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Madison St., Oxnard 26, low price only 5c,
daily 10c.

Oxnard Press-Courier

Women's News
News About Oxnard
Women, Page 5

VOLUME 41, NUMBER 162

OXNARD, CALIFORNIA, TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1949

PHONE 37

PRICE 5 CENTS

SNOWFALL MAKES HISTORY

County Wins First Round, Warren Suit

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors today won the first round in its lawsuit against the State of California, when the state supreme court ruled in favor of the county.

The suit was filed in 1945 by the county to recover the \$2 million in damages it claimed for the loss of its citrus crop during the winter of 1944-45.

The state supreme court ruled that the state was liable for the damage to the citrus crop because it failed to provide adequate irrigation facilities for the county.

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Citrus Unhurt by Snow Unless Ice Follows Thaw

Ventura County citrus growers with a low of 28 reported about two inches of snow fell on the county today, and operators in the area are hopeful that the snow will melt before it causes any damage to the crop.

The growers, however, expressed little concern over the unusual snowfall. They said that the snow will melt before it causes any damage to the crop.

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Oxnard Blanketed for First Time in Memory; Children Play; Phone System Jammed

A soft blanket of white snow, blanketing the morning shadows of Southern California, covered the streets, yards and homes in Oxnard today, from palm trees and flowering job-cotons to the tops of the hills.

The snow was the first time in Oxnard's history that snow had ever been reported in the city.

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Israel Seeking Moseley Again

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The 1949 Snowfall

Research Team
Barbara Burrows, Karin Farrin, Beth Miller,
Sherry Reynolds, Bev Taylor

The 1949 Snowfall
by
Beth Miller

In Southern California, we are accustomed to east winds, droughts and flooding weaving in and out of our usual balmy weather pattern. But when the moist marine air collides with the Polar Jet Stream, below freezing temperatures can occur, bringing with it ice and snow. That is what happened on January 10, 1949.

Snow! It was not just a light dusting on the palm trees, but a cover-the-ground, enough to build-a-snowman storm. Adolfo Camarillo, a lifelong diarist, began his daily entries with a brief weather report. Monitoring the weather was an essential part of operating the Camarillo Ranch. Here are two of Adolfo's diary excerpts:

Monday, January 10, 1949

"Temperatures at Camarillo, early this morning, was 27 degrees. At Arnaz, it was 11 degrees."

(Oxnard had two inches of snow. Downtown Camarillo reported four.)

Tuesday, January 11, 1949

"This morning at 7 a.m. the ground was covered with snow. Snow at the front lawn was 2 ½ inches thick. At noon, there was snow in many places—the hills on the East were all covered with snow—and some remaining all day.

"...started to snow at 5 p.m. while the Bank meeting was going on. Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m. I started *(for home)* in the snow. I had a hard time getting home."

That same day Eduardo Escobedo, from the Camarillo Ranch, had his own snow experience. In his youth, Eduardo came to live on the Ranch. His mother Manuela Escobedo and great aunt, Natividad Servin ("Tia Nati") were longtime employees. Manuela cooked for the bunkhouse cowboys. Tia Nati managed the mansion and

cooked for Adolfo, family and guests. Eduardo was a teenager in 1949. Years later, in an oral history, he described the snowfall:

“The Ranch and all of Camarillo came to a standstill. My mother and I drove to the Ranch from Oxnard that afternoon or evening in the driving snowstorm. She could not see to drive, due to the snow on the windshield. So, I sat behind her in the backseat with my head and arms out the window wiping the snow from the front of her windshield. That day is something I will never forget. It was a long, slow, scary way back home on 5th Street.”



Camarillo Ranch January 11, 1949

Photo courtesy of Eduardo Escobedo

Manuela Escobedo (left) and Natividad Servin (“Tia Nati”) take a break from household duties to experience the snow.

Leonard Cruz, a longtime Camarillo Ranch family and employee, recalled that there was “quite a bit of snow.” Leonard explained, “I was driving a Model A and skidded between the trees on Pancho Road. I put on the brakes and went sliding!”

This was the first snowfall that Leonard had experienced. “It was as white as could be. Lots of snow!” Years later, after a winter trip to Oregon, Leonard had

realized the Ventura County snowfall was similar to what he had seen in Oregon. "It looked like the Oregon snow. Everything was covered." Leonard also remembered back in 1949 that "white snow was on the horses in the pastures."

"Snowfall Makes History" was the banner headline of the Oxnard Press-Courier on January 11, 1949. "A soft blanket of white, gleaming in the morning sunshine of Southern California, covered the parched earth and hung in the huge blobs from the palm fronds and blooming poinsettias in Oxnard today." The snow would fall for three straight nights. Traffic across the Southland was at a standstill.

The telephone switchboard was jammed reported the Oxnard Press-Courier. Extra operators were called in to handle the calls. "Children and adults called up one another to tell them to watch the snow come down. In the country, where almost everyone is on a 10 or 12 party-line, some people got no sleep at all as the phone kept ringing. Alarm clocks were set so that youngsters, fearful the sun would melt the snow away, could be out by dawn to play in it."

Camarillo Ranch Docent, Barbara Burrows, was in the fourth grade at Haydock School in Oxnard when it snowed. She and her friends had fun making snowballs. Barbara remembers "the snow lightly covered the ground."

The Oxnard Press-Courier also reported a high demand for camera film which began as soon as the stores opened. One clerk reported that he had sold only film that day.

Schools had a snow day. Rey Ortiz, son of the longtime Camarillo Ranch family and Guardian of the Camarillo White Horses, Meliton Ortiz, remembers the school bus coming by the Ranch that snowy day. Eloise Gerry Mansfield, whose family has a farm in the Santa Rosa Valley, recalled that she went out to the school bus, but received a surprise announcement from the driver. There was no school! For Eloise, the snowfall came on her birthday. She and her brother and sister made a small snowman. Their father, Richard Gerry, called the frosty white blanket "snow ice cream." Eloise's cousin, Genevieve Peterson, added more snow stories from Camarillo Heights.

Genevieve Mason Peterson's father, Jess Mason, was a very successful avocado and citrus grower in Camarillo Heights, an area ideally suited for his orchards. He became an expert in avocados and his nursery specialized in the exotic fruit.

The trees still flourish today at the corner of Las Posas Road and Loma Drive. But back in 1949 Genevieve recalled her father waking up the family in the night to see the snow covered avocado trees. He admired the beauty and we anxiously awaited morning to play in it. But her father also had concerns. "There goes our crop. Will freeze." He often said that, when it was cold, explained Genevieve. But the crop wasn't ruined! Genevieve noted that "School was cancelled, no buses on the highway, so that was a plus."

Liz Daily, remembers exchanging childhood snow stories with husband Stan. He told her that in Camarillo there was "no school because no busses" were running in the snow. Liz was living in her Riverside childhood home and recalls that she was "able to make a small snowman in the front yard. It took every bit of snow!" In the school yard, as the snow melted, "the boys made mud snowballs," laughed Liz.

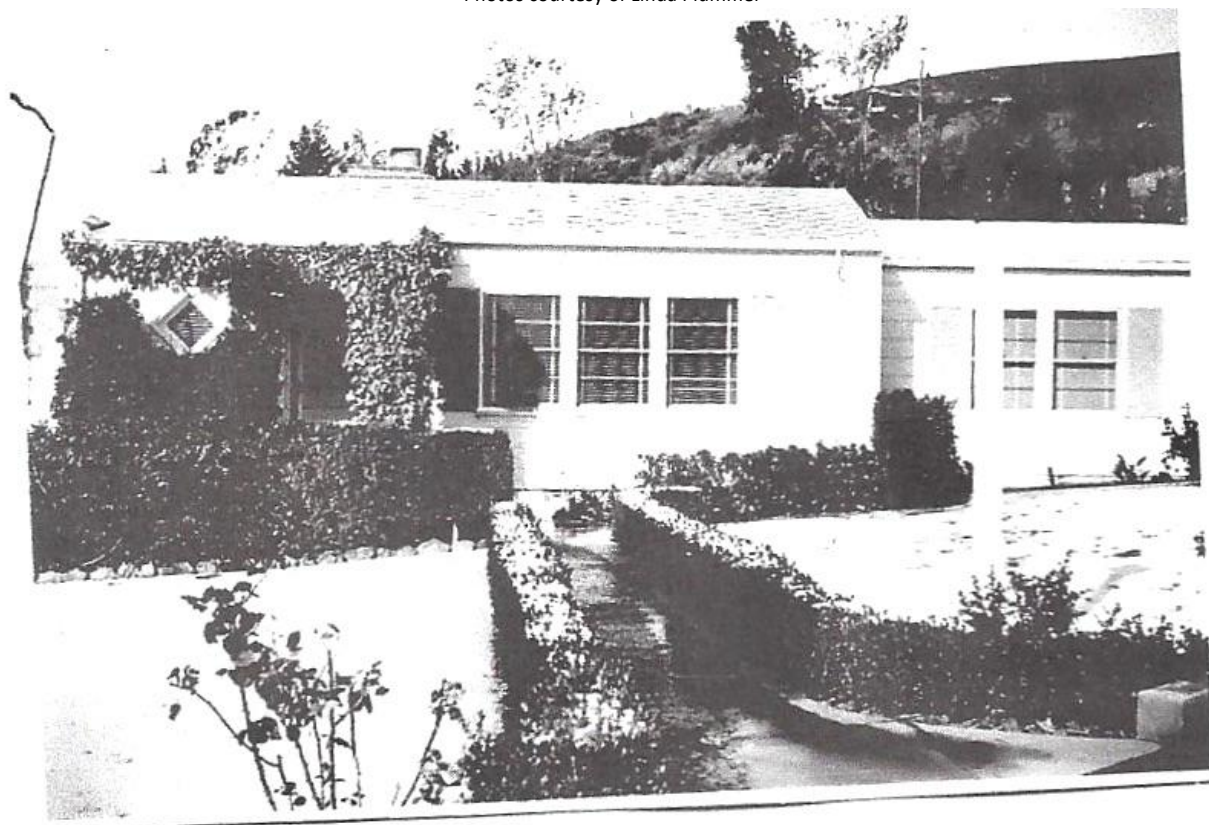
The Frost family on Anacapa in Camarillo Heights had snow fun. Rob Frost remembers playing in the snow. "It was a big deal. I got in trouble for throwing snowballs at cars, my parents and anyone," he recalled with laughter. His younger sister, Alice Frost Sweetland, was only five or six when it snowed. She remembers they excitedly ran into the front yard wearing just pajamas to greet the snowfall!

Linda Plummer, whose mother, Audrey Young, was Adolfo's secretary, recalled the snow fall in an email:

"I hesitate calling it a "storm" because as you can see, it wasn't too heavy. I recall being excited when I first saw it and said to my Dad, "Come look at the snow." Being from Minnesota, he continued reading his paper and said, "I've seen snow." Later, of course, we went out to play in it. This photo is of me and the dog Adolfo Camarillo gave me. I was standing in front of the front bedroom which was just off the left edge of the house photo. My Dad had planted the area between the house and San Miguel with orange trees, and fortunately the snow and low temperatures were not around long enough to damage the fruit. "



Linda and her cocker spaniel playing in the snow. Adolfo Camarillo had given her the dog.
Photos courtesy of Linda Plummer



The Young family's Camarillo Heights home in the snow.
Linda's mother, Audrey Young, was Adolfo Camarillo's secretary.

On the Flynn Ranch, Donna Kyle Taylor, remembers “the first snow I’ve ever seen. It covered the yard. I don’t remember that it lasted a long time. Mom and I made snowballs.” Donna was even dressed for the snowy weather with gloves and a knitted cap. Lima bean fields, surrounding the yard and awaiting spring planting, were blanketed in snow. Years later, Donna married Jack Taylor of the Arneill Ranch.

Gould and Peggy Taylor and their five children had recently moved from John B. Taylor’s Moorpark ranch on Peach Hill to the Arneill Ranch in Camarillo when the snowstorm hit. The Taylor children are Ruth Taylor Kilday, Peggy Ann Taylor Viser, Jack Taylor, Sharon Taylor Hosier, and Nancy Taylor Pence.

According to daughter, Sharon Taylor Hosier, they “were living in the Arneill Ranch guest house while their permanent home was being prepared after Dad took on foreman position for the Arneill Ranch in 1948.”

Daughter, Ruth Taylor Kilday, said their father was always observant of weather patterns especially in the winter months. He and his crew “were always working with smudge pots in the winter.” Her mother prepared meals for the crew as they took breaks huddled by the fireplace. Setting out the smudge pots was a demanding and crucial job as the crew worked to protect the orange trees. Her brother, Jack, also helped. “It snowed at night,” said Ruth. Snow clung to the orange leaves and sparkled in the light as the smudge pot smoke whirled about the orchard.

“The snow covered the orange trees and made the oranges stand out. It was so pretty,” recalled Ruth. In the morning, the children played in the snow and built a snowman with their father. Ruth remembered the snow “lasted on the ground a day and a night” before melting.



Photo courtesy of Sharon Taylor Hosier

Snowman on the Arneill Ranch

Three of the Taylor girls (left to right) Sherry, Nancy (hidden in shadow) and Peggy Ann. The family lived on the Arneill Ranch. "This pic was taken in the outer yard, about where Mobil Drive is today, and is the back of the Ponderosa Center" recalled Sharon Taylor Hosier, See page 22.

Snow covered the lemon trees on the Mahan land in Moorpark along Balcom Canyon Road. "I was ten years old. My sister was thirteen. We ran through the lemon orchard throwing snowballs," said Ralph Mahan. The storm did not cause damage to the trees. "That was the only snowstorm in my 81 years that I remember," said Ralph. "It was pretty."

Camarillo family relation, Mitzi Hernandez Myer, via email, recalled her snow adventure that took her to the base at Port Hueneme: *(She and Adolfo Camarillo are related through Martina Hernandez Camarillo, Adolfo's mother.)*

"The bus came by and could not pick us up for school, because they didn't have the insurance to pick them up. So, I called a friend of mine, Nancy Jackson, and we

went to her house, on the base at Port Hueneme. Her dad was the commander of the base.

We made a snowman as there was snow all over! We stayed there for 3 days. We heard the school was closed! Then 3 days later we found out the school was open, after the first day!!

There was still snow on the ground!!! The roads were clear, but still snow all over. Then I had to leave the base and go to school!! The holiday was over. I think it was 1948? *(humorously, Mitzi adds:)* What is the matter with you people---It doesn't snow in Camarillo!"

From the distant corners of Nevada, others in the Camarillo family also monitored the extreme weather of January 1949. Adolfo's grandson-in-law, rancher Tom Marvel, was not exaggerating when he told his eldest son that January 1949 "was the coldest winter in the West."

According to the Las Vegas Sun, "The winter of 1948-1949 was the snowiest winter on record for Nevada. Highways in northern and eastern Nevada were closed by drifts 12-15 feet deep. An airlift was organized to drop hay to stranded, starving livestock across northern and eastern Nevada. It was called "Operation Haylift." The story was later told in a 1950 film of the same name. The record shattering blizzards in the winter of 1949 are still the coldest ever recorded in the Silver State. Snowfall was nearly double the usual amount.

Tom, a descendant of pioneering Nevada ranchers, married Adolfo's granddaughter Rosita Camarillo Petit in 1945. The couple settled into Nevada ranch life. The Marvels regularly visited Adolfo at the Camarillo Ranch and Rosita's parents, Alfred and Rosa Camarillo Petit on their land known as Rancho Rosal, which was formerly Camarillo Ranch land.



Photo: Courtesy of the Marvel Family

Rancho Rosal, the home of Alfred and Rosa Camarillo Petit January 1949. Citrus and walnuts were grown there. Possibly Alfred Petit standing in the snow at the front of the home.



This 1950 film tells of the mission to save stranded, starving livestock with hay drops to the vast areas around Ely and Elko, Nevada during the winter of 1948-1949. The film starred Bill Williams and Ann Rutherford.

Adolfo Camarillo's Marvel great-grandchildren grew up in the Elko area. His great-grandson, Tom Marvel, remembers hearing stories about the haylift flights.

In Camarillo young John Putman, son of Eugene Putnam, Camarillo's first Fire Chief/Captain played in the snow behind the Community Center and Library on Ventura Boulevard.



January 1949 – Snow in Camarillo – John Putnam (4 years old) is the son of Eugene Putnam who – in 1940 – became Camarillo's first Fire Chief/Captain. John is standing behind the Community Center (and Library) on Ventura Boulevard. The Fire Station is off-image to the left. The flag pole next to the Fire Station's driveway can be seen in the hedge area at far left near Ventura Boulevard and the parked car. In 1944, John was born in the fire station itself. The family – which also includes John's older siblings (Roger, Helen, and Eugenia), and his mother, Delores – lived in the apartment in the Fire Station until Eugene Putnam's retirement in 1962.



Children gathered at Adohr Farms in Camarillo

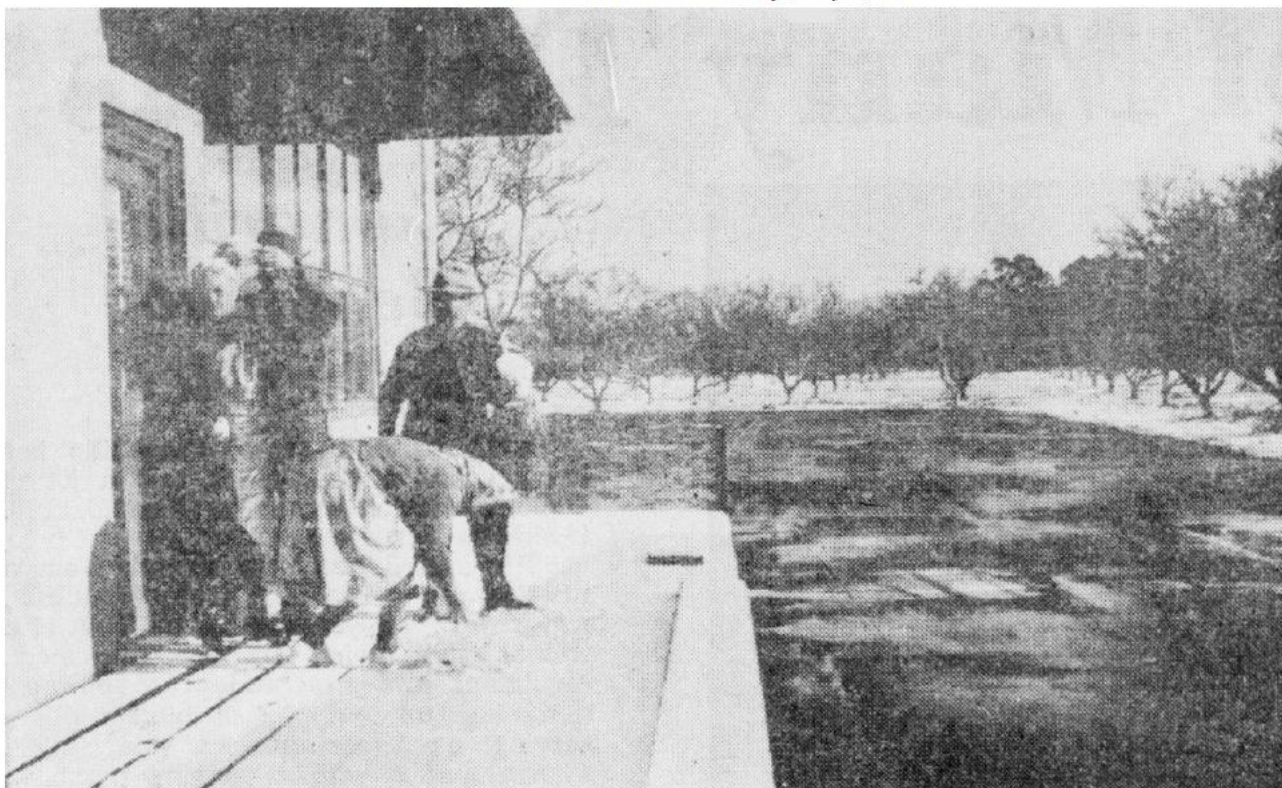


January 9-11, 1949 - Snow in Camarillo at Grandview Drive and Elm Drive (off Ventura Boulevard).

Headlines noted that “Citrus Unhurt by Snow Unless Ice Follows Thaw.” The growers were not yet alarmed on January 11, 1949. There were moderate daytime temperatures, but a nighttime low of 29 degrees was expected. Avocado growers anticipated limited damage. The snowstorm lingered over Southern California for three days. On some ranches, wind machines and smudge pots were used to protect the crops. Leonard Cruz does not recall either at the Camarillo Ranch.

But, according to the Museum of Ventura County, “the County suffered over \$1 million in crop losses. There was a cold snap the first of January that split the bark of citrus trees in Wheeler Canyon. The night of January 7, 1949, temperatures reached 23 degrees in Ojai and 25 degrees in Fillmore. It was also a dry winter, which hadn’t helped the crops. On January 6, at 3 p.m., snow flurries began to fly in Oxnard.”

Oxnard Press-Courier dated Sunday, July 1, 1973



There was snow in Camarillo in early 1950's [January 9-11, 1949] and caught in playful act of dumping snowball on employee at walnut house is O. K. Marshall, resident of Camarillo Heights. [The Camarillo walnut packinghouse was located on the east side of the railroad tracks, and across from the El Tecolote restaurant. The walnut trees seen in the background should be those on Rancho Calleguas.]

The Irvine Historical Society reported, for ranchers and farmers in the 1949 snowstorm, “the only silver lining was the unexpected moisture and precipitation, always a welcome gift to the citrus industry.”



Snow on the Conejo January 9-11, 1949

Los Angeles Times

LIBERTY UNDER THE LAW EQUAL RIGHTS TRUE INDUSTRIAL FREEDOM

ALL THE NEWS
ALL THE TIME

C C **

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 12, 1949

DAILY, SEVEN CENTS



Snow Falls for Third Night, Tangling Southland Traffic

Icy Storm Grips Most of Nation

Rain, Sleet and Snow
Extend From Coast
Across Midwest

CHICAGO, Jan. 11 (U.P.)—Rain, sleet and snow stretched tonight from the cold Southern California fruitlands across ice-crippled areas in the Central States and into Ohio.

SNOW CLOAKS CATALINA WITH WHITE MANTLE

Southern California's snow-covered coastal plains and foothills had a similarly snowy blanket off-hore yesterday.

Ponto Catalina Island was covered with white—some eight inches of snow that drifted in to mantle 2100-foot Blackjack Peak and other summits and canyons throughout the island.

The storm drove the recent land's wildlife, including deer, goats and buffalo, to shelter under scrub pine and in old Indian caves.

School children, many of whom had never seen snow before, were taken in buses to cavort in the football white fall.

Vehicular traffic to Catalina Airport was blocked by drifts

Mountain Areas Isolated With Steep Grades Iced

Los Angeles and environs dug out of Monday's snowstorm only to be faced by another series of flurries and showers yesterday and last night that further tangled traffic and heaped additional havoc on Southland citrus orchards.

The almost unprecedented cold wave which has brought snow for three straight days found outlying suburbs and portions of Los Angeles itself whitened yesterday morning by a night-long fall of flakes.

Later in the day and on into last night the snow continued to fall in San Fernando Valley and foothill communities along the Sierra Madre and Verdugo hills.

Fourteen inches of snow piled on Ventura Blvd. near Woodland Hills in the Chuk Hill area. Snow's depth increased, they also appealed to Ventura County

Three full pages of pictures of Southland snow will be found on pages 2, 3 and 4, Part 1. Other weather news on pages 4 and 5.

at 27 at Whittier, Elatio and 10000; 25 at Carson Park, Riverside, Redlands, San Dimas, Capetonia and Santa Anita; 20 at Phomax, Arroyo Cucamonga and in the Santa Rosa Valley, and 10 at Fontana, San Gabriel, Pasadena, El Centro and Indio.

A series of intense cold waves swept across the entire west in January 1949. While that snowstorm was remarkable, it was not the only time snow hit Southern California. According to Nathan Masters, archivist at the University of Southern California Libraries and producer of the KCET program Lost L.A.:

“Snow once fell on the Los Angeles coastal plain with some regularity—on average about once per decade. Since official records were first kept in 1877, the downtown Los Angeles weather station observed measurable snowfall three times in 1882, 1932 and 1949, and news reports recorded snowfall elsewhere in the Los Angeles Basin in 1913, 1921, 1922, 1926, 1944, 1957, 1962—and then never again for 54 years running.”

The water for Southern California is stored in the snow packs of the appropriately named Sierra Nevada mountain range. It is Spanish for “snowy range.” But, climate

warming has put us into a snow drought with earlier melt offs and smaller snow packs.

The Sierra Nevada snow supplies water to Southern California carried by the California and Los Angeles aqueducts. Without snow, our water supply greatly decreases.

Other Snowstorms in Ventura County



1915 – Santa Susana Depot in a snowstorm.



Circa 1918-1923 – Snowfall in Simi – The store front reads: “Whipple & Riave – General Merchandise” – When the Riave family moved to Ventura County, Max Riave (born in 1895) and his brother, Louis Riave, opened a general mercantile store in Santa Susana (in circa 1918). Later, another brother, Sam Riave, joined Carl Whipple in running a similar store in Simi (which is the store in this photograph). Max Riave would later operate his business in Camarillo. In 1923, Max Riave and his brother, Sam, took over the Camarillo Mercantile Company from the firm of Weatherly and David (housed in the brick building built by Juan E. Camarillo). In August 1960, Max Riave celebrated 42 years as a general merchandiser and clothier (37 yrs. in Camarillo).



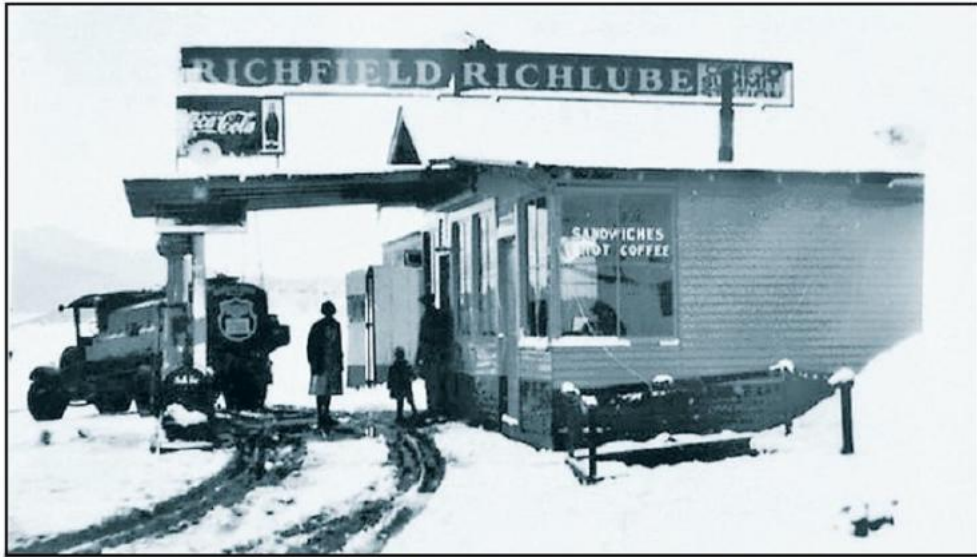
January 29, 1922 – Snow in Ventura



January 29, 1922 – Snow in Ventura



Circa 1928 – Snow in Grimes Canyon, Barddale



1930 - Snow at the Conejo Grade Summit Station (Richfield Richlube - Sandwiches and Hot Coffee shop)



January 12, 1931 - Snow at summit of Pine Mountain (perhaps on Maricopa Highway).

WOMEN, save the dates, Jan. 19, 20, 21, 22, for the Kitchen Chautauque

The Ventura County Star

And The Ventura Daily Post, Established 1883

Vol. 7, No. 179, (The Star); Vol. 63, No. 88, (The Post).

VENTURA, (Official Name, San Buenaventura) CALIF., FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1932.

The Weather

Unsettled tonight and Saturday probably rain west portion and snow in the mountains. But change in temperature, fresh south to west winds of force.

PRICE FROM NEWSBOYS, THREE CENTS

County Has Heaviest Snow In 50 Years

Ventura County Star and the Ventura Daily Post dated Friday, January 15, 1932

For the first time in the memory of the present generation, snow covered the Adolfo Camarillo home, east of Camarillo, this morning.

The Conejo Grade was reported covered and the valley between its base and Camarillo was white.

Mantle Of White Covering Hills

Rain Precedes Snowfall, And Brings Season Total To 11.55 Inches; Storm Of 1882 Recalled

Ventura streets were coated with snow and slush at 5 a. m. today for the first time in 50 years. The snow in the city melted by daybreak, but remained on the foothills close to the city most of the day. The Taylor hills, just west of the city limits, were covered with a blanket of white, as were the hills bordering on Foothill road to Santa Paula. Hill canyon also was snow-covered, as was the Avenue of Field.

Rain preceded and followed the snow in the lower areas of the county, raising the totals for the season almost to the totals for the entire season last year.

Henry Spahr, Ventura Avenue engineer, told The Star that "the snow early today was much heavier than that of 1911, and that the snow fall in 1921 was nothing in comparison with the amount that fell here this morning. He said Henry Barnard and Mrs. Celia Perry, also owners of the Avenue, had agreed with him that today's fall was the heaviest they had ever seen here. Heavy Fall in 1882

In 1882, he said, there was snow on the hills surrounding Ventura, but it did not fall so heavily or remain on the lower south as long as today's snowfall. Today's snow was from one-half to an inch deep on the Avenue from Hill school to the Avenue school, he said.

Hundreds of cars were held up by the bad condition of the detour on the construction work at the Canal trench on the Old Ventura road this morning when Venturians sought to get into the Santa Ana, Canby and Ojai to see the heaviest snowfall in more than 50 years and when residents of those districts were coming to Ventura on business.

Snow began falling after midnight, by morning the mountains, hills and townland, and places unshaded by snow in many years, were white. Oak trees were covered on their upper branches, small shrubs were bent over with the heavy wet fall, and roofs were blanketed.

Streams Rising Streams whose levels had lowered in the past week were running slowly around again. Rivers with snow laden water, and with the promise of more snow falling when the snow on the ground and on the slopes begins to melt.

K. H. Sheridan, Ventura pioneer, told The Star today that a heavy snow fall in 1921, totaling the town so heavily that branches were broken on old oaks in the Foothill Park region. Two years ago a light snow fall covered the backcountry, but not so heavily as today's fall. Monkeys and vultures received two inches of snow during the night, accompanied by wind. The ground was white in the Los Pinos region, the fall extending to the Fern ranch.

Vegetables Relined Forty-three acres of summer squash and peas, washed by the deluge since the Monday, were ruined by the frosts preceding the snow last night, and by the slush which covered the vegetables with ice this morning.

For the first time in the memory of the present generation, snow covered the Adolfo Camarillo home, east of Camarillo, this morning. The Conejo grade was reported covered and the valley between its base and Camarillo was white.

Santa Paula, Fillmore and other sections in the east end of the county had their crops of grain. A. H. Call, county horticultural commissioner, estimated that damage to citrus fruits and other crops from the snow and frost would be great.

1.15 Inches Total Ventura received 1.15 inches of rain up to 1 p. m. today to raise the total for the season to 11.55 inches, within 1.24 inches of the 1921 season total. At this time last year the total was 4.44 inches.

The Avenue section's total for the season now stands at 13.27 inches, very near the entire seasonal total of last year. The precipitation there ran 11.48 inches up to 8 a. m. today. Total at this time a year ago there was 5.87 inches.

Highest seasonal total so far this year was registered today at the Santa Paula, where 17.47 inches was recorded up to 9 a. m. Total during the night there was 2.8 of an inch. Last year the total at date was 1.81 inches.

Santa Paula reported a precipitation of .51 of an inch in the storm up to 8 a. m. in being his total for the season to 22.75 inches, as compared with 6.86 inches at the same date a year ago.

Ojai Total High Ojai was visited with 74 of an inch up to 8 a. m. Total there

EAST SWELTERS WHILE THE WEST HAS BLIZZARDS

Floods, Tornados In South Result In Death Toll

By United Press The weather reports who have been busy watching up cold records in warm regions with one hand and heat records in tropical areas with the other today avail of a return to normalcy. This winter strawberry-growing in the north and snowfall, hailing at Pacific water resorts is about at an end, they say.

But the death toll of the west (disasters of weather that brought terrific blizzards to the west and summer heat to the east) mounted with another of the succession of tornados that have swept the north.

Ten were dead and several injured in the after a surge, typhoon wrecked a farm house near Trenton, Tenn. Storms in southern states have taken more than a score of lives since the weather map has gone topsy-turvy.

Today blizzards, accompanied by blizzards and lightning, swept of the end of the valley in the Midwest, the weather bureau predicted. The January lightning display in Chicago was almost unprecedented, meteorologists reported.

Mercury Drooping A sub-zero cold wave from the northwest drove into the central states, accompanied by rain that turned to sleet. Temperatures from Montana to Minnesota ranged below zero. The weather bureau, which has been predicting an end to the long for days, now again announced that frost threatened blizzards with snow below.

In the east where the seasonal mark of 104 inches in the sea was reported at Atlanta, Pa., 72 at Philadelphia, 58 at Washington, D. C., and 66 at Boston and New York, the forecasters were uncertain what would come next. But they were sure that the "summer" could not last long.





Circa 1938 – Snow at Walter Sexton’s house at North Victoria Avenue and Foothill Road (“Sexton Canyon”) in Ventura (near today’s Arroyo Verde Park). “Pool was frozen!”



January 12, 1947 – Snow – View to the west – Taken from Hill Cross in Ventura, and overlooking a portion of Ventura Avenue (the road to Ojai which is to the north). The ocean is seen in the rear left. Information about this photograph reads: “Very rare snowfall in Ventura – 2 to 4 inches in Ventura – 5 to 6 inches inland.”



1948 Snow in Ojai

Some Record Storm-Total Snowfalls for Coastal and Near-Coastal California

Location	Amt	Date	Notes
Crescent City	8.5"	Jan. 28-30, 1916	
Klamath	19.5"	Feb. 3-4, 1989	Max depth 8.0", Feb. 4
Eureka	5.9"	Jan. 12-15, 1907	Max depth 3.4", Jan. 13
Shelter Cove	1.7"	Feb. 3-4, 1989	
Fort Bragg	3.0"	Dec. 6, 1913	
Fort Ross	1.0"	Dec. 11, 1932	
San Francisco	3.7"	Feb. 5, 1887	
Berkeley	6.0"	Jan. 29, 1922	Max depth 1.0"; melted snowfall 0.65" between 8:30 am & 4:00 pm
Monterey	1.5"	Jan. 20, 1962	
Big Sur	1.0"	Dec. 11, 1932	
Santa Maria	0.5"	Jan. 27, 1957	
Santa Barbara	trace	Feb. 9, 1939	
Los Angeles (Downtown)	3.0"	Jan. 19-20, 1949	
Laguna Beach	1.0"	Jan. 20, 1949	
Avalon Pier, Catalina Island	trace	Jan. 10-11, 1949	Another site on the island reported no snow in Jan. 1949
San Diego	trace	Jan. 10, 1949	

See the 1949 snowfall in a very brief film by British Pathé

Click on link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKyY1d07kMc>

Do you remember the song “Let it Snow”?

Click on link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92r7_hyWYJM

“Let It Snow”

The song was written in 1945 by Sammy Cahn and Julie Styne during a heat wave in Southern California as they imagined cooler weather. There is no mention of Christmas in the song but because of its winter theme, it is played on radio stations during the Christmas season. It was first recorded by the Vaughn Monroe Orchestra in 1945 and became a popular hit.

Arneill Ranch Memories

Sharon Taylor Hosier recalled the family home on the Arneill Ranch:

The family “first lived in the guest house while the permanent home was being prepared for us. Our permanent home was located on Arneill Road across the intersection with Barry Street. The house was where the Chevron Station and Car Wash are now located!

They family lived there until 1961-62 when the first chunk of the Arneill Ranch became the Ponderosa Shopping Center.

The most clear (memories) are a windowed-in big porch; and a big landscaped fish pond with a huge gold fish in Arneill’s central private yard....and a solo walk

down Arneill's driveway along a tall cypress hedge of trees towards Ventura Boulevard, which caused much panic 'til Dad found and collected me for a quick return trip to the house. (Apparently the last time doing that, but I always preferred wandering the ranch more than staying indoors.)"



Please send your photos and memories to Karin!

Thank you!

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