

Jan. 2, 1950
**Mercury Drops
To 4 Degrees;
Wind 64 Miles**

**Plane Damage Will
Total \$27,000;
Schools to Operate**

Wind that brought the first day of 1950 in with a howl gathered momentum Sunday afternoon and evening, reached 45 miles an hour with gusts up to 64 in the early hours Monday and tipped over five airplanes at Bellingham airport. It set one down on top another.

Snow, starting at 1 a. m. Sunday, reached a depth of 4 inches at 4 p. m. and remained. Mercury began dropping at 2 p. m., when it registered 18, reached 12 degrees at midnight and stood at 4 degrees above zero at 7 a. m. Monday. By 9:30 a. m., it had climbed 2.7 degrees.

January 1 presented city and county with the whirling snow storm, ice-coated roads and streets, a minimum of fires and accidents and one new citizen—a New Year's baby. Schools plan to operate Tuesday.

Distinction of being the first and only baby born in Bellingham New Year's day fell to Larry Glenn Barnard, born to Mr. and Mrs. LaVerne Barnard, Neptune Beach, at 12:15 a. m., just 15 minutes after 1950 arrived, at St. Luke's hospital.

After setting his little bundle down the stork flew away on ice-tipped wings and made no further appearance. By Monday morning Larry, who weighed in at 7 pounds and 2 ounces, still had no competition.

Bellingham's giant Christmas tree withstood the storm in fine shape, its lights and cross remaining unharmed and glowing. No attempt was made to take it down Monday.

ABOUT \$27,000 DAMAGE

Three Republic Seabees, worth some \$8,000 apiece, were written off by observers as total losses. One owned by Bellingham Air Service came to rest upside down atop another owned by Cornelius Roof, Anacortes American publisher, in a freakish twist.

The third Seabee, a costly amphibian type of personal plane, was owned by Caribou Skies, Herb Ambrosius, pilot. It was blown some 200 yards from its mooring area, winding up upside down in a drainage ditch. It was uninsured.

The other two planes were smaller, two-place models. One, an Interstate owned by B. L. Hersey, was blown over on its back, while a fifth plane, a Taylorcraft owned by Bill Lang of Sumas, also was badly damaged.

Total estimated damage was about \$27,000.

About 20 other planes were tightly lashed and were not damaged.

In addition, a larger two-engine plane was blown into a small craft, but damage was slight.

Manager Don Bell found little damage to airport installations on a quick trip early Monday, though wind continued strong throughout the morning. Doors in one hangar were broken.

RUNWAYS CLEAR

Runways at the airport were blown clear of snow by 9 a. m. Monday, though ice remained on them. A West Coast Airline plane made its scheduled arrival and departure about 1 a. m., but United wasn't sure its planes would be in, since its communication system was out.

Puget Sound Power & Light company reported trouble in the Ferndale and Lynden districts, in

isolated sections, but no high voltage disruption. In Bellingham the Meridian district had power off for a while Sunday afternoon, due to failure of a high transmission line. Service was restored with power from another source.

Power was still off Monday morning at the Meridian high school, and construction work on the grade school made it hard to heat the school buildings, so that the Meridian schools were not able to open as had been planned. Superintendent Roy Harris said he hoped to get things going Tuesday.

O. L. Montgomery, superintendent of the Nooksack Valley schools, said a strong northeaster was blowing Monday morning across the Sumas plains, and the temperature there was 10 above zero. He said he expected his schools to open Tuesday morning, if no further weather complications occur.

Superintendents in other school districts were of the same opinion, adding, "If busses can get through."

City schools are to open Tuesday.

FEW ACCIDENTS

Traffic was so restricted by weather conditions that the state patrol had few mishaps to investigate over Sunday. About 10 a. m., however, a car driven by Fred E. Weirough, of 310 East Champion street, slid out of control and smashed into a parked car belonging to Mattie F. Sturtz, of rouse 4.

The accident occurred about a mile west of Agate Bay, causing about \$700 damage, mostly to Weirough's car, patrolmen said. No ticket was issued, and no one was reported injured.

Officers said most motorists wisely remained inactive Sunday.

City police were checking Monday morning to find the driver who left the scene after knocking over a fire hydrant in the 2800 block of Cottonwood avenue.

Firemen were having anything but a "Happy New Year" Monday as they worked frantically to keep up with fire calls during the morning.

A long, cold job developed out of a call from 730 Garden street, where a chimney fire apparently became stubborn, and threatened the home of Robert Heily. While firemen were still on the scene, an alarm came from 1128 Nineteenth street, the home of C. Armstrong, where firemen said thawing operations reportedly started a blaze which resulted in slight damage.

Meanwhile, a call came in from 1111 Underhill street, and turned out to be a "smoke scare" on the firemen's report, but also the number and nature of the calls led to off-duty men being sought.

At 10:38 a. m., a house fire was reported at 315 Carolina street. Firemen were still at the scene over an hour later.

Firemen had the most difficult holiday of those who were on duty Sunday.

HOME DAMAGED

A blaze of uncertain origin severely damaged the home of Dick Kink, 1102 Donovan avenue, about 9:30 a. m. Firemen said the fire gutted a bedroom, then flashed through the lower floor of the home, also damaging a wall and reaching into the attic. No one was hurt in the blaze, the origin of which firemen were still checking Monday. No monetary estimate of the loss could be made immediately.

A backfiring furnace at Shafer's bakery, State and James street, did not cause damage when it brought firemen out around 1:30 a. m. on New Year's day.

A 1940 model automobile belonging to G. H. Brown was extensively damaged just after midnight, when the new year was a few minutes old, in the 200 block of North Commercial street. Firemen did not report the cause of the car fire.

At 3:13 a. m., firemen again made a cold run, to 2401 James street, where a chimney fire was extinguished without damage.

At 9:31 p. m., another chimney fire occurred at 707 York street, no damage resulting.

MINOR PHONE TROUBLES

The troubles of Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company were minor compared to last Thursday, only 15 to 18 stations being out at mid-morning. The bitter weather was slowing repairs.

No long lines were in trouble in this territory, Wire Chief Louis Bratz reported, and the scattered trouble on the Canadian side was not disrupting phone traffic to Vancouver and other British Columbia points.

The change in direction of the wind and its strength were blamed for the local troubles, with other wires being broken due to contraction caused by extreme cold.

Communications generally were in good shape, however.

ROADS OPEN

District highway superintendent Everett Baxter was in his office Monday, checking on state roads in the county. He reported all road open, though compact snow and ic covers most of them. Roads in the Lynden and Sumas sections, however, were blown clear of snow.

Baxter said the road to Moun

Baker was open and in good shape and no motorists were in trouble anywhere. He reported Mount Baker as having 12 inches of new snow on the Sunday morning measuring with a total of 120 inches in all.

Temperature at Mount Baker lodge stood at 2 degrees above zero Monday morning. Skiing Sunday at Mount Baker was excellent, he said, with a good crowd.

Householder faced the discomfort of frozen water pipes and clogged oil lines to their heating plants in considerable number, and plumbers were busy Sunday at Mount Baker on emergency calls.