

# Lancaster Farming

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## STAFF

Alfred C. Alspach ..... Publisher  
Ernest J. Neill ..... Editor  
C. Wallace Abel ..... Business Manager  
Robert G. Campbell ..... Advertising Director  
Robert J. Wiggins ..... Circulation Director

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## FORECASTING'S FUN

Forecasting's fun — but dangerous. It's a field of hedging, or a field of caution. Throughout the nation, crop prospects are termed excellent, yet those in the know are tempering their predictions.

No crop can be counted until it's harvested, weighed and stored or sold. Forecasts of a superb tobacco crop that might surpass previous records fall on the ears of producers who will wait and weigh — then say — when the

True D. Morse, acting secretary of agriculture at the time the most recent crop report was issued, made the following statement relative to the report:

"The report made today (indicated crop conditions for 1956) is, in general, a favorable one for farmers of the Nation. The indications are that farmers will have a large volume of produce to market — which helps assure further the increased net farm income which the Department had predicted for the latter part of this year. The favorable effect of these crops should carry over well into 1957.

We strongly urge farmers to do their utmost to protect their prices by orderly marketing to avoid price-depressing market gluts and to make full use of the price support programs on their commodities. Furthermore, farmers should push ahead vigorously now to assure themselves of adequate storage for housing their 1956 crops, and this prevent losses that can come from forced marketing.

"The principal dark spot centers in the central and southern Great Plains area, where severe drought damage conditions persist. Lack of rain in Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and in parts of Arizona, Nevada, Utah and South Dakota, has brought about serious pasture and crop damage and loss of production."

The Garden Spot is not overly inclined to go along with all the artificial supports offered by the Government, since it is self-sufficient and in general maintains a year 'round, not seasonal farm income. Government supports are needed on all crops.

Nevertheless, conditions in other sections of the country — remote and unrelated as they may be — have a most direct bearing on Lancaster County. The market basket is a big one, and goods flow into it from all corners of the country.

## ONE SOLANCO TOWNSHIP REMAINS

Only one township in Southern Lancaster County remains not certified as Bang's Free — Eden Township, extending from Quarryville east.

Why?

Of Lancaster County's 41 Townships, 27 have been signed and tested, certified brucellosis free. Fourteen townships, primarily in the northern half, have not signed.

Of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, 67 are already certified as brucellosis free. The southeastern section is the slow end.

Dairying is primary in the section locally known as Solanco, more reason why this section should be signed soon as possible. Roscoe C. Carter, R3 Quarryville is chairman for the section concerned. He's willing — and anxious — to push this project through.

Only the action of the individual dairyman will bring this about. Two words could be heeded to raise the rank of this important region.

Sign now.

## LETTER WRITING WEEK

Oct. 7 to 13 has been designated National Letter Writing Week.

"One of the basic American freedoms is the uncensored transmission of first class mail. We all know the human importance of letter writing, the way in which it holds scattered families together, of giving comfort and love and news," one man said.

There should be no need for a Letter Writing Week, unless you're one — like we — who doesn't write as often as he should.

## 50 Years Ago

### This Week on Lancaster Farms

50 YEARS AGO (1906)  
By JACK REICHARD

David Bly, near Millerton, Pa., was gored to death by a bull, one of the herd owned by a nephew. Mrs. Bly attempted to drive off the bull and narrowly escaped a similar fate. Her screams brought help. Bly was dead when picked up.

Cotton growers in the New Orleans section faced serious loss of their 1906 crops due to labor shortage. Cotton dealers reported Negroes were leaving the plantations in large numbers. The reason was attributed to inducement offered the laborers in railroad construction.

### 250 Bushels Of Onions From Acre

On the Lancaster farm of S R Slaymaker, Salisbury Township, an acre in onions, planted as an experiment, yielded a crop of 250 bushels, ranging in size from a hen's egg to tea cup, in 1906 Slaymaker stated he drilled the seeds in rows thirteen inches apart, instead of sticking the sets. He cultivated them with an implement made for the purpose. Due to extremely wet weather at cultivating time, the plants became badly choked with weeds, and had it not been for this, Slaymaker declared that his crop would have produced between 500 and 600 bushels.

In Lancaster, John S. Graybill, Sr., of the Lancaster trust Company, had something of a curiosity in the form of a pumpkin growing in the yard at his residence, 441 West Chestnut Street. The vine climbed a tree, and there, on a stem curled around a limb, had grown a large pumpkin. Fearing its weight would break the vine, Graybill had built a platform support under the pumpkin.

On the Lancaster farm of Christian Dietrich, near Highville, a barn and tobacco shed were destroyed by an incendiary fire, 50 years ago this week. A straw stack near the barn was fired, spreading flames quickly to the buildings. Four acres of tobacco went up in smoke. The loss was estimated at \$4,000.

### Angus Association To Name Research Group from Colleges

A forward looking step was taken by the board of directors of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association at its regular meeting June 28 in St. Joseph, Missouri. The board voted to select a committee of college animal husbandrymen to handle its research program. On the agenda for future studies are dwarfism, herd health, and production testing.

It is contemplated that the new committee, which will be announced as soon as it is selected, will first study Angus pedigrees in an approach to the problem of dwarfism in the beef cattle industry. A solicitation of the entire membership of the Association will be made. Breeders of registered cattle who desire may voluntarily list known dwarf producing cattle in their herds. Such information will be sent directly to the committee and will be kept confidential by this group of research men. The Association will also turn over to the committee its present file on dwarfism pedigree studies.

## 25 Years Ago

Coal miners at the Pennsylvania Colliery, Mount Carmel, Pa., were in mourning over the passing of Old Barney, veteran mine mule credited with knowing every "nook and corner" of the mine where he spent most of his life. He was credited on one occasion with saving the lives of six workers by warning them, through cries, of the presence of poisonous gas. It was his over familiarity with the mine that cost him his life, workers said. He was placed in a temporary stable, not his regular one, and fell down a chute in trying to return to his own stall.

### \$30,000 Fire On Lancaster Farm

Twenty-five years ago this week, the large double-deck barn on the Lancaster farm of D. K. Rutt, Strasburg, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. Rutt discovered the fire and immediately ran to the barn to save three horses, all other livestock being out of the building at the time. Fire companies from Strasburg, Refton and Lampeter were summoned. Firemen were handicapped by lack of water, and they confined their

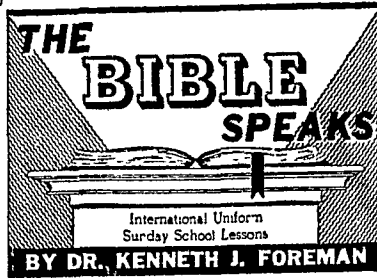
efforts to saving the other buildings and residence. The contents in the barn, including about 60 tons of hay, 18 tons of straw, 10 acres of tobacco and 730 bushels of wheat were destroyed. Firemen estimated the loss at about \$30,000, which was only partly covered by insurance.

### No School Lunch To Pack, Mother Frets

Mrs. D. W. Howsh, near Hiawatha, Kan., for 36 years had prepared lunches for her eleven children to take to school. The number of lunches was estimated at 12,000, but in 1931, "school bells" meant nothing to her, all eleven children had finished school. During the 36 years, Mrs. Howsh declared she had used 3,200 loaves of bread, 150 bushels of apples, and 12,800 pieces of cake. "I made at least 38,400 sandwiches and they were good, too," she said. "I'll miss the school bells, though."

An apple tree at the home of Rev. and Mrs. William H. Davies at Oakryn, southern Lancaster County, was so impressed with the warm September weather, that it burst into full bloom, 25 years ago this week.

The Lancaster farm of the late Adam Keen, Hawksville, Eden Township, was sold at private sale to William B. Keen, of Quarryville, for \$10,500. The farm contained nearly 85 acres.



Background Scripture: Matthew 6:4-13, Revelation 7:9-17, 11:15-19a  
Devotional Reading: Psalm 91:1-9

## Vision of Victory

Lesson for September 23, 1956

AFTER the battle, as Homer's poem tells it, the Greeks and Trojans who had been killed went right on fighting. Whoever won the flesh-and-blood war, the ghost-war went on and would go on forever. That was primitive Greek religion. But the same kind of notion is to be found in other religions. In the Zend-Avesta, sacred book of the ancient Persian religion, there is the picture of the good God Ahurimazda and the evil God Ahriman, in perpetual never-ending war with each other. Strangely enough, this same idea floats around in people's heads who have been Christian long enough to know better. They pray, "Thy Kingdom come"; but nothing would surprise them more than if the Kingdom of God really came!

**Desperate Battle**  
The ancient Persians were not entirely wrong. Life is a battle, a desperate age-long war, between good and evil God, and the friends of God, do not run over all opposition. The cause of God has had defeats. As a modern writer puts it, "Victory has many wounds." There are those who cannot see this. All things are good, some wish us to believe. But it is truer to the facts to see that not all things are good, but there are persons and forces going all-out to destroy what is good. No matter how good a man is, no matter how good a cause is, if it prevails in this world there has to be a fight first. The book of Revelation in our Bible is a book of battles. Its pages are red with flame and blood. The white-robed saints in light have come through "great tribulation." The young Christian who finds the going rough, the veteran Christian who becomes discouraged over the defeat of some cause that surely ought to have won,—all need to read the Bible again. Victory for



Dr. Foreman

God and the right there will be; but not easily and probably not today.

### Personal Victory

In all the wars of this world, some on the winning side have never struck a blow or got into the fight at all. The armed forces do the fighting, the stay-at-homes celebrate the victory when it comes. It is different in the world-wide, age-long struggle between God and all that is anti-God. If the Bible teaches anything plainly it is that no one will share the victory of God who has not taken part in the struggle on God's side. Many Christian hymns express this idea, such as "Am I a soldier of the cross?" and "The Son of God goes forth to war." First the war, then the victory. Now there are many religions that teach something like this. Valhalla, Paradise, Nirvana, heaven, whatever it is called—most religions look forward to a time and place where everyone is, so to speak, a veteran of a successful war. But what do they do with their victory? Here the Christian religion stands out alone. "His servants shall serve Him," the Bible says. So John Sutherland Bonnell says in his little book, "Heaven and Hell" (Abingdon Press, \$1.00) "The rest which is promised us in heaven is not the rest of passivity or inactivity. There will be constant opportunities for spiritual development and service."

### Christ Will Reign

But the church is sure that the Christian can look forward to final victory only because he is fighting in the cause and army of Christ. It is his victory after all, not ours. If he lost, we would lose. There is a great future tense our faith in Christ. There is a past tense first: He has conquered death and evil, by the cross and resurrection he struck the forces of evil the fatal blow. But not the final one. For there is the present tense: In the lives of Christians, in his church, he wins victories today. But the future tense is equally important. Christian people have never been agreed on the details, but all Christians everywhere are one in affirming: CHRIST WILL REIGN! Not only in heaven but on earth. A Christianity that does not look forward to Christ's final triumph, complete and world-wide, is not only untrue to the Bible but is like that old Persian belief, courageous to be sure, but dismal,—that outlook on an eternal future just as uncertain and mixed with evil as is this present age. No,—the How and When are God's secret, but it is no secret that Christ will be Lord of all.

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