

# From Where We Stand...

## To Keep A Base Of Farm Land

At last, farmers who have with horror watched Lancaster County's rich, deep, food-producing soil being run over and ruined by urban infiltrators have found a friend. That is what the committee for the preservation of Pennsylvania's agriculture land must be called — a friend of farmers.

As reported last week, this committee, including two Lancaster County men — Amos Funk, Millersville R1 and Larry Skromme, New Holland — presented a 40-page report to Gov. Shafer recommending that areas of the best farm land be set aside for farming purposes only. County commissioners would be authorized to establish farm-only areas of at least 4,000 acres of adjoining farm land.

Lancaster County has as much at stake in the recommendation as any area in the State. According to Orval Bass, local Soil Conservationist, more than 75 percent of our land is rated in Class I, II or III, all good for producing food. Unfortunately, good farm land is also good for building houses and highways. In fact, figures show that in the nine year period from 1958 to 1967 (the latest available) County cropland decreased 33,580 acres, while urban and build-up acres increased 54,600. This shows what we have known for a long time — Lancaster County will fast become urbanized if the trend is not reversed. But now there is hope.

One of the fastest propellant of urbanization into farm areas is taxes, we believe. True, much land is given over to those who simply want to live in the county and for roads to accommodate these people. But we see in the near future another enemy of the farmer who wants to continue to produce crops on his fields. This enemy is taxes based on land values. It will not be long before the rising revenue needs of governments will force legislators to tax farm land at its market value for urban and industrial use rather than on farm-use value. And we doubt any farm family can continue farming under these kind of taxes though the urban oriented governing bodies are already applying pressure for such taxes.

Fortunately, the new recommendation of the land preservation committee offers relief in this vital area also. The plan as it is envisioned would offer land owners in the set-aside areas to enter into 10-year contracts with the County to keep the land for farming purposes during the contract duration. The advantages under this contract would be that the tax assessors would be required to consider only the value of the farm for agricultural use. In addition, the landowner would be compensated for allowing hunting and fishing on the land and maintaining watershed protection. The heirs of the landowners would continue to participate and would be eligible for state inheritance tax exemption for land under contract.

## Farm News This Week

Solanco Twins Follow Father's Footsteps As Keystone Farmers — Page 1

The '69 Agriculture Census To Be Taken By Mail In Jan. — Page 1

Dairymen Vote No In Milk Referendum — Page 1

### LANCASTER FARMING

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly

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Almost as gratifying as the recommendation was the apparent open ear given the committee by Gov. Shafer. "I am hopeful that a significant start will have been made on your recommendations by the end of my administration," Shafer told the committee. "It's important that prompt implementation be started - - -"

That is true. Recent figures show that hundred of acres of good farm land has been converted to nonagricultural uses in the last 10 years. The same report shows that an average of 115 acres of agricultural land, including 99 acres of cropland have been transferred to other uses each day. This pattern has been accelerating and is likely to continue if nothing is done.

We think local farmers should and will welcome the plan. Although we are noted for our distrust of government interference, here is an honest attempt to keep a base of farmland in Lancaster County and we all know that is good. Good both for our families and for the public economy in general. Since this plan is an attempt to provide a basis where farmers can be left alone with our families to farm as they have always wanted to do, local farmers will be the first to go along with the committee's recommendations. At least that's the way it looks from where we stand.

## Ten Commandments Of Human Relations

1. **SPEAK TO PEOPLE.** There is nothing so nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. **SMILE AT PEOPLE.** It takes 72 muscles to frown, only 14 to smile.
3. **CALL PEOPLE** by name. The sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of his own name.
4. **BE FRIENDLY** and helpful. If you would have friends, be a friend.
5. **BE CORDIAL.** Speak and act as if everything you do is a genuine pleasure.
6. **BE GENUINELY** interested in people. You can like almost everybody if you try.
7. **BE GENEROUS** with praise — cautious with criticism.
8. **BE CONSIDERATE** with the feelings of others. There are usually three sides to a controversy; yours, the other fellow's and the right side.
9. **BE ALERT** to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.
10. **ADD TO THIS** a good sense of humor, a big dose of patience and a dash of humility, and you will be rewarded many-fold.

— From the Guernsey Breeders' Journal

## Across The Fence Row

True

Teacher to geography class: "Where is the capital of the United States?"  
Junior: "All over the world."

The whiz who is always on the verge of making a million dollars never realizes he has to make the first thousand first.

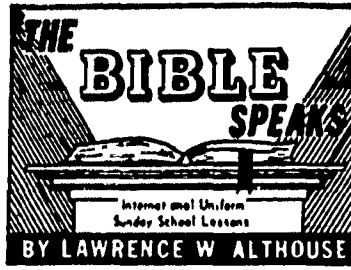
Today's youth are more sophisticated. If Booth Tarkington were to write "Seventeen" today, he would have to call it "Twelve." — Union Register, Ore.

Progress consists of swapping old troubles for new ones.

## Local Weather Forecast

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

The five-day forecast for the next five days calls for temperatures to average near normal with daytime highs in the 40's and over-night lows in the mid 20's. Cold throughout the period. Precipitation may total one-fourth to one-half inch water equivalent occurring Tuesday and Wednesday as snow or rain.



## WHOSE CUP OF TEA?

Lesson for December 28, 1969

Background Scriptures: Malachi 3:1-4, Matthew 3:1-12, 11:7-10  
Devotional Reading: Psalms 95:1-7.

The Pulpit Committee of First Church was looking for a new pastor. Not just any minister would do. After all, First Church was the largest and most influential church in the area. It had a fine tradition that boasted of eminent pulpit orators. Crowds were drawn to First Church on the reputations of its preachers.

That is what had interested them in John B. Someone had told Ben Adams, the Pulpit Committee Chairman, that they had heard a certain young preacher was "packing-them-in" in one of the nearby rural communities. Ordinarily, the Committee would not have been interested in a country preacher. But the crowds he was reported to be drawing might very well be an indication that this John B. was ready for the "big-time" (meaning First Church).

### The way he dressed

So the Committee made some discrete inquiries and on Sunday morning drove to the place where John B. was reported to be preaching. When they arrived there, the members of the Committee were astonished to find, not a country church, but an old picnic ground. Obviously this man was not from one of the recognized denominations. Either that or this outdoor preaching was simply a cheap stunt.

The place was crowded and it was not easy to work their way forward to the old bandstand on which the minister was standing. As they drew closer, Ben Adams gave a derisive snort: "Will you look at the way he's dressed! We could never have a man like that in our pulpit." The "like that" referred to the preacher's wiry black beard, his long, uncombed hair, and a strange robe that was

apparently made from animal skins.

Having seen this was enough for Ben Adams and his committee. They would have left right then, if it hadn't been difficult to push back through the crowd. Since they had little choice, they decided to stay and endure it to the end. After all, the man was rather humorous-looking. The experience would be good for some laughs at least. Some of them began to smirk.

### Indelicate language

As they listened to him, however, their smirks froze on their faces. His message was downright insulting. "Repent," he challenged them, "for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Didn't he realize that the crowd was mostly made up of good church people? Why should respectable people like that be told to repent? Who was he to sit in judgment of them? Apparently he was another one of these professional trouble-makers!

Suddenly, looking directly at the men of the Pulpit Committee, John shouted, "You bunch of snakes! Who warned you to try to escape God's wrath? Conduct yourself as repentant men and don't rely on your church membership to get you through. I'm warning you that God's judgment is going to hit you hard!" Just as suddenly he turned away and stepped down into the water to baptize some people who were waiting for him. Ben Adams and the men of First Church were too embarrassed and angry to utter a word.

### "Some kind of a nut!"

As soon as it was possible, the red-faced men beat a hasty retreat. They wanted nothing further to do with this preacher. They were appalled by his appearance — "Looked like a Communist," confided one of them. They liked his words even less. "Repent!" That was no message for the people of First Church. Worst of all, however, was his personal attack upon them! How dared he?

He was obviously "some kind of a nut," they decided, a crazy man making crazy promises and charges, a religious fanatic. John the Baptist was just not their "cup of tea."

But then, neither was Jesus!

(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)

## 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 Evaluate Farm Records

The keeping of accurate farm records is very important and successful farmers are spending more time on records than a decade ago. The useful knowledge of profit or loss by enterprises is most important but good records should be used to plan for the future. At this time of the year when summarizing the figures for the past 12 months and when preparing the tax returns, it is advisable to spend some time studying the records and using them as a guide for the future.

### To Aim For Lower Cost Of Gains

In the livestock feeding business most of the profits may have to come from low cost of gain and efficiency in the operation

rather than a margin between purchase and sale price. It's a challenge to every feeder to keep the production costs down as a means for a good return on feed supplies, capital and labor. Good management is essential for low feed costs which also includes parasite control.

### To Consider Correspondence Courses

Many very worthwhile courses in agriculture are given at Penn State University through lessons and answers by mail. These have always been very popular and are regarded as very helpful while continuing the normal duties at home. Further details may be obtained on the various subjects by writing "Correspondence Courses, College of Agriculture, The Pennsylvania State University, Box No. 5000, University Park, Pa."