

Lancaster Farming

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly Newspaper
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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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ONE YEAR

One year ago today, Lancaster Farming came into being.

It has been an interesting year, a satisfying year. It has been a wonderful experience learning to know the people of Lancaster County who have made this into one of the nation's finest in the farm line.

Through Lancaster Farming the County — famed already — has become better known, and after reading the County's only farm weekly many have come to the Garden Spot from other states to see for themselves. Their wonderful response to the farms and foods is heartening.

Lancaster Farming has followed a year in its course. Rain, heat, fair and cloudy weather; the first buds of spring, the last golden leaves of autumn; the heavy snows of wintertime, all combining to bring barn-bursting crops.

Recalling the long hours of the first edition, the efforts since those first long, long days and long nights, we see now what can be done. Your response has been most encouraging. We thank you sincerely, renewing our pledge as the second year starts — Volume II, No. 1, to continue serving as best we can.

MORE CORN THAN EVER

According to the USDA, world corn production this year will be 6,540,000,000 bushels, somewhat above last year's 6,280,000,000 and the 1945-1949 average of 5,295,000,000 bushels.

That's a heap of corn, assurance of an adequate feed supply for the coming year. Yields have been unusually good despite weather that was not the best. Out in the Corn Belt, those who started to pick corn found their schedules much longer than planned as the crop continued to roll above expectations.

At the same time, the College Feed Survey Committee, sponsored by the American Feed Manufacturers' Association, predicts heavy livestock feeding operations are expected for 1956-1957 with anticipated increases in use of high-protein feeds, especially soybean meal.

Ample supplies of butter and eggs are expected; broiler and turkey production will probably rise to new records, but there will be small decreases in hog numbers and about an unchanged number of beef cattle.

In the 12 months to Sept. 30, 1957 a total of 152 million tons of feedstuffs will be available.

There's a high moisture content in local corn, and especial care in feeding is necessary. Prospects for the year, however, are bright.

GRANDPA AND THE BEES

Grandpa Houck was stone deaf from the day he was 12. Never did he learn lip-reading, always he carried a school-boy's slate with slate pencil under his arm.

Somehow, Grandpa acquired a liking for bees, and to the grandchildren, it seems the bees liked Grandpa. Every one else had a furious time with the stingers, but not the elderly man whose beard of grey was often covered with honey bees.

There was a lot of humor in the old man, especially when he took one of his sons or grandsons into the woods to chop down a bee tree. Even their utmost precautions, to nets over hats, were of no avail. There was no immunity, just for grandad.

When grandpa died, the small-scale honey bee business he had established on each of his sons' and daughters' farms faded away. His descendants lacked the touch.

Beekeeping is still important, but production is declining from year to year. There's honey on the table much less often today than before. Pennsylvania bees this year were hit by cool weather and excessive rainfall.

Too much of the touch of the master's hand may be missing today.



By JACK REICHARD
50 YEARS AGO (1906)

Josiah Dale, prominent farmer near Bellefonte, Pa., was murdered while returning from his farm on Nittany Mountain to his suburban residence. Mr. Dale, who had been at his farm most of the day, started for his home that evening after dark. When he did not reach home, friends started out to search for him. The searching party had only gone a short distance when Dale's horse and buggy was found standing along the road, with the farmer's body hanging over the dashboard of the vehicle. An investigation revealed that Dale had been shot at close quarters, that the murderer used a shotgun loaded with No. 6 shot was the only clue leading to his identity that was known.

CATTLE DEALER MISSING

David Williams, wealthy cattle dealer of Lancaster, was reported missing at Poyntella, near Scranton, where he had arrived to buy cattle. When farmers of the area had driven their stock that Mr. Williams had bought to the railroad for loading in three cars that day, as he had instructed, the buyer could not be located. An inquiry was made at the hotel where the man was staying and the room door was found locked. The door was forced open, but Mr. Williams was not inside, although his baggage was there. Authorities who investigated believed the man had been murdered and robbed, because it was known that the dealer usually carried a large amount of money on his person. The investigation continued.

OLDEST PHYSICIAN IN STATE

Fifty years ago, Dr. Joseph L. Ziegler of Mount Joy claimed to be the oldest practicing physician in the state of Pennsylvania, celebrated his 84th birthday in November. He was a member of the Lancaster County Medical Society, of which he had served as president for a number of years; a member of the State Medical Society, of which he was president in 1881; a member of the Pathological Society of Philadelphia, the American Medical Association, Lancaster County Historical Society and the oldest living graduate of Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. He had been a member of the Donegal Presbyterian Church for 66 years, its oldest living member in 1906. Dr. Ziegler was a recognized authority on the history of Lancaster County.

Fifty years ago this week, a heavy snow storm raged throughout the Wyoming Valley. At Wilkes-Barre, five inches of snow was reported, with 7 to 10 inches in the mountains. At Harvey's Lake, Bernice and White Haven, there was good sleighing.

In Lancaster County this week, in 1906, there was still much corn in the fields to be husked. Help was reported scarce, and farmers were complaining of cold fingers in their effort to finish up the crop.

STEERS CREATE PANIC

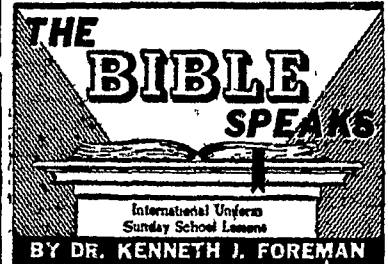
At Duquesne, Pa., 19 steers escaped from a slaughter house and ran wildly through the streets, thronged with children on their way home from school. Pedestrians rushed the young-

sters into stores and private dwellings to places of safety. One man was tossed over a fence and seriously injured. The animals ran up and down Duquesne Avenue, causing street cars to halt and a temporary suspension of business. A squad of police, assisted by a number of butchers, rounded up the steers after considerable difficulty. No property damage was reported.

25 Years Ago

Twenty five years ago this week, Pennsylvanians, in general, were chiefly interested in the outcome of a special session of the State Legislature, called into session by Governor Pinchot, to bring relief for the Commonwealth's unemployed. Following are portions of the Governor's message before the Legislature, Tuesday, November 7, 1931:

Number of workers unemployed in Pennsylvania: 900,000;
Number of school children requiring food and other relief outside their homes: 125,000.
Number of persons requiring



Background Scripture: Micah 4: 6
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 1:11-17.

This Is It

Lesson for November 11, 1956

THREE questions are asked over and over again by people who take life seriously but are still groping for the answers. First, What is Good? Is it altogether a matter of taste? Is there anything that is never good and anything that is always good, no matter what? Second, What does God want of us? What does it take to please him? Is there any simple ordinary way of knowing what God wants? Third, Why doesn't God speak to us as he used to do to the prophets of old? Why doesn't God, who knows all the answers, share his knowledge with us?



Country Preacher

Long ago a country preacher had these questions thrown up at him. His name was Micah. He was not a preacher in the regular sense, for he had no church, and in fact he had no connection with the regular official religion of his country. But he did speak and preach,—so far as we know, only to his fellow-villagers; but what he said was remembered. We have extracts from his sermons in what we call the Book of Micah, among the minor (that is, shorter) prophets of the Old Testament. Maybe he never preached a full-length formal sermon. Maybe he just stood or sat around in the market-place, and talked to any who would listen. At any rate it is plain that he was asked much the same questions as those three just now mentioned. The country of Judah, in which Micah's small town of Moreshah was located, was either in a very prosperous condition or was running down,—depending on where you lived. In the capital city of Jerusalem everything seemed to be booming. But in the farmlands and in the little villages it was a different story. Even in the cities there were some who suspected the boom would not last. There

relief in the state during the winter of 1931-32: 2,500,000. Presentation of proposals entailing an expenditure of \$136 millions over a two-year period for direct relief.

That same week in November, 1931, Mayor Metzger, of Lancaster, issued the following proclamation, given here in part:

"Lancaster city and county face the third winter, the hardest winter, and there is reason for hope, the last winter of a devastating depression. Our charities and philanthropies have worked with feverish intensity to cope with the rising tide of distress — and now they come before us asking \$397,795 to meet the critical test. No less than \$132,000 is needed alone for immediate emergency relief among the unemployed, the destitute, the aged and the infirm, to keep homes from being shattered and fathers, mothers and children from going underclad and famished."

POMONA GRANGE IN SESSION

Lancaster County Pomona Grange, No. 71, held its quarterly session in Kirkwood Hall, in the lower end of the county, as guests of the Colerain Grange on Saturday, Nov. 14, 1931, with a large attendance of local and county members. It was decided that the January meeting should be held at Lancaster as usual, but that the "annual banquet be dispensed with owing to the present depression."

was a kind of revival of interest in religion going on, but it was confused. People had an idea they ought to be better, but what was "good"? They felt sure they ought to obey God more carefully; but what did God want, really? Why didn't God come right out and tell people what they would have to do to "get right" with him?

This Is It

If the answers to such questions as these were written on gold plates in a strange language and kept on top of a seven-mile mountain guarded by seven wise archangels, the roads to that mountain would be jammed, and people would pay the archangels big money to translate the mystic words of wisdom. But a country preacher talking in the simple words anybody ten years old can understand? Yes; the people of that village already had the answers only they didn't realize it.

Why doesn't God speak? He has already spoken. Why don't we have prophets? We do have prophets, right there in your Bible. Yes, but they are hard to understand! Well, Micah says, it's not so hard to understand. What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Oh, somebody in the crowd might say,—old stuff! Yes, exactly. Amos the prophet spoke of Justice, and Hosea spoke of Love and Kindness, and Isaiah spoke of humility before God Most High. This is it, you don't need to write away to find out, this is it right here. What is Good, what God wants of us, God has already spoken. He does not change his mind.

Simple and Final

Looked at in one way, these three great requirements of God are not simple. Justice—how easy, to say, how hard to make sure what is really the just and fair thing in every action! Kindness—yes, but who knows what is the kind thing to do every time? Isn't what is just in one case perhaps unjust in another? Yes, to be sure: No commandment of God is going to save us from having to think. This is not so simple as to be automatic. Nevertheless this is simple in the main. We can see the lines along which the good life must be built. We always know: if it is not just, if it is not kind, then it is out of line with God's will. And all this is final, too; again not in the sense of saving us any further thought. But final in the sense that this is God's word. We can't now or ever get beyond or above,—we can't graduate from,—justice and kindness and humble reverence before God.

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