



Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly Newspaper
 Established November 4, 1955
 Published every Friday by
 OCTORARO NEWSPAPERS
 Quarryville, Pa. — Phone 378
 Lancaster Phone 4-3047)

STAFF

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

Subscription Rates: \$2.00 Per Year
 Three Years \$5.00; 5c Per Copy

Entered as Second-Class matter at the Post Office,
 Quarryville, Pa., under Act of March 3, 1879

AVERAGE AUTO BUYER

One-third of all U. S. families buying new cars own two or more automobiles, according to a survey of car buying habits, "Automobile Facts" reports.

In 92 per cent of the purchases, the venerable family bus was traded in as part of the bargain. Its average age at the time, the same survey reveals, was slightly over three years. Of all cars traded in for new ones, only 8 per cent were more than five years old.

Vital statistics of the typical new car buying family show:

Average number of family members is 3.4. 55 per cent children under 18. 47 per cent have college-trained members.

74 per cent own their homes and the same percentage have garages. Almost 36 per cent of the total have two-car-garages.

When asked how they would use their shiny new automobiles, a large majority — 71 per cent — of the surveyed new car buyers replied "drive to work." "Business travel" was mentioned by 42 per cent; and "drive children to school" by 16 per cent.

Might look over the statements and see how you qualify.

FARMERS FUEL BILL

According to The Agricultural Situation, published in Chicago by the Corn Belt Farm Dailies, the farmer, a big user of power machines, is likewise a big user of fuel to keep the wheels of those busy machines turning.

In 1953, the latest year for which figures have been announced, 8.8 billion gallons of liquid petroleum fuel were used on farms. Of this about 90 per cent was gasoline, 4 per cent diesel fuel, 3 per cent LP gas, and 3 per cent other motor fuels. In total, the farmer is reported to burn about 11.5 per cent of the total quantity of motor fuel used in the U. S.

QUITE A YEAR!

A look back over the 12 months of 1955, with the benefit of the complete figures, confirms previous predictions that it was among the greatest years ever in slaughter of livestock and production of meat.

It ended with a flourish, the final month being the second biggest December on record in the slaughter of both cattle and hogs in inspected plants. This brought the year's total cattle kill to 19,055,498 to set a new all-time record. The previous high of 18,476,358 was set in 1954. Calf slaughter at 7,499,145 was just slightly under 1954 and only 270,000 under the record high of 1944.

The hog total rounded out at 61,370,474 head, which was well below the all-time peak of 69,016,982 in 1944, the big war year. It was even a million head below the 1952 total. Since the price level of 1952 was a good bit better than this past year, even with a million more hogs, there is some reason to think that the serious overestimation of the pig crop by the government may have been a more powerful bearish factor in the markets than was generally recognized. Of course, the fact that there was heavier competition from a record beef supply last year must also be taken into consideration.

Sheep and lamb slaughter total in inspected plants was 14,383,450 head, which was the largest in seven years. That increase could be reflected in smaller numbers to be offered this year, to the benefit of producers.

All in all, from the production angle, it was quite a year. The only blot on an achievement in production such as this was that the men who produced these animals out on the farms failed to share adequately in the wealth so created. The supply was so large that they were forced to operate in a buyers' market almost throughout. Demand for the finished product was tremendous, but it wasn't enough to prevent a price retreat. No great quantity of the product was stored, so it does not remain as a price depressing surplus. The steady producers' hope for better profits lies in the fact that low prices will trim production back to a more profitable level, which, coupled with the built-up demand for meat, could mean the realization of better profits on the producing end. (Corn Belt Farm Dailies).

50 Years Ago

This Week on Lancaster Farms

(This Week in 1905)
 By JACK REICHARD

Hens Expected to Lay Uniform Weight Eggs

In Iowa hens were expected to lay their eggs in uniform weight of two ounces each, for the 1906 Legislature had passed a new weights and measure law, which included eggs. The law provided that the standard weight of one dozen eggs to be 24 ounces, and no means of compromise was suggested in case 12 eggs over-weighed the fixed standard. The new law set standard weights for seventy articles, including beets, alfalfa, peanuts and canary seed.

Profitable Flock of Chickens Near Smyrna

Mrs. Milton Bush, Lancaster County farmwife at Smyrna, had a profitable flock of chickens in 1906. There were 100 hens in the flock. During a 12-month period she received \$213 from eggs along, not counting eggs that were set and used in the household, estimated at 50 dozen. She also sold \$70 worth of chickens from the flock.

Too Much Rope Hits New Jersey Cow

A New Jersey farmer tied his cow too long. The animal got tangled up in the rope and broke its neck. A case of too much rope!

Farmers Urged To Kill Sparrows

Back in 1906 farmers throughout Pennsylvania were urged to join the campaign against sparrows. Opponents of the birds suggested "Make it as warm as possible for all sparrows which seek a home on your premises, and you will have lots of other birds". At Wilkes-Barre a resolution was adopted by Council that year for 12 expert marksmen to take up positions in the public square every Friday afternoon and shoot all the sparrows they could. The birds gathered in the trees there by the thousands.

Ice Imported From St. Newfoundland

Fifty years ago this week the British S. S. Regulus arrived at the port of Philadelphia from St. Newfoundland with the first cargo of ice ever imported to this country from a foreign port. The shipment, 200 tons, was consigned to the American Ice Co. Importing of the perishable cargo, on which there was no duty, was an experiment because of an expected shortage of domestic ice in this country that year.

Seven Baptized in Icy Waters of Conestoga

At Lancaster's West Ead Park, along the Conestoga, seven persons were baptized in the icy waters of that stream by Elder John Myers, of the Baptist Brethren Church.

25 Years Ago

Ordered Quarter Million Chick Feeders

Twenty-five years ago this week the Jackson-Evans Co., St. Louis, Mo., announced the receipt of a single order for a quarter million baby chick feeders from Purina Mills. Officials of the feeder company declared the order would keep their plant in full production one year. When asked the large contract, A. S. Johnson, head of the Poultry Department at Purina Mills said: "We ordered the feeders for our dealers as part of a program to give every baby chick all it needs to eat. It will assure a square meal—a square meal for every chick hatched".

5 Firemen Killed, 11 Injured Speeding To Farm Grass Fire

Five members of the Malvern Fire Co., Chester County, were instantly killed and 11 others injured when their fire truck overturned while speeding to a

grass fire on the Halderman farm, between Malvern and Pali. The accident occurred when the truck turned off the macadam highway to a dirt road, striking a rut and upset, pinning several firemen beneath.

Fire Truck Disabled On Way To Farm

The fire truck of the Quarryville Fire Co. on its way to a fire at the Herman Cameron farm, Eldora, broke down on its way to the blaze, and only chemicals could be taken to the scene of the fire. A large barn and several other buildings burned to the ground. Two heifers, 75 bu of wheat, over 200 bu of corn, and a five-acre crop of tobacco were burned. Firemen plaid the loss at about \$15,000.

Farm Bureau Officers Elected

At a meeting of the Lancaster Farm Bureau, held at Lancaster, the following were elected for 1931: David M. Landis, Lancaster R. D. 7, president; J. Clarence Reist, Mount Joy, vice president; Dr. F. A. Achey, Lancaster, secretary; William P. Bucher, Quarryville, treasurer.

State Agriculture Head Speaks at Y. M. C. A.

Twenty-five years ago this week John A. McSparran, State Secretary of Agriculture, address-

sed nearly 600 persons in the Martin auditorium at the Lancaster Y. M. C. A. Speaking on "The Blessings of Living in a Christian Nation", McSparran stated: "This is the greatest country on earth".

Lamb Cheap Meat in 1931

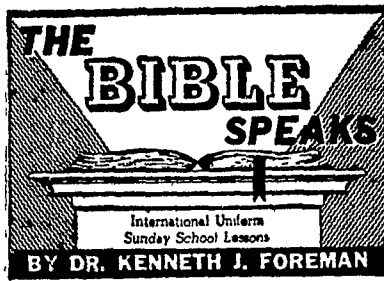
C. A. Burge, livestock extension specialist of Pennsylvania State College, reported 1500 persons attended 20 meat cutting demonstrations conducted during the winter of 1930-31. Demonstrations were at high schools, women's club meeting, sheep breeding farms, and on farms. Burge recommended more extensive use of lamb, very cheap then, but classed as a luxury only a few years before.

Four-H Club Strawberry Project

Up at Waterford, Erie County, Arthur Marsh had made a profit of \$102.91 from his quarter acre of strawberries grown in a 4-H Club project, according to C. P. Lang, assistant state club leader of the Pennsylvania State College. Young Marsh picked 1,112 quarts from his Premier plants. His total receipts were \$186.43 and his expenses for labor, supplies, and rent amounted to \$83.52.

Orchard Pruning Demonstration

An orchard pruning demonstration was held on the Graybill Wenger farm, Drumore Center, Lower Lancaster County, by John U. Ruef of State College, showing the proper pruning of apples, peaches and grapes.



BIBLE SPEAK—Plunkett 2-1
 Background Scripture: Luke 23:1-56.
 Devotional Reading: Isaiah 53.

Christ Suffered
 Lesson for March 25, 1956

WHENEVER we ask, Why? about anything that happens, we can mean the question in either one of two ways. Sometimes we mean both. Perhaps we mean to ask, "What were the events that led up to this one? What were the causes or forces back of this event, pushing it, so to speak, out of the Not-Yet into the Now-and-Here?" Or perhaps we mean to ask, "For what purpose did this event take place? If it was a means to an end, what was the end? Did any man, or did God, have a purpose in bringing this event to pass?"



If we ask, Why did Christ suffer? We can mean it in the first way mentioned just now. In that case, the answer is very easy to see, or the answers rather, for there was no one reason why he was crucified. Jesus suffered because Pilate was a coward; if the governor had stood up for what he knew was right, Jesus might have been saved from an unjust sentence. Jesus suffered because the Pharisees were jealous and had found no other way of getting rid of their most troublesome critic. He suffered because he was courageous; if Christ himself had been timid, he could have avoided Calvary simply by keeping quiet and leaving the country.

He Died for Our Sins
 All such reasons it is the business of history to ferret out, and it is of some importance to know them. But the other question is not so easy. No historian, as a historian, can see it. Only the eye of faith, (which may indeed belong to historians too) can see the great pattern into which this dreadful event fits, this dreadful event of the death by torture of the best person who ever walked this earth. We could not have guessed it. We need God's Word to tell us what

it means. What purpose did God have in mind? What was Jesus' own intention? We know what Jesus said the night before, to his disciples as he gave them the cup. This, he said, was the cup of the New Covenant, "in my blood," poured out "for you." We know what he had said months before (Mark 10:45), that he came to "give his life a ransom for many." Now the Bible tells of a Christ who was totally, from his soul's core, at one with God the Father. What Christ intended, God intended. Christ's death was for a purpose which God had had (as the Bible expresses it) from before the foundation of the world. It was not for his own sake, it was for the sake of his friends. Even more, it was for many who were not his friends. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," Paul says (Rom. 5:8). "He is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world," John says (I John 2:2).

How Can This Be?

Many people fight shy of this great truth. Sometimes they are slow to believe it just because it seems too much to believe. Here I am, a single human being on a small planet. Would the Creator of the Universe actually go—not to trouble only, but to agony and defeat, for my sake? Well, if a person thinks that way, we must admit to him that it is indeed a miracle, the greatest conceivable. But there is another reason why people are shy about believing that Christ could have died for our sins, for anybody's sin. How can one man's suffering atone for another man's sins? There are two answers to that, which are part of one answer. One is that Christ was not just a man, he was the Godman, "God-made-man." The other is that he identified himself with sinners, with the worst and weakest, the race of man.

His Death Was in Character

Jesus' death at Calvary was not out of line with his life. If there he "took the rap for sinners" as Dr. Hordern puts it, this was not a new and sudden shift in his life-purpose. From the beginning of his service in this world he had been so closely identified with sinning men that he was called in scorn "friend of sinners" and indeed at last executed as a criminal. No wonder Paul can say, "He who knew no sin was made to be sin for us." Yet this remains all over our heads unless we too identify our own selves with him. To say "He is the Savior of the world" is not enough. The final step is to discover, "He is my Savior. For He took my place."

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