

NO EXCUSES  
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If you don't like the weather in Michigan everyone will tell you just wait twenty-four hours and it will change!

I remember back one spring when I was a teenager, why I didn't have my own set of wheels I can't recall. However, I do recall having a date and not have any transportation. I talked my brother-in-law into letting me borrow his '56 Ford F-100 pick-up. He made me promise to have it back to his house in the morning and that meant with "no excuses."

The day I picked up the truck it was a nice warm spring day. However the next morning when I woke up everything was covered in ice!

Our farmhouse was on a hill and we had a horseshoe shaped driveway. With all the ice, I knew that I didn't dare drive out the direction the truck was pointed because I probably could not make it up the hill.

The '56 Ford F-100 had no weight in the back, so it did not have good traction. The truck had a V8 engine with a stick shift on the column. It also had a hand choke, which was going to come in handy at this point! With the choke pulled out and the truck in first gear and me outside pushing at the same time hanging on to the steering wheel, I was able to get it turned around so that I could go out the other direction. Our drive was so slick with ice I ended up going across our lawn for better traction.

The road we lived on was still gravel at that time and I thought if I could get the truck out to the road I could then get back in and drive on the shoulder where the gravel was piled up.

I drove on the edge of the road at a snail's pace, when I reached the paved road it wasn't any better, so again, driving on the shoulder I was finally able to reach my sister's house. When my brother-in-law saw me drive in with his truck, I thought he was going to have a heart attack.

He wanted to know what I was doing out on such bad roads! That's when I reminded him that he told for me to have the truck back at his house in the morning with NO EXCUSES.