

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Inspirational words are always timely

A fellow by the name of Karl Kettering, who works as an account executive for WBYO radio, Boyerstown, gave a talk at recent Harvestore meetings and his remarks merit repeating.

Designed for physical, mental and spiritual motivation, Kettering's 25-minute speech was entitled "Six Steps Up."

Although many people possess the qualities Kettering talked about, even the strongest personalities have their downfalls from time to time. At any rate, the subject is a refreshing note at any time.

Opportunity is the first of the six steps Kettering listed in his formula for motivation. "There is no such thing as a business failure," he remarked, "it's people failure." Success depends on taking full advantage of opportunities, and "success is not a destination, it's a journey," he continued.

Step 2 is the establishment of goals and avoiding the negative influences of others who may say it can't be done. The famed distance runner, Roger Bannister, was repeatedly told and even warned that running a mile in less than four minutes would be detrimental to the

body "It couldn't be done," the medical authorities said "But Bannister did it anyway, and shortly thereafter many more did it," Kettering recounted

In another example, the account executive told how the bumble bee should not be able to fly, according to known aerodynamic principles. The bumble bee's wings are too frail, and his body too heavy. But it flies anyway. Kettering believes the same can be true of human accomplishments if a person sets his goals and sticks with it.

A positive attitude is next in order. "You reap what you sow," affirms, Kettering "Sow positive, you reap positive."

The powerful force behind the drive to accomplish a goal is enthusiasm. A person is dead without it, Kettering says. Enthusiasm sparks its owner, it's contagious and it primes the fifth step up, which is the will to work.

Work might be considered a dirty four-letter word by some, but to others it's the greatest privilege a man can have. "Not just an eight-hour day, but 10, 12, 16 hours," Kettering adds.

As good with humor as he is with

delivering a serious message, Kettering told the story of a man who was asked how long he worked for his company.

"Ever since they threatened to fire me," came the reply.

Kettering emphasizes "You must put in before you get anything out. You must keep on pumping, don't quit. The words struck home, as he added appreciative notes of the farmer's struggles and labors. He considers the farmer to be the best example of the six steps working.

The sixth step is desire. According to Kettering it's the quality which makes all men equal. Skin color, religion, ethnic background, rural or urban upbringing, education, and other factors make no difference here. Either you have it or you don't. It's inside what counts, and that's what makes you go up, the speaker challenged.

Although Kettering's message isn't anything we haven't heard before somewhere, it was well presented and is never out of date.

Recognizing opportunity, setting goals, having positive attitudes and enthusiasm, being willing to work, and desiring to succeed, these are the qualities we must continually

cultivate. That's especially true since so many forces are at work in society and government which threaten and indeed do tear these qualities down. That's why Kettering's comments bear repeating here

Too often we hear tones of a different nature: "we can't -- Uncle Sam should do more for us." That might be true in some cases, but the strength of our homes, communities, and nation come from the positive approaches mentioned earlier, not the inclination which shifts responsibilities of one's life journey to others.

Both my father and mother kept sights on their beliefs and goals despite some severe pressures. At one point in his life my father was given the choice of either shutting up or being penned up. He stood by his beliefs and chose the latter. Bitter as it was, he came out on top anyway.

It's just one example of how the "Six Steps Up" can work for the individual who applies the principles.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851

TO MULCH STRAW— BERRIES

I'm sure the ice cream supply will be good come next June, but I'm not sure about the strawberries. If we want to enjoy strawberries with ice cream next summer, we should give some attention to the strawberry plants at this time. The mulching of the plants with straw or hay is suggested; this cover will protect the plants from severe cold and prevent alternate freezing and thawing of the soil around the roots. When this happens too often, the plants

will heave out of the ground and not produce well next spring. Do not use sawdust, shavings, or leaves because they tend to pack down too tightly over the plants. Mulching during early December is strongly suggested for top yields.

TO PRACTICE HOLIDAY SAFETY

I realize that most of us feel that it will not happen to me -- but let's face it, holiday accidents and fires can happen and most of them can be prevented. With many extra lights and decorations the home be-

comes more of a fire hazard, than in normal times. The Christmas tree and evergreen decorations can dry out and become quickly inflammable. We urge special attention to this hazard. Electric lines are over-burdened too many times and may cause fire. Burning candles should be carefully placed and kept away from evergreen decorations. Fire extinguishers should be handy and in good working condition. Practice good safety measures this holiday season.

TO GROW MORE ALFALFA

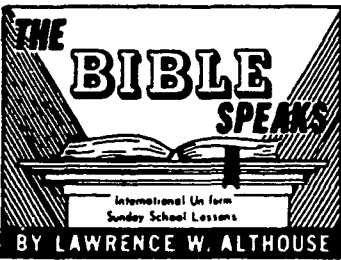
Many local farmers continue to grow corn, tobacco, and wheat as a cash crop. This has been the custom for many years. Why has alfalfa been over-looked as even a better cash crop? When we consider alfalfa at \$80.00 per ton or more in many markets, and the possibility of harvesting at least 4 to 5 tons per acre, the gross income easily surpasses that of corn or wheat. With corn prices slightly over \$2.00 per bushel and wheat around \$2.50 per

bushel, these two crops do not approach the value of the hay from an acre of good alfalfa. This past summer our top alfalfa grower in the state contest harvested 7.2 tons of alfalfa per acre; this was Paul Sauder near Mountville. It appears that more good alfalfa fields might increase farm income on many farms.

TO MANAGE CAREFULLY

Several farm commodities are headed for hard times in the next few years. I refer to hogs and milk; both of these have enjoyed some good returns in recent years but it

appears that supplies have caught up to the demand. Some dairy authorities are suggesting a 4 per cent cull of dairy herds in order to improve efficiency and reduce surpluses. Hog prices have been on the skids during the past year and appears the worst is yet to come in 1978. In both cases more attention to good farm management is suggested; reduced costs of production and better efficiency might help see producers through the lower priced period.



KNOW-IT-ALL

Lesson for December 11, 1977

Background Scripture: Job 29 through 31; 40 through 42.

Devotional Reading: Job 38:1-15

Job was just about perfect.

No matter how much he suffered, he refused to abandon God. Withstanding tragedies and deprivations that would have broken most people, Job holds on and keeps the faith.

Yet as we read the Book of Job we may have the uneasy feeling that there was, perhaps, one feature of Job's personality that was something less than perfect. His firm faith at times sounded a bit arrogant and smug. He is an intelligent man who is accustomed to the discipline of reasoned thought and examination. If there is any complaint at all from Job, it is an expression of amazed irritation that he

cannot "figure-out" the reasons behind his present plight and the role that God is playing. He is accustomed to thinking things through and in his present misery he cannot seem to do that.

Out of the whirlwind

Job is a man who places a high value on understanding the world in which he lives. He is the kind of man who wants to see how everything fits together. He is sure that no matter what the situation may be, there is a reason behind it that he can apprehend if he but thinks rationally and deductively. Although the Book of Job was written so long ago, there are still many people

like Job who demand that their world be fully rational to the human mind.

In a sense, it is good that people have that kind of audacity, for we must constantly be seeking truth through the minds and intellect that God has given us. Our Creator wants us to use our intellect and our capacities to reason are one of his great gifts to us.

But there are limitations to this intellectual capacity. There is only so much of life that is amenable to reason and logical thought. We must live with the knowledge that man's mental ability lies far, far short of the wisdom of

God. Thus, sometimes, smug like Job, we need to be reminded of those limitations as he was:

"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?" (38:4). "Have you commanded the morning since your days began?" (38:12). "Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep?" (38:16)

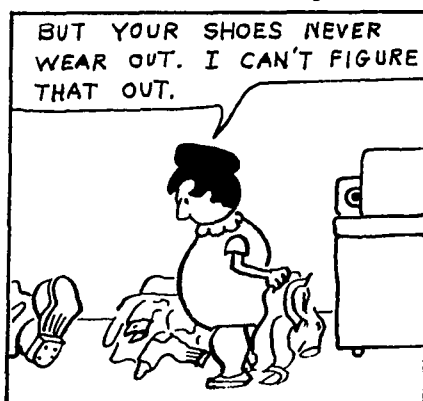
Things too wonderful

When God speaks thus to us as he spoke out of the whirlwind to Job, we may be reminded of our finite,

limited minds. We may be reminded that there is always so much that lies beyond our feeble intellectual power. Like Job, we will say: "Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know" (42:3). It is only when we realize our limitations that we come to realize that we are not really "Mr. Know-It-All" with all the answers. In fact, the more we know the more we are awed by what we don't know and what we can never know. It is in that humble discovery that "Mr. Know-It-All" begins to find true wisdom.

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Tuesday, Dec. 13
DHIA records workshop in Adams County, 8 p.m. at Bermudian Springs High School, vo-ag room.
Garden Spot Young Farmers meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 14
Lebanon County Conservation District board of directors meets, 8 p.m. at the Municipal Building, Lebanon, Room 207.

Crops Day at Collegeville Inn, 10:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 15
Pesticide license test for farmers, 1 p.m. at the Tobacco Shed, at Jonas S. Ebersole's, Stumptown Rd., Bird-in-Hand.
Elizabethtown Young Farmers meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Dairy equipment seminar for Bou-Matic customers, Bird-in-Hand Restaurant, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.