

From Where We Stand...

Look Out For That Thief

Quitting time has come and rather than take your tractor and plow into the barn you let it set in the field to get an early start the next morning. Don't do it!

A Berks County farmer left his tractor in a hay field over night and it just disappeared. The sheriff couldn't find a trace of the thief.

In our Lancaster County Farm Community we like to think our religious and moral background provides protection against robbers. But everyone realizes many outside forces are fast ruining our sheltered culture. Authorities tell us virtually everything a thief can readily convert to cash is liable to theft. Take a tractor for instance. Hijacking one is fairly simple. Often we drive into a farm where two or three tractors are standing around with nobody home. One Vermont farmer who was trying out a new tractor before he bought it from the local equipment dealer even put it in the barn over-night and it was gone the next morning.

With big new tractors costing the price of two Cadillac cars you can see they make juicy targets for organized thieves. And a "hot" tractor doesn't require a title or license tag like the Cadillacs would.

Tractors aren't the only things on which local farmers should tighten security. Cattle, hogs, tools and valuables in your home are possible targets. Your farm now attracts a far more sophisticated thief than guys who snatched chickens off the barnyard fence in grandpa's day.

A heifer from Missouri that was to be shown at the American Royal was stolen right out of her stall before the show. And an Eastern purebred breeder had a \$15,000 bull sent by a thief to the slaughterhouse for \$230.

A clever cattle rustler recently convicted in California had solved the problem of cutting the fence or opening the gate. He just flipped a special truck loading chute over the fence, herded the heifers up the chute and took off down the by-pass.

We all have the tendency to think it can't or will not happen at my farm. But it can and we think it will happen with increasing frequency. In fact, we know it is happening. The thieves learn when the farmer is away with his family and then he raids the gas tank, the milk tank or the family freezer.

We think farmers can take a lesson from the city of Lancaster. They have reduced car thefts by requiring drivers to pull their keys in parked cars. Regardless of what has been the policy of the past (and we wish we could say everyone that comes in our farm lane is honest) we must begin to start using padlocks, yard lights and maybe a real good German Shepherd watchdog.

It would be nice to assume grandpa's attitude that if a thief, "Thinks he is en-

titled to something more than me, he can just have." But today, that just isn't good business or good stewardship. With individual farm debt rising, causing greater liens on our farm equipment, and the moral character in our rural community becoming concentratedly worse, we must use the key on the tractor, the gas pump, the house and even the barn doors.

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

The Price Of Repeal

A basic law of nature has always been work or starve. The expanding U. S. welfare state has, in effect, promised its repeal. But already, signs are appearing that removal of this stern dictate may have its drawbacks, particularly for the remaining workers who must pay the price of repeal. Late figures on the soaring cost of the welfare state give an inkling of what that price is currently and what it may be in the future.

In 1960, social-welfare spending took \$52.3 billion, or 38 per cent of total government expenditures. In 1968, it took \$112.4 billion, or 43.7 per cent of all government expenditures. Skyrocketing social-aid costs now take more than 4 out of every 10 tax-dollars. And counting private funds, welfare in all its forms, takes about 20 per cent of the total national output of goods and services.

Estimates also indicate that by the mid-1970's, the welfare bill will total some \$292 billion each year. Welfare has reached the point where government expenditures for needed public works, improved police protection and other necessary public services and projects are being deferred. Expansion of the welfare state moves ahead undeterred by explosive cost increases. Eventually the burden may become too great for the remaining workers.

Across The Fence Row

The older a person gets, the colder the winters were when he was a boy.

When a feller gets big enough to feel his oats, he loses his horsesense.

After Bridge

The bridge group was chatting with the small daughter of their hostess. "I suppose you're a great help to your mother," said one.

"Oh, yes, ma'am and so is my sister Esther. Today it's her turn to count the spoons after you've gone."

One bad thing about a narrow mind is that it's usually accompanied by a wide mouth.

"The bigger the officials are, the easier they are to talk with," — Mrs. Elizabeth Walker, Democratic Committee's chief telephone operator.

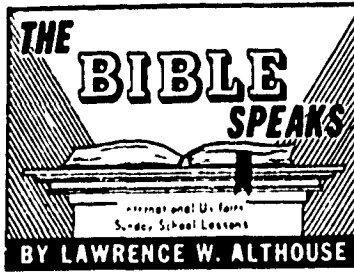
"The proper place to start curbing is not in the electric chair, but in the high chair!" — Sequim, Wash., Press.

A lot of backaches and headaches seem to fit in between inspiration and achievement.

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 near or above normal with daytime highs in the 60's and over-night lows in the 40's. Mild throughout the period with seasonable temperatures. Normal high-low for the period is 63-40. Rain may total less than one-fourth inch as showers Monday and again toward the end of the period.



STRICTLY PERSONAL

Lesson for April 13, 1969

Background Scripture: Hebrews 1:1, 1 John 1:1-4

Many centuries ago in Milan, Italy, there was a young man searching for the truth. In pursuing this quest, he had sampled the great philosophies of the world and studied under some of Italy's (and the world's) finest teachers. Still he could not find what his restless heart seemed to need.

One day he heard from a neighboring garden some children at play. Over and over they sang two Latin words as part of their game. The words were "Tolle, lege," meaning "Take up and read." Acting impulsively, he picked up a New Testament lying close by, opened it at random and let his eyes fall upon Paul's letter to the Romans.

Take up and read! The words he found in Romans changed the young man's life and gave him the peace for which he had been searching. They also changed his vocation, for he became a clergyman and eventually a Bishop of North Africa. Today we remember and honor him as Augustine, one of the most profound thinkers of the Christian Church. His life had been changed because he responded to a children's song: "Take up and read!"

What Augustine experienced has been common to many across the years. God speaks personally to us through his scriptures. It was this experience which led Soren Kierkegaard, the Danish theologian, to comment: "The Bible is a letter from God with our personal address on it." This may seem a strange idea, for we know that the books of the Bible were usually addressed to groups of people, rather than individuals (there are some exceptions to this, of course). Yet, though Paul, for

example, wrote Romans for a community of first century A.D. Christians in Rome, still God was able to use this same book to deliver a message to Augustine many years later, as well as countless others since him.

Personal address

A well-known television and motion picture actress has testified to the personal message from God which the Bible brought to her. She had suffered a serious illness which had left her emotionally broken. She became so tortured with self-doubt and fear that she was sure she could never again face the cameras. She became desperate to find some resources to save her from despair.

In desperation she turned to prayer, asking simply for faith and strength. Though help did not seem to come immediately, she persevered and began to discover some resources for her battle of faith. One of these resources, she found, was the reading of inspirational literature, particularly the Bible. Again and again she found its words the very help she needed to meet the trials of each new day.

She found particular strength in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things in him who strengthens me." The words were those of Paul the Apostle to a congregation of Christian people who lived long ago and far away. Still she found in this message a letter with her personal address. Though written by a man almost two thousand years ago, God was able to speak to her and heal her life.

Before wit's end

How many of us find the Bible to contain a personal message meant for us? Often, as with the actress, it is only when we seem at wit's end that we discover the message God has for us. Thank God that in such circumstances we do find it; but if only we would not wait for so precarious a moment to let him speak to us. If only we could discover the Bible in our everyday lives and experiences as well as our crises, for God wants to speak to us then, too.

The Bible is not addressed, "To whom it may concern." God can use it to bring you the personal message your life needs.

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

Attend The Church Of Your Choice Sunday

Read Lancaster Farming For Full Market Reports



NOW IS THE TIME...

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Place Fertilizer Properly

With the heavier use of commercial fertilizer on many crops, it is important to keep in mind that both nitrogen and potash elements may burn both seeds and roots if they are planted in contact with each other. With deep-rooted crops such as corn, tobacco, and tomatoes it is best to place most of the fertilizer below the seeds or plants, this is the value of plowing down the bulk of the fertilizer. The roots of vegetable and flower plants should not come into direct contact with complete fertilizer, if should be placed to the side and below the root zone.

To Inspect Lightning Rods

The thunder-storm season is at hand and buildings with rods should have protection, providing the rods are connected and properly grounded. Building

owners should inspect the system to be sure that all connections are tight and that the ground post or cable is deep into moist soil.

To Check Wiring System

Many existing buildings were wired for electricity many years ago, since that time additional demands for electricity have been added because of larger motors, increased wattage in lights, and various appliances that have been added. All of these increase the load on the wiring system and if it is not large enough, a definite fire hazard exists. In addition, in the spring of the year most barns are at the empty time of the year when more wires are available for inspection; rodent damage to the insulation on the wires should be checked in order to prevent serious barn fires.

Farm News This Week

Poultry Association To Use Farm Show Egg Banner For Promotion Locally — Page 1

Thousands Of Yellow Daffodils Brighten Longenecker's Corner — Page 1

LANCASTER FARMING

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly

P O Box 266 - Lititz, Pa. 17543
Office 22 E Main St., Lititz, Pa. 17543
Phone Lancaster 394-3047 or Lititz 626-2191

Everett R. Newswanger, Editor

Robert G. Campbell, Advertising Director

Subscription price: \$2 per year in Lancaster County; \$3 elsewhere

Established November 4, 1955
Published every Saturday by Lancaster Farming Lititz, Pa.
Second Class Postage paid at Lititz, Pa. 17543

Member of Newspaper Farm Editors Ass'n.