

Snow way! Road district once again cautions drivers

by Nancy Hogland

It was Jeremy Duncan's first night behind the wheel of the massive plow. Snow was dumping from the sky faster than the crews could remove it but Duncan was determined to keep his section of Horseshoe Bend cleared.

While a thick cloud of snow swirled around him, he diligently kept his eyes focused on the road ahead, straining to spot anything that may be in his path. Then suddenly, out of the corner of his eye, Duncan saw him - an elderly man shoveling his driveway - in the middle of

the night! Duncan eased off the gas pedal and pulled back on the lever to change the direction of the blade - but it was too little, too late. He left behind a mound of snow at the edge of the newly cleared driveway.

"After I passed by, I looked in my mirror and saw the man

waving at me so I stopped. This was my first time doing this and I didn't know what to expect," Duncan explained, adding that while the incident occurred years ago, he remembered it as if it were yesterday. "The next thing I know, the guy was up in the cab with me, cussing me out like a dog! He yelled and waved his finger in my face and called me every name he could think of for several minutes before finally getting out."

The 11-member crew of the Horseshoe Bend Special Road District nodded in agreement as Duncan spoke. They all had experienced similar problems. And although the area is nearing the end of the snow season, because March snow is common, road district officials hoped they could get their message out before a serious incident occurred.

"It's a situation where we're darned if we do, darned if we don't," Tim Borrett quipped. "Everyone wants us to go slow but they all want us to hurry up and get to their streets! Everyone wants their streets clear but they don't want us to pile

that snow in front of their place. There's no way to make everybody happy in this job!"

Ralph Briese remembered a day he made one man particularly unhappy.

"I was driving slow and I was watching because I was approaching a business entrance. All of a sudden, just as I passed by, this guy stepped out from around the corner of the building and wham - he was covered from head to foot! And it was the worst kind of snow - wet and slushy," Briese said, adding that while the businessman wasn't exactly angry when Briese went back to apologize, it was clear that he wasn't too happy about being turned into a "snowman."

Mark Dabbs recalled the night he "took out Frosty."

"It was very dark, it was snowing hard and I could barely see. I was driving along and all of a sudden I saw a hat and coat flying through the air," he said, adding that after pulling to a stop, jumping out of his truck and running back to the scene of the "accident," he found that he had plowed down a snowman

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Horseshoe Bend Special Road District crew members (left to right, back) Dale Moon, Ralph Briese, Tim Borrett, Ryan Cochran, Brandon Kissinger, Randy Cerny, T.J. Moore, Mark Dabbs, Bill Duncan and Jeremy Duncan; and (front) Jeremy Duncan, foreman; and Kevin Luttrell, acting superintendent; have tips to help residents stay safe thru rest of winter weather. Nancy Hogland photo.

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