

with it for the entire duration.

Today, it appears to have been a failure. The official evaluation by North American Weather Consultants will be issued soon, and that will be the final work.

The weakness of the design of BuRec's project here may have been at fault, Rangno explained. Assumptions were made about the nature of cloud systems in the San Juans, about ground and upper elevation winds, and about the concentration of ice crystals in winter storms here. None of them were sufficiently investigated, Rangno said.

For example, after the project was underway, it was found that ground winds were sometimes stable, therefore inhibiting the dispersion of silver iodide crystals, which were injected upwards from the ground. Winds sometimes blew parallel to the mountains instead of at them. And storms here seemed to contain more ice crystals than CSU scientists had anticipated.

Other problems on measuring the cloud top temperature and making the decision to seed affected the project's success, he said.

And there were what Rangno called "tremendous chinks" in Grant's theories. As a result of the problems, the local project could not duplicate the success of Grant's work on Wolf Creek or Climax. In fact, during the winter of 1971-72, the project was such a failure that nearly twice as much snow fell on days that were not seeded as on those that were, Rangno said.

CSU scientist ignores data

Grant was no help when he came down after the first year of the project's life, Rangno said. The CSU scientist told local personnel that they had been basing their decision to seed on cloud temperatures at the wrong elevation, and he would not even examine EG&G data which showed his theories might have been off, Rangno said.

Grant is one of the most renowned authorities in the science of cloud seeding, and it seems odd that such a respected scientist would be reluctant to re-examine his hypothesis. Rangno said about Grant, "You're looking at a tremendous mountain here, what you might call the prestige of saying, 'I was the one who got to learn how seeding works.' (Grant) was the first one who really ascended the pinnacle based on his climax and Wolf Creek results. Everywhere you go his projects are pointed to as the epitome of cloud seeding success.

"We tried to repeat those experiments and we couldn't do it. We couldn't do it even with a project manager who was intimately related to those projects...who ran them," Rangno said.

The project manager was Larry Hjernstad, who still lives here and who plans to embark on another seeding project with the San Luis Valley as target area.

of storm, winds and more — are closely identified.

The new project is modest one, he says. It will seed 20 to 25 per cent of the winter storms — about 18-25 each year — and if the project gets underway late this year, it will mean about 12 to 15 this winter.

Of the storms favorable for seeding, one out of five will be left alone to study what happens with an unseeded storm to further identify the seeding parameters.

In above-normal snowpack years, seeding will stop when snowpack exceeds 125 per cent of normal.

Hjernstad minimized flooding potential. "Last year, we were 170 per cent of normal in the San Juans and we didn't seed at all. There was very little serious flooding here," he says.

In normal years, he says, the San Luis Valley receives one million acre feet of water from the three basins in the proposed target area. The project would mean an additional 30,000 to 50,000 acre feet, "a modest amount," Hjernstad says. An acre foot is the amount of water it takes to cover one acre to a depth of one foot.

Every effort will be made to minimize hazards such as avalanches, he adds. There will be a three-man citizen panel to advise the project, storms that appear to have unfavorable characteristics will be left alone, and only storms that fit the criteria of the project, avoid downward effects, meet the parameters of seeding and have no hazard potential will be seeded, he says.

Hjernstad also added that avalanche danger on the east side of Wolf Creek Pass is considerably less than the San Juans.

Traffic tips

Today's tip for safer winter driving from Chief of Police John A. Gamand: "Frost and ice often form on bridges and overpasses even when other pavements are clear and dry. So approach these potential trouble spots with extra caution to avoid a skidding accident."

Juan Carlos pledges moderation, justice

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Prince Juan Carlos de Borbon ascended to power Saturday as Spain's first king in 44 years, pledging to act as "moderator, guardian of the constitutional system and promoter of justice." He indicated that those largely excluded from the political process, including Basques, would be allowed greater freedom.

Speaking in a tense voice in the main chamber of parliament amid Spain's tightest security ever, 37-year-old King Juan Carlos I ushered in a new era after 36 years of right-wing, autocratic rule under Gen. Francisco Franco.

The new head of state was cheered by shouts of "Juan Carlos! Juan Carlos!" and "Long live the king!" as he rode through the Spanish capital after formally accepting leadership. Then he and the new queen, Greek-born Princess Sophie, joined tens of thousands filing past the body of Franco, lying in state before burial Sunday. The long-time dictator died Thursday at the age of 82.

Juan Carlos bowed briefly in front of Franco's coffin, then knelt in a corner to pray alone. Trained from boyhood by Franco to take over, the king appeared as the moderator he said he wanted to be in his first public accounting to the nation.

Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller was the only high official of a major power present as Juan Carlos spoke formally to the rightist-dominated parliament and to the nation by television. The monarch pledged to support the principles of the Franco regime, but he clearly indicated change was in sight.

Appealing for unity, he said, "A free and modern society requires the participation of everybody," a contrast to Franco's rule restricting political action.

OBITUARY

Smith

Services for Marjory V. Smith, 84, of 53 Folsom Place will be at 2 p.m. Monday in the Chapel of the Hood Mortuary with Mr. Wilfred Goecke and Ira Hobbs officiating. Burial will be in the Bayfield Cemetery with Mr. Harry Haglund conducting graveside services.

Mrs. Smith died Thursday in the State Nursing Home in Trinidad where she had been for the past three months.

She was born July 22, 1891 in Garnett, Kans. She graduated from Durango High school and from Greeley Teachers College.

She then returned to Durango where she taught in both the Durango and Bayfield School Systems.

Mrs. Smith was preceded in death by her husband Earl Eldon Smith on March 4, 1975. She was a member of the Durango Senior Citizens club.

She is survived by a son, Robert Smith, Auburn, Calif.; and a daughter, Mrs. Cleland (Betty) Conwell, Globe, Ariz. Six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren also survive.



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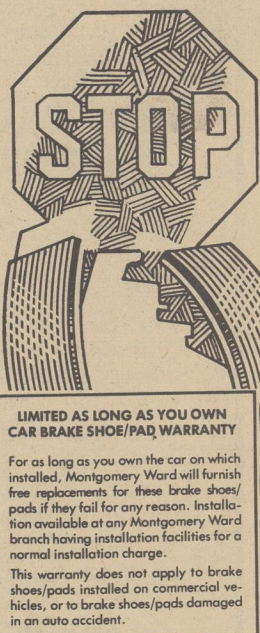
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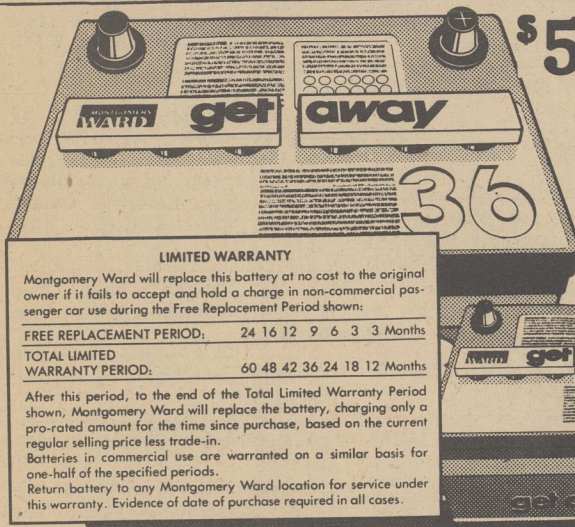
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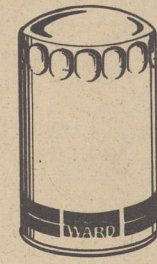
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