

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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should the wall or wood start to smolder.

PLANT TREES

The care and planting of shade trees is a home-property chore that can be (Turn to Page 76)

CONSIDER LAND USE
As time goes on, the future use of our Lancaster County farm lands seems to be more uncertain. As a New Years resolution it would be in order for all the residents of this county to become more aware and knowledgeable in this area of land use. Our future as a major contributor of food to the world

depends on everyone's support of the solution to that problem.

At this time a lot of county residents are talking about the problem of future land use, but few people are becoming actively involved in forming the future Commitments come hard and sometimes with personal sacrifice. Eventually

we will have a land use policy in Lancaster County—hopefully that policy will be the result of and in the interest of a large number of county residents and not the efforts of and in the interest of a few.

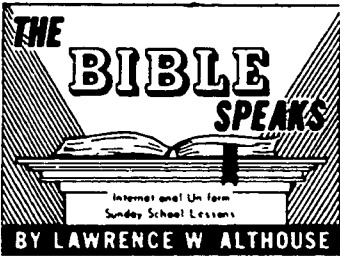
Currently some local governments are taking a hard look at their present, but basically ineffective,

laws governing land use. Now is the time for you to get involved, increase your knowledge in this area, and help form a realistic land use policy for Lancaster County.

TO THAW PIPES PROPERLY

The cold windy days of the past few weeks bring back memories of last winters frozen water pipes.

We suggest wrapping the frozen pipes with burlap or rags and keeping them soaked with hot water until the ice melts. You might also try using a hairdryer to blow heated air on the affected area. If you have to use a homeowners propane torch, be sure to have a bucket of water and a large sponge handy to quench the fire



NO MORE FOREIGNERS!

Lesson for January 1, 1978

Background Scripture:
Ruth 1 through 4
Devotional Reading:
Psalms 113

The Book of Ruth is a

dangerous book! At least that is the way it was regarded when it first appeared and for a considerable time thereafter. To even the casual reader of the Bible today that may sound preposterous. We all know the Book of Ruth to be an entertaining story of tenderness and devotion. How could anyone regard this story as "dangerous"?

Foreigner from Moab

In order to understand the significance of Ruth, we have to remember that in the day when it was written there was great concern and disapproval over any marriages between a Jew

and a foreigner. Such a marriage, it was thought, weakens the religious solidarity and purity of the people of Israel.

It was a day of arrogant nationalism. All foreigners were regarded with fear and contempt by the people of Israel. It was believed that the salvation of Israel lay in keeping free of any polluting contact with pagan neighbors.

Thus, the Book of Ruth descended upon the people of Israel like a bombshell. The heroine of the book is a foreigner—to be more specific, a Moabitess, an alien people who often were

bitter enemies. Not only is Ruth the Moabitess the central character of the book, but she is a model of piety and fidelity held up before all Israeli women. To make matters worse, this foreigner had married two Jewish men, Mahlon, Naomi's son who died in Moab, and Boaz of Bethlehem, a kinsman of Naomi. Because of his wealth and position, Boaz was regarded as something of a "marriage catch." How ironic that a foreigner landed him instead of a local girl of Israel.

A boy named Obed

But the most disturbing thing of all about the Book of

Ruth was the assertion that this Moabite foreign woman was to become the great grandmother of King David! The great David, according to this radical book, did not come from a racially - pure lineage, but one in which a foreigner played a prominent part. Readers of this book were doubtless scandalized at this thought.

Ruth was a Moabitess, but she might just as easily have been an Ammonite or Egyptian. The point the writer is making is that in the sight of God there is no such thing as a foreigner or alien. The key is not a person's lineage, but their character. In a sense, Ruth

was a better Jewess than many of most of her contemporaries. Her life was pleasing in God's sight

Last February I stood on the mountainous heights of Moab (now Jordan) and looked across the Dead Sea to Bethlehem. Though thousands of years have passed, I realized that there is still a terrible enmity between the people of Bethlehem and Moab. They are still hostile and regard each other as "foreigners" and "enemies." How long before all peoples take to heart the story of Ruth and learn that in God's sight there are no foreigners at all?

COMMENTS FROM READERS

Why not grow our energy?

Editor, Lancaster Farming:

Food is for people — not profit cry the masses. Can a rational people enslave one segment of our great land to the servitude of the majority? Agricultural products are raw wealth just as coal, oil and gas are. Agricultural produce alone is a perpetually renewable raw wealth. Perhaps the agricultural strike will bring to light the fact that without agricultural purchasing power grass will grow in the streets of America! No other

segment of Americans are asked to pay for the privilege of a job; yet the agriculture people have been doing just that and we say it must end!

We agricultural women are saying our men are worth 100 per cent as much as any man in America — not just 65 per cent as parity dictates! We are mad!

We are fighting for the lives of our men; a future for our children and the survival of a nation. We want our husbands by our side to enjoy in the twilight years

the fruits of our labor; not to have them dead too soon from fatigue and heartache. Heartache that our beautiful country has been economically runed by a greed satiated only by the enslavement of a people; suddenly to find an entire nation consequently enslaved forever. The greatest civilization ever to be snuffed out in a short 200 years by the insatiable greed of the masses.

Mrs. Wayne Peterson
Halabird, S.D.

Editor, Lancaster Farming:

As farmers, we should be pushing harder to get our government interested in experiments in growing fuel. The advantages are many:

1. No balance of payments deficit;
 2. More jobs;
 3. Guaranteed adequate fuel, at constant or decreasing prices;
 4. Energy independence;
 5. Reduced automotive pollution, and
 6. Stronger dollar and healthier economy.
- Looking at it a little more selfishly, it would also put agriculture to work at full throttle furnishing raw materials for processing, and I'm sure we could all bear that burden cheerfully.

This idea really is practical. I am aware of three different approaches, and there may be more:

1. Using plants similar to the rubber tree, or to the common milkweed, we could

conservatively produce over two billion barrels of oil on 200,000 square miles of U.S. land unsuited for other crops. This amount is equal to our imports of 1975.

2. Sugar cane, sugar beets, corn, corn stalks, straw, wood, manure—practically any form of organic matter can be used to make alcohol. Under proper conditions, it gives mileage equivalent to gasoline with no pollution. Even now, in bulk quantities alcohol costs about the same as gasoline — what would increased efficiencies bring?

3. Using just that wood and timber which would result from intensified culling and thinning of our forests and woodlands, we could produce energy in the form of charcoal at least equal to our oil imports. Charcoal has more energy per pound than coal, is much less polluting, and would cost no more —

perhaps less — with volume production.

Why does our President and our Congress persist in seeking to perpetuate our dependence on foreign oil, which in effect is leading us down an ever-narrowing alley toward a dead end which everyone knows is there, somewhere? I suspect that all those who are involved with our present oil industry, are applying pressure. Our only recourse is education and publicity — let the public know that there are workable alternatives, and let them know all of the advantages accruing from them. Hopefully, they will care enough to make sure they are tried. Not only could these alternatives greatly affect agriculture, they could affect the very future of this, our beloved country.

Sincerely
Eugene Sellers
Trout Run, Pa.

Farmer needs better price

Editor, Lancaster Farming:

With reports of up to half of U.S. farmers facing bankruptcy, I would think that every farmer in the country would be ready to do something to stop the situation. This fact certainly indicates that a proven way to raise farm income should be tried. This situation equals the sinking of the Lusitania, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and other things that made people realize that they have to stand up and fight for their rights or else have them taken away.

The farmers need costs of production plus a reasonable profit. Supply and demand will not give the farmers a fair price because the buyers have much more power than any one farmer. Supply and demand would work if the

farmers had the same power as the buyers. An individual farmer selling 10 cents over his neighbor is not the answer. I believe that we as farmers have to organize and secure contracts with the processors to establish a fair price for us.

All other segments of the economy are organized but the farmer. Therefore, we are taken advantage of.

Fair prices to the farmer would decrease production if a man could make a living with 30 cows. He would not milk 60 and work the extra hours. This would make more farm jobs available. I think it is wrong for a farmer to do the work of two men and then complain about someone else being on welfare.

We believe that the United States is the most advanced

country in history. We also have the strongest labor unions. The method of striking as labor unions do has gained their members great success. The fact that business sets their price by refusing to sell until they receive their price is the way business is done in most parts of the world. Even Lancaster Farming would refuse to renew my subscription if I didn't pay the full price. So the farmers who are striking are doing business the way business is done.

Sincerely,
Leland Stanford
Dillsburg, Pa.

Editor, Lancaster Farming:

I am writing in reference to an article entitled "Non-striking farmers have a good cause too."

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Careless hunter scorned

Editor, Lancaster Farming:

After reading about the loss of a family horse — possibly by a careless hunter, perhaps this so called sportsman should have his eyes tested. I am sure he could qualify for blindness.

The Sueck family has made it clear that their land would be posted next year. Many more areas are being posted every year because by the so called friend of the farmer takes it upon himself to decide if the farmer's dog,

cat, cow, etc, have the right to live.

Posting of land is not only time consuming but costly. It is my opinion that the Pa. State Game Commission should post signs only where hunting is allowed. All other land should be treated as off limits. If the hunters continue to act like they have in the past, the Commission I am sure will not have to purchase many posters.

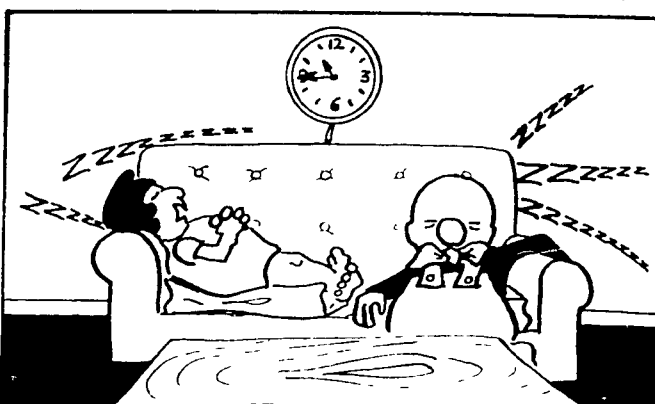
As it stands now the Game Commission makes from \$8 and up on each hunter. Guns and ammunition

manufacturers make millions of dollars. Also garment manufacturers foot wear, knives plus many other articles which is a part of hunting, make big profits.

Take a good look at this land owners and ask yourself what did you get out of this multi-million dollar deal other than a lot of sorrows and headaches.

As I do not wish to sign my name I do hope that your paper will print the truth as I am sure that I am speaking for a good many land owners.

RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong

Farm Calendar

Sunday, Jan. 1
Have a Happy New Year!

Monday, Jan. 2
Lower Dauphin Young Farmers meet, 7:30 p.m.
Lower Dauphin High School, along Route 322, Hummelstown.

Tuesday, Jan. 3
Farm Income Tax meeting, County Cupboard Restaurant, Lewisburg.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers meeting, Minnesota Farm Records is topic, 7:45 p.m. at high school.
York-Adams County Forage and Small Grains meeting, 10 a.m. at the York County 4-H Center. Topics of interest: sod seeding, weed control, varieties, fertilization

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