

# From Where We Stand . . .

## Big "Going On"

Well, next week is the big "Going On" in Harrisburg again. It happens every year about this time — the snow starts to get deeper, the temperature tags the thermometer's nose on zero and all around Lancaster County the snow items get ready for the Farm Show.

This one — the 52nd — promises to be another enormous one. Prize money totals \$69,121, a new high. And as in past years some entries had to be turned away. Most of these were in the dairy department with 100 rejected. Beef cattle and sheep were all accepted but 20 horses and 20 swine were turned away. In all, 1,983 animals will take a wild winter ride to the affair, not to mention all the other produce and handy-work assembled by farmers from across Pennsylvania.

In announcing the 1968 Farm Show theme, "Agriculture — Pennsylvania's Keystone Industry," Gov. Shafer said,

"For more than half a century, Pennsylvania Farm Show has occupied a unique position in the world of agriculture.

"It has grown from a small beginning into an inspiration known and respected in every nation and in all walks of life. And as it grew in importance, the Pennsylvania Farm Show became more than a symbol of the Commonwealth's agricultural prowess, it became a showplace of progress.

"Agriculture truly is "Pennsylvania's Keystone Industry." It is the source of food for many people, and it provides raw materials for the great multitude of manufacturing plants and business places that are engaged in Agribusiness today. For this reason, the Pennsylvania Farm Show has wide appeal and a variety of interests for everyone, from producer to consumer."

Anyway we feel the magic call of another mid-winter extravaganza. So, let's go everybody. We'll see you at the Farm Show.



## Crime Is Crime

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation noted, "Police officials know from experience that crime prevention and enforcement of the law are a bit more complicated than the supervision of a church picnic. Sociological dreamers notwith-

standing, crime cannot be explained away. It can be given aliases, but by any other name it is still crime — violations of the laws of our land. And it is still increasing."



## Don't Blame The Farmer

Food prices are rising again, but it should be remembered that the total bill at the checkout stand of a supermarket is a poor gauge of food prices. The house organ of a large retail chain store system pointed out the reasons for this when it reported that one tenth of housewives' ". . . total supermarket bill is used for nonfood items . . . shampoo, magazines, aspirin, kitchenware, and many others . . . her 'food' bill is bigger because she's buying more nonfood items at the grocery store. . ."

Moreover, despite rising food prices, the long-term trend in the percentage of family income that goes for the purchase of food has been declining markedly for more than 20 years. According to an exhaustive study of food costs by U.S. News & World Report, feeding the family took 25.7 per cent of personal income after taxes in 1947. In 1967, it is taking 17.6 per cent. Another thing that it is important for all of us to remember is that profit margins of the supermarkets have been squeezed thinner and thinner — from 12 cents on each dollar of sales in 1957 down to an estimated 8 of a cent in 1967.

The cost of food, like the cost of everything else, is directly related to the spending and fiscal policies of government. The long term decline in the value of the dollar, which pushes up wages and all other costs, also pushes up the price of food. As long as the prevailing philosophy of government is spend and spend regardless of debt, and voters sanction it, prices will go up and up, as the hardships of inflation multiply.

## Across The Fence Row

Sign on farm: "Hunters, don't shoot anything that isn't moving. It might be my hired man."

Inflation continues to eat away at value of dollar. The 1967 dollar is worth less than a half-dollar was in 1939. Based on a 100 cent dollar in 1939, present dollar is worth 41.8c. —Nation's Agriculture

Why not go out on a limb? Isn't that where the fruit is? — Frank Scully

If you must strike a man from behind, slap him on the back.

Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits. — Thomas A. Edison

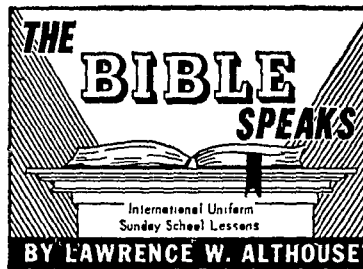
Then there's this story:  
Salesman to farmer: "What does your son do?"  
Farmer: "He's a bootblack in the city."

Salesman: "Oh, I see, you make hay while the son shines."

## Weather Forecast

The five-day forecast for the period Saturday through next Wednesday calls for temperatures to average below normal with the high reading in the 20's to low 30's and the over night lows 10 to low 20's. Cold throughout the period. Normal high-low temperatures for this period is 39-24.

Precipitation may total one-half inch water equivalent, occurring as rain or snow at the beginning of the period.



## THE GREATER MIRACLE

Lesson for January 14, 1968

Background Scripture: John 1:43 through 2:12.  
Devotional Reading: Luke 7:19-23.

"Water into wine? Impossible!"

When they read the Gospel according to John, some people never get any further than Jesus' turning of the water into wine. The miracle is too much for them to swallow. In this day of modern



science and technology, they say, there is no room for "supernaturalism" for the sophisticated person of the twentieth century. The problem, however, may well be what we mean by "miracle." Is a miracle something which is contrary to the laws of nature? Some would say, for example, that miracles cannot happen because the laws of nature cannot be broken nor by-passed.

### A Higher Plane

There are others, however, who do not define "miracle" as being contrary to nature. Leslie D. Weatherhead, a British cleric, for example, sees a miracle as a "law-abiding event by which God accomplishes his redemptive purposes." This is done, not by breaking the laws of nature, but by releasing energies which "belong to a plane of being higher than any with which we are normally familiar." Miracles deal, not with the impossible, but the unknown.

One hundred years ago it was thought "impossible" to travel from London to New York in anything less than several weeks of ocean travel. We did not know then of the laws of aerodynamics, but they existed then as they do now. The idea of an airplane flight would have been regarded as a "miracle." Yet such a flight, had it taken place, would not have violated the laws of nature, only the natural laws of which we at that time would have been aware. The laws of aerodynamics

existed in nature, but they were undiscovered.

### "I Wonder How"

When the possibility of air flight was first proposed, most people scoffed and said, "Impossible!" There were a few, however, who said, "How can it be done?" Because some were willing to stretch their minds beyond what they already knew, today we are building aircraft that will whisk us over the Atlantic in a few hours. When we read this incident at Cana, therefore, the person with true scientific openness will say, not "Impossible!", but "I wonder how it was done?"

There is no need, therefore, to get "hung-up" on the "impossibility" of this miracle. Science does not require it and John was primarily concerned, not with having his readers focus upon the miracles themselves, but to look beyond them to something of even greater importance. Each incident in the Gospel of John has a twofold purpose: to tell a simple story that can be easily understood and to indicate some deeper meaning or significance behind the story. It was this latter purpose that was foremost for John.

Summing up the wedding feast at Cana, John calls this "the first of his signs." These "signs" are to be found throughout his gospel. They are incidents in which with the eyes of faith we may see God's presence and power at work in Jesus. His story becomes, not the story of a carpenter who taught religion and did amazing tricks. In this man's whole life, work, and words we see God himself communicating to man.

### Deeper, Fuller Life

We must look beyond the turning of the water to wine, then, and ask what this sign is pointing to. John looks beyond the miracle and sees it proclaim the new, deeper, and fuller life that Christ gives to those who will receive it. The difference between life without Christ and life with him is like the difference between water and wine.

The changing of water to wine was certainly miraculous. It lies beyond our present understanding, but not beyond the realm of possibility. But the feat of transforming people's lives surely must be an even greater miracle.

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## Farm News This Week

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## NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith  
Lancaster County Agent

### To Invest in Standby Generators . . .

While electric power failures on farms don't often last very long, they still cause inconveniences and might cause severe losses. A standby generator can help make sure that the important equipment will keep in operation. With more and more automatic feeding and operating machinery the need of power is constant and farmers should be ready for any emergency. Both engine-drive and tractor-drive models are available and will eliminate the risk of power failure.

### To File Farm Income Tax Reports . . .

Farm income tax reports must be carefully prepared and filed prior to the due date in order to avoid any penalty. The due date for farmers is February 15, 1968. A farmer, according to Internal Revenue Serv-

ice, is a taxpayer who receives at least two-thirds of his gross income from the business of farming. Those getting less than two-thirds of their income from farming are to file by April 15. Local farmers are reminded of these deadlines.

### To Ventilate Buildings . . .

The recent extremely cold weather has presented ventilation problems in many buildings; this is specially true in barns that are crowded with livestock. When the body heat from the animals along with the excess moisture comes into contact with colder surfaces, the result is condensation and dripping into the area. Insulation of the ceilings may help along with forced exhaust fan ventilation. Animals health and the resulting damage to the building should be reasons enough to try some improvement.