

# WHAT THE COACH SAID TO THE UMPIRE

## . . . and other true life stories that make you laugh

The craziest stories usually are those that actually happened. Like the time a car crashed into Jake and Sadie's house late one night and woke up Sadie, who called out, "Is that you, Jake?" You end up telling them over and over again. Here are some that you sent to us. Thanks to everyone who submitted something. You can see more on our Web site at [www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com). Next month we'll publish the best of your favorite photos (due July 15). For the remaining themes of 2003, see page 18.

— Michael E.C. Gery, editor

### Calling them as he sees them

This is a true story that actually happened during a high school baseball game. Since the individuals involved are quite well known, at least in Davidson County, I have purposely not referred to them by name.

A certain high school baseball coach has always had a tendency to disagree with any umpire's call that does not favor his team. In a recent game, he had constantly questioned the consistency of the man in blue's strike zone. When one of his players was thrown out in a very close play at home, Coach charged the ump and protested the decision vehemently. Having put up with the coach's antics to his limit, the umpire ejected Coach from the contest.

Following the rulebook, which states that a banished player or coach must be "out of sight and sound," the abused official told the coach, "You must go where I can't see you."

This was the coach's opportunity for the perfect squelch, and he countered by going directly to home plate and saying, "I guess that means I'll stand right here, because you haven't seen anything that happened here all night."

*Kent Crim  
Lexington  
EnergyUnited*

### Changing colors

Mr. Rother, my sister-in-law's dad, was a "Sanford and Son" fan. Every night at the time "Sanford and Son" was to come on he would go into the den, turn on the TV, sit down, take his hat

off, and lay it by the chair. He would not say much until his program had ended.

One day unbeknown to him, his daughter-in-law took his TV to be worked on, leaving her color TV in the place of his. She knew "Sanford and Son" would be on that night and didn't want to get on the wrong side of Mr. Rother.

So that night he came in, turned on the TV, and sat back, and the first words out of his mouth were, "Well, I'll be darned, Sanford has painted his truck!"

*Lucy Allen  
Four Oaks  
South River EMC*



### A half won't harm anyone

My friend Jenny and I had been faithfully following a diet program for two months and had not eaten any sweets during that time. One morning we met for breakfast and successfully stayed on program, eating only boiled eggs, dry toast, orange juice and black coffee. Next to us sat a gentleman who was leisurely breakfasting on three glazed donuts. We were very envious of him.

The man left his seat at the counter, leaving one untouched

donut behind. My friend nudged me and pointed at it, saying, "Look! We can't let that go to waste. Grab it before the waitress clears it away!"

Without pause or second thought we halved the donut and were happily licking our fingertips when the gentleman returned to his seat from the bathroom. We kept our eyes lowered and red faces averted as he questioned the waitress, and before he could consider us, we made a hasty retreat out the door.

*Sandra Roberts  
Morganton  
Rutherford EMC*

### Learning early

My sister took her little granddaughter shopping with her one day. She was buying a lot of things on her credit card. Eventually, her granddaughter spoke up and asked her, "Grandma, when you die, can I have that card?"

*Mary King  
Largo, Fla.*

### Did she or didn't she?

When my father was growing up, his life was made more interesting by the pranks of his four younger sisters: Emmy, Elizabeth, Catherine and Louise. One evening after supper when he realized that one serving of dessert remained, he slipped it into a back corner of the icebox for a later treat. To ensure that it remained his and his alone, he wrote a note saying, "I spit in this. Thomas." And propped it next to the dessert.

Some time later he returned for his prize and found an addition to his note. It said simply, "So did I. Catherine."

*Keren Wheeler  
Lansing  
Blue Ridge Electric*

### We're out of here

Every Saturday evening, my boyfriend and I would go to a different restaurant for dinner. We tried all kinds of foods and never dined at the same place twice.

One restaurant – we'll call it Damian's – had an unusual menu with duck, pheasant and things we had never tried. We were seated, given a pitcher of water, two glasses, and bread with butter on a beautifully decorated plate. The table was complete with linen cover, silverware, fresh flowers and a candle.

When my boyfriend looked at the menu, he got a terrified look on his face. He told me the prices were too steep, and we could not afford to dine there. I told him not to worry; we could just get up quietly and slowly and walk out. In his panic, he checked his pockets to see how much money he had and inadvertently tucked the edge of the tablecloth into his pocket with his money.

I'm sure you can guess what happened. Yes, water pitcher, glasses, candle, silverware, flowers, bread and butter went crashing everywhere as he got up from his seat to make our slow, quiet departure.

*Karen L. Vanak  
Trinity*

### How to earn a nickname

Our friend, Lloyd, told us about his family reunion and his Aunt Irene. He said she had become intoxicated and several of the family members tried to get her into the house to lie down. She refused.

It wasn't long before she passed out in front of the picnic tables. People just walked around her being careful not to step on her. No one wanted her to get hurt. She had been out for awhile when Uncle Charlie, her husband, who had gone to the beer store, you know, for more beer, came back.

Well, he decided it was too far to walk from where the cars were parked, so he'd just drive up to those picnic tables so as not to have so far to walk. Everyone started yelling for him to STOP! Being slightly intoxicated himself, Uncle Charlie couldn't figure out why they were yelling. So he just kept coming.

Well, sure enough, he ran right over Aunt Irene. It scared him so bad he put that car in reverse and backed right over her again.

I asked Lloyd: "What did you do?" He said, "There were so many people over there, I just sat in my car and watched. 'Twern't nothing I could do."

"Did it kill her?" I asked. "Naw, it broke her arm. We all just call her 'Speed Bump' now."

*Linda Linville  
Dobson  
Surry-Yadkin EMC*

### Saturday morning news

Several years ago our family moved to Boone so my husband could go to graduate school at Appalachian State University. We had three young children at the time and lived in university housing on campus. Every Saturday morning it became a ritual for my husband to walk down the hill from our apartment to a newspaper stand outside the business building, taking our three sons along with him to get the Saturday Winston-Salem Journal. It was about 200 yards away but visible from our home.

One Saturday, our 8-year-old asked if he could go get the paper "all by myself." My husband thought a moment then gave his permission to go ahead. He gave Josh the quarter and told him to be careful. We watched as our son went off, feeling a little apprehensive but knowing we needed to start letting him grow up some.

We watched him the whole way. He walked down to the newspaper stand, stood there a few moments, then came back. When he got back to us he had no paper. My husband asked where the paper was, and Josh replied that they were out.

"Then where's my quarter?" asked my husband.

Josh said, "I put it in the machine."

My husband then asked why he put in a quarter if the machine was empty. Josh said that he did not know it was empty until he opened it up and there were no papers inside.

His dad then asked why he didn't see through the glass that it was empty. Josh replied, "There was a paper in the way."



*Rise Harris  
Dobson  
Surry-Yadkin EMC*

## Why he sits in the back

This story is very true, and it happened to my husband and me. We stopped to get gas at the filling station, and once I paid we started off to a local mall. Well, I talked and talked to my husband who never answered, because he sat in the back seat.

Once at the mall, I turned to the back seat and no husband! This made me laugh, so I went back to the filling station. There was my husband, so upset that he called the police.

He got out to go to the men's room and never told me.

*Helen L. Oliver  
Avon  
Cape Hatteras Electric*

## Locked in

A good story is the best, but when it's true, it's even finer.

A good friend of mine asked me to meet her husband at Frank's and give him a ride home. He drives a semi, and someone else was going to deliver his load for him. I took him home and didn't think anything more about it until the next day when she called to thank me.

She said he didn't have a key and had to crawl through the window. When she asked him if he made it in okay without breaking anything, his response was, "Getting in was pretty easy, but crawlin' back out that window was the tricky part."

Occasionally, when they're not at home, I call and leave this message. "Someone help me! I'm locked in my house and can't get the window open!"

*Frances Callicutt  
Carthage  
Randolph EMC*

## Get some new ones

A friend of mine was sitting in the doctor's office waiting to be called back in. A young boy around 3 or 4 was actively moving about, going under the chairs, sitting on top of the tables, and just having a good time. His mother kept calling him down and was becoming quite exasperated in her efforts to keep him still. In frustration, she finally picked him up and set him in a chair in a no-nonsense fashion.

The little boy began to cry, "My balls, you broke my balls!" He then reached in his pockets and pulled out some crushed Ping-Pong balls.

An older gentleman sitting across the room came over and gave the little boy five dollars and said, "Here son, get you some new balls. You just made my day."

*Sondra H. Guyton  
Elizabethtown  
Four County EMC*



## Moonpie wedding cake

When my sister Gail was 17, she was asked to bake a wedding cake for a wedding. We all knew well that Gail made wonderful cakes, but when she started on the couple's three-layer wedding cake, the bottom layer fell. Gail didn't have any more time to bake another layer, so she put two moonpies under the rest of the cake, with icing, and said no one would notice. Well, they didn't notice. They said it had the best flavor they had ever tasted.

*Theresa Hawks  
Alleghany County  
Blue Ridge EMC*

## Send us your best Earn \$50

Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

### OCTOBER 2003

#### "Why I Like My Electric Cooperative"

Is a cooperative different than other utilities?

Deadline: August 15

### NOVEMBER 2003

#### "The Finest Neighbor I Ever Knew"

Tell us why and send a photo.

Deadline: Sept. 15

### DECEMBER 2003

#### "How to Live a Long and Happy Life"

Do you know an older person who sets a good example for staying healthy and happy? Send a photo, too.

Deadline: Oct. 15

### The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less. We retain reprint rights.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mail or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay \$50 for each submission published.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
9. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: [carolina.country@ncemcs.com](mailto:carolina.country@ncemcs.com). Or through the Web: [www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com)