**Bragging**

**Let every man examine his own work,**

**and then may he glory within himself alone**

**and not among others.**

***(Galatians 6:4)***

**Dustin Farnum, a talented but conceited actor, once droned on to his dinner host, writer Oliver Herford, about a play he was doing at the time. “Why, yesterday,” boasted Farnum, “I had the audience glued to their seats.” To which Herford replied, “How clever of you to think of it!” *(Classic Comebacks, edited by Brian Herbert)***

**A woman was bragging about her ancestors, and she went on and on, telling what each one did in past wars and in peacetimes. Each ancestor was the very best in his town or village, and many and wonderful were the deeds she related. Her audience listened politely until one man finally got a chance to insert a word into the monologue. “Hmm,” he said, “interesting family, wouldn’t you say? But a lot like a turnip. The best parts seem to be underground. *(Millie Van Valkenburg-Glick, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**The average man will bristle if you say his father was dishonest, but he will brag a little if he discovers that his grandfather was a pirate. *(Bern Williams, in National Enquirer)***

**The less you speak of your greatness, the more I shall think of it. *(Francis Bacon)***

**Before most people start boasting about their family tree, they usually do a good pruning job. *(O. A. Battista)***

**People should blow their own horn. After all, they're really the only ones who know the tune. *(Bob Talbert, in Detroit Free Press)***

**Some people who boast about how broadminded they are may just be too lazy to find out which side they’re on. *(Bits & Pieces) 39012***

**Chicago is well-known as “The Windy City,” and most people assume that the city on the shores of Lake Michigan got that moniker because of its gusty weather. The true origin of the nickname, though, is in the residents’ penchant for bragging – as the story goes, citizens of Chicago talked so much about how great their town was that they were deemed “windy.” *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits)***

**A friendly rivalry developed between Methodist and Episcopal church groups in Rocky Mount, N. C., when both broke ground on Habitat for Humanity houses within weeks of one another. One Saturday, a Methodist churchgoer helped his Episcopalian brethren frame their house. At noon he couldn’t resist bragging, “About this time on the Methodist project, the women arrive with chicken, sandwiches, chips and tea.” Not to be outdone, an Episcopal minister spoke up. “On this project,” she said, “the women are too busy nailing.” *(Cleve H. Cox, in Reader’s Digest)***

**I was bragging to my son about some of the exciting things I’d accomplished in my 20s. He didn’t seem particularly interested until I told him about the time I saw Little Richard, Ike and Tina Turner, and the Rolling Stones in concert. No, the lineup isn’t what impressed him. What floored him was the fact that a ticket cost only $10. (Martha Castillo, in Reader’s Digest)**

**“Crow” is defined as “a triumphal boast.” If a person moved something with an iron lever that couldn’t be moved without it, that person might utter such a triumphal boast. From that came the name of the “crowbar.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Boast is always a cry of despair, except when in the young it is a cry of hope. *(Bernard Berenson)***

**It ain’t bragging if you really done it. *(“Dizzy” Dean, baseball hall of fame pitcher)***

**A duty is a task we look forward to with distaste, perform with reluctance, and brag about afterwards. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**I've never any pity for conceited people, because I think they carry their comfort about with them. *(George Eliot)***

**It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, “My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him $50.” The second boy says, “That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him $100.” The third boy says, “I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon . . . and it takes eight people to collect all the money!” *(S.C.U.C.A. Regional Reporter)***

**There’s a lot to be said for the fellow who doesn’t say it himself. *(Maurice Switzer)***

**People who give up smoking usually substitute something for it -- - like bragging. *(The Better Way)***

**Success doesn't always go to the head. Sometimes it goes to the mouth. *(Arnold H. Glasow)***

**It's hard to say who brags more, the reformed smoker or the guy whose car gets 30 miles to the gallon. *((James Alexander Thom, in Nuggets)***

**Three little boys were boasting about how tough they were. One said, “I’m so tough I can wear out a pair of shoes in a week.” Another said, “I’m tougher. I can wear out a pair of jeans in a day.” The third little boy bragged, “I’m the toughest. I can wear out my grandma and grandpa in an hour.” *(Darwin Bang, in Country magazine)***

**In a booming voice, a cantor bragged to his congregation, “Two years ago, I insured my voice with Lloyd's of London for $750,000.” The crowded room was hushed. Suddenly, an elderly woman spoke. “So,” she said, “what did you do with the money?” *(Joseph Telushkin, in Jewish Humor)***

**If a June night could talk, it would probably boast that it invented romance. *(Bern Williams)***

**Bragging is not an attractive trait, but let’s be honest. A man who catches a big fish doesn’t go home through an alley. *(Quoted by Anne Landers, Creators/Los Angeles Times Syndicates)***

**What kills a skunk is the publicity it gives itself. *(Abraham Lincoln)***

**Listen to what people say about themselves; they will tell you everything you need to know. *(Mason Cooley, scholar)***

**Braggin’ Buckeye: A young woman tended to brag a bit too much about her home state, notes Field Editor Karen Ann Bland from Gove, Kansas. One day she told a long-suffering friend, “You know, the first man in powered flight was from Ohio. The first man to orbit the Earth was from Ohio. And the first man on the moon was from Ohio.” “Sounds to me like a lot of people are trying to get out of Ohio,” her friend observed. *(Country magazine)***

**Although Old West writer Ned Buntline promoted some heroic figures – Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill Hickok – a couple did a pretty good job publicizing themselves. Allan Pinkerton of “Private Eye” fame wrote 18 detective novels. Bat Masterson, a New York City newspaperman, wrote some spiced-up accounts of his own exploits. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The only people who brag about having been poor are the rich. (*Frank B. Medor, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The Means Justify the Ends? Parents can become boring talking on and on about their new baby. It all ends, however, when the parents change the subject. *(Sam Ewing, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**Do you wish people to think well of you? If you do, then don’t speak well of yourself. *(Blaise Pascal)***

**If you have talent, you don't have to tell people. *(Pee Wee Reese, baseball hall of famer)***

**Let the other fellow find out who you are. He’ll remember it longer. *(The Wall Street Journal)***

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**I always like to hear a man talk about himself because then I never hear anything but good. *(Will Rogers)***

**Get someone else to blow your horn and the sound will carry twice as far. *(Will Rogers)***

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**There are two motives for reading a book*:* one, that you enjoy it; the other, that you can boast about it. *(Bertrand Russell)***

**When does a hill become a mountain? When it fills out an application for employment. *(Marilyn vos Savant, in Parade magazine)***

**George Bernard Shaw explained the value of publicity: “A codfish lays 10,000 eggs a day, silently. A hen lays one egg, and cackles. Nobody eats codfish eggs. Everybody eats hen’s eggs.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Many a boasting self-made man is a beautiful example of unskilled labor. One thing, however, that must be said to his credit is that he relieves the Lord of a terrific amount of responsibility. *(Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, in Catholic Digest)***

**When someone sings his own praises, he always gets the tune to high. *(Mary H. Waldrip, in Dawson County, Georgia, Advertiser and News)***

**The Space Force, the sixth and newest branch of the U.S. military, was authorized by Congress and signed into law by President Donald Trump in December 2019. Its creation was not a partisan endeavor, though Trump has boasted that the idea for the organization was his alone. The initiative had in fact been shaped within the armed forces and Congress over the previous 25 years, based on the premise that as satellite and space technologies evolved, America’s military organizations had to change as well. *(The New York Times magazine, November 12, 2023)***

**Even a stopped clock is right twice every day. After some years it can boast of a long series of successes. *(Ebner-Eschenbach)***

**If you have a tendency to brag, just remember: it's not the whistle that pulls the train. *(O. F. Nichols)***

**A Texas oilman died and went to heaven. After a few days, his bragging was getting on St. Peter's nerves. No matter what part of paradise he was shown, the oilman claimed it failed to measure up to Texas. Finally St. Peter took him to the edge of heaven so he could look straight into hell. "Have you got anything like that in Texas?" the saint demanded. "No," the oilman replied. "But I know some ol' boys down in Houston who can put it out." (Dana Conner, in Reader's Digest)**

**Bragging may not win friends, but no man who has caught a big trout goes home the back way. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Noise proves nothing. Often a hen who has merely laid an egg cackles as if she had laid an asteroid. *(Mark Twain)***

**In a booming voice, a cantor bragged to his congregation, “Two years ago, I insured my voice with Lloyd’s of London for $750,000.” The crowded room was hushed. Suddenly, an elderly woman spoke. “So,” she said, “what did you do with the money?” *(Joseph Telushkin, in Jewish Humor)***

**When does a hill become a mountain? When it fills out an application for employment. *(Marilyn vos Savant, in Parade magazine)***

**Three little boys were bragging about whose father made the most money. “My dad sits down, scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, and get $100,” the first boy said. “That's nothing," said the second boy. “My dad sits down, scribbles a few words, calls it a song, and get $200!" “I got you both beat," said the third boy. “My dad sits down, scribbles a few words, calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all his money!" *(Vera Emmert Johansen)***

**There’s a charming story that Thomas Wheeler, CEO of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, tells on himself. He and his wife were driving along an interstate highway when he noticed that their car was low on gas. Wheeler got off the highway at the next exit and soon found a rundown gas station with just one gas pump. He asked the lone attendant to fill the tank and check the oil, then went for a little walk around the station to stretch his legs. As he was returning to the car, he noticed that the attendant and his wife were engaged in an animated conversation. The conversation stopped as he paid the attendant. But as he was getting back in the car, he saw the attendant wave and heard him say, “It was great talking to you.” As they drove out of the station, Wheeler asked his wife if she knew the man. She readily admitted she did. They had gone to high school together and had dated steadily for about a year. “Boy, were you lucky that I came along,” bragged Wheeler. “If you had married him, you’d be the wife of a gas station attendant instead of the wife of a chief executive officer.” “My dear,” replied his wife, “if I had married him, he’d be the chief executive officer and you’d be the gas station attendant.” *(Bits & Pieces) 19923***

**At the company water cooler, I bragged about my children’s world travels: one son was teaching in Bolivia, another was working in southern Italy, and my daughter was completing a yearlong research project in India. One co-worker’s quip, however, stopped me short. “What is it about you,” he asked, “that makes your kids want to get so far away.” *(Todd W. Kaiser, in Reader’s Digest)***

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