

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Yes — it can happen to you

Farmers are generally known as an optimistic breed. Some say they have to be if they want to survive. The opposite could be true. Optimism could be wrong - even dead wrong.

Take the attitude: "It can't happen to me."

That's misplaced optimism. It could end up with lost fingers, limbs, or even death.

The warnings go out annually, and they also appear on practically every piece of farm equipment. "Keep Hands and Feet Away From Moving Parts." "Turn Machine Off Before Servicing." The list could go on to include chemicals, bulls, electrical equipment, silos, etc.

Sadly, each year brings new accidents and deaths with it despite the reports of accidents and repeated warnings. The attitude of "It can't happen to me" seems to be forever prevalent. Sad too, is the truth that it can happen to you.

Not convinced?

Consider the speed of the cylindrical cutterhead of a forage harvester. It travels at a rate of 16 revolutions per second. If that doesn't sound very fast, then try 120 feet of razor-sharp knife surfaces hitting the corn stalks each second. The gathering chains are fast too. One false move by a man who dares to challenge that frightening power and he may lose an arm, leg, or even his life.

Of all the farm machines which have injured or killed people, the corn picker is probably the most common. Again, people oftentimes fail to realize the incredible speed and power of the gathering chains and snapping rolls. Even at idling speed they can pull an arm off in a split-second. The proof of that statement lies in the fact that it has happened to hundreds of farmers who thought it couldn't be so.

Sitting in the shed, the corn picker looks dead. In action, out in the field, it is deadly. The entire machine vibrates and hums with activity. The speedy cogs, chains, and rolls can't tell the difference between ears of corn and a person's hands.

The snapping rolls travel at a speed of 12 feet per second. Too many men have tested the accuracy of that statement by ignoring the warnings on shields and in operator's manuals.

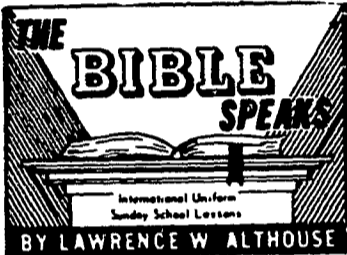
A third danger of the corn harvest is in the silo. It's as deadly as an unseen poisonous snake waiting for its prey. Many times, the tragedy strikes without warning. The danger, of course, are the gases which are released during the fermentation process.

Farmers are warned each year not to enter a recently filled silo, and if they really must, then they should never do it without having a blower

force fresh air into the structure beforehand, as well as during their time inside the silo.

A fourth danger that comes with the annual corn harvest can be found in the grain bins. All those bushels of corn can act like quicksand if a person dares to walk inside. Slowly but surely, he can be swallowed up by the crop. It happens somewhere every year.

Whether the danger comes in the form of a fascinating but dangerous machine, a storage bin, chemical, gas, mean bull, or loose floor board, the first rule for preventing accidents might well be to realize that tragedies don't just strike anywhere but home. The philosophy of optimism doesn't apply to avoiding accidents.



THE GODS OF 1978

Lesson for October 8, 1978

Background Scripture:
Exodus 20:3-7;
Josua 24:14, 15;
Matthew 5:33-37; 6:24;
Luke 4:8; John 4:24

Devotional Reading:
John 5:19-24
"You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).

These words seem to have a strange and archaic ring to them.

"Other gods"? To be sure, we realize the primitive men in some far corners of the world are still polytheists. But the major religions of mankind that account for the vast majority of the world's believers - Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and even Hinduism (which to the uninformed appears to be polytheistic) - all these are essentially monotheistic.

If the adherents of these faiths disagree, it is not over the question of whether there is one God or many, but what is the most accurate representation of the one God.

A "Jealous God"

The first commandment in Exodus forbidding the worship of "other Gods" (20:3) seems, therefore, to have little meaning or relevance for us today. We may not serve God with the devotion he seeks, but neither does he have any competitors in this modern age.

Or does he?
Are there not some subtle

gods that contend with the Lord of the universe for our worship and service? Theologian John Bright once wrote:

"For that to which a man looks for his ultimate well-being, his salvation no less, and that from which he derives his standards of conduct - that is his god. And we have no lack of them. (THE KINGDOM OF GOD, Abingdon Press, 1953)"

If Bright is right - and I am convinced he is - then God still has good reason to be the "jealous" deity depicted for us in the Old Testament.

The God of Mammon

Nor is this strictly an Old Testament concept. On the Mount of Temptation following his baptism, Jesus cries: "Begone, Satan, for it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve'" (Matthew 4:10). Later, in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus updated the first commandment so that even his nominally monotheistic countrymen could understand its challenge:

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the

other. You cannot serve God and mammon. (5:24)"

Baal, the Canaanite god, is long-forgotten, as are Melak and Astarte, but Mammon is still with us! An Arabic word meaning "wealth", Mammon is very much worshipped today for it is to material wealth that many of us look for our ultimate well-being, our salvation "no less," and even our standards of conduct. One does not have to be a theologian to realize that in this year of 1978 there are still "other gods" who vie for the worship and service that belongs to the Lord alone.



NOW IS THE TIME By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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handling. When used on the farm as bedding, it can still be returned to the soil as added organic matter.

TO PREPARE FOR COLD WEATHER

The month of October is a good time to get ready for freezing weather. Water-cooled motors should be treated with anti-freeze solutions, or drained after being used. Exposed water pipes need attention to keep from freezing. They may be buried at least 30 inches into the ground, or wrapped with electric heating cable.

Thawing frozen water pipes on a cold morning is not pleasant; frozen cooling systems in tractors and motors are expensive. Prevent these problems by getting ready for freezing weather in the near future.

TO OBSERVE NEW CATTLE

Cattle feeders are facing one of the largest investments in recent years. Replacement cattle continue to be very high and very much in demand. No doubt many feeders will have more money tied up in their cattle this fall than ever before. Under these conditions, it is very important to keep losses to a minimum.

To do this the "eye of the master" is still most important. Feeders are urged to observe their cattle several times each day; cattle that are "slow" and keep to themselves, or do not come up and eat and drink normally, should be separated and treated. A thermometer is a "must" to detect serious infections.

Animals that are segregated from the rest of the herd, and treated soon after they go off feed, will usually recover in a few days. Delayed treatment results in the infection spreading and greater mortality.

TO KEEP PIGS WARM

The extremely cold weather of the past two winters has resulted in high pig losses in the feedlot. Most farrowing operations have supplemental heat in the building to keep the baby pigs warm. However, when they are sold to the fattening operator, they often do not have warm enough quarters.

We urge that feeders be sure the pigs are comfortable; when they pile up

in cold weather, they are too cold. Insulated sidewalls, solid partitions, hovers over their sleeping quarters are things that can be done to keep them warm.

Cold pigs means

respiratory and digestive troubles. When they are warm enough they will spread out in the sleeping area. Check temperatures down at floor level - not at man-high levels.

Farm Calendar

- Today, Oct. 7**
Third annual Fall Festival of the Frederick County Farm Museum Assn. Today and tomorrow. York County 4-H leader and teen leader banquet.
- Monday, Oct. 9**
Manheim Fair begins. Continues through the 13th. See page 108 for details.
- Tuesday, Oct. 10**
Lebanon County Holstein Club banquet, 7 p.m. at the Mount Zion Church social hall.
- Wednesday, Oct. 11**
Lebanon County Conservation District board of directors meeting, 8 p.m. in Room 207 of the Lebanon Municipal Bldg., Lebanon.
- Thursday, Oct. 12**
Elizabethtown Young Farmers barn party.
- Friday, Oct. 13**
Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association meeting, 7 p.m. at the Treadway Resort Inn, Lancaster.

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



Chorus to perform October 11

LANCASTER — The Lancaster Liederkranz Singing Society is hosting the 65-member all-male Ludenscheider Master Chorus from Luden-Scheid, Germany. The chorus, which has been compared with the same singing quality and precision as that of the prestigious 200-plus member Mormon Tabernacle Choir, will be performing at Hensel Hall on the Franklin and Marshall College Campus.

It will be a 2-hour concert featuring sacred music, in German, a variety of classic works, as well as traditional folk songs and popular American favorites. There will be just one performance, that taking place at 8 p.m. on Wednesday evening, October 11.