

# EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



## National FFA convention is impressive

Anyone attending the National FFA Convention undoubtedly comes home with strong impressions and lasting memories. It can't help but be so, considering the high calibre of people who swarm to Kansas City by the thousands, the sheer immensity of the gathering, and the awesomeness of the convention site itself.

I feel privileged to have attended a portion of the convention activities for the second year in a row. It is truly a memorable experience.

What impresses me most is the maturity of the FFA's leaders. They possess uncommon poise -- a sense of maturity and responsibility which is hard to find in most people, regardless of their age. Yet these FFA'ers are 21 and younger. Most are in their mid teens, in fact. Their fine behavior and intellect is a credit to themselves, their parents, and their teachers and advisors in the FFA.

The FFA'ers run their own convention when they get to Kansas

City, which is a remarkable feat. An estimated 20,000 or more come to participate each year. What's amazing is that if they're making any mistakes at all, I doubt that anyone is noticing them.

This year the FFA'ers were treated to guest appearances by Paul Harvey, Kyle Rote Jr. and President Jimmy Carter. That, certainly, should make everlasting impressions.

Carter is a former FFA'er, and received an arousing welcome from

the thousands of blue-jacketed students. Understandably, the occasion made national news.

Kyle Rote Jr., one of this country's best known soccer players and an outstanding all-around athlete, was also well received, as was Paul Harvey, who is known to anyone who ever twisted a radio dial.

America's agriculture has a lot going for it. The FFA counts as one of the chief assets.

## Welcome Mr. Thornburgh

Pennsylvania farmers will have a more sympathetic and understanding administration in Harrisburg, if activities during the gubernatorial campaign are any indication.

The majority of farmers, particularly those in southeastern and southcentral portions of the state, are Republicans. It follows then that they should be pleased with the gains made by the G.O.P. What's more,

Pennsylvanians will have a Republican governor again for the first time in eight years. And, according to the campaign, he'll be a governor who is interested in farmers and their business.

Governor-elect Richard Thornburgh made an effort during the campaign to contact farm leaders and members of the agricultural press. He also visited farms and

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## America isn't as it was

Sitting there in a huge, drafty, and rather dirty building in New York's harbor, a lot of thoughts went through my mind. The surroundings were certainly impressive. Although I was not in a beautiful building, I was in a big structure, and bigness is what America is most often associated with.

More of the bigness was evident outside. New York City's skyscrapers - famous the world over - were all

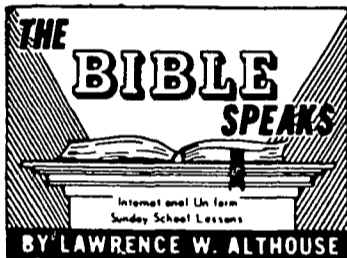
around. A multi-laned, elevated highway was just outside the door and an exceptionally wide street was underneath it. Both were filled with big speeding cars. The sound of car horns was everpresent.

This was big bustling New York City.

It was all right there with full glory as well as some faults.

Out in the harbor, we had seen the

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### SPECIAL DAY

Lesson for November 12, 1978

#### Background Scripture:

Exodus 20:8-11  
Deuteronomy 5:12-15  
Matthew 12:1-12

Devotional Reading:  
John 5:9-18

Visitors to Jewish Jerusalem are cautioned against driving their automobiles through the Mea Shearim section on the Sabbath day. Tourists who take this advice lightly are likely to find that they and their vehicles have become a target for some serious stonethrowing by the fanatical residents of that quarter. If these religious legalists had their own way, not a vehicle would move an inch of the Sabbath in Israel. Such activity is regarded as a severe violation of the fourth of the Ten Commandments: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it

holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work..." (Exodus 20:8-10).

#### From One Extreme

It was this kind of extreme interpretation that led Tom Paine to comment on sabbath observance in Puritan Connecticut:

The word Sabbath, means REST; that is, cessation from labor, but the stupid Blue Laws of Connecticut make a labor of rest, for they oblige a person to sit still from sunrise to sunset on a Sabbath-day, which is hard

work. Fanaticism made those laws, and hypocrisy pretends to reverence them, for where such laws prevail hypocrisy will prevail also.

This same kind of legalism challenged Jesus when his disciples were discovered idly picking grain and eating it as they walked through the fields. Reminding them that God had always put human need before legalisms, he says: "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath" (Mark 2:27). The whole idea behind the sabbath commandment is to help man not restrict him. It is not a concession which is extracted from man for

God's satisfaction, but a truth that is commanded for man's own sake. God does not need the sabbath, we do.

#### To Another

Those who make too little over the sabbath as well as those who make too much over it tend to forget its real meaning: it was made to enrich our lives.

In Sholem Asch's novel *East River*, Moshe Wolf, the central character says:

When a man labors not for a livelihood but to accumulate wealth, then he is a slave. Therefore it is that God grant us the Sabbath. For it is by the Sabbath that we know we are not work

animals, born to eat and to labor. We are men.

Both those who fanatically observe it and those who indifferently ignore it need to remember that the Sabbath day was made for man and stands as a continual reminder that the Creator did not intend for him to be a slave to anything, especially not to labor or anything, especially not to labor or anything else that depletes rather than upbuilds him.

Without resorting to the legalisms of old, we can still keep it the special day it was intended to be.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent  
Phone 394-6851

**TO SUPPORT GOOD FARM LAND PRESERVATION...** I'm aware of a growing interest throughout the state, and the country, in the preserving of good farm land. A number of local zoning boards have reflected the desire to keep good land in food and fiber production. I think it is time for more active farmers to let these officials know of their

support for this action. I realize that some farmers may oppose this attitude, and no doubt will be quite forward in contacting the local officials. If the majority of the citizens want farm land preservation, then they should let the zoning boards and officials know how they feel. The same is true for farmers. Keep them informed.

**TO APPRECIATE FARM-CITY WEEK....** Each farmer gets more important each day. While we have fewer farmers than ever before, the growing

population demands more food. Never have so many persons been so dependent on so few. Farm-City Week is being observed November 17 to 23 to bring a better understanding of problems existing between the rural and urban segments of our society. Some folks may think that agriculture is a diminishing industry, but this is not true; there are fewer farmers but each farmer is now producing enough food for 56 other persons. Farms are larger and more productive. Folks are urged to take part

in Farm-City Week events and opportunities.

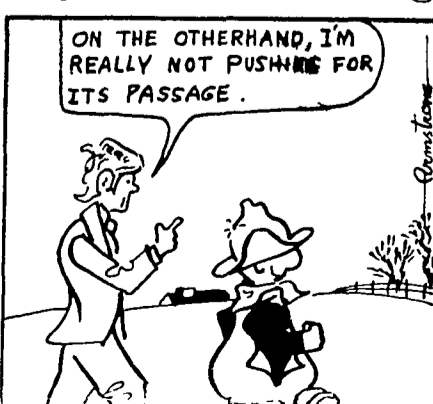
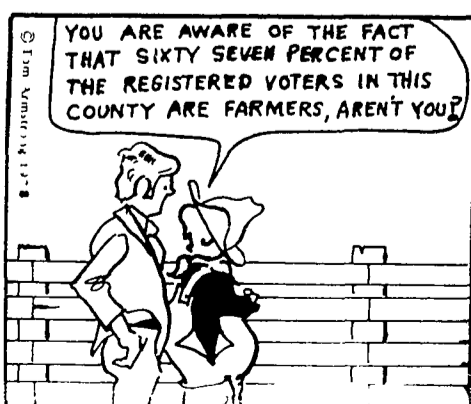
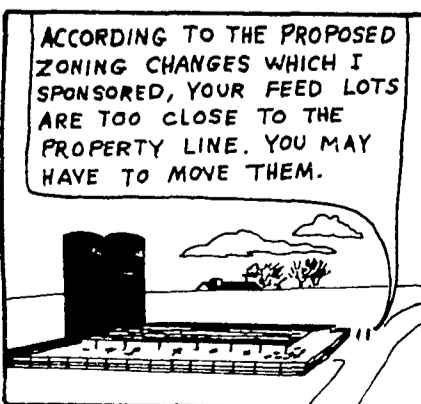
**TO MULCH STRAWBERRIES...** Winter injury in strawberries has been widespread during the past two years. Crown injury can be reduced by checking your strawberry bed or patch relating to mulching and to exposed areas. When the ground becomes frozen during late November or early December, a 3 to 4-inch mulch should be applied over the plants; this should be straw, or another light material, that will not mat

down. If the bed is exposed to the prevailing winds, then a windbreak, or snow fence, should be erected to give added protection. If the mulch blows off of the berries, it should be replaced. Mulching is a very good practice to insure a better crop next summer.

**TO ADOPT WINTER DRIVING HABITS...** The hazards of winter driving are many and drivers should

change their habits when roads get icy or snow covered. Speeds should be reduced and more time given for braking the vehicle. Winter tires should be mounted soon to give extra protection. Batteries should be checked and kept in top condition. Cold weather puts extra stress on all parts of the car. Be quick to recognize road conditions, and drive accordingly.

## RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong

## Farm Calendar

**Today, Nov. 11**  
Ephrata Area Young Farmers - Blue Mountain Young Farmers square dance, 7:45 p.m. at Blue Mountain High School.  
Buck Tractor Pullers' banquet, Quarryville Community Fair Building, Quarryville, 6:45 p.m.  
Lebanon County Fair banquet, 7 p.m. at Iona Methodist Church.  
**Monday, Nov. 13**  
Chemagro Fertilizer banquet and meeting All

farmers invited. Good 'n Plenty Restaurant 6:30 p.m.  
Lancaster County 4-H Beef Round-up, Lancaster Stockyards, judging 1 p.m.  
**Tuesday, Nov. 14**  
Annville-Cleona Young Farmers meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the high school.  
Lancaster County Holstein banquet, 6:45 p.m. at Good 'n Plenty Restaurant, Smoketown.

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