EDITORIAL COMMENTS

BY DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR

Public effort must continue

There's something to be said about a meeting which attracts hundreds of concerned citizens and then holds their attention for hours. That's what happened at Millersville State College's Lyte auditorium on Wednesday night when the Lancaster Area Refuse Authority, attorney James Heinly, and the public traded views on the question of how prime farmland should be used. Is to remain as productive farmland, or is to be scalped of its soil so that garbage can be covered with it?

The event on Wednesday night was a public hearing. But it was also more than that. It was an educational experience for many, as they witnessed the procedures of testimony and cross-examination. It was obviously interesting and important or people would not have stayed as long as they did. To stay awake and away from home until 1:40 a.m. is noteworthy, especially for those who had cows to milk that morning.

There's no question that the hearing had a serious tone to it. The issues involved are no laughing matter, yet the proceedings often created smiles and grins. Even LARA officials were caught grinning from time to time. The points made were often clever. The procedures had to be admired. The stamina of consulting geologist James Humphreville, who was in the public's toaster for five or six hours, had to be respected even though one might not have agreed with some of his testimony. The unfolding drama had all the excitement of a classy football game.

But the "game" isn't over yet. A second hearing will be held at the Millersville Auditorium on Monday, March 28, at 7 p.m. It's likely to be another evening of excitement with a critical issue hanging in the balance.

Some concern is being heard now over whether or not another crowd of 800 to 900 people or more will show up for the second hearing. The point of this editorial is to stress the importance of the issue involved. Attending the meeting would be educational and interesting, to say nothing about the implications it might have in the final outcome of this very important question on land use.

If this issue is going to be won on behalf of the Barley Brothers and other property owners at the Creswell landfill site, as well as similar incidents which are sure to come up elsewhere in the future, then public support is absolutely vital.

Groups of Young Farmer organizations, Sunday School classes - any group of concerned citizens, might consider doing their part by organizing this weekend to show up at Millersville by the car, truck, or busload. It's suggested you consider such a plan seriously.

LIFE on the farm

By DIETER KRIEG

The upper half of the metal barn window rattled and shook, until finally it popped out of position and hung suspended by two hinges. It flopped back and forth, banging against the lower portion of the windows. Then a burst of air hit the side of the barn and I thought every pane of glass was going to be sent crashing to the floor.

March was going out like a lion, leaving a path of destruction, extra work, and annoyances in its path.

Outside, on the heifer barn roof, sheets of tin were waving in the wind, while others were being lifted and lowered just enough to work the nails loose. Some fell to the ground to possibly be picked up by a cow's hoof or tractor tire. All a fellow could do at a time like this was just watch, and hope that the damages wouldn't be too high. This was no time to crawl around on the roof.

The barn windows were easier to take care of. Small wooden wedges driven between the concrete blocks and upper ends of the metal frames kept the windows in place. The locking mechanisms often weren't enough to do the job on their own, especially since many of them had corroded over the years or were broken.

Gusts of air made milking a little unpleasant as well, since lime from the litter alley created indoor dust storms every time the door between the milk house and barn was opened. A fellow learned to move quickly to keep the effects to a minumum.

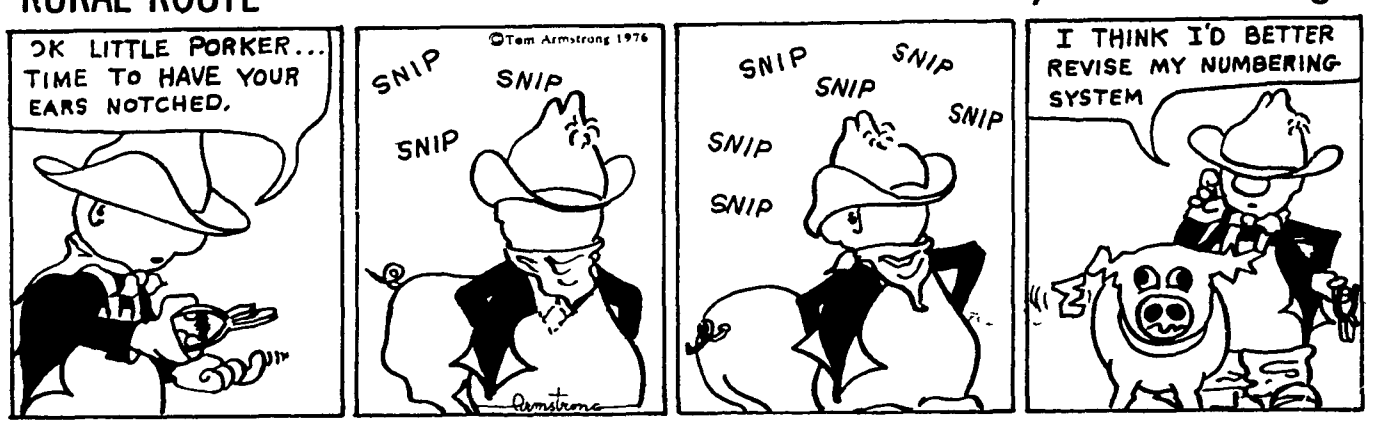
Another thing a fellow learned in a hurry was to not spread manure while driving in the wrong direction.

But some things could hardly be helped on a blustery March day or night. Like the loosening of sheets of tin on a roof or the loss of a window

[Continued on Page 31]

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY LAWRENCE W ALTHOUSE

TWO COPPER COINS

Lesson for March 27, 1977

Background Scripture:
Mark 12:41-44;
Luke 16.10 through 17:10.
Devotional Reading:
Luke 12:42-48.

If I were to ask you to name the greatest act of charity or benevolence of all time, what would be your answer?

Answers might range from the Rockefeller Foundation to the Marshall Plan, but no matter how impressive your answer might be, there would still be another act of giving that would outshine all the rest — and this act of giving could be represented by two copper coins, roughly worth about one cent today.

Her whole living

I am referrring, of course, to the incident in Mark 12 where Jesus, sitting opposite the temple treasury, sees the poor widow put in her last two copper coins. For Jesus it was an inspiring sight and he called his disciples to share it: "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living" (Mark 12:43, 44).

Jesus never measured money in terms of market value. Instead, he measured it in terms of what it cost the giver. For the affluent people who put substantial contributions into the offering, the giving did not cost that much when seen in the light of the abundance of their worldly goods. For the widow, however, the two copper coins added up to a complete sacrifice, for that was all she had.

Giving is a matter of relativity. Last weekend, for example, I put a ten-dollar bill in the offering plate at church and it seemed a magnificent sum, especially beside all those one-dollar bills! That same afternoon, however, I attended a professional football game and the admission charge of ten-dollars never gave me second thoughts. A ten-dollar bill in an offering plate seems very heavy, but that same bill on a ticket counter seems quite insignificant.

They were lovers of money

It is the value that we ascribe to money that determines its worth. By itself it is neither good nor bad: Money! Money!

Dug from the
mountainside,
Servant am I,
or the master
of men;
Steal me, I curse you
Earn me, I bless you,
Grasp me and hoard me,
a fiend shall possess you;
Lie for me, die for me,
covet me, take me,
Angel or devil, I am what
you make me.

(Anonymous)

No, it is never money that is evil, but what men and women do with their money and what they let it do to them.

NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851

TO RECOGNIZE FERTILIZER PLACEMENT

The placing of commercial fertilizers in relation to plant roots and seeds is very important; every farmer and gardener should realize the danger of burning the roots or seeds with either nitrogen or potash fertilizers. In the case of a complete fertilizer, one containing nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash, the plant roots or the seeds should not come into direct contact with the fertrilizer. Roots will be burned and the plant may dry up; with seeds the sprouts will be hurt and the plant will be weak or deformed. In most cases the fertilizer should be put an inch or more to the side and the same distance below the plant roots or seeds. This will make the plant food available when needed by the growing plant.

TO ERADICATE JOHNSON GRASS...

This grass-type weed is gaining on too many farms in this part of the country. The plant resembles sorghum and has a very heavy and dense root system known as rhizomes; the plant is a very rank and aggressive that will take over most other farm crops. It is difficult to eradicate and farmers with this problem are urged to learn of the various control methods. Eradicane can be used in the spring to suppress the growth of sprouts from the rhisomes and to stop weed seed growth. The other time of treatment is when the plant is several feet high and in the boot stage. The ASC Office has established the control of Johnson Grass as one of their practices this year with assistance in material costs. Growers with this problem are requested to consider some other crops besides continuous corn in order to eliminate the weed.

TO CONSIDER MANURE VALUES....

This is the time of the year when many barns and feedlots are being cleaned out; this animal waste has some fertilizer value if it has been protected from the weather. The amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash in the manure can reduce the amount of commercial fertilizer needed. Cattle manure contains approximately [illegible] pounds per ton of each nitrogen and potash, and [illegible] pounds of phosphorus. Poultry manure will contain from 10 to 90 pounds of nitrogen per ton, 6 to 7[illegible] pounds of phosphorus, and 1[illegible] to 40 pounds of potash depending upon the moisture content. Livestock and poultry manures are worth money to the producer and deserve good handling and management. The 1977 Agronomy Guide will give additional information.

TO STORE LEFT-OVER SEEDS....

I'm aware of the activity in and around garden and farm seed stores these days, the spring planting season is at hand and most folks are getting their needs. Many of the left-over seeds can be used later this season or next spring, if stored in a clean dry place; also, keep them away from any weed-killer chemicals; this could effect germination of the seeds. One other thing is very important, do not eat or feed and left-over seeds to the family or to pets or livestock. many of the seeds are treated for disease and insects and not to be consumed. Please follow this suggestion.

Farm Calendar

Monday, March 28

PFA legislative tour, Penn Harris and Capitol Building, 1 p.m. - briefing; 6:30 p.m. dinner meeting

Manor Township supervisors continue hearing on Barley Farm vs. Lancaster Area Refuse Authority, Lyte Auditorium, Millersville State College, 7 p.m.

Citizens Opposing Red Creek Dam, (Schuylkill County) will meet with officials, legislators and representatives from utility group and engineering corp. Landingville Fire Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Future of Rural Pennsylvania Conference, Host Inn, Harrisburg. Proceedings continue through tomorrow.

Educational meeting on use of Tordon 10K herbicide pellets, 7:30 p.m. in the vo-ag room of Lower Dauphin High School, Hummelstown.

Tuesday, March 29

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Ladies' Night, at the high school, 7 30 p.m. Egg decorating demonstration by Clara Hollinger and Katie Lippart. Refreshments will be served.

Garden Spot Young Farmers have crop management and herbicide meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the high school vo-ag room. All area farmers invited.

Educational meeting on the use of Tordon 10K pellets for control of multiflora

[Continued on Page 38]