

FROM WHERE WE STAND Farm Changes And Nostalgia

American agriculture has come in for some pretty startling changes in the past decade, but many of the changes which have come to the farm have come in much more intense form to the urban areas.

After reading the following editorial, we wanted to share it with the readers of Lancaster Farming. We hope you get the feeling, as we did, that many of the things the writer wished for in his nostalgia are still a part of Rural America. Anyway, here it is for your pleasure. It is called "Nothing To Do."

With the advent of summer today's children find their time neatly mapped out with supervised and organized recreation; the merits of which we are not disputing. Still most will admit that youngsters now are missing what used to be known as "nothing to do."

Now "nothing to do" was a period of contemplation during which the kids decided what to do next. It might last a few minutes or it might go on for days. It was wholly dependent on the ingenuity of the individual for results.

Results might be baseball, which amounted to a ball, a bat and a vacant lot. Swims were taken in contaminated creeks, which no one knew were contaminated, so of course it didn't bother folks at all.

Air conditioning works against "nothing to do" by making kids so comfortable they can do more things. The heat can no longer be used as an excuse for idleness. Time was when the front porch and the rocking chair was an integral part of the American summer scene. Children paddled under the mist of lawn sprinklers while their parents sat on the porch, rocking and fanning and occasionally calling out to a neighbor.

Those over 25 must surely retain some of the nostalgia for summer sounds, now shout out by air conditioning. Those at dusk were best; small children put to bed before dark were lulled by the voices of older children still busy at play in the yard. Somewhere in the neighborhood a lawn mower began its purr across the grass and just before sleep glazed the eyes of every young, a train whistle could be heard in the distance.

Time marches on and leading authorities say that yearning over the past is a sign of immaturity; but in the hustle and bustle of the world we live in today perhaps a sigh for "nothing to do" isn't too childish.

Brewton (Ala.) Standard

And here is another called "A Tear For Sassafras." It appears editors around the country are a nostalgic lot. There must be a moral there somewhere, but at the moment, we can't locate it.

Not too many years ago one of the greatest pleasures a young boy had

was chewing the bark of the sassafras tree. It ranked right up with swimming in the raw, making whistles with blades of grass or the tips of young tree limbs and providing homes for young frogs and snakes in trouser pockets.

It's a sign of the times that most of these pleasures have been superseded by more refined and dignified practices. Now comes an announcement that disturbs even the memory of sassafras chewing and disrupts the long-respected use of sassafras tea as a beverage and supposed cure for all manner of illness.

The U. S. Food and Drug Administration has prohibited the use of sassafras oil for flavoring foods and beverages, particularly root beer, acting formally upon the findings of a special scientific committee which describes the extract of the tree as a "weak hepatic carcinogen." Many bottling firms already have changed to substitute flavoring preparations.

What this means is we must no longer partake of the juice of the sassafras because it is a potential cause of cancer. In research laboratories the extract has produced cancer of the liver in test animals. This is an indication that it might do the same to the human organism.

The scientists who made this discovery probably know what they are talking about and we will undoubtedly be wise to follow their advice.

Still, one cannot help shedding a nostalgic tear for the passing of another time-honored custom. A host of pleasant memories go with it.

Carthage (Mo.) Evening Press

But while we are at it, we can't resist including this one along the same vein, but with a different slant. It puts the foregoing into a slightly different light.

Those who seem to get their greatest pleasure out of facing backward and dreaming of the "good old days" keep talking of the "self reliance" of our pioneers.

In that brave time we are reminded no one worried about housing or health standards or surplus crops. It was every man for himself.

We ought to remember, however, that in those days there was free land, virtually no taxes of any kind, and the Army supplied the police power, such as it was.

Disease ran unchecked, schools were few and far between, roads were muddy tracks, and beef-fat candles made the only light.

It is heroic and romantic viewed in retrospect. It was pretty miserable in fact.

Times-Journal, Chilton, Wis.

If there are any conclusions to be drawn, they can be drawn by you. At least that's how it looks from where we stand.

Letters To The Editor

Editor, Lancaster Farming
Dear Sir:

We like your paper. We get a lot of helpful information about farming, especially in Max Smith's column. Please extend our subscription three years.

Thank,
Gideon S. Zook
Quarryville, R2.

Editor, Lancaster Farming
Dear Sir:

Just a few words to say that I consider your editorial of July 29th to have been one of your best. I believe that it would be good for all Americans to read. I never stopped to consider the fact that high living is more to blame than the high cost of living. I am sure this is true for the majority of the American people.

Once again, my congratulations on your excellent editorial.

Yours truly,
Jacob K. Kurtz, Jr.
Ephrata, Pa.

Drinking Cups In Trees? Let Them Be

If you see a green paper drinking cup hanging in a tree leave it alone, the State Department of Agriculture asks. The cups are a new type of gypsy moth trap being used for the first time this year in Pennsylvania.

Formerly on green metal cans were used to trap the male gypsy moth, but this year both kinds of traps are being used.

Both types of traps are baited with a material which attracts male moths from distances of up to a half mile. The inside of the can is coated with an adhesive that will trap and hold any moth attracted to the trap. The traps are hung in the lower branches of trees in both rural and urban areas.

The traps will be inspected periodically throughout the summer.

A similar program carried out last year produced no evidence of infestation in Pennsylvania, so the survey this year will cover an area

of 7 million acres

Gypsy moth caterpillars are destructive defoliators and killers of forest, shade and orchard trees. The insect is widespread in eastern New York and the New England states. State and federal agencies have been fighting the pest in Pennsylvania for 29 years. It is because of the close proximity of the generally infested area that a close watch is being maintained to guard against reinfestation.

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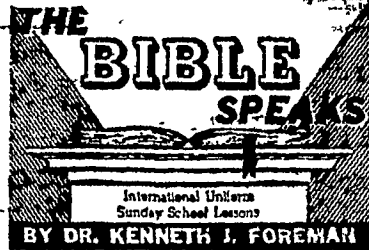
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This Was She

Lesson for August 6, 1961

THE LAST judgment is God's; but the first judgment is the neighbors'. The very first is the family's, to be sure; but Dorcas' family is not mentioned. Dorcas is one character whom we never



see alive; all we know of her is what the neighbors thought of her at the time she died. Everything was ready for the funeral, till some one thought of sending for Simon Peter. Perhaps they expected the miracle, perhaps not. At any rate, Simon played... and there was no funeral after all.

Remembered—For What?

A funeral is a great place for memories. Every one comes early and they sit there thinking about their memories of the one who has died. And after the funeral they talk with one another about the one they all remember. But if people are remembered, it is always because of something in particular. One man is remembered for his funny stories, another for his bad temper, another for his sharpness in business, another because he was the governor. Good, bad or indifferent, we shall all be remembered for something or other. This Dorcas was remembered for clothes—not the clothes she wore but those she had made for others. In those days a widow had no way of earning an income, and life insurance was unheard of. So Dorcas had with her own hands made many a garment for poor widows—and that was what the women brought to the funeral. Suppose Dorcas had been a dreamer and an intender? Suppose she had thought that making clothing for poor neighbors was somehow beneath her dignity? Suppose she had dreamed of some big thing, like changing the world so there would never be any poor people anywhere? Good intentions

—dead good intentions—remembered at the funeral they are not cherished. A handkerchief actually made for a princess' wardrobe but unmade.

They Wanted Her Back

Most people at a funeral tell you they wish they had or him—back again. But stories about "dead" people lying up in their caskets and panic in the audience. Most who have acquired the title—like "the late John Smith" they came back three days after their funeral, and themselves in an embarrassing position. Somebody else have the old job, maybe sure would be living in a house... worst of all, many nice things that were at the funeral, it's too bad it all by going back, and not quite the same you want to be by the preacher.

People really want to be remembered only if you are truly unique. Dorcas was that rare kind of person. Her needle and thread practical skill, all gone now, was no one to take her place. People wanted her back, just as Even God wanted her back. Peter's prayer would be in vain—How much would you leave if you died?

Seven-day Religion

We do not know what Dorcas professed. Would she have been a Roman Catholic, a Presbyterian? We do not know. How long every day did she sit reading the Bible? High church or low church did she do with her Sabbath? We do not know—not that said about these items we came to that upon other things the women brought were things that Dorcas made week-days, no doubt. It she did on week-days in her memorabilia and beliefs we do know one thing: her mind and heart. She was simply a "disciple" of the Lord. A follower of the Lord who believed in him above all else. Having said this important about Dorcas, Luke went on to say, she was full of works and charity. May be full of enthusiasm—of a true doctrine—of a true education, or what was not the point. That the way she was remembered was full of good works.

(Based on outline copy of the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches in the U. S. A. Community Press Service)

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO STRETCH PASTURE SEASON—livestock producers realize the value of good pasture late in the fall again quite early next spring. Top pasture crops seeded during August and early September will provide this year's Domestic ryegrass or field brome. These are annual grasses adapted to this area. In addition they are very good crops for erosion control. Winter crops such as rye and wheat may be seeded at any time for forage and cover crops.

TO MAKE ALFALFA SEEDING — Mid-August to the 10th to the 25th is the best time to make summer seeding of alfalfa. This permits time for sufficient growth before the cold weather sets in. The ground should be limed and tilled according to a complete soil test and be fine and firm. Band-seeding is the recommended application followed by rolling or cultipacking in the direction of the rows.

TO EVALUATE TOBACCO SUCKER CONTROL—fields of tobacco will soon be ready for harvest. If MH-30 is to be used on the crop, then growers should permit the plants to reach a stage of maturity when at least 75% of the plants have one or more open flowers. Delay spraying for 3 to 5 days after topping, and use not more than 4 to 5 pints per acre. Growers should make their own decision as to using this chemical. They should keep the above items in mind toward quality tobacco.

TO FLUSH THE EWE FLOCK—The breeding ewes should be in a gaining condition at time of breeding. Experience has given a larger percentage of twins. Flock owners are urged to turn their ewes on flush feed or give additional grain for two to three weeks before start of the breeding season; feed 1½ to 2 pounds per head daily. Many good shepherds permit the breeding ewe flock only during the night for the breeding