

**EDITORIAL COMMENTS** By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



# Guard yourself against bad business

There is at least one farmer in Pennsylvania who lost an estimated \$200,000 in his farming operation earlier this year because he had too much trust in the people he was dealing with. Fortunately, after weeks of anguish and frustration, conditions turned around and his losses were comparatively minimal.

Farmers who aren't careful in their business transactions leave themselves wide open for "plucking" by unscrupulous salesmen. It's a perennial problem. Just a couple of weeks ago, for example, Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture

put out a statement cautioning farmers about the purchase of "miracle products." Every year it seems like someone has something to peddle that sounds too good to be true. And that's just the trouble sometimes -- it isn't true. The farmer spent his money and is left holding the proverbial empty bag.

Whether buying or selling, farmers should know beforehand who they're dealing with. It might be very wise in the long run to treat strangers and over-the-phone-offers with suspicion. The commonly recommended advice

is to do a little checking on the strange buyer or seller who's approaching you. Even then, you can't be sure. In a way it's like the wild animal trainer in a circus having a half-dozen tigers before him. The question always remains: When will one of them strike. The best method of defense is to be constantly alert and cautious.

When in doubt about making either a purchase or a sale, ask the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to give you an evaluation of the individual's or company's

integrity and reputation. Be especially careful when dealing with individuals or companies outside of your state.

Probably every farmer in Pennsylvania has heard about the "fly-by-night outfits" who offered to paint barns and barn roofs at really bargain prices. Of course, what the unsuspecting farmers in that case didn't know was that the paint came off after a good rain or two.

There are lots of people in this world who are out to make a fast and easy buck. Farmers are among their targets.

On some products the farmer buys, for example, the farmer could actually face a double and triple loss. First he spends money on a product which is worthless. Secondly, he hurts his production because the product he ended up buying isn't doing what he thought it would.

Despite all the laws that are on the books, and the state and federal agencies that are supposed to watch out for us, the farmer-businessman himself is the best line of defense. He's got to be careful in his every business transaction if he wants to avoid being taken for a nightmarish ride.

## Mothers are special people

Mothers are wonderful people with the most noble of responsibilities. Truly, we couldn't live without them. Warm and comforting, loving and thoughtful, they guide their children and husbands throughout life. From near and far, they glow with special qualities which only mothers are blessed with.

My mother is a perfect example of what I'm talking about. She is the kind of person who has always been busy with housework and calf-feedings, but she's never been too

busy to have time for those she loves. She raised five children under some of the most trying circumstances, including hiding in a field with her first-born while invading Russian troops searched the farm.

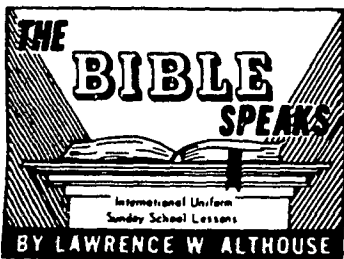
She used to walk a half-mile to a bus, go to town, and come back with bags full of groceries for a family of seven. She saved every penny that she could.

My mother's concern has always been greatest for her family. But she's just as devoted to her work --

especially the calves she feeds daily. She has raised a couple thousand of them in the past 19 years.

A bird fallen out of its nest has a good home once my mother finds it. There's food for a stray dog, too. And flowers, shrubbery, trees, and many of God's other creations always receive the best of dedicated attention and care.

Mothers are truly special people. They mean so much to the world around them, even we don't always realize it.



### THREE VISIONS

Lesson for May 14, 1978

Background Scripture: Acts 10.

**Devotional Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. The story of Simon Peter and Cornelius the Centurian is a tale of three visions.

The first of these was the vision that came to Cornelius while he was praying. Luke tells us that he was a Roman officer, commander of a unit of 100 men from the Italian mainland. Cornelius was stationed at Caesarea, a coastal city that became the Roman capitol of Judea. Furthermore, he was "a devout man who feared God," a term often applied to Gentiles (non-Jews) who adopted Jewish religious

ideas and attended the synagogues without going so far as receiving circumcision and becoming full proselytes.

#### Praying constantly

Cornelius was a man who took religion seriously and, as Luke puts it, "prayed constantly." It is in the midst of praying one day that he sees a vision. The vision is a reassurance that God has heard his prayers and also an instruction to send someone to bring Simon Peter to his household. Cornelius was not only a devout man, he was also obedient and he does as he is told.

The second vision takes place while Cornelius' messengers are on their way to Joppa. Having ascended to the rooftop of the house of Tanner to pray, Peter falls into a trance. In the vision the hungry man is instructed to kill and eat some of the creatures he sees, but Peter refuses because some of the animals are forbidden as food by the Jewish law. But the vision's voice commands him: "What God has cleansed you must not call common" (10:15).

#### Truly I perceive!

While Peter is still trying

to understand the meaning of his vision, the messengers arrive. We cannot tell whether he realizes immediately what the vision means, but even his decision to go with the messengers was a breakthrough, for Jewish law forbade all but the most necessary contacts with Gentiles who like the animals in Peter's vision were thought to be "unclean" in a spiritual sense.

So Peter goes to Caesarea and meets Cornelius and each shares his vision with the other. Peter must have

been somewhat amazed that God would reveal himself to a Gentile in a vision and by must have been equally overwhelmed with the attitude he found: "Now therefore we are all present here in the sight of God, to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord" (10:33).

By means of this experience the doors of the church were opened wide to the Gentile as well as the Jew, a development that profoundly affected the whole course of Christianity.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

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### TO CONTROL MULTIFLORA ROSE

The highly promoted wild rose bush of more than a decade ago is now getting to be a nuisance in too many places. The Multiflora Rose once strongly promoted by the Soil Conservation Service and the Pennsylvania Game Commission is getting out of hand on too many farms. This is especially true in pasture land and in woodlots. We suggest that land owners get on the job and control this wild rose at

this time. The best known treatment as of this time is to treat the bushes with Tordon 10K pellets; maximum control can be expected when the plants are growing rapidly and in bloom. A Certification Card is required before the material can be purchased. Extension Agents are in a position to instruct folks in the use of pellets and issue to card. Don't let Multiflora Rose take over part of your farm.

### TO BE ALERT FOR ALFALFA WEEVIL

We are not expecting a very heavy infestation of alfalfa weevil this spring; however, growers should be on the alert and inspect their fields weekly to evaluate the problem. The weather has been cool and after a severe winter, we could easily get by this year without much trouble. However, when infestation reaches more than half of the plants, and not in the bud stage, some insecticide may be needed

for protection. The Agronomy Guide will give additional details for Pennsylvania growers. In recent years, some growers have found some infestation at cutting time; under these conditions it is suggested that the field be sprayed immediately after the first cutting is removed. This will prevent the small worms from eating the second growth.

### TO COMBAT GYPSY MOTH

Property owners in nor-

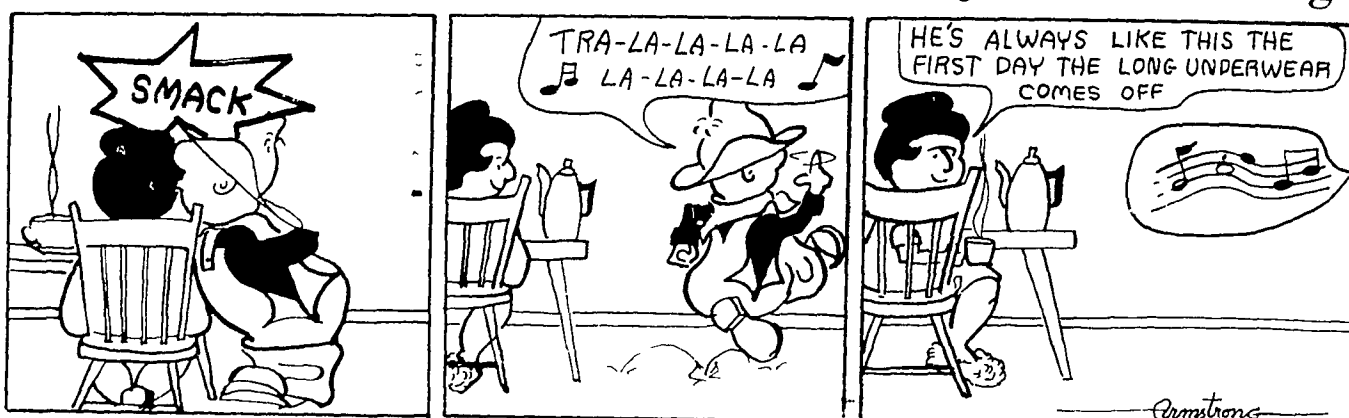
thern and eastern Lancaster County, and all points north and east, can be expecting the small gypsy moth worms to be appearing at any time. Mid-May is the normal time for them to start blowing around and eating foliage. We suggest that home owners get prepared to protect their favorite oak shade trees, because the gypsy moth like them also. Sprays of Sevin, Orthene, or Imidan will kill the worms that are present. Repeated



sprays are needed in order to give any length to the protection. Owners of woodlots may want to secure commercial sprayers that operate from the air. Eradication of gypsy moth is very difficult; however, some protection to private shade trees is possible with repeat applications.

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## Rural Route



By Tom Armstrong

## Farm Calendar

**Saturday, May 13**  
Chicken barbeque and flea market, Montgomery County 4-H Center, Lansdale; flea market 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; barbeque at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. All proceeds to benefit the 4-H program.  
Oxford Area High School FFA banquet, 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.  
Spring Steam Up continues at Rough and Tumble.

**Sunday, May 14**  
Have a Happy Mother's Day!  
Ag Symposium begins at the Beltsville Ag Research Station, Beltsville, Md. Continues through the 17th.  
Elizabethtown Area Young Farmers hold home-made ice cream party.  
**Tuesday, May 16**  
Ephrata Area Young Far-

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