

# Farm Commentary

## Some fair information

With local fairs in Lancaster Farming's prime coverage area now underway, and many more getting ready to put up their tents, I find it necessary to comment on the importance of cooperation between the news media and fair chairmen or publicity directors.

It is understandable that each event wants "prime" coverage, and it is our responsibility to give that kind of publicity as much as possible. However, to do so is sometimes physically impossible because of conflicting schedules and a shortage of reporters. Furthermore, it takes cooperation on the part of individuals handling the show.

We can't do everything ourselves, nor can we afford to spend hours of our time waiting for results or catering to special wishes of various persons. As requests and notices and invitations come into our office, we must sift through them and try to follow through on as much as possible. Occasionally one or two items get left behind, which can't be helped.

This week, due to a misunderstanding between us and a show director, we returned empty-handed because of hectic schedules on both sides. Such incidents will happen from time to time, but they benefit neither us nor the people wanting the news coverage.

I want to take this opportunity to

advise fair chairmen to maintain records of their show results. Sure, they all do, but have you ever been a reporter trying to get them? That can be like pulling teeth from a shark's mouth. The records are somewhere, we've been told, but they can't be found. Unfortunately, we can't wait for hours, and sometimes even a few minutes makes the difference between good and poor coverage. So, please have records available. A copy of the show catalog is most desirable. Surprisingly, some fairs haven't been providing us with such simple tools for good, accurate reporting.

If pictures are to be taken, make sure show winners and their animals are ready. That is another prime ingredient for good publicity.

When good coverage is obtainable, both in pictures and words, then chances are good for an attractive layout in the paper. Not every event can receive the "big page" coverage, due to space limitations. As editor it is my prerogative to decide which story has the most potential for an attractive layout. That decision is based primarily on the story and pictures I have available. And as I've said throughout this commentary, it is up to a fair's management to see to it that good pictures can be taken and show results copied. So, that hopefully answers a question that is asked from time to time: "How do we get coverage like so and so had?"

## Life on the farm

By Dieter Krieg

Once a month Dad cleared the dining room table of everything, including the vase and flowers. Then he'd bring out a stack of papers, a roll of stamps, a pack of envelopes, and his checkbook. The only sound in the room was that of a pen scratching on paper. Occasionally he'd ask me to go to town for him to deposit the milk check in the bank and also pay the mortgage. I remember one such occasion.

Going to town was always a special event back then. Although I had been a licensed driver for about two years at that time, opportunities to go away were limited, not to mention being behind the wheel of the family car.

Dad handed me a few pieces of paper representing the items he wanted me to take care of and asked me not to take too long because we had plenty of work to do. I jogged out to the garage, hopped into the car, and was on my way to a small world of my own.

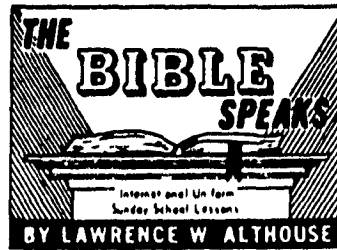
With windows rolled down to catch the summer breezes, and the radio tuned in to my favorite station, the big Olds and I rolled up and down the hills in southern York County towards Red Lion. Driving was fun and easy, and a bit more exciting than operating a pitch fork, pushing a lawn mower, being swatted by a juicy cow tail, or fixing fences. Getting away for an hour or so was like a mini-vacation

Arriving in Red Lion, I parked the car in front of the bank and walked into the air-conditioned lobby. The row of tellers on the left is where I should pay the mortgage, Dad had instructed, and the deposit was to be made across from there. The lady greeted me, asked about the family briefly, and went to work hunting something up at the files and punching buttons on an adding machine. Then she quickly double-checked the balance by doing it the old-fashioned way with pencil and paper. After stamping the mortgage slips, she returned one to me as a receipt, and I crossed to the other side of the bank.

Following a brief waiting period, it was my turn at the teller-window and for the first time I took notice of the figures on the milk check. I felt as though all the blood of my body had been drained. I stood there stunned and speechless while the teller recorded the deposit. The monthly mortgage payment was for \$1794. The milk check was nearly a hundred dollars short of that amount.

I thought of Dad at home, with his bills arranged all across the dining room table. Some businesses would have to wait for their money, and one or two of our cows would undoubtedly be going out for beef within a few days.

The drive home wasn't as care-free as the drive to town.



### A PINCH OF SALT

Lesson for August 24, 1975

**Background Scripture:** Matthew 5:13-16; Acts 4:13-16; 8:4-8, 26-40; Romans 1:14-17; I Peter 3:13-16.

**Devotional Reading:** Roman 10:4-15.

A number of years ago, a woman in my congregation found a little book entitled, FISH. The book was about a program of neighborly help that churches and groups of churches can sponsor in their own community. Services such as emergency babysitting, transportation, meals for the elderly, putting people in touch with community resources, etc., are provided by volunteers working through an advertised "Fish" telephone number and an answering service.

#### The salt of the world

The name, "Fish," is a reference to the ancient symbol by which Christians identified themselves to each other in the days of the Roman Empire. The fish symbol stood for Jesus Christ and thus it serves as an appropriate identification for the "Fish" program.

The woman from my congregation was excited by this program and shared the book with another parishoner who eventually gave the book to me. I, in turn, shared the book with a small Bible study and prayer group that met twice a month in members' homes. The group often talked about Christian witness: here was an opportunity to actually put some of those convictions into practice.

One of the women in that group accepted responsibility to serve as the organizer and soon a modest beginning was made. Today, several years later, Fish is no longer a project of just that small group of people, nor even of our church. It has become a countywide cooperative effort in which many different churches participate both with volunteers and financial support.

#### A matter of taste

This is a simple illustration of what one person's efforts, "a pinch of salt," can accomplish for the Gospel. There was nothing dramatic about her efforts, but that one woman with her simple words of encouragement started in motion a most fruitful project that is reaching many lives for Christ.

Our people who have participated in this project have found that this opportunity for witness has produced "salt," not only for those who are the beneficiaries of "Fish," but also the volunteers. It has provided some extra "flavor" for their Christian lives, just as table salt can do that for dull, tasteless foods.

Too often we wonder what just one person can do. Perhaps we should remember the truth of that old nursery rhyme:

For want of a nail, the shoe was lost.  
For want of a shoe, the horse was lost.  
For want of a horse, the rider



## NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith  
County Agr. Agent  
Telephone 394-6851

**To Prune Raspberry Plants**  
Old canes which have borne the 1975 raspberry crop should be cut out in order to stimulate new growth upon which next year's fruit will develop. The old canes are "at the end of the line" and are of no further use to the grower. Prunings should be burned or buried, or taken to authorized solid waste disposal plants. After the pruning has been done, the plants should be sprayed with both an insecticide such as Malathion, and a fungicide such as Captan to control pests. Fertilizing should be done early in the spring and not at this time of the year. A regular spray schedule should be followed starting early spring with the delayed dormant spray.

#### To Apply For Gasoline Tax Refund

September 30 is the deadline for farmers to apply for the 8c per gallon state tax refund on liquid fuels. This is for liquid fuels used in non-licensed tractors for agricultural purposes and for power farm machinery used for farm purposes. The period is from July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1975. Farmers who do not have application forms can secure them from the Board of Finance and Revenue, Room 130R Finance Building, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120. This must be done by September 30 in order to get this refund.

#### To Be Alert For Johnson Grass

We fear there are too

many local fields containing this fast-spreading, perennial weed. For many years there have been isolated spots of Johnson Grass in several areas of the county; however, in recent years it seems to be more widespread and is a definite threat to most crops. This grass resembles Sorghum and grows very rank taking all of the soil moisture and plant food from crops. Control is not easy but the material Eradicane is recommended for use next spring before corn planting time. At this time farmers should identify the areas infested so that treatment can be made next spring. Details are available at our Extension Office.

#### To Evaluate Insurance Coverage

The insurance industry is big business and one that is very important to everyone. At this time I'm concerned with the coverage on farm buildings and contents; many farmers may not have adjusted their coverage recently and therefore are under-insured. It is not the first cost that should be covered, but the replacement cost. Property owners are urged to contact their insurance agents to evaluate the extent of their coverage. Liability insurance is another major item that needs regular attention. Employees and visitors need coverage and the farmer needs liability protection.

was lost.  
For want of a rider, the battle was lost.  
For want of a battle, the war was lost.  
For want of a war, a kingdom was lost.  
And all for the loss of a horseshoe nail!

Or... a pinch of salt!  
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## Farm Calendar

Monday, August 25  
Manheim Young Farmers meeting with a program on the treatment for high

moisture corn. Manheim High School at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 26  
Lancaster 4-H Hog Show and Sale at the Stockyards. Show will begin at 8:00 a.m. with the sale to follow at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 26  
Ag Progress Days begin at the McDowell Farms near Mercer, PA. For further information on the event, see our special pages in the second section of this issue.

Wednesday, September 3  
Lancaster County Conservation District meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center.

## More than one celebration

In a time when many activities revolving around the United States' Bicentennial seem to make it more "buy-centennial," it was nice to see a remark made by Farmfest '76 Exec. Dir. Ed Hart, referring to our agrarian beginnings. "Why should the Bicentennial be all battle reenactments? It took a lot more than war to make America... people think of the Bicentennial as a salute to 1776. Not so. We are celebrating every one of those 200 great years since America gained her sovereignty," he notes. Right on, Ed!