

Strong Northeast Winds Forecast; More Snow Seen

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Weather-weary Whatcom county found little solace in the official local forecast for Tuesday night, as strong northeasterly winds again appeared on the weather prediction. Light snow showers were also forecast.

However, a hint of better things to come was the report at midmorning that a warmer front was developing some 100 miles southeast of the Queen Charlotte islands off the Canadian coast.

Airways communication personnel at the local airport said that air front, moving to this area, might boost the temperature to 25 to 30 degrees.

However, the snow fall which would result might be a new blow to rural areas, particularly.

The low temperature Tuesday morning was 9 degrees, recorded at the airport between 8:30 and 9 o'clock. Highest gust of wind was 35 miles per hour.

STILL DIGGING OUT

Rotary snow plows were still shuffling snow drifts to the side of roads in the Second (northeast) and Third (northwest) commissioner districts of the county. In some cases, the plows had to retrace routes previously cleared in the Everson-Sumas area, new drifts having accumulated.

The Third district, west of the Guide Meridian, was expected to be "pretty well cleaned up" Tues-

day. The First district road network was in fairly good shape Monday.

Commissioner E. R. Haxton advised county residents to get in supplies of fuel, feed and food in case another blizzard occurs, since roads will be even harder to unblock next time. Snow cleared away from roads is now piled high on both sides and it would be difficult for equipment to clear drifts under that circumstance.

Tediousness of the operations was illustrated by the half mile stretch along the Benson road, north of Lynden, which took three hours for a rotary plow to clear.

County Engineer Ralph Knutsen said residents along some side roads were using their own initiative and farm equipment to clear drifts. One drift on the Smith road east of the Everson-Goshen road consisted of snow 2 to 4 feet deep for 1,000 feet.

Superintendents of school districts were watching the situation closely, but County Supt. William J. O'Neil did not know whether their hopes of resumption of classes would be realized, in some districts.

UTILITIES CATCHING UP

Steady improvement in the utilities situation continued Tuesday and transportation schedules were being closely maintained. City Lines reported its busses were on time, and stages were getting through to Sumas, Lynden, Ferndale and Marietta as well as all points on U.S. 99.

Pacific Telephone was working on about 55 to 60 stations in Bellingham still out of service and expected to have them in by nightfall. Phone service here then will be considered back to normal.

The last disrupted long distance lines, two circuits to East Sound, Orcas island, were back in service at 5:38 p. m. Monday.

Puget Sound Power & Light also was cleaning up everything that was accessible, though some trouble spots remained along roads where snow blocks had not yet been removed.

The company's emergency crew from Seattle remained on the job and was to continue working in Whatcom county throughout the week.

FIRE DANGER DOWN

The potential fire crisis in the Silver Beach area appeared to have abated Tuesday, following Water Supt. Henry Donnell's announcement of concern over the situation.

Because householders were running taps throughout the day, pres-

sure was too low to give fire protection. Silver Beach, supplied with water from a 150,000-gallon tank at the present time, apparently "took the hint" because pressure was close to normal Tuesday.

The city was keeping the tank filled, but was unable to control the abnormally heavy draw which resulted when residents fearing pipe freezing kept water running constantly through the taps.