

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Better marketing can improve credit

Farmers may not realize it, but they are in a unique position to help themselves when it comes to improving their credit ratings with banks. As was pointed out in several

articles this week, money is tight and getting tighter. But it needn't be quite so bad if farmers will devote more of their time and efforts to marketing.

Show a banker that you're in a good, safe marketing situation, and you've got a part of the battle won.

According to one national report, a banker's main gripe about farmers is that generally speaking they do a fine

job at the production end, but they often fall flat on their faces when it comes to marketing their products.

It's believed by many bankers that if farmers would pay a little more attention to marketing, they'd improve their financial situations.

Other tips bankers have for farmers include:

Making use of forward contracting and hedging

Fixing up old equipment or buying used machinery, rather than new implements. Bankers in a national

survey indicted they were especially fussy about that item.

Taking full advantage of tax breaks is another item which bankers feel is being overlooked by many farmers. They suggest that farmers employ professional accountants to help them with their money management and tax situations.

While bankers may not understand all the complications involved in farming, it's probably also true that farmers don't understand all the complexities of banking.

At any rate, it would certainly be wise for farmers to pay some attention to the comments bankers are making -- especially those about marketing. After all, without markets, and without a source of loans, nobody can get very far.

I've made my first million

I've made my first million! In fact, according to some quick calculations early this morning, I reached that monumental milestone several months ago.

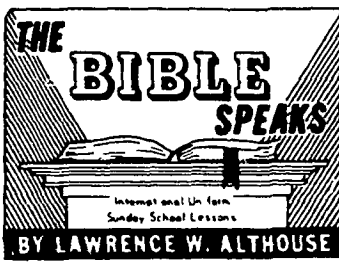
But, I'm not talking about money. Nevertheless, it has been a happy experience and I've had fun all along the way. The first million - or more precisely, about 1,350,000 - is how many words I've written since I became editor of **Lancaster Farming** three years ago. That may not be all that much reason to celebrate, but I do want to take the opportunity to thank the many, many fine readers

who have made my job a wonderful experience.

It is a pleasure to work here, and part of the reason is that the people I come in contact with are so nice. We receive a number of kind words every week, and it's only fair that a few words be written to return the compliment.

So, I've made my first million. The words themselves may not be all that meaningful. But along with them came many, many good feelings. In that sense, I truly am a millionaire.

I thank you all.



THE RUBBISHPILE GARDEN

Lesson for July 2, 1978

Background Scripture:

Acts 18:1-17;

1 Thessalonians 1 through 3.

Devotional Reading:

Matthew 13: 18-23.

Two years ago I visited an

unusual spiritual community near Iverness, Scotland. It is called Findhorn and it started in a trailer park which was situated near a rubbishpile by the Firth of Moray, a large body of water leading into the North Sea. One of the reasons Findhorn has attracted great attention is because of the beautiful flower garden the rubbishpile has become, a miracle in the eyes of many, particularly in light of the austere, forbidding climate. According to the people of Findhorn, the secret of the rubbishpile's fruitfulness is to be found in spiritual principles.

Corinth The Evil

When the Apostle Paul went to the Greek city of Corinth there must have been many skeptics who were certain that nothing worthwhile could be done there. Corinth had the very worst of reputations. To "live like a Corinthian" meant to live a life of unrestrained appetites and passions. Commercial crossroads of the Aegean Sea, Corinth was a breeding ground for every kind of evil imaginable. It was the rubbishpile of Greece.

Several years ago when I

visited the ruins of Pauline Corinth I remembered its evil reputation. Yet, as I looked over those lovely ruins my associations with Corinth were only good. The name "Corinthians" always evokes remembrance of Paul's beautiful "Hymn to Love," 1 Corinthians 13. I cannot help remembering that some of the finest passages in Paul's epistles come from the Corinthian letters.

I remember too that it was from Corinth that he wrote what is likely the earliest of all his published letters to churches, 1 Thessalonians. Then too I remember that

some of Paul's finest work was done there, some of his most influential converts came from the Corinthian ministry. Although Corinth might have been the rubbishpile of Greece, God was able to make it bloom through Paul and his associates.

Unexpected Flowers

The name of Corinth ought to serve as a vital reminder to us; God is able to bring fruitfulness from any rubbishpile. Corinth would have been the last place that most people would have thought would attract Paul as a site for his missionary work. Paul chose Corinth, not

because he closed his eyes to the evil, but because he could see beyond it and perceive the fruits that could be produced there by the power of God. Others looked and saw rubbish; Paul looked and saw flowers.

We need to remember this whenever we view the world about us. There is nothing or no one that cannot be made beautiful by the power of his touch. No place and no person are hopeless. Wherever we find an unpromising situation, let us remember the rubbishpile gardens that God can call forth by the power of his love.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851



TO LIGHTNING ROD SHADE TREES

At first this idea might sound like an endless task. However, many permanent pasture fields include only one or two large trees. Just think of how many times you have driven past a pasture and noticed dozens of cattle or other livestock grouped together under one or two large trees. During severe thunder storms livestock will gather under these trees. If lightning strikes the tree, many of the animals will be killed. For the protection of valuable livestock, we suggest that some of these individual trees be fitted with a lightning rod system. It has

been done in other places where valuable animals spend considerable time in the shade under a large tree. If there is a woodlot in the pasture, or a number of trees, this suggestion is not practical.

TO HARVEST STRAW

No doubt this suggestion is not needed when we realize the very high price of all types of straw and bedding during the past year. With the small grain harvest season at hand, it might be economical to cut the grain lower this year and make an effort to bale every available pound of straw. Both barley and wheat straw make excellent bedding and

command the top prices when it is sold. The practice of leaving the straw on the land for organic matter maintenance is still a good one; however, at recent straw prices there might be other things, such as cover crops, that would keep the soil high in organic matter.

TO ELIMINATE JOHNSON GRASS

Constant emphasis on the control of Johnson Grass is needed, if it is present on the farm. Corn growers who delayed planting and applied Eradicane should be getting some control. Small grain producers who have this weed in their fields should keep in mind that it is suggested to allow it to grow

to about 30 inches high this summer; this would be after the grain and straw is harvested. Then come in and spray the field with a herbicide such as Roundup to kill the entire plant. Farms with Johnson Grass infestation should be given special attention; this aggressive grass will take over fields in a few years and prevent normal crop yields. Be sure and prevent the plants from going to seed. One plant this year means dozens of additional plants next summer.

TO PLAN WATER SUPPLIES

We urge local farmers to give some thought to water supplies for fighting fires.

Too many farmers report to their local fire companies "no water available" or "inadequate water supply"; this increases the risk of serious fire losses. Farms with streams nearby should have plans developed on how to get the fire engine within 25 feet of the water. Owners of farm ponds should have all-weather driveways to the pond. We have known of cases where the building burned while the fire truck

was mired down in the soft mud trying to get to the farm pond. To inform the local fire company of the sources of water supplies for fighting fires is a good practice. Sufficient water supply for fighting fires is good insurance against severe losses.

Farm Calendar

Today, July 1
Kutztown Folk Festival begins, runs through July 8.

Tuesday, July 4
Have a happy holiday.

Wednesday, July 5
Lancaster County Conservation District directors meet, 7:30 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center.

Thursday, July 6
4-H Regional Day, Dillsburg. Summer Tour of the Maryland State Horticultural Society, Thurmont.

Holstein twi-light meeting at the Gracestate Farm of Mel and Carolyn Dur-

boraw, Gettysburg Rd, near Barlow. (Adams County)

Friday, July 7

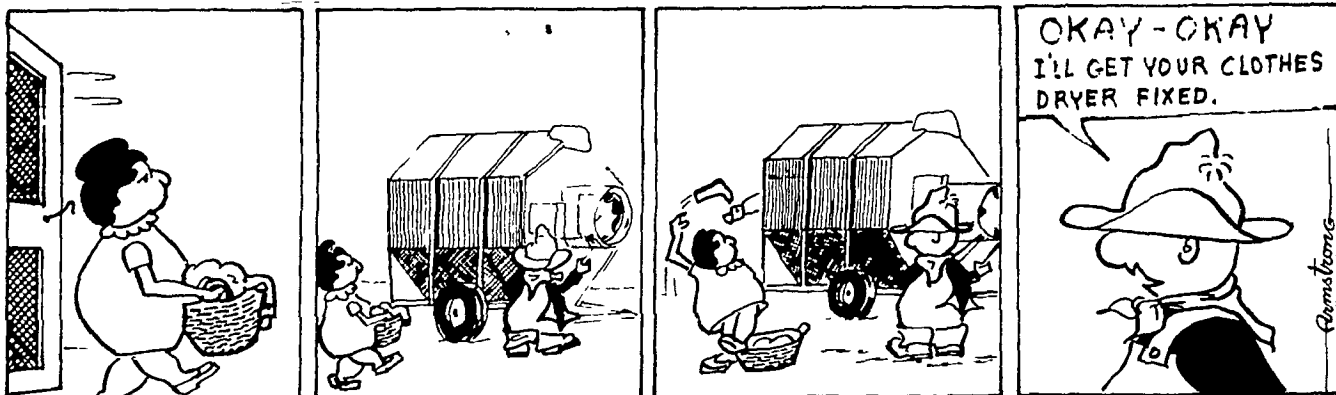
Pennsylvania Young Farmers Summer Conference and picnic, Berlin, Somerset County Program continues tomorrow.

Vegetable and small fruit tour in Adams County, beginning 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 8

Valley Grange No. 1360 holds annual chicken barbecue from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Grange Hall on Mark Street, Lewisberry. Public invited.

RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong