

# EDITORIAL COMMENTS

BY DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR

## Diluted recognition

Now that most of the awards, ribbons, trophies, plaques, and other paraphernalia have been handed out at recognition banquets, it might be appropriate to assess the entire situation.

Not all, but many award banquets today — both in the youth and adult categories — are saturated with trophies and plaques. Everybody is a winner, it seems.

There are still a few organizations left which bestow recognition on just a few outstanding people, and that being the case, their awards are of greater significance and value. One award which comes to mind concerned a winner who was presented with a framed, and beautiful, large aerial, color photograph of his farm instead of a cheap plastic trinket.

Unfortunately, the outstanding awards are dwindling in number, and along with it the standards which are used to decide who is recognized. Dairy and corn production standards which were highly commendable 10 or 20 years ago, for example, are no

longer all that great today. The standards have evidently not been raised, or if they have, then not by much. In some cases you don't have to do much more than use a certain feed and you're in excellent position to pick up an award of some kind — not necessarily because the feed is all that much better than someone else's but because of the name that's painted on the side of the delivery truck.

I'm sure most people still sense a special feeling of pride and satisfaction when they're recognized for their achievements. But now that nearly everybody has the same thing on display in his home or office, what's the true meaning behind such recognition?

My view is that in many cases the significance of an award has been diluted or even lost. The idea behind them has been cheapened. They've become gimmicks in a sense to sponsoring companies and organizations and they've done little to make the best even better

## Not the best publicity

A wealthy group of ranchers is planning a million-dollar auction in the Grand Ballroom of the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas, Texas. Dubbed the "Santa Gertrudis Bicentennial Celebration," the ritzy sale is designed "to take some of the humdrum out of buying your cattle" by not only staging it amidst red carpets and chandeliers, but also by offering \$500,000 worth of original Western art. The 35 bulls and heifers consigned to the sale are estimated to be worth another \$500,000.

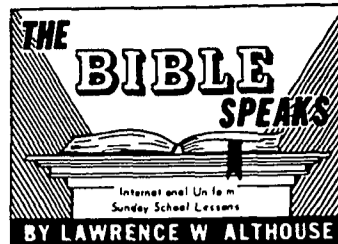
The grand affair, with Texas politician-rancher John Connally serving as auctioneer, is open to invited guests only. The way things are shaping up, a cattleman who really doesn't know what to do with his money is likely to receive an invitation.

Understandably, this type of affair makes news. United Press International carried stories on the sale earlier this week and a lot more coverage is probably forthcoming between now and June 26 when the

auction is to take place. It wouldn't be surprising at all if TV news crews are sent out to record the party on videotape.

The wealthy fellows behind all this have every right to have their fun. But there are some complications. The biggest problem is not so much in getting 35 head of cattle to behave themselves properly in a fancy place — but to keep the observing public from not being carried away by it all.

Nobody is trying to hide the fact that there are some rich cattle barons around. But when the public hears of an event like this, there is a chance that they'll read more into it than what is actually true. The resulting image could be detrimental to the entire cattle industry. The sad thing is that those who can afford to take part in a million dollar auction won't be affected by any kind of adverse reaction due to their large bankroll cushions. But the "common" rancher has no such thing to hide behind. Housewives will be suspicious of him



### THE GREATER FAMILY

Lesson for May 30, 1976

Background Scripture  
Romans 14:13 through 15:6  
Galatians 6:1-10  
Devotional Reading  
James 5:7-20

It seems to me that the most impressive local churches I have known have been those that were most like an expanded human family. Whatever else the local church is, it is a family, a greater-family that begins with but reaches out beyond the families that make up the congregation.

Recently I had an opportunity to visit a fair number of different churches on a series of Sunday mornings. Only one of them struck me as church that I would enjoy attending and participating in its program. The people in the sanctuary that Sunday morning gave the impression of being part of a greater family that cared for and shared with one another. Because they enjoyed and valued each other, they seemed also to enjoy and value the presence of visitors. Theirs was a family circle that was opened.

#### You who are spiritual

Someone recently told me that the church was the last place where he would want his troubles or weaknesses to be known. He found the local congregation to be a place of judgement, rather than compassion and support. While his characterization of the church does not apply to all churches, it does pretty well describe too many congregations.

The Apostle Paul had a different concept of what the local congregation ought to be. For example, he sees the local congregation being more interested in reclaiming lives than in simply condemning those who we judge to be "the sinners." In Galatians, he gave specific counsel on this matter:

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.

Thus, one of the primary characteristics of the family is this desire to salvage rather than condemn those who go astray. And this is also true of the church too: it is truly and deeply concerned about redeeming people.

#### Bear one another's burdens

Another characteristic of the congregation as a greater family is the desire to be helpful to one another. "Bear one another's burdens," counsels Paul. The attitude of "Live and let



## NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith  
County Agr. Agent  
Telephone 394-6851

#### To Be Alert For Corn Insects

The corn crop is in the ground and when warmer weather arrives, the 1976 crop will be well on the way. In the meantime, there are several insects that may give trouble in the corn field, and especially in no-till fields. I'm referring to cutworms, common stalk borer, and armyworms. All of these will feed on small corn plants and may be worse in wet weather. Growers are urged to inspect their fields frequently and apply insecticides to eliminate the worms. Sevin, Diazinon, or Dylox are the suggested materials. Don't wait until they ruin the crop before applying one of these insecticides.

#### To Eradicate Johnson Grass

This grassy-type weed is very closely related to sorghum and or sudan grass and is gaining on to many local farms. It is very difficult to kill and has the ability to take over any area and almost eliminate crop yields. Growers with this weed are urged to become acquainted with the several methods of eradication. Materials that will help get the job done are Dalapon, Eradicane, and Roundup; all of these have different time and application rates. For younger and smaller growth of the grass Dalapon can be used to keep it down. Roundup works best when the plants are larger and about to develop seed heads. This weed is serious on some farms and warrants prompt and continuous attention.

#### To Treat Alfalfa Fields

Many tons of top quality hay were made early last week; there is little doubt that most local alfalfa and red clover fields are ready to

live" is not adequate in the Christian congregation. What is needed is a commitment to "Live and help live!" This is not a matter of occasional helpfulness, but of continuing service to one another. As Paul puts it, "let us not grow weary in well-doing" and again, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Thus, the essence of our life together in a local congregation is a matter of both restoring and helping one another in the manner of members of a family who care about and are responsible for one another.

cut; don't let the crop mature to the point where feed nutrients are lost. After the first cutting of alfalfa is removed, there are two management practices that may need attention. First, if alfalfa weevil were present at the time of the cutting, then the stubble should be sprayed to eliminate these small worms. Secondly, if the field has not been fertilized last fall or earlier this spring, it should get a top-dressing of phosphorus and potash. This will improve the yield of later cuttings and strengthen the roots for the future. Alfalfa continues to be our leading forage crop; it is worthy of the very best management at all times.

#### To Be Patient

#### For Warmer Weather

We have received many phone calls at our Extension Office during the past week relating to the slow growth and poor color of small tobacco, tomato, and corn plants. There are a number of reasons for this condition but most of them will be answered when warmer weather arrives with more moisture. The strong winds of a week ago were very hard on some tobacco beds; the plants were wind burned and wind damaged. The weather has been too cool for the most rapid growth and green coloring of many small plants. We urge gardeners and growers to be patient for the warmer weather because the month of June is just around the corner and usually brings some very hot, humid weather; then we'll see the plants change color and grow more rapidly.

## Women's Calendar

Thursday, June 3

Society 20 meeting 1:30 p.m.  
Society 17 meeting at 1:00 p.m. - Speaker will be Doris Thomas on new fabrics.

Saturday, June 5

Society 1 meeting at 1:30 p.m.  
Society 23 meeting at 5:30 p.m. for a family picnic at Washington Boro Park.  
Society 6 meeting at 2:00 p.m. to entertain Society 24 at the E-Town Church of God.

## Farm Calendar

Monday, May 31

Virgenville Grange women sponsoring a chicken pot

[Continued on Page 11]

## RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong

