

From Where We Stand . . .

The Best Use For Every Acre

The soil conservationists have long had a slogan, "Put every acre to its best use."

This might mean putting land now in woodland into a regular cropping system, or it might mean putting crop land into grass or woodland. Or it might mean changing from one type of a cropping system to another.

But have you ever thought it might mean taking land out of agricultural production altogether.

At a recent meeting at the University of Delaware, a land use specialist urged the preparation of a "complete and comprehensive plan of land use" for all land in the United States outside the limits of incorporated cities and villages.

He said the plan should be kept systematically up to date and should be done in cooperation and with appropriate federal, state and local agricultural agencies, along with local professional and civic groups under the leadership of local government.

But, he said, before any such plan could be developed, the planners would have to answer two vital questions. They are (1) What kind of a community do we want to live in?, and (2) What are we willing to do to achieve such a community?

Planning is not new to Lancaster Countians, nor, for that matter, to any people who live in a democracy and are free to go where they want to go and do what they want to do.

We believe, however, that too many of us go along doing the things that seem expedient at the moment without too much thought of the long range consequences of our actions. We have become too prone to let someone else do our planning for us without giving too much thought to the planning until it comes into conflict with our own plans.

We believe the Lancaster County Planning Commission is doing a wonderful job, and we believe that the only thing wrong with its actions is that they were not begun soon enough.

We believe every farmer should consider some of the points below in addition to the restrictions placed upon them by the planning commissions.

We should try to prevent land waste by leapfrogging sub-divisions and intermingled and conflicting land uses and in the destruction of resources.

We should try to reserve our best quality agricultural land for future agricultural use whenever and wherever possible.

We should strive to create new wealth in the development of the land and in the balanced industrial development that uses products especially of the farm and forest.

We should direct new residential developments, whenever possible, to land unfit or unneeded for farm use — the rocky or hilly, rough land.

We should reserve some of the lowland or swampy areas for wildlife development. In the future we will need many such areas for game, fish and wildlife, and once they have been used for industry or commerce, they can hardly ever be restored for wildlife uses.

We must strive to achieve a balance

in the use of land as a means of creating all-year industrial employment. Fat cities do not grow on lean countryside.

We must be alert and vigilant in keeping the countryside beautiful. The growth of automobile graveyards, garbage and disposal dumps and litter along the highways, unsightly farmsteads and barnyards, trailers scattered throughout the countryside, industries that emit noxious fumes and odors and billboards that line the highways in all sizes, shapes, colors, and in all stages of deterioration do not add to the beauty of a community, nor do they help to attract new business or tourists.

All these are important, but we believe we in Lancaster County must look carefully to preserving our basic recreational uses of land. We will need all the recreational land and water resources we have and can develop for the future.

In order to promote more recreational uses of land, the Agriculture Conservation and Stabilization Service has said that land under the Conservation Reserve program can still be used for most recreational programs. The Farmers Home Administration is now accepting applications for loans for rural recreation facilities.

We believe there is room in Lancaster County for more rural recreation. We believe this land use should be encouraged and developed much more extensively. It should not be necessary for residents of this county to drive hundreds of miles to enjoy a vacation. We believe recreation facilities could be developed right here at home, but first we have to ask ourselves, What kind of a community do we want, and what are we willing to do to get it?

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

★ ★ ★ ★ Think of That!

The farm worker in 1955-1959, compared to 1910-1914, produced, in one hour, 100 percent more milk, 125 percent more eggs, 427 percent more broilers, and enough grain to make 493 percent more flour.

★ ★ ★ ★ New Danish Invention

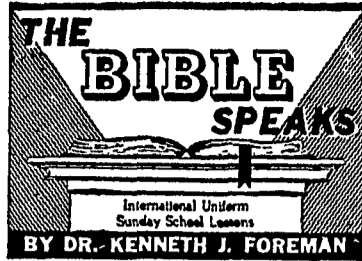
The Danish dairy industry has developed an "egg" made of plastic film, which is used as a container for butter. The eggs are filled under sterile conditions and are particularly suited for picnics or where refrigeration is not available.

★ ★ ★ ★ What Is An American?

"An American is a fellow who sips Brazilian coffee from an English cup while sitting on Danish furniture after coming home in a German car from an Italian movie . . . and writes his Congressman with a Japanese ballpoint pen demanding that he do something about all the gold that's leaving the country . . ."

★ ★ ★ ★ What We Digest

"It is not what we eat but what we digest that makes us strong; not what we gain but what we save that makes us rich; not what we read but what we remember that makes us learned; and not what we profess but what we practice that makes us Christian."



He Will Come

Lesson for March 31, 1963

Bible Material: Mark 13:1 through 14:9
Devotional Reading: I Thessalonians 5:1-11.

THE words "Second Coming" always mean one particular Coming. Millions of persons every day in the world come a second time to some place or other; but that is not what Second Coming means. When spelled with capitals, the expression refers to Christ in the future. He came; that is important. He comes; every day that is true. He will come; this is important too. Christians have engaged in endless debates, more's the pity, about the Second Coming, — mostly questions about it that no one can answer beforehand. But whatever their differences, all branches and varieties of the Christian faith agree that Christ will reign; that at long last He will be in fact and not only in hope, the Ruler of this world.

Literal or figurative?

What is said about the Second Coming is not entirely simple and clear. If it were, there would not be so many arguments about it. One question that no one can answer to every one's satisfaction is: Are the predictions and the descriptions of it to be taken literally or figuratively? Taken literally, they raise difficulties. For example, in one of the verses from Mark in this week's lesson, it is said that Jesus will come "in the clouds." Does this mean literal clouds such as you can fly through, and often fly over? Men come in the clouds to every airport. What is special about that? And if you say that these are not ordinary water-drop clouds, but something never seen before, you have decided the meaning must be figurative. But still the difficulty is not gotten rid of, for a figure of speech always means something. We could go through all the expressions connected with the Second Coming, and note the difficulties of understanding all of them;



Dr. Foreman

but let us rather fix our attention on a few points that we can least partly understand.

The power and the glory, . . . We may not be able to figure out the "clouds" but we know something of what Power and Glory mean. The main truth here that Christ's Second Coming will not be obscure, humble, unwelcomed by most people, as was the First Coming. Jesus will reign. He reigns even now in the hearts of multitudes, but His reign is always visible. His Second Coming will reveal Himself to the world with a splendor and force that no man can doubt. Sometimes a wealthy person will fall in love with another person who may be quite poor by comparison. The rich lover may conceal the fact of his wealth. He wants to be loved for himself, not for his stock and bonds. So it may be that Christ, heir to the glory of the heavenly Father, wishes now in these present days, to be loved for Himself,—to be obeyed out of love and devotion. No one, seeing Jesus in power and glory, would wish to be anywhere else but on His side. So the power and the glory come at the end, not at the beginning.

Live as if—

Jesus said plainly that even the Son (meaning Himself) does not know "of that day and that hour," so we waste our ingenuity making up timetables for Him. He will come when the time is. One other thing Jesus made plain: His followers ought to live every day as if that Coming were to take place before tonight. This does not mean that we must shut our stores and factories and every one go home to pray. It means that wherever we are, if we are on the right trail it is our God-given duty to stay on it. If we are doing a good work it is our duty to finish it, as if He were coming to inspect it at six o'clock.

Live, in short, as in His sight; this is the old and always new command. But is He not always here? Yes—He can and He does live in the heart with the opened door. We have to remember this: God knows exactly as much about our lives, inside and out, as He could know if Jesus in person walked in the door with a fountain pen in His hand to make notes for a report for the Last Judgment.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

To Read The Label

Spring has arrived and much field and garden work will be done in the coming months. Agricultural chemicals play a very important part in modern agriculture; used correctly they contribute toward greater and more efficient production. All farmers and spray operators are urged to be safe and sure by following directions and the labels on all spray material containers.

To Graze Livestock Carefully

Some producers will be able to graze their livestock in the near future on special forage crops or on pasture crops with extra



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nitrogen applications. The animals should be managed carefully by allowing them on the fresh grass only a short time (10 to 15 minutes) for the first several days, and only after they have consumed a normal feeding of silage, hay, or other dry matter. Dairymen are urged to graze their milking herd after the milking period and at least 4 to 5 hours prior to the next milking time.

To Drain The Wet Spots

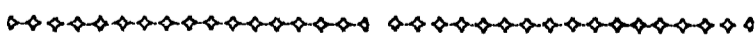
Land owners with wet areas in their fields should give this problem some attention at this time of the year. Drain tile may be installed to remove the extra water in cultivated areas, and open ditches may be made for this purpose in pasture or woodland. Good drainage is essential to top crop yields and in most instances the investment will be worthwhile.

To Plant Shrubby And Trees

The months of April and May are ideal times to transplant nearly all kinds of trees and shrubs for landscaping purposes. These early spring plantings have the advantage of the wet, cool weather before the summer heat arrives. Roots should be either covered with a ball of earth during transport or be wrapped and kept moist at all times. Keep all kinds of fertilizer away from the roots at planting time.

Wait Awhile

Don't let a few warm days push you into the garden while the soil is too wet to work, warns Lynn Smith, Penn State extension floriculturist. Working wet soil puddles it and when dried out, it stays hard all summer.



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