

Climbing Mercury Eases Snow Burden in Dixie, Middle West

By United Press International
Light snow drifting lazily across the Great Lakes and north Atlantic states provided fresh topping for the white Christmas which prevailed in much of the nation, but rising temperatures made the sledding difficult in Dixie and the Midwest.

A 90-minute flurry Christmas Eve added to New York's 6-inch snow blanket and 1,700 men continued their toil to clear away the drifts in the nation's largest city.

Roads reopened in west Tennessee, where the century's heaviest snowfall was followed by one of the century's coldest temperatures Christmas Eve. The mercury was expected to climb to 40 today.

However, the Mississippi River remained ice clogged, slowing barge traffic. Five weather deaths were reported in the area.

Des Moines, Iowa, authorities ordered skating rinks closed because of the warmth.

Indiana got its first above normal temperatures this month.

The coldest area of the nation was the intermountain area of Utah and Idaho. The temperature dipped to 5 below zero at Idaho Falls and Malad City, Idaho, today and to 8 degrees above zero at Salt Lake City.

The temperature leaped as much as 30 degrees in the Midwest, which has been locked in a frigid icebox most of the past two weeks. The mercury rose in Texas from the freezing marks of the past two nights to near the 50 mark.

However, cold air filtered down the peninsula of Florida and brought freezing temperatures and frost to the northern and central portions of the state.

Although warm weather re-

turned to much of the South after one of the worst winter storms of the century, Memphis, Tenn., was one of the cold spots of the nation Christmas Eve.

It was 13 below — the coldest of all times recorded in Memphis — and there were 14 inches of snow on the ground — the most since 1892. The Metropolitan Airport had not yet opened Christmas Eve after being closed since Sunday.

The intense storm had glazed roads throughout the South and made generally miserable conditions for persons used to much more gentle weather. The South counted 60 weather-attributed deaths.

New England with bright sun and warming temperatures emerged Tuesday from the six-inch snowfall. In New York, a swirling flurry on Christmas Eve had all the appearances of being another storm, but it disappeared after 90 minutes.

In terms of statistics, the temperatures on Christmas Eve ranged from 14 below at the Memphis Naval Air Station to 74 at Yuma, Ariz., and Thermal, Calif.



AIRPORT RENAMED—Snow covers an almost deserted parking lot at the New York airport, formerly named Idlewild, which has been re-named John F. Kennedy International Airport in memory of the late President. Tracks in the snow are from vehicles backing in and out. (UPI)

First Family and Relatives Observe Christmas at Texas Home

JOHNSON CITY, Tex. (UPI)—President Johnson and a host of relatives today celebrated Christmas ranch-style around a big home-cut tree.

The President returned home Tuesday for the first time since taking office. It had been an arduous day tinged with sadness. He had attended the funeral of Rep. William J. Green Jr., D-Pa., in Philadelphia and visited wounded Texas Gov. John Connally at Austin.

"I've only been here an hour," he said, "and I feel better already."

There was the possibility of a Christmas day deer hunt, but leisurely visits with friends and relatives came first.

A colorful Christmas tree banked with gifts was set up in the Chief Executive's office off the living room of his ranch

home near here. LBJ ranchhands cut the five-foot cedar tree on Johnson's land.

Favorite Uncle Attends

A large family dinner was planned during the afternoon with roast turkey as the chief attraction. The assembled relatives included one of Johnson's favorites, his 80-year-old uncle, Huffman Baines, a retired telephone company engineer.

The President hoped to withstand the temptation of too many high calorie Christmas treats. He now weighs 204 pounds which he regards as just about right for a man of his large frame of six feet, three inches.

He has been swimming twice a day at the White House—in the morning and evening—but he came to Texas Tuesday not particularly fatigued, but feeling

the need for more exercise, more getting out-of-doors and tramping over the countryside.

Being on home soil had a quick and beneficial effect. The President went deer hunting on the ranch of an old friend, A.W. Moursund, not long after arriving in Texas Tuesday afternoon.

Deer Cross Range

Johnson bagged no deer although he saw them by the dozen loping across the broad ranges of the Moursund ranch. Johnson, his wife Lady Bird and their younger daughter, Lucy, 16, arrived in mid-afternoon at Bergstrom Air Force Base outside Austin. With them were a number of Texas congressmen bound for their homes.

The President arranged cars for the entire party and instead of leaving for the LBJ ranch by

helicopter, the group motored to the state's executive mansion for the visit with Connally. The governor still is recovering from the serious gun wound he received Nov. 22 while riding with President Kennedy when he was assassinated in Dallas.

Japanese Firm To Make Small Color TV

TOKYO (UPI)—The Mitsubishi Electric Co. announced today it will manufacture a color television set with a six-inch picture tube to sell for \$250.

The product will be marketed next May.

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

CASABLANCA, Morocco—Albert Neal Spiller, rescued from the blazing liner Lakonia, describing the last frantic minutes on board: "The crew appeared to be the panicky ones. Many passengers had no lifebelts. The fire alarm bell was so weak that it sounded like someone calling the waiter to ask for tea."

HOUSTON—Police Lt. Harry Caldwell, after receiving one of many calls offering aid to Mrs. Damiana Beltran and her 12 children following the death of breadwinner Frederico Beltran: "It makes you feel good to live in this town."

VATICAN CITY—Pope Paul VI, at the first of three Christmas Masses, addressing the diplomats of the world: "Is not your mission perhaps that of working to knock down walls which divide peoples, to announce peace to those near and far away?"

WEED, Calif.—Frank A. McMillan, San Francisco businessman, discussing this little town where an auto accident killed his wife and two of his three children 14 years ago: "I think the kindness the townspeople showed as . . . helped my little girl recover. So every year I send a shipment of a couple of hundred toys as a little token and to let them know I remember."

Latin American Study Force Set Up By GOP

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A Republican task force headed by Rep. William C. Cramer, R-Fla., has been set up to study U.S.-Latin American relationships.

Formation of the House group was announced Tuesday by Rep. John R. Rhodes, R-Ariz., chairman of the special projects subcommittee of the House GOP Policy Committee.

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