

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Preserving good farmland

(Continued from Page 1)

he replied in a recent interview "All development is at the expense of agriculture"

If we're going to attempt to minimize this expense, then it's time to make continued and profound efforts to that end

Smith acknowledges that developments may be nice as far as the tax structure is concerned, but it's bad for farmers.

At stake in this development craze which is swallowing up some portions of Lancaster County and other areas, is a way of life and some of the best farmland around. Many are being denied the opportunity to farm or continue farming. That's a crime.

Sure, there is other land left which can be farmed. But too many people are forgetting that the majority of those acres need irrigation, special drainage, and years of cultivation. Even then they may never compare with the rich acres being pulled out of agriculture by developers.

On the other side of this predicament, we can't condemn the farmer who elects to sell his property. The environment and

circumstances in which he lives oftentimes put him into a pressure-cooker.

Tempting offers are always being made by real estate agents. The sight of developments creeping in on all sides has got to be frustrating. Putting up with disrespectful trailbike riders in an unharvested field must take an awful lot of patience to "hang on" even if the land has been in your family for generations.

There are numerous other pressures too. Non-farm neighbors eventually start complaining about

manure odors or noisy tractors or blowing debris from a nearby field. Then there are taxes to contend with and insurance premiums, etc. It seems like the farmer can't win if he hangs on under such circumstances.

After having read an editorial on this same subject a few weeks ago, a farmer approached me to ask "How long do we hang on?"

I wish I knew. If I did, however, I'd be reluctant to advertise it, since each individual situation depends on so many variables. But a common denominator for all of us is to join in efforts which will make the general public aware of the consequences if good farmland continues to erode away.

Granted, many efforts are already being made in that direction, and in some areas there has been noticeable success in curbing developments. But we need more efforts anyway lest we have the famed Garden Spot and many other garden spots turned into "gardens of developments" and so-called "industrial parks."

We'll take a closer look at this issue in upcoming weeks.

Penn State needs your support

Despite all the news and talk about Pennsylvania's budget crisis, not too many of us think about it long enough to allow it to hit home.

It undoubtedly hits home in a number of ways, but one segment of the sorry situation which strikes us profoundly is Penn State University.

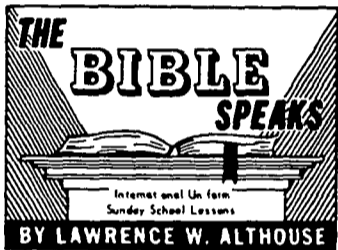
The state-funded institution of higher learning has been a servant to

Pennsylvania's agriculture since its founding in 1855. It's not just a facility for resident education, but serves many other functions as well. A few are: The Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H programs, DHIA testing, research, meat animal evaluation, soil testing, forage analysis, correspondence courses, and many more.

Chances are that if you're connected with agriculture in some way, you've got a stake in PSU's future and vice versa. And it's in your interest to keep the institution healthy and respectable in every way.

Penn State is reportedly borrowing \$9 million per month to keep its doors open. The interest rates on

(Continued on Page 37)



WHAT WE REALLY NEED

Lesson for November 6, 1977

Background Scripture:

Luke 10:13-17;

Devotional Reading:

Mark 2:23 through

3:6

An artist was busy at his

easel while a prominent woman posed for her portrait. "Mind now," she called to the artist, "make sure you do me justice." "Madame," he replied, "it is not justice you need, but mercy!"

So do we all, although often we do not realize it. Ironically, it often seems that it is the righteous man who asks for mercy, while unrighteous - who often does not know he isn't righteous - demands justice! God grant that we may never be judged with justice, for what we need is mercy.

The indignant official

It is because people fail to

recognize that they themselves need mercy that they are often so unmerciful to others. The story of the indignant ruler of the synagogue in Luke is a good illustration. There are three principal characters: the ruler, Jesus, and a woman who has been unable to stand straight for eighteen years. Seeing this bent and afflicted woman, Jesus felt immediate compassion for her and called her to him. "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity," he says, as he lays his hands upon her. Although she had been crippled for eighteen long and painful years, we are told: "and immediately she was made straight..."

What a wonderful and moving scene it is! One can hardly help sharing the joy she experienced and the satisfaction felt by Jesus and his followers. Either "Halleluia!" or "Whoopie!" would seem more than appropriate under the circumstances.

But into this joyous scene there enters a dark, angry cloud: "...the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people: 'There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.'" (13:14).

Right but wrong. Well, he was right, wasn't

he? According to the religious laws of Israel there was to be no labor at all on the sabbath. The sabbath was to be kept sacrosanct. After all, there are six days on which we can work. Surely after waiting eighteen years to be healed, there would be nothing wrong in waiting one more day!

The ruler of the synagogue was certainly in the right. He had the religious laws on his side and all authorities would have agreed with him. Yet, despite all this "rightness," he was wrong! He was wrong because he put rules before people,

traditions before human needs, reason before compassion and "being right" before being merciful.

In a few words Jesus devastated his "rightness", reminding him and the whole congregation that, if it was acceptable to help a poor beast on the sabbath as an act of mercy, how much more it is acceptable to help a human being.

What all of us need is not justice, but mercy.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851

TO PROTECT FARM MACHINERY

The farmer who allows his machinery to stay outside all winter is not practicing good farm management. Weather, including rain and snow, is the main enemy of farm machinery; when the implement gets wet, rust sets in, and soon the item is doomed for a shorter life. When the work is done for any special piece of machinery, it should be stored in the dry. We suggest a pole shed or a separate machinery shed rather than the main barn. Losses will be

less in case of fire. A close inspection of the machinery as it is stored, a good cleaning and greasing, and the replacing of broken or worn parts is suggested. Don't allow your machinery dollars to depreciate more rapidly out in the weather this winter.

TO USE FARM RECORDS FOR PLANNING

The end of the calendar year is approaching and many crop enterprises are coming to a close. Good farm records are very essential for many purposes, in ad-

dition to income tax reporting. We suggest that time be spent in evaluating the records and the farm business so that better decisions can be made for the future. When records are considered on past performance of a particular enterprise, they should give some direction to expansion, or decreasing the volume of this part of farming. Time spent "pushing the pencil" this fall and winter might result in a better farming operation next year.

TO ERADICATE RODENT INFESTATION

Rats and mice are still a threat to farm buildings, to the health of animals, and to the financial situation; with colder weather on the way many of these rodents will be coming into farm buildings for the winter. We suggest that nesting places be eliminated so they will not set up house-keeping. A good "clean-up" program is the place to start, so they will have fewer places to hide and to make nests. Also, the concreting of broken floors and walks, and the "pointing" of foundations and stone walls will keep them

away. A poison bait program should be included out of the reach of children and livestock. Rodents are wasteful, destructive, fire hazards, and can bring disease and infection to the farm. Don't put up with them this winter.

TO CONTROL LIVESTOCK PARASITES

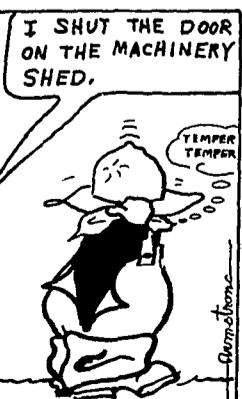
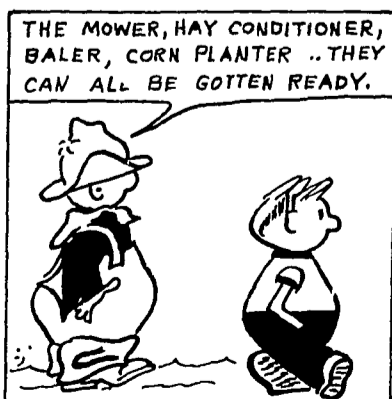
Body lice on the outside and stomach worms on the inside make it difficult for any animal to produce efficiently. We urge that dairymen and all livestock men check their animals for these problems here at the

beginning of the winter feeding season. Many feeder calves brought in local dairy farms have included cattle for several generations and the worm problem has increased. We urge some attention to controlling parasites in order to realize greater profits. The local veterinarian can help determine the type of internal parasites and suggest treatment.

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong

Farm Calendar



Today, Nov. 5
Adams County Farm-City banquet, 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m., dance afterwards, at Carroll Valley.

Keystone International Livestock Exposition begins in Harrisburg, continues through Friday. See this issue for details.

Chester County 4-H dairy banquet, Christiana Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 7
Fifth annual Dairy Seminar on feeding and health, 6:15 p.m. at the Quality Courts Inn, west of Lancaster on Route 30.

Tuesday, Nov. 8
Lancaster County Holstein Breeders annual meeting, 6:45 p.m. at Indian Springs Golf Club, 949 Church Street, Landisville.

(Continued on Page 14)