

"What do you mean, my car is still in that five foot drift, and the snow plow hasn't come through yet?" my incredulous voice demanded on the phone. "This is Wednesday afternoon, are you sure the road hasn't been cleared yet?"

This whole mess started on Monday when I had to abandon my car a little over three miles from home and hike the rest of the way on foot. I had made a last minute stop at the barn where I keep some of my livestock located a few miles from home and my famous-for-being-terrible-in-snow car just slid into a snowbank on the side of the road and quit.

But now this was Wednesday and my car was still enveloped in its snowy crust. The road was supposedly impassible. Do these things really happen in the 20th century? I had to find out for myself.

So I saddled up my horse, Dollar, and off we headed down the road. I must admit he showed no enthusiasm for the trip.

At first it wasn't bad going. The road had been well-cleared for the first mile or so, and we made good time. The black macadem even showed under the snow in spots. Surely all roads were like this, I thought.

Then we rounded a corner, and what can I say? The road just ended in a snowbank It was incredible.

The rest of the trip was made cross fields and over snowmobile trails. Farmers and residents of the area stopped their shovelling to stare at the girl on the horse pushing through the snow But there were no smart cracks about my mode of travel As long as I was moving I was to be envied

There was one hairy moment when Dollar managed to slide in a humendous drift and bogged down to a complete halt. There is a certain sinking feeling involved in looking down from the top of a horse and noticing that the snow is up past your shoes. I mean when the horse gets stuck, what do you do?

Upon getting out of the saddle, it was noticeable that the horse's stomach rested firmly on packed snow, and none of his legs were visible. He stared at me patiently, waiting for his faithful master, who got him into this predictament, to get him out

My first thought was how long it would be until spring thaw. My second, why do these things always happen to me? But then I got an idea that I was sure would solve the problem.

Walking about ten feet in front of the horse, I turned to him and called, "Oats, Dollar, oats." At the magic mention of his favorite food, his head came up like a trooper's, and making the supreme effort, he lunged forward out of the drift.

The rest of the trip was made without incident and sure enough, my car was still snowed in with no snowplows in sight. Dollar and I headed back home where he got an extra ration of feed and I waited for the sound of snowplows.

But who says I don't know the way to a horse's heart?



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