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RAINMAKING AND RAINMAKERS

Much has been said about rainmaking and rainmakers. Whether the weather man or the Weather Man has been responsible, it is difficult to tell.

Pardon us for drawing on personal experiences or contacts, but we'd like to quote from a letter written by Harold H. Neill, brother, and Iowa Flying Farmer who is active on the board of the Iowa-Missouri Weather Modification Operation, in an area where drought has taken severe toll the past few years.

Noticed you covered the IAMO weather modification operations and we are really believers in it (cloud seeding from ground-based generators), at least we have had plenty of rain since the operation started.

The operation is real interesting. I was a little disturbed to find out that Spain is just six years ahead of us with cloud seeding, so are the coffee growers in South America.

The only thing bad about the operation is they do have to have clouds. We had rain June 19, that followed the nice, black clouds we have been having all Spring without rain. I flew into Omaha, Neb., talked to the Weather Bureau, and they told us there would be no rain as there was no change in temperature to make it rain. That was our trouble all Spring. Regardless of what the weather men said, we got two inches of rain in 24 hours. It seems to be working that way since. Anyway we are getting the rain. Corn looks the best, small grain not so hot, but the USDA paid us to plow ours under, so we are not too unhappy about crop prospects. Alfalfa hay will make a big crop, at least the first two cuttings. Have the best garden we ever grew. Everything about two or three weeks ahead of normal.

Good or bad, whether or not cloud seeding forces Nature to wring moisture from the clouds, there's an optimistic note in his conclusion,

"It seems to be dry outside the cloud seeding operations"

TIME TO THINK

Everything this season seems to hinge on safety. During the past few weeks, until dampened down by pleasant, welcome showers, Lancaster County was becoming very vulnerable to fire. The danger is not yet gone. Spring means clean-up time, and burning's in order — if kept in order. Many acres of fertile Lancaster County farms have seared and scorched the past few weeks by brush fires or grass fires that got out of control.

Take heed Use care.

It Has Happened

Repeated warnings have been issued on the care farmers should exercise when operating farm equipment on highways. Not always is the farmer to blame.

Down in the southern end of the County a near-tragic highway accident occurred when several vehicles piled together as one car struck another, pushing it into a tractor and hay-baler. Damage was extensive. Fortunately, injuries were slight.

But it points out the need for continuous caution. It's much easier to be safe than sorry.

SAM HAS A FEW THINGS TO LEARN

You'd think that by now Uncle Sam would have learned all the ins and outs of the farm price propping business. At least if there is anything to the old saw about practice making perfect, it is logical to assume that he would rate a passing grade. But an item in the news leads us to suspect that Sam is strictly a novice in the propping game. His counterpart in Egypt, for instance, not only pegs the price of wheat, we learn, but manages to make a neat profit in the process of buying farmers' wheat at \$2 a bushel and selling to millers at \$3 or more. A dollar a bushel margin isn't bad at all (talk about your middlemen!) — especially when stacked up against the 44-cent a bushel loss that Sam suffered on price-propped wheat he sold during the last half of 1955. — (Omaha (Nebr.) Daily Journal-Stockman).

50 Years Ago

This Week on Lancaster Farms

50 YEARS AGO (1906)  
 By JACK REICHARD

Fifty years ago this week, lightning made front page news in Lancaster County and elsewhere. Henry Matz, a young farmer of Alleghneyville, near Reading, Pa., was killed instantly by a bolt of lightning while lying on a bed at his home. He had just returned home from the Reading Market and lay down for a short rest, when the lightning entered the room through the side of a window frame. Sallie, a sister, who was descending the stairway, was stunned. Mrs. Sallie Messner, 80, grandmother of the young man, was seated in a chair in an adjoining bedroom. She was not injured, but splinters from the window frame were found on her lap.

On the southern Lancaster farm of Wilson Wright, near the lower Octoraro Church, four cows were killed by lightning during a heavy thunderstorm passing over that section at noon.

LIGHTNING — UPSETS STOVE

At Harrisburg, lightning struck the flue connected with the kitchen stove at the residence of Moses Fischman, upsetting the stove and scattering live coals all over the room.

Mrs. Ida Cezelner, a married daughter, was fatally burned and four others in the room sustained painful injuries.

On that same July day, in 1906, lightning struck the large flour and feed warehouse in Lancaster belonging to J. J. Weh, completely destroying the building and contents. The fire department responded but their efforts were directed in preventing the flames from spreading. A lot of hay, feed, two wagons and a dog were burned.

MILK CURDLES DURING THUNDERSTORMS

When electricity was introduced in the early 1900's farmers, in general, were fearful it would sour their milk. In those days it was a common thing for milk to curdle during a thunderstorm, which was considered a mysterious phenomenon by most housewives. "Why thunder sours milk" was a much debated subject one half century ago. And the following explanation published in the New Orleans Times-Democrat, explained nothing so far as farmers were concerned. "Milk, like most other substances, contains millions of bacteria. The milk bacteria that in a day or two, under natural conditions, would cause the fluid to sour, are peculiarly susceptible to electricity. Electricity inspires and invigorates them, affecting them as alcohol, cocaine or strong tea affects men. Under the current's influence, they never fail to go to work with amazing energy and instead of taking a couple of days to sour the milk, they accomplish the task completely in half an hour.

"It is not the thunder in a storm that sours milk; it is the electricity in the air that does it. With an electric battery it is easy, on the same principle, to sour the freshest milk. A strong current excites the microbes to supermicrobic exertions, and in a few minutes they do a job that under ordinary conditions would take them a couple of days."

25 Years Ago

25 YEARS AGO (1931)

Twenty five years ago this week, a number of accidents were reported on Lancaster farms. John Olmsted, Colerain Township, got kicked by a horse while unhitching the animal from a wagon. The horse, in attempting to kick a mule, struck its owner instead, resulting in painful bruises for Olmsted, and a loud "he-haw" from the mule.

While harnessing a mule at his farm near Elim, Edgar Peters received a directed kick in the face from his animal, resulting in a fracture of the jaw and cheek bone, and the loss of some teeth. Peters was found in an unconscious condition and was taken to the Lancaster General Hospital.

Everett Kreider, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kreider, Drumore Center, suffered severe bruises of a leg when he was kicked by a mule on his father's farm.

A barn on the Lancaster farm owned by Tobias Shenk and occupied by his son, Amos, near Colemanville, was destroyed by a fire caused by spontaneous combustion, resulting from overheated crops. Area neighbors responded to the alarm sounded by Mrs. Shenk on the farm bell and succeeded in saving nearby buildings.

The contents, consisting of the season crops and all farm implements were burned. No livestock were in the barn when the fire started.

COW GIVES BIRTH TO FOUR CALVES

At the Lancaster farm of Benjamin Garber, occupied by John Gaul, dairyman, near Mt. Joy, a cow gave birth to four fully developed calves. State dairy experts said it was a rare occurrence for a cow to give birth to two pairs of twins at the same time.

A LOYAL PIGEON

VISTA, Calif. — Just three days after Rickie Hill, 13, traded a crippled homing pigeon to Dale Auviel, 13, for a parakeet, the pigeon arrived back at Rickie's from the three-mile hike.

The House passed the Administration's defense appropriation bill unanimously. It was for \$33,635,066,000, or a half-billion dollars less than President Eisenhower requested.

**THE BIBLE SPEAKS**  
 International Uniform Sunday School Lessons  
**BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN**  
 Background Scripture: John 4:39-42; Hebrews 2:9-5:14  
 Devotional Reading: John 3:14-21  
**Savior of Men**  
 Lesson for July 15, 1956

THE Bible does not say that Jesus saves men from hell. It does say that he saves men from their sins. This is much more important; for suppose a man were saved from hell but not from his sins? Perverted by sin, such a man would carry his own hell with him even through the gates of heaven.



Dr. Foreman

Christ is the Saviour of men here and now, not in the future alone, but in the living present. In the Bible the word "save" means, first of all, to rescue. Christ as Saviour comes to the rescue of men who are chained and beaten, men who are the victims of their worst selves, bondsmen of the devil. Your worst self hates your best self. Left alone, your best self has a very slim chance, if any. You need to be rescued from yourself, and Christ is the rescuer every man needs.

Sin-bearer

How does Christ rescue men? The Bible suggests, and the church echoes, many answers. Let us look at three. Christ rescues men by taking their sins on himself. As a modern Christian writer (Hordern) puts it, he "took the rap" for mankind. As St. Paul put it, "He who knew no sin was made to be sin, for us . . ." In a long-ago battle for Swiss independence, the story is that one of the front-line soldiers seized as many of the enemy's spears as he could gather in his arms, and forced himself on them, thus making by his death a gap through which his fellow-soldiers poured to victory. In North Carolina, when the United States government was about to punish the Cherokee Indians for an alleged crime, their chief Junaluska offered to give his own life if the government would let his people go. So he was killed, and his people went free. These are imperfect illustrations of what Jesus Christ

did as sin-bearer, as self-giving Sacrifice. He "tasted death for every one." That does not have to be done twice.

Example

Another way in which Christ saves is by just being himself. Once there was a school-room in which the small boys and girls seemed to learn a courtesy, a graciousness of manner, which children in other rooms did not learn. Some one who wondered how the teacher did it, and who knew how hard it is to teach some children even the ABC's or of politeness, asked one of the boys how the teacher did it. "She don't teach us at all," the small boy said. "She just walks around, and we feel as polite as anything." A well-known "Spiritual" sings, "I want to be like Jesus, in my heart." Jesus saves men from their sins by so inspiring them that they know there is nothing better than to be like Him. If you are learning to play the piano, you don't learn best by listening to poor pianos poorly played. You learn by listening to a master-pianist, a real artist. Now there is an easy way of misunderstanding this matter of Jesus saving us by his example: it is to suppose that we must every day compare him with ourselves, keeping (so to speak) a chart on which our "spiritual progress" is charted every day—20% like Jesus in 1955, 25% in 1956, and so on. That is absolutely the wrong way to do it; all you become is a Pharisee. The right way is to keep our mind fixed on Christ, so to love him in sincere earnest, that we shall grow more and more like him, one may say—almost without knowing it. True saints are not self-conscious.

Unseen Guest

Once Jesus invited himself to dinner at the house of a very shady character named Zacchaeus. After dinner Jesus said, "Salvation has come to this house," and we know that Zacchaeus began to be a different man from that afternoon. In the last book of the New Testament a picture is drawn of Christ standing outside a closed door. "If any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in . . ." So Christ saves men by being their permanent unseen Guest, by being the Inner Companion whose very presence is a saving power. Christ is Saviour, not alone by what he does for men, but by what he does in men. Being "saved" is more than knowing or believing; being saved is becoming, by his invitation, host to the Lord of all.

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