

From Where We Stand . . .

The Changing Family Farm

We have heard so much about large corporation type farms, contract farming, vertical integration, and the death of the small farm that we are sometimes prone to think that the family farm is a dead institution.

This just is not true.

It is true that farms and farming methods are undergoing a revolution. It is true that we may have to revise our concept of what makes a family farm. It is no longer possible to "go into farming" with 40 acres and a mule. Farming is becoming a business conducted on a much larger scale with infinitely more automatic equipment, but does the addition of acres, more livestock or equipment remove the enterprize from the ranks of a family farm.

In a recent survey by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it was found that more and more of the sales of farm products are coming from farms with more than \$40,000 gross annual business, but even though the farms, and the total volume of their business are getting larger, most of them continue to be family businesses in which the operators and family members are risk-taking managers doing most of the farm work.

Technological advances have not materially changed the traditional pattern of family farms as the dominant unit of American agriculture.

True, it requires a great deal of capital to become established in agriculture today, but it never was easy to get into farming on a profitable scale. In retrospect, the good old days seem to have offered many advantages to the young man interested in a farming career, but we believe most of the advantages have been exaggerated in the minds of farmers as they look back to their youthful, vigorous days when no problem looked big and all opportunity looked grand.

We believe there is still opportunity in agriculture. We believe there is still room for the family farm, and we believe there will be for a long time yet to come.

The best way for a young man to become established in farming is to in-

herit a good farm and a growing business, but wasn't this always so. While it requires a huge sum of money to put a farm on a paying basis, money is more plentiful than it was in grandfather's day. That is not to say it is any easier to borrow capital than it was a hundred years ago, but if you think it was easy for grandpa to borrow money in his youth, just ask him.

Grandpa knew, just as his grandchildren of today must know, farming is not an easy life. There is no royal road to success in farming. It takes money, and it takes work — now just as it did in the good old days.

There are very few ways to make easy money on the farm today. We doubt if there ever was any way to make easy money, except for a few isolated instances when all the breaks came one way. Competition is growing stronger every day, but competition never made anyone weak.

We do not believe that the family farm is dying. It is changing, as everything must change, and farmers must change with the times — their ideas, their methods, maybe even their philosophies of rural living — or the change will break them.

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

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Farm Fire Losses Climb — Farm fire losses reached an all-time high of \$175 million during 1962, the USDA has reported. This was 7 percent above the \$163 million loss in 1961.

★ ★ ★ ★
Develop Rotating House — A house that rotates on a hub to follow the sun or adjustable to wind directions and scenic view is among 176 inventions listed by Small Business Administration in November, available for commercial development.

★ ★ ★ ★
Top That! — From the Laramie, Wyo. Daily Boomerang: "There's a line on the ocean where you lose a day when you cross it. There's a line on the highway where you can do even better."

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Members Vote For Merger With GLF At Eastern States Convention

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., February 19 — Consolidation of Eastern States Farmers' Exchange and Cooperative Grange League Federation Exchange was approved by members attending the Eastern States annual meeting here today.

In their special meeting tomorrow in Syracuse, New York, GLF members will vote on the proposal to consolidate the two regional cooperatives.

In their meeting, Eastern States members heard the reports of the president, chairman of the executive committee, general manager, and treasurer pertaining to 1963 Eastern States operations and they elected officers and directors to their board of directors which now numbers 53, Eastern States elected or re-

electd 18 directors B Snavely Garber of Willow Street was re-elected to the board of directors. Approximately one-third of the directors (currently 53) are elected each year to hold office for three years.

Two Lancaster County farm youths were among nine honored Wednesday.

They were Carl E. Ginder, Mount Joy R2, and Larry R. Weaver, New Holland R1.

Both county youths were selected on the basis of agricultural activities and community service.

Ginder, eighteen-year-old son of Mr and Mrs Ralph Ginder, is president of the Pennsylvania Future Farmers of America and operates a rented 30-

acre farm.

Weaver, son of Mr and Mrs Lester Weaver, farms in partnership with his father, feeding steers and raising tobacco.

Prune Trees

Most orchard men and landscapers plan to prune trees by the latter part of March because the dormant season is the best for this work. If shade trees are to be pruned or cut back the months of February and March are best suited for the job. Carl Bittner, extension pomologist, at The Pennsylvania State University, advises making clean cuts close to the main limb or trunk so that they will not hold water.

In vocational agriculture, considerable attention is given to training in farm mechanics, involving the selection, care, maintenance and operation of modern farm machinery.



Unforgiven

Lesson for February 23, 1964

Background Scripture: Luke 7:36-50.
 Devotional Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14.

THREE PEOPLE met together that afternoon. There was a crowd in the room but all we know of the story is just what these three persons said and did. If artists had not painted it many times it would seem very strange



to us. There the guests were at the long tables, only lying down, not sitting up straight as we do. No women were guests, but according to custom the outer doors were not kept locked, and Dr. Foreman apparently any one could wander in. The guests were all barefooted; they had kicked off their sandals as a man here would remove his hat. Suddenly a woman, no respectable woman either, appeared behind the place where one of the guests reclined, and began to act in a way which even then seemed more than odd, wetting the guest's feet with tears, wiping them dry with her long hair, pouring on his feet ointment from a beautiful white flask. The woman's name we do not know, for Luke who tells the story was a gentleman; the host was named Simon and the guest was Jesus.

The mind of Simon

Why Simon had invited Jesus we do not know; perhaps from curiosity. He had not treated Jesus with even common courtesy, so we know Jesus was not the guest of honor by any means. Simon had an unpleasant mind. At that moment he was thinking sour thoughts about Jesus and the woman. For her he had no kind thoughts. All he knew about her was her reputation, and that was all he wanted to know. He thought all those tears etcetera were just an act. He was ready to believe the worst about her, not anything good. For Jesus, Simon also had only contempt in his mind. The

reason for this was that Jesus did not seem to despise the woman as Simon did. Either Jesus knew this woman for what she was, or he didn't. If he did, then he was wicked for letting her touch him. If he didn't, then he was a fool. That was the way Simon's mind operated: believe no good about any one.

The mind of a woman

The woman did not say a word from beginning to end. If asked what she was thinking, she might not have been able to make a sensible answer. But Simon could not see what Jesus saw, that this woman was passing through a crisis. Her tears spoke for her. Tears for the wasted years; tears for the sins she had done, for the life she had lived; tears perhaps because she could not turn the clock back and begin life where she had first left the right road—who knows how long ago? Tears for her weakness, for resolutions broken, for shame and for sorrow. She hated what she had been. But she had heard of Jesus. Just the word that he would be there, had brought her to seek him.

The mind of Jesus

Jesus knew what was in the mind of Simon, and what was in the mind of the woman. It is said that Jesus "answered" Simon, though Simon had not spoken a word, only "talking to himself." And he knew what was in the woman's mind, he knew the tears were not acting, they were real; he knew why the woman cried; and though she had not opened her mouth he knew what she really wanted. Did she know, herself? We may believe she did. She wanted to be at peace with God. Happiness, yes, but above all, peace. She knew, if only in a dim confused kind of way, that she had cut herself off from women—for women despise such a woman more than men do; she had cut herself off from clean people, cut herself off from respectable society. But what she wanted was not respectability, it was peace. And so Jesus—who knew not only the mind of men and women, but the mind of God—said the healing word: Your sins are forgiven . . . go in peace. Simon was a Pharisee, and pharisees led sheltered lives. His sins may have been far fewer than the woman's. But Jesus could not say to Simon, Your sins are forgiven. Simon had no tears for his sins, no repentance. And God does not send his peace to those who do not want it.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

To Inoculate Legumes

Growers of alfalfa, red clover, or trefoil should inoculate the seeds before sowing; a few cents worth of legume inoculant will add dollars worth of nitrogen to the soil. The nitrogen-fixing bacteria in the inoculant make it possible for legumes to fix nitrogen from the air. Keep inoculated seed cool and away from sunshine and drying winds.

To Grow Cover Crops

Open land that is not to be farmed this season should be planted to a cover crop this spring. Acres of corn or barley that will go into the feed-grain, government program should not remain open to both wind and water erosion for the summer. Many kinds of cover crops may be sowed this spring that

will hold the soil and build up soil organic matter

To Read the Label on Seeds

Many farmers are seeding weed seeds on their farm by using untested, home-grown clover seed. Seed analyses at the Bureau of Plant Industry at Harrisburg shows over 80% of the home-grown clover seed contains an excessive amount of buckhorn weed seeds. Growers are urged to buy only tested seeds. Farmers with seed for sale are urged to comply with the law and have their seed tested for weed content and germination.

To Prune Shade Trees

Early spring is a good time to prune most all kinds of shade trees (not evergreens). Injured, diseased, or poorly shaped limbs may be removed or trimmed, and the tree properly shaped for the purpose. Limbs over one inch in diameter should be treated with orange shellac or tree paint. Sharp shears and tools are necessary and cuts should be made parallel to the trunk or to the large limbs.

● Stock Yards

(Continued from Page 1)
 and cows sold during the morning, fat cattle at 1 p.m. with feeder cattle to follow.

The nearly-completed sale pavilion will be constructed of steel and concrete, be completely heated and air conditioned, and cost approximately \$75,000.

The Livestock Exchange said any grower may consign cattle through any member of the exchange.

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