

# Mercury reached — 23 in blizzard of 1918

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stealing railroad shipments. Their loot included a sack of beans, 121 tons of coal, 15 quarts of liquor and other merchandise. The *Star* of Jan. 25 included a terse announcement — in a box — which read, "Where consumers have as much as one ton of coal on hands, no order shall be given to local dealers. B. F. Adams, Fuel Administrator." Presumably the "gang" didn't need to re-order, anyway.

Other effects and events of the blizzard of 1918 were reported in bits and pieces in the *Star* and the *Courier*:

- When the daughter of Gabriel Aynes died, the hearse was a sled drawn by four horses.

- ~~Monroe County school children got an unexpected week of vacation between semesters due to the coal shortage.~~

- The six-month-old baby of the Samuel Stewarts of Smithville was officially listed as a blizzard casualty when it died of the croup, because the doctor couldn't reach their house.

- Pipes in the Buskirk Building (a half-block on the south side of the square) froze, and some burst.

- Health officials reported six new cases of smallpox, and

- The *Courier* saluted Harry D. Orchard, secretary of the Bloomington National Building Association, for remembering the birds during the snowy cold spell. "Every morning and afternoon Mr. Orchard carried out a quantity of feed in the street in front of the office on South College Avenue. The birds now expect their meals and are there regularly for them."

Between 8 a.m. on Jan. 24 and 8 a.m. on the 25th the temperature rose 44 degrees, and the blizzard of 1918 had earned the name of "legend."