



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

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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

**IT'S FAIR TIME AGAIN**

Last week's **Lancaster Farming** provided a list of state, county and community fairs that will be in full swing before long. There's an impressive number of them, and Lancaster County has its share.

Although many fairs have operated on a shoe-string budget, interest is increasing, expenditures become more great, and premium awards more attractive. There's an interest in the fair, with its color, its sounds, its dazzling spectacles, its tinkling tunes.

Fairs were once markets. Today this theme still prevails. As one livestock breeder told us, exhibiting stock at a fair is advertising.

There's a moment of pride when a youngster shows his 4-H steer to a blue or a purple ribbon. Mom's pleased as all get-out too when her jar of pickles is judged tops. Dad has his day too, shepherding the family about the grounds, down the midway, through the exhibit halls and tents, and he's among the showmen too.

In days gone by, "Tent City" at the state fair provided the family summer vacation. Invariably it rained. Tents toppled, rivers rushed through the tents. Early morning awakening was not to the bugle, the crow of a rooster — it was the call of "Hey, Elmer," or some ambitious, early risers who chose that moment for a bit of hog-calling.

There's challenge in showing. It encourages development of better animals, better grains. It sets a type which others in class or species must fill. The halls of horticulture bring the best from field and garden, the halls of homework the finest needles can produce, fine arts the tops in beauty. It creates competition, and never is it more keen than in the showing, or when the judge makes his rounds.

Teaching showmanship is something the office of Lancaster County's agriculture agent has encouraged. Just within the past year, Lancaster County has been honored and selected as the site of several regional and national sales and shows in the livestock world.

Although it has numerous local fairs, the Garden Spot — tops in the agricultural field — lacks a countywide fair that is all encompassing. At one time there was such a fair. Perhaps in the future, it is hoped, there may be a return to a countywide celebration.

At this season, you can't help humming

"The Sun is a-shining  
 To welcome the day,  
 Heigh, ho — come to the fair!"

**FOLDED TENTS**

Just recently the World's Greatest Show, Ringling Bros., folded its tents and returned to winter quarters instead of facing an unreasonable financial loss to a public whose interests have been diverted to other fields of entertainment.

There was something about the circus that made a kid a man — and that made a man a kid. First the sight of the colorful tram pulling into town, the unloading of the glistening wagons, the animals filing out, as though from a steam-powered Noah's Ark, caught everyone's eye.

There were jokes about the circus, and many a ticket was earned by youngsters who followed the admonition of one adult, "If you want to do something big, my son, go wash an elephant."

**SUPPORTS: SURPLUSES, CONTROLS**

Farm price supports inevitably lead to surpluses and federal controls, producing a static rather than a dynamic agriculture, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson asserted recently. A temporary increase in prices can be legislated, but controls transfer decisions from the farmer to the government.

A free economy is something farmers haven't known since the days when Secretary Wallace first started farm curbs in the Department of Agriculture. Whether there will ever be a free farm economy again or not is a moot question.

**50 Years Ago**

**This Week on Lancaster Farms**

50 YEARS AGO (1906)

By JACK REICHARD

**50 YEARS AGO (1906)**

**Horse Incurably Insane On Connecticut Farm**

In a special dispatch to the New York Times from Waterbury, Conn., it was declared that a horse on the farm of Ben Tillman was incurably insane. The dispatch stated "It plays unpardonable tricks, trying to stand on its head in the garden, squeals and neighs at night in open defiance to all regulations, and tries to destroy its stall. Veterinarians say the case is a rare one of equine aberration. The animal is quiet enough in harness, and if the sun is not shining, but it refuses to behave itself in the sunshine."

**Ex-Senator and Family Forced to Telp Save Crops**

John I. Yeend, a former senator from the State of Washington, and his family, were forced to work in the harvest fields on his Dry Creek ranch due to labor scarcity, in 1906. Miss Emma Yeend, one of Walla Walla's "400 Set", gave a hand on the header box, while Miss Alice Yeend operated the derrick. Mrs. Yeend and two other daughters cooked for the big outfit. The Yeends gave up a vacation at the seashore to save the crop.

On the Lancaster farm of E. H. Ebsenshade, at Leaman Place, a barn including its contents of hay, straw, two wagons and sleigh, was destroyed by fire during mid-afternoon on that August 5, Sunday, in 1906. The building was close to the railroad tracks and was believed to have been set on fire from sparks of an engine.

Out in Decatur, Ill., lightning struck the Walnut Grove Church just as Sunday School was being dismissed. One person was fatally burned, another had a toe burned off, and more than a dozen were severely shocked.

**Harvest Services At Willow Street**

A song service and harvest sermon was the feature on the program at a Bible meeting held at the Willow Street Menonite Church that August Morning and afternoon in 1906. Among the speakers were Reverend Noah Mack, of New Holland, Reverend John Mosemann, of Lancaster; Reverend C. M. Brackbill, of Gap; Harry B. Hen, Lampeter; I. B. Graybill, Lancaster, and J. D. Hershey, of Litzitz.

One-half century ago, snow was selling in Italy at one cent per pound. The enterprise was a government monopoly, and the Prince of Palermo derived the greater part of his income from the business. The snow was gathered on the mountains in felt covered baskets and was sold in cities for refrigerating purposes.

Fifty years ago, a German chemist declared that certain substances, deadly in their effects to humans, can be taken by animals with impunity. It was claimed, "horses can take large doses of antimony, dogs of mercury, goats of tobacco, mice of hemlock and rabbits of belladonna, all without injury. On the other hand, dogs and cats are much more susceptible to the influence of chloroform than man, and they are much sooner killed by it."

25 YEARS AGO (1931)

**Johnstown Pa. Hit By Flood Waters**

Sunday, Aug. 2, 1931, a large part of the business section of Johnstown was flooded when a cloudburst struck the city. Water, to the depth of three and a half feet, covered more than four blocks of the downtown area. Automobiles, caught by the downpour, were stalled in the streets up to their hubs in water; street car service was paralyzed. At least four persons were injured in accidents during the storm, which was accompanied by an electrical display.

An average yield of 40 bushels of oats to an acre was reported by Lancaster farmers in 1931.

**Woman Trampled By Bull**

Mrs. John Wevadan, Mechanicsburg R5, was attacked by a bull at her farm. She suffered a fractured collarbone, lacerations of the leg, body bruises and internal injuries.

Saturday, August 1, 1931, the annual convention of the Old Fiddlers' Association of Lancaster and Chester Coun-

ties was held at Crystal Park, Parkesburg.

George W. Hensel, Jr., of Quarryville, head of the group, was born a fiddler and fiddled still, although he was past the age of 65.

Throughout the park, on rocks, in stumps, in all sorts of places, the fiddlers and other entertainers thrilled thousands that day, with their strips of cat and horse hair, and boxes of wood stuck together with glue, from which they conjured tunes, stirring the emotions of young and old.

In an interview with the late Mr. Hensel, by the writer of this column on Sunday, Aug. 2, the day following the convention, the jovial, kind, genial sage of Quarryville, summed it up this way:

"They shuffled their feet, they sarg; and how they did roar; the oldsters felt they were young once more. The kids patted Juba and wiggled their toes, and the girls turned round and petted their beaux, while everyone from far and near had the merriest time of all the year."

On the Lancaster farm of Gotlieb Feiler, that August week in 1931, sixteen neighbors were at work thrashing Feiler's ten acre field of oats. Five wagons were used to haul the grain to the thrasher. Feiler was a patient at the Lancaster General Hospital.

**THE BIBLE SPEAKS**  
 International Uniform Sunday School Lessons  
**BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN**  
 Background Scripture: Luke 2:40, 52-53; 1 Peter 2:1-3; 4:1-11; 2 Peter 1: Devotional Reading: Philippians 4:4-9.  
**In Two Ways**  
 Lesson for August 5, 1956

THE United States now has more drug addicts than all other western nations combined—sixty thousand. In the past three years the Federal Bureau of Narcotics has compiled a list of names and addresses of 30,000 known addicts, and the list is growing at the rate of a thousand every month.



Dr. Foreman

These and other facts were brought to light last January by a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee after seven months seeking the facts. Illegal dope traffic, they found out, has trebled since World War II. Whereas at the war's end, there was one addict to every 10,000 persons, now there is one to every 3,000. Approximately 50% of all crime in our cities, and 25% of all crime in the nation at large, is traceable to drug addiction.

**How Does It Start?**  
 The narcotics evil, like the alcohol evil, like most social sores, begins with the young people. If for one generation you could bring up children and young people with no knowledge of such things and no temptation to indulge, you would have dealt a heavy blow to those who traffic in these things. Nobody, no healthy boy or girl certainly, wants to be the sort of wretch Frank Sinatra played in "The Man with the Golden Arm," or the kind of persons you may find in the hospitals that try to do something with narcotics victims. But young people the traffic must have thirteen per cent of all dope addicts in the country are under 21. (These figures from TIME magazine for last Jan. 16.) Now, how does a boy or girl get started on the dope habit? How do they get started drinking? The other night a boy in his second stolen car for that night knocked in two store fronts and woke up in the hospital. His girl friend woke up next morning in jail. Both were

about sixteen, both had been drinking—beer, she said. The question is, Why do they do it? What starts them off?

**Letting Yourself Go**

One answer given by young people themselves is that they are after thrills, "a kick." Just being young is not thrill enough, they have to jazz it up with alcohol or narcotics. Let yourself go! they say to themselves. Go on, faster, faster; when all the thrill nature provides are stale, then go after the artificial jolts you can get from a bottle or a hypodermic syringe. This is not all the fault of young people. Older people often lead them astray. Even teachers may do it, for there is a philosophy of education that says, in effect, that a child must never be made to do what he doesn't want to do. "What I want" is supposed to be the key to happiness. Now this is precisely the opposite of the Christian way of living. Self-control, not letting yourself go, is always a mark of the Christian life in every New Testament description of it. Life without inner control is not only a weak life, it is headed for a crash.

**Who's to Blame?**

Sometimes the blame for young people's downfall is not to be laid at the door of the traffickers or drugs. Parents themselves who have never said "No" may be to blame. Some years ago a school for girls received this letter from a wealthy woman: "My daughter has always been spoiled and given as much money as she could spend. She is sixteen years old and I'm afraid has the wrong view of life. . . . I don't think her companions are just the right sort either. . . . I shall try very hard to have her wardrobe proper although it will be extremely difficult because she has always had very expensive and extremely fancy clothes. . . . Please advise as to what subjects she had better take up. . . . either Latin or domestic science can be taken I prefer D.S. because she knows very little about cooking. I am very glad the girls are requested to keep their rooms in order. . . . It is my wish that my daughter becomes what a real American girl should be, a perfect wife and mother, and under your care I hope she will come home to us a different girl." Do you think she did? Do you think she could have? If you had been in charge of that school, would you have accepted this girl? If she finally turned out to be an alcoholic or a narcotic drug addict, whose fault would it have been? The Christian Way is the harder road—till you get to the end!

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