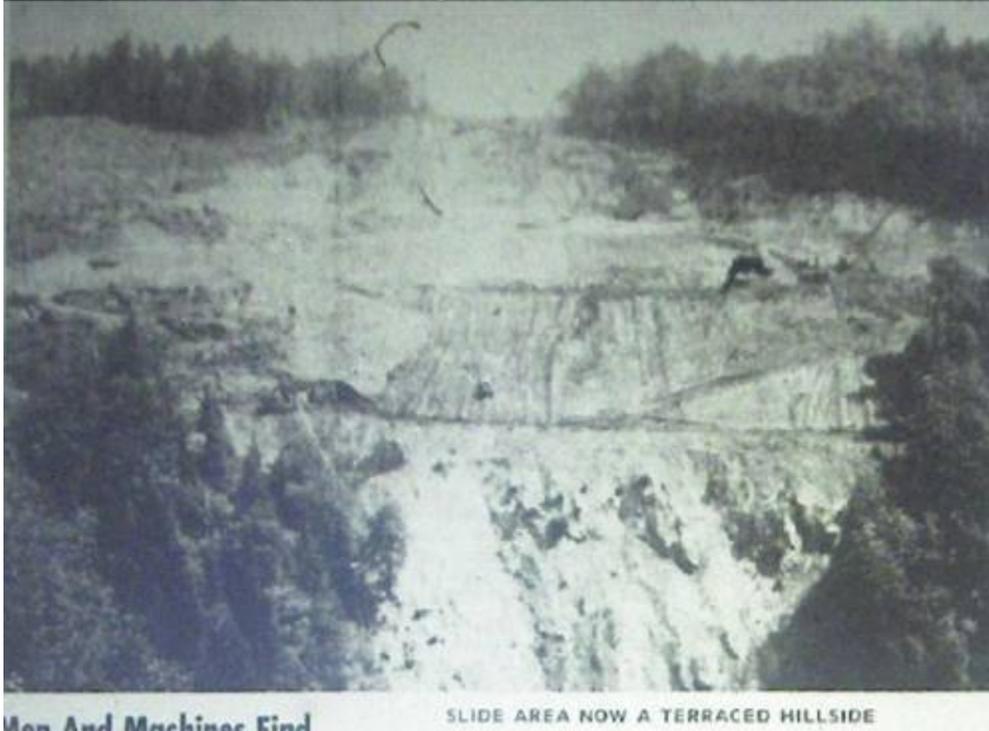


# THE CONCRETE HERALD

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## **MEN AND MACHINES FIND GOING DIFFICULT ON SLIDE NATURE MOVED IN DAY**

At the Lower Baker powerhouse site and on the hill above, a million dollars worth of equipment and crews of skilled operators have been at work for several months trying to complete a job done by the forces of nature in just a few hours. At the shattered power house, crushed into debris by the sliding earth of May 18<sup>th</sup>, it took a crew of men and two pieces of heavy equipment to pull down the walls left standing.

On the hill above shovels, clamshells and drag lines have been trying to move away dirt left by the slide upheaval that began last fall and culminated in the destructive slide.

When the crews finished last week the new section of the power house had finally been leveled, and the No. 3 generator left open for ultimate removal. Walls, which had crumbled so easily under weight of streams of falling dirt, resisted to the last assault of men

and machine. To bring down the rest of the building the men chipped the columns clear of cement at the base, then had to cut away the reinforcing steel before the walls could be pulled down. The standard wrecking hammer was used to rap holes in the upper structure to separate the wall sections. The entire south wall was pulled down in one piece August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Due to the rains, work has been slowed in both areas. On the upper slope trucks and equipment can not operate in the greasy mud that develops when moisture hits the odd-textured earth. The same on the lower level where a gumbo of sticky goo frustrates any effort to load it in trucks, or get it out of them once loaded.

Still to be uncovered at the power house are the No. 1 and No. 2 generators and turbines, still under several feet of mud at the

north end of the open shell. Also, a top level problem will be the removal of the dirt from the surge tunnel and penstocks which appear to be filled in solidly.

The upper hill is now shaping up in a terraced embankment that is expected to prevent any further slippage. Large drainage ditches go deep into the arrears where water seepage is present.

Daily progress appears to be very slow, but the photos show a remarkable change from the damaged area of May 18<sup>th</sup>.

