

Farmington Observer

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Old man winter bites: Farmington growls

Satisfaction with a job well done is the way most Farmington area officials felt after their nearly week-long battle with the record blizzard which struck last week.

The blizzard, one of the worst in Michigan's history, left thousands of residents and businesses without electricity and many persons stranded.

But those persons, whose jobs must be done, fought back.

Police combined with employees of Botsford General Hospital to keep the health shop humming. Because workers were finding it difficult to get through the snow, police drove them to work.

Mrs. Doreen Kramp, emergency room supervisor, said the nurses good-naturedly dubbed the surgery section as the "Ambulatory Sleep Inn." Ten nurses and seven other members of the emergency, pediatric and medical surgery departments were guests at the Inn.

"But I don't think we would have had the good turnout that we had of employees unless the police would have helped out in getting them here," she said.

Cardiac problems and broken bones were at a "manageable level," she said.

"We had broken wrists, shoulders and ankle sprains. But it really wasn't much different than the action we've seen in the last two weeks."

Fred Galli, associate director of nursing, said there were eight heart attacks recorded in the emergency room during the storm.

He didn't see that as an unusual number.

Galli's major concern was the supply of intravenous solution and tubing which was due in from Toledo, Ohio.

Roads from that city remained impassable and shipments of the life-sustaining solution, were stranded on the I-75 expressway.

"If this storm gets worse, we'll have to go to other hospitals for supplies. But I don't see any danger. We keep a buffer supply."

City workers had their work cut out for them and, according to Farmington City Mgr. Robert Deadman, the challenge was met.

"Most of the major roads were plowed Friday because of the efforts of the public works department," he said. The crews worked double shifts throughout the storm.

"The blowing winds were our major headache. When the wind quits, then the crews will go back to normal shifts," he said.

City police were geared up to evacuate residents of various apartment units whose complexes had lost power during the storm. But the precaution was unnecessary.

Of special concern to officials was the Drakehill Apartments, which houses many elderly residents.

The power was out in that complex from early Thursday morning until about 3 p.m.

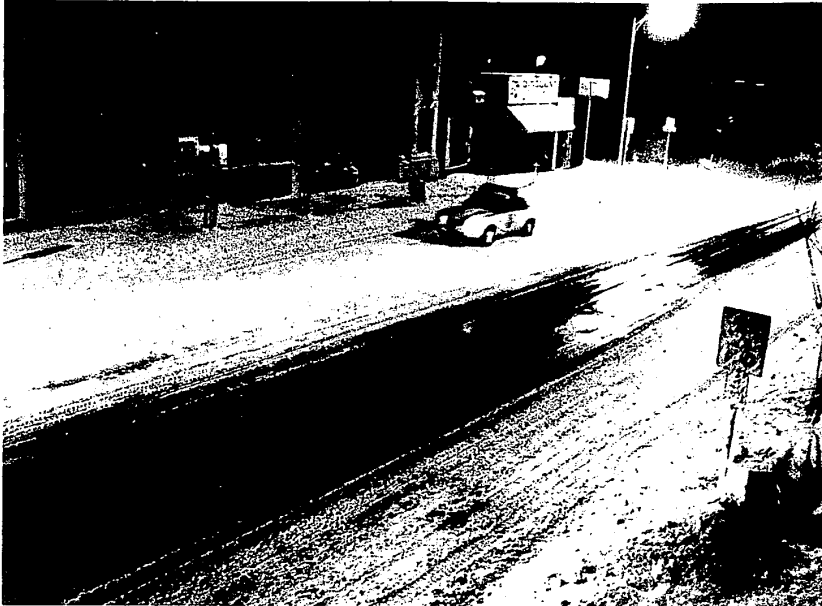
The storm will cost the city about \$5,000-\$6,000, according to Deadman. Since salt wasn't used, the storm was less expensive than it could have been.

"We won't be done with this mess for another seven to 10 days," said Deadman.

The Farmington Hills fire department was kept busy with picking up stranded residents on the surrounding expressways, according to Fire Chief John Van De Voort. Adding to the problem was a power failure in Station Two at Middlebelt and Utley.

"Power lines were going down like crazy," according to Van De Voort. Primary lines, 30,000 volts, were the biggest problem, he said.

Lines also were reported down in many parts of Farmington on Farmington Road, Eight Mile, Alta Loma and at Halstead and Grand River.



A police car lonesomely patrols a stranded Grand River as the blizzard forced residents to stay in their homes. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

Residents fight winter blizzard

"A little snow never hurt anybody."

That quote from a Farmington area resident exemplified a bit of the old Missouri "show me" spirit which lashed back at the record blizzard which racked the area this past week. Businesses and residents, alike, refused to stand pat and let the 17-inch snow accumulation slow them down that much.

John Anhut, Botsford Inn proprietor, gave thanks for his dedicated employees who aided in keeping the historic Inn's doors open.

"The name of the game is you take care of your customers and stay open," he said.

To accomplish that end, Anhut "camped out" at the Inn beginning on Thursday night. Many of his employees did the same. One of the Inn's chefs walked more than one mile to ensure that patrons had some good meals.

"It's easy to hang up a sign and say you're closed, but that isn't professional," he said.

patrons to Metropolitan Airport. Cabs were unavailable to pull that duty.

Business at both Botsford and the Farmington Holiday Inn was "about average." Most of the patrons at Botsford were already booked before the storm hit, according to Anhut. Joel Yoder, Holiday Inn manager, said the number of walk-ins equalled those persons who cancelled reservations.

Service stations found themselves with full hands in meeting needs of stranded drivers.

Chuck McCracken, of the Ten Mile and Middlebelt Standard station, told the Farmington Observer that he had been working since 3 a.m. Thursday to meet customer needs.

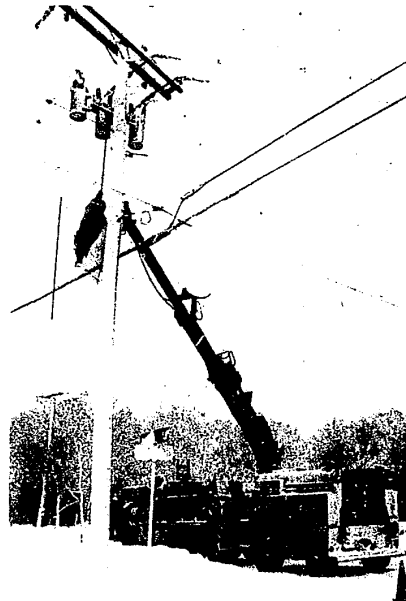
"I know I'm tired, but I don't want to be grouchy with anyone," said McCracken, who says he has been forced to turn down towing jobs on side streets because those streets were impassable.

Gas station attendants noted that drivers were being cautious by filling tanks before reaching the half-empty mark.

Met Suzor, of the Ole Toll Shell Sta-

(Continued on page 11 A)

ANHUT's son demonstrated a bit of that professionalism by driving



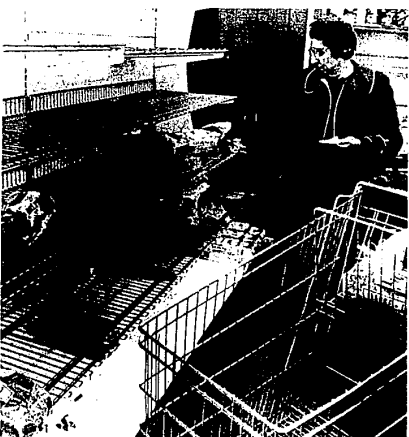
Edison crews worked around the clock to restore power to twin city residents.



Public work crews from both cities labored through double shifts to plow away the blowing snow. Because of the high winds, salt proved to be useless.



Police aid was enlisted by Botsford Hospital to transport essential medical personnel. Here, nurses Mary Chabala (left) and Gladys Hopkinson are escorted to work by Farmington Ptl. Joe Schornack.



Mrs. Isabel Staff nabbed one of the last loaves of bread off of an area supermarket shelf. Residents mobbed food stores in fear of a short run food shortage.

inside

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THANKS, EVERYONE

Thanks to a whole lot of persons in the community and at this newspaper, readers are able to enjoy the sights and words of the blizzard which struck this area last week. Instrumental in gathering the information were staffers Harry Mauthe, Lynn Orr, Louise Okrusky and Steve Barnaby. Keep this copy handy. You'll want to show it to your grand kids.