

Mercury Hits Minus 2 Degrees Here Sunday

1-30-1954

After a frozen week end Bellingham and Whatcom county still had no prospect Monday of warmer weather. The prediction was continued clear and cold.

The mercury hit two degrees below zero at 2:30 Sunday, coldest it has been so far in the city.

During the day the temperature got up to 25 degrees—at 1 p. m. Sunday—but dropped back down degree by degree until it was 13 above at 7:30 p. m. and continued around that for the rest of the night. Monday it was 12 above at 7 a. m., as reported by the C.A.A. station at the airport.

The soil conservation station on McLeod road had a minus 3 degrees during the night and a low 10 above Monday morning. Its high Sunday was 26.

A north-northeast wind began a fresh assault on city and county during the early morning hours Monday and was still going strong by noon. Wind velocity varied from 32 miles just after midnight to 25 an hour later, then variously up to 36 and down to 25, with gusts as high as 46 miles. The wind was battering particularly the Lynden to Sumas area with snow drifting before it.

The warm front that was supposed to come in Sunday moved along the coast instead, and didn't even wave at Bellingham. It brought snow to Tatoosh island, then went on down to Oregon.

County schools were all open

(Please Turn to Page 3 Column 4)

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(From Page One)

Monday morning with the exception of Blaine and Ferndale, where blocked side roads kept the pupils from reporting, and high winds were blowing more snow into them. County Superintendent William O'Neill's office said all schools were expected to operate Tuesday, though Meridian had not been contacted by noon and a high northeast wind was blowing out there.

Schools of the county were closed all last week, and some have been closed variously for more than two and a half weeks.

City schools were in full swing Monday. Superintendent Shangle said no trouble occurred anywhere except at Marietta where some of the roads still are so heavily drifted with snow the school busses could not make the turns, curtailing service on the back roads.

All state-maintained county roads were open Monday. The state highway department loaned its V-plow, (the rotary snow plow) to the county which had it working all day Sunday to dig out some of the most solidly snow-filled county roads. Routine snow plowing was going on all through the county Monday, in the effort to remove the deeper drifts from heretofore impassable roads and keep others clear.

Nooksack river still was frozen down to the Marietta bridge and the ice pack still held, with no thaw having taken place over the week end.

Both the power and telephone companies reported "no further trouble." Pacific Telephone & Telegraph declared itself in good shape, "everything normal," and Puget Sound Power & Light was keeping up its work of trying to reach the most isolated areas where power has been out some time.

The weather bureau Monday issued small craft warnings for the Strait of San Juan de Fuca for continuing east to northeast winds of 25-35 miles per hour for 24 hours (to 6 a. m. Tuesday) and for inland waters north of Whidbey island for north-northeast winds 20-30 miles, expected to reach 35 miles occasionally.