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# Horse-Drawn Sled Brings Mother to Hospital in Time

By NELLIE BROWNE DUFF

A human interest story which must be typical of all parts of the county came to light when Harold Brunhaver hitched horses to a farm sled to bring a neighbor's expectant wife to a Bellingham hospital Thursday afternoon.

He beat the storm to the city but was unable to return to his home on the Wiser Lake and Ritter roads, and Saturday still was marooned in North Bellingham, after an unsuccessful attempt to return home.

It is reported that a rotary snow plow, attempting to clear the Wiser Lake road from the Guide Meridian end Saturday, encountered one drift about 300 feet long that ran 12 feet deep.

## BABY DUE

Mrs. Bruce Harding, who lives on the Strickland farm near the Brunhaver home, was expecting a baby. With the approach of the storm it was believed that she should be brought to a hospital while roads were still clear enough to get her there.

Brunhaver hitched a team to a sled of the "stone boat" type commonly used in farm work. He and Bruce Harding arranged a box-like protection for Mrs. Harding and they left about 3 p. m. for the North Bellingham hospital.

The baby was born at 11 o'clock that night, a 6-pound girl, whom they promptly named Kathleen Elaine. She is their third child.

Brunhaver, the storm being then in full force all north of North Bellingham, and especially severe in the Lynden and Wiser lake areas, was unable to go back. On the way in he had had to cut through fences and across fields to gain the Northwest road, but even that route was closed to him. He remained at the home of an uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Baird, 1267 Northwest road, while Harding went to the Martin Hogan home, all in the vicinity of the hospital.

## IN GOOD SHAPE

Brunhaver's stock was in good shape, as he has a man to care for them and look after the chores, but Mrs. Brunhaver was left home with a neighbor woman who had come to stay there during the storm. The Brunhaver daughter was marooned at a neighbor's house and the son was in town.

Mrs. Brunhaver, when The Herald telephoned her, said conditions were bad out in that part of the county, that luckily there was no power trouble and phones were working; that it was bitterly cold, and they

had to wear coats in the house; and that the snow drifts were so deep they were impassable in many places.

She said their neighbors were getting out of supplies and were borrowing what they could from each other.

## DISTRIBUTES SUPPLIES

Brunhaver had gone all around the neighborhood, wherever he could get through, Thursday morning, loaning what his family could spare and taking from one neighbor to another what they could exchange. He piled up a lot of grocery orders in the process and other orders were telephoned to him, so that when he started out to bring Mrs. Harding to the hospital he planned to buy groceries for his entire neighborhood.

Saturday afternoon, his sled loaded with groceries for 15 families, Brunhaver started home, Harding accompanying him.

"We hit a place just north of the Woodlawn cemetery, where the road was blocked by deep snow and had not been opened. It was drifted about ten feet deep. I didn't think we could make it," Brunhaver told The Herald later, "but the horses went right over it. The snow was packed solid. We got home in good shape, and delivered all the groceries along the way."

They left North Bellingham shortly after 1 p. m. and Brunhaver reached his home at 3:30 p. m.

Meantime Mrs. Baird, who said two other families had moved in with them, said conditions were so bad out in that section it was "hard to tell about them."

## NO ELECTRICITY

"We've had no electricity for two days and two nights," she said. "Thank goodness our telephones are working. But we have no power to pump water and the chickens and stock out here have had no water for two days and nights. There are flocks and flocks of chickens out here without water."

They tried melting snow. "But you only get about a cup full of water out of a tub full of snow," she said.

Luckily, everyone had feed for their chickens and stock, but the water situation for the chickens and livestock was a matter of real concern.

"Snowdrifts," Mrs. Baird said, "are ten feet deep in places."

(Electric service was restored in the Bairds' neighborhood by noon Saturday, it later was reported.)

These conditions are being duplicated all over Whatcom county, according to reports received "catch as catch can." But the age old rule

of being a good neighbor, which draws people close in time of trouble, undoubtedly is helping a great many families out.