

# Dam, Building First Story Of Year

The year 1949 ushered in a prosperous and momentous era for the town of Mill City, with construction, and adoption of a city charter, making the headline highlights for the local area.

It was voted upon by residents to adopt and have drawn up a charter, giving the community of Mill City a position of township and city in story releases and on the maps. On January 20, a charter was readied and approved by the city council, to be approved by the voters.

Petitions were inaugurated into the community in February of 1949 to ask for revocation of the charter. Enough signatures were obtained to grant the act, but the council, in the meantime, had accrued franchise debts to the Mountain States Power company for electrical installation of street lights and to the sanitary service. The Marion county court said, under the conditions, the charter legally could not be revoked.

The charter was finally brought before the public for approval in November, giving a majority vote favorable to the adoption. The city of Mill City became a reality soon after the election.

First election of city officials will take place January 16 of 1950 for two council positions and annexation of five tracts of land. Following this election, the position of mayor will be filled by a city council member who will be elected by the council.

Largest construction job in the immediate locality for the year was the grade school building, with more than \$200,000 going into its building. Financing of the building had to be made by the district because of lack of funds by the schoolboard.

Highest monthly percentage rate of permits for construction were granted in April of 1949 with more than \$30,000 issued during the first week of the month. Hill Top store was granted a permit for \$10,000 for construction of the building to house the store.

Nearly \$2,000 in permits were granted the second week of the rainy month, and CBI took out \$145,000 in permits through the third week.

Construction of the Later Day Saints church started the year's big building program which eventually led to many new buildings to house commercial interests throughout the town and industry on the outskirts.

Old man weather made the headlines in and around Mill City during the past year with one of the coldest years recorded in several years here. Ice covered the North Santiam river for the first time since 1937 and a recorded minus two degrees was recorded at Detroit. Lowest mark registered in Mill City for the year was two degrees above zero.

Nearly all of the local logging operations were closed down from the first of the year to the first of March because of heavy snow. The white blanket also caved in the Detroit theatre roof, the Canyon Moon dance hall roof, and many house roofs were damaged by the weather.

At the same time, fire at the famous Breitenbush hot springs resort caused more than \$50,000 damage with both the postoffice and general store gutted by flames. A report of the fire and snow damage there was not obtained until several days later when two men snowshoed out from the area for supplies.

It was also in March that help broke through snowbanks and drifts to get supplies into six snowbound miners at the Amalgamated mine, 15 miles above Elkhorn. The six had been marooned by slides and drifts from mid-December to the first of March without new supplies or contact with the outside world.

## MILL CITY BEFORE DAM



This is an aerial view of Mill City taken from the air in March of 1949, before actual construction of Detroit dam took place which has had a great influence on the town's growth. (Picture taken by Buzz Fleetwood)

## NUMBER ONE PICTURE OF THE YEAR



This is a picture of what happens when a heavily loaded truck tries to climb one of the hills on Banfield's roller coaster while traveling through Mill City. This picture takes the number one spot in 1949's Enterprise editions. (Picture by Charles Wolverton)

Telephone service was disrupted between Mill City and Detroit for several days and February 10th, electric service was out for nearly 20 hours in Mill City because of damage by snow and slides. The heavy white blanket also stopped rail and road traffic through the Canyon area during most of the bad weather.

New records were made by the snow fall with 132.5 inches covering the ground in Detroit, Mrs. Parker, weather observer commented, which exceeded the old record, established in 1937, by two inches.

Education came into its own during the year with university extension courses offered by the local high school for the first time. Enrollment increased more than 100 percent in the Detroit-Idanha school system in September, warranting construction of a new building for grade school students by the army engineers, as well as the local building of a new grade school building.

Individual publicity man for the city was Mr. Paul Smith, local aged distance runner, who not only competed against man, but accepted an invitation to race with a horse at Lebanon last spring. Mr. Smith gained much favor from spectators.

Automobile accidents, fires, logging operations, and police reports held predominate positions in the headlines of the newspapers from the local area. The biggest story of the year, however, was the realization of the Detroit and Big Cliff dams, carrying in with them a major effect on most of the stories.

At the first of the year, the construction program was yet on blue print only. Within a very few months however, government finance of the project was carried through Congress and it was in the last part of February that a \$28,000,000 contract was signed between the government

and Consolidated Builders Incorporated of Portland, a Henry J. Kaiser concern.

The project brought with it location of offices for the concern to Mill City and a proposed \$200,000 to \$250,000 home building program in Mill City for company officers. Many new industries moved into the area, as well as new business houses, to vie for economic position in the community.

Mill City came into its own through the year industrially, politically and economically, with a bright future shining before its very eyes. A big year is in store for this once small logging community that has now become a city.

### PORTEE RELEASED FROM JAIL AFTER POSTING BOND

Dave Portee, held in lieu of \$500 bail on an assault charge with a deadly weapon, was released from the Marion county jail recently after posting bond.

Porter was taken into custody after he allegedly attacked his co-partner, Les Mullins, as the victim entered Viv's steak house. The two are co-leaders of the eating establishment.

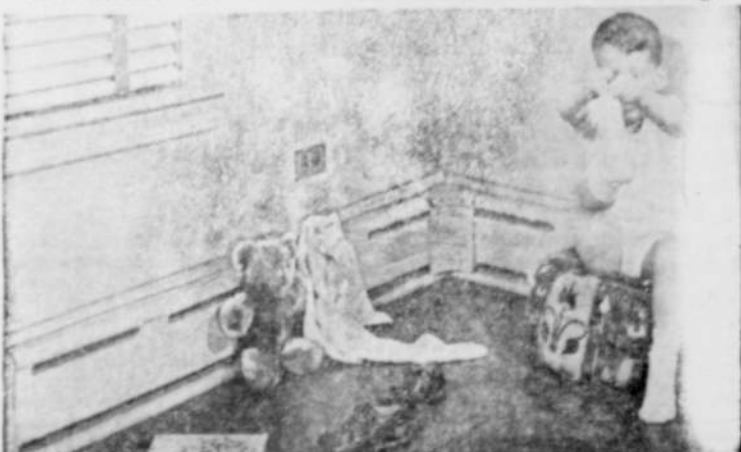
Local police took Porter into custody immediately following the episode and then transferred him to the county jail Monday, where he was held for two to three days, Chief J. T. King stated.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cooke, daughters Carol and Donna, and son Jim drove to Portland Wednesday. They will return Thursday or Friday. Jim will leave from Portland for the University for California, where he is attending college.

LET GEORGE DO IT:  
WHAT?  
**File Your Saws**  
OF COURSE  
ALL KINDS OF SAWS FILED  
Any Time  
Be Ready for Chains Feb. 1st  
**George Cree**  
PHONE 924  
Located 1/2 Mile W. Mill City  
on 222

**ENRICHED**  
**MASTER BREAD**  
Popular...because it's Good!

### As New as 1950 -- Baseboard Heating



Solar heating, radiant heating, and heating with warmth extracted from the ground—new developments have been coming thick and fast in the heating industry in recent years.

One of the newest and most interesting innovations is baseboard heating. Hot water from a boiler is circulated through metal baseboards which take the place of the conventional wooden baseboards.

The introduction of heat at this low level provides comfort with fuel economy. Tests at the University of Illinois have shown that the baseboard warms the walls on which it is installed and produces a radiant heating effect from the walls and portion of the floor.

Full and unobstructed use of the wall and floor space and complete freedom in decorating and furniture arrangement are among the advantages of baseboard heating.

Baseboard heating may be installed in existing houses as well as new homes or other types of buildings, with or without basements. Forced circulation hot water is the heating medium and the type of fuel is immaterial.

## IDANHA

Holiday guests of the Lloyd Girod family are Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Jensen and son Johnny of Astoria and Mrs. Anna Girod of Salem.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Pittam and family of Roseburg were weekend guests at the home of his brother, Jerry Pittam and family.

Spending the holidays and an extended visit at the Edison Vickers home are his step-mother, Mrs. Anna Vickers of Manzanita, Ore., and Mrs. Vickers mother, Mrs. H. Steinbrueck of Centralia, Wash.

Mrs. Gertrude Klane of Lincoln, Nebr., is here for the holidays and an indefinite visit with her daughter, Mrs. Warren Stoll and family. Mrs. Klane came by auto to Burley, Idaho, and on to Idanha by bus.

Mr. and Mrs. George Cannon and family of Grand Ronde were Christmas day guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Orval Lady and family.

A weekend guest at the Frank New home was Miss Marylys Howe of Eugene.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Stoll and family and Mrs. Stoll's mother, Mrs. Gertrude Klane, were weekend guests in Silverton at the Lawrence Lierman home.

Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Brown spent the four day holiday with friends on the coast.

Mrs. Winifred Johnson of Portland spent Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Reynolds.

## MILL CITY

Mildred Toman, a student at Lewis and Clark college in Portland, is home for the holiday vacation period visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. Albert Toman.

Mrs. Grace R. Stover and daughter Marlene of San Francisco, Calif., are holiday guests of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Stover. They were Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Neilson. Mrs. W. G. Stover is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neilson.

Among guests present at a family reunion dinner held at the Don Peterson home Monday evening were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Peterson and sons Ramon and Gary, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cooke and daughters Carol and Donna and son Jim; Art Davis, George Hopkins, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dahlen.

**BARGAINS**  
In Furniture, Stoves, Dishes  
Clothing, Housewares  
**MAG'S**  
145 S. Church, next to Salem Parking

THE *Cliff Ambers'*  
**MAPLES**  
JUST EAST OF GATES

**The Commercial Book Store**  
Has Everything for Your  
**OFFICE NEEDS**  
FURNITURE AND BOOKKEEPING SUPPLIES  
141 N. Commercial St. Phone 3-4534  
SALEM, ORE.

**Kiln Dry Lumber**  
and Finish Lumber Retail Dept.  
**Idanha Lumber Co.**  
Phone Detroit 7024

*Happy New Year*  
WE WISH TO EXTEND HEARTFELT THANKS  
TO OUR MANY PATRONS WHO HAVE HELPED  
MAKE 1949 A SUCCESS. TO ALL, A VERY  
HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR  
**Wood's Dry Goods Store**  
(NEXT TO POST OFFICE)

To Wish You  
Happiness  
and a  
Prosperous  
New Year  
We wish to thank our many friends  
for thier patronage during  
the past year  
**MILL CITY VARIETY**  
Jim O'Leary and Irene O'Leary

*Holiday Greetings*  
**Toy & Hobby Shop**  
168 N Commercial Salem