

Think Safe, Be Safe

Farm safety is something a farmer can easily overlook, but only at great risk to himself and his livelihood.

The record shows clearly that farming is one of the nation's most hazardous occupations.

Periodically, a Lancaster County farmer is killed while doing farm work.

Even greater numbers of local farmers are seriously injured, often at tremendous costs both in terms of medical bills and time lost from farming.

Most of these accidents are the result of carelessness.

Many farm chores become routine. It's easy to quit thinking while doing these chores. But such lapses can be fatal.

It's also easy to slip into bad habits. Farmers often get away with what they know are dangerous practices for dozens or even hundreds of times. But dangerous habits that become routine may be the worst of all.

Such bad habits include careless use of gasoline, and working around running machinery.

Many farmers describe corn pickers as

probably the most dangerous equipment of all. A film at a recent meeting of the Pennsylvania Farmers Association vividly demonstrated how easy it is to lose a hand in a corn picker.

One farmer said he always uses a broom handle to dislodge material in a running picker. It's cheaper to lose a piece of broom handle than a hand.

Tractors are also extremely dangerous. The farmer who doesn't know exactly what he's doing can easily upset a tractor and be crushed.

As drivers continue to increase their speed on the highways, possibility of accidents involving slow-moving farm equipment grows. We heartily endorse the Farm Association's promotion of triangular warning signs for slow-moving vehicles.

Most accidents are caused by carelessness. The way to avoid them is to be alert and be safe.

We don't like to lose our subscribers for any reason. We particularly don't like to lose them because of unnecessary accidents.

Scholarships, Good Investments

Victor F. Weaver, Inc. New Holland, recently announced an annual \$400 Future Farmers of America Scholarship to the outstanding FFA student in the poultry field.

We notice that Weaver placed primary emphasis on the young farmer's interest and knowledge of poultry and a relatively small emphasis on actually having a successful poultry operation.

This apparently reflects Weaver's concern about keeping the scholarship open to as many students as possible who are willing to work for it.

It also reflects a concern by Weaver about finding and encouraging students who are truly knowledgeable about the poultry industry.

In effect, Weaver is considering need, effort and knowledge, as well as successful operation.

We agree with Weaver that those who now lack the know-how and assets to be successful, but who have the ambition to become knowledgeable deserve special consideration.

Knowledgeable manpower is needed to

assure the continuing success of any business. Scholarships given to the right persons are investments in knowledgeable manpower.

Even if the students who are helped never directly enter the poultry field, it should be comforting to Weaver officials to know the firm has gained a knowledgeable friend.

Scholarships such as Weaver's are investments in the future of agriculture.

Rapidly growing costs of a college education make growth in both the number and dollar amounts of scholarships increasingly important.

But even relatively small scholarships can mean the difference in enabling a worthy farm youth to go to college.

We wish to congratulate the people at Weavers and hope the program proves successful enough to encourage the firm to greatly expand the scholarship program in the years ahead.

We also hope other area firms notice Weaver's program and strongly consider their own scholarship programs, or expansion of those programs they now have.

Child Cost Squeeze

A USDA news release has informed us that a child reaching age 18 in 1969 probably cost his parents \$16,000 to \$20,000 "if raised at a low-cost, but adequate, level"

But those of us who have younger children won't get off so cheaply. Inflation, which is still getting worse, is upping the price. To raise the same child to 18 at 1969 prices would cost from \$19,500 to \$25,000

Several points could be made about these figures. Some which readily come to mind include.

First, no wonder the birth rate has been going down and families are becoming smaller.

Second, as children spend more time in school and for various other reasons follow

a general trend toward being less productive, it's not just a matter of increasing costs. It's also a matter of decreasing return. A real price-cost squeeze.

Third, as the cost goes up, Uncle Sam hasn't cooperated much on Form 1040 which is due April 15. At a cost of \$16,000 to \$20,000, the average cost would be \$889 to \$1,112 per year, but for many years Uncle has allowed only \$600.

This tax deduction will be increased to \$650 this year and it will be increased slightly higher later, but not nearly enough to cover "a low-cost, but adequate, level" of child care.

At 1969 price levels, with the cost of living shooting up, the 18-year cost of child rearing climbed to \$19,500 to \$25,000. The cost per year ranges from \$1,083 to \$1,389.

This means Uncle is allowing only enough of a deduction to cover about half the cost at today's cost levels.

Overall, the point is that children are quite expensive and the trends clearly indicate they'll become more so.

We hasten to add that we're not proposing the abolition of children or that cost is the only factor to consider. Cost may be one of the least important factors.

It's just that the USDA inspired us to reflect for a moment on an aspect of family life that you don't read about often, but which we suspect the average parent thinks a lot about. We're referring to the high, and growing, cost of rearing children and the squeeze it puts on the family budget.



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Be Patient With Soil

Many farmers and gardeners are getting anxious to start plowing or working their land. The weather is responsible for some delay in these activities but folks are urged to be patient and permit the soil to dry sufficiently before working or plowing. Soil worked wet at this time of the year, especially clay-type soils, will be hard and clumpy for the balance of the season. Heavy equipment is reason for further drying before getting started.

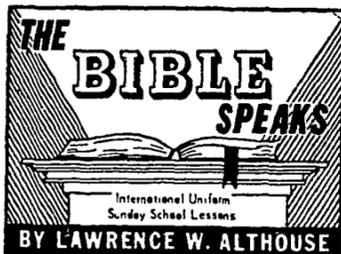
To Practice Farm Safety

This is a very difficult suggestion for anyone to accept and put into practice, because most of us feel that the other person needs it more. However, since farming today is more mechanized, the need for special care and safety is very im-

portant. There are dozens of suggestions on how to prevent accidents, but a few are very important: do not allow small children on or near machinery, keep protective shields in place, and take time to be safe.

To Fertilize Alfalfa

After the lime requirement has been satisfied on alfalfa fields, the crop will respond well to proper fertilization. Not only will yields be increased from this extra plant food but the stand will be longer-lived because of stronger plants and root systems. Most of the nitrogen needs are supplied by the nodules on the plant roots, but the phosphorus and potash should be provided each year. Crops that were not top-dressed last fall should be treated this spring either now or after the first cutting.



EXTRA! EXTRA!
Lesson for April 5, 1970

Background Scripture: Acts 1:1 through 2:42.
Devotional Reading: John 16:4b-11.

ODD-BALL SECT MARS PENTECOST OBSERVANCE!

Jerusalem, May 31. Pentecost celebrations by Jerusalem's Jews were marred when a small but fanatical religious group caused a disturbance at a dwelling on the Street of Camels. The group was identified by police as disciples of Jesus the Nazarene who was executed at Golgotha following a similar disturbance during the Passover.



According to eyewitness reports, a meeting of the small group had been in progress in an upper room of the house of Mary, the Tanner's Wife. Shortly before 9:00 a.m., neighbors heard a loud commotion in the dwelling, the sound of many voices, all speaking loudly at the same time.

Drunkeness charged

Earliest reports indicated that the group had been drinking and many of the participants appeared to be intoxicated. The scene was one of great confusion, with many of the Nazarene's followers speaking in an incoherent fashion. One angry neighbor threatened to petition the Council. "It is a shameful thing for people to conduct themselves like this during the Feast (of Weeks)," he told reporters.

Other eyewitnesses, however, maintained that the Nazarene's disciples, many of them Galileans, were not speaking incoherently, but in various foreign tongues and dialects. Levi Ben-Shuria, a Parthian merchant who has made his home in Jerusalem for the past fifteen years, said he heard one man speaking loudly in his native Parthian dialect. "I haven't heard my native tongue spoken since I left Parthia fifteen years ago,"

said the amazed merchant.

Authorities concerned

Several other foreign-born residents of Jerusalem told stories similar to that of Ben-Shuria. One, a baker originally from the Isle of Crete, insisted he heard several people speaking enthusiastically in his native tongue. Asked what these people were saying, the baker said: "They all seemed to be thanking and praising God for the wonderful things he has done. I never have heard such exuberance."

Despite many reports similar to these, most Jerusalem officials discounted these stories. "Mass hysteria and too much new wine!" said one. Some observers pointed out that it was very unlikely that the Nazarene's followers would be speaking in various foreign languages, since these men, for the most part, are uneducated Galileans. "Drunken babblers, yes!" said one scribe, "But linguists? Definitely not!"

Rabbi Wiseman who lives near the scene of the disturbance voiced surprise when informed of it. "What these people have to celebrate is beyond me," he said to a reporter. "Their leader was executed and humiliated and their movement thoroughly discredited: that should have been the end of it." The popular Jerusalem rabbi added: "It may take several more crosses to finish this Nazarene thing once and for all." Other authorities were reported to be considering various repressive measures.

Crowd still undispersed

As this paper goes to press it is reported that the crowd outside the building has still not been dispersed. Simon Peter, a fisherman from Capernaum, was reported addressing a large crowd. No advance copies of his sermon were available to members of the press.

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