

## From Where We Stand . . .

### Government Concept of "Agriculture" Changing

For a variety of reasons the federal government's concept of agriculture seems to be gradually broadening to include rural folk and the food industry along with farmers in the "new" agriculture.

It has been rumored that this broader operating base will include a name change for the USDA. Perhaps something on the order of Department of Food and Rural Affairs.

There have been many inklings of such a change of thinking on a mass scale in recent weeks. Not the least of these has been Pres. Johnson's announced plans for including rural America in the development of his Great Society. Interest in farm commodity programs appears to be sliding into the background, and the theme of "equal opportunity" for rural people is now the official battlecry.

The USDA thinking seems to be gradually shifting toward the American Farm Bureau Federation line as evidenced by the reduction in feed grain and other support programs.

Johnson is very much economy-minded. In that light it doesn't make sense to have a vast organization like USDA serving a declining number of farmers (there are now only about seven million actual farmers, but there are nearly twice that many people engaged in related agricultural fields). The other part of the problem is that there are few urban agencies with the know-how or the facilities for dealing with a growing "rural" population whereas USDA has access to rural people through such existing agencies as SCS, Extension Service, ASCS, Farmers Home Administration, etc.

The coming year should bring many changes. Some of these will have a strong bearing on the future of agriculture as we have known it, and they should be watched carefully by all farmers.

#### What Do YOU Think?

### Last Call For Tax Savings

It is already quite late for this year, but a farm management specialist advises that tax planning is one of the biggest income-producing jobs a farmer can do during the next few days.

There are several ways in which tax dollars can be saved, but they must be done before the first of January. The more evenly a farmer spreads his taxable income from year to year, the less tax he will pay.

If a farmer had a lower than normal income this year, he may delay cash purchases until 1965 and thus reduce his next year's tax obligation. If his income was unusually high this year, it may be desirable to buy some of next year's needs now, and shift receipt of some additional income to next year.

There may be advantages under income-averaging provisions of the 1964 tax law that could save you taxable income. There are also savings this year for farmers and businessmen who buy machinery and other tangible personal property for use in their businesses.

Good records and tax planning can pay handsome dividends when you realize that for every \$100 a farmer can reduce his taxable income, he makes a net saving of about \$20.

The Income Tax and Social Security training class to be held near York on Tuesday should help to clarify what can be a very confusing game when you don't know the rules. (See story on Page 1 of this issue for details)

Bob Hope says "You know what Pres Johnson's Great Society is — that's the New Deal, with spurs"

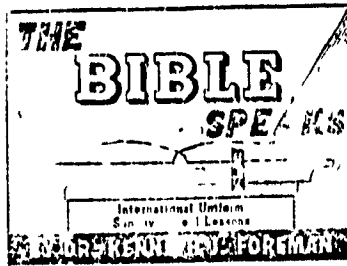
### Feed From The Sky

Lancaster farmer thinks feed costs in Montana this week were sky high!

Blizzard conditions in county area about the size of West Virginia separated from their starving cattle and sheep, resulting in an estimated three million dollar loss.

Air Force planes "bombed" the area with tons and tons of hay, but deep, drifting snow kept many animals away from the meal that might have enabled them to hang on to that thin thread of life.

Farmers here in Lancaster County may not be happy with the livestock market, but they can be thankful this Christmas season that they don't have to feed their animals by airplane!



### Wise Men's Gift

Lesson for December 27, 1964

Background Scripture: Matthew 2. Devotional Reading: Isaiah 60 1-6.

**LIKE GOLDEN GLEAMS** of light in a dark house of mystery, the wise men of Matthew's story come and go. They came from the east, they brought their gifts, they went home another way. How many there were,



what were their names and where their homes, no one knows. What was the star that led them? Did they know who the "King of the Jews" really was? Did they forget all the adventures, as the years grew cold? The church has never known exactly what to make of this story. Some count it a legend that has found its way into the original story. Some supply details not in the Bible.

#### They did not know who he was

The wise men called the Child they were seeking "King of the Jews." Followers of this Child would find higher names for him in time. They would call him Savior, Son of God, even God only begotten. It is very doubtful whether these visitors could have passed a good examination in "Christology." But they brought their gifts all the same. If they had known who he was, they might have come or sent messengers, from time to time during the years. They might have waited till the Child was grown, and sent some one to learn what wisdom would come from his mind. When the story of his life had been written, they might have asked for a copy. No, all they saw was a Child born to be a king. That he would be king of the world and not of the Jews only, that his throne would be not in Jerusalem's doomed walls but in the hearts of men, they did not know and could not know. They did not wait till they knew all about him before they made their gifts. They knelt to

him as the highest they knew. They paid him tribute they paid no other. So it may be with us today. Do you know who Jesus is? The wisest man can never quite put into words the full meaning of Christ. But do you know his superior? Some super-Christ? There is none on the road, none promised to mankind. It will be time to speak of a greater if God sends one. Meanwhile what Christ requires is loyalty, not explanation. Following brings understanding.

#### They brought what they had

The gifts are interesting. Gold we can understand; that would best a king. But myrrh and frankincense? These were spices such as one could buy in any bazaar. For some reason it has always been supposed that these wise men were rich, even kings. Alas, wise men are not always rich in this world's goods. It is just as likely that they had spent all they had simply on the journey, and could spare only the little they had left for gifts. There was nothing to go with the gold; no pearls, no silver, no jewels. These were humble gifts, myrrh and frankincense; but that was all they had, they gave it and gladly.

So it may be with us. We read stories of great and gifted men, and we think how much we could do for the kingdom of God if we were only men like Saint Paul, Saint Augustine, Martin Luther or William Carey. We doubt whether we could really endure to the end as martyrs if we fell into the hands of communist secret police. So because we cannot offer Christ great heroism, or outstanding genius, or immense wealth, we offer nothing at all.

#### They did not ask to be repaid

The gifts of the wise men were gifts, not loans. Not bribes. These men sent no statement of accounts payable. They did not think the Child, even a royal child, owed them some generosity in return. They were never repaid, never reimbursed for the expense of the long journey. A gift from them was a true gift, it was not something on account. Once more a thought for these days when it is still Christmas; how many of our gifts we made, how many of the generous thoughts we had, how much of what we may have done for Christ in his church, was really given?

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### Recreation

(Continued from Page 1)

is the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). They reported that in 1964 nearly 13,000 individuals made plans to install one or more recreational enterprises. This represented a 43 per cent increase over the preceding year. More than 1,600 of these plan to convert their operations primarily to recreation.

Another federal agency intimately involved in developing the recreational business is the Farmers Home Administration. The credit agency

made over \$7 million in loans to individual farmers and groups of rural residents to finance farm and community recreation enterprises. Shams in the total loans advanced were 160 individual family farmers who received \$1,252,000 to carry out construction, buy equipment and pay other expenses of developing facilities for income-producing public recreation on their farms.

FHA loaned another \$6½ million to 63 nonprofit associations formed by farmers and rural residents to finance large scale community recreation projects. The agency doesn't actually loan the money directly, rather they guarantee the loan and it is generally made through private lending agencies. Such farmer loans bear interest at 5 per cent. Loans to nonprofit associations vary from 4½ to 5 per cent.

What sort of recreational provisions are these farmers and rural groups making? The activities range from taking in boarders for farm vacations to gigantic community projects such as the one financed by FHA for a rural group in Missouri — the \$250,000 loan was the largest of its type designed to shift land into development of a recreational area. It was a \$15 million

project involving 4,000 acres which included a 1,500-acre lake and facilities for a variety of outdoor sports.

But that is not an extreme example of what we had in mind when we mentioned the possibility for farmers to supplement their incomes through developing recreational enterprises.

Most private outdoor recreation businesses operating singly have only limited powers for drawing customers long distances. Therefore, many private operators cluster around public attractions which, in effect, collect customers for them. So while a farmer considering a recreational enterprise should study his competition in the area carefully, he may find that large public attractions are not competition, but provide a base for setting up his own enterprise.

(Continued Next Week)

The Pennsylvania crude oil industry has been producing more of its product than Pennsylvania holds. It is reported that the state's oil reserves are being depleted at a rate of more than 3%

## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

### To Support Farm and Home Center Campaign

Lancaster County needs a home for agricultural and home making activities. This is a big undertaking and one that needs the support of every farmer and every Lancaster Countian. It will be a big boost to the educational facilities and to the potential value of farming and homemaking activities for generations to come. We urge full support of this project.

### To Give Batteries Special Care

Starting engines and motors in cold weather is hard on batteries, this is the time when old batteries show their weakness and may need attention. It is very important to keep the battery full of water and full charged the maximum amount of time. Add water at the beginning of a period of use rather than when parking the machine for the night or for any length of time. New points and plugs, or cleaning and adjusting points and plugs, is one way to get quicker starting and save the drain on the battery.

### To Store Chemicals Carefully

We repeat the warning that extreme care should be exercised in storing left-over spray materials. By all means keep them out of reach of children and livestock, and away from feed and seed supplies. Most herbicides (weed sprays) will kill the germination of seeds if kept in the same room for any length of time. Also, the milk house or the barn are poor places to store extra chemicals, warm milk will pick up the odors quickly. Keep all materials well identified and in the original container if possible.

### To Be Careful With

### Moldy Grain

Good livestock feeding does not include the feeding of moldy feed to any kind of animal; however, if some moldy ear corn is to be utilized, it should be fed sparingly to fattening animals rather than to breeding animals. Fattening hogs may be allowed to eat some moldy grain but should have access to good grain at the same time. Do not feed moldy grain to bred gilts or sows because they may abort their litters. Use extreme care in utilizing moldy grains to any kind of livestock.

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