

Jerry and his daughters survive a Chicago snowstorm, originally in Chapter 6:

Wednesday, February 22, 1967 was Washington's Birthday. Since the holiday was still celebrated on the day itself instead of on a Monday, the school in Glencoe had declared a long weekend. Eve and Susan were bouncing around the house on Thursday afternoon with nothing to do, and the press coverage Jerry had gotten put him in a great mood. He decided to give Teri a break. Hey, girls, you wanna go in to the station and watch Daddy work? The two older kids liked running around the building and peeking into the offices – they didn't quite get what Jerry did at the station, but it was an adventure, and they were up for it.

All three of them got an adventure they hadn't bargained for. As Jerry drove into town, one of those freak Midwestern snowstorms blew up. In a matter of minutes, it was snowing so hard that Jerry couldn't see two feet in front of him. It was impossible to tell how close he was to the cars ahead, and impossible to see how close other cars were to his tail. There was thunder and lightning. The car's tires weren't gripping properly. The wind was ferocious. Jerry got very quiet, and Eve sensed how afraid he was. He knew that almost anything could happen – and it wasn't just his own life at stake, but those of his eight-year-old and seven-year-old, too.

He discovered a semi rolling along ahead of them up ahead and maneuvered their car into position just behind the truck. He stuck to those red lights right into the city, using the truck tracks as footing for his car. When they finally got to the CBS parking lot, he exhaled. "If it hadn't been for that truck . . ."

Once they were inside, the storm dissipated. The news folks reported the statistics: 4_ inches of snow in 2_ hours, with winds up to 47 miles per hour. Accidents everywhere. They'd been lucky, damned lucky.

Eve Williams told us this story on 8/22/05, without remembering the date. We dated the storm from http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lot/?n=Feb_wx_trivia, captured 10/30/06. We confirmed the date of the celebration of the Washington's Birthday holiday using information from <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/washington1.html>.