

Mercury Drops to Zero Here at Conservation Farm

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A forecast of slightly warmer Thursday, with light snow, was the gleam of hope held out to Bellingham Wednesday morning for a break in the cold spell, after the temperature took a dip to zero and under during the night.

The weather station at the airport said a warm front 100 miles off the coast of Vancouver island is headed this way and should hit by night Thursday, bringing warmer weather. How much warmer was not predicted.

Tuesday night was one of the coldest so far. The soil conservation station on the McLeod road reported zero for some time in the night. Temperatures are not registered hourly but since the thermometer there had climbed to 4 degrees by 8 a. m., it is believed the mercury must have touched the zero mark in the early morning.

Low at the Bellingham airport, which is 150 feet above sea level and consequently warmer than the valley in which the McLeod station lies, low was 3.7 degrees at 7 a. m. Wednesday.

TEMPERATURES VARY

Reports of much lower temperatures came in from other parts of the city. It was 2 degrees below zero at the state patrol station on Meridian street, near Cornwall park, at 7 a. m. Frank Cory, clerk at the patrol station, who lives on Maple street east of Lakeway golf course, says his thermometer at home showed 5 below at 7 a. m.

Howard Kaylor of the Bellingham Tug & Barge Company said the waterway between that office on Roeder street and Citizens dock was frozen over Wednesday morning, the first time he had ever known it to occur. Other waterfront areas also were under ice.

Most of the county roads now are open except in the Sumas vicinity and north and east of Lynden, to which scenes of action the snow plows were transferred Wednesday.

Schools in three county districts, Lynden, Ferndale and Mt. Baker, closed since Wednesday morning, reopened Wednesday. Lawrence school alone

in the Mt. Baker district remained closed.

In Skagit county a 2 degrees below zero temperature at Clear Lake and 4 above at Mount Vernon was reported.

The drop in temperature Tuesday started after 1 p. m. The mercury stood at 12 degrees at 4:30 p. m. and dropped about one degree an hour until it reached 7 above at 9 p. m. A 20-mile wind with gusts up to 30 was blowing.

NAVY ON JOB

The Herald received word Wednesday that three local navy men raced out to the Wiser Lake and Everson-Goshen areas Saturday morning and helped five farmers pump water for livestock and chickens—and even haul hay for a man named Larson.

The men were Chief Phil Seldomridge and BT/2 Leon Axelsson, of the U.S.S. Grady, and BT/1 Keith Axelsson, of the naval reserve training center.

They used a pickup truck and a training center portable power unit to furnish electricity for the pumps, traveling much of the distance in the county over fields since the roads were still covered with deep drifts. One of the farmers helped was Andy Beaudry.

Later, the equipment was loaned the state and border patrols.

COAL SHORT

The coal situation in Bellingham Wednesday was critical, or worse.

Three main wholesale firms reported they were out of coal.

One said, "After noon Thursday we will have no coal. We have 100 tons coming—it may be here by the end of the week, it may not. The scow from Vancouver island is not due until Thursday of next week."

Another said, "We have a few sacks of Bellingham coal and some briquets. We have Utah nut and stoker coal on the way, but we do not know when we'll get it."

The third said, "We have a little Bellingham coal on hand, and some coke. We have some coal on the way but we may not get it until next week."

This dealer added, "Please tell Bellingham people to order their coal next summer if they want it for next winter. That could help."

All agreed that the situation is serious and means hardship for a considerable number of people.

NOOKSACK FROZEN

At Ferndale the Nooksack river was frozen over. The temperature there was 2 degrees at 4 a. m.

Wholesale feed dealers in Bellingham said Wednesday so far as they know feed has been delivered to all the farmers in Whatcom county who were out of feed for livestock or chickens.

"It had to be packed in to some over devious routes," said one, "but we got there."