

# Historic Wisconsin Ice Storm of March 1976

It is hard to believe come April it will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the historic snowstorm (known as the “Doozy”) that struck northeast Wisconsin. It was 45 years ago on March 4<sup>th</sup> into the 5<sup>th</sup>, that much of southern Wisconsin experienced a historic ice storm that paralyzed that portion of the state for days. What made this event remarkable was there was an ice storm on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> before the “Doozy” ice storm on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. In our CWA, Calumet and Manitowoc Counties were hit hard enough with ice that these two counties were added to the federal disaster area declaration.

The following was taken mostly verbatim from the March 1976 Storm Data Publication from the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).

## March 1-2, 1976

Freezing rain, sleet and thunderstorms developed over portions of southeast and east-central Wisconsin early on March 1<sup>st</sup> and continued through most of the day on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Precipitation amounts ranged from approximately 0.40 inches to 1.23 inches at Milwaukee Mitchell Field. Much of the precipitation froze on exposed objects. Up to 15,000 customers were without power due to the ice storm. The hardest hit areas were in Washington, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, and Ozaukee counties. West Bend and the surrounding areas and areas north and northeast, including Eden and Ashford were hard hit by the storm. The main damage in these areas was caused by power lines that snapped as tree branches collapsed under the weight of the ice. Twenty percent of West Bend was without power during the peak of the storm. Power was interrupted due to downed power lines as far west as Madison, where only a small number of outages occurred. In Milwaukee, only spotty power problems prevailed as much of the precipitation fell as rain.

## March 4-5, 1976

A major winter storm, highlighted by a devastating ice storm moved across Wisconsin on March 4<sup>th</sup> into the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup>, causing a variety of adverse weather statewide. A severe ice storm plagued most of southern and portions of eastern Wisconsin, while heavy snow and sleet pelted central regions and blizzard conditions hit the northwest half of the state. Heavy thunderstorms and some flooding occurred over extreme southeast Wisconsin. The Governor of Wisconsin declared the ice storm as one of the worst natural disasters in state history.

Some of the areas previously hard hit by freezing rain on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> were dealt a second blow by the severe ice storm on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The ice storm caused very heavy damage which included hundreds of completely snapped utility poles, thousands of down power and telephone lines and many trees destroyed by massive ice accumulations. Narrow swaths of extremely heavy destructive icing conditions occurred across many of the southern counties as scattered thunderstorms produced excessive freezing rain accumulations. **Some ice accumulations ranged up to a phenomenal 5 inches in diameter on wires and tree limbs.** By late Thursday night March 4<sup>th</sup> and early Friday morning March 5<sup>th</sup>, the already critical ice storm situation was complicated by strong winds gusting over 50 mph. Milwaukee’s Mitchell Field clocked wind gusts to 59 mph by 6:30 AM on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Up to 600,000 residences were directly affected by the ice storm and up to 100,000 people were without power during the height of the storm. Some residents in the hardest hit counties had power completely off for nearly a week while outlying regions were without power for over 10 days.

According to Sheriff Departments, local Emergency Management, state surveys, and newspaper clippings, damage estimated from the ice storm exceeded \$50,400,00 (1976 dollars). This figure includes: \$17,200,000 in agricultural losses, \$13,700,000 million in private utility damage, and \$8,400,000 in damage to local government property and related expenses, and \$10,900,000 million in private losses.

# Historic Wisconsin Ice Storm of March 1976

## March 4-5, 1976 Continued

The most severe icing conditions occurred along a band from Grant County in extreme southwest Wisconsin eastward into Washington and Ozaukee counties in southeast Wisconsin. Washington County was especially hard hit with damage estimates at \$17,200,000 (1976 dollars) which included 1,500 utility poles were completely snapped by massive ice buildup. In some cases, poles fell in two miles stretches. One steel high-tension powerline was bent down to the ground and the steel arms of many other towers were bent. Countless trees were snapped and destroyed. During the storm, a state of emergency was declared over the entire county. Most roads were completely blocked by fallen trees, poles and wires. Up to 95% of the county was without power at one time. Some of the hardest hit towns were Hartford, Kewaskum, Jackson and Richfield. 200 National Guardsmen were called up to aid in the emergency for the county.

Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Jefferson, Fond du Lac and Waukesha counties were also hard hit. Many utility poles were snapped to the ground, along with thousands of lines and trees damaged or destroyed. One high-tension tower collapsed under the weight of the ice. 85% of Sheboygan was without power. Oostburg and Plymouth had 70% of their power cut off by the storm, while the towns of Saukville, Grafton and Belgium in Ozaukee County were also hard hit. In Fond du Lac County, the impacts of the storm in Waupun and St. Cloud were described as one of the worst in history. A swath of heavy icing damage occurred from Aztalan to Ixonia. Cambridge and Fort Atkinson in Jefferson County also reported severe icing with over two inches of freezing rain hit the county. In Waukesha County, a mile stretch of utility poles were down along Highway 83 near Mukwonago.

Emergency food and shelter stations were set up throughout these counties in southeast Wisconsin. Dane, Columbia, Walworth, Rock, Green and Dodge Counties sustained widespread tree and power line damage due to the ice. In Dane County, the heaviest damage occurred in western sections of the county. Mount Horeb experienced heavy damage with many utility poles and trees destroyed while a state of emergency was declared in Middleton. Stoughton had over \$650,000 (1976 dollars) in damages while \$400,000 in damage was noted in Madison. One lineman died in Dane County when a transformer blew up near where he worked. Around 90% of Columbia County was without power at one time. Between Caledonia and Columbus, power was out for many days.

In Green County, extremely heavy damage occurred from Juda to Albany where 50% of the power was out county wide. Half of the trees and power lines were damaged or brought down. In Grant, Crawford, Lafayette and Iowa Counties the ice storm dealt a knockout punch with up to 80% of residences were without power at one point. Two inches of ice covered most surfaces. In Blanchardville, five miles of 69 kilovolt transmission lines were down while in Grant County five miles of utility poles snapped like toothpicks by the heavy ice in Fennimore. In Iowa County, 200 poles were snapped in Highland while entire towns were without power. .

## Heavy Rains and Thunderstorms

Over extreme southeast Wisconsin, most of the precipitation fell as rain on March 4<sup>th</sup> sparing the major metropolitan areas of Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha of severe icing. However, thunderstorms associated with heavy rain caused some flooding where up to three inches fell in the far southern part of the state. The heavy rains resulted in flooding of creeks, rivers and basements of homes. The Root River in Milwaukee and Racine counties overflowed its banks in many low-lying areas. In Kenosha County, the Des Plaines River reached flood stage, resulting in flooding of some farm fields. The Oak Creek Sewer Treatment Plant was washed out by the flood storm drainage. \$1,500,000 in damage occurred to the mechanical equipment in the plant.

# Historic Wisconsin Ice Storm of March 1976

## March 4-5, 1976 Continued

### Heavy Snow and Mixed Precipitation

North of a La Crosse to Two Rivers line, a mixture of heavy snow and sleet fell. Snowfall totals of 8 to 12 inches fell in extreme northwest Wisconsin. Some of the higher snowfall totals across the northern half of Wisconsin: Brule Ranger Station 14.5 inches, Oshkosh 12.0 inches, Luck and Cumberland 8.0 inches, Two Rivers 7.9 inches, Marinette and Rest Lake 7.1 inches, Winter and Spooner 7.0 inches, and Green Bay 6.5 inches. The snowfall gradient was very sharp across east-central Wisconsin. In a span of around 15 miles, Fond Du Lac reported a half inch of snow while to the north, Oshkosh recorded a foot of snow. At the lakeshore, Sheboygan reported 2.0 inches while Two Rivers reported nearly 8.0 inches of snow.

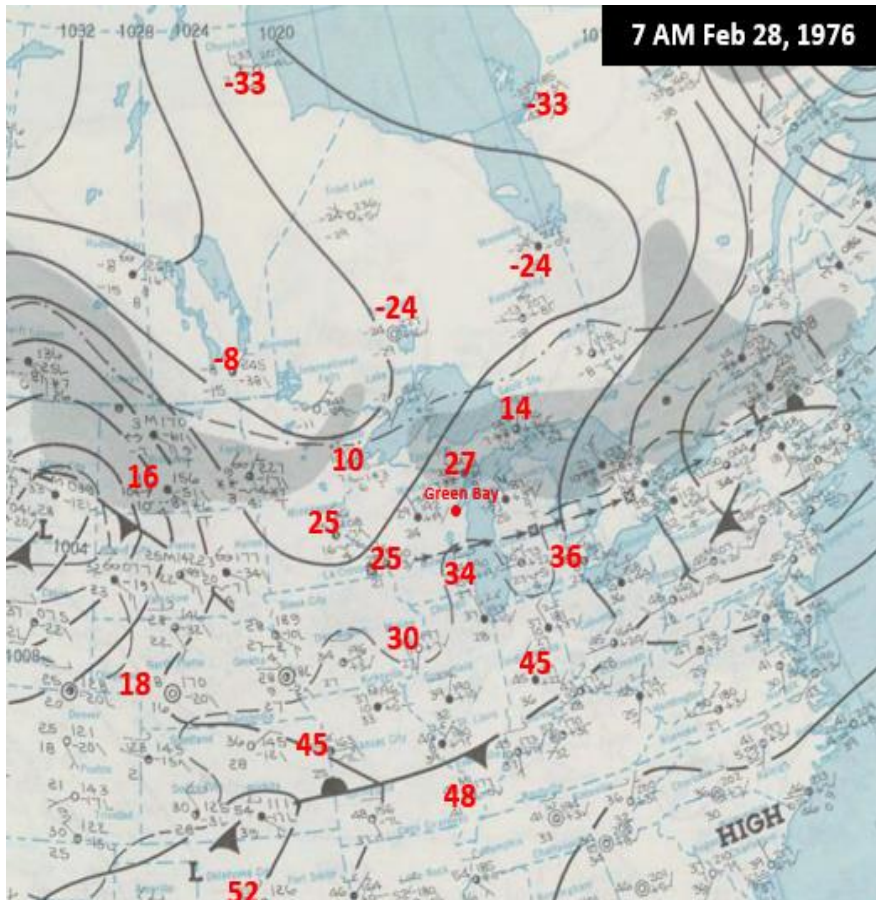
### Federal Disaster Areas Due to Severe Icing and Flooding

The following counties were declared a federal disaster declaration due to icing or flooding: Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha.

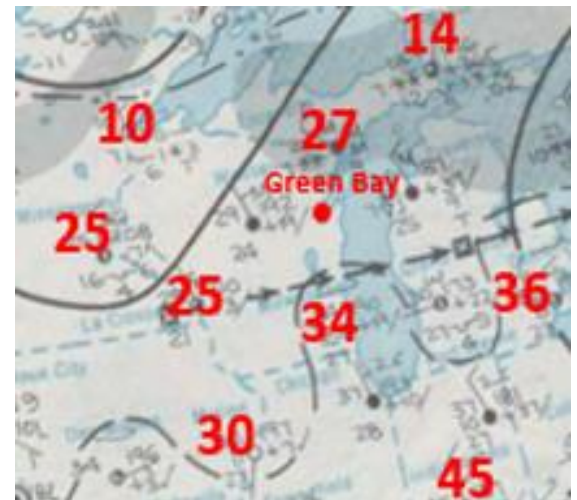
## February 27-28, 1976

On the 27<sup>th</sup>, unusual warmth for late February was noted across portions of the Upper Midwest. Some high temperatures on 27<sup>th</sup> include Chicago 75F, St. Louis 75F, Rockford 68F, Milwaukee 65F and Madison 58F.

On the 28<sup>th</sup>, the first area of low pressure moved into the eastern United States while high pressure was building into the prairie provinces of Canada. It was typically cold across Ontario with readings in the teens and twenties below zero. There was a large temperature gradient across Wisconsin, with highs ranging from the middle to upper 20s north to the lower to middle 60s south, ranging from 26F at Madeline Island in the far northwest to 67F at Racine. Further upstream, another area of low pressure was developing across the northern Rockies.

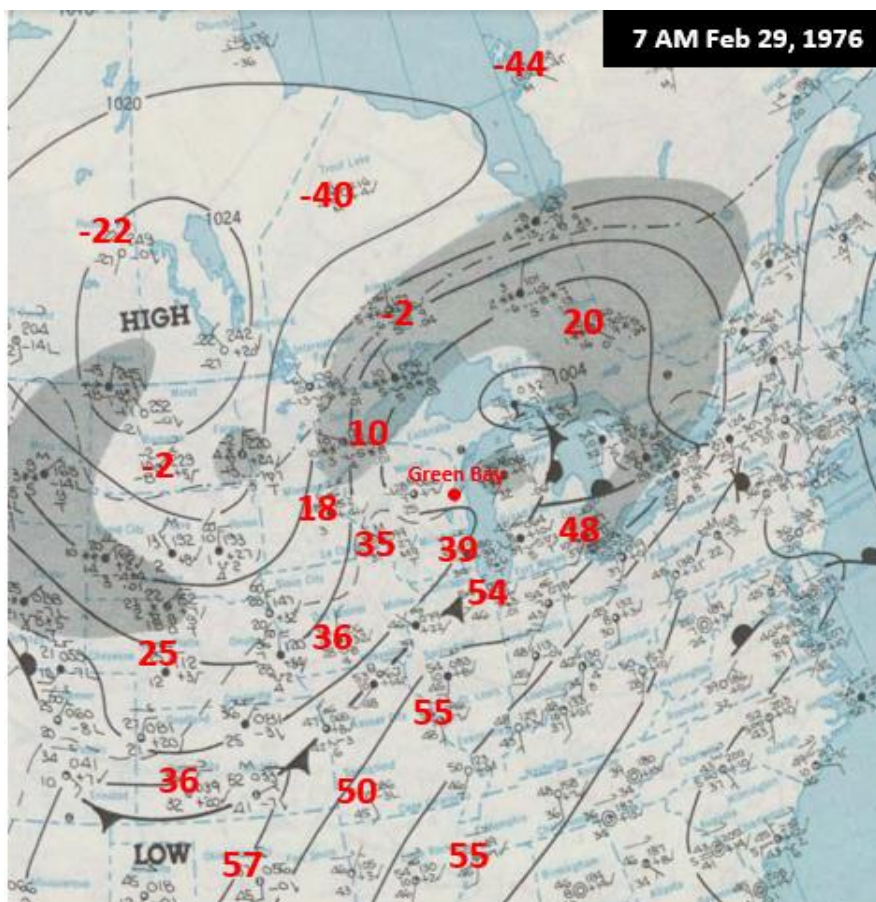


Location	High	Low
International Fall, MN	11	-8
Duluth, MN	23	9
Sault Ste. Marie, MI	24	11
Green Bay, WI	35	29
Manitowoc, WI	34	28
Oshkosh, WI	35	27
Fond du Lac, WI	40	27
La Crosse, WI	44	25
Madison, WI	43	25
Milwaukee, WI	39	31
Des Moines, IA	59	30
Detroit, MI	57	33
Chicago, IL	55	37
St. Louis, MO	67	44



## February 29, 1976

An area of low pressure moved from the northern Rockies to near Sault Ste. Marie by 7 AM CST. This system brought some light snow to portions of the upper Midwest and western Great Lakes. The trailing cold front dropped southeast and stalled from the Ohio Valley into the central plains the following day (March 1). Most notable on this date was the center of high pressure across the southern province of Manitoba which brought cold and very dry air to the northern Great Lakes. Air temperatures at 7 AM CST dropped to -30F to -45F across portions of northern Ontario. Plenty of very cold and dry air to filter southward in the coming days.

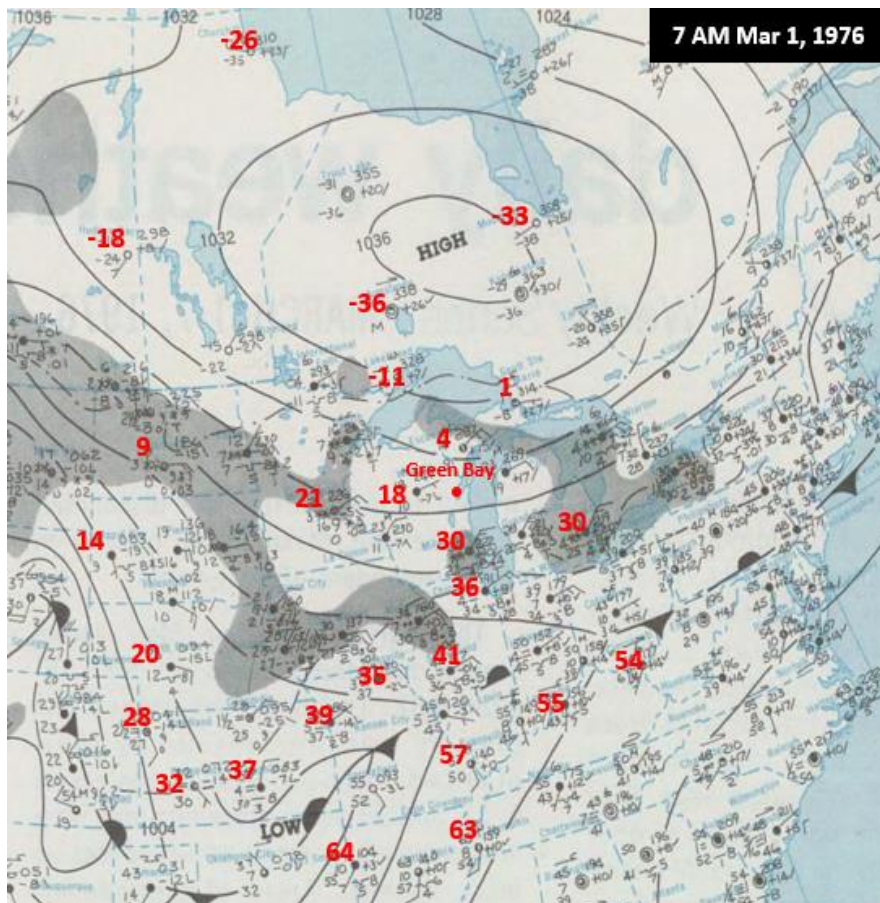


Location	High	Low
International Fall, MN	10	-10
Duluth, MN	22	5
Sault Ste. Marie, MI	33	7
Green Bay, WI	39	21
Manitowoc, WI	39	30
Oshkosh, WI	39	26
Fond du Lac, WI	39	25
La Crosse, WI	36	22
Madison, WI	44	28
Milwaukee, WI	44	32
Des Moines, IA	46	29
Detroit, MI	63	33
Chicago, IL	59	33
St. Louis, MO	76	50

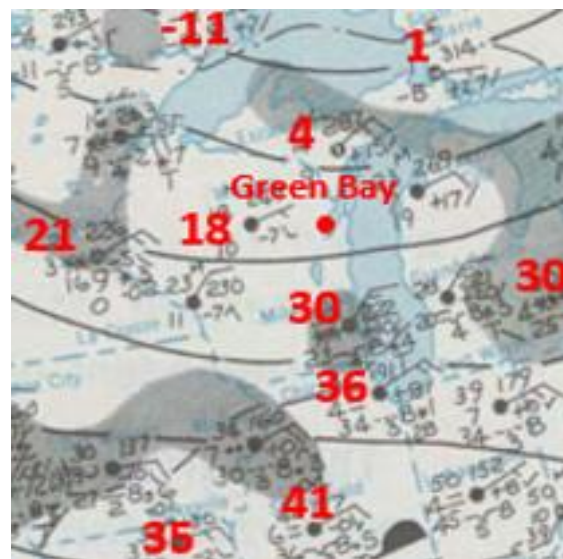


## March 1, 1976

High pressure over Manitoba moved east into Ontario, bringing bitter cold air with 7 AM CST readings of -25F to -40F. A cold northeast wind was flowing southwestward into Wisconsin. The temperature at Wausau fell to 18F at 7 AM CST while single digit dewpoints were noted at Escanaba and across northern Wisconsin was a sure sign that the colder air was working into Wisconsin. There was a sharp contrast in high temperatures across the Upper Midwest ranging from 17F at Sault Ste. Marie and 18F at International Falls to 76F at St. Louis. Meanwhile, low pressure was developing across the northern Rockies during the day which would eventually move across the Great Lakes on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Light precipitation was already breaking out across Minnesota and Wisconsin in the form of light snow with light rain being reported across Iowa and northern Illinois.

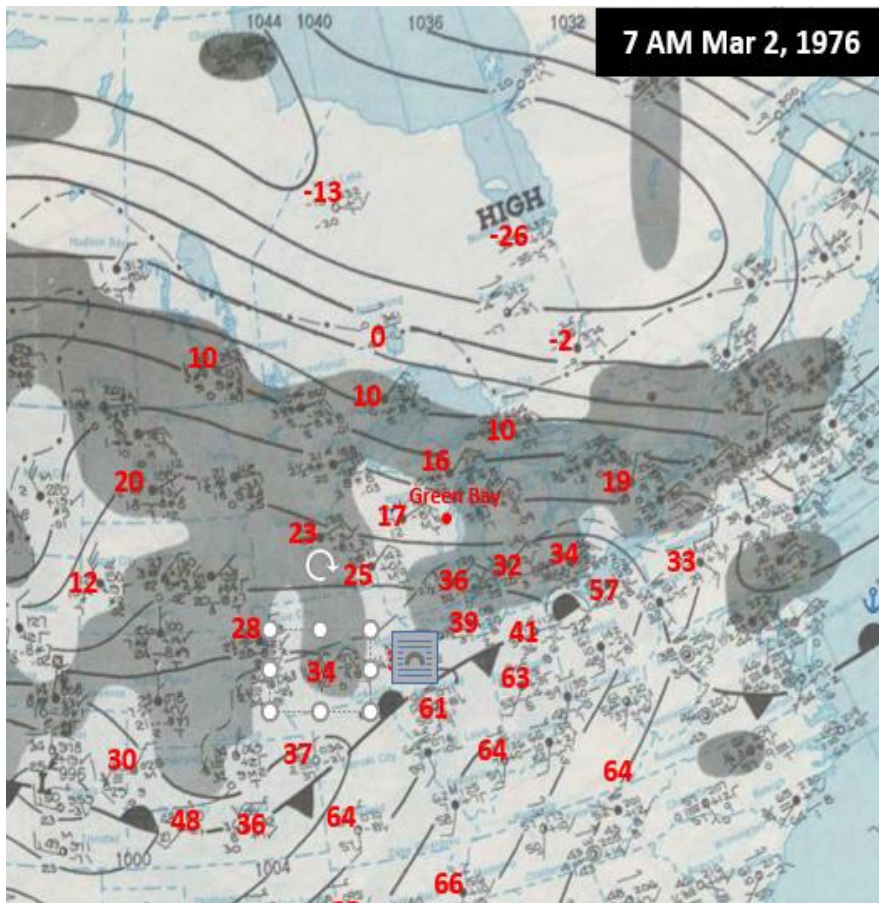


Location	High	Low
International Fall, MN	18	-10
Duluth, MN	20	11
Sault Ste. Marie, MI	17	0
Green Bay, WI	28	21
Manitowoc, WI	31	22
Oshkosh, WI	29	18
Fond du Lac, WI	29	22
La Crosse, WI	26	22
Madison, WI	33	25
Milwaukee, WI	33	31
Des Moines, IA	35	30
Detroit, MI	39	30
Chicago, IL	40	34
St. Louis, MO	76	43

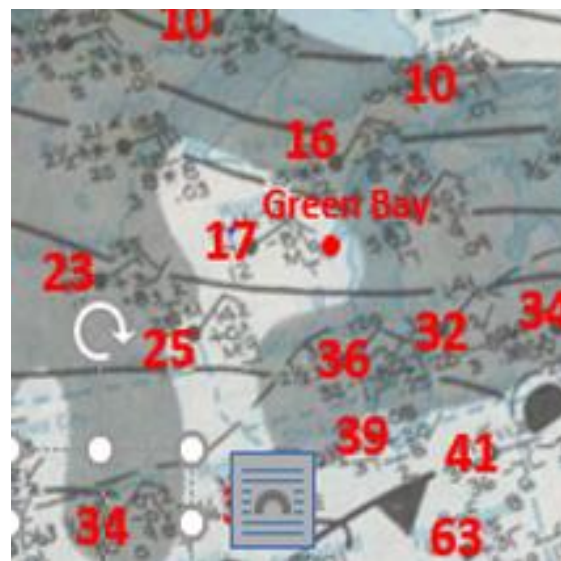


## March 2, 1976

At 7 AM CST, precipitation was occurring across much of the Upper Midwest and western Great Lakes region. Snow was noted across northern Wisconsin while rain was occurring across eastern Iowa, northern Illinois and far southern Wisconsin. There is a large temperature gradient from central into southern Wisconsin with Wausau reporting 17F and 26F at Lacrosse, while it was 36F at Milwaukee. The transition zone of snow, freezing rain and sleet extended from La Crosse on southward to just north of Madison and Milwaukee. The precipitation would become heavier during the day as low pressure moved eastward along the stationary front. It was the classic spring storm thriving on the large temperature gradient along the front. To the north of the front, temperatures were in the teens, 20s and 30s while readings to the south were in the 60s and 70s across the southeast half of Missouri and the southern half of Illinois.

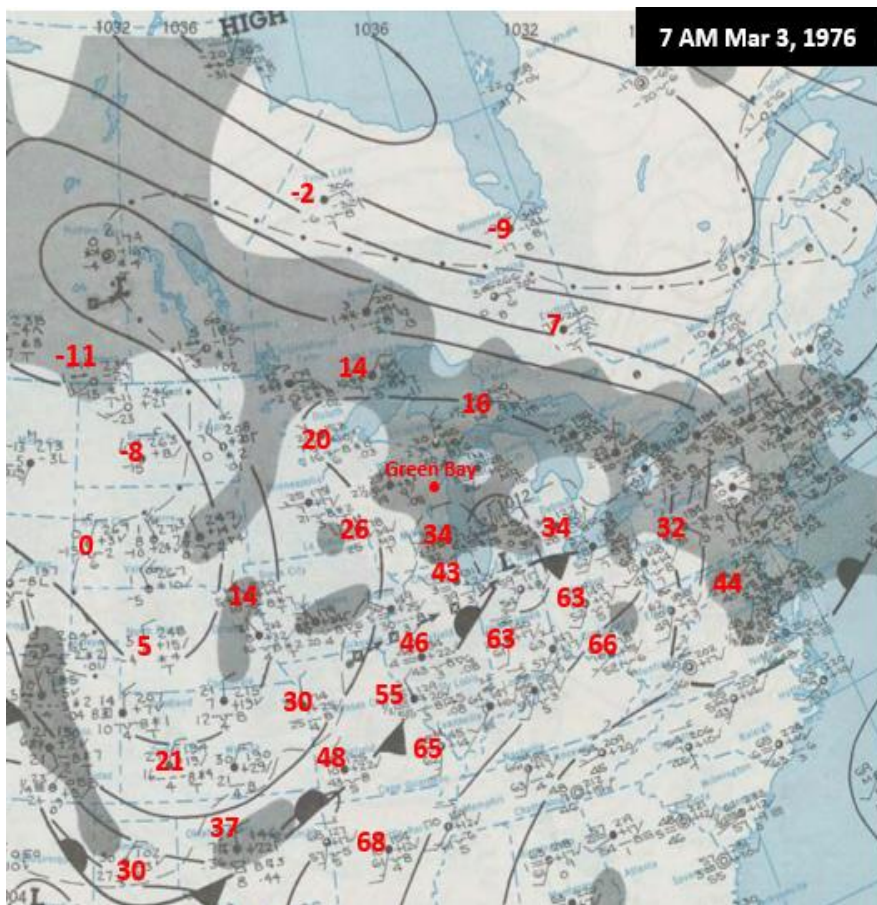


Location	High	Low
International Fall, MN	16	10
Duluth, MN	22	20
Sault Ste. Marie, MI	25	8
Green Bay, WI	32	26
Manitowoc, WI	34	23
Oshkosh, WI	30	23
Fond du Lac, WI	30	26
La Crosse, WI	27	25
Madison, WI	34	31
Milwaukee, WI	35	33
Des Moines, IA	36	32
Detroit, MI	34	32
Chicago, IL	48	38
St. Louis, MO	79	64

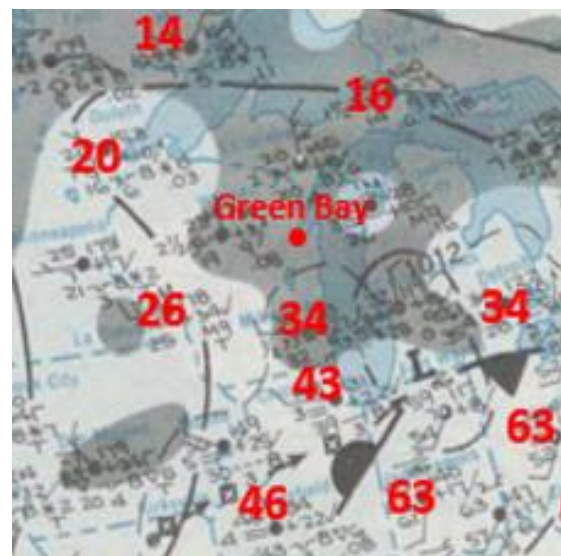


## March 3, 1976

Low pressure at 7 AM CST was located near Chicago. Chicago was 59F while it was only 34F at Milwaukee. This system brought a wintry mix to the southern half of Wisconsin with significant icing north of Milwaukee and Madison on the 2<sup>nd</sup> into the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Much of the precipitation froze on exposed objects with the hardest hit areas were in Washington, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, and Ozaukee Counties. Areas from West Bend and areas north and northeast including Eden and Ashford were also hard hit. The stationary front across the central plains sagged a bit further south as the first wave of low pressure moved east of the area during the day. This brought an end or lull in the precipitation across Wisconsin.



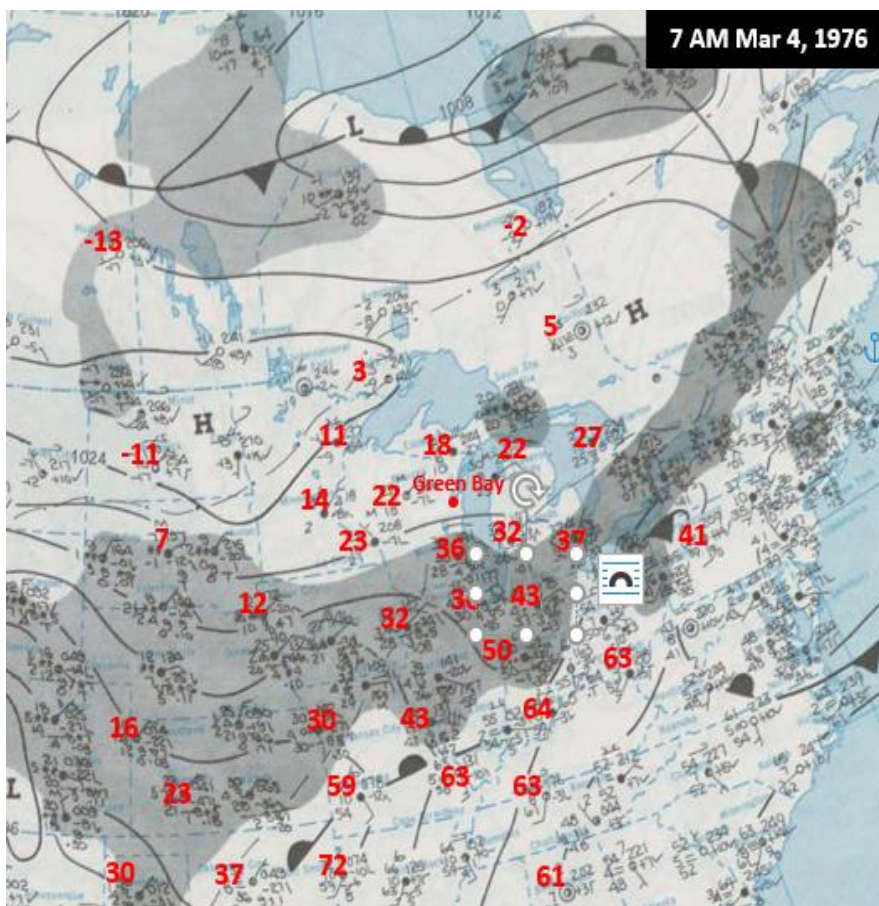
Location	High	Low
International Fall, MN	19	-7
Duluth, MN	23	8
Sault Ste. Marie, MI	21	14
Green Bay, WI	33	29
Manitowoc, WI	33	28
Oshkosh, WI	33	26
Fond du Lac, WI	31	27
La Crosse, WI	30	25
Madison, WI	33	27
Milwaukee, WI	35	31
Des Moines, IA	32	26
Detroit, MI	47	32
Chicago, IL	45	35
St. Louis, MO	71	38



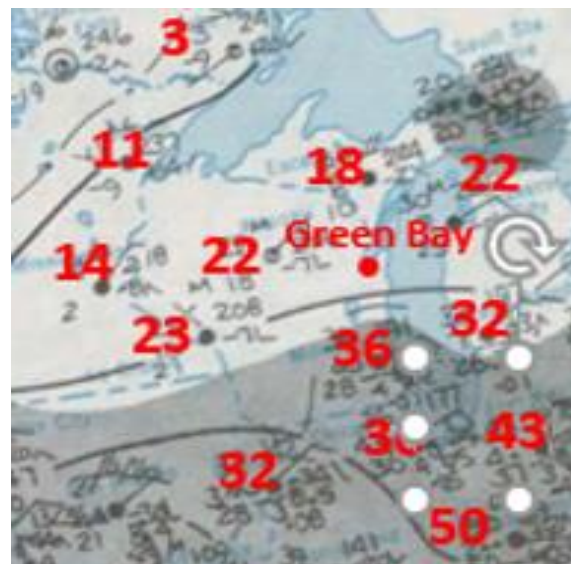


## March 4, 1976

At 7 AM CST on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup>, weak high pressure across the northern plains brought drier air into northern Wisconsin bringing an end to the precipitation for the time being. Across southern Wisconsin, a wintry mix was noted with snow, sleet or freezing rain. Milwaukee went from a wintry mix of freezing rain and sleet over to rain during the morning. Intensifying low pressure across the central and southern Rockies was going to move out into the southern plains during the morning, and then head northeast towards the western Great Lakes region during the afternoon and evening. In response to the develop low moving along the warm front, steep mid-level lapse rates were present as thunderstorms develop across the southern Wisconsin during the afternoon hours. Milwaukee reported thunderstorms for at least a few hours with temperatures in the middle 30s. With the track of the low moving across northeast Wisconsin, the area of steep mid-level lapse rates moved across the transition zone just north of Milwaukee and Madison during the afternoon and evening, resulting in higher precipitation rates in severe ice accumulations across portions of south central into east central Wisconsin. The most severe icing conditions occurred from the afternoon of the 4<sup>th</sup> into the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup>. Thunderstorms across far southern Wisconsin brought flooding rains as a few locations recorded over 2 inches of rain.

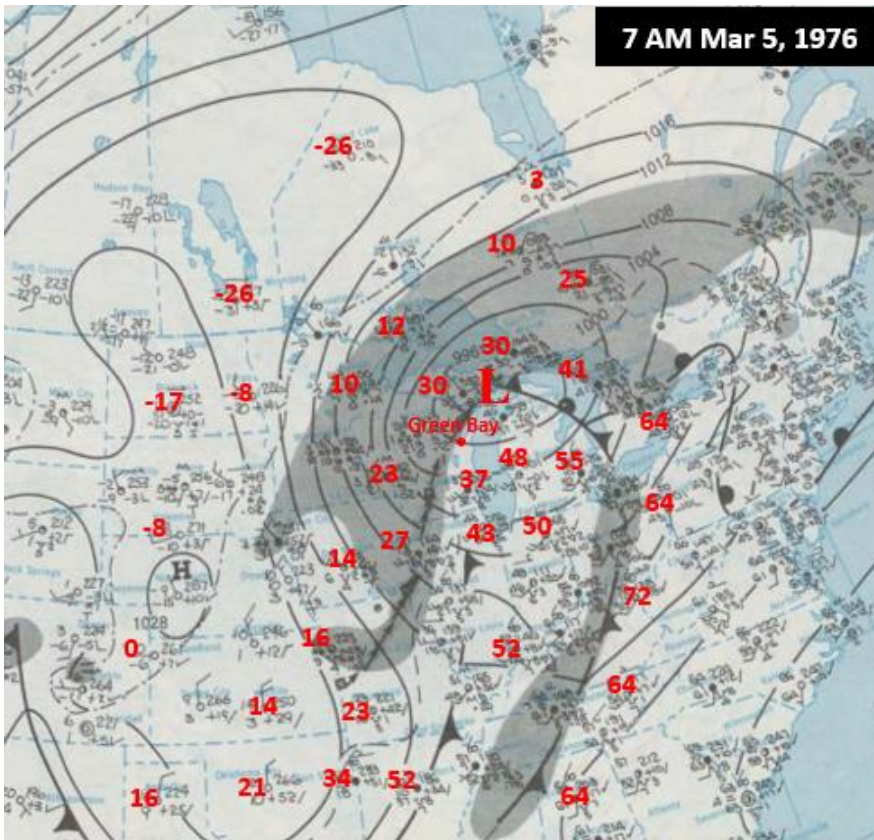


Location	High	Low
International Fall, MN	10	-13
Duluth, MN	17	0
Sault Ste. Marie, MI	30	18
Green Bay, WI	31	27
Manitowoc, WI	32	26
Oshkosh, WI	32	24
Fond du Lac, WI	32	26
La Crosse, WI	33	20
Madison, WI	34	26
Milwaukee, WI	36	31
Des Moines, IA	33	26
Detroit, MI	46	36
Chicago, IL	65	35
St. Louis, MO	74	38

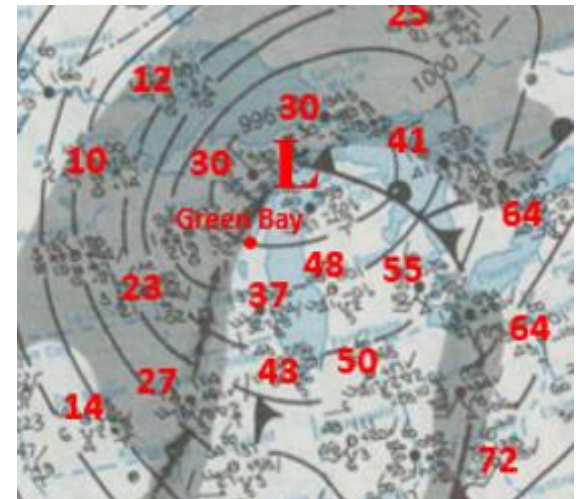


## March 5, 1976

The damage was done! **Some ice accumulations ranged up to a phenomenal 5 inches in diameter on wires and limbs of trees.** Widespread tree damage and power outages were noted from southwest into east central Wisconsin due to the severe icing and strong winds, with a band of heavier snow further to the north. To make matters worse, strong winds on the backside of the low gusts to around 60 mph, which contributed to the widespread damage to trees and power lines.



Location	High	Low
International Fall, MN	14	-7
Duluth, MN	17	2
Sault Ste. Marie, MI	35	16
Green Bay, WI	37	16
Manitowoc, WI	36	27
Oshkosh, WI	34	21
Fond du Lac, WI	36	15
La Crosse, WI	28	7
Madison, WI	36	15
Milwaukee, WI	47	21
Des Moines, IA	27	14
Detroit, MI	61	30
Chicago, IL	53	25
St. Louis, MO	53	28



# Supplement Local Climatological Data for Cities Impacted By The Storm

MARCH 1976  
 GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN  
 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFC  
 AUSTIN STRAUBEL FIELD

## Local Climatological Data

### MONTHLY SUMMARY



LATITUDE 44° 29' N LONGITUDE 88° 08' W ELEVATION (GROUND) 682 FT. STANDARD TIME USED: CENTRAL WBAN #14898

DATE	TEMPERATURE °F					DEGREE DAYS BASE 65°		WEATHER TYPES ON DATES OF OCCURRENCE	SNOW, ICE PELLETS OR ICE ON GROUND AT 06AM IN.	PRECIPITATION		AVG. STATION PRES- SURE IN. - - - ELEV. FEET M.S.L.	WIND				SUNSHINE		SKY COVER TENTHS		DATE	
	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	AVERAGE DEW POINT	HEATING (SEASON BEGINS WITH JULY)	COOLING (SEASON BEGINS WITH JAN.)			1 FOG 2 HEAVY FOG 3 THUNDERSTORM 4 ICE PELLETS 5 HAIL 6 GLAZE 7 DUSTSTORM 8 SMOKE, HAZE 9 BLOWING SNOW	WATER EQUIVA- LENT IN		SNOW, ICE PELLETS IN.	RESULTANT DIRECTION	RESULTANT SPEED M.P.H.	AVERAGE SPEED M.P.H.	FASTEST MILE SPEED M.P.H.	DIRECTION	MINUTES	PERCENT OF POSSIBLE		SUNRISE TO SUNSET
1	2	3	4	5	6	7A	7B	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	28	21	25	3	16	40	0	3 4 89	4	.28	3.1	29.44	04	18.8	20.0	32	NE	0	0	10	10	1
2	32	26	29	7	22	36	0	1 3 4 6 89	6	.23	.6	29.22	05	20.6	21.1	27	NE	24	4	10	10	2
3	33	28	31	8	24	34	0	1	6	.02	0	29.22	29	5.4	9.4	12	W	39	6	10	10	3
4	31	27	29	8	22	36	0	4 6 8	6	.70	6.3	29.23	03	14.1	14.5	26	NE	0	0	10	10	4
5	37	16	27	3	21	38	0	4 6 8 9	10	.05	.2	28.97	28	10.8	18.3	33	SW	165	24	8	6	5
6	33	5	19	-5	7	46	0	6	10	T	T	29.28	25	14.4	16.1	29	SW	506	74	8	4	6
7	28	13	21	-3	8	44	0	6	10	0	0	29.32	28	13.3	13.7	24	NW	562	82	0	2	7
8	28	2*	15*	-10	6	50	0	6 6	10	0	0	29.40	23	5.2	6.0	16	SW	501	72	6	6	8
9	35	22	29	4	22	36	0	1 6 8	9	.04	.7	29.15	15	2.4	5.3	10	SE	0	0	10	10	9
10	36	14	25	-1	20	40	0	2 8	9	T	T	29.16	32	5.0	6.3	16	NW	553	79	4	4	10
11	39	15	27	1	17	38	0		8	0	0	29.38	09	7.2	11.2	18	SE	501	72	8	6	11

MARCH 1976  
 GREE

MARCH 1976  
 LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN  
 MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

## Local Climatological Data

### MONTHLY SUMMARY



LATITUDE 43° 52' N LONGITUDE 91° 15' W ELEVATION (GROUND) 651 FT. STANDARD TIME USED: CENTRAL WBAN #14920

DATE	TEMPERATURE °F					DEGREE DAYS BASE 65°		WEATHER TYPES ON DATES OF OCCURRENCE	SNOW, ICE PELLETS OR ICE ON GROUND AT 06AM IN.	PRECIPITATION		AVG. STATION PRES- SURE IN. - - - ELEV. FEET M.S.L.	WIND				SUNSHINE		SKY COVER TENTHS		DATE		
	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	AVERAGE DEW POINT	HEATING (SEASON BEGINS WITH JULY)	COOLING (SEASON BEGINS WITH JAN.)			1 FOG 2 HEAVY FOG 3 THUNDERSTORM 4 ICE PELLETS 5 HAIL 6 GLAZE 7 DUSTSTORM 8 SMOKE, HAZE 9 BLOWING SNOW	WATER EQUIVA- LENT IN		SNOW, ICE PELLETS IN.	RESULTANT DIRECTION	RESULTANT SPEED M.P.H.	AVERAGE SPEED M.P.H.	FASTEST MILE SPEED M.P.H.	DIRECTION	MINUTES	PERCENT OF POSSIBLE		SUNRISE TO SUNSET	MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7A	7B	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
1	26	22	24	0	18	41	0	1 4 6 9	0	.21	1.1	29.38	07	10.2	10.6								1
2	27	25	26	1	25	38	0	1 6	1	.02	T	29.18	07	10.2	10.9								2
3	30	25	28	3	23	37	0	1 6	1	T	0	29.34	31	7.2	8.1								3
4	33	20	27	3	22	38	0	1 6	1	.47	4.7	29.23	02	6.5	8.6								4
5	28	7	18*	-7	18	47	0	1 6	6	.02	.2	29.20	29	9.6	12.4								5
6	34	4*	19	-7	9	46	0	0	6	0	0	29.44	24	7.4	10.5								6
7	31	14	23	-4	14	42	0	0	5	T	T	29.48	31	8.6	9.2								7
8	31	8	20	-7	11	45	0	0	5	0	0	29.45	18	2.5	2.7								8
9	35	27	31	3	25	34	0	1	4	T	T	29.17	13	6	1.0								9
10	36	19	28	0	26	37	0	1	4	T	T	29.26	31	5.0	5.0								10
11	45	18	32	4	24	33	0	1	3	.01	0	29.31	13	7.1	7.3								11

MARCH 1976  
 L R C

# Supplement Local Climatological Data for Cities Impacted By The Storm

MARCH 1976  
MADISON, WISCONSIN  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFC  
TRUX FIELD

## Local Climatological Data

MONTHLY SUMMARY



LATITUDE 43° 08' N LONGITUDE 89° 20' W ELEVATION (GROUND) 858 FT. STANDARD TIME USED: CENTRAL WBAN #14837

DATE	TEMPERATURE °F					DEGREE DAYS BASE 65°		WEATHER TYPES ON DATES OF OCCURRENCE	SNOW, ICE PELLETS OR ICE ON GROUND AT DGM IN.	PRECIPITATION		AVG. STATION PRES- SURE IN. ELEV. FEET M.S.L.	WIND				SUNSHINE		SKY COVER TENTHS			DATE
	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	AVERAGE DEW POINT	HEATING (SEASON BEGINS WITH JULY)	COOLING (SEASON BEGINS WITH JAN-1)			WATER EQUIVA- LENT IN	SNOW, ICE PELLETS IN.		RESULTANT DIRECTION	RESULTANT SPEED M.P.H.	AVERAGE SPEED M.P.H.	FASTEST MILE SPEED M.P.H.	DIRECTION	MINUTES	PERCENT OF POSSIBLE	SUNRISE TO SUNSET	MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7A	7B	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	33	25	29	9	25	36	0	1 3 4 6	0	.40	.6	29.11	07	16.7	17.1	21	NE	0	0	10	10	1
2	34	31	33	0	30	32	0	1 3 4 6	T	.25	T	28.92	07	9.9	9.9	13	NE	0	0	10	10	2
3	33	27	30	9	28	35	0	1 6	T	T	29.05	32	6.9	7.5	9	NW	0	0	10	10	3	
4	34	26	30	9	27	35	0	1 3 4 6	T	1.86	.8	28.96	05	9.6	10.6	17	NE	0	0	10	10	4
5	36	15	26	1	22	39	0	1 6	T	T	28.80	26	15.1	18.0	23	W	57	8	9	7	5	
6	35	11*	23	-3	16	42	0	1 6	T	0	0	29.18	24	16.2	17.4	25	SW	485	71	4	2	6
7	33	18	26	0	20	39	0	6	T	0	0	28.20	29	9.3	10.6	13	NW	475	69	5	4	7
8	34	15	25	-2	16	40	0	6	T	0	0	29.21	08	2.0	5.6	7	SW	291	42	8	7	8
9	43	30	37	10	28	28	0	1	T	T	0	28.94	16	2.8	6.0	7	S	0	0	10	10	9
10	42	23	33	6	29	32	0	1 8	T	.01	.1	28.99	31	6.0	6.0	11	NW	268	38	8	6	10
11	46	20	33	9	27	32	0	1 8	0	.01	0	29.13	14	9.6	12.2	17	SE	204	29	8	8	11

MARCH 1976

MADI

MARCH 1976  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFC  
GENERAL MITCHELL FIELD

## Local Climatological Data

MONTHLY SUMMARY



LATITUDE 42° 57' N LONGITUDE 87° 54' W ELEVATION (GROUND) 672 FT. STANDARD TIME USED: CENTRAL WBAN #14839

DATE	TEMPERATURE °F					DEGREE DAYS BASE 65°		WEATHER TYPES ON DATES OF OCCURRENCE	SNOW, ICE PELLETS OR ICE ON GROUND AT DGM IN.	PRECIPITATION		AVG. STATION PRES- SURE IN. ELEV. FEET M.S.L.	WIND				SUNSHINE		SKY COVER TENTHS			DATE
	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	AVERAGE DEW POINT	HEATING (SEASON BEGINS WITH JULY)	COOLING (SEASON BEGINS WITH JAN-1)			WATER EQUIVA- LENT IN	SNOW, ICE PELLETS IN.		RESULTANT DIRECTION	RESULTANT SPEED M.P.H.	AVERAGE SPEED M.P.H.	FASTEST MILE SPEED M.P.H.	DIRECTION	MINUTES	PERCENT OF POSSIBLE	SUNRISE TO SUNSET	MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7A	7B	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	33	31	32	8	25	33	0	1 3 4 5 6	T	.98	1.0	29.35	05	17.3	17.7	30	NE	0	0	10	10	1
2	35	33	34	8	31	31	0	1 3 4 6	T	.81	T	29.13	06	15.4	15.9	23	E	0	0	10	10	2
3	35	31	33	7	29	32	0	2	T	.01	T	29.24	31	9.6	11.4	16	NW	0	0	10	10	3
4	36	31	34	7	28	31	0	1 3 4 5 6	T	2.31	T	29.16	05	13.8	15.2	24	NE	0	0	10	10	4
5	47	21	34	7	25	31	0	2	T	T	29.07	26	20.6	21.4	48	SW	267	38	9	8	5	
6	38	14*	26	-1	13	39	0	0	T	0	0	29.38	25	18.2	20.3	40	SW	580	84	4	2	6
7	35	24	30	2	17	35	0	0	T	T	0	29.38	29	12.1	12.9	22	NW	448	65	6	4	7
8	35	21	28	0	12	37	0	0	T	0	0	29.42	16	2.2	9.4	17	SE	419	60	7	7	8
9	42	30	36	8	24	28	0	0	T	T	0	29.15	13	7.6	8.1	17	SE	278	40	10	10	9
10	41	25	33	4	26	32	0	1 8	T	.01	T	29.17	32	5.9	7.9	14	NW	280	40	8	7	10
11	38	22	30	1	24	35	0	1 8	0	T	0	29.39	14	10.7	11.7	22	SE	519	74	8	7	11

MARCH 1976

MILW

# Supplement Local Climatological Data for Cities Impacted By The Storm

## Green Bay, WI

HOUR	SKY COVER TENTHS	CEILING HNDOS. OF FT.	VISI-BILITY		WEATHER	TEMPERATURE				WIND		SKY COVER TENTHS	CEILING HNDOS. OF FT.	VISI-BILITY		WEATHER	TEMPERATURE				WIND		
			WHOLE MILES	16THS MILE		AIR ° F	NET BULB ° F	DEW PT. ° F	REL. HUM. %	DIR	SPEED KNOTS			WHOLE MILES	16THS MILE		AIR ° F	NET BULB ° F	DEW PT. ° F	REL. HUM. %	DIR	SPEED KNOTS	
DAY 04												DAY 05											
00	10	25	10			30	27	21	89	33	6	10	5	2		29	28	25	89	03	18		
03	10	90	20			28	25	19	89	03	6	10	2	2	ZR	32	30	27	82	03	8		
06	10	90	20			27	25	18	72	04	8	10	23	12		37	34	30	76	21	22		
09	10	20	12			28	26	20	72	03	11	10	16	10		32	29	23	68	27	19		
12	10	3	0	4	5BS	29	28	24	82	03	13	8	28	15		32	28	21	64	28	18		
15	10	4	0	4	SIP	30	29	26	85	03	20	6	30	20		34	28	19	54	27	17		
18	10	6	1		SIP	30	28	25	82	03	19	1	UNL	20		28	24	15	58	27	13		
21	10	5	4		ZRIP	30	28	25	82	03	18	0	UNL	15		22	19	09	57	27	10		

### HOURLY PRECIPITATION (WATER EQUIVALENT IN INCHES)

Date	A. N. HOUR ENDING AT												P. N. HOUR ENDING AT												Date
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1										T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	.01	.02	.07	.13	.01	.02	.02	1
2	.03	.03	.04	.01	.02		.01	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	.01	.01	.01	.04	.02	T	T	T	2	
3	T	T	T	T	.01	.01	T																	3	
4	T	T							.01	.06	.07	.08	.04	.12	.04	.04	.04	.06	.07	.07	T	T	T	4	
5	T	T	.02	.01	T	.01	.01	T																5	

## La Crosse, WI

HOUR	SKY COVER TENTHS	CEILING HNDOS. OF FT.	VISI-BILITY		WEATHER	TEMPERATURE				WIND		SKY COVER TENTHS	CEILING HNDOS. OF FT.	VISI-BILITY		WEATHER	TEMPERATURE				WIND	
			WHOLE MILES	16THS MILE		AIR ° F	NET BULB ° F	DEW PT. ° F	REL. HUM. %	DIR	SPEED KNOTS			WHOLE MILES	16THS MILE		AIR ° F	NET BULB ° F	DEW PT. ° F	REL. HUM. %	DIR	SPEED KNOTS
00	10	18	10			25	23	18	74	33	6	10	8	2		ZRF	28	28	28	100	09	7
03	10	90	10			22	21	18	85	35	5	10	4			SF	27	27	26	85	33	10
06	10	28	10			23	23	21	82	32	6	10	8	3	12	SF	23	23	21	92	30	12
09	10	4	0	8	SW	24	24	22	82	36	8	7	10	12			18	17	13	81	28	11
12	10	9	0	12	SW	27	26	23	85	04	7	8	15	20			23	24	22	88	27	14
15	10	8	1	8	S	33	30	26	75	09	10	0	UNL	20			24	23	20	85	28	11
18	10	8	0	12	S	27	27	26	86	36	8	0	UNL	15			16	15	10	77	27	11
21	10	13	7			28	27	25	88	05	10	0	UNL	15			10	09	04	76	26	10



## Local Newspaper Accounts: March 2<sup>nd</sup>

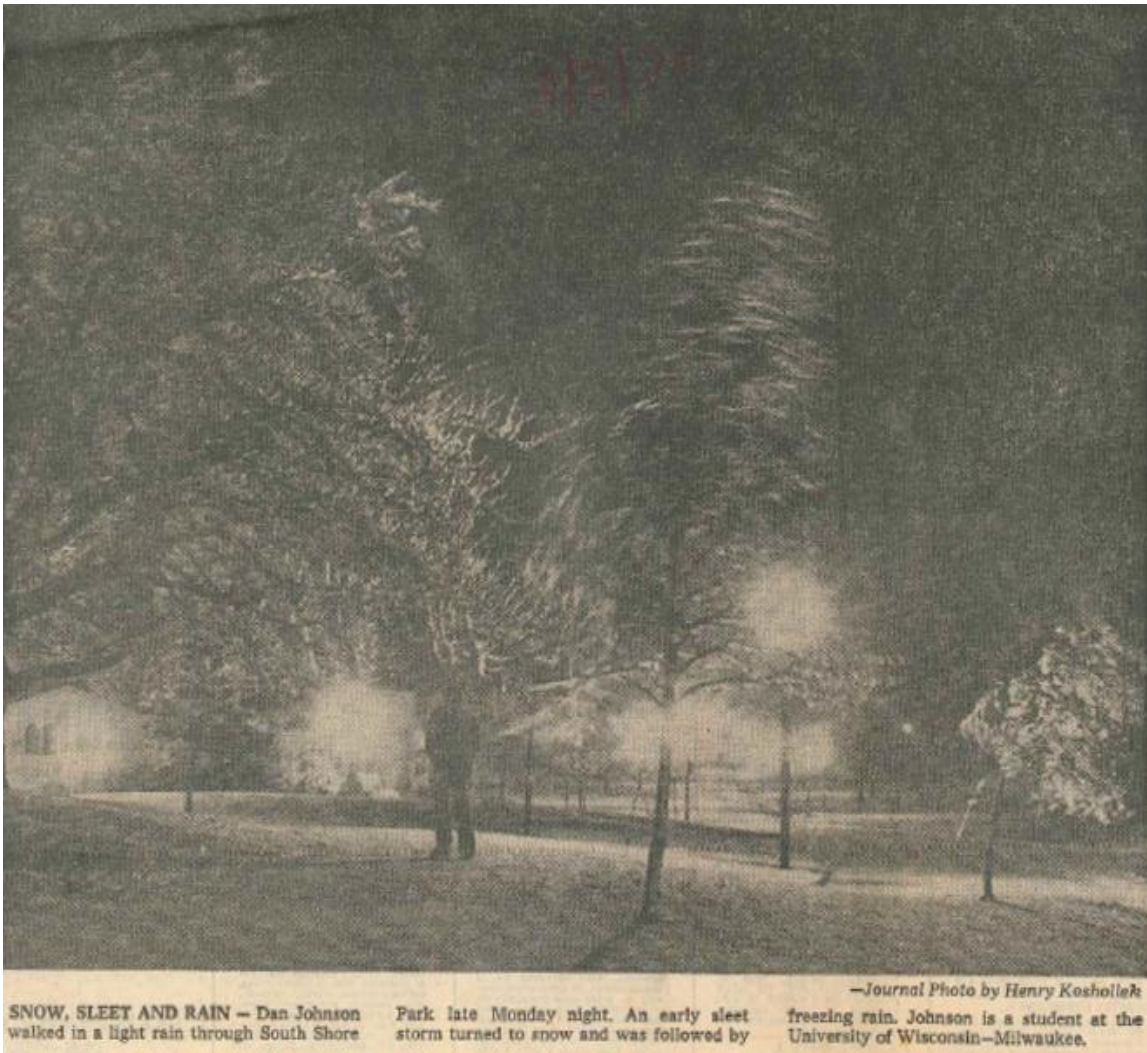
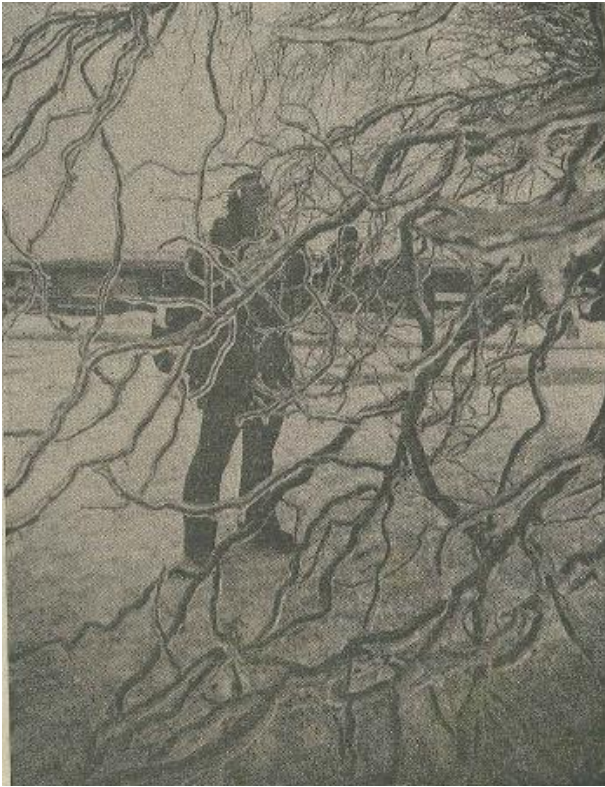


Photo by Henry Koshollek – Milwaukee Journal

## Local Newspaper Accounts: March 3<sup>rd</sup>



Menominee Falls

Photo by: Allan Y. Scott – Milwaukee Journal

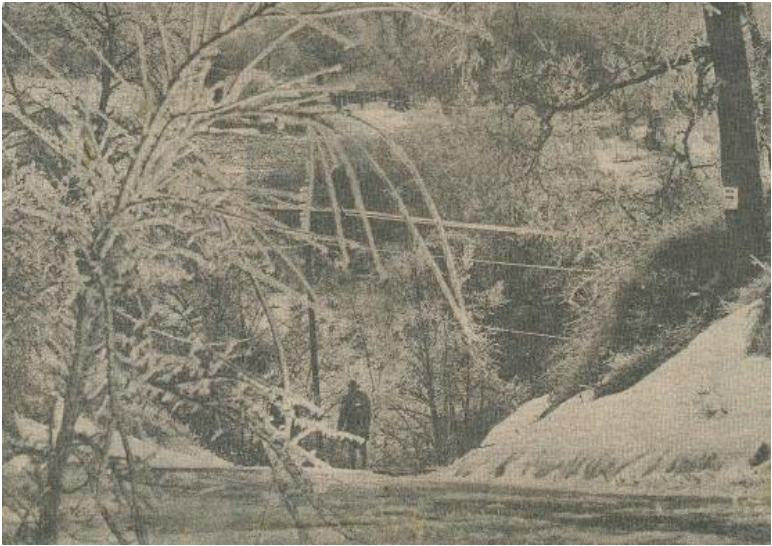


Franklin

Photo by: Stephen C. Liljegen – Milwaukee Journal



# Local Newspaper Accounts: March 4<sup>th</sup>



West Bend

Photo by: Sherman Gessert – Milwaukee Journal



Hartford

Photo by: Paul J. Shane – Milwaukee Journal



Germantown

Photo by: Sherman Gessert Jr. – Milwaukee Journal

# Local Newspaper Accounts: March 5<sup>th</sup>

3/5/76

## MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

Founded 1882      Friday, March 5, 1976      © 1976, The Milwaukee Journal      Latest Edition

# Power Failures Hit 600,000 as Winds Add to Storm Woes

Winds gusting over 50 miles an hour tore at power lines in southeastern Wisconsin Friday, adding to the havoc wrought by a three day ice storm worse than any in memory.

Gov. Lucey, mustering state forces to aid in coping with hardships caused principally by electric power failures, said: "It appears that at least 600,000 Wisconsin residents were without power at some time Thursday night or this morning, but crews are working to restore utility services as promptly as possible."

A Wisconsin Electric Power Co. spokesman said: "I would say we aren't making any headway. With luck, and improvement in weather, we will catch up in most areas over the weekend. Some areas will still be out Monday, though. We can't get in over the roads."

The weather was expected to worsen the problem Friday night, when diminishing winds will be more than offset by temperatures dropping to the middle teens, the National Weather Service said.

Homes will be without heat.

Other pictures and story on Page 1, Part 2.

and there will be a danger of water pipes freezing.

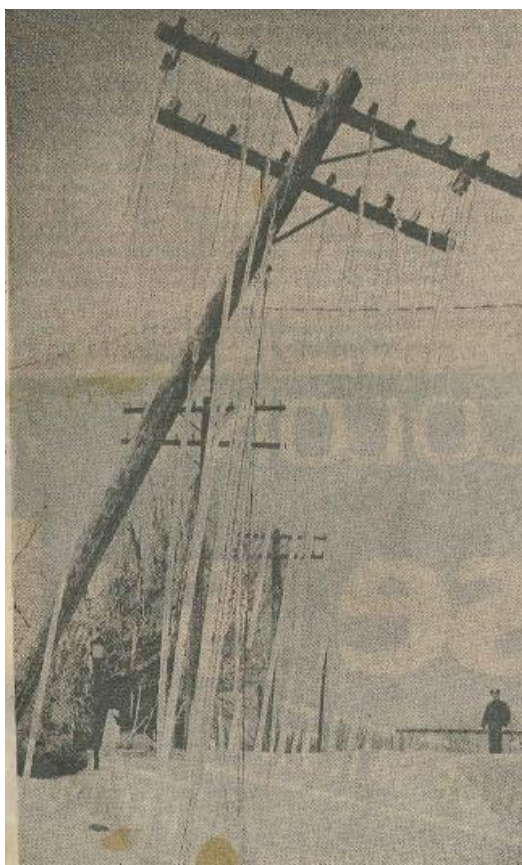
The heaviest rainfall readings collected by the National Weather Service up to 7 a.m. Friday included 2.9 inches at Elkhorn, 2.65 at Racine, 2.62 at Mount Mary College on Milwaukee's West Side and 2.31 inches at Mitchell Field.

Civil defense authorities were compiling information on which they believed Lucey could base a request for federal disaster aid in nine counties around Milwaukee.

Utility repair crews, augmented by workers from power companies in Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois and Missouri, were working 16 hours a day and still falling behind as ice coated branches ripped down some cables and other fell of their own weight. In some Washington County areas, the poles themselves fell across roads.

Friday noon Lt. Gov. Martin Schreiber ordered 200 National Guardsmen into Washington County to help officials there.

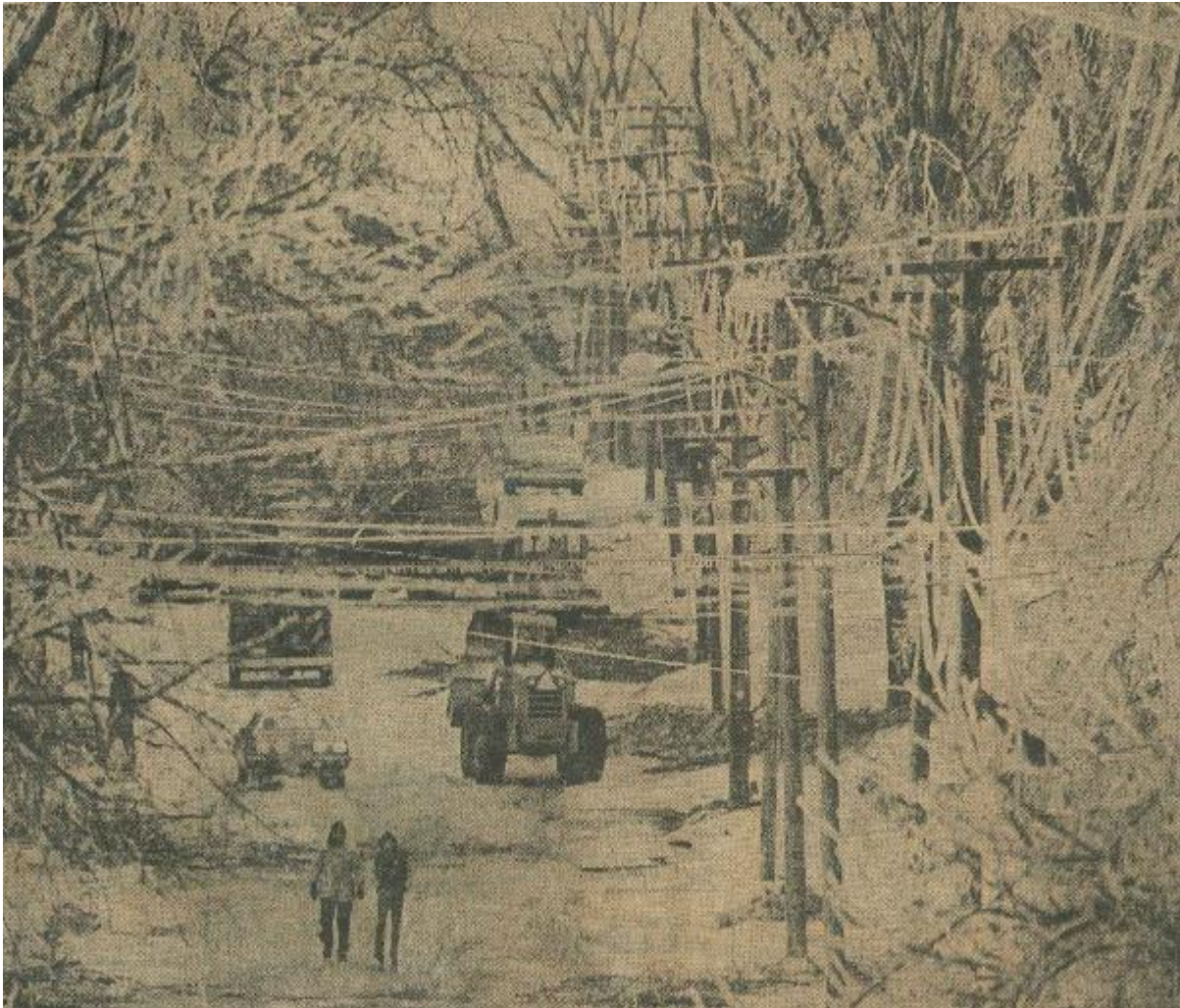
Washington County Civil Town to Storm, page 16, col. 1



Hartford

Photo by: Allan Y. Scott – Milwaukee Journal

## Local Newspaper Accounts: March 5<sup>th</sup>



Hartford

Photo by: Allan Y Scott – Milwaukee Journal

# Storm ties up city



Trees in the 5300 block of Tolman Terrace were damaged when ice-laden branches crashed to the ground. —State Journal photo by Edwin Stein

## Mayor decrees an emergency

Southwestern Wisconsin, including the Madison area, became a near-disaster area Thursday night as ice-laden power lines and trees collapsed under nearly 2 inches of freezing rain — causing widespread power outages, blocked roads and flooded streets.

Madison Mayor Paul Soglin declared an emergency in the city from 10 p.m. Thursday to noon today. He asked that water be used only in essential health

**More on storm:**  
**Section 4, Page 1**

and commercial situations and that car owners use off-street parking if possible and give the right-of-way to emergency crews.

Madison's public schools will be open today, although some buildings may need to use auxiliary power for heating, Supt. Douglas Ritchie said Thursday night. Madison Gas and Electric Co. (MGE) officials said fallen electric wires would be repaired by morning and would not endanger children walking to school, Ritchie said.

**Lights go out**  
Lights went out in most of Madison for about 10 minutes or less at 10:10 p.m. Thursday when a main MGE

calls from 7 a.m. to midnight Thursday, all involving standby duty for downed live wires and fire alarm boxes shorted out by the ice and water. There were no bad fires, just the potential hazard to both, people and property from the errant electric systems.

Madison Water Utility Manager Lairy Russell appealed to city residents Thursday night to conserve water and use it "only when absolutely necessary."

Russell said 21 of 27 pumping stations Turn to Page 2, Col. 1

## It's bad all over Midwest

By United Press International

A blustery March storm plastered a long belt of the Plains and Midwest with ice and snow Thursday and spawned a rash of tornadoes and destructive winds in the southern Plains.

Snow and ice triggered power outages and school closings in Wisconsin and

# For some, a refuge from the icy blackout

By Richard Schwarz  
Of The State Journal

The weather's general orneriness, ice and rain kept Terry Seese from studying for an exam and writing a paper Thursday night.

Its lingering effects — no electricity or heat — kept him out of work Friday and finally forced him, his wife, daughter and son out of their home Friday night.

Score one for the weather.

"I'm studying meteorology," he

finally confessed.

Score one for Seese, who some day may get the last laugh.

Seese, 4510 Jetzevin Rd., found himself trying to feel at home in the huge, L-shaped cafeteria at West High School, his home for as long as it takes to restore power to his Southwest Side home.

About 20 persons scattered themselves around the room, set up cots and tried to keep house family-style in what had the potential of an army bivouac.

"The solutions (to the weather) I've

heard of are way too expensive," Seese said, laughing after admitting his area of study.

His daughter, Jennifer, 5, sat across the cafeteria table concentrating on a coloring book, trying not to notice the different surroundings.

Her brother, Jon, 2, worried only about the plate of food in front of him.

Seese said his power went out about 2:30 a.m. Friday after hitting its eventual course all Thursday night.

"I've heard rumors electricity would

be back in 24 hours — or in three days," said Carole Seese. "We've just got to make the most of a bad situation."

Meanwhile, Mayor Paul Soglin straggled into the emergency shelter for a quick inspection enroute to other city shelters during the weather emergency.

"There's not much else we (the city) can do," he said, resting at the shelter registration table with a cup of coffee.

Soglin said cleanup and care for the temporarily homeless was going well.

"But I'm afraid what will happen," he said observing the sparse shelter population. "Is that people will come out later (Friday night) when it gets really cold."

Ed Beckstrom, Rt. 1, Waunakee, did try to stay at his home, but soon found it was no place to stay with falling temperatures.

Beckstrom, his problems slightly complicated with two of his three children suffering from colds, set up a homey cafeteria beneath a cheerful

mural.

"We tried to stay home," he said. "I had the advantage of going to work today where it was warm. But there was no light, heat or water since the electricity went out about 1:30 p.m. yesterday (Thursday)."

Beckstrom said he'll check regularly to see if his family can return home, but he has no idea when that might be.

"I'm just thankful for the heat," said

Turn to Page 2, Col. 3

# Local Newspaper Accounts: March 5<sup>th</sup>



Icicles on a barbed-wire fence after the storm.  
Photo by: J.D. Patrick – State Journal Archives



Wires shot out on a utility pole on Bridge Road - Monona  
Bruce Fritz



Cars off the road in Madison  
Fritz – Madison (cars off the road)



Mount Horeb High School student help clean up  
Ed Stein – State Journal Archives



Fence along Highway 73 following the storm  
Bruce Fritz



Ice storm damage between Cambridge and Stoughton  
J.D. Patrick – State Journal Archives

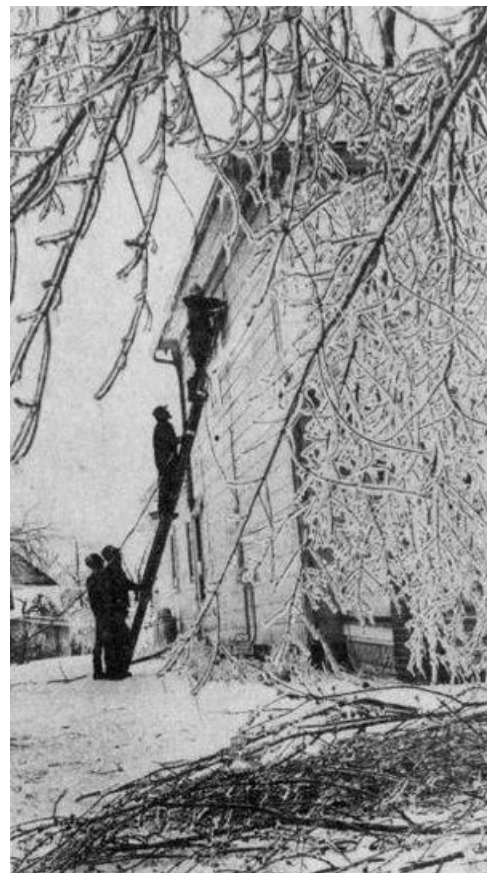
## Local Newspaper Accounts: March 5<sup>th</sup>



Crews from around the area restore power  
Photo by: Edwin Stein – Wisconsin State Journal



Ice storm damage in Fitchburg  
Photo by: Joseph Jackson – State Journal Archives



Utility men repair wiring – Mt. Horeb  
Wisconsin State Journal

# Local Newspaper Accounts: March 6<sup>th</sup>



## Wisconsin State Journal

Saturday

March 6, 1976  
Madison, Wisconsin  
32 pages \*\*\* 15 cents

### For some, a refuge from the icy blackout

By Richard Schwarz  
Of The State Journal

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Turn to Page 2, Col. 3



South of West Bend

Photo by Allan Y. Scott — Milwaukee Sentinel

# Guard Callup at 400 To Aid Storm Victims

3/6/76

## Repairmen Face Problem of Priorities

By Patrick Reardon  
of The Journal Staff

West Bend, Wis. — Take an Erector Set and build an elaborate model that sprawls all over your living room. Walk around the room bashing the model with a baseball bat, then try to put it together again.

That's similar to the situation the Wisconsin Electric Power Co. faced this weekend in rebuilding its battered system around West Bend and elsewhere in the area in the wake of the ice storm.

More than 200 poles were knocked down in the West Bend area. The weight of ice on wires coupled with high winds brought the poles down. In the high winds, the wires "gallop." The galloping puts pressure on the poles, so they snap — with a resounding noise — and fall.

Wires were on the ground all over the area. Some were resting on other wires, causing shorts. Other wires wound themselves around tree branches.

### A Mess

Some wires snapped, others drooped.

It was a mess. Neil Palmer, technical information coordinator for the electric company, said the storm caused more damage to the system than any in Wisconsin Electric history.

He said the storm came close to doing what a tornado would do. In one sense, he said, it was worse than a tornado.

A roomful of technicians at the electric company office in West Bend fielded calls from people who said they had no power. The technicians filled out a report on each call. A tornado, he noted, leaves a neat swath of destruction. With the ice storm, the damage is all over the place, with no orderly pattern.

The Electric Co., drawing on its experience with lesser storms, was relying on systematic procedures to place the puzzle back together again.

The first step was to identify priorities. What should be done first? To determine this, the electric company depended largely on people reporting that their power was out.

The reports were put in piles, according to geographic area. Technicians then were able to plot the calls on a map and figure out where feeder lines, serving a lot of residences and businesses, were down.

Palmer said work that would restore power to 50 users was being done before jobs that restored power to three or four users.

Other technicians analyzed the data and dispatched repair crews to the scene of a job.

Five hundred workers were in the field. Crews were sent from Missouri, Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota, and the workers were on 16-hour shifts.

The work can be slow. On a cold, windy hill on the edge of town, a four-man crew was replacing a broken pole so it could rest a wire that was interfering with another wire.

Palmer estimated that it would take five hours to dig a hole in the frozen ground, install a new pole and fix the wire.

Other crews slowly worked their way along county roads splicing broken wires and adjusting sagging lines.

### Some Work Is Slow

The work can be frustrating, Palmer said that in cases

where five spans of wire are down, by the time a crew has fixed the fifth span, the first two spans might be down again.

Palmer said the workers' morale was high. He noted that many lived in the area and realized that their work was essential for their friends and fellow townspeople.

Some of the repairs were temporary. When all of the emergency repair work is done — and nobody knows for sure when that will be — the entire system will be inspected, evaluated and brought up to normal standards, Palmer said.

## Storm Points Up Sewage Plant Woes

By Paul G. Hayes  
of The Journal Staff

Eight years after it went into operation to relieve some of the water pollution problems of Greater Milwaukee, the South Shore Sewage Treatment Plant is emerging as overloaded, beset with problems, and itself a major polluter of Lake Michigan.

This was underscored emphatically last week when a flow of water and sewage metered at 368 million gallons a day flooded the plant, knocking out key elements of the treatment system and all but shutting down the process for weeks.

Robert Borchardt, chief engineer of the

Metropolitan Sewerage District, said damage would run from \$100,000 to \$300,00 at the \$35 million plant. He said everything from pencils to sophisticated electronic gear had been flooded. Basements and tunnels between buildings were swamped.

### Flooded Onto Grounds

Floodwater flowed from some buildings onto the grounds but was held back from the lake by steel walls, forming ponds on the property. Sewage received a minimum of treatment, mainly screening for large solids.

The water — mixed storm water and sewage — had been building throughout

the weeklong ice and rain storm. When it exceeded the plant's capacity — treatment of 120 million gallons a day efficiently — the result was diluted sewage running into the lake.

With sewers still to be built to channel more sewage toward the plant for treatment, the plant's capacity can be expected to be impaired with greater frequency in the future. And that only eight years after the first phase of treatment began and about a year and a half after a second phase started.

### Purpose of Plant

The very purpose of constructing the South Shore Plant, at the east end of

Puetz Road in Oak Creek, was to relieve the overload Jones Island plant and intercept overloaded sewers in northwestern Milwaukee that were running directly into Lincoln Creek.

Unlike Jones Island, the new plant was to be different in three major ways:

It would not serve areas with combined storm and sanitary sewers.

Therefore, it could be built without bypass gates as a relief valve in times of wet weather.

It would not have a Milorganite works to convert sludge, the semisolid byprod-

Turn to Plant, page 17, col. 1

### Plant

## Storm Overloads System

From page 1

uct of sewage treatment, into a marketable fertilizer.

Unfortunately, it hasn't worked as planned. Borchardt said the increased wet weather flow could be explained only two ways: that storm water was infiltrating the sanitary sewers through cracks or that illegal connections of downspouts and other storm water drains were prevalent in areas served by the system.

With such a volume of rainwater in the system, the need for a bypass gate seems crucial, Borchardt said.

Ironically, the shortcomings of the South Shore plant were discussed at length earlier last week at a meeting in the Pflister Hotel on progress in water pollution control in Wisconsin.

Robert Fuller, president of the Milwaukee River Restoration Council, said that South Shore regularly sent effluents into Lake Michigan in amounts violating federal and state clean water standards.

Limits Violated  
The suspended solids limit was violated in 11 months of 1975, and the weekly solids limit was violated 221 times last year. The monthly limit for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) — another way to measure the effectiveness of sewage treatment — was violated six times in 1975. The weekly BOD limit was violated 48 times, Fuller said.

His question was what did the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intend to do about it.

A problem more familiar to neighbors of the plant is the amount of foul smelling sludge there. Five of six sludge lagoons are filled. Haulers can't empty them in winter because the sludge can't be dumped on frozen ground. In summer it is plowed into potential farmlands.

### Drawn Off Top

With the lagoons brimming, water must be drawn off the top before solids have time to settle. This water, heavy with solids, is run through the plant again, adding to the plant's inefficiencies.

Borchardt said that sludge handling would be expanded in the future. A state list of priorities for spending showed this project to be relatively high on the list. "In the long term, then, it may be resolved.

It is solving the storm water to the plant. The commission has no local govern-

ments to enforce codes that prohibit illegal downspout connections, he said.

Sewers Relieved  
Furthermore, Borchardt said, the South Shore plant is doing what it was intended to do. It has relieved overloaded sewers that either would dump sewage into Lincoln Creek and the Milwaukee River or back up into basements.

Linda Borchert, a DNR attorney, said that her review of the Milwaukee situation made it clear that the DNR had not adequately understood the complexities and size of the problems here.

She said she had proposed that the DNR's Madison office form a three person task force to concentrate solely on Milwaukee's water pollution control problems.



## Nature's Fury <sup>3/7/77</sup> Awesome

By Bill Stokes  
of The Journal Staff

It was hell with the fires gone out.

It was awesome and awful.

It was the night the trees broke, and it was if the bones of the earth were splintering one after another.

It was a night so savage that sleep lurked somewhere out in the wet darkness and refused to come except in restless fits.

You could feel the awful night coming in the late afternoon on Thursday, and you knew it was going to be bad.

The rain had been falling for hours. It came down cold and steady. And it turned to ice on the trees. Limbs began to sag toward the ground, and some of the longer ones began to break.

Electric lights flickered off and on and then off again, and in the sudden silence of the dying afternoon there was something ominous and a little frightening.

Then it was dark, and the rain came down harder. Lightning flashed and thunder rumbled and more tree limbs — bigger ones — began to crack and splinter and then fall in a whoosh of flying ice.

### Terrible Sound

It was unbelievable. Its sheer savagery was hypnotic, and it made you stand before it and sometimes even out in

it like some kind of dazed and helpless creature.

The thunder and lightning moved away, and the rain eased somewhat. Then, all about, there was a steady cracking and splintering and crashing of huge tree limbs.

It was a terrible sound. It was like nothing you had ever heard before. It went on and on . . . even when the rain stopped and it was very still. The trees broke and splintered. Hour after hour the destruction went on until it seemed there could be no more limbs to break.

In the strange flickering light from candles and lamps you could hear the cracking and thumping of the falling limbs, and it was as if the great natural harmony of the earth had suddenly faltered, and it was all falling apart.

### Wail of Sirens

The wail of sirens slipped through the icy night like off-key violins playing a dirge for the dying trees.

Then the air got very still, and the rain turned to a fine mist as the trees continued to break. Huge treetops unable to carry the weight of even one more drop of mist came cracking and thundering to the earth.

Then in the middle of the night, out of the darkness and the still air, the wind came suddenly. At first it just swayed the ice laden trees gently back and forth, breaking some of them, but then it

came on with a powerful sweep that snapped more limbs and sent them crashing down in showers of flying ice.

### Wind Whistled

The wind whistled and hissed at the houses, where the candles flickered and the furnaces were silent.

It tore at the trees with sudden gusts and wrenched off some of the thick ice so that it came hurtling down against shingles and siding.

Within the silent, shadowy houses, the people tried to sleep.

During the last dark hours of the vicious night, the tem-

perature dropped, and the wind gained more strength.

Finally daylight came, sliding in over the splintered landscape, and everywhere the jagged scars of the night showed in the trees. It was as if the trees had fought a long and horrible war with a mighty force that attacked in the night.

Scattered snowflakes blew in with the cold morning wind. And in the cold houses, the people were humbled and a little bit afraid.

The wicked night that shattered the trees had battered the spirit, and the world seemed to be covered with ice and full of silence.

## Storm

### Some Schools Still Closed

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east central Wisconsin, said about 11,000 of its customers still had no power Monday. Originally, about 80,000 were without power.

#### Lucey to Visit Area

Gov. Lucey is scheduled to fly to West Bend Tuesday morning to inspect the Washington County area, partly by helicopter. Lucey is expected to request that President Ford declare the area a disaster area. That would allow businesses, municipalities and residents to qualify for federal assistance.

The State Office of Emergency Government has asked municipal officials to file data on damage estimates before 5 p.m. March 16.

The emergency government office is also asking local foresters and park superintendents to submit estimates of damage done to public and private forests and woodlots.

Lucey could make his request for federal disaster relief before all damage estimates are in, based on his inspection tour, a state official said.

Four hundred National Guard troops remained on duty Monday, half of them in Washington County, the hardest hit area.

All schools and nonessential businesses in Washington County were closed Monday. Reuben Schmahl, Washington County Board chairman, ordered the closings and said he would assess the situation later Monday to decide whether to continue them.

#### School Shelter

A Grafton school official said it was difficult to predict when the high school would reopen because it has been serving as a shelter for up to 200 people who were forced out of their homes because of storm damage.

The Grafton High School Shelter, known affectionately by those who've been living there since last week as the Red Cross Hilton, is one of five major shelters operated in the area by the local Red Cross volunteers.

Other shelters have been operating in the Newburg Fire Department, the Silverbrook Middle School in West Bend, Lincoln School in Hartford and the Washington School in Germantown.

The five shelters have provided lodging for between 750 and 900 people a night since the storm struck, according to James H. Anderson, disaster co-ordinator for the Red Cross. In addition, the Red Cross has fed 2,300 meals a day to victims and volunteers.

Anderson praised the efforts of shelter volunteers, particularly those involved at Grafton High School.

"The people there are just fantastic. The school system has been fantastic. They've made their swimming pool available, with our lifeguards. They even had a group come in and stage a dance over the weekend.

"They organized a basketball game for the families. Someone donated a color TV set and a stereo for them."

Anderson said an effort was made to give individual families separate classrooms for their temporary living quarters.

In addition to the Grafton schools, the Fredonia Unified School District Schools were also closed Monday, according to an Ozaukee County Sheriff's Department spokesman.

The City of Brookfield plans to pick up tree limbs, logs and brush filled by the storm, according to William Muth, city public works director.

However, Muth said, the pickup might take up to a month, depending on whether city crews were needed for snowplowing.

The pickups will be made systemwide, rather than by call. Muth advised residents to

pile the debris as close to the road or ditch as possible. Residents who want to haul the debris away themselves may take it to the city's municipal garage, 19450 Riverview Dr., between 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. daily.

## Milk

### Lack of Electricity Puts Strain on Farms

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there is only one small cheese factory in the entire county, at Jackson.

#### Worse Possibility

Milking by machine — the only way most cows are used to — is a complex operation, requiring power to run either a vacuum or electric pulsator, which provides the squeeze for the cow's udder. A warning was out that electric generators might create uneven pulsations. This would irritate the cow's udder and could lead to mastitis, a serious mammary disease.

But Howland said that hazard was less serious than allowing cows to go unmilked, which surely would cause mastitis flareups.

"It's better than nothing," Howland said of farmers' stop-gap measures to keep their cows fed, watered, milked and comfortable. Where barn cleaners failed, forks and shovels had to be used to get manure out of barns.

Because of distances involved, rural areas were the last to have power restored. The Wisconsin Electric Power Co. estimated Monday that

half of Washington County, geographically, still was without service, so at best half of

its farmers still were cut off. The utility's limited supply of dry ice was no help in cooling big tanks of milk.

Extension offices in Washington and other counties became liaison points for locating emergency equipment and services and routing them to stricken farmers.

In Washington County, Howland had another worry: He lives on a farm himself, and it was without power. He had no cows to milk but he had to stoke his Franklin stove with wood.

#### Down the Drain

Robert Fryda, who farms near Sussex, rigged up his milker to his tractor and got two machines going to milk his 50 cows. But a half ton of rich Jersey milk went down the drain for several days until National Guard generators put the cooler back in operation.

Fryda said he was the only farmer to check out generators from the National Guard at Waukesha — although it had 15 available. He blamed poor communications.

Power to the Frydas was restored Sunday night. The silo unloader and other heavy equipment went back in action.

## Thousands Remain Without Electricity <sup>3/8</sup>

By Barbara Abel  
of The Journal Staff

About 25,000 customers in southeastern Wisconsin and 3,000 more in the Madison area were still without power Monday morning in the aftermath of last week's ice storm.

A Wisconsin Electric Power Co. spokesman said Monday that service to some areas in Ozaukee and Washington Counties might not be restored until the end of the week or possibly next week. About 14,000 Wisconsin Electric customers were without power Monday.

Arthur Kurtz, assistant secretary of the State Agriculture Department, estimated damage to Wisconsin's dairy farms at more than \$7.5 million.

The utility had 310 crews out Sunday and Monday attempting to rebuild downed transmission lines, according to C. E. Ziegler of Wisconsin Electric.

Before customers in the hardest hit areas can have their service reconnected, the crews have to finish rebuilding

subtransmission lines downed in the storm, Ziegler said.

Parts of Port Washington and West Bend are still without power, Ziegler said. Other problem areas include Delafield, Oconomowoc, Watertown, Erin and Richfield.

Ziegler said most of Waukesha, Brookfield and Elm Grove had power restored over the weekend.

Ziegler said the company estimated the storm had knocked

down 2,000 wires and between 400 and 500 utility poles.

A spokesman for Madison Gas and Electric Co. said the power failures in the Madison area now were confined to areas where power lines were in woods or other hard to reach places.

Wisconsin Power and Light Co. of Madison, which serves much of southwestern Wisconsin and some of central and

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## No Electricity Cripples Farms <sup>3/8</sup>

By Loren H. Osman  
of The Journal Staff

Newburg, Wis. — A month after Curtis Heinemann, 28, plunged into dairy farming on his own, his entire operation was plunged into darkness.

Heinemann took over a 44 cow herd from his father, Hilbert, who retired. Curtis was one of many Washington County dairymen whose electric power was snapped off by last week's ice storm. Monday morning, with crucial power flowing from a tenuous source — a portable generator — Heinemann paused to relive the crisis.

"I tried one generator, but it wasn't big enough and burned a motor out," Heinemann said. "Then I borrowed another, and finally located one, for \$2,000, at Lomira."

It was 11 a.m. the day after he lost his power before Heinemann got to his cows, which were "hollering" from the discomfort of not being milked and impatient because there was no water.

"Was I happy," said Heinemann of his solution to his troubles. For several days, the generator, powered by a tractor, made the rounds to his cousin, Mark Wilkens, and uncle Waldemar Luft both with 30 cow herds.

Because it could not be properly cooled, a lot of milk was dumped or fed to calves, according to Maurice Hovland, Extension agricultural agent for Washington County. The county has 600 dairy herds despite heavy urbanization.

Hovland explained the problem on a modern electrified farm: If milk were allowed to sour, the bulk tanks could not be properly cleaned again because there is not hot water on farms without power. Farmers no longer have cans in which to store milk. Most of the county's milk is destined for the fresh fluid market. In fact,

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