

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR

The spreader spread laughter

If your first impression to last week's page 1 picture and the accompanying story was "I don't believe it," you're 100 per cent right. The only thing that fellow was spreading was laughter for April Fool's Day. It was all a hoax. The picture was "composed" at the editor's kitchen table, using three separate photographs, and the story was fabricated from the first word to the last.

Now that it's all over, here are a few words on how it was done. Most of you have probably already figured it out, but for those of you who are still wondering just what took place -- here's the explanation.

First of all -- if it needs telling -- I enjoy a practical joke from time to time. It makes life just a bit more interesting and fun.

The three photographs were the key to the whole joke. Using the photograph of the wet field and sky as a base, cut-outs of the helicopter and manure spreader were simply pasted into the proper position. Four strokes of the pen provided "cables" and a little bit of scissors work ended up with a fairly genuine looking power-take-off shaft. It was made from the rotor blade of a second helicopter picture. The semi-spherical shield at the end of the shaft was made separately, of course.

It's all a very simple trick. But it does have one minor complication, that being the problem of

keeping things in proper perspective. For example, the helicopter and spreader had to be of proper size in relation to each other and in relation to the scenery in which they were suspended. An extra trip or two to the darkroom took care of that handsily.

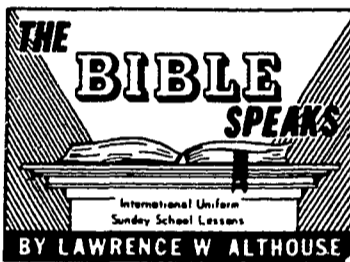
The helicopter was, of course, easy to cut out of the original photograph. It was easy because it was in the sky. A little care in the darkroom will assure that the sky of one picture will blend in nicely with the sky of a second picture. The final photograph hides all the evidence of what was done with the scissors.

The manure spreader presented no problem because it was photographed on a beautiful field of snow with no other background. That meant easy scissors work and easy blending when it came to the final composition.

While the picture certainly had its flaws, it nevertheless provided all of us with some fun. That was what the picture and accompanying story from "Swampy Furrows" were intended for. A number of readers have expressed their delight with the April Fool's contribution. For that, all of us at Lancaster Farming are sincerely grateful. It is a pleasure being of service to you, and we look forward to continued good relationships, including a few jokes at least once a year.



Hans Hubschrauber, potential master farmer, spread a lot of laughs last week. We're glad you enjoyed the April Fool's joke.



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

A MAJORITY OF ONE

Lesson for April 9, 1978

Background Scripture:
Acts 5:12-42

Devotional Reading:
Psalms 37:30-40

From our contemporary perspective it is easy to

identify ourselves on the side of the disciples who were thrown into prison by the Sadducean party (Acts 5). Of course the really important question is not, where do we stand today (when it doesn't cost us anything), but where would we have stood if we had been their contemporaries?

Go and stand...

Let's try to look at this event as it must have been seen by most of the citizens of Jerusalem in those early days after the death and resurrection of Jesus. For one thing, we would have seen this tiny band of Christ's disciples as a trouble-making minority

group. The great majority of the people of Jerusalem were quite satisfied with their Jewish religion. The followers of Jesus, most of whom were from Galilee and other areas—and therefore not natives—were simply creating trouble and were not wanted in Jerusalem. Why couldn't they go home where they belonged and practice their new religion there? What is more obnoxious than a trouble-making minority group of outsiders!

Then, too, their contemporaries regarded them as fanatics with whom there seemed to be no compromise, no appeal to

reason. For example, when they are freed from jail by an angel of the Lord, instead of letting tensions simmer down, they went right back to the temple to continue their provocative preaching and activities. Certainly if they had been reasonable, law-abiding men they would have avoided yet another confrontation with the authorities. Instead they provoked one.

Rather than men

The disciples would also probably be criticized for escaping from jail. Can you imagine our response today if someone were to explain his or her escape from prison as an act of the Lord! Angel

or no angel, they should have "stayed put," shouldn't they?

Furthermore, it wasn't just the fact that they were preaching, but what they were teaching. The angry high priest says to them: "We strictly charged you not to teach in his name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us", (5:28). The disciples weren't just bringing people a spiritual message, they were accusing the Sanhedrin of Jesus' murder—in short, it seemed they were inciting to riot!

Despite the Sanhedrin's

legal orders to the disciples, they continued to preach and teach just the same. Wouldn't you and I hold that, despite the promptings of their consciences, they should obey the legally-constituted local authorities? What would happen to people's respect for law and order if everyone were to say, as Peter said, "We must obey God rather than men"? What about the will of the majority?

Unless with God a person of conscience is a majority of one!



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851

TO BEWARE OF MANURE PITS

As soon as ground conditions permit, there will be considerable activity in cleaning barns, feedlots, and

liquid manure pits. This by-product of livestock and poultry farming is very beneficial as a fertilizer and to the soil organic matter. However, in the case of the

manure pit, there is considerable danger of poisonous gases being present; also, most of them are highly explosive. This is especially true when the

mixture is agitated before being pumped out of the pit. Operators should be very careful and have good ventilation in the building above the pit, if animals are present. Also, when entering the empty pit, gas masks should be used. We warn producers not to take chances at this time of the year.

TO MANAGE THE MILKING HERD.

Dairymen, who expect to graze their milking herd on lush spring pasture, should place special effort to keep from producing "grassy" flavored milk. Milking cows that are permitted to graze up to the milking hour will surely produce milk that could be rejected. This is especially true if there is any wild garlic plants in the area. The herd should be introduced to the pasture gradually, and then only after they have had a feeding of dry matter such as hay, silage, or straw. Also, the barn should be well ventilated where the cows are waiting to be milked. Milk quality is very important for increased consumption; every effort should be made to keep out the fresh pasture flavors.

TO USE QUALITY SEEDS

The planting season is at hand and we hope that most people have already planned their cropping enterprises for the year. We also hope that most folks are planning to use Certified, or top quality, seeds and plants. We are aware of the difference in cost between some home-grown seeds and the Certified kind; however, the grower is taking more

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COMMENTS FROM READERS.

April 1 joke applauded

Editor, Lancaster Farming:

After reading my April 1 copy of Lancaster Farming, I felt obligated to write a reply for your editorial page in recognition

of your outstanding writing achievements.

First I would like to relay to you a story told to me by a fellow auctioneer. It seems this auctioneer was conducting a farm sale in the

Lancaster area and everything went very well throughout the day. The machinery and equipment, the cattle, hay, etc., some antiques and even some

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Farm Calendar

Today, April 8

Dairy Goat Workshop, 10 a.m. at the Ag Center, Westminster, Md. Program continues tomorrow (Sunday).

Lehigh County Farmers Association annual meeting, 6:45 p.m. at the Schnecksville Grange Hall.

York County 4-H Round-up, at the 4-H Center, Barr, 8:30 a.m.

Monday, April 10

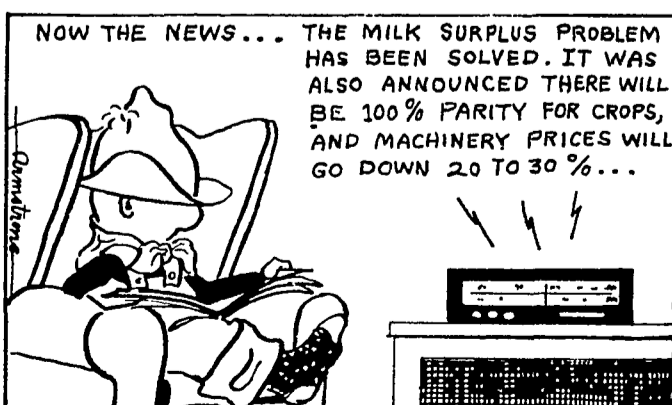
Eastern Lebanon County Young Farmers' banquet, at the Middle School cafeteria, 7 p.m.

Central Dairy 4-H Club meets, 7:30 p.m. at Philip Laughman Farm, Thomasville.

Tuesday, April 11
Thanksgiving Night for Chester County 4-H'ers,

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Rural Route



By Tom Armstrong

THE PRICE FOR MARKET HOGS WILL SKYROCKET AS WILL POULTRY AND EGG PRICES TO THE FARMER... THIS HAS BEEN YOUR AG REPORT AND WE WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE YOU WITH

THIS FINAL BIT OF INFORMATION... APRIL FOOL...

