

From Where We Stand . . .

Thanksgiving, 1967

In this hurried world, there are still a few times when we pause and with humility and reverence recall our heritage and give thanks for our spiritual and material blessings. Thanksgiving is such a time. The first Thanksgiving Day was observed by the pilgrims at Plymouth Colony after their first harvest in 1621. President Lincoln in 1864 proclaimed the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day, and it has been so since that time.

Legislation is now before Congress which would shift the observance of five of our national holidays to Mondays, on the theory that this would avoid breaking up the working week and provide five clearly defined three-day weekends. Shifts are proposed for Washington's Birthday (to become Presidents Day), Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Whatever may be said for this proposal as it affects the rest of these occasions, one may hope that Thanksgiving is not finally included among them. As things now stand, this is quite generally observed as a four-day holiday. A time for families to get together — schools and colleges are closed from Wednesday till Monday. This would be sharply changed if Thanksgiving were just another three-day weekend. For more than a hundred years, the fourth Thursday of every November has been the time for families to serve that reminder of the Lord's bounty — the traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. Changing this day would to many minds detract from its significance. Traditions are an important part of the continuity that lends strength to a people and to a nation. In these times, it would seem well for us to keep as many of them as we can.

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

Two Nice Meetings

Two nice meetings were held last week that we must comment on.

First, the State Soil and Water Conservation Meeting, held in Lancaster and hosted by our own Soil and Water Conservation Committee. We were told the banquet Thursday night was the largest ever held by this state organization. Certainly, this speaks well for the local men who worked long and hard for this accomplishment.

Also the fine York Chorus was featured at the Lancaster County Holstein

Farm News This Week

City Tots Visit County Turkey Farm Operation — Page 1

Larson Speaks To Ag-Banquet On "The Telescoped Evolution" — Page 1

County Groups Do Well At Timonium — Page 5

Credit Man Says We Could Not Get Along Without Our Farmers — Page 1

Ivan Yost Elected YFA Vice President — Page 1

Frey Elected President Of Holstein Association — Page 1

LANCASTER FARMING
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Banquet, Friday evening, giving a nice change of program for this dairy cattle breed organization.

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

About Food Prices

Clair Zerby of the Warwick Union High School Vocational Agricultural Department, came up with some interesting statistics on just where your city neighbor's grocery money goes — and how much an average family spends upon the dining table and how this part of the budget goes up and down.

The statistics speak for themselves and tell a real interesting local story — so here it is:

Your Grocery Money

Have you ever wondered how much of your food money goes for meat, milk or marmalade? Here is a breakdown based on U. S. Department of Agriculture studies. This is for a family of four living on a moderate cost food plan.

Meat, poultry, fish, eggs	\$13.00
Vegetables and fruits	7.38
Milk, cheese, other dairy products	5.57
Flour, cereals, baked goods	3.43
Margarine, butter, dressings	.89
Sugar, dessert mixes, jellies	.80
Coffee, soft drinks, seasoning, other	1.04

Total weekly food bill \$32.11

Note: Non-food items purchased in food stores account for about 20 cents of every dollar spent in the grocery store.

What's In The Grocery Basket?

In addition to the above mentioned food items you will find many of the following items. Household supplies, cigarettes, toilet articles, pet foods, magazines, toys, greeting cards and many others. We may even buy clothing.

What Does The Farm Producer Receive?

The farmer's share of our food dollar in 1966 was 40c. It was 39c in 1935 and 53c in the war year 1945. As a general rule, the farmer's share of our food dollar declines as the amount of food processing increases.

The wheat grower's share of our food dollar spent for white flour is 42c. When the flour is mixed with other ingredients and baked as white bread, the farmer's share for his wheat drops to 14c.

The corn grower receives 10c of the dollar spent for cornflakes.

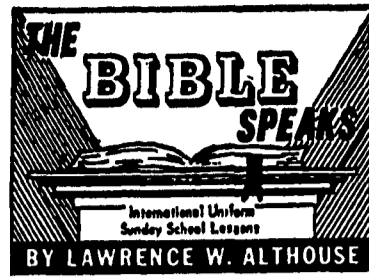
When we buy potatoes, the producer receives 30c of our dollar. When we buy frozen French fries, he gets 16c.

As you can readily see, the amount of processing or handling increases the amount received by the producer decreases. As we continue to demand more ready-to-eat or heat and serve items the cost will continue to increase, but keep in mind that the price received by the producer does not increase at the same rate. Today only 18 percent of the take home pay goes for food. Compare this to approximately 45 percent for Russia and 55 percent for India. Food truly is your best buy and the quality is the best anywhere in the world.

Weather Forecast

The five-day forecast for the period Saturday through next Wednesday calls for temperatures to average below normal with daily highs in the 40's and overnight lows near 30. Moderating temperatures are expected Saturday with little change early next week. Normal temperature for this period is high 50, low 33.

Rain may total less than one-half inch occurring as scattered showers Sunday and again Tuesday. Snow flurries are expected in the mountains on Wednesday.



THE COSTLY GIFT

Lesson for November 19, 1967

Background Scripture: Hosea 11:14,
Deuteronomy 32:1-6.

A well-known artist was commissioned to paint the portrait of a very haughty woman. "Mind, now," she commanded, "make sure you do me justice." Later in his journal he recorded this reaction: "With a face and personality like hers, what Madam needed was not justice, but mercy!"



One should always be careful in demanding justice, for we might get precisely what we deserve and what we really want. Some time ago I saw a group picketing a particular institution. One of the pickets carried a sign that read: "WE ONLY WANT WHAT'S COMING TO US!" "God forbid!" was the thought that came to my mind. What most of us need, I reflected, is not justice, but mercy.

Conditional Love

The people of Israel spoke much of their covenant with God. He promised to be their God and they promised to be his particular people. To modern ears this may sound like a legal contract, but it was certainly much more than that. If it had been but a contract, it would have been null and void from almost the very beginning. The people of Israel were constantly breaking their part of the covenant and justice alone would have declared that God was released from his promises.

What the people of Israel needed and received, however, was not justice from God, but grace: God's undeserved love. This kind of love is difficult for men to understand. Human love is often conditional. It is a promise to give love in return for being lovable. "I'll scratch your back if you scratch mine." "Buy me what I want," "treat me nicely," "live up to my expectations," and then

I will love you.

What God offers his children is not a contract, a deal or a provisional promise of something to come, but the declaration of an existing fact: He loves us now, even in the midst of our unlovableness. Though we break our part of the covenant, though we have utterly forsaken him, nevertheless he says to us as he did the unworthy people of Israel: "I will heal their unfaithfulness; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them." (Hosea 14:4)

Cheap Grace?

Some people misjudge the meaning of the grace of God. Because he offers us his undeserved love, some have concluded that his grace is a cheap, inexpensive commodity. The grace of God, however, is not a matter of God ignoring our unworthiness, but of his bearing the pain of it himself. "The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and burning incense to idols," (Hosea 11:2 RSV) This is not the condemnation of an angry judge so much as the cry of a rejected father. The pain is not a concern for a broken law or contract, but grief for a broken relationship.

"How can I give you up, O Ephraim!

How can I hand you over, O Israel?" (Hosea 11:8)

No, the grace of God is not cheap; it is very expensive. It is a love that survives the extreme pain of rejection. It prevails, not because man's sins are harmless — they are not — but because God's love bears the pain of those sins and is victorious. It is not evil overlooked, but evil overcome.

Repent!

Who among us could afford to ask for justice? What all of us need is grace, the expensive love of God that none of us deserve. If we want this precious gift, he will offer it but not force it upon us: "Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity," (Hosea 14:1 RSV) Time has not changed the formula: repent and receive the gift of grace. Justice comes upon us "ready or not," but the grace of God is too precious, too expensive to be delivered at the door with the morning milk.

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Go To Church Sunday



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Prevent Fires . . .

Fire prevention in and around farm buildings at any time of the year is very important; during the winter months when most of the machinery, livestock, and crops are in the buildings the risk of serious loss from fire becomes greater. Farmers are urged to have one or more fire extinguishers in the barn in order to attempt to control the fire before the fire company arrives. In addition, be sure the extinguisher is in working condition and that all members of the family know exactly how to operate it. Fire prevention is very important.

To Observe Cattle Closely . . .

All dairymen and cattle feeders are urged to watch their animals closely this time of the year. There are many respiratory diseases that can cause serious losses. Shipping fever

is very common where cattle are transported; shipped cattle can give the infection to local cattle very quickly. "Red nose" is another infection known in this area; symptoms are a runny nose, a low, throaty cough, difficult breathing, fever, and loss of condition. The "eye of the master" several times a day is very important.

To Use Corn Fodder for Bedding . . .

Livestock and dairy producers are reminded not to overlook the use of corn stalks for good bedding. Shredded or chopped corn stalks have high water absorption rates and can be put through the barn and still returned to the ground for maintaining soil organic matter. The material should be allowed to dry, or be dried with heat or air, before much of it is stored in farm buildings.