

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Some beauty lasts forever

No matter how busy we are and how old we get, there are days and weeks in our lives which are so bright and beautiful that they just grab our attention and make us wonder. The first few days of September have been like that.

The air has been perfectly clear on many recent days. There is no haze. The view is good for miles. The hot, steamy days of Summer are fading away. The insect population has dropped too. Corn is maturing and a few leaves on the trees are even beginning to turn brown.

The beauty of Autumn is arriving.

It's also time for fairs, harvests, football and children going back to school.

The wonderful fact about it all is that although there's really nothing new about this, it's nonetheless very beautiful and wonderful.

Each tree, for example, retains its beauty from season to season and year to year. Their tender leaves of Spring are a joyful sight; their broad Summer dress provides welcome shade; Fall leaves are a spectacularly beautiful display of color, and the bare branches of Winter hold

symmetrical beauty which is all their own.

The sky, for example, has been with us since the beginning. Yet we always marvel at the beauty of a clear sky or a brilliant sunset. And even though the cloudless sky is what we're often looking for, who can deny that even a storm-filled sky has its unique beauty? Watching the endless cloud formations can truly be fascinating.

That's the true beauty of it all. We've seen and experienced God's creations for 15, 30, 50, and possibly

even 80 or more years, and yet the beauty of Nature doesn't fade.

There is constant beauty in the flowers we have around the house and barn, and growing wildly in fields, woods, and pasture. There is an ever-present preciousness in the delightful squeals and smiles of children. A gently falling rain is always soothing and the chirping of crickets will forever be the perfect lullaby.

Farmers are fortunate in being closer to all these blessings than most other people.

Life on the farm

My grandfather was really grand

By DIETER KRIEG

My grandfather, whom we affectionately called "Opa," was an unusual man in several ways. He was different, for example, in the way he worked and dressed. His loyalties belonged to his family and the lifestyle he knew. He was seemingly always in a good mood and thoroughly enjoyed being around the people and work he loved.

I think of him often and treasure the dear memories I have of him. Were he still alive, he would have been 100 years old yesterday, Sept. 8.

A farmer all his life, Opa knew how to work and he never backed away from it. In fact, he enjoyed it. His dedication to the tasks at hand can be illustrated in numerous ways.

When we started farming in

America, we couldn't afford a posthole digger. We dug hundreds of holes by hand, and my grandfather, who was in his 80's by then, dug most of them. He'd go out early in the morning and dig until close to noon, at which time he'd come back to the house and rest a while. Later he'd help set fenceposts and attach miles of wire. Through the years he also spent hours fixing fences.

During the Winter, Opa was the first to have a snow shovel in his hand. He worked like a robot. His cheeks turned red and his eyes were bright. After the work was done, he could warm up at an old wood-burning stove which was fired with wood he chopped in his "spare time."

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NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6351

Many growers will topdress the field after the last cutting is removed. In addition, the stand can be fertilized next spring after the first cutting is removed. When the plants are fertilized in the Fall, they will be stronger next summer.

Since alfalfa is a very heavy feeder of both phosphorus and potash, these elements must be

replaced for top yields. If the area is to be grazed in the fall, instead of removing the final cutting, these fertilizer elements should be washed down with a rain before livestock are permitted on the field; bloating may result if grazed soon after application.

TO BEWARE OF SILO GAS

Silo filling time is at hand

when about one-third of our corn crop will be made into silage; this is a good practice because there is no other way to preserve more feed nutrients from a crop of corn than to make it into silage. However, there is danger of poisonous silo gases forming during the filling operation and for two weeks afterwards. These gases are heavier than air and will

come down the chute into the barn.

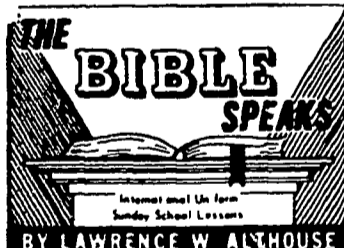
Also, some are yellow and other are colorless. Most of them have a choking and irritating response when taken into the lungs. They can damage lung tissues quickly and can suffocate man or beast. We urge silo fillers and farmers to warn their families of this possible danger. Don't take chances

of going into a partly filled silo, or of working along near a filled silo. These gases are dangerous.

TO STOP FERTILIZING TREES AND SHRUBS

The time is here when we should not be applying any fertilizer to rose bushes, trees, and shrubs. The season's growing period is

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DIET FOR THE MIND

Lesson for September 10, 1978

Background Scripture:
Romans 12:1-5, 9-13;
Philippians 4:8,9;
Hebrews 12:1-14.

Devotional Reading:
John 3:16-21.

Last evening I heard the President of Carras Cruises, Richard Revens, tell of a four-page letter of complaints that he received from a woman who had just returned from one of his firm's cruises. Not having time at that moment to read the whole letter, he instructed his secretary to send her a bouquet of flowers until he could respond to the letter personally. Back came a glowing one-page epistle saying "The beautiful bouquet was the climax to the most wonderful cruise I've ever taken anywhere!"

Think On These
It took a bouquet of

beautiful flowers to enable the woman to see the cruise in true perspective. It helped her to focus upon the overriding worth of the trip instead of a host of nit-picking complaints. And so it is with all of life: we can choose to focus on the negative aspects — for there are always some, even in the best of circumstances — or those that are positive, for these too are always present if we will but look at them.

Knowing church life as I do, I am certain that there are some Christians who would be unimpressed with the Creation, unmoved by

the Nativity of Jesus, and critical of the way in which The Last Supper was conducted. They are like computers programmed to find only certain data. No matter what they experience, they seem programmed to see and focus upon only the negative.

This is not accidental or something beyond our own control. If we tend to look on the dark side of life, it is because we have unconsciously chosen to do so. We have chosen the negative view so often that it has become habitual. That is why Paul tells the Philippians: "...whatever is true... honorable... just... pure...

lovely... gracious... worthy of praise, think about these things" (4:8).

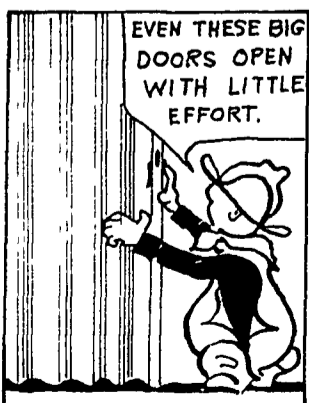
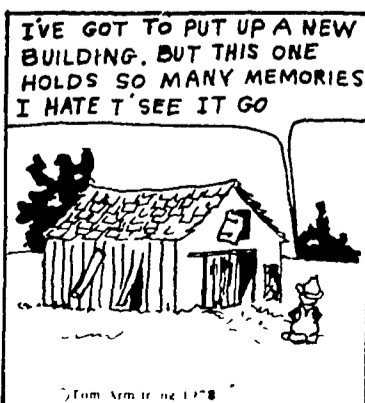
As A Man Thinketh...

Emmet Fox proposed what he called a 30-day "diet for the mind." He recommended a 30-day period during which the mental dieter would refuse to entertain any negative thoughts whatsoever on any subject. People who have tried it — and one has to be as serious about this kind of dieting as the kind which involves calories — have found that it has radically changed their lives. This approach is not based upon the denial of evil and negativity in our daily lives,

but upon the willful choice to focus on the positive, much as Paul advised the Romans: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind" (12:2) and as the writer of Hebrews advised the Christian who runs the race of life to concentrate, not on the obstacles along the way, but "looking to Jesus the Pioneer and perfecter of our faith" (12:2).

There are always two kinds of mental and spiritual food before us in our daily lives and we alone can choose with which of these we will feed ourselves.

RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong

Farm Calendar

Today, Sept. 9

York Inter-State Fair is in progress. Livestock shows today.

South Mountain Fair ends at Aarendtsville.

Sunday, Sept. 10

Gratz Fair begins at Gratz.

Monday, Sept. 11

Reading Fair begins. Pennsylvania Farmers' Association news conference, 10 a.m. at the Penn Harris Motor Inn.

Tuesday, Sept. 12

South Lancaster County Fair begins. See details on pages 42 through 49.

Fruit growers meeting at Penn State's fruit research laboratory, Biglerville, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 13

Lebanon County flower show, 4-10 p.m., Expo Building, Lebanon Valley Exposition Grounds, Lebanon.

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