

COMMENT

'More haste, less hurry'... but doesn't 'haste make waste'?

By Ted Brown
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A Ted Bit

Years ago, my grandfather had a saying: 'More haste, less hurry,' which always made me wonder what in hell he was talking about.

As I grew, I came to realize he was right—if one does things in a hurry, chances are you'll mess it up. I try to not rush when going somewhere, but sometimes old sayings come back to bite me.

Last week, I had a breakfast meeting at 7:30 a.m. When I have an early appointment, my morning starts earlier than usual, as the sheep must be fed before I leave. Dressed and ready to leave, I noticed the truck windshield was covered in frost.

I fired up the F150, and backed out of the driveway, giving the windshield washer a shot to clear the frost. The windshield frosted right over, as I approached the narrow part of the driveway, where it drops off on both sides....

Okay, let's stop there for a second, and back up 24 hours. The day before, I decided the driveway needed to be graded. There were some nasty potholes, so I spent an hour or more leveling it off with the grader. When finished, it looked like legendary Esquesing Township grader operator 'Red Roshier' had graded the lane. All that was missing was a 'Soft Shoulders' sign.

Okay, back to that frosty morning.

Pressing the washer fluid button, the windshield went white, and I felt the right front wheel slip to the right. I hit the brakes, and the truck slid sideways—just a little bit, over the edge of the lane.

Apparently, those 'soft shoulders' were softer than I figured.

I pulled the truck into Low Range four-wheel-drive. I then realized the wheels were not quite touching the ground. The truck was resting on the frame, just enough to take the weight off the tires—no traction.

I walked to the shed, (dressed in my suit) and fired up the tractor. The Sidekick hadn't left for work, so I asked her to help. She pulled up behind the truck, and opened her window.

"What happened?" she said, stifling a smirk.

I was dreading this moment. The Sidekick revels in the opportunity to make fun of me, particularly if I've done something dumb... as

rare as that might be.

"The shoulder gave way," I explained.

It was a waste of time, she'd already taken a photo, and I expected it'd be plastered all over Facebook in seconds.

I put her behind the wheel of the truck, and told her to steer it out as I pulled it. (She was still smirking.)

"I'm going to hook the chain on the lower side to pull, so the truck can't roll over into the ditch...."

The smirk disappeared.

I jumped on the tractor, threw it in gear, and started to pull. As the tractor wheels dug up the driveway, I thought, "Wow, it's in deeper than I thought."

I waved to The Sidekick to give the truck some gas. The truck revved as I pulled again. Still wouldn't budge.

I dropped down a gear, and finally, the truck came up out of the ditch, and I stopped the tractor.

I stepped over to the truck window, and said "Pull ahead, so I can unhook the chain."

The truck revved again—but didn't move. "Do that again..."

Once again, it revved—but didn't move.

"Is it still in Park?" I asked.

"Oh," she said, "I guess it is..."

"Has it always been in Park?"

"Umm, maybe..."

I suddenly knew that photo wasn't gonna show up on Facebook.

"When you said the chain would keep it from rolling over, I forgot about putting it into Drive," she explained.

I had just pulled a Ford F150 out of the ditch, with all four wheels locked in Low Range Four-Wheel-Drive, while still in Park.

In retrospect, a pretty good stint for the old Massey, to say the least. We laughed and agreed we'd both been idiots that day.

And the next day the windshield is covered in frost...

I'll probably think 'More haste, less hurry'—whatever that means.

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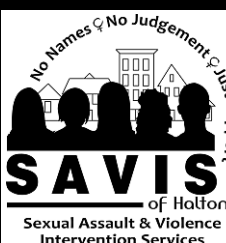
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