

FROM WHERE WE STAND - Wasted Youth Not Found Here

A humorous expression attributed to the playwright, George Bernard Shaw goes, "Youth is such a wonderful thing, it is a shame to waste it on young people."

Six young people from Lancaster Co. have demonstrated this year that they have not wasted their youth and they have been rewarded for it. We know it is a well worn expression by now but it bears repeating that less than three out of 100 young people in the country ever become involved with the police. This is sometimes difficult for us to believe when we hear so much about the delinquent youth, but so many times when a young person does an outstanding piece of work it goes unnoticed or gets scant notice at best.

We believe that one of the reasons the crime rate among the young people in urban areas is greater than in rural areas is the lack of organized activity, profitable activity, available to the young person in the city.

We believe that youth organizations such as the 4-H and the FFA, and FHA, deserve the wholehearted support of every farm family in the country whether or not that family has a boy or girl elig-

ible to enroll in one of the clubs.

But to have a forward looking program for rural youth such as we do have in Lancaster County we need not only support from the parents and friends, but we must have qualified leaders.

At this time of year we should pause a moment to pay tribute to the persons who devote their life and energies to the task of helping young people avoid wasting their youth. We should be thankful for the Extension personnel, the teachers of Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics in our public schools and for the many volunteer leaders who give willingly of their time with no return except the satisfaction of a job well done.

We agree that youth is a wonderful thing, and we want to congratulate the six young 4-H'ers for their accomplishments and say, "Well done." We think they have merited this trip, and we are sure that our country will be proud of their activities in Chicago.

Youth has not been wasted on these six young people.

At least that's how it looks from where we stand.



AGRICULTURE EXTENSION PERSONNEL HELP us celebrate our birthday. Lancaster Farming begins its fifth year of publication this week. To help us celebrate our birthday, Mrs. Norma DeLellis, extension home economist prepares to cut the birthday cake while County Agriculture Agent, Max M. Smith, also seated, looks on. Standing left to right are Asst. Co. Agent, Victor Plasto, and Mrs. Lauretta Kreider and Mrs. Helen Suydam, Secretaries in the office. We thank them for joining in our celebration and for the assistance they have given us in the past four years. —LF PHOTO



Davidson

THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson Day of Thanks

There are many things for which we, all of us, should bow our heads in reverent thanks this Thanksgiving week.

There is both peace throughout nearly all parts of the world, and bright hopes of universal good will among all men. Our boys are at home instead of on some far away battlefield.

We have an abundance of the good things of life. We are thankful that we can share this abundance with the less fortunate people in many parts of the world. Christ said that as "you do it unto the least of these you do it unto me."

Some 300 years ago the

Pilgrims assembled in their meeting places to bow in thanks for a meager harvest that would, nevertheless, assure them food until the next harvest. Our cup of plenty overflows.

Apostle Paul

The observance of a specified day for Thanksgiving is comparatively new, but the Bible (16th Chapter, Book of Acts) tells of a day two thousands years ago when the Apostle Paul and Silas were arrested, though they had done no wrong.

They were flogged unmercifully and thrown into a dungeon. From that dungeon

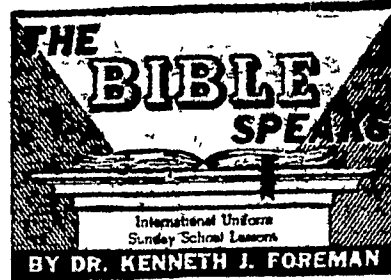
came a song of praise and thankfulness to God. They sang His praise because they were thankful for the strength. His spiritual guidance gave them.

Thankfulness, like happiness, is a state of mind. It comes from the peace that is within our hearts as we pause to consider our many

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Bible Material: Acts 9:1-9.
Devotional Reading: Romans 5:6-11.

About Face!

Lesson for November 28, 1959

OUTSIDE of what we are told about Jesus in the four Gospels, what event is the most important of all those described in the New Testament? Most intelligent Christians would probably agree on one particular event. If it had not happened, nearly half the New Testament books could not have been written. If it had not happened, over a quarter of the pages of the New Testament would be blank. If it had not happened, Christianity might well have died by strangulation. For there were many who wanted to strangle it in its cradle, and except for one man they might have succeeded.



Dr. Foreman

Why, Saint Paul happened, to be sure! He himself never would say it "happened" and we do not mean that it was a happen-so, a chance occurrence. He believed, to his dying day that God planned it, and we may well believe he was right.

Confronted With Christ

Saints do not become saints overnight. But they have to start somewhere, somehow. The amazing thing about Paul is that he did an absolute about-face, after a certain day near the city of Damascus in Syria. He was, to put it in one word, converted. That means, in still plainer English, turned around, faced backward from the way the person was going, started in the opposite direction.

It is quite a mistake to think that unless you are converted just as Saint Paul was converted, you haven't been converted at all. That is as silly as saying that if you haven't married a girl exactly like my wife, you aren't really married. As Saint Paul was a unique character any way you look at him, his conversion would be unique too. Further, his situation was decidedly a strange one. He was a

professional religious man, engaged in wholesale murder. He was a man who belonged to one of the strictest religious sects of that or any other era, and yet engaged in trying to smash up people who were actually better than he was. He was a man who was passionately devoted to serving God, spending his time making life miserable (when he could not actually kill them) for persons who understood God better than he did.

A man like that, you would think, is not likely to have a "conventional" or average religious experience. Budding Saint Pauls since his time may have had somewhat similar conversions; but John Doe usually has the John Doe type of conversion.

Confronted With Christ

For all that, while much in the circumstances of Paul's conversion (to use a name he did not actually bear till some time later) was peculiar, bizarre or awe-inspiring, as you might think it, still basically it was a Christian conversion, with the basic Christian elements plainly in it. First of all, it was confronting Christ. It was a kind of miracle in Paul's case. The miracle may not be so spectacular in other cases but Christ is always there at the beginning of every really Christian life. It may be a Confucian scholar reading a Bible, for the first time; it may be an artist attracted by a picture of the Last Supper; it may be a French agnostic, seeing Christ in his wife's character; or a middle-aged man remembering one day how his mother used to pray. Somehow or other, all conversion is based on this meeting between an individual and Christ.

The First Two Questions

Years later Paul told the story of his conversion, to some people who at the moment were bent on killing him. He added something to the story told in Acts (the best manuscripts). He relates two questions, not one, which he asked in that great and awesome hour near Damascus. The first question: "Who art Thou, Lord?" and the second one: "What will you have me to do?" (See Acts 22.) On those two questions hung all his future life. Note three things here: he put his questions now to the highest Authority; he wanted to know all about Jesus; and he put his life at the disposal of his Lord. This is the essence of conversion.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO TRAP THOSE MUSKRATS—On many farms extra income may be realized from the sale of muskrat pelts. The season opened Nov. 21st and will run until January 16th. Farm pond owners should especially take advantage of this period to eliminate the muskrat problem and reduce pond bank damages. Along many creeks and small runs the muskrat population is increasing and damage is more evident. The changing of the course of a stream out into pasture or crop land may be prevented by a heavy trapping campaign.

TO PUT COLOR INTO HUNTING TOGS—The big game hunting season is at hand and many hunters will be exposed to the sharp eye of other hunters. Hunting safety is very important at all times and every precaution should be taken to prevent an accident. The color of the clothing is important in the woods in order not to be mistaken for game. Wear either bright red or yellow to be seen easily by other hunters; yellow is actually more visible than the traditional red.

TO TOPDRESS NEW SEEDINGS—The practice of topdressing small grain and new legume seeding with manure during late fall or early winter is to be encouraged. The manure will furnish some extra nitrogen next spring and more important, will help cover the ground this winter to prevent freezing out and heaving. This will be especially helpful in the case of very late seedings that did not get a good start.

TO CLEAN DRAINAGE TILE OUTLETS—In the case of a tile drainage system the condition of the outlet in many cases determines the success of the entire system. Farmers are urged to inspect the outlet this fall and clean away any vegetation, silt, or other matter that may prevent the free flow of water from the line. If muskrats are undermining the end of the tile line, then a concrete head-wall should be poured to prevent them from working back into the system. Without a clean outlet the tile system will silt full and be worthless.