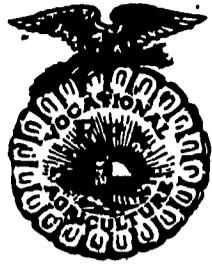


From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



The article this week was prepared by August Birchler, teacher of agriculture at Penn Manor High School.

Rural Leadership

"I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure and in the ability of progressive agriculture to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil." The paragraph above was written for the FFA Creed. I believe that that paragraph states a lot about the character of rural people.

"I believe in leadership from ourselves." Today farming families cannot afford to let someone else make the decisions that affect their communities. For far too long non-agricultural interests have had the loudest voice in matters that directly affected the farm: zoning boards, township governments, boards of adjustments.

What must we do? We must become active members of those agencies that exert an influence within the community. How then



can the Agricultural program that is offered in many schools help? By teaching more than just production agriculture subjects. By teaching a young man or woman to think and to speak. By preparing the agriculture students to stand and speak, we as teachers may be helping more towards providing the leadership that is needed.

Production agriculture will teach a student about soils and their properties, land uses and management, pollution and

controls, money management and planning. These areas of information can be transferred directly, and with much benefit to those agencies that make the decisions that farmers must live with.

If the agricultural community is to continue as a strong segment in Lancaster, then the farming community must encourage those people within its scope to become the loudest and best informed voices on those agencies that make the decisions.

If the agricultural community accepts this responsibility then it will have leadership from itself and respect from others, and will serve itself as well as the public interest.

The Old Timer



"The political pot never boils much. The old apple-sauce is only warmed over."

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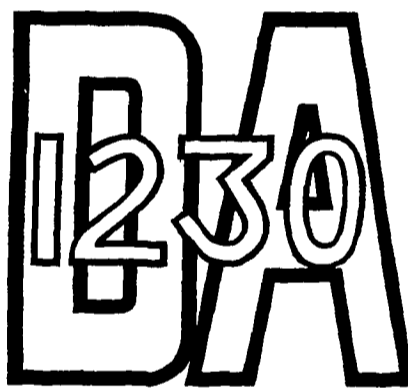
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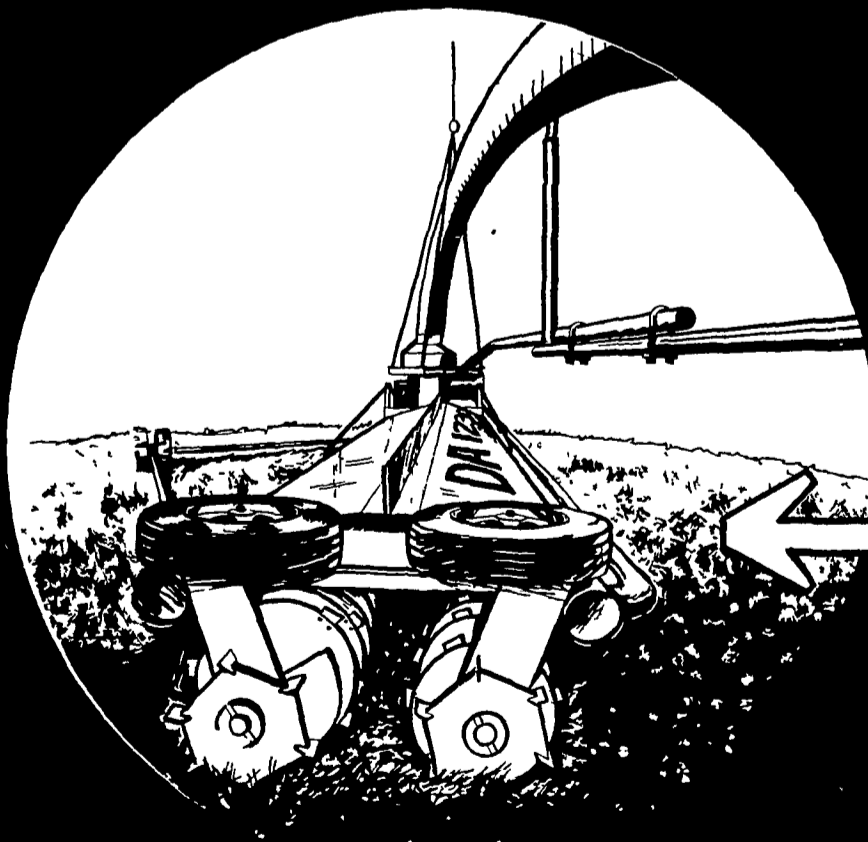
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