

2 Fences 2 Feet Apart

Between two farms near Valleyview, Alberta, Canada, you can find two parallel fences, only two feet apart, running for a half-mile. Why are there two fences when one would do?

Two farmers, Paul and Oscar, had a disagreement that erupted into a feud. Paul wanted to build a fence between their land and split the cost, but Oscar was unwilling to contribute. Since he wanted to keep cattle on his land, Paul went ahead and built the fence anyway.

After the fence was completed, Oscar said to Paul, “I see we have a fence.”



“What do you mean ‘we’?” Paul replied. “I got the property line surveyed and built the fence two feet into my land. That means some of my land is outside the fence. And if any of your cows sets foot on my land, I’ll shoot it.”

Oscar knew Paul wasn’t joking, so when he eventually decided to use the land adjoining Paul’s pasture, he was forced to build another fence, two feet away.

Oscar and Paul are both gone now, but their double fence stands as a monument to the high price we pay for stubbornness.

Stubbornness is defined as: *The quality or state of being stubbornly inflexible*, with such descriptive synonyms as diehardism, grimness, implacability and rigidity – all terms that most would prefer not to be applied to us.

The character trait is in keeping with the lyrics of a song made famous by Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley – *I Did It My Way*.

Life is much more pleasant, productive and rewarding if we seek to do it God’s way, and that includes practicing the Golden Rule.

– Beecher Hunter