

The Herald Bulletin

ANDERSON, INDIANA

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 1998

The Blizzard of 1978

Sea of White

IT CAME, IT COVERED, IT CONQUERED

Some remember the fun, others recall the hard times when 'It' came

By Keri S. McGrath ■ Staff Reporter

From postponed funerals to Saran-wrapped kids gliding down snowdrifts, Anderson area residents recall both the amusing and somber times during the infamous blizzard of 1978.

The blizzard left its indelible print on those who lived through it, generating colorful stories still told when old friends or family convene.



Don't try to adjust the fine tuning on your newspaper. This is about as well as a person could see during the brunt of the huge snowfall 20 years ago.

"Our husbands won't let us live that down," said Marilyn Meyer, one of the founders of a local craft club.

The club, composed of 10 women, met every Wednesday and constructed a different craft each week. The meeting of Jan. 25, 1978, was devoted to crocheted hangers. Despite the stern warning about travel that afternoon, all 10 women showed up at a group member's house in Anderson for crochet and coffee.

"We thought hey, we're tough women, six or eight inches of snow won't hurt us," said Meyer.

"We didn't think about all of the bad stuff that came with the snow. We just knew it was fun. We were oblivious to the fact that people were suffering because of it."

— Joe York
Anderson

Bragg was 12 in 1978 with two younger sisters and an older brother. The four kids woke up on Thursday morning to find their rural house covered in snowdrifts reaching the roof.

After tunneling out of a family room window, Bragg's older brother discovered a means of amusement for his siblings and the two neighboring kids.

"He wrapped us in Saran Wrap and we slid down the roof into snowdrifts," Bragg laughed. "He was always thinking of stuff like that."

Anderson resident Joe York was a little younger than Bragg during the blizzard but his memory of the event is lucid.

The storm rendered the house's occupants — parents, five kids, an older brother's friend and a dog named Bruno — house bound for five days.

"It drove my dad crazy to be cooped up for so long with all

Please see SOME, Page A2

Meyer said the group crocheted and watched the snow come down through a sliding glass door in the kitchen.

"Our husbands were worried but we weren't," Meyer laughed. "Our crafts come first."

According to Meyer, it took everyone in the group twice as long to get home that night but nobody left until the hangers were finished.

She described it as the stupidest thing any of them had ever done but giggled at the rebelliousness of the act.

As Yorktown resident Brinda Bragg recalled the blizzard, her giggles turned to laughs and she apologized, "This just sounds so stupid."

Monster storm costs mom her child

Cruel cold takes mother's infant son, frostbitten hands

BY KEN DE LA BASTIDE ■ STAFF REPORTER

For most people in Madison County, the blizzard of 1978 is remembered as an inconvenience. For Theresa Kimble, the cruel weather changed her life.

At the time of the blizzard, Kimble lived in a mobile home in Shirley, next door to the home of her husband's grandmother.

But while most residents were thankful to be inside and warm, Kimble was living a nightmare that cost her the life of her infant son and frostbite left her with no hands or feet.

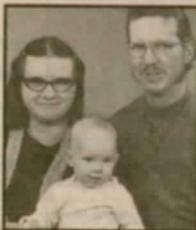
Every day, Kimble, 43, 1637 Bennington Court, has had to relive the horror of the blizzard.

"I was a victim of the blizzard of 1978," she said.

When Kimble, 23 at the time, awoke on Jan. 25, alone at home with her 1-year-old son, Timothy Michael, she discovered the pilot light to the gas heater had blown out — leaving the trailer without heat.

Although her relative's house was

Please see CRUEL, Page A6



Above, Theresa Kimble talks about that horrible day 20 years ago. At left, Theresa, her husband, Michael, and her son, Timothy.



Some found moments of desperation, left, while others found a "cool" way to get around. (HB file photos)

More stories, photos / Pages A3, D8