

## Cable TV

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breaking the signal.

The outlying areas, especially Trucksville and Franklin Township, where nearly every connection went out, were hit hardest.

Zagorski believed part of the problem to be a defect in the cable and planned to contact the manufacturer about it.

He hopes to install fiber optic trunk lines to prevent this from happening again.

Tele-Media crews working late hours all week were hampered by the extreme cold and dangerous wind chill factors, which froze diesel fuel and hydraulic fluid in the trucks.

A worker in another district serviced by Tele-Media was hospitalized for hypothermia after his body temperature fell below 95°, Zagorski said.

## Ice buildup

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The snug little home which the two widows have shared for the past 19 years is surrounded by three feet of snow from three storms since January 4.

Framed needlepoint pictures and tatted lace pieces hang on the walls and beautifully crocheted dolls occupy a shelf in the living room. A tricolored long-haired cat relaxed on a bedroom chair.

A neighbor and two friends have helped dig a path to the front door for the mailman and clear the driveway for Hummel's car.

"There has been so much snow - we don't know what to do with it any more," Hummel said.

They called a handyman, Ed Furman, and a helper to come Saturday and clear the snow and ice from the gutters. It had been too cold out for him to come any sooner.

*I've never seen anything like this - even when I worked in Buffalo, NY.*

**Don Zagorski**  
Tele-Media manager

"I would like to apologize for the interruptions in service, especially to our Franklin Township customers," he said.

For statistics lovers, January has broken all kinds of records - snowfall, low temperatures.

With five days left in the month and two more months of winter to go, it's anyone's guess what the final numbers will be.

*"Mother Nature really threw us a curve this time."*

**Ruth Deal**  
Dallas

Furman cleared the snow from the roof, but said that they would have to wait for everything to melt before he could make more repairs.

He couldn't remove the ice from the bedroom window without breaking the glass.

"We'll probably have to put wires up to keep the gutters heated," Hummel said. "I hope that it won't cost too much."

"Mother Nature really threw us a curve this time," Deal said.

## Cold weather dos and don'ts

Recent record-breaking cold weather and snowfall have created problems for area homeowners, as heavy snow and ice accumulate on roofs and in gutters and water lines freeze below the frost line.

Homes with shingled roofs have been hardest hit by the snow and ice buildup. Meltwater creeps into the eaves, down beams - nearly anywhere that it wants to go.

"Many people are having this problem," said Susan Dauksis, president of Dauksis Construction. "This is the worst that we've ever seen."

Removing this buildup is safer for a trained professional, but homeowners can do several things to help alleviate the problem, Dauksis said.

- Shoveling snow from the roof and snapping off icicles will help to reduce the weight on the roof and gutters.
- Try to make a channel in the remaining ice to guide the meltwater away from the sides of the house.
- Avoid using rock salt or ice-melting chemicals, which can eat away at roofs, gutters and siding.
- Stay away from electrical lines connected to the house. Touching them, especially with a metal shovel, can be very dangerous.

"This won't quit overnight," Dauksis said. "You have to wait for the snow and ice to melt and the water to find its way out of the house."

Ice buildup and melting problems seem to occur mainly in homes with shingled roofs, rather than in mobile homes with metal roofs, according to Dave Bryant of Bryant's Mobile Homes.

"Usually the snow will melt and slide off a metal roof," he said. "Metal roofs are well sealed, giving the water less of an opportunity to get inside."

Area utilities (UGI, General Waterworks and Tele-Media) say that people can prevent other problems by:

- Running the water at a slight trickle to help prevent pipes from freezing.
- Using a blow dryer to thaw frozen pipes. Using a propane torch or other open flame can cause fires or explosions.
- Making sure that all outside water lines to mobile homes have proper heat tapes and insulation.
- Clearing snow from outside utility meters so that meter readers can get to them.
- Avoid knocking ice from electrical services or cable television hookups. If the wires come into contact with each other, it can cause either or both services to go out.
- If another cold emergency is declared, keep thermostats at 65° unless family members have medical problems requiring higher temperatures and use only necessary appliances. If possible, do without using washing machines and electric clothes dryers.

By Grace R. Dove



**IT WASN'T AN EARTHQUAKE** - Alan S. Major surveys two Ford pickup trucks crushed when his pole barn in Lehman Township collapsed from the weight of the snow January 19.

## Snow topples Lehman pole barn

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

The recent heavy snow was too much for a Lehman Township pole barn owned by Dorothy Baker.

As Baker turned from her car to go into her business, The Barn in Lehman, the morning of January 19, the pole barn behind the two main buildings collapsed, burying two pickup trucks, a station wagon and a kitchen.

The station wagon and one of the trucks still had their motors running, waiting for their drivers to leave the business.

"I had just gotten out of my car to come in, when I heard this awful crash," she said.

Her brother and business part-

ner, Alan S. Major, crawled through the back of the station wagon to turn it off, then wedged open the pickup's door and turned it off.

"We barely escaped with our lives," he said.

He was able to pull the station wagon, which had a broken windshield and front grille, and the newer truck, whose cab and left rear side were crushed, out of the pole barn. The older pickup truck still sat inside, partially buried by debris.

The 104 by 36-foot pole barn housed dealer space for The Barn's antique sales and The Pole Barn Inn, a kitchen and eating area also used during sales.

Major said that the main damage was at one end of the struc-

ture.

"My wife, Helen, is absolutely sick over this," he said. "She runs the kitchen during the sale season."

Helen Major had called home Wednesday night from Texas, where she is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). She told her husband that she might have to go to California to work with the earthquake recovery program before she can come home.

The Barn's other two buildings housing Back Mountain Stoves, the antique store and Heirloom Rag Rugs, where an artisan busily worked at her rug loom Thursday afternoon, were undamaged.

"We'll rebuild and be ready for our May antique sale," Major said.

## Cold, snow caused emergencies

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Last week's snowstorm and cold emergency paralyzed the entire northeastern section of the country, playing havoc with area schools, businesses and utilities.

The weight of a record three feet of snow collapsed the roof of a pole barn in Lehman Township, while the buildup of ice in house roofs and gutters caused meltwater to run down outside walls, seep into windows and freeze between glass panes.

Friday's record low temperature of -21° froze power steering fluid, battery acid and diesel fuel. It was so cold that it hurt to go outside.

Closed Monday and Tuesday due to a heavy snowfall, Back Mountain schools cancelled classes for the rest of the week when Governor Casey declared a state of emergency Wednesday, after record demands for electricity threatened to overload the system.

Casey had asked all schools, nonessential businesses and most government offices to close during the emergency, which lasted

until midnight Saturday.

Spokespersons from area utilities agreed that this has been the worst winter in a long time.

Electricity became scarce Residents learned a new term, "rolling blackout," as UGI and other electric companies pulled the plug for up to half an hour in various locations in an attempt to conserve power.

Although UGI produces roughly half of its own power at a coal-fired plant at Hunlock Creek, it was hit hard by the power shortage, made worse by the shutdown of both reactors at Pennsylvania Power and Light's nuclear plant in Salem Township.

Other power suppliers in neighboring states, all part of a network, experienced similar problems and also started rolling blackouts.

"The people in systems operations decided when to cut power and what areas to cut, based on the demand," said Keith Adams of UGI's customer relations department. "This came up so suddenly that we really didn't have much of a chance to notify our customers."

The Back Mountain's major manufacturers - Offset Paperback, Encon, Payne Precision Color and Native Textiles - weren't asked to shut down, Adams said.

Water lines froze

The rolling blackouts caused problems in Haddonfield Hills in Dallas Township, where a power outage interrupted water service for three hours, according to General Waterworks manager Mike Coyle.

"We didn't have any advance warning. It happened very suddenly," he said.

A frozen water line on Roosevelt Street in Roushey Plot knocked water service out for four days, Coyle said. While a welder is working full-time to thaw the line and make repairs, the utility has been delivering water to the residents.

As of Monday night, Roushey Plot still didn't have water.

"This is the worst I've ever seen," Coyle said. "The frost line is four feet deep. Finding underground valves and pipes has been a real challenge, with 40 inches of snow on the ground."

## How low

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in Trucksville, according to general manager Tom Bagley.

The warm spots were Jackson Township, with -19°, according to Henry Zbiek, and -10° at Kingston Township, reported by Sharon Versari.

Yanks said that any more cold weather coming in after the weekend's warm spell could make this the coldest January on record.

morning, while the municipal authority's thermometer read -23°, according to John Paul.

Franklin Township resident Matt Ostrum reported a reading of -25°. Ironically, township secretary Sandra Race, who lives a mile away from him, said that her thermometer had read -15° when she got up.

It was also -25° at the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA)

## Trash hauler

(continued from page 1)

but worked last Saturday to catch up.

"We have had three substantial snowfalls and record cold," he said. "That takes its toll on men and equipment. Diesel fuel and hydraulic fluid freeze up. The men work slower, even though they're dressed as warmly as possible."

A lot of newsprint buried in the snow won't show up until the spring thaw, according to DAMA's general manager Tom Bagley.

"There will be a cleanup problem when it all melts," he said.

His office has received many complaints of late or missed pickups.

"In the first 21 days of the month, we had 10 days of snow or record cold," he said. "You have to feel sorry for the guys. Sometimes they had to wade through two feet of snow to get to the garbage cans."

## Women's Campaign to hold fund-raiser

The Pennsylvania Women's Campaign Fund will hold their annual fund-raiser Sunday, January 30 at the home of Evelyn Albert, 185 Reliance Drive, Wilkes-Barre from 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.

The Pennsylvania Women's Campaign Fund is a multi-partisan organization whose purpose is to raise and provide funds for progressive women candidates for the Pennsylvania legislature.

Pennsylvania ranks fifth from the bottom out of the 50 states in terms of female representation in the legislature.

For more information call Shawn Murphy, 675-5961 or Susan Kolesar, 283-2978.

## Pilgrim Virgin Statue in Dallas 'til Jan. 29

The Diocesan Pilgrim Virgin Statue will be in the home of Thomas and Wilma Geffert, 252 Parrish Street (off Huntsville Rd.), Dallas, until Saturday evening, January 29. Rosary devotion will commence each evening at 7:30 p.m.

Anyone interested in participating in any of these Rosary Devotions is welcome.

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