

A Good Community

A former editor of a country newspaper asks, "What makes 'good' communities? Writing to a friend, he says, "Now any observer knows that there are towns and counties where folks get along, where the casual visitor can hear that so and so is a useful citizen and not a son of a . . . where people seem to be helpful to each other. The carpenter tells any inquirer how to cut a rafter, the trapper shares his favorite bait, the ones who can write or talk do so on request. Of course such a community character is not

always unanimous; there are always those women who run the errand girl down with their tongues and men who run her down with their legs, but if most are tolerant the community may survive with the strength that can make it valuable."

Yes, it takes more than payrolls and town boosters to make a good community. It takes a breadth of vision in the ranks of its citizens—a desire to be above petty—talking meanness. As the former editor implies, it takes considerable striving to be a good community.

Responding to Need

Improving and broadening the availability of health care is a never-ending endeavor of the medical profession. An example is the American Medical Association's Committee on Health Care of the Poor.

Formed in 1969, the AMA's Committee on the Health Care of the Poor seeks to mobilize and utilize the resources of the medical profession to achieve available, accessible, and acceptable health care for the poor—recognizing that performance must be commensurate with promise. Among the Committee's major functions are the following: it acts as a group to which those representing the poor can directly express their health problems; it provides national leadership in

establishing goals and priorities for improving health care delivery to the poor; it assists physicians and other health providers, consumers and government agencies to develop a better understanding of the specific health problems of the urban and rural poor; and it identifies and disseminates information on methods of funding local health programs.

There are many other areas in which the AMA's Committee on Health Care for the Poor seeks to broaden health care in this one area. Its work is typical of the unremitting efforts of the medical profession to honor the traditional obligation of every doctor to respond to the best of his ability to all whose health depends on his skill and training.

Good Advice From New Zealand

Ill-advised campaigns, aimed at persuading the entire population to abstain from eating certain nutritious foods that for centuries have been part of the human diet, have posed problems for the dairy and meat industry. It has been said that these foods contribute to the risk of heart disease. Impressive evidence that normal people should adhere to normal balanced diets has been widely overlooked in the furor. Typical of this evidence is a little noticed Report of the Royal Society of New Zealand which was commissioned by New Zealand's Minister of Science, "to make a critical examination of the available information on factors involved in the causation of coronary artery disease...."

The Report, which came out after two years of study, said that, "So far as the general population is concerned, the present state of knowledge does not justify advising any major changes in dietary

habits aimed specifically at reducing the incidence of coronary heart disease. It is considered that this objective can best be achieved by adherence to the type of well-balanced diet which would be advised on general medical grounds for maintenance of good health...." The Report said specifically that efforts to avoid "... normal dietary fats are not justified." Commenting on the Report, one authority noted, "... it is one thing to give a patient advice which, although erroneous, may indirectly help in his recovery. It is quite another matter when this same advice, or for that matter even advice which might be correct in a particular set of circumstances, is extended to the population at large."

It is time the U.S. public took a hard look at the current wave of attacks on virtually everything we eat, wear or use—before we find ourselves shirtless, jobless and hungry.

Off-Base Conservationists

Commonsense conservationists have long been aware that aesthetics and practicality must go hand in hand in the utilization of the nation's forest lands. They are unsympathetic with those who have carried the pendulum of conservation to an extreme. The latter fail to recognize the merit of multiple use forestry technology, the needs of an expanding population or the impossibility of achieving static preservation of forest lands.

The Western Conservation Journal reflected the concern of genuine conservationists when it reprinted an editorial from the Salem, Oregon Statesman. In part, the editorial said, "Preservation of timber has become almost a holy crusade. In their zeal to save trees, the new breed of conservationist has lost track of some fundamental principles. The world needs wood, more now than ever before. It is a restorable crop which demands harvesting at the proper time. Keeping the timber growing land in production should be a primary instead of secondary goal...."

Instead of the harassment which foresters and lumber interests are being subjected to today, their efforts to develop new equipment and techniques to make full use of timber products, to use cleaner methods of logging and processing should be reinforced. Through their legislative efforts, conservationists are attempting to take the decision—making about forestry practices away from the foresters. The public is the ultimate arbiter in this conflict. It must learn to distinguish between 'zeal and real' in assessing the various arguments concerning forest management practices."

Those who find it expedient to ride the coattails of the crusade for forest and wilderness "preservation" beyond all practical considerations can easily find themselves caught in a backwash of public resentment as the people learn the difference between sterile preservation and conservation that seeks a workable balance of many needs in the utilization of forest lands.

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent



To Be Careful With Left-Overs

The planting season is at hand when many crops will be planted and left-over seeds will be on hand; most of these seeds have been treated with numerous fungicides or insecticides are not fit for livestock or poultry feeding; care should be taken that they do not find their way into the feed trough. Spray materials should also be handled carefully so that all items are stored in their original container, or be well labeled. Unknown materials should not be used. We have known of growers who used fungicides that turned out to be a weed killer and nearly destroyed the crop. Keep all items stored away from children and livestock and keep them well marked. Grains purchased for seeding purposes should be used only for seeding and not for feeding.

To Beware of Wild Animals

The number of wild animals infected with rabies appears to be increasing in many parts of Pennsylvania; those who spend time in the outdoors should beware of the fact that friendly or aggressive wild animals, such as foxes or skunks, may be infected with the disease. Dogs should not be taken along on outings or hikes unless they have been vaccinated against rabies. In the southeastern part of our state rabid bats are becoming more common and should be exterminated carefully. Rabid animals and bats show ab-

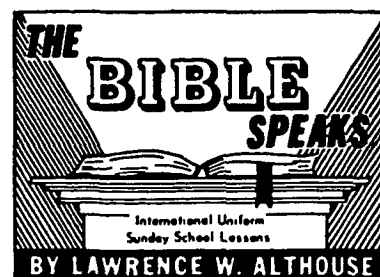
normally aggressive behavior, and may fearlessly attack humans or animals. Never attempt to handle or capture strange behaving wild animals; they may be rabid; destroy them carefully.

To Provide Fresh Water

Hot weather is arriving when all living things consume more water than during the colder weather. All livestock and poultry producers are urged to be sure their animals have access to fresh water at all times. Many livestock may not have a chance at water at all times and will suffer by giving poorer gains or lower production. The practice of watering two times a day is not sufficient and will reduce productivity. Outside watering devices should be protected from the sun unless there is running water available. Along with fresh water should be free access to shade, salt and minerals. All of these smaller items will add to greater and more efficient production for the owner.

To Follow Label Directions

All pesticides used on crops and garden plants will have directions relating to their usage. These directions are put there to be followed by the consumer. When spraying crops it is very important that the applicator follow these directions for safe results. Do not apply more of the material thinking that a little more will be better; it may get you into trouble. Also, it is still strongly advised that all food and fiber producers keep accurate records of all applications of spray materials. Record blanks are available at our Extension Office for both crops and livestock. Read and follow the label instructions is good advice and suggest that everyone complies.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Lesson for May 7, 1972

Background Scripture Luke 22:24-27, Hebrews 13:1-3; James 1:27, 2:14-17

Devotional Reading Matthew 25:31-40.

What would you do if someone gave you a million dollars?

That was the question posed several years ago by a television program, *The Millionaire*. It was a series of stories revolving around the theme of a millionaire who gave away from time to time a million dollars in order to see what the recipients would do with it. The program probably stimulated a lot of people to think what they would do if they were to receive such a sum.

Don't wait to be an angel!

Some people like to think of how generous they would be if they were to suddenly inherit a large sum of money. They envision themselves as great philanthropists and benefactors. William Law once wrote of a "Clemens" who was given to such flights of generous fancy. Clemens has his head full of imaginary piety. He is often proposing to himself what he would do if he had a great estate. He would outdo all charitable men that are gone before him. This sounds noble

enough, but then Law goes on to say. Now Clemens has at present a moderate estate, which he spends upon himself. He might live upon one-third of his fortune and make the rest the support of the poor, but he does nothing of all this that is in his power, but pleases himself with what he would do if his power was greater.

A question of comfort

Often when we are confronted by some need, we beg-off saying, "I'm sorry, I wish I could help, but I can't." We imply that God has given us so little that we have nothing to spare. That's almost a blasphemy against God who has given most of us so much. What we probably mean is: "I can't comfortably do it!"

"Hello Joe," says Charlie, "How's my best friend?" Joe does not reply "Joe," says a puzzled Charlie, "aren't you going to speak to me after all I've done for you?" Silence. "Two years ago when you were broke," says Charlie, "and you were in the hospital, who helped you pay the bill?" "You did," says Joe. "And a year ago when you were out of work, who bought your groceries?" "You did," says Joe. "And six months ago when we were on vacation, who saved your life?" "You did, Charlie," says Joe, "but tell me, Charlie what have you done for me in the last three months?"

The Christian whose usual response to human need is "I can't" is like thankless Joe: no matter how much God gives him, it never seems to be enough to share.



Rev. Althouse