

(Photo by Pete Amos)

Plum blossoms greet the snow on Spring Street.

Gentle Skies, Then SNOW!

By WALLY TRABING

Someone over-prayed.
And we got it all.

Skies over northern Santa Cruz County, blue and gentle for so long, turned tiger early, early this morning and gave us our due with a vengeance.

Lightning walked on silver legs, followed by a roar to match the finale of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

And then, as if to appease little boys and girls, tense with fear (and some older folks, too), it snowed in Santa Cruz and northern points and the mountains around.

They awoke to a Winter Wonderland and the shouts of joy could be heard everywhere.

Snow continued to fall almost up to noon north of Santa Cruz and much of it remained on the ground. Measurements generally ran to one and two inches.

All county, city and state roads are reported open, except Highway 35 which runs north at the summit off Highway 17. It was said to be closed this morning.

Chains were required on 17 early this morning, but the slush soon was cleared off by commuters.

Attendance at San Lorenzo Valley schools was down quite a bit, but all remained open. The Bonny Doon School sent its youngsters home early because of snow conditions.

The California Highway Patrol reported

surprisingly few accidents on the slush-covered highways around the county today.

"It's been real quiet," Officer Gary Wooten reported, "There weren't even very many minor accidents. I don't know why, maybe people were just extra careful."

In addition to the thunder rumbling, college students Jackie Marchese, 25; Teri Marchese, 21, and Lynette Heinrichs, 19, thought they were experiencing an earthquake.

Lightning had struck a 75-foot redwood tree in back of their duplex at 613 Rodriguez St., streaked down and broke three windows in the unoccupied half of their duplex.

Mr. and Mrs. George Ferguson of 4002E 7th Ave., said a combination of wind and lightning blew out their front window, knocking a clock off a shelf and pictures from the wall.

Garland Eggman, visiting his friend Eddie Gebhardt of 1509 Seabright, had 75 empty orange crates tied to his trailer and this morning found them scattered and broken. He called the Sentinel to report that lightning had struck the load. Two hours later he called and said, no lightning, it was a hit-and-run.

John Greiver called to say three windows were blasted from the VFW building on 2259-7th Avenue when lightning hit another redwood tree. The power went out at 4:10 a.m.

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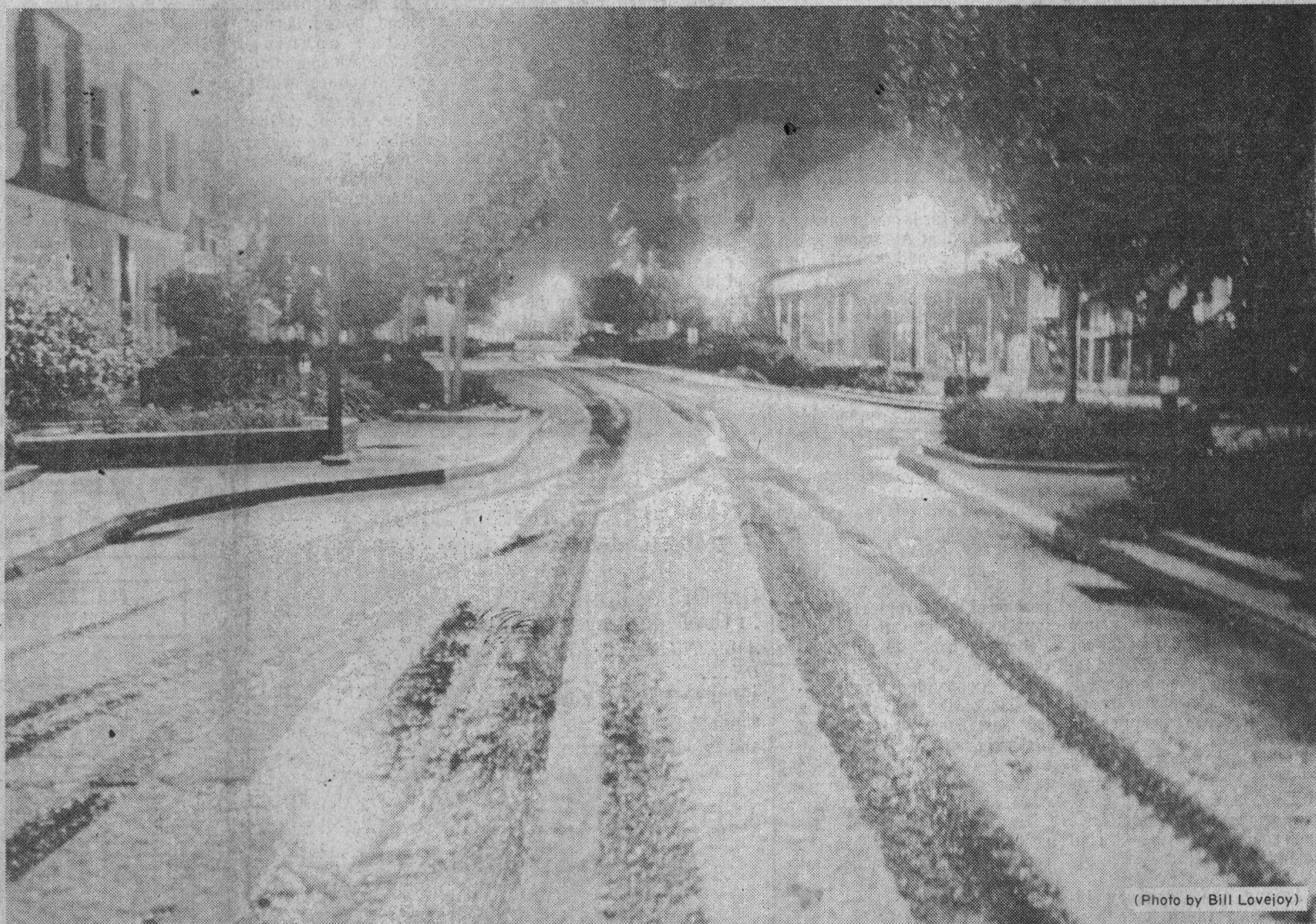
THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 5, 1976

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Weather

MONTEREY BAY AREA—
Chance of showers tonight and Friday. Snow on hills down to about 1,500 feet. Continued cool and windy. Northerly winds decreasing. Highs Friday in the upper 40s to low 50s. Lows tonight in the 30s and low 40s. Low tonight Monterey 39.

Santa Cruz temperatures for 24 hours ending at 8 a.m.: High 52, Low 29. Rainfall 1.20.



(Photo by Bill Lovejoy)

Yesterday, talk of drought, this morning, a Winter Wonderland on the Mall.

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 PG&E District Manager Wayne Matthews reported power outages in Live Oak, 4:10 to 5:50 a.m.; Soquel Avenue and Ocean Street, out at 5:05 a.m.; UCSC, 5:22 to 7:55 a.m.;

and scattered reports from Carbonero Estates and Laurel Glen area.

A lightning strike in the Soquel area set the fire alarm to ringing at the Soquel Fire Department.

No snow was reported on the flatlands south of Capitola. Santa Cruz seemed to get the bulk of it.

Malio Stagnaro said he measured four inches of it on the Municipal wharf. He said it was

more than he's seen in his 58 years on the wharf.

Restaurant operator Gilda Stagnaro could see, from the wharf, snowy beaches to Seabright. Cliffs were white with snow and the wharf was

crowded with sightseers, but sans fishermen, a rare sight in itself.

Weatherman Robert Burton of Santa Cruz measured about two inches of snow on Prospect Heights. He said 10 inches of snow made about one inch of water.

He estimated the rainfall for 24 hours at 1.20 inches. Temperatures were mild (low of 52) because, he said "ice gives off heat."

By noon, most of the snow in the San Lorenzo Valley and around the streets and sidewalks of Santa Cruz had melted.

Bob Craig, weatherman and operator of San Lorenzo Valley Towing, said his three trucks had been very busy since 7 a.m., mostly pulling cars out of muddy and snowy driveways.

It is desirous to say that the drought is over, but a spokesman of the local water department said the .26 of an inch that fell at the Loch Lomond Reservoir "doesn't mean a thing." It will take a heap more raining to make a dent in the drinking

lake near near Ben Lomond.

According to the National Weather Service, there is a chance of showers tonight and Friday in the Monterey Bay Area and snow at the 1,500-foot level.

It is expected to get much colder tonight, most likely to freezing.

On Empire Grade the weather station gauge at the Lockheed facility was reported "frozen solid" and no reading was possible.

Rainfall reports for 24 hours ending at 8 a.m. today and including the season's totals (since July 1) and those of last year at this time, are as follows:

	24hrs	to date	74-75
Santa Cruz	1.20	7.03	12.01
Bonny Doon	.14	10.99	25.32
H a p p y V a l l e y			
	.50	8.90	17.70
Soquel	.36	5.71	13.17
Aptos	.18	4.71	11.04
Capitola	.33	4.62	12.03
Graham Hill	.50	7.75	17.40
Davenport	.13	5.57	12.35
Scotts Valley	.48	8.87	16.44
Rio del Mar	.19	5.48	12.42

2,000 Death Toll Called Conservative In Guatemala

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 Latin American countries and elsewhere.

"The 2,000 death figure is conservative," said Col. Manuel Angel Ponce, head of the Emergency Rescue Committee. "We think it may be higher. We are still receiving reports from the interior of the country."

Officials said at least another 3,000 were injured.

The U.S. Embassy reported no American casualties although it was the height of the tourist season. Several tourist

hotels were damaged, but none collapsed.

The earthquake struck shortly after 3 a.m. Wednesday across 2,000 miles stretching from Mexico City south through the heart of Guatemala and into Honduras and El Salvador. The epicenter was located 30 miles southwest of Guatemala City.

Ambulance sirens screamed through the night and morning. Hospitals overflowed with the injured and the less seriously hurt spent the night in makeshift litters on the street.

Relief officials appealed for plasma, antibiotics and other medical supplies. The government also asked for tents, food, portable electric generators and earth-moving equipment to open roads.

President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud said about a tenth of the housing across Guatemala — mostly frail adobe construction — was destroyed. He said it would be at least 20 days before the rubble is cleared.

"As usual, it is the people with the least means that suffer the most in these tragedies," he

said. Laugerud officially confirmed 800 dead and 3,000 injured, but he said the figures would climb far higher.

Guatemala City's population of 1.5 million spent the night in fear and discomfort as dozens of strong aftershocks collapsed shaky walls and sent up billows of dust that hung over the city as a chilly dawn broke. Many people slept in tents or under makeshift shelters made of bedsheets and pieces of plastic.

The city remained without water and large sections also lacked electricity. There was