

FROM WHERE WE STAND - Heigh Ho! Come To The Fair

Heigh Ho, come to the fair! Almost since the beginning of recorded history, fairs after harvest time have had a place in the life of rural people. The desire of the farmer to exhibit some of the fruits of his labor and the thrills of competition with his neighbors has kept the age-old tradition alive down to the present time.

Fairs take many different forms and themes from the strictly agricultural exhibitions to the other extreme of a carnival atmosphere with some farm exhibits to give it a slightly rural flavor.

The earliest fairs were of the first kind where farmers exhibited and sold their produce and livestock. Many of the first fairs were more like a market place than a fairground as we know them today.

Later, contests of skill at farm tasks were added to the program and farmers could show off their dexterity as well as the products of their lands. Soon, athletic events were included at many fairs and the holiday atmosphere took over the fairground.

With the fiesta spirit came the games of chance and with the games of chance came the sharpers with the dodge games to separate the unsuspecting adventurer from his hard earned cash.

In many places the holiday theme became so strong that the fair bore little resemblance to the original exhibitions. Many fairs were staged for the benefit of the carnival operators who used the county fair theme as an excuse to gather together a crowd to be duped into spending money on questionable games.

In recent years the fairs have followed several different courses. We feel that Lancaster County is fortunate to have several good agricultural fairs. Several counties in nearby areas have almost forgotten the rural aspect of the fair and more space is taken up on the fairground by the midway than by all the farm exhibits and exhibition arenas.

The experience with these fairs seems to indicate that a successful carnival and a successful farm show can

not occupy the same grounds at the same time. In the fairs holding both agricultural exhibits and midways, the two are so nearly divorced from each other as to be almost two different areas entirely. There has been talk almost every year of a county fair for Lancaster County. Each year there are supporters of such a move, but there are those who also point out the disadvantages of centralizing the activity and eliminating the local incentive and pride.

The local fairs do have many advantages and there are doubtless many farm boys and girls who could not or would not exhibit at a centralized fair. Most of the local fairs would likely have to fold their tents if a county exhibition were organized, but if all the effort now going into the staging of the local fairs could be combined into one centralized show, a top-notch fair could be produced.

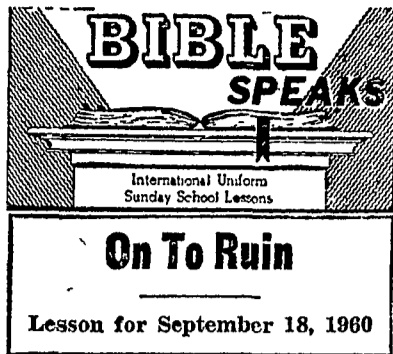
One of the biggest problems faced by the local fair boards is the furnishing of enough space under roof for all the exhibits. A county fair association could probably build facilities to house all the animals and showing facilities for what is now paid for canvas by the local fairs.

Many facilities could be furnished by a county fair with the pooling of the capital available to all the fairs with the possibility of staging a really good exhibition. Even with the loss of the local fairs, we feel that the formation of a county fair association could be a good thing for the agriculture of the Garden Spot.

But we would like to put one reservation on the endorsement of the county fair idea. We feel that any show representing the agriculture of the county should do just that. An exhibition based on the State Farm Show would be representative of agriculture and the wholesomeness of rural Lancaster County.

If the county fair were to develop on the theme of carnivals and side shows, then we are far better off with the good, small, local shows we now have.

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



"STICK to the Gospel and leave politics alone," is advice often given to preachers. Whether it's good advice depends on what is meant by it. If "Leave politics alone" means that a church should not become a political party, then it is good advice. But if it means that the preacher must never mention anything so worldly and controversial as housing for the poor, wage levels, dirty politics, dishonest police, incompetent judges, or bad leadership in high places, then "Stick to the Gospel" is bad advice.



Dr. Foreman

Not only that, but a preacher shamed or scared into silence about the live issues of his time and community is false to his Bible. The prophets of old were bold preachers. They pointed their fingers at sin wherever they saw it. And when they saw the supposed leaders of their country setting bad examples, when they saw bad foreign policy, when they saw the weak oppressed and the shady characters given the medals, the prophets did not pull their punches or preach soothing sermons about heaven. They preached some of their most powerful sermons straight to the top-flight citizens of their time.

One of the great evils that Micah (for instance) nailed down, was what we call upside-down morals, preached and practiced by influential people. It is much worse when such people get twisted-up about right and wrong, than when obscure people do. A bum in a sium can try to tell you that wrong is right and you pay him no attention. But when rich or famous or powerful people take a wrong slant, you get mixed up. You think, "Well, surely a man as smart [or

rich, or educated, or successful he is, can't be wrong!"

Robbing the People

Another evil Micah sharply and plainly can be in plain language robbing people. Unfortunately this done sometimes quite legal means that a wealthy corporation can get wealthier simply by charging the consumer—and charge is a polite word for robbing. There is a large area of southern mountains which years was bare as the desert, a desolate desolation in the midst of green hills mountains on all sides. A corporation was letting copper go out from its chimneys hundered, killing all green for miles around. It took time before the government stepped that. Another mill, making asbestos, exposed its employees to asbestos, an incurable disease of the lungs caused by asbestos lint in the air. Workers died, but it was perfectly legal... till finally the government stepped in and required services that stopped the legions. But where was the voice? Not a voice was raised, so this writer ever heard, against either the green country human beings. There were phetic preachers, no preachers, to call a spade a

Preaching for Money

The prophet Micah calls judgment another kind of who only leads on to ruin the kind of prophet (and preacher) who preaches to those who pay him best. The worst kind of bad leadership the minister of the Gospel posed to a man of God, but he preaches only what his wealthy contributors will approve, it ceases to be God's spokesman. wears some man's collar in very early days of Christ just after the New Testament finished, there was a book, gave regulations and advice church officers. It seems that many traveling evangelists missionaries, then as now, for money. This little book rule which was very useful, visitor begs for others, he is genuine, if he begs for himself, throw him out. The preacher for himself first of all seeks ample that pushes his people ther on the road to ruin



THIS WEEK
—In Washington
With Clinton Davidson
The Grange Program

Davidson

What kind of a program do the farm organizations want? That's a question that has stumped Congress and puzzled a lot of other people. To get the answer for readers of the more than 850 newspapers which use this column, we invited the heads of the three general farm organizations to give us their recommendations.

Since the 850,000-member National Grange is the oldest (93 years) of the general farm groups, the first report has been prepared by Herschel

D. Newsom, whose title is Master of the National Grange. Subsequent columns will report on the views of Charles Shuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, largest (16 million members) of the three, and James Patton, President of the Farmers Union.

Newsom Says: "Farm income, at present levels, is not capable of generating the capital needed to continue the technological revolution that has made American agriculture the most productive in the world."

"Clearly the compensation of farmers (less than half the national per family average), and of agriculture as a whole is not proportionate to our contribution of the national welfare. It has not been for several years."

"We must find effective mechanisms to try to give farm prices and farm income some comparable lift above that determined by the free market, comparable, that is, to the lift which is given non-agricultural prices and wages by tariffs and import duties, and by laws which protect the rights of industrial wage earners to minimum wages and collective bargaining."

"It is imperative that we do something much more constructive about the problem of declining farm income down 35% since 1952) than to simply perpetuate the argument over the level of price supports, for neither provides a full answer. The Cost-Price Squeeze

"We must attack the basic problem of the gap between farm operating costs and prices received by farmers. The real measure of a fair income for farmers is what is left after he has sold what he produced and paid the cost of production."

"Substantial progress has been made in tailoring certain commodity programs (such as wool, sugar & milk marketing) to fit the peculiarities of production, processing and distribution of those commodities."

"We have a diversity of farm problems which cannot be solved by a single, shotgun approach. This diversity, however, certainly does not

(Turn to Page 5)

Rural Rhythms

TIME
By Carol Dean Huber
Summer days have all been spent;

I wonder where all the warm days went
When I was just a child they said
There would be such days ahead

Childhood's time will creep or stand
You'd not to youth's demand
As you older grow, the years flow faster than a widow's tears.



MAX SMITH

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

TO MAKE SORGHUM SILAGE — Many acres of forage sorghum will be made into silage yet this month; the proper stage for cutting is when the sorghum seeds are in the dough stage; the crops will decrease in feed value if the seed-heads are allowed to get hard and mature. If mixed with soybeans, it is best to allow the sorghum development to be the guide rather than the soybeans, which are usually cut in the small-bean stage. No preservation should be needed with the forage sorghum crop.

TO MAKE GOOD USE OF SWEET SUDAN GRASS — Sweet sudan grass is one of the very popular summer pasture crops; also, it may be made into grass silage if the growth gets ahead of the livestock. Local growers are urged to utilize the sudan grass growth to the fullest extent in the next two weeks so that little growth will be present when the first killing frost comes. Grazing, green chopping, or making silage are methods of preserving or using the crop. Sudan grass makes a very coarse textured hay crop. When making into silage a preservative should be used similar to mixtures of timothy or orchard grass.

TO USE CAUTION AFTER A KILLING FROST — Sweet sudan grass becomes poisonous after a killing frost and shouldn't be fed to livestock as fresh pasture or green chopped forage, however, it may be made safely into silage and allowed to ferment for at least three to four weeks. A sorghum may be made into silage after a killing frost with no danger of toxicity. However, the second growth of both of these crops after a killing frost may be poisonous and livestock should not be allowed to graze upon it.

TO PLANT WINTER OATS — Mid-September is the recommended time to sow winter oats in southeastern Pennsylvania. Use either Dubois or La Conte varieties and sow at the rate of two bushels per acre on well drained land.

TO PACK AND SEAL THOSE TRENCH SILOS — With the heavy growth of corn fodder this fall temporary silos in heavy trench or bunker silos may be more widely used. The corn or forage should be chopped fine (1/2 to 3/4 inch) so that it will pack more tightly. A heavy wheel type tractor on the silage during the filling operation will help prevent the air pockets and assure better quality. Within 48 hours after the trench is filled and the top crowned or rounded the surface should be sealed by using either ground limestone or the black plastic covers, the latter is the more popular and should be held down with earth or an additional 6-inch layer of chopped weeds or poor-quality forage.

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