# From Where We Stand . . . The Country Editor's Job

"You must really have an interesting job," a friend said recently.

His simple observation started us on a chain of thoughts that went a long way around Robinson's barn and back again, but then we had to agree that we have just about the most interesting job in the whole world.

The job is interesting because it is life - life of every day which goes to make up eternity

And what is life but a succession of days that fall, one after another, as the autumn leaves drop from the red oak

Life is only as good or as interesting as the alloted days which make up its allotted time. Each man must live his life for what he believes in.

We believe in democracy.

We believe that the liberty of the mind and freedom of the spirit which democracy has struggled to provide is the best hope of mankind for a happy life on this planet. We believe that nowhere in this nation is the spirit of democracy better preserved than in the rural families of the nation.

Because we believe this, the job is interesting.

To a country editor there are opportunities unlimited to help promote and preserve and develop democracy.

It is a good day when an editor can add to the education of his readers, when he can increase their understanding of the principles of our government, our institutions and how they can help every man achieve the best that is in him.

It is a good day when an editor can help his readers communicate with each other — when he can help them understand each other's problems, for democracy is based on communication.

It is a good day when an editor can write something that adds to the community's store of good will, for only where there is good will can men live lives of dignity.

It is a good day when an editor can report the accomplishments of some young people, for it is always easier to criticise members of the coming generation than it is to pat them on the back.

It is a satisfying day when an editor can look back on something accomplished — a new or better method accepted, a group working in cooperation for the betterment of the community, a wilderness park set aside here and a tree planted there and a spot of beauty another place, the development of a feeling of compassion that makes the community a more pleasant place in which to live.

But there are bad days mixed with the good.

It is a frustrating day when there is so much to be done to meet the obligations of an editor — and so little time in which to do it.

It is a bad day when a friend pleads with you to leave something out of the paper, or modify it, and you know that integrity and the interest of the public demand that it be printed just the way it happened.

It is a troubled day when you know your readers want to know the results of a board meeting and you know the board doesn't want you there.

It is a trying day when your best efforts leave unsaid the things you most want your readers to know, and the plain facts do not begin to convey the grief or agony or despair or the happiness or joy of the principal figures.

It is a lonely day when you know that the editorial stand you are about to take will make you terribly unpopular.

But the good days and the bad rush on to fill the life.

What does one remember of all the accumulated days?

We remember the pleasant friendships of those with whom we shared hours of triumph, and the close bond of friendship of those with whom we shared times of disappointment.

We remember the quiet way in which people rally to help a neighbor in distress and the way competitors congratulate the winner when the contest is done. We remember the friendly interest in neighbors and families and the words of encouragement when things look darkest.

We remember the fresh air of springtime, the lazy days of summer, the colorful, brisk days of autumn, and the deep snows of winter when friends and neighbors all pitch in for the common good.

But most of all we remember the heartwarming remark of a reader, "That was a real good article in last week's paper", or the loyal support of a steady reader who says, "I liked the editorial last week; it was just what needed to be

Is there any wonder, then, that we say this is the most interesting job in the world.

To prove it to himself, the country editor needs only to forget himself and remember:

"The noblest motive is the public

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

### B

Favor Store Foods - Farm wives favor store food. Consumption of agricultural products on farms where they were produced has dropped 60 percent since 1943. This decline reflects a reduction in the number of farms and in the farm population but many wives also favor the easy-to-cook foods now available at grocery stores, say government officials.

Parson Needs Waking - When a the nation. There are plenty of natural evergreen trees for all needs waking.



## **Praised By God**

Lesson for December 8, 1963

Bible Material: Acts 9 10-25; II Counthians 10 through 13 Devotional Reading: II Corinthians 12 6-

EVEN THE most conceited person is not satisfied with his own opinion of himself. We all like to be liked. There is nothing wrong about praise, nothing wrong about the pleasure there is in being praised. A danger lurks here,

to be sure. It is all too easy to take flattery for sincere commenda. tion. It is easy to forget that, for the most part, "praise is like perfumery, meant to be smelt, not to be swallowed."

Dr. Foreman Nevertheless it is disheartening to work hard without a word of praise—to give the best one has to a piece of work only to find that nobody cares about it one way or the other. At this point we should ask ourselves: Am I making life's burden heavier for some one just by keeping my mouth shut? Am I too tight about saying a good word for others? Could a word from me be the very thing to keep-someone out of despair?

#### Commending myself

Nobody loves a braggart. Great and good men have sometimes been called on to defend what they have done, and so is small. recounting what they have been doing and accomplishing, they may give the impression of bragging. Even Jesus and Paul ran into this. Jesus made it quite clear that he did not mean to praise himself, and so it was with Paul. The Apostle mixes with his own story, as he told it, a good many apologies for sounding like a boaster. He leaned over backwards to keep from commending himself. It is easy to see why I am not the best judge of my own actions. I am always prejudiced in my own favor-that is an almost universal human weakness. So my good opinion of myself

doesn't count. True I have to live with myself, and I do need a good conscience (and Paul expressed this at various times); but if the only good opinion of me is my own, I'd better stop and think about myself all over again.

Praise from others

Consider the important part played by praise, sincere commendation, in the lives of most people. Little children hear it from their mothers and are the better for it. They learn to walk and talk because some one gives them a smile and a "big hand" for those, first little efforts at toddling or, prattling. Children at school like to come home with a good report: card hey may be much more interes'd in what mom or dad think of that card than in what! the teacher thought. A good home, it has been said, is a mutual admiration society. Especially, falling in love brings this out. The praise of the loved one is exaggerated; each may love the other for qualities that aren't really there. Yet love is such a miracle worker that the praise of a loved one may bring out qualities and graces which, without that praise, might never have been awakened. Recommended by God

You won't get any argument on the proposition: The commendation of God himself is more than worth all that a man can say of himself or his friends can say about him. Where the argument starts, is on how we can know it is God's commendation. Again Jesus and his disciple Paul have much the same answer. By their fruits you shall know them, said Jesus, God does not have to send down a horticultural angel to tack a label on a tree: THIS IS A FIGTREE. (Signed: The Almighty.) No, if it bears figs and the figs are good, you don't need to have God's recommendation spelled out. The tree speaks for itself, by its fruit. In the same vein, Paul, in defending himself from his numerous critics, points to what he has been doing and how he has been doing it, as evidence that God has approved him and his work. If the question still haunts anyone, What does God in his infinite wisdom think of me? one straight answer is: Are you doing the kind of things Jesus did? God's main work in this world is to draw men to himself. Does your life, what you are and do, bring others a bit closer to God? Are you making God credible?

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## Now Is The

#### BY MAX SMITH

## To Summarize Farm Records

Modern farming is big business and accurate records are a necessity. With the end of the year approaching we suggest that the farm records be studied carefully to determine the enterprises that were the most protitable and the ones that should be dropped. From the records, practices can be changto increase the net return Farm are not only needed as far as the Internal Revenue tolks are concerned but should be used as a guide to future operations and farm planning

#### To Buy A Real Christmas Tree

The growing of Christmas Trees is big business in many parts of Pennsylvania and

congregation sleeps it's the parson that families each year We arge all folks to buy a real tree, rather than an artificial tree, and help a farmer friend move his product.

MAX SMITH

Many farm buildings become damp and drrp water during the winter months, this is caused by the animal heat in the building increasing the air temperature, which causes condensation when the warm air comes into contact with a cold windows and walls will sweat. The covering of the floor above Entered as 2nd class matter the animals with 4 to 6 inches the side walls may need some

To Insulate Walls and Ceilings ture and dampness will detract from animal comfort and lower the soundness of the building.

#### To Exercise Dairy Herd

The practice of allowing the milking herd some daily outside exercise on a paved lot or barnyard is still a good management practice. This provides the herd owner a chance to recognize any health conditions in the cow, contributes will eliminate this problem; the herd, and improved cow comfort. Many breeding proinsulation, or the investment blems may be reduced or elimof an electric exhaust fan ven- inated through this daily ex-· 12. .. rulation system? Excess mors- ercise practice.

## To The Editor

Lancaster Farming PO Box 1524

Letters

Lancaster, Pa We certainly appreciate the Lancaster Farming Paper coming into our home. The day it arrives, somehow it gets read before our daily newspaper The material contained therein, is of an excellent var- Phone - Lancaster

Yours truly,

C. Oliver Kibler

Washington Boro

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at Lititz, Pa. under Act of of hay, straw, or corn fodder to stronger feet and legs in March 8, 1879.

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