

From Where We Stand . . .

What Is Lancaster County?

The Pennsylvania Almanac says Lancaster is the greatest crop producing, non-irrigated county in the United States. This we all know; although we may at times take it for granted, we are certainly grateful for its abundant fertility.

But Lancaster County has more than a unique soil fertility. It has the people, without which the world's most fertile soil would be barren.

The agricultural phenomenon that is Lancaster County didn't just happen. It took people with a purpose to bring about such abundance. You know who these original people were for it was their seeds which produced you. You carry their names, and you walk the same fields and furrows in which they walked. Many of your richest fields today were cleared by their back-breaking labor.

It seems to us that we get so involved with the demands of today that we tend to forget there was ever a yesterday. Yet it was yesterday that made today just as surely as today will father tomorrow.

The Almanac gives us a few other facts about our county. It was named after Lancashire, England; it was the fourth organized county in Pennsylvania, after Bucks, Chester and Philadelphia; it was formed from part of Chester County; it has produced one President, James Buchanan; it produces ninety percent of the nation's cigar leaf tobacco; and most interesting, Lancaster City was for one hectic night, when the British over-ran Philadelphia, the capital of our desperate young republic that so nearly died aborning.

But the people; who were they? The Almanac says only that the earliest settlers were Swiss and French, followed in 1717-1723 by German farmers from the Rhine, and that it was this combination that produced the "Pennsylvania Dutch". As Professor Schnitzel says, "that ain't much to go on." We'd like to know much more about these people, your ancestors. Would you share with us, and with our readers, some of your rich heritage? In many households there are old handwritten records and letters. Though ancient and dusty perhaps, these words were written by the people in whose footsteps we now walk. What they were, to a great extent, has effected what we are. Perhaps understanding them could help us understand ourselves a little better. At any rate they deserve better than to be idly forgotten.

We think that our personal history has much yet to say to us. With your help it can speak again through these pages. We ask that you reexamine the written records that history has left you, sift out the facts that tell the story of your own heritage, and pass on to us that information which you think would be of interest to our readers. Please don't send us any documents or pictures through the mail! We would prefer that these do not leave your keeping. If it

would be desirable to reproduce these we would rather do so while they are in your possession. In that way there would be no risk of loss or damage to these irreplaceable objects.

Whether or not such historical material will appear in this paper depends upon your interest. We think that this rich vein of folklore should be tapped because of the benefits it holds for the future, aside from purely local interest. Our children should know and understand our past for is it not their heritage too?

What Do YOU Think?

Rural Poverty

As part of his Great Society, President Johnson plans to boom all of rural America. The aim of this boom will be to push opportunity for the rural people that will equal the urban opportunities. This will be done in the form of government-sponsored credit through redevelopment funds, FHA housing, water facilities, anti-pollution programs, small business loans, etc.

A recent report by USDA's Economic Research Service has blue-printed the problem of rural inequities. It reports that there are 17.4 million rural persons with family incomes below \$3000 per year, and suggests that programs pitched toward upgrading the economic conditions of these people can go a long way toward solving the problems of rural poverty.

This war on rural poverty is not solely a Johnson creation; Eisenhower and Kennedy also fought it. But Johnson plans to go after it in a big way, on a par with urban renewal. The Economic Research Service report showed that the number of persons with poverty-level incomes had been reduced 40 percent from 1947-1962; without a crash program.

The report also shows the complex problems of rural poverty. These include less dense populations and the resulting adverse effect on employment opportunities; the advanced age of the heads of the poorer families — one-third of all the heads of poor families five years ago were at least 65 years old and 40 percent of these were rural folk; the migration of the young from the rural areas thus depleting the chance for creative development of those areas.

Whether or not you agree with Johnson's approach to this problem, it will not be hard to see that this boom will provide some hitherto non-existent business opportunities in the rural areas. But this will probably be of little immediate consequence to our area, since we doubt that Lancaster County rates very high in the rural poverty department. This plan will particularly attack the isolated little pockets of poverty that exist across the land.

A copy of the research report "Poverty in Rural Areas of the United States", AER No. 63, may be obtained by writing to the Office of Information, USDA, Washington, D. C. 20250.

Pa. S & W

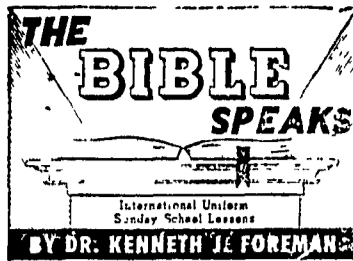
(Continued from Page 1) making Pennsylvania a better place in which to live. Robert C. Lott, President of the Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors, told the group that by developing soil and water resources, conserving agricultural soils, and by developing adequate recreational facilities they were improving the livability of the Commonwealth for agriculture, industry, and the community.

Lott added that today over 30,000 farmers are cooperating with local soil and water conservation districts in the state. Thirty-four counties have

made application for watershed protection and flood prevention covering over three million acres of land in Pennsylvania, Lott said.

A Lancaster County conservationist, Henry H. Hackman, received a citation from the association of directors. Hackman, of Manheim R2, was presented with the citation by Amos H. Funk, Millersville R1, president of the Lancaster County Soil Conservation District. The award was based on Hackman's achievement over the years in the field of conservation.

Hackman is a member of the faculty at Donegal High School, Mount Joy.



Gospel in Brief

Lesson for November 29, 1964

Background Scripture: Titus 1:1-3;

2:11-14, 3:4-8a

Devotional Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10.

THIS WEEK we shall do something a little different. This is an invitation to study the Bible together. The verses under "Background Scripture" are remarkable in bringing out, in their brief sentences, many of



Dr. Foreman in vital germ, from her own first teacher, Paul, and above him, our Lord himself.

The grace of God

The word of "grace" often means gracefulness, as when we speak of the grace of a violinist's work, or the invitation of a hostess. In the New Testament it means graciousness, a quality some people have without knowing it, the quality we associate with true aristocracy. We can say for instance that Dean Rusk is a more gracious character than Gromyko. Grace is not the same thing as goodness; some people can be mighty good without being very gracious. Grace is goodness come to life, shining. In the New Testament the grace (Graciousness) of God is mentioned far oftener than the grace of men. (Why should this be so?) The New Testament speaks often of the grace of God as something which has up to now not been well known or understood. For the crowning act of God's grace is the gift of his son, Jesus Christ, the living, walking grace of God in human living. The supreme moment of that grace, of course, is Christ's identifying himself with sinners and being willing to "give his life a ransom for many" — to use his own words. The grace of God and the Saviorhood of Jesus

are not two different things; they might almost be called, from the Christian point of view, the same thing.

How Christian life begins

Paul speaks here also of how the Christian life begins. It starts with what theologians call "justification," which literally means a judge's verdict of "Not Guilty". Justification refers to man's status in God's sight, not to his state. A newborn baby is in a wretched state. He badly needs a bath. But he is his parents' much-loved child all the same. They do not demand that he must do something lovable before they love him; they welcome him with love even before he is born. God is like that. He loved us before we were born not because of what we have done but because he is love.

How Christian life operator

The life of God in the life of man; how does this operate? There is mystery here, to be sure; but some things are clear. One truth is that it means to be daily, even constantly renewed. The Christian's life is not an automatic business that starts with one big Bang! and keeps on with no further effort. The greatest Christians are those who feel most strongly the need of being continually re-created. This has its definite effects. The Christian is one who becomes, with the passage of time, more and more godly, that is, God-like. This is so tremendous we sometimes shrink from it. We find it enough to be like our parents or someone else we admire. Our heavenly Father wants us most of all to be like himself. He wants us to love what he loves and to hate what he hates. Finally (though much here has not been touched) the Christian lives a life of hope. He expects Christ to be Lord of All. No Christian ever wept that he was born too late for the Golden Age. The Golden Age for us is not in some lost yesterday, it is the great tomorrow, when all tears have been wiped away and God shall be all in all.

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Go To Church Sunday

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

To Prevent Farm Fires

With the winter's supply of hay and feed in the barn, and most barns filled to capacity with livestock, it is very important to practice fire prevention. We especially call attention to the stove in the tobacco cellar and the condition of the stove pipe and chimney. Be sure all joints are tight and all masonry in place. The investment in several hand fire extinguishers is a good one to prevent serious loss. Be sure the extinguishers are in good working condition and that everyone around the farm and home knows where they are located and how to operate them.

To Use Pig And Lamb Brooders

Newly-born pigs and lambs need some protection if born during extremely cold weather. The use of the heat lamp or brooder-type heater has saved many head of livestock. We caution breeders, however, about the danger of these lamps if not securely fastened and if within reach of livestock; they could be a serious fire hazard. If the young animals are given a chance to enjoy the warmth and the dryness of the brooder for the first week, they will get off to a faster start.

To Study Farm Income Tax Reports

Many farmers could gain from a better understanding of the income tax structure. We are not posing as authorities in this area, but feel that many could benefit from more knowledge of the various deductions and reporting procedures. A short course on the subject is to be given at Penn State University on December 7 and 8.

To Do Forage Testing

Most farmers have heard of

this practice but far too many dairymen are not taking advantage of this chance to become more efficient and to make more net returns. Here at the beginning of the winter feeding season we feel that many could benefit from the testing service. The grain recommendation that accompanies the forage report is a very good guide to the needs of the herd in addition to the forages being fed. This might be one farm practice that could help many dairymen stay in the business.

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