

From Where We Stand . . .

A Letter From The Editor

The Garden Spot
Lancaster County, U.S.A.

Dear Readers,

Following an example set when the preceding editor left the staff of Lancaster Farming, I'd like to drop the editorial "we" and say so long on a personal note.

Serving as editor of your farm newspaper the past three years has been one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life. In a world seemingly turned upside down — where the old values of thrift and hard work are penalized while indolence and anti-social behavior are rewarded — it is good to know that there is a "Lancaster County"!

It would be impossible in this space to list all the individuals and organizations to whom I am indebted, so I hope a simple "thanks to all" is acceptable.

In my new job — eastern editor for Watt Publishing Co. — I'll be traveling all over the northeast, but Lancaster will still be "home"; I hope to run into old friends often.

SOUND OFF

If I might offer one comment in parting, it would be to remind Lancaster Farming readers that this is THEIR farm paper. For the most part you are not all using it to the extent you could. For example, we'd like to carry more news about farm women activities. Some of the groups regularly share a report of their activities with our other readers. Most do not. And the area of suggested feature material is wide open. If enough folks request regular features, or a column, on any particular subject, it can be arranged.

An exchange of opinion. This might well be the most important function of any community newspaper. I know it takes something pretty special to get a reader excited enough to actually sit down and write a letter to the editor, especially knowing that opinion will appear in print. But your opinion is vitally important to an editor. It is impossible for him to get out to talk with every reader. A few written words coming in regularly from the farmers may be one of the greatest rewards an editor can experience for it makes communication a two-way street. If it's a matter of not wanting your name to appear in print, that can be arranged at your request.

This page in Lancaster Farming can be an important farm community sounding board. I can only urge you to use it to the fullest. This is a time when one's opinions shape the thinking of others, and the world sorely needs constructive thinking. If your opinion is good enough for you, it is good enough to share with your neighbors. So, why not "sound off" once in awhile? Lancaster County is a unique community. It's composed of dozens of towns and villages, and yet it is a community unto itself. The bond that unites us — north, east, south, and west — is farming. Problems arising in one part of the county have already, or will shortly, arise in other parts.

Agriculture is one of the largest single industries in the county. We must not permit the burgeoning suburban and metropolitan areas to push us aside as they seek to satisfy their own interests at the expense of the farming community. Strong, aggressive leadership on the farm front is probably more vital today than ever. Through many of our county farm organizations we already have the framework for action and for assertion of leadership. I would urge you, as I have in the past, to support your farm organizations with your time, your energy, and your ideas. The strength of unity which can be gained through such support can literally move mountains in agriculture's behalf.

For now, so long, and thanks again for your help and understanding these past three years.

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Refuting the "Experts"

"Never fear; this rainy weather can't continue." . . . Noah.

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Mirror, Mirror On The Wall . . .

The Republican National Convention is still nearly one year away, and the main event even a little further. But in recent months, public speculation on who will be "the fairest one of all" continues to mount.

Each presidential hopeful still feigns disinterest in his candidacy while gazing searchingly on the public opinion poll reflections, studying each new line for any slight indication of increasing favor or disfavor in the eyes of the great American voter.

The slate of aspirants must be rather formidable in the view of any incumbent president — first we've got the three "R's": Romney, Reagan, and Rockefeller. Then, that perennial candidate, Richard M. Nixon. And, in the wings, several more youthful warriors, fresh from elective successes — Charles Percy, Mark Hatfield, John Lindsey, and don't discount the vice presidential stock of Massachusetts' Edward Brooke.

Romney's presidential star rose fast, but, although he is still often referred to as the leading candidate, his stock is not currently very high in the estimation of those who profess to understand such complicated matters.

Ronald Reagan has been described as "the fastest-rising political property in the nation" by such experts. Not only will he be coming to the convention with the largest delegation of uncommitted votes, but he is probably better-known to the public than any of the other late-showing candidates. Reagan seems like the one to watch at this time.

Rockefeller has allowed as how he's not in the race, but, if he can ultimately control his New York delegation, he too will be swinging a lot of weight by next summer.

And, Richard Nixon. We saw his intentions best described the other day as: "he is not running for the nomination, but for the presidency itself." In other words, he is running against Lyndon Johnson right now, and not worrying too much about the scurrings of the other would-be candidates. Nixon will probably enter the primaries starting next spring, and can be expected to continue firing away at LBJ all the way.

Away down south in the land of Wallace, the Alabama governor's husband is beginning to seriously consider that he has a message of importance which he'd like to project from that big white cabin in Washington for the next four years.

George Wallace would run on some kind of an independent ticket, if indeed he decides to run at all. He would undoubtedly carry a lot of white southern votes along if he ran (he believes he could also pick up a fat mess of northern "backlash" votes), and he would probably hurt the Republicans' chances far more than he would hurt Johnson.

So, who do you pick in a field such as this? Who knows? Each will have his favorite when the candidates line up at the starting gate. But one thing we know for sure — this is probably going to be one of the most interesting campaigns in history, right from the starting bell. Sorry, no predictions!

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Best Definition of the Week

"Nostalgia is simply the sudden realization that things in the past weren't as unbearable as we thought at the time." . . . Arthur Godfrey.



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Practice Pesticide Safety

For many farmers and gardeners the spraying season is about finished for this season. The proper disposal of empty containers is very important to prevent contamination of water supplies, and to prevent the poisoning of children and livestock. One safe method is to bury or burn empty containers so they will not be reused at any time. Surplus materials should be stored in the original containers to keep directions. Store these items away from food or feed supplies, children and livestock.

To Correct Muskrat Damage To Ponds

Many ponds are bothered with muskrats and considerable damage will result if the population is not kept to a minimum. Before winter sets in, it is advised for pond owners to eliminate all holes through the banks; fill them with stones and clay. In many cases the inside of the pond, at and below water level, may be lined with crush-

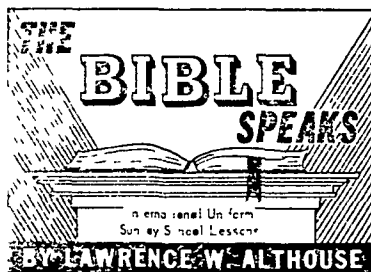
ed stones to prevent digging. If the muskrats are allowed to live in the pond banks, they will eventually drain the pond and take over.

To Become Familiar With Frozen Forages

The proper handling of frosted sudan grass and the sudan-sorghum hybrids is very important for maximum utilization. We are not expecting an early frost, but September is here and we would like all producers to know that a special mimeograph sheet is available in case of an early frost could be beneficial.

LANCASTER FARMING Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly

P.O. Box 266 - Lititz, Pa. 17543
Office: 22 E. Main St., Lititz, Pa. 17543
Phone: Lancaster 394-3047 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.



To Be One's Self

Lesson for September 3, 1967

Background Scripture: Acts 23:12 through 25:12
Devotional Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-14

The individual, it is said, is moving toward extinction. The group — think and the IBM card are replacing him. Morris Bishop's poem, "The Perforated Spirit," (copyright 1955, The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.) says it with both humor and pain:



The fellows up in personnel
They have a set of cards on me.
The sprinkled perforations tell
My individuality.

Rev. Althouse: How hard it is to be an individual in this world today. Because many people cannot accept what they really are, they are frustrated by constantly trying to be someone else. They want the physical appearance of a movie star, the physique and grace of an athlete, the wit of a humorist, the intelligence of a scholar, the personality of an entertainer — and they want it all wrapped up in a tidy package they can call "myself." Life can only be one continuous warfare until we stop trying to be everyone else and accept God's most precious gift: our individuality, the person God created us to be.

It matters not how I may prate
How charged with punishment the scroll
The Files are masters of my fate
They are the captains of my soul.

Clear Conscience

This was hardly true of Paul the Apostle. Here was a man who did not need to pretend to be someone else. He was aware that God knew both the worst and the best about him. God alone was his judge and thus he did not worry if there were those who did not like him. Because he was at peace with his God, he did not have to impress anyone. Relieved of this burden, he could be free,

open, and authentic.

Wouldn't you like to experience this in your own life? How wonderful it would be to live, unworried by what others thought, aware of our faults and our sins, but not obsessed by them. This is the stuff of which a clear conscience is fashioned, the kind of conscience we see evident as Paul is confronted by the governor in Jerusalem.

"Take a look at this conscience. There is no hostility. I cheerfully make my defense." There was much about which he might have been bitter, but Paul did not want his ministry to be ruined by hostility. His appearance before the governor, trying as the circumstances were, gave him an opportunity, to witness for Christ in the light of this opportunity, why should there be any bitterness?

Nor is there any deceit. "But his I admit to you . . ." Though he knew some of these details might be harmful to him, he did not try to hide them, for his conscience was clear. He had done only what he believed Christ had wanted him to do. To try to hide these deeds would only destroy his witness for Christ.

What Kind of Saint

Furthermore, there is no sense of guilt. "So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward God and toward men." When one can face God without guilt, having endeavored to do his will, we need not fear to face any man and be judged by him.

Paul's conscience was clear and he could stand before the governor without hostility, deceit, or guilt. He was free to be Paul and did not have to pretend to be anyone else. "But he was a saint," you say. Yes, Paul was a saint and so are we as the New Testament understands the word, but he did not fit into any of our stereotypes of sainthood. He was an individual, sometimes impulsive, sometimes headstrong, occasionally temperamental, but always himself, the self that God created him to be, the self set free by the power of Christ.

Paul was a saint, not because he repressed his true self, but because he offered it to God who used it powerfully for his purposes.

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GO TO THE CHURCH
OF YOUR CHOICE
SUNDAY