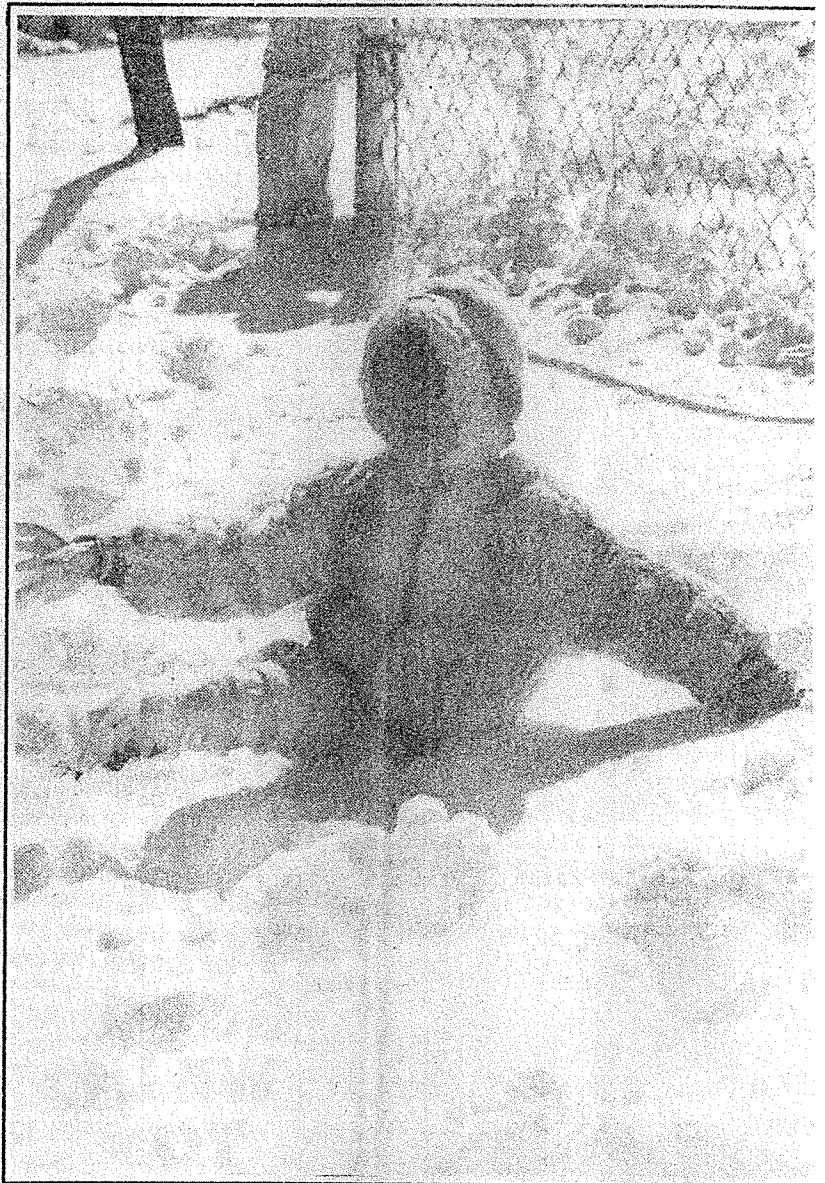
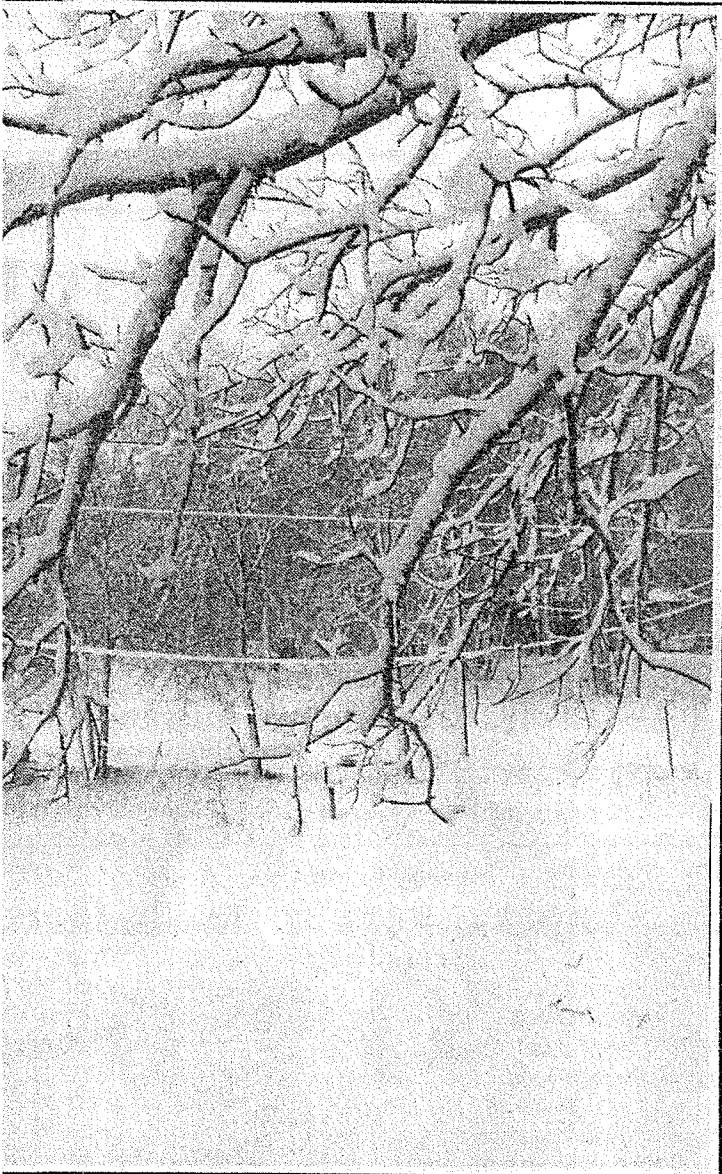


St. Clair with blanket

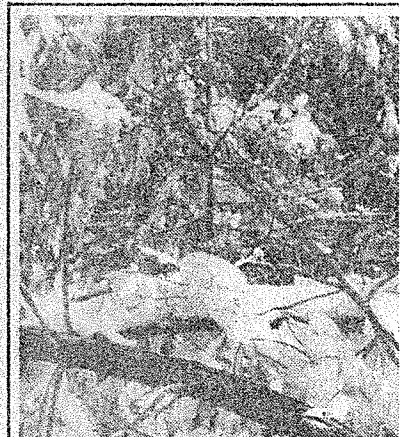


WAS PRETTY...

Photo by Gary Hanner

AND DEEP...

Photo by Elise Argo



Blanket of snow

3/12/93



Photo by Elise Argo

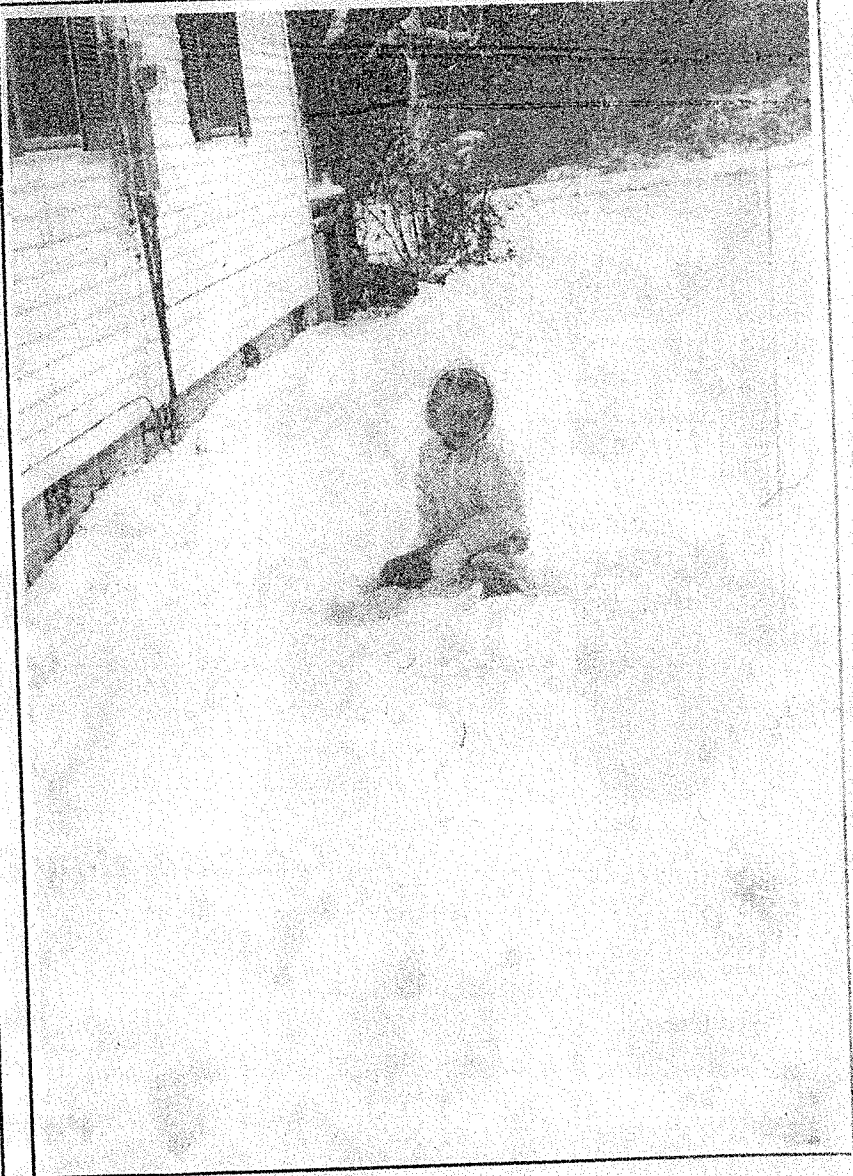


Photo by Gary Hanner

AND FUN!

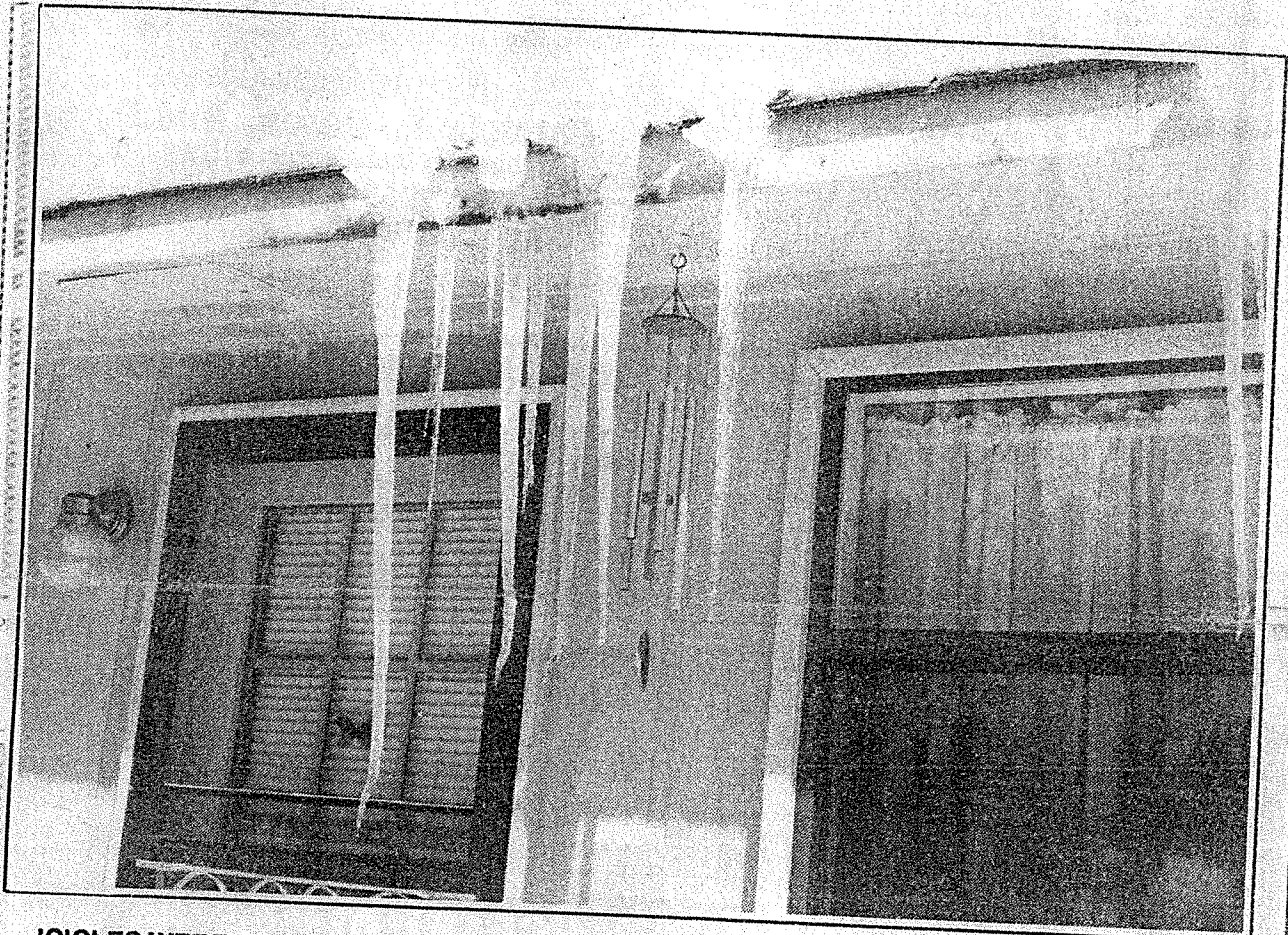




SNOW WAS PRETTY...

Photo by Gary Hanner

AND DEEP...



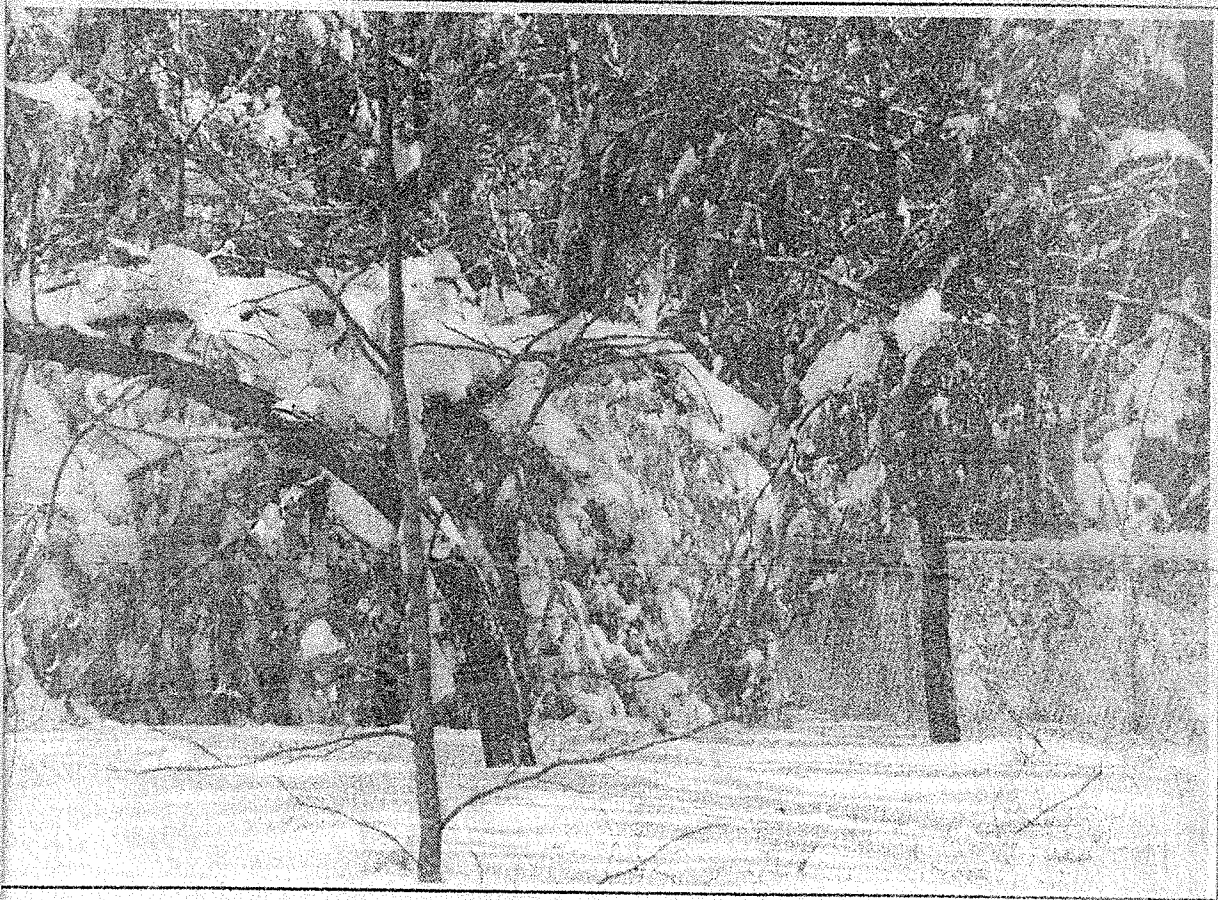
ICICLES WERE PRETTY WORK OF NATURE

Photo by Jennifer Braxton

Photo by Elise Argo

AND FUN!

Photo by Gary Hanner



MANY TREES WERE BROKEN BY HEAVY SNOW

Photo by Elise Argo

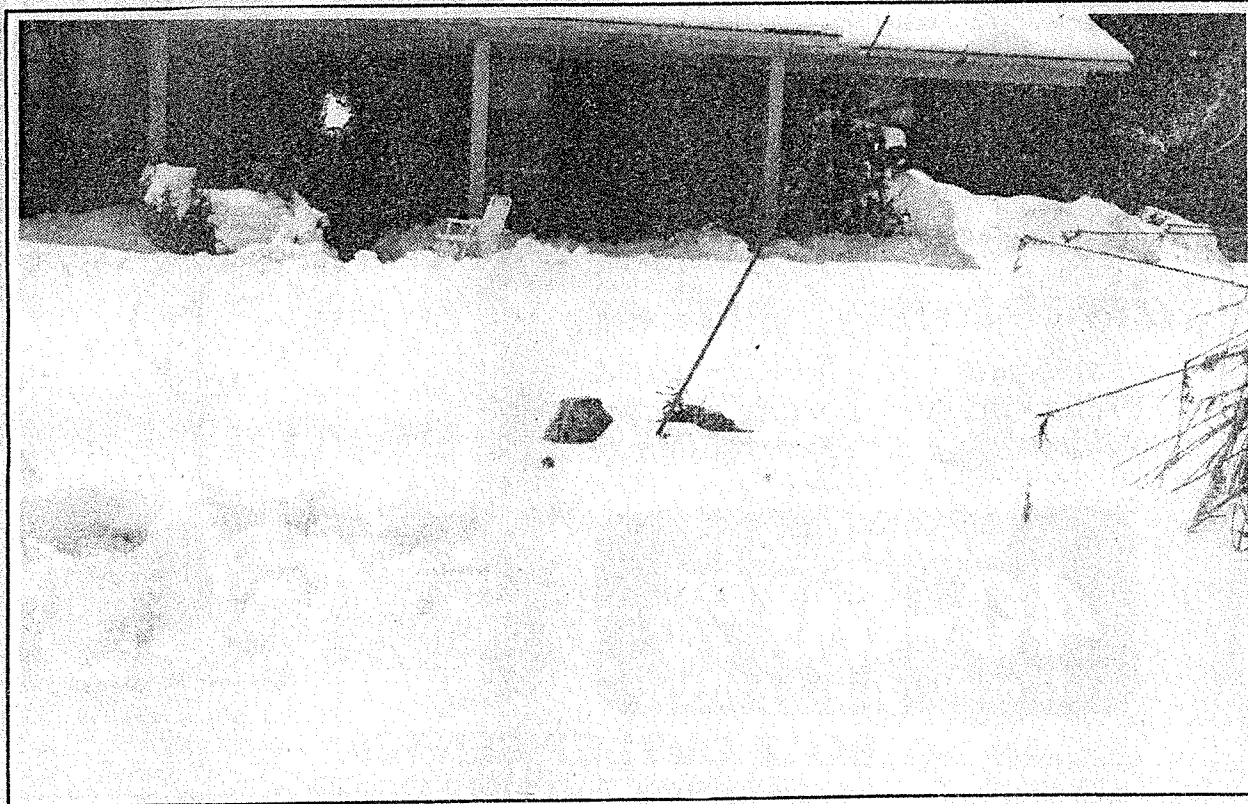
ICICLES WERE PRETTY WORK OF NATURE

Photo by Jennifer Braxton



TREE CREWS WERE KEPT BUSY

Photo by Deborah Braxton



THIS IS SPRING IN ALABAMA?

Photo by Jennifer Braxton

MANY TREES WERE BROKEN BY HEAVY SNOW

Photo by Elise Argo

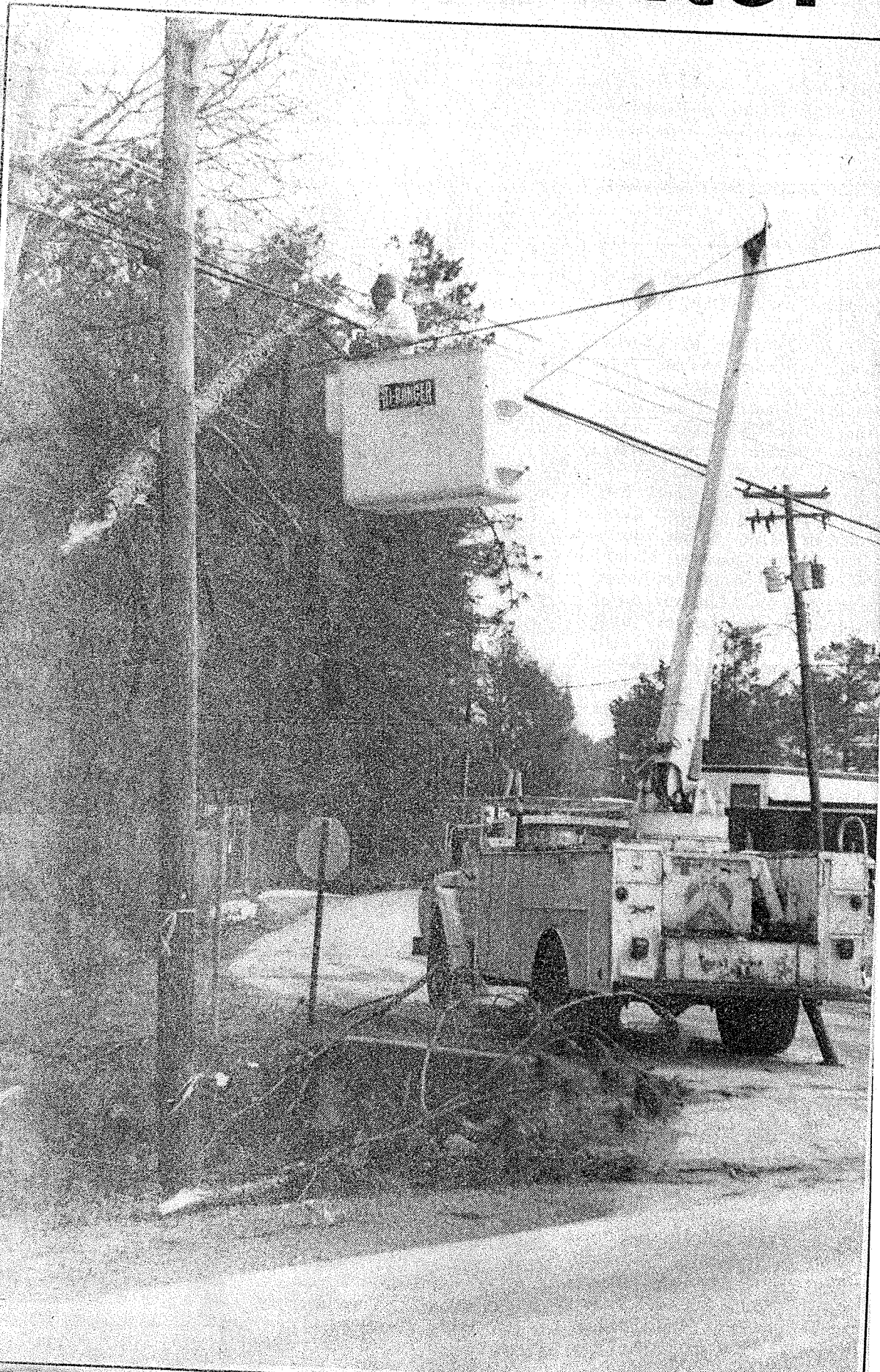


RAMPOLINE WAS FUN PLACE TO PLAY

Photo by Elise Argo

Late winter

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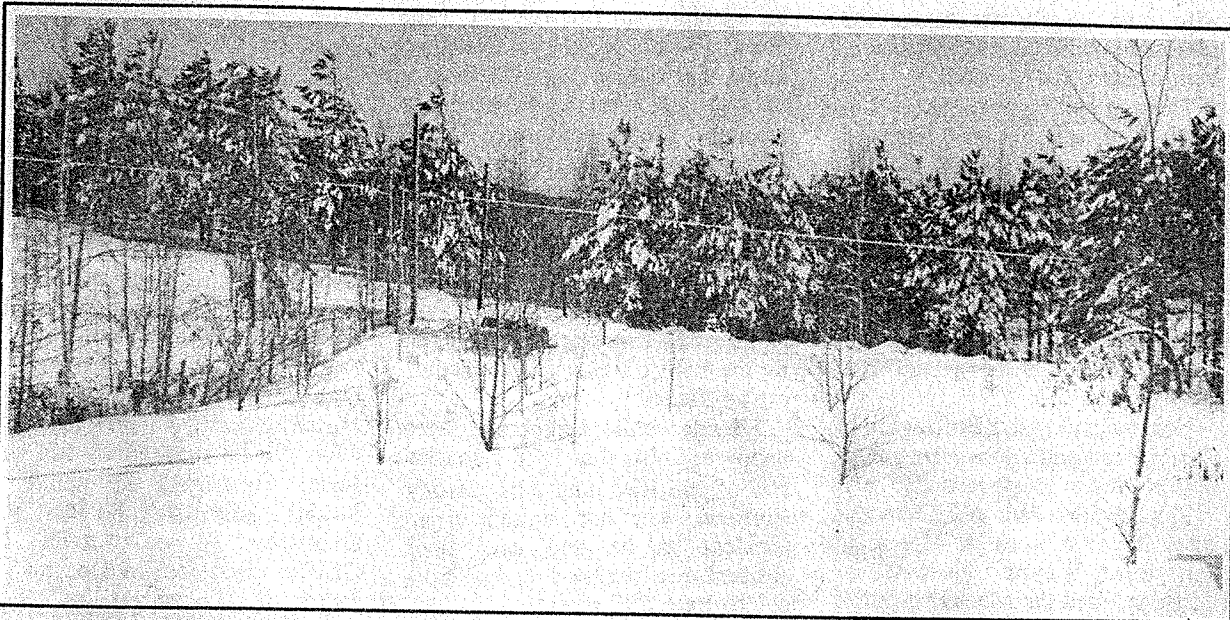


storm covers



LONG LINES WERE FOUND IN GROCERY STORES FRIDAY

Photo by Elise Argo



A WINTER WONDERLAND

Photo by Elise Argo



PROBATE JUDGE WALLACE WYATT JR. HARD AT WORK

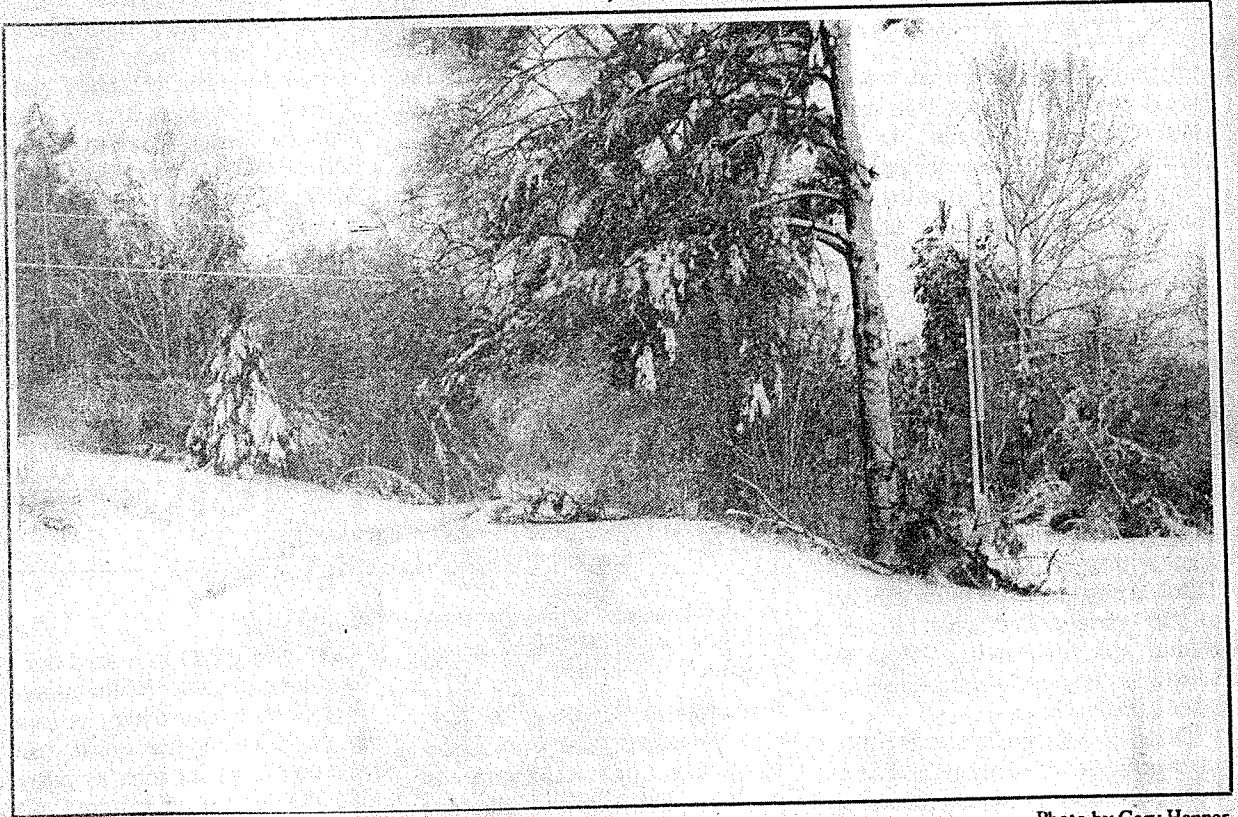


Photo by Gary Hanner

LOOKING DOWN DEPOT STREET—In this picture taken in Riverside snow was measured at 14 inches with drifts up to 27 inches.

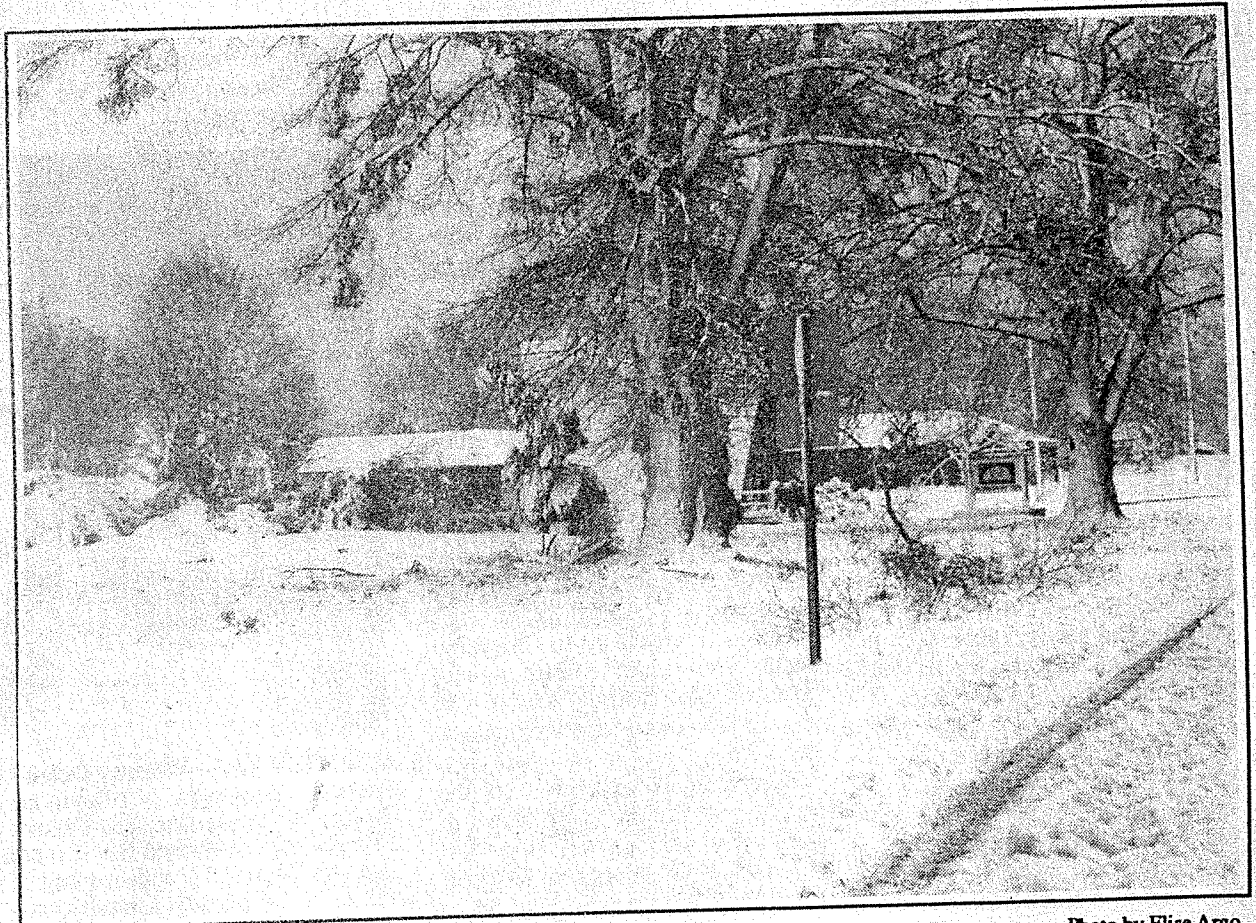


Photo by Elise Argo

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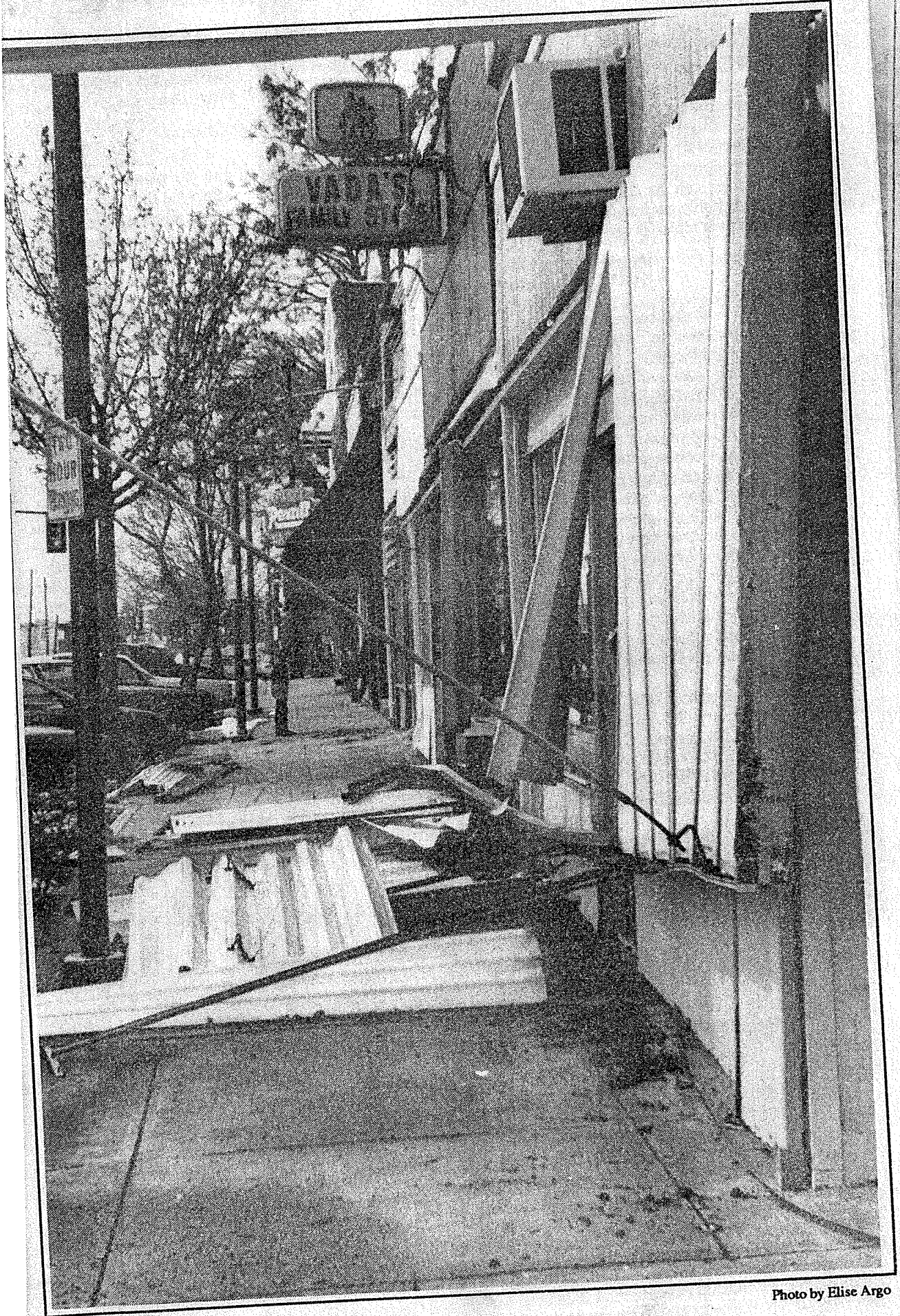


Photo by Elise Argo

AWNINGS COLLAPSED UNDER WEIGHT OF RECORD SNOWFALL

The Blizzard of '93

3/12/93

Bailey and A Little shared their Huffman home with 32 friend relatives and neighbors

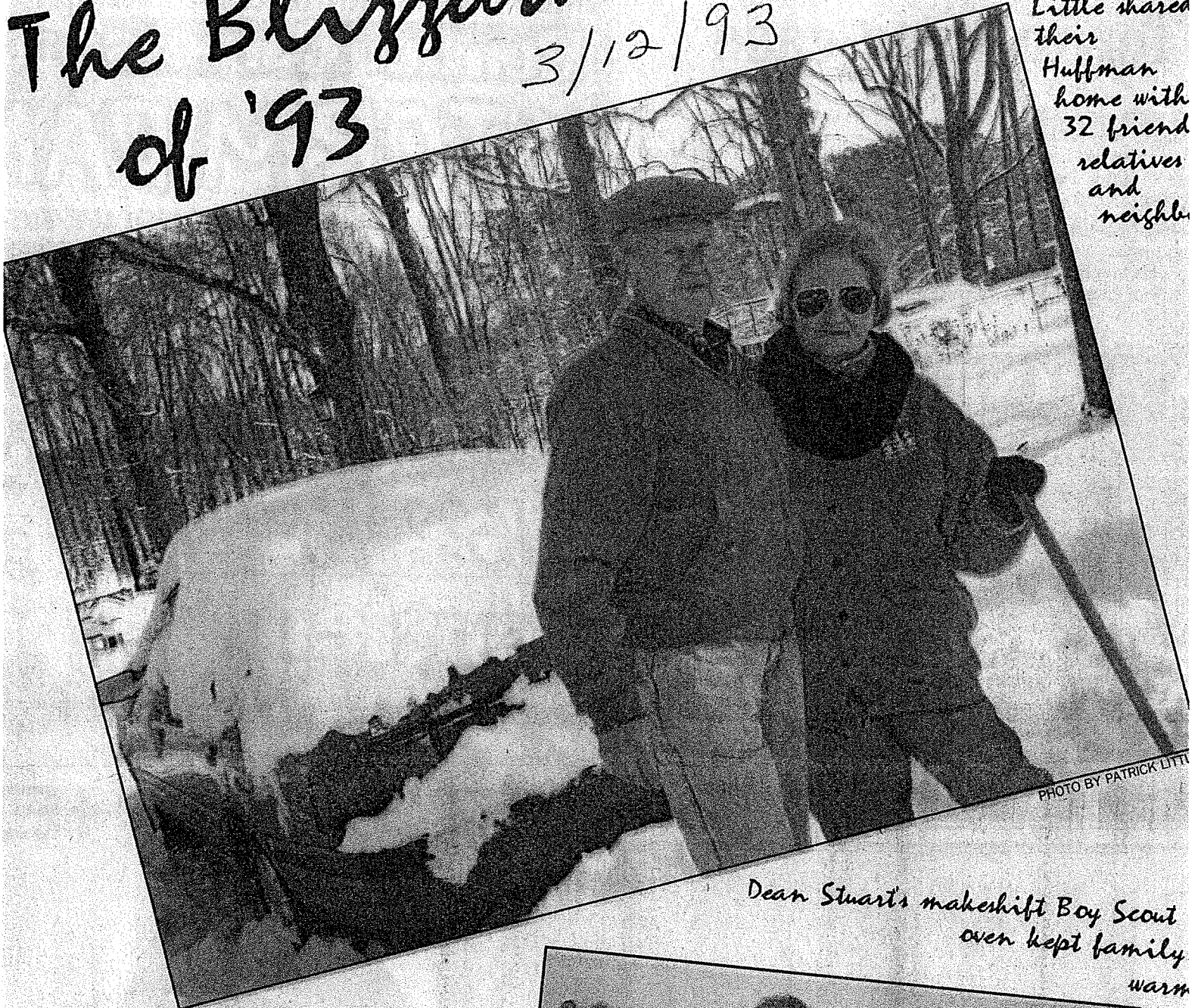


PHOTO BY PATRICK LITTLE

Dean Stuart's makeshift Boy Scout oven kept family warm

How We Coped!

By **Jerry Underwood**
News staff writer

When you put together a scrapbook of images from Alabama's worst-ever snowstorm, save a spot for Dean Stuart, who got a bright idea his whole family could warm up to during the blizzard.

Not long after the power went off at the Stuarts' home, the family got the shivers because there was no alternate source of heat. Stuart began building a makeshift oven, using a cardboard box lined with aluminum foil and a pie plate piled with burning charcoal. His wife was skeptical.



NEWS STAFF PHOTO/BEVERLY TAYLOR

Scout two decades ago. Stuart was one of 53 readers who

power and clear roads can be scary. Just ask Jeanelle Akins, whose father had a heart

of 12

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and
neighbors

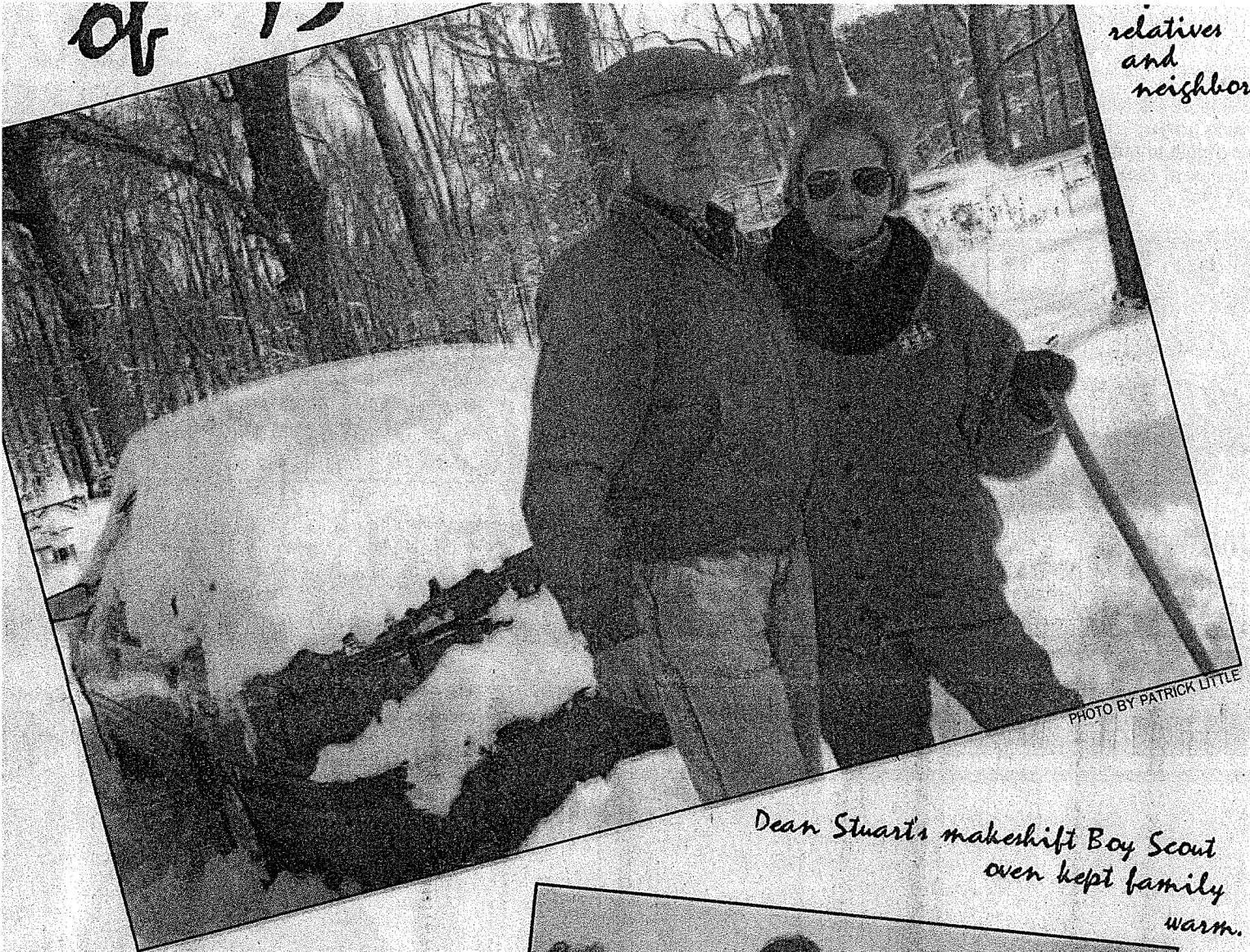


PHOTO BY PATRICK LITTLE

Dean Stuart's makeshift Boy Scout
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How We Coped!

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When you put together a scrapbook of images from Alabama's worst-ever snowstorm, save a spot for Dean Stuart, who had a bright idea his whole family could warm up to during the blizzard. Not long after the power went off at the family's home, the family got the shivers because there was no alternate source of heat. Stuart began building a makeshift shelter, using a cardboard box lined with aluminum foil and a pie plate piled with burning charcoal. His wife was skeptical. "I thought it was pretty silly," said Beth Stuart, who's pregnant with twins. "I was wrong." Stuart's five-minute project paid off, raising the room's temperature some 20 degrees. "It put out a lot of heat," said Stuart, the manager of the Downtown Club. He learned the trick when he was a Boy



NEWS STAFF PHOTO/BEVERLY TAYLOR

Scout two decades ago. Stuart was one of 53 readers who answered a request to tell *The Birmingham News* how they coped during the blizzard and its aftermath. If pasted in a scrapbook, these responses would tell a story that covers the full range of human emotions and experiences. The big lesson from the storm of the century, according to readers: Life without

power and clear roads can be scary. Just ask Jeanelle Akins, whose father had a heart attack in the middle of the storm, when roads were blocked. Volunteers from the Hillview Fire Department saved his life by getting him to a hospital.

"Prayer and pacing — that was about all I could do," said Ms. Akins. "It was a totally

See Coping, Page 10A

N St. Clair News-A

Pell City, Alabama

20 pages

Thursday, March 18, 19

Storm hits St. Clair 3/12/93

Many homes lose power

By **CINDY WARNER**
News-Aegis News Editor

Meteorologists called it the "Storm of the Century," and the "Blizzard of '93."

Most St. Clair County residents called it "MISERY."

The 13 inches of snow that fell across the county over the weekend, caused many residents to be without power nearly all week. Several areas in the county not only dealt with power outages, but loss of water as well.

Tommy Bowers, manager of Alabama Power Company in Pell City, said about 9,000 of their 11,000 customers in the St. Clair County service area lost power.

"We spent the first night and the next day trying to keep the hospital and nursing homes up and running," Bowers said.

Bowers said the emergency shelters that had been set up, such as the Pell City Civic Center, were the next to get power restored.

Bowers said crews have been working around the clock to try to get the power restored.

"Our crews have been holding up O.K.," he said. "We worked them as hard and as long as we could without stopping them. They were

"Across the state there have been some injuries," he said. "One man was shocked, but he is O.K. There were several men who broke their legs."

In Pell City, the police department had to relocate to the new fire station due to the power outage.

Pell City Police Chief Joe Davis said there were full day and night shifts on duty through the weekend.

"We did the best we could to help the public, except where the snow totally paralyzed us," Davis said.

Davis said most of the officers that were on duty this weekend worked double shifts to help out.

"They did get some sleep though," Davis said.

Davis said luckily the city did have a relatively crime free weekend.

Davis said there was one incident that involved some juveniles from Kentucky who were on their way to Florida in a "borrowed" car and got stuck here.

"We also had some minor accidents and some alarms went off but we handled it," he said.

Rhonda Burns, who helped the police department dispatch this weekend, said Lamar Williamson at WFHK was a "godsend."

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Bowers said crews have been working around the clock to try to get the power restored.

"Our crews have been holding up O.K.," he said. "We worked them as hard and as long as we could without stopping them. They were able to get three and four hours of sleep."

Bowers said several contract crews from other states came into the area to help with the power restoration.

"We have utilized these other crews with the crews we already have," he said. "We also got a lot of help from Golden Excavating and GTE. They have both been a big help to us."

Bowers said it is hard to determine when power would be restored to every household.

"There are some people who are going to have to get electricians out to their homes to repair the damage to their wiring," he said. "We can't connect to them if they have wiring on their end that needs to be fixed."

Bowers said despite working long shifts, none of the local crews have sustained any injuries during the restoration process.

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Rhonda Burns, who helped the police department dispatch this weekend, said Lamar Williamson at WFHK was a "godsend."

"Lamar helped us dispel rumors that were coming in to us," she said. "If he hadn't been on the air to help us get the accurate information out to the public I don't know what we would have done."

"Overall considering what we had to work with, I think it came off without a hitch," said Communication Supervisor Steve Drummonds.


"The magnitude of the storm itself caused us to have some problems and that hindered us somewhat," Davis added.

Danny Descher, Administrator of St. Clair Regional Hospital, said they did lose power at the hospital, but the emergency generators ran until the power company got the power restored.

Descher said the hospital did have several emergency situations occur during the storm.

"We had three people who came

(See Power page 3A)



STORM CLEAR
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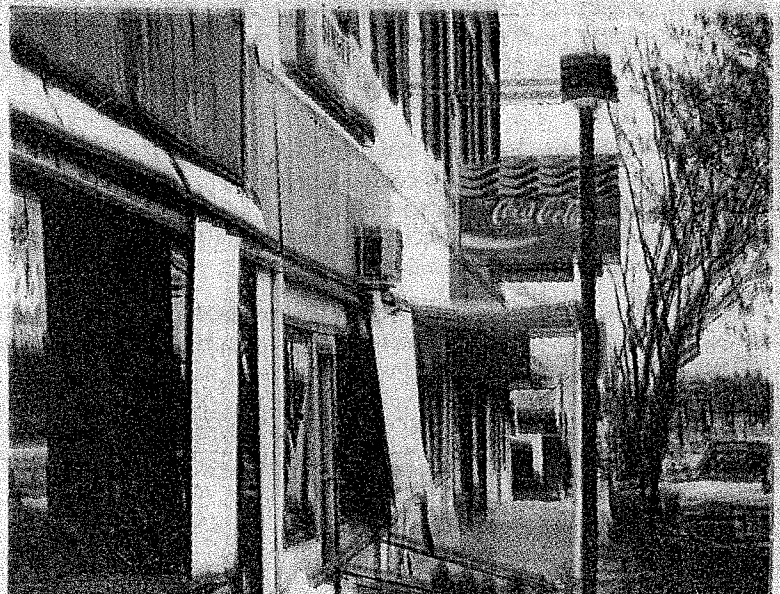
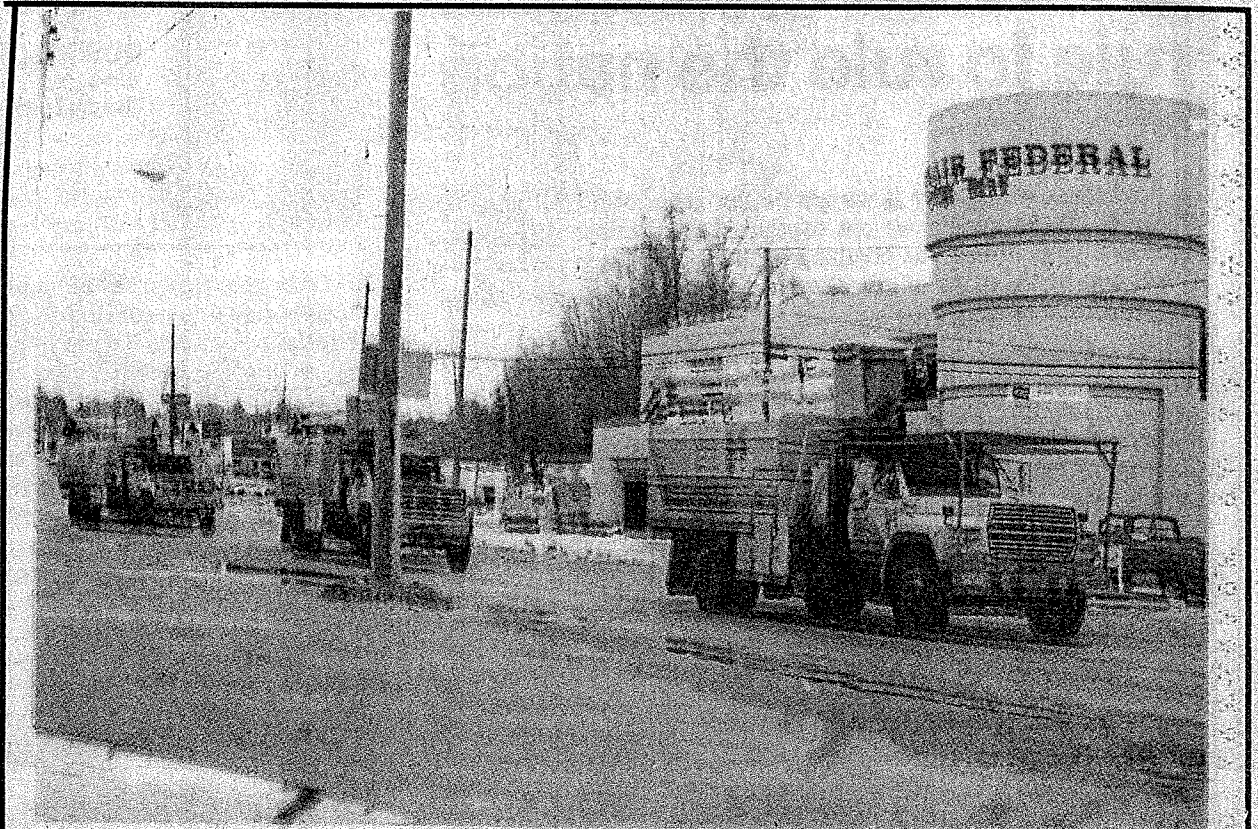
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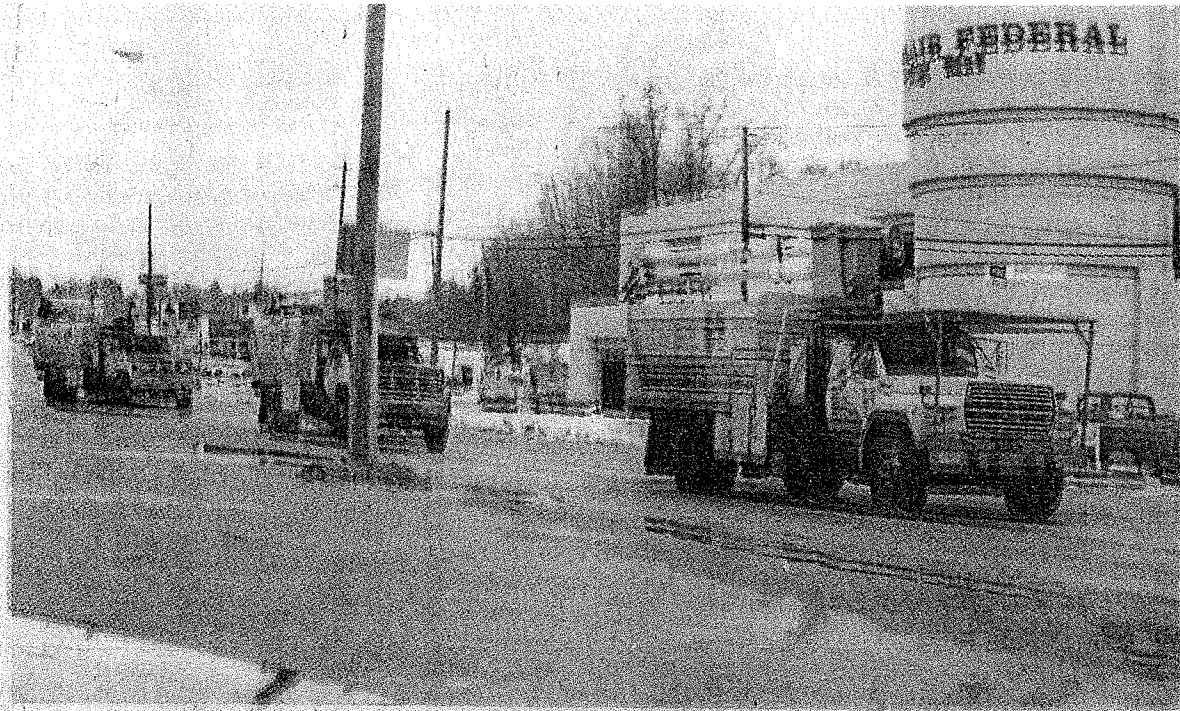
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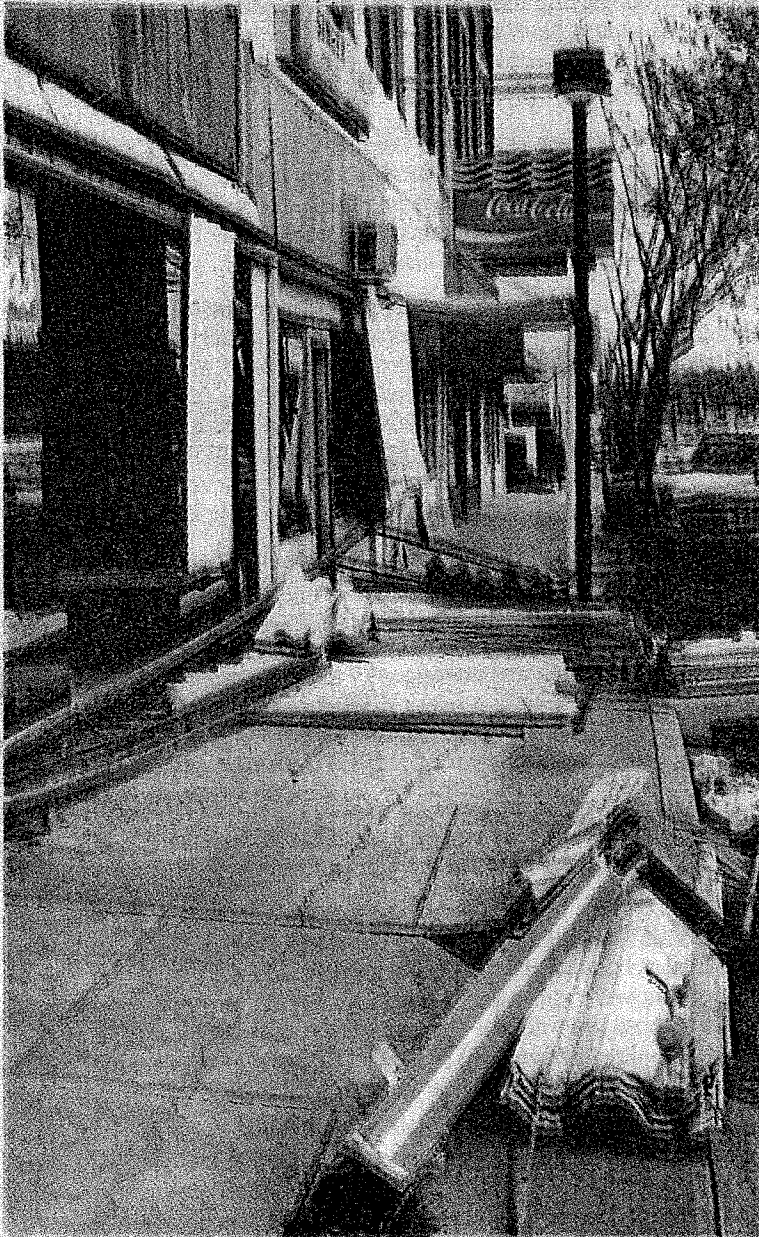
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Photos by Cindy Warner