

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Raindrops keep falling on our heads

All this rain we've been having can cause headaches in more ways than one. We have to put up with delayed planting schedules, damaged fields, cattle confined to barns instead of roaming over lush pastures, and numerous other inconveniences. I remember one bad storm in particular.

Except for the anger displayed by the bolts of lightning and accompanying thunder, the look of the sky mirrored my mood—gloom.

The makings of a disaster were in front of me and there was nothing I could do about it. Mother Nature was

angry, or if that wasn't the case, she was being overly generous with the amount of water she was handing out.

Sheets of water, driven by strong winds, were beating young plants of corn to the ground and tearing many of them out. A river of muddy water swirled its way around the house, carrying with it some of the gravel of the driveway. I watched the scene helplessly, hoping only that the damage would not be too great.

Picking up a pair of binoculars, I observed a portion of the field which was most vulnerable to erosion.

Rampaging water was cutting through the topsoil and depositing debris along a fence at the bottom of the field. A good sized lake was also forming there.

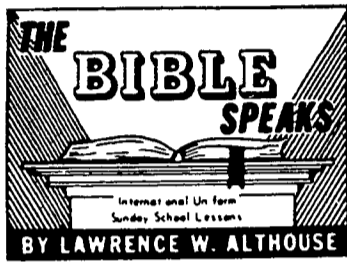
Down in the pasture, the water carried tin cans, bottles, and other refuse along its path. They had been dropped off by careless motorists and now posed a closer threat to livestock and tractor tires.

The fence near the stream at the other end of the farm was being pressured by the excess water and floating debris. With a little bit of luck it would hold, but quite often it

broke, thus creating that much more work for us.

Although the rain was welcome and needed, coming down as fast and violently as it did, it had created a lot more harm than good. Valuable topsoil was lost, fences were broken, plants were washed out or covered over with mud, gullies were formed, and hazardous objects such as bottles were strewn across the pasture.

The sight was frustrating and an unfortunate chapter of life on the farm.



THE CRITICS

Lesson for May 21, 1978

Background Scripture:
Acts 11.
Devotional Reading:
Ephesians 2:11-22.
Someone once defined a

drama critic as "a person who can neither act or write plays but criticizes those that do." That may not be an entirely fair definition, but I can't help thinking that there is more than just a little truth in it. In fact, this truth isn't limited just to drama, for we often find that the critics in almost any field are those who talk a far better game than play it—if indeed they can play at all.

The circumcision party
I find this true in the field of religion, too. It often seems that we have far more self-appointed critics than

we really need, people who devote themselves to telling everyone else what they are doing wrong. Of course, this is hardly a contemporary development, for the Bible indicates that we have always had an overabundance of critics in religion.

For example, in Acts 11 we find that, although the church is very, very young, some parties and factions had already sprung up within the church. Following his experience with Cornelius the Centurian at Caesarea, we are told that "when Peter went up to

Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him" (11:2). "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" they demanded.

This party in the church held that all followers of Christ must be circumcised, law-abiding Jews, who would not associate with the "unclean" Gentiles. Substitute some other word for "uncircumcised" and their criticism of Peter sounds perfectly contemporary.

Withstanding God
These men were critics all right: they criticized Peter's

association with the Gentiles, they criticized his preaching to them, and they were extremely critical of the implication that these Gentiles might have been treated and accepted as converts to Christ.

It is a disturbing picture that Luke paints for us in Acts 11. Some of these critics were undoubtedly men who had personally known Jesus in the days of his earthly ministry. They had heard his teachings and had seen his miracles. They had witnessed his sacrifice on Calvary, yet as we see them in Acts 11 they seem to have

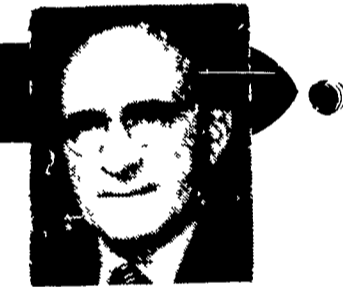
missed the whole meaning of the Good News. They still saw a wall - between Jew and Gentile - where in fact Christ had torn down the wall. They still saw a limited, parochial God where Jesus had pointed to a Heavenly Father for all people. They appear less as disciples than critics and the spirit in which they took Peter to task could hardly have reflected the spirit they had seen in the Master. How could they so have missed the boat?

How can we continue to miss it today?

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851



TO CONTINUE FORAGE FEEDING

Both dairymen and beef cattle producers should continue to feed some dry matter while the animals are on pasture. The feeding of hay, or silage, when the cattle are turned to pasture will result in more uniform production. Also, keeping

some dry matter in the ration will help prevent serious scouring and bloating.

Some producers provide this forage by way of a portable hay or feed bunk in the pasture area. The animals will nourish some of this dry forage along with lush spring pastures. Most important is to feed the

stored forage early in the day before the herd goes to the new pasture. Later in the season the stored hay or silage will continue to be useful when growth slows down due to dry weather and higher temperatures.

TO READ THE LABEL

I'm sure you have heard this suggestion previously;

however, it is still very important to all farmers and gardeners.

Every pesticide should carry a label with directions; these should be read and followed during the application of the material. Don't make the mistake of applying the material in error, and then refer to the directions. The labels are provided by law and should be respected by the user. Serious losses may occur, if the directions are not followed. All packages should carry the original label for good pesticide results. When materials are transferred to other containers the label should be attached.

TO USE THE AGRONOMY GUIDE

One of the best publications of our Penn State Extension Service is the Agronomy Guide. This crop manual covers all major crops in the state and should be utilized more by local farmers. Copies are still available at any Extension office in the state;

many questions that come to our office relating crop practices are covered in the Agronomy Guide. Don't go through the season without your copy.

TO CONTROL EASTERN TENT CATERPILLARS

This is the time of the year when many trees are being attacked by a web-living bunch of worms known as Eastern Tent Caterpillars. Many woodlots show evidence of the web and the loss of foliage on the trees. This insect will not do severe damage to a woodlot or

forest, but can defoliate individual shade trees.

Control is more successful when the worms are small; insecticides that are labeled for this purpose include Sevin, Malathion, or Orthene. The spray should be directed into the web and over the surrounding tree area.

Don't let them defoliate your favorite shade tree.

COMMENTS FROM READERS

Farm life is not all work

Dear Editor:

It was with interest that I read last week's article about the German farmers visiting Lancaster County. The story may leave the impression, however, that farm life here is all work and no play - which is not entirely so.

Although it does take consistent hard work to keep the area as it is, there is still time for many hours of family pleasure. Let us take a glimpse into the past.

Our forefathers migrated from Germany and other parts of Europe during the early 1700's. Having been denied religious freedom in Europe, they looked to America to start life anew.

We must remember that crossing the Atlantic 250 years ago was not easy. Many died at sea. Therefore only the most ambitious and able-bodied dared to undertake the journey.

Many arrived in this country penniless, but with

a strong spirit and sincere faith in God. They built homes and started farming in virgin soil.

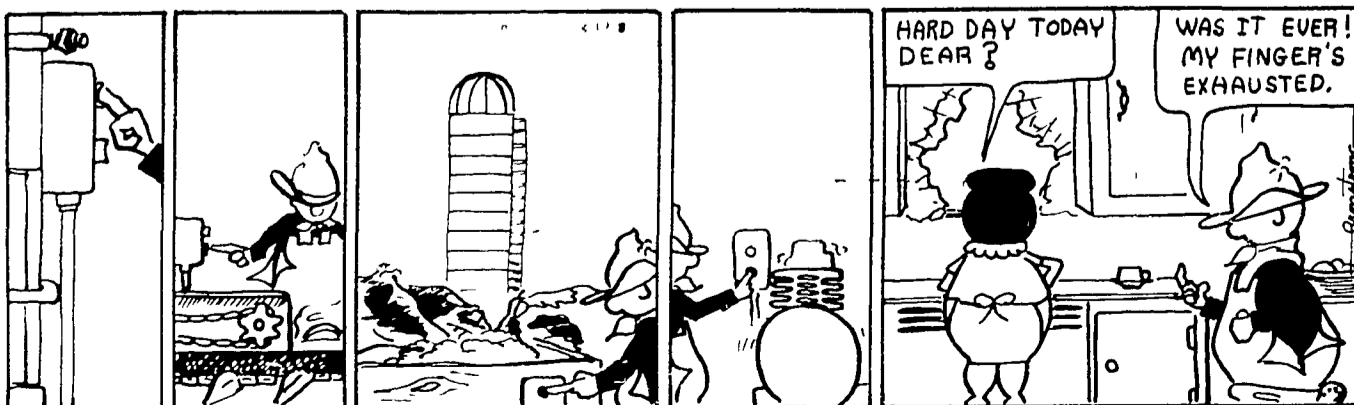
But lo and behold, their problems were not all solved. They faced many Indian attacks and raids. Some settlers were murdered, others were left homeless.

As we look at Pennsylvania today, our hearts go up in thanksgiving for the

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Rural Route

By Tom Armstrong



Annual meeting of the Delaware Beekeepers Association at the Center for Agricultural and Natural Resources (James W.W. Baker Center) at Delaware State College, 10 a.m.
Chester County dairy princess pageant, 6:45 p.m. at Fallowfield Christian Day School, near Atglen.
Lancaster 4-H steers selected at Charles

Farm Calendar

Saturday, May 20
Loganville 4-H Community Club bus trip to Philadelphia.
Berwick Vegetable Cooperative holds 25th annual meeting; reception at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., at the Briar Heights Lodge, Berwick.
Spring picnic "ride and drive" of the Hunterdon County (N.J.) Horse and Pony Association, at Octavia Brown's Crossroad Farm, Bedminster, 1 p.m.

Myers' farm, Route 283, Lancaster, 8 to 11 a.m.
Lancaster Horse Show, today and tomorrow the Lancaster Riding and Tennis Club. Day and evening sessions.
Monday, May 22
Red Rose DHIA directors meet, 8 p.m. at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.
Tuesday, May 23
Milk marketing board public hearing, 10 a.m. in Room 103 of the Agriculture Building, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg.
Wednesday, May 24
Tour of manure handling systems in Lebanon County. Dairymen from neighboring counties also invited. Meet at 10 a.m. at Mark Copenhagen farm, Lebanon R4.
Friday, May 25
Penn National State FFA opens near Grantville.
Willow Street FFA banquet, 7 p.m. at the school's cafeteria.