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THAT SEASON AGAIN

"Blessings on thee, little man —"

Who found his store-bought shoes pinching with the first touch of warm weather, who had that urge to take off his shoes and run through the new grass barefoot;

Who tread gingerly on stone and sand, the rough earth underfoot that punished the soles without end; whose soles burned on first contact with sun-baked cement;

Who received treatment to no end from cuts and stone bruises, until the season wore on, until the feet became acclimated and could carry the youngster over any obstacle;

Who found summer waning, the chill of autumn creeping up, or the first day of school arriving when no youngster of his age would be seen barefoot;

Who finally, reluctantly, put on his shoes again at season's end, to find — to his and his parents' dismay — that the barefoot process had widened the spread, flattened the arch, demanding a new pair of shoes;

Who now grown can recapture these days only by kicking off his shoes under the table, or at the movie; who now is grown up, our

"Barefoot boy with cheeks of tan."

MERCHANDISING METHODS

"Can she bake a cherry pie, Billy Boy?"

This old song reminds us that soon it will be the fresh fruit and vegetable production season again, and it's pleasing to learn the Pittsburgh housewife doesn't skimp on the cherries. From what we've seen hereabouts, the same might well be said of Pennsylvania Dutch cooking, done so well in Lancaster County.

In Pittsburgh, cans of cherries were placed side by side at one supermarket. The larger, 19-ounce can, far outsold the smaller 17-ounce can. Carrots sold best when displayed without tops in one-and two-pound polyethylene bags, 37 per cent more in fact.

Further, the USDA report indicates, there's not much to be gained in offering bananas in units larger than 59 cents' worth.

It's production merchandising, packing, packaging, marketing, the whole complex system in which Lancaster County plays a most notable role. And here, she truly can bake a cherry pie

GOOD OLD DAYS

Often you hear reference to the good old days. Constant reminders pop up in the 50-year-ago and 25-year-ago columns that renew old memories. There's one this week about the influx of the automobile into one Lancaster County township, where the farmer's horses were frightened, his roosters run down. Life and limb were at stake constantly.

Recollections of the first car back home are dim, but there's a story of high-wheeled gasoline buggies, and in our town recollection a Model T sedan with a door in the center of the body. Then there was a Chalmers and many others

But perhaps the prime joke was the proud possessor of a new gasoline buggy, a quarter century ago, maybe 30 years ago, who cautiously let his daughters use the family car one night. But when they failed to return at the hour pop thought they should, he went out, hitched up a team, ready to start a search. Fortunately, the gals drove in just as pop started to drive out, and never could he explain where he would have gone to catch up with the daughters.

Today the auto's commonplace, not yet replaced by the airplane, but it was perhaps one of the most significant factors in changing America's social life. As an economic factor, it is one of the largest in the nation.

The upward struggle was difficult at first, but the goal was won.

50 Years Ago

This Week on Lancaster Farms

50 YEARS AGO (1906)  
By JACK REICHARD

1906: New York State Had Surplus of Farms

In 1906 the State of New York had a surplus of unoccupied farms. A bulletin issued by the State Agricultural Commissioner during April that year, stated that 20,000 farms were for sale in the State, with facilities for the employment of 50,000 additional agricultural workers. The report said most of the farms had good buildings and fences, with wood and water for farming purposes.

105,533 Farmers Attended Institutes

Algernon S. Martin, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, reported the total attendance of 400 farmers' institutes held in Pennsylvania in 1905, was 105,533, breaking all previous records.

A reader complained to the publisher of a farm paper that he did not print all the news.

"Publish all the news? I should say not", replied the publisher. "If I published all that happened for one week only, the next week you would read my obituary, and there would be a new face in heaven".

Father of Dozen Twins Down Texas Way

Half a century ago American farmers in general raised large families, but in Texas they raised 'em larger. J. B. Dismuke, aged 65, a prosperous Texas farmer, was reported to be the father of 31 children, most of whom were living in 1906, including six sets of twins, according to a dispatch to the Chicago Chronicle. Dismuke, a native of Tennessee, who had lived in Texas 31 years, weighed over 200 pounds and still worked as hard as most farmers in those parts. At the age of 22 he married Miss Susan Singleton, with seven children resulting from that union, three girls and four boys, the latter two sets of twins. The first wife died in 1867 and Dismuke married Miss Ella Skinner, of Alabama. To them were born 10 boys and two girls, including four sets of twins. The second wife died in 1882 and a year later Dismuke married a Mrs Ecker, a widow, who was still living in 1906. She had borne him 12 children, nine boys and three girls. Dismuke was believed to hold the world's record for twins

Prof. H. A. Surface, State Zoologist, in his April, 1906, bulletin, stated that the 17-year locust would make its appearance in Pennsylvania that year, and would possibly be found throughout the State.

Fire Destroys Barn Owned by Rev. Groff

Fifty years ago this week, fire of unknown origin destroyed a barn and its contents on a Lancaster farm owned by Rev. Elias Groff, south of Strasburg. Ten cows, six young cattle and four mules, together with 200 bu of corn, farm implements and wagons, were burned in the blaze

Crime To Hunt A Wolf?

At London Grove, Chester County, nearly 1,000 persons who had gathered at the farm of John P. Worth, to witness an advertised wolf hunt, were greatly disappointed when six officers of the State Society for

They Do

People differ. Some object to a fan dancer, and other to the fans. — Washington Post.

the prevention of Cruelty to Animals confronted the promoters with warrants, to be served if they liberated a wolf. In the large farm house, where approximately 700 persons had been fed, Worth, a noted fox hunter, announced he was ready to liberate his wolf regardless of the society's agents. Following the announcement there was a rush to the field in the rear of the barn, where more than 100 riders were ready for the chase. "There he goes," shouted the crowd. But the spectators were not aware that Worth had given the fox the name of Wolf until after the chase.

25 Years Ago

Cherokee Indian Acquitted by Jury

Twenty-five years ago this week, Lancaster Countians were clamoring for newspapers to read all about the trial of William "Indian Bill" Craig, Safe Harbor construction worker, charged with murdering his companion, Jack McNeil, and defended by Miss M. Edna Hurst, the first woman attorney to defend a man accused of murder in the history of Pennsylvania. The 35-year-old halfbreed Cherokee was acquitted by a jury Tuesday afternoon, April 21, 1931.

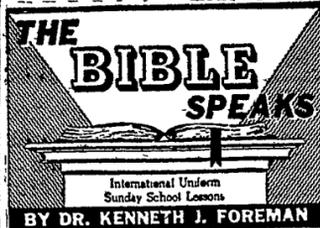
From Berry Picker To Millionaire

George F. Baker made his first dollar picking berries other berry pickers overlooked under brushes near his home at Troy, N. Y. That was back in 1850. Through the years that followed Baker had picked many "berries", and on his 91st birthday, in 1931, the eminent New York banker was rated one of the richest men in the world.

In 1931 the country's top economists warned that the greatest barrier facing business in its fight for survival during the depression that year was the threat of higher taxes. They pointed out that prosperity, which is principally a matter of employment, could only return with increased industrial activity, including farming. Tax raising schemes that discouraged industrialists and investors was declared to be depression's best friends.

Egg Grading Bill Introduced in State

An "egg grading" bill was introduced to the 1931 legislature at the instance of the agriculture department, according to State Secretary of Agriculture John A. McSparran. The bill provided that all eggs, except those sold by a producer directly to the consumer, "shall be graded, labeled and sold according to official standards established by the P. D. of A."



Background Scripture: Acts 6:1-5:3. Devotional Reading: Psalm 107:1-5.

Unto Death

Lesson for April 22, 1956

WHY do people get killed for being Christians? It seems incredible, and it hasn't happened to most Christians. But it does happen. Christianity was perhaps only a few months old when the first martyr, Stephen, met his death at the hands of a mob. Now the peculiar feature of that mob was that it was so respectable.

Not a hoodlum in the lot. They were all civic leaders, men high in religious circles. In fact, it was the high court that adjourned and became the stone-throwing mob.



They would not have said that Dr. Foreman they murdered Stephen. They would have said they executed him. But that makes it all the more of a puzzle. A hoodlum might shoot down a good Christian just for meanness, but why should men of distinction kill a man for, no other crime than being a Christian?

Blood of the Martyrs

Before trying to answer that question, we might glance through history and see a few other cases. Circumstances vary, but the kind of martyrdom that was Stephen's is always essentially the same. No one ever brings the killers into court. Who would have brought suit against the Sanhedrin for killing Stephen? They were the court. Who could arrest the Emperor Nero for burhing the Christians alive in his gardens? Who could have written a letter to the paper (if there had been one) complaining about the mass murders, by great emperor's like Diocletian or Marcus Aurelius, of innocent Christians? So it was when Joan of Arc was burned at the stakes, or when "Bloody Mary" was running wild against the Protestants, or when the Russian revolution caused the death of no-body knows how many hundreds of priest, or when the Chinese

revolution has brought death to Christians again in our time. The persecutors may be bishops, and arch-bishops, heathen emperors, "people's governments," or African chiefs, they always have the law on their side, and what is more serious, they have public opinion. When the early French missionaries to the American Indians were tomahawked, as so many of them were, does any one suppose that their scalps were buried to destroy traces of the crime? Not a bit of it,—some Indian warrior wore the scalp and was the envy of everybody in his village. Always the murder of the Christians is done with public knowledge.

Persecution Can Be Avoided

We can move a little closer to our question by remembering that the church has not always been persecuted. Sometimes it has been highly praised, welcomed, honored. It may even succeed in running the country. Nobody would dream of persecuting it,—in fact, it may turn the tables and persecute other people. Oh—you say at once—when that happens, it isn't the church of God any more; the true church will always be persecuted, and when it isn't, it is a sign it is no longer the true church.—There is some truth in that, but it is saying too much. A church may be free from persecution and still be largely Christian. However, you can set it down as a rule: Whenever the church, and the people in it, do just what everybody else does and think what every one thinks, then it will not be persecuted.

"I Had a Higher Fuehrer!"

Martin Niemoeller is a case in point. He was a hero of World War I who later became a minister. When Hitler took over Germany, Pastor Niemoeller went along with what Hitler did, or at any rate he said nothing, for a long time. And all that time, Martin Niemoeller went right on with his church work undisturbed. Then finally Hitler was too much even for Niemoeller's strong stomach, and he defied Hitler. "I had a higher Fuehrer," he said years later, a higher Leader. So the police came and marched that minister off to jail, one morning after church. You see? The church is never persecuted when all it says to the world around it is "Yes, yes, we agree!" The church has been persecuted, and will be persecuted here in America even, if and when—like Stephen of old—it dares to set above public opinion, custom, "mores," respectabilities, authorities and powers, the Higher Leader.

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