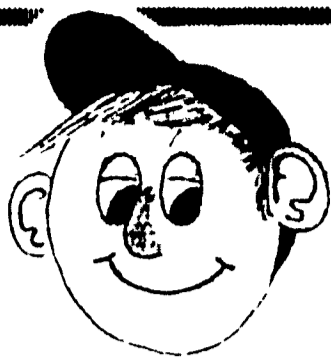


Nixnutz's Corral

By BARNEY NIXNUTZ

"All the news that's unimportant, but still interesting."



Guess again

A former farm editor from up around Mount Nittany recollects the following episode between him and another reporter. The story begins believe it or not, with the collapse of a barn floor. Several animals were trapped underneath the debris and a few were even killed. Since it happened late in the evening, the farm editor did not learn about it until he read it in the morning paper. There, right on page 1, was a picture of the tragedy. But those "cows" in the picture were a bit small, he thought. So he mentioned it to those responsible for the minor mistake, explaining that the animals in the picture were actually heifers. Understandably, he was asked to explain the difference between heifers and cows. A third employee of the paper couldn't wait to hear the answer and decided to come up with her own, which was: "A heifer is a male cow, isn't it?"

Smart rooster

Final results are not known at this writing, but I have reports that the number one rooster in the state may be about to make the most realistic decision within recent memory. For the past several months or more he had seriously been entertaining thoughts about becoming the number one rooster in the whole entire U.S. of A. After a poor showing in New Hampshire, and an even poorer one in Florida earlier this week, I have reason to believe that he may decide to give up his dream of having a big golden egg laid in front of him.

Colossal choice

Mine ears have heard the suggestion of the coming of the dairymen to the Coca-Cola Building in Lancaster for a meeting. I haven't found out yet if they decided to go marching on or if they're going to meet in surroundings belonging to one of their major competitors. If you

decide to go there, boys, how about leaving all the cute little air-filled vinyl cows suspended from the ceilings. And be sure to stick a "Milk Drinkers Make Better Lovers" sign on the nearest "Coke" machine. (Written with apologies to Coca-Cola and a confession that I enjoy their drink from time to time.)

Where else?

Have you heard about the young Amishman who wants to build a new chicken house for 12,000 layers? Present zoning restrictions in that township state that such a facility cannot be built without special permission from the zoning hearing board. So the Amishman appeared at a hearing for that purpose to face questioning.

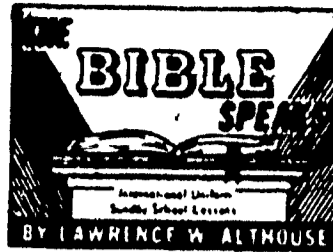
Naturally, the members of the board were concerned about odors, waste disposal, and the removal of dead birds.

"How do you intend to dispose of dead chickens?" a member of the hearing board said. "I'll bury them," the farmer answered. Later a second board member asked: "... and where do you expect to bury the dead chickens?"

"In the ground, I guess," the Amishman answered to everyone's delight.

Raw blunder

A Lebanon County dairyman who sells his milk at his store in either raw or processed form, had an interesting experience with an approved inspector one day. According to his daughter, who manages the store, the inspector casually inspected equipment and products and finally grabbed a hold of a gallon of raw milk, which can be legally sold if the farmer has the appropriate license. Waving the full container in front of the proprietor, he asked: "Has this milk been homogenized?"



THE 'IN' CROWD

Lesson for March 14, 1976

Background Scripture: Matthew 21:6 through 22:14.
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 55:6-13.

Several years ago, Dr. Karl Menninger wrote a book with the intriguing title, **WHATEVER BECAME OF SIN?** Contrary to some of his professional colleagues, this eminent psychiatrist sees the loss of the concept of sin as very harmful to both individuals and society as a whole. According to Dr. Menninger, a concept of sin is of vital importance for a man's emotional health.

Repent and believe! It must be acknowledged that the Christian concept of sin and the concomitant idea of repentance are not very popular today. It's not so much that people speak against these themes, but that they simply ignore them.

Many Christians seem to fall into either one or two categories in regard to this matter: either they take sin too seriously or not seriously enough. Striking a proper balance between these two extremes is often a difficult task.

The problem, of course, is not with the Christian gospel, but rather with what we make of it. On the one hand, many of us tend to focus upon others when we think of sin. The "sinner" is the other fellow, the person whose values and life style are quite different, the person who is "outside my church." For many of us the "sinner" is the non-church-goer, the frequenter of the corner bar, the user of profane language, etc. - in short: the "other guy."

Thus, we may believe in sin and repentance ... for someone else! There seems to be little need for it inside our cozy little church where we all lead respectable lives and adhere to the right doctrines. To put it somewhat crassly: When it comes to the Kingdom of God, we are the "in" crowd! Right?

Which of the two? Wrong?

Of course, that's what was assumed by those who heard Jesus. They thought of themselves as the "in" crowd and the term "sinners" was reserved for the other guy - the people who were not very devoted to the strict observance of the law and customs of the religious elite, the tax collectors, thieves, harlots, non-Hebrews, etc. But they were very, very wrong, said Jesus: "Truly I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you" (Matt. 21:31). Unless there was some radical repentance, the "in" crowd would be OUT!

The problem was that the scribes and the pharisees focused too much on the sins of others and too little on their own sins. They were like the son in the parable that Jesus told: They say "yes" to God, but don't really do what he wants. For them, religion is simply, "talking a good game."



NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6451

To Accept Responsibility

The recent issue of whether or not Bonnie Sue Frey of Refton will be permitted to feed another 4-H Club steer at their home is an illustration of regulations and ordinances being made with very little agricultural input. To prohibit this type of youth project in a small, rural borough such as Refton appears to be bringing "down-town" living out into the rural areas. As of this date, I am not acquainted with the makers of this ordinance but surely feel that the agricultural community in that part of the county had very little to do with setting up the restrictions. We continue to urge farmers to take part in these community governing bodies and strive for regulations suitable for the area.

To Be Prepared

As expected for the past several weeks, winter weather returned to this part of the county; however, the days are longer and the sun is higher in the sky with more heat, and soon the planting season will be here. A recent visit with Mrs. Dorothy Fry, Stevens R1, of this county revealed that some folks in the northern part of Lancaster County had planted peas and onions during the warm spell the last few days in February. Most of us have had very little experience with planting so early, but no doubt these "cold weather" will survive and make a crop. However, since we are in the middle of the month of March, and since many folks try to start their gardens on St. Patrick's Day (March 17), I'd suggest that gardeners get materials and equipment on hand and

ready to go. Don't wait until the weather is warm and the ground ready, only to realize that something like fertilizer, or a seed variety, is missing. Plan ahead at all times.

To Control Run-Off Water

As the population density of a community increases, the importance of controlling surplus water becomes more important; I'm referring to both water from land as well as water from barnyards and homesteads. This time of the year when we may have extra rain along with melting snow, every farmer should make special effort to be sure that water is not getting into streams, highways, or on the property of others from his livestock or poultry operation. Our local Soil Conservation District representative, Henry H. Hackman of Manheim, is working closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, in checking reports of water pollution. Knowing Henry, I'm sure his evaluation of reported violations will be very practical. All producers should make a special effort to manage their operations to prevent all types of water pollution.

To Use New Feed Additive

The new feed additive named RUMENSIN is strongly recommended for all cattle feeders. This material is available through feed dealers and is to be mixed with the protein supplement. Research work shows a 10 percent savings in feed requirement. It has been cleared for use by the Food and Drug Administration. Local feeders are urged to utilize this material.

Farm Calendar

Monday, Mar. 15
Cumberland County Forage-Dairy workshops today at either of two places: Monroe Township Building, Mechanicsburg; and Shippensburg Jr. High School. Respective meeting times are 1 to 3 p.m. and 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
New Jersey Fruit Growers meeting, 9:30 a.m. at the Watchung View Inn, north of Somerville.

Tuesday, Mar. 16
Ephrata Young Farmers meeting, 7:45 p.m. at the high school.
Garden Spot Young Farmers meet, subject: large round bales.
Chester County - farm financial management meeting, 7:45 p.m. at the Owen J. Roberts H.S. vo-ag room

The real "in" crowd in the Kingdom of God are those who know that the challenge to repentance through Christ is meant for them!

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Soybean management meeting for Schuylkill County growers, 7:30 p.m. at the Mansion House Restaurant, Pine Grove.
Southeastern Penna. Poultry Banquet, 6:30 p.m. at Arner's Restaurant, Quakertown.

Wednesday, Mar. 17
Adams County Poultry Banquet, Methodist Church, Gettysburg, 6:00 p.m.

Horse nutrition and management topics to be discussed at the Montgomery County 4-H Center near Landsale, 7:30 p.m.

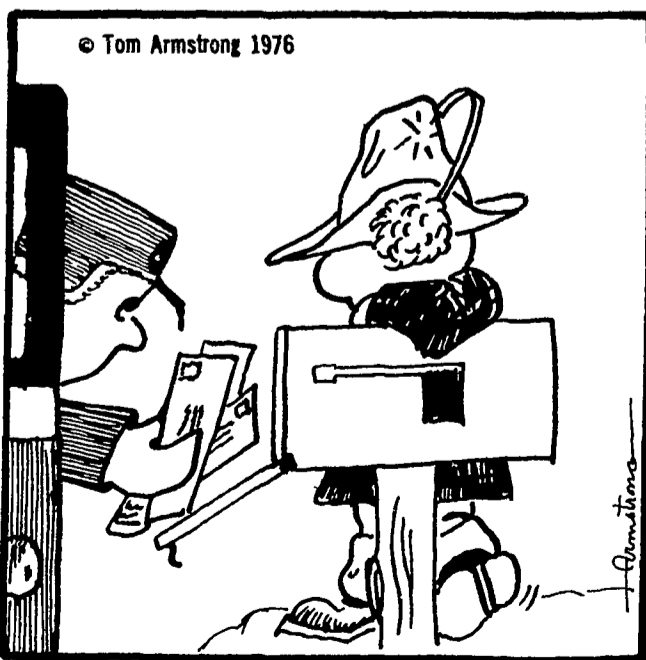
Thursday, Mar. 18
Ephrata Young Farmers meeting, 7:45 p.m., at the high school

Garden Spot Young Farmers' Recreation Night. Broiler and Turkey management seminars at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.
Cumberland County DHIA workshop at the Extension Office meeting room 1-3 p.m.
Annual meeting of the Lancaster County Soil Conservation Service, 6:30 p.m., Good'n Plenty Restaurant, Smoketown.

(Continued on Page 12)

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



IF IT ISN'T CASH, A CHECK, REBATE, REFUND OR LANCASTER FARMING, FORGET IT