

Mercury Goes Up Some But More Snow Due

1-3-1950

The deep freeze continued in Whatcom county Tuesday, though the worst apparently was over. What remained was bad enough.

Cloudy skies edged the thin red line in thermometers up slightly from the night's low mark of 6.6 degrees, registered at the airport weather station at 1:30 a. m.

By noon it was up to 13 degrees, but at 2:30 p. m., it was down a degree. It appeared that an earlier prediction of 20 degrees would not be reached.

The best part of Tuesday's weather, though, was the lack of the blustery northeaster that froze water pipes and put the well dressed man into a stocking cap.

An aftermath of the plumbing problems was the many fires resulting from blow torch attempts to unthaw pipes.

WON'T UNFREEZE YET

Indications were for continuing improvement in the weather, thanks to the cloudy atmosphere, but little hope was held that the sub-freezing weather would be ended immediately.

"It may take a couple of days yet to get back to normal temperatures," said Foster Brock, chief of the C.A.A. airways communication station here.

Hour by hour Tuesday, the mer-

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cury showed: 1-3-1950

12:30 a. m.	7.3
1:30 a. m.	6.6
2:30 a. m.	8.7
3:30 a. m.	8.8
4:30 a. m.	9.4
5:30 a. m.	9.8
6:30 a. m.	9.8
7:30 a. m.	9.0
8:30 a. m.	9.3
9:30 a. m.	11.0
10:30 a. m.	13.0
11:30 a. m.	13.0
12:30 p. m.	13
1:30	13
2:30	12

The wind, originating in the north and northeast, never got above 9 miles per hour during the night. The relative calm helped keep heat in buildings.

School age youngsters didn't mind the storm as much as their parents. The hardest ones used the snow for recreation, and all of them got an extra day's vacation in Bellingham Tuesday.

Supt. C. Paine Shangle said schools would be in operation Wednesday. Heating problems and broken pipes were blamed for the delay.

County kids, too, got an extended vacation, with rural school districts facing a transportation problem in addition to plumbing and heating troubles.

Officials hoped that county schools could be operated Wednesday, but final decisions were not expected until late Tuesday or early Wednesday morning.

Bellingham airport, where most of the property damage was sustained Monday, had no new property losses, but a blinding snowstorm there threatened to cancel scheduled flights.

Snow starting after 10 o'clock cut down visibility to half a mile, with only a 700-foot ceiling at 11 a. m. At that time, there was little snowfall in the business district.

STORMY ON WATER

Bellingham bay smoothed out Tuesday after one of the roughest days on nearby waters. The northeaster kicked up waves with such force that the Osage decided to skip its daily run to the San Juans and hide behind Eliza island.

While passengers sweated out the storm at the south end of Eliza, Office Manager Robert Bowler became worried over absence of reports on the presence of the mail, freight and passenger vessel.

The coast guard patrol boat headed out in the afternoon on reconnaissance, and located the Osage about 4:30 p. m. Skipper Mike Little and Bellingham Transportation Manager Charles Countryman said the vessel would ride the storm out there.

The Osage returned here about 8:30 p. m. without making its run, but was out again Tuesday for its scheduled calls at various San Juan points.

Chief Robert Carr, of the coast

guard, called the water "really sloppy" Monday afternoon.

It was still so cold along the waterfront that ice had formed atop inner waters. However port facilities are well protected from northeaster storms, and Port Manager Harry Isler found no property damage Tuesday.

RAIL TRAFFIC NORMAL

Rail traffic was normal on all three roads serving Whatcom county. The Northern Pacific roadway, blocked in the Wickersham area last week, was clear of slides for the first time and was operating its own trains.

All state highways were open, but most of them were still slick from compact snow and ice, Supt. Everett Baxter reported. Traffic was proceeding cautiously.

The temperature Tuesday morning was at zero at Mount Baker lodge and at the village of Shuksan, on the highway. No new snow fell.

POWER OUTPUT NORMAL

Public utilities were expected to be about normal by Tuesday evening. Puget Sound Power & Light expected to have its few remaining trouble spots eliminated by afternoon, and Pacific Telephone & Telegraph also was "caught up pretty well."

Fire calls were not exclusive with Bellingham. Chief Charles Philo reported his Lynden fire department had three, each outside the city limits. Each of the main causes of such calls in this weather was represented: overheated oil stove, thawing of frozen plumbing and chimney trouble.

Surprisingly, Chief Alfred Kruse and his Blaine volunteers were able to enjoy the New Year holiday Monday undisturbed by a single call.

Wally Mariotto, head firefighter at Everson, said that community had two chimney fires Sunday night, while Chief Clyde Eaton reported one chimney fire for the Ferndale district.