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STAFF

Alfred C. Alspach Publisher
 Ernest J. Neill Editor
 C. Wallace Abel Business Manager
 Robert G. Campbell Advertising Director
 Robert J. Wiggins Circulation Director

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NEW RECORDS IN MEAT

Continued high employment, high personal income, a growing population and a high appreciation of meat's food value has caused meat output to soar to a new record volume in 1955. And the outlook for 1956 is as promising or more promising.

Last year the average American consumed an estimated 161 lbs of red meats — each individual's share of about 26.8 billion lbs. Next year the figure is expected to rise to 27.2 billion lbs, continuing the growth that has marked the industry in recent years.

"Rising production of meat," declares J. Morrell Foster, chairman of the Board of the American Meat Institute, "is indicated by livestock feed stocks being plentiful and relatively low in price. They seem likely to stay plentiful, what with improved production methods on new crops and extensive storage on old."

One of the more dismal views of the 1955 meat picture fell on pork, as prices of hogs on the hoof declined to lows that equalled those of several years past. Pork was in a relatively weaker position than other meats, the AMI advises. Pork processors are advised to trim the fat more closely from retail cuts to make them more attractive for the shopping housewife.

During the past year, the frozen food science advanced more and more. Prepackaging, nutrition, meat preservation, processing and byproducts moved farther and farther forward.

Per capita consumption of pork rose from 59.7 to 66 lbs in the year, showing the effectiveness of the industry's selling campaign.

Pork consumption next year may rise about a pound, beef may decline about two pounds per person, while veal, lambs, and mutton may drop small fractions.

There's no crystal ball which tells what the markets will do. There's no forecaster that can advise the public what the weather will do. The farmer, the meat producer has a vital job unequalled in other lines. Yet he goes on, despite the uncertainty of what lies ahead. In some ways, he is the biggest gambler in the country, staking thousands of dollars against an unknown market.

Nevertheless, he'll be in there producing. The nation will not lack for meats. There will be a selling job from all angles, and the industry — from farrowing to the retail counter — will move ahead. This nation, the best fed nation, often fails to realize fully the part the producer plays.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

New Year's is a time of reminiscing and planning, a time to see what has happened during the past year, to see what may come in the next. It's a time to stay up until midnight or more, to welcome in the new, to say goodbye to the old. It's a time for fellowship, for partying.

Too often resolutions are made — and broken. If you — if you too — can't pin yourself down to specific resolutions, why not review the year you are closing and see what improvement can be made in the coming year?

What ever happens, let Lancaster Farming join in wishing you a Happy New Year — a happy and prosperous New Year.

THOUGHT FOR THE YEAR

One of the best items for the farmer to remember year 'round is the 1955 Farm Safety Week theme: "Farm safety is NO accident."

SINK OR SWIM

Here's today's tongue-tied twister:
 "Think or Thwim."

PRINTERS HAVE FUN

Around print shops, where the calamity of error hangs heavily always, you often find there's fun in misspelling what is obvious. One of the better, which anyone can well apply, is

Before you louse it up, THINK.

Voice Of Lancaster Farms

AND FARM FRIENDS

(Readers are invited to write comments on Lancaster Farming, about current events, or other topics. Letters should be brief, and must be signed. Names will be withheld if requested. — Editor).

LIKE IT VERY MUCH

HONEY BROOK — Find enclosed \$1.00 for Lancaster Farming. Like it very much. — Morris Kieffer.

VERY INTERESTING

OXFORD, R3 — Enclosed please find \$1.00 for my subscription to Lancaster Farming. It is very interesting and should fill a want for a local farm paper in a progressive community. Wishing you success, I am — Oliver F Larson.

FINE PAPER

BLUE BALL — Enclosed please find \$1.00 for my one year subscription I think you have a fine paper and enjoy the women's page so much. I especially liked the sugar cookie recipe and would like to have more recipes for cookies by weight measure. — Mrs. J C Mellinger.

ENJOY FARM NEWS

QUARRYVILLE — Enclosed find check for \$1.00 to Lancaster Farming. We enjoy reading the farm news. — George E. Cogley.

PLEASED WITH PAPER

CONESTOGA — I am greatly pleased with Lancaster Farming and hope you will get many more subscribers and advertisers. In short I wish you abundant success in your undertaking of publishing it for the benefit of the farmers.—A. Freeman Hershey.

ENJOY IT VERY MUCH

Lititz, Pa. — Enjoy your paper very much and thank you for sending it at first as a boxholder. Enclosed find \$1.00 as we wish to have it continue. — A Reader.

JUST FINE

Bareville — Enclosed find \$1.00 for one year subscription to Lancaster Farming. Think the paper is just fine and we couldn't get a more interesting newspaper. It's much finer than some of the dailies we get. We like the market and women's pages. Keep up your good work. — Aldus M. Nolt.

FINE PAPER

Elizabethtown — Enclosed find \$1.00 for your fine paper. Thank you for the early, free copies. — Mrs. Paul R. Good.

Cold Feet? May Be Chill That Covers County

Your feet cold? Little precipitation, lots of cold. That's how the weekly weather might be summarized in Lancaster County. Christmas here and elsewhere was balmy, with Lancaster reporting 54 degrees at noon. The warming-up followed a chilling-down of a few days earlier, for on Dec. 22 a low of 5 above was recorded at the Lancaster Water Works.

Thermometers have been erected atop the Brunswick Hotel in Lancaster to help Bernard N. White, local weatherman, make his reports, and more equipment will be installed soon. Local forecasts are being issued at 7:30 and 11:30 a. m., and reports are available there for other states.

In the extended forecast for the Middle Atlantic States, warmer weather is expected Friday, Saturday and Sunday may be colder, some light showers may arrive Friday, with total precipitation expected to be about three-tenths of an inch. On the night of Dec. 22-23, a half inch of snow fell on the county, contributing about .04 of an inch of precipitation.

50 Years Ago

This Week on Lancaster Farms

(This Week In 1905)
 By JACK REICHARD

Fifty years ago this week a bitter controversy between State Zoologist Surface and Dr. George G. Groff, of Bucknell University, over the merits of the State's \$30,000 crusade being conducted by Surface against the San Jose scale in Pennsylvania, had reached almost the first punching stage and was to be heard by members of the State Board of Agriculture, headed by Governor Pennypacker, at the board's annual meeting at Harrisburg.

The scientists were the principals in controversial editorials in many newspapers throughout the State. The feeling between the two scientists reached a degree of such bitterness that Surface offered \$50 to anyone who could prove that he was a grafter.

Groff, one of the agriculture board's most active members, questioned the abilities of Surface as a zoologist. Surface, backed by Governor Pennypacker, was in charge of a large orchard on the Governor's private farm at Schwenksville.

In New York the American Bison Society, supported by President Theodore Roosevelt, was organized at a meeting held at the New York Zoological Gardens. The object of the group was to secure government and individual aid in preserving the American bison, which were rapidly

becoming extinct. In 1905 it was estimated that there were less than 1,000 bison in the country, where millions once roved the great western plains.

A sweet potato with keeping qualities equal to the Irish potato was reported found in the South Sea Islands by Captain J. A. Macomber of Oakland, Calif. Specimens of the potato were turned over to the department of agriculture at the University of California, where plans were announced to introduce the new plant in California.

The potato was found by Captain Macomber on Pagant Island. That tuber was reported to be far superior in flavor and quality to other sweet potatoes raised in this country.

Among other reports—in 1905 was one stating that 75 million lbs of nitrogen existed in the air over each acre of land, the most valuable of all land fertilizers. It was said that every acre of ground planted with clover, cowpeas or alfalfa will gather 200 lbs of nitrogen from the air and put it into the soil within a year. Commercial nitrogen in 1905 was listed at 15 cents per pound.

Wild fowl in general was reported on the decline in Lancaster County in 1905. Many varieties which were in abundance here in 1850, except for a few migratory species, were becoming less in number and more difficult to bag.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
 International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
 BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Luke 1:5-80; 2:29-32.
 Devotional Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9.

Christmas Songs

Lesson for December 25, 1955

DID the angels sing when Christ was born? Some prosaic and unimaginative people say they didn't. True enough, Luke never says there was music. All he says is that the "multitude of the heavenly host" (he does not even say they were angels) were praising God and "saying, Glory to God in the highest . . ." Surely Christian art and Christian story is not wrong in thinking of this as song, not mere recitation or speech-making. At any rate, if the angels did not sing such words, the Dr. Foreman church has sung them. All down through the Christian centuries Christmas has been a singing time. You cannot suggest all that Christmas means in simple spoken prose; you have to sing.



Beauty in a Jangled World
 Luke, who had an ear for such things, put into his gospel not less than four poems connected with the birth of Christ. Of these the "Glory in the highest" is the shortest. The others are the words of Mary (Luke 1:47-55), of Zechariah (1:67-79) and of Simeon (chap. 2:29-32). In the R.S.V. these are printed as poetry; as they really are. (The reader will note other poetic passages, but these are the four most famous ones.) The church has set all these to music many times over, and in some churches they are sung every week. Mary's song like the others has been given a Latin name, from their first words in the Latin Bible: "Magnificat" for Mary's song, "Benedictus" for Zechariah's, "Gloria in excelsis" for the angels', and "Nunc Dimittis" for Simeon's. But modern church-goers do not always realize that each of these poems was called forth in some way by the birth of Jesus. This is as it should be. What poetry is to language

and to sound, the coming of Christ is to this world of humanity in the midst of all the jangling, wrangling, maddening and often meaningless noises of the world, in the midst of all the stupid ordinary soon-forgotten outpouring of talk, talk, talk, a lovely poem comes bringing beauty and meaning, like a rose in a junkyard. So in the midst of our jangling world Christ comes bringing meaning and joy and peace

Some Will Not Listen

To some—to too many—Christmas means nothing. "Silent Night" is a tune to be tired of, nothing more. The angels might as well never have sung, the Story never written. Readers of TIME magazine will recall an article last July 18 about a writer who is typical of many men and women in these times. He knows there is such a thing as the way of Love, for every cross on every church proclaims it, and every Christmas carol sings it. But he will not accept it. He chooses the way of defiance and despair. To him, life is a wandering in the dark, with nothing but his own candle which will soon go out.

But Some Have Heard

On the other hand there are many, and among them some of mankind's best, who have found in the Christian faith something more than merely a story, a lovely legend, a song for little children, something which it would be pleasant, but impossible, to believe. A good book to get for the new year is one called "Thus I Believe about Jesus Christ" (edited by J. C. Monsma; Revell & Co., New York). It is a collection of testimonies to Jesus Christ, by an impressive variety of men and women. College presidents, executives of great business firms, scientists, politicians, persons in many walks of life, all write on the same theme, what Christ has meant to them. Any one who thinks that Christianity is a religion only for weak characters ought to read this book. Any one who thinks that Christ is attractive only to children, might well read this book and learn better. The writers by their testimonies show that not alone for ancient and legend-loving times, not only for simple peasants in primitive lands, but for modern men, hard-headed, highly educated, burdened with great responsibilities, Christ brings meaning and beauty as well as power. Strong voices in every land join the heavenly host in praise to God who has given us his Son.

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