

Lancaster Farming

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly Newspaper
Established November 4, 1955

Published every Friday by
OCTORARO NEWSPAPERS
Quarryville, Pa. — Phone STerling 6-2132
Lancaster Phone EXpress 4-3047

STAFF

Alfred C. Alspach.....Publisher
Robert E. Best.....Editor
Robert G. Campbell.....Advertising Director
Robert J. Wiggins.....Circulation Director

Subscription Rates: \$2.00 Per Year
Three Years \$5.00; 5¢ Per Copy

Entered as Second-Class matter at the Post Office,
Quarryville, Pa., under Act of March 3, 1879

Auctions Show Growth

Auction selling and buying of livestock has had a rapid development in recent years. Today, there are about 2,400 livestock auctions in the United States. They range in volume of sales from a few dozen animals at a session to literally tens of thousands in a year at a single location.

The auctioneer, valued for his experience and ability, is in many ways as colorful as his counterpart at the tobacco market. With a chant intelligible only to the initiated, he sells the stock rapidly on signals from the competitive bidders as the animals are displayed in the ring.

Estimates are that nowadays more cattle and calves, nearly as many sheep and lambs, and about two-thirds as many hogs go through auctions as are sold at terminal markets. States having the most livestock auctions are Iowa, Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Nebraska, in that general order.

By the end of next month, more than 500 livestock auctions will be displaying notices that they are subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act. This Act, administered by Agricultural Marketing Service, is a Federal statute which places responsibility for regulating the livestock marketing and meat packing industries with the Secretary of Agriculture. Its primary objective is to assure livestock producers of open, competitive markets, free from unfair trade practices.

Increased Congressional appropriations have made it possible to post 200 auction markets during the current year. This speed-up is part of a 3-year program aimed at including all markets eligible for such action.

Most of the auctions covered this year are in Texas, Colorado, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and Iowa. If the program is continued, nearly a third of all livestock auctions in the U. S. should be displaying official Government posting notices by the end of next year.

But not every auction market is eligible for posting under the P & S Act. Many are below the minimum size requirement. To come under the Act, the pen space of the market must be at least 20,000 square feet in size, exclusive of runs, alleys, or passageways.

It must also be operated for compensation or profit as a public market. It must be involved in interstate commerce—that is, livestock offered for sale has been brought into the State, or livestock is sold for out-of-State shipment.

All scales used in weighing the livestock must be tested twice a year by a competent scale-testing agency in accordance with P & S Act regulations. The auction must be registered and bonded, and a schedule of tariffs or charges filed with USDA. Reasonable services and facilities for yarding, handling, and selling livestock must be provided for the charges assessed.

After a market has been posted under the P & S Act all persons doing business as market agencies, dealers, or commission men must be registered and bonded. All must keep adequate records of their transactions and render true accountings to their principals. Accountings to consignor must include a description of the livestock, the species, weight, price per pound, total value, name of buyer, and the yardage, commission, and feed charges. Buyers on a commission basis must make a similar accounting, besides stating the amount of the commission. Accounting requirements also apply to dealers who buy or sell for their own account.

Currently, more and more auction market operators are seeking "posting" under the P & S Act. This procedure consists of actually posting at the yards three notices that the stockyards meet all requirements.

In common usage, the word "posted" means to "keep off." Not so when a livestock market is posted under the P & S Act. Posting of a livestock market is notification to all concerned that the market is a good place to do business, where producers, sellers, and buyers alike will get a fair shake.



BY JACK REICHARD 50 YEARS AGO (1907)

Pennsylvania fishermen went about their daily tasks with a song in their heart and broad smiles on their face, 50 years ago this week, when it was announced that all restrictions on the use of fishing rods had been removed.

State Fish Commissioner William E. Meehan, issued special instructions to all fish wardens that fishermen were allowed to use as many rods as they pleased, in accordance to an act passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Stewart. Prior to the new law only one rod was permitted.

According to the Weather Bureau, April, 1907, was one of the most unusual months on record in the history of the bureau. On the second day of the month the thermometer dropped to 22 degrees, freezing over ponds and streams at many places in Lancaster County. The high during the month was recorded April 25, when an official reading of 75 degrees was noted. There were three snows and one thunderstorm recorded that month.

Noted Weather Prophet Died

Elias Hartz, well known throughout eastern Pennsylvania as the "Reading Goose-Bone Weather Prophet", died in the Friends' Asylum, Philadelphia, at the age of 92.

Hartz always contended that the goosebone was the instrument provided by nature for the foretelling of weather, and tried to get the Weather Bureau to accept it as standard. He was an unofficial weather forecaster for 60 years and his predictions usually proved accurate.

Retired Man Had Strange Love Affair

Dutchmen in Germany were amused over the queer love affair of one of their retired merchants living in the Muhlenstrasse. He had a grown up daughter who kept house for him, and when she went on a visit to relatives she left a vacancy in the home and heart of the father.

One evening a knock came on the door and an attractive young woman asked for his daughter. The father explained she was away.

The visitor was disappointed almost to tears. She was an old school friend she said and was visiting Berlin. She wanted to see her chum of all things.

The retired man grasped the chance for a little companionship. He asked the young lady to come in and rest. Then he made tea for her.

She accepted an invitation to accompany him to a vaudeville theatre. He found her good humored and amusing that he was deeply smitten before he left her at the door of a house where she said she was staying.

When he returned to his own abode and opened the door, he found the whole place ransacked with everything valuable gone, including \$100 that had been locked in a bureau drawer.

Police were notified and rounded up a young man, an associate of the young woman who, with another young man confessed to the robbery and were arrested.

When the woman was arrested, the elderly merchant offered to refrain from prosecuting her if she would marry him. She replied that she would agree to the marriage if he would let all three go free. This he refused to do. The girl then decided to stand trial and go to prison rather than marry him.

25 Years Ago

Elias H. Wissler died at the home of his brother, David H. Wissler, West Quarryville, at the age of 66. He was a fisherman and renter of row boats on the lower Susquehanna, and better known by fishermen in Lan-

caster, Lebanon and Berks counties as the "Hermit of Wissler's Hollow."

Wissler, who never married and lived alone in a cabin built also collected Indian relics in the area, accumulating a good size collection of darts, axes and other stone implements through the years. He was one of the last to dip shad with bow net out of the Susquehanna prior to the construction of the Conowingo dam.

S. D. Farm Boy Wins Top Award

An essay, neatly written in bold handwriting, won for Vance Beckwith, 11, a South Dakota farm lad first award in a contest sponsored by the Dakota Central Telephone Company, on "Why is telephone service so valuable to the farmer?" Beckwith's paper was selected from 2,200 entries. His essay, given here in part, stated:

"Thinking back over things that have happened in our home, I feel that a telephone is not a luxury, but a necessity.

"We believe that a life has been saved in our family because we were able to summon a doctor quickly.

"When our hogs got cholera, we telephoned the county agent and he came out and vaccinated them. This saved us a forty mile

trip.
"The Post Office phones when our baby chicks arrive and we get them before they are chilled.
"Mother has sold gobblers and cockerels, and Daddy has sold breeding stock by phone."

Senator Borah Called For Economy

Twenty-five years ago this week Senator Borah, Rep., of Idaho, called upon the nations of the earth to do something to relieve citizens of taxation, and to "avoid further loaning of funds beyond the ability of the people to pay." He stated there could be no constructive purpose in raising taxation, nor in adding to the availability of funds for borrowing so long as the "purchasing power of more than half of the human family has been almost completely destroyed."

Senator Borah declared that 75 per cent of the budget of all nations, in 1932, were the results of war, past or anticipated.

Back in 1932 Mrs. Phenie Ownly, Mayor of Broken Arrow, Okla., had lost patience with citizens who didn't pay for water supplied by the municipality, and gave notice as follows: "Some that owe us give big parties, but can't or won't pay their water bills. You'd better pay, or you won't be able to wash your dishes after the next party".

That same week the public health service department at Washington declared that the nation's influenza cases showed an increase of 3,000 over the previous week, marking a record high of nearly 10,000 cases.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform
Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Genesis 12: 15-17; 22
Devotional Reading: Psalm 105: 1-15.

Friend of God

Lesson for May 12, 1957

COUNTED a saint by three religions, Abraham is unique among the great men of the world. The Mohammedan name for him is simply "The Friend," meaning Friend of God. His greatness is not in anything that is especially admired and paid highly for in America, so that his reputation among us is not what he deserves. He was not a noted business man, executive, or popular novelist; no oil was ever discovered on his property. However, he might be introduced to an American audience as a successful cattleman. Even small boys might be interested to know that he was extra good as a deputy sheriff. But these facts were not the main point about him.



Faith That Works
The big fact about Abraham was his religious genius. To some persons God seems very dim. Even Abraham's father worshipped "other gods"—we have no idea how many. But Abraham, out of an idolatrous home, came forth a man for whom God was his closest and most real friend. To use the Bible word, Abraham was a man of faith. In one book of the New Testament (Romans) Paul says that Abraham was "justified"—that is, God looked with approval on him—for his faith.

Belief
"Abraham believed God," it is said. No living man now knows how God spoke to Abraham Long ago. Saint Augustine debated, but did not decide, the question whether God spoke in tones that the ear could catch, or in a voice audible only in the soul. The point is that when Abraham knew it for God's direction, or God's promise, he believed that what God said was true. God made some pretty un-

likely promises to him: that he would have a son at all was very unlikely; that this son's descendants would be more numerous than the stars was equally unlikely; that they would live in and own the countryside where Abraham was a landless nomad was still more improbable; but most incredible of all was that through Abraham's descendants the whole earth should be blessed. Yet we are told that Abraham believed all these things; and indeed they all came true.

Obedience
It is one thing to believe that what God says is true; it is another thing to set about living by that truth. Many a person will stand up for the proposition that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, but simply won't act and live in accordance with what the Bible plainly teaches. Such "faith" as James said is "vain"—but Abraham's faith was not vain. He took God at his word; when God said "Go," he went, and he went all the way. "Whate'er my God ordains is right" is a song Abraham could well have sung.

Patience
Abraham's faith was shown also by his patience. Most of us are like small children, whose clocks show only two times, NOW and NEVER. If Father has promised a ride, or Mother a lollipop, the child wants it right this minute. If it's not to be had, tears fall and wails arise. If I can't have it now, I'll never get it! So we pray and expect an answer as if it were by return mail. We can't trust God to time his blessing! Abraham knew better. He was willing to wait. Indeed some of the promises God made to him he never lived to see. But he did not think that God had cheated him.

Sacrifice
The story of Abraham's sacrifice (or near-sacrifice) of Isaac shows the endless lengths to which Abraham's faith would go. Psychologically and morally impossible for a sane American today, the act of child-sacrifice was not so impossible for Abraham, living as he did among people for whom human sacrifices were all too common. But it is impossible to exaggerate the meaning of this sacrifice to Abraham. It meant cutting off, so far as he could see, all the promises of God. Indeed it may well have seemed to him that God had changed his mind and was taking back all he had promised for the future. All this added to the deep love Abraham had for this child of faith, the child for whom he had waited so many years, made the act seem especially terrible. But Abraham's faith went the last mile.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)