

From Where We Stand . . .

Strength of America" "AGRICULTURE —

That's the fitting theme chosen for National Future Farmers of America Week which begins today. The truth of that slogan is becoming increasingly evident with each passing day. As Winston Churchill said nearly a generation ago in describing the valiant defensive efforts of the Royal Air Force during the Battle of Britain, "Never before have so many owed so much to so few", or words to that effect.

That Americans eat and live as well as they do — better than any other nation on earth — can, for the most part, be traced to the efforts of the ever-decreasing farmer. Because American farmers have been willing to use all available know-how to build and expand their businesses, a vast agribusiness complex has been able to develop and prosper in serving the industrious farmer.

But where will tomorrow's farmers and agricultural industry workers come from? Fewer and fewer will come directly from the farms, because there won't be enough farms to fill the need for experienced people. Hundreds of thousands will come through the vocational agriculture departments of our high schools, that is, if the high school administrators and taxpayers are wise enough to keep vo-ag in the curriculum. We have recently seen an example in one Lancaster County community where the school board and administration wanted to drop the vo-ag program because the number of farmers in the area was decreasing.

In fact, it has been shown that the

need for agriculturally trained people in the agribusiness field is increasing at a far greater rate than the number of farmers is decreasing. The vo-ag programs should actually be enlarged rather than dropped, according to the evidence.

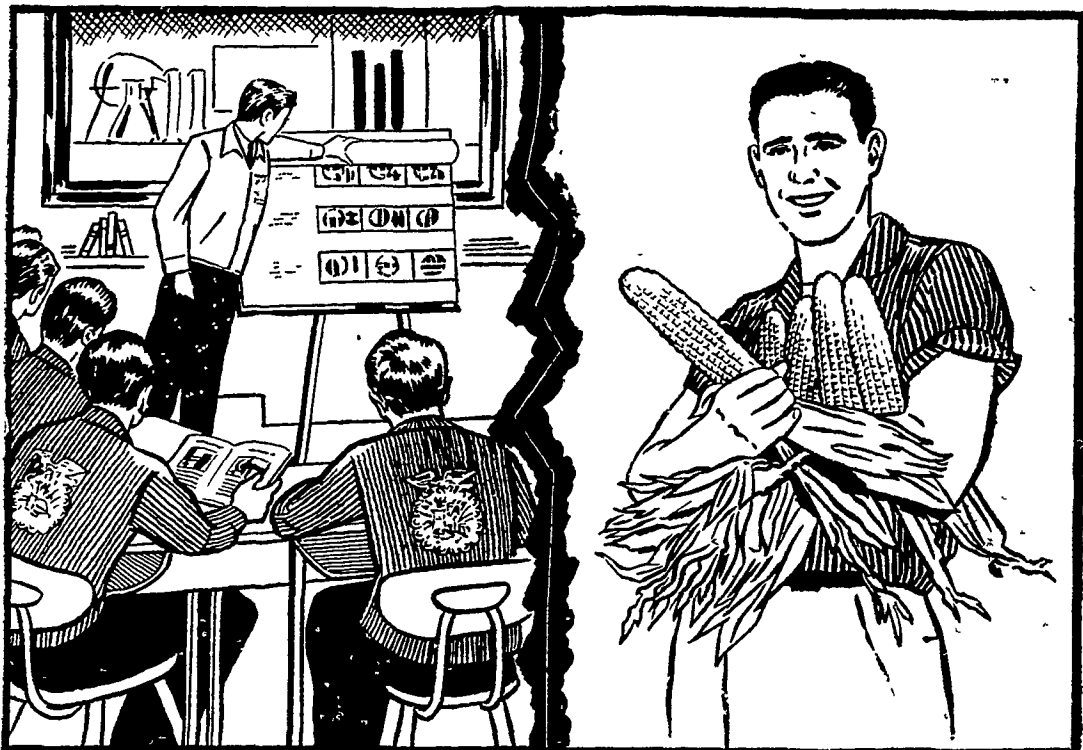
It is no accident that American agriculture is the envy of the world. Our farmers have the background, the will, and the way. If they can ever manage to get the federal government out of their business, they can probably even manage to feed a world which agriculture secretary Orville Freeman says will be starving by the year 2000.

As vocational agriculture training is vital to our future supply of "agriculturalists", FFA activities are vital to the vo-ag program itself.

Composed of high school vo-ag students, FFA activities are designed to help develop rural leadership and good citizenship. Nationally, FFA has approximately 450,000 members and 9000 local chapters in 50 states. Lancaster County has its share of these totals with nine chapters and about 400 members. Our FFA standing in the state is number one, as it is in most other agricultural pursuits. This is evidenced by the fact that county boys generally make up nearly 15 percent of the state's Keystone Farmer Degree recipients, and provide a substantial share of the state FFA officers each year.

So, when we say that Agriculture is the strength of America, let's also realize that a good part of the strength of American agriculture has come, and will continue to come, from the ranks of the Future Farmers of America.

★ ★ ★ ★



FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

● SWCD

(Continued from Page 1)

ing July 1 of this year. He and his family will travel to Vera Cruz, Mexico, where he will serve as an agricultural missionary under a venture sponsored jointly by the Evangelical United Brethren and Presbyterian Churches.

LANCASTER FARMING Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly

PO Box 266 - Lititz, Pa 17547
Office - 22 E. Main St.,
Lititz, Pa 17543
Phone - Lancaster 391-1017 or
Lititz 626-2191
Don Timmons, Editor
Robert G. Campbell, Advertising
Director
Subscription price \$2 per year in
Lancaster County, \$3 elsewhere
Established November 4, 1955
Published every Saturday by
Lancaster Farming, Lititz, Pa.
Second Class Postage paid at
Lititz, Pa 17543

Gingerich recommended that the board consider his coworker in the Penn Manor agriculture department, Richard Hackenberger, as a replacement for the year. Directors unanimously approved both of Gingerich's requests.

NATIONAL MEETING REPORT

Directors heard reports from chairman Amos H. Funk and Aaron Z. Stauffer who attended the National Assn. of Soil Conservation Districts convention held recently in Cincinnati, Ohio.

At the national event, which was attended by some 3000 district directors from 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, Stauffer said he was particularly "impressed with the effort being put forth by the

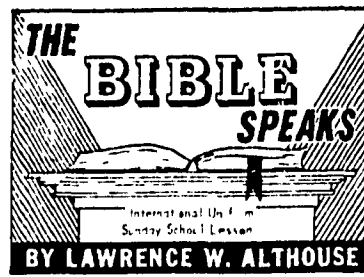
youth committee." He also reported that Pennsylvania is leading the nation in organized youth programs.

CONSV. MEETING SET

Funk announced that he, Stauffer, and county conservationist Oival A. Bass would participate in a community conservation meeting at the Lincoln Independent School on March 1. The program is one of a series of educational meetings being presented at the school.

In other business, directors further planned for the annual state conservation district meeting which the county will host next November.

Ten new cooperator agreements totaling 1369 acres were unanimously accepted by the directors.



The Prodigal Father

Lesson for February 19, 1967

Background Scripture - Luke 15
Devotional Reading - Psalms 22

It is commonly called "the Parable of the Prodigal Son," but it is really the father in the story, not the son, who is the real prodigal.

"Prodigal," my dictionary defines as "Wastefully or recklessly extravagant . . . giving or yielding profusely, lavish . . ." The son was wastefully extravagant in the squandering of his wealth in the far country. Yet this spending

Rev. Althouse was nothing compared with the lavish love his father spent upon him.

To man, the love of God cannot help but seem wasteful. As deep as human love may go, men do seem to have limits beyond which their love cannot or will not go. There are some people whom they seem unable to love, some disappointments and hurts that make love appear impossible — for men.

Isn't this what makes Christianity unique? Ask the Hebrew about God and he will speak of covenant law. Ask the Moslem and he will describe a God who demands unquestioning obedience. Ask the philosopher and he will speak in the abstract terms of omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence. Ask the Deist and he will describe a disinterested Mobile cosmic Ether who watches his (or more correctly its) creation from afar off. But look at Jesus Christ and what kind of God do we see revealed in him: the loving father whose prodigious grace is greater than our wilful sin. Christianity has plumbed the depths of reality in this universe and found at the bottom of it all there is divine, self-giving Love.

Marked "Personal"

Furthermore, it is a personal message. It is not in the nature of a general proclamation tacked to all the world's telephone poles and billboards, nor even one of those envelopes that arrives in the mail addressed: "Occupant, 19 South Main Street." No, the divine communication comes with my name on it, marked "personal." He is not merely the divinity who loves mankind from afar, but the Lord who comes near to me and love ME! There is nothing of the "To whom it may concern . . ." about it, but the relationship of father and son.

What endurance we find in that prodigious love! The son does not wander away from his father's house. He wilfully decides to leave, arrogantly asking in advance for his share of the estate his father will leave at death. The broken relationship is all of the son's making. So it is with us: it is not that we do not realize what we are doing, but that we do!

Yet, when we have gone to the far country and squandered our free inheritance in desperate rebellion, when at last we have hit rock-bottom, then it is that frequently we "come to ourselves." We suddenly remember the better life in the father's house and realize what we have done.

Long Road Home

So we start back, no longer as sons, for we have forsaken all right to call him "Father." We return as servants, claiming not the love we spurned, but asking mercy. Yet, as the homeland comes into view, a familiar figure comes running down the road. He has been standing at the gate and scanning the road and he comes to greet us, not as servant as we deserve, but as son. Ignoring the utter illogic of it all, he wraps us extravagantly in the priceless mantle of his love and we are welcomed once more to the Father's house.

It is we who must "come to ourselves" and begin the long road home, but it is only the Prodigal Father whose love keeps him scanning the horizon for us that makes it possible for us to return as sons.

(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.)

Go To Church Sunday

For Full Market Reports Read Lancaster Farming

Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

To Service Lawn Mower

Even though some folks may not realize that grass mowing time is approaching in another two months, winter is rapidly passing and the lawn mower will soon be needed. Before the grass is ready to cut, it is suggested that the mower be serviced and put into good condition. If this is to be done by commercial concerns, then delaying until spring may mean further delay in having the mower when needed. By all means have the blades or knives sharpened before starting to use.

To Creep Feed Lambs

Sheep producers have usually experienced the Easter market as one of the best times to sell early spring times to establish contour lambs. Heavier weights may be strips or straight strips on land realized by feeding the lambs that is subject to both water extra grain after a few weeks and soil erosion. When the of age local producers are slopes are alternated with row uiged to adopt this practice at crops and close-growing crops once to get a greater return the water is retained and the from the lambs at Easter time soil is not eroded. The extra A creep is a small pen con- bother in farming the smaller structed to admit the lambs strips will be returned in great- er crop yields and the con- but not the ewes. serving of the topsoil.

To Conserve Soil And Water
Spring is one of the best



SMITH