

## The Blizzard of 1949

The blizzard in this article, sounds much like the one that took place near Burwell, NE. As related by Lowell Hall to his children --

Shortly after the 1st of the year Lowell took Ruby to some friends to stay to wait for the baby to arrive. Because the weather was so bad out they wanted to be sure she was in town. The neighbors all got the mumps so they moved her to another house (the Burnum's). Actually, Ruby got the mumps too as a result of her stay. (and the baby that was soon to be born ended up with an immunity to the mumps!)

The morning of the 15th they called Lowell from town and said they thought this was "baby day". Sure enough, Louise Kay was born. He made his acquaintance with her and then loaded his car with groceries and headed home in his car. They generally made weekly trips to the locker in town to pick up their meat. Many of the staples (flour, sugar, etc) they kept stored up on at home. They also had a milk cow and chickens so had eggs and milk. Trying desperately to get home, Lowell finally had to quit his journey about 6 miles from their ranch house. He stayed over night with about 6 other guys in a house. They all laid close around a wood stove trying to keep warm. There was one bed in the house and there was a man and wife who slept in it. The next morning he got up and decided he would have to walk home. Through terrible drifts and blowing cold winds he finally made it home - without his groceries.

Uncle Wayne and Aunt Hazel were staying with the other three children - Harlan, Janice & Margery. Hazel made cheese, dressed chickens, etc. to provide food for the family. About a week later Lowell decided to take his horse and ride over and see if he could get his car. He was able to get the car out, but all the food was gone!! The people staying at the house had emptied his cream can full of frozen meat and eaten it plus his other food items.

When Lowell was finally able to get Ruby and Louise nearly home to the house, they loaded the car with them inside up on the hay underslung (now made like a sled) and pulled them to the house with horses through all the snow. What a ride!!

The drifts were so deep and every day it seemed to blow more. The county sent out big dozers to open the road for the ranchers. The drifts would be hard on top, but then the dozers would drop through into the soft stuff and have to have other dozers come and dig them out. Some of the "big time" cattle men had helicopters drop bales of hay in the fields for their cattle.

It was a winter that is still talked about by anyone who endured it in the area.

Memories.....precious memories. Thanks Daddy for going through so much for me.  
(LKO)