**March 1960 Snowstorm**

A “snowpocalypse” for southern Kentucky

### An Anomalous Month
- March was very cold and snowly in the Ohio Valley, especially across southern Kentucky, due to the presence of a persistent upper-level trough axis.
- Many fast-moving disturbances rotated around the trough in early March giving Bowling Green a trace or more of snow on 9 of the first 12 days.
- Temperatures were well below normal. To this day, the month is the coldest March on record by far at Bowling Green with an average temperature 5.2°F colder than the second coldest March on record.
- The heaviest snow fell late on March 8 through early March 9 as low pressure moved over south-central Kentucky, with 21” of snow in Bowling Green.

### Shattered Records
- **Bowling Green**: March 1960 is the snowiest month on record and includes the heaviest 24-hour snowfall and coldest temperature (-6°F) ever recorded in March.
- In addition, there were 6 other record low temperatures set during the month, with 5 of them still standing today.
- Louisville, Lexington, & Frankfort also recorded their all-time record lows for the month of March.

### Impacts:
- Due to little snow removal equipment, the snowstorm on March 9 made roads impassable and shut down the city.
- 30 volunteers from the National Guard used trucks and heavy machinery to help clear the snow from roads.
- The National Guard helped transport nurses and an expectant mother and injured 12-year-old boy to the hospital.
- Nearly 1500 fans who traveled to see Western Kentucky University play in the NCAA basketball tournament in Lexington were stranded by the storm on the way home.
- Snow remained on the ground for 11 days after the storm.

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**Right:** The Bowling Green observer’s form for March 1960 shows a low of -6°F on the 5th, 18 inches of snow on the 9th, and an additional 14 inches from March 2-11. Temperatures stayed below 40°F for the first 12 days of the month.

**Left:** Monthly snowfall totals during March 1960 indicate that the most snowfall occurred in southern Kentucky, with the majority during the first half of March.

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**“I remember the National Guard had trucks and they were taking doctors and nurses in them up to the old city/county hospital on Reservoir Hill.”**

- Ernest “Bud” Lowe, an 89-year-old Bowling Green resident.

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Surface temperatures (°C) valid at 6 AM EST on March 9, 1960. Bowling Green dropped to -6°F, but it was even colder over Illinois and Indiana.

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Created by NWS Louisville Summer Volunteers Zack Leasor & Emily Thornton