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AND THE RECORDS TUMBLE

Pennsylvania is figuring up some mighty good looking records for the past year, and it can't be forgotten Lancaster County gave its share to these astounding agricultural statistics.

Increased chicken and egg production is forecast, with January chick production at an all-time record, up 46 per cent from the corresponding month in 1955.

Hog numbers, despite depressed markets, bounced upward too, from 584,000 in January 1955 to 642,000 the past January. Values dropped from \$28.40 per head in January 1955 to \$20.80 in January 1956; total value dropped in the 12 months from \$16,586,000 last year to \$13,354,000 this year, against the ten-year (1945-1954) average value of \$20 million.

Barley production: Highest ever known in the Commonwealth. Oats, biggest crop in 30 years, but with a four-million dollar loss in value.

It's a record of which Pennsylvania can be proud, but when one dealer showed us a receipt for an \$11.00 cwt hog it looked too much like a faded bloom. But the farmer has little or no choice on ways to make ends meet, and if hogs fit into his program, he has no other alternative.

FARM ACREAGE UP

Sometime back we bemoaned the fact that for each mile of superhighway some 35 acres of land were lost from farming. Yet Rex R. Bailey, president of Doane Agricultural Service, Inc., farm management counselors, said that despite large acreages taken from cultivation for such purposes, farm output in the United States continues to increase faster than population.

"In 1900 there were some 839 million acres in farms, while in 1955 there were estimated to be 1.1 billion acres," he said, adding, "Since 1945 barren lands have been made available by clearing, drainage or irrigation at the rate of one million acres per year. This more than offsets the annual disappearance of some 650,000 acres into non-agricultural use."

Does the same apply to Lancaster County? In 1950 there were 7952 farms, in 1954 there were 7951; in 1950 there were 495,000 acres in farms, in 1954 the total was higher, 498,206.

Fears that new superhighways may be routed through farm areas in the lower brackets may be sincere, yet it is surprising to see that new lands are being opened, even here.

RAMP TIME — COMING UP

Ramp time's coming up — and not being a North Carolinian or Tennessean, we can't testify as to its role in the coming of Spring. Resembling an onion, it's ten times stronger. To stay in a home of one who eats ramp, one too must eat ramp. Ramp eating, at one time, was the sole grounds for divorce, if ramp eating was on a chronic basis.

We'll stick to mild, sliced, salted Bermudas, then go into an antisocial status several hours until the effects wear off.

AH, IT'S SPRING

Spring, that bridge between winter and summer, is the most delightful, the time of spring colds, the time of no complaints, neither too hot, nor too cool, and while there's work to be done, there's time to enjoy it. Nothing awakens man to the seasons more than the first bloom or bud of spring. It's that time again.

BEWARE OF THE BULL

There's a dwindling number of horses, mules and bulls on Pennsylvania farms, but every year some deaths from livestock accidents are still recorded in the office of the division of Farm and Home Safety in the State Department of Public Instruction.

Be on the alert with livestock. Dairymen are reminded not to forget that milk cows are involved in more accidents than any other kind of livestock.

Practice patience. Be careful.

50 Years Ago

This Week on Lancaster Farms

(This Week in 1905)
By JACK REICHARD

Snow and Sleet
Blanket Pennsylvania

Fifty years ago this week Old Man Winter sent a blast of snow and sleet across Pennsylvania, tying up railroad, trolley, and turnpike traffic. The weather bureau reported eight to ten inches of snow at Wilkes-Barre, nine inches at Bellefonte, and seven inches of mixed snow and sleet at Harrisburg.

20 Perish, Hundreds
Isolated in Colorado

Snowslides plunged the mining districts of Colorado into a deep freeze, during this same week in 1906. Arctic conditions gripped that section from the Ouray sector to the Imogene basin. At least 20 miners perished and hundreds of others were isolated in the Ouray area, where the provision house was completely buried in snow. Sixty feet of snow was reported at the high tower of the tramway at Camp Bird, snow-bound in the coldest spell in many years. In the Imogene basin the snow was said to measure from 150 to 300 feet deep from the snowslides.

Bottom Dropped
Out of Egg Market

During this week in 1906, the Lancaster fresh egg market took a nosedive. Dealers throughout the county were paying 10 cents per dozen. Mild weather during February that year started hens laying, resulting in a \$1,750,000 corner of cold storage eggs dumped on the market.

Wireless Telegraphy
Comes to Lancaster

Lancaster Countians in general were interested in the announcement by the American DeForest Wireless Telegraph Co. that it planned to erect an areography communication station at Lancaster. An official of the company stated that Lancaster would be the only city in Pennsylvania, except Philadelphia, having the service in 1906.

Two-Way Stove Griddles
Warp Back Again

A western farmer who purchased a cheap cook stove from an eastern mail order house, complained because the griddles warped after only a few weeks of use. A letter received in reply to the complaint suggested that there undoubtedly had been too hot a fire, and that if the griddles were turned over they would warp back again.

25 Years Ago

State Mobile Laboratory
Set up at Lancaster

Twenty-five years ago this week Dr. Theodore B. Appel, State Secretary of Health, announced the setting up of a mobile laboratory unit at Lancaster under the direction of L. K. Scheffer. Scheffer said the unit would remain in this section for a number of weeks, available for the analysis of private water supplies of farmers and others who desired the service, free of charge.

Auto Club Head:
Gas Tax Collection

J. Borton Weeks, president of the Keystone Automobile Club, in his 5th annual report, declared that Governor Pinchot's 20,000-mile rural road program could be carried out by using one penny of the existing gasoline tax. Weeks also recommended to the Legislature that the practice of returning a portion of the gas tax to counties be discontinued, and collection of tax be made from wholesalers, instead of through more than 25,000 retail dealers in the State.

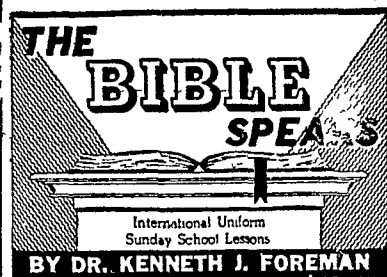
Farm Show
Commission Nominations

The State Farm Products Show committee nominated six men from whom Governor Pinchot, under the administrative code, was required to name three farm show commissioners. Among those chosen were Miles Horst, Schaeffertown; John H. Light, Cleona; H. H. Allenbach, Trappe; R. L. Munace, Washington; John M. McKee, Camp Hill, and W. S. Wise, Meadville. The farm show committee represented more than 30 farm and allied organization in the State. Officers of the committee were John A. McSparran, chairman; J. M. Fry, secretary, and Miles Horst, assistant secretary.

Red Cross Raises
\$10 Million for Drought

The American Red Cross campaign for drought relief had reached its goal of \$10 million, requiring three months and five days to raise the money. In addition to contributing money the American people also contributed 621 carloads of foodstuff. It was estimated 2 million persons in 350 counties in 20 States were in need of food, clothing and other relief resulting from the drought.

Babylonian clay tablet yields new Biblical lore.



Background Scriptures: Luke 22:1-71
Devotional Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

Lord's Supper

Lesson for March 18, 1956

CHRISTIANS are divided about many things; but they are all one in the Lord's Supper. "What?" some one will ask. "Don't some churches refuse to let members of any churches but their own partake of the Communion with them?" Don't different churches have different explanations of what this sacrament means? Don't various denominations observe it in various ways? How can you say all Christians are united in the Lord's Supper?

We Think of Him

It is true, there are seemingly endless variations in the way the Lord's Supper is observed. Even the name is not always the same, some preferring to call it the Eucharist, others Holy Communion. There are also theologians' debates about it. But plain Christians do unite here even when they may not be quite aware of it. For there are three facts that are always true of this sacred observance, however or wherever it is held. First of all, in the Lord's Supper we think of Christ. It is possible to go even to a Christian church and not hear very much about Jesus Christ on that particular day. (Jesus' own teaching was not always about himself.) But it is not possible to go into a church where the Lord's Supper is being taken by the people, without being reminded directly of Christ. Every Christian has heard the words many times—"my body," "my blood," "In remembrance of me." Here are bread and wine, but every worshipper knows that these are not simple, ordinary refreshment. They are symbols and signs of Christ, his actual suffering and death on the cross. Whatever the church may be, its members always think of Christ when they take Communion.

We Find Him

Heaviest Snowfall
In 1930-31 Winter

Monday morning, March 16, 1931, a snowfall averaging seven inches covered Lancaster city and rural areas, marking the heaviest snow that winter. All available State Highway Department workmen were ordered out to clear the highways, many remaining on the job all through the night. At Quarryville, members of the Slumbering Groundhog Lodge were jubilant because the six-week period over which groundhog prophecies held sway, had ended on that snowy Monday.

Farmers Urged to Support
Tax Change Proposal

Approximately 325 York County farmers attended a tax protest meeting at the Yorktowne Hotel, as special guests of Mahlon N. Haines, prominent hoe manufacturer, and head of the York County Taxpayers' League. H. Landis Shank, L. Rupp and John F. Weaver, of the Lancaster County Taxpayers' League, were guest speakers at the gathering. Resolutions requesting the Pennsylvania Legislature to change methods of unfair assessment and to "agitate, organize and work for the proposed change" were unanimously adopted.

Large Still
Raided On Farm

Federal prohibition agents raided a large liquor still in a farm near Kirks Mills, destroying a large quantity of mash and confiscating over a ton of sugar, 25 years ago this week.

There is something more in thinking about Jesus and his sacrifice, when we take Communion in this sacrament we find Him. It is quite true, different churches have different official explanation about how we find Christ here. But from "High Church" to "Low," in "Liberal" and "Conservative," in Catholic and Protestant congregations alike, if you could ask the people as they come out of doors again, "What did that service mean to you?" It might be that some would hardly know what to say, for it is always possible to go through the motions without really thinking what one is doing. But those who had entered wholeheartedly into the service, who had come "in love and charity" and in faith, would all tell you about the same thing: "Christ came very near to me." If Christ seems just as far away after the Lord's Supper as before, then there has been something wrong about us. That is why the Roman Catholic church will not admit any one to communion if he has not been to Confession first. That is why in many Protestant churches the people are warned to abstain from Communion if they harbor malice or ugly feeling toward their neighbors.

We Share Him

If it is true that in the Lord's Supper we find the Lord himself, it should be true—and happily it is so—that afterwards life should go on at a higher level than before. The Lord's Supper is less like a doorway leading from one room to another just like it, than it is like a gateway across a boundary from one country to another. Christ comes to us in the Sacrament, but not as a fleeting guest. If we are serious as we take the bread and wine and think about all this in the quiet of prayer, we will so enter into the spirit of Christ himself that we shall re-dedicate ourselves in his service. It is a kind of parody on Christian ideas to think of Christ's sacrifice as alone and by itself. His cross must be followed by other crosses. His outpoured life must be shared by others who are willing to pour their lives out in turn. And it is this, again, which unites all the Christians who in their many varied fashions have taken this Lord's Supper with devoted hearts. For there is a family resemblance among all real Christians, whatever their church-label may be. And the resemblance goes back to the same Christ, who has shared himself with every Christian everywhere and always who has taken this Bread and Cup.

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