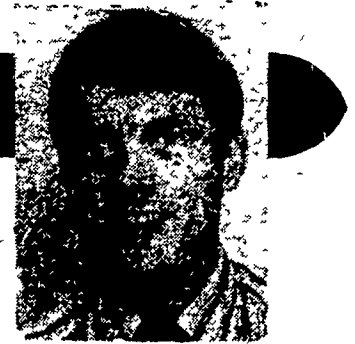


**EDITORIAL COMMENTS** By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



# All that glitters is not gold

One of the wisest farmers I have ever had the privilege to know never made much of a name for himself on production lists, the show ring, or auction barns. But he has always been -- and continues to be -- a good farmer. He appreciates his way of life and accepts his responsibilities wholeheartedly. While that may well be a trait that's applicable to most farmers, no one in my acquaintance exemplifies such character more profoundly than "Farmer Richard."

An ever-humble man with modest aims, "Farmer Richard" has perennially had the same problems and worries that face most every other farmer. He has had his ups and downs; his moments of joy and his times of grief. He's been faced with tragedy and tears.

Soon nearing his 75th birthday, the still young-at-heart Lancaster Countian is as enthusiastic as ever about life and what it has to offer. If you'd meet him -- or already know him -- you can see the truth of that statement written in his eyes.

"Farmer Richard" is unlike many other farmers because for as long as I've known him he has never lacked appreciation for what he has.

Once described by his son as a man of steel, "Farmer Richard" is a

lean and strong individual who has known the value of work for all of his life. He still rises early every morning to feed, care for, and milk his Guernseys. A full slate of field chores is also a part of his routine. His hands are large and his handshake is firm and genuine. He has a sense of humor which could probably melt the sternness of a federal revenue agent, and behind his polished glasses are friendly eyes which can sparkle with delight. It's obvious he doesn't take much for granted.

Profits, efficiency, respect from his family, friends, and neighbors are important to "Farmer Richard," just as they are to most of the rest of us. The difference is that he won't let one of his own ambitions -- for profits, efficiency, respect, or even fame -- overshadow aspects of life which he considers to be even more important. I can recall one short conversation with "Farmer Richard" which illustrates that point most profoundly.

I was looking across contoured strips of alternating brown and green fields which curved gracefully on the hillside across the road from his house. There, in the middle of a field which had recently been prepared for planting, stood a large tree. On first

glance, it was not beautiful; it was an obstruction. It blocked efficiency when working the field and robbed the soil of nutrients which the crops should have. That lone tree looked out of place.

"Why do you have that big tree standing there in the middle of the field?" I asked the grandfatherly gentleman.

Although I don't remember his exact reply, I can recall that "Farmer Richard's" eyes expressed a love for that tree before the verbal answer came from his lips. His words went something like this:

"You can grow a crop every year, but it takes a lifetime to grow a tree."

That impressive bit of wisdom is typical of "Farmer Richard's" philosophy. It's probably a big reason for his not having made it "big" according to standard measurements of success such as DHIA averages and crop yields. But he has been a happy, successful, and respected man nonetheless -- and deservedly so.

"Farmer Richard's" wise comment made a lot of sense when I first heard it a few years ago, and it makes even more sense now that I have gained a better appreciation for such "simple

pleasures" which I used to take for granted.

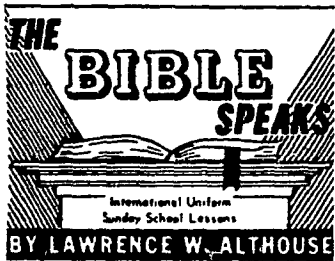
I was a farmer up until a little over four years ago, but I never had a full realization of all the "built-in" blessings that way of life offers. A tree was just a tree, for example.

"Farmer Richard's" lesson, I believe, is that many of us are too blinded by our own interests and ambitions to see the more valuable -- but not necessarily more profitable -- paths of life.

"Farmer Richard" took his plow out of the furrow and drove around that tree, when most of us would find it more advantageous to just cut it down and plow straight through.

Sadly, in more ways than one we've hitched our lives to a bulldozer. Just about everything seems to be disposable and dispensable. We're always in a hurry and in search of shortcuts. Time is scarce for what we can't easily replace; ever-demanding of projects which in the end are of lesser value.

Granted, we need efficiency and profits, but there should also be room for the virtues represented by that one lonely tree and the farmer who cared enough to let it live.



## THE AGE OF MIRACLES

Lesson for May 7, 1978

Background Scripture: Acts 9:32-43.

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 35:3-10.

When I was a young pastor

I would just as soon avoid passages of scripture like the story of Simon Peter raising Dorcas from death at Joppa. I found the concept of miracles unsettling. Oh, to be sure, I could have explained this story with the idea that Dorcas had not really been dead, but only seemed dead. Thus, we might reason that Peter did not bring her back to life, but only revived her from a coma or loss of consciousness. Of course, the writer of Acts did not say that she only seemed dead, he definitely said that she had "died."

### But Peter prayed

Another loophole would have been the oft-repeated idea that the age of miracles was limited to the Biblical period that ended with the completion of the New Testament. Now that is a tidy little explanation, except that it doesn't stand up under examination. There is nowhere in the New Testament where it is suggested that the age of miracles is to be limited in time. Quite the contrary, Jesus indicated that his followers would do even greater works than he.

So, caught on the horns of those two dilemmas, I

generally tried to skip over such passages. If I couldn't reconcile them, at least I could ignore them!

In those days I saw these stories as being quite contrary to the principles of science. Confident that a scientific view of the world left no place for miracles, I avoided the question as best I could. Today, however, I no longer find miracles contrary to science. Our scientific worldview has changed greatly since I was a young man. We have had to change radically our view of what is and is not possible. Today, instead of being smug about how much we

know about our natural world, we tend to be more humble in the face of what we don't know.

Today I do not find it difficult to believe that Peter prayed and Dorcas was restored to life. Nor do I find it hard to believe that God is still performing mighty works like that today.

### Many believed

One reason is that I have seen people healed by the power of faith before my own eyes. I have spoken with people who "died" (were pronounced clinically "dead") and were resuscitated back to life by

their physician. I do not find it hard to believe that what Peter did with Dorcas in restoring her to life, Christ's followers can do today as well.

Miracles are not really contrary to science. I have realized, only contrary to what we know of science. They represent an area of reality that is still largely unknown to us. But just because something is unknown, doesn't mean it isn't real or cannot happen. If science has taught us anything, it is that we should never say "never." The age of miracles is not over.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851



### TO ENSILE FORAGE CROPS

It is not too early to be planning for making silage from several early forage crops. Some livestock and dairy producers plant winter rye to make into silage at heading time; with a little more warm weather and moisture the rye will soon be in the heading stage. The regular hay crops such as alfalfa and red clover can be cut in the bud to early blossom stage for excellent

silage. In many cases, more feed nutrients are preserved by making these crops into silage at the proper stage of cutting, rather than trying to make hay in adverse weather conditions. Stage of maturity is very important for getting the most feed nutrients; in most cases the weather does not cooperate for making top quality hay in May or early June. Winter wheat and barley are at the peak of feeding value when made

into silage in the heading to blossom stage of maturity.

### TO INSPECT LIGHTNING ROD SYSTEM

The thunder storm season is at hand and buildings that have rods should get considerable protection; that is, if the rods are connected and free of obstructions. We urge owners of rodded buildings, especially barns, to inspect them closely and remove all items that will stop the flow of the electrical bolt. In

many cases straw, hay, bags, or bird nests might be between the rod and the building and cause a fire. Also, be sure the rods go into moist soil and are well grounded. A close inspection of the rod system will assure the protection that is needed.

### TO PLANT SOYBEANS

After the corn is planted, it is time to plant soybeans; this is, if the corn goes into the ground the first part of May. In this part of the

country higher yields of soybeans have been harvested when planted mid-to-late May rather than waiting until the warmer weather of June. Soybeans will grow most anywhere but certain practices will help increase yields. For example, lime and fertilizer should be applied based upon a complete soil test; seeding rate per acre depends upon row width; inoculation is needed when planted in new ground; in addition, the

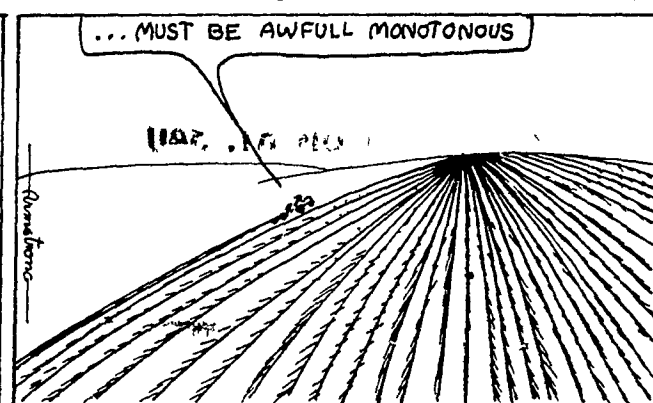
control of weeds is essential to good yields. Details on soybean growing can be found in the 1978 Agronomy Guide. Every farmer should have a copy.

### TO BE CAREFUL OF UNKNOWN MATERIALS

Again, I'd like to caution

(Turn to Page 29)

## Rural Route



## By Tom Armstrong

## Farm Calendar

Sunday, May 7

Apple Blossom Festival at South Mountain Fairgrounds. Free admission.

Monday, May 8

Central 4-H dairy Club meets, 7:30 p.m. at the Bud Welsh Farm, Admire Road, East Berlin.

Wednesday, May 10

Lebanon County Conservation District board

of directors meeting, 8 p.m. in Room 207 of the Lebanon County Municipal Building, South 8th Street.

Fruit Growers meeting, at Harry Black's Catocoin Mountain Orchard, Thurmont, Md.

Study Advisory Committee of the Department of Environmental Resources Comprehensive