



E. J. W.

A FRIGHTENING THOUGHT

It snowed. And it snowed and it snowed and it snowed. The cats wanted to go out and they didn't want to go out at the same time because they hated to get their paws wet, and the squirrels peeked out of the holes in the trees and watched it snow and snow and snow.

The big plows on front of the big trucks made scraping sounds as they rumbled down the street, but even that stopped after awhile because it just snowed and snowed and snowed until the plows couldn't keep up with the snow and stopped dead in their tracks.

Far off and very close near to you, all you could hear was the very quiet sound of the snow falling down on top of more snow. It piled straight up on car tops and fence posts and garbage can covers. Everything looked like it was wearing a big, white top hat and still it just kept on snowing and snowing.

In all of the houses everyone walked from room to room. Now and then one of them would look out a window and say, "I've never seen anything like it. In all my days, I've never seen it snow like this!"

Nobody had!!! This was the granddaddy of all snowfalls and nobody could even find out when it might stop (if it would) because no newspapers were being delivered, of course, and the steady falling of the snow and the way it was built-up on antennas and wires--the way it filled the very air!--made communication of any sort impossible.

All people could do was talk to each other, the each other that was right in front of you, and that was it.

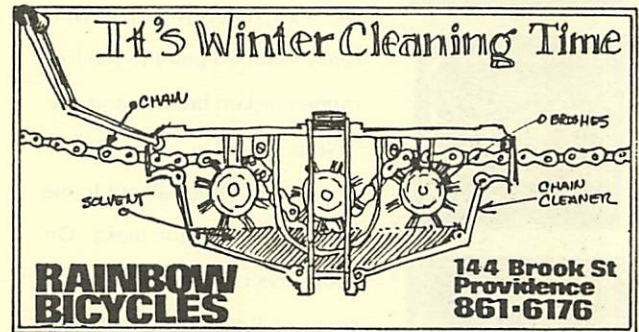
Dads were the first ones to fly off the handle. They worried and complained constantly about everything. The Moms tried and tried for the longest time to keep the Dads under control, but when that finally became hopeless, the Moms got really angry too--and that's when all the kids started getting scared for the first time.

For a good, long while after that, everybody in all the houses was either angry or scared or both, and it went on like that just as steadily as the snow kept falling. The cats avoided the humans as much as possible and curled up in corners. Food was getting low, and even the biggest, fattest curled-up cats were beginning to look no bigger than a pair of earmuffs.

The humans, too, were getting rather thin, but the good part of that was they didn't have the energy to argue much anymore. Most of the time they slept, and when they weren't sleeping they ate extremely small portions of whatever food was left in the house. Another good thing was that because of all the snow there wasn't any mail delivery, which meant there weren't any bills to pay! This cheered-up the Moms and Dads considerably, and just thinking about it made them laugh out loud, which made everybody in the house feel better, even the cats.

Nobody bothered to look out the windows anymore to see if it had stopped snowing, so when it finally did stop, nobody noticed for days. It took for days anyway for enough snow to melt so people could see out their windows, and when the day came that they finally could look out, nobody said anything. And when enough snow melted so you could go outside, not even the cats wanted to go out, because everything, absolutely everything looked THE SAME!

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WILLOW STREET SCHOOL UPDATE

Democrat Charles H. Gifford III, an owner of the Willow Street School, announced his candidacy for U.S. Representative from the Second District, seeking to fill the spot which Rep. Claudine Schneider is expected to vacate. A Providence Journal Bulletin article cites, amongst his credits, that Gifford is a developer who has worked on a number of projects in R.I., including the Clark Street Meeting House in Newport and the former Willow Street School in Providence.