

From Where We Stand . . .

Best Wishes

4-H CLUB MEMBERS

Starting today, September 30, is National 4-H Club week throughout Lancaster County and the nation. According to Jay Irwin, Assistant County Extension Agent, the 2,076 County young people in the 82 local clubs are encouraging others to join them in 4-H learning experiences.

The 4-H Creed is:

"I believe in 4-H work for the opportunity it gives me to become a useful citizen.

"I believe in the training of my Head for the power it will give me to think, plan, and reason.

"I believe in the training of my Heart for the nobleness it will give me to be kind, sympathetic, and true.

"I believe in the training of my Hands for the ability they will give me to be helpful, skillful, and useful.

"I believe in the training of my Health for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, resist disease, and make for efficiency.

"I believe in the United States of America, and in my responsibility for their development.

"I am therefore willing to devote my efforts for the fulfillment of these things which I believe."

Even President Johnson got into the act with an open letter to all 4-H members. He said, "Your theme for 1967 is widely chosen. This is, indeed, 'The World of Opportunity,' and this is a wonderful time to be alive, for it is filled with opportunities to serve our fellowmen in rural America, in our cities, and around the world.

"Our country's progress is based on the knowledge, skills, vigor and courage of its youth. We depend on young citizens for leadership and service. It is thus heartening to know that you are equipping yourselves for this responsibility through 4-H work.

"I hope each of you is able to influence other young people to follow your example as you develop your head, heart, hands and health through 4-H."

In The Top Of The Farm News This Week

Smucker and Weaver Win At Ephrata Steer Show — Page 1

Frey and Book Have Champs At Lampeter — Page 1

Eleven-Year-Old James Greider Wins Steer Title At Lampeter — Page 17

Corn Virus No Threat In Pa., Says Penn State Pathologist — Page 9

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So, from the entire staff at Lancaster Farming, to all Lancaster County 4-H youth and your extension and parent leaders, congratulations on this your National 4-H Club Week, and best wishes for continued growth in the coming year.

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Unselfish Leadership

How many hours a year do the 300 local 4-H parent leaders unselfishly spend helping with club projects? Fifty, one hundred, two hundred, or more? We don't know and we doubt if they have ever stopped to count either. But it's certain they are providing a learning experience for our boys and girls that can not be measured in dollars and cents.

Under this leadership our youth both learn to win and lose graciously. Also with a club project to occupy minds, our farm youth have less time to be destructive. This not only means better men and women in the future but a better community now.

At least that's the way it looks from where we stand.

A Fortunate Nation

"Although we are a fortunate nation, our food abundance didn't just happen. . . . we have to fight 10,000 kinds of insects for our food. We have to combat 1,500 plant diseases, and 250 animal diseases. We have to fight spoilage and decay. The result of this battle to protect our food is evident. In our own country, food quality is high, the abundance great, and the cost relatively low. Overseas, we have supplied 98 per cent of food aid received by the less developed nations. Protecting our food is a giant job, and a vital one for both America and the world." — Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture.

Across The Fence Row

The fellow who thinks he knows it all is especially annoying to those of us who do.

— Holstein-Friesian World—June 10, '65

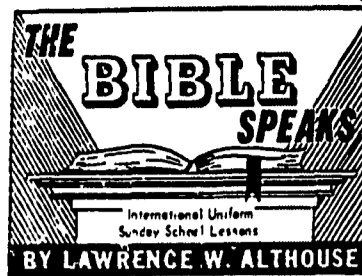
Then there is this story: A young farmer's wife who had agreed to the purchase of a new tractor instead of the dining room set she had wanted protested when she found that her husband had ordered one with power steering at extra cost.

"But dear," the husband explained, "It won't cost more. All we have to do is pay a little longer."

Weather Forecast

The five day forecast for the period through next Wednesday is expected to bring temperatures averaging below normal. A high is expected of 60 degrees and over night low of 40 in the North and in the high 40's in the South. Normal high at Harrisburg is 72 and the normal low is 50 degrees.

Rain may total about one-half inch occurring at the beginning of the period and again about Tuesday.



A DARK AGE?

Lesson for October 1, 1967

Background Scriptures: 2 Kings 14:23 through 17:41
Amos 8:4-11.
Devotional Reading: Psalms 47.

Jesus said that a prophet is not without honor, except in his own country. He went on to dramatize this when he was rejected by the people of Nazareth, his own home town.

He might well have added "in his own time." People can appreciate the prophets of the past and anticipate the prophets of the future, but there is seldom much enthusiasm for the prophets of our own day.

In one of James Thurber's stories there is a house full of clocks. On these clocks the time is always "then," never "now." That, it seems, is the right time for prophecy: "then," not "now."

PEOPLE IN THE DARK

In school we all studied about those times which are called "the Dark Ages." People who lived in the "Dark Ages," however, didn't know that they were dark. Of course, that's the way it always is: the people who live in darkness rarely understand how dark the times really are. It takes a later generation to look back and make that judgment, to appreciate the prophets whose warnings, for the most part, had gone unheeded.

How do you know when you live in a "Dark Age"? The obvious answer is that most people do not know. Fortunately, however, God does give each "Dark Age" a few men who would tell us, if we would listen. The problem, of course, is that we do not want to listen. We would prefer pleasant discourses on the brightness of our age, even though the light has long become dim or even gone out.

No wonder Jesus Christ himself was so poorly received when he came: men ignore the light and choose to walk in darkness. "The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world . . . yet the world knew him not" (John 1:9-10 RSV).

THE TIME IS RIPE

Today we look back to those biblical "dark ages" and revere the great names of Amos, Hosea, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Micah, and others. Yet, though we honor them today, then were hardly well received by the people in their own time. Why? Because it was a time ripe for prophecy, an age in need of God's spokesmen. And, because it was such an age, it rejected its prophets — as we do today.

What kind of an age was it? Actually, on the surface, it appeared to be a "golden age," not a time of darkness. For one thing, it was a time of unprecedented material prosperity for Israel and Judah. This wealth was the result of an ever-increasing trade and commerce.

Yet the "golden age" was only superficial, for it was an era of oppression and injustice. One of the reasons that the rich were so rich was that they used their wealth to continue to amass even more while the poor got poorer. Civil law, it seemed, existed only for the benefit of the wealthy. The poor could not get it, for it had to be bought and the price was high.

WHO NEEDED GOD?

Furthermore, it was a time of social decay and religious irrelevance. Official religion was flourishing and the rituals were rich and colorful. But it was a religion divorced from morals, giving mere lip-service to God and not affecting the relationships between men. Actually, it was a time when both nations felt so strong, that they did not really need God — or so they thought. They were smugly confident in their own cleverness and power. They hadn't gotten rid of God; they had simply taken over his job!

Look, they said, we're successful, prosperous, growing: doesn't that prove that God is satisfied with us? The prophets said a loud "NO!" The people called them "traitors" and ignored them. Does this dark age sound uncomfortably familiar? It should.

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NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Topdress Alfalfa . . .
Established stands of alfalfa may be fertilized this fall after the removal of the last cutting. The use of a phosphorus-potash fertilizer now will permit time for the roots to store the plant food for greater yields next summer; in addition, there may be more time to apply the fertilizer now than following the first cutting next summer.

To Plant Evergreen Shrubbery . . .

Property owners who are interested in planting evergreens such as yews, junipers, and hollies may do so with success by making these plantings by the middle of October. This will permit the plant to get set before freezing weather ar-

rives and will improve moisture conditions around the plant as compared to next spring's plantings.

To Permit Corn To Dry . . .

Corn plants continue to be high in moisture and the ears are slow to ripen; thus may continue to be slow until we have a killing frost. Corn that is to be picked or shelled and stored without the use of mechanical drying practices, should be given time to dry on the stalk. Most field corn is still above 25% moisture, and will not dry sufficiently in the normal cribs under present conditions. This year it is quite likely that many fields of corn will not be ready to pick before the small game gunning season.