

Our 19th Birthday

This week marks the beginning of Lancaster Farming's 19th year of publication. On almost 1000 consecutive Saturdays, this newspaper has turned up in mailboxes all over rural Lancaster County as well as surrounding counties. We hope it's an event that goes on for at least 1000 more Saturdays.

The fate of this newspaper depends, quite obviously, on the fate of farming in this part of Pennsylvania. A disconcerting thought, indeed, if we accept the grim picture painted in the past few years by professional prognosticators. We lay smack in the thick of that nastily burgeoning fleshpot that is to stretch from Boston to Washington, D.C. Some day soon, we've been told, we may expect to drive all the way from Boston Common to the Lincoln Memorial without passing a single farm; 437 miles of apartment buildings, factories, shopping centers and soyburger joints.

We don't expect this nightmare will come to pass, and we hope it doesn't. And not just because we want to stay in business, either. Farms are vitally important to our well-being, our way of life, our sanity. Farmland here in the East has been gobbled up at a frightening rate over the past two decades, and if that rate continues, we soon won't have any left. But people are beginning to wise up to the danger. They're beginning to realize that farmland is an irreplaceable resource - once it's covered with asphalt, it's gone for good. No corn will ever again grow on the parking lot at Park City.

Some schools of thought say we could completely develop the Boston-Washington corridor, and nothing much would be lost, at least economically. It goes without saying that life would be bleak and ulcer-ridden in a region where buildings and parking lots outnumbered the trees. And nobody really wants that.

In spite of what nobody wants, farms are going out of production because very few farmers are so crazy about 4 a.m. milkings that they'll turn down an offer of \$25,000-an-acre for their best cornfield. Our only comment is that overdevelopment can be ruinous, as some California counties have discovered. Too many people bring too many problems and, eventually, bankrupt local governments. That means com-

munities with inadequate sanitation, police protection, and school systems. Of course, anyone who sells out for 25 big ones an acre wouldn't have to worry too much about poor living conditions in this county. He could probably buy his own county in Nebraska.

Fortunately, most farmland here won't sell for quite that much. And, fortunately, there are many, many farmers here who stay in business knowing full well they could sell their inheritance and retire for good at a ripe young age.

The economics of farming are very often discouraging, but there are some hopeful signs. Tax relief for land in agricultural use is one such sign, and the fact that urbanites voted overwhelmingly for a constitutional amendment permitting such relief is another. Too, city-folk are beginning to understand that if they want abundant food, they're going to have to pay a fair price for it, a price that includes a profit for the farmer.

Gas shortages, rail car shortages, even rail company shortages, are arguments in favor of maintaining regional farm centers in heavily populated areas like the East. If there were no farms in the East, and if there were no way to bring food in from the Midwest, the East would starve. Our existing farms are not just pretty, pastoral and peaceful, they're one of the best insurance policies we have against running out of food. Long live farming in the East, especially in the Lancaster Farming area.

Like farming, newspapering is not just a business, it's a way of life, with its own frustrations, its own obligations and its own rewards. As a farm newspaper, it is our duty to herald the promises of the future, examine the mistakes of the past and to disclose the problems of the present. It is also our pleasant duty to report on the day-to-day, week-to-week events, the fairs, the club meetings, the achievements of the young and the old who make up the local farm community. These are duties we gladly accept, and perform with a satisfaction in few other businesses.

As Lancaster Farming enters its 19th year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our readers for their interest, our advertisers for their patronage, and the entire farm community for their support of this newspaper.

Get Health Checks

The medical profession and the American Cancer Society have spent millions of dollars urging the public to see a doctor at the first signs of cancer. But, according to a Massachusetts General Hospital study, these educational programs have accomplished little in the way of persuading the public to act fast to save their own lives.

The study said that the waiting period today is much the same as that reported in similar studies at the same hospital 30 and 50 years ago. Researchers found that one in five patients saw a doctor in the first week after the symptoms were first noticed, two thirds waited longer than a

month, 39 percent longer than three months and 25 percent longer than six months. The hospital's findings help explain why cancer is still the nation's second largest killer, and why 116.6 people per 100,000 population died because of it in 1972.

This nation has the finest medical system in the world. It can treat cancer and other potentially-deadly diseases--providing they are detected early enough. Unfortunately, no one can make a person see a doctor. That is the individual's responsibility. With our lives at stake, it is one none of us can afford to shirk.

"Grassroots Opinion"

PAINTSVILLE, KY., HERALD: "All the confusion about Phase IV evaporated . . . with the issuance of a 165-page booklet of questions and answers. Let the following quote suffice. 'In cases where the adjusted price freeze is in excess of the base price, a price in excess of the adjusted freeze price of an item may be charged only if the full extent of the price charged above the base price, including all incremental price increases charged after the last day of the base price period, is cost-justified in accordance with paragraph (c) of this

section and the requirements of 150.74, 150.75, 150.77 and 150.11 have been met.' At last someone has been able to make the whole thing perfectly clear. Now if someone would just clarify the clarification, the problems would simply disappear."

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FITCHBURG, MASS., MONTACHUSETT REVIEW. "Regardless of how many times we read that our national income is running into billions, the fact remains that the only people sitting on top of the world are the Eskimos!"

NOW IS
THE TIME . . .

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851



To Be Careful With Gasoline Storage

We are aware of the demand for gasoline and the danger of short supplies. Some purchases may have already been limited. The idea of storing or holding extra gasoline in the home, barn, or other places is to be discouraged. The only place that it should be stored is in regular gasoline tanks. We are told that gasoline stored longer than 60 days loses value through volatilization and that gasoline should not be held from one season to another. In addition, the big danger is from fire of explosion. Improperly stored gasoline is a definite fire hazard and all users should recognize this fact.

To Trap Muskrats

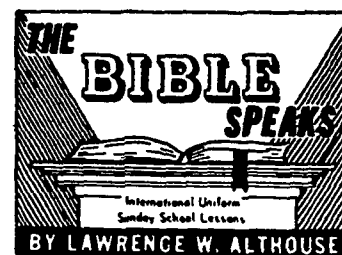
Many farm pond owners are bothered with muskrats boring into the pond banks and lowering the water level; in some ponds they have ruined the banks and the water has escaped. This would be a good time of the year to start trapping these animals; the season opened November 22 and runs until mid January. The muskrat pelts have some fur value and pond owners are urged to trap and market the muskrats before they ruin the pond. Don't neglect the pond investment by letting the muskrats take over.

To Spray For Chickweed In Alfalfa

Alfalfa growers are faced with winter weeds as well as during the growing season; the common chickweed is one of the worst weed pests. Spraying early in the fall when the chickweed plants are small is the best time to get good control; between Thanksgiving and Christmas is one of the very best times. The material to use will depend upon the age of the stand and whether or not any grass varieties are in the stand. One of the DiNitro sprays, Chloro IPC, or Karmex are some of the suggested materials. Growers should check with our office or with herbicide dealers to be sure the proper material is used. Don't wait until next spring when the weed plants are mature and hard to kill.

To Mulch Evergreens

Many recently planted evergreens and shrubs will stand the winter much better if they are surrounded by two to three inches of a mulch; this will not only help hold the moisture but will prevent alternate freezing and thawing of the soil near the plant roots. A good mulch (peat moss, tan bark, pine bark, pebbles, or ground cobs) is worth the investment and may be left on the ground the year around. Well watered plants when freezing weather arrives will also help them withstand the winter weather.



ON NOT LOSING HEART

Lesson for November 25, 1973

Background Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:1 through 5:10.
Devotional Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:1-15.

"Cheer up, things will be better!"

How often have we heard or given that piece of advice? Sometimes, of course, there is some truth in it. Very often people are discouraged because they can't

see their problem in perspective. It is, perhaps, not as serious as they imagine. Sometimes it is a matter of being patient and waiting for help that is "just around the corner." Some people very obviously give up hope much too soon.

When "things" do not "get better"

It is also true, however, that sometimes the advice is false. We know that there are some situations which do not get better; in fact, they get worse. We know that sometimes the help we need does not come. Sometimes we are not "saved in the nick of time." If "cheering up" is dependent upon things "getting better," there are some of us who may legitimately remain gloomy.

How do you maintain your hope and courage when things are not likely going to "get better"? Is it possible? According to Paul it is: "So we

do not lose heart" (2 Corinthians 4:16). What is it that keeps Paul from "losing heart" even when his situation shows no signs of improvement?

One of Paul's answers is that even while our "outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day" (2 Corinthians 4:16b). Even though our physical body may be deteriorating, even though the external circumstances of our lives may remain chaotic and difficult, nevertheless, we can become stronger inside. We can grow within as we continue to suffer without.

The principle here is that inner security does not depend upon external circumstances. Things may be going well for us, but we may still be fearful and unhappy. On the other hand, we may know people who, despite their unfortunate external circumstances, seem to grow stronger in love, patience, and compassion.

The present is momentary

A second reason advanced by Paul is that, however poor our external circumstances in this life may be, this suffering and hardship is a relatively short period in the joyous eternity that God has prepared for us. We can put up with this situation, if we know there is something much better that is coming.

In effect, Paul is telling us to fix our attention on the things we cannot see at the moment. The things we can see now are, for all their danger, only temporary. They are real enough, but they are not enduring. We can take hope in the midst of a seemingly "hopeless" situation, Paul says, if we "will look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

If we keep our eyes on the eternal things, we will not lose heart

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