

Blizzard of MARCH 6, 1932

This was in the
Daily-News Record
June 6, 1962

Blizzard Hit 30 Years Ago 1932

Yesterday's heavy snowfall may have stunned this area of the Shenandoah Valley but it did not score a K. O. that a March blizzard did exactly 30 years ago today.

"Spring Blizzard Isolates Harrisonburg; 75 Miles of Phone Lines Crash Down," headlined the Daily News-Record of March 7, 1932 with the following lead on the story:

"A semi-blizzard of driving wet snow, described by City Supt. John
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Blizzard Hit

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F. Noll as being the most destructive to telephone and electric wires since the storm of November, 1919, swept over the central Shenandoah Valley yesterday and isolated Harrisonburg from the outside world by motor, telegraph and telephone."

Lights Cut Off

The Daily News-Record account notes that telephone poles and wires and electric light poles and wires and trees crashed down everywhere and that City Supt. Noll cut off all light and power current in the city, "so dangerous did the situation become," fearing falling wires would injure or kill pedestrians.

The snow of March 6, 1932 measured only 10 inches, started after an all-night rain with winds drifting the snow, especially along the highways. Auto traffic into and out of the city was brought to a halt and a local short wave operator had difficulty attempting to notify "the outside world" that Harrisonburg was isolated.

The Tuesday, March 8, 1932 Daily News-Record notes that hundreds of motorists were marooned during the blizzard and that the blizzard "will go down in history as one of the most destructive ever visiting the Valley."

Three days later the Daily News-Record reported that traffic had finally been restored on the Valley (Route 11) and Rappahannock Pikes while the Harrisonburg Mutual Telephone Company was busy restoring service.

Wires Opened March 11

And finally, the Daily News-Record headlined, in the Friday, March 11 issue: "Wires Opened To Outside World Via Staunton Link."

And the lead to that story read: "Harrisonburg was in communication with the outside world, by telephone and telegraph, last night, for the first time since the Sunday blizzard."

And, as the old timers would put it about that blizzard of '32: "That one now, was a real one, a real, real one!"