

Ol' Man Winter makes howling good comeback

By Diane Gale
staff writer

Mother Nature put to rest rumors that spring had arrived early this year. She brought the message across with howling winds and a thick blanket of snow that began to cover southeastern Michigan Monday afternoon. The winds blew snow around the area sporadically through the early part of the week.

Gusting winds and mounds of snow were the victors for many students who were pleased with an extra day of vacation. All Farmington and Farmington Hills public schools including Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge campus, were closed Tuesday and open for classes Wednesday.

Private schools including Mercy High School, William Tyndale College, St. Fabian, Our Lady of Sorrows and Hillel Day School also were closed on Tuesday and reopened Wednesday.

Students at St. Paul Lutheran School weren't as lucky as most. They had Monday and Tuesday off from classes, but not due to the weather conditions. The students were off on winter break.

The storm began in Texas and hit the Detroit metropolitan area just in time for rush hour traffic. The streets were snarled with motorists having to cope with bad driving conditions after a long spell of warm temperatures and clear skies.

ICY ROADS and snow-covered highways were the scene for five automobile accidents in Farmington on Monday. Police in Farmington Hills reported approximately 30 accidents from the onset of the storm through late Tuesday afternoon. Both departments



Residents living along Quaker Valley road in Farmington Hills were quick to get the hills salted.

reported most of the accidents were fender benders caused by the slippery pavement.

"A lot of people were just not paying attention," Farmington Hills Lt. Jack Brown said. "In some spots it looked like the roads were clear, and there was ice underneath."

Brown warned drivers to avoid sudden impacts on their brakes, which locks them. He suggests pumping the pedal to a stop. If the car begins to swerve turn the wheel in the direction that the car is going until you've regained control, he said.

City workers blew the dust off their salt machines and plows Monday afternoon.

Farmington Hills Department of Public Works employees clocked in overtime, and dispensed about 100 tons of salt in a one-day period.

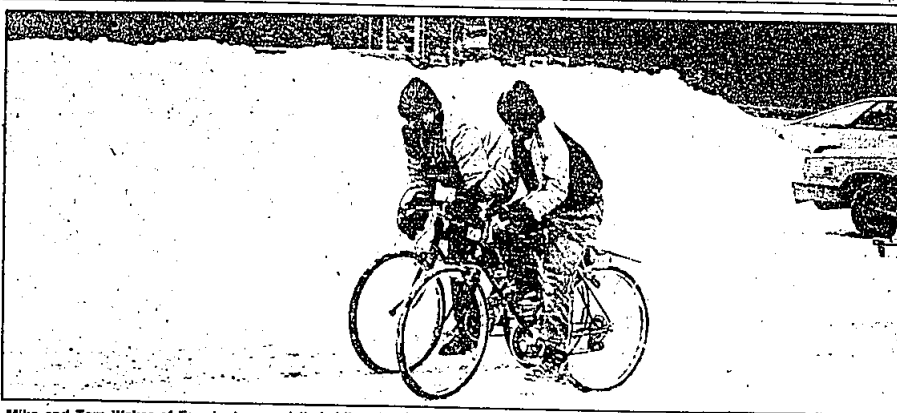
"The snow was drifting, and we had to go over and over it," according to Walter Karolak, DPW director.

The department is budgeted for 3,500 tons of salt for the year. Karolak expects to use the allotment by the end of the winter season.

The storm began to play havoc with the northeastern coast after dropping between six and seven inches of snow in Michigan, according to Bob Sneider, National Weather Service meteorologist.

Whether or not the conditions in Michigan could be considered a blizzard is up in the air.

"Criteria for a blizzard is mostly wind," Sneider said. "The wind has to get up to 40 miles an hour, and I suspect that in some places it did that, but we didn't measure the storm in that way."



Mike and Tom Waker of Farmington used their bikes to pick up some groceries for their mom during the height of the storm.

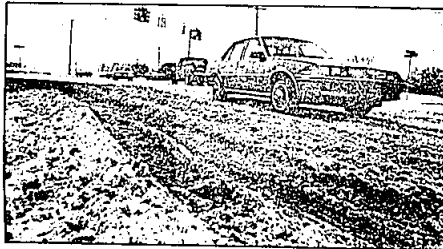


A shopper trudges through the slush in an alley behind the stores in downtown Farmington.



Tom Gorp, (left) found the going rough while clearing sidewalks in Farmington. It wasn't much easier in the Hills either as motorists negotiated deep snow at the intersection of Farmington Road and 12 mile (below).

Staff photos by
Randy Borst



memory lane

Memories, memories . . . have we got the memories. And we'd like to share them with you. Using local newspaper files, we're dishing up generous slices of life in the Farmington area from 40, 30, 20 and 10 years ago.

MARCH 2, 1944 —

A DOUBLE FEATURE — "Hangmen Also Die" with Brian Donlevy and Anna Lee, and "Henry Aldrich Haunts A House" with Jimmy Lydon and Joan Mortimer — was playing at the Civic Theatre in downtown Farmington. Also included in the show were a color cartoon, newsreel and serial.

SHORT ITEM: "The cameras in a Lockheed 'Lightning' flying at 30,000 feet can record tire tracks." Another short: "It's amazing . . . how ducks take to water and birds take to fly!" an boys take to their first shave. George Isley and Phillip Scarlett celebrated their last week.

"THE REPORT FROM the City Treasurer at Wednesday night's commission meeting indicates that the people of Farmington believe in paying their taxes," said an item in the Around the Block column. "The small amount of \$642.91 is all that was returned as delinquent to the County Treasurer's office. This establishes something of a record."

"THUMPER" ARRIVED at 6:28 a.m. on Feb. 29 and registered under the name of Robert H. Smith. The leap-year baby, born to the Robert H. Smiths of 23624 Shawansee Road, weighed 8½ pounds at birth.

"ATTENTION FARMERS," said an advertisement for the Farmington Mills. "We have a choice lot of Canadian seed oats in stock. These oats are all re-cleaned and ready to sow. Better get your seed NOW while available and be ready to sow, when spring comes."

MARCH 4, 1954 —

THE FEB. 19 DEADLINE for the purchase of 1954 automobile license plates caught a lot of Farmington-area residents napping in view of the long line of people lined up in front of Curt Hall's Auto Agency on Saturday, Feb. 27. The line formed hours before the agency opened and continued throughout most of the day.

"WE FEEL COMPELLED," said an Around the Block item, "to mention a problem which is getting plenty of serious attention. It concerns the continuing plague of petty larceny which is making the rounds of stores and business places throughout the Farmington area. Apparently much of the so-called 'shop lifting' is being attributed to youths, in spite of the fact that a great deal of effort is being made to provide proper recreational facilities and activities. Farmington can be proud of the vast majority of its boys and girls. The few who get 'a kick' out of

pulling something smart, usually end up with 'a kick' in a spot where it really smart!"

AN EDITORIAL SAID, "The antics . . . of Sen. McCarthy have become more than a political controversy. They have blossomed into a national situation, which is having repercussions from one rocky coast to the other."

"The vast majority of Americans recognize the importance of routing out subversives in the government, but not at the cost of dividing and dismembering the nation."

"McCarthy, in his quest for the headlines, seems to have forgotten just who is on trial. The quickest way to get from here to there is not to move your mouth but your feet."

CLASSIFIED AD: "FOUR YARD load of horse manure, \$10 delivered. Tel. Farm. 2362."

MARCH 5, 1964 —

AN ADVERTISEMENT showed a fat woman standing on a scale reading the fortune card. "It says, 'You can live better for less with Consumers Power natural gas service — chubby!'" the caption read.

NORTH FARMINGTON surprised Redford Thurston, 69-59, in high school basketball action. The victory snapped Thurston's 12-game win string and ensured North of at least a tie for the Northwest Suburban League championship. Mike Fleming led the winners with 16 points, while Jim Uhl, Ray Dube and John McDonald each contributed 14.

SHORT ITEM: "Your mind is a sacred enclosure into which nothing harmful can enter except by your own permission."

MARCH 4, 1974 —

THE ANNUAL fund-raising drive for the Farmington Community Center will be headed by Delos Hamlin and Grace Richardson. The drive is an effort to raise \$75,000 for the center, according to Robert Amor, president of the center board. Hamlin was formerly known as "Mr. Oakland County" because of his long terms of service on the county board of supervisors and the department of public works. He was mayor of Farmington from 1942 to 1951.

JIM FREDERICKS furnished a bright new chapter to North Farmington's basketball history when he set a new scoring record with 25 points as the Raiders upset Westland John Glenn, 65-63, on the Rockets' court. Fredericks made eight field goals and nine of 16 free throws.

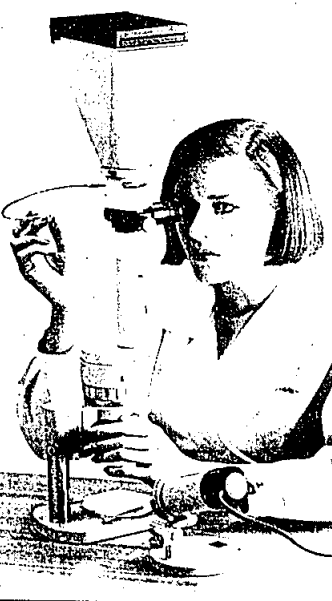
IN ANOTHER high school basketball game, Farmington Harrison lost to Walled Lake Western, 52-45. Mark Brozek (13 points), Mike Styles (10) and Bob Mason (11) led Harrison.

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