

From Where We Stand . . .

What Is The Role Of The Farm Editor?

What does the reader want and expect from an editorial in his farm paper? Probably there are as many answers to that question as there are readers.

Some editors feel that they should be the moral voice of their readers, the readers' conscience, so to speak. Others feel it is their duty to instruct, to inform, their readers. Still others seem to believe that their role is to comment on national and local issues as these issues relate to their readers; they may do this with or without taking a firm stand on the issue.

Probably a good editor should perform all of these roles, at one time or another. We have tried to judge all issues from one basic premise. That is, our major responsibility is to the farmers of Lancaster County. The only exception to this reasoning might be an issue that would temporarily appear good for Lancaster farmers, but bad for farmers in general. This could mean that if it were bad for all farmers in the long run, it would also be bad for Lancaster farmers in the end. Therefore, we would oppose the issue. We don't pretend to always be so far-sighted, however.

If you should disagree with the manner in which we handle any particular problem, or with the conclusions we may reach, which is certainly your God-given privilege, then why don't you write the editorial as you see it? This is the reason for letters to the editor, and we invite you to use your farm newspaper to make your views known anytime the spirit moves you.

We ask one consideration. That is that you consider the issue in question honestly, and from the point of view of its effect on farming, as we have tried to do.

The Agriculture-Industry Partnership

As a new resident of Lancaster County three years ago the first words your editor heard were that the healthy balance of agriculture and industry was the key to the greatness of Lancaster County. That statement has been heard many times since, and observation certainly appears to confirm it.

Agriculture is almost constantly "on parade" in the county. It's handiwork is to be seen on every farm one passes. And there are few roads in the county that are not at some point bordered by fields of growing crops.

The products manufactured by the other half of the partnership are not always so easily seen. This will be remedied though on October 20-23 when our industrial partners will show their wares at the Third Lancaster County Industrial Exhibit at Stahr Armory, N. Queen Street, Lancaster.

There will be 56 industries represented and they plan to dramatically display the products that they manufacture in the county and ship all over the world.

Six public and other agencies who play an important part in community life will also have booths at this exhibit, and a seventh booth has been offered to local farm organizations.

The last Industrial Exhibition was held in 1949, but there have been many new products developed in the 15 years since. Many of the new space age products are born here in Lancaster County, and these especially should be enlightening. Admission to the exhibit is free. Why not plan to come on down to Lancaster and see the wonders our partners have wrought.

plans and aims for the future, and a personal interview.

Dale Hershey is a 17-year old junior at Manheim Central High School. He was presented with a heifer calf from the Ernest Sauder Farm at Silver Springs. The award was made by Robert Shenk for the Holstein Ass'n.

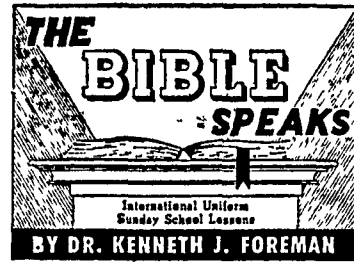
Hershey lives on a 150-acre dairy farm where his family milks about 35 head of Holsteins. Dale is undecided whether he will farm or take a crack at college. He is taking courses that will prepare him for college in case he decides that that is the direction he wants to go.

In addition to the Holstein calf award, Hershey also received the newly-inaugurated Outstanding FFA Member award. This entitles him to an all-expense-paid trip to the National FFA convention which will be held next month in Kansas City, Mo.

There were six candidates for the award, and the winner was chosen on Monday night at the Penn Manor High School on the basis of his supervised farming program and farm youth leadership.

Last year Hershey received the Keystone Farmers Degree. That is awarded by the Pennsylvania FFA Ass'n, and is the highest award a vocational agriculture student can receive at the state level.

Larry Breneman is an 18-year old member of the junior class at the Lampeter-Strasburg High School. He was awarded the guernsey calf, which came from the herd of J. Rohrer Witmer, Willow Street R2. It was presented by Bob Breneman, Pres. of the Guernsey Breeders Ass'n. Larry's vocational agriculture projects include dairy calf



What Is God Doing?

Lesson for September 27, 1964

Background Scriptures: I Samuel 12; Hebrews 11:22-32, 39-40; Devotional Reading: Psalm 47:1-10.

IN THE midst of personal agonies, or swept into a vast public calamity like a drought or a flood or a war, the cry goes up from bewildered souls confused by pain, What is God doing? He ought to be here, he ought to take



a hand; where is he in this hour of need? This is not a new question; it has no doubt been asked ever since men began seriously to believe in God. One wide-ranging answer is found, in Dr. Foreman many places and eras, in the Old Testament. Prophets when asked this question or any question like it, would not answer by talking theology or philosophy; they pointed to history. The God of the Prophets was no do-nothing God.

God in events

God, the God of the Bible, is not so remote that you have to track through eternity to find him. God is here, God is now. In ways which no prophet claimed to explain but which every prophet believed, God is in events. What a non-religious person might see only as an event which is historical and nothing more, the prophets see as an act of God. Samuel, judge and prophet, in a farewell address pointed out some of the events which were divine acts affecting the story and the fate of the Hebrew people. One great event was freedom.

"I am the Lord thy God who brought you out of . . . the house of bondage." Who set the Israelites free? A series of regrettable circumstances, no doubt the Egyptians said. The Egyptians were so far from believing the escape of their slaves was a doing of

God, that they tried more than once to re-enslave them. Who set them free? Moses, you may say. Certainly there would have been no freedom without him. Who was it? "God," said Moses; "God," said all the prophets. The wind that made the exodus possible; the survival in the terrible wilderness; the whole of the many-sided, many-chaptered Event, was God's story, for it was the doing of God.

Homeland and king

Another great event, or series of events making one great one, was the settling of the Israelites in a homeland of their own. This sounds simple, like "the winning of the west" or "the second world war." Actually it was a long process, with ups and downs, successes and failures, not just an orderly process but disorderly, crude in many ways, a tale of "blood, sweat and tears." Yet Samuel (typical of other prophets) gives credit to God. Then just recently—that is, shortly before Samuel's farewell—these Hebrew people, aware that more fighting would be necessary before they could feel secure in their still unstable homeland, had elected a king. Samuel, however, says that God set this king up for them. This is remarkable; for Samuel disliked the whole business of having a king at all. It shows he had the rare ability to see the doing of God in events he himself did not welcome.

IF . . .

As of the time of Samuel's address, it looked as if God was not only in history, but in history very much on one side, the side of the Hebrews. But Samuel holds up a red light, a warning sign. Don't think that because God has been for you, in the past, he will always be for you whatever happens, whatever you may do. It is possible that God may turn against you—you and your king. Notice that Samuel does not say God will turn against Israel, or that he will not. The prophet sets up one word, a might word: IF. If you (the people, the nation) will fear, and serve, and hearken, and not rebel, and follow . . . then it will be well; but if not, the hand of the Lord will be against you. In short, God is in history, he is a God of action. But what the action of God will be, he leaves to the choice of his people.

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These three boys were the winners of the dairy heifer calf award that is presented annually to outstanding students in Vocational Agriculture. Left to right are Dale Hershey, Larry Breneman, and Dale Herr. The award is donated by the Holstein, Guernsey, and Ayrshire Breed Ass'ns.

Lancaster County Dairy Calf Awards At Lampeter

Each year the Holstein, Guernsey, and Ayrshire Breed-

ers of Lancaster County select three outstanding students of Vocational Agriculture and present each of them with a dairy heifer calf.

This year's awards went to Dale Hershey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce H. Hershey, RD 3, Manheim; Larry Breneman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Breneman, RD 1, Starsburg; and to Dale Herr, son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Herr, RD 2, New Holland.

Applicants for these awards are screened by the breeders committee on the basis of their Supervised Farming programs, high school scholastic record, F.F.A. and school activities, judging at breed field day contests, replies to test questions, an essay on their

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

To Do Forage Testing

Too many local livestock and dairy producers have not made use of the testing of silage and hay as a means of reducing feed costs. These tests are available at only \$5.00 each and can save hundreds of dollars on grain feeds. Lower feed costs are necessary to realize greater net returns. Feeding recommendations will not be given without extra cost if desired. We urge more producers to use this service at the beginning of the barn feeding period.

To Graze Winter Grain

When sufficient moisture comes to germinate any rye, oats, barley, or wheat that has been sowed for late fall pasture,

and after growth reaches 3 to 4 inches, livestock may be turned into the winter grain until the ground freezes. With good growing conditions later this fall these supplemental forage crops will help reduce the need for winter hay and silage feeding. Frost or freezing weather will not make them poisonous to any type of livestock.

To Allow Exercise for Young Stock

Yearling heifers that are being raised for herd replacements should be permitted daily outside exercise during the winter months. Pole barns or open sheds make suitable winter quarters. Liberal amounts of high quality hay and silage should make up most of their feed intake; this will develop body depth and greater capacity. The exercise

will keep them better on their feet and legs. It's not necessary to house them in warm barns and it's extra labor to stall or pen them.

To Invest in Proper Equipment

Cattle and hog feeders are urged to secure the right kind of equipment to properly handle their animals. Loading chutes have always been a good investment in order to reduce bruises and heavy shrinkage. Catch-gates and sick pens are needed to treat and segregate affected animals. Quiet and orderly handling of livestock reduces excitement and stress. Most of these may be home-made. Plans are available.

One difference between death and taxes is that death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets.

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