

Bottle Pollution

The throw-away can is convenient for the consumer.

But like many other forms of progress in this fast moving consumer age, the throw-away can is a headache and a step backward for some segments of the society.

A leading victim of the throw-away bottle is the property owner in general and the farmer in particular.

Non-returnable pop and beer bottles and cans, which tend to accumulate in layers along just about any highway, are not a farmer's idea of good fertilizer. At best, the debris is a nuisance. It can be destructive.

The real problem is what to do about it.

Litter laws with their stiff fines don't seem to help.

We can issue another appeal for those who litter to consider their fellow man. Unfortunately, concern for others hasn't been built into consumer progress yet.

As the anti-pollution crusade picks up steam, concern for others is something to keep in mind.

Many of those who are shouting loudest for control of air and water pollution are undoubtedly still chucking the bottle out the car window.

For one thing, the bottle is a form of pollution.

For another, the bottle thrower is just as thoughtless about the well-being of his fellow man as the larger polluters he criticizes.

County Conservancy

A small group of men have organized the Lancaster County Conservancy to protect some of the natural beauty of Lancaster County.

It's easy to think of Lancaster County as strictly a rural area that will always be rural and therefore doesn't need to be protected.

But most of us know of new homes being built near our areas. New roads are being built in various areas of the county. It was recently reported that 5,000 new jobs will open in the county in 1970 alone.

Such changes don't dramatically change

the countryside in one year, but groups like the Conservancy are needed to save some of what we have for the future.

Among those in the Conservancy are Bob Fasnacht of Ephrata, Clayton Shenk of Ronks and John Helter of Lititz.

Their dream includes public areas where families can enjoy outings, where horseback riding can be enjoyed in quiet and safety and where birds, animals and butterflies can be found and enjoyed.

It's the kind of thing the world shouldn't be without.

The Student Worker

Proposals are underway to increase the federal minimum wage from \$1.60 to \$2.00 an hour, which certainly ought to be popular with those earning less than \$2.00 an hour.

But for at least one group, students, a higher minimum wage would certainly be a step-backward.

At a time when unemployment is up, those who favor the higher minimum wage ought to think about some of the consequences of such legislation.

We're thinking particularly about high school and college students needing summer employment. Now's the time when millions of teenagers are looking for summer work. Many of them probably won't find anything at all. Many who do find work will get only a few hours a week, instead of the full-time employment they want.

The problem of summer employment is actually less acute for most farm youth than for urban youth. Summer is a time of intense activity on the farm and there's usually plenty for everyone to do.

Many farmers, if properly encouraged by state and federal legislation, might become sources of employment for urban

youth. A stint in the fresh air and sunshine of the farm might be appreciated as a welcome vacation by many urban students.

Many agric-business firms also might be bigger student employers if properly encouraged.

Several factors are involved in making employers avoid hiring students.

Many employers won't hire anyone under 18, because of various labor laws.

Many employers who would like to hire a teenager may legitimately feel they can't pay the minimum wage.

It may take too long to train the young recruit who hasn't had any work experience. By the time he's trained, it's time for school again.

So the employer may feel he would be ahead if he hired and trained someone who would be around longer, or simply get by with existing personnel. Many prefer working trained employees overtime, even at higher overtime salaries, than hiring part-time workers who are untrained.

For whatever the reason, many would-be employers of students find it's not worth the cost, both in dollars and time, to hire students. The minimum wage is an important factor in pricing students out of the labor market.

Perhaps the federal government should get around to the concept of summer employment as a means for young people to get on-the-job training which will be valuable to them when they're out of school.

Instead of raising the minimum wage another notch and making it even more difficult for students to get summer jobs, the government should consider lowering the minimum wage to make summer work easier to get. If the minimum wage isn't lowered for everyone, it should at least be lowered for students.

Students need the opportunity to learn. They need to have something constructive to do at a time when they're full of energy.



NOW IS THE TIME...

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Plant Trees

March and April are good months to plant most any kind of a tree. Shade, fruit and evergreen trees planted early in the spring before new growth starts will have a good chance of survival. Larger trees should be transplanted with a ball of earth to reduce the shock. Trees are important to everyone and are worthy of more consideration in many communities.

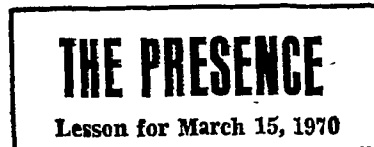
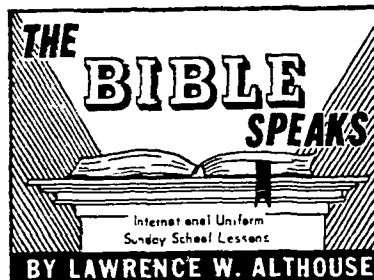
To Give Bluegrass A Chance

Kentucky bluegrass grows native in this part of the county and covers many valley and hillside pastures. Farmers who have these areas that are not tillable are urged to lime and fertilize the area for maximum produc-

tion. Bluegrass requires a sweet soil and will respond to a complete fertilizer early in the spring. An early application of nitrogen fertilizer on part of the area will result in more growth and earlier grazing.

To Spray For Wild Garlic

Livestock producers having grass pastures infested with wild garlic are urged to spray now to kill this weed. The use of 2,4-D over the area during March will kill down the new growth without harming the grass. Also, any drifting of the spray or fumes will do little damage this time of the year. Several sprays over a period of several years may be required to eliminate the weed.



Background Scripture: John 14:19-21, Luke 24:44-49, Isaiah 61:1,2, Galatians 5:22-25, Devotional Reading: Jeremiah 14:12.

Probably all of us would find it easier to be "good Christians" if Jesus lived today in our neighborhood or in our own home. We certainly would be more careful in keeping his commandments and following his example.



Rev. Althouse a physical presence, it does not follow that he is no longer with us. It is, in fact a cardinal Christian belief that Jesus is still present, though in the Spirit.

Not alone

Thus, his guidance has not been taken from us and he is still able to guide us as he guided his first disciples. Though his physical body is no longer here, the Spirit makes him present in an even better and more advantageous way than in the days of his flesh. Try to put yourself in the place of his disciples on that last night. He was telling them that he would be leaving them. Can you imagine how that disturbed them? He had been their leader and teacher for nearly three years. They had become very dependent upon him. Even that very evening they had demonstrated once again their unreadiness.

Counseling them not to be troubled, he makes to them what seems a contradictory promise; "Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me" (14:19). He is going from them and yet he will still be with them! The Lord "will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever" (14:15). Someone will replace Jesus, but who? "I will

not leave you desolate; I will come to you" (14:18). In other words, this "Counselor" who is to come will be none other than Christ himself, yet no longer as the flesh and blood of Jesus, but now as the Holy Spirit.

No longer limited

This was not something to be regretted, for now Jesus would be with them in a way that had not been possible during the years of his earthly ministry. Being a finite, human being, he was limited in time and space. He could be only one place at a time. He could not attend to people's needs all at the same time. Now, however, no longer bound by a physical body, the Spirit of Jesus would be available to all who believed in him and committed themselves to his work.

Of course, those who are not receptive to Jesus are not likely to recognize the presence of his Spirit either. One cannot receive something if he is unprepared to receive it. Thus, we may hear, yet not understand what we hear. We may see, yet still not realize what we see.

When we read the Book of Acts we are amazed at the tremendous works of the Holy Spirit in the early church. We cannot help but contrast this Spirit-filled people with our own often uninspiring experiences in the churches today. Some people are inclined to ascribe the responsibility for this discrepancy to God, assuming that he no longer sends his Spirit to us as he once did to the early church.

Still available

The reason, however, is not that God is no longer willing — or able — to bestow his Spirit in power, but that we are much less receptive to that Presence. The Counselor is quite as much with us as he was in New Testament days, but if the churches do not respond to his Presence, if they do not open themselves to that power, then he cannot do much in or through us.

We do not have to speculate on how different we might be if Jesus were "really present." The Presence is real enough for those who will respond to it.

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