

### It's The Law

"It's the Law" with simple answers is offered by LANCASTER FARMING in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Bar Association. General interest questions are welcomed, and will be answered as soon as possible. Letters must be signed. Answers will not be published on a specified, requested day. Questions cannot be answered by mail, and LANCASTER FARMING will reject any inquiry which is not of general public interest. Address all inquiries to "It's the Law," LANCASTER FARMING Quarryville, Pa.

Q. When I was about 3 years old, my mother got a divorce and remarried. I always used and signed my stepfather's last name, although he never legally adopted me. When I got married, I signed my name the same way. I'd like to know if I used the wrong name, and if I did, am I considered legally married? M.M.

A. You had no legal right to use your stepfather's last name, because he did not legally adopt you, nor did you go through the proper Court procedure for the change of name. However, your marriage is not invalidated because you used the wrong name, and you are presently legally married. Because you are now married (and we assume you are a female), you are now using your husband's surname, and there is no necessity for you to go through a change of name procedure. However, if at any later time you would desire to retake your stepfather's name, you should then accomplish the necessary legal requirements for change of name.

Q. Is a parent entitled to open a 20-year-old married daughter's mail? In this case, a check was enclosed. The par-

### Oak Wilt Declines, Aerial Survey Shows

Oak wilt in Pennsylvania has declined considerably again this year, observations made from planes indicate. At the end of eight flying days, observers spotted approximately 40 locations of oak trees affected by the plague.

This is about one-tenth of the locations found at the same time last year, according to Dr. Thomas L. Guyon, director of the State Bureau of Plant Industry. Half of the affected spots are in Perry County. By mid-July it is expected at least one inspection flight will be made over every county in Pennsylvania.

ent signed the daughter's name and cashed the check. He then said that because the daughter wasn't 21, he could still do what he wished with her mail. The daughter doesn't live at home since her marriage and found out later about the check.

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A. The daughter has been completely "emancipated," though still a minor by reason of her marriage and withdrawal from the family household. Therefore, the parent had no right to open her mail, and even more so, he was totally without authority to cash a check payable to the daughter. The daughter would have a valid cause of action against her parent for the proceeds of the check. Also, the parent might be guilty of a crime because he forged the daughter's name on the check when he had no authority to do so.

Q. We paid 10 percent of \$900 on a property and signed an agreement to make final settlement in four months. Then we changed our minds. We did not take the place. Is the broker or agent that took our money justified in keeping the \$900? I.M.S.

A. It is probable that the agreement which you signed provides that in the event of your failure to complete the transaction on the property, the \$900 down money paid by you would be treated as liquidated damages to be retained by the seller and/or his agent. If the agreement does not contain such a provision it might be possible for you to recover all or a portion of the down money, particularly if you have some valid reason for not consummating the transaction.

This is the time of year to start a honey program, and you might even get a swarm of honey bees free if you keep your eyes open.



In Mexico City, the bullfights occupy Sunday afternoon, but on a warm, leisurely Sunday afternoon in Montreal, what's better for a guy and gal than a stroll or a drive by hack through the park? Here

is one of many city parks in this province of Quebec metropolis that gives an excellent view of the city and the St. Lawrence River. (Office Provincial de Publique Photo, Quebec).

### Firecracker Use Legalized for Scaring Birds in State Orchards

HARRISBURG — Farm boys who have been required to beat on dish pans or slap boards together to scare marauding birds from corn fields, berry patches or fruit trees will get a "bang" out of the newest bird-scaring implements now legalized in Pennsylvania — firecrackers.

Farmers have had to contend with bird and animal damage problems for generations, says State Secretary of Agriculture W. L. Henning. With larger acreages being devoted to single crops, bird damage to corn, apples, cherries, grapes and other crops has been increasing in recent years.

#### "Rope Firecrackers"

"Rope firecrackers" have been provided as an effective device to drive hungry birds — and even deer — away from ripening crops. Secretary Henning describes them as a series of firecrackers attached by their fuses to a slow-burning cotton rope.

But he stressed a warning that the explosives are dangerous and must be handled carefully — by adults. Special permits are required for purchases.

The scare device consists of explosions produced at certain intervals. When birds are first arriving in the field during the early morning, explosions are frequent, every 10 or 15 minutes. As the morning hours advance the explosions become less frequent. As local conditions vary, the rope firecracker may be necessary during the day or again in early evening.

#### Flash-Salute Best

Small Chinese firecrackers fail to make enough noise. Those best adapted are the flash-salute type, known popularly as bulldogs, cannon crackers, salutes or whizzbangs. Care must be made in selecting the type of rope, usually 5/16 or 3/8 inch thick, consisting of three or four strands. Two sets of ropes are usually prepared for daily

use, one to last until noon, the other through evening.

A type of aerial bomb known as the two-shot repeating bomb also is manufactured especially for crop protection.

#### Where to Obtain Permits

Pennsylvania has a stringent law governing the sale and use of all types of fireworks. Approval of Act 325 by Governor is possible for farmers to obtain special permits to purchase firecrackers to make their own ropes or aerial bombs or to buy them already made up from dealers, wholesalers or manufacturers within or outside the state.

Permits are obtainable for agricultural use only, from municipal authorities such as city or borough clerks or township supervisors.

The business man never stands still. He progresses up to a point over the years, and when he stops, he goes backward.

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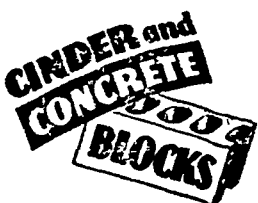
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