

When it rains...it snows



Kurt Ellison

In Watsonville, Art Vargas (left) and Kenny Corona didn't let the rain stop them from playing football.



Chip Scheuer

In Bonny Doon, Susie Ingram and daughter April, 7, tossed snowballs.

White stuff falls in hills above SC

By KATHARINE BALL
STAFF WRITER

About two inches of snow gave residents of the Empire Grade area above Santa Cruz a belated white Christmas yesterday.

The snow, which began sifting down early Tuesday morning, continued to fall intermittently into yesterday afternoon at higher altitudes near Summit and Alba roads.

Santa Cruz County road maintenance workers closed Empire Grade at the Bonny Doon Airport while they cleared the road with a combination plow-dump truck, which sprinkled sand on the slushy road.

The road was reopened at about 1 p.m.

A road worker who asked not to be identified said the county closed the road "because a lot of people around here don't know how to drive in snow."

Indeed, there was at least one snow-induced fender-bender, near Old Alba Grade,

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SNOW

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where a truck trying to avoid a Cadillac fish-tailed across the road and slid into a Nissan Sentra.

Several parents brought their children out for a first-in-a-lifetime look at snow.

Susie Ingram of Bonny Doon exchanged snowballs with her seven-year-old daughter April, who appeared to be reveling in the frosty white stuff.

"It snows a little bit in Bonny Doon, but we don't get it to stick," said Ingram, a little regretfully. "This is beautiful. Look at it coming down!"

Her four-year-old son, Eric, was less enthralled by the sight, however. He remained in the family car, informing his mother at intervals, "I'm very cold!"

Ingram also introduced her dog to snow for the first time. The dog, a Siberian Husky, showed a perhaps genetic disposition to calmness in the elements, but failed to respond the command "Mush!"

At approximately 1 p.m., patches of blue began to appear in the sky, and the trees began dropping their picturesque frosting with squelches and splashes onto whatever was beneath them. Santa Cruz County was a winter wonderland no more.

While snow was falling in some mountain areas of the county, the South County was experiencing more rain. A half-inch fell in Watsonville and similar amounts fell elsewhere.

With cloudy, but dry, weather predicted through New Year's weekend, mud puddles should have a chance to dry up.

Rainfall figures for the 24-hour period ending at 8 this morning include:

RAINFALL

	Last 24 hrs	Season Total	Last Year
Felton .....	.16	16.45	10.93
Santa Cruz .....	.20	5.73	5.73
Aptos .....	.35	10.00	2.55
La Selva .....	.50	10.17	3.67
Corralitos .....	.28	9.41	3.45
Watsonville .....	.50	7.91	3.03
Aromas .....	.60	7.60	2.80