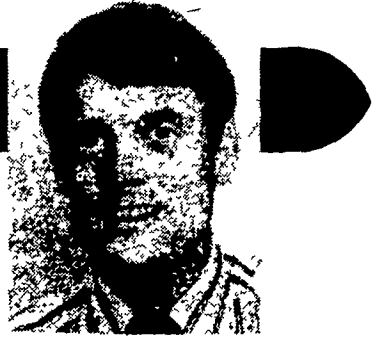


**EDITORIAL COMMENTS** By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



**Send a letter while it's still a bargain**

If President Carter has his way, readers of **Lancaster Farming** may have to wait until Monday or even later to receive their issues. The President is favoring the elimination of Saturday mail deliveries in order to cut costs of the Postal Service. And that isn't all.

Since 1972, mailing costs for newspapers and magazines skyrocketed by over 500 per cent. That should help explain why **Lancaster Farming** had an annual subscription rate of \$2 five years ago, and \$6 today. Carter wants those mailing costs to go even higher.

The favored higher mailing costs and cutbacks in service, such as the elimination of Saturday deliveries just don't add up. If costs go up that much, one would expect that services be improved. Instead, just the opposite is true.

While the above information is

something to be concerned about in itself, more alarming information came earlier this year when President Carter intervened in Congress to prevent postal reform.

Congress has had a bill in its midst -- H.R. 7700, which would help ease some of the problems the Postal Service has had. The bill was designed to keep costs in line while preserving services instead of allowing them to disintegrate. Politicians of both parties give overwhelming support to H.R. 7700.

But Carter doesn't like it.

The President is entitled to his opinion on the matter -- just like everyone else. But Carter went beyond that. He didn't just say he didn't like it. He urged House Speaker Tip O'Neill to keep the bill off the House floor. That effectively sabotaged congressional efforts to upgrade the Postal Service.

The President has pulled quite a few "fast ones" during his first term in office, and this latest one stands as a good example of how he uses his authority to cripple the democratic process. He disallowed a bill to come up for a vote. The end result of the postage reform block means not only are postage rates going to keep inflating -- especially for newspapers and magazines -- services will be cut. And that isn't all.

With subscription costs rising, and services cut, many people will consider forgetting about subscribing to newspapers and magazines. What's likely to be left then is a society which effectively had one of its information and news arms amputated. In other words, freedom of information is seriously affected.

To illustrate how much support postal reform measures have in

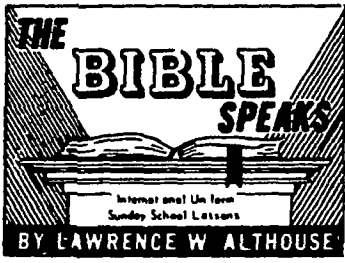
Congress, consider that the full House Post Office and Civil Service Committee had already approved H.R. 7700 by a vote of 19 to 4.

Furthermore, the House in 1976 voted 399 to 14 in favor of a moratorium on postal rate increases, service cuts, and post office closings. The House also voted 377 to 9 to oppose the cessation of Saturday deliveries.

President Carter, however, who used to make promises of postal reform when he was campaigning, is ignoring the issue now.

Carter often speaks of taking the issues directly to the people.

I think it's about time we start taking the issues to him instead. Send him a letter soon, while you can still mail it for the big bargain of 13 cents.



**A SPECIAL PLACE**

Lesson for February 19, 1978

**Background Scripture:**  
Psalms 43; 46; 84; 122.  
**Devotional Reading:**  
Psalms 43.

Just about one year ago I

saw one of the most marvelous sunsets I have ever seen. Standing atop Mt. Nebo in what is today the nation of Jordan, I looked across a vast valley to another mountain ridge on the far side. On the valley floor to my left was the shimmering Dead Sea, to my right was the Jordan River, and in the middle was a dark green patch that was identified as Jericho.

But it was on the mountain ridge on the other side of the valley rift that our attention was focused, for a monstrous orange ball began to slip down the far side of the ridge. As it did, its rays

illuminated the spires of churches on the Mount of Olives over-looking the Holy City of Jerusalem.

**The lovely dwelling-place**

In a space of five minutes the sun had completed its daily duty and Mt. Nebo plunged into darkness. Still, our little group stood there, staring into the darkness in the direction of the Judean hills that could no longer be seen. It was with reluctance that we finally walked back to our bus.

The next day it was with that vision of the Holy City in our minds that we began our journey from Jordan across

the valley into Israel and started the climb up to Jerusalem. As we climbed ever higher, some of us remembered the anticipation of the ancient Hebrew pilgrims as they made their way up to the Holy City. Although the Temple is long gone and no longer carries contemporary significance for the Jew, let alone the Christian, still it was an easy matter to share and understand the tremendous excitement the Jewish pilgrims must have felt as they approached Jerusalem. As we rounded the curve on the road from Bethany to Jerusalem and

saw the city spread out before us, we knew in our own hearts why this had always been for so many people a special place.

**To dwell in they house**

But God is everywhere, the skeptic reminds us. We don't have to go to a sacred city or holy place to find him. We don't even have to enter a church.

No, we don't have to, we can find and experience God anywhere -- and life is richer and fuller when we do -- but nevertheless there are certain places where our experiences of him are deeper and fuller, not because he is limited to those

places, but because they have a special meaning for us and we are more likely to be receptive there, more open to his indwelling Presence.

God is certainly not limited to our churches, shrines, and holy places, but because we come to them with anticipation, because we enter them as places of refuge and inspiration where "even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself," these places become "special" to us as with praise and singing we enter not so much into a place, but into a Presence.

**NOW IS THE TIME**

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851



**TO APPRECIATE SNOW COVER...**I realize this may not be a very popular thought to some people, but the snow cover that we have had since the first of January should be of value to agriculture. When the ground is covered with snow, there is protection to plant roots and to all kinds of vegetation. Also, water pipes will be protected with large amounts of snow cover. This year, unless we have some very cold weather after the snow melts, we should have a good winter wheat and barley crop. Snow keeps these grains from winter-killing. Also, many types of

evergreen shrubbery will be protected by the snow cover. These plant roots will not be dehydrated under the snow, as compared to bare grounds and very cold weather. I realize the many hardships and expenses of blizzards and heavy snowfalls, but it is not all negative.

**TO PREPARE FOR SPRING...**This is a very pleasant thought after so much snow and cold weather, but after looking at the calendar, we must realize that spring is just a month away. Over the years I'm aware that many gardens and tobacco beds have been seeded, or prepared, on

or-about St. Patrick's Day - March 17. That means that garden seeds and fertilizer supplies should be on hand ready for the season. Farmers who plan to broadcast alfalfa or red clover in their stands of winter wheat should have the seeds on hand. The choice of varieties and of top quality seeds should be much better now than later in the spring when there will be "line-ups" waiting for supplies.

**TO PROVIDE SALT AND MINERALS...**This time of the year some cattle feeders and dairymen may be running low on the supply of

either salt or minerals for their herds. Both of these materials are important for efficient production of either meat or milk, and should be available at all time. No doubt some minerals and salt are mixed into the ration; however, the needs of animals vary and this presents the need of having free-choice elements. This is especially true of salt and it is best if presented in the loose form, rather than by the block. Many cattle will develop sore tongues before they can get sufficient salt. Both salt and minerals are needed for top digestion and

for maximum water consumption.

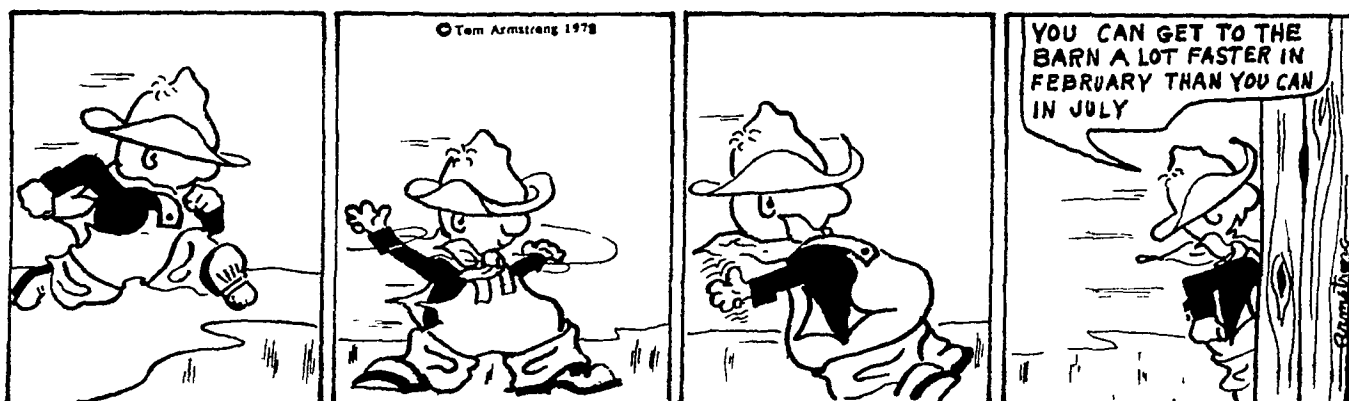
**TO BE ON HAND...**The birth of little farm animals is quite common at all times of the year, but sheep producers and hog breeders have a lot at stake, if these animals are born into a cold barn. We urge some type of supplemental heat at this time of the year in order to get best results. Most farrowing houses have heat, but the owner of a few sows, and the sheep breeders, should be sure the new-born does not get chilled that first few minutes. To be on hand

is the best practice, and make a special effort to get the new animal to nurse the colostrum milk and to be kept warm. To "sleep in the barn" at lambing time, or to check expectant Mothers several times during the day and night is very important. Don't be caught "sleeping" while your new-born animals get chilled and die.

**RURAL ROUTE**

By Tom Armstrong

**Farm Calendar**



**Today, Feb. 18**  
Lancaster County Swine Producers Association and Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council hold joint meetings and banquet at the Harvest Drive Restaurant, Intercourse. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Cumberland County 4-H Beef Club weigh-in, Carlisle Livestock Market, 8 a.m.  
Art show featuring

agriculture at Bloomsburg State College in the President's Lounge of the Kerr Union Building. Now through March 20.  
**Tuesday, Feb. 21**  
Monthly meeting of the Ephrata Area Young Farmers, 7:45. Topic for the evening, dairy nutrition.  
Lancaster County Crops and Soils Day, at the Farm

(Turn to Page 18)