

Names of the guilty party must be withheld in the event of court action in the story I'm going to tell you. Please pay close attention as I will want your opinion on the deal.

The facts are: Last week, a papered sheep dealer expressed a desire to buy buck lambs, either registered or purebred, at an interesting figure. I had a few head at the ranch. One of my neighbors, I felt sure, also had some buck lambs to sell.

So in hopes of making a small fee and being neighborly at the same time, I contacted my neighbor on the phone and confirmed that he did have 34 head of buck lambs to sell. I then told the buyer of the sheep about them and collected an insignificant amount of commission for my work..

Note also that when I talked to my neighbor we went over our account which ran from June of 1976. I read off the following transactions item by item.

1. Borrowed from the neighbor 194 bales of New Mexico alfalfa hay.
2. Sold to same one 1969 International pickup slightly damaged by too many international pickups, i.e. unpapered Mexican aliens.
3. Borrowed at various times from him 1700 doses of soremouth vaccine, 13 wool sacks, one opened can of thread grease, four used rod couplings, and a few odds and ends too detailed to itemize.

It was a full-disclosure listing. I wanted you to see that we had a clear understanding that my commission on the bucks was going to be added to the account.

On the appointed sale day, I sold and delivered our lambs at the ranch. By agreement, I sent the buyer on over to my neighbor's, unescorted. I felt no need to be represented in the trade as I had the commission locked in both ways. Further, I had a \$1794 margin on the abovementioned account.

Two days later I ran across the buck buyer at a meeting in town. He had changed from a most cordial sort of gent to a cool, on-guard type personality. You see. the 34 lambs I'd sent him to buy had turned out to be 10 yearlings and 24 bucks of advanced age. His afternoon had been wasted and he'd pulled a gooseneck a long distance on 85-cent gas.

From there, I leave it to you. Is it fraud or misrepresentation? Was I conned into being a party to a crime, or to more education on how cold this old world is?

I do know that I am glad I hadn't spent the commission I'd charged the buyer, and I'm going to insist on settling day that I be credited with the sale.

It seems to me there's no one to be trusted any more. If the ex-Shah of Iran calls for meat for his villa in Mexico I am sure not going to tell my neighbors. You be the judge, I charged both the buyer and seller a fair price.