

Nearly Inch Of Snow Falls STREETS CAUSE MANY CRASHES

Ambulance In Four-Car Wreck Here

Drivers Skid
Ways To Work
In Charlotte

By DONALD MACDONALD
Charlotte News Staff Writer

An oil truck skidded into a freight train and an ambulance set off a chain reaction that left four cars damaged as Charlotte and Mecklenburg motorists slipped and slid their ways to work this morning.

With streets coated with ice and snow, motorists were involved in a large number of traffic mishaps. City and County Police and State Highway patrolmen were called out to investigate at least 25 accidents before 10 a.m.

The truck-train collision was a narrow brush with death for Donald Jackson, 21, of the Woodlawn section. Jackson jumped from the cab when he saw that his small oil tanker was sliding across the railroad tracks on Shuman Ave. An oncoming freight train struck the truck, spilling oil over a wide area.

AMBULANCE COLLISION
An ambulance owned by McEwen Funeral Home answered a 7:34 a.m. emergency call at Mint and Morehead Sts. when Jack Bryan's car, of Rt. 4, Charlotte, skidded into a utility pole, injuring an occupant of the car—Mrs. R. J. Hillman, 27, also of Rt. 4.

Police said Mrs. Hillman suffered only a laceration on the head which was nothing compared with the harrowing ride she took later to the hospital.

Officers H. L. McWhorter and T. W. Williams said the ambulance, operated by James S. Griffith, was proceeding toward Memorial Hospital on Independence Blvd. when an Oldsmobile (operated by H. H. Benson, 2008 Carter Way) skidded around in front of the ambulance, causing a collision.

CHAIN REACTION
Officers further explained that the ambulance bounced off the Oldsmobile into the rear of a 1955 Pontiac driven by Jimmy Livingston, Morris Field—then slid into the side of a 1953 Ford, operated by Harold Presson, Rt. 3, whirling the Ford around into a 1952 Pontiac driven by Isaac Houston, 631 Brookhill Rd.

State Highway Patrolmen Clark and Gillis said a man miraculously escaped death on Highway 74-E at the county line when his automobile skidded down a 25-foot embankment, landing on its top.

A tractor-trailer jackknifed about 7:30 a.m. at Highways 27 and 74, bursting one of its tanks and pouring gas over the street.

TRAFFIC TIED UP
State Highway Patrolmen said traffic was tied up in the tractor-trailer could be moved.



Park Road's Hill'n Dale Route To Uptown Charlotte Was Mighty Slippery-y-y-y-y-y This Morning . . .



... But Some Nerve-Jangled Motorists Made It To Tryon St. Just The Same . . .

In Ike's Economic Message

Standby Credit Control Urged

By STERLING F. GREEN

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower today proposed a restoration of standby controls over consumer credit, although he told Congress the country's booming economy now is advancing at a "tame" gain.

The President's annual economic report said the United States stands "at the threshold of a 400-billion-dollar economy" after a year of spectacular growth.

"The underlying trend still appears to be upward," he reported. The message asserted again, stronger terms than previously, Eisenhower's contention that "an early reduction of taxes cannot be justified."

He said the personal income of Americans hit another record high, \$122,000,000,000 in the final quarter of last year without what he termed the artificial stimulus of conditions and present budget estimates.

But the big surprise in a 238-page printed message was Eisenhower's suggestion that Congress consider re-enacting the Federal Reserve Board's authority to regulate demand payments and repayment terms on purchases of automobiles and other consumer items.

"Although present conditions do not call for the use of such authority," he said, "this is a good time for the Congress and the executive branch to study the problem."

In changing his position today, Eisenhower emphasized that the authority would be used "only when the economic situation demands it and under proper administrative safeguards."

POINT EMPHASIZED

The report, third and last of the major annual presidential messages, hammered home Eisenhower's belief that reduction of the federal debt should precede tax relief in utilizing budget surpluses he has told Congress he anticipates this bookkeeping year and the next, which begins July 1. He said much the same thing, although with less emphasis in his budget and State of the Union messages.

"In view of existing economic conditions and present budget estimates, we cannot be justified in recommending a reduction of taxes at this time," he said.

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Worst Of The Winter

Snow And Sleet Lash North State

RALEIGH (AP)—A sleet and snow storm, by far the worst of the winter thus far, whipped over North Carolina last night and today.

Heavy snow with a frozen base was reported from the western mountains to the coast. Many highways were too slick to travel.

Business got off to a slow start in most major cities as long lines of skidding, sliding automobiles blocked streets. Many office workers elected to hunker down at home after waiting in vain for public transportation that couldn't stay on schedule because of traffic jams.

The heaviest snowfall was an official 12 inches reported at Newfound Gap on the North Carolina-Tennessee border. And, clear across the state, Elizabeth City had four inches.

The Weather Bureau said most of the snowstorm was over by mid-morning. The outlook was for cloudy and cold weather for almost all of the state for the rest of the day, and "quite cold" tonight.

Low temperatures will be in the 20s in the mountains, 20 to 26 elsewhere. Tomorrow will be generally in the 30s, with no more snow immediately in sight.

Lofty Mt. Mitchell, tallest peak east of the Mississippi, had six to eight inches of snow, but was so windy it was impossible to get an accurate measure. The temperature there at 8 a.m. was 22, after a high of 33 and a low of 19 the preceding 24 hours.

The State Highway Patrol reported highways in Madison County were impassable. Other roads in the area could be negotiated only with chains. In Madison County, both U.S. 1570 and 19-23 into Tennessee were too slick to be used.

U.S. 441 through Newfound Gap could be traveled with chains.

BUSES RUN LATE
Bus service through the mountains was maintained, with buses running about an hour late.

Police Are Swamped With Calls For Help

By CHARLES KURALT
Charlotte News Staff Writer

The first snow of the winter—laced with sleet and ice—created a giant traffic snarl in Charlotte today.

Hundreds of cars were abandoned at curbs by early morning motorists. Crowded sidewalks were jammed with pedestrians.

There were many collisions of skidding automobiles. Almost everybody was late to work and many walked long distances to escape the sideslipping traffic on city streets.

Not much more than one-half inch of snow fell. But intermittent rain turned the streets into dangerous glazed ribbons.

SCHOOLS SUFFER
Mecklenburg County schools were closed today. City schools were closed and city employees reported attendance below normal.

County School Supt. J. W. Wilson personally made the decision not to risk running county school buses at 6 a.m. today after checking with County Police. The schools are expected to reopen tomorrow.

Students, teachers and even principals had trouble getting to city schools this morning.

One parent telephoned the school board office at 8:40 a.m. and said her youngster had arrived at Tryon Hills School but nobody was there. All the teachers were still struggling to reach their destination.

Another report was that a youngster walking toward Sharmrock Garden School slipped on the icy pavement and fell, breaking his nose and knocking out two teeth.

The special bus operating to the new Eastway Junior High School had difficulty and anxious parents began phoning the school office as their youngsters huddled in clusters at various curbs, waiting for the bus that hadn't showed up.

Principal Jack Horner of Myers Park High School said attendance was fairly good at Myers Park—but two teachers had slid off the road and were still missing at 10:30 a.m.

The last teacher made it to Central High at about 10 a.m. All schools reported a bumper crop of tardy students, all of whom were excused. Many schools omitted home room periods and first period classes because of the shortage of pupils.

Evening Prayer

Eternal God, we would be obedient servants. Help us to hear Thy voice clearly that we may know Thy will with certainty. Help us to accept the tasks Thou hast given us, even when they are not what we desire, for we know that only in Thy will is our peace. In the name of Christ Amen.

Our Weather

Partly cloudy and continued cold today. Fair and quite cold tomorrow. Generally fair and continued cold. Low tonight—25. Low tomorrow—22. High yesterday—32. High today—40. High tomorrow—40. Sunrise 7:37 a.m.; sunset 5:43 p.m.

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ICE HOCKEY GAME SET HERE; AMEN MAY BE COACH AT WAKE

The news is hot and cold on the sports page today—but it's still news.

Hockey, a sport that had been talked as a possibility here in 1957, suddenly makes an appearance with Baltimore coming to the Coliseum next week for regularly scheduled games in the Eastern League. Today's snowfall had nothing to do with it.

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... And Faced Another Hazard When They Walked The Last Blocks To Work.