

State University of New York College at Buffalo - Buffalo State University

Digital Commons at Buffalo State

Blizzards & Storms

Buffalo Courier-Express Newspaper Collection

Winter 2-27-1977

Snowplow being unloaded from an airplane

The Buffalo Courier-Express Newspaper

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/buffalowinters>

Recommended Citation

"Snowplow being unloaded from an airplane" . The Courier-Express Photograph Collection. Archives & Special Collections Department, E. H. Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State.

<https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/buffalowinters/36>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Buffalo Courier-Express Newspaper Collection at Digital Commons at Buffalo State. It has been accepted for inclusion in Blizzards & Storms by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at Buffalo State. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@buffalostate.edu.



Transport plane coughs up its precious snowfighting cargo

... at Niagara Falls Air Base

FEB - 3 1977

Snow-Fighting Cooperation Praised by State Road Chief

By DALE C. ENGLISH

"It's not bad for a bunch of guys who never worked together before."

That was the way David Piper assessed the combined federal, military, state, county and local governmental effort to help get Western New York back on its feet after the most crippling blizzard in memory.

Piper is a man who should know. He is in charge of highway maintenance for the State Dept. of Transportation (DOT) in Western New York.

Both he and DOT's regional administrator, Donald H. Ketchum, concede there have been ruffles in coordinating the

Editorial on Page 10
efforts of literally dozens of governmental agencies and countless private contractors in getting highways open and in taking care of basic human needs such as getting food, fuel and medicine to stranded people.

"I can't emphasize too much the spirit of cooperation (between governments) and we are making great strides in solving the problem," Ketchum said Tuesday during a press conference called by Thomas R. Casey, the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration (FDAA) regional administrator. Casey had called the press conference to tell the public about the different facets of emergency relief he was trying to coordinate.

From the outset of the conference, snow and its removal from the highways was the central point. But there were other, related, things the disaster team did.

Things like getting badly needed spare parts to fix Buffalo's snowplows airlifted from Cincinnati. Making sure New York City and Nassau County snowblowers were flown into Buffalo. Helping the Salvation

Army. At that time DOT estimated two weeks would be needed to clear Buffalo streets. That estimate still holds, Ketchum said Tuesday, but it suffered a setback in time when the latest storm hit.

analysis

Entire Area Hit

And making matters worse was the fact that the weekend blizzard struck the entire area with such severity. No one was immune.

Casey noted that the original state of emergency covered only four counties, Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua. In the middle of his planning for them, five more were added — Genesee, Orleans, Wyoming, Lewis and Jefferson.

At first he had to worry about four contiguous counties. Now he has nine and two are well north of Syracuse. Casey had to divert his attention and set up a satellite disaster office in Watertown to handle the north country problem.

Flood Plans Started

Casey even made the point that as part of the emergency the FDAA, the National Weather Service and the Army Corps of Engineers were to meet in New York City today to make plans for the day when all the snow melts.

The object was to avert major flooding and Corps of Engineers officials from Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, New York City and Philadelphia were involved.

The point was simple: There's much more to a blizzard than just pushing snow around.

Army and the Red Cross continue their missions of mercy. Trying to insure that farmers get their milk to market. Opening up Conrail so freight trains can again enter the area.

To many, still isolated on clogged city side streets or in rural farmhouses, the results of the effort may have appeared negligible.

To others, at least on the main arteries particularly in Buffalo, the results were obvious.

Snow Carted Away

On South Park Ave., for example, high-lifts were scooping up huge bundles of crusty old snow and the new layer added by the weekend blizzard. The stuff was being loaded in private trucks and carted away.

In some places curbstones which hadn't seen the light of day since before Christmas were visible. The same could be said for North St. between Elmwood and Symphony Circle.

Muddy brown snowbanks along Delaware Ave. near Tupper provided further evidence that somebody was moving snow off the streets of Buffalo that had not been moved for weeks.

Ketchum noted that even before the weekend blizzard the state had been called in to help

Return to:
COURIER-EXPRESS LIBRARY
793 Main Street
Buffalo, N.Y. 14203

for publication
in the Courier-Express.
Credit line may be given in any event.