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**TRENCH SILOS**

There was a day when corn headed straight for the crib or shock, when hay went straight to the mow or stack, and grass grew only for pasture feed.

But today efficiency has changed the picture. Trench silos have come into increasing importance. Interest has gained tremendously.

Just the other day, when the weather was almost as miserable as could be, a couple score turned out at the Harry Griffith farm — operated by Bob Groff — down in southern Lancaster County to see and hear what opportunities a trench silo offers.

Lancaster County farms are limited acreage-wise. Every acre must produce to the utmost, but Bob has harvested a couple hundred tons of feeds from nine acres of sorghum-sudan-soybean combinations. He sought to cut his cost of producing milk, to cut the expensive process of buying hay to carry his Holsteins through the winter.

Out west and down south farmers turned to trench silos and bunker silos three, four, five years ago, when continued drought trimmed feed crops below the bare minimum. Drought-burned corn, hays, grasses, all went into silos. Even in the corn-rich Corn Belt, where dry weather checked the crop at knee-height, bulldozers were busy, digging out hillside pits. Sometimes even weeds went into the silage, plus Johnson grass, small grains, legume hays — anything that could be salvaged to produce feed.

It saved many herds. Out in Kansas, Francis Perrier of Greenwood County, said "Silage I had stored in 1950 is what has kept me from going out of the registered Angus business, because it has furnished my stock with roughage for the last five years." The 700 tons he stored that year had to last through five years of flood and drought. In 1951 floodwaters completely covered his trench silo, full at the time, but there was no apparent damage to the emergency store.

Even the proud Corn Belters, who once could see only corn in cribs, turned to silage. And silage saved their stock. In the flat fields of the Mississippi Delta country, on the bluegrass lands of Kentucky, in the hills of the Ozarks, grass silage came into its own — insurance against drought.

In Lancaster County, silage is gaining prestige, as a cost-cutter in a phase of agriculture that is aware of increasing production and marketing costs. It's a safe bet you'll see more and more trench silos being dozed out of the fertile fields of the Garden Spot.

**HELPING HOG PRICES**

Out in Missouri, hundreds of farmers have decided to take action to boost hog producers' income by a billion dollars next year.

Here is the three-point program outlined at a meeting of the Missouri Farm Bureau:

1. Selling 10 per cent of sows and gilts;
2. Marketing 1955 fall-farrowed pigs at 210 to 220 lbs and
3. Working with all groups in an effort to produce hogs with more red meat and less fat.

"If we reduce our pork supply by ten per cent," said E. M. (Smoky) Woods, Missouri Farm Bureau livestock marketing director, "we will increase the hog producers' income by one billion dollars next year." He added that selling hogs 10 lbs lighter would reduce lard tonnage by about 300 million lbs and the total pork and lard supply by 3 to 4 per cent. "This reduction," he continued, "will add \$1 to \$3 cwt to the price of live hogs."

But one farmer attending the conference capped the climax when he said, "Let's dispel once and forever that we're looking for government controls to help us out of this situation, and God help us if the government does step in."

**SIGNS OF SPRING**

Even with the wet chill, the soggy snow, the cold days and the warm days of February, there are signs of Spring in Lancaster County. There's a tinge of green in the lands, ready to burst forth, impatient as a race horse at the starting gate. The Groundhog says Spring can't be far off. The restless earth is ready to burst at the seams with a cloak of green. Soon will end the dull drab of winter, and the finest season of all will creep up — long before the garden tools are oiled, long before seeds are all purchased. Man's impatience to get back into the fields is equalled only by the impetuous coming of Spring.

**50 Years Ago**

**This Week on Lancaster Farms**

(This Week In 1905)  
 By JACK REICHARD

**Tax Guns, Legalized  
 Fist Fights Suggested**

The nation's tax structure was as hard to fix in 1906 as in 1956. Recommendations of all kinds were submitted for consideration, 50 years ago. One tax-minded citizen, in 1906, favored the imposition of a heavy federal tax on all firearms in the country, pointing out that Americans no longer were compelled to shoot wild life in order to live, or go about armed to protect their lives and property. A \$20 tax was suggested on all guns and pistols, which he claimed would not only produce needed revenue, but also reduce annual intentional and accidental homicides 50 per cent. The defender of tax on firearms said: "Tax the guns out of existence, and legalize fist fights for the settlement of personal difficulties".

**Tree Stump Removal  
 A Major Problem**

A major problem of farmers, 50 years ago, was the removal of tree stumps from valuable farm land. A correspondent of the American Cultivator recommended the following procedure: "With an inch auger, bore a hole in the center of the stump ten inches deep and put into it about one-half pound oil of vitriol and cork the hole up tight. In six months the whole stump and roots will become so rotted that they can be easily eradicated".

**Rural Mail Carriers  
 Reported News**

Down in the heart of Texas many farmers were reported using a novel scheme to obtain news and other information from rural mail carriers, 50 years ago. A blackboard was placed above the mail box, with a box of chalk conveniently nearby, for the postman to chalkup the price of cotton and other market quotations. The idea was said to be popular among farmers and carriers.

**Paid \$18,000 For  
 Shorthorn Bull In 1906**

At a sale of thoroughbred cattle held at Chicago, a party of Argentinian buyers paid \$18,000 for a Shorthorn bull, reported a record high in the United States up to 1906.

**Farmhand Highest  
 Paid Laborer In 1906**

An expert on labor stated there was no labor worker in the United States who drew higher wages for the same amount of work than hired men on American farms. The average farmhand wage in 1906 was reported at \$35 per month, in addition to board, room and washing.

**25 Years Ago**

**2,500 Carloads Of  
 Tomatoes Imported Annually**

Twenty-five years ago this week Arthur Brisbane, noted newspaper columnist, reported the United States was receiving 2,500 carloads of tomatoes annually from the Los Mochis section of Mexico.

**L. C. A. E. A. Met  
 At Lancaster**

Dr. John Henry Frizzell and Miss Rosalin Jewett, of Pennsylvania State College, were guest speakers at a meeting of the Lancaster County Agriculture Extension Association at Lancaster, 25 years ago this week. Others who spoke briefly included H. S. Nolt, F. S. Bucher, H. S. Sloat and Miss Anne Forbes.

**Fulton Grange Members  
 Hear Agriculture Head**

At a meeting of the Fulton Grange, southern Lancaster County, with Worthy Master Charles A. McSparran, presiding, the Hon. John A. McSparran, State Secretary of Agriculture, spoke on the duties of his office, 25 years ago this week.

**Mad Dogs Terrorize  
 Neighborhood**

Farmers residing in the Nine Points and Nickel Mines areas, were on the alert for several mad dogs terrorizing that neighborhood. One farmer, a steer and a number of farm dogs were reported bitten.

**H. N. Snavely Elected  
 E.F.E. Director**

H. N. Snavely, a progressive farmer of Willow Street R.D.1, was elected a director for a three-year term of The Eastern Farmers' Exchange, at a meeting held at Springfield, Mass.

**Combine \$1,525 in Sale  
 By Joseph, Donald Gehron**

Highlighting the auction by Joseph and Donald Gehron in Little Britain Township, was a combine bringing \$1,525, a tractor at \$400, heifers from \$70 to \$130, cultipacker \$105, and low wagon \$190. Kersey Bradley auctioned.

**Blue Ball Dwelling Sells  
 For \$16,500; Clock \$290**

George Dosch, R1 East Earl, purchased the home offered by the estate of Emma M. Burkholder at Blue Ball for \$16,500 in public sale. The double brick building has a four-car garage, and a lot 96 by 480 feet. Executors of the estate were David H. Martin and Henry H. Roover.

Fifty shares of Blue Ball National Bank stock sold from \$115 to \$118 per share, selling in blocks of five; a grandfather's clock went at \$290 and a set of six old-fashioned chairs \$46.50. Auctioneers were Paul Z. Martin and Frank L. Steller.

**Engle Cow Top \$342.50  
 In Nickel Mines Sale**

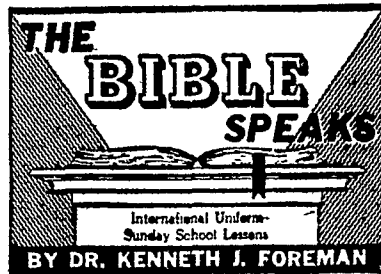
A top of \$342.50 on cows and \$167.50 on heifers was scored in the public sale held Monday by Aaron Engle, near Gap on the Nickel Mines Road.

Leroy Zook, Atglen auctioneer, also sold one tractor at \$500, another at \$405; cow clippers \$27, cultivator \$150, grain drill \$237 and a hay drier \$140.

**Tractors Bring \$1,700 and  
 \$880 in Martin Auction**

In the Harvey H. Martin sale midway between Oregon and Landis Valley, tractors sold for \$880 and \$1700. Abe Diefenbach and Charles Bachman were auctioneers.

Other items sold included cows up to \$270, corn \$44 a ton, combine \$490, manure spreader \$310, milking machine \$290, barley \$120 per bu., culti-packer \$125, corn planter \$150.



Background Scripture: Luke 16:1-31; 19:11-27.  
 Devotional Reading: I Corinthians 9:16-27.

**Faithful in Little**

Lesson for February 26, 1956

EVERYBODY has some kind of a chance in this world. We all sometimes think we would do better if we had the same chance the next man has; but we may be deceiving ourselves. Jesus tells a story about three men each of whom had the very same chance. Each was given the same sum of money, and told to make what he could out of it. One man increased the money ten times; one multiplied it by five; but the third Dr. Foreman man did not even try. What if he had tried? Considering the sort of man he was, a pessimist and a self-confessed coward, it can be doubted whether he would have been able to do as well as the other two did. At any rate, Jesus calls our attention first of all to the fact that even if everybody had an equal chance, not everybody would do equally well with it.



**Gifts of God**

We call persons "gifted" when they have some remarkable talent or ability. When we say this, we mean, or we ought to mean, that a man's capacities are not his own invention, they are God's gifts. Two thoughts go together here and must not be separated: the first is that what we have to start with and the opportunities which life brings us along the way, are really gifts of God. The other thought is that God expects us to develop these gifts, take advantage of these opportunities, do something with what we have. Caruso the famous tenor said once, modestly, that he deserved no credit for his magnificent voice. He was born with an extraordinary muscular development in his vocal cords, something possessed by few men. Most men could not be Carusos no matter how hard they try. On the other hand, if all Caruso had done was just to

take his throat for granted, never learn singing, never go through the long discipline of the operatic star, the world would never have been thrilled by that golden voice. God's gifts plus our work, that is the divine plan.

**Nothing Too Small**

All this is simply the principle which the church calls "stewardship." It is simply recognizing that what God gives us, we are expected to use and make the most of, in his service. The trouble right here is that most of us are rather like that third man in Jesus' parable. We see these big, able people going "great guns," we see what wonderful things others are doing, and we know very well we can't do anything like that . . . so we don't try to do anything. Now it should be noted that in this little story, the returning king does not say to the second man, who made only five pounds, "You rascal, why didn't you make ten like this other man?" On the contrary he is pleased with the man, promotes him. What God really despises is not small results; what he despises is refusing to try. We are not reasonable before God for not being brighter or stronger than we are. We are responsible for what we do with such ability as we have, whether small or great.

**In the Church**

See how this works out in the life of the church. A superintendent asks a girl to take a children's class. Oh no, she can't do it, she says, backing away. She hasn't had experience, she isn't a professional school teacher, she hasn't had a lot of education, she isn't like that brilliant Mrs. So-and-So who was such a whiz of a Sunday school teacher for twenty years. So what? Suppose she's not a topnotcher? She has had little brothers and sisters, she can learn the Bible, she loves her Savior and she loves children too. Stewardship, for that girl, is not what she can do with Mrs. So-and-So's brains and experience, it's what she is willing to do with her own. Or take a man who is elected to a minor position in the church. He doesn't think he can do much in that office, so he declines it. But the question still is—what can he do with an office he doesn't have? But, what will he do with the office he does have? Another man does not contribute to the church because he has next to nothing he can give. He is afraid of comparisons. But God does not ask: How do you compare? Only: Are you faithful?

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