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BENSON ASKS EQUAL TIME

Whether it's within the province of Lancaster Farming to turn radio-TV critic or not, a reply to the Jan. 26 Ed Murrow "See It Now — The Farm Problem; a Crisis of Abundance" on CBS television is deemed necessary.

For 45 minutes the cameras swung around the nation, filming the small farmer-being forced out of business, the big farmer waxing rich on government subsidy. Many of the scenes were familiar to Lancaster Farming's staff. The conclusion only can be that distress cases were picked up and given as a measure of the American agricultural problem.

At the farm sale, the lenses focused on the farmer being forced out of business. In another sweep, they rested momentarily on a neighboring farmer in this "distress area." There's a Roadmaster in his garage, two planes he owns on the landing strip behind the barn.

Times have been tough in that neighborhood. Taxes (sometimes as high as \$3 an acre or more) go on despite three years that have reduced farm income and bank accounts. Drought has hit.

Television cannot offer background detail that would correctly weigh the merits of circumstances portrayed. What could a comprehensive report of each of the three farmers discussing the Agriculture Department's program show? What are the circumstances of each farmer involved? Is the present farm program all Secretary Ezra Taft Benson's doing, or did he inherit a depression-plus-wartime plan promulgated by predecessors? Is a crop loan a subsidy when the crop is mortgaged to the Commodity Credit Corporation?

Secretary Benson has asked for equal time to reply. In 15 minutes or less there was no opportunity to cover a field as vast as the farm problem. In 60 minutes there is not enough time to cover the farm problem with words and film. The Secretary is justified.

In the particular county where farmers were interviewed, there has been a trend to larger farms. Population in this county increased 25.6 per cent between 1940 and 1950. During the same period it lost 22 per cent of its farm population. This, too, is an isolated case. Fewer farmers left the soil in the past three years than the preceding three in the United States as a whole.

How was Mr. Murrow's program planned? Who guided his travels? The bankers, Keith and Floyd Whitmore, spoke against organized marketing resistance that would price farm products out of reach for consumers. The National Farmers Organization gave its view. But the successful farmer who walked into one meeting of the NFO — and walked out a few minutes later saying he wanted no part of such goings-on — was ignored. He is one who favors a free market, based on supply and demand, without government guidance or government thumb. A measure of the NFO might disclose many farmers who were unsuccessful farmers and have joined up to publish their protests.

How qualified is Mr. Murrow to probe the problem? True, he was but the interviewer. Were his subjects the best qualified?

This is not the death of the small farm. Farmers have weathered war and drought, flood and fire, capable businessmen capable of taking care of their own problems, but not by force or labor-union tactics.

Mr. Benson's reply will be significant.

FARMERS ARE CARELESS

Over the holidays, there were many reports of rural robberies in scattered sections of the country. Some farm homes were ransacked, television sets and other valuables taken. Three daylight robberies were reported in one county alone during the holiday season.

Farmers are careless. For too many years they've had too much trust to bother locking the door when they leave. Whether the situation will become more general or is purely on a local epidemic basis, no one knows.

The old saying about locking the barn door before the horse is stolen can be easily applied today.

Over The Shoulder

Moss-Covered Tracks Cause Trolley Runaway 50 Years Ago

By Jack Reichard

The motorman operating a trolley on the Rawlinsville-Martic Forge line on Tuesday evening, Jan. 30, 1906, lost control of the car when it suddenly gathered momentum and went racing down a hill near Mt. Nebo at a great rate of speed. A moss covered track prevented the motorman from holding the trolley with the hand brake.

Fortunately the car kept to the rails and no one was hurt.

Boy Kicked By Colt

Enos Trout, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Trout, Bart Twp., suffered a deep cut on the head and severe chest bruises when kicked by a colt. It was reported that the animal was not shod, saving the youth from more serious injury.

Kicked by Mule

At Truce, J. F. Wiggins was kicked by a mule and knocked to the ground, while assisting his son to halter the animal.

The son carried his unconscious father to the house, where it was learned later that no bones were broken. His body was severely bruised.

Carload of Horses, Mules

At Quarryville, A. H. Fritz had received a carload of horses and mules from Kentucky, which he was selling at public sale that Wednesday, Jan. 31, in 1906.

Fox Hunt

At Oak Hill, near Tayloria, a large group had gathered that morning to attend a fox hunt. The fox turned out to be a poor runner and was killed within a mile from where it had been dropped.

Edward Reburn and Ellsworth Carroll were the first to reach the brush.

Prepare Stone Quarry

Down along the Susquehanna River, between Conowingo and Bald Friar, a force of 50 men

was hard at work cutting timber along the wooded ridge in preparation for the opening of stone quarries there.

The stone was ear-marked for use in the concrete construction of the power dam and electric plant at McCall's Ferry, which was just getting started, 50 years ago this week.

25 Years Ago

Ground Hogs in Session

Twenty-five years ago this week all roads led to Quarryville for members of the Slumbering Ground Hog Lodge attending the annual banquet.

Falling in line in the center of town, and with members crowned in hooded headgear and carrying lighted red lanterns, the procession moved slowly to St. Paul's Church to the beat of a bass drum and brass cymbals.

Heads Manufacturers

J. Roland Gilbert, formerly of Quarryville, was elected president of the Lancaster Manufacturers' Association at the annual reorganization meeting.

Gilbert was also president of the Lancaster Press, Inc.

Form Dramatic Club

Thirty students of the Quar-

ryville High School were organized into two separate Dramatic Clubs under the direction of instructors Miss Burkholder and Miss Book.

A one-act play was to be produced by each group. Only juniors and seniors were eligible.

Spelling Bee Winner

Howard S. Kinsey, of Unicorn, was awarded first prize at a largely attended open-to-all spelling bee held at the Ironville school, west of Columbia, 25 years ago this week.

Drumore PTA Meets

The Parent-Teachers' Association of East Drumore met at the High School building, with Mrs. Charles Stoner, presiding. The Rev. W. J. B. Carruthers, of Chestnut Level, was guest speaker.

During the business session it was decided to give toxin anti-toxin to all school children of the township if enough parents were in favor.

"Poverty Social"

A "poverty social" was held in the social room at the Quarryville M. E. Church by ladies of the Mite Society.

Men, women and children attended the affair dressed in rags.

Ice Sports Popular

Down along the river in the Fishing Creek area, ice sports were reported in full swing, 25 years ago this week.

The river there was frozen from shore to shore. J. Roy Smith was cutting all sorts of capers with his newly constructed ice-boat.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
 International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
 BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN
 Background Scripture: Luke 17:1-19
 Devotional Reading: Psalm 100
Gratitude
 Lesson for February 5, 1956

for him, something that will repay him, perhaps with interest, for what he has done . . ." But the time never came. Aren't these some of the very reasons you and I give for not being grateful to God or man?

Cause for Rejoicing

Curing leprosy the way Jesus cured it is a miracle in anybody's language. Most of us think we would be grateful for miracles, if and when—; but for ordinary days, the usual course of events, we don't see God's hand and we do not feel any call to be thankful. As a matter of fact, God's mercies surround us on every side. We owe him life to begin with; it was God's creative power that brought life into being, in a universe-hitherto lifeless. It is God's providence that has kept the stream of life flowing down the ages; his providence that gave you the ancestors without whom you could not be what you are. When you think of the enormous number of accidents (to call them that) which might easily have prevented your being born at all, and the "accidents" without which you would never have been born on this planet, you begin to see how grateful you should be. Most people, probably, if saved from sudden death, especially if others have been killed right beside them, will breathe a trembling "Thank-you" to God.

Gratitude and Happiness

When Jesus said to the one grateful man, "Your faith has saved you," he was using a word that means to restore to full life. There is a hint here that gratitude is a flower whose root is faith. Also there is a hint that the thankful mind is the happy mind. People who go through the world convinced that the world owes them a living, people whose prayers are mostly "Gimme," are likely to be a little sour. The world does not give them the lush living they want. God does not answer their prayers when and as they fancy he should. So a seed of unhappiness festers in their minds. But if a man will think every day what he owes to God and to man, if it really dawns on him what a debtor he is, his mind will be bright. All this—for me? he will think; and the thought will be a seed of happiness blossoming under sun and cloud. Time spent in being grateful—in living-out gratitude, is never wasted. It is a mark of the healthy mind and spirit.

(Based on outline copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

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).

TO BRADFORD COUNTY

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY — Enclosed please find check for \$1.00. Will you please send Lancaster Farming to Donald Bruce, Troy (Bradford County) Pa. I take the paper and sent them several copies at Christmas time and they liked it, so I thought I would send it to them. — Thank you. — Willis F. Sturgis.

FROM WASHINGTON BORO

WASHINGTON BORO — I have enjoyed the issues of Lancaster Farming you sent to our locality and am enclosing check for \$1.00 for our one-year subscription. — Mrs. Florence K. Shultz.

LIKES HOUSEHOLD

NEW HOLLAND — Please enter our subscription for one year. Check enclosed. Enjoyed the paper very much but missed a few issues by being careless and not subscribing early. I enjoy the recipes very much. I tried some and want to try more. — A reader.

FROM NEW HOLLAND

NEW HOLLAND — We have received several free issues of your paper and we enjoy it very much. Enclosed find \$1.00 as charter subscriber. — John M. Boots.

GRATITUDE is not a lost art; but it is a rare one. Ten men were cured of the same disease at the same time, but only one took time off to be thankful. When you hear people complaining about other people, one of the most frequent complaints is that "So-and-so was not grateful." He never said thank you . . . She took it for granted . . . They never wrote me . . . After all I'd done for them, they left me alone . . . With him it's all take and no give . . . Many of these complaints are true, although (to be honest about it) many of them come from people who aren't too grateful themselves.

Why Don't They Come Back?

When Jesus cured those ten lepers, even he seems to have been surprised that only one of them came back to thank him. We don't know, but perhaps we can venture a guess, as to why nine-tenths of those men who had felt the miracle-working power of God, went their unthankful ways in silence. Once man may have thought: "Who knows? This cure may not be permanent. Better not rush around shouting Hallelujah till I see whether this cure is going to stick." Another perhaps said to himself, "Yes, I'm cured. But I'm sorry it had to be that Jesus from Nazareth. He doesn't have too good a reputation with the authorities—it isn't healthy to be known as one of his friends. I'll play safe . . ." Another one maybe really meant to thank Jesus; but he "lost his address" as we would say. He kept on meaning to, some day—but he never did. And perhaps still another fully intended to express his thanks, but he said to himself, "Just an ordinary hasty Thank-you won't do. I'll wait till I can do something really Big

