



# My Thoughts ...

## And welcome to them

By **JOANNE SPAHR**  
Assistant Editor

Well, it's back again. This makes about the fourth time in my life that I've been plagued by it. By this time I can see it coming--the symptoms are always the same. It starts with a small lump in my throat that gets bigger and bigger and hurts more and more. At the same time my eyes cloud up and begin watering profusely, and when I try to talk I sound like a screeching guinea pig. The bouts last anywhere from seconds to minutes, but the disease may continue as long as a month or more. I call it Lump-in-the-Throat-itis and have pinned

the cause to leaving home family, loved ones and friends, which I'll be doing, again, in a short time when I go back to school for a masters' degree in journalism.

And, along with leaving my family, I'll be leaving **Lancaster Farming**, a move I just can't fathom at the moment.

I remember just last year at the end of fair season, driving home from the final show and screaming at the top of my lungs, "If I ever have to

chase another champion hog around a ring I'm going to butcher it and eat it."

And, after galloping around the 4-H center to catch a bunch of itchy 4-H'ers who wouldn't stand still for a picture, I recall grumbling under my breath, "There has to be an easier way to make a living."

But now that my last day at **Lancaster Farming** has arrived, the thought of no more 4-H'ers or champion hogs gives me a lump in my throat.

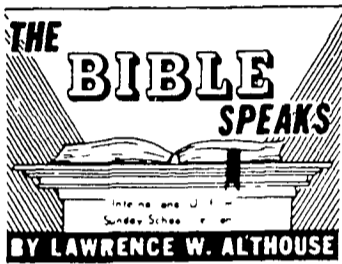
I'll miss the work, I know, but I'll especially miss the wonderful people I've come to know and care for during my two years on the newspaper staff. I'd fill all 136 pages this week if I began listing names, so I won't. But, you've all touched my heart in one way or another.

Whether it's been by stopping to talk at a show or writing a note of thank you, or even by naming a heifer Joanne--all the kindnesses have stockpiled in my mental scrapbook, which makes it difficult to say goodbye.

But, when I think about it, I know I'm lucky. A friend of mine once said to me, "It's hard to leave something or someone you love, but if you leave with a heavy heart you know you've been blessed because what you're leaving has been good."

So, as I leave my desk and typewriter for the final time with mist in my eyes and a lump in my throat I can truly say I've been blessed.

Thank you all



### THE EAGLE'S SWANSONG

Lesson for July 30, 1978

Background Scripture:  
Acts 20:1 through 21:16  
Devotional Reading:  
John 14:12-24

There's an old belief that

just before it dies, the swan sings a death song. From that tradition has come the term "swansong", which has come to mean the last act or presentation from one who is about to die, retire, or step down from some position. Several years ago I made a final speech to an organization as I prepared to step down as its president. To put light mood on the occasion, I entitled my address "Swansong From A Lame Duck."

#### Hail and Farewell

Paul's address to the Ephesian church leaders at Miletus might well be regarded as his swansong to

them. He fully expected never to see them again and he plainly told them this would be his farewell to them. When he had finished speaking, "they all wept and embraced Paul and kissed him, sorrowing most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they should see his face no more" (30:37,38).

Yet, if this was his swansong to them - and it seems likely that he never did return - his message was hardly that of a "lame duck", a term we often apply to someone who is relinquishing a position of authority or power. Paul does not appear before them

"weepy" and weak. He speaks powerfully, seeking to inspire and influence them even after he is gone.

The essence of his message is two-fold. First, he reminds them of the heard and perilous work he did among them. He had been responsible for their faith, the beginning of their church and even though he has been "on the road," so to speak, they have looked to him for support and guidance. Now, however, they would have to assume responsibility for themselves. "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of

you, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God" (20:26). He has more than done his part, now they must "Take heed to yourselves and to the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers."

#### Blessedness of Giving

The second point Paul makes is that they will find in his own example the key to their continued success and safety as he gave himself willingly for them, enduring trials and suffering on their behalf, so they must now be willing to give themselves for the sake of the church for which God had given his own Son. He reminds them of a saying of

Jesus which has not been included in the gospels and is known to us only through this passage in Acts. "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (20:35). Both Jesus and Paul had demonstrated this with their very lives, and so now must the Ephesians.

It is a sad but inspired group of Ephesians that bids goodbye to Paul and his spirit would remain with them for a long time. Paul's swansong could have been pure sentimentality. Instead it was a powerful and inspiring challenge. It was a high-flying eagle, not a lame duck, who had said farewell.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By **Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent**

Phone 394-6851



### TO MAKE SUMMER ALFALFA SEEDINGS

Even though straight Spring seedings of alfalfa have been giving excellent results, producers who are planning to make a Summer seeding should get on the job. We suggest that these seedings be made by the middle of August here in southeastern Pennsylvania. The idea of making these seedings later in the Fall is to be discouraged.

The plants will not get enough root system to withstand the Winter. The band seeding method continues to be one of the best ways to make the seeding

Both lime and fertilizer applications should be made prior to seeding and worked into the topsoil.

Don't plan on good results by spreading the lime on top of the ground next Summer. Weeds should be controlled by spraying with Eptam, prior to seeding, or with the 2,4-DB when the weeds are less than 2 inches high.

#### TO HARVEST BLUEGILL SUNFISH

One of the major problems with many farm ponds is the failure of the owner to harvest the sunfish crop each Summer. In many cases the sunfish are put into the pond as food for the bass;

however, most folks put in too many sunfish and fail to take them out. Most of us like to go for the larger bass and forget about the sunfish. In these cases the sunfish multiply too rapidly and soon we have a pond overstocked and out of balance. The sunfish take over by eating the spawn of the bass and thus preventing reproduction of more bass.

In ponds already stocked with sunfish we urge heavy fishing of the sunfish each year and go easy on the removal of too many large bass. In new ponds stock with Golden Shiners and

Black Bass and avoid the sunfish problem.

#### TO PREPARE THE SILO

The corn crop is developing rapidly and soon it will be silo filling time. The condition of the silo should get some attention before the new corn crop is ensiled. Many of the concrete silos may be pitted and have a rough inside surface. This will permit air pockets and moldy silage. Some inside joints may need to be re-pointed in order to keep out the air and have a smooth surface.

Don't wait until the silo

filler is coming to make these repairs.

Silage is one of the most economical livestock feeds. A good storage facility is needed to have top quality feed. Don't let it spoil after it is in the silo.

#### TO PREVENT TOMATO BACTERIAL SPOT

We are aware of moderate infection of tomato plants with a leaf spot; the pathologists name it bacterial leaf spot which has been found in several southeastern tomato fields; also, has been diagnosed in garden tomatoes. The lower leaves begin to show spots with brown centers and

eventually the entire leaf dies.

We suggest weekly sprays with Fixed Copper plus Maneb or Bravo, this should keep the infection from spreading to other parts of the plant. The cure is very difficult. The prevention of this infection is suggested before the plants start dying. These fungicides will not make the fruit unfit for use; after a thorough washing the tomatoes should be acceptable.

## Farm Calendar

**Today, July 29**  
Keystone Grange Fair, 11 a.m. to dusk, Collegeville - Trappe Water Works Municipal Park, West First Ave., Trappe. Rain date Aug. 5. Features tractor pulling contests, cattle shows, antique

automobiles, chicken barbecue, music, entertainment, arts and crafts, games, vegetable show, commercial exhibits, pony rides, blacksmithing, refreshments, and much more. Maryland Christmas Tree

**Growers Summer meeting**, Pine Valley Farm, Elkton, 9:30 a.m.  
**Jersey Dairy Cattle Field Day**, Frederick County Fairgrounds, Md.  
**Brown Swiss Dairy Cattle Field Day**, Frederick, Md.

**Adams County Beef Field Day**, Pigeon Hill Farm, Abbottstown, 9 a.m.

**Flower-Vegetable Open House** at Rutgers University, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Sunday, July 30**  
Harford County 4-H Fair, Rocks 4-H Camp  
Maryland Angus Association Breeders' Show, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg.

**Monday, July 31**  
Cecil County, Maryland, Fair begins at Fair Hill  
Harford County, Maryland, 4-H Fair, Rocks 4-H Camp.

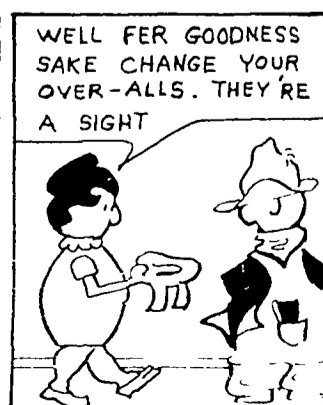
Cumberland County (Maryland Fair, Cumberland  
Goshen Country Fair begins in West Chester, continues through Aug 5  
Middletown Community Fair begins, continues through Aug 5  
Tuesday, Aug. 1  
Lancaster County Holstein Club Field Day at Jav

Landis farm, south of Millersville, 10 a.m.  
Chester County Holstein Club Field Day at the Donald M. Hostetter farm, east of Oxford along Route 1. Program begins at 7 p.m.  
Carroll County 4-H and FFA Fair, Ag Center, Westminster, Md.  
Field Day at the Penn State research farm near Landisville, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Morrison Cover Dairy Show, Martinsburg, August 1-4

**Wednesday, August 2**  
Cecil County 4-H Livestock Club market lamb and hog sale at the Fair Hill, Md Fairgrounds, 6 p.m.  
Monthly meeting of the Hunterdon County (N.J.) Board of Agriculture, at

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## RURAL ROUTE



By **Tom Armstrong**