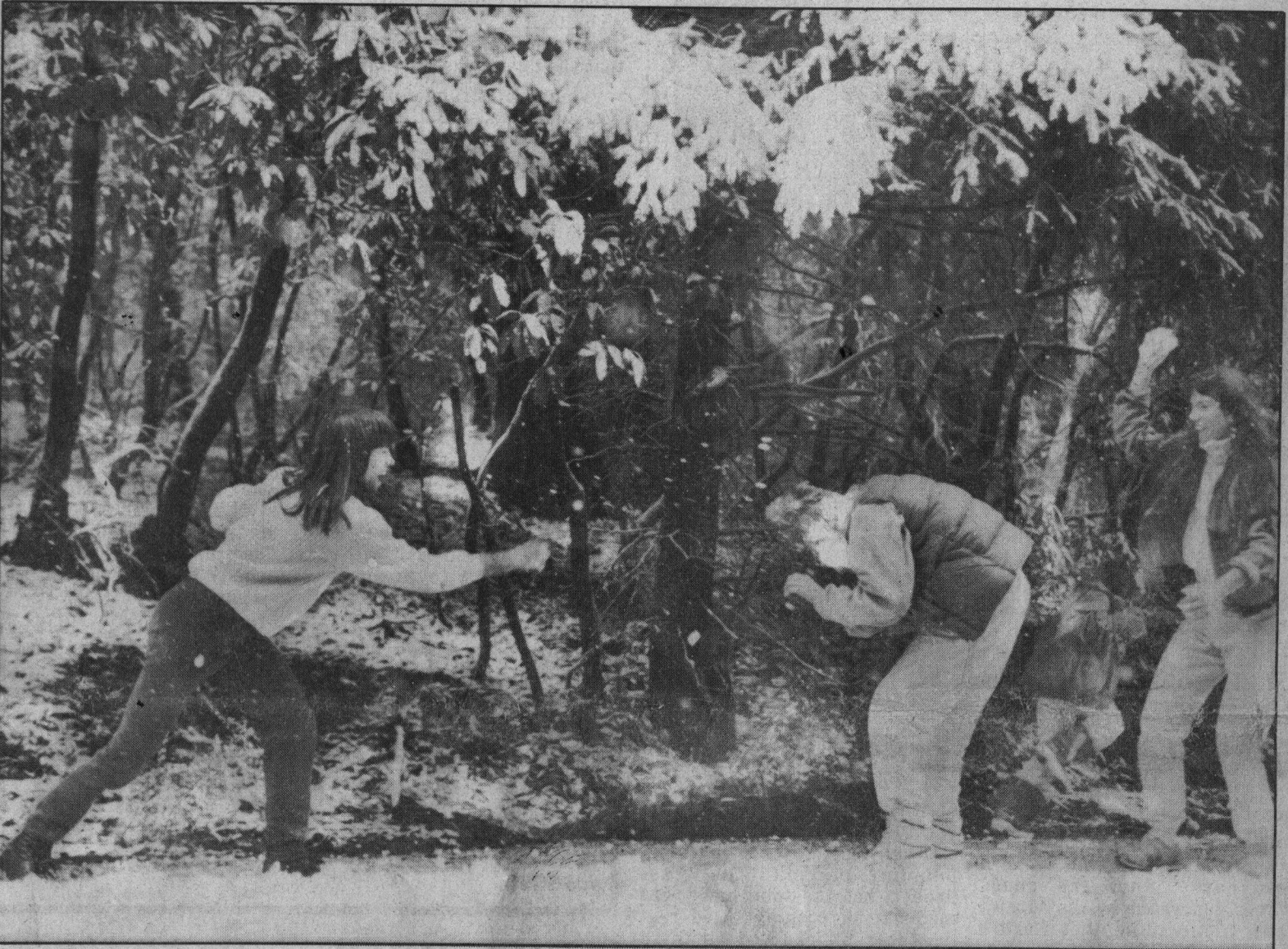


White Christmas



Chip Scheuer

Julie, Obie, and Pat Howe came to Bonny Doon from Santa Cruz for a snowball fight.

It's cold and snowy on Christmas Day

With a high temperature of 44 degrees in Watsonville, Christmas Day tied for the second-coldest day in the Pajaro Valley in a half-century of record keeping.

And residents of the Santa Cruz Mountains got a white Christmas, whether they were dreaming of one or not.

The Burl Fire Station near the summit reported there were two inches of snow yesterday, although it had melted by today.

Burl Fire Captain Steve Biechman said there had been two accidents this

morning on Highway 17 due to frosty road conditions.

The coldest day ever in Watsonville was Dec. 12, 1972, when the high was only 43 degrees. The coldest night was 20, in January 1949.

All over the county, Jack Frost had left his mark this morning.

White sparkles adorned roofs, grass and bare-limbed apple trees in the Corralitos Valley. The median strip of Highway 1 was still frosty at 9 a.m., long after sun-up.

Meteorologists were predicting more cold temperatures, but with a slight warming trend tomorrow.

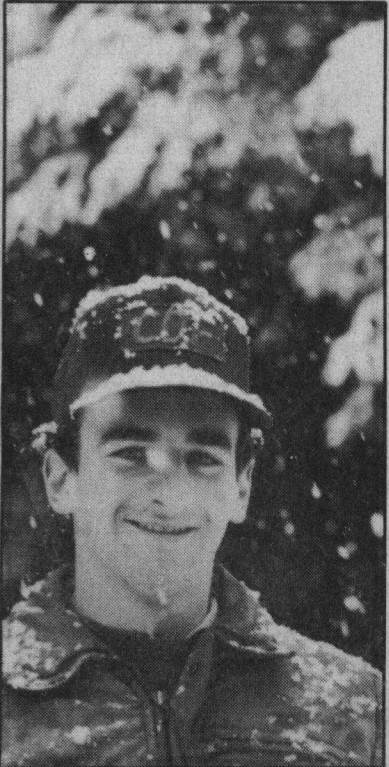
Snow thinly blanketed Bonny Doon as well, bringing out families who had fun lobbing snowballs at one another. Many small children in the area experienced their first white Christmas.

Nineteen-year-old Charlie Springmeyer, born and raised in Bonny Doon, said it was his second white Christmas at home. The last one occurred about 14 years ago, he said.

The snow on Christmas came on the heels of a hard rainstorm Friday night and early Saturday morning that had creeks in the county running nearly full.

Rainfall figures as of 8 a.m. today included:

RAINFALL			
	Last 72 hrs	Season Total	Last Year
Corralitos	2.15	10.03	n.a.
Eureka Canyon ..	2.02	15.03	4.96
Watsonville	2.40	6.15	6.41
Pinto Lake	2.50	10.45	n.a.



Charlie Springmeyer of Bonny Doon watches it fall.



Tree unloads on Maggie Wilson of Santa Cruz.