

# Lancaster Farming

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

## FARM ISSUE NUMBER ONE

Looking for farm support, candidates are centering now on the farm problem — or would it best be called the farm issue — as election day draws nearer.

Both President Eisenhower and Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson have outlined the proposed Republican agricultural plank, which may be summarized thusly:

- 1, use Soil Bank fully to bolster prices, conserve soil, balance production;
- 2, use farm surpluses constructively at home and abroad;
- 3, maintain price supports on flexible basis to encourage production of crops in short supply,
- 4, maintain farm credit, adjusted to needs;
- 5, carry forward expanded soil, water conservation programs;
- 6, special programs to relieve periodic market congestion of perishable farm products;
- 7, continue Rural Development program for farm families in the lower economic ladder rungs;
- 8, continue emergency help to farmers, ranchers beset by natural disasters;
- 9, keep expanding agricultural research to develop new crops, new uses, new markets;
- 10, strengthen current programs as rural electrification and rural telephone service.

Two other quotations from the President are worthy of note: one, "You know, farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field." Another, "And yet, some politicians say that — to counteract the poisons spread by the old farm programs — farmers ought to swallow the same programs all over again. That line of thinking suggests to me Abe Lincoln's old story about a fence and a pig. The fence was so crooked that every time the pig went through it, he came out on the same side he went in. Lately it seems that some people have gone the pig one better. On price supports they've come out on both sides of the fence."

Adlai E. Stevenson replies with a charge there has been loose administration of the soil bank, and that the President's speech was "noteworthy for some of its omissions:

"He proposed no new program for agriculture; he didn't even mention his Secretary of Agriculture. Does he think he can keep Ezra Taft Benson secret till November?" Mr. Stevenson "would remind the President that Mr. Benson had opposed the whole idea — until this election year. And is it possible that the President has not heard about the loose administration of the Soil Bank to pour money into the farm belt before election, or does the President deny that this is playing politics, and with huge sums of the taxpayers' money?"

There are two sides to every question. The farm fence is topped with some sturdy barbed wire. Pity the politician who winds up straddling the fence.

## LONGER, LOWER, MORE H. P.

Longer — lower — more horsepower.

Seems the auto industry scrapped intended 1957 designs and will present this year some more advanced styling in one of the most competitive races the industry has seen.

There are teaser advertisements, maybe a wheel, maybe a chassis — suspense builders that give only the slightest hint of what is to come, while the driver of a 1955 or 1956 model wonders how much out of date or out of style he is going to be.

Automobile advertising has, in recent years, steered away from price advertising. There are indications prices this season will be slightly higher.

It's a great season, when the dealers and distributors pique your curiosity with announcements that leave you in suspense.

Like the days of the 1920s, today's auto owner may well look at his garage and let it wonder him how soon he must extend its length to accommodate tomorrow's — or today's models.

## 50 Years Ago

### This Week on Lancaster Farms

50 YEARS AGO (1906)

By JACK REICHARD

Half a century ago, loneliness was listed as one of the chief objections of farm life. However, an agricultural writer of that day stated that this was no barrier to the enterprising, industrious man or woman. He pointed out that no time is left for such feeling after the day's work is finished. Either the farmer and his family are too tired to be lonely or they are glad for a chance to enjoy each other's company and read the papers.

The first snow in the 1906 season fell at Altoona, Pa., on Wednesday, October 10.

A heavy wet snow, driven by high winds, also fell in Cleveland, Ohio, that day; it was reported the most severe since October 5, 1892.

#### Free Chestnuts

For All

In Lancaster County, during the first week in October 1906, Fred Shoff opened his 300-acre Paragon chestnut grove in the Colemanville area, free to school children of the county and city, who were accompanied by their teachers or parents. The second week in that month was thrown open to the general public Shoff reported the 1906 yield a record crop

Below the Mason-Dixon Line, Maryland, William T. Fryer reported he had packed over 1200 cases of tomatoes at his Colora cannery during the 1906 season and was still packing. T. Z. Ewing had picked 22 tons of ripe tomatoes from a patch of two acres, and J. M. Tosh had finished with 40 tons from his four acres.

#### Tobacco Growers

Hold Session

The October, 1906, meeting of the Lancaster County Tobacco Growers' Association was held in the Grand Army Hall at Lancaster

The average price paid for Lancaster County grown tobacco that year was 16 and 6

Elsewhere in Lancaster County, John H. Keener, Manor Township, admitted having fired the barns of Christian Dietrich and Edward Fenstermacher, his neighbors. His statement was made in writing before a notary public, and charges of arson were preferred against him.

## 25 Years Ago

#### Woman Falls

Into Well

At Colora, Md., Mrs. J. Frank Foster, was still alive to tell of her experience after falling into a well at her home. The well was at the rear of the kitchen and the joists of the covering had become rotten; she fell through into three feet of water. The well was quite deep. She was alone at the time and had to remain in the water until her son learned of the mishap. Neighbors were summoned and her son, Gordon, with flashlight and rope, descended and pulled her out. Mrs. Foster escaped with bruises, a sprained ankle and wet clothes.

The October, 1931, meeting of the Lancaster County Tobac-

co Growers' Association was held in the Farm Bureau Room at the Woolworth Building, Lancaster, with L. C. Creamer presiding.

During that same week in October, thieves entered the chicken house on the Lancaster farm of John Caldwell, near Unicorn, and about a dozen chickens were stolen.

#### Burns Home, Defies Firemen

Charles Campbell, who lived alone on a small truck farm at Colemanville, set fire to his house and for a time defied the attempts of firemen to come close enough to fight the blaze. Campbell appeared at the door with a shotgun and warned he would shoot if they came near. When Campbell walked out of the burning building, he was placed under arrest by Constable W. G. Sweigart.

In the lower end of the county, the seven year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gilley, Puseyville, suffered a badly scalded leg above the knee, when a large pan of boiling rice tipped over on the boy.

## Penn State Fourth At Eastern States

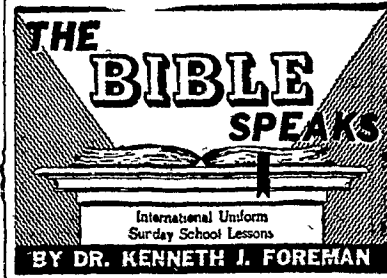
The dairy cattle judging team from Pennsylvania State University placed fourth at the Eastern States Exposition Sept. 17. Ohio State, Cornell, Massachusetts, and Penn State were the top four in a field of 13.

The team finished second in Brown Swiss, third in Holsteins, fourth in Jerseys, fifth in Guernseys and 11th in Ayrshires. Team members were Earl E. Berger of Lehigh, Neil L. Bowen of Wellsboro, Gordon J. Miller of Clarks Summit, and alternate Thomas W. Kelly of Eighty-Four.

Bowen placed first in Guernseys and second in Jerseys. He received a silver pitcher from the American Guernsey Cattle Club and a true type model Jersey cow from the Jersey Cattle Club. Miller finished third in Brown Swiss. The team is coached by William H. Cloninger, associate professor of dairy production.

## ADOPT 11 CHILDREN

Chicago — Mrs. Elizabeth J. Duhig, 32, who married Martin Duhig last February, became the mother of his 11 children by adoption recently. The children are of Duhig's first marriage to Mrs. June Duhig, who died 14 months earlier. The present Mrs. Duhig's first husband, George Caley, died in 1953. They had no children.



Background Scripture: Genesis 1:1-23  
Devotional Reading: Psalm 104:24-33.

## Creation

Lesson for October 7, 1956

IT IS one of the tragedies of Christian history that the first book of the Bible, as well as the last, has been fought over, bitterly, from generation to generation. In spite of all the quarrels, however (and there seems to be no hope of all Christians agree here), there are certain great truths in this magnificent prose-poem with which the Bible begins, which are agreed on by all Christians. Let us pick out three of these.



Dr. Foreman

"In the Beginning, God—"  
The first truth is that this vast universe did not merely happen. It was intended. It is intended. God (so to speak) invented it. Why should anything be? is a thought that has occurred to countless people. Why is there something instead of nothing, anything at all instead of nothing? Is it just a happen-so? Did the universe make itself, as it were, like a dust-storm building up in the desert or an icicle dripping itself longer day by day? Was there some blind Necessity at the beginning of all things? Or maybe did the earth and all the universe exist forever without any beginning? Not at all. That the universe is here at all is because of God who planned it and brought it into being. How long ago this started, or how many changes have taken place since the first instant of time, makes no difference with the main point: namely, that the universe does not explain itself, did not cause itself, but is what it is and as it is because God willed it. Furthermore, if God created it, including ourselves, he had a reason. We cannot conceive of God working blindly or at random or for no reason.

#### Order and Law

The more men study the universe, whether the great and immeasurable universe around us, in

which our sun is no more than a mediocre star nowhere near the center of things, or the marvelous tiny universe discovered by the microscope—the more men study, all this the more they discover that it is a universe of law. If the sun rises at all tomorrow, astronomers know precisely when it will rise. They can know it years before-hand. Men used to be surprised by eclipses. Now we can calculate the time of every eclipse that will take place, or that has taken place since before the time of man. Events that most unpredictable of things; the wind, can be forecast better than once it could. Men once had to take hurricanes as they came. Now they can be warned of them and their tracks are mostly known. Man in discovering such things is simply "thinking God's thoughts after him." As one astronomer remarked, the universe seems more like a great Thought than a great Machine. In these universal laws, in their regularity and dependability, we can read the will of God. This does not mean that we understand everything—far from it. Mystery surrounds us still. But no science at all would be possible if we could not count on a world that "makes sense" from the smallest atom to the mightiest star.

#### God Created No Evil

The story-poem of Creation in Genesis ends with the joyful note—God saw all he had made, and it was very good. If anything God has created seems bad, it is either because we do not know how to use it, or we have barged in where we do not belong, or because we ourselves have made it bad. St. Thomas Aquinas once compared this world to a tool-shop full of well-sharpened tools. It is not safe to turn a child or lunatic loose in there; but a master-workman will not get hurt. So as men are learning about the universe they are finding out how to use the materials that the Creator has set at our disposal. But much that is evil in the world is of our own making. Most dust storms, for example, are made by man's greed and stupidity to begin with, in digging up soil that was never meant for cultivation. The whole race of man now stands in terror of death, for though we have discovered how to harness the power in the atom—power our fathers knew was there but had no idea how to reach—we have put more effective thought into using it for destruction than for man's help. But all man's misuses of God's creation must not make us forget that when God first looked it over, he saw that it was good.

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