,155 short of the 1948 figure of \$7,913,063, which was an all-time high, leaving the 1949 total second highest in the city's history. It was the third consecutive year that building permits in Salem have passed the \$6,000,000 mark.

Of the 1949 total \$6,161,758 was for new construction and \$811,150 for alterations. For new dwellings the figure was \$2,104,977.

By months the 1949 figures were:

January,	\$256,466.65;
February,	\$103,765;
March,	\$392,600;
April,	\$1,278,734.69;
May,	\$395,473;
June,	\$504,734;
July,	\$257,682;
August,	\$356,400;
September,	\$298,050;
October,	\$1,021,759.75;
November,	\$1,792,355;
December,	\$315,778.

**Pacific Mutual Active**

During the year most of the construction was completed at Capitol Shopping Center, where Pacific Mutual Life Insurance company has spent millions in the erection of major buildings and leased them to large concerns. Some of the building is still under way. Pacific Mutual permits for the year totaled \$482,000.

The biggest permit of the year was to the state of Oregon for the highway department office building, \$1,599,931.

Among the more important building projects of the year were:

In March, the W. R. Gracie cannery on Wilber street, \$30,000.

April, two of the Pacific Mutual buildings, \$250,000 and \$62,000; Jason Lee Memorial church project, \$85,000. First Christian church, \$245,000. Salem school district, \$206,079.

In May, the Golden mortuary on South Commercial, \$22,240. John Steenblock and Joe Kitzke courts at 1175-1177 Court street, \$70,000. Pacific Mutual, \$60,000.

In June, Court Street Christian church, \$61,000.

In August, Pacific Mutual, \$30,000.

In September, Knights of Columbus building on North Cottage, \$47,500.

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## Truman Fights Military Aid to Formosa Island

**Continued Economic And Political Support Favored by President**

Washington, Jan. 2 (AP)—President Truman is reported standing pat against any use of American troops to try to block communists from the island of Formosa.

It is understood, however, that such a decision would not preclude continued economic help and political support, as well as advisory assistance, to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek in his fight against expected communist attempts to take over the island stronghold of the Chinese nationalists.

Mr. Truman's reaffirmation of his stand against the use of American troops in Formosa is said to have been made during a meeting of the national security council. Mr. Truman presided over the meeting at the White House.

**Favored by Congress**

Responsible informants said the council made no change in the American attitude toward Formosa despite many demands from members of congress that the United States should in effect place the island under the protection of American forces.

There were rumors that some congressmen had proposed that the president seek a deal with Chiang whereby Americans would take over air bases on the island in exchange for limited U. S. military aid.

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## 5.45 Inches Rain In December

Both the rainfall for December and for the entire year were below normal, according to the U. S. weather bureau at McNary field. Precipitation for December was 5.45 inches, or 1.1 inches below normal for the month while 1949 had 15.10 inches or 2.30 inches less than normal.

Eighteen December days had a tenth of an inch or more of rainfall, the greatest in any 24-hour period being .94 inches on the 22nd-23rd. There were no clear days during the month with five partly cloudy and the remaining 26 cloudy.

Greatest rainfall for any December was 17.54 inches in 1933 followed by 14.03 inches in 1917 and 13.60 inches in 1937. Other of the exceptionally wet months were 1942 with 11.70 inches; 1895 with 11.16 inches; 1928 with 11.09 inches; 1931 with 10.98 inches; 1922 with 10.41 inches and 1939 with 10.32 inches.

December in the main has been a month of fairly constant precipitation and only once has the rainfall dropped below the two-inch mark. The driest was 1.95 inches reported for 1903.

**State Building Damaged**—Fire Sunday afternoon seriously damaged this building that housed the Keep Oregon Green and the rehabilitation division of the state forestry department. A defective switch is believed to have caused the fire.

## Forestry Building Damaged by Flames

The second floor of an office building of the state forestry department on East State street was destroyed and the roof badly damaged by fire Sunday afternoon.

The building, a small one, housed the offices of the Keep Oregon Green association and also the rehabilitation division of the forestry department. State Forestry George Spaur estimated the loss at about \$18,000.

The fire was caused by a defective electric switch, firemen believed. The flames were discovered about 1:30 p.m. by Mary Jane Bolmeier, secretary to Albert Wesendanger, executive secretary of Keep Oregon Green.

When firemen arrived the flames were through the roof and soon gutted the upper part of the small dwelling-type building. State Forester Spaur said files of both departments were lost, including maps and charts that had been prepared during the summer by the rehabilitation division. No other valuable equipment was destroyed, he said.

The lower part of the building was damaged by fire and smoke, but not seriously. Spaur said both the Keep Oregon Green association and the rehabilitation division would set up quarters in other buildings. The rehabilitation is headed by R. M. Kallander.

The two departments employed eight persons in the building. None was present Sunday except Miss Bolmeier, who was working at the office mail.

## Soviet Planes Fly Over Ryukyu

Tokyo, Jan. 2 (AP)—Unidentified reconnaissance planes—believed to be Russian—flew over the Ryukyu islands almost daily but disappear before American interceptors can take after them, a Red Cross man said today.

Ferdinand Micklantz, special field representative of the American Red Cross, said "it is general knowledge" that the reconnaissance planes operate practically without interference over Okinawa. He recently returned to Tokyo after seven weeks on the big American base island.

An air force duty officer said he was not at liberty to comment on Micklantz' report and could make no statement except through public information office channels. Top officers were unavailable for comment, but in the past reports that Russian planes have been seen over Okinawa brought prompt denials.

Micklantz said:

"You can see vapor trails in the sky about 40,000 feet up. The interceptors take off after them but they are gone before the interceptors can get off the ground. Shanghai is only 400 miles from Naha, you know."

Naha is the capital of Okinawa, main U. S. base in the Ryukyus which curve like a giant scimitar from southern Japan toward Formosa and the Chinese communist mainland.

## Mao Says Red Pact in Force

Moscow, Jan. 2 (AP)—Communist China's Mao Tze-Tung revealed today that the Chinese-Soviet friendship alliance of 1945 still is in force.

Answering a question from a correspondent of the Russian news agency Tass, the head of communist China's government said one of the main reasons he presently is visiting Moscow is the "existing treaty of friendship and alliance between China and the U. S. S. R."

Mao, as quoted in a Moscow radio broadcast, did not say what he planned to do about the 30-year treaty signed in Aug., 1945 by the Russians and Chiang Kai-Shek's nationalist government, which the Soviets no longer recognize.

The broadcast quoted the Chinese communist leader as saying other matters to be settled during his visit were Soviet credits for his People's Republic of China and "the question of trade and a trade agreement between our countries."

Mao arrived in Moscow Dec. 15 on his first known trip outside China. His trip already has aroused speculation that the visit would result in a friendship treaty between the two communist governments.

Moscow radio said Mao's statements were in answer to questions put to him by Tass.

## Control Tower '49 Operations

Since re-establishment of the CAA control tower at McNary field February 28, 1949, the field has had a grand total of 54,501 operations.

Year-end statistics compiled Monday by the tower showed local civil planes had the greatest number of operations during that period with a total of 41,134.

Other year-end totals are air carriers, 3,120; itinerant air force, 414; itinerant navy, 417; itinerant civilian, 8,004; local air force, 114; local navy, 1,268.

Month with the lowest total operations was December, when bad weather conditions cut operations to 158 below that of November, the previous low month.

December operations broken down show: Air carriers, 242; itinerant air force, 24; itinerant navy, 19; itinerant civilian, 262; local air force, 0; local navy, 324; and local civilian, 2,538.

It was in August that the control tower had its biggest month with a total of 8,829 operations. During that month air carriers had 370 operations; itinerant civilian planes, 1,161; itinerant air force, 66; itinerant navy, 142; local air force, 74; local navy, 24; and local civilian, 4,992.

## Fire Routs Guests At Danmore Hotel

Portland, Jan. 2 (AP)—A fire routed scores of guests from the Danmore hotel today, but the fire was extinguished within a half hour.

The fire began in a second floor room about 10 a.m. and most of the 150 guests registered in the hotel fled down the stairs and the fire escapes.

The hotel has 135 rooms on the second and third stories of a brick building. The lower story is occupied by shops.

## Composer's Life to Be Filmed

Vienna, Jan. 2 (AP)—The life of Austrian composer Franz Lehár will be filmed as a joint Austrian-American production. Boris Morros, an American producer, has signed a contract to make the film with Viennese Producer Willy Forst, in both English and German versions. Lehár, whose best known work was "The Merry Widow," died in Bad Ischl, Austria, last year.

## Collins Retiring, But Keeping Home in Salem

**By JAMES D. OLSON**

Harry V. Collins, district manager in the Willamette valley for the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company, will retire on February 1, thus concluding 40 years service with the company, of which 20 years have been spent in Salem.

Collins, who came to Salem in 1930 at his own request, will continue to make this city his home. His successor as district manager has not yet been announced.

Beginning his long career with the telephone company in Anacortes, Wash., on April 1, 1910, as a telephone repairman, Collins advanced rapidly. Just five years later he was named manager of the Aberdeen and Hoquiam offices and on October 21, 1927, he was sent to Seattle as assistant manager.

The following year he went to Portland in a similar position and two years later came to Salem as local manager. Just a year later in 1931, he was made district manager in a district embracing Marion, Polk, Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties.

During his 40 year tenure with the company, Collins has had direct or indirect supervision of more than 40 offices.

"In retiring from active business I intend to continue my interest in the development of Salem and the Willamette valley," Collins said. "I am grate-



Harry Collins

## Find Bodies of Four Killed in Basement

Grand Island, Neb., Jan. 2 (AP)—The bodies of four persons, all shot to death, were found in the basement of a home here last night.

County Attorney Donald Weaver said it apparently was a triple slaying and suicide.

Victims were D. H. Johnson, 55, a railroad employe, at whose home the bodies were found; his wife, Lucille, 51; their son, Mercer, 20; and Johnson's father, C. W. Mercer, 87.

Weaver said apparently D. H. Johnson shot the others, then himself. No motives for the shootings had been established, he said.

Neighbors described Johnson and his family as "steady, hard working and highly respected."

**New Syrian Commander**

Damascus, Syria, Jan. 2 (AP)—Col. Anwar Bannoud was appointed acting chief of staff of the Syrian army today. He succeeds Gen. Sami Hennawi, who was imprisoned by a group of his fellow officers on Dec. 19, accused of conspiring against the regime he established.

## 15 New Year's Babies Born in Salem Area

**Only 4 Born in City—Total of 19 Infants In Long Week End**

Propagation of the human species increased the population of the mid-Willamette valley by 19 over the long week-end but with 15 of these having a January 1 birthday only four of them had Salem as a birthplace.

Silverton headed the baby parade with a boy, named Brent Stephen, born to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sherman at the Silverton hospital at 1:10 o'clock, a full half hour before the first Salem baby arrived. The mother is the former Jessie Winstead and grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Murray Winstead and Mr. and Mrs. William Sherman, all of Silverton. Silverton's first baby born weighed 7 lbs. and 7 1/2 ounces. He has a crib-mate, a girl born to Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Stuehlik at 7:40 o'clock in the morning.

**Salem's First 1950 Infant**

Salem's first 1950 citizen is an 8-pound one-ounce baby born to Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Manning, Gervais, who arrived at the Salem General hospital at 1:43 o'clock in the morning, followed by another boy, Craig Allen, born to Mr. and Mrs. Howard D. Price, 1655 Berry, at the same hospital at 2 o'clock.

The first girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Nichols, 1015 Terrace Drive, at the Salem Memorial hospital at 8:13 o'clock Sunday morning and has not been named. She weighed 5 lbs. 15 ounces. Another girl was born at the Salem General hospital at 9:38 o'clock in the morning to complete the list. She has been named Jane Marie and was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Klopp, 2895 Roger Lane, and weighed 6 lbs. 7 ounces.

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## Few Accidents Despite Icy Salem Streets

Ice glazed streets of Salem and the Willamette valley forced travel to a snail pace Sunday night and Monday morning and few serious accidents were reported despite the hazardous conditions.

The greatest inconvenience to Salem as a result of the snow and freeze came at approximately 3:43 a.m. Monday when a trailer truck driven by George Daicich of Portland sideswiped a power pole on Portland road near the Silverton road intersection.

The ten-ton truck jackknifed when the driver attempted to stop when the signal lights flashed against him. He was driving south on Portland road at the time of the accident.

The streets in the vicinity of the power break had been sanded Sunday night, but the grit had sifted downward and been covered by additional snow.

(Concluded on Page 5, Column 6)

## Snowfall and Biting Cold Welcome 1950

**Thermometer Drops To 19, Lowest of Year With Icy Streets**

The New Year's weather offering for Salem as for all Oregon was a new blast of biting winter cold that sent thermometers down to new seasonal lows as well as bringing the first "stay on" snow for the valley regions.

And more is to come.

At Salem the mercury dropped to 19 Monday morning, the coldest morning here since last January 28 when the mark was 17 degrees.

Forecast is for a minimum of 15 degrees tonight and scattered snow flurries tonight and Tuesday.

**Snow Starts Early Sunday**

Local weather bureau officials said the snowfall coming Sunday measured an even inch here, higher elevations having greater depths.

The snow started falling before dawn Sunday and several flurries during the day kept the ground covered throughout the city. Freezing temperatures starting in the late afternoon and evening, glazed over the snow, making travel a slow and hazardous business.

Children greeted the snow with gleeful cheers and soon had snow men on their lawns after awaking to find the white stuff scattered about. To them the snowfall was perfect to end the holiday period preceding opening of school on Tuesday.

**23 Inches at Timberline**

Press reports stated 23 inches of new snow were dumped on Timberline lodge in the New Year's day storm and all mountain passes were listed with two to three feet of new snow. All eastern Oregon also received new batches of snow, Klamath Falls reporting nine inches, Baker three.

Snow covered the Pacific northwest coast to depths reaching half a foot and the thermometer this morning was making a weak effort to climb from a spill to 4 above zero at Bellingham and 19 at Seattle.

Inland the mercury dropped to 2 above at Omak and Ellensburg.

**Sharp Wind Blows**

A wind as harsh as an old fashioned ice-saw hit 65 miles an hour in gusts at Bellingham, overturning five small planes at the airport. The city had four inches of snow, Seattle 3 to 6 inches, Eugene, Ore., 2 inches. Whirled up by the biting wind, the powdery stuff stung the faces of the few people who ventured out.

Cascade mountain passes in Washington were open but the state patrol warned that chains were necessary. Airlines and railroads were operating normally.

## Oldest Working R. R. in Last Run

Mount Airy, Md., Jan. 2 (AP)—When 1949 passed into history, the nation's oldest operating railroad run went along with it.

The run was the Baltimore and Ohio's train No. 47 between Baltimore and Mount Airy, a town in Frederick county.

The B. and O. had started commercial passage on the route in January, 1830, with horse-drawn carriages.

The run has now been discontinued because the railroad says there was not enough traffic for economic operation. For most trips in recent years, there were only about 25 passengers on board.

But on New Year's eve when old No. 47 made its last journey, more than 200 crowded aboard for the historic ride. The train proved too much for the gasoline motor which had drawn the local for the past 20 years. It broke down. A steam engine had to be hitched to the three cars to complete the trip.

## Dog Rouses Family, Then Dies in Flames

Portland, Jan. 2 (AP)—A barking dog aroused a family of three early yesterday as flames of their dwelling-store fire ate into the sleeping rooms. The dog perished.

Mrs. Robert Robinson said her husband and son weren't able to locate the dog before fleeing out a rear entrance. Damage was estimated at \$15,000.

## Morse Favors 1948 Platform

Washington, Jan. 2 (AP)—Senator Morse (R-Ore.) today urged his GOP colleagues to turn back to the 1948 republican platform in their search for a statement of party principles.

Republican senators, caucusing tomorrow, will discuss a move by GOP National Chairman Guy G. Gabrielson to get such a statement drafted for use in this year's congressional campaign.

Senator Millikin of Colorado, who heads the senate republican group, said he had no objection to the plan. Senator Taft of Ohio, chairman of the GOP senate policy committee, was expected to voice his views at a news conference later in the day (4 p.m., EST).

Morse, often a balky horse in the republican camp, told a reporter he thinks any statement of principles in which the party takes a specific stand on specific issues "is bound to be a step forward."

"At the present time," he said, "there is no official republican program because so many republicans in congress have by their actions repudiated the fine program that was offered in the 1948 platform."

## Only Democrats Census Takers

Washington, Jan. 2 (AP)—The man in charge of the U.S. census this year says its an old political custom for the census takers to be members of the party in power.

Philip M. Hauser, acting director of the census bureau, was asked whether there was any justification for the charge (by republicans) that the 150,000 census jobs could be used for political (democratic) patronage in an election year.

The question was posed in an interview with Hauser by the Gannett newspapers for a broadcast. Hauser replied:

"The honest answer to that question is that there is complete justification. Both political parties have in turn given preference in appointments for temporary census jobs to persons recommended by the majority members in congress.

"The democratic and republican parties in turn have followed this practice, in keeping with the American democratic process and the American political party system."

## 10 Percent Drop in Oregon '49 Harvest

Portland, Jan. 2 (AP)—Oregon harvested about 10 percent less farm crops in 1949 than in the record year of 1948, the U.S. department of agriculture said today.

Acres of the state's chief crops was about the same in both years, but the yield was slightly down.



**First New Year Baby Brings Gifts to Parents**—This baby son, weighing 8 pounds and 1 ounce, was the first New Year baby born within the city limits of Salem, and for that reason his parents will receive a variety of gifts from Salem business houses with the cooperation of the Capital Journal. The parents are Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Manning of Gervais, but they qualify for the prizes because the baby was born at Salem General hospital. Time of birth was 1:43 Sunday morning. Mrs. Manning is shown with her son at the hospital.