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Snow Strands Students Returning From Lexington

After 18 cold, wet tiring hours 1,000 “bedraggled” Western students stepped from a L & N Pan American Flyer onto Bowling Green ground. Photographers and reporters were on hand to record the appearance and experiences of the snowbound fans.

While returning from the Western vs. Miami game at Lexington, the victors were met with a blinding snow storm that stranded them at all points south of Louisville and north of Munfordville.

Happy, victorious students greeted the first flurries of snow, but as it continued to fall it began to mount and clog highways. It was then that their cheers turned to doubts of returning to their eight o'clock classes Wednesday morning March 9. After leaving E-town, the snow was so deep that the busses and cars were performing a dual purpose; that of cutting a course and staying on the road.

The majority of the students were forced to stop at E-town, Bonnieville, and Upton. Most of the students spent the night in warm busses, while others slept cramped in their cars. Spirits and hopes were kept alive by a tiny restaurant and service station on the outskirts of Uptown. [sic] Hundreds of snowbound Westerners were fed and kept warm in this little restaurant.

Daylight brought more snow and a long wait. These are the experiences of the cold, tired, and hungry students who had had little or no sleep the previous night.

After the efforts of snowplows to clear the way, and much direction from our “worried faculty, “ the caravan crept a little closer to home. About three hours later, after slipping and sliding all the way, the group reached Munfordville where all traffic was called to a creaching halt. Others only made it to Bonnieville, where they stayed in the Bonn Theatre all day. In Munfordville the mass of students, faculty and outsiders assembled in the Hart County Courthouse, where they were instructed by the friendly, helpful and courteous citizens of Munfordville. They were told to leave their cars there and they would be taken care of, a train would soon arrive to carry them to Bowling Green; and a lunch would be served by the First Baptist Church with the aid of the Red Cross.

Time was passed by throwing snowballs and eating in a restaurant. After the meal at the First Baptist Church, the group walked a mile through the freezing snow to the train station. The train was supposed to arrive at 1:15 p.m., but didn't arrive until 3:40 p.m. An earlier train picked up the students at Bonnieville, and got into Bowling Green about 4:00 p.m.

When the train came into sight, a jubilant cheer arose from the stranded crowd, and they bombarded the L&N train with a burst of snowballs.

As soon as the students boarded the train and were situated in their seats, some fell asleep immediately.

The train arrived a little before 6:00 p.m. in Bowling Green, and the National Guard had a caravan of Army trucks to take the outcasts to their respective dorms.

A weary bunch were they, but they had had an experience that would never be forgotten.