

Merry Christmas

thanks for your support

We at Lancaster Farming haven't had the thrill of exhibiting the grand champion steer at the Farm Show harvesting 200 bushels of corn per acre, or hitting a DHIA average of over 18,000 pounds of milk. Those are satisfactions the farmer can enjoy.

We at Lancaster Farming have our own special feelings of satisfaction which should be recognized. No matter how long the hours, or how difficult the assignment, a week never goes by that we can't glow inside because of the nice comments we receive from readers and advertisers. You, who read Lancaster Farming, are the source of our joys. We'd like to acknowledge that and offer thanks.

Many of you come up to us during or after meetings. Others of you call, and still more take time to write letters and cards. Some have even taken the time to stop at our Litz office to say hello. These are the occasions which really make our work worthwhile. We have an appreciative readership and advertising clientele, and we want all of you to know we're grateful.

All of us at Lancaster Farming extend warm and sincere Christmas greetings to all of you. May your holidays be meaningful and filled with joy as you unite with friends and family to celebrate the most important birthday on the calendar. And may 1978 bring to you good health, happiness and prosperity.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Agribusiness can speak for farmers

"As long as the North American farmer can supply our food at a price that allows us to spend the greatest part of our income for our cars and TVs and recreational items, our high standard of living can continue. But, when our farmers can no longer produce our low-cost food, or when they have no economic incentive or ability to produce this food -- then the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country."

That statement was made earlier this year by E.T. Evans of Boise, Idaho, in response to a request from Hesston Corporation. It's a take-off on a remark William Jennings Bryan made in 1896:

"Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again as if by magic. But destroy

our farms and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country"

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

By
Dieter Krieg,
Editor



It's significant to note here that this message was brought to the attention of the American public by a farm equipment manufacturer.

Using the recent telecast of the 1977 National Finals Rodeo as their

vehicle for national attention, Hesston Corporation presented above statement on behalf of North American farmers and ranchers. It should be noted that the farm equipment manufacturer saw fit to buy high priced television time to say something important about the farmer and his business. They did go on the air showing off their equipment.

Hesston is not alone with such educational and informative notes. Be they on television, the printed page or automobile bumper sticker. The Sperry New Holland Company has an outstanding record bringing agriculture to the public attention. A lot of it comes in newspapers free of charge. Some

(Turn to Page 36)

Non-striking farmers have a good cause

The satisfactions, joys, and even frustrations of running one's own business are prized feelings among Pennsylvania farmers. They value their independence and profits and are prepared to take a financial licking now and then, rather than give up their independence in favor of some arbitrary profit guarantee.

That's why there are only a handful of farmers in this area who are actively supporting the present farmers' strike. The movement is generating a lot of sympathy, and has received high marks for bringing the agriculture's problems to the at-

tention of the general public, but a sizable segment of agriculture is not in gear with the methods being employed by the strike movement.

The non-striking farmers undoubtedly realize that by pressuring the government for help, they are inviting a government-controlled agriculture which may not only guarantee profits, but tell the farmer "how much profit" as well. Most farmers prefer to keep their independence and take their chances on the business side of things, rather than have the government gift-wrap something for them.

Congressman Robert Walker, who visited with Lancaster County farmers last week, opinionizes that the farm strike could serve to steer all of American agriculture in just such a controlled direction. Some folks may want that. Many do not. We believe that the interests of the farmer and indeed the free world are best served if the farmer stays as independent of government bureaucracy as possible.

Walker further believes that the strike might bring about agricultural conditions which will heavily favor

(Turn to Page 36)

Farm Calendar

Wednesday, Dec. 28

The board of directors of the Berks County Conservation District meets at the Ag Center, 2 p.m.

Today, Dec. 24

Live Nativity Pageant, Boehm's United Methodist Church, Willow Street, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 25

Have a Merry Christmas, everyone.

Christmas Greetings

From the Production Staff

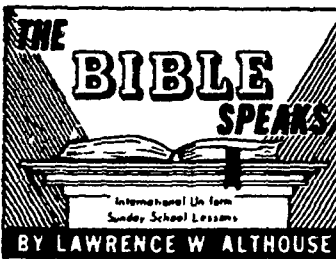
Banda OR
Dobson Karen
Olympe Sharon Kay

RURAL ROUTE



©Tom Armstrong 1977

By Tom Armstrong



WHEN ARE "THE LATTER DAYS"?

Lesson for December 25, 1977

Background Scripture:- Micah 2:1-12; Micah 4 through 5.

Devotional Reading:- Micah 7:14-20.

The Old Testament prophets spoke of a better day to come, a day when God would save his people and fulfill his covenant with Israel. The prophet Micah proclaimed:

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains...and people shall flow to it. (4:1)

"In the latter days..." It was a wonderful prophecy, but there was still one problem: When would these "latter days" come to be? The prophets gave clues of various kinds, but no

certain answer. Thus, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem centuries later there was no precise way of proving that the time of fulfillment of the promise was at hand. Christian writers and apostles later reflecting upon the birth of Jesus were convinced that in his birth the promise was fulfilled. Paul, writing to the Galatians, says: "...when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman..." (4:4)

So Christmas is a celebration of the keeping of God's promise that had been long cherished by the people of Israel who walked and

endured in the strength of it. The prophet Micah had seen the little town of Bethlehem as the focus of that fulfillment:

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days (Micah 5:2)

Until the time Micah painted a picture of hope, foreseeing a time when men would "beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks," when "nation shall not lift up sword against

nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree..." (4:3,4)

Yet, although Jesus has certainly come, it is also obvious that the times Micah foresaw have not. This is why, for some, Christmas is a time of depression for, despite its pretensions, the season of Christmas may seem an empty, false celebration. Christmas "cheer" may hardly last for the day and the brief "Peace on earth" goodwill is soon replaced by "business-as-usual." When, then, are those "latter days" people

have looked and longed for? Have they come or are they still to come?

The answer, I believe, is that in Jesus we see the vision of the fulfillment that began in his incarnation and continues until all persons accept the "Good News" of Jesus Christ and permit God to fully live in them. Christmas is a time when we climb up to the mountaintop to view the Promised Land of God's Kingdom which lies before mankind in "the latter days" when what was begun in Bethlehem will have been completed.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851



TO CONTROL LIVESTOCK PARASITES

Colder weather is arriving and animals will be growing heavier hair coats. Stomach worm infestation in the animals and lice on the outside will both cut down on production and on feed efficiency. We suggest that both dairymen and all other livestock producers check their animals at frequent intervals during the winter

to be certain they are not being bothered with external parasites. Cattle can be sprayed or dusted for lice, or set up an automatic back-scratcher that will treat the animals with little effort. Stomach worm infestation can be detected by submitting a fecal sample to your local veterinarian. Production costs are high enough without putting up

with parasites that reduce performance.

TO SERVICE FARM MACHINERY

By this time we hope that all farm machinery is under roof; it is very poor management to allow the machines to remain outside during the winter months. The rain and snow will hasten the rusting process and the life of the machine will be greatly reduced.

After the machinery is under cover, it is timely to inspect the parts and do any replacing or servicing that is needed. Most farmers will have more time now than the day they bring it out of storage next spring. In addition, the farm machinery dealer, or service man, will appreciate getting the work now, rather than in the rush period next spring. Good management suggests

that machinery be stored, serviced, and greased at this time of the year. Machinery is a huge investment and it is worth attention and protection.

TO RESPECT WITHDRAWAL REGULATIONS

Many producers are using antibiotics and other materials to treat animals. These materials are developed to prevent and cure many kinds of in-

fections and insects; they are perfectly safe to use and will give good results when used properly. In most instances there are directions as to the amount of the treatment and the withdrawal period following

(Turn to Page 39)