

## From Where We Stand . . .

### Farming On Asphalt

One of the greatest fears of conservationists is that open land, once irresponsibly "urbanized" into the asphalt jungle, will be lost to productive usage practically for all-time.

Now there comes a glimmer of hope that when Main Street has become obsolete, parking lots and out-dated highways abandoned, the areas may be salvable for farming.

Not really, but it illustrates the interesting extent to which agricultural research can sometimes go.

A research report out of Delaware this week tells about an experiment which produced crops on asphalt. This weird type of cultivation was inspired by the combination of continuing drought and the sandy Delaware soil with its poor moisture and nitrogen-holding capacity.

Researchers buried a layer of asphalt under 18 inches of soil to try to retain vital moisture in the ground, and then planted it. Did it work? An agricultural engineer, who will report on the project during Delaware University's Farm & Home Week (Feb. 7-9), says it did.

Now, all the scientists have to do is figure out how to reclaim the nutrients from our increasingly polluted atmosphere to fertilize the crops grown on asphalt, and we'll be all set to meet the crush of expanding humanity head-on, and still grow food!

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### June In January

The fella who wrote that old-time Bing Crosby hit song was sure talking about this week in Lancaster County! Records have dropped, while windows and hopes have been raised, and it is June in January — almost

This brief respite from winter's wrath has been most welcome. But, of course, we all realize it can't last — can it? Right now Old Man Winter is probably laughing up his sleeve at us as he winds up over the midwest to deliver his next slippery pitch — a slider, no doubt. That one may be whistling across home plate even as you read this.

But take heart, a look at the calendar tells us that the proverbial groundhog will be making his appearance next week. According to tradition, the worst he can tell us is to expect six more weeks of winter. We forget what his good prediction is because it seems like we always get six more wintry weeks anyway.

As one cryptic clown remarked this week, "It's a good thing we didn't get

this heat wave in the summertime or we'd have really been in trouble". We'll leave you to puzzle over that one as you hunt up your trusty old snow shovel.

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### Pruning The "Bigot-Tree" In Lancaster County

Did you know that Lancaster County — generally referred to as The Garden Spot of America — is, in fact, a "cesspool of bigotry"? (bigotry, according to the dictionary, is the condition of being attached to a creed, belief, or opinion to the point of being intolerant of all evidence to the contrary)

We didn't realize this repugnant fact either until it was pointed out in the daily press this week by an official of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

He, Philip Savage, reportedly claimed "there are more bigots, racists and unsavory characters in Lancaster than I have ever seen before". His solution to this supposed problem is to mount a full-scale invasion by pickets, demonstrators, and marchers to convince Lancastrians of the error of their ways.

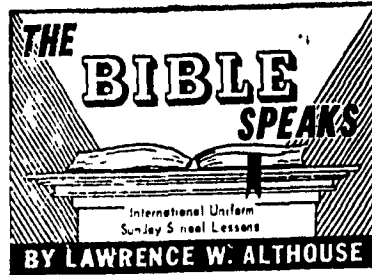
Late Winter-early Spring is generally pruning time in the orchards and vineyards. Savage seems to feel it is also a good time to shake the bigots from the Lancaster County tree with shouts of "foul" and the sound and sight of marching feet, with dramatic "sit-ins" and flagrant flouting of the laws by which we all live — black and white.

His proposed, dramatic protests will undoubtedly make big headlines near and far, especially since they will occur in historically peaceful Lancaster County, but all the noise, activity and aroused feelings will also undoubtedly knock many promising buds from the "tree" — buds that through proper maturing could have ripened into fruit to nourish ALL mankind.

Many of the reactions to Savage's belligerent statements this week suggest a fear that, if his threat of emotional violence is carried out, it will disrupt much of the quiet, non-emotional, constructive effort (dedicated to the same cause he supports) that has been going on behind the scenes in Lancaster County

We begrudge freedom to no man, but demand he accept the responsibility that accompanies it. Equality is the birthright of every American, but he who demands the right to be "more equal" than anyone else places the whole concept of equality in jeopardy.

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### Crosses: One-Half Off

Lesson For January 29, 1967  
Background Scripture: Luke 9 and 10  
Devotional Reading: John 15:1-11

I heard this little ditty on the radio the other day:

*I don't care if it rains or jeezes,  
Long as I have my plastic Jesus  
Riding on the dash board of my car!*



Rev. Althouse offers, however, is a cross!

Of course, we all love the cross. We love those little crosses we wear on the lapels of our coats or on dainty chains around our necks. We admire the golden and silver crosses on our altars or the remote crosses of church steeples. We love to sing about "the old rugged cross on a hill far away," but the life-sized crosses close at hand is a cross of another color.

#### Unconscious Irony

Last spring one day I saw a sign in a downtown store window: "POST-EASTER SALE: CROSSES AND BUNNIES ONE-HALF OFF!" It struck me that the sign carried a certain amount of unconscious irony. The pain and the agony of the cross are quickly forgotten. What most people want is a marked-down Christian discipleship.

Many of us, perhaps, are like the two ladies who went to Stratford-on-Avon to see Shakespeare's home and attend one of his plays. How wonderful it would be to write home to say they had actually seen a Shakespeare play in his own town. The play they went to see, however, was Titus Andronicus, a thoroughly gory play. When they emerged from the theatre, the two women were obviously shaken by their experience. For a while they said

nothing until one of them spoke up with a force smile: "Let's simply have some tea and forget it!" People often have the same reaction to the cross.

We can imagine that the disciples reacted in much the same way. Jesus had suddenly taken them from Galilee to Caesarea Philippi. They knew something was in the air. Then, he began to question them. Who did the people say that he was? They told him. Then, "... who do you say that I am?" Without a moment's hesitation, Peter sprang forth with a confession which, until now, had never been spoken in Jesus' presence: "The Christ of God." It was out in the open at last! What a wonderful moment for the little band.

#### Strange Response

Yet what a strange response Jesus made to that wonderful confession. "The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed..." (Luke 9:22 RSV) One moment they were rejoicing in the knowledge that they were to share the honor of being the disciples of the Chosen One of God. Now, however, he seemed just as quickly to snatch that joy away with his dire predictions of suffering, rejection, and death. It was obvious there would be no bargain-basement discipleship for those who followed him.

A member of a former parish once told me irritably: "Preacher, I come to church to relax, to find peace and quiet; all you do is stir me up and make me uncomfortable." I could sympathize with him. It gets to the point that one gets very, very tired of all the challenges thrown out to the Christian, all the human needs marked "urgent." It is understandably human that we seek peace of mind, not crosses.

What we must realize, however, is that we can find our peace of mind as he found his: not by making peace with the forces of evil, but by remaining faithful to our calling. Our peace is found, not so much in being withdrawn from the bombardment of life's trials and challenges, but in remaining faithful even unto the cross.

True peace cannot be marked-down below the price of the cross.

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### ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE SUNDAY

## See Our Want Ads For Bargains

## Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

#### To Provide Minerals

Livestock producers will continue to face the problem of keeping down production costs. In order to do this one step is to provide all of the requirements needed for fast gains and maximum production. Salt and minerals are necessary at all times for nearly all kinds of livestock. Most commercial feeds will contain some salt and minerals, but in most cases not sufficient to meet the needs of the animals. Free choice, loose salt is the recommended manner to offer salt to livestock. For most animals a mixture of equal parts of trace mineralized salt and di-calcium phosphate will meet the major mineral needs. Don't reduce maximum performance by restricting salt and mineral intake.



SMITH

#### To Vaccinate Swine Herd

One of the speakers at the recent swine management meeting stressed the importance of all hog producers to attempt to immunize their animals against the dreaded hog cholera infection. This practice is important to the commercial feeder with several hundred head as well as the owner of a swine breeding herd. There are various vaccines that can be used, but the important thing is to get the

#### To Prune Shade Trees

By the time this column gets to the reader it may be severe winter again, however, the recent spell of spring weather reminds that February and March are the best times to prune most shade trees and many shrubs. While the plant is dormant, there will be less injury and loss of sap; without leaves the skeleton of the tree is more easily shaped and planned.

### Crops & Soils

(Continued from Page 1)

Among the speakers on the day-long program will be chairman of agronomy extension James H. Eakin, Jr. Eakin is well-known for his work in lime and fertilizer manufacture, and their use in crop production, Lueck said.



James H. Eakin, Jr.

## Farm Calendar

January 29—1:30 p.m., Cely Groves meeting at Jay Hoedeker farm, along Rt. 72, south of East Petersburg  
—7:30 p.m., Southern Lancaster County 4-H Conservation Club at home of Vincent Hoover, New Providence  
—8 p.m., Cattle Feeder meeting at Milton Brecht School, Lititz Pike, Lancaster Speakers, Dr. John Baylor and Lester Buidette, from Penn State University  
January 31—6:30 p.m., Lancaster County Farm & Home Foundation annual banquet meeting at Meadow Hills Dining Room, New Danville Pike  
—7:30 p.m., Ephrata Young Farmer Farm Records Course, "Income and Expense Records", at Ephrata High School  
—7:30 p.m., Central 4-H Tractor Club at L. H. Brubaker's Farm Equipment Store, Lititz

—7:30 p.m., Northeastern 4-H Tractor Club, at Ivan Nolt's Farm Equipment Co., Farmersville  
February — 1st to 3rd, Lime-Fertilizer Conference at Penn State University  
February 2 — 8 p.m., Penn Manor Young-Adult Farmer Class, Part II, "Becoming Acquainted With Soils", speaker, Oival A. Bass, SCS, at Penn Manor High School  
February 3 — 7:30 p.m., Northeastern Lancaster County Conservation Club at home of Aaron Z. Stauffer, Ephrata RI

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