

FOR THE GLORY

By Dieter Krieg

Once again it's time to celebrate America's birthday. Unfortunately, we can't always have the kind of uplifting party we experienced last year when Americans gave their country some badly needed solidarity.

A positive approach is what we need to make and keep our country great. There will always be a place for constructive criticism, but that alone won't do. Sure, the voicing of dissatisfactions will hopefully lead to improvements. But we also need praise -- whether it's as individuals or a nation.

We, as Americans, haven't taken enough time to rally to the positive sides of our nation. That's why last year's big celebration was so refreshing. We haven't always stood by her like we should, and yet it seems as though God -- in whom we're supposed to trust -- has kept the blessings flowing.

We must believe that the answers to improvement as a nation and people lie in a positive approach. We must strive for it. That means putting our thinking caps on and searching for new ideas -- rather than sitting in gloom and awaiting an end to this or that.

America has nourished ideas of freedom and a lifestyle which are still

the envy of most every other nation on Earth -- be they friend or enemy. We can be proud of that, and we have the right to pursue a continuation of those blessings.

We're not guilty, for example, of being selfish when we consume as much as we do. America's record has always been one of generosity, and I, as one who has received some of this country's generosity, can verify that. It must also be pointed out that while consuming more, we also produce more. The two go hand-in-hand, although it is not to say that we aren't wasteful. Unfortunately, we often are wasteful.

Americans acknowledge many of their present problems. What we need is positive initiatives to overcome them -- not negativism as is too often the policy of our government. What we need is self-assurance and positive thinking, not more and more government intervention.

The spirit of independence -- the rights of individuals and free enterprise, among others -- is what this country was founded on. It's what made it great. And it's what will keep us great if we as a people have the courage to not be put down by opposing pressures and have confidence in the principles which patriots fought for two centuries ago.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to put up or shut up

Editor, Lancaster Farming:

Over the past few years I have received thousands of requests and comments by cattle producers that something should be done to help livestock industry profits. A group of dairy and cattle producers developed the Beef Information and Research Act as the best

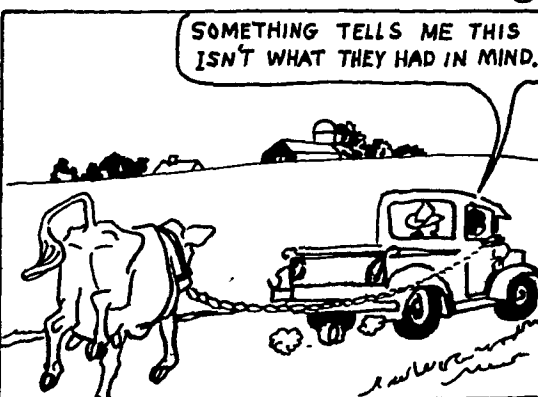
answer to the problem. The ideas have been worked and reworked for over two years and over 200 agriculture organizations have endorsed the program.

Now it is with great interest that I watch as three or four persons, and a few "Johnny come lately" organizations "nit pick" a phrase here or a sentence

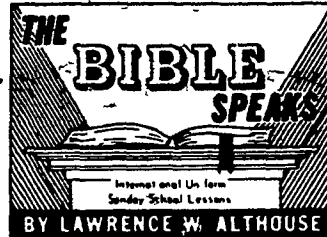
there. These persons have done no research nor have they offered a better or even an alternative program. To them it is the same game as usual. These are the people who are always "against" any improvements. It is always easy to find fault and be a defeatist. It is quite

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RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong



AFTER THE CELEBRATION

Lesson for July 3, 1977

Background Scriptures:
Exodus 19 through 20;
Deuteronomy 10 through 12.

Devotional Reading:
Deuteronomy 6:45-15

The story of Exodus did not end the victory celebration. When the people of Israel had sun their songs and danced their dances, there was still something important to follow. After the celebration came the covenant.

The covenant of God with Israel brings to our minds the laws God gave to the people as they wandered in the wilderness. But the covenant was more than just laws, more even than the Ten Commandments. The word covenant denotes an agreement, but the agreement itself denotes a relationship. What God was proposing to the tribes of Israel was a unique and significant relationship.

You have seen....

It was a relationship that was founded upon what God had already done for them. God did not first come to the Hebrews with commandments; he came first with saving acts and liberation. It was only after God had freed the people of Israel that he came to them with commandments. So, he begins by reminding them of what he had done: "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself" (Exodus 19:4).

It is on the same basis that God comes to us, both as individuals and as a nation. Corporately, he says to America, "You have seen what I did..." And we have seen what God has done in and through this nation. Despite our failures and faults as a nation, despite the incompleteness of our American dream, candor forces us to acknowledge that God has done great things with our nation.

It is a cliché to say that Americans don't appreciate their freedom until they go somewhere else and realize the value of what they have. Yet, cliché or not, it is true. I have traveled in countries where people are not free, where the police state looms ominously behind every wall, around every corner. I have been behind the Iron Curtain and I have never stepped through that gate without uttering a spontaneous sigh of relief. Yes, we can see what God has done - if we will open our eyes.

You shall be.....

When he has reminded the people of Israel of what they have seen him do, then he says: "Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my commandments..." (19:5). God does not arbitrarily made demands upon us, but appeals to us to obey him because of what he has already done for us. "Now therefore," because God has dealt with us so abundantly, he also calls us to obey his voice and keep his commandments.

There is also a future tense to the covenant for God also speaks of what he will do in the days ahead. In the case of the Hebrews, the promise of the future was the land of Canaan, the Promised Land that would be their heritage. To the Church of Jesus Christ it is the promise of God's Kingdom. And to each of us there is the promise that God's purpose for us will be fulfilled if we will walk in his ways and listen to his voice.

TO CLEAN UP GRAIN BINS

We are in the barley harvest season and fast approaching the wheat harvest season so we need to clean up our grain bins in preparation to this harvest. This is a three step operation. The first step is to clean out all old grain. Sweep down the sidewalls and floor, making special effort to remove old grain lodged in the cracks. The second step is to spray the floor and walls with an approved residual insecticide such as malathion or methoxychlor. Follow the label for proper rates of application.

Step three is to prevent birds and rodents from entering the bin. Repair holes with metal or rat-proofing materials. More grain is condemned due to rodent contamination than for any other cause. Clean up all spilled grain around the bin to discourage the various pests from the area.

A clean bin is an important step to insure good quality grain.

TO BE ALERT FOR LEAFHOPPER ON ALFALFA

This insect can cause yellowing of the leaves and dwarfing of plants; in fact it is one of the most injurious insect pests on alfalfa, potatoes and beans.

The potato leafhopper does not overwinter in Pennsylvania but moves north each spring. This is the reason they are most abundant in July and August and it is the second and third crop of alfalfa that is subject to injury.

Use an insect net to check the population of leafhoppers in the field. Sweep the alfalfa in front of you, taking a stride or two between sweeps. After ten sweeps examine the inside of the net carefully. If you average one leafhopper per sweep, you had better either spray or if it has been 35 days from the last cutting, then harvest it.

NOW IS THE TIME



Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851

TO PRACTICE ENERGY SAVINGS

The energy shortage appears to be here and it is likely to continue. This means that energy will continue to rise extremely important and continue energy conservation practices to stretch fuel supplies. Lower production cost technology should be soon, but our energy is now.

I would like to offer the following suggestions as a guide to reduce energy and costs. Tune engines, this will save and increase power. Use above ground fuel storage in a shady area to minimize evaporation loss. Use underground storage to minimize leakage loss. Maintain brooding temperatures in broiler houses every or four days instead weekly. Repair door windows - sealing carefully. Preventive maintenance on all equipment.

These are just a few but the important thing is to be aware and practice energy conservation areas of the home and farm.

TO CHECK FOR BLIGHT

The wet weather and humid conditions have excellent for blight in garden and on fruit trees. Now would be a good time to spray your fruit trees - especially tomatoes, potatoes, cucurbits. Use a fungicide and insecticide in application. If you have few fruit trees and the combination of Captan (Sevin) and Captan is one - or if the blight already started you need a little sulfur fungicide so ferber copper sulfate would be advisable. For control, maintain a 7 day interval for the schedule.

Be sure to follow the recommendations for proper application. It is also important to keep material in its original container and keep it out of the reach of children.

Farm Calendar

Monday, July 3
Have a happy Independence Day.

Tuesday, July 4
Voting begins for beef off program. County ASCS office now until July 15. Regular business or by mail. Check your local ASCS Poultry meeting. Montgomery County home poultry flock 4-H Center on Road, Lansdale, p.m.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District Super meet, 7:30 p.m. Extension Center

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