

Hundreds of Motorists Stranded as Vicious Storm Dumps Snow Blanket Over Southwest

By UNITED PRESS

The most vicious storm of the winter clawed across the nation today.

It trapped hundreds of motorists in Oklahoma and Texas snowdrifts, sparked a 36000-acre forest fire in California, spawned tornadoes in Dixie, laid a slippery sheath of ice and sleet across the Midwest, and dumped a foot of snow on New England.

The storm hit the Southwest as a blizzard, spreading 17 inches of snow on the level at some sections such as Fort Scott, Kan.

The snow was still falling.

Highways Clogged

Raging winds piled the snow into deep drifts that clogged highways in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and portions of Missouri.

Three hundred motorists were stranded in a stretch of only 23 miles from Vernon to Electra, Tex.

Rescue trains and National Guard tanks fought to get through to them with gasoline and food. All roads throughout southwestern, central and northeastern Oklahoma were blocked by 6 a.m.

Highways officials in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio warned that the storm was racing northeasterly toward New England, making roads hazardous with an overlay of glare ice.

The snow in the Southwest

was described as "the heaviest in a dozen years."

Heavy Rain Falls

The blanket of snow gave at least temporary protection to powder dry soil which could breed another dust bowl next spring unless heavier than usual precipitation moistens the Great Plains.

In the south, the storm brought heavy rains of 1.88 inches at Jackson, Miss., 1.93 at Nashville, Tenn., and 2.04 inches at Chattanooga, Tenn.

Even as far northeastward as Rochester, N.Y., the storm was felt in the form of .53 inches of rain.

At Chicago, the Weather Bu-

Eugene Council OKs City Hall Site Plans

Eugene — (U.P.) — The Eugene City Council has approved plans to purchase a site for a new city hall to be located just north of the Lane county courthouse.

The council adopted a report advising that the site be purchased but that construction be delayed until a period of lower taxes.

The site would place city hall in a proposed civic center group, including a county building, Eugene city library, and possibly, state and federal buildings.

Medford High Band To Leave Thursday For San Francisco

The 85 students who make up the Medford High school band will leave here at midnight Thursday for San Francisco to take part in activities connected with the Shrine East-West football game, it was announced today.

The band, which will travel in three chartered buses, is slated to return to Medford at about midnight Jan. 2.

Name Chaperones

Accompanying the students will be I. A. Mirick, band director; John E. Drysdale, high school orchestra conductor, and Mrs. Drysdale; Mrs. Virginia Westerfield, assistant to the band instructor; Miss Jo Kirtley, vice-principal; Al Huntman, junior high school band director;

reau issued a warning of heavy snow, sleet and rain for the metropolitan area with two to five inches of slush expected in the city and heavier snow in the suburbs. High winds and plummeting temperatures were predicted for this afternoon.

Tornado Injures 20 Persons

A tornado injured 20 persons and caused \$100,000 damage at Laurel, Miss., and the mercury went to 36 below in Colorado.

The weather was the coldest for the date at Los Angeles, with 36 above, but, ironically, the mercury cracked a Dec. 28 record for warmth at New York.

In West Texas and Oklahoma, blanketed with from four to six inches of snow, state police said they could not estimate how many hundreds of motorists were stranded on the highways.

At Vernon, Tex., Police Chief Jerry T. Looper estimated from 150 to 200 automobiles, containing 300 or more persons, were marooned among drifting snowbanks on U. S. 287.

Gale Winds Dying Down

At Oklahoma City meanwhile, State Police Trooper Richard Duvivant said "We've got cars piled up everywhere. You can't imagine how many people are stranded in them."

In Southern California gale force winds which had fanned

a forest fire over 3000 acres of brush and timber in the San Bernardino Mountains were dying, but the blaze was still out of control.

Nearly 800 firefighters matched their endurance against the fire and a U. S. forestry spokesman said its "main spread" had been halted.

Medford Squadron Of CAP Conducts Annual Yule Party

The Medford squadron of Civil Air patrol had its annual Christmas party Monday at the CAP building at the Medford airport.

The cadet staff was host to the entire squadron, senior and cadet members, their families and friends. The group was particularly appreciative of the work done on the furnace by senior members, Bette Miller, Donald Wilson, and Marion Chancellor prior to the party.

The cadet staff furnished the decorations, the refreshments and entertainment for the group of 50 guests.

Former CAP members now in the military service recently home on leave visited the Medford squadron over the holidays. Included in the group were Douglas Thompson, Albert Eaton, and Lloyd Fogelquist.

A roller skating party is planned for Wednesday, Dec. 29, with the group leaving the CAP building at the Medford airport at 6:30 p.m. sharp. The airport will visit the skating rink in Grants Pass in a group, and those having or desiring transportation are urged to meet at the CAP building on time.

Pope Working on Christmas Message

Vatican City — (U.P.) — Pope Pius XII, showing signs of slow but steady improvement, spent this morning putting the final touches on his 4000 word Christmas message which is to be issued later this week.

Msr. Angelo Dellacqua, deputy secretary of state, read the final text of the speech to the pontiff in the papal library today and then rushed it to the Vatican printing plant to be translated into 26 languages and broadcast throughout the world.

It was not known yet whether the speech would be read by the Pope. It is expected, however, that a part of it, including the apostolic benediction to the city and the world will be delivered by the pontiff.

The Pope received his doctor, Prof. Riccardo Galeazzi-Lisi, who later told newsmen his patient showed "definite signs of improvement" following a blood transfusion yesterday. He said the transfusion was part of the "regular cure" prescribed by specialists.

Godfrey Discharges Producer of Show

New York — (U.P.) — Arthur Godfrey fired producer Larry Puck from his Wednesday night television show yesterday, reportedly because Puck had become engaged to Marion Marlowe a singing star of the show.

Godfrey simply told a staff meeting that he would produce the Wednesday night "Arthur Godfrey and Friends" show himself. Puck apparently is still producer of Godfrey's Monday night "Talent Scouts" show.

Puck, some 30 years older than the 25-year-old auburn-haired singer, was on vacation. His office confirmed the "firing" but said it knew nothing of his engagement.

Miss Marlowe was reported to be wearing a six and one-half carat diamond Christmas present from the producer.

Jack Frost Locked In Cooler To Thaw Out

Denver — (U.P.) — Jack Frost, 20, was sentenced to two to 10 years in prison Tuesday "to thaw out" by District Judge Edward C. Day on bad check charges.

Judge Day directed his sentence be served concurrently with a similar sentence Frost received earlier and warned "if you don't take advantage of this, we'll thaw you out but good."



TRAPPED—Mrs. Julia Miller, 47, of Cambridge, Mass., is shown trapped in an upside-down car shortly after the car, driven by her husband, went out of control, rolled over several times and smashed a plate glass window of a nearby shop. Mrs. Miller suffered only minor scalp lacerations. Her husband was thrown clear of the car as it was turning over.

4 College Students Tell of University Life for Rotarians

Four Medford students now attending northwest colleges gave members of the Medford Rotary club a verbal picture of university life as a feature of Tuesday's luncheon meeting of that organization.

Marty Johnson, Gary Gustafson, Don Denman and Don West participated in the panel at the Jackson hotel, with Robert Jones, Rotary program chairman, introducing them.

A total of 14 years is now needed to complete a course in medicine, including mandatory Army service and final residency training, Johnson told Rotarians. Johnson told "Education Unlimited," the second year student at the University of Oregon medical school pointed out that scientific discoveries in the past half-century make it impossible for man today to master all knowledge, and make higher education increasingly essential to progress and individual success.

Proselyting Described

Because southern schools of the Pacific Coast conference have more money, more alumni and more available talent, incidents of proselyting are more numerous in that area, Don Denman of Oregon State college said. Athletes generally maintain good scholastic averages at OSC, but due to demands of athletics upon their time, extra tutoring is often necessary.

Higher education broadens character, outlook and knowledge, and opens the doors to better job opportunities, Don, winner of the Rotary club's scholarship, pointed out. Medford ranks high in the number of scholarships awarded young men and women, he said.

'Chuck' Jones Heads MOD Special Events

Charles E. (Chuck) Jones, Medford agent for Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, has been named special events chairman for the January March of Dimes campaign, it was announced today by Thomas Reeder, Medford chairman.

Jones will be responsible for the many special events staged annually to raise funds to continue the fight against infantile paralysis.

Persons or organizations planning special events may contact Jones for assistance. His address is 25 Summit ave. and his telephone number is 2-9772.

Residents have been asked to place their old Christmas trees in their front yard Sunday, with a contribution to the March of Dimes affixed in a sealed envelope. The trees will be picked up Sunday afternoon and at a public gathering at Camp White Sunday at 7:30 p.m. The project is sponsored by Medford Lodge 178, Loyal Order of Moose.

Eugene-Springfield Airport Proposed

Springfield, Ore. — (U.P.) — Proposal for a joint Eugene-Springfield airport on the banks of the Willamette river between the two towns was presented to the Springfield city council by a group of private fliers.

Eugene is served commercially by Sweet Field and has two other private fields left after voters decided to abandon Eugene Air Park Nov. 2.

Mayor Edward C. Harms Jr., authorized a committee to study the proposal.

Rancher Awaiting Grand Jury Action

The Dalles — (U.P.) — A 39-year-old Mosier rancher was being held in Wasco county jail today awaiting grand jury action on a manslaughter charge filed against him in the fatal shooting of Charles Eaton, 29, a Portland commercial artist.

Joseph Ferguson, a close friend of Eaton's, confessed to police that he shot the Portland advertising artist through the head with a .30-caliber rifle while the two were hunting near Mosier Sunday. He said he saw "something moving" in the thick brush and fired.

At a preliminary hearing yesterday before acting Justice of the Peace Leslie Martin, Ferguson made no statement.

Earlier Sunday, Ferguson reported Eaton missing and a search as started for the Portlander. His body was found early Monday and later that day, under police questioning, Ferguson confessed he had fired the fatal shot.

Funeral services for Eaton will be held in Portland tomorrow.

Stromboli Volcano Erupts in Italy

Stromboli, Italy — (U.P.) — The volcano of Stromboli erupted today in a roaring spout of flaming ash that scattered islanders only just recovering from a series of earthquake shocks.

Mount Etna on Sicily also spouted a plume of smoke today in fiery testimony to wide underground upheavals in Southern Italy.

The Stromboli volcano started spouting lava from all three craters early this morning. But the lava coursed safely down the well-worn "valley of fire" and pinged sizzling into the sea without causing casualties or damage.

Stromboli was one of half a dozen islands in the volcanic Lipari group off the north coast of Sicily which has been rocked by intermittent earthquakes for more than a week.

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In the January Ladies' Home Journal. Out today — on all newsstands.

Al Lehl, vocal music instructor, and Keith Mirick.

Dr. Charles Lemery will act as band doctor for the trip.

Agenda Told

Included in the band's agenda is a New Year's Eve party at the Whitcomb hotel, where the band will be staying; a concert at the Shrine hospital for crippled children; performance at the halftime ceremonies at the East-West game; ferry boat trip and excursion to Playland, visit to Planetarium, with possible trips to Fishermen's Wharf and Fleishacker zoo.

Information concerning the approximate time of the band's arrival in Medford will be telephoned to local radio stations from Redding, Calif.

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