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BACKWARD WEATHER

Lancaster County farmers are coming out of the slump that adverse weather has tossed in their laps the past few weeks. But it's a slow, hard, expensive process. Some losses caused by the unusual weather cannot be remedied. Tomatoes are being replanted, promising some delay in harvest, but fruit trees in some sections may not recover sufficiently to produce a worthwhile crop.

Very serious threats to crop production have been posed in many sections of the country. Local showers have been strictly local. Parts of Iowa are suffering tremendously. Northwestern Missouri faces a very serious threat in crops due to a shortage of moisture.

One midwestern county found farmers refusing to accept designation as drouth disaster areas since it would reduce their markets and especially reduce land values.

Freezing weather this time of year is unusual. Devices of all kinds were put into use to combat the chill. Smudge pots gave a California-orange-grove aspect to many Lancaster County fields. Old tires were burned to sear away the chill.

As always, the weather has just delayed the Lancaster County farmer somewhat. He's back in there, doing the best he can to meet conditions that are the most unpredictable in history.

ACCIDENTS — \$1 MILLION HERE

Pennsylvania farm families foot a million-dollar accident bill every year, according to a Pennsylvania State University study.

"This is out-of-pocket cash and does not include time losses, replacement expense and possible loss of future earning capacity," one report continues.

"The million-dollar loss was estimated on the basis of data gathered from 2,288 Keystone State farms in 48 counties by 1,500 high school boys, members of vocational agriculture classes. They reported a total of 354 accidents from Oct. 1954 through Sept. 1955. Total cash loss from the 354 accidents was \$17,500.

Most dangerous are October, November, December, and January, most dangerous are Wednesday and Saturday.

What's the solution? The state department of farm and home safety education suggests "Farmers should take a 'coffee break' or something similar, especially in the afternoon to ease nervous tension and retard exhaustion. The study showed nearly twice as many accidents between the hours of 2 to 6 in the afternoon, as there were between 8 and 12 in the morning."

One slogan that still holds good is, "Farm safety is no accident."

GRADUATION TIME

Within the past week or so, scores and scores of high school seniors in Lancaster County said farewell to books and school days. They face a challenge. Some have definite plans, and, one teacher fortunately reports, a good percentage will go on to college.

During the summer many will make this choice. For the young men who have finished, there is always the prospect of required military service, the difficult choice of whether to go into uniform immediately or wait.

The world they face is the same as their predecessors. Conditions are different. Prospects are considerably improved over past years for the graduate. Those who can afford to go to college should be encouraged. The next few months will be the critical point for decision.

Our best wishes go with them, may their decisions be the right ones.

50 Years Ago

This Week on Lancaster Farms

50 YEARS AGO (1906)
By JACK REICHARD

Band Frighten Horse;
So Milkman Sues

Elias Creamer, a dairyman near Norristown, Pa., entered suit in the court of common pleas against the Germania Cornet Band of Norristown to recover damages. It all started when Creamer was delivering milk in the city on a day the band was playing in front of the Hotel Realt. Creamer claimed that when his team neared the band the drum player beat his drum harder, and the man with the cymbals made such a fearful noise, causing his horse to become frightened and run away, wrecking the wagon, injuring the horse and spilling all the milk in the street. The band members claimed they could prove that Creamer drove close to where the band was playing to get his horse used to the music.

Frank Musser, of Lancaster, entered suit against the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. for damages. He alleged that he shipped sheep from Buffalo to Lancaster and the railroad company overloaded the car, resulting in the death of several animals due to overcrowding. Musser sued for the value of the sheep lost.

Ephrata Youth Smothers
In Wheat Bin

Walter Leisey, nine, son of Abraham K Leisey, of Ephrata, jumped into a wheat bin and was soon buried in the shifting wheat, smothering to death, 50 years ago this week. Workmen at the Ephrata Coal and Lumber Co warehouse, where the accident occurred, rushed to the boy's assistance, but were too late.

Experiments made at the Cornell University experimental station in orcharding half a century ago proved that it took more fertility from the soil to produce 20 average crops of apples than to produce 20 average crops of wheat. It was pointed out that no secondary crops should be grown in the orchard, and that trees should be heavily fertilized where possible.

13 Plow Teams
In One Field

On the Lancaster farm of A. L. Herr, of Collins, who desired to get his plowing for corn planting over with in a hurry, employed the neighborhood farmers to do the work. 50 years ago this week. The spectacle of 13 plows at work in the 25-acre field was an unusual sight in that section of the county.

Fifty years ago this week a large bank barn was destroyed by fire on the Lancaster farm of Martin Oberlin, near Cocalico. The blaze was discovered by members of the family, who managed to save all livestock. All poultry and farm implements were burned. The fire was believed the work of an incendiary.

Farmers Urged To
Reduce Household Labor

In behalf of the farmwife, farmers who had all the latest machinery and conveniences for doing their outdoor work, 50 years ago, were urged to provide the good housewife with labor saving conveniences in doing work within the household. A handy supply of water, abundance of dry wood and kindling, ample cupboard room,

a first class cook stove, were some of the aids suggested for lightening the burden of household duties.

25 Years Ago

25 YEARS AGO (1931)

Manheim Rebels On
Daylight Saving Time

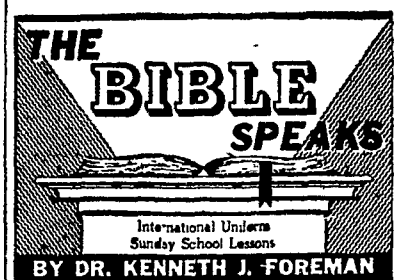
Daylight Saving Time made trouble in Manheim, 25 years ago. In some parts of the town and some public places, a sort of semi-daylight saving was being observed, with clocks turned on a half instead of a whole hour, while in many homes three kinds of time functioned: in the bedrooms, standard time; on stairways, semi-daylight, and in the kitchen, daylight saving. Bank notes matured an hour earlier in Manheim than they did in Maytown. In another village one school observed one time, the other school the other time and children of the same family passed each other in going to and coming back from lunch. In Honey Brook things were still worse, where one congregation tried out daylight saving and later rescinded the action, while another remained on daylight saving. People arrived

at funerals too late for the services and folks arrived at weddings an hour in advance of the groom. One Dutchman insisted if it be economical to save one hour why not save three and have the entire afternoon for going fishing or shooting crabs or "sumthin." All efforts to have chickens go to roost an hour earlier proved futile, while many Manheim Township farmers were charged with eating five meals a day due to the mix-up in time.

British Critical
Of Russians

Twenty-five years ago, when Russia was underselling Manchester, Britains were shocked to learn the Russians were employing slave or convict labor. Russia replied: "Well, you pay your workers just enough to keep alive and keep on working. What is the difference?" Russia had sold at Liverpool, 163,000 small bales of cotton, from Turkestan, at \$3 a bale below America's low price, in 1931. A distinguished British economist suggested that Britain and America lend Russia money, thus making it unnecessary for her to dump goods at any price to continue her industrial plan.

The June 1931 meeting of the Lancaster County Tobacco Growers' Association was held at the Sporting Hill School house, near Manheim, with L. C. Creamer, president of the group, presiding.



BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN
Background Scripture: Acts 15:36-18:22
Devotional Reading: Acts 17:22-31.

To the West

Lesson for June 3, 1956

IN PAUL'S vision at Troas, his night visitor did not say, "Come over into Europe and help us." He only said "Macedonia." In fact, the word Europe does not occur in the story at all. Paul and his contemporaries were not conscious of moving from one continent to another when they set sail for Macedonia. Nevertheless it was a notable move. The Christian church was moving west, and it has never stopped permanently at any frontier. The little party that took ship for Samothracia was only one of countless groups of Christians westward bound. This was the first step in a great march. The Gospel was carried into every country in Europe, then into the Americas.



Here in North America, as the settlers moved inland, westward and ever westward, as the frontier moved across the land the church moved with it. Sometimes the church itself did the pioneering, as the Roman church did in California or the Protestants in Oregon.

Moving and Changing

Pea vines and people often change when transplanted to a different soil and climate. So it is with the church. The church at Antioch was different from the church in Jerusalem, and the church at Corinth was still different and by the time the church reached Rome and settled there, more changes could be seen. Churches in Northern Britain were not just like those of southern Italy. When the church came to America, there were further changes. To this day, a Presbyterian church in this country will be in many ways unlike the church of the same name in Scotland. English Methodists and American Methodists can easily be told apart. A distinguished English Baptist who is now serving in the largest

American Baptist denomination has said in public how hard it was at first for him to feel at home here. Even in the Roman Catholic church priests who have been in America all their lives find some features of European Catholic churches rather strange, and vice versa. In America, too, as the church moved west it changed its ways.

Always the Same

"The more it changes, the more it stays the same," is a French proverb, which might well describe the church of God. It is quite true, the church has gone through many changes as it has moved westward with the years, but at heart, when it has had a heart, it has always been the same. (We say "When it has had a heart," because some churches have lost heart, or lost their heart, grown cold and died.) It would be quite a shock for a member of any American church east or west to walk into a meeting of the church at Corinth in St. Paul's time. It would be just as puzzling for a Corinthian to enter any American church—a great cathedral in New York or a country church forty miles from anywhere; neither one would be like his Corinthian meeting. But the heart of the church is the same. In Corinth, Kansas City or the Kentucky hills, wherever people are gathered together who love the Lord Jesus, who adore Him as Son of God and know Him as their Saviour, wherever those who love Christ are united to serve mankind in His name, there is the Christian church at worship and at work. Languages and forms differ, but the spirit of Christ is always the same.

Frontiers of the Future

When the church reached the eastern edge of the Pacific Ocean, had it come to the last frontier? Is there anywhere else to go? Of course there is. Beyond the Pacific are two vast continents. The Christian church has been so busy stretching westward that it has all but forgotten the "East"—which now is literally our Far West: Asia, Africa and the islands of the seas are our Christian frontiers; the frontiers of the future, and the church is (if yet only dimly) aware of them. The churches along these frontiers will be different from the churches "back home" as ours are different from Corinth and Jerusalem. But the Spirit will be there; for wherever there are true churches, there Christ lives and works again.

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