

FROM WHERE WE STAND - The Most Unpleasant Duty

About this time every year, editors and reporters all across the farm areas of this country are faced with one of the most unpleasant tasks in the entire business of gathering, preparing and presenting news.

The task is not only unpleasant, it is depressing.

One of the things making it so terribly depressing is the knowledge that it is such a needless thing to have to do.

And yet, needless as it is, the task must be repeated all across the country many, many times every fall. It must be repeated because newspapers are in the business of recording the events of the day, and those events must be recorded whether they are pleasant or horrible.

We know of no newspaperman anywhere who gets any pleasure at all out of having the task of writing, "Man Injured By Cornpicker" or "Youth Killed In Hunting Accident," but every fall, the task is thrust on someone.

If accidents are depressing to reporters, who might never have met the victim, how much more emotion must they conjure up for those whose loved ones are unfortunate enough to be caught up in the web of accidental injury or death.

Reams of material on safety have been written; manufacturers build all sorts of safety devices into the gadgets we use in this gadget-happy age; safety councils and committees launch drive after drive in the cause of accident prevention, but still the headlines

and heartaches continue.

All the safety rules ever penned can not prevent one accident unless they are put to use—constant use. Almost missing an accident can be just as deadly as a deliberately planned suicide.

All the safety campaigns in the world can not save one life if the persons for which they are designed think accidents and their prevention are for someone else.

All the safety devices ever invented can not prevent the operator of hazardous machinery from making poor judgments.

Our gadget-laden country is a fertile field for accidents of all kinds to happen, but no gadget yet invented ever plotted or planned to injure its owner, and since the close of the dark ages, very few inventors have put any thought to machines designed to torture or maim citizens.

Machines, and this includes guns, are capable of multiplying the strength of man by many million times, but they can not aid their owners in making decisions requiring judgment.

It is poor economy to trade a limb or a life for a few seconds of time, which might not be gained anyway.

It is significant that the major company in America manufacturing "Electronic Brains" (the giant computing machines) has for its motto just one word.

THINK!

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

Watch Me Settle This Argument

The tumult and shouting comes to a crescendo and quietly dies away.

Once all differences of opinion were settled by fighting of one kind or another. Then someone thought of a device called voting, and that man should

have a monument.

Both sides have had their day in the sun. Both sides have made their play. Now watch me step in and settle this argument. I'm a voter.

Will you be able to say, "I helped settle the argument too?"



Davidson

THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson Rural Development

Too much has been written about price supports and production controls and not nearly enough about the one farm program that has done more than any other to help low-income farmers — the Rural Development Program.

In the heat of debate of farm differences between the two Presidential candidates it has been generally overlooked that both party platforms and both candidates wholeheartedly endorse Rural Development.

Recently Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, in his fifth annual report to President Eisenhower on the program had this to say:

"Many fine accomplishments of the Rural Development Program have gone unsung and largely ignored compared with the attention

received by farm price supports and other programs for the primary benefit of commercial farms."

Three-Point Plan

In a special agricultural message to Congress in January, 1954, President Eisenhower recommended a three-part program calling for private and governmental action to assist farmers and others in depressed rural areas.

He said, and Congress agreed, that action was needed to (1) strengthen industry in low-income rural areas and widen the range of off-farm job opportunities; (2) help families with the desire and ability to stay in farming and farm successfully; and (3) to provide more job training, education and health services.

Initiative for the program originates with local, private agencies such as chambers of commerce, civic, educational church and farm groups State and Federal agencies provide technical assistance, but no financial aid. It is, basically, a self-help program.

Congress authorized the U.S. Department of Agriculture to assign 150 full-time county agents to work with the communities. The Commerce and Labor Departments assist in attracting business firms to under developed areas. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare helps in the building of hospitals and of health clinics, and in train-

ing for industrial jobs.

In Thirty States

The Rural Development Program was begun in 1955 in half a dozen "pilot" projects, mostly in Southern states. Since then it has grown to more than 2000 projects in some 210 countries in 30 states and Puerto Rico.

Many hundreds of small businesses established in rural areas in the past five years employ thousands of workers with jobs near their homes. The Small Business Administration from July, 1959, to May, 1960, made more than \$30 million in loans for small businesses serving the rural areas in the program.

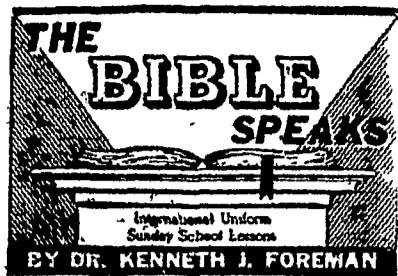
Secretary Benson, in his report to the President, predicted that during the next ten years "the nation will turn increasingly to rural areas and the towns serving them for the resources, manpower, living and working space and recreational facilities needed to support economic growth and maintain a stable vigorous national life."

The Rural Development Program is additional evidence in support of our contention that rural America and its country weekly newspapers are the bulwark of democracy and our strongest defense against "creeping socialism."

Rural Rhythms

HALLOWEEN PARTY
By Carol Dean Huber

The barn is full of scary forms—Witches, goblins, cats, Jack-O-Lanterns here and there, Pirates, ghosts and bats. Some unusual smells are there—Cider, apples, pie, And up above, a yellow moon Is shining in the sky.



Facing My Sin

Lesson for November 6, 1960

IT IS NOT necessary to be "fit" before being in touch with God. God is always in touch with all he has made. The trouble is, being in touch with God may not be a happy experience at all.

Consider the case of the poet who wrote the 32nd Psalm. He begins his poem by rejoicing in the happiness of a man who has had his sins forgiven. The forgiving touch of God does indeed bring joy to the heart. But the sense of God's presence had not always been a delight. (We can assume that this poet is talking about his own experience, not some other person's.)



Dr. Foreman

God Has a Heavy Hand

He writes: "Day and night thy (God's) hand was heavy upon me." He suffered not only spiritual depression, but he had been physically worn-down too. Doctors today will tell you about "psychosomatic" ailments; that is, troubles which begin in the mind but which affect muscles and nerves and bones. Every hospital has patients who would not need to be there if they could come to terms with themselves and their problems. Ministers and hospital chaplains and psychiatrists know that often the only cure for an illness is not miracle-pills or an operation, but (so to speak) an operation on the soul. This is a modern re-discovery of what the Psalmist knew long ago, that a guilty conscience can actually bring on a fever and make a man lose weight and strength. God is in touch with sinners; but his touch is not to them a tender one.

Turning-point

The turning-point in that poet's experience came at the point where he "declared his sin,"—when he

broke down and confessed. There is no mention here of an "instructor" who stood in the way. The sinner faced God directly. He made his confession at first hand.

Much is said about a "penitent" God. He is even thought of as a kind of gigantic forgiving-machine with pardons rolling out like papers from a printing-press at all. God's forgiveness is not like that. The Bible said to be angry with conditions. The condition is, certainly not a great deal better, or even better, before God will consider doing anything for you. That's the condition. The condition is to face your self, your actual self, your selfish mean self, get a good look at it, and be ashamed. The condition that you realize you cannot do anything for yourself, you don't need to do anything for yourself. What you need is forgiveness from a higher power, nothing short of God.

On God's Way

After God has forgiven you, what? Do I sit down and contemplate his grace? Do I spend the rest of my life singing about God's forgiveness? Not so. It is true, the experience of relief, release and joy overwhelms one who has repented and confessed, has inspired another forgiven sinner, and only the author of Psalm 138 writes poetry describing his experience. But most of life is not poem-writing. Life for the forgiven man is like a road, it stretches into the future, and it is not clear daylight on that road. Confusing shadows lie across the road. The forgiven man needs guidance. That is the point of verses 8 and 9 of Psalm 32. The forgiven man is in touch with God in a new way: this is his guide. He had been a fractious mule, pulling away from God all the time, and feeling from the bit pulled tight. Now he tells him to be a man, not a mule any longer, a man, not a mule, a man who can follow direct counsel, a man who has his ear and mind to the wise counsel of God. This is something more than a man on the way of God, there is something less than loving God is not given man looks back and that, God's once heavy hand on him not to destroy him but to lead him into God's true way.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

EDITORS NOTE: During the next few weeks Mr. Smith will be on tour through the southern states and in attendance at the National Association of County Agriculture Agents in Miami, Fla. His column will be in the form of a report on farm activities wherever his trip takes him.



MAX SMITH

FROM NORTH CAROLINA—The groves of cigarette tobacco are marketing the crop through the organized auctions. Much interest is shown at these auctions and many farmers attend (Lancaster Countians aren't the only ones who like to attend sales.) The baskets of gold colored leaves reflect careful handling and a specialized, hand-labor farm product. Sale value is based on market grade and buyer competition.

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA—The agriculture here is very similar to that in North Carolina with tobacco, peaches and cotton fields quite common. The area is well adapted to grassland crops, thus the reason for herds of beef cattle. Many acres of idle land observed from the highway. Lumber mills and wood manufacturers are very common.

FROM GEORGIA—The great peach state has only the roadside stands as evidence of this great product. Cotton fields are still producing and many growers are completing the picking operations. Larger producers have mechanical pickers while others use local labor. Dairy and beef herds are still out on pasture.

FROM FLORIDA—The sunshine state brings back hot mid summer weather to this tourist. The agriculture here is quite diversified between geographic areas. In the central area of the central section we find orange and grapefruit groves covering thousands of acres, at this season the producers are starting to pick and pack the crop. Until the recent hurricane a bumper crop was predicted, but now only about a 60% crop is expected. To see these groves from horizon to horizon (20 to 30 miles) is very spectacular. Southern Florida is so flat and low that drainage ways hamper progress. Thousands of acres of swamp and brushland did not impress this extension agent. The scattered herds of dairy cattle, Brahmas, and other mixtures of cattle utilize this sparsely-inhabited country. Dairy herds are few, but large, in Florida. The usual range is from 20 to 5,000 head per herd. Cows are loose-housed and grain silage and pasture make up the bulk of the ration. Milk producers are also distributors.

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