

College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University

DigitalCommons@CSB/SJU

Archives History Lessons

Archives

2016

Snowstorms at Saint John's

Peggy L. Roske

College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University, proske@csbsju.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/archives_history_lessons

Recommended Citation

Roske, Peggy L., "Snowstorms at Saint John's" (2016). *Archives History Lessons*. 82.

https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/archives_history_lessons/82

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@CSB/SJU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Archives History Lessons by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@CSB/SJU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@csbsju.edu.



LP063 1891



SJU Archives scrapbook photo, from 1918



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Armistice Day Blizzard

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia


The **Armistice Day Blizzard** (or the **Armistice Day Storm**) took place in the **Midwest** region of the **United States** on November 11 (**Armistice Day**) and November 12, 1940. The intense early-season "*panhandle hook*" winter storm cut a 1,000-mile-wide (1600 km) swath through the middle of the country from **Kansas** to **Michigan**.

The Armistice Day Blizzard – a major snow event for the Midwest, and a record-setter for Collegeville

Meteorological synopsis [edit]

The morning of November 11, 1940 brought with it unseasonably high temperatures. By early afternoon, temperatures had warmed into the lower to middle 60s °F (18 °C) over most of the affected region. However, as the day wore on conditions quickly deteriorated. Temperatures dropped sharply, winds picked up, and rain, followed by sleet, and then snow began to fall. An intense low pressure system had tracked from the southern plains northeastward into western Wisconsin, pulling Gulf of Mexico moisture up from the south and pulling down a cold arctic air mass from the north.

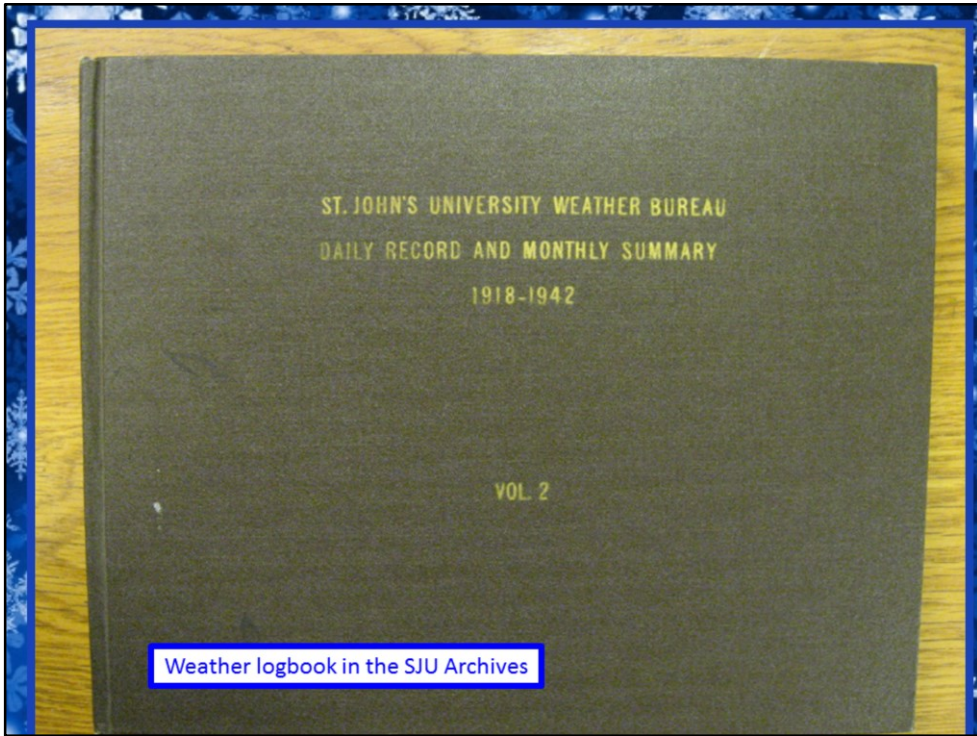
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armistice_Day_Blizzard



The result was a raging blizzard that would last into the next day. Snowfalls of up to 27 inches (69 cm), winds of 50 to 80 mph (80–130 km/h), 20-foot (6.1 m) snow drifts, and 50-degree Fahrenheit (30 °C) temperature drops were common over parts of the states of Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. In Minnesota, 27 inches (69 cm) of snow fell at Collegeville, and the Twin Cities recorded 16 inches (41 cm). Record low pressures were recorded in La Crosse, Wisconsin and Duluth, Minnesota.^[3] Transportation and communications were crippled, which exacerbated finding the dead and injured. The Armistice Day Blizzard ranks #2 in Minnesota's list of top-5 weather events of the 20th century.^[4]

Type	Extratropical cyclone Blizzard Panhandle Hook
Formed	November 10, 1940
Dissipated	November 12, 1940
Lowest pressure	971 mbar (hPa) (at Duluth, MN) ^[1]
Maximum snowfall or ice accretion	27 inches (68.6 cm) (Collegeville, MN)
Damage	\$2.2 million (1940) ^{[2][3]}
Casualties	154 fatalities ^[1]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armistice_Day_Blizzard



Weather logbook in the SJU Archives [22/7 Box 1]

DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES FOR NOVEMBER.

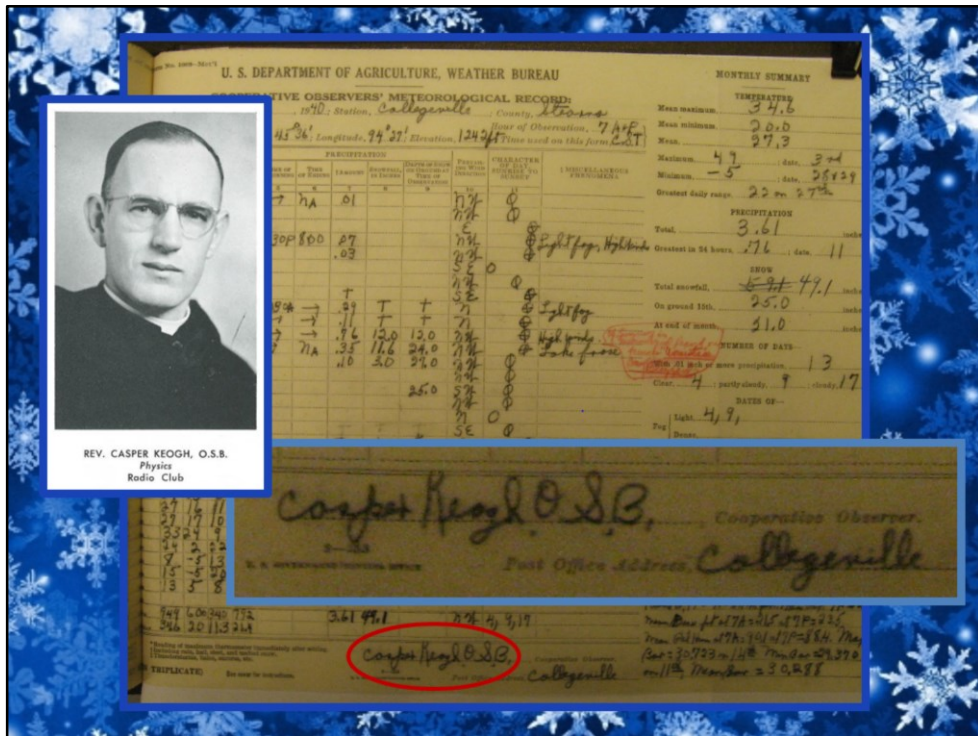
YEAR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	MEAN
1855	67	62	60	61	66	68	67	64	60	56	56	56	51	40	34	30	28	28	24	25	25	21	26	25	22	22	23	25	25	25	25	35.2
1861	67	67	62	63	68	66	65	68	68	60	59	56	61	65	63	65	62	59	48	44	41	31	30	36	37	37	36	33	31	27	43.5	
1935	27	28	30	29	22	35	40	37	34	34	31	39	39	36	28	35	33	37	36	29	23	22	36	41	36	40	33	18	36	35	32.3	
1936	44	39	25	39	31	31	18	28	31	35	43	47	44	41	34	47	42	35	48	48	40	33	38	39	27	28	38	35	24	25	36.7	
1937	50	42	42	56	47	60	57	44	61	67	48	50	46	36	32	26	26	23	18	16	20	26	34	39	40	48	40	11	16	22	37.4	
1938	64	65	65	62	39	32	30	34	40	44	43	37	36	18	22	38	44	36	46	41	27	19	20	17	20	11	26	41	32	35	38.7	
1939	53	57	57	41	50	44	43	55	47	41	44	39	68	52	63	60	54	49	42	41	42	43	42	34	37	44	39	44	37	55	44.5	
1940	48	47	49	49	33	37	36	40	40	33	32	11	11	9	24	38	39	48	4	34	30	24	21	27	27	33	24	8	15	13	34.6	
1941	not recorded																															
1942	not recorded																															
1943	41	38	38	48	42	42	22	22	30	34	30	29	35	25	26	26	34	46	44	38	48	33	30	30	34	34	33	22	20	32	39.2	
1944	75	70	60	70	39	38	47	47	41	44	46	48	48	44	43	40	42	48	26	26	26	39	29	26	36	34	32	20	21	27	46.7	
1945	51	45	31	49	55	53	45	46	30	34	39	34	27	39	50	37	30	33	36	29	17	26	25	23	27	32	34	32	29	35.6		
1946	53	53	46	53	56	54	46	37	35	36	42	41	46	50	49	45	26	43	44	43	44	14	31	27	23	37	22	33	20	24	39.3	
1947	55	52	58	53	48	36	33	25	30	27	27	26	26	30	32	32	30	34	33	26	28	25	20	19	14	15	15	14	7	20	31.1	
1948	62	63	58	60	44	47	41	42	42	35	35	34	23	37	47	41	47	40	22	30	25	17	27	31	35	34	28	26	30	37	45.5	
1949	55	42	57	57	53	64	65	52	55	50	46	44	41	38	32	28	36	42	44	34	24	28	22	25	26	22	25	24	44	40	43.2	
1950	62	42	37	42	60	49	43	40	32	31	21	25	35	45	40	39	43	41	35	27	28	35	24	11	21	22	21	24	32	24	34.6	
1951	33	14	17	14	33	26	26	30	44	45	51	57	43	34	30	28	20	21	22	27	36	32	18	13	25	28	35	32	46	44	30.8	
1952	56	48	48	59	55	42	48	44	34	44	52	58	52	57	47	53	53	54	38	41	41	40	33	34	30	27	15	18	22	21	42.1	

Weather logbook in the SJU Archives [22/7 Box 1]

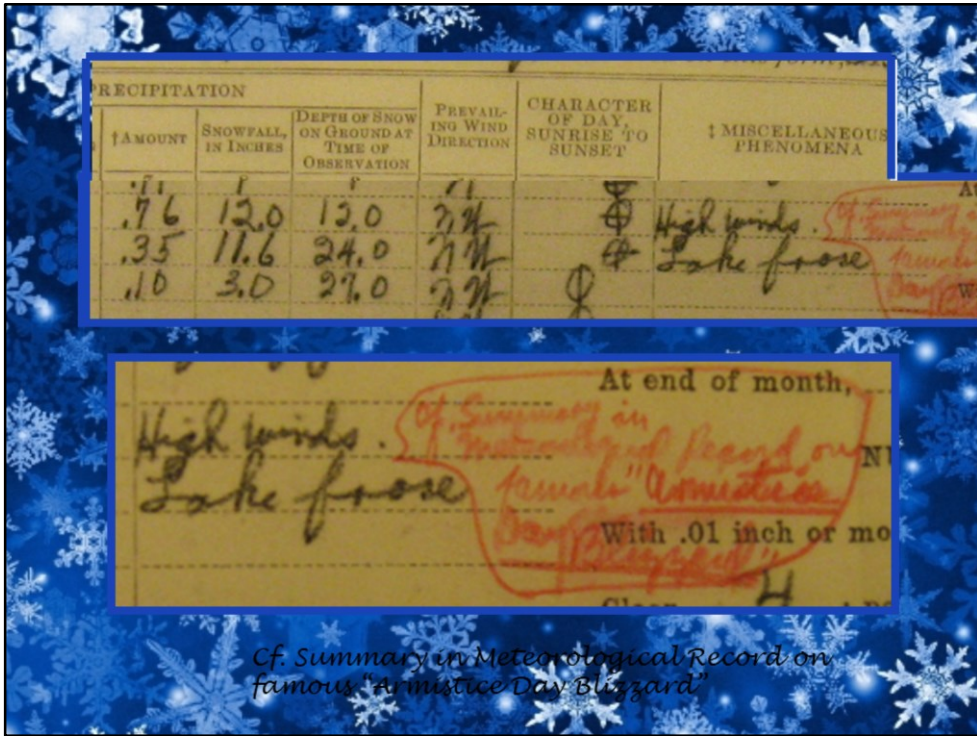
MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE							
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1940	40	40	33	32	11	11	9

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE							
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1940	28	22	31	11	3	2	-3

Weather logbook in the SJU Archives [22/7 Box 1]



Weather logbook in the SJU Archives [22/7 Box 1]
 Keogh photo from 1951 *Sagatan* yearbook, p. 38,
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/44865>
 Keogh: b. Nov. 25, 1915; d. July 31, 1993.



Weather logbook in the SJU Archives [22/7 Box 1]



Minneapolis Star Journal Headline: November 13, 1940

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/climate/fournalar/michigan_bay_blizzard.html

"The blizzard raged for three days and nights. 16 inches of snow fell in St. Cloud, and Collegeville recorded a whopping 26.6 inches! *The St. Cloud Times* recorded 12 foot drifts the next day. Many people were stranded for days before snowplows could open roads through the drifted over roads."



wjon.com/armistice-day-blizzard-on-this-date-in-central-minnesota-history/



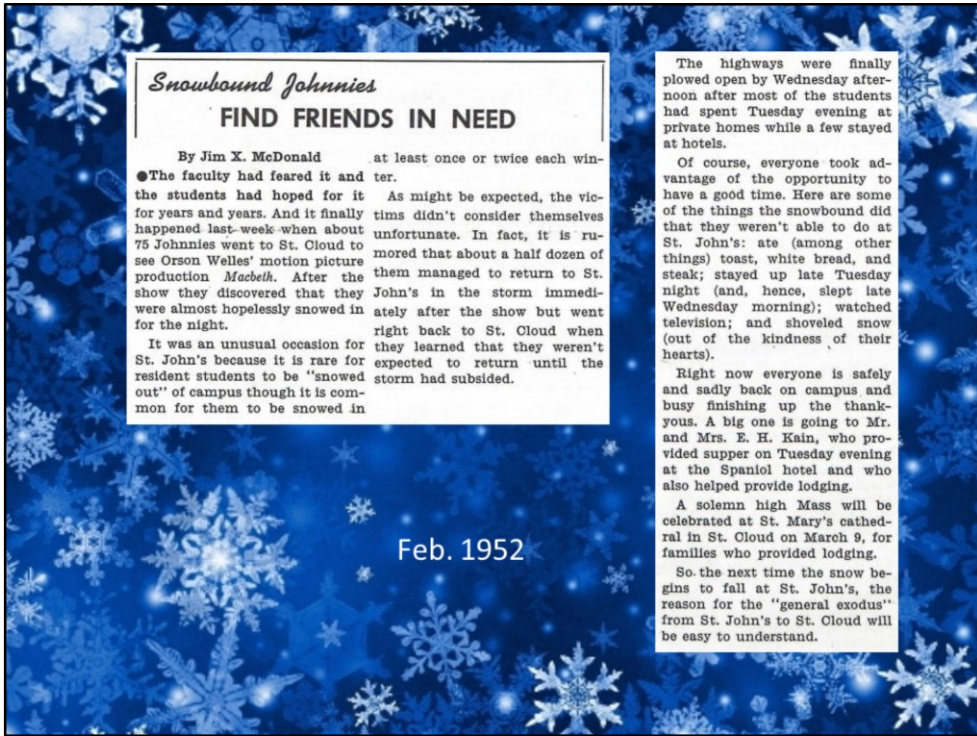
Armistice Day Blizzard, Minneapolis. From the Minnesota Historical Society.
<http://www.greenskychaser.com/blog/2010/11/11/armistice-day-blizzard/>



wjon.com/armistice-day-blizzard-on-this-date-in-central-minnesota-history/



wjon.com/armistice-day-blizzard-on-this-date-in-central-minnesota-history/



Snowbound Johnnies

FIND FRIENDS IN NEED

By Jim X. McDonald

●The faculty had feared it and the students had hoped for it for years and years. And it finally happened last week when about 75 Johnnies went to St. Cloud to see Orson Welles' motion picture production *Macbeth*. After the show they discovered that they were almost hopelessly snowed in for the night.

It was an unusual occasion for St. John's because it is rare for resident students to be "snowed out" of campus though it is common for them to be snowed in

at least once or twice each winter.

As might be expected, the victims didn't consider themselves unfortunate. In fact, it is rumored that about a half dozen of them managed to return to St. John's in the storm immediately after the show but went right back to St. Cloud when they learned that they weren't expected to return until the storm had subsided.

The highways were finally plowed open by Wednesday afternoon after most of the students had spent Tuesday evening at private homes while a few stayed at hotels.

Of course, everyone took advantage of the opportunity to have a good time. Here are some of the things the snowbound did that they weren't able to do at St. John's: ate (among other things) toast, white bread, and steak; stayed up late Tuesday night (and, hence, slept late Wednesday morning); watched television; and shoveled snow (out of the kindness of their hearts).

Right now everyone is safely and sadly back on campus and busy finishing up the thank-yous. A big one is going to Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Kain, who provided supper on Tuesday evening at the Spaniol hotel and who also helped provide lodging.

A solemn high Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's cathedral in St. Cloud on March 9, for families who provided lodging.

So the next time the snow begins to fall at St. John's, the reason for the "general exodus" from St. John's to St. Cloud will be easy to understand.

Feb. 1952

1952-02-29, The Record, p.2

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/31075>

Snowbound Johnnies

Spend Friday Night In

By Bill Hayden

● A snowstorm is always a devastating thing, but the blizzard that swept this way last Friday night brought mild bedlam to the campus. Frustrated playboys who had been holding in all week for this night-out went berserk, and cracked under the strain.

Refusing to be caught snow-bound with their books, sophomores Bob McEhrle and Don Westbrook climbed out of their small, third-floor window to investigate jumping possibilities. The jump didn't appear quite as appealing once they were on the ledge, but they discovered it was impossible to climb back in.

It wasn't long before the ledge of St. Mary's Hall was filled with would-be paratroopers leaping into snowdrifts. One went in so far that he became buried and had to be dug out with shovels. "Forbidden" signs were soon tacked up on the bulletin boards.

Second and third floor St. Mary's engaged in a favorite indoor pastime, water fighting, but Father Adelard put a quick end to it. A challenge was thrown to the freshmen in Benet Hall. Father Jeremy sensed something was up when he noticed that waste baskets were being filled with water. He threatened to campus anyone caught leaving the building thus equipped.

Not a few die-hards, refusing to give up their night out, skied or hiked into St. Joe. Some of them got back that night; day-hops marooned there took the

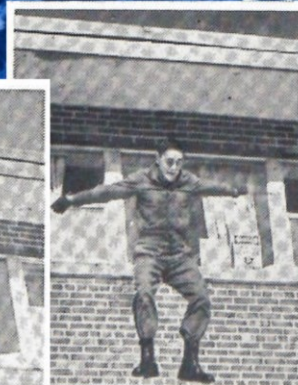
train into St. Cloud. Many Johnnies were forced to demand upon

The hospitality slept in the J and in a cou Some one said them in once

Sleeping ac campus for th the best either hops made flog Gold Star and strewing matt floor. Others t Hall dorm. W to keep on o The only inci happened abou a Texan voice in ma bald?" to have enjoy



Feb. 1953



WHEN THE BLIZZARD piled foot drifts in front of St. Mary's Hall, jumping from third-floor windows became a pastime until the prefects caught up with it. Top: Jim Fischer. Below: Tom Murray.

1953-02-27, The Record, p.2

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/31035>

Guard Pulled off City Snowlift

The National Guard was pulled and the expenditure of \$100,000 for snow removal here at 4 p.m. today by order of the city manager, according to a statement issued by the city manager's office after 23 hours of work.

Gov. Karl Rolvaag's press secretary said The Times this morning that the decision by the city manager to pull the National Guard was made because it was judged the emergency situation was alleviated.

Trio Jailed At 'Freedom School' Fire

INDIANOLA, Miss. (AP) — Police jailed three civil rights workers here today when the trio tried to break through a cordon thrown around a burning "Freedom School."

Fire destroyed the school shortly after 300 persons had attempted a weekly civil rights mass meeting in the wood and brick structure.

There were no injuries in the blaze. Authorities said cause of the fire was not determined.

Members of the Council of Federated Organizations said everything was destroyed inside the building, including records, books, equipment and school desks.

The three arrested on charges of failure to obey a police officer were identified as James Doss and Charles Scattergood, both white, and Negro Willie Smith. Their addresses were not immediately available.

Police Chief Bryce Alexander said his men had "thrown a cordon around the place. They refused to obey the lawful order of a police officer and ran into the crowd."

A spokesman said the men drove

off a main street there from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., according to city clerk. Major pieces of National Guard equipment were used in the work.

William McGee of Lincolnfield in St. Paul after 23 hours of work. "It has been a great help to vacationing in Texas."

Gov. Karl Rolvaag's press secretary said The Times this morning that the decision by the city manager to pull the National Guard was made because it was judged the emergency situation was alleviated.

The governor's office said that a drifting again Thursday only a couple of complaints were received concerning the aid the Lockfield area and counties in snow removal, but that roads that had been plowed numerous requests for similar aid "are full again."

The National Guard officers have been a little as men. Six of the men and three pieces of equipment were sent back leaders from Lincolnfield. Later from St. Cloud to Lincolnfield to additional Guardsmen came Thursday and worked on the from William and 20 from Hutchinson.

1965 FALLS IN PLACE IN YEARS OF BIG SNOW

This city slowly reviving after is now dipping into street improvement funds to handle the blizzard.

Members of the Council of Federated Organizations said everything was destroyed inside the building, including records, books, equipment and school desks.

The three arrested on charges of failure to obey a police officer were identified as James Doss and Charles Scattergood, both white, and Negro Willie Smith. Their addresses were not immediately available.

Police Chief Bryce Alexander said his men had "thrown a cordon around the place. They refused to obey the lawful order of a police officer and ran into the crowd."

A spokesman said the men drove

off a main street there from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., according to city clerk. Major pieces of National Guard equipment were used in the work.

William McGee of Lincolnfield in St. Paul after 23 hours of work. "It has been a great help to vacationing in Texas."

The governor's office said that a drifting again Thursday only a couple of complaints were received concerning the aid the Lockfield area and counties in snow removal, but that roads that had been plowed numerous requests for similar aid "are full again."

The National Guard officers have been a little as men. Six of the men and three pieces of equipment were sent back leaders from Lincolnfield. Later from St. Cloud to Lincolnfield to additional Guardsmen came Thursday and worked on the from William and 20 from Hutchinson.

Guard Saved City 3 Days, Henry Says

St. Cloud Mayor Edward Henry today said the help from the National Guard put the city "three days ahead" of the snow-clearance schedule, and thanked the Guard, the state Highway Department and the governor.

"We are very appreciative in \$1.5 million," authorities said. "They probably put in high water from the Zou and Red Cedar rivers, as

The three arrested on charges of failure to obey a police officer were identified as James Doss and Charles Scattergood, both white, and Negro Willie Smith. Their addresses were not immediately available.

Police Chief Bryce Alexander said his men had "thrown a cordon around the place. They refused to obey the lawful order of a police officer and ran into the crowd."

A spokesman said the men drove

A spokesman said the men drove

Viet Attack Stand Jars Wilson Rule

LONDON (AP) — A junior government minister resigned today as discontent over Prime Minister Harold Wilson's book-keeping for U.S. air raids on Communist North Viet Nam spread among Labor party members.

Frank Allan said he had resigned his post as parliamentary private secretary to Colonial Minister Anthony Greenwood to have more freedom of political

off a main street there from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., according to city clerk. Major pieces of National Guard equipment were used in the work.

William McGee of Lincolnfield in St. Paul after 23 hours of work. "It has been a great help to vacationing in Texas."

The governor's office said that a drifting again Thursday only a couple of complaints were received concerning the aid the Lockfield area and counties in snow removal, but that roads that had been plowed numerous requests for similar aid "are full again."

The National Guard officers have been a little as men. Six of the men and three pieces of equipment were sent back leaders from Lincolnfield. Later from St. Cloud to Lincolnfield to additional Guardsmen came Thursday and worked on the from William and 20 from Hutchinson.

The city already \$7,000 over its \$75,000 snow removal budget.

CITY POLICE TO TICKET 'SNOWBIRDS'

The city already \$7,000 over its \$75,000 snow removal budget.

The city already \$7,000 over its \$75,000 snow removal budget.

The city already \$7,000 over its \$75,000 snow removal budget.

The city already \$7,000 over its \$75,000 snow removal budget.

The city already \$7,000 over its \$75,000 snow removal budget.

The city already \$7,000 over its \$75,000 snow removal budget.

The city already \$7,000 over its \$75,000 snow removal budget.

The city already \$7,000 over its \$75,000 snow removal budget.

The city already \$7,000 over its \$75,000 snow removal budget.

The city already \$7,000 over its \$75,000 snow removal budget.

The city already \$7,000 over its \$75,000 snow removal budget.

The city already \$7,000 over its \$75,000 snow removal budget.



SJU Archives 007/3 (Box 8:5)

1965

Area Paralyzed After

City Plows Fighting to Open Lanes

City street department activities today will center on an attempt to keep paths through arterial streets, and opening of some residential streets, City Engineer Sylvester Knapp said.

Knapp said today at 9 a.m. "Paths are opened up through all the arterial streets, but they are even now drifting back within an hour or two after they are opened."

"Plowing out of alleys has been completely stopped. 'Alleys are filled in solid within a half hour after they are opened up.'"

"There is not quite as much snowfall this time," Knapp said, "and the downtown is not quite as bad, but the residential streets are considerably worse due to the drifting."

"All streets won't be opened until the early part of next week," Knapp said. "Some of the streets will just have to wait until we can get some bigger equipment in here. Our equipment houses around like pink porcupine balls."

About half of the city street crews slept on the seats of the trucks in the city garage Wednesday night, and started plowing at 2 a.m. today.

Two "relay efforts" with the White Park plows succeeded in getting two sick people to the St. Cloud hospital. The St. Cloud plows met the White Park plows half way where the sick were transferred to the city plows and taken to the hospital.

Two mothers-to-be were carried by street crews from their homes to the hospital today.

Train Stalls, Huge Drifts Block Roads

Winter's worst storm began easing today but this Central Minnesota city and much of the state lay paralyzed as mountainous drifts halted trains, closed a record list of schools and cold settled over the region.

St. Cloud early today was cut off to any highway travel and schools remained closed for the second straight day as the massive St. Patrick's Day storm dropped 16.5 inches of new snow atop 17 inches that lay on the ground.

It brought a new record March fall that stands now at 59.4 inches of snow compared with the all-time 56 inches that fell in March, 1917.

The Associated Press reported snow ranged from 10 to 36 inches over the state. Duluth with 46 inches on the ground had the greatest accumulation in the country except for Alaska and mountainous stations.

Temperatures fell to one above at 7:30 a.m. today as winds hurled the snow into drifts ranged from 20 to 30 miles an hour. Winds are expected to taper off tonight but the cold is expected to hang on with a forecast of 10 below tonight.

Winds of up to 75 miles an hour piled up drifts of 25 feet in the southwest portion of the state.

Hundreds of vehicles stalled in the drifts throughout the state.

Hundreds were stranded. Red Cross disaster workers here housed more than 100 at the civic center and no way to get them on their way was in sight today.

Record Storm

7 Cents Delivered to your home 30

"THINGS ROUGH" Snow-weary St. Cloud Crippled by New Storm

Special to the Minneapolis Star
ST. CLOUD, Minn. — "Things are rough" in St. Cloud, Mayor Edward L. Henry said today, as another heavy snowfall dropped on a city scarcely recovered from a severe storm March 1 and 2.

More than seven inches of snow had fallen by this morning, and two more were predicted.

But the city, which asked for and received help from the Minneapolis National Guard in the last storm, hopes to get through the present blow without emergency action.

The City Council Monday approved a contract with the Minnesota Highway Department under which it will hire department equipment and crews for snow plowing and removal if necessary. The equipment will be available only after it has finished work on state highways.

Henry said he did not know yet whether St. Cloud would need the extra help. He said city officials hope to have all streets open by Thursday morning "if the

WEATHER
Continued From Page One

Fire chief Raymond U. Harry issued a warning to all residents to exercise utmost caution since travel conditions were so poor. He requested householders to break out garden hoses and attach them to faucets "just in case."

Calling volume went sky-high as people were stranded in their homes, working telephone equipment and people to the limit, according to J.E. Rokke, manager of Northwestern Bell Telephone here.

— Page 2 No. 3



Why St. Cloud Got National Guard Aid

To the Editor: A March 6 Tribune editorial raised questions about the use of the National Guard to help St. Cloud dig out of a blizzard which brought the snow a few inches short of three feet in depth. Gov. Hubvas, acted with dispatch and, I think, properly in assisting St. Cloud.

The full story of the blizzard is yet to be told, and before long it may become apparent that if the governor erred at all it may have been in not going further than he did. The economic costs of continued slowdown and paralysis to St. Cloud and central Minnesota will offset by far the costs of using state resources to open our roads and restore normalcy.

WHILE most of central Minnesota could have used outside assistance, it is obvious that some priority had to be observed. St. Cloud had the heaviest fall in the state and was by far the largest urban community struck. Moreover, the state had a direct interest in helping clear St. Cloud first because of the needs of two large state institutions plus a veterans' hospital. We also have a large private hospital that serves a 50-mile radius.

The college, for instance, with an enrollment of 5,000 students, was losing thousands of hours of student-teacher time due to cancelled sessions. The reformatory had to be assured of getting its regular guard details three times a day; and the Veterans hospital, with 600 employees, had to be kept open. State college alone brings in upwards of 500

nearly enough time for a country and people to make a complete turn the other. We feel that if the Governor should "political state"

St. Cloud was not reluctant to expend its own funds—we were already digging into summer street appropriations. The statement that snow-removal funds were exhausted was a necessary formality of qualifying for help under the real issue was getting our people dug out, and I would not do anything differently under similar conditions the next time.

Minnesota municipalities have been ignored so long by the legislature in many areas of need that in desperation they have turned to the federal government for assistance. Give us a regular source of revenue in addition to the property tax, but without its undesirable side effects, and we will be most happy to take care of ourselves—when emergencies can be foreseen. —Edward L. Henry, Mayor, St. Cloud, Minn.

To the Editor: While it is true that snow removal methods in St. Cloud leave much to be desired, the fact remains that a real emergency existed here. Aren't we at least on a par with the non-taxpaying ducks whose rescue by the National Guard evoked such favorable comment in 1957? The pollution of public streams by private enterprise hardly seems

Planners To Renew Plan

Urban renewal and the steps necessary to become eligible for federal funds to accomplish the order of discussion at the St. Cloud Planning Commission meeting Tuesday night, says Burke Raymond, head of the planning commission. He said the long-range plans for re-water, parks and recreation for certification of schools, thorough

Praises Mayor For Guard Use

Editor Times: I have heard a lot of comment recently about our mayor getting the national guard to help us in our snow removal emergency. I feel the mayor should certainly be praised for recognizing an emergency, seeing a possible solution and then acting to solve the problem. Local state and federal facilities are placed to serve for people to use. St. Cloud is blessed with many of these facilities and they are here to be used. When facilities are not here, we should contact places where they are.

I think that St. Cloud should adopt a policy to send the snow plows out to the fire chief, police chief and the mayor, immediately when a large snowfall occurs. They are the decision-makers and the roads from their houses should always be open so they can get downtown to appraise the situation and to make decisions when we have an emergency.

—Francis T. Lynch, Manager
—State Employment Service.
—St. Cloud



1965 03 15 p.1, p.3 *The Record*
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33536>

Monday, March 15, 1965

Will Spring make it?

Old Man Winter Hangs On

By Terry Gleason

Visitors here last week might have been shocked to see students, some clad only in swimming suits, diving from the upper stories of Mary Hall.

Had college life been too much for them? Possibly, but for most it was only one of many unusual situations brought on by the heaviest snowfall here in years.

While students were doing jackknives and swan dives into five-foot snow drifts, Brother Mark Kelly, OSB, and his snow removal crew were trying to remove similar drifts from roads and sidewalks. Averaging as few as three hours sleep a night, Brothers Mark, Joseph Noske, OSB, Otto Thole, OSB, Daniel Copps, OSB, and employee Philip Roske did everything possible to open the roads for lay professors and workers.

SNOW KEPT FALLING all day Monday and Tuesday, making driving nearly impossible. Less than half of the lay faculty arrived Monday and those who did make it were faced with the problem of returning home that night. Many remained on campus where they took up lodging.

The infirmary housed 21 women employees, while several men slept on the floor of the Liturgical Press. Guest quarters were filled to capacity and many residents of nearby Flyntown had overnight boarders.

The recently purchased excavator played a major role in the opening of roads. Some of the equipment, including the road patrol grader, broke down because of constant use. No men broke down, unless the two injured snow divers are included.

SNOWBALLING was in and snow diving out, resulting in eight broken windows and a few broken bones. Dean of Men Father Finian

McDonald, OSB, cautioned: "Students who must throw snowballs should take advantage of the open spaces on campus away from the buildings."

The snow also threw the Mardi Gras festivities into confusion. Several students worked feverishly to clear the walk to the front of the auditorium for the Variety Show Tuesday night. Bad roads temporarily halted the festivities for the Bennies, but several Johnnies came to the rescue with an improvised taxi service.

Tri-College Blood Sought

The bloodmobile from the St. Paul Regional Chapter of the Red Cross Blood Program will be on the campuses of St. Cloud State, St. Ben's and St. John's during the latter part of March.

The bloodmobile has been making these visits twice annually for the last two years, providing an opportunity for college students to contribute to a lifesaving endeavor. St. John's students will be able to take advantage of this opportunity Thursday and Friday, March 25-26.

Last fall a total of 727 pints of blood was collected from students attending the three colleges. St. John's donated 299 pints, 138 of which came from first-time donors to this drive.

Brother Andre Bennett, OSB, infirmarian and chairman of the St. John's program, said, "St. John's has always given tremendous support to these drives, often surpassing any other single collection in the Stearns County area."



Paul Barrow Surfaces

Photos by Ed Rajch

1965 03 15 p.3 Record

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33538>



SJU Alumni Magazine Vol.5 no.1 p.15

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/1010>

From the Dean of Men

Over 100 inches of snow seems to demand some sort of comment and now is as good a time as any to pay homage and reference to the people and incidents contributing to this historic debacle.

To the *Farmers' Almanac*, we give a bow of the head for predicting such disaster. This scientific journal also forecasts a short spring season, for which I am sincerely grateful!

To Brother Mark Kelly, OSB, and his Brother plowers who existed without sleep for days at a time—resting only between snowstorms—my thanks.

To those few students who were oblivious to the problems of snow removal and parked their cars whenever and wherever they pleased, my projected hostility.

To the students who braved perilous hazards, walking, riding, crawling to St. Joe in the midst of the blizzard — special reference must be made to those who took their electric razors, pajamas and mouthwash with them.

To Sister Mary Mark and Benyville who provided shelter to the snowbound; and to the College Inn, the Town Hall and other more distinguished residences which entertained and gave lodging to our separated brethren.

To those students who jumped from the dormitories, it is better to

be silent than to speak; only when the snow melts will the final count be in.

To the 15 snow shovels which were "borrowed" from the garage, power-house and carpenter shop, a lamented farewell.

To the students in St. Joe Hall who asked for class excuses the day after the big snowstorm.

For all of you who held up—who are quietly surviving that "snowed-in anxiety" and will remain so, I will continue to pray. Keep your head, practice patience, love and abstinence. Spring is just around the corner. Spring is just around the corner, spring is just around the corner....

Symphony Concert
New date: April 7
University Auditorium

The Record

Published semi-monthly throughout the school year, except for vacation periods, and twice in the summer by the students of St. John's University. Opinions stated here are those of students and not the official position of St. John's Abbey or University. Second-class postage paid at Collegeville, Minnesota.
Yearly subscription rate: \$2.00.

Editor-in-chief. Tom Super
News Editor. Bill Frankman
Sports and Entertainment Larry Haeg
Layout and Cartoons Danny Boyarski
Head Photographer. . . Paul Luedtke
Staff: Don Haefliger, Bill Richard, Terry Gleason, Walt Spindler, Ralph Varhalla, John Honebrink, Pete Milloy, Wallace Fu, Ed Rajek, John Ryan and Bob Precourt
Adviser: Fr. Alcuin Siebenand, OSB

1965-04-02, *The Record*, p. 2
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33609>

*Hit the Road, Jack***Main Event: Bro. Mark vs. Snow**

By Jerome Amberg

When Jack Frost puts his imprint on the area, when students swear to God that there will be no school today... out comes the snow removal team to sponge poor Jack and to anger the students.

As December marches on its course and tradition tells us "cold and snow is just ahead," Missions prepares themselves with gloves, boots and winter coats. "When will the snow fall?" asked the Bahamians, Chinese, South Americans, and other students unacquainted with snow. And when does snow removal start? "When it snows," replies grounds head Brother Mark Kelly (who jokingly added he's going to take a vacation in Florida when winter really *does* come).

And what an array of machines to humble poor Jack: a road patrol (grader), a truck plow, a caterpillar for pushing snow off the lots, a snow blower, a tractor with a snow bucket, a truck with a sander attachment for the roads, and chemical de-icer for the sidewalks.

AND WHEN IT BEGINS, out run five or six Brothers, set to clean off the roads and lots at three in the morning. ("Students too if we can get them up.") These men start blowing, plowing and grading the main county roads, the roads through the campus, and then the faculty and student lots, and the sidewalks. In an average snowfall most of this work can be done by the end of the day. Notices will be posted around campus whenever such removal is necessary.

Asked what the main problems are in snow removal, Brother Mark replied: "Cars being in the way on the roads and in the lots. One or two cars can foul up the whole procedure of snow removal in a lot or on the roads." As an encouragement to the lackadaisical to cooperate, "The Granite City Towing Service will do all towing. We won't do any this year. As some students already have found out, they charge pretty high rates."

Approximately 40-50 students are working on the grounds under the direction of Brother Mark, and ten

to 15 can be asked to help in snow removal at a given time. He also expressed his hope that "there will be more cooperation on the part of the students. This cooperation depends how good snow-removal service will be."

So, when the white flakes of winter cover the frozen ground of the wilderness, and increase foot by foot on white earth, the snow removal team will not permit the calling off of school. No such thing as "snow-bound" exists in the minds of the snow machines and their drivers.



SNOWBOUND? NO SUCH THING
Brother Mark Kelly looks south toward Florida and sunshine.

The snow
removers get
some press

1968-01-23, The Record, p.4

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33766>



SJU Archives photo – Prep students (ca. 1980?)

Blizzard Strands Bennies

By Pat Rother

The weekend of Feb. 26-27, 1971, must surely go down in the annals of Collegeville history as one of the most revolutionary weekends in the confines of St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict. For it was this weekend that girls, most notably Bennies, became, albeit temporarily, legal residents of the St. John's community.

Friday, Feb. 26, started as a gray, fuzzy day. The Thursday night KSJU radio announcer had forecast "a chance of rain mixed with some snow." Little did anyone realize then that before the day was over, some 150 Bennies would be stranded at St. John's and be forced to take up residence for the night in vacant rooms of Johnnies who had escaped the grip of the giant storm or who gladly abdicated for such beautiful porage.

The snow began falling around noon Friday; of course, this snow was not made up of ordinary dainty flakes. It was extremely heavy and sticky and fell in clumps, owing to the recent spell of warm weather.

under the watchful eyes of the head residents, who went through much trouble to make sure all the girls present were accounted for.

Finally the magic hour of 1 a.m. arrived; the Bennies were supposed to turn into pumpkins in their designated rooms. They were supposedly "locked in" and everyone else "locked out" until Saturday at noon. True to form, this wasn't quite the case. Johnnies lingered, seeing good-night to their dates; most other guys who were still walking the straight and narrow could not quite comprehend the idea of girls on the floor. The head residents were to make

By 5 p.m., it seemed no one was going anywhere for the remainder of the night, to be sure. By coincidence, the intercampus bus was making its last run of this ill-fated day. Also by coincidence, the bus was loaded with Bennies. Evening classes? Weekend movie? Ow! Head? Der Ketter? For whatever reason, they came over. A Johnny remarked, "I never saw so many girls on this campus before."

By dark, all travel was termed "out of the question." The Bennies were the jolly the i R excu went, ples last. Euse that part inat A of S aght solve and.

At Convent Central, the College of St. Benedict, the authorities were agitated. The girls had allowed themselves to fall into a den of iniquity, and now there was no escape! Surely some catastrophe would befall many of them! Emergency transportation was arranged to carry as many Bennies as possible through the white wasteland; how many girls wanted to or actually did take advantage of this service is open to speculation.

The evening transpired as usual, but with that idea in the background that the Bennies were here to stay. Since the campus was THE place to be, the movie was well-attended, the Tommy Games Center was packed, the Mary Hall cafeteria was busy until it closed down early, and Der Ketter had SRO crowds. Meanwhile, the administrative wheels were turning in high places, and the conclusion arrived at was that the Bennies would be assigned vacant rooms in the dorms for the night. This process was to be carried out

opportunities it afforded, which they never thought to take advantage of.

Saturday dawned on Collegeville, fair and a little windy. The students were preparing to get back to normal after this temporary upset. Immediately, plowing regulations were posted along with the fact that there would be buses traveling to St. Ben's that afternoon. The fun was over.

So with a natural wonder like a snowstorm, St. John's experienced, in a limited way, 24-hour open house and coed living, to take the wind out of the sails of the student federation. It was somewhat unusual that an act of God made this campus experience these student wants. Perhaps it was a sign from heaven?

Seriously, everyone took the snowstorm in stride and was well-behaved. The weekend was an experience for St. Ben's and St. John's students and administrators alike, and it was handled with a great deal of maturity by all parties.

"The Bennies were supposed to turn into pumpkins . . ."

JUST ANOTHER SNOW JOB?

The Record
STUDENT PUBLICATION OF ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
Vol. 84 Collegeville, MN. 56321, March 12, 1971 No. 4

1971

Getting "accidentally" stuck on the other campus was sometimes the goal.

1971-03-12, The Record, p. 1

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/34733>

The Record

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
March 8, 1985 Volume 98 Number 2

non-profit organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1
Collegeville, Minn.

Storm shuts down campus, extends vacation

By Jerry Paschke

Winter came back in full force last Sunday afternoon as a major winter snowstorm roared through Minnesota, bringing with it snow, high winds, a few thunderstorms and a great number of problems for those who were out on the roads during the storm. The storm dumped anywhere between 12 and 24 inches of snow across the state before leaving the area Monday night. The National Weather Service office in St. Cloud reported 17.7 inches of snow falling in a 24-hour period between Sunday morning and Monday morning.

The storm forced many schools, businesses and government offices all over the state to close their doors for the day. CSB and SJU were forced by the storm to cancel classes on Monday and Tuesday. Many campus facilities like Mary Cafe, the Post Office, and bus service were closed at SJU because of the storm, forcing students to stay in their dorms or apartments and watch the storm from their windows. The storm even caused *The Record* to change its publication date from Thursday to Friday. Most campus facilities were functioning at near normal levels.

However, not every place on campus was closed down. Rat Hall and the library remained open for students to leave their dorms and do some studying or something athletic.

But there were very few students on campus during the storm. Since last weekend was long weekend, most students left campus to either go home or party with some friends. The storm's arrival on Sunday prevented many people from returning on Sunday night. Most of these people were forced to wait until Tuesday to head back to school, although some people managed to return Monday night despite

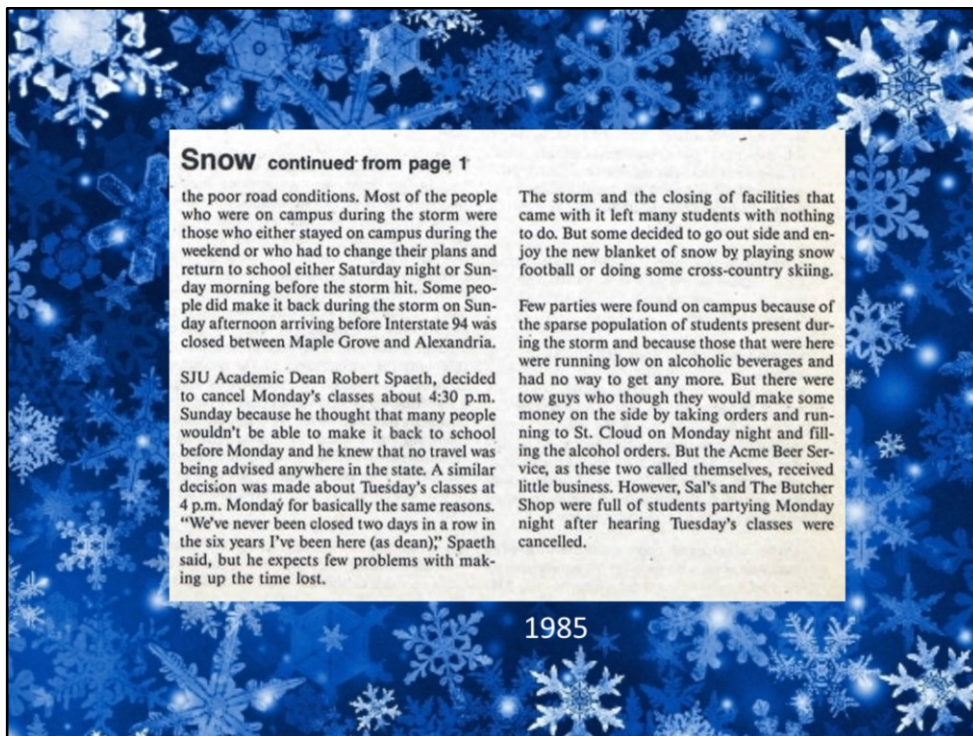


Photo by Bernard Chow

The weekend blizzard buried SJU under nearly eighteen inches of snow. The grounds crew, including this snowplow in the Mary Hall parking lot, worked overtime to clear away drifts.

1985-03-08, The Record, p. 1

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/36843>



Snow continued from page 1

the poor road conditions. Most of the people who were on campus during the storm were those who either stayed on campus during the weekend or who had to change their plans and return to school either Saturday night or Sunday morning before the storm hit. Some people did make it back during the storm on Sunday afternoon arriving before Interstate 94 was closed between Maple Grove and Alexandria.

SJU Academic Dean Robert Spaeth, decided to cancel Monday's classes about 4:30 p.m. Sunday because he thought that many people wouldn't be able to make it back to school before Monday and he knew that no travel was being advised anywhere in the state. A similar decision was made about Tuesday's classes at 4 p.m. Monday for basically the same reasons. "We've never been closed two days in a row in the six years I've been here (as dean)," Spaeth said, but he expects few problems with making up the time lost.

The storm and the closing of facilities that came with it left many students with nothing to do. But some decided to go out side and enjoy the new blanket of snow by playing snow football or doing some cross-country skiing.

Few parties were found on campus because of the sparse population of students present during the storm and because those that were here were running low on alcoholic beverages and had no way to get any more. But there were tow guys who though they would make some money on the side by taking orders and running to St. Cloud on Monday night and filling the alcohol orders. But the Acme Beer Service, as these two called themselves, received little business. However, Sal's and The Butcher Shop were full of students partying Monday night after hearing Tuesday's classes were cancelled.

1985

1985-03-08, The Record, p. 3

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/36845>

Halloween 1991 in Minnesota!

Share if you were there!



<http://www.mtfca.com/discus/messages/411944/456786.html?1404094467>



2001-11-28, The Record p.1

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/34390>

Our View

Let it snow, let it snow

But please clear the sidewalks

"Our View" is prepared by the Editorial Board and should be considered the institutional voice of The Record.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Ryan Engelman
Editor in Chief
Jackie Pelgrim
Opinion Editor
Elizabeth Hedlin
CSB Student Representative
Chris Lusvardi

On Sunday night, CSB/SJU and the surrounding areas were dumped with around six inches of snow, accompanied with wind, ice, poor driving conditions and what seemed to be the promise of a snow day. Yet on Monday morning, Bennies and Johnnies awoke to the news that classes would continue as scheduled and went outside to face snowy sidewalks and those dangerously icy stairs by Sexton.

On Sunday night, the Link was shut down at 10:15 p.m. without any notice by voice mail or e-mail to students, both of which have been used in the past. While it is appreciated that the schools do not wish to send buses full of students out in precarious driving conditions, the lack of communication caused even more problems. The only way that students could have discovered the altered schedule was by word of mouth or dumb luck. For those dozens of students who did not venture outside or for those who were not fortunate enough to hear about this, it meant they were stranded on the opposite campus with little choice but to wait until the morning. While we don't necessarily see a problem with the occasional co-ed slumber party, we know from experience that school officials don't feel the same way. And for students with morning classes, the lack of transportation meant no chance to return to their rooms and prepare for classes and the next day.

The lack of effective snow management continued on into the day as students found themselves traversing snow-covered sidewalks on the way to class. By the time morning classes were well under way, several spaces remained covered in snow or ice, including the sidewalks outside CSB sophomore housing, Alcuin Library, the Main and, of course, the Sexton stairs. It was not until well into the afternoon that all sidewalks were completely cleared and sanded. As many students can attest to, this resulted in more than a few minor slips and slides. We understand that it is an incredibly time-consuming job to clear the sidewalks and stairs, but it's also important that students have a safe path to and from their classes.

As much as students complain about the snow and the problems it can cause, however, for many, the snowfall was a welcome surprise. The white stuff is what makes the cold more bearable, the brown earth more attractive and the winter more fun. A winter without snow would mean no sledding, no snowmen, no skiing, and no snowball fights. So grumble about the poor snow control if you must, but as you trek through the snow covered sidewalks, take a minute to appreciate what makes this place Minnesota, what makes it home.

2003-02-06, The Record, p.4

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/31552>

Don't expect impossible from snow crew

Dear Editor,
I've been reading *The Record* for more than 30 years. It is so much better now than it used to be, and I hesitate to criticize, but your Feb. 6 editorial about the snow is unfair.

Not to the snow, of course; you properly credit it with being "a welcome surprise." However, you expect more of the Grounds

Crew than is reasonable or even possible.

I cannot speak about the efficiency of snow removal crews at Saint Ben's because I'm rarely on that campus.

But, having lived on the St. John's campus for 30 years, I can speak volumes about the Grounds Crew.

I recently prepared an article about the St.

John's crew that will appear in the spring issue of *The Abbey Banner*.

In my research I learned that there are almost seven miles of roadways, 6.34 miles of sidewalks and 16.75 acres of parking lots on the campus.

When there is an overnight snowfall, the crew starts work as early as 4 a.m., but they

certainly can't do everything at once. They are amazingly efficient and put in many extra hours to aid driving and walking as much as they can as soon as they can.

If they had more workers and more machines, they could clear paths quicker. But then you'd pay even more than \$80 per class period.

Dolores Schuh, C.H.M.

Feb. 20, 2003

Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research

2003-02-20, *The Record*, p.6

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/31852>

They Make the Campus Come To Life

by Dolores Schuk, CHM

Rising! Mark Kelly, OSB, turns over in bed, looks at his clock (4 a.m.) and picks up the phone. It's SJU Life Safety Services reporting that snow has been falling since midnight and three inches have accumulated. Brother Mark's workday has begun.



The crew gets out early to clear roads and walkways.

Mark calls Gary Pflueger, Rich Froehle, Dan Vogel, Orville Evans, and student worker supervisor, Steve Gilk. By 5 a.m. ten members of the Saint John's grounds crew are revving up their snow removal equipment.

Snow removal at Saint John's is a well-organized and orchestrated procedure, with each worker knowing exactly what

After a well deserved 9:30 coffee break, crew members are back at their plows, Bobcats, shovels and blowers to do the outlying areas of the campus.

Often by early afternoon the crew is putting the finishing touches on the day's work. Machines are then returned to the garage to be serviced by Louis Himsel.

Winter snow removal and spring and summer lawn and road care are the two major tasks of the grounds crew. Skill, determination and pride in their work are evident everywhere.

Areas cared for by the Saint John's grounds crew:

Turf: 118.6 acres of turf

Sidewalks: 6.34 miles (7.9 acres)

Stairs, ramps, docks: 0.7 acre

Roadways: 6.97 miles

Parking lots: 16.75 acres

I have watched these workers manipulate the huge machines around lamp posts, campus directional signs and the lone car left in a parking lot. I've asked them how they can come within two inches of a lamp post and not shear it off at the base. "No problem."

Soggy leaves are pulled from under the bushes, protective wrap and tubing are removed from hundreds of young trees, sand and grit are swept off the walks and gutters, and the winter accumulation of debris is picked up. The grounds crew literally makes the campus come to life!

The crew has had a variety of jobs over the last four decades. For years they hauled coal from the Collegeville depot (a six mile round trip). One coal car carried one hundred tons of coal and they hauled eight or nine tons in a truck. Oh, so many trips to the coal train! Workers remember that as their most dreaded assignment.

When Saint John's had its own hockey rink on campus, the grounds crew flooded it and swept it with their own



Abbey Banner
Spring 2003
p.12

2003 spring v. 3 n.1 p. 12

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/23898>



Compiled in January 2016
from resources in the archives of
Saint John's University,
Saint John's Abbey
and elsewhere as noted
by Peggy Landwehr Roske,
CSB/SJU Archivist

All rights reserved.