

# EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



## Agricultural growth evident

If this newspaper is any measure of the importance of the Pennsylvania Farm Show and Pennsylvania agriculture and agribusiness in general, then we can safely say that the farmer and his agribusiness allies are on top of things. We've had a lot of input into these pages, and it's because of what agribusinesses, including farmers are doing. Mention should also be made of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the Farm Show Commission, and others who are involved in the operation of the Farm Show and advance of Pennsylvania agriculture.

This issue of *Lancaster Farming*, at 184 pages, is the largest ever to come off the press. It's the biggest ever because readers and advertisers are looking to us for information during Farm Show Week,

as every other week. We appreciate that patronage and are thankful.

Inside this issue are numerous special articles on the operation and renovation of the Farm Show, some of the people who compete there, and background stories which describe what goes on behind the scenes — such as the activities and responsibilities of the state troopers who are assigned to the Farm Show during the week-long event.

There are stories on what you can expect this year and in years to come. To round out the special features in this edition, Pennsylvania's three Master Farmers are introduced and more than 100 FFA Keystone Degree winners are given special recognition.

And then there are the usual feature and columns. We hope you'll enjoy reading these pages and we

hope you'll visit with the many Farm Show exhibitors who welcome you to their booths through the ads found in this issue.

Have a fun and informative time at the 1978 Farm Show!

## Beware of the solicitors

On Aug. 31, 1975, a California father found his 12-year old son in a Krishna temple and removed him forcibly. But he didn't get far. Eight to 10 cultists surrounded him and pulled the boy out of his arms. So says a report in the June 23, 1976 issue of *The New York Post*. The young boy hasn't been seen again and is believed to be in India.

In January of 1977, members of the Krishna movement stopped visitors to the Pennsylvania Farm Show, allegedly to spread their culture to anyone interested to listen. They sold flowers and solicited donations. Although no violence was reported, Farm Show visitors were flustered about the activities of the group.

Krishna membership in the United States is supposedly no more than a few thousand, but their activities flourish in nearly every corner of the nation where large crowds can be found. They've made headlines in numerous newspapers and magazines, including *The New York Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsweek*, *The Philadelphia Bulletin*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Dallas Times Herald*.

Krishna members, are within their legal rights when they go about their missions at airports, zoos, and the Pennsylvania Farm Show. That's why authorities have gotten nowhere in attempts to have them barred from

public places. Protests may however, and the more bizarre incidents such as alleged kidnappings give rise to concern.

Chances are good that the group known as International Society for Krishna Consciousness will be at the Farm Show again this year. Although the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has put forth some definite guidelines on their conduct they probably won't be discouraged from coming, says a spokesman. The agricultural extravaganza which begins in Harrisburg Monday.

The Krishna philosophy was started by an octogenarian from India who has proclaimed himself to be a "divine master." Now allegedly living in the United States as a multimillionaire, the Krishna leader has found disciples in nearly all portions of the country. The society is headquartered in India, and has sent some of its pupils to school there.

The Krishna Society has had its finances investigated, citizens have fumed over their activities, and parents have cried over sons and daughters who have been lured into the sect. The Krishna Society is non-Christian, practices strange rituals, and claims that anything done outside of Krishna consciousness is a crime.

Visitors to the Pennsylvania Farm Show should think twice before contributing to the Krishna movement.

## Farm Show has a new look

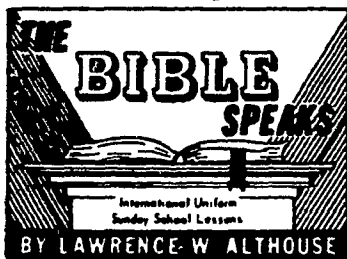
Although next week's big agricultural extravaganza in Harrisburg is marked as the 62nd edition of the Pennsylvania Farm Show, it's a brand new one, in a sense. The annual event is coming to life with a new look, fresh paint, and good ideas. And there are good indications that the Farm Shows of 1979 and succeeding years will continue to see further improvement.

Let's start with the renovation project as proof of the "new edition." Close to \$6 million are being spent, and evidence of the improvements can be seen in all portions of the complex. A new roof, a new beef cattle barn, vastly improved rest

rooms, updated food service areas, and numerous safety installations are just a part of the improvement list. A visitor can't help but notice.

The good ideas and hopes for a bright future come as a result of expressed desires for some more building plans and Farm Show changes. Agriculture Secretary Kent Shelhamer has a few ideas in mind which are worthy of strong consideration, such as making the livestock shows an event for champions and building a second cattle barn. The latter proposal would make the present sheep and hog barn available for machinery exhibits, an area which is in critical

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### AGGRAVATING GOD

Lesson for January 8, 1978

Background Scripture: Jonah.

Devotional Reading: Jonah 2:1-9

It is most unfortunate that in the minds of many people

the Book of Jonah is simply a rather fantastic "fish story." Many people never get beyond disputing whether or not it was really possible for Jonah to have remained alive in the stomach of the great fish.

That's really too bad for the best part of the story of Jonah is what comes after his celebrated encounter at sea. If the first portion of his story could be regarded as the tale of a reluctant prophet, the second part could surely be regarded as the story of an aggravated and disgusted prophet.

And he was angry. One of the interesting aspects of Jonah's story is

that he is a believable character. He is so human in nature and we probably all know someone like him. Like "Archie Bunker" his prejudices show through clearly. There is nothing subtle about his feelings and attitudes toward foreigners. It is with obvious relish that he enters the city of Nineveh, a hated pagan capitol, and gives dire prophecies of imminent doom. He can hardly conceal that he enjoys bearing these judgements against his nation's enemies.

Then, however, a strange and unexpected thing happens: the people of Nineveh take his message to

heart and, instead of rejecting him and guaranteeing their destruction, repent and seek God's mercy. Jonah is no longer simply petulant, he is now furious. Something had told him all along that God would find a way of saving the city of Nineveh. His aggravation with God is obvious: "I pray thee, Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country?... for I knew that thou art a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love..." (Jonah 4:2). Jonah's words are almost an accusation, as if he is pointing to some serious flaw in God's

character. Today some people still seem to think that way.

#### Misplaced pity

Like a spoiled child Jonah stomps away, murmuring that God might as well take his life away. If he can't have his way, he won't play. The unspoken implication to God is: "Now, see what you did to me!" One is uncertain whether to laugh or cry at petulant Jonah. His childishness is amusing for its candor, but it also strikes home to many of us. It is not hard for us to see ourselves in his place. We too know times when we don't agree with the way God runs his world. We don't always

approve of his choice of friends and we think he's too lenient with the "bad guys" (read "other guys").

To top everything, God pointed out that, if Jonah could feel sorry for a plan that he had not planted, why should he be aggravated with God for showing concern over a city of 120,000 souls? The book ends without any reply from Jonah. What can he say? God is right. Of course, he is — that's what makes him so aggravating to those of us who are satisfied only when God plays the game our way!

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

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**TO GET HEIFERS INTO PRODUCTION EARLY**  
A recent study at Penn State is related to the

question of breeding Holstein heifers early (freshen 20 to 24 months) rather than the common

practice of freshening when 24 to 30 months of age. Through the DHIA records, 2362 Holstein cows were

involved in 217 herds. Freshening at the earlier age resulted in more lifetime production. Even though the

older heifers were larger at freshening time, they never learned to work as hard at milk production as those that freshened from 20 to 24 months of age. The production was over 1000 pounds less for the older cows.

#### TO VENTILATE DON'T WAIT

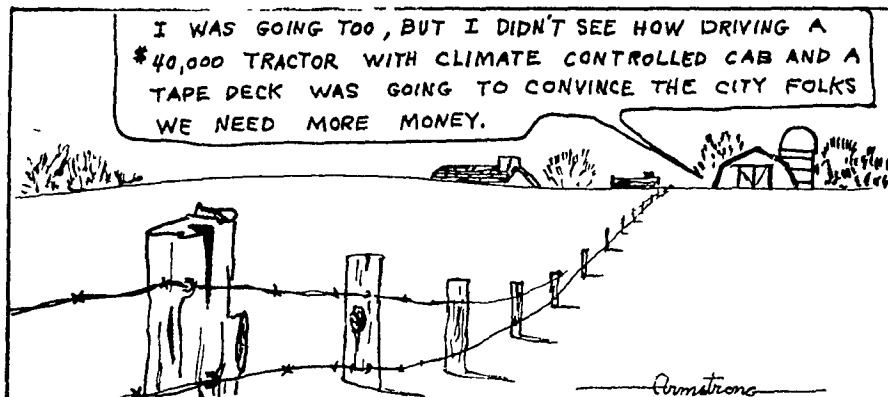
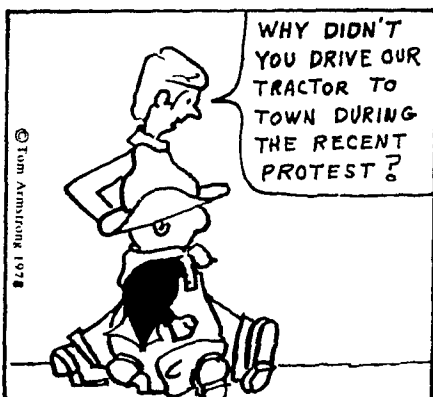
Many local barns are filled to capacity and reflect some



ventilation problems. When the ceilings, walls, or windows show condensation and sweating this time of the year, it is time for a change in the ventilation system. (Turn to Page 28)

## RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



**Farm Calendar**  
Sunday, Jan. 8  
Pennsylvania State Farm Show opens; details elsewhere in this issue.  
Monday, Jan. 9  
Pennsylvania Farm Show.

See complete details elsewhere in this issue.  
Tuesday, Jan. 10  
Southeastern Pennsylvania - Penn State University  
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