



Looking north along Lake Street, near the intersection with Maple Street, in Phillips, Wisconsin, on February 24, 1922. The Phillips *Times* of February 25<sup>th</sup> headlined the event: “Big Blizzard Ties Up Traffic for Three Days; Forty-Hour Storm Hardest in Years.” The *Times* reported, “While it is estimated that only some fifteen inches of snow fell, in addition to the thirty inches we had before the storm, this is only a slight indication of what height the snow banks assumed.” The *Times* also reported the first run of the snow plow designed and crafted by County Highway Commissioner Ben Griffin. Fashioned after the plows used on railroads, Griffin had it mounted on a Caterpillar tractor, and cleared the roadway to a width of 18 feet. Griffin drove the “Cat” plow through Phillips along Lake Street on the morning of Friday, February 24, opening the path seen in this photograph. On the left side of Lake Street, the first building with arched windows is S.A. Johnson’s studio, followed by Henry Meyer’s building housing the Phillips Meat Market, then William Waddell’s building offering rooms and a restaurant, followed by the Eagle Variety Store, and the dominant Lake View House hotel. Further down at the corner of Lake and Chestnut the cupola of the Phillips Hardware and City Dray Line loom above the other buildings. On the right side of Lake Street, the first structure is the 1919 Great War Memorial Arch, after which the gazebo advertises Tobey’s Land Sales. Behind those the first building is the Masonic Hall. The Kneeland-McLurg Lumber Company’s powerhouse smokestack rises above the hall, and is in full operation. From the Archives of the Price County Historical Society.



Looking north along Lake Street in Phillips, Wisconsin, after the big blizzard on February 24, 1922. The Phillips Times of February 25<sup>th</sup> headlined the event: *“Big Blizzard Ties Up Traffic for Three Days; Forty-Hour Storm Hardest in Years.”* The Times reported, *“While it is estimated that only some fifteen inches of snow fell, in addition to the thirty inches we had before the storm, this is only a slight indication of what height the snow banks assumed.”* Indeed, as we look down the side walk at those piles we can only imagine how much effort went into clearing the walks and finding a place for the white stuff. Kind of makes you appreciate the modern gas-powered snow blower, as well as trucks and tractors with plows, eh? Notice the marking on the telephone pole for Highway 13 West in an inverted triangle. From a photograph in the Archives Collection of the Price County Historical Society, Inc.





Price County's Holt Ten Ton Caterpillar Tractor used for snowplow work on county and town roads. This Cat was used on the morning of Friday, February 24, 1922 to clear the roadway through Phillips during the Great Snow and Ice Storm that hit the entire State of Wisconsin. Price County Historical Society, Inc. Archives Collection.



Soo Line Locomotives stuck near depot in Fifield, Wisconsin 1922 snow storm. Tom and Mary Lou Nicholls Collection Price County Historical Society Archives Collection.