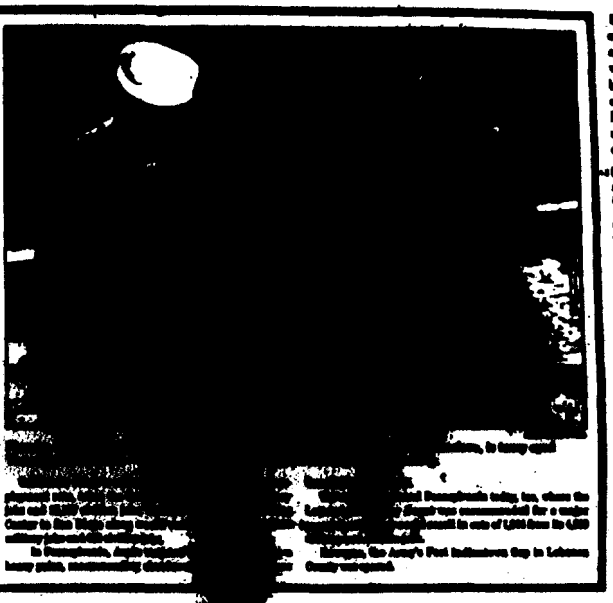
READING EAGLE

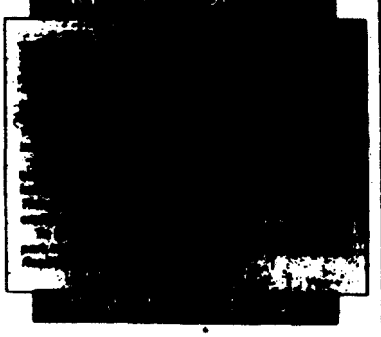
P.M. EDITION

Berks gears for March blizzard

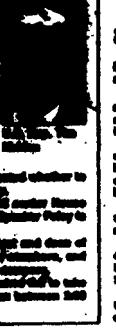
Aspin puts 165 bases in cross hairs



Consumers will still pay for TMI cleanup



Fightout's the boss, at least for 1 hour



Weiners closes doors after 89 years in city

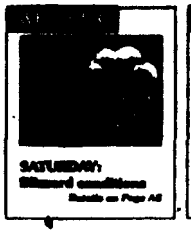
COMING TOMORROW

Balancing act isn't easy

The biggest change in women's lives is the number of choices available to them. But the choices can be overwhelming as women try to balance their lives, jobs and families. Coming Saturday in the Lifestyle section.

Vehicle storms from Congress

Russian leader Boris Yeltsin walked out of Congress today after lawmakers refused to allow a resolution backing his powers. Yeltsin now may ask for a plebiscite to settle the power dispute that's splitting the country. Page A3



SATURDAY: Blizzard conditions

Details on Page A6

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Today's edition: 3 sections plus Weekend

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Entertainment	E1	Crossword	C8	People	W10
Bridge	B8		C8	Police log	B8
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Comics	B8	Horoscope	B8	Television	W10
Community log	B8	Lottery	A2		

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EXHIBIT

Lois 1

3-10-00

Gov. Mifflin girls breeze to 3-AAAA title, 63-40

READING EAGLE Reading Times

a.m. BERKS

SATURDAY, March 13, 1993 Reading, Pa. 35¢ single copy

YOUR WEEKEND

Weather

Today Snow

Sunday Flurries

Details A2

Sports

- Scholastic basketball: District 3-AA hoop championship — Central Catholic vs. Octorara, Hershey Arena, today, 8 p.m.
- Bowling: Hilltop Pro's St. Patty's 10-Miler, Lorenzo Pizza's Market, today, 10:00 a.m.

Entertainment

- Exhibition: A look at the traditional side of Hungary and will be held Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Reading Public Museum. The show is entitled "St. Petersburg Pageant: The Ukrainian Tradition."

Inside a.m. Berks

Religion: UCC members celebrate installation of their new senior minister. Page A9

Lifestyle: The biggest change for women's dress are the choices available to them. Page C1

Sports: Muhlenberg's Damian Quick ends PAA swim season in winning gold medal. Page D1

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- Horoscopes / B8,9
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- Police log / B8
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- Sports / D1
- Television / B7

Lottery

Answer Page B4

Daily 2 9 6

Big Four 2 6 8 2

Wild Card Lotto 20 30 32 37 44 48

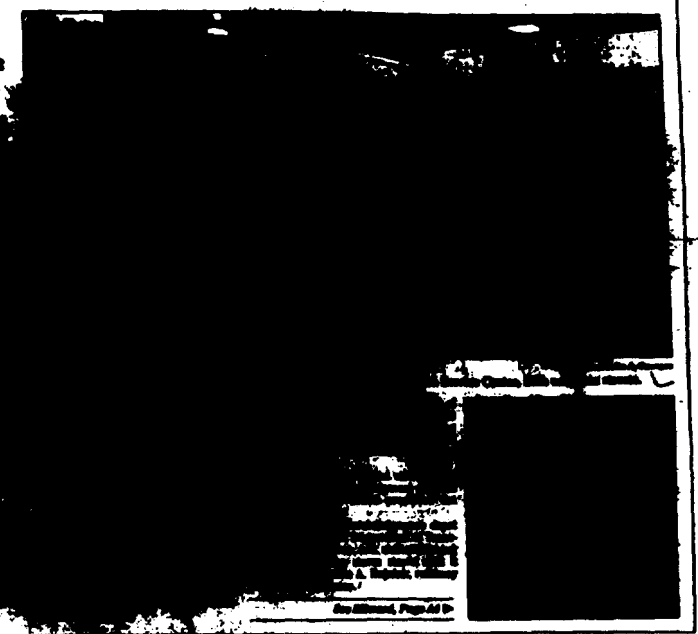
Wild Card: 31

Coming Sunday

- While thousands of Outpatient Based Education statements are expected to move the Capital on Monday to vote to repeal, the real key to coverage for the regulations is the support of Gov. Robert P. Casey. Staff writer Peter L. DiCicco's analysis the politics of coverage for OBE

Monster blizzard due

- County workers prepare to plow roads and make storm repairs as Accu-Weather meteorologist predicts at least 12 inches of snow will fall on Berks.



See Blizzard, Page A8 ▷

Realty values in mail

- More than 135,000 notices are mailed to Berks County property owners Friday afternoon informing them of their new real estate tax assessments.

By Mark Newhouse
Staff Writer

Reassessment notices are in the mail.

More than 135,000 letters were mailed Friday afternoon informing Berks County property owners of their new assessments, which take effect next year.

Most property owners are expected to receive the notices today or Monday.

Property owners will have opportunities to appeal the assessments, informally through Otto Layer-Trumble Co., who performed the assessment, and formally through the county board of assessment appeals.

The mood in the Berks County Services Center was calm Friday, even as officials prepared themselves for the public's reaction to the numbers.

"It's revolutionary," Commissioner Anthony J. Cavallello said of reassessment. "It's never been done before, but I've been in the business of government and politics long enough. I don't get nervous."

Cavallello said he was happy to see the notices going out. Other more than three years of intensive work, the commissioner said he has been an advocate for reassessment for more than 20 years, when he was a city councilman.

"I'm grateful we were able to meet the deadline," added Commissioner Glenn S. Reber, who also was on the board when it decided early in 1989 to do the reassessment. "I feel getting to today was a major effort."

The county had to put together its first set of complete property maps while doing its first-ever reassessment. Its county in Pennsylvania, over attempted to do both massive jobs at the same time.

"This board of commissioners is taking the bullet and doing the job," said Cavallello, who is the lone dissenting vote on the board on many other issues.

For the first time, all property taxes in Berks County will be based on the same basis, and at fairly full market value. That means the assessment should be what the property was worth on the market as of last July.

Most properties will have much higher assessments than they did before, but the law requires that property tax rates be reduced accordingly to keep municipalities and school districts from receiving a windfall in higher taxes.

"Some people think this is a left-handed way to get more taxes," said Cavallello. "That is absolutely not the case. The fundamental of reassessment is to reduce equality."

Whether It Bloomed This Week

[illegible] will have, staff members of the Reading Eagle and Reading Times have prepared a three-part series of stories to explain what is going on.

To get the broadest an understanding, read the three-part series which begins in the Sunday editions of the Reading Eagle.

Angry Yeltsin to ask people who is to rule

- The conflict between the Russian president and the parliament comes to a head after the legislature votes to reduce his powers.

Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — The fragile balance of power in Russia shattered Friday as President Boris N. Yeltsin called up hope of ending with the revolutionary legislature and announced he will ask Russia about who should rule the country.

Bonds in turn filed with an opposition alliance, in which Yeltsin's power comes — the president and the parliament — will try to ignore each other and run the country independently.

"Unfortunately, we are now on the threshold of confusion and uncertainty, disorder," parliament deputy Sergei Shakhrai told reporters Friday afternoon. "The period of unstable reforms is drawing to a close."

The long-simmering conflict over the scope and pace of reforms exploded Friday morning after the legislature voted to overturn a referendum on strengthening the power of the president — first agreed to by Russian — and to strip Yeltsin of some essential powers.

Yeltsin then walked out of the Kremlin Palace of Congresses, followed by his cabinet.

"The president has said his last word to the Congress and will not retreat," spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov told reporters. "He emphasizes that there can be no dialogue with the Congress. He won't talk to the Congress. He will talk directly to the people."

Yeltsin's advisers said the president will call the Congress' bluff, dare it to impeach him, plan to move ahead with a public vote next month that will allow the people to present his opinion and that he hopes will boost the dollar with the highest.

The referendum will be on the ballot, allowing all the voters from a presidential republic, and should expect to choose to buy and sell [illegible]

If approved by the legislature, the vote would not be regarded as legally binding, but a favorable outcome for Yeltsin would give him unmistakable moral authority.

Aides acknowledged that the situation could become highly unstable if the Congress and the executive head parliaments try to block plans for the vote. But Yeltsin advisers said the president does not intend to introduce direct

See Yeltsin, Page A8 ▷

MARCH BLIZZARD

Countians say no to snow

■ Unaccustomed in recent years to wintry winters, most are tired of drab, gray days and more than ready for spring.

By Bob Chambers
Staff Writer

Snow and power began so early on Thursday afternoon in Berks Countians that turned so may be lost with the biggest snowfall of the winter this weekend.

For many, however, this winter has been like a long gray death — perhaps worse, since it doesn't seem to linger when it will it quite over and for all — and think of spring have been lost.

When will it end? Where did the sun go? I can't stand it anymore.

Some say there and whether spirits have been boosted whether Nature's way more this winter than in recent years.

Certainly there was snowfall and only with those, the snowfall, but which took, dandy winter weeks.

And, what may be worse, a good deal of the weekends have been wrecked by snow or other bad weather, like the second last weekend with that heavy and other wintry. The snow of Thursday, the snow of Saturday, the snow of Sunday, the snow of Monday, the snow of Tuesday, the snow of Wednesday, the snow of Thursday, the snow of Fri

READING EAGLE

SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 1993 — $1.50

– Page D3

Blizzard pounds region; winds, drifting forecast

James H. Watson of West Lawn shovel the safety lights on his PennDOT truck while [illegible] Berks 422 west of Wyomissing.

• Drifting snow snarls ambulances in Windsor Township; power lines snapped; and road crews work 36 straight hours to clear major highways.

From our wire staff

A blizzard blasted eastern Berks County Saturday, dumping more than a foot of wind-whipped snow, producing power outages for thousands of residents, and forcing a wide swath of the county to a crawl.

[illegible]

[illegible] "The Gulph [illegible] — the Gulph of the [illegible] — the Gulph of all [illegible]," said Lt. Gov. Mark Schweiker, [illegible] Schweiker, who was [illegible] Saturday, [illegible] Gulph Road and Old Route 23 in Windsor Township.

"We had some workers who were trying to leave Berks and get home and return to Reading and [illegible] were just stuck in the snow," said Sheriff R. Skipper, [illegible] president of Blue Mountain Bank [illegible] Co. Inc., located just west of Leesportville. "So we got them out of their cars and into the plows."

Skipper said five female employees, four who were hired in semi-stable conditions and one who was hired in stable condition, left work night to Wyomissing, Oley, [illegible], complained of shortness of breath when they returned to the plant.

"They said they felt ill and were having a hard time breathing," Skipper said. "So we called [illegible] and called the ambulance. Which got here somewhere around 3 (p.m.)."

Officials said workers with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation were forced to help dig the ambulances out after two paramedic vehicles and a pair of snow plows also got stuck in the drifts which totaled up to 3[illegible] feet high.

Shortly thereafter, Gov. Robert P. Casey declared a state of emergency by prohibiting Pennsylvania Turnpike, Interstate 78 and other all-hazards highways, 800 diverse unplowed highways [illegible] in New Jersey and Delaware.

However, local officials overlooked most residents with using common sense for mitigating snow-related injuries by staying at home and out of the blizzard's path.

"We were lucky that this hit on a weekend and that we were well prepared for it," said John H. Lenz, director of Berks County Emergency Management Agency. "There was plenty of warning that it was coming, and somewhere the majority of people listened and realized they'd be better off staying indoors."

Lenz said his agency had set up headquarters at the Berks County Agricultural Center in Bern Township by mid-afternoon. He added that residents who were relying

See Blizzard, Page A4 ▶

INSIDE

■ Storm wreaks havoc from Florida to Maine.

See Page A5

■ The blizzard finds most businesses in the Berks County area closed.

■ Until Saturday, the great blizzard of 1888 was the standard for all storms.

See Page C1

Perfect wedding almost a disaster

• The "something borrowed" for the bride turns out to be the dancefloor of the Sheraton Berkshire, Wyomissing, after the blizzard snows a Berks couple out of their planned wedding site.

By Stephanie Ebbert
Staff Writer

After spending a year planning the perfect wedding — for Saturday — Katheryn A. Harrington and David C. Doll of Shoemakersville spent the past week hoping against hope the Weather Channel was wrong.

Instead, they have a blizzard of a story for their grandchildren.

The two had planned their perfect day on what turned out to be the most miserable day of the year in Berks County. As a result, only 60 of about 150 invited guests wandered the streets to make it. One other couple turned up among the missing.

There were no photos of the bride looking nostalgically down the church aisle. In fact, there wasn't even a church.

When the weather worsened and the storm began blasting up Saturday morning, the Reading bridal party gave the ceremony an hour and a half drive from Zion Blue Mountain United Church of Christ, Brownstown, to the Sheraton Berkshire, Wyomissing.

"I swore to my relatives Grandma thought I'd be walking down the dance floor of the Sheraton," Katheryn said after the ceremony.

See Wedding, Page A4 ▶

Staff Photo by John G. Gerner

Mr. and Mrs. David C. Doll of Shoemakersville pose for a wedding picture in Saturday's blizzard just outside the entrance to the Berkshire Sheraton.

Weather limits today's news

Due to the [illegible] weather conditions Saturday, the normal flow of news from our wire services was interrupted.

Reassessment: what it means to you!

Reassessment — the word alone is enough to send shivers through property owners in Berks County.

But after years of tedious pleading and pleading, the reassessment of properties finally has been completed and notices of the new figures have been put into the mail.

Guaranteed, the new figures will come as a shock to many Berks Countians.

To put the whole process into perspective, and trying some of the many home property owners no doubt will have, staff members of the *Reading Eagle* and *Reading Times* have prepared a three-part series of stories to explain what is going on.

Today's stories introduce and explain the history of the reassessment project, included is a general overview of the subject and a step by step guide to reading and understanding the Reassessment Guide.

There is also a quick look back at the four-year history of the project, a glossary of potentially confusing reassessment terms, and some answers to likely questions about the process, just.

The package starts on Page A12.

COMING TOMORROW

Kids into more than stamps

Youngsters are collecting things their moms and dads would never have dreamed of. Sonya K. McCallum, 7, who lives near Bethel collects monkeys and wants a live one as a family pet. Coming Monday in the Lifestyle section.

INSIDE TODAY

A rising star next in Series

The featured performer in the second Gertrude Steinbright Concert Series will be the acclaimed young soprano Stefanie Pearce. Susan Poole talks with this former child prodigy and rising star.

Page F1

AT 6:00

TODAY:
Bridal winds

Details on Page A2

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Antiques	A20	Daily digest	C2	Lottery	A2
Entertainment	C1	Editorials	B14	Public life	C2
Bridge	F2	Entertainment	F1	Real estate	C2
Business	B1	TV	G2	Sports of the	C2
Classified	C3	Horoscope	G12	Sports	D1
	F2	Leisure	F2	Travel	F10

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FOR HOME DELIVERY CALL 376-0301

WEATHER FROM ACCU-WEATHER®

BERKS TODAY — WINDY

TONIGHT — Partly sunny, breezy. High 28, low 20. Winds: W 10-20

TUESDAY — Partly sunny, breezy and colder. High 36, low 30. Winds: SW 10-20

WEDNESDAY — Clouds, some sunshine. High 44, low 28. Winds: W 7-14

THURSDAY — Plenty of sunshine, colder. High 38, low 30. Winds: NW 6-10

STATE REGIONAL FORECAST

WEATHER FACTS FOR READING

COMFORT INDEX — Today 1

LATEST UPDATE

TIDES

THE UNITED STATES

U.S. CITIES

TO CONTACT US BY TELEPHONE

Main number 371-6000
Toll free ..... 1-800-[illegible]
Circulation 370-6000
Richard B. Gerber, director
Joseph Pelchen, home delivery manager
Ronald G. Toth, home delivery supervisor
Gary L. Bauer Sr., home delivery supervisor
Richard G. Fox, dealer sales manager
Sonia R. Liberty, customer service supervisor
Charles P. Tomaski, alternate manager
Office hours:
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Major holidays 8 a.m.-noon
Retail advertising 371-6100
Classified advertising 370-1007
Roy G. Stoltzfus, director
Walter W. Shaffer, advertising
Terry L. Ballard, sales director
Anne T. Gaede, retail manager
Richard G. Weiner, national manager
Lori G. Gerhard, classified manager
Display advertising Fax number
Classified advertising Fax number
Office hours:
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday classified phone only 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m.
Editorial 371-6000
Charles M. Gallagher, managing editor
Richard J. Shafer, news editor
Henry J. Sisk Jr., news editor
Ronald P. Evans, news editor
Deborah M. Martin, city city editor
Alexander S. Yost, night city editor
James G. Gaudiosi, business editor
Kenny Miller, Sunday editor
J. Christian Bachler, photo manager
Home Fax number
Eagle Link
To receive information
Business office
Advise & Monitor, director
Promotions and Marketing
John G. Stevens, director
Suzanne G. Gerber, special features editor
Carmen Anderson, Newspaper in Education

SETTING IT STRAIGHT

SUBMITTING NEWS

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Windy Weather

▶ Blizzard

Continued from Page A1

▶ Wedding

Continued from Page A1

"It was the most logical move, David said. Most of the guests who had made it were staying at the Sheraton, and the reception was scheduled there Saturday afternoon.

But in the move, both bride and groom were almost abandoned at the altar — by the minister. The Rev. James Meyers had to be persuaded to brave the storm and come to the inn on a friend's four-wheel drive vehicle.

They also were lacking an organist, and almost lost their deejay, who had to be rescued from his vehicle by Sheraton staffers when he got stuck on route to the hotel.

Remarkably, the couple took these troubles in stride.

"I was a little disappointed (David) needed

"I was worry but (Friday) night at the rehearsal dinner," Kathryn said.

What saved the day was the help of friends, family and Sheraton employees, who pulled together Friday and Saturday to get some of the details back in order. Kathryn's mom, Anne K. Harrington, said the flowers, table linens and wedding cake were delivered Friday, in anticipation of inclement weather.

But, Anne added, many ingredients were still missing.

"We told the driver — the groom's not supposed to see it before the wedding — and then they had to drive down here together and get the dress in the car with them," she said.

The two had planned to fly to Florida today for their honeymoon, but are uncertain whether their flight will be running or rescheduled.

Kathryn's friends and family have been looking for she'll appear on the Oprah Winfrey Show, as part of a "weddings from hell" episode.

"She has worked hard to plan the perfect wedding and she's done such a beautiful job," Anne said. "We kept saying, 'Don't worry about the little things. She's held up remarkably, and she wasn't exactly one of the little things."

Both bride and groom remained high-spirited.

"We didn't want to have to postpone the wedding," David said. "Maybe we'll just have a party in the spring."

"This has got to be a good omen," Kathryn said. "It has to be."

Competition to all west

Continued from Page A1

Daily circulation 334 May 4, 2285

Related story on Page C10

JOSEPH N. FARRELL

Good idea could aid America

In complex, confusing times, often it's the simplest ideas that seem to make the most sense.

Robert W. Good of West Wyomissing, a retired businessman and some-time artist who describes himself as a simple guy, has one that's worth considering.

He wants an American Week, one week during the year when everybody pulls together and pitches in to help the nation out of the current miseries.

Good exhibits his work "A New Beginning," and his sculpture is filled with ideas he wants to get people thinking about. And of course, he wants opportunity to sell.

"You've got these small groups that hold seminars for people in financial trouble," he says. "But maybe we'd do it more effectively if the whole country did it."

There's a strong patriotic theme of many Good ideas. He says he has filled his life with them.

While a big week promotion certainly would offer up a lot of publicity, Good feels the inclusion for American Week has to come from the schools.

"You have to get the kids involved," he explains. "They're the ones who are going to be about work, the children, and if they don't get involved early on, they're never going to get a handle on it."

Also, he feels that by getting kids involved, adults will be shamed into going along.

"Everybody blames the schools for this or that," he says, "but if the school kids blow how much they care, what are the politicians going to do?"

There are several things that get Good going on this.

One is the national debt, which now amounts to $40,000 for every man, woman and child in the country.

Another is the loss of good jobs.

"Industry keeps laying people off. As they cut back on the military," he says, "more people are going to get laid off. You can't keep losing jobs like that. How are people going to pay the taxes?"

Taxes is the third area that has him worried. In addition to people losing good jobs, he says, there are the elderly people on fixed incomes who can't afford new taxes, but are getting them anyway.

"This property reassessment for Berks County is going to be really hard on them," he says.

Last but not least on his list of concerns is what's been happening to the country in general.

"People have lost the belief in people," he says. "Years ago, we helped each other out. Today, if there's somebody lying on the gutter, people walk by."

The nation, he says, needs something to rally it, to get everyone pulling in the same direction.

"We had unity in World War I and World War II," he says, "and look what we did. We need that now."

He's right.

You can't pull out of a tailspin if you've lost sight of the horizon. All the old national holidays have been reduced to three-day weekends and 20-percent-off sales at the malls.

No wonder there seems to be more these days to divide us than to unite us.

So we're ripe for something new to inspire and energize us, and Good says if you don't like America Week: A New Beginning, then it's your duty as an American to come up with something better.

"If this country goes to hell," he says, "it's my problem and your problem and everybody's problem."

●

Joseph N. Farrell is an Eagle Times reporter. His column appears Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Reading Eagle and the Reading Times, and Sundays in the Reading Eagle.

Biggest blizzard? Time will tell

■ An eyewitness recalled that a vestige of the Blizzard of '93 had not melted so long after the storm as July 4, 1893.

From our news staff

Until Saturday, the Great Blizzard of '93 (that's 1888) was the biggest winter storm that was the standard against which all others have been measured.

But it might be overtaken, and we know whether the anemic Blizzard of 1993 has surpassed its notorious predecessor.

Saturday's blizzard came exactly 105 years and one day after the 1888 storm, and was almost a carbon copy, having its track in the Gulf of Mexico and then moving up the East Coast.

Four hundred people from Maryland to Maine died in the 1888 storm, although there were no Berks county related deaths recorded.

But comparing the two storms in different locations is wasn't until after the heaping of official weather records were begun.

What is known about the 1888 blizzard is that it dumped 18 inches of snow on Berks County and that transportation was immediately impeded by flooding locomotives and the line on plunging into the sub-zero temps.

The Blizzard of 1888 also dumped 18 inches of snow on Berks over a two-day period in the middle of February.

Wind velocities of the 1888 monster were not reported, but the force of the winds was such that they piled up drifts of up to 40 feet in height.

In fact, one drift, located in a cleated gully three miles north of the city, was reported to have still been a 20-foot-high pile of snow on July 4, 1893, according to an eyewitness and resident of the area.

A post-Independence Day sample would almost guarantee the 1888 Blizzard the all-time title of "Great Blizzard."

And it is more than coincidence that both great storms gathered in March.

What April may be the greatest month according to the poets, March has earned for itself other.

A look back at newspaper files shows that some of the most violent storms unleashed breathtakingly within weeks of the official start of spring.

On March 6, 1956, a storm dumped a foot and a half of snow on Berks County. That was a year after the Feb. 17, 1955, snowstorm that left a foot of snow and drifts of up to 8 feet on the ground in Berks.

Another monster storm hit Berks on March 16, 1958, although it produced only 5 inches of wet snow. Its cold front, the chilly wind it brought and disastrous flood, damaging dams and causing widespread misery.

Two years later, a double-blizzard season caused even more misery.

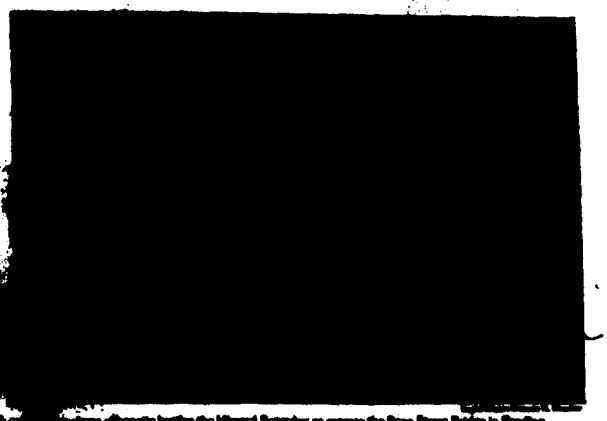
The first blizzard hit on Feb. 15, dropping 15 inches during a two-day storm, with winds up to 35 mph. In some areas of the county, the snowfall was unofficially measured at 30 to 40 inches deep.

That storm was a Sunday one, accompanied by lightning and rumblings of thunder. National Guardsmen were called out to assist more than 30 people who were trapped in stalled cars along Route 61 (now Interstate 78). Up Berks measured at more than 10 feet deep.

See '93 Blizzard, Page 6A

Superstorm spawns big shutdown

■ VF Outlet officials in Wyomissing opened their doors for a brief period before the storm arrived. Guests in shirts and ties, while other businesses never really got



Drivers abandon trucks on the Blizzard Saturday on approach the Penn Street Bridge in Reading.

[illegible] Information about bus services today will be [illegible] on local radio stations.

Alan [illegible] of the Reading Metro Taxi drivers, who stopped collecting fares at 10:30 a.m.

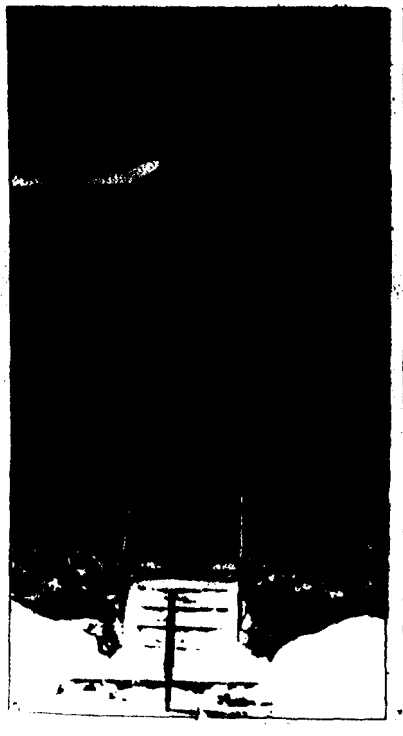
At the Reading Regional Airport, executive director John C. [illegible] said he had already cancelled flights for today, depending on the weather. For more information about rescheduling a canceled flight, call 1-800-[illegible].

"We have a full crew on duty trying to keep up and make sure we are ready after the storm," Blackburn reported. "We scheduled them to come in at 6 a.m., and many came in with sleeping bags, cots and a change of clothes."

Blackburn said spares were clearing the snow as it fell, so that planes could be able to take off and land as soon as the storm ends.

Although an employee was manning the control tower, Blackburn said he did not expect any private planes to fly during the blizzard. Officials at Reading Airport did not answer the phone to say it was closed.

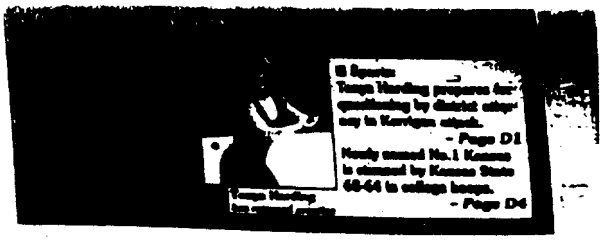
See Big shutdown, Page 6A



Eighteen-year-old Jennifer Vanhandolo of Reading, above, covers the snowfall by sledding down a hill in City Park. Outlined against the 13-year-old Melissa L. Salgal, [illegible], scrambled to scooping snow from the porch roof of her home along Mineral Spring Road in the city, for left, while a lone walker's footprints, left, will soon be swallowed by the steady snowfall.

READING EAGLE P.M. EDITION

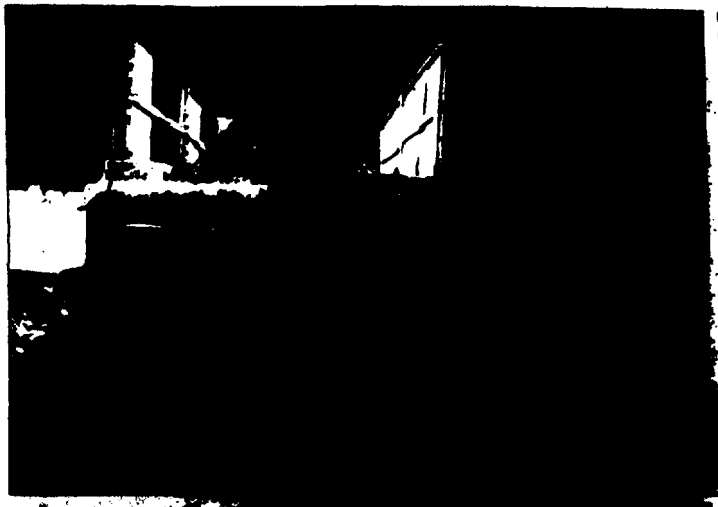
Tuesday, Jan. 18, 1994 | Reading, Pa. | 100 cents



■ Sports: Tonya Harding prepares for questioning by district attorney in Kerrigan attack. - Page D1

Newly crowned No. 1 Kansas is stunned by Kansas State 68-64 in college hoops. - Page D4

32 dead as L.A. digs from quake



Above, Santa Clarita Public Safety Department officer Jim Hodges, right, talks with a resident at the Valley Plaza Mall in Canyon Country, Calif., Monday. The mall was closed, and Hodges, right, were displaced by the quake.

■ Crumbled freeways, downed, frayed nerves, no power or water are problems for thousands. Hundreds of aftershocks roll through area.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - Commuters confronted crumbled freeways, downed and frayed nerves today. Thousands of workers struggled to get by with no power, no water and - in some cases - no place to live.

At least 32 people died in Monday's quake, which measured 6.8 on the Richter scale and was centered in the sprawling, densely populated San Fernando Valley, 20 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles.

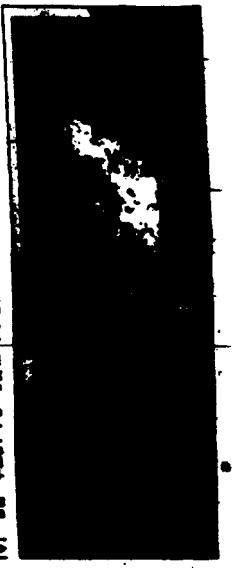
Hundreds of aftershocks rolled through after the quake hit at 4:31 a.m. Monday, including one at 3:20 p.m. Monday measuring 5.8. The aftershocks were distributed in intensity today, and Dublin scientists fully expect more strong aftershocks.

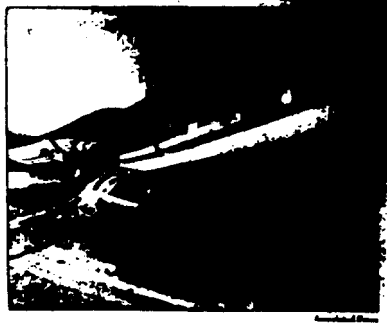
Great chunks of the region's vital freeways lay smashed, forcing months or years of traffic snarls in a city that lives in its cars.

Subways were closed, and Police Chief Willie Williams asked business to stagger hours to reduce traffic. Aftershocks still prevented Gov. Lee Brown, Mayor Richard Riordan and other officials from assessing the region's damage in person this morning.

"This film thing here and life is long then, it's a mess," said driver Alan Hendelman in Santa Monica.

Aftershock, Page A6 ▶





Associated Press

Jack Cohen, a former degree engineer with an outside degree, operates the Earthquake Education network. All of his home is full-time, consistently during his warnings to thousands.

The fire he turned on Saturday said he had received reports of "increased radio signals, magnetic anomalies and many cases of electrical problems." Emboldened that the results could mean a quake measuring more than 6 on the Richter scale.

The quake that hit before daybreak Monday in Southern California measured 6.8.

"I had no idea the quake would roll the way it did," Cohen said in a telephone interview Monday night. "I didn't think it would be this bad and hold on long as it did."

Inspired, along by a dated prediction by Cohen two years ago, apparently ignored Saturday's warnings.

Scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park find little to back Cohen's theories.

"We sent three scientists over there some time ago to look at his stuff," spokeswoman Pat Jorgensen said Monday. "We couldn't make any sense out of it."

The scientists at USGS study the Earth, not the atmosphere. But Jorgensen added that the survey has been cooperating with Stanford scientist Anthony Fraser-Smith, who is studying radio waves and quakes.

Cohen started developing his theories a few years back, when a radio he was repairing started making strange noises.

"About four hours later we had a quake and I wondered if there was a connection," he said.

For about three years, he has worked full-time on his forecasts, trying to prove there's something more than coincidence involved.

He depends on volunteers and money donations from people interested in his theories.

In 1990, he predicted a "big one" would hit on Sept. 11, and noise of heated water and hot water shot up. Two small quakes rocked the Santa Cruz area on Sept. 18, but the big one never materialized.

Cohen gave the 1991 quake a 72 percent chance, while Saturday's forecast listed a 34.5 percent chance.

Aftershocks rocking Berks

■ Tremors could go on for several days, weeks or even months, says a Millersville University geologist and geophysics professor.

By Mark Abouzeid
Staff Writer

An aftershock measuring 2.6 on the Richter scale rattled western Berks County at 8:00 p.m. Monday, raising anxiety levels of residents still coping with multiple and frequent other aftershocks connected to two earthquakes which rocked the area Saturday night.

John E. Loos, Berks County Emergency Management Agency director, said the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo., recorded the aftershock on seismographic instruments there.

An aftershock of similar magnitude was recorded about 12:15 a.m. Sunday.

"These may go on for several days, weeks or even months," advised Dr. Charles E. Schmidlapp, a geologist-geophysics professor and chairman of the Earth Sciences Department at Millersville University.

"But to minimize what we had here, but when you look at the differences between the 4.6 we had and the 5.6 they had in California, the destruction is just so different," Loos said. "We were lucky."

Loos said he expects to be in touch today with representatives of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency in Harrisburg to review damage reports.

"I'll also be following up on phone calls today from people reporting damage," he said. "We're encouraging people to call our office and let us know what they have out there."

Meanwhile, a New York City-based seismological research team is collecting data on the aftershocks from quake

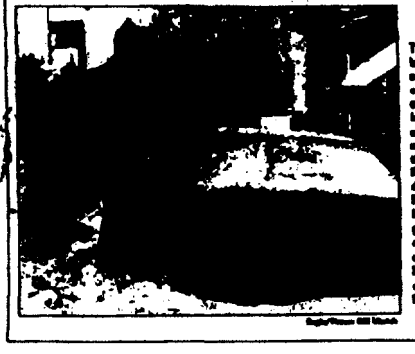
See Aftershocks, Page A6 ▶

More Inside

- Two [illegible] in the aftermath of the quake, [illegible] people [illegible]
- [illegible] Berks [illegible] since the 6.6 quake [illegible] aftershocks.
- [illegible] Berks and Reading [illegible] Millersville University, to get [illegible] reports.
- A professor has compiled a list of Berks quakes.

See Page A4

See Page A6



Right Photo: Bill Wade

The pointed bowing of the tree photographed on nearly half-an-acre was lost on many residents this morning as they, like Reading resident David H. Rodriguez, labored at digging out heavily dented vehicles. For full local weather coverage, see Page B1.

COMING TOMORROW

Successful nibbling

Increasingly, research shows that eating several small meals a day may be better than three squares. But "snacking" doesn't mean hitting the vending machine or cookie jar. Coming Wednesday in the Lifestyle section.

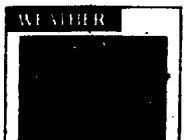
INSIDE TODAY

Casey to daily abortion directive

In a letter, Gov. Robert P. Casey tells President Clinton he will not comply with a federal abortion directive. The directive requires state funding for abortions for poor women whose pregnancies are the result of rape or incest.

Page A8

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY: Windy, bright

Details on Page A8

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Today's edition: 4 sections

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Books & beyond	B1	Editorials	B6	World news	A2
Bridge	C4	Entertainment	D6	Obituaries	C4
Business	A10	Horoscope	D6	People	D6
Classified	C5	Lifestyle	C1	Sports	D1
Comics	D6	Lottery	A2	State news	B4
Crossword	C6,8			Television	D7

Single Link company line ..... Page B6

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EXHIBIT
Loos 2
03-10-00
ENCAD-Exponent, N.J.

Reading Quake Survey

Two earthquakes – the first measuring 4.6 on the Richter scale, and the second 4.0 – rattled Berks County Saturday night and have fallen followed by numerous aftershocks. The Reading Eagle and Reading Times, in cooperation with Millersville University, is publishing the following survey form and asking readers to fill it out and return it to

Dr. Charles K. Scharnberger
Department of Earth Sciences
P.O. Box 1002
Millersville University
Millersville, Pa. 17551

The purpose of this survey is to learn the limits of the area in which the quakes were felt and the intensity at which each was felt

SECTION ONE:
Your location at the time of each earthquake.

	7:43 p.m.	8:49 p.m.
1 City, township or borough		
2 Neighborhood or development name		
3 Nearest traffic intersection (example Van Reed and State Hill roads)		

SECTION TWO:
List of possible earthquake effects.
Check what you or others experienced or observed.

	7:43 p.m.	8:49 p.m.
● No one at my location felt or heard anything (This response is important. The data collected at this point will help determine the area each earthquake affected.)		
● Faint rumbling was heard		
● Some people thought they felt something		
● Everyone who was awake felt something		
● Some people who were sleeping were awakened		
● Vibration like a heavy truck passing the house		
● Dishes or windows rattled		
● Closet or cabinet doors spring open		
● Very loud noise		
● Everyone who was sleeping was awakened		
● Small, movable objects toppled over		
● Liquids splashed from containers		
● Pictures fell from walls		
● Objects thrown from shelves		
● Pendulum clocks stopped		
● Cracks in plaster		
● Pieces plaster		
● Heavy furniture moved		
● Cracks in brick walls		
● Chimneys or factory pulled away from building		
● Fallen bricks		
● Fallen chimneys		

Any other effects you want to mention:

If at a different location for each event, please specify where you were for each.
(7:43 p.m.) _____
(8:49 p.m.) _____

(OPTIONAL)
Name _____
Telephone number _____

State, federal aid unlikely

Singel says Berks earthquake damage too slight to qualify

Continued from Page A1

Lt. Gov. Mark S. Singel said Monday the state would be no stranger to earthquakes when it comes to assessing damage and providing aid.

Singel said Gov. Dick Thornburgh's administration will not seek federal disaster aid for the Berks County earthquake because the damage was too slight. Singel said Monday he had heard of no damage in Wyoming Hills.

"It doesn't appear that it is likely that the state will qualify for federal disaster assistance," Singel said. Singel said Monday he had heard of no damage in Wyoming Hills.

Although many quakes have been felt throughout the state, only limited damage was reported in Berks County. Many people fled to the streets in Reading and Wyomissing Hills, and Berks County Emergency Management Director Ronald Wilson said Monday that he had received no reports of damage in Wyomissing Hills.

"I don't know what the Berks County Emergency Management Agency is doing," said Wilson, who said Monday he had received no reports of damage in Wyomissing Hills.

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Lead Reading earthquake survey author Dr. Charles K. Scharnberger said they were flooded with telephone calls Monday from people living in Wyomissing Hills, Reading, Shillington, Sinking Spring, Wyomissing and Mt. Penn who felt the quake and wanted to add examples of what happened.

Scharnberger said the people who called in were mostly those who felt the quake and were concerned about what happened.

"A lot of people are calling us to find out what, and why, was going on," said Scharnberger, who said he received calls from people living in Wyomissing, Reading, Shillington, Sinking Spring, Mt. Penn and Wyomissing Hills.

"A lot of people are calling us to find out what, and why, was going on," said Scharnberger, who said he received calls from people living in Wyomissing, Reading, Shillington, Sinking Spring, Mt. Penn and Wyomissing Hills.

"There are certain policies where some of the resulting damage is covered, but 80 percent of the damage is not covered," said Scharnberger, who said he received calls from people living in Wyomissing, Reading, Shillington, Sinking Spring, Mt. Penn and Wyomissing Hills.

Wilson said on Monday he would have to look at the damage to determine if emergency funds would be needed.

Eagle Insurance Agency Inc., Muhlenberg Township, closed early Monday because of the quake.

"It's dangerous now for the total occupancy of the building," Perkins explained.

"I live on Bishop Drive," he continued. "The crack is in front of my house. I don't know if it (earthquake coverage) is in my image. I'm embarrassed to say."

WHAT TO DO

Continued from Page A1

John E. Love, Berks County Emergency Management Director, said Monday Monday, in addition to assessing and providing for emergency-related damage to property.

Love said he is compiling a number of damage reports that he will forward to state officials in hopes of providing state or federal aid.

If your business sustained damage to state or federal standards, contact a contractor, preferably one who has met the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry requirements, or one of the last Berks — 800-404-0000 or 1-800-932-0783 — between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The state will provide a list of contractors who have met the requirements.

Contractors, Love said, will be on hand to do the work in the order they arrive, unless there is a special need, such as a hospital, school or other public facility.

Love said he is also working on a list of people who need assistance, so that they can be contacted when the need arises.

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coverage
commodity

▶ Aftershocks

Continued from Page A1

were it distributed Sunday and Monday among seven sites – mostly in homes – within a nearly two-square-mile area of State Hill and Van Reed roads in Spring Township.

The researchers, from Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, said the intersection is a suspected epicenter of at least one of the earthquakes based on the intensity of the damage discovered nearby.

The second quake, measuring 4.0 on the Richter scale, may be the largest ever recorded in Pennsylvania, the researchers believe.

It occurred at 8:49 p.m. Saturday, a little over an hour after a quake of the magnitude of 4.0 on the Richter scale occurred at 7:43 p.m.

Barry J. Sushi, county facilities director, said maintenance personnel on Monday found a couple of broken windows at the Berks County Agricultural Center in Bern Township and observed a two foot crack on a west side exterior wall believed caused by the quakes.

Sushi said the windows were covered and the crack, which is not believed to affect the structural integrity of the building, will be addressed in the coming weeks.

Leonardo Seeber, who is directing the five-man Columbia team, said Monday night that the researchers don't believe a fault known to stretch from Wyomissing Hills west toward Sinking Spring and into Womelsdorf is connected to the quakes.

Seeber, a seismologist whose specialty is finding ground ruptures, said he can't detect any relationship between that fault and the cracking along roads, especially State Hill Road, and sidewalks and houses.

"We really can't map anything now with the snow and the frozen ground, but our instruments are helping us identify the earthquake zone," Seeber said.

He added that residents have been very cooperative in allowing his team to place traditional seismographs with a paper and pencil to record data and new digitally-controlled monitors in dwellings.

Millersville's Scharnberger conceded that the epicenter – the surface point from which the earthquake spreads – still is not well defined.

HISTORY OF QUAKES IN BERKS

The following is a list of Berks County earthquakes compiled by Dr. Charles K. Scharnberger, professor of seismographologists at Millersville University.

May 28, 1935, in Gangstown.

June 6, 1937, in Reading.

Jan. 7, 1994, in Sinking Spring. Scharnberger estimated this earthquake, which resulted in broken chimneys and cracked plaster, measured at least a 4 on the Richter scale. Aftershocks shook the area for an entire week.

June 1972 in Wyomissing Hills. Scharnberger said a number of small earthquakes rocked the area over a period of several days. The strongest measured 3.5 on the Richter scale.

Aug. 12, 1972, in Wyomissing Hills. Scharnberger said this could be considered an aftershock of the 1972 earthquake.

May 28, 1998, in Spring Township. The twenty second earthquake 4.0 or more on the Richter scale and most hardest felt in Berks County.

June 10, 1998 by Schamberger. Two quakes measuring 3.5 and the 4.0 aftershock felt throughout the area. Aftershocks felt throughout the area measuring 3.5 and the 4.0 aftershock felt throughout the area measuring 3.5 and the 4.0 aftershock felt throughout the area measuring 3.5 and the 4.0 aftershock

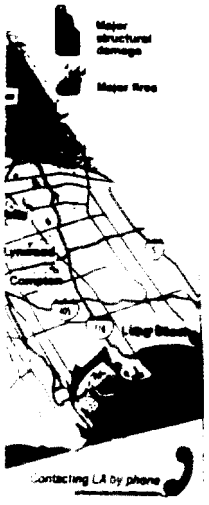
Associated Press

...d been killed in the cab

...quake

...more, and several aftershocks
...which is 20 miles east of
...Richter Scale.

Based upon preliminary reports



Contacting LA by phone

...ng calls into Southern California to keep open to people in the area, according to ...y Peterson. People calling into the area ...a message saying all circuits are busy.

...rds a portion of Balboa Boul-

JOSEPH N. FARRELL

'94 winter is worth its salt!

The driveway slopes toward the sun. In 14 winters, I've been able to keep it clear without having to work too hard.

Just enough or closest until the blacktop starts showing through, and the sun will take care of the rest.

Even when we've had bad snow or ice in the past, even the Blizzard of '93, they've been once and done affairs.

Within a day or so, the driveway was open again, and, after a few days at most, the walks, the roads and everything else were in pretty good shape.

Not this winter, though. It's been an unusually unsettling (but Saturday's earthquake – the biggest ever to hit the East Coast – became by Monday only the second-most important thing people had to worry about).

Now, with another deep layer of snow upon the ice, I'm certainly not the only one with a bunch of daily chores and decisions to bring the [illegible] down to predictions of single-digit temperatures and falling snow.

It took snippets of last week – a couple hours each day of forced labor with an ice chopper – to clear a narrow passageway just large enough to get the car out and down.

Forget the sidewalks. They've got 3 inches of solid ice on them, maybe more, and at this rate it will be April before they thaw.

Still, I am in good shape compared with so many others who have no choice but to park on the street.

Each snow has pushed the available parking further out into the street, leaving lots of front and back ends pushing dangerously into the travel lanes.

With all the snow we get Monday, the hard-crusted heaps of unplowable slop are really going to grow as people dig themselves out of this one, pushing parked cars ever farther into traffic and making it that much more difficult and dangerous to park and drive.

Not only does one storm after another make it harder and harder to get around, but with all the time and energy it takes to shovel and to struggle to get to work, nobody is up to doing much of anything else.

Unless you have to pick up bread, milk, eggs and – if you're lucky – mail for the sidewalk, who wants to risk breaking bones on some frozen parking lot just to go shopping?

The weather pattern we're in is centered over Hudson Bay, and the weather guys say it might be weeks before it breaks up.

Great. I mean it, sort of.

We all get to thinking that bad things happen only to the other guys. California gets all the earthquakes. Brits gets the big, bad storms. Lucky us.

But a winter like this – not to mention an earthquake like Saturday's – reminds us that our existence, too, can be pretty fragile, and that we really don't always have control over it.

Although we need that humbling reminder every so often, it can be depressing – until you get to thinking about someplace else like Sarajevo.

There, not only is the winter rotten but there is no food or water, no heat, no warmth, and people are being shot at. Despite everything, though, life goes on.

It is a marvel that a simple desire to live as normal a life as possible can overcome so much, but it does. Just as each succeeding storm upsets us much less than the preceding one.

It is not just a matter of getting used to shoveling snow day in, day out, and struggling to get to work no matter what. It's finding a part of something enduring, worthwhile – a small part, to be sure – but connected nonetheless.

That's not such a bad deal, is it?

■

Joseph N. Farrell is an Eagle/Times reporter. His column appears Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Reading Eagle and the Reading Times, and Sundays in the Reading Eagle.

BERKS BLANKETED AGAIN

New storm piles it on: 16 inches

■ Coroner reports one snow-related death. All schools closed for the fourth time this month.

Eagle/Times file photo

Eagle/Times file photo

Sebastian Aquaviva, 10, of Reading, shows off a pile of snow in front of his Spring Street home while his mother Michelle shovels in the background. Aquaviva, 6, left, and Shaquan Gallaway, 11, play.

From our wires staff

More than a foot of snow blanketed most of Berks County today, as the biggest of this month's series of storms caused one death and forced many public offices to shorten their operations.

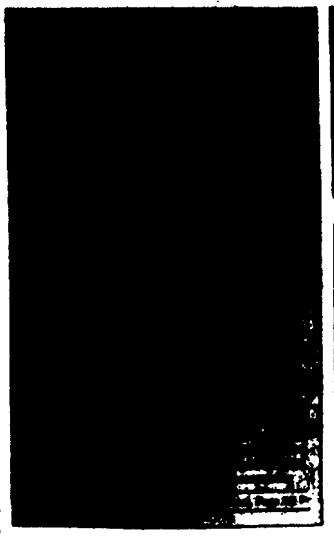
Albert C. Smith, 64, of Robesonia, Wyomissing, pronounced dead at 2:00 p.m. by John H. Lamprey, chief deputy coroner.

Snowfall ranged from about 6 inches at Spaatzwell Preserve, Hamburg, Blue Marsh Dam, Shoemakersville, to 16 inches at the Gilbert Wildlife Sanctuary, Douglassville, according to Quakertown Township. Other depths reported were 14

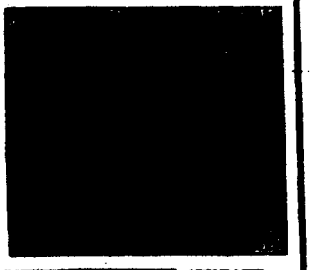
See Blizzard, Page 2B

Eagle/Times file photo

An unidentified shoveler on South 13th Street faces a monumental task.



Eagle/Times file photo



Eagle/Times file photo

ABOVE LEFT: Laura Goodwin, left, and her husband, Charles, of Douglassville slid up Lincolnwood Road, headed for a relative's house to help shovel.

LEFT: Clearing off the car was a family project for the Fisher family in Shillington. From left, are Zachary C., 11; Sasha R., 12; and their father, Kris C.

City crew delivers snowed-in mom just in time

■ When pregnant Kathleen Miller of Reading went into labor, a family friend flagged the nearest moving vehicle – a city truck. The three workers took a break in their day to aid the woman.

From our wires staff

Three city garage workers used their municipal truck in Monday's snowstorm to make a special delivery – they took a woman in labor to Reading Hospital.

The mother, Kathleen Miller, 28, of 1233 Moss St., gave birth less than three hours later at 7:32 p.m. to a 10-inch, 8-pound 12-ounce girl.

Miller's mother, Nancy J. O'Boyle, 1510 Moss St., said Miller, who has three other children, was visiting her when she went into labor about 5 p.m.

Then they found out they were snowed in.

A call to Miller's husband, Michael, darkened he couldn't move his car or van.

So when O'Boyle's boyfriend, Ray Weinhold, asked if he should go out into the street and flag down a ride to get Miller to the hospital, she didn't hesitate.

"I just didn't want her to have the baby here," O'Boyle said.

City garage employee Jeffrey J. Weitzel was shoveling snow in front of his home in the 1500 block of Moss Street, waiting to be picked up by co-workers Michael J. Aston and Eric Weaver, when he saw Weinhold run into the street and flag down the truck.

"I just thought he was going out to complain or something," Weitzel said.

Weaver said he and Aston hesitated only momentarily when Weinhold told them a ride was needed, knowing supervisors might not approve of the hospital detour in a city truck.

"It was him, first of all, we could get in big trouble for doing this," Weaver said, "and then my only thought was 'Run on it, let's talk her.' "Usually nobody ever hears about the garage," said Weaver. "I'm glad we could help somebody. That's all we were really thinking about."

O'Boyle said afterward that the events reminded her of Miller's own abrupt birth at home, 28 years earlier, on Jan. 13, 1966.

While the roads in Douglassville were icy that day also, O'Boyle recalled, there was no storm to delay the trip to the hospital.

Kathleen was born too quickly.

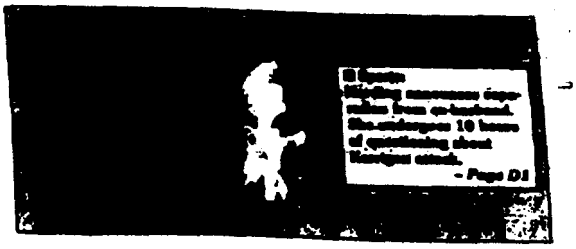
"It just happened so fast. I went upstairs to get my suitcase," O'Boyle said, "and that was as far as I could go."

Coincidentally, she said, Kathleen had recently dug up an old newspaper clipping about her birth to show O'Boyle.

Neither Miller nor her husband could be reached for comment.

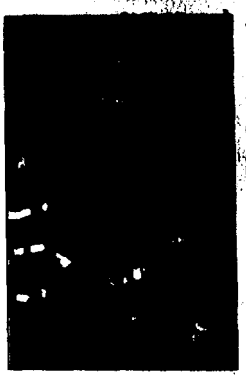
READING EAGLE

P.M. EDITION



– Page D1

Volunteers f[illegible]ames and ice at burning home



Casey asks businesses to shut down

Rationing of water is ordered

By Peter L. DeCicesaro
Staff Writer

Residents of Hebron remained without water this morning and the rest of Western Berks Water Authority's 32,000 customers were under orders to ration and boil water, following a massive water main break Tuesday that authorities believe may be earthquake related.

The early morning rupture in a 36-inch Western Berks Water Authority main on State Hill Road in Lower Heidelberg Township forced a switch to city water, but by 8 p.m. the added demand on the city water system had drained the reservoir supplying water to Shillington, Mohnton and the developments in Cumru and Spring townships, according to Anthony Conceptions, city water engineer.

Conceptions said this morning that at this point, there is no need for city customers to ration.

"It's the Western Berks system that's having problems and we're doing everything we can to help out," he said.

Conceptions said the problem is aggravated by the fact that one of the city reservoirs is dangerously low, a water line on Warren Street that might be used to provide city water to Wyomissing is frozen, and one of the city's pumping stations is off-line for scheduled maintenance.

He said he is attempting to get a welder to try to thaw the Warren Street line, but the Lancaster-based contractor repairing the pumping station cannot reach the station because of road conditions.

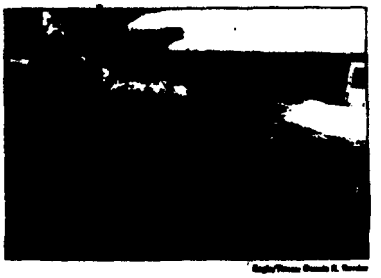
"We're trying to juggle our system to give them some help," he said.

Late Tuesday afternoon, at the request of city officials, Shillington reduced water pressure in its lines to a level where it could no longer send water to residents of Mohnton, according to Shillington consulting engineer Richard H. Schlosser.

The broken line carries water from the authority's plant along the Tulpehocken Creek to a distribution system that feeds several municipalities.

John E. Lees, director of the Berks County Emergency Management Agency, said residents and businesses served by Western Berks should cut their water use in half and boil

See Rationing, Page A8 ▶



Workmen for Schlouch Engineering Inc. finish digging out a 36-inch water main that ruptured Tuesday morning along State Hill Road.

COMING TOMORROW

What makes a marriage fail?

The latest studies suggest that the marriages most likely to dissolve are those in which some or all of the four behaviors are chronic: criticism, contempt, defensiveness and withdrawal. Coming Thursday in the Lifestyle section.

INSIDE TODAY

Rebuilding in L.A. begins

Construction crews tear chunks of concrete highway down in order to begin repairs on freeways surrounding Los Angeles. The death toll of Monday's earthquake rises to 42. Numerous homes remains without power or water. Page A4

WEATHER

THURSDAY:
Flurries, some sun.

Details on Page A2

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FOR HOME DELIVERY CALL 376-0303

EXTREMES OF THE U.S.

essel found
off Brazil

▶ Shutdown

Continued from Page A1

West Reading circuits came back on line forced them to automatically shut down again and a couple hundred customers still were without power in the borough late this morning.

She said crews were restoring portions of the line every 15 minutes and customers were asked to turn off major appliances, including heaters, to avoid a power surge on the circuits as the service is turned back on.

At 9:35 a.m., Met-Ed cut power to 2,300 customers served by the Spring Valley substation in Muhlenberg Township. Lower-Alsace customers served by the Reading substation, Reading customers along Third Street, and the West Reyburn area. Service was slowly being restored about 11 a.m.

At 10:15 a.m., service was shut off to 1,300 customers served by the South Hamburg substation and a different circuit serving the Bern Church area, she said. That outage was expected to last about an hour.

Two more circuits serving 700 customers in Glenside and about 1,300 in Lorane were to be shut off about 11 a.m., Frederick said.

Allentown-based Pennsylvania Power & Light Co. cut power to 12,000 customers in its territory from 7:08 a.m. to 7:41 a.m., according to officials.

PP&L spokesman Barbara Bartolet said some of the 8,000 customers the utility serves in the western Berks County area was affected by the first power outage.

Meanwhile, Bartolet said PP&L began late the morning single-rotating rolling blackouts of 30 minutes in duration spread throughout 10 subdivisions across the PP&L service territory, including one in Shoemakersville and another in Wyomissing.

Both Met-Ed and PP&L set power conservation records, as did the regional power pool.

Spokesmen for all the utilities said they expected emergency power conservation would continue throughout the day, and possibly into the evening hours.

Joseph J. Dempsey, a UGI spokesman, said the natural gas company was also experiencing "very, very heavy demand throughout the gas company system.

"There are some localized areas that are experiencing pressure problems," said Dempsey. "We know that in southeast Reading there are pressure problems and we are in the process of contacting customers with their furnaces when power is restored or cut."

Dempsey said UGI is being flooded with no-heat calls and has all available service personnel working.

"We're also asking all of our customers, especially businesses, to conserve as much energy as possible," he said.

▶ Rationing

Continued from Page A1

water for one minute before using it for drinking or cooking.

The rationing order has only until Thursday night, if efforts to repair the broken main meet no complications, said Robert L. Watkins, authority manager.

If rationing does not restore water use in the affected municipalities, service to those areas could be shut off for intervals per day until the problem is solved, Lees said.

The water main burst about 2:30 a.m. in the 300 block of Berks Hill Road, officials said.

He said the crews may have been caused by the earthquake Saturday night, which briefly rocked a large sinkhole and damaged a house and an apartment.

Residents and businesses in the following areas have been asked to either cut down or conserve their water use during the emergency:

Shillington, Wyomissing, West Reading, Mohnton, Kenhorst and the 10th Ward in Reading, and the following boroughs and townships: Spring and Cumru townships, Overfelt, Mellon Park, Lincoln Park, Mockingbird Manor and Rolling Hills.

Three school districts which would have been affected were also only closed due to the weather: Gov. Mifflin, Wyomissing and Wilson. Once an assessment of the water shortage is made today, the districts may be asked to close later in the week.

Rationing should help ensure that enough water is available to fight fires and to provide water to the Berkshire Hills Shopping Center, Lees said.

Hospital officials told Lees on Tuesday that they would not need as much water as whatever possible to help assist a crisis.

Some of water services in Spring Township, which serves [illegible] customers, [illegible] water until 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, officials said.

Lees requested rationing [illegible] Tuesday night, after the water authority's plant ran low on water supply for the sandbagging that is possible.

The broken main was immediately located after it ruptured beneath the home of Carol Hinkens, 2000 Berks Hill Road, and the basement apartment of Robert Brown, 2006 Berks Hill Road, leaving both months to repairs to their residences. Richard L. Grant, a spokesman for Schmidt Excavating Inc., Shillington, said he had never seen anything like it.

Grant said crews were summoned by the water authority and arrived at the site about 3 a.m. After valves were shut off, he said, workers excavated into the nearby sinkhole.

Water main break severs service to area personal care community

- An emergency plan is initiated for the more than 400 residents of Highlands at Wyomissing. Bottled water and a 2,500-gallon tanker are helping to meet their needs.

By John D. Forrester Jr.
Staff Writer

A major Western Berks Water Authority water main break left the Highlands at Wyomissing personal care community high and dry most of the day Tuesday and volunteers had to bring water [illegible] Lees said.

"We have an emergency plan for situations like this," said Highlands president Thomas Roland.

When a key Western Berks Water Authority main broke early Tuesday and the crews were unable to immediately repair it, there was not enough water pressure to service the more than 400 residents of the nursing home and individual residential center at 2000 Cambridge Ave.

Roland said the center had closed all water to apartments and the nursing rooms, keeping only a small reserve for the kitchen.

[illegible]

A resident [illegible]

John E. Lentheiser, a volunteer aglert with the Lentheiser's Lemon-Infused Herb Shampoo, said the machine dispensed water [illegible] and other non-drinking uses," Roland said.

Water was distributed to large, elevated plastic drums by workers and volunteers. Roland said the facility now has enough water for a day or a half.

"We'll be a lot of school kids from Wilson and Wyomissing high schools," he said. "And all school buses will be kids who have been coming in to work and they've been just great."

He said the water truck will be turned in to a protected facility at the center and run the outlet.

Roland said residents at the center have been kept updated on the loss of water through an in-house closed circuit television system.

"The city had a meeting to discuss the situation with the residents," Roland said. "They seem fairly good about it. They know we're prepared to do the best of management under the circumstances."

[illegible]

Employees at the Highlands at Wyomissing fill jugs with water [illegible]

[illegible]nd origin of quakes

[illegible] Lees said. "The [illegible] calls [illegible] and still [illegible] residents to shut off [illegible] water.

"The system close to 35 calls so far, and the majority of those people are telling us they've been woken up by tremors," said Lees. "The [illegible] calls are coming in to Shillington, at [illegible] the police, we just don't know yet what we'll do [illegible] for those people."

[illegible] believed to be the largest to hit the East Coast. The fault was measured at 6.0 on the scale.

Amsterdam said the town will continue collecting [illegible] water logs for the next few weeks and present the information through a computer model of the underlying fault to plumbed on a map — the whole a few hundred yards — the epicenter of the quake.

Meanwhile, Dr. Charles R. Scholz, a geologist [illegible] the quake, said the quake most frequently called in the wake of the quake and aftershocks to whether any rules are possible.

"Earthquakes are unpredictable," he said. "They don't operate according to a set pattern. They are a complex and unpredictable phenomenon.

"You've got an earthquake with a magnitude of 7 on the Richter scale! We could, but we just feeling is that's not very likely."

John E. Lees, Berks County Emergency Management Agency director, said he received many calls Tuesday regarding damage and still encourages residents to shut his office about leaks.

Ex-countians talk about California quake

- Two former Berks men, now residing in the area struck by the earthquake, are spared serious damage to their homes.

By Stephanie Ebbert
Eagle/Times

When the big one that wasn't the "big one" hit Southern California Monday morning, the earthquake left its mark on the homes of two former Berks County residents.

Cracked walls and downed plaster are reminders of the quake in Joseph J. Cardinelli's Woodland Hills home. His family's belongings were strewn all over the floor.

Eric P. Cardinal, a Muhlenberg Township native now living in Studio City, Calif., said his house also suffered cracks, but most of the resulting damage involved broken dishes and glassware and downed bookcases.

"Most of it was by just bumping into," said Cardinal, who has been in California for four years with his wife, Helen Loring. The couple has two children, Rachel, 3, and Sofie, 10 months.

Cardinelli, a former Exeter Township resident, said the room he rented water to cascade from his swimming pool, leaving an automatic pool cover right out of the concrete.

Now, with a broken aqueduct and broken mains in the water system, there's no drinking water in the area, and few stores open from which to buy it, he said.

"They're trucking in potable water and using different high schools as locations to pick it up," Cardinelli said.

At times like this, it's easy to forget the warmth and glory of Southern California and wonder why anyone would want to live in an area where the earth rumbles with some regularity.

Cardinal said he'd had a friend from sunny Minnesota visiting last Sunday.

"He was talking about why anyone would want to live somewhere where it feels like 30 below zero on a regular basis," he said. "Yesterday (Monday) we got an answer as to why people might still want to live here."

Cardinelli lives with his wife, Helen, and 5-year-old daughter Lisa, just seven miles from the epicenter of the quake, which registered 6.6 on the Richter scale.

He's lived there 11 years, he's left families before and he'll feel the quake.

"By far our first struck the San Fernando Valley Monday morning was incomparable to anything Cardinelli has experienced, he said.

"This one felt like somebody took our house and put it in a glass [illegible] Monday," he said.

Things could have been much worse, he noted. The Cardinelli moved about a year and a half ago from a house in Northridge, about a block away from the apartment building that collapsed Monday, killing at least 16 people.

Just three months ago, their house was spared when the California wildfires had time through the hills two miles away blew toward the Pacific.

But Cardinelli doesn't [illegible] to the doomsday mentality that struck some of those who watched Monday's news coverage of the Southern California quake [illegible] that followed the Oakland fire [illegible] which followed the 1989 Los Angeles quake.

"Most people here are pretty levelheaded," Cardinelli said from his home Tuesday. "They say, if you're going to live here, you have to get used to the stuff."

Tuesday was another working day — albeit a short one — for Cardinelli, vice president of program research for NBC. His office is in Burbank, 4.5 miles east of his home.

"I have the good fortune not to need to use freeways," Cardinelli said. "I have a short commute within small California."

Many were scrambling to find alternate routes into the city, with freeways destroyed by the earthquake.

Aftershocks create tension

- Western Berks residents assess the damages and put their things back in order. But even a car door slamming sets of waves of anxiety.

By Mark Abrams
Eagle/Times

Western Berks County residents remain anxious and nervous, shaken by continuing aftershocks in the wake of Saturday's two earthquakes.

"I just don't have the same feeling of comfort and security here anymore," James H. Lochman said as he sat in the living room of his Kevin Court dwelling in Whitfield Tuesday. "You sit here nights just waiting for the next one to come.

"I've never felt so helpless. There is nothing I can do to stop it. Every little noise, even a car door slamming across the street is unnerving."

Lochman said he, his wife, Carol J., and daughter Anna, who attends Wilson Central Junior High School, are trying to get their lives back in order.

But the Lochmans and other neighbors in Whitfield, one of the communities hardest hit by the weekend tremblers, conceded it has been a struggle.

Carol said television coverage of Monday's California quake put their crisis in perspective, and the family returned Monday afternoon from staying with friends to begin cleaning house, rehanging pictures and putting decorative glass lamps back on tables.

"I determined we just had to get going again," she said. "I'd rather not have had the quake at all, but when you see what happened in California, I'll take a 4.6 (on the Richter scale) any day."

James said a contractor who examined structural damage to concrete supports in the basement of the home was amused.

He said the house actually moved from west to east and back again," James said. "He said he's [illegible] it was well built, and it can be fixed."

The Lochmans, who learned they may not be covered even though their homeowners company sold them an "all-risk" policy, plan to stay in their dream home and intend to get damage repaired.

For the Justin P. Walter family in the 2000 block of Berkley Court, life still isn't back to normal.

The night of the quakes, James, his wife, Patricia, and their son Patrick, 5, and daughters Cristin, 8, and Anna, 19 months, spend a restless, sleepless night together in the family room, starting at each aftershock.

James acknowledged he's been engaging in lots of cleaning work to take his mind off what happened. But nightly aftershocks, he said, are vivid reminders that life still is unsettled.

The couple's home sustained some cracks, and bricks came loose at the fireplace and chimney.

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ATION

SNO AS

Roofs cave in under weight of snow, ice

2 deaths, closings in wake of storm

■ The good news is forecasters don't expect more storms in the next several days; the bad news is wind chills today may be 45 below.

From our wires staff

A snowstorm that piled more than a foot of snow on Berks County caused two snow-related deaths, all schools to close and mail delivery delays.

As continued dig out, conditions are not likely to improve today, according to Accu-Weather in State College.

Stella Leininger, 75, Lenhartsville R.D. 2, died Tuesday shortly after arrival in Reading Hospital.

Officials said Leininger was shoveling snow, started to feel ill and went inside her house, where she went into cardiac arrest.

Emergency room personnel declared her dead at 10:00 a.m.

Robert C. Dunkle, 64, of Bethel Township, collapsed and died of a heart attack Monday afternoon while operating a snow blower outside his home at Chestnut Hill Road and Route 10, according to Coroner William S. Fisher.

Dunkle was certified dead at 3:25 by John W. Lamprou, chief deputy coroner.

Snowfall ranged from about 6 inches at Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, near Elverson, to 16 inches at the UGI Hilltown Inc. gas distribution center in Ontelaunee Township. Other depths reported were 14 inches in the city, 11.5 at Blue Marsh and 13.5 in Hamburg.

See Deaths, Page 8B ▶

■ Obituaries for Stella Leininger and Robert C. Dunkle appear on Page C4.

The Reading Fairgrounds pole barn sits in ruins after its roof collapsed under the stress of snow.

The heavy snowfall results in a roof collapse at the Hamburg Pullman Works, left. At right, Newton S. Brown stops to good spirits although the roof of an addition to his Temple home caved in.

■ A warehouse addition in Fleetwood, the Reading Fairgrounds pole barn and several other Berks County-area buildings sustain damage from the accumulations.

From our wires staff

The weight of heavy snow and ice collapsed the roofs of several Berks County buildings, apparently including an unfinished 61.5 million warehouse addition in the Sunsweet Growers Inc. juice-bottling plant in Fleetwood.

Authorities said the freezing accumulations also were a factor in roof cave-ins of other Berks buildings, including the Reading Fairgrounds pole barn and a Womelsdorf heating and air-conditioning firm that incurred up to $100,000 in damage.

Harold B. Bandinger, Sunsweet vice president of operations, said three or four construction workers from D.E. Stabdon Construction Co., Fleetwood R.D. 2, escaped unharmed from the 95,000-square-foot warehouse after the roof and sides of the structure collapsed between 6:15 and 6:20 p.m. Monday.

Sunday said investigators still are trying to confirm what caused the collapse.

Harold W. Jackson, Sunsweet president based in Yuba City, Calif., said Stabdon contractors began construction on the eight-story addition, which is adjacent to the main plant at 195 S. Sunsweet St., last fall.

"The building is not complete," Jackson said. "There was steel inside, but the floor is not finished."

Early Tuesday, A. Wayne Bendinger, the Reading Fair's agricultural director since 1960, was informed of the pole barn's collapse behind the Fairgrounds Square mall.

Bendinger estimated that it would cost about $60,000 to replace the barn, which was pieced together in 1979 from the original 1920 600-foot-long barn.

"We don't know at this point if it will be replaced," said Bendinger. "We are checking into the insurance coverage."

According to Bendinger, the pole

See Roofs, Page 8B ▶

Travel in county is treacherous

■ Pennsylvania Department of Transportation crews battle strong overnight winds; officials report roads generally open but snow- or ice-packed this morning.

From our wires staff

Travel remained treacherous for Berks Countians who braved the icy roads and minus 13 degree temperatures this morning.

Road crews worked to keep roads open, public transportation experienced delays and towing services were busy.

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation crews battled strong overnight winds, but officials reported that roads generally were open but snow- or ice-packed this morning.

Disabled vehicles on the roads caused a number of traffic jams, and Route 422 eastbound in Exeter Township was shut for a time late this morning.

Crews were plowing and spreading anti-skid mixture because road salt is useless when temperatures drop below 25 degrees.

Gene W. Tezak, city streets superintendent, said crews from several city departments began a snow removal effort Tuesday night.

"Streets crews cleared snow from 11th and Penn to Seventh and Penn and a parks department crew started working their way up Penn Street," Tezak said.

A water department crew worked on Fifth Street, from Franklin north. They made a lot of large piles, and tonight we're going to remove those piles. Some private contractors hired by the city also are working in the center city area," he said. "And the sanitary sewer department just started this morning working on North Fifth (Street) from Bainbrewood to toward Penn Square."

"We're just getting what we can," Tezak said. "We realize there's no way people can move the cars parked on these streets."

BARTA buses were on the roads but were having difficulty maintaining their schedules because the road conditions, especially in the western part of the county.

For the third day, Berks Taxi Service remained out of service.

Taxi continued to put a greater burden on flooding Metro Taxi, which had 20 cabs equipped with chains. But Metro ran two hours behind Monday night and calls to its lines today produced busy signals.

Many materials were stranded and towing services were overwhelmed by calls and the inability of tow trucks to maneuver on hazardous roads.

B.J. Ellison, manager of emergency road services for the Berks County American Automobile Association, said roads were treacherous.

"You can't move," Ellison said. "The parking lots where we're supposed to take the cars are full. You can't drop them off."

He said some members themselves got stuck in snow, were pulled out, and got stuck again.

"Tempers are flaring, patience is getting thin," Ellison said.

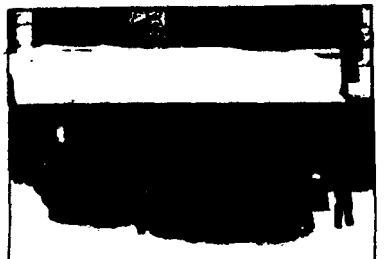
Some towing companies had pulled their trucks off the road Monday night but were back in operation Tuesday. Service was slow, hampered by bad road conditions.

Reading Regional Airport was open, but incoming flights were arriving late, according to Paul A. Doelp, marketing director.

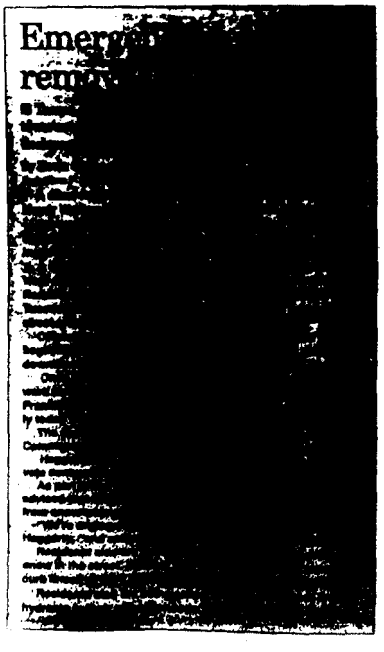
According to a spokesman at the Inter-City Bus Terminal, Third and Court streets, buses were leaving on time but were experiencing travel delays because of treacherous road conditions.

In areas where snow emergencies were declared, residents were required to move their vehicles from designated main streets or they will be towed.

The following declared emergencies: Fleetwood, Hamburg, Laureldale, Mohnton, Sinking Spring, Topton, Wernersville, West Lawn, West Reading, Womelsdorf, and the townships of Lower Heidelberg, Maidencreek, Ontelaunee, and Spring.



Freight bus shows around BARTA's new Fifth and Penn streets stop Tuesday. The open-air station, recently criticized for not offering enough protection from the weather, came in for more bad raps Tuesday from waiting passengers hit with 20 mph winds and higher gusts, causing a wind chill factor of minus 30 degrees.



Emerg
rem

READING EAGLE P.M. EDITION

Gas blast burns city man, 29

■ Flames from a leaking main fill the Buttonwood Street home of Ronald A. Sheriff and ignite when he apparently flips a light switch.

By Steven D. Sachetta
Staff Writer

A northwest Reading man was burned severely late Wednesday night after flames from a leaking underground natural-gas main quickly leaded his apartment behind 102 Buttonwood St., authorities reported.

Following the eruption of the flash fire, approximately 100 residents were routed into the bitter cold from their homes on the 200 block of North Second Street, where the leaking main was located, and in the 100 block of Buttonwood Street.

Ronald A. Sheriff, 38, was treated in Community General Hospital for second- or third-degree burns to his hands and upper body, and transferred early this morning to the burn unit of St. Joseph's Hospital [illegible]

Sheriff's [illegible]

The children, who [illegible] from the second floor [illegible] others at the scene [illegible]

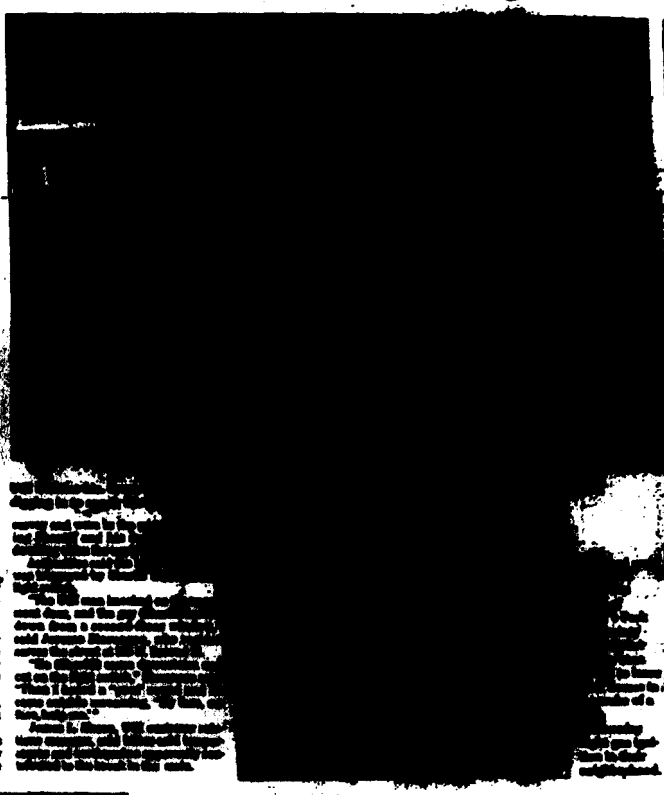
According to authorities, Sheriff's wife, whose name was unavailable, was not at home.

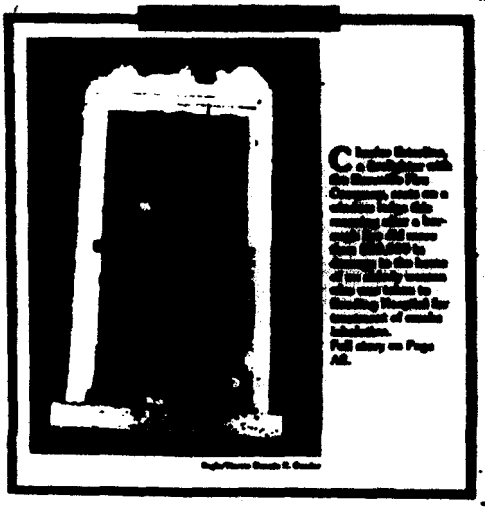
While UGI Utilities personnel repaired the house for gas flows, displaced residents were taken to Lesser's Park Elementary School and then bussed to Southside Middle School, where a shelter had been set up shortly Wednesday by the Berks County chapter of the American Red Cross for residents whose homes were without heat.

Meanwhile, flames damaged the basement and a crawl space below the first floor before being extinguished by city firefighters, according to Deputy Chief George T. Hallenbagen.

A damage estimate was unavailable, but officials said the damage did not appear extensive.

According to officials, UGI crews had traced the leak to a point near Sheriff's apartment during a gas-line [illegible]





Berks Gazette photo by R. Gardner

C. Berks Gazette, a firefighter with the Shillington Fire Company, sends one a window before the smoke [illegible] Wednesday night. The fire [illegible] Shillington Hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation.

Full story on Page A6.

Water repairs stymied

Officials by the Western Berks Water Authority to restore water to its customers are dealt a severe setback when a second sinkhole opens up today near the first.

By Peter L. Baltrusaitis/Staff Writer

A second sinkhole this morning hampered Western Berks Water Authority's bank in the beginning of its efforts to restore water service to its customers.

John H. Lenz, director of the Berks County Emergency Management Agency, said the sinkhole opened shortly after 10 o'clock this morning [illegible] Lenz said water service had not yet been restored [illegible] when the second sinkhole occurred.

He said authority personnel had called in a geologist from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to help them evaluate the sinkhole before they started digging to determine whether there had been another break in the line.

"I can't even give you a guesstimate on when they will be back on line," Lenz said late this morning. Lenz said the second sinkhole was in the immediate area of the first in the 2000 block of Ruth Mill Road in Lower Heidelberg Township, but he did not know the exact location or the size of the hole.

Authority officials had said Wednesday that they expected to restore service sometime today.

Solution has been without water since Tuesday, and the rest of Western Berks customers have been asked to voluntarily [illegible] water being supplied through an emergency connection with Reading.

This morning, Anthony Constantine, city water engineer, said water pressures continue to be low. Ward Beacon [illegible] Western Berks has drained a reservoir that serves that part of the city.

Constantine said efforts to open a frozen water line on the Wyomissing Street bypass have failed.

"We were out there from 5 to 7 p.m. yesterday, and we were [illegible] unsuccessful," he said. "We had to abandon the project."

Western Berks officials, who were at the scene this morning, were not available for comment.

The hospitality room reopened to its Hideaway, where the [illegible] day. Tuesday night, but some by drinking water [illegible] at the Berks Day Care Center Wednesday night had [illegible], according to Joyce Hickman of Temple.

At the Highlands at Wyomissing, which lost water Tuesday, the elderly residents were resupplied with another delivery of 1,000 gallons of water, according to Thomas H. Boland, president of the residential community and nursing home. Boland said the [illegible] home had complied.

Thursday's [illegible] the affected area, all businesses and the 20,000 residents served by the authority should still boil for one minute any water used for drinking or food preparation until at least Friday, cautioned Robert L. Wolfson, authority manager.

Until full service is restored, residents is needed as officials do not have to program regular water shut-off shutter to the program of blackouts conducted by power companies Wednesday, Lenz said.

Bad Water, Page A2 ▶

COMING TOMORROW

Spielberg epic to open Friday

Ben Kingsley, left, plays a Jewish plant manager who was saved through the intervention of Oskar Schindler, a German industrialist. The movie "Schindler's List" opens Friday. Coming Friday in the Weekend section.

[illegible]

Earthquake refugees chilled

As aftshocks continue in southern California, Los Angeles begins, those who were displaced were camping out in city parks, but cool weather and rain forecasts are forcing thousands to seek more substantial shelter. Page A5

[illegible]

FRIDAY:
Sunny, high in 20s.
Details on Page A2

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Temperatures rise, but not much

Met-Ed juggles service

● Cold-weather demands on its energy supply force the utility to cut power temporarily in some areas to avoid a widespread outage.

By Mark Abrams
Staff Writer

Hunkered down at computer monitors and watching a huge green status map, Metropolitan Edison Co. technicians had the difficult task Wednesday of balancing power supply and carrying out rolling blackout orders.

Working out of the corporate Energy Control Center in the Muhlenberg Township Met-Ed headquarters along the Pottsville Pike, the technicians used electronic commands cutting power temporarily along the network to spare a regional outage.

Donald R. Jannotta, center operations director, said operators received orders early in the morning from the Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection to reduce demand.

"We already had plans ready to go on which customer lines we could rotate out," Jannotta said. "It was simply a matter of monitoring how much load we had to shed with the plan."

He said record demand for power caused by the cold forces gripping the region placed severe stress on the Met-Ed power grid supply.

Complicating the matter was an incident of downed utility poles, including Met-Ed, to get material gas and oil up and running across the system, Jannotta said.

He said some companies couldn't get delivery of natural gas, and others dropped off of the natural gas pipeline that gathered because of the cold.

Metropolitan Edison Co. technicians Jay C. Hayes, left, and Curtis M. Hoyt review power-usage data and customer demand figures

At coal-fired plants, oil had to be mixed with frozen coal to keep from freezing and holding against flow.

Jannotta, a Hyner Met-Ed employee, said he has never seen anything like the current weather. The combined effects of temperatures in the teens and winds in the high, but cold zones caused the temperature of the system to drop.

He said Pennsylvania Power & Light Co. and other companies had to cut back on their supply to Met-Ed because of the cold, especially low-pressure conditions.

However, the company didn't make even half of the cuts, a Met-Ed service and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation today.

PennDOT had radio-frequency contact with its trucks and crews going out done at the South Temple office when the power went off for 45 minutes about 10 a.m., a spokesman said.

The Berks County Department of Emergency Services said the power outage affected about 20 square miles of the county.

used to double crews for rolling blackouts initiated Wednesday to spare a systemwide power failure.

Staff Photo by Charles Gilbert

Reading Water Trust Inc. switched to a gasoline-powered generator to power its radio Reach system when a circuit serving the business was cut, a spokesman said.

Curtis B. Hayter, Met-Ed customer relations director, conceded the company didn't have the time to notify the public in advance.

"We were trying to avoid cutting off critical plants, and we'd rather try to work with customers who have outstanding circumstances on a case-by-case basis," he said.

● A 78-year-old South Temple man succumbs while shoveling snow, becoming the third such death this week.

From our news staff

Temperatures today are still bright, but are beginning to creep upward, a day after record-setting cold and 20-plus inches of snow contributed to the death of a South Temple man — the third weather-related death this week.

Into despite, dire-warning Berks County continued in an emergency situation, following an overnight low of minus 3 Wednesday morning. The temperature at 6 this morning was a bearable at minus 1 degree, but forecasters called for a relative heat wave of temperatures rising to the low teens today.

Robert W. Fix, 78, of 600 Seventh Ave., was found dead on Wednesday while shoveling snow, according to authorities. A 72-year-old Lenoport area woman, also shoveling snow, and a 66-year-old Robeson Township man, using a snowblower, were found earlier earlier.

Fix was certified at 1:35 p.m. in St. Joseph Hospital by Dr. Gary Robinson.

For the third consecutive day, all county public and parochial schools were closed today because of the treacherous driving and parking conditions. They will be closed Friday as well. That will make it seven closed school days for everyone this month, not counting Monday's holiday.

An inquiry for the decision was made in Harrisburg where Gov. Robert P. Casey declared a state of emergency and requested nobody drive on the roads to help snow crews.

Public and state offices were closed today, but county and city offices were open.

Wednesday's low of minus 3 degrees shattered a record for the day of minus 2 degrees set in 1899. The high was 3 degrees. Despite the sunny day, the wind-chill factor was a minus 40 degrees at 10 a.m., but improved afterwards.

Oscar was still in to endure the record blackout only one more day, said Accu-Weather forecaster Tom Kines.

Temperatures usually rose from minus 6 at 9 p.m. Wednesday night to minus 3 at 6 this morning, according to Richard Wagner, service forecaster at the UGI control center in Ontelaunee Township.

Berks received a light dusting of snow overnight.

Kines said the temperatures today should reach 15 or 16 degrees, with relatively light winds easing the chill.

Overnight temperatures should drop further once again, as low as minus 2 in the city, and even lower in outlying areas.

Friday should be partly to mostly sunny, with temperatures nearing close to 30 degrees, Kines said.

Over the weekend there should be sunny skies, with temperatures starting with the freezing mark Saturday and heading it Sunday. However, Kines warned even with warmer daytime temperatures, it will still be very cold at night.

This morning roads were in slightly better shape than previous days, though a fire in Reading that up Route 183 and a disabled truck on Route 61 at Bellevue Avenue in Muhlenberg Township at 8:20 a.m. closed the northbound lanes for approximately 15 minutes.

The West Shore Bypass was closed in both directions shortly after 10 a.m. due to a three-vehicle accident—a pickup and a tractor-trailer—near northbound between Lancaster Avenue and Penn Avenue.

Although there were no serious accidents Wednesday, there were major traffic tie-ups all day as motorists battled heavy ice-coated roads.

Johnnie Rapisk, roadway programs coordinator for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, explained that in very low temperatures, salt won't do any good and isn't spread. The temperature has to be in the mid-20s before salt has an effect, she said.

But the PennDOT crews kept all highways open with crushed anti-skid stones and dirtied from sand hotbinsack in another.

The Berks County Communications Center reported at least 75 disabled vehicles and 30 other types of traffic assists.

PennDOT and road crews throughout the county worked through the night.

In Reading, snow removal began for the first time Wednesday after an emergency was declared early in the day.

Gene Tinsk, superintendent of streets, said his 30 employees, working in 12-hour shifts, are clearing major streets and dumping the snow at the Second and Pike parking lot.

Businesses complying with order

● Among those cutting back on power usage are Carpenter Technology Corp., Dana Corp., Meridian, Sovereign Bancorp and Bank of Pennsylvania.

From our news staff

Businesses in Berks County were making efforts to comply with an emergency proclamation issued Wednesday by Gov. Robert P. Casey, asking large companies to shut down or stallion use reserve electricity and natural gas for residential heating.

Carpenter Technology Corp., one of the largest users of Metropolitan Edison Co. electricity, already had delayed manufacturing start-up times earlier in the week due to Monday's snowstorm, and had been requested to curtail electricity usage by about one third.

However, a spokesman for Carpenter said the quality and product of the Reading mill has not been directly on the power conservation. Normal daily usage is about 60 megawatts and the company has agreed to cut back to about 10 megawatts.

The power outbacks have resulted in two mills closing for portions of today, and the air molding department being shut down until 11 p.m. Sunday.

Certain shifts in other departments also are being cut back and starting times are being changed.

At Dana Corp. [illegible] has been curtailing [illegible] but it has not [illegible] reduction of operations [illegible] Boston, Boston [illegible] said.

At the Reading [illegible] AT&T, officials are [illegible] John G. Hulet, [illegible] relations president for [illegible] electricity use at the [illegible] been cut by about 30 percent.

There are no closings or shift changes planned, he added.

The company's commitment was accompanied with a compliance order by the Public Utility Commission, which power grants also the authority to take what action necessary to cut off service to businesses to ensure an adequate supply of power for residential needs. Those actions followed reports of sudden power outages throughout the state and the county on Wednesday.

One drop of electricity [illegible] at the Gilden Co., 200 [illegible] St., dropped a pulse rate.

Foley Brown, station plant manager, said employees were busy filling a new blind pasteurizer when the electricity went off.

"It didn't cause any serious problem except delays," Brown said.

In order to comply with Casey's proclamation, Brown said Gilden curtailed outside equipment on its roofing and blind filler Wednesday and will be able to cut back approximately 15 percent of its electricity consumption.

Several area banks also closed early including Sovereign Bancorp Inc., Wyomissing, which shut down its offices statewide at 4 p.m.

Also closing at 3 p.m. were Meridian Bancorp Inc., and the Bank of Pennsylvania division of Meridian Bancorp Bancorp.

At Meridian, Ezekiel S. Ketchum, president and chief executive officer, said that Meridian will shutdown disclosed branch times today or until Gov. Casey's declared disaster emergency is lifted.

Accordingly, hours of all of Meridian's banking branches at Meridian Bank will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today or until the disaster emergency is lifted.

▶ Power

Continued from Page A1

plant maintenance only. The order, resulting from heavy demand for gas and compounded problems along a bay pipeline, doesn't affect residential and commercial customers, company officials said.

"We're meeting the needs of our residential and firm customers," said Joseph J. Swops, a UGI spokesman. "But we're urging people to conserve where they can."

Area fuel oil dealers reported supplies were adequate to meet the demand of more than 60,000 customers in Berks, but delivery trucks were being hampered by impassable roads in rural areas and temporarily posted vehicles in the city.

Oil deliveryman also encountered problems thawing fill pipes covered with a foot of snow and ice. A few reported the pipes were frozen and had to be thawed before oil could be pumped into basement tanks in the dwellings.

The Berks County Courthouse, Berks County Services Center, and City Hall opened for business today.

Ernie Miller, chairman of the Berks commissioners, said county operations were suspended for two days this week already and necessary services had to be available to the public. He said crews are being taken to reduce energy usage in the facilities.

Steven C. Wallney, executive assistant to Mayor Warren H. Gaugerty Jr., said city officials conferred with Met-Ed personnel before deciding to open.

He said energy consumption in the building was cut in half. If the power situation changes, however, Wallney said, city officials would consider closing the building.

In a Wednesday evening plea, Lt. Gov. Mark Singel also had urged the state's school districts to close today because of the energy problems. The energy crisis, frigid temperatures and treacherous road conditions were enough to convince Berks public and parochial schools to close today and Friday.

"Our immediate concern is to avoid a major power outage in this state," Singel said.

Met-Ed spokesperson Merle Frederick said they more than 20,000 customers throughout the county had people cut for an average of 10 minutes to an hour on Wednesday.

However, Frederick said the utility ran into problems with service to some areas because lines were blown by power surges when lines were reenergized. This resulted in extended outages in sections of West Reading, Lenoport, and Temple.

PP&L spokesman Richard Green said some of the company's 32,000 customers in western Berks and the Hamburg area were among those who lost power during rolling 10-minute blackouts instituted at a variety of substations across its 10-county service territory.

Efforts by city water department workers, including Larry F. Zajac, left, and Thomas R. Caltagirone Jr., to thaw a pipe along the Warren Street Bypass so it could ease the western Berks County water crisis failed Wednesday night when the water froze over again.

▶ Water

Continued from Page A1

To try to end the crisis, Schlouch crews worked continuously since early Wednesday to replace a section of water pipe ripped out of joint by Saturday's earthquakes, according to Walborn.

The pipe was pulled apart by ground pressure early Tuesday, sending geysers up through the ground to ravage two residences in the 2300 block of State Hill Road.

The broken main forced businesses and residents of nine authority municipalities to switch to emergency city water. But, with a city pumping station undergoing repairs and a line to Wyomissing freeze shut, the suburban drain on the system imported a city reservoir.

This led county officials to ask for voluntary water rationing to cut use by 50 percent in Shillington, West Reading, Wyomissing, Kenhorst, the 18th Ward in Reading and the following developments in Spring and Cumru townships: Overbrook, Rolling Hills, Hillside Park, Lincoln Park and Heatrice Manor.

Several depressions in State Hill Road caused by Saturday's earthquake still worry authority engineers. The road runs parallel to the main waterline from the Lower Heidelberg Township Western Berks plant to its customers.

"There are additional big-time borrlies in the road where the pipeline is situated," Walborn said. "I could turn the water on and have to turn it right back off again.

"We have been out there continuously in wind chills of 20-below, and the crews will work around the clock until we are pumping water to our customers."

Lees and Trostle have arranged for two water tankers with 7,000 gallons of drinkable water to be delivered for local use.

Residents seeking water must bring their own receptacles to either the Mohnton garage on O'Neill Street or the Cedar Top Fire Company at Welsh and Church roads, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Trostle said.

"The water will be available each day at these times until the crisis is over, Trostle said.

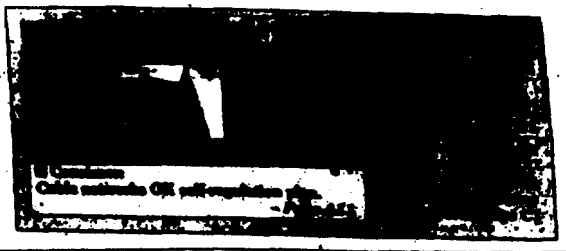
The water shortage also has led fire companies from Berkshire Heights, Wyomissing, West Reading, Shillington and Mohnton to agree to respond to all reported structure fires, to ensure enough water will be available to fight the blaze.

Cocoatsin said the city water bureau had seen of its own this morning. Several residents in the 1400 block of Frost Street had reported getting water in their basements, but crews found that the water main in the block appeared to be intact, and they were continuing to look for the cause.

Also, Cocoatsin said, during the night, contrpie in a pumping station on Hill Road freze and water from that station overflowed, causing a heavy ice buildup on Angora Road and forcing the closing of that road.

READING EAGLE

P.M. EDITION



Dry taps to flow tonight

● The water crisis in western Berks should soon be over, provided there is no further crumbling of the herculean effort made by crews to repair a broken main.

By Peter L. DeCousey
Staff Writer

Barring further mishaps, service to 22,000 suburban customers of Western Berks Water Authority should be restored by late tonight, said Gary D. Rhoads, operations manager of the authority's Lower Heidelberg Township plant.

At 2 a.m. Thursday, hopes of restoring service by the end of that day crumbled when [illegible] backfill which had [illegible] the pipe it had [illegible] new blockhouse for the [illegible] center.

The crew to [illegible] pipe had been [illegible] water main, which [illegible] Tuesday morning, [illegible] believe the pipe was damaged [illegible] a result of Saturday's earthquake.

After a state geologist told crews from Schlouch Engineering Inc. how to fill the gaping [illegible] crater and shore up the pipe, crews returned to round-the-clock efforts at the site in the 2600 block of State Hill Road.

The broken main Tuesday forced businesses and residents of nine authority municipalities to switch to emergency city water. But, with a city pumping station undergoing repairs and a ban in Wyomissing Freeze shut, the suburban areas on the system impacted a city reservoir.

This led county officials to ask for voluntary water rationing to cut use by 50 percent in Shillington, West Reading, Wyomissing, Kenhorst, the 10th Ward in Reading and the following developments in Spring and Ontelaunee townships: Overbrook,

See Water, Page A3 ▶

Where to schoolchildren, to many Berks residents, thermometers at [illegible] readings below zero were waiting this morning at Fifth and Penn streets.

Temperature plummets under unique conditions

By David Fogg
Staff Writer

[illegible] temperature of [illegible] at 7:30 a.m. Of [illegible] Berks Weather Service [illegible] of the 19th coldest center in Guilford Township, and other weather stations around the county reached [illegible] readings.

[illegible] conditions.

The [illegible] in Berks was an unofficial [illegible] Friday, when the thermometer hit [illegible] Fahrenheit in Hamburg. Accordingly, the [illegible] Hamburg, [illegible] degrees.

Reading Regional Airport recorded a low of [illegible] at 7:30 a.m., while the low in downtown Reading and at Hopewell Village reached [illegible].

All-time record lows also were reached at Allentown, Bethlehem, Hillsborough and Wilkes-Barre-Scranton.

At Allentown, the temperature dropped to 10 degrees below zero at the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton airport, breaking the previous all-time record of 15 below on Jan. 18, 1961, and Feb. 5, 1994.

Today's reading marked the third consecutive day of record-breaking cold.

The Record cold, Page A3 ▶

BUCKING [illegible]

A deer scampers across the frozen Hudson River in front of the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse. Coast Guard cutters have been kept busy, clearing the shipping channel of 12-inch thick ice from New York City to Albany.

U.S. forces seafood processors to ensure boat-to-table safety

■ New Food and Drug Administration regulations are aimed at preventing food poisoning.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON – Seafood processors will have to monitor fish from boat to table under new safety regulations the government announced today that aim to prevent food poisoning rather than just react to outbreaks of illness.

The Food and Drug Administration regulations will require the industry to test seafood at every point on the journey to American's dinner plates, from possibly polluted waters to the pasteurization machines in packaging.

The same kind of system is being considered by the Agriculture Department to try to prevent tainted meat from reaching the public.

But consumer groups said the plan, known as the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point system, or HACCP, doesn't go far enough.

"This has been a good first step but by itself this program does not adequately protect consumers," said Mark Epstein, executive director of Public Voice. "FDA is going to need increased authority and funding if it is truly going to reduce needless seafood-related illness and deaths."

Public Voice said FDA cannot close polluted harvesting waters, require certification of processing plants or inspect fishing boats or fresh seafood markets. And the agency's plan doesn't address the use of chemical contaminants in seafood.

About 9,000 Americans die every year from food poisoning, but no one knows how many are caused by tainted fish, meat or poultry.

HACCP identifies potential contamination before it occurs by focusing on the steps seafood makes on its journey to the table – from farm to market – and establishes safety measures at each step and to closely monitor those safety measures, said FDA commissioner Judy Foulke.

"All of this is happening within the broadest preventative plan," she said. "They will be held responsible for these safety measures."

The FDA has been working on the issue since the National Academy of Sciences in 1985 concluded that although seafood was basically safe, companies had no way to monitor their pasteurization processes or storage temperatures and that some didn't clean equipment often enough.

> "FDA has taken a good first step but by itself this program does not adequately protect consumers. FDA is going to need increased authority and funding if it is truly going to reduce needless seafood-related illness and deaths."
>
> Mark Epstein, executive director of Public Voice

COMING TOMORROW

X-zylo takes aim at Frisbee

The one-ounce X-zylo is the trendy plaything of the moment. The X-zylo, a plastic ring, can be thrown the length of two football fields and is based on aerospace concepts. *Coming Saturday in the Lifestyle section*

INSIDE TODAY

Abandoned kids scavenge for food

Chicago grocery clerk Tom Salb says three neighborhood children would spend hours in his store. He didn't report them for stealing doughnuts and found out later they had been left home alone with little food. *Page A6*

WEATHER

SATURDAY:
Sunny, windy

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[illegible] 376-0303

Workers inspect a Lower Heidelberg Township sinkhole, which grew larger early Thursday under a newly installed water pipe and refused 36 hours of efforts by Western Berks Water Authority crews to restore service to 22,000 customers.

An Army tanker in the Mohnton borough garage Thursday provides the first drinking water that Mohnton residents, such as 88-year-old Ray H. Werner, right, have had since Tuesday night. Manning the tap is Willard M. Centmayer, president of borough council.

▶ Water

Continued from Page A1

Rolling Hills, Mellon Park, Lincoln Park and Montrose Manor.

All water which is coming into homes in these areas should be boiled for a minute until further water officials warned.

Residents of Mohnton, the Highlands at Wyomissing and the Hartland section of Wyomissing continued to survive without water once taps ran dry Tuesday, officials said.

A 100-year-old man on Parr Road in Wyomissing whose home has been unable to get water for three was has been getting personal bottled water delivered from borough officials, commenting in the acting borough manager, David Y. Boucher.

In Mohnton, about 70 residents have received more than 200 gallons of water from Army tankers stationed at the borough garage on O'Neill Street, according to Mayor Richard C. Trexler and Willard M. Centmayer, borough council president.

Most residents are surviving their dry taps with good spirits, Centmayer said, an 88-year-old Ray M. Werner of Chestnut Street filled up two gallon jugs.

"I'm surviving," said Werner. "But I miss washing. And I'm glad I have an electric razor."

"I've been cooking a lot of mac so I can flush the toilet. But these two gallons will help, and when I run out of water, I'll have to drink beer."

At the Highlands residential community and nursing home, President Thomas H. Bagwell presented residents and staff for their efforts during the waterless days.

The facility is continuing to truck in 300 gallons of drinking water per day and 1,000 gallons of water for other uses by residents, Bagwell said.

In the affected areas still receiving water, rationing is still created, said Boucher, after an evening meeting with officials from the other affected municipalities.

The voluntary rationing has not yet allowed city reservoirs to refill or even increase their water supply significantly, officials said.

If the voluntary cutback measures are not followed, then the mandatory rationing begins on city water using the order to complete shutoff of all service beginning at the end of the week.

To avoid this, officials from the affected areas have been making a new way to use a frozen-shut Warren Street Bypass waterline to serve Wyomissing.

Officials are investigating whether a National Guard unit could supply plows and a pump to bypass the frozen section of the line, according to John E. Lash, director of the Berks County Emergency Management Agency.

The line would supply Wyomissing from a full city reservoir and, currently able to serve the Mohnton customers, it would need when water and water pressure to the other communities, officials said.

Lines with the pump and plows would be brought to from Fort Indiantown Gap as soon as it was needed, and he was checking to see if a Guard unit could be made available.

The officials of the affected areas were scheduled to meet today to continue to monitor the progress of the authority's crews, repairs and to continue efforts to try to use the pump to bypass the Warren Street Bypass pump failure.

Mohnton residents still receiving drinking water are being transfused to the borough garage from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and to the garage at Oley Oil Fire Company at Hinkle and Chestnut streets from 5 to 8 p.m. Both sites will offer water and bottled water, Trexler said.

Residents outside are still using the 100 free containers with water from the borough but hope to have it per day, Boucher said.

The Mohnton school resumed this afternoon in the Highlands and is expected to hold classes in all grades from bus service will. Lash said, adding that there is enough water and enough water to perform their job.

Customers help mail go through

■ The Reading postmaster says most residents and business owners are doing their part to aid carriers in making their appointed rounds.

By Gail Rippey
Staff Writer

Though mail delivery has been hampered badly because of the weather, handling and overcoming, long-time residents apparently haven't been taking it off on their carriers.

Postmaster Sandra Keller Williams said Thursday marked the first day this week that all of the county's operations post offices in the 180 and 185 ZIP code areas served by the Reading Central Mail Facility were open and taking mail.

During the past five days, Williams said, most residents and business owners have cooperated by shoveling and making their walks and pathways, making it easy for carriers to get to mailboxes.

Williams indicates people have been generous enough to provide carriers with cups of coffee or other hot drinks when they stop up to the houses on their rounds.

"We appreciate that," she said. "They need a chance to warm up."

The winter of 1996 has especially challenged postal workers in carrying their appointed rounds, Williams said. Jobs on top of their regular jobs, the Reading Post Office employees, who have been out of work Wednesday due to injuries.

Despite the staff shortages, she said, all but one route was completed Wednesday, and all routes were completed Thursday.

The postmaster said postal trucks have been getting stuck on two-way local roads, requiring tows, and a lack of phones in rural areas added to the challenging conditions.

Customer contact of the Reading postal facility is 320-3000 but lines usually inaccessible, Williams said. Only a few trucks have been able to make it out of the city to Bobtail County this week, and Wednesday's mail arrived four hours late.

Due to numerous road closings, no mail came into Reading or went out Wednesday evening, the report said.

Thursday morning's delivery to Pottsville was canceled as well, she said, but trucks carrying Reading-area mail made it to about 70 percent of the 180-number zip post offices.

Though a backlog of mail left Thursday afternoon for Bobtail, no overtime manpower has been piling up, and the postal facility is running out of room, Williams said.

Postal services have not operated at their normal pace since Saturday, she added.

Haulers playing catch-up with garbage

By Gail Rippey
Staff Writer

Collecting garbage in Berks County municipalities has become a game of catch-up for area haulers, who say they have faced a multitude of problems this week, from getting stuck on icy, snow-clogged streets to having equipment breakdowns.

Many of the haulers admit they are running a couple of days behind schedule and plan to work overtime to get back on track.

James R. Stephens, spokesman for Waste Management Services Inc., Wyomissing, said customers shouldn't be surprised if they see some haulers making pickups on Saturday and Sunday.

Like several haulers, Clemente had to put about Monday's collections when the snow became too deep, and through Tuesday collections altogether because of icy roads.

But getting around Reading and its suburbs didn't become much easier on Wednesday, thanks to sub-zero temperatures that kept the sun shut and solid. Huge, towering snowpiles and backwardly parked cars posed problems as well, haulers said.

"Thursday was the first day we finally get a foot on the throttle," Stephens said. "Our biggest problem has been getting on the road — just to navigate the streets in the city and getting to the areas has been difficult."

Even when they have breakthrough enough to get to the areas, haulers are finding the garbage frozen and sticking to the containers.

"Everything in the big dumpsters has to be dug out, and that takes time," said Al Cotelli, operations manager of J.P. Mascaro and Sons, Birdsboro.

Cotelli said Thursday marked the first day this week that all of Mascaro's trucks were up and running.

"Street side pickup is the engineer," he added, "and they'd just shut down on us Wednesday was pretty much of a standstill — we only had two trucks running out of about 10 trucks."

Another problem the haulers faced was getting rid of garbage they did collect to area landfills.

The county's landfill was closed on Tuesday, and others had closed early during the week, officials said.

Although some of the haulers reported any of their trucks were involved in accidents, a few between stuck on their rounds.

▶ Record cold

Continued from Page A1

[illegible] in the Lehigh Valley. The mercury fell to 11 below on Wednesday and 6 below Thursday — [illegible] previous daily record was [illegible] set in 1981 and 1988.

At Harrisburg International Airport the mercury fell to 22 below zero, breaking the all-time record 16 below set Thursday.

The mercury dipped to 20 below in Williamsport, making it the coldest morning since records have been kept. The previous low was 18 below on Feb. 28, 1934.

At Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport a 21-below reading broke the all-time mark of [illegible] below on Feb. 8, 1934.

The bitter weather also claimed another Berks life. Coroner William H. Ritzer reported [illegible] with weather related death occurred Thursday afternoon when 81-year-old John Gaugler of Hamburg collapsed while cleaning snow off his car.

[illegible] of 303 S. Hilltop Court, was certified dead after arrival at [illegible] p.m. in the emergency room of Reading Hospital.

A previously unreported weather death was that of Walter Mutara, 68, of 2213 Fairview St., Reading, who died Tuesday night after shoveling snow for several hours.

The other victims from earlier in the week were also stricken during or after snow shoveling, officials said.

In Berks, the cold snap caused traffic nightmares for motorists. Accidents forced on many roadways was disrupted by disabled tractor trailers and cars.

The major headaches were on the sections on Route 183 in Cumbrids, near the city line and in Strausstown area, and on the elevated lanes of the Warren [illegible]

[illegible] brought to a [illegible] on Route 183 and in Bern [illegible] when they tractor-trailer [illegible] the Lighthound Lane [illegible] Lighthound Lane [illegible]

Other morning trouble spots were Route 724 in Centre Township, near Kutztown; Culbertson and Miller streets in Shillington; College Boulevard and Armory Road in Kutztown; Park Road and Keystone Avenue in Muhlenbrook Township.

Also, the eastbound lanes of Route 422 in Exeter Township, near the Beaver's Distribution Center; Pricetown Road in Alsace and Ruscombmanor townships; Van Reed Road in Spring Township, and Route 662 near Fleetwood.

Fallen electrical wires stymied traffic on Route 183 in New Schaffferstown, and State Hill Road in Lower Heidelberg Township, the site of continued efforts to repair a water main break, continued to be slowed by the closing of one lane.

Robert Weverspunh, an inspector with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, distributed the crews' mission as a mass.

"There's too many people out there trying to drive around, and there's [illegible] there," he said.

"We're trying to get around to everywhere as fast as we can, but it's not quick enough for the cops."

Fire dispatchers for western Berks County reported receiving numerous inquiries from concerned residents in South Heidelberg Township and Sinking Spring, who feared a fire had broken out when they spotted flames in the area of the Cetrus R. Leffler Inc. refinery on Mountain Home Road in South Heidelberg.

The flames were related to a burning operation at the refinery officials said, and there was no fire.

Thomas Knes, senior meteorologist at Accu-Weather in State College, said the record-setting cold was caused by a phenomenon known as radiational cooling, which occurs when there is a combination of a heavy snow pack, clear skies and calm winds.

The snow cover reflects all the heat back into the atmosphere, Knes explained. If we could have had clouds, it might have trapped some of the heat but [illegible]

[illegible] during the day just rose [illegible] And with no [illegible]

Knes said the expected sun [illegible]

[illegible] said.

[illegible] expected from [illegible] Knes said. [illegible] expected cloud cover and a breeze, which should help keep the air stirred up.

If these conditions materialize as expected, he said, lows tonight should dip only into the teens.

But he warned that the mercury could sink to single digits if winds remain calm.

Knes said weather is expected to warm gradually through the weekend, with highs Saturday in the 20s, or possibly the low 30s, highs Sunday in the 30s, and a period of highs in the high 30s or even 40 by Monday.

"We may have some precipitation Tuesday or Wednesday, but until then the weather should be dry," Knes said.

Meanwhile, spokespeople for Metropolitan Edison Co. and Pennsylvania Power & Light Co. said the record-breaking lows pushed consumption higher, but did not force a recommendation of mandatory rolling blackouts.

Met-Ed spokeswoman Maria Frederick said, "It just means we're out of the woods yet.

"We're still asking people to conserve. The emergency is not over."

On Thursday, Gov. Robert P. Casey lifted the state of emergency in 17 western counties, but said the declaration remains in effect for the remaining 10 central and eastern counties, including Berks, until midnight tonight.

In a brief Thursday evening address, Casey encouraged industrial, business and residential customers to continue to reduce their use of electricity and gas for the period.

Casey's alleviation of his disaster order also means all state offices in the region will remain closed today.

The Berks County Courthouse and Services Center and City Hall remained open.

All public and parochial schools in the area remained shut today because Richard A. Hodgkin, manager of system planning for the Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection, the regional power pool which serves 11 million in a 14-state area, said conservation measures have helped.

"It's because of those steps that we got through that," Hodgkin emphasized, "and we're still asking people to help us by conserving where they can."

Met-Ed's PJM was a winter peak output of 41,350 megawatts between 8 and 9 p.m. Tuesday, surpassing the 38,300-megawatt record set last January.

PP&L also set a record during the same time period Tuesday, reaching set 6,48 megawatts of power, eclipsing the previous mark of 6,132 set Feb. 2.

Met-Ed set an all-time mark Wednesday at 9 a.m., with an output of 1,600 megawatts, breaking the previous mark of 1,500 set at 9 p.m. Tuesday.

UGI Utilities Inc. set a record for gas output between 8 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. Thursday, beating a mark set 11 months ago, according to spokesman Joseph J. Swann.

UGI lifted restrictions on some of its industrial customers Thursday afternoon when pipeline temperatures rebounded from other requiring pressure and electrical problems along their subsoils Wednesday afternoon.

■

Contributing to this story were staff writers Kevin Dolgoy and Mark Abrams.

Salt-seller salting away ill-gotten gains

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Someone with a front-end loader may have taken the phrase, "Please pass the salt" a bit too seriously.

Tuesday night, someone stole 300 tons of rock salt, valued at $12,000, from a South Philadelphia railyard, according to police.

Unidentified citizens told the Philadelphia Daily News that dozens of individuals with pickup trucks purchased the purloined salt from the dealer operator for as little as $10 a truckload. Some of the salt ended up in the hands of grocers and street vendors, who in turn sold it at a huge markup.

One vendor said he resold the salt at $6 for 25 pounds.

Only in South Philly, said a grocer who admitted to participating in the theft.

POSTPONED
The Opening Reception & Lecture at the Reading Public Museum
INTIMATE PERCEPTIONS
has been postponed until Friday, January 26
Lecture with Dr. Valerie Lemaster beginning at 7:00PM

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UARY 28, 1994

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MARK ABRAMS

Emotions a victim of quakes

Everyone has a story to tell. The memory of where many were when the earthquake rocked Berks County last Saturday is as vivid today as the events themselves. It will likely remain so for many years to come.

The first quake – measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale – shook thousands of people, especially those in Spring Township and the Wyomissing Hills area who reported a loud bang or series of bangs just before the tumbler began.

Police departments jammed the county radio channels when the rocking stopped, inquiring if there had been a large explosion or some other incident.

Dispatchers were so busy trying to answer the deluge of calls on the 9-1-1 system inquiring about the disturbance that they told police cars on patrol to limit their transmissions to emergency messages only until more was learned.

Those of us working in the newsroom Saturday night literally felt the ... in our places upper downtown building seemed to take on a life of its own, and cooling tiles above us shook accompanied by a loud rumbling noise.

It lasted a few seconds. But those few seconds seemed like a minute.

Had a commuter plane crashed on the roof of the building? Was there an explosion in the basement boiler room? Did a water pipe on the fire-suppression system rupture?

No one moved. Then the police radios crackled to life and the newsroom phones began ringing. We knew it wasn't an isolated event.

When that second one hit about an hour later, measuring 4.6 on the Richter, the shaking was more violent. People who were home and still picking up items that fell from the first tumbler felt helpless when the second jolt struck.

Ronald Bowman, whose story mirrors those of dozens of earthquake victims in Spring Township, said he had just finished cleaning up broken pieces from his mug collection, which had hit the floor in the basement during the first quake.

The house seemed to be in pretty good shape, and we were in the kitchen checking on the phone with relatives, Ron recalled. "My wife, Jackie, was on the phone with my sister, Carol, who lives in northeast Reading when the second one hit.

"We heard a very large boom, and the kitchen cabinets flew open. She told her 'There it goes again,' and hung up."

The Bowmans literally rode out the quake in their kitchen, watching as the chandelier started shaking, a clock fell, vases came out of the wall, and the china closet opened and dishes began tumbling out and breaking on the floor.

It seemed like it wasn't going to end," Ron said. "It lasted like 20 to 40 seconds."

Ron said he did another tour of his Whitfield house and found more broken items in the basement, but was relieved to see his heater and other utilities were in good shape.

Then, he said, a more careful inspection of the dwelling revealed the cracks in the plaster at the stairways and doorways. Aluminum soffit pieces were down at the front and side, and brick facing cracked and pulled away from the home.

Like dozens of others, Ron is still waiting for his insurance company to respond. He's hoping that old "earth movement" or "act of God" clause doesn't get in the way.

Physical damage to the walls and the bricks can be repaired, Ron agreed. But the emotional toll the quakes have taken, especially the feelings of helplessness and fear of the unknown in the wake of the after shocks, lingers and will take a long time to heal.

■

Mark Abrams is an Eagle/Times reporter covering education. Contact him at the Reading Eagle and Reading Times.

Gas main closed after blast

UGI Corp.

■ Ronald A. Sheriff is hospitalized after he is burned in the explosion in his city apartment. About 100 rented residents return to their homes.

By Steve B. Isabella
Staff Writer

UGI Corp. officials said Thursday that crews have clamped the leaking underground main that caused an explosion late Wednesday and burned a Reading man in his apartment at Second and Bellswood streets.

Ronald A. Sheriff, 30, remained in guarded condition with second- and third-degree burns of his hands and face in Reading Hospital Center, Philadelphia, where he was taken following the 11 p.m. blast behind 15 Bellswood St.

Sheriff's children, Kelvin Wolmacher, 11; Jamarr Wolmacher, 11; and Shemar Sheriff, 3, also were in the apartment when the explosion occurred. They escaped injury and were rescued from the second floor by neighbors and officials at the scene.

Neighbors cope with evacuation after blast. See Page B2

See Gas, Page B2

Baked to death site

■ Victims: Patricia A. Sieboldt, 31, Mulbeck and North Church roads, Heidelberg Township.

■ Victim: David A. Sieboldt, 44, Maugans Mill Road, Upper Pottsgrove Township, Montgomery County.

■ Crime: Sieboldt is accused of paying four men to kill her husband on Jan. 15, 1993, so she could collect $561,000 in life insurance and to continue an affair with Thomas Dellinos, 34, of Douglassville, her employer by marriage.

■ Charges: First-, second- and third-degree murder, robbery and conspiracy.

■ Site: Sieboldt is being held in Montgomery County Prison, Eagleville, without bail.

[illegible] – Patricia A. Sieboldt [illegible] power off her lifeless [illegible] husband, after paying other people [illegible] to kill her husband three years ago, Lee Shanks told a Montgomery County jury Thursday.

Shanks, 45, said Sieboldt, who subsequently married her employer, Douglass Township, Berks County, paid him $1,000 to murder her real estate developer husband, Donald A. Sieboldt, 38 years ago.

Shanks, a former Pottstown resident, has a minimum of 10 years left to serve on a 20- to 40-year sentence for numerous burglaries, including some in Berks, in the early 1980s.

Patricia Sieboldt's lawyer, Frank Dellinos, focused his cross-examination on how Shanks wrote letters to attorneys asking for a deal in return for his testimony.

The defense contends Shanks, who was acquitted of the murder in October 1993, [illegible] to Steve Patricia Sieboldt to [illegible] after his sentence for the [illegible].

Shanks testified he drove three men to the Sieboldt home and the four stabbed and beat David Sieboldt with a bat.

"He was just laying there," Shanks said. "He wasn't making any sounds. At first he was knocked then he wasn't."

Shanks said the four dumped Sieboldt in the bath mat of his embankment Cadillac and drove the car to an alley in Pottstown.

Shanks said one of the four conspirators, Jeffrey Hall, 44, who is serving a life sentence for the slaying, fled. Shanks said he then drove the other two men, brothers Thomas and Jeffrey Dellinos, back to the Sieboldt home to see if they had left tracks in the snow.

Shanks said Patricia Sieboldt was shovelling snow where her husband had fallen during the fatal beating.

"She walked up to him," the witness said. "She screamed. It was loud. They started talking and were trying to clean up the snow with a shovel."

Shanks said he and Jeffrey Dellinos left, and Patricia Sieboldt stayed with Thomas, with whom she was having an affair.

Shanks said he and Jeffrey went to his hotel and used it. They then threw a plastic bag containing a bloody bat, knife and clothing from the murder in dumpster.

Shanks said he took a 16-year-old girl to a motel in Berks for sex and later spent the night at a woman's home in Spring City.

About two weeks after the murder Shanks said, Patricia Sieboldt hands Jeffrey Dellinos $1,500 to give him for his participation in the murder. She he previously gives him $1,500, Shanks said.

During cross-examination, Dellinos repeatedly referred to Shanks as a liar.

Shanks admitted that he lied at his murder trial and to police and a grand jury.

Dellinos presented enlarged copies of letters for the jury to see in which Shanks asked attorneys about deals in return for his testimony.

In one letter, Shanks asked the prosecution about shaving more than three years off his sentence for testimony against Thomas Dellinos, 34, who also charged with murder, and Patricia Sieboldt.

Jeffrey Dellinos, 38, since has been convicted in the murder and sentenced to life.

Grocer slaying suspect charged in fatal attack

■ Daniel M. Rivera is accused of taking part in the stabbing of Adam Ramirez Garcia, who died several weeks later from his wound.

By Dave Biscuy
Staff Writer

Sixteen-year-old Daniel M. Rivera, already accused in the murder of a Schuylkill Avenue grocer, was charged Thursday with assaulting a teen-ager who died after being stabbed, sources said.

Rivera, of the 500 block of Bellswood Street, was charged in Berks County Juvenile Court with aggravated assault and related offenses in the Nov. 26 attack on Adam Ramirez Garcia.

Garcia, 19, of the 500 block of North Sixth Street, died Jan. 7 in Community General Hospital of complications from the stab wound.

Two other Reading juveniles, whose names were not released, also have been charged in the assault. Those youths – ages 16 and 12 – admitted Thursday in juvenile court that they attacked Garcia but did not stab him, officials said.

The 16-year-old male resides in the 800 block of Laggett Avenue, and the 12-year-old male resides in the 300 block of Bellswood Street, officials said.

Based on an investigation by Reading police, District Attorney Mark C. Baldwin said none of the juveniles stabbed Garcia.

Baldwin said an adult, whom he declined to identify, is expected to be charged with murder for stabbing Garcia in the 500 block of Bellswood Street. Baldwin said the adult already is in prison on unrelated charges.

Following the hearing before Judge Arthur E. Grim, the two unidentified youths were returned to the Berks County Youth Center, near Hamburg, to await sentencing Feb. 4.

Investigators said Garcia was walking home about 9 p.m. with a friend, Carlos Collado, when the two were attacked by several Latino males outside an apartment building on Bellswood St.

Collado managed to flee unharmed, police said, but Garcia was stabbed twice.

Collado told police that he and Garcia recently had arrived in Reading from Mexico. Collado told authorities he did not know the assailants, but they did not like Mexicans.

Rivera remained in Berks County Prison, where he is being held on murder, robbery and related charges in the slaying of grocer Juan A. Caballero. Rivera was charged as an adult in that case because murder was among the offenses.

Caballero, 68, owner of Mendez Grocery, 700 Schuylkill Ave., was robbed and shot inside the store Dec. 13. A single bullet entered beneath his right arm, broke a rib and lodged in his spine. Caballero died of his injuries Jan. 5 in St. Joseph Hospital.

Rivera's brother, Luis Jr., 18, and his father, Luis Sr., 48, both of the 800 block of Bellswood Street, are in prison on murder and related charges in the Caballero slaying.

Luis Jr. is the alleged gunman, and his father is accused of entering the store with his son during the holdup.

In addition, Donna J. Johnson, 38, of the 1400 block of Robeson Street, is charged with murder and robbery for agreeing to drive the Riveras to and from the grocery. Police said Johnson is the girlfriend of Luis Sr.

Eagle/Times file photo

A tasting Vivian Langan, Mount Penn, took lessons her mother's milk cookies 15 years ago has reached great heights.