

# The Sumter Daily Item

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SUMTER, S.C., TUESDAY AFTERNOON, FEB. 13, 1973

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## State Of Emergency Remains; Three Dead

### Only Authorized Traffic Allowed

By TOM PREWETT  
ITEM Staff Writer

The state of emergency in Sumter and Sumter County declared Monday afternoon by City officials and local law enforcement department heads continues today pending further notice.

Meeting at the County Commission room at the Sumter County Courthouse at 10 a. m. today, members of the Sumter County Commission, Civil Defense Coordinator Luke Rogers, Sen. T. O. Bowen, Mayor Richard Moses, representatives of local fuel companies and City Police Chief L. W. Griffin agreed that unauthorized traffic should be banned from the city streets and county roads until emergency conditions created by the weekend's Arctic-like weather are sufficiently improved. Officials said "local police are authorized to arrest any person" driving a vehicle for unauthorized reasons.

Beginning immediately, local schools are being prepared to accommodate refugees from the severe weather in the event that rain expected tonight should turn into an ice storm, creating additional hazards in the area.

**DURING THE MEETING,** Sen. Bowen stated that efforts are now underway to bring more heavy-duty machinery into Sumter to help clear streets and restore traffic to normal at the earliest possible time.

City Police Chief L. W. Griffin requested that persons owning vehicles with four-wheel drive volunteer their services to the City for delivering prescription drugs, and transporting nurses, doctors and other emergency workers to their jobs.

He said that the vehicles would also be used to check on residents in isolated areas of the county.

Anyone wishing to donate their time and their vehicles should call Capt. Joe Brunson at 775-6522. Meanwhile, temperatures throughout the state are expected to advance the thawing of the snow-locked highways which have held an estimated 16,718 motorists in the state as unwilling sojourners since Friday.

Gov. John West, in a telegram, has asked President Nixon to declare 31 of the state's 46 counties as disaster areas as a result of the snowfall measuring up to 23 inches.

A minimum of 11 deaths in South Carolina, including three in Sumter County, have been attributed to freezing and exposure.

The snowfall, which began Friday with a few fleecy flakes and then gathered momentum into the afternoon as it reached almost blizzard proportions, had brought life as it is generally known in Sumter to a screeching halt by Saturday morning.

**BUSINESSES** closed and so did the streets and highways as the snowdrifts banked higher and higher, forcing hundreds of motorists to abandon their cars.

Emergency shelter and meals was provided to stranded motorists and local families without heat and food at the Sumter County Courthouse, the National Guard Armory and other locations throughout the city and county.

Motorists stuck in their cars on highways throughout Sumter and Clarendon Counties were brought to safety by trucks, helicopters and other assorted four-wheel drive vehicles provided by the National Guard, Shaw AFB, Fort Jackson and concerned citizens.

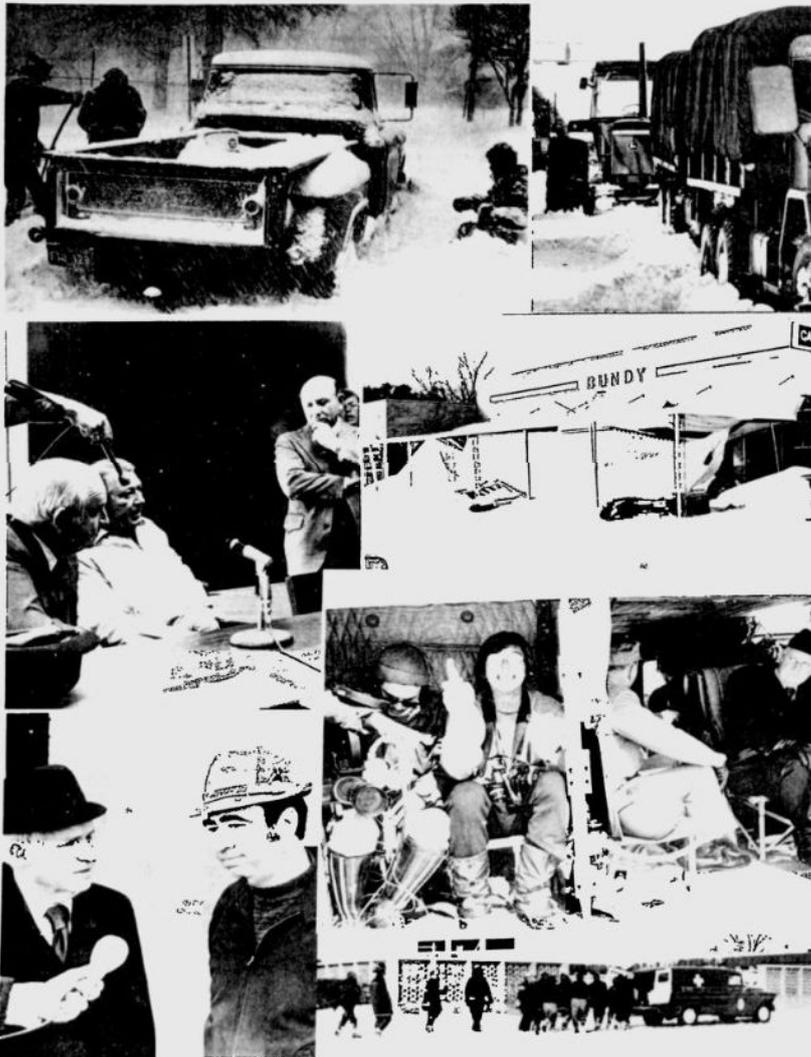
#### GOV. WEST VISITS.

Sumter's snow crisis brought S.C. Gov. John C. West and Deputy Adjutant General James W. Henderson to town shortly before noon, Monday, for an on-the-spot look at the situation.

"I knew exactly what your situation was as soon as I got out of the helicopter, because I fell flat on my face in the snow," Gov. West told Sumter City Manager Wade S. Kolb during their meeting at the Sumter City-County Law Enforcement Center.

Asked by the Governor what could be done to help Sumter, Kolb responded: "We are just not equipped to cope with

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**SNOW WHICH BURIED** Sumter during the worst snow storm of the century, Friday and Saturday, created sites totally alien to many residents. Moving clockwise from the top left, three men struggle to free a pick-up truck from a snowdrift; trucks and heavy machinery, about the only vehicles

capable of mobility, over the weekend, await drivers for a long day's work; a collapsed awning bears testimony to the weight of the snow which blankets the city and county; photographers prepare to climb out of the helicopter which brought Gov. John West to Sumter to survey storm conditions, Monday;

city firemen load a heart patient brought from Turbeville by helicopter into an emergency vehicle to be transported to the hospital; Gov. West talks with Sumter Mayor Moses and, finally, Gov. West, City Manager Wade Kolb and Deputy Adjutant General James Henderson talk over the emergency situation in Sumter. (ITEM Photos)

### Limited Edition

Monday afternoon would have been a perfect time for curling up in front of a cozy fireplace with The Sumter Daily ITEM. Hopefully, you were one of those fortunate persons who had a cozy fireplace — and ample dry wood.

Unfortunately, no one had The ITEM to enjoy. Although ITEM personnel were willing and ready, the roadways were not. Thusly, had we published Monday, we could not have moved the edition far from The ITEM's front door. Only a limited number of papers were circulated Saturday.

Today's limited four-page edition includes as much of the weather story as we could cram into it, plus an abbreviated helping of other outstanding stories.

Advertising, comics and other special features which you have missed in the last several days will be published later this week.

If you happen to spot an error in today's edition, please bear in mind that we worked with a skeleton crew and that these words were typed with brittle fingers since The ITEM newsroom has been without heat since Saturday.