

Teddy Roosevelt, the Cowboy

Theodore Roosevelt (1858 – 1919) was an author, explorer, soldier, naturalist and reformer who served as the 26th President of the United States from 1901 to 1909.

Roosevelt lived for a time in Medora, North Dakota, where he built a ranch on the banks of the Little Missouri River, and became a cowboy. He wrote about frontier life for national magazines, and even served as a deputy sheriff.

During his time as a rancher, Roosevelt and one of his cowpunchers lassoed a maverick steer, lit a fire and prepared the branding iron. The part of the range they were on was claimed by Gregory Lang, one of Roosevelt's neighbors.



According to the cattleman's rule, the steer therefore belonged to Lang. As his cowboy applied the brand, Roosevelt said, "Wait. It should be Lang's brand."

"That's all right, boss," said the cowboy.

"But you're putting on my brand," Roosevelt said.

"That's right," said the man.

"Drop that iron," Roosevelt demanded, "and get back to the ranch and get out. I don't need you anymore. A man who will steal *for* me will steal *from* me."

Honesty is a virtue much admired – perhaps because it is in such short supply in our society.

Wikipedia defines honesty as referring to a facet of moral character and connotes positive attributes, such as integrity, truthfulness, straightforwardness, along with the absence of lying, cheating and theft. "Furthermore, honesty means being trustworthy, loyal, fair and sincere," it said.

Dr. Madison Sarratt taught mathematics at Vanderbilt University for many years. Before giving a test, the professor would admonish his class with this advice:

(more)

“Today I am giving two examinations – one in trigonometry and the other in honesty. I hope you will pass them both. If you must fail one, fail trigonometry. There are many good people in the world who can’t pass trig, but there are no good people in the world who cannot pass the examination of honesty.”

Honesty should be a hallmark of both our professional and personal lives.

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight
(Proverbs 12:22 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter