

Eight Inches of New Snow Falls Wednesday Night

Blizzard Conditions Continue in Northern Part of County; Schools Again Closed in City and County

Snow, combining with strong wind to produce blizzard conditions in northeast Whatcom county, provided the latest act in the three-ring weather circus of this area.

While the Sumas area writhed in the grip of another wind and snow storm, Bellingham residential areas lay under some eight inches of the soft white stuff.

City schools, scheduled to reopen Thursday, failed to do

so when the latest weather development cut loose. Campus school, along with Western Washington college, was the exception.

County superintendents decreed another day's postponement, too.

Supt. William A. Fisher said Lynden schools would not open before Monday, labeling the present situation "worse than before."

Blaine, Ferndale, Meridian and Mount Baker districts all subsequently called off Friday classes.

That left Nooksack Valley schools to be heard from. Supt. O. L. Montgomery could not be reached by phone, but it appeared likely that schools in that blizzard-swept area would also be closed.

Temperatures were averaging 15 degrees higher than at comparable periods Wednesday, with a minimum of 15 at the airport during the early morning. It rose to 20 degrees at midmorning.

The prediction was for light snow with the wind still due to come from the northeast. Speed of 20 miles an hour with stronger gusts was forecast.

ROADS BLOCKED BY SNOW

Major highways were open, but even the Pacific highway accommodated one way traffic only in the Ferndale area until plows widened the lane later in the morning.

Roads were drifted over in rural areas but Sumas and Everson, consistently the hardest hit Whatcom county communities, had electric power and telephone communication.

Snowplow operators had most of the county network cleared by Wednesday afternoon, but the heavy snowfall, churned into drifts by winds during the night nullified their efforts, piling up new drifts.

The county engineer, Ralph Knutzen, pointed out, however, it was felt that no severe hardship cases from being snowbound had occurred.

Continued night work by plow crews was scheduled, though permanent opening of roads, it had become obvious, would be dependent on the caprices of nature.

STREET CREWS ACTIVE

City street department crews were scheduled for both day and night work, too, with drifts presenting a

problem on Bellingham streets. All equipment was holding up well and the department was trying to keep up with the situation by going after newly-developing drifts.

Transit routes were all being served except the Twenty-first and Hill section of South State run. City Lines busses not being able to negotiate in that area Thursday morning.

Though North Coast Greyhound, as well as the Great Northern railway, transported passengers on the main route north and south of Bellingham, public transport to county communities was disrupted Thursday morning. That included busses to Ferndale, Lynden, Sumas, Marietta and Deming.

One-way traffic was in effect north of the Lynden cutoff on the Guide Meridian and on Chuckanut Drive, but those roads and others maintained by the state were open Thursday morning. In Skagit county, traffic was open from Sedro Woolley to Concrete. The Cook road, connecting Sedro Woolley with U.S. 99, was open one-way.

All rail schedules originating in Bellingham were being maintained, with some delays. City Agent William J. Thompson said the Milwaukee road expected "no great difficulty" in reaching Sumas and Lynden, because the snow was light. The G.N.'s Puget Sounders were going through after big drifts were removed from the track near Ferndale. The Northern Pacific anticipated no disruptions.

The Nooksack was still blocked with jammed ice Thursday, Wednesday afternoon's dynamiting failing to do more than splinter ice and break up logs. Ice is still piling up, but officials hoped that the Red river runoff route would ease flood danger when the melting starts.

The 29 persons from 11 families who were evacuated from the Indian fishing village at the Nooksack delta just below the jam were still being lodged and fed by the American Red Cross. Since more than five families are involved, the national organization is underwriting the expense, while the local disaster committee, headed by James E. Ashe, continues to stand by for further developments.

Among disaster crew members donating equipment and personal effort from the start of the flood emergency situation was Jack Gardner, 2815 Victor street, operator of an amphibious "duck" (DUKW) which patrolled the area.

Utilities companies sustained no new major outages in the county, although Pacific Telephone Manager G. W. Benedict reported a falling tree had cut off three circuits to East Sound, Orcas island. One circuit was in, however, and linemen were repairing the damage.

No new electrical complications arose, though Puget Power crews were awaiting opening of roads before entering rural areas to restore service at isolated trouble spots. All population concentrations had power.

The school situation threatened to become complicated in county districts where the total number of days' cancellation reached or approached 15, the total allowed by the state for weather, epidemic or other unavoidable emergency. After 15 days the days off must be made up or state support for them is dropped.

In Bellingham, Thursday was the seventh day of postponement, while Silver Beach school had one extra day off and Geneva school had two.

County School Supt. William J. O'Neil had even more on his mind than such matters, however. His wife gave birth to Erin Lea O'Neil, all 7 pounds 4 ounces of her, at 5:38 a. m., Thursday at St. Luke's hospital.

Another maternity case was still pending, that of Mrs. Kenneth Smith, route 2, Ferndale, who was rushed in by state patrol wagon to St. Joseph's after a snow plow hastily cleared the Thornton road Tuesday evening.

Motorists able to get their machines operating these days have received another happy note from the police department. The parking in metered zones will be free for the duration of this cold snap, or until further notice.

This announcement was made

Thursday by Traffic Lieutenant Art Morse, who added that the time limitations will continue to be enforced.

Motorists were asked Thursday by the police department not to have cars parked on downtown streets after 1 o'clock each morning snow is present.

There will be no prosecution, Traffic Lieut. Art Morse said, asking for voluntary co-operation.

The request was made so street crews can clean from curb to curb.

Temperature Data

Hour	Temp.	Wind
12:30 a. m.....	18	N.N.E. 15
1:30	19	N.N.E. 16
2:30	20	N.N.E. 16
3:30	18	N.N.E. 22
4:30	18	N.N.E. 19
5:30	17	N.N.E. 27
6:30	17	N.N.E. 28
7:30	17	N.E. 24
8:30	17	N.E. 28
9:30	16	N.E. 29
10:30	15	N.E. 29
11:30	16	N.E. 25
12:30 p. m.....	17	N.E. 27
1:30 p. m.....	19	N.E. 15

(Gusts strengthened and after 8:30 a. m. were from 11 to 22 miles per hour stronger than steady winds as shown above.)