

## From Where We Stand . . .

### "Plastic" Tobacco

No, that's not a new agricultural substitute product. But using plastic to cover tobacco seedbeds is a pretty good way to add a couple of weeks to your growing season.

We've reported for at least the last three years on farmers who have used this method successfully, and each year their number increases. In this issue, a Willow Street area farmer makes his second appearance in Lancaster Farming. For the past two years he has gained about two weeks in getting his plants to the field by growing them under plastic. And, according to John Yocum, superintendent at the Penn State University Field Research Station, ten days to two weeks is about the normal time advantage for tobacco plants grown under plastic instead of under the conventional muslin.

While some muslin-covered beds were reported transplanted this week, many are still not field-ready. In the case of the Willow Street farmer and the state research station, plants under plastic were ready by Memorial Day.

Yocum reports a new method is being tried at the station. Since plastic on a framework is at a disadvantage in windy locations, his staff is now placing the plastic flat, right over the seedbed. This is then covered with muslin to hold it in place. When the May weather gets too warm, the plastic can be removed by sliding it right out from under the muslin, leaving the latter in place until weather permits complete removal. One big advantage to this method, besides better wind resistance, is a labor-saving lack of watering. Yocum reports that, after an initial watering, the job didn't have to be repeated until the plastic was removed. Next year he plans to experiment with sub-irrigation in the seedbeds.

While the method of growing tobacco plants under plastic undoubtedly requires more careful management than the old way, we think more farmers growing Lancaster County's multi-million dollar tobacco crop would do well to look into this faster method—especially if these cold, wet springs are going to become our normal weather pattern.

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### Hunting A Job?

Many boys who graduated from Lancaster County High Schools this week are probably even now out hunting jobs, and some others will be looking for

work just for the summer. What are your chances of finding what you're looking for?

Although Lancaster County is reportedly a job-deficit area with skilled help in demand by industry, your chances will be greatly affected by your appearance. If you think we're referring to your long hair, plastered down with that greasy kid stuff, you're right!

That hokey style may have been very much in while you were a school-boy, but laddie, it is not going to do a thing for you when you are interviewed by a prospective employer — unless of course he's hiring a combo.

As a graduate, you will find success far more attainable in the working world if you dress and behave to please the adult crowd, not the in-school bunch. As a bonus you'll find you can see everyone else better, and, for a change, they can see you. So, come on out from under the thatch, boys; it's not bad out here in the light, really.

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### Between The Stork And The Plow

The outcome of the foot-race being run these days in under-developed countries between the "stork and the plow", as one authority expressed it this week, is critical for the future of many peoples of the world. With the pace being set by the swift flying stork, the tortoise-paced plow is running a very poor second.

In some of these countries where food is scarce and starvation a daily visitor, seed grain is often consumed as food, and manure is burned for fuel rather than invested in the next crop. Progress in educating such people agriculturally is slow.

Regardless of personal or religious sentiments on the subject, if the food supply and population in under-developed countries is to be brought into balance, some means besides starvation will have to be used to slow down population expansion. If highly developed agricultural countries are to help, and if those in need are to honestly accept that help, it is necessary that the stork's busy schedule be slowed. That provides the best method we can see to give agricultural education a fighting chance to win the race.

Fortunately, this line of reasoning seems to be becoming generally accepted by those close to the situation on both sides of the fence. If that is so, agriculture may win this race yet.

## Weeds Reduce Soybean Yields

The cold weather this spring may force some farmers to re-plant soybeans which have failed to germinate. If pre-plant incorporated herbicide has been applied, weeds should not be a problem when replanted. If a pre-emergence herbicide was applied, replanting soybeans will incorporate the herbicide into the soil and probably lessen its effectiveness.



Generally warm weather is called for right through the weekend. Although it will be cooler on Tuesday and Wednesday, temperatures during the five-day period, Saturday through Wednesday, are expected to average above the normal 82 to 59 degree range.

And some needed moisture is anticipated during the period also, with showers Sunday and Wednesday expected to yield 1/2-inch, or more.

Good weed control is a must for a high soybean yield. Just a few weeds — one every 10 inches in the row — can reduce yields as much as 30 percent. A band of morning-glories in a row may cut yields as much as 60 percent, according to Dr. Richard Cole, chairman of the department of agronomy at the University of Delaware.

Weeds take their toll by robbing the plant of moisture, food and sunlight, reducing stands and increasing lodging. The common weeds affecting area soybean production include pigweed, lambsquarter, velvet weed, yellow foxtail, giant ragweed, giant foxtail, morning-glory, jimson weed, green foxtail and crabgrass.

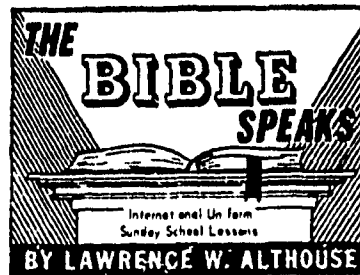
Weeds have their death grip on soybeans because the beans grow very slowly during their early stages. The weeds can out-grow them and offer severe competition for water, food and light. Cole says research shows that weed control is needed for the first eight weeks until the soybean plant can compete and keep weeds down. A total weed control program should consider soil characteristics, weed species present and the crops in rotation which dictate the type of weed control and the herbicide needed.

Proper seed bed preparation is one of the best means of weed control. By working the soil to start weeds growing and then working the surface to kill weeds that have started, weeds are killed before planting time. A rotary hoe is also effective for controlling weeds in very young soybeans. Shallow cultivation just deep enough to control weeds, but not deep enough to bring buried seed to the surface to cause trouble later on, is also recommended.

### ONE USDA EMPLOYEE FOR EVERY 15 FARMERS IN US

The USDA resources are formidable, says AFBF president Charles Shuman. While farm numbers have steadily decreased, USDA employees have increased. There is now one USDA employee for every 15 farmers in the nation, and the USDA spends \$89 million a year for publicity and reports. Shuman charges.

"However, with all these resources I don't think the Administration will be able to quiet the growing revolt on the farm against the outmoded and wasteful federal farm programs which have driven the parity ratio to the depres-



## No, Lord!

Lesson for June 11, 1967

Background Scripture: Acts 9:22 through 11:18, Devotional Reading: Acts 10:1-41

Several months ago, while attending a meeting in Dallas, I had a chance conversation with a man who obviously wanted very much to talk with someone. We were sitting at neighboring tables in a restaurant. I'm not sure how the conversation began, but we hadn't talked for more than a few minutes until he was unburdening himself of something that apparently troubled him very deeply.

He was an engineer, a civil engineer with a master's degree, to be exact. He had just started a new job that day, but it was his previous job, the job he had just left, that bothered him. Weeks ago, he had been approached by a firm that offered him a substantial raise in salary. Desiring to be fair with his present employer, he informed his employer that he was contemplating the offer and asked whether he might want to consider meeting it.

### "I Don't Understand"

His employer refused, saying "I know that other engineers of your ability are getting that much and more, but it is more than enough for an Indian!" With that, the employer began an abusive tirade, demeaning the man and his race. The engineer was a highly competent man, but because he was an American Indian, his employer could not fully treat him as an equal human being. "I don't understand," the man at the next table kept saying. "I worked for him twelve years and he never called me a dirty Indian before!"

This incident just happened to occur in Dallas. The man across from me might just as easily been a Puerto Rican in New York City, a Negro in Philadelphia, or a Mexican in San

Diego. Or — and this is hard for me to admit — it might have happened in the little town where I live or the county-seat metropolis nearby.

This is not a new problem in the world. The New Testament recalls for us the wall that stood between Jew and Gentile. It was a wall so great that Peter refused to have anything to do with Gentile converts to Christ. So strong was the heritage of prejudice in Peter that he responded with an outright refusal: "No, Lord!"

### To Avoid Corruption

The barrier between Jew and Gentile (and we must remember that at that time the followers of Jesus still regarded themselves as Jews) seemed reasonable enough. Throughout the history of the Hebrew people there had been a constant and obvious temptation to adopt the pagan (Gentile) religious practices of their neighbors. Time and again the Lord sent his prophets to warn the people to give up their Gentile ways and worship him alone. The Hebrew people, therefore, learned to avoid all contact with Gentiles in order to avoid being corrupted by pagan influences. It began as a "reasonable" idea. In time, however, it developed into prejudice and racial pride. It was carried to the usual human extremes.

Peter said, "No, Lord!" It was rare for Peter to defy his Lord's wishes. So it is today. If we are going to say, "No, Lord!", it is more than likely that it will be over some issue of pride and prejudice. He shows us clearly what is his will for society and we respond, saying: "No, Lord, I don't mind 'them' having equal rights, so long as they don't get uppity." "No, Lord, I'm not prejudiced, you know, but I don't have to have 'them' in my home, do I?" "No, Lord, our property values will plunge." "No, Lord, you don't know them as we do." "No, Lord" . . . (and you fill in the rest).

### Insulting The Creator

What the Master said to Peter, however, he says also to us: "What God has cleansed, you must not call common." When we demean any of God's creatures — and he created them all, didn't he? — it is an insult to the Creator, not the creature. It was hard for Peter to rise above his prejudice, but he did it and so must we: "Who was I that I could withstand Jesus Christ?" Let our "No" become "Yes!"

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## Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

### To Provide Shade

Protection from the hot, summer sun is very important for most efficient production from all kinds of livestock. If trees are not present in the area, then artificial shade should be provided. Most all research work indicates that direct sunlight at all times in this part of the country will reduce gain in weight as well as milk production. A temporary roof with open sides will give protection and plenty of cross-ventilation.

### To Control Flies

Fly control starts with a good sanitation program supplemented by an insecticide spray program. Breeding places should be removed and not allowed to exist. It is suggested that various fly sprays be used from year to year to reduce the danger of building fly resistance. Some alternating from application to application during the same season using two or more insecticides might also improve the control.

### To Be Alert For Wood Ticks

Lancaster countians living working or playing near wooded areas should be on the alert for wood tick infestations. They seem to be more plentiful this spring. These eight-legged ticks bury their heads

in human flesh and could be the start of several infections. Parents are urged to inspect their youngsters carefully and remove the tick carefully followed by use of antiseptics. The preventative measures include spraying playgrounds or areas with DDT, Sevin, or Lindane.



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