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There is one thing about Texas Rangers that the general public seldom sees—
their tremendous sense of humor. The following story illustrates this well.

Fort Worth Ranger Ted Poling was busy trying to catch up on his workload when his phone
rang. His captain, David Byrnes, was on the other end of the line, and he had a case that Ted
needed to work immediately. He had just received a call from a woman in Azle, a small town near
Fort Worth, claiming that her baby had been stolen from a local hospital. Taking the woman’s
phone number, Captain Byrnes had told her that a Ranger would
contact her immediately and do all in his power to assist in recovering
her child.

When Ted heard this, he needed no encouragement. He was
a young and energetic Ranger, and he detested perverts with a
passion. To his way of thinking, anyone who would steal a baby
was lower than low.

Hanging up with the captain, Ted immediately called the grieving
mother in Azle. She told him that someone had indeed stolen her
babies. Babies? Yes, she had twins. He asked her if she had any
idea who would have done such a terrible thing. “Yes, I know who
stole my babies—Martians!”

“This woman really needs help” immediately flashed through
the Ranger’s mind. He asked her if she was married—yes. Inquiring
where he could find her husband, she said he was right there. “Could
I talk to him?” As the husband was coming to the phone, Ted
considered how he could get assistance for the obviously disturbed
woman.

Ted explained to the husband that he knew his wife was under
a lot of strain with the birth of the twins, and she believed they had
been stolen by Martians. However, he was anything but prepared
for the husband’s answer: “That’s right. Martians stole both of them.”
Ted had a different thought then: “How could these two idiots have
ever met, let alone gotten married?”

Ted could just see his life for the next few days. His captain in
Garland would be on the phone to every member of Company B.
He would be howling with laughter as he told his Rangers, “Guys, I
really got Poling this time. You are not going to believe the case he
is working!” For the next few days, Ted knew that his phone would ring nonstop as every member
of the company called for all the details of his investigation. Did the Martians leave any fingerprints?
Had he been able to trace them back to their launch site? Were they were still on earth? Any tips
on how to deal with them? Were they really green?

Ted did indeed get some good-natured hazing from his fellow Rangers—but don’t waste
any sympathy on the now-retired Ranger Poling. As a good friend of Ted’s, this writer can assure
you that he definitely dished it out as good as he received! And still can.