

Gillespie Creek Journal

Readers,
 Today my nature features are all brought to you in absentia. While I sit at my computer and look out at the desert, my son Robert literally keeps the home-fires burning at his home on Gillespie Creek property. The photos to the right were all taken by him. As many of you recall a real snow storm can be frightening, disrupting and really hard on one's back!
 At the same time you see in the bottom picture of my grandson Levi, breaking trail in the stillness of the winter wonderland brought by a blizzard is a source of unequal independence and contentment!

California Snowpack off to great start amid severe drought

By Adam Beam. Associated Press 1/5/23

"Sacramento, Calif - The snowpack in California mountains is off to one of its best starts in 40 years, officials announced Tuesday, offering hope that the drought-stricken state could soon see relief in the spring when the snow melts and flows into reservoirs that provide water for drinking and farming."



My Tiny Farm House Framed by the Post New Year's Day 2023 Snow Storm



Mail Box at "The Farm"



"There's Nothing Better Than Breaking a Trail"

Snow

A true gift to both man and beast!
 Quoting Laura Ingalls Wilder from **The Long Winter**

"It was so wonderful to be there, safe at home, sheltered from the winds and the cold. Laura thought that this just be a little like heaven, where the weary are at rest."

What is a blizzard?

By NSIDC

"Officially the National Weather Service defines a blizzard as large amounts of falling or blowing snow with winds in excess of 35 mph and visibility of less than 25 miles. For more than 3 hours."

"Blizzard" entered vocabularies when German settlers in Iowa brought the word to us. Coming from the word blitzartig, meaning "lightning-like." European pioneers and settlers in the snow belt of the U. S. were astounded by the severity of the winters. Although accustomed to snow in their home countries, they were newly confronted with driving winds and freezing weather characteristic of the mid-west. NSIDC

What is the NSIDC?

NASA National Snow and Ice Data Center established in 1976 advances knowledge of the Earth's frozen regions. They specialize on frozen ground, glaciers and ice sheets.