

FROM WHERE WE STAND - Beware The Ides Of March

Kite flying time is here again. It is one of the oldest and best juvenile diversions, but it appears there have been quite a few changes in this venerable and respected pastime.

Consider this list of "Don'ts" for kite flyers printed recently by a gas and electric company in San Francisco. With the possible exception of one of the eight rules, Grandpappy, or even Pop, in his childhood days would not have needed any one of these rules which are very worthwhile today.

Here are the rules as listed: 1. Don't fly a kite with a metal frame or tail. 2. Don't use tinsel-string, wire or twine that has any metal in it. 3. Don't fly a kite near electric power lines. 4. Don't fly a kite over radio or TV aerials. 5. Never pull on a string or climb a power pole to loosen a snagged kite. 6. Don't touch fallen electric wires. 7. Don't run across the streets or highways while flying kites. 8. Don't fly a kite in the rain.

We believe these are good safety rules for rural as well as urban children before they try their hands at the ancient skill.

We can't help remembering, though, one of our favorite kites from quite a few years back. As many of you will remember, you couldn't go to the corner store and purchase a ready cut kite including string, frame and paper. If you wanted a kite, you made one out

of whatever materials were at hand.

This favorite kite was a really big one made on an umbrella-stave frame and covered with wrapping paper. We didn't have a string strong enough to stand the pressure, but we did find some fine wire that would do the trick. It took the combined efforts of three small brothers to launch the mammoth thing, but finally it was airborne and we tied the wire to a fence post.

A gust of wind snapped the wire and our precious behemoth was last seen wobbling out over the woods toward the river.

Probably it was a blessing that the thing did get away considering the rules laid down by the power company, but in our back pasture, the nearest power lines were almost a mile away. The nearest highway was an equal distance; the only radio aerial within miles was strung between the corner of our house and the chicken coop just slightly more than head high, and the only TV antennas were about 15 years in the future. The season of thunder storms was several months away, but if we could have kept our giant on its leash, we would have had it until mid summer.

Anyway, the rules for kite safety in this day are worthy of note. Perhaps this is what the poet meant when he said, 'Beware the ides of March.'

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



Davidson

THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson The Big Question

The answers are in now on a questionnaire which Senator Allen Ellender, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, sent the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a group of Land Grant College economists last fall.

The question he asked was: What would be the effect on farm production, prices and income if government production controls were eliminated and price supports lowered to the free market level over the next five years?

This has been the nub of the debate over farm programs and policies for the past several years, Secretary of Agriculture Earl Warren Benson has favored lower supports while Congress has refused to agree to as great a reduction as the secretary wants.

During the past seven years price supports have been reduced an average of 25 percent. Farm production has increased 15 percent, prices have gone down 28 percent and net income down 23 percent. On the other hand, farm program costs have gone up by more than 500 percent and CCC holdings have increased 1,000 percent.

Government Out of Farming Mr Benson has pleaded with Congress to "get the

government out of farming" and to restore to farmers "the right to make their own production decisions based on sound farming practices and market demand."

There is unanimous agreement that present production control and price support programs are both costly and ineffective. Controls have not reduced production and supports have not maintained farm income.

Department of Agriculture expenditures have increased from less than \$1.1 billion in 1952-53 to \$5.7 billion this fiscal year. The USDA inventory of surplus commodities has increased from \$1 billion in 1953 to \$10 billion.

The average of prices received by farmers has declined from 94 per cent in 1953 to 77 per cent of parity. Net farm income has gone down from \$14.4 billion to about \$11.5 billion last year. Farmers are almost \$10 billion deeper into debt than they were seven years ago.

Difference of Opinion There is no argument over the figures. They're a matter of record. But there is a wide difference of opinion both over what caused the present farm situation, as well as over what should be done to reverse the trend.

Mr. Benson wants production controls discontinued on all crops, as they were last year on corn. Those who oppose this point to the 15 percent increase in corn acreage and 500 million bushel addition to surpluses in 1959 to back up their arguments.

Benson counters by citing what has happened in potatoes and milk, for example, on which farmers were free to make their own production decisions. These two commodities, formerly in large surplus supply, both now are in balance with demand.

The only farm surpluses of any consequence, Mr Benson points out, are those on which there are both production controls and price sup-

ports. He backs this up by pointing out that livestock growers have fared very well without either supports or production controls.

Sen. Ellender, however, wanted the "expert opinion" of leading farm economists, with no political ax to grind on what would happen by 1965 if controls and price supports were dropped.

(Editor's note: Their answers will be reported next week in the second of two columns on the farm debate)

USDA Reports

May-June Poults Best

May and June are the best months for hatching turkey poults, according to Penn State studies of body weight and per cent of grade A birds. E. G. Buss, poultry researcher at Penn State, reported these findings at a recent meeting of the Turkey Division of the State Poultry Federation.

Dr. Buss discussed experiments by Paul H Margolf which showed consistently high percentages of grade A carcasses among turkeys hatched in May and June.

"January-hatched poults gave the poorest performance for body weight and per cent of grade A carcasses," Dr. Buss said.

An August hatch showed the best feather condition and the least dressing loss from live to drawn weight.

Additional studies must be made to distinguish between the effects of temperature and light on growth and other traits, Dr. Buss pointed out.

Rural Rhythms

By C. D. H.

SPRING IS COMING

By C. D. H.

Winter comes and winter goes,

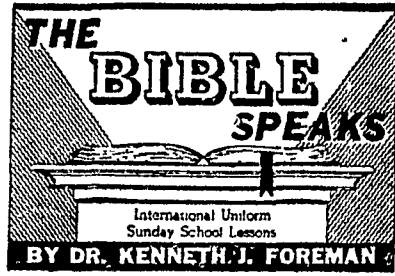
But spring will always be just waiting for the warming sun

To burst on every tree.

On cold and wintery days we should

Recall these words to mind, The poet said, "When winter comes

"Spring isn't far behind."



International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Providence Lesson for March 6, 1960

"GOD WILL take care of you" is the name of a popular song, and is a popular idea. But some of the bitterest experiences of life come when a person discovers that this sentence does not mean quite, or perhaps at all, what he thought it did. The name given in the church to the truth that God watches over us and all things and all men, is "Providence." In fact all that God does, in relation to mankind, and to his universe, is summed up in two words, Creation and Providence.



Dr. Foreman

But the current lesson from the Bible, part of the story of Paul, may help to untangle the truth about Providence, God's care for his creatures, from some wrong ideas about it.

Will God Keep Me From All Harm?

We sometimes say that God will keep us from all harm; but if we stop to think about it, if we see how God has acted in times past and what the experiences of Christians have been, we shall realize that to say that God will keep me from all harm is saying more than the facts will support.

God will not keep you from dying. He has not kept many of his children from death. Even his only Son Jesus Christ actually died on Calvary. We sometimes think a man is peculiar if he keeps a coffin in his house for future use; but while it may be unusual to do that, it isn't crazy. Unless you die at sea, or get vaporized by an H-bomb, or something extraordinary like that, you may as well buy your casket now. What is left of you will need a coffin of some kind. This is true no matter how good you are.

God will probably not keep you from all suffering. Even if you never have an ache or a pain in

your body, even if you with all your teeth as even if your friends are so that you never hear their deaths—if you at all, if you share Christ, you will be to passion, as he was, by of the millions without. The more Christians more the sorrows of weigh on you.

From Final Evil

What God will keep what we might call we think over the Christians and saints what God's Providence their lives. Take Paul example. There at Jerusalem did not save him from killed, though he did being-killed. He saw being scourged, but he him from being a prisoner is always a worse sorrow which God spares us.

And what is the result is this: that a man hopelessly and finally Creator and Father suffering may keep us God; but no darkness us from knowing that The Christian may be in the valley of the shadow—and what greater there? There is one greater than this, the blessing which man has lost. But this does not come of faith. Paul more thought he was going finally was killed; but God.

Is God My Bodyguard?

When the President of the States goes on a trip, a few blocks, he does not his personal safety. Service men do the same for him. As his bodyguard responsibility to see that comes to him. He cannot but he is surrounded by sides.

Is God my bodyguard take all responsibility for my personal safety? Can I be worrying to him? We are worrying to him, yes, a personal responsibility can say that God keeps the agony and danger scourging; but how? not spoken up when told the officer that Roman citizen, he would scourged anyway. God works best when we are in ship with him.

(Based on outline of the Division of Christian National Council of the Christ in the U. S. A. Community Press Service)

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO PROVIDE SPECIAL LIVES CARE—Spring is the time of the that many pigs and lambs are born cold weather many of these infants get a poor start unless the caretaker hand to provide warmth and attention. During lambing and farrowing many good managers will check animals every few hours during both day and night. Brooders will improve warmth and dryness in the pens and prevent chilling. Special care at birth pay big dividends.

TO ORDER TREES AND SHRUBBERY The months of March and April are good times to plant most any kind of a tree or shrub; early planting is important to take advantage of spring rains and to get maximum root growth before hot, dry weather comes.

TO TOPDRESS WINTER WHEAT Wheat fields that are thin, or got off to a late start last fall, will respond to nitrogen applications this spring. Also, wheat grown on sandy, gravel, or shale soils may need extra nitrogen for best results. In these cases an application of 30 to 40 pounds per acre of straight nitrogen fertilizer made when the wheat starts in the spring should give good results. However, on heavier, fertile soils following tobacco or potatoes is not recommended because this nitrogen will cause very rapid growth and lodging will be a problem. Also, if the wheat is to be seeded down to clover or alfalfa, nitrogen fertilizer is not recommended.

TO CHECK THAT CORN PLANTER Now is a good time to check all farm machinery, especially the fertilizer attachment on that corn planter. If you have a sideband corn planter be sure the fertilizer divider has not worn away; this may cause the fertilizer and the seed to get together and injure the stand. Sideband applications of fertilizer with the corn planter are strongly recommended. Most equipment dealers can supply them for the corn planter. Both nitrogen and potash fertilizers will be most seeds; be sure your fertilizer helps, rather than hinders, your corn crop this summer.

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