Alex Dzadovsky

Mrs. Foltz

PA History-5

10 February 2009

“The Storm of the Century” is one of the biggest and worst storms of the century. “The Storm of the Century” can also be called “The Blizzard of 1993.” On March 12th and 13th, the massive storm dumped 2-3inches of snow per hour on the Pittsburgh area. By the end of the storm, Pittsburgh received a total of 25 inches of snow. Within these two days, the snowfall was one third of the total snowfall for all of 1993.

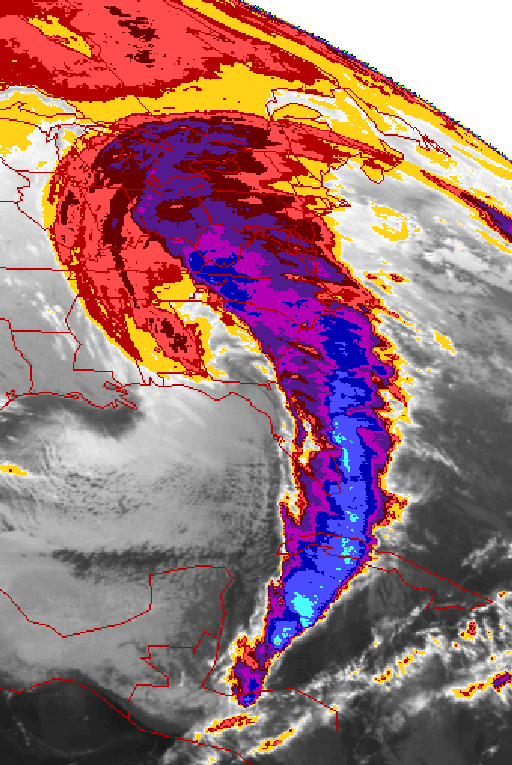
The National Weather Service had forecasted this storm five days in advance. This was the first time the National Weather Service was able to forecast a storm of this size that far in advance.

Stretching from Central America to Canada, this blizzard was more than the width of the state of Texas. It killed 208 people across the nation and 48 people were missing at sea. Total damage cost of the storm was around six billion dollars. While most states saw snow, Florida experienced eleven reported tornadoes.

It had a huge effect on the Pittsburgh area and the state was declared a state of emergency. At the Pittsburgh International Airport more than five thousand travelers were stranded. The PAT (Port Authority of Allegheny County) had cancelled all busses. Pennsylvania’s Governor Casey had closed all interstates and turnpikes within the state. With all of the cancellations during these days, the St. Patrick’s Day parade still took place in downtown Pittsburgh.

People who were affected by this storm would not forget it. The citizens of Pittsburgh were better prepared for future storms. The road crews learned that they need to plow the roads during the storm and wait to salt them after the snow slowed down. This storm allowed the National Weather Service to make new models to use when forecasting future storms.

Experts say that this type of storm is a “once in a lifetime” experience but they also know that the weather can be unpredictable.

This map shows the massive size of the storm. A mailbox in Pennsylvania is

buried in the snow.