

From Where We Stand . . .

The Wonderful Worth Of A Farm Wife

Every so often, someone comes up with some statistics describing the dollar and cents value of a farm wife. Perhaps the constant pressure of inflation makes it necessary to periodically re-evaluate the farm wife's contribution to the family operation.

The latest calculation, based on a study conducted by FARM JOURNAL, finds that a farmer's wife is worth \$150 a week.

Who says so? Well, as part of the study, a group of farm wives kept time-study records on their work. Hourly rates were assigned by the magazine to the different types of work. The result showed a 75-hour work week, with no overtime pay, for a total of \$153.92.

On the break-down, the average wife spent 15.4 hours a week cooking, at \$2.50 an hour, 10.9 hours as a governess, at \$2.30, she spent 8.4 hours as a farm worker at \$1.60. The rest of the work week was spent as housekeeper, dishwasher, laundress, buyer, seamstress, bookkeeper, and chauffeur.

So, Mr. Farmer, if you are not now paying your wife \$150 a week for her countless contributions to the operation of the family farm, perhaps this season would be an especially appropriate time to wish her continued good health, happiness, love, and a very Merry Christmas!

Is There A Santa Claus?

WE TAKE PLEASURE in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

Dear Editor: I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon
115 West Ninety-Fifth St.

VIRGINIA, YOUR LITTLE friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with

the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how weary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your Papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

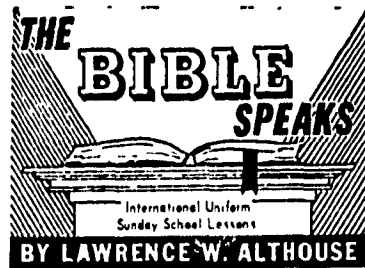
You can tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view the picture in the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives! and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

—The New York Sun, Dec. 21, 1897

The above is probably the most widely reprinted editorial ever written. Compared with the elegance of this piece, whatever we might add would be less than the babbling of little children.

May we wish for you and your family all the faith, fancy, poetry, love and romance that the coming Christmas season brings



When Angels Have Gone

Lesson for December 25, 1966

Background Scripture: Luke 2:1-40.
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 55:1-7.

It is possible to know the Nativity Story so well that it may no longer have the power to excite or challenge us. It may evoke sentimentality, but little awe and wonder. Christmas can become too popular for its own good.



Tradition tells us that the ancient Hebrews so revered a flute upon which Moses was supposed to have played during his days as a shepherd in Midian that they decorated it with much gold and precious stones. Their decorative zeal, however, was the undoing of the flute, for they clogged-up and covered-over with ornamentation the tiny holes and apertures of the instrument. It was beautiful to behold, but it wouldn't play!

Too Beautiful

This happens also with the Nativity message. Centuries of ornamentation and embellishment — to say nothing of commercialization — have enhanced its beauty, but covered-over the essential meaning. It too is beautiful to behold, but the message is being buried beneath the layers of sentimentality and secularization.

Perhaps we might begin to see this story afresh if we were to put ourselves in the shoes of some of those who were participants. For instance, have you ever stopped to imagine how this wonderful event must have seemed to the shepherds? If today, while you are working at your usual place of employment, someone were to suddenly appear and announce that the Saviour of the world had just been born in nearby East Podunk and could be found lying in an animals' feed trough, how would you react? Would you believe it?

Wrong Address, Perhaps?

What happened to the shepherds in the fields outside Bethlehem was no less startling. Perhaps, had the visitors told them to go to the house of Jerusalem's high priest or the city's richest merchant, the story would not have seemed so incredible. But a Bethlehem manger! That was hardly the place one would expect to find the Messiah. When they arrived at the manger, they found that not only had the Messiah been born in the wrong surroundings in the wrong town, but he had had the misfortune of being born into the wrong family. Who would believe that the Saviour would be born to an upstate, backwoods carpenter and his bride-to-be?

Yet the shepherds could not doubt what they heard and saw. "Glory to God in the highest!" seemed to resound from the heavens. The visitors were bathed in a glorious light. It could not be a dream, a hallucination. The awe and fear they felt was real.

With Haste!

Then, suddenly the visitors were gone! Now the true test would begin. In the midst of an awesome and mysterious experience, we cannot help but respond. When it is over, however, the conditions are different. If we can go back to our work and shrug it off as if nothing had happened, that is one thing. But if we respond by acting upon the experience, that is something else. The true test occurs when the angels have gone away.

What the shepherds had seen and heard was fantastic, yet Luke tells us, "When the angels went away" the shepherds decided: "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." They went, not reluctantly, but "with haste." There was something of the modern scientific spirit in them; something has happened — let's see what it is!

For us, no less than the shepherds, of Bethlehem, the test occurs when the angels have gone away, when we are called upon to respond to the coming of Christ, not with words, but with deeds. When, in a few days, the bright and lyrical trappings of this day begin to fade, what will you do about the coming of Christ?

(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, Lancaster County Agent

To Provide Livestock Equipment

The proper handling of livestock to and from a show, sale, or market is very important to reduce handling losses. Loading chutes are a very worthwhile investment and may be portable or permanent. Catch gates for treating animals reduce excitement and permit safer handling. Livestock producers are urged to take time this winter to provide these essential pieces of equipment to increase net returns.



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To Allow Outside Exercise

Cattle feeders are reminded of the need for fresh air and outside exercise for their fattening herd. Most cattle will spend more time outside than inside if given the chance, regardless of weather. To retain cattle inside of a building that is hot and poorly ventilated during the winter months is not making the best use of feed and labor.

To Store Chemicals Safely

The spraying season is about finished for this year, most gardeners and farmers should be finished with all kinds of pesticides for outside use. Accurate identification of all materials is very important and metal containers are best for most materials. Empty containers should be burned or buried. Keep all materials out of reach of children and livestock. Attention to safe storage of chemicals may prevent serious trouble in the future.

To Own a Stand-by Generator

Electric power is almost a necessity on most farms at all times. Due to the high degree of automation in modern farming, normal chores become a huge labor problem when power is missing. The winter snow season is at hand with the daily danger of broken power lines. A stand-by generator that can furnish power with the use of the farm tractor or motor is considered to be a very good emergency investment.

York County FFA Member Named Region II Star Farmer For 1967

A York County Future Farmer, George Snyder, a 1966 graduate of Red Lion High School, moved in to what had traditionally been Lancaster County territory this week when he was named 1967 Star Farmer of the 12 county southeastern region of Pennsylvania.

For at least the past four years, this honor has gone to a Lancaster County lad, and in three of those years the Region II candidate has gone on to become State Star Farmer.

This latter distinction went

to Harold Biubaker, Mount Joy R1, in 1964, to John Frey, Quarryville R2 in 1965, and to Glenn Weber, Mohnnton R2, in 1966. Weber is currently president of the State FFA Association. Kenneth Mvei, Elizabethtown R3, was Region II Star Farmer in 1963.

Snyder is the 19-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Snyder, Red Lion R1. With the responsibility for the dairy herd and a 25 percent partnership in the operation of a second farm, George owns 65 dairy animals. His program includes 75 acres of corn, 55 of hay, 10 of wheat, and 20 of barley.

The five regional outstanding boys for 1967 will be recognized during the FFA Farm Show convention at Harrisburg on January 11. These regional winners were so designated because they outscored all other candidates from their respective regions for the highest FFA state degree, "Keystone Farmer", which will be award-

ed that day to 208 FFA members.

Each FFA boy selected as Regional Star Farmer receives an award of \$75 from the National FFA Foundation, Inc. At the conclusion of the January 11 ceremony, one of the five will be designated as State Star Farmer, and will receive \$200 instead of \$75.

Farmers Told How To Be Good Bosses

"What kind of a boss are you?" Wallace A. Mitchell asked farmers during the Farm Labor Conference at the Delaware Crop Show, Nov. 22. Dovey Mitchell, a Rutgers University community life specialist, stressed the importance of building good human relations in getting and keeping competent agricultural workers.

He pointed out that wages are vital in getting help, other factors will affect whether they stay and how well they produce. Such things as

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LANCASTER FARMING

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly

P.O. Box 266 - Lantz, Pa. 17511

Office - 224 - Main St., Lantz, Pa. 17511

Phone - Lantz 351-3417 or Lantz 626-2191

D. J. Thompson, Editor

Robert G. Campbell, Advertising Manager

Subscription price - \$2 per year in Lancaster County, \$3 elsewhere

Established November 1, 1957

Published every Saturday by Lancaster Farming, Lantz, Pa.

Second Class Postage paid at Lantz, Pa. 17511