

From Where We Stand . . .

"No Residue" Requirements Utterly Unrealistic

Not so many years ago, most people had at least a rough working knowledge of the facts of life down on the farm. This was because the energies of most people were devoted to the business of producing the food and fiber necessary to sustain life. All this has now changed. One farmer now produces enough to feed scores of people as a result of modern agricultural techniques. Probably not one person in 50 any longer has the remotest notion of what it takes to draw from the sun, the rain and the soil the things we require to live.

Ironically, the great scientific and technological advances in agriculture which have freed the majority of the populous from the drudgery of squeezing out a living on the back 40 have been a two-edged sword. Those who have been freed from the land for other pursuits are unaware of the vital role of such things as chemicals in agriculture, and thus often obstruct continued agricultural progress. Keeping the public informed of modern agricultural processes has become a major task.

Recently, Congressman Jamie L. Whitten in an Address before the National Agricultural Chemicals Association drew attention to the need of public understanding of pesticides and pesticide residues and the necessity of reaching an agreement between nations, particularly between the United States and countries of western Europe, upon pesticide tolerances. Testing methods of such sensitivity have been developed as to permit identification of pesticide residues at a level of parts in a trillion — so infinitesimal as to be beyond human comprehension. Present testing methods make "no residue" requirements utterly unrealistic. Therefore, in the opinion of Congressman Whitten, nations must agree upon what are safe tolerances and must reach an understanding in order that trade between nations shall not be needlessly incumbered and people threatened with critical shortages of wholesome foods.

Everything we eat has faint traces of innumerable chemicals — put there by nature. Man-made pesticides are just another chemical applied to help grow our food. In some cases, a trace remains after the growth and harvesting process. A few years ago, the analysis techniques of the time could not detect these harmless traces. But now, the laboratory can isolate the minutest indication of any sub-

stance in our food. Thus, laws that say "no residue" are impossible to comply with and can simply result in the total prohibition of scientific pesticide application — even though soaring food requirements make pesticide use mandatory. This truth must be brought home to peoples of all nations if mass starvation is to be avoided.

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

Christmas 1967

One of the first satellites was launched by divine edict, to guide the Wise Men from the East to Jerusalem, to pay homage to the newborn Jesus.

Much has been learned about the celestial galaxies since that time, and men of science continue to challenge their mysteries.

Complicated measuring instruments have reached the moon and are sending back research data, paving the way for future space observation and travel.

Over these nineteen-hundred odd years, the oft-told story of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and their later flight into Egypt epitomizes the philosophy of the family — the cornerstone of civilization.

Man, while attempting to unlock the mysteries of outer space, should take time out to pause and recall that it was the birth of a Savior in a stable at Bethlehem that helped to make this all possible.

Today's wise men who challenge the universe by orbiting new and bigger vehicles into space should also fall in behind the original three Wise Men guided by the first satellite, to pay homage to the Christ concept and the design of brotherly love. Love of one's fellow-man begins with the family.

"There is a close relationship between supplies in the market and farmers' bargaining power. Modern agriculture cannot operate in today's industrial system unless it keeps supply and demand in balance. Production in line with market demands and orderly marketing are the foundation stones of farmers' bargaining power."

— Orville L. Freeman
Secretary of Agriculture

Across The Fence Row

Of two heroes, he is the greater who esteems his rivals most. — Beumelle

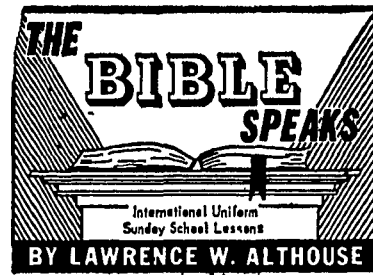
Don't be the first to try new things, nor the last to put old things aside

Then this story —
I am twenty-five cents.
I am not on speaking terms with the butcher.
I am too small to buy a quart of ice-cream.
I am not large enough to purchase a box of candy.
I am too small to buy a ticket to a movie.
I am hardly fit for a tip, but — believe me, when I go to church on Sunday I am considered some money!

Weather Forecast

The five-day forecast for the period from Saturday through next Wednesday calls for temperatures to average near normal with the high in the mid 30's. North and West to the mid 40's in the Southeast area. Turning colder toward the end of the period. The normal Harrisburg high is 39 and low is 25.

Precipitation may total one-half inch melted occurring as snow or rain mainly toward the end of the period.



IN THE MOOD

Lesson for December 17, 1967

Background Scripture: Malachi 1 and 2,
Devotional Reading: Psalms 34 11-16.

One Aldo Donati recently told police in Sicily that he has been married eleven times without ever having obtained divorces. "I simply love weddings," he confessed. "The ceremonies, the music, the nervous bride, the trappings — they hold a special fascination for me — so when the mood strikes, I get married!"



The bigamist's explanation of his misdeeds may seem far-fetched at first glance. Yet, if we think of it, there is much of this same motivation at work in our world today. "When the mood strikes" today, people are liable to do or not do almost anything. We break contracts and agreements when it suits us. We shed responsibilities with no twinge of conscience. Relationships are broken as if they never existed. The "gentlemen's agreement" seems to have become obsolete because of a demise of "gentlemen."

A Scrap Of Paper

The affairs of nations also reflect this cavalier attitude toward covenants and relationships. Many treaties are made with the unexpressed assumption that neither party really expects to perform its obligations. We remember, of course, the broken treaties and pacts of Hitler and Stalin, but our own skirts are hardly without stain. The United States government has a long history of broken treaties with the various Indian tribes that once possessed this land.

Within the last few years, the American people have "looked-the-other-way" as the courts have allowed the federal government to break its treaty with the Indians who live on the Pennsylvania-New York border. The attitude of the government seemed to be that it was all right to break the treaty because land

was needed for a dam and the Indians would be reimbursed for their loss. That the Indians wanted their treaty and not reimbursement did not seem to matter.

Same Mistake?

It was this same disregard for responsibility against which the prophet Malachi warned in the fifth century B.C. when the Judean exiles returned from their captivity in Babylon. Their fathers had broken their covenant with God and the nation had suffered grievously. Surely these people would not make the same mistake?

Evidence seemed to indicate to Malachi that they might. They too lacked a sense of responsibility. They wanted the benefits of religion, but they did not want to give anything of value in return. They went through all the "right motions," but they gave only tokens of themselves. They kept their part of the covenant only when they were "in the mood" or it was of advantage to them.

Cheap Sacrifice

One rainy Sunday afternoon a little boy and girl decided to act out the story of their morning Sunday school lesson, Noah and the Ark. They found an old shoe box and set it afloat in the bathtub. Turning on the shower, they "made the rains come" and later pulled the stopper to make the waters recede. Then the little boy remembered that Noah had offered a sacrifice. The kitchen stove, they decided, would be a fine place for that. The boy suggested the sacrifice be his sister's doll, but the little girl indignantly refused, suggesting in retaliation her brother's baseball glove. "Certainly not!" the boy exploded. After some moments of careful thought, the boy exclaimed: "Say, do you remember that old torn teddy-bear in the attic? Let's give that to God; we won't want it any more." And that was their sacrifice.

We may smile at these children, yet have they not learned their sense of responsibility from us? "Let's give that to God; we won't want it any more!" What must children think of the "When-the-mood-strikes-us" manner in which you and I fulfill our covenants to God and men?

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Farm News This Week

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NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Mulch Strawberries . . .
Two to three inches of clean straw will help increase the strawberry yield next June, after the plants are dormant, this mulch applied over the entire area will help protect the plants from extreme cold weather and reduce heaving of the roots. Next spring when only part of the mulch is removed the balance of the straw will help conserve moisture and help keep the berries clean.

To Kill Brush and Stumps . . .
The winter season is timely for spraying brush, undesirable trees, and stumps with a mixture of 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T, and oil; this potent mixture will kill most any plant or tree and if done during the winter, there will be less danger of drifting and killing useful plants. Large

er trees should be notched in order to get the herbicide into the tree quicker. By spraying the bottom 18 inches of the trunk of trees and brush, they will be eliminated by next summer.

To Test Forage . . .
The forage testing service at Penn State University is still available to all Pennsylvania farmers. With the winter season at hand and with many farmers owning a hay crop not as high in quality as some years, and with liberal supplies of corn, it might pay good returns to have the forage tested; many livestock producers have learned through this testing service that a cheaper feed could be used resulting in higher net returns.