

Avoid EXaggeration

Most of us would agree that we are a blessed people for many reasons – the country in which we live, the jobs we have, the friends who care about us. And once in a while, the temptation to exaggerate pops up; maybe because of a performance at fishing or on the golf course, or perhaps it is pride in a possession of which we are particularly proud.

If we yield to such an inclination, there is often someone or something that can bring us back to earth rather quickly. Thank goodness!

The story is told of a Texan who drove into a gas station in the hills of Tennessee. He was wearing a 10-gallon hat and fancy cowboy boots, he had diamond rings on both hands, and he was puffing a king-sized cigar.

“Fill ‘er up!” he yelled at the attendant as he strolled inside.

Sitting over to one side of the room, on a keg, was a Tennessee farmer.

“Live around here?” asked the Texan.

“Yep,” the farmer answered, “that’s my place across the road.”

“Oh, it is?” said the Texan condescendingly. “Well, tell me, how many acres have you got?”

“Oh, about 80 acres, more or less,” replied the farmer.

“Only 80 acres?” scoffed the Texan. “Well, let me tell you about my place. Why, I get in my car early in the morning and start driving in a straight line, and by noon I haven’t even reached the other side! Now what about that?”

“Yep, I know what you mean,” the Tennessee farmer shot back. “I used to have a car like that myself.”

– Beecher Hunter