

TURN OFF TAPS

Low Water Pressure at Silver Beach Alarms

1-16-1950

The probability that the Silver Beach area has no adequate fire protection because of low water pressure remained a cause of alarm with city officials Monday.

To avoid pipe freezes, numerous householders were allowing water taps to run 24 hours a day. Water Superintendent Henry Donnelly renewed his appeal to citizens of the district Monday. He said he had been doing all he could to get a thawing crew in operation.

"The situation is really serious," he declared. "There are many highly inflammable structures in the area, and firemen aren't going to have enough pressure to fight any blaze which may occur." He again asked that residents shut off their water faucets. Donnelly said pressure in other areas is adequate.

He pointed out that at the height of the city's bitter blizzard, last Friday, some 13,000,000 gallons of water went through the city supply. This compares to about 6,500,000 gallons a day in normal times.

Temperatures were moderating slightly Monday, resulting in reopening of the city schools. County schools, however, remained closed and the county superintendent's office, after a telephone poll of the districts, said none of the county schools would reopen Tuesday.

Contact had been made with all but the Lynden and Nooksack districts, but it was presumed that those hard hit areas would not attempt to reopen Tuesday.

NEW BLOW

Meanwhile the northern end of the county felt the sting of a new northeaster and a light, fine snow fell in the city area during the noon hour.

The mercury edged up to 14 degrees early Monday afternoon and might climb higher, weather officials said.

State game officials feared a heavy loss in pheasants and urged citizens to put out feed for the birds.

All of the major county roads were open to traffic and big state rotary plows were biting away at drifts on secondary roads in the Lynden and Everson districts.

Forecast was snow and northerly and easterly winds for Tuesday, while Monday's immediate forecast was cloudy, with light snow showers.

Indications generally were for a break in the cold spell by Wednesday.

Lake Whatcom had thick ice in different sections of its surface for the first time in many years, and kids were skating on it Sunday. Lakes Samish and Padden had some ice also.

Temperatures around the county ranged from 5 degrees at Mount Baker, where there is a

total of 164 inches of snow (none fell Sunday) to 8 and 10 degrees elsewhere.

STREETS PASSABLE

Bruce Pym, city street superintendent, said Monday morning that he expected his crews to have all city

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streets passable by noon. The men had rested a bit Sunday, he said, after putting in from 18 to 20 hours a day for two days on the streets.

Pym and others said parts of the lake along the Silver Beach district were frozen, but that it did not seem suitable for skating.

The street superintendent told the board of public works that his department was getting numerous requests for equipment to clear private driveways. It was decided the department's work would be confined in this matter to entrances off the streets but not on private property.

The board moved to notify the public that property owners are obligated to clear sidewalks in front of their homes as much as possible. Pym told other officials that hillside drainage water from Western Washington College property was making a "belt of ice" on High street, and that it presented a serious problem. He added that street crews were continuing their salting and sanding generally, throughout the city. The board was to notify the college to try to alleviate the High street condition.

City Engineer Ted Scholz said that work on the city's two new water reservoirs was still halted on account of weather conditions.

PHONE SERVICE HIT

Everson and Sumas, dug out of their isolation Saturday, still remained the hardest hit part of the county for power and telephone service. The Farmers Mutual Telephone company said 75 to 80 poles were down in the Everson area alone and that the main exchange in Lynden had no wire Monday to Everson, none to Deming and only one wire to Sumas. The condition was particularly bad at Everson where at least half of the 700 subscribers had no phone service.

Puget Sound Power & Light company reported that its main trouble lay in that area Monday, but that aside from that, except for some isolated sections, Whatcom county now is in "fair shape." Seven line crews worked all day Sunday in the county areas.

"What really hampers us is the roads," Manager John Wallin said. "We'll move into the north end of the county as fast as we can. Belingham also is in good shape, and things look pretty good to us now."

SERVICE RESTORED

The local telephone company reported that only about 160 phones

were out of service Monday morning and this number would be reduced considerably by night. The company had some 600 local phones out at the peak of the storm last week.

Long distance service Monday had been restored except two circuits to East Sound. Fifty men were still working on the phone crews, and for long hours. They were busy all day Sunday.

Bellingham's school attendance was good Monday—84 per cent of normal, the city superintendent's office reported. Geneva was the only city school closed. The high school had 87 per cent attendance.

Others were variously as follows: Birchwood, 80 per cent; Columbia, 86; Franklin, 81; Larrabee, 82; Lincoln, 86; Lowell, 82; Marietta, 83; Roeder, 83; Roosevelt, 83; Silver Beach, 74; Sunnyland, 82; Washington, 89; Fairhaven junior, 92; Whatcom junior, 89.

COLLEGE RESUMES

Western Washington college, closed Friday, was in full swing Monday, with little cut in attendance noticeable. The campus school, closed Thursday and Friday, also was open.

The Assumption school, however, was not open and will not be Tuesday, because of boiler trouble. It is expected to resume Wednesday.

It was reported here Monday morning that the Nooksack river was crossed by ice at certain points. Mayor Don Satterle said he had noticed the frozen part of the river while making a bus trip to the north of the county early in the morning.

POULTRYMEN HURT

Whatcom county's poultry industry, already hit financially by the declining market over the past several months, was also reeling from the storm.

Trucks finally got through just in time to replenish exhausted feed supplies in many cases, and other poultrymen were hurt by the loss of power, used for heat in some cases and for water pumps.

Some pumps froze and are still

out of commission.

Washington Chick Co-op association lost at least part of the hatch from one big incubator at the association's Smith road master breeding farm when power went off. The association attempted to save part of the experimental hatch by oil heating, but General Manager C. F. Oldenburg was unable immediately to ascertain the success of the move.

The Co-op's supply of hatching eggs, both for chicks and turkey poults, was decreased as much as one-third by the emergency.

Many birds went out of "lay," it was pointed out, and it was expected that it would be several weeks before the birds are in mental condition to produce at capacity.

Feed the Birds . . .

An appeal for food for the birds was issued Monday by Charles Long, county game protector, who said the feathered friends are starving for lack of available feeding spots.

Les Brown, who lives near Everson, turned in to Long a bird picked up frozen to death on his farm.

Long advised persons putting out food to do so in sheltered locations such as under trees. They will eat grain and bread, mostly.