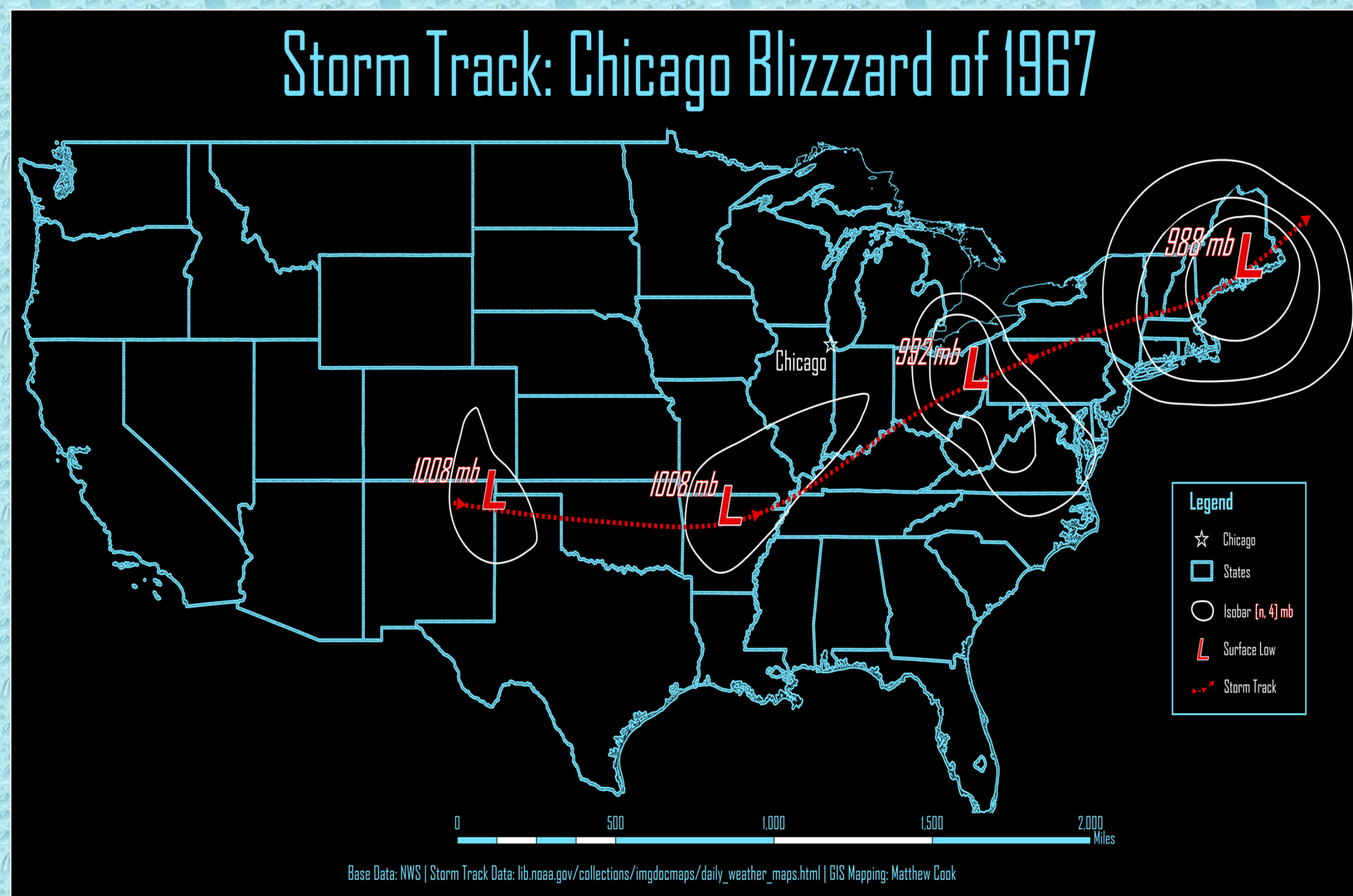


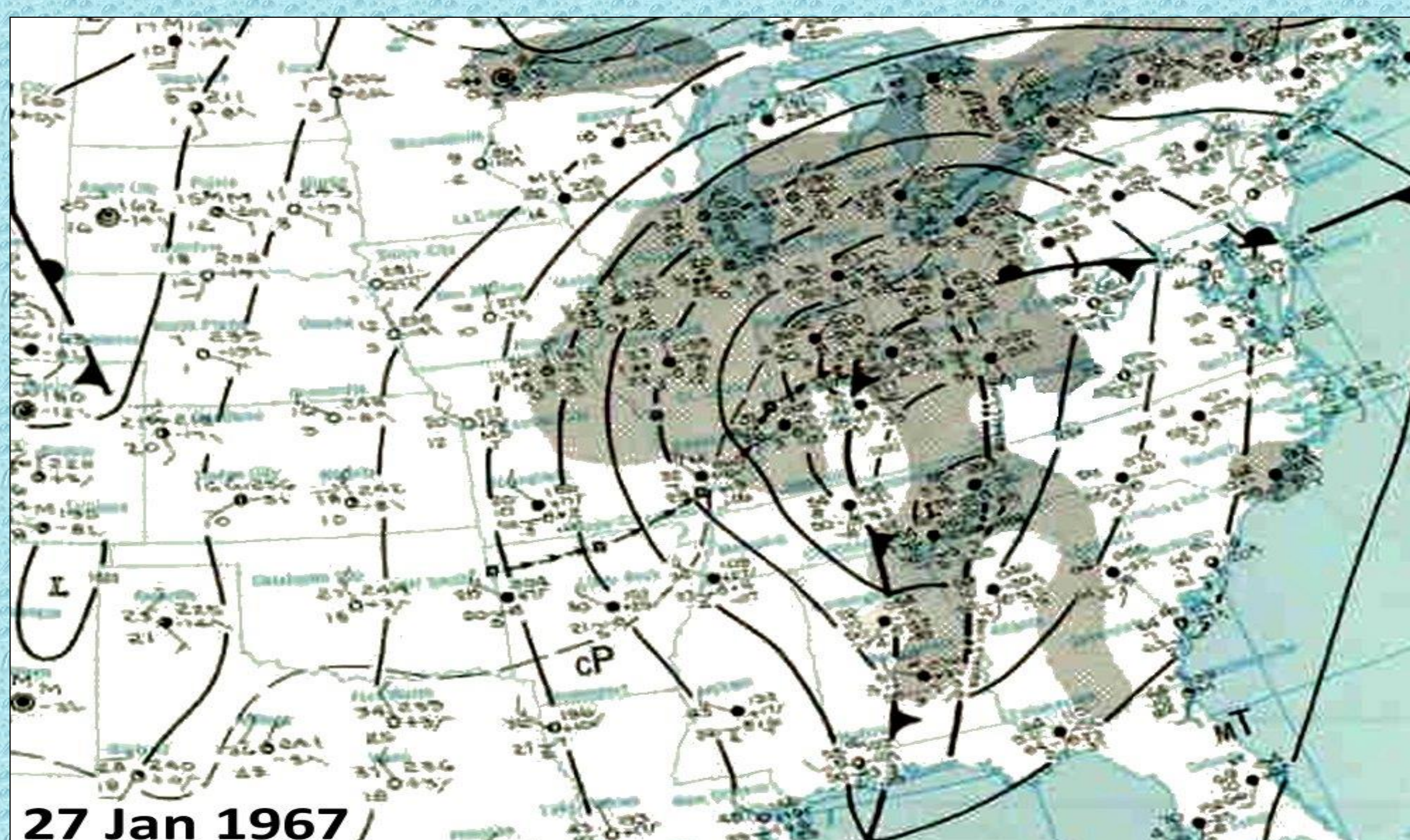
# CHICAGO BLIZZARD OF 1967

Chicago underwent one of the worst blizzards in the city's history on January 26 and 27, 1967. During this time, the snowstorm dumped **23 inches** of snow on the city in just **35 hours**. At times, the snow fell at a **rate of two inches per hour**. The vast amount of snow paralyzed Chicago making roads impassable. High wind speeds around **53 mph** caused snow drifts up to 10 feet high which crippled the city. The snowstorm was responsible for **60 deaths in Chicago**.



## OVERVIEW:

On January 26, a surface low moved from Arkansas into western Kentucky, and then into northern Kentucky by later on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The low quickly deepened as it moved along this path, which was key in the development of heavy precipitation. The snowstorm was caused by a comma head to the north and northwest of the surface low. Comma heads occur in mature winter cyclones and produce bands of heavy snow and even embedded thunderstorms. In fact, Meigs Field, a small airport on the Chicago lakeshore, reported thundersnow in this event which produced high snowfall rates. Also, because of northeast surface winds off of Lake Michigan, lake-enhanced snow took place over parts of Chicago, which added to the very high local snowfall amounts. The lake-enhanced process occurs when very cold air moves over warmer lake water, producing narrow bands of intense snowfall that augment snow in the comma head.



Surface map showing low pressure approaching Cincinnati. Dark shading to the northwest of the low represented heavy snow occurring over Chicago at the time. Courtesy of National Weather Service



Oakwood Drive near Lake Shore Drive. Courtesy of Chicago Tribune

## THE IMPACT

- 60 deaths in Chicago.
- Storm produced 8 inches of snow in Chicago by noon stranding many children at school, and many adults at work.
- Airports and local transportation were completely shutdown.
- Helicopters were used to deliver medicine to hospitals for patients in need.
- Estimated **\$150 million** in business losses due to the storm.
- Snowstorm caused the largest disruption to commerce and transportation in Chicago since the 1871 Great Fire of Chicago.
- Snow removal cost **\$8-10 million**

**“This storm will take the wind off the sails of grandfathers who liked to say how bad the winters were when they were children”**

- Meteorologist to Chicago Tribune.



Courtesy of Chicago Sun-Times

**“I remember they had to airlift milk and bread. People weren't angry. People were just wondering how they were going to make it”**

- Peggy Marie, Chicagoan.



Cars were abandoned across the city due to impassable roads. Courtesy of Chicago Tribune



The snow was so deep that transportation just came to a halt. Courtesy of Chicago Tribune

Nathan Smith  
**University of Louisville**