

## Keeping the Horn of Plenty Full

Much of the world depends upon America's "horn of plenty" for the food and fiber necessary to sustain life. And the U. S., in turn, depends upon open channels of international trade to help keep that horn brimming. For in the delicate economic web, which binds the world together, export sales often act as a balancer, absorbing the impact of surpluses to even out prices.

According to an American Farm Bureau Federation official, much of the credit for last year's historic rise in farm income lies in the dramatic expansion of export markets. Fully one quarter of the harvest produced by U. S. farmers goes to foreign consumers. Therefore, mutually-advantageous trade between countries is vital, not only in terms of

more equitable prices in the domestic marketplace, but because it enhances our foreign balance of trade. For the American consumer, freer trade also means that agriculture will have sufficient profit incentive to produce enough goods to keep home and store shelves relatively well-stocked. For the farmer, released from the stifling bonds of federal farm subsidies and futile arbitrary price controls, it brings a promise of higher net income and prosperity.

Our nation's well-being is clearly and inextricably linked to the fortunes of agriculture. Thus, a market-oriented American agricultural system, maintaining a high level of international trade, must always be allowed to flourish.

## Environmental Clean-Up Tool

The nation's railroads can haul more goods with less pollution than any other medium of transport. They can step up this movement several times over with little further use of land for rights-of-way and other facilities. Due to their capacity to haul long strings of freightcars with a minimal number of power units, they are great fuel conservers.

But as a leading rail spokesman has observed, "The railroad industry is not resting its environmental case on its natural advantages. In 1969 and 1970, the industry spent \$55 million on capital investment for environmental programs and another \$10 million a year to maintain those programs for a total of \$75 million. By the end of 1972, the funds spent or committed had skyrocketed to \$250 million with more than \$100 million spent for capital investment and maintenance in 1972 alone."

Rail capital investment in en-

vironmental improvement is expanding. It includes research projects to lower locomotive emissions even further, development of biodegradable herbicides for the control of weeds and brush along railroad rights-of-way and installation of new equipment to meet government regulations prohibiting human waste disposal on roadbeds. They are even working on ways at their own expense to eliminate the litter dumped in railroad rights-of-way by the public. Special trains are operated to haul garbage from cities to land-fill areas miles away, thus eliminating incineration in heavily-populated areas.

Railroads are a basic tool of environmental improvement. Rail managements are sharpening that tool to help cut through the massive environmental problems that lie ahead.

## The Birthrate Decline

Although there are more young women capable of bearing children than ever before in the United States, fewer babies were born in 1973 than in any year since 1945. The last great baby boom peaked out in 1957 and, with some fluctuation, it has been going down ever since, with a 4 percent drop in 1971 and an 8.4 percent decline in 1972. The reasons for this change may be rooted in worry over the national economic

outlook. The pace of inflation and the rising cost of raising children should give pause to all but the most irresponsible or the very wealthy.

To look for the silver lining, it may be that inflation, which appears to be a near permanent condition, will enable the U. S. to achieve control of population growth that could otherwise outrun the supply of available resources. A backhanded benefit, but something nonetheless.

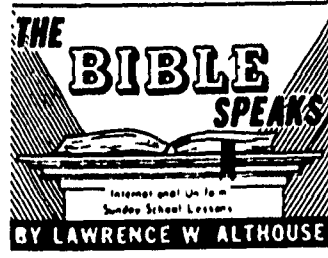
## National Goodwill Week

A handicapped body does not automatically signify a handicapped mind or lack of will to work. Yet for many years, most people with physical disabilities were labeled misfits and pushed from the public eye. Fortunately, such a tragic waste of human potential is being corrected, with Goodwill Industries in the forefront of those helping the disadvantaged to achieve productive, self-supporting citizenship.

National Goodwill Week will be

commemorated May 5-11 this year and focuses national attention upon the large, highly-successful network of Goodwill job training workshops and rehabilitation programs across the country. Our donations of repairable clothing, appliances and furniture mean that the handicapped can learn not only valuable job skills while rejuvenating such articles, but also earn money from their sale.

National Goodwill Week is an excellent time to show that we care



### PORTRAIT WITH "WARTS"

Lesson for April 28, 1974

**Background Scripture:** Acts 15:36 through 16:40.  
**Devotional Reading:** Psalms 51:10-17.

Someone studying the book of Acts once remarked to me that she sometimes did not understand Paul the Apostle. Some of his actions and utterances puzzled her greatly. Pointing to one of his seemingly contradictory actions, she asked: "Why did he do that?" My answer to her was simple "Because he was human."

**A portrait with "warts"**

Although the admiration of the writer of the Book of Acts for Paul is obvious, he is not so biased in his favor that he overlooks the obvious evidences of Paul's humanity. In most of Acts, Paul is an admirable, even heroic figure. But there are a few passages in which Paul appears in a less attractive light.

It is said that a famous British artist was commissioned to paint a portrait of Oliver Cromwell who ruled England at a critical point in its history. Looking at the unfinished portrait one day, Cromwell noticed that the painter had not duplicated a large wart on Cromwell's face. His intent, obviously was to put the great general in the most flattering light. Cromwell, however, ordered the painter to portray him "warts and all!"

This is the portrait we find of Paul in Acts. It is almost a relief to find that this great Apostle was, along with everything else, a human being. This means that, despite his great work, Paul was sometimes inconsistent and subject to human weaknesses.

In Acts 15, for example, we find that he falls into a significant dispute with his able co-worker and missionary, Barnabas. Whatever else was involved in this dispute, one of the issues seemed to be the inclusion of young John Mark in the mission party. Paul felt that Mark had proven unreliable when he had left Paul and Barnabas at Perga on the first missionary journey. Barnabas apparently disagreed and felt that Mark should be given another opportunity. "Unlike Paul"

It seems rather unlike Paul that he would not give John Mark another chance, but then we must remember that even the best of us are not always consistent in our behavior. Sometimes we do not live up to the best that we know. Perhaps that is what happened with Paul in Acts 15. At any rate, he and Barnabas parted and, as far as we know, were never partners nor associates again.

Later, in Acts 16, Paul again acts in a manner that seems contrary to what we know of him. So that Timothy would be acceptable in Jewish synagogues on their journey, Paul had him circumcised. In light of Paul's vigorous

## NOW IS THE TIME...

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**To Follow The Label**  
The application of all kinds of pesticides should be according to the instructions on the label or container. Improper use can bring justified criticism of the use of spray materials and other chemicals. The proper amount and the timing is very important to control the problem and to prevent pollution of either air, soil, or water. The idea that a little bit more material than suggested will do more good is false and should not be done. Costs are increased and more danger is presented. The proper use of pesticides can be a very important part of modern agriculture and all users should recognize the potential dangers of not following the label.

**To Plan For Hay-Crop Silage**

All forage and small grain crops are growing rapidly and soon some of these (winter rye) will be ready for the silo. Many other forage crop mixtures can be made into low-moisture silage, rather than hay, to get more feed nutrients preserved. The question of using chemical preservatives on forage crops for silage is often presented. In most cases, with field conditioned and wilted crops, these preservatives are of little value. With direct cut forage crops such preservatives as sodium metabisulfite, kyllage, or formic acid may improve the quality of the silage. Feed additives may also be used on direct-cut crops to reduce seepage. However, when forage crops are wilted to the 55 to 65 percent level normal

fermentation should be satisfactory for good quality silage.

**To Remove Fire Hazards Before Hot Weather**

One of the leading causes of fire in homes, barns, and workshops is spontaneous combustion of junk and trash stored in buildings during hot weather. This is the time of the year to clean out these places and remove stacks of old papers, rags, old clothing, or other materials that might ignite easily. Extremely hot weather and oily rags, or any oil-coated materials, are fire hazards. Lightning rods should be inspected to be sure they are well grounded and remove all obstacles for the rod system. The thunderstorm season is here and the rods cannot function if not properly placed and grounded.

**To Be Careful With Weed Killer Equipment**

Every year we learn of folks who spray a vegetable, flower, or farm crop with an old sprayer containing particles of 2,4,D herbicide. This type of weed killer is very difficult to remove from spray equipment and will not "go away" from one season to another. The sprayer should be given a 24-hour soak with hot water and household ammonia, or invest in a separate sprayer for weed killing materials. Herbicides should be kept in the original containers so identification will not be lost. The drift of fumes or spray particles to a nearby crop is always a potential danger. Extreme care when using weed killing materials is strongly recommended.

## Farm Calendar

**Tuesday, April 30**  
7:30 p.m. - SCS public speaking contest, Farm and Home Center

**Wednesday, May 1**  
May 1-3 - American Egg Board, 34th annual meeting, Chicago Marriott Hotel  
7:30 p.m. - Lancaster County Conservation District Board meeting, Farm and Home Center.

**Saturday, May 4**  
7:30 p.m. - Centennial celebration of Fulton Grange No. 66, Grange Hall, Oakryn.  
Show Day for the 49th annual

arguments against forcing Gentiles to be circumcised this seems strange. Perhaps Paul did this to insure the success of his mission and felt he had not compromised his principles.

It is to our benefit that we realize Paul's humanity and we are indebted to Luke for giving us a portrait of him that shows us both the heroic profile and "the warts"!

Dairy Exposition, Penn State University.

## Growing Degrees, Rainfall

A report from Penn State of weekly crop and weather roundups with a report on weather conditions for the week ending April 22.

In Lancaster, the average temperature for the week was 53 degrees, one degree more than the normal average for the time of year.

Growing degree days for crops that start at 40 degrees totaled 273 degree days, or 70 more than the normal average. For crops starting at 50 degrees, growing degree days totaled 96, which is 71 more than average.

Rainfall for the week was very slight. Rainfall measured from April 1 was 4.6 inches, 2.02 inches more than the normal average.