



HEIDI

Man is it tough to take pictures of little kids! I've been doing it for nearly five years now, but it's not getting any easier. As a matter of fact, it's getting harder.

It used to be that I just had one to take pictures of. Then along came number two to give me double trouble when it came to attempting to fill the family album with some half decent snapshots. And then along came Heidi, who is just the most perfect little lady any Daddy could ask for.

Heidi is always cheerful. It's not hard to get a smile out of her and I'm already having visions of having to protect her from all the young men who will someday be lured by her charms. She's got lots of charm alright, as I find it difficult not to pay attention to her. Her two older brothers argue over who she belongs to. "She's my sister," says Paul. "No, she's mine," Karl counters.

That little angel has one minor fault, however. Ready to smile as she is, you've got to be pretty tricky to get it out of her when you're hiding behind one of those ugly black boxes known as a camera. That's nothing to smile at as far as Heidi is concerned. Saying "cheese" won't do it either.

The last time I tricked Heidi into smiling before a camera was a month ago when she was three months old. (That's the picture, above.) Try as I did during the past week to duplicate the feat, I didn't succeed.

Heidi smiled hundreds of times when Daddy quit hiding his face behind the Minolta, but that's the only time she granted that pleasure. A little tickling; some sweet talk --

nothing helped Heidi just looked into that camera sternly and studied it intensely.

Just one good shot, and it's priceless. But, oh my, the time that a fellow can put into it. Fortunately it's fun, as Heidi's company is nothing to complain about, whether she smiles or not. Lately we've been talking to each other, but don't ask me what's said. What counts is that we both enjoy it.

Heidi acknowledges her pleasure of company by making a great big smile appear -- one which is capped by a big dimple in each cheek. Simultaneously, she kicks out with both feet and waves her little arms in excitement. That's hard to pass up. It's irresistible, in fact.

Coming into the world weighing only eight pounds and two ounces (my wife would disagree with the only in that statement), Heidi produces happiness around here which outweighs the world. She's a little doll -- less than two feet tall and yet too weak to walk or even crawl -- but alive and precious. She's a little angel as pure as can be and someone very, very dear.

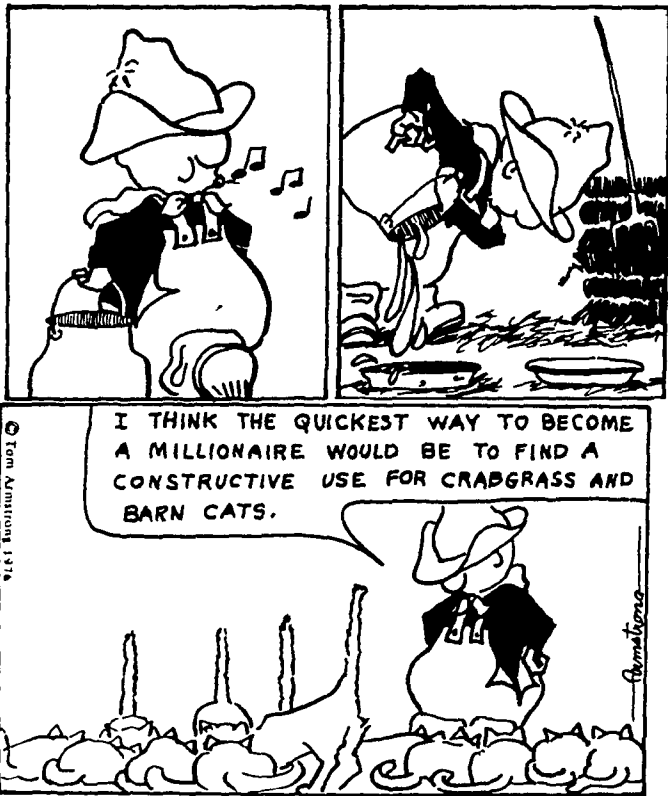
Now that I've introduced the little princess to you, I want to thank all of those who shared in our joy by voicing congratulations and sending cards. It's a good feeling when even readers whom I've never met before comment about the birth of my little girl. Thanks again.

Now, if I can just get a more up-to-date picture of her.

Dieter

RURAL ROUTE

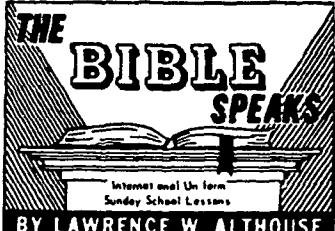
By Tom Armstrong



Help appreciated

We would like to thank the people of Manheim and Lititz communities who helped clean up after the recent barn fire. We would especially like to thank those whom we did not thank individually. We feel very fortunate and thankful that we will be moving into a community where there are so many willing hands to help when the need arises. May God bless each one of you for your willingness to share in our misfortune.

Robert and Lois Fahnestock
Mount Joy, Pa.



NO CHEAP CROWNS

Lesson for May 1, 1977

Background Scripture:
James 1:1-18
Devotional Reading:
Psalms 73:2-17

You know the song:
If you can't bear the cross,
Then you can't wear the crown.

Well, it's easier to sing than do - much, much, much easier.

People don't like crosses - except ornamental ones in churches - and many would much prefer a crossless Christianity. Wouldn't it be better if we could have all the plusses of Christianity without the minus of the cross?

The origin of crosses
Ideally, perhaps, the answer is "yes," a Christianity without crosses seems greatly to be desired. The fact is, however, that crosses do not originate in Christianity, nor is the cross to be found in the will of God. He does not send us crosses. They are the manifestations of the sins which men commit against themselves and their brothers. The Cross of Jesus Christ was fashioned, not by his loving Father, but by the ignorance, the sinfulness, the willfulness of his contemporaries.

Where, then, does God fit in the picture?

The answer is that, although God does not send us crosses, he can and does use them. God used the cross of Jesus Christ to lift up his Incarnate Love before the whole world. God used the crosses of the apostles and martyrs to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. And God can use the crosses in our lives to teach us some of the greatest truths of life. So, coming from the sin of man, the cross, the symbol of man's moral failure and tragedy, is transformed by the redeeming power of God's love as revealed in Jesus Christ.

The key, it would seem, is to be found not in trusting that we will escape all crosses, but in the faith that all crosses can be transformed by the love of Jesus Christ.



NOW IS THE TIME ...

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851

TO PROVIDE FARM POND SAFETY

Hot weather is approaching when any body of water will attract swimmers. We realize that farm ponds are a very popular place during the Summer months and we hope that many folks can enjoy this type of good recreation.

However, there is some danger around any body of water with a group of youngsters, or with any person swimming alone. We suggest that owners of ponds have rescue equipment at the pond for immediate assistance. Wooden rafts, boards, ladders, and inflated inner tubes may be very useful in case of an emergency. Pond owners should have this equipment at the scene before tragedy happens. The posting of NO TRESPASSING signs will not prevent drownings, and will not take the place of safety equipment.

TO USE POULTRY MANURE SPARINGLY

We have often stressed the value of both poultry and livestock waste, as a source of fertilizer elements. The amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash in the various kinds of manure are known, depending upon the amount of litter, the moisture content, and the amount of weathering or leaching. However, one thing is certain, poultry manure is the highest in nitrogen content, and when used excessively can burn crops and seeds. Normally I'd suggest that not more than four to five tons of straight poultry manure be applied per acre of ground; when dry this material could contain 80 to 90 pounds of actual nitrogen per ton! With larger amounts of litter it will be less in nitrogen content. Therefore, go easy on poultry manure for both field crops and for gardens.

TO PLANT CORN

Corn planting time has arrived and the recent good weather permitted many acres to go into the ground early again this year. Last year mid-April weather also

Count it all joy

The writer of the Epistle of James seems to have a perverted attitude toward trials and temptations: "Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials..." (James 1:2). He seems to be saying that we should be happy when we're miserable!

That, however, is not what James means. What he is saying is that the only way to transform our crosses is to take a different attitude toward them. If the purpose of the cross is to depress and discourage us, then we fulfill that purpose when we allow ourselves to be made depressed and discouraged. If, instead, we look at our crosses as opportunities, if we concentrate on the benefits that can be squeezed from our affliction, if we can keep our eyes fixed on the crown, then we have begun to rob our cross of its power

over us. The only way to defeat or transform a cross is to refuse to let it accomplish in us what it is supposed to accomplish. This is what James means when he says: Blessed is the man who endures trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love him" (1:12). If we keep that in mind, then, as James says, we can "count it all joy." The problem with many of us is that we want to travel the first class on economy fares - but there are no cheap crowns.

permitted the planting of part of the corn crop. Long-time records on full season corn favors early plantings (by the 10th of May) rather than later plantings. However, I'd like to point out again, farmers having trouble with Johnson Grass should wait until late May to apply Eradicant herbicide and disc in several times to chop up the grass rhizomes. Poor control can be expected with early planting of corn and then trying to kill the plants with a herbicide in growing corn. Additional information is available at our Extension Office.

TO BE CAREFUL WITH LEFT-OVERS

Surplus seeds, fertilizers, and spray materials are quite common and can be used in the future. However, it is very important to store them away from children, pets, and livestock. Half-empty bage of fertilizer or pesticides is surely an invitation to trouble. These materials should be kept in a special room or building and doors kept under lock and key. We have known of too many cases of either livestock or children getting into these materials with fatal results. Take time to put them where they belong and prevent a serious tragedy. Also, left-over seeds should not be used for food or feeding purposes. Most of these are treated with chemicals to prevent insect or disease trouble and should not be consumed.

Farm Calendar

- Tuesday, May 3**
Hunterdon County (N.J.) Soil Conservation District board of supervisors meet, 8 p.m. at the Extension Center.
- Executive Committee of the Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture meets 8 p.m. at the Extension Center.**
- Wednesday, May 4**
Lancaster County 4-H Beef and Sheep Club meeting, 7 p.m. at the farm of John Zimmerman, Ephrata R1.
- New Jersey State Agricultural Society annual dinner, 6 p.m. at Cedar Garden Restaurant, Route 33, Mercerville.**
- Lancaster County Conservation District board meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center.**
- Thursday, May 5**
FFA Lancaster County officers elections. 7:30 p.m. at the Brownstown Vo Tech.
- Public information meeting on the use of sewage sludge for fertilizer, 8 p.m. at the I. Walton Bobst Rec Center, Lititz.**