

# LIFE on the farm



By Dieter Krieg, Editor

It's a blessing that our neighborhood mechanic always had a good sense of humor. Somehow he had to have one to survive, for he was often asked to do the impossible. In the opinion of many, he was the best. And he never let anyone down.

The sound of a two-cylinder tractor approaching probably gave our mechanic frequent visions of "one more problem" coming up. It wasn't necessarily the tractor itself which would bring on headache number 13, but more likely who or what was on or behind it.

Shortly after one of us from our nearby farm would pull into his driveway, Mr. Owad would invariably crawl out from underneath a car or behind a hood and give us a friendly greeting. Then a brief moment of silence would follow as he circled the work we had brought him. Sometimes the sight would make his head oscillate from side to side and a slight smile would appear as he returned his attention to whoever brought him the contraption.

Mr. Owad (I've always called him Mr. Owad because Dad taught us it was proper — especially for those whom we respected) clamped his cigar between his teeth and immediately inspected the broken pieces with both hands. Like a doctor examining a patient, Mr. Owad methodically continued to study the equipment. His questions might be "How did you do this?" and "How soon will you need it back?"

Generally, it always worked out that we needed our repairs done about the time six others wanted theirs completed. That's why our neighborhood mechanic needed a good sense of humor in addition to his many mechanical skills. A person could always count on him.

The radio was almost always turned on at John Owad's "Woodbine Garage" and more often than not, the

owner joined right in with the music. Whenever a program featured songs from the 1930's and '40's, the amiable mechanic would shift into a world of his own. He'd glide across the parts-strewn floor, making his way to the tool bench, and proclaim the "Big Band Era" to be the best there ever was or ever will be. The rhythm of the music went right through him and showed up in his actions. Some small talk got started, and the work, as well as the beat, went on.

From early in the morning, until late at night, John Owad continued to work on anything from tea kettles to manure spreaders and transmissions to condensers. Nothing was ever too big or too small as the able mechanic accepted everyone else's problems as his.

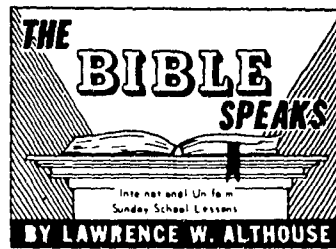
Talking much of the time whenever someone else was around to listen — Mr. Owad extended a hand of friendship even while both blackened hands were wrestling with an exhaust system. Animals around the neighborhood also shared in the man's warm personality, as most rarely left the premises without a few friendly pats across the back or head.

Finishing the chore, Mr. Owad would inspect things again as carefully as he did when the broken item was brought to him. Then he'd tell us it should hold better than the original because it had some "Woodbine" on it.

Nowadays most farms have their own rather elaborate repair shops, and men like John Owad are harder to find than ever before.

Nevertheless, whether the mechanic is the farmer himself or the man down the road, he's a fellow the farmer can't be without.

The days of our Life on the Farm would sometimes have been a lot longer had it not been for our neighborhood mechanic fixing things for us so well and promptly.



## WHAT DO I LACK?

Lesson for July 11, 1976

**Background Scripture:** Matthew 16:24-26; 19:16-30; 2 Corinthians 6:14 through 7:1; Colossians 2:16-23.

**Devotional Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:1-13.

The story of the "Rich Young Ruler" (as it is more commonly known), is one of those stories that can easily — though not comfortably — be personalized. Try reading it sometime and substituting the pronoun "I" for the young man who came to Jesus inquiring of eternal life.

"I've done it all!"

It doesn't take too much imagination to hear ourselves saying to Jesus, "Lord, what remains for me to do in order to be assured of eternal life?" We may not verbalize it very often to our friends and neighbors, but many of us, like the young man in the story, are concerned to find assurance of eternal life. No pastor who visits the sick and the dying can be unaware of that deep concern.

I must assume that the young man in Matthew 19 was sincere in his question, yet, at the same time, there was also at work in him a certain smug pride. It was the kind of question which is asked by someone who anticipates that the answer is going to be to his favor. Consciously or unconsciously, he is not so much asking a question as he is seeking a "pat on the head."

One of the reasons I say this is that the young man seems to be so "wrapped up in himself" that he misses what Jesus says to him in the response to his initial question. "Why do you ask me about what is good," says Jesus, "One there is who is good." It is as if Jesus already knows what is in this man's mind: he knows the man is rather proud of his own righteousness. So he reminds the man that no one but God alone is perfectly good.

The young man, however, seems to miss this statement and only hears Jesus say: "If you would enter life, keep the commandments." (19:17). "Which?" replies the young man, still smugly, for when Jesus digests the Ten Commandments, the young man is eager to reply: "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" (19:20). The question he asks skirts the edge of being an outright boast.

With his amazing insight into this young man, Jesus



## NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith  
County Agr. Agent  
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**To Honor Withdrawal Periods**  
Various drugs and medicines may be used in the livestock and poultry production business. All of these have definite uses and times — stated before slaughter or in the case of milking cows, the length of time the milk is not to be used. We urge every producer to comply with these stated instructions in order to protect his market and provide a quality product. To take short-cuts is risky and could mean loss of income and charges of non-compliance.

### To Introduce New Grains Gradually

If new grains are to be used in livestock rations, they should be allowed a curing period of several weeks and then introduced slowly into the grain rations. Too much new grain may cause bloating and scouring. In all cases the new grain should be used only as a part of the grain rations so the animals will get accustomed to it. If new grain is to be ground or cracked, then only small amounts should be used and stored; otherwise, it may heat and mold before being fed.

### To Control Face Flies

Cattle on pasture may be seriously bothered with face flies; these insects work about the eyes of cattle and will cause serious infection and even blindness. Owners are urged to provide some protection to animals that are bothered and not having a chance to get into buildings. The use of Ciodrin or CIOVAP as a spray or on some automatic fly control equipment is suggested; these materials will help control both face flies as well as other flies. If the animals can get into a dark building during daytime hours, this will help relieve the problem. Owners are urged

challenged him in the one area where the man was extremely vulnerable: his love of material possessions. We must realize that Jesus is not laying down this challenge for all Christians, for material possessions are not the stumbling block for some that they are for others. He challenged this young man to give away all he had because he knew this was the man's weakness. He really did want eternal life (just as we do), but he wanted something even more (just as many of us do.)

For all of his faithful keeping of the commandments, the man lacked the one thing that was most important: a generous, loving heart. So it may be with us: we may keep the rules, be good churchmen, live lives that seem beyond reproach. Yet for all that goodness, we may still lack the most important thing of all.

I know what I lack. What about you?

to check their animals frequently for this face fly problem.

**To Harvest Small Grain Straw**  
Prices for straw seem to be headed (already there) for record highs according to recent sales. The demand has been greater than the supply in recent years, and now with a shorter length to both barley and wheat, the crops yield of straw will be less this year. We urge growers to cut their grain as short as possible in order to get greater yields of straw. Also, no doubt little of the straw will be left in the field, as it is done some years. I was always of the opinion that straw should be used as bedding in order to keep animals clean and more comfortable. In comparison to ground corn cobs which have greatly increased in value in recent years, straw is a very important "fringe benefit" of small grain production.



God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

Psalms 46: 1-3

## Farm Calendar

**Saturday, July 10**  
Pennsylvania Young Farmers continue their annual Summer convention in Lebanon.

**Wednesday, July 14**  
National Chicken Cooking Contest, Civic Center, Philadelphia, 9 a.m.

**Thursday, July 15**  
Berwick Vegetable Coop. directors meet at the BVC office, 8 p.m.

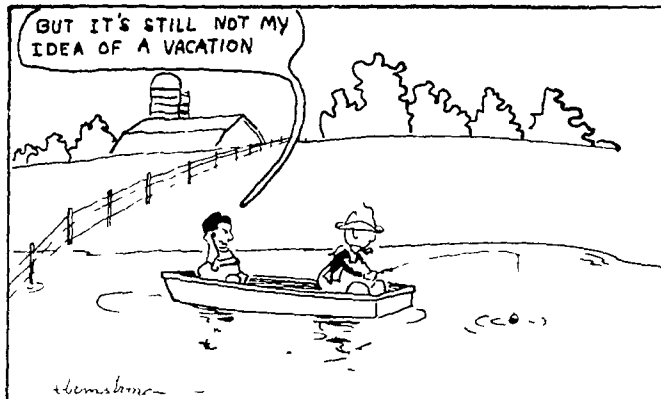
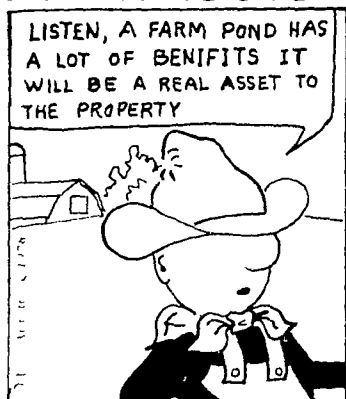
**Friday, July 16**  
South Schuylkill Young Farmers Tour, today and tomorrow.

"Evolution of Agriculture" Parade, Martinsburg, 6 p.m. sharp; antique equipment on display and in use the following day at Memorial Park.

**Saturday, July 17**  
Berwick Vegetable Coop annual meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Angus Field Day, Long Meadows Farm, Port Murray, N.J. Hunterdon County, New Jersey, "Rural Ramble"

## RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong