

## From Where We Stand . . .

### March Is National Egg Month

March is Egg Month.

Some wag was once heard to say that the moth in a cocoon is the only animal he knew that could eat its way out of trouble.

Now along comes a group of businessmen in Missouri with the idea that we can eat our way out of some of our over supply of foodstuffs.

The Chamber of Commerce in the town of Poplar Bluff, Butler County is sponsoring a campaign for "Better Breakfasts".

A hotel dining room full of hungry school youngsters and their parents were treated to a nutritious model breakfast planned by the county home agent. The children received campaign kits, of information about well balanced breakfasts, which they took back to their classrooms.

There was even a contest with prizes for the four boys and girls who did the best job of telling their classmates about the advantages of eating good breakfasts.

From where we stand, this looks like one of the better suggestions proposed for easing the food surplus situation.

Think of the possibilities. If only one person in each 175 in this country would eat only one more egg for breakfast for one week, almost seven million eggs would be taken out of storage. A parallel could be drawn for almost every other food commodity.

Furthermore, nutritionists have again and again told us that a good breakfast is essential to good health.

But then what about the other big American problem — overweight?

We know that a given amount of calories produces a given amount of energy, and if that energy is not burned up it will be stored in the body as fat.

Missing breakfast is one of the better ways to trigger the body mechanism into laying on surplus tissue. After an all night fast the body is in need of energy. If no food, or only a small amount, is consumed two things happen.

The energy level dips low. The capacity of the body to do work is lowered. The person becomes lethargic and does less work or works at a more leisurely pace burning up less of the stored energy.

In the second place the body tissues become so depraved that there is a tendency to overeat at the next meal and further lethargy results later in the day leading to a vicious cycle.

When food bins in this country are bulging and conservative estimates show that 20 per cent of the high school students are not getting a properly balanced diet, we feel that it is time for all farmers to get behind movements such as this one in Missouri. Better breakfasts are a step toward a better day.

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

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### Kite Flying Weather

Kite flying time is here again. It is one of the oldest and best juvenile

diversions, but it appears there have been quite a few changes in this venerable and respected pastime.

Consider this list of "don'ts" for kite-flyers printed recently by a gas and electric company. With the possible exception of one of the eight rules, Grandpappy, or even Pop, in his childhood days would not have needed these rules which are all worthwhile today.

Here are the rules as listed: 1. Don't fly a kite with a metal frame or tail; 2. Don't use tinsel-string, wire or twine that has any metal in it; 3. Don't fly a kite near electric power lines; 4. Don't fly a kite over radio or television aerials; 5. Never pull on a string or climb a power pole to loosen a snagged kite; 6. Don't touch fallen electric wires; 7. Don't run across streets or highways while flying kites; 8. Don't fly a kite in the rain.

We believe it would be well to teach these safety rules to rural as well as urban children before they try their hand at the ancient skill.

We can't help remembering, though, one of our favorite kites from way back in the dim past. As a lot of you old timers will remember, you couldn't go to the corner store and purchase a ready-cut kite with string, staves and paper. If you wanted a kite, you made one out of whatever materials were at hand.

The kite we remember was a giant one made on an umbrella stave frame and covered with wrapping paper. We couldn't find a string strong enough to stand the pressure, but we did locate some fine wire that would do the trick. It took the combined efforts of three small brothers to launch the mammoth thing, but finally it was airborne and we tied the wire to a fence post.

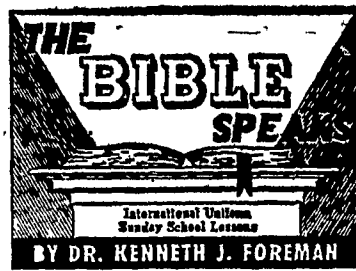
A sudden gust of wind snapped the wire and our precious behemoth was last seen wobbling out over the woods toward the river.

In view of the rules laid down by the power company, it was probably a blessing that the monster did get away, but in our back pasture, the nearest power lines were almost a mile away. The nearest highway was nearly as far, and the only radio aerial within miles was strung between the corner of our house and the chicken coop just slightly more than head high. The only television antennae were about 15 years in the future. The season of thunderstorms was still several months away, but if we could have kept our giant on its leash, we would have had it until mid summer.

At any rate, the rules for safe kite flying in this day are good ones. Kite flying can be fun and still be safe. We hope we don't have to report any casualties due to this pleasant pastime.

Perhaps this is what the poet had in mind when he said, "Beware the ides of March".

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



### How Two Men Died

Lesson for March 22, 1964

Background Scriptures: Luke 23:32-47.  
Devotional Reading: Luke 23:44-56.

DEATH CAME to three men on the same afternoon. We cannot say that "as it must to all men, death came to these," for the three died by cruel violence. They died, in fact, by being executed. It was a form of death that was meted



Dr. Foreman that we forget how horrible it was. Naked men were fastened with nails to their crosses. No fatal blow was struck, the men were just left to die. Gradual loss of blood would bring on a torturing thirst, and death was slow in coming. Victims often took two or three days to die, and most men would go insane before the end came.

#### Death without hope

The two men crucified to the right and left of Jesus were marked as bad men, and would be considered dangerous in any country at any time. They were not "thieves" in the 20th century meaning of that word. The Greek word for them means robber, bandit. They were the kind of men who do not hesitate to commit murders in order to rob their victims. The police and the public breathe more easily when such men are executed.

One of these men died as he had lived, his hand against every man's. Hung up there to die, he kept his bitter heart to the end. Whoever had condemned him to be crucified was not now out there in the crowd. This robber hated people without reason. So he turned against Jesus and picking

spoke mocking words to the dying Jesus. Ridicule can hurt more deeply than harsh words and curses. The bandit's partner on the other side joined for a while in the jeers (Matthew and Mark both recall that the two men taunted Jesus) but changed his mind; this bandit kept his bitterness and died in it.

#### Death under a promise

The other victims were just as dead, when sunset came, as this angry outcast. But they came to their end in a quite different way. Consider the other bandit. He was just as bad a man as his partner on the far cross; he admitted guilt for both of them, acknowledged that what they suffered, they deserved. Somehow he knew that the man on the central cross did not belong there. Whether this bandit had ever heard of Jesus, or seen him before we do not know. But criminal though he was, he had a clearer insight into the situation than all the high priests. He has done nothing wrong, he said. And then he says a strange thing to Jesus. Remember me when you come in your kingdom! he said.

Jesus answers the faith with a promise: Today you will be with me in Paradise. Just as simple as making a lunch date. Under that promise he died, not in bitterness like his partner in crime, but in hope and faith. Christians from then to now die as other men die, yet not as other men in spirit. For every Christian dies under a promise: "I am the Life."

#### The hour of hope

All sorts of gloomy things are said about death, and we are supposed to feel bitter about it. But Christians know better. Grace Noll Crowell wrote a poem about death, and she called it "This is His night." Saint Paul, first Christian to put on record his thoughts about death, calls it a departure, —going to "be with the Lord." Death is not merely what so many millions think it is, the end of all things. It is the end of a great deal, to be sure; but it is actually a commencement. Death ends many things but it does not end you. If that first bandit's spirit survived death—and we believe it did—what kind of future would he have? If the second man's spirit survived—and Jesus assured him it would—what kind of future would he have? Luke tells the story; he leaves us to draw our own conclusions.

(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 Use Nitrogen Carefully

The success of obtaining a good stand of alfalfa or clover in small grain is reduced when we get rank growth of the small grain. The use of 30 to 40 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre will usually give larger yields of grain but may crowd out the legume seedlings. This is especially true on fertile soils. Sand, gravel, or shale soils will give greater response to the nitrogen and still not be too rank to result in lodging. Use nitrogen sparingly on winter grain in fertile fields.

### To Compare Types of Fertilizers

We often get the question relating to the best values in granulated fertilizers or in liquid forms of fertilizer. To answer the question we should carefully compare the



MAX SMITH

actual pounds of plant food added to the soil including labor. We're aware of reports that small amounts of liquid fertilizer per acre will give comparative results to normal granulated applications at a lower price per acre, in these cases we fear that the amounts applied in liquid form are very short in plant food per acre, and at a very high cost per unit. Be careful before investing.

### To Lime by Test

Many successful farmers have reached the desired level of soil acidity by applying lime over a long period of years, soil tests reveal that little or no lime is needed for the average crops on these farms. Another fact in applying lime to the soil learned through research and experience is that large amounts should not be applied at one time; we normally say that no more than 3 tons of ground limestone per acre at one time; larger amounts are expected to cause

trouble and tie up the soil elements. Don't be guided by those who may recommend larger amounts at a time in order to reach the desired acidity quicker.

### To Shear Sheep Early

The practice of leaving the fleece on the sheep until May or June is to be discouraged. A nursing ewe will milk better if sheared during late March or early April. The wool on some sheep will loosen and begin to fall out when hot weather arrives.

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### Lancaster Farming

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**Plan Hay Drying**  
It takes time to install a hay drier. That's why Joseph McCurdy, extension agricultural engineer at The Pennsylvania State University, says the time to plan for the installation is when the haying season is still a few months away. A barn hay drier helps beat the weather, cuts down leaf losses, and increases total digestible nutrients.