

Urbanization of Farming Land Becoming National Problem; Zoning May Help

SOIL CONSERVATION magazine this month carries an interesting survey of the urbanization of farm land and the continuing non-farm use of farm lands.

The author of the story had traveled over the nation and everywhere found that urban developments, especially housing projects, usually are on fairly level land, while steeper slopes of less productive land remain idle. The commercial strip along highways is also taking more good farm land out of production.

Industrial sites, however, do not seek the best farm land, according to the story. Industry is dependent on location of rail, water or road facilities and the best site available often has to be leveled or filled to make a satisfactory industrial location.

Soil Conservation notes that attempts are being made, with more or less success, in several states to prevent or reduce urban taxes on farm land and the encroachment of urbanization on farm land by special zoning legislation or the incorporation of farm municipalities.

Most progress in agricultural zoning has been made in California. Within the limits of Los Angeles, "Dairy City" has been incorporated for protection of the dairy farmers. In this same area, "green belts" zoned around the city are occupied by vegetable farms and citrus groves.

In most places, just as here in Lancaster County, the great urban sprawl is, like Topsy, "just growing." In several states, notably California, Michigan, Illinois, New Jersey and Virginia, county planning

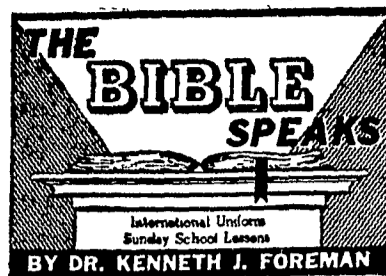
boards have an interest in the preservation of farmland and are making some progress through zoning. However, in most cases the planning by city boards for the benefit of the cities is the only kind being done.

General apathy on the part of the farmer is one of the greatest obstacles in zoning land for farm use. Author A. B. Beaumont in his article points out that there is considerable difference in the attitude of farmers to zoning. Some, especially the younger ones with good businesses, and some for sentimental reasons, desired protection against the encroachment of urbanization. Most of them, however, are opposed to restrictions in the sale of their land and many of them want to see the day hastened when they can reap the golden harvest they have not yet been able to bring in.

The general public is not worried about the shrinking of farm acreage brought about by the increasing number of housing developments, roadside businesses, industrial parks and the like. As long as they can buy food at a reasonable cost, they are not going to notice, much less complain.

This is a problem that is placed squarely on the farmer. And this is a problem that is becoming acute in this area.

If you want to keep your farm taxes down, if you want Lancaster County to remain the Garden Spot county, if you want this to remain a dirt farmers type of place to live, then you are going to have to start taking the steps to keep it that way. No one is going to do it for you.



BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN
Bible Material: Leviticus 19:11-18; Deuteronomy 15:7-8; Romans 13:8-10; James 1:24; 2:1-13
Devotional Reading: Romans 12:9-21.

Community Justice

Lesson for July 27, 1958

SUPPOSE you hired somebody to put up a fence on your place, and you had a choice between two men. One of these would put up a fence that would sag and break; but he would be prompt and obliging about coming to make it right. The other man would put up a fence that will last for years without attention. You would have no hesitation which man to put on the job. The better fence-builder is the man who puts up a good fence, not the one who neatly patches up a bad one. Now justice, wherever you find it, is like that. Justice is more than making good a wrong that has been done. Justice at its best is keeping the wrong from being done.



Dr. Foreman

You Be the Judge

Justice reigns in community life, not when all suits at law are settled right—though even that would be remarkable. True justice—the mark to shoot at—will reign when human relations, including group relations, in that community, are such that law-suits will never be necessary. Such a goal is impossible? Well, yes . . . but so is the goal of a perfectly healthy community, so is the goal of a perfectly educated community; but doctors and teachers keep working — "working themselves out of a job," and so it is that in the best community there will be the least patching-up to do, in homes, court-rooms, hospitals or on the mourners' bench.

Remembering then that justice means simply right relationships between man, between group and group, let us note a few cases, none of them imaginary. It is plain in every case that injustice exists. The problem is: From the Christian point of view—that is,

in Christ's eyes—what would now be the just thing to do? And could you suggest a better just thing that perhaps might have been done if someone had thought of it in time? You be the judge.

Case of the Seventh Church

There is a community barely large enough to support one church. There were six different denominational churches in it, and no member of any one of these would attend any of the others. Along came the representative of a seventh denomination to start still another congregation. When the ministers already "there" (though not one of the six lived there) protested, asking him if he didn't think the gospel was already pretty well represented, he replied with dignity: "The gospel is never really presented till we present it." Is there something wrong here, and if so, what can be done, or what could have been done, about it?

Case of the Underpaid Cook

In a small southern town there was a Negro girl whose name makes no difference with the case. She worked for private families as a cook—and she was a very poor one—for five dollars a week. This was low wages but at that time it was what even the better cooks there received. The girl lived in a draughty crowded shack with her own and several other families, who, being of the race they were and living in the state they did, could afford nothing better. This girl first contracted tuberculosis and spread it around where she worked; and then she got in trouble with the law for prostitution; and finally died in an institution, after costing the state quite a bit of money. What do you think could have been done to prevent some of this, and why do you suppose it was not done?

Case of the Embarrassed Government

The United States Government is hoarding enormous warehouses full of butter and many other products, which it has bought to keep farmers in business. It would like to sell these in the world market, perhaps at auction; but when it tries to do so, it runs into strong opposition from other countries with which our government would then be in direct competition. Is there some injustice here, and if so, what can be done about it now, and what could have been done to prevent it?

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BY JACK REICHARD
75 Years Ago

During Saturday afternoon and evening on July 28, 1883, many Lancaster County tobacco growers were struck a destructive blow by severe thunder storms accompanied by hail. The storm in the afternoon broke about 1.30 p.m., cutting tobacco crops in East and West Hempfield, Manor, Conestoga, Pequea, West Lampeter and Strasburg Townships into ribbons. The course of the storm was about one mile in width and hail fell for nearly a half hour. It was estimated that 3,000 acres of growing tobacco had been destroyed by the hail.

The same areas were visited by an evening storm of greater severity between 6 and 7 p.m. On the farm of William Phillips, Cole-rain Twp., ten cattle were in the field when the storm broke and ran to the edge of a woods for protection. Just as they reached the woodland a bolt of lightning struck in the vicinity, killing two of the animals.

The hail stones were reported unusual large in size, ranging from the size of hickory nuts and walnuts to small hen eggs. "A wagon that had been left out had its body so full of the hail that a shovel had to be brought into service before the wagon could be used".

ONE SHERIFF GETS TO HEAVEN

Back in July, 1883, a Lancaster business man who was much harassed by his creditors related to a friend a strange dream he had "I dreamed that I was dead", he said.

"I thought that I had passed away peacefully and calmly, and when the mist cleared away from before my eyes I was in that bet-ter land where the weary are supposed to be at rest. I was speechless with joy, and for a moment stood enraptured with the beautiful scene that met my eyes and the angel music that came to my ears. Then I started to walk down the golden street, and the first man I met was the Sheriff".

On August 1, 1883, the Lancaster Watch Company suspended all operations, throwing some 250 workers out of employment. The suspension was the result of the failure of A. Bitner, late manager and principal stockholders of the company. The directors of the company issued a statement that the suspension was only temporary.

50 Years Ago

July 24, 1908, an electrical storm accompanied by heavy rain caused great damage to bridges and railways in upper Lancaster County.

All traffic on the Reading and Columbia Railroad and on the Cornwall and Lebanon line was at a standstill. Lancaster and Manheim trolley cars were not able to run any further than the bridge crossing the Chickies Creek, near Manheim.

Throughout the night and part of the following day Manheim was cut off from the rest of the world. All train, trolley and telephone service were suspended.

The lower section of Manheim, east of the Reading Railroad, was submerged, with houses along the Lancaster turnpike having fifteen and more inches of water on their first floors. The Reading and Columbia Railroad roadbed was washed out several hundred feet and at some places the tracks were carried away.

The northeastern end of the county along the Cocalico Creek also suffered severely. That stream was higher than ever known by the eldest persons then residing in the area. Many bridges along the stream were washed away. Between Denver and Reinholds five structures were destroyed. One was an iron bridge on the main road leading from Reamstown to Denver, some 60 feet in length, which was washed downstream. During the storm a bolt of lightning struck the silk mill at Denver but damage was slight.

GENERAL HOSPITAL FILLED TO CAPACITY

At the July, 1908, meeting of

Lancaster Farming

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The Directors of the Lancaster General Hospital it was reported that the total cases was the largest in the history of the institution up to that year. The number of patients remaining from May was 45; the number admitted during June was 83, with 33 dispensary cases, making a total of 161. The daily average number of patients, dur-

25 Years Ago

ing June, 1908, was placed at 50. Charity cases numbered 132, and there were 46 operations, five in a single day, according to the report.

25 YEARS AGO (1933)

Back in July, 1933, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Motor Vehicles reported its first case where auto registration tags were used in a stove.

A car owner residing on a rural route applied for and was sent tags during the month of May, according to H. Richard Stichel, Bureau Director. When they failed to arrive by the end of June the car owner requested the post office serving his route to find the license plates.

The post office found it had another person of the same name on its list. This person was interviewed and the receipt of the tags were denied. The Post Office was persistent. It interviewed a servant who had been employed by the second family but had left. She admitted receiving the tags and placing them in an abandoned gas oven where they were found and turned over to the rightful owner.

At the Miracle Sweet Feed Mill in Henryetta, Okla., an ordinary black and yellow speckled house cat had adopted two rats to raise along with her brood of four kittens.



Max Smith

By MAX SMITH
County Agricultural Agent

TO EXPECT APHIDS ON TOBACCO — In recent years there seems to be more fields infected with aphids; these insects will multiply rapidly in dry, hot weather and will attack the under-side of the tobacco leaf. Harvesting will not reduce the damage because they continue to feed upon the leaves in the shed. Spraying or dusting with malathion or parathion will give best control.

TO DELAY BREEDING DAIRY COWS — Many successful dairymen are attempting to produce the largest volume of milk during the fall and early winter months when the prices are more favorable. It is good business to have a product to sell when the prices are the highest of the year. Cows bred during July and August will freshen in the spring when milk supplies are flush and when prices are at a low level.

TO KILL FLIES — This should be a constant battle on every farm and the starting place is to practice good sanitation at all times. The destroying of their breeding places will reduce the fly population. A somewhat new control that is giving great success is the red cotton cord that has been soaked with a contact poison containing parathion. It is stretched between two points in the barn and flies will be killed as they light on it. Giving good results.

TO KEEP LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY COOL — Production of meat, milk, and eggs will be decreased when animals have to breathe more rapidly in order to keep down body temperatures. We may still be facing the hottest part of the summer and special attention to this comfort will pay dividends. Plenty of shade and cool water are very essential, electric fans, sprinkling systems, and cross ventilation are other practices to keep down body temperatures.

TO PLAN FOR NEW PASTURE SEEDING — Old bluegrass sods or other worn-out pastures may be reseeded during late August or early September with good chances of success. The first step is to have a complete soil test made on the area, followed by the plowing or discing of the old sod. Special effort should be made to kill the old sod during the month of August when the weather is hot. The new grasses will get a good start during the fall and winter and be ready for grazing next spring.