

# Farm Commentary

By Dieter Krieg, Editor

## Thank-you for 20 years

People are important in any business — whether it's farming, manufacturing, retailing, or publishing.

We at LANCASTER FARMING depend on people as much as most anyone. Our success depends not only on the capabilities of our staff, but also on the willingness of advertisers and readers to accept our product and service.

It is with this in mind that we thank our subscribers, advertisers, staff and newsmakers for 20 years of LANCASTER FARMING. This issue marks the beginning of our 21st year — and we're grateful for the support we have received through the years.

Now serving the southeastern and southcentral Pennsylvania areas, LANCASTER FARMING was first published in Quarryville moving to its present location in Lititz in 1962. Its birth prompted congratulatory notes from then Secretary of U.S. Agriculture, Ezra Taft Benson; Pennsylvania's former Agriculture Secretary, Bill Henning, as well as scores of compliments from readers and advertisers.

Two paragraphs from an in-

troductory message appearing in LANCASTER FARMING's first issue sum up the paper's purpose.

We quote: "For many, many years this region has been recognized as one of the most outstanding agricultural sections of the nation, even the world. But not for many decades has there been a publication specifically designed for the farmer, no publication that has served as a clearing house for news the farmer needs.

"Such is the purpose of LANCASTER FARMING . . ."

Our anniversary comes at an appropriate time — Thanksgiving — because 21 years of existence is something to be thankful for. Our "Home base" is one of America's richest agricultural areas — that is something to be thankful for. Agriculture is a giant in southeastern Pennsylvania, which is a tribute to this geographical area and the people who developed it.

Lancaster Farming is 20 years young. We thank you for having made it possible and extend heartiest wishes for a blessed Thanksgiving holiday.

## A Thanksgiving memory

Two years ago our former pastor asked members of the congregation to present a short talk on what they're most thankful for. I was among those he picked.

Admittedly a bit nervous, I walked to the front of the sanctuary with a dark-red towel tucked tightly under my arm.

"I'm most thankful for this towel," I began, as I lifted it up and allowed it to unfurl for all to see. "It represents a number of things in my life, and yet it doesn't even get used any more — it's just a memento."

Up until I was eight years old, my family lived in communist-ruled East Germany. Most of the liberties, freedoms and opportunities we take for granted in the United States do not exist under communist-ruled nations. There's no free-enterprise system, no freedom of speech, no freedom of religion, no privilege to travel — just to name a few. As a young boy I saw my father being hustled off to jail for believing in the free-enterprise system. All our possessions were taken — land, cows, equipment, horses, furniture, house, and more. Like thousands of others who fled the country because of Soviet-inspired oppression, my father risked his life to cross the border in order to join a free and prosperous Western society.

The towel I held up represented leaving a communist-ruled country.

After having left East Germany, we lived in refugee camps for two years. For much of that time our home was one room shared with one or two other families; our clothes were those we wore during our escape and what had been donated to us after our arrival, our food was that which was provided by the relief organizations and the governments of West Germany and the United States.

My towel represented life in those refugee camps.

It was 20 years ago this month that the Krieg family came to the United States to start a new life. My father began working on a farm — first as a hired man, a few years later as a tenant, and finally as an owner of 297 acres and more than 200 head of top-quality Holsteins in York County. Today he owns an operation more than twice that size in northern Florida. There's no two ways about it that my father worked hard for what he owns today, but on the other hand, let it be known that such rapid success could not have been achieved in a communist-ruled nation, nor in most free countries.

That deep-red rectangular piece of cloth I held up before the congregation represented life in the United States.

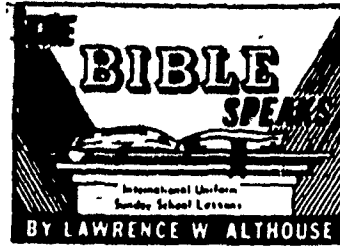
Talk about generosity, and the American people spring to mind instantly. Millions of people all over the world have needed help at one time or another, and most of the help always comes from this country. Much of what we and other families at refugee camps were provided with came from generous Americans.

My towel was among the items which came in a CARE package while we lived in a refugee camp near Hamburg.

The friendly hand of understanding and help isn't withdrawn once the refugee from a foreign country arrives here. The same spirit which sparked America's birth 200 years ago is still alive, especially among rural people, and I am thankful for that.

This commentary wouldn't be complete without mentioning who was responsible for sending the towels, toy tractors, T-shirts and much more. Many years ago my father told me that the card inside the package said: "...from Lancaster County Mennonites."

Thank you, neighbors!



### THE CROSS IN EGYPT

Lesson for November 23, 1975

Background Scripture: Genesis 43 through 44.

Devotional Reading: John 10: 7-18.

The word "cross" does not appear in the Old Testament (not as a noun, at least). Yet the idea behind the New Testament cross appears from time to time in the Old Testament.

Back in the 1950's British theologian, H. Wheeler Robinson, published a book entitled, THE CROSS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT (Westminster Press). In this remarkable book he examined the idea of the cross in the Old Testament Book of Job, in Isaiah's Suffering Servant, and in the life and ministry of the prophet Jeremiah.

Our Father's sorrow In each of these Old Testament sources, Robinson saw a per-figuration of the cross of Christ. In each case there was a willingness to bear burdens of suffering as a response to God's grace. On the part of the Suffering Servant and Jeremiah, it is a willingness to bear suffering for the sake of the people of Israel - vicarious suffering.

Job, Isaiah, and Jeremiah are among the later Old Testament books. But one can find the cross-idea even in the beginning of the Old Testament. In Genesis 43, 44, for example, we find it in the story of Joseph and his brothers.

Joseph is playing a game with his brothers. They do not recognize his identity, so he tests them, perhaps wanting to see whether time and life have brought any changes in them. Threatening to keep Benjamin, Israel's youngest, with him as a slave, Joseph tests his brothers' concern for their father.

The test brings out the best in Judah, one of Israel's twelve sons. He tries to reason with Joseph, reminding him that he had implied that young, Benjamin could return to his father. When that seems to gain him no advantage, Judah makes an appeal on his father's account. He speaks of Israel's great love for Benjamin, the youngest of the brothers and his father's favorite since the departure of Joseph: "His life is bound up in the lad's life" (44:30).

There would have been a time when Judah and his brothers could not have made that admission favoritism without violent hostility. Now, however, many years later, they seem to accept the favored status of Benjamin without rancor and bitterness.

"I shall bear the blame" Judah gave Israel his word that the lad would be able to return home when the governor (Joseph) had seen him. But Judah wasn't thinking of himself; he was truly concerned about his father. If Benjamin should not return to his father, Israel might easily die of a broken heart. "For how can I



## NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Max Smith  
County Agr. Agent  
Telephone 394-6851

### To Be Careful of

Brucellosis infected cattle are going to market in large numbers these days in a few southern states. Many of them are well-bred good looking animals and they're selling for less than beef prices. However, they are a menace to Pennsylvania cattle herds.

These cattle can find their way into Pennsylvania cattle herds. All it takes is some ear-tag and health chart switching and there are cattle dealers around who are not above doing that.

Dr. Sam Guss, Extension veterinarian at the Pennsylvania State University, advises those who must buy cows to be sure of their source, isolate them and have them blood tested before exposing the herd to them. No new animal should be added to a Pennsylvania cattle herd unless it is negative to the brucellosis test.

### To Expect Healthier Sheep

In 1956, twenty-two American flocks of sheep were destroyed because the dread virus disease, Scrapie was found. That year marked a high point in the struggle to eradicate the disease which began when Scrapie was first discovered in the U.S. in 1947.

Scrapie is caused by one of the toughest viruses known to exist and measures chosen by regulatory veterinarians were widely criticized by some segments of the sheep industry. They were heroic measures designed to destroy all known infected or exposed flocks, points out Dr. Sam B. Guss, Extension veterinarian at the Pennsylvania State University. A total of 207 flocks have been wiped out during the eradication program to date, but this year only two infected or exposed flocks (one in Illinois and one in West Virginia) have been destroyed.

With a little bit of luck, this major threat to the productivity of the American sheep industry will soon be totally eradicated.

### To Be Prepared to Trap Muskrats

During the past several years muskrats have increased their numbers to the point where they are bothersome and destructive to farm ponds, says Robert

go back to my father if the lad is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would come, upon my father" (44:33). Judah's concern is for his father's welfare. He has put him first.

Out of his concern for his father grows Judah's cross: "Now therefore, let your servant . . . remain instead as a slave to my lord; and let the lad go back with his brothers." Judah offers to take upon himself the fate that seems destined for his brother Benjamin. He will pay the price willingly out of love for his father.

Isn't that what Jesus did on Calvary?

G. Wingard, Extension wildlife specialist, The Pennsylvania State University.

Part of this build-up in the muskrat population can be attributed to high productivity, good habitat, and to a lack of trapping. Fur prices are improved so there may be more incentive to the trapper for harvesting surplus muskrats this year.

Pond owners would do well to trap at their ponds or encourage others to do so. Trappers looking for a choice spot should check with local pond owners for permission to trap at ponds or streams on their property. Check the game law for season dates and other regulations relating to trapping.

### To Prevent Firearm Accidents in Home

The National Safety Council reports that about half the accidental firearm fatalities occur in the home.

Many of these accidents occurred because guns were improperly stored. To help reduce these accidents, Robert G. Wingard, Extension wildlife specialist, the Pennsylvania State University, urges all gun owners, especially hunters during the season, to observe these safety rules:

Unload guns before entering the house. In the home, guns should be locked in a safe place. Store ammunition separately from guns in a safe place. Teach all members of the family safe gun-handling procedures and appropriate respect for firearms. Finally, never point a gun at anything that you do not want to shoot.

## Farm Calendar

Monday, Nov. 24

Twin Valley Young Farmers meeting at the Twin Valley High School, Elverson, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Interstate Milk Producer's Annual Conference to be held at the Host Resort thru Wednesday.

Tuesday, Nov. 25

Garden Spot Young Farmers meeting on tax management. Garden Spot High School classroom 7:30 p.m.

Ephrata Area young farmers' meeting at the Ephrata Senior High School 7:45 p.m.

Interstate Banquet in the Cabaret Room, Host Resort 6:30 p.m. Reservations necessary.

Wednesday, Nov. 26

Adult farmers meeting at the Hinkletown Alternative School on Wanner Rd., east of Hinkletown at 7:45 p.m. Topic will be tobacco raising.

Saturday, Nov. 29

Food conference - Blue Ball Fire Hall 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Dr. Paul A. Buck, Speaker.