

The Great Blizzard of 1978



The Blade



A storm of unprecedented magnitude . . . that's what the National Weather Service terms a "blizzard". What occurred on January 26th, 1978 in Ohio was not a blizzard. What did occur was even rarer and even more dangerous: a severe blizzard the worst of winter storms.



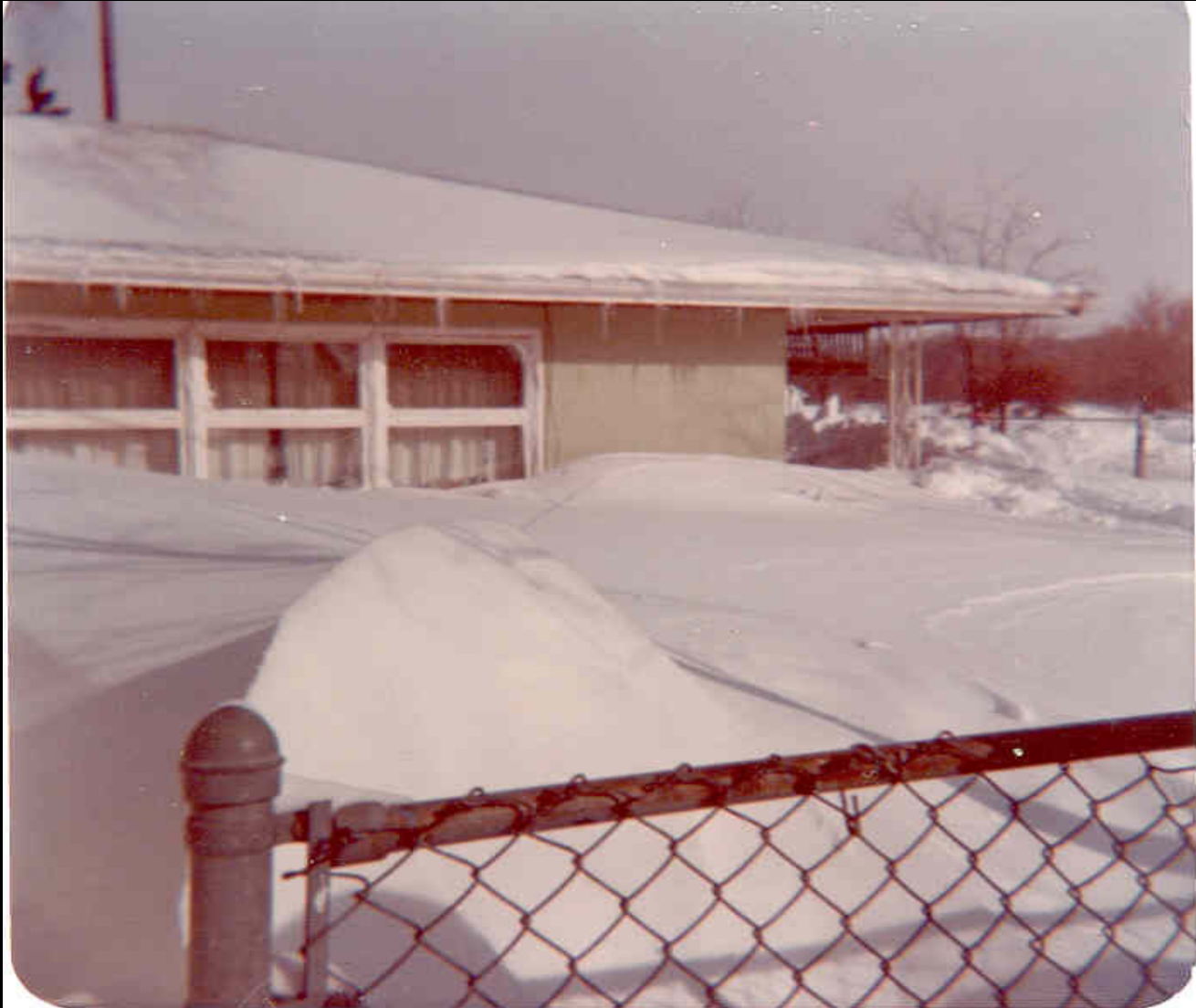
The National Weather Service defines a "severe blizzard" as: a storm with winds of 45 miles per hour or greater; a great density of falling or blowing snow; and temperatures of 10 degrees or less.

Winds gusted to more than 75 miles per hour (111 mph on Lake Erie) over much of the state, with sustained winds in the 45-60 mph range. Record snowfalls were recorded in many areas and all-time low barometric pressure records (28.28mb) were shattered as the intense storm whipped the state....



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Temperatures dropped to the single digits below zero with winds producing a wind chill of -60. The entire state shut down for 48 hours and took a week before 'normal' life could continue. 71 deaths were blamed on the storm, with 50 of those coming in Ohio....



Bowling Green State University closed for Thursday, Friday, and Monday. University of Michigan closed for the first time in its then 140 year history.





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