

# FROM WHERE WE STAND

## It's Better To Be Safe

I'm a coward. Lots of things give me the creeps. Things like taking a chance of getting a hand cut off in order to save the fifteen seconds it would take to shut off the tractor engine for instance.

I'm a coward about such things as climbing ladders with rotten rungs or stairs with missing steps, and a fork lying in the barn floor with the tines pointing up at me just makes me shiver.

I'm a coward, too, when it comes to kids riding on the tractor. I know it is hard to refuse the little ones when they beg daddy to let them climb up beside the seat, but I'm cowardly enough to think dad ought to refuse.

The old wheeze, "It's better to be safe than sorry," might sound trite to most of us but to those families grieving the loss of a little one under the wheels of some piece of farm machinery, the old saying makes a lot of sense.

By and large, the soil conservationists have done a marvelous job of selling the farmer on the idea that it is good economy to use his resources wisely. The same thing can be said for the foresters, water conservationists, livestock conservation organizations, wildlife conservationists and other natural resource protectors.

It is ironic that such a poor job has been done in the conservation of our most precious resource. The human resources of this country are being wasted in a way we would not allow some of our natural resources to be wasted.

Each year many thousands of farm people are killed or maimed for life in accidents which easily could have been avoided. All too often these accidents occur because someone who knew better took a chance on an unsafe practice or allowed someone who did not know better to handle complicated machinery.

Each year the coming of corn picker season fills the safety experts with

dread, because they know the statistics will show that all too many farmers will gamble to save a minute and lose a limb, or perhaps a life.

There is an old story about the farmer who was kicked by a mule. When the hospital attendant asked how the accident happened, the farmer said, "It wasn't no accident. The critter meant to do it." The horse, once one of the greatest hazards on the farm, has given way to other sources of injury which have no intention of harming anyone, but do just as effective a job of mangling flesh as if the intent were there.

Agriculture is in a unique position in the industrial structure of this country. There are no safety engineers, inspectors, or experts to tell the farmer he can not continue doing an unsafe practice. Industry spends millions of safety devices and programs to conserve their human resources, but the farmer is his own free agent.

The safety department of a nearby manufacturing plant places large signs near every hazard. The signs have only the word "Think!" written across them. It might be a good thing if some farms had the signs posted in several spots around the buildings and machinery. Most accidents are simply the result of poor judgment or the lack of thinking.

Think! There is no excuse for the carnage taking place on the farms in America. Only you can prevent accidents.

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

WYNNE, ARK., PROGRESS: "More than 2000 people are killed each year by farm work accidents—more than in any other major industry.

"More than 11,000 farm residents are killed each year in all types of accidents

"Farmers are getting scarcer all the time. Let's not waste them through accidents."

blame for permitting the present wheat law to continue. The facts are:

President Eisenhower in January asked Congress to pass a wheat law which would abolish acreage allotments and lower support prices to about \$1.25 a bu. He said, however, he would accept any "reasonable alternative"

Congress was strongly opposed to lowering price supports and, in the end, was unable to agree on an alternative that would have kept supports at 75% of parity, reduced acreage allotments by 20%, and make in-kind payments equal to 50% of the normal production on the idled wheat acres.

A bill to that effect was passed by the Senate, but was voted down in the House. The President never did say whether he would have signed such a bill if it had reached him. Spokesmen for wheat growers protested that they already had reduced acreage by 30% since '52 and that another 20% reduction would cut acreage to the point where they couldn't get back production costs.

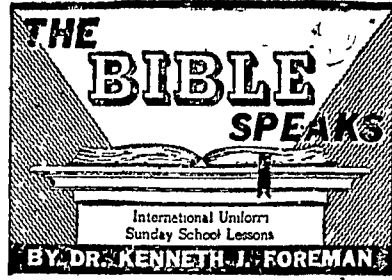
It will be too late when Congress returns next month after many growers have planted their 1961 crop, to do anything about the absurd wheat program.

## Rural Rhythms

### SUMMER SAFETY

By Carol Dean Huber  
Now is the time for boating. Now is the time for swimming. Country streams are calling. City pools are brimming.

Let's all enjoy the summer sports, And answer Nature's call. Obeying all the safety rules, And be around for fall.



Bible Material: Hosea 1 1 through 4:3; 5 15 through 6 6.  
Devotional Reading: I John 3 16-21.

## Steadfast Love

Lesson for July 24, 1960

LONG AGO there lived a man by the name of Hosea. God marked him for a prophet but perhaps Hosea did not know this until after his tragedy. For he went through a great tragic experience, one of a sort that cannot simply be tossed into memory's trash-basket and forgotten. Hosea's experience was one that left scars upon his soul.

### The Woman In His Life

Hosea's story, told in the first part of the book which bears his name, is a puzzling one as it stands, and it remains a puzzle even when it is reconstructed. What follows now is a very widely accepted interpretation of that story, though no interpretation is beyond mistakes.



Dr. Foreman

There was a woman in Hosea's life; her name was Gomer, from the same Israelite people as himself. It is clear that he loved her, and that she bore him children. The names of the children, however, suggest that all was not well in that household. The oldest child was named Jezreel, the name of a well-known fortress city of those times. There was nothing odd about that way of naming children.

When the second child was born, Hosea (still not yet a prophet) gave her a curious name. It sounds strange in English; it was much more strange in Hebrew, the language Hosea spoke. Lo-Ruhamah, "No-Mercy" was the little girl's name.

### Life's Bitterest Cup

Did Hosea give that innocent child that gruesome name because he had discovered that his Gomer was a woman without mercy? If he did, the third baby bore a name more sinister still. It was a little boy; and Hosea named him Lo-

Ammi—"Not My People, Child of Mine." He had lost belief that his wife was any true to him, in fact he branded her by giving her the name Gomer. He did what he might expect she left him with children, and he hid the truth from them to bring up by himself, trying to be father and mother.

### The Woman In The Slave Market

Long afterwards, Hosea bought her and brought her home. The interpretation of this story which we are following (this woman (not named in the Bible story) to be no other than the lost Gomer. It is very likely that she was it would be a courtesy not to give her name, she had indeed sunk very low in the story. It is very likely that she was it would be a courtesy not to give her name, she had indeed sunk very low in the story. It is very likely that she was it would be a courtesy not to give her name, she had indeed sunk very low in the story.

### Love of God

Other writers in the Old Testament speak to us of the love of God, but the word they use often been mistranslated or ed down in the translating. Hebrew word is now (in the revised Standard Version) given the rightful meaning: Steadfast. The translators worked hard to find one word that would say the Hebrew word says, but could not find one. So "steadfast love" it is. Hosea's experience taught him two things. One, the depth of his own love, were just saying. The other, the depth and endurance of love. Hosea, who became known as a prophet but never fully repented from the shattering experience of his early life, always spoke of God and Israel as husband and wife. Just as Gomer had been faithful to him, so the nation Israel had been unfaithful to him. But just as Hosea's love was steadfast that he could take care for a hour by day, Gomer, so God's love is steadfast in spite of his Israel's sin. You cannot suppose that Hosea, his wife was at home and he did care what she did, and we must believe that God though he is a sinner, hates the sin.

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**THIS WEEK**  
—In Washington  
With Clinton Davidson  
**Wheat Referendum**

Wheat growers in 39 states in which the bread grain is grown for market vote this week to continue a program that is, admittedly, a costly failure.

Congress and the Administration, in their inability to agree on a more sensible program, left farmers little alternative but to continue adding to a supply that has reached 2½ billion bushels.

Wheat growers and farm organizations asked Congress for a change in the law to permit a substantial reduction in acreage in order to bring production into balance with demand, but no agreement was reached after months of hearings and discussions.

By the time the combines

have completed the 1960 harvest we will have enough wheat to meet all our needs, other than exports, for the next four years, even if another bushel were not grown before 1964.

The Alternatives  
The vote is between continuing marketing quotas and rejecting them for the 1961 crop. The final tally is expected to show more than 90% of the growers in favor of continuing quotas.

Only about one out of every three growers are permitted under the law to vote in the referendum — those who plant more than fifteen acres in wheat.

A "yes" vote on quotas will mean price supports at not less than 75% of parity (about \$1.78 a bu.) for growers who plant within their acreage allotment for the '61 harvest. The law provides a minimum national wheat allotment of 55 million acres.

Any grower exceeding his allotment will be subject to a fine of about \$1.10 a bushel on his excess production and, in addition, will be denied price supports on all wheat grown on the farm.

A "no" vote would mean no marketing quotas or penalties, but price supports at 50 percent of parity (about \$1.20 a bu.) for those who continue to plant within their acreage allotment.

Placing the Blame  
You will hear lots of campaign talk about who is to

## Now is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO PRACTICE FARM AND HOME SAFETY—Next week is National Farm Safety Week—a time when everyone should take time to inspect their farm and home and their habits for safety's sake. The important use of farm machinery is one of the main causes of farm accidents, take time to follow the manufacturer's safety suggestions; also, do not allow small children to ride machinery.

TO MAKE THAT FARM POND SAFE—In hot weather the farm pond becomes a very popular place; it can also be a hazard and bring sorrow to any family. Inflated inner-tubes, a raft, a rope, wooden ladder are all items that should be near the pond in case of emergency. No one should be permitted to swim alone and a l persons kept out of the water when over heated and for at least an hour after eating. These precautions may save a life.

TO KILL WEEDS UNDER ELECTRIC FENCE—Many livestock and poultry producers have trouble with weeds showing out their electric fence wires. Labor may be saved by using weed killers directly under the wires that will take out both the weeds and grass. Further details available.

TO KEEP THAT GARDEN BUSY—Successful gardeners will replant a number of times during the growing season. In this way limited space may be made more productive. After the first crop of peas, cabbage, beets, onions, lettuces and others the ground may be re-worked and vegetables planted for fall production.

TO KEEP AFTER THOSE FLIES — Good moisture conditions for the average farm crops also presents good breeding conditions for flies and mosquitoes; flies breed fast. In most places where table scraps, barnyard manure or other animal or vegetable waste is found. Residual fly spray may be used in barns or porches, or fly bait in all buildings. The best place to start is a good sanitation program in and around all buildings.

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