

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 EXpress 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

HOT POTATOES, POLITICAL HAY

Voters last week proved where they stand by returning President Eisenhower with an overwhelming majority. Today the superlatives are missing, but what lies ahead?

First, it seems evident that President Eisenhower will maintain his cabinet, and throughout he has given full support to his Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Taft Benson. Secretary Benson, normally a quiet going man, stepped into the campaign trail with the vigor of a veteran and faced the issues as they arose.

He has been criticized for his programs. Many are wondering what happened to the so-called farm revolt that was fuming in the middle west. Some farmers asserted they do not approve of GOP farm policies, but they give President Eisenhower credit for maintaining peace.

Secretary Benson in his speeches throughout the nation made it clear he inherited a farm program fostered in wartime, and the plan — with subsidies and guarantees — had grown to such dimensions it could not be dropped. To put it more on the farm level, it seems a case of holding a bull by the tail — it's dangerous to let go.

What lies ahead? President Eisenhower has a Democratic Congress. He wants to continue his campaign of getting the government out of the farming business. On the other hand, it is expected the Democratic forces, and they are in the majority, will continue effort for increased government aid to agriculture, facing possible veto by the President.

Will the farmer go through this year's experience again? One farm bill met presidential veto. The second, the Soil Bank, was passed, but passed so late it could have little effect on crops already planted. No one wanted to return to the days of the 30s when crops were plowed under. Enforcement of the Soil Bank was impossible. Little by little restrictions were eased, until compliance and non-compliance were almost synonymous, without penalties for those who strayed aside.

It's likely that more Presidential vetoes will develop. The farm issue has been both a hot potato and political hay. Many an ingredient will be added to find a measure whose taste is pleasing to all in the farm business.

Hot potatoes, political hay — and add another simile, the political football. It will be interesting to see if a determined farm plan may be devised, one that will return farming to the farmer. The road between Washington and the farm is rough, bumpy and dangerous.

DOWN THE TANBARK TRAIL

The season's started again. It's time for the tanbark trail, with the big shows that come as a postlude to the community fairs. This week, the Eastern National at Timonium; coming up, the International, the acme of show business; not far away, Pennsylvania's Farm Show.

For youth, these are great days. Just look at last week's Southeast District Show in Lancaster. Earlier winners were there. But we encountered one comment that is food for thought: an old-timer in the livestock show business commented that some earlier winners in smaller shows were still riding on glories of earlier winnings, forgetting that continued care and grooming is necessary to bring the proper bloom that will catch the judge's eye. One win does not insure many. Declining slightly in condition, earlier winners took a back seat in some cases to comparative newcomers.

But it was fun to watch the youth met earlier in the season at Lancaster County community fairs strike their heaviest competition. They did themselves proud. Higher and higher they move. The interest in beef cattle here is most encouraging. Like poultrymen on a recent beef cattle tour, several dairymen from the Garden Spot were seen on the sidelines getting tips on what the beef business is like, preparatory to launching their youngsters on a steer project.

Lancaster County, as host, did an excellent job on the Southeast District 4-H Baby Beef and Lamb Club Show.



By JACK REICHARD
50 YEARS AGO (1906)

WILD PARSNIPS POISON 38

At Millsboro, Pa., two men were dead and 36 others seriously ill from eating wild parsnips. The men lived at a boarding house and the parsnips were served at the evening meal. Physicians were summoned but before their arrival two of the boarders were dead and several others were expected to die.

At Treskow, Pa., that week in November, 1906, John Lausauer was killed instantly at his home while towing a barrel of sauerkraut from the kitchen to the cellar. Lausauer was being assisted by his wife in moving the barrel. While descending the flight of steps, the barrel upset, knocking him down and crushing him to death.

HORSE TIES UP TROLLEY SERVICE

A horse owned by the Lancaster Electric Light Company, hatched to a buggy, became frightened near Millersville and took off down the tracks of the York Furnace trolley line, finally reaching the bridge over the Conestoga Creek, where the animal went through between the ties, remaining in that position until discovered by a trolley motorman. The horse's feet and legs had gone through the ties on the trestle. Boards, rails and ropes were procured and it was two and a half hours before the animal was liberated. Except for a few cuts and bruises, the horse was none the worse from its experience. The buggy was slightly damaged.

The career of a destructive rabid dog whose ravages left a trail of death and disaster through upper Cecil County, Md., and the lower townships of Chester County, Pa., was terminated by a well directed shot on the Mearns farm, near Calvert, after it had been pursued by a party of armed men for nearly two weeks. The dog, declared the most ferocious on record, killed nearly 200 chickens and ducks, bit two women, three men, more than 25 dogs and a number of pigs, before it was finally killed.

25 Years Ago

Rabbit raisers, thousands of them in the suburbs of Los Angeles, Calif., and hundreds of thousands in other sections of the country, proposed to make canned "chicken a la king" of rabbit meat to increase incomes from rabbit fur. The U. S. Food Administration issued a cold warning. "It is impossible to make canned chicken a la king from rabbit meat." But the promoters of the proposal pointed out that any good French cook could make chicken a la king out of rabbit meat with the greatest of ease and make it better than an average cook could out of chicken.

FARM WOMEN IN SESSION

Lancaster Farm Women Society, No. 11, met with Mrs. Mabel Shenk, Mechanic Grove, 25 years ago this week. The meeting was in charge of the president, Mrs. Mabel Bucher, with devotions by Mrs. Martin Harnish. The program included a contest using the word "Thanksgiving". It was in charge of Mrs. Anna Hart.

NATIONAL GRANGE IN SESSION

Twenty-five years ago, the National Grange Convention in session at Madison, Wis., approved a report asking the United States Government to use its influence in preventing war in Manchuria. The request was contained in a report submitted by the foreign relations committee, headed by E. B. Dorsett, master of the Pennsylvania State Grange. The committee's report also favored reduction of armaments. Inclusion of a farmer on the United States delegation to the disarmament conference was recommended.

NO WORK, NO DINNER

In an effort to stop begging on the streets, the Harrisburg Welfare Federation established a work test and restaurant on Susquehanna River. All able bodied men who sought meals were asked to chop, saw or load wood, brought from Wildwood Park for distribution among needy families, for one hour before they were given tickets entitling them to meals. The aim

was directed to ferret out professional loafers from worthy cases.

WELLS AND SPRINGS GO DRY

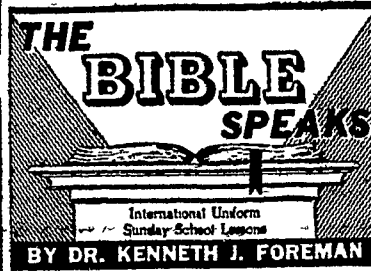
Back in November, 1931, many springs and wells in Lancaster County had gone dry. In Millersville, which is located on high ground, 51 wells were reported without water. The lower end of the county also suffered a shortage of water.

HUNTS RABBITS ON TRACTOR

Morris Mohler, proprietor of the Grandview Farms, utilized his tractor to hunt rabbits, 25 years ago. He shot the limit without leaving the seat of the ponderous machine. Another story was told of a farmer, residing within a distance of two miles from Christiana who thought nothing of running his tractor to the store when he ran out of chewing tobacco. He admitted it provoked his wife, but he explained: "It is her privilege to chew the rag and mine to chew tobacco."

KILLED ACCIDENTALLY

KENTLAND, Md. — Arthur R. Tripplett, 15, died almost instantly in a wooded tract when one of the boy's two hunting companions put his gun on the ground. The trigger apparently was tripped and the load struck the boy in the chest. The three boys were squirrel hunting when the tragedy occurred.



Background Scripture: Matthew 4:23-5:20
Devotional Reading: Psalms 15:1-15; 24:3-6

Christian Persons

Lesson for November 15, 1956

WHICH is more important, what a person is or what he does? According to Jesus, what a person is, is the main thing. These two cannot be separated. On the one hand a person does what he does because he is the kind of person he is; on the other hand a person cannot be the kind of character Jesus describes, without doing. The ideal character, as Jesus draws it, is not to be grown in a hot-house nor in a cellar like mushrooms. An ideal person develops only in a world of persons. But let us see. Every one of what we call the eight "Beatitudes" or "Blessed's" needs very careful study. All one thin column can do is to call attention in a very general way to three facts about Christian persons as Jesus pictures them here. Perhaps no actual Christian every fully matches the picture, the ideal; but the more a Christian resembles this description, the more these three facts will be true about him.



Dr. Foreman

A Christian is Happy
Again and again in reading the Bible we come to something that shows what nonsense it is to think of the Christian life, the God-pleasing life, as a sort of prison existence. God's requirements are not like chains, weights, handcuffs, barbed wire, electric fences. They are what makes life truly free and strong. When Jesus describes the ideal—God's ideal—character, in these Beatitudes, he begins every sentence with the word which, though often translated "blessed" was the regular ordinary word for "happy." Some people get the whole business of what it means to be a Christian, sadly twisted. They think: What a Christian has to do, and be is not pleasant; but he grits his teeth and goes through with his head bowed, and says, "Thank God."

God will reward him for

his life of martyrdom. Not at all. According to Jesus, the ideal character is the one that finds real joy in becoming more and more like our Father in heaven. Your real athlete is the man who enjoys sports, not the man who goes out for athletics only so as to earn a "letter." Your real artist is the person who loves to paint or write, not the man who writes or paints only because he has to, to make money. Your real cook is the man or woman who enjoys cooking, not the one who feels like a martyr over a kitchen range. So your real Christian is the one who is happy being one.

Christian Life Flows Outward

A second fact about the Christian life is that it is not self-centered but flows outward. It is not like a swamp into which streams flow without ever finding an outlet; it is more like a mountain lake, fed by fresh springs and kept fresh because its water flow on in a sparkling river. A person cannot be truly good if he lives to himself and for himself. Consider how many of the Beatitudes could be true of a hermit living on an island apart from other people. Very few, if any. A selfish Christian is a contradiction in terms. "Love thy neighbor as thyself" is a commandment older than Christianity; but Christ himself approved it. "What do I get?" is not the Christian's first question, but "How may I help?" This does not mean that a good Christian is a kind of meddlesome Mattie, running around sticking his finger into other people's affairs. It does mean that in the countless human contacts which he has everyday, as well as in his whole life-plan, he will not think of the world of men as merely an orange which is his to squeeze.

Out of Line?

Now a man from Mars might think that Christians would be the most popular people in the world. Everybody would love them and want them around. As a matter of fact, we have to remember that Jesus himself was bitterly hated and finally crucified. In the Beatitudes themselves there is the prediction that "all manner of evil" things will be said of Christ's followers. The simple, ugly reason for this is that this is a world still mostly out of line with God, which in other words means out of line with Love. The true Christian will always seem somewhat out of line with this world. If all men speak well of you, there must be something wrong with you.

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