

Lancaster Farming

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FIRE SEASON

There's no open season on fires. As Lancaster County well knows in recent weeks, fire has struck deep blows on several Garden Spot farms.

Loss amounts to thousands and thousands of dollars. To those not native to this country, figures of \$25,000, \$40,000, \$75,000 loss in a barn fire seem extremely high, but for those outside the Garden Spot the Lancaster County barn stores crops, stalls, sometimes milking parlors, livestock, grain, hay, straw, machinery.

In the West — where acres are more abundant — machine sheds are the rule. Loss of a barn, consequently, runs much lower.

Whatever the cause, it's wise to check now to see that your barn is safe. Storage of inflammable liquids, inadequate or outdated wiring, spontaneous combustion — the causes are without end. Results are tragic, especially with 1956 crops in the bins.

TROUBLE SPOTS

Several intersections in Lancaster County are gaining bad reputations as accident-prone corners. There's one in the northern end of the County, near Denver-Reamstown; there's another in the south, where 372 crosses 72 at The Buck. The Gap Hill on 30 has also been the scene of several mishaps.

Driving today demands more caution than ever before. Even the best police system — and Pennsylvania has one of the best — cannot regulate human mistakes.

In aviation, the PE Factor — pilot error — counts too often. In automobiles, too often it's DE — driver error. Highway safety is costly, but not nearly as costly as error.

PUMP PRIMING

Election day's near. The pumps are being primed. Oratorical artillery has been sending salvos into city and hamlet as each party blames the other for the nation's farm ills. Each takes high credit for the farmers' prosperity.

Lard is being bought to bolster hog prices. Surplus eggs are being purchased. Uncle Sam's buying hamburger, turkey, plums, cabbage, sweet potatoes. Credit is being expanded. The Soil Bank signing deadline has been extended. Rules are being relaxed.

Politics, the Democrats say. Necessity, the Republicans say.

Soon it will all be water over the dam. Mr. Voter will cast his ballot, make his decision. Next year will be the same story, no matter which party is in; the farmer, the farm problem will be number one on the legislative agenda.

FAIR SEASON'S OVER

Lancaster County's 1956 Fair Season is over. What a grand display it was. Although we — a few weeks back — lamented the lack of a Countywide Exposition, the community fairs have done their share, in a magnificent manner.

To the showmen, women, superintendents, secretaries and judges, a word of thanks is due for a job well done.

DANGEROUS DAYS

Wednesday and Saturday are the two most dangerous days of the week for farmers, according to data assembled by Pennsylvania State University. Most hazardous time of day was 2 to 4 p. m.

Keep an eye on your calendar, your watch — your safety.

FARM SHOW COMING UP

Although Mount Joy wound up the Lancaster County community fair season, the big shows are coming up to carry on what the proving grounds — the community fairs — selected.

Eastern National, State Farm Show, into the winter and early 1956. Again, we'll see you at the Fair.

50 Years Ago

This Week on Lancaster Farms

50 YEARS AGO (1906)

By JACK REICHARD

Combine Against Farmers Investigated

Evidence of a combine against farmers was brought out at a hearing before the interstate commerce commission at Kansas City, half a century ago. It was declared that favoritism was shown to the manager of the Kansas City elevators of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad in the form of reduced grain rates. There was a ruling in the Kansas City Board of Trade that threatened its members with suspension for dealing with "irregular" grain; a committee of that organization dealt with boards of trade members who might buy from farmers and others against whom the associations had issued orders by organizing boycotts.

Hides One-Fifth Cattle Value

Fifty years ago, Swift & Company demonstrated that the value of cattle hides averaged one-fifth in value of the cattle. They bought 18 cattle weighing a total of 23,800 lbs at a cost of \$3.60 cwt, amounting to \$830.33. The 18 hides weighed 1,288 lbs and sold for \$172, a little more than one-fifth the cost of the cattle.

Near Washington, N. J., Frances and Della Mowery, ages 14 and 6, were burned to death; Jennie, their two year old sister, was not expected to live. It was the result of an explosion of a kerosene can in their home. Frances was using the oil to start a fire in the stove when the explosion occurred. All three children were enveloped in flames. The elder girl ran with her smaller sisters to a nearby spring and jumped in with them. Neighbors arrived a short time later and pulled the children out, but Frances and Della died within a short time. The baby was burned seriously.

Horse Bites Man's Nose

On the Lancaster farm of Samuel Houck, near Neffsville, a horse bit the nose of its owner nearly off. When Houck went into the stable with a bucket of water that Sunday morning, a horse bit another horse, catching Houck's nose between its teeth. Dr. Witmer was summoned and sewed the nose up.

On October 20, 1906 fourteen inches of snow fell in northern South Dakota, a record in that section for so early in the season.

Archers Off to Good Start in Pennsylvania

The archers opened their special buck season in perfect weather on Oct. 1. About 22,000 of them, a record number for this state, bought a license in time to participate in the opening day hunt. A large percentage set out with strung bows and full quivers of broadhead arrows to stalk or waylay an antlered deer amidst the beauties of autumn in the forests of Pennsylvania.

A few guck kills were reported in the early days of the season. It is anticipated, however, that most of the deer brought down by hunting arrows will be taken later in the season. There will be less foliage on trees and brush in northern counties then, where it will therefore be less difficult to see these big game animals.

25 Years Ago

According to a report issued by John Barton Payne, chairman of the American Red Cross, 25 years ago, the great drouth during the summer of 1930 extended into the summer of 1931 in the northwestern states. It also caused other catastrophes in its wake, such as forest fires, and the grasshopper plague. During a 12-month period, more than 2,750,000 persons were given food, clothing, medical aid, shelter and other type of assistance. Suffering, faith and courage are contained in a story told by a volunteer Red Cross worker in 1931.

"Picture a happy little homestead near the banks of Priest River in northern Idaho. A father, with a little son tagging at his heels, is out tending crops and adding to the clearing. Mothers at home making preparations for another arrival. Then comes the fire demon, sweeping all in its path. While father fights to protect his little home, the stork announces its arrival. "Mother and baby are bundled in a quilt and loaded on a truck for the race through the flaming forest. Father drives the truck and the little boy sits at his mother's side, brushing away

the sparks which fall like rain upon the improvised litter."

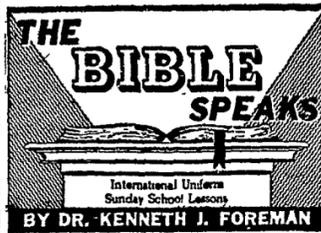
In the Kirks Mills section, Lancaster County, C. Wiley Shuler and W. A. Stakey were busily engaged during that week in October, 1931, making molasses from sugar cane which they grew on their farms. The operations were watched with great interest by natives of that area.

Octoraro Farmers In Session

The Octoraro Farmers' Club met with Howard K. Walton and family on Oct. 7, 1931. Specimens on display included several varieties of corn, peppers, a freak marigold with eight small flowers growing out of a flower head, one root of sweet potato containing 13 well developed potatoes a freak sweet potato (which the group christened "Johnny Twist"); Japanese chestnuts, a pumpkin, dahlias, quinces, apples, three varieties of potatoes and purple-top turnips.

Elsewhere in Lancaster County, Mr. and Mrs. David Kreider, in the New Providence area, entertained at an apple "snitizing" party. Apples were prepared for the boiling of apple butter the following day, 25 years ago this week.

The Air Force has disclosed the development of a research rocket capable of speeds up to 5,000 miles an hour.



Background Scripture: Deuteronomy 6
Devotional Reading: Psalm 78:1-7.

Home School

Lesson for October 21, 1956

NOT many people are born in a school-house. But most people in America move to some school-house before they are two weeks old. Because then they come home from the hospital; and home is the greatest school in the world. Experts tell us that a child learns more before he is



Dr. Foreman first blinked at the light, and most of this he learned right at home. Learning is not just what is printed in books. The child learns to understand and to speak his mother-tongue; he learns to walk and run and eat and play. He learns a little about how to get along with other people. Among the most important things he learns are what never gets into a book—prejudices, habits, attitudes, both good and bad.

Learning Religion at Home

If it is true that our relation to God is more important than any other relation of life, then it is true also that the religion learned in the home is more important than anything else learned there. Suppose a child's home-school teaches everything except religion, how much hope is there that religion will become real to him? There are 168 hours in every week. Take out 56 for sleeping (it would really be more for a child) and you have left 112 waking hours. Let us suppose that little Johnnie Doe, Jr., is sent off to Sunday school by Mr. and Mrs. Doe, who take him and fetch him afterwards, but never, no never go to Sunday school or church themselves. That makes one hour of religion per week, 111 hours of no-religion. How much of anything is

a child going to learn if he has less than one per cent of his time to put on it? If all the religious homes of America stopped teaching religion, the churches and synagogues would soon fold up.

But Can Religion Be Taught?

At this point someone may catch us up. Can religion be taught? Isn't it "caught, not taught"? Quite so. The genuine spark is kindled only on the invisible altar of God. But in your car engine, the spark does not come to life in an empty chamber. There has to be there the right mixture of gasoline vapor and air. Without that, the sparks shine for a brief instant and go out—and nothing happens. When a gardener plants vegetables, he knows that if the seed is not fertile his work is useless. Everything depends on a germ he did not and cannot create. But that does not give him leave to quit his job. The gardener's job is to prepare the seed-bed in which the living seed will sprout and not die. So the home prepares the seed-bed in which the living seed of God's grace can bring forth a harvest. Speaking without parables, the home can teach a great many things about religion which can't be learned by inspiration or absorption. The Bible is high among these; in the home begins the work of filling the storehouse of the mind with treasures from the Word of God.

"When Your Son Asks You . . ."

The great sixth chapter of Deuteronomy is perhaps one of the most often quoted chapters of the Bible. In it, father and mothers are commanded to be teachers. God knows that rabbis and priests and preachers are never enough. But we find in this chapter also (among many others) this further thought: Children will not always understand all they are taught. They will ask "Why?" So, when (in the words of Deuteronomy) your son asks, What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the ordinances . . . ? The father and mother are not to dodge such questions. There is nothing meaningless about true religion; on the contrary, religion discovers life's central meaning. True religion is not a set of "scruples" as an unsympathetic sociologist has put it, —not a collection of senseless "Don'ts." A great phrase in Deuteronomy put a great deal in a few words: true religion, all the commandments of God, everything we ought to believe and be and do, is "for our good always." But father and mother must learn that first before they can teach it.

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