

From Where We Stand . . .

Land And People Conferences

The United States Department of Agriculture has slated a series of five regional "Land and People" conferences during the months of September and October

One of these conferences is to be held in Philadelphia on October 22 and 23 The other ones will take place in Missouri, Oregon, Colorado and Louisiana

The public has been invited to participate in all of these conferences Specifically, the Secretary of Agriculture is inviting both rural and urban leaders alike to come and discuss matters of vital concern to Rural Development and Conservation.

At each of the conferences a panel of regional speakers familiar with local conditions, headed by the governor of the host state, will present information on two basic subjects — Rural Changes in our Region and Stimulating Economic Growth in Rural Areas.

At one session of the conferences the public will have an opportunity to express individual views in discussion groups Each discussion group will have a recorder who will attempt to capture the consensus of the group to be reported to the final session of the conference

The four discussion groups include the following topics:

1 How can family farms be strengthened for rural improvement and development?

2 How can uses and conservation of land and water expand income, employment and better living in rural communities?

3 How can planning and implementation of economic development for a county or rural area be accomplished?

4 How important is Rural-urban community planning?

There will be many in Lancaster County who will say we have no need for such a conference and no good can come from such a meeting. We are sure the last part of this thought will be true unless there are rural leaders and farmers willing to attend the conferences with an open mind and a willingness to discuss and act upon mutual problems

Lancaster County certainly is in a most fortunate position economically compared to many counties of the state, but this is not to say there are no problems here.

We believe Lancaster County does have problems of rural-urban relationships that need to be aired and discussed at such a conference. We believe great good could come from such a conference, but we believe that great good will not come unless the conference is well attended.

If you feel that Lancaster County should be represented along with the other rural counties of Pennsylvania and the other northeast states, we urge you

to make an effort to attend one or all the sessions in the Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia.

This is an opportunity to let the U.S. Department of Agriculture know what the farmer is thinking. It may do little good to attend the conference, but it does NO good to complain about programs after they have been initiated.

Further information about the conferences is available from the Farmers Administration. We urge all rural people to become informed about these meetings and to attend them if possible. We owe that much to ourselves in the interest of rural Lancaster County.

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



Neighbor's Crabgrass

Once in a while we run across something written by someone else that we would just like to share with the readers of this column Especially is this true if the piece hits particularly close home

Such is the following article written for a farm magazine by a Ruth Norton. It caused us to take a look at our garden Perhaps you will look at yours too

"Bothered By Neighbor Crab Grass? The other day I was looking at my neighbor's garden, and couldn't help thinking that the weeds were flourishing as well as the flowers When I came home, I looked at my own garden and to my amazement saw weeds I didn't know were there One short, critical glance was enough to reveal my neighbor's weeds, but I missed my own—and I see my garden every day. How easy it is, I thought, to reform other people—but how much more difficult to "weed" out our own faults.

"A woman I know moved into a run-down neighborhood. She tended to be critical of her neighbors at first, but hit upon the idea of washing her own doorstep spotlessly clean. Day after day she scrubbed, saying nothing about it. Within a few months, the neighbors were using their own scrub brushes.

"Instead of criticizing a friend or relative, wouldn't it be better if we took a closer look at our own faults and tried to improve ourselves? We might find that the very thing we criticized is something we have been guilty of ourselves.

"Try looking for the good things in others, and you will be a happier and better person for it. And don't forget to keep that garden weeded!"



The magazine, Chain Store Age, reports that sales of canned and bottled juices by the food chains will top \$330 million this year. The typical American family spends \$154 a year for these products.



dairy enterprise that I know would be of interest to you The barn we have built has proven more than satisfactory - cow comfort, good labor efficiency and automatic silage feeding without expensive mechanical device, to say nothing of low investment per cow

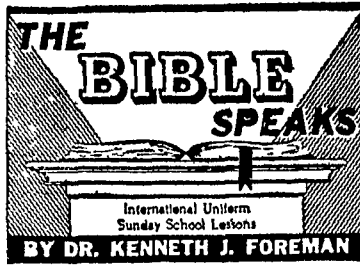
You will also be interested in our hybrid poplar project

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We this year made a small planting on the old iron ore bank east of Elverson. This bank has been completely bare of vegetation in the fifty years I have known it The results of this planting show a lot of promise for the many ugly eyesores in the open pit iron and coal mining areas

Sincerely yours,
Miles W. Fry

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

Bible Material: Haggai; Zechariah 4 6-10, 5 18-22, Ezra 3, 4 24, 5 6-11
Devotional Reading: Psalm 96 1-6.

Start and Finish

Lesson for September 9, 1962

THE TWO parts or stages of any job, or of any enterprise, which are the hardest, are starting and finishing. It is more difficult to set a great liner on her way, harder to bring it through the harbor traffic at the end of the voyage, than to handle the ship on open water in mid-voyage. It is harder for a student to get himself organized and get to work, than it is to keep going once he has started. And it is harder to bring that term paper together as it ought to be finished up, than it was to write on and on. What were the critical moments in the historic space flight of Col John Glenn? Getting off the pad and into orbit, and re-entering the atmosphere and being picked up by a ship, were much trickier and dangerous than roaring through space at 17,000 miles an hour.



Dr. Foreman

The Blueprint's Getting Yellow
Once there was a church that decided to build a new sanctuary. They employed an architect, who drew up plans, and had blueprints made. Then the church officers began to be afraid they didn't have quite enough money, so they put off starting . . . and kept on putting it off for years Nobody had a bad conscience about it, because they had started, hadn't they? But finally it dawned on a new preacher there that the blueprints were actually lost. And when after quite a search he found them, they had begun to look yellow. Not only that, but the town had changed so much that the old blueprints were out of date. Something like that happened in Jerusalem long ago when the second Temple was started. It was 20 years between the time the foundations were finished, and the final work on the building. Indeed if it had not been for those persistent prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, who knows when the Temple would have been finished?

These prophets were an interesting contrast. Zechariah was a dreamer of dreams, a seer of visions; much of his prophecy is obscure to this day. Haggai was no mystic, every word of his prophecy can be plainly understood. But prosaic as Haggai was, and fanciful as Zechariah was, they united on one point: The Temple must be FINISHED. Starting is not enough.

Things Don't Finish Themselves

A mistake that lazy people make is to think that by some kind of magic, things will finish themselves. Who has not known the amateur gardener who in springtime was full of enthusiasm, but whose garden by midsummer looked like the prize weed-bed that it was? Every school knows about the teen-age "drop-outs," the boys and girls who can't take the time or the trouble to finish high school and so all their lives are under the handicap of not having even a high school diploma. Many a woman has a bureau drawer filled with things she started but didn't finish—pieces of sewing, maybe a pile of unfinished letters, photographs she meant to put in her album but stuck in here till they're all curled and mixed up. Teachers of language know too well the student who starts easily enough, and expects the going to be easier and easier once he has passed the first week's lessons . . . and when it doesn't turn out that way, he gives up and gives out.

A Thing Unfinished

A thing unfinished is that way either because it couldn't possibly be finished no matter what, or because although it could have been finished not a soul was willing to work hard enough to get the job done. If a thing stays unfinished because it couldn't be helped, maybe it is a sign of lack of foresight on somebody's part. There is such a thing as starting too soon. Jesus told a parable about a man who started a house when he did not have and could not get money to finish it. One such house stood in a village for years, known for a generation as "So-and-so's Folly." Or maybe the thing is unfinished because no one has the ambition or the gumption to do what it takes to do it right. A contractor once said that he banished the word "practically" from his organization. A thing "practically" done is done all but the most difficult part! A thing unfinished may as well not have been begun.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

My next two reports will be written enroute to and from the annual meeting of County Agricultural Agents at Las Cruces, New Mexico.



MAX M. SMITH

OHIO RIVER VALLEYS — are colored with acres of golden-colored burley tobacco this time of year, this tobacco is planted very thick, grows to six feet in height and turns yellow as it ripens. It is cut, speared on a lath and left in the field several days before hanging in the shed. Crop is on quota and support price.

OZARKS OF MISSOURI — are very scenic and the lumber business is a big one. Highways are full of trucks going to and from the many sawmills; the scent of fresh lumber continues to give this farm boy an appreciation of natural resources and a bigger appetite for supper. Here we find millions of acres of good lumber in the making.

OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS — makes one realize that the west is still mighty big and open country. The ranges are badly eroded where sloping terrain is present. Conservation practices with diversion terraces are being introduced. The livestock visible from the highway are in need of quality improvement and many show the continued presence of Texas Longhorn type. Large acreage of cotton and grain sorghum covers the fertile areas where irrigation water

is available. Many areas of lowland are still under water in these two states; rains have been heavy this summer. Sky-reaching grain elevators dot the horizon in every direction to remind us of the recent grain and cotton scandal of a certain Texan.

NEW MEXICO — will be the most distant of our travels, and possess little of our Lancaster County agriculture. The meek little ranch buildings surrounded by thousands of (Continued on page 5)

—•— Letters

Editor Lancaster Farming

Dear Sir: I want to compliment you on the courage on your editorial on the slowness of the committee to declare Lancaster County a disaster area. I could not see how anyone who knows anything about farming, could drive through the northern part of our county and not realize that many farmers were very seriously hurt. Sectional pride is a poor reason for denying these families of all the help that can be made available to help them.

Also I would like to invite you to stop here at the farm when you can. Our son is in the process of building up a