

From the Archives

Ohio Blizzards of 1977 and 1978

January 1977 was one of the coldest months on record for Central Ohio. Sources differ as to whether the temperature ever warmed to 32 degrees Fahrenheit that month, but it apparently did not for at least 26 of 31 days! The 1977 blizzard struck suddenly on Friday evening, January 28, and brought wind gusts up to 70 mph over an already deep pack of snow. As these pictures from faculty member David Showalter's slides reveal, the results were remarkable.



Students were able to walk right onto the RBI chapel roof from the drift that accumulated behind the library wing.



Below is a side view of the same drift!



Faculty member Alvin Yoder remembers roads were closed for three days. Only faculty within walking distance could get to campus. Food delivery trucks were shut out. Classes had to be cancelled for the first days but students got restless, so some classes resumed before the assigned faculty could be present to teach!

David I. Miller and family lived close to campus. This is a view of their place after the roads were opened but before their driveway was cleared.



This is a view from the front of David Showalter's house on Middleburg-Plain City Road near Plain City. The road runs parallel to the car, so the high drift needed to be cleared out toward the trees before he could resume teaching at RBI.

