

From Where We Stand . . .

Not Very Safe

We were traveling on one of the country roads south of New Holland recently when a small farm boy driving a huge, high-powered tractor, appeared from behind a field of all corn along the road. He was desperately using all the bodyweight and muscle his eight or nine years would allow as he came to the end of the field. Yes, he got it stopped — after he was on the middle of the road.

The point is, we don't think it is safe for these little fellows and girls to be driving the high horse-power found in the new tractors. One of the more recent reasons for our thinking is this item from the Farm Safety Review entitled "I Don't Feel Very Safe".

"Lyell Yetzer came home from the field on his tractor as he had a thousand times before. But, this time he cradled the body of his daughter on his lap and in his hands.

"A moment earlier the Dakota County, Minn., farmer had heard his daughter say 'I don't feel very safe on this thing' as she switched position on the tractor.

"The new tractor, one of the largest made, jerked as the unfamiliar automatic transmission reacted to learning hands. Roberta Yetzer, 13, fell beneath one of the giant rear wheels.

"Mr. and Mrs. Yetzer suppressed tears as they recalled a sad memory.

A brand-new tractor had been delivered to the farm. Suzanne, 19, Edward, 7, and Roberta had rushed through their chores. They all wanted to ride on the tractor. Jayne wasn't finished yet, so she stayed home. Roberta had spent lots of time behind a tractor's steering wheel. But experience didn't save her from the fall. The wheel climbed over her chest and head. "The ground was frozen. There was no give to it at all.

"I couldn't tell how bad she was," Mr. Yetzer says. "One side of her face was smashed in.

"Little Suzanne ran home screaming to tell her mother to get the car ready. Meanwhile, Lyell picked Roberta up and chugged home. They put her in the car.

"Lyell continued to hold his daughter as the car sped to the doctor.

Dr. R. L. Hegrenes pronounced Roberta dead. In this particular case, nothing could be done.

"As Mr. Yetzer walked past Roberta's empty saddle resting on a wooden horse on the porch, this was his plea to other farm parents: Don't let kids ride on tractors. Get stern with them if you have to. Don't let them ride. We had people tell us about tractor accidents — but we thought they always happened to the other guy."

Farm News This Week

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Conservation Education

Pennsylvania Gov. Raymond P. Shafer has called for support in a move to establish and develop a program of conservation education in the state's schools.

The Governor, in proclaiming October 13-19 as Pennsylvania Conservation Education Week, asked "every student, parent, teacher, administrator, school board member, the Department of Public Instruction, other state agencies and every citizen of the Commonwealth to do his utmost to encourage and accomplish" the successful promotion of such a program.

Governor Shafer emphasized that Pennsylvania's "social, spiritual and economic heritage rests directly on our natural and human resources."

He pointed out that "Most of the state's citizens now live and work in urban areas far removed from close association with our soil, water, minerals, forests and wildlife, thereby making it more difficult for them to learn about these resources from experience and contact."

Because of this, and since conservation principles, understandings and knowledge cannot be imparted in an informal and haphazard manner, the Governor said, "Conservation . . . must be integrated into the existing curriculums of our schools."

We certainly agree with the Governor and commend him for his statement. However, just a statement by even such a man in high state office isn't enough to get conservation education courses in our school system. It takes the grass-roots efforts of everyone who has any influence on local school systems to speak up. And now is the time.

We need textbooks. We need periods in the classroom set aside for conservation instruction. We need teachers sympathetic to the subject. But most of all, we need an increasing awareness on the part of the general public that conserving our soil, water, minerals, forests and wildlife is basic to any other prosperity we might enjoy.

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

Across The Fence Row

"Production and marketing of food is the nation's largest business," noted "The Kansas Restaurant." The publication went on to say. "It is larger than the automobile industry, steel, aerospace. It provides jobs for millions of people in production, processing, transportation, packaging and distribution of food for the consumer. Millions of others engaged in the manufacture and distribution of equipment and supplies used on the farms and ranches of the nation are likewise dependent on the economic well-being of agriculture."

Realtor's sign in front of farm house: "For Sale, Oleo Acres — one of the cheaper spreads."

America is probably the best fed nation in the world. Yet, we spend the smallest proportion of our income of any country for food, 18%.

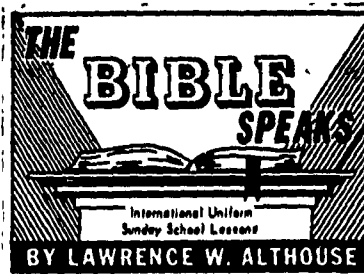
There's no doubt about it. Uncle Sam is much stronger than Atlas of Greek mythology. He carries the world around with both hands in his pockets.

Local Weather Forecast

(From the U. S. Weather Bureau at the Harrisburg State Airport)

The five-day forecast for the period Saturday through next Wednesday calls for temperatures to average above normal with little day to day change. Daytime highs are expected to be in the 70's to mid 80's and overnight lows in the mid 50's to low 60's. Normal high-low for the period is 75-64.

Little or no rain, is expected through next Wednesday.



ALL WRONG, BUT . . . !
Lesson for September 22, 1968

Background Scriptures: Jonah 1 through 4.
Devotional Readings: Psalms 67.

Bishop Gerald Kennedy of the United Methodist Church tells of a stubborn Scottish elder who many years ago bitterly fought against the proposed union of the Church of Scotland with the Scottish Presbyterian Church. In time, the proposed union received the necessary majority of votes and it was consummated. Someone heard the old elder muttering to himself: "It's all wrong, I tell ye, it's all wrong. But evidently it is the will of God."



Rev. Althouse
But evidently it is the will of God."

He didn't like it!

Jonah was like that old elder. His problem was not that he did not know the will of God, but that he knew it and didn't like it! God told him to go to the people of Nineveh and call them to repent of their sinfulness. Why should Jonah object to that?

First, we must remember that Nineveh is an Assyrian city and the Assyrians are Israel's greatest, most bitter enemies. The Jews hated Assyria with a great passion. So, for one thing, Jonah did not want to preach repentance to these Assyrians whom he despised.

Secondly, he was sure that it would be a waste of time, for they would not respond. These people were utterly depraved in their evil ways, he thought. Why waste time on people for whom there is no hope, no possibility of saving? God was making a mistake in thinking that there was any possibility in redeeming that black city!

God's mistake

Third, Jonah found it impossible to believe that God would have

any concern for these people. Israel was his chosen nation. If he was going to love anyone it would be the Jews. Besides, how could God love or be concerned about people who were so evil and pagan? It was almost an insult to think that God would show some of the same concern for Nineveh that he demonstrated for Jerusalem.

We can almost hear Jonah protesting, "It's all wrong, I tell you, it's all wrong!" Yet the persistence of God made something else evident too: "But evidently it is the will of God." Pursued by God until at last he gave in, Jonah accepted the task and went to the Assyrian city. It was not something he desired to do, but evidently it is the will of God and he has no choice, though he is quite sure that God is making a big mistake.

It is then that, from Jonah's point of view, the very worst thing happens: the people of Nineveh, these hopeless, godless Assyrians, take seriously his reluctant warning and repent! And how does he respond to this marvelous turn of events? Is he overjoyed at his unexpected success? HE IS NOT! It may be the will of God for these heathens to share with Israel the mercy of God, but it is still all wrong! Angry, the petulant prophet sulks under a vine that God has graciously provided to protect him from the Sun.

Not just one man

What was the writer of Jonah trying to say to his people with this story? He was trying to show them that God is Lord of all the world, and not just one special nation. He is trying to demonstrate that God is concerned about all men, not just a few. He is attempting to help his readers to see that, though Jonah was a Jew and a prophet, the sailors on the ship, though heathens, were more humane and compassionate. The people of Nineveh, Assyrians though they were, nevertheless were more responsive to the word of God and more obedient to his will than Jonah.

Thus, Jonah is not just one man. He is all Israelites who would rather defeat their enemies than live with them in peace. He is all men who find it impossible to fit the will of God into their little minds and lives. He is all of us who are convinced that God's plan for universal brotherhood in one world must be "all wrong".

Thus, he who laughs disdainfully at Jonah may, in reality, be deriding himself.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service)



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Provide Exercise Lot
Dairy men who are concerned about herd health and high breeding efficiency should be planning to provide a good exercise lot for the milking herd this winter. A paved lot free of any obstructions that may injure the udder of the cow is suggested. If the herd is turned out for a short period each day beginning when the cows are confined at night, they will not mind cold or inclement weather.

To Practice Good Sanitation
One of the principles of good farm management is to establish a sound system of sanitation in every farm enterprise. Since the farmer is getting closer to urban neighbors in many parts of the county, the image of farming and food production must be from clean and sanitary animals and surroundings. Regardless of

the amount of air pollution from livestock waste disposal at several times during the year, if the farmer is practicing all known methods of sanitation, there will be less foundation for justifiable complaints.

To Recognize Good Ventilation
With the coming of the winter season and the confinement of many animals and birds, the subject of proper ventilation should get sufficient attention. With maximum production desired from every farm unit, the buildings will be filled to capacity. The removal of the animals heat and moisture is very important to top production and to maintain good buildings. Condensation and dripping, along with foul air, and drafts may be eliminated with proper ventilation. Producers are urged to recognize better ventilation if these problems exist.