

# EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR

## Protecting our heritage

"Don't miss this most educational program ... 'Why YOU need the Lancaster County farmers,' " proclaims an ad which was seen in several Lancaster area newspapers this week. The attractive and eye-catching ad was in reference to "A Farm Show at Park City," staged by members of the Lancaster County Farmers Association.

For the second year in a row, the LCFA organized and produced a promotional event which brought the farmer's concerns and lifestyle closer to all those who merely buy his products. It's a commendable effort.

The wives of these farmers deserve special recognition because they're the ones who got it going. (Continued on Page 30)

## Masterpiece of absurdity

When you consider all the noise and power displayed by unions, you might suspect that they must have pretty near all workers as members. But that's not true. Total union representation among American workers is only 28 per cent.

Nevertheless, unions have an effect on how much you -- the farmer -- pay for baler twine, machinery, overalls, and a lot of other things. Unions also have a big influence on how we're governed and taxed. They hinder our agricultural exports and fan inflation. It's surprising what 28 per cent of this nation's work force can do. In fact, it's almost frightening.

And, you know, the union bosses

aren't satisfied. They want more power, more money, more anything that'll be to their advantage. A favorite scheme of theirs has been to have Right to Work laws repealed. Such legislation allows workers to have a choice to join a union or not. Union lobbyists are actively pursuing a goal which would no longer offer workers a choice. If they succeed, workers must join.

A similar and reportedly even more dangerous proposal is underfoot which would require federal government employees to support unwanted unions. On the national level, this masterpiece of absurdity is being pushed in Congress by Representatives William Clay (D-Mo.)

and William Ford (D-Mich.) In Pennsylvania, Act 195 has the same intent.

The proposed measure would initiate the so-called agency shop principle which is currently being fought by a number of Right to Work organizations, including Pennsylvanians for Right to Work. The agency shop idea would require a worker to pay the equivalent of union dues even if he doesn't belong to the union.

Various farmer associations

throughout Pennsylvania and across the nation are discussing this issue now as part of their policy proposals.

Any attempts made by big labor to further restrict the rights of individuals should be vigorously opposed. Right to Work legislation, and the organizations which support them are in line with principles embraced by farmers.

It's time to let your state and national legislators know what you think of "agency shop" labor tactics.

## COMMENTS FROM READERS.

### Education is not a scapegoat

Editor, Lancaster Farming:

I feel compelled to write to you concerning your last editorial about what are we, the people, doing wrong? While I agree with you that the ignorance displayed by students is shameful, and that something should be done about it, I must object to where you put the blame.

As a former educator involved in the public school's teaching system, I have seen at first hand, the

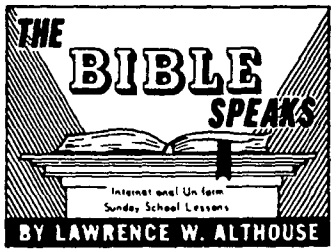
problems that are facing the education system. Every time some study shows up that shows that the students aren't as smart as they used to be, or this isn't being taught, or that isn't being taught, the teachers (or, the educators) get blamed.

Take, for example, the Pledge of Allegiance test. Has it occurred to you that by law today students are not required to say the

Pledge? Have you considered the facts that many students today refuse to do anything in school, whether it be homework or schoolwork, or even say the Pledge of Allegiance, and there is no way a teacher can make them do their work?

I fail to think that the major part of the problem can be blamed on educators. Instead, the problem cen-

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### WHAT ARE 'AMPLE GOODS'?

Lesson for October 23, 1977

Background Scripture: Luke 12:13-31

1 Timothy 6:6-21

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 40:27-31.

The so-called Parable of the Rich Fool was a

significant illustration for those who listened to Jesus. They could easily visualize the farmer whose problem became, not how do I produce more crops, but what do I do with what I have?

Although we no longer live in an economy dominated by agriculture and many of us have never been in the role of the farmer, still the parable is just as rich and meaningful for us today as it was then.

The unwise steward

We can understand the farmer's dilemma because we too live in an economy where the problem is basically, not how to get

enough to get through the next day, but how to use wisely the surpluses God has given us. If we have financial problems (with some exceptions), it is a matter how to afford a higher style of living than one of putting food on the table and a roof overhead.

Like the farmer, we are tempted to decide that the answer is "larger" barns...translated into current terminology, that may be bigger house, larger car, more powerful corporations, etc. We seem to reason that if a certain amount of physical goods satisfies certain basic needs, then a whole lot of those

goods must be even better. Of course, it rarely works out that way.

That was what happened to the Rich Fool. Although he decided that bigger and better barns would be his security, he found suddenly that they weren't what he really needed anyway. He had indeed been a fool.

Not only had he foolishly thought that security was to be found in bigger and better barns, but he had also mistaken his soul for his body. "And I will say to my soul, Soul you have ample goods laid up for many years" (Luke 12:19). He was speaking to his soul, but he was talking about physical

goods. He didn't seem to realize that physical goods are for the body, but the soul needs spiritual nourishment and value. Thus, when, suddenly, his physical body was taken and all that remained was his soul, he was greatly lacking in the spiritual goods that his Soul required.

The unexpected hour

He failed to realize - as so often we do too - that "life is more than food, and the body more than clothing" (12:23). The Gospel of Jesus Christ came, not denying or ignoring the realities and blessings of our material existence, but proclaiming

that there is a reality that goes far beyond this physical life we live on earth, a reality that alone remains when the material existence is over.

As University of Notre Dame Professor Morton Kelsey was observed, it is contemporary man's failure to realize that there is both a physical and spiritual reality that has made life today so empty for many and our religion so unsatisfying. The "ample goods" that are the quest of every person's earthly quest can only be the spiritual treasures that survive the rust and decay of the material world.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851



### TO BE CAREFUL IN CORN BUYING

The danger of aflatoxins in corn comes to our attention at this time. We are told of this infection in several of our southern states. It is a toxic material found in the ears of corn or in the grain as it comes from the field. The infection is found in corn kernels that have been subjected to stress-causing situations such as drought, mechanical damage, insect or disease problems. To our knowledge not any of this problem has been reported in Pennsylvania corn but is present in corn south of our state. We suggest that buyers of corn insist upon an

aflatoxin test, which can be performed by the State Department of Agriculture, before signing corn buying contracts. This infected corn needs special handling and should not be fed to any breeding animals.

### TO GET FIREWOOD SUPPLY

Winter weather has already reached part of our state, and soon heating systems will be a daily need. The supply of wood for the fireplace needs attention at this time. We are aware of the stronger demand for wood toward the effort to conserve other types of fuel. Our Forestry experts advise us that certain kinds of wood

such as apple, cherry, hickory, locust, sugar maple, and oak make the best wood because they burn slow; types of wood such as willow, hemlock, pine, or spruce make poor wood because they burn faster and may develop vapor pockets which may "pop" and throw sparks. Dry wood is preferred over freshly-cut wood and owners are urged not to store it in the house or a heated building. Wood insects may hatch out and infest the home or building.

### TO BALANCE CROP DIETS

Plants cannot yield well on nitrogen alone; or can they do well only with phosphorus

or potash. They must have a balanced diet of all three plus some of the minor elements. This means that if a soil is low in any one of the three major elements (nitrogen, phosphorus, or potash) crop yields will suffer. We can learn what the fertilizer needs of the soil are by running a complete soil test before next year's planting. The best time to do this is this fall before the ground freezes. Soil test kits are moving rapidly at many Extension Offices now and we urge additional attention to this important practice. On many fields in Lancaster County where tobacco fertilizers have built excess

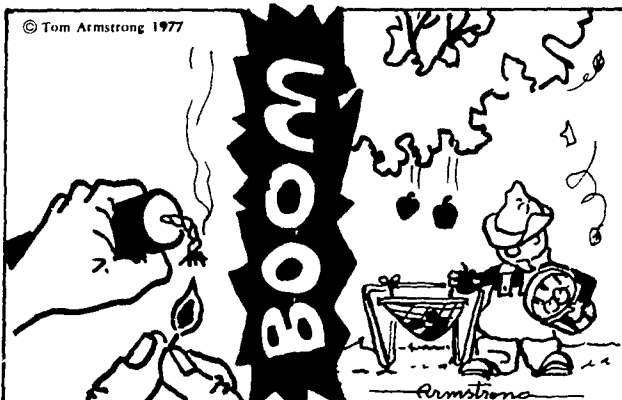
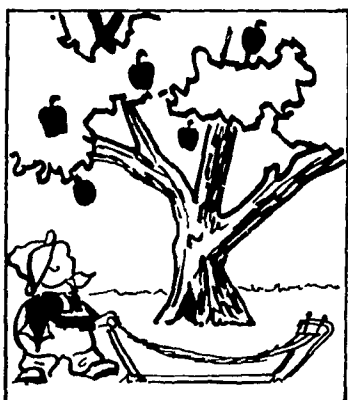
potash, this element may not be needed for a good crop yield. We urge attention to soil testing at this time for best results.

### TO RESPECT TRESPASS SIGNS

The small game hunting season is approaching when hundreds of hunters will take to the fields. I realize that many of the hunters needing to read this column are not farm folks and will not get this paper; however, I'd like to call attention to the respect needed of a landowner when he posts No

Trespass signs on his land. This means that you are not to step on this land unless you get permission from the owner. I'm aware that some hunters ignore these signs and take over as if they owned the land. They are violators of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code and may be punished. Everyone should respect the property rights of farm and forest owners.

## RURAL ROUTE By Tom Armstrong



## Farm Calendar

Today, Oct. 22  
Open House at Atlantic Breeders, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 24  
Conrad Weiser, Young Farmers meet at the high school to discuss tillage and soil compaction.

Tuesday, Oct. 25  
Farm Tax Workshop at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 26  
York-Adams County beef round-up, Thomasville Livestock Auction, beef show at 9:30 a.m.; sheep show is night before (Tuesday) at 5:30 p.m.; sale at 4 p.m. today.

Farm Tax Workshop, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center,

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