

Ice Station Zebra

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from the sidewalks and storm drains and explained that snow plows and gravelers and de-icing equipment would NOT be clearing local streets.

Holiday plans had to be reorganized or postponed indefinitely. Retailers fretted. Garbage and recycling wasn't picked up. Mail service was spotty at best. Travelers spent days at the Portland International Airport because their flights had been canceled.

People dealt with the snow in different ways. Could your neighbor give you a ride to the grocery store? In Southwest Portland, kids headed over to the hill in Gabriel Park, next to the community center.

Or they went sledding on the hilly Dickinson Park. Many roads, especially side streets, had up to two feet of packed snow and ice. Again, great

for sledding. Not so good for other forms of travel.

So anyway, Christmas Day was when the snow started to melt. The next day, December 26, Anne and I finally made it into Multnomah Village in our little Subaru (with all-weather tires and all-wheel drive), after being snowed into our driveway for a week.

Staying off the freeways and ramps was the rule during the snowstorm. Even when it started to melt, arterials and highways were transformed into snow banks along the sides and slushy and icy ruts down the middle. Get out of the rut or try to turn and you were in trouble!

In the village, snow was piled up on the sides of the road, making parking very difficult. And walking in some places was darn near impossible. Road conditions were very icy and



A blizzard snow covers the core area of along Capitol Highway near 36th Avenue in Multnomah Village. (Photo courtesy of Brian Ackler)

slushy. Owner Steve Arel welcomed us into O'Connor's Restaurant for lunch, referring to the village as "Ice Station Zebra."

I found the mailbox, and scraped the ice off the stairway to my office. We made it inside, safely. Whew! But the excitement wasn't over. On our way over to Key Bank, we passed a TriMet bus which decided to turn on Troy Street and head down icy 36th Avenue. The bus slid on the ice and barreled into a blue Honda CRV. Luckily the car had been parked, wasn't badly damaged, and no one was injured. So on foot we slipped and slid our way through the village and over to the Multnomah Center where our car was parked.

Whew! Now that was quite an adventure for a town that never gets more than a dusting of snow during the holiday season. I never thought I'd be so glad to see the rain return!



Neighbors hustle through the snow along Southwest Capitol Highway near 34th Avenue, December 26. (Post photo by Don Snedecor)



Cars are buried in the snow along Southwest 52nd Avenue in Crestwood, December 21. (Post photo by Leslie Baird)



Neighbors on Southwest 52nd Street walking their dogs in the falling snow. (Post photo by Leslie Baird)



A pickup truck tries to make it down the hill on Southwest 36th Avenue at Troy Street, December 26. (Post photo by Don Snedecor)

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