

Blizzards Isolate Vast Areas of Pacific Northwest

The Oregon Statesman

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Wind-Whipped Snow, Slushy Streets Contribute to Auto-Train Wreck in Salem



Slushy streets, wind-whipped snow and poor visibility contributed to an auto-train wreck at 12th and Center streets late Thursday morning, tying up traffic and delaying the train. No apparent injuries were suffered by Mrs. Harold Edsall, driver of a car owned by Adolph LeBlanc, 295 N. 24th st. Mrs. Edsall, a stranger in Salem staying with the LeBlancs, was proceeding west on Center st. and did not see the train, Southern Pacific's northbound train No. 12, until the impact of the fronts of the car and the diesel locomotive. The car was spun around and crashed into the crossing wig-wag signal standard. Force of the train's stop snapped a knuckle of a coupling between two passenger cars which delayed the train for nearly an hour. Time of the accident was 11:18 a.m. First aid crews and city police were called to the scene, left above. At right, Mrs. Edsall is shown as she still sat at the wheel of the 1937 Ford sedan, giving details to train conductor J. B. Cobb, Portland. Later reports indicated that Mrs. Edsall may have a back injury. Engineer of the train was W. C. Kirk. (Photos by Don Dill, Statesman staff photographer.)

Storm Fronts Rush Together; Five Deaths Credited to Gale

Snow, whipped by near record winds, spread damage, death and confusion across the northwest Friday and though the storm had not spent its full fury many areas were virtually isolated by Friday night.

It was a full scale blizzard which swept southwest over Oregon Friday and the U. S. weather bureau took the almost unprecedented step of issuing a livestock and blizzard warning. In Salem snow flurries continued Friday night.

Two storm fronts, one idling along a line roughly coinciding with the Columbia river and the other pushing in from the southwest tangled over Oregon Friday. The net result was a headlong rush of both fronts toward the southeast. With the rush were winds which touched as high as 80 miles an hour—and snow.

By nightfall Friday mountain passes throughout the state were closed by piling snow. North and South Santiam, Willamette, Siskiyou, mountain, Siskiyou and Greenspring passes were blocked along with the Columbia highway, Sunset highway and Wilson routes.

Telegraph, telephone and electric lines caught the full fury of Friday's wind and snow and crews throughout the area were battling to resume services and hoping new storm threats would not arise.

Offers Little Hope And the weatherman offered little solace to the snow covered northwest. Colder temperatures moved in on the heels of the racing front and snow continued to fall on frozen highways and fields. The forecast for today and tonight was lower temperatures and more snow.

Five deaths were attributed to the storm and highway conditions. A woman and her two children drowned near Kalama, Wash., in Cowlitz county, when their automobile went off the snow-covered highway and rolled over into a pond. They were Charlotte Warner, 20, and her year-old daughter and two-year-old son.

Rescue Falls The father, Cpl. Walter Warner was driving them in a borrowed car from their Titusville, Pa., home to his station at Fort Worden, Wash. Warner's desperate effort to rescue them failed. He was under treatment for a frost-bitten foot.

Several miles away, at Longview, Wash., William S. Hayes, 45, a crane man, was electrocuted. In a driving snowstorm, he climbed to the top of the crane to repair a frozen collector, a sort of trolley wheel feeding power to the crane. He was killed by the live wire and was hauled to the hospital.

An accident on the Lake Washington floating bridge outside Seattle brought the fifth death. The victim was Bert C. Heath, 40, of Seattle. He was tossed into the lake in a crash of skidding vehicles.

The mercury stood at 2 below, it was snowing hard and there was a 40-mile an hour wind at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. All roads in that area were closed by 7 p.m. last night to everything but emergency traffic.

Can't Get Worse Wilbur F. Egger, Spokane county highway supervisor whose crews have been fighting to keep roads open, summed up the situation.

"I don't see how things could get much worse," he reported. On Vashon Island, in Puget Sound, a store building and a beach cottage near the ferry dock fell into the water under the pounding of the waves.

Two Cashon-Fauntleroy ferries were unable to land at either dock and sought refuge on the sheltered side of Blake Island, near Vashon. Passengers landed and the two ferries with their crews pulled out for their Blake Island shelter.

Wind Raises Haves The wind also raised havoc in Tacoma's harbor. The big waves broke logs loose from a boom and used them as menacing hammers along the shoreline between the city and the Tacoma smelter. One 12-unit apartment house was vacated during the storm because the logs were hammering dangerously at the piling under the structure.

Between 100 and 200 cars were stranded on Longview-Kelso streets in 18 to 24 inches of wind-piled snow. Taxicabs quit operating.

The cold wave from the north and the howling gale from the southwest collided over Portland and battled several hours for control of the city. The cold front early took control in northeast Portland, plummeting temperatures to 15 degrees and piling up a foot of snow in a blizzard at the Portland airport. The southwest sector meantime had thawing temperatures and some rain.

Cold Wins Out By nightfall the cold gradually won and ice spread slowly over even the southwest portion.

The blizzard raged on east of the city, stalling a Greyhound bus and seven automobiles on the Columbia river highway, five miles east of Corbett. All were rescued. Nearly all routes out of Portland were blocked. An estimated 500 cars were stalled just east of Portland, but all passengers made it to shelter.

More Than One Foot in the Door You have more than one foot in the door when you advertise in the Oregon Statesman classified section, you have a place at the breakfast table of thousands of mid-Willamette valley homes.

The following 3-line ad brought the right buyer to the right home the first time it appeared in the Statesman columns.

BY OWNER: 4 B.R. home Manbrin Gardens. Reduced to \$2200. Ph. ... or see at ... Wayne Dr.

Use the Statesman classified columns when you want to buy or sell. Dial 2-2441

Bike Auction Slated Today A public auction of 26 unclaimed bicycles is scheduled at 10 o'clock this morning in the municipal shops at 13th and Ferry streets.

The bicycles were picked up by city police and held at least 60 days. No owners have claimed them. Sale of unclaimed property was authorized recently by a new city ordinance.

False Accident Report Results In Real Wreck Eddie's ambulance of Salem went out on an accident call Friday night and ended up in one.

The collision at Fairgrounds road and North Callit street, involved the ambulance with an auto driven by Mildred J. Becker, 3770 Pleasant View dr.

The rear fender of the ambulance was smashed but the vehicle could be used in an emergency, owner Eddie Barrett said.

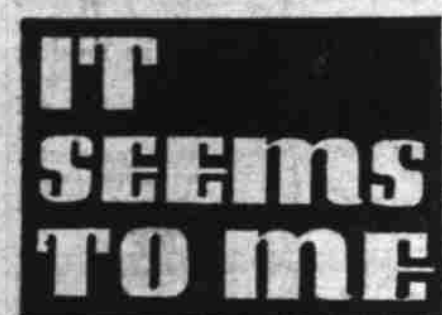
Incidentally, the "accident report" Eddie was answering turned out to be a false alarm.

Fifty Cars in Giant Wreck TACOMA, Jan. 13 (-P)- A long string of cars were slowly grinding up Tacoma's long, steep and snow-covered Pacific Avenue hill about noon today.

The lead automobile went into a spin, careened into the car behind. Within a few moments some 50 automobiles were jammed together in a great mass of mashed fenders.

It took several hours to peel the cars away from the jumble.

State to Dicker on Apartment Site Purchase



This is ideal indoor weather. Outside the weather is foul, "not fit for man or beast". The wind howls around the corner of the house and drives the snow slantwise across the window. Cars slide or sash along eager to get under cover.

In former times on days like this the menfolk would gather around the pot-bellied stove in the rear of the town store and weigh the fate of the nation. Many a powerful argument was voiced—after a preliminary discharge of tobacco juice in the direction of the stove door or the sawdust-filled box that served as gobstone in the old days.

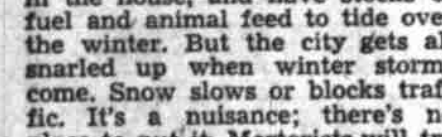
And in the country on days like this once the stock was watered and fed of a morning the farmer relaxed on the comforter-covered bunk behind the kitchen stove, read the accumulation of papers and magazines, studied the mail order catalog or just snoozed while between meals. No weather digging postholes or even for cilling the harness.

Country folk seem better braced for a storm than city folk. They are forehanded. They have more than a day's supply of food in the house, and have stocks of fuel and animal feed to tide over the winter. But the city gets all snarled up when winter storms come. Snow slows or blocks traffic. It's a nuisance; there's no place to put it. Motorists will try to drive on icy streets without chains and they get into trouble. Business plummets while the storm lasts. Those free to travel regret they didn't get away to the southland.

There is beauty in the storm, that's true, the sweep of the wind, the whirl of the snow, the low, leaden sky out of which the snowflakes spill.

There is nothing to do but stay indoors and let the storm blow itself out. This is the season for ice and snow and cold; so we may as well enjoy it as best we can. The poet says: "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" Well, sometimes in this country it can be.

Animal Crackers By WARREN GOODRICH



"Oh, shut up! You've got a mate!"

Blind School Building Due; Welfare Fund Hiked

A motion to negotiate with Robert Coates, Portland builder, for purchase of a lot in the proposed extended capitol zone, was voted unanimously by members of the state emergency board, meeting in Salem Friday.

The action by the board for purchase of a lot on which Coates has proposed construction of a \$300,000 apartment house, came in the face of an opinion by Attorney General George Neuner ruling that neither the emergency board or board of control held authority to purchase property without sanction of the legislature.

In a joint meeting the emergency board and state board of control also took the following action:

1. Approved expenditure of \$300,000 to replace a classroom building at the state school for the blind in Salem.

2. Approved budget increase of \$15,700,000 to the state unemployment compensation commission to pay unemployment benefits.

3. Approved budget increase of \$4,175,000 for the state public welfare commission.

4. Deferred action on a request to spend \$115,000 for an addition to the nurses home at Eastern Oregon state hospital at Pendleton.

The opinion applied both to the apartment house site on North Summer street and the entire four-block area north of Center, between Capitol and Winter.

Sen. William Walsh, emergency board chairman, said he felt the board was justified in working out some plan of paying a reasonable price for the Coates lot. He emphasized he did not think the cost should include architect fees and other incidental expenses.

Neuner, in his opinion to the board of control and emergency board, said definitely that neither had authority to purchase the four-block area or pay Coates \$31,000 which he said he has invested.

Additional details on page 2.

Clark Found Innocent in Morals Case

Don Clark, Salem taxi operator, was found innocent of a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a 14-year-old girl Friday by a Marion county circuit court jury.

Clark said he expected to ask the city council for renewal of his license to operate Capitol Cab company, with five cabs. In discussing the local taxi companies following a recent hearing, councilmen had decided to await the court's verdict before acting on Clark's permit.

The jury, divided ten for innocent and two for guilty, deliberated approximately two hours before returning its verdict early Friday afternoon.

Members of the jury were Henry Zorn, foreman, David F. Bates, Helen T. Kleihege, Cora P. Geer, Frank E. Logan, Sam Weese, D. B. DuRette, Anna M. Davis, Mary Dalke and Leare E. Humm, all of whom supported the verdict, and Henry Humpert and Thelma Scharf, who did not agree.

Agreement of 10 persons on the jury is required for verdict in such a case.

Clark was the only one who went to trial of 14 men similarly charged as involved with the girl. After being charged with statutory rape, the other 13 pleaded guilty to reduced charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and were sentenced.

Government To Give Away Surplus Food

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (-P)-The agricultural department is setting up machinery for giving away government stocks of surplus perishable farm products.

The products can be given to federal agencies, public and private relief agencies in this country and foreign relief organizations.

Handling the give-away job will be the department's far-flung production and marketing administration under the terms of the 1949 farm act which went into effect January 1. That act authorized donation of government surpluses when they can no longer be held without going to waste.

The department has more than \$3,500,000,000 invested in surpluses under farm price support programs.

Commodities held by the department which might fall in the give-away class include: potatoes, dried eggs, dried milk and butter.

The law sets up a priority list in making donations. Top priority is given the munitions board and other government agencies for production of materials not produced in this country.

Next in line are the federal, state and local public welfare agencies, and private welfare agencies operating in this country and its territories, in that order.

Last on the list are private welfare agencies assisting the needy abroad.

Agencies receiving surpluses must make sure that the products will not get back into regular channels of trade to compete with price support operations. Also the agencies must not reduce their expenditures for food as a result of the donations.

Man; Marion County Judge Grant Murphy and Salem's Mayor R. L. Eifstrom; City School Superintendent Frank Bennett and Agnes Booth, Marion county superintendent; and Mrs. David Wright, president of the Marion county chapter of the National Infantile Paralysis Foundation.

A highlight of the session will be the appearance of three-year-old Jan Lynn Branch, Salem's poster girl, herself a polio victim.

A dimes contest between Boy Scout troop 8 and Girl Scout troop 65 will be held this morning, each group trying to collect the most dimes from spectators.

Music will be furnished by the Willamette university band. The program originally was scheduled to be held on the Marion county courthouse lawn but winter storms forced a change of plans.

Threat to Fair Deal Seen in Move to Revive Powers of House Committee

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (-P)-A surprise move which could wreck much of the Truman fair deal program in this session of congress was started today in the house rules committee.

Informed congressmen believed tonight the move had a good chance to succeed.

Southern democrats and republicans teamed up to force through a motion 9 to 2 asking the house to restore the committee's old power to bottle up bills.

Working together, such a coalition thus would have life and death power over large portions of President Truman's legislative program.

There was reported to be a great deal of sentiment in the house favoring a return of the committee's power which was sworn away last January. The existing rule, permitting chairmen of other committees to by-pass the rules group and bring legislation to the house floor, reportedly was adopted for the very purpose of keeping the Truman program from being blocked.

Rayburn Worried House Speaker Rayburn of Texas, administration leader, appeared glum over today's sudden turn of events but declined comment.

The committee's chairman, Sabath (D-Ill) said he assumed the change would go through "if the coalition of republicans and southern democrats prevails."

At 11 o'clock this morning the first pre-campaign rally ever held in Marion county will get underway in the Salem armory with Gov. Douglas McKay as the principal speaker.

Howard Ragan, Marion county campaign chairman, hopes today's rally will help boost the 1950 drive against polio, which officially opens Monday, to a successful conclusion January 31.

This morning's program will open with Mrs. Edith Gunnar singing the star-spangled banner and the raising of the American flag by a color guard from Salem's C battery, 4th 105mm howitzer battalion, of the marine corps reserve.

Other speakers on the program will include: Dr. E. T. Hedlund of Portland, state campaign chair-

man; Marion County Judge Grant Murphy and Salem's Mayor R. L. Eifstrom; City School Superintendent Frank Bennett and Agnes Booth, Marion county superintendent; and Mrs. David Wright, president of the Marion county chapter of the National Infantile Paralysis Foundation.

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THE WEATHER

	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	46	30	.69
Portland	38	27	.37
San Francisco	48	33	.17
Chicago	51	38	1.36
New York	48	33	—
Willamette river	6.9	feet.	—

FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Mostly cloudy today and tonight with wind and snow flurries. High today near 34. Low tonight near 22.

SALEM PRECIPITATION
This Year 21.22 Last Year 21.86 Normal 16.53