



# LIFE on the farm

By Dieter Krieg, Editor

I had taken a day off, but I don't remember when it was or how my wife and I spent the time. I do remember that I walked out the door the following morning with my camera in hand. For quite a while I had wanted to take a picture of one of the finest 2-year old heifers I had ever worked with. Today was finally going to be the day, I thought happily, as I drove to work

Affectionately called "Little Buddy" because of her comparatively small size and gentle personality, the young cow was a model for both pleasant appearance and profitable production. Her features were fine and exceptionally well proportioned. She carried herself in a regal manner, and her head was that of a bovine princess. Her udder and teat placement were perfect

On top of that, this dark and shiny heifer had been producing milk so consistently that I had predicted her to break the 17,000 pounds mark in her first lactation. That figure might not mean much to urban readers of this column, so I'll phrase it in another way: That amount of milk was nearly 17 times her bodyweight and it was roughly 2000 gallons, which would supply two families with a gallon of milk per day for just about three years.

## THANK YOU

It was a year ago last month that I became editor of this newspaper, and it's about time that I acknowledge appreciation for the scores of nice remarks I've received from readers. At the same time I also want to apologize for not having taken the time to reply to a good many letters in person. (Instead I play around with pencil and paper trying to figure out unique layout or clever cartoon). Last week's editorial drawing brought on a number of enthusiastic responses from readers, which is what is now prompting me to finally say "thank you." It's always good to know that work is appreciated.

My "Life on the farm" columns and editorials have consistently received the bulk of compliments coming my way, which is especially satisfying to me since those articles reflect my experiences and thinking. And readers have acknowledged they appreciate the fact my background is in farming. It was on that basis, in fact, that I was first hired to become farm editor of a central Pennsylvania newspaper 28 months ago, a position which I held until joining Lancaster Farming in July of 1975

I remember sitting in J.E. Holtzinger's impressive office; (he's president of the Mirror Publishing Co., Altoona-State College) Coming straight off the farm without a single

"Little Buddy" was a perfect individual, as far as I was concerned. She ranked very high in her production, appearance and disposition. Her only problem was that we were having some difficulties in getting her back in calf. In fact, I had suspected her of coming into heat the evening before I took my day off.

My employer greeted me with a grim face and shocking words when I returned to work that morning

"Little Buddy is dead," he announced in a manner that strained his emotions. Before I could even ask "how," I felt as though a powerful vacuum was working on my insides. "She was in heat yesterday," my friend began to explain, "and she killed herself while tied in the free-stall barn."

We both walked out to the horrible scene and remained speechless for a moment. Then we talked briefly about how great a heifer she was. My camera — still in the car — was just a silent witness to our words and useless for the picture I had wanted.

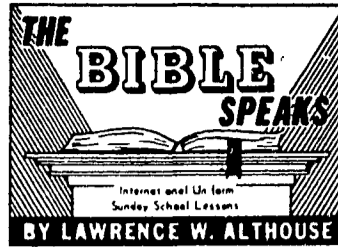
Although her "portrait" was never taken, memories of "Little Buddy" are not lost — as they never are when great cows are involved in Life on the farm.

credit in journalism, I didn't expect to be hired. I even felt out of place in front of his huge desk, and was somewhat awed about the thought of even being there.

After a lengthy talk which centered 99 per cent on farming and one per cent on jokes, Mr. Holtzinger announced "The job is yours if you want it."

I just about fell off my chair since I had thought a college degree in journalism would have been a major requirement to qualify. (I do hold a B.S. degree in dairy science, however). "You qualify," he reassured me, "you can write and you have a strong background in farming." I was happy but also a little uneasy about becoming a farm editor so "instantly."

As I look back now, and drawing my conclusions from personal achievements I've found in this kind of work, as well as the kind responses which readers have consistently given me for more than two years, I am grateful and happy for the way this career has been working out. I thank all those who made it possible, both here at Lancaster Farming and at my previous position, and all the many readers who have taken a bit of their time to send a compliment my way. Thank you very much!



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

### THE PIETIST

Lesson for August 8, 1976

Background Scripture: Acts 8:4-19; 10:1-48; 19:8-20; Romans 8:1-9a; 1 John 3:1-3. Devotional Reading: 1 John 1

The terms "piety" and "pietist" are often terms of derision among many people today, church and non-church people alike. For many people, the term "piety" conjures up an image of "holier-than-thou" airs by people who are likely to be somewhat fanatical in their religious expressions. Often there is a suggestion that piety is likely to be a pretense or "show;" yet, even when it is obviously sincere, people are uncomfortable with it.

#### Keeping the hour of prayer

Some time ago I was at a denominational meeting in which the word "piety" was mentioned, eliciting from some there sneers of contempt. A few of us protested that piety was essentially a good term and, properly understood, a vital element in the life of faith.

Essentially, the pietist is a person who is most sincere in his search for the experience of God in his life. He does not leave his divine encounter to chance, but develops his receptivity through prayer, study, and life-sharing.

Perhaps the key to the pietist's religion is receptivity. He is receptive to experiencing the Lord in whatever ways and means he can, wherever he can, and through whomever he can.

Such a man was Cornelius in Acts 10. Cornelius was known as a "God-fearer," a gentile who followed many of the beliefs and practices of the Jewish religion without, however, becoming Jews through circumcision. "God-fearers" were more interested in the monotheism and ethics of Judaism than in the rituals.

#### No divine partiality

Cornelius's piety is evident. First, he tells Peter, "I was keeping the ninth hour of prayer in my house." The pietist is a person who submits his life to daily discipline so that prayer is a daily encounter rather than an occasional experience. He finds God in his daily life because he looks for him expectantly each day.

Secondly, Cornelius reacts to the vision he sees with openness and receptivity. He does precisely what the vision tells him to do. He did not stop to first determine whether this experience fit in with his doctrines. Although Simon Peter is a Jew (and an outcast Jew, at that), Cornelius did not let that constitute a barrier. When Peter arrives (also under the direction of a vision), Cornelius says: "Now therefore we are all here present in the sight of God, to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord" (10:33).

Peter recognized what every pietist discovers: "Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him"



## NOW IS THE TIME ...

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County Agr. Agent  
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**TO PREPARE SILOS**  
The corn crop is developing rapidly and with a few more weeks of good growing and drying weather some producers will be making corn silage. This is the best harvesting method to preserve the maximum feed nutrients in an acre of corn. In preparing for this silage crop no doubt some silos will need some prior attention. Concrete silos often become pitted and rough after years of use and need to be re-surfaced; this can be done as the silo is being emptied, which requires frequent attention, or done at one time before the silo is filled in the late summer or fall. The important thing is to have a smooth, air-tight surface to the inside of the silo. Silo manufacturers and dealers can assist in providing the materials to do this work. Good corn silage is one of the most economical feeds for both dairy and beef cattle; air-tight storage facilities are needed for quality silage.

#### TO RECOGNIZE CORN FIELD HAZARD

It has been called to my attention that tall corn fields near rural road intersections present a traffic hazard to drivers. We are aware that the view at many stop signs in the farm sections of the county is restricted because of the tall corn growing very close to the intersection. It will be of help to drivers if the top part of the stalk is cut off after the ear of corn has reached the dent stage of maturity; this stalk above the ear can be fed to livestock as it is removed from the field. In many areas above the ear can be fed to livestock as it is removed

(10:34). Peter realizes that God is not concerned with man-made religious labels. And to seal the experience, we are told: "While Peter was still saying this, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word" (10:44) Piety anyone?

from the field. In many cases only the corners of the field need to be topped to give a better view of on-coming traffic. Corn growers with fields in these locations are urged to consider this practice in order to prevent accidents.

#### TO RENOVATE PASTURES

Late August or early September are good times to seed a new pasture or to renovate an old pasture

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## Farm Calendar

- Monday, Aug. 9  
Schuylkill County Conservation District annual picnic.
- Manheim Area Young Farmers meeting on Silage additives.
- Multiflora rose control demonstration at the Mark S. Balhiser farm, 7 p.m. until dark. Contact Berks County Extension office for directions.
- 4-H Achievement Days begin at Penn State University.
- Wednesday, Aug. 11  
University of Delaware annual Farm and Home Field Day, Georgetown Substation.
- Ephrata Area Young Farmers Tour to New York. Meet at 4:30 a.m. at the Junior High School.
- Thursday, Aug. 12  
Blue Mountain Dairy Goat Association meeting, PSU Schuylkill campus, 7:30 p.m.
- Lancaster County Guernsey Field Day, Robert and Joyce Wagner farm, near Little Britain, 10:30 a.m.
- Friday, Aug. 13  
Chester and Delaware County 4-H Hog Roundups, today and tomorrow at Vintage Sales Stables. Show and judging events Aug. 13, 7 p.m., sale at 9 a.m., Saturday.

## RURAL ROUTE By Tom Armstrong

