

OLD TIMERS

Lifting of mail restrictions brought news to us in February of Dr. Béla Husz, Alkotás u. 13, V 7, Budapest XII, who reported on his survival status in part as follows:

"This part of the city we are living in looks like a series of ruins.... From Christmas of 1944 for some eight weeks we lived in the bunker (underground shelter). A shell burst in our apartment, so there is left but one small room to live in. February 8th we were ousted from our home and when we were permitted to return there was not much left but the furniture.. The Institute of Pathology went to pieces and it will take some time before it will be possible to do real work. At present I am hardly doing more than teaching."

He sends regards "to all boys and girls who might remember me,"

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We were also happy to hear in January from Old Timer VERPLANCKE, of the University of Ghent, Belgium. He wrote, "I have been through the war with only material damage. Most of my papers and private herbarium have been destroyed. Otherwise the whole family is in good health....Kind regards to all the fellows of the Tottering Tower!" His address is 31 Ledeganckstrast, Ghent. He would be glad to have publications on pure and applied botany as well as plant pathology papers.

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Felix Pierre-Luis, National School of Agriculture, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, had the weather on his mind when he wrote on December 10. Says he:

"Is the big chief around these days? I suppose it is the very moment for him to go to the beloved place south of the border, for the weather is more clement down there, he will not have to pull his fur hat down over his ears..

"Do you expect a white Christmas? I remember back to December 25, 1942, I fell for the first time in St. Paul on the slippery ice that had just been covered by a delicious layer of snow....Here it has been raining for the last two weeks, almost every day, and rain is forecast for December 24, which is very uncommon in the western part of the Republic. Between ourselves, I would like snow better.

"How many hairs are left on JJC's head? I imagine that he needs quite a few by this season of the year. Down here it seems that the warm weather is allergic to the capillary stock, for I have been losing quite a few hairs myself, and very soon I won't have to envy J.J.C...

"Maintenant je vous laisse.."

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Long not heard from was John CHURCHWARD, of Java, until greetings for the New Year were received recently:

"These greetings are somewhat tardy but none the less sincere. They are delayed, as I've just returned from a long 'holiday' as a guest of His Imperial Highness (erstwhile), Emperor of Japan."

We have wondered many times during the war years what might have happened to John, where he was, and how he was getting along. We hope he will send more details about himself soon.

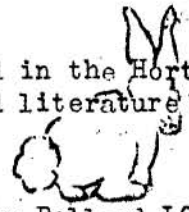
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Harry YOUNG, on February 20, at Wooster, Ohio: "At last I am a civilian again and hoping to get back to old Minnesota pretty soon." Then are the words we like to hear, and them are the folks we like to see! Harry is worried about space in the building; you don't suppose he plans to sleep here?

Post war news of Karl Zaleski is that he and his family have returned to their home in Poznan, Poland, from which they were evicted the night of December 15, 1939. From then until July, 1944, Zaleski was director of the Plant Protection Station in Lublin while his family lived and worked 300 kilometers west in the village of Brown. The return to Poznan was not possible until April, 1945.

Zaleski is again teaching in the University of Poznan and in the Horticultural School. Students are numerous but microscopes, apparatus, and literature are scarce.

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Interesting pictures of life in Tingo-Maria, Peru, sent by Rolland LORENZ, show heights in their existence such as the mountain pass "a little over 16,000 ft." between Lima and Tingo Maria, a gleaming white new lab against the backdrop of the mountains, a real pine tree for Christmas, and young Blake Thomas on the occasion of his second birthday.

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Sam SILVERBERG, on February 16, writes, "It sure is swell being Mr. and Mrs. Civilian again." They expect to be in St. Paul by the middle of March and will have no reason not to think everything is swell, for they have a home for at least a month! Lucky dogs. Sam's pre-war landlady is turning her house over to the Silverbergs while L.L. and L.L.'s husband go south. What DO you call a landlady's husband? Or doesn't he count?

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Elisa HIRSCHHORN, left Harvard University in late February to visit Pennsylvania State College and Washington, D.C., before leaving by plane for Argentina. She wishes she might have a cup of coffee with all of us once again before going home. She swears she will never forget any of us in Plant Path and also swears to cut our throats--of course in polite South American style--if we forget to send her AURORA.

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The very recently departed Ernie DuCharme, knee deep in oranges, grapefruit, and tangerines, in Lake Alfred, Florida, remains thus far a staunch supporter of Minnesota. Says, although it's only February, he has had to "battle off an invasion of two mosquitoes!" What we didn't know when he left St. Paul was that he left behind him a diamond (no, not the State of Minnesota) on the finger of a jolly girl called Lucille Fitzsimmons.



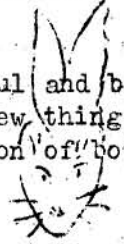
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Dr. Kenneth NEATBY, formerly with N W Line Elevators at Winnipeg, has been appointed Director of Research for the Dominion Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

Old Timer Cherewick brought the news that Dr. Frank GREANEY has left the Dominion laboratory at Winnipeg to take Dr. Neatby's former position with N W Line Elevators as director of farm service, effective March 1. Dr. Tervet brought the same news from Fargo, North Dakota where he spoke to a group of farm managers. Canadian Grain Journal carries the news also, according to Don Fletcher. Such is fame!

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Bill CHEREWICK spent several days in late February at St. Paul and brought lots of news about Old Timers in Canada. About himself we learned a few things also, among them that he continues to grow gladiolas. His representation of both himself and Sackston in Seminar is described elsewhere.



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Major Thomas "Klebs" LASKARIS, at Manila, of whom news is given elsewhere, very kindly sent Aurora a little encouragement: "I wish to voice my thanks to the Seminar

group and to the staff of Aurora for their efforts to keep former occupants of the Tottering Tower informed with departmental doings."

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"How's DOWNIE?" we asked of the returning representative from the sugar beet conference held in Colorado. "He's fine," says he, "And gave a couple of papers." Dr. G. Herby COONS, who achieved the status of Honorary Old Timer last June, was in evidence at the conference but didn't send any messages. He may lose status! To retain same he may find it necessary to resort to the same tactics he originally used in penetrating the charmed circle.

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"It is estimated that the use of root-rot resistant Burley tobacco varieties developed by the Kentucky Experiment Station will increase the income of Kentucky farmers this year over \$20,000,000. If these varieties were used exclusively, the income could be increased an additional \$14,000,000."



According to Illinois's H. H. THORNBERRY, the above statement appeared in an open letter to alumni from President Donovan of the University of Kentucky. Says Thorny, "You will know that none other than W. D. VALLEAU is the person responsible for this contribution to the welfare of Kentucky. You smokers and users of tobacco in other forms should be doubly interested. All Aurora readers no doubt are proud of such accomplishments of one of the tribe."

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Thorny was one of those whom Ian Tervet saw when he attended the conference on soybeans held at the Peoria Regional Lab February 20-23. Old Timers Olaf AAMODT and Cam LeFEBVRE also were in attendance. Rollo Lorenz, on the forestry staff at Peoria, sent word that Twin Rolland is expected home soon from Peru. Dave GOTTLIEB, who recently began work on streptomycin under the direction of Dr. Anderson at Urbana, sent greetings via our naturalized but not yet burr-less Scotsman. Saboe, who was seen frequently at Thursday evening Seminar, also was there.

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Walt THOMAS waltzed into Pearl Harbor in December, while enroute from Guam to San Francisco, and says Walt HENDRIX, of the Hawaii Experiment Station, waltzed him out "for a whirl about Oahu." The latter Walt had been waltzing around a gal there and by the time Walt the first-mentioned got there the other Walt had pranced her up to the altar so Walt and she could give Walt Christmas dinner.

Thomas was partially disabled trying to make a beachhead on his heel. But polka bone in his heel is better than if he schottische heel. He expects to return for next quarter to Minnesota.

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Still in the whirl of Honolulu, also, is Old Timer Rosemary McLEOD, who says she doesn't expect to go home until spring because she "can't face the cold weather." She also says, "Give my best wishes to the Old Timers. Always enjoy Aurora when it arrives!"

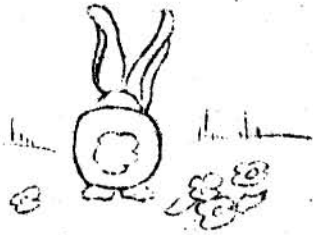


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Regards from Dr. Paul and singer-and-good-cook Clemencia SIGGERS came from the Forest Experimental Station at Saucier, Mississippi. Clemencia promises lots of chicken and other good things if we come to see them. Swimming in the pool in front of the residence before dinner, and good music afterwards!

Mrs. Ellis F. DARLEY and the two boys left Denver in late February to visit in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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To complete our records, we would like to have from each and every Old Timer inclusive dates of each and every period of study spent at Minnesota. Month and year, on a postcard--PLEASE!

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On Lincoln's birthday, Dr. Milton F. "Kerny" KERNKAMP said goodbye to those who were celebrating the holiday by working, and was scheduled to start south later that week with Mrs. K. At Meridian, Mississippi, where Kerny will resume his pre-war work with the U. S. Department's Division of Sugar Plants, they must live in one room until they can find a house. Kernkamp is just the same, or maybe even a little bit more so; we wager he would retain his equilibrium in an early-morning nylon rush!

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Recent Old Timer R. S. MULLIN got his picture in the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch of January 24. Says the paper:

"One of the more recent successes attained at the farm (Virginia Truck station) is a sweet potato seed which so far as is known is the first to be developed in this area. After several months of experimenting, R. S. Mullin who is in charge of plant breeding, managed to produce blooms on two local sweet potato plants.."

There is also a picture of a hand, supposedly Mullin's, holding a pot of seedlings, and of another hand, most certainly Mullin's, holding a pipe.

(Wonder if the Big Chief had enough matches on his trip to keep the pipe going?)



Mrs. Mullin is teaching school at Diamond Springs, Virginia, and goes to school with her young son.

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In January, Max SCHUSTER, of the Washington station at Pullman, wrote that he would soon be leaving for a research and teaching position at Nebraska. Sent regards to the Seminar

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Love to his Alma Mater from Dr. H. A. "Rody" RODENHISER was brought from Beltsville, Md. by his buzzum buddy the Great Dane, Yea Yea Christensen. Alma was glad to have the message, as were some of the other girls and boys.

Similar messages of affection, although couched in terms less poetic than those commonly employed by Yea Yea, were delivered to the Department for Old Timer Arthur Wellesley HENRY of Edmonton by Dr. L. W. Melander.

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John VAUGHN's promotion to Captain before his release from the Army is not exactly in the nature of a scoop, since we didn't learn about it until January. If there was a fire in the building we would first hear about it from the insurance company. John is working on scab and spraying his little potatoes.

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Frank GRIFFIN, of the Winnipeg rust lab, and Don Fletcher of the Rust Prevention Association, got their pictures in the annual report of barberry eradication for the State of Indiana. They weren't in their work clothes, and we have been led to believe that economy in decoration was one of the maxims of the efficient Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Pretty picture, though!

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In November, Ted WRIGHT returned from India to Minneapolis where Gladys SALINE Wright has been letting out the seams of his civvies. In January he was relieved of his military duties, and by the end of the month, our salubrious driving weather permitting, returned to Fairhope, Alabama, to resume his interrupted work with potatoes for the State Department.

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In late December, six months after departure from Minnesota, Marion and Ed ANDREWS testify that "we can still say we are enroute to Dover. We are living in a war housing development on the outskirts of Wilmington and Ed is driving 44 miles to and from Dover daily,...However, since news of the trailer camp at Minnesota has reached us, we feel much better satisfied with our present housing."

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On February 27, Dr. and Mrs. BAMBERG, of Bozeman, Montana, came in looking for Stakman, who was approaching Bozeman from the west, looking for the Bambergs, who say no one ever comes their way, but who don't stay home when they are expecting company!

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Exam Question: "List 3 characters that distinguish fungi from other organisms."

Answer: "Micheli, Tulasne, deBary."

Forest Path, January 18.



SERVICEMEN

Anderson- Axel walked in one day last week and spent a few days visiting the department. He explained that he was a trifle homesick, hence his brief excursion to Minnesota.

Thomas- Walt is now at home in Paris, Texas on a 30 day convalescent leave. Nothing to get alarmed at, though; a troublesome heel injury. Walt expects to be back at Minnesota on or about April 1.

Young- Capt. Harry is now just plain Mister, having received his discharge February 19 at El Paso, Texas. He resumes work here about the middle of March.

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BOOKSHELF

Many of you should find helpful the new book, "Guide to Southern Trees," by E. S. and J. G. HARRAR, Whittlesey House Field Guide Series, McGraw-Hill, 712 pp.

Potatoes (to which Old Timers of Maine contributed), Repr. from Me. Bul. 438.

In Pl. Dis. Repr., Feb. 15: PRESTON, diseases not previously reported on leguminous plants, Oklahoma; LEACH*, less loose smut on wheat and barley in West Virginia in '45 than in '44.

In Pl. Dis. Reptr., Jan. 15: WILSON, Alabama peanut damage; CASSELL*, potato late blight, Florida; VALLEAU, tobacco powdery mildew in Kentucky; WEISS, check list revision cont'd.
In Pl. Dis. Reptr., Dec. 15: VALLEAU, JOHNSON*, Kentucky tobacco diseases '45; PRESLEY, Internal cork of sweet potato, Mississippi.

January Phytopath.: LEACH*, Stripe smut, bluegrass; February: JOHNSON+VALLEAU, Field strains of tobacco-mosaic virus, and JOHNSON, Two legume viruses transmissible to tobacco.

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LOCAL

Dr. Forrest R. Immer, associate director of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station since 1941, died suddenly of a coronary thrombosis February 2. Dr. Immer had taught his class in Advanced Statistics Saturday morning, helped Earl Hanson with analyses for about an hour, had lunch with some of the men in the Agronomy Division, went home and collapsed early in the afternoon. He was born in 1900 at Spencer, Iowa, but spent most of his life on a farm near Jeffers, Minnesota, until entering the University in 1920, where he received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees. Since then he has been very closely associated with much of the work in plant pathology and his death, besides being a very great loss to the University and to the science of genetics, is a very personal loss to many of us.

His friends are establishing in his memory a book shelf containing outstanding books on statistics, to be housed in the Agronomy division

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Our home will soon be known as the BURSTING TOWER. Since our last issue we have added in personnel the ff:

- John B. Rowell, released by the Navy from the South Pacific.
- A. P. Misra from India.
- John M. Olmsted, released by the Paratroopers, from the European theater.
- C. A. Wismer, released by the Army and on his way to Hawaii after some special work at Minnesota.
- Luis Rodriguez from Ecuador.
- Coyt T. Wilson, from Alabama, interested in bittering the peanuts.
- Hugo Pedro Cenóz from Argentina.
- Charles Eldon Logsdon, released by the Army Air Force, from the American theater.
- Tewfik Abdel Hak from Egypt.
- Tommy King, released by the Army, from the European theater.

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On January 29 we bade farewell to Ernie DuCharme with the usual tea and sent him on his way to Florida to find out why citrus roots rot.

In January Daly, DuCharme, and Kommedahl received the stamp of approval by the German department, and DuCharme and Gattani passed their prelims. Thus progress is made, step by step.

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We have the welcome news to report that Don Fletcher is at home, well on the way to recovery from his illness of several months ago.

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Tervet recently took a trip to Peoria, Illinois, in the interests of pathological problems of the soybean. Bockstahler went to Denver in the interests of the sugar beet. On February 13, J. J. C. took an extended trip to Washington, D.C. to discuss Plant Growth with the National Research Council

Public Service

E. C. Stakman was honored by the Northwest Crop Improvement Association at its annual dinner in Minneapolis on January 17, when he was awarded the title of "Premier Seed Grower" for his work in the field of plant diseases. Four of Minnesota's farmers were similarly honored.

Ray Rose ran a seed treating short course the third week in February wherein growers brought in their tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, and crucifer seeds and learned how as they used the Modified Hot Water Treatment on their seed. Harry Murakishi, Mann Hingorani, Curt Roane, and Chen-Tong Tsiang were graduates assisting Rose.

C. J. Eide went after them again via the ether with his bread and butter speech entitled, "Damping Off" on January 31. (Or should we say 31 January, since the military way seems to be leaping into usage?)

Dr. E. C. Stakman is cruising the country equipped with slides and a talk to show that "Plant Diseases are Shifty Enemies" under the sponsorship of Sigma Xi. He left here January 30 to tour through the Ohio Valley to the Middle Atlantic States, up into New England, down the East Coast, back in to Indiana and south to the mouth of Old Man River, thence westward to the coast, up the coast and back in to Montana by March 4.

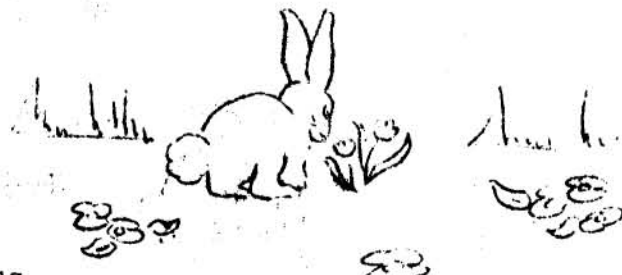
Did you know that the casement windows of Phytobrickhaus erectus play tunes when the wind blows? We don't know whether this is internal public service or not.----!

Ian Tervet was in Fargo to tell the N.W. Farm Managers about Recent Advances in Control of Vegetable Diseases, Feb. 28.

C. M. Christensen "gave" with the alliterative title "Molds and Man" on Feb. 19 via radio.

J. J. C. followed with "Microflora of Seed Grain" on the 20th

During the three day period of February 14-16 much was said about many things at a Branch Station Conference sponsored by Agronomy, Plant Pathology, and Soils. Specifically, Hanson, Tervet, and Moore on "Disease Problems with Small Grains and Flax"; Moore on "Corn Disease Studies"; Tervet on "Researches with Grasses and Legumes"; and finally "Heating and Storage Problems with small grains", C. M. Christensen with Max Milner of Biochemistry.



SPORTS

The Scrubs, composed of bowlers who have strayed from various departments, have been taking a shellacking. They have lost 17 games and have won but 1. Plant Path, which never did reconcile itself to the secession from the team of most of the high scorers, kid them unmercifully. Over the heads of the unfortunates is held the 6 won, 12 lost score of the Plant Path regulars. The Lord taketh care of the sheep within the fold!

The recent warm spell brings thoughts of spring (?) and also thoughts of softball. Prospects appear to be much brighter than last season's. The halls of Phytobrickhaus erectus resound with the voices of new material, both male and female. Lodgdon, Boosalis, Ortega, Robles, Rowell, Olmsted, Murakishi, and others appear to be good for what ails us. It is rumored that Martha Kotila is a .400 hitter. At the end of last season we promised. -Wait 'til next year. Well, brother, this is it!

Inductive and Deductive Reasoning

As far back as the oldest Old Timer can remember the battle cry of the Tottering Tower (and later of Phytobrickhaus erectus) has been, "Stick to the premise". More arguments have been won with this yell than with the combined facts gathered by that great team of Stakman and Christensen. But even before the Big Chief knew the difference between a premise and a presumption, he was talking about the "salubrious climate" of Minnesota. Constant repetition of this phrase has proven definitely that Minnesota has a salubrious climate.

The determination of the meaning of "salubrious" now becomes the important problem. Webster is of very little help. He thinks it means about the same as healthful. The answer must be obtained from a study of the facts.

In Minnesota there are two seasons each year. There is a brief period of hot, humid, stifling, sticky weather during which mosquitoes multiply, eat and die. This period is called summer. The other season is correctly called winter. It is a long period of snow, ice, and general inactivity. During this period those unfortunates who are not able to go south move about slowly and uncertainly, wrapped in several layers of woollens and sheepskin. Walking becomes an ordeal. It is not a true walk. It is more of a start-slip-slide-fall down-get up-and hope-for-the-best proposition. Natives of Minnesota claim to be able to walk on icy sidewalks without falling, but they are reluctant to demonstrate: in general they prefer to do their traveling by car, bob sled, or skates. There are very few long noses in Minnesota. Usually they are frozen down to a small "nub" before a child is ready for grade school. Ears are practically unknown---at least ears that will listen. Snows are common. They make walking more difficult by concealing the slippery pitfalls. The irregularity though is worse than the cold. By the time a person thinks he is adjusted to the cold the thermometer shoots up to 40 above, and it rains. Before the rejoicing can get under way, the rain is frozen into ice again and the thermometer is registering zero.

According to the facts then, a salubrious climate is one in which only a hardy soul can survive. It is a climate so disagreeable that no one with a high regard for the truth can profess to love it. It is a climate suited to cold-blooded animals only. The fact that those living in Minnesota are healthy is no credit to the climate. All weaklings have been killed off or driven out and only the hardest are left. Webster's mistake is understandable. He did not have all the facts.

To those who would disagree, I yell "Stick to the premise"!!!

Signed: A True Southerner

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Maybe you have missed the customary contributions of the Seminar Editor. Some people say they are the most interesting columns. If you do miss them, send in your protests!

Re seminar discussions, Delight Darley sent us a clipping the other day describing a chinook in Denver and vicinity. A low pressure area to the east was pulling the warm Pacific coast air over the mountains at a terrific rate, and as it falls from the heights of the mountain tops down to "mile high" Denver it's warmed up due to the increase in pressure and sends winter flying. This much made us Minnesotans sad but -----

We know that an Arctic Cold Front is the aftermath bringing high winds, sleet, snow and cold.

Musing--Terrifically nostalgic poems about spring would be written by Minnesotans about spring if they'd ever seen one.

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