

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

By Dieter Krieg



I've long been a fan of Longwood Gardens, Chester County, but it wasn't until two years ago that I first saw their spectacular Christmas display. Anyone within a couple hours' drive of Kennett Square should certainly make an effort to see the famous Gardens. The beauty is just about beyond belief and certainly can't be adequately described in this column.

Although Longwood Gardens is filled with beauty the year around, the facility has a special Christmas treat each year. It doesn't cost much either. It's only \$2 for adults and \$1 for children ages 6-14. Those under 6 get in free.

But the charge of admission is beside the point. The sights at Longwood Gardens are well worth the price. Recognized as one of the great gardens of America, Longwood Gardens are located along U.S. Route 1, just east of Kennett Square.

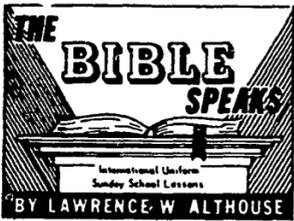
Aside from acres of superbly manicured outdoor beauty, there are also arcs of indoor displays. During the Christmas season (which officially began here yesterday) the facility also features 50,000 lights. A

person just can't imagine the beauty of such a presentation. Truly, it has to be seen to be appreciated. In addition, Longwood Gardens provides Christmas concerts. One of the largest pipe organs in the nation is within one of its conservatories. Thirty different programs of Christmas music are planned to provide a festive accompaniment to the visual splendors of the season.

Thousands of blooming plants, thousands of twinkling lights, and hundreds of indoor displays provide the visitor with plenty to see.

Longwood Gardens has something for everyone who likes Christmas, and I guess that would include all of us. It's a terrific Christmas present from the Gardens to all of us. I personally appreciate their efforts and I sincerely recommend it to anyone who doesn't mind driving during this time of the year.

Longwood Gardens is open from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. during the Christmas season. For further information, please see a special article which appeared in last week's edition of Lancaster Farming, beginning on page 108.



BLESSED AMONG WOMEN

Lesson for December 17, 1978

Background Scripture:

1 Samuel 2:1-10
Luke 1:39-79.

Devotional Reading:
Luke 1:68-79.

Four miles outside the city

of Jerusalem (urban sprawl keeps it from seeming that far) is the little Judean hill town of Ein Karem. From the Hadassah Medical Center one can view the ancient town and its monuments to John the Baptist. For here according to tradition John the Baptist was born (marked by a Franciscan church and monastery). Another Franciscan monastery stands beside the hill cave where it is believed John lived the last years of his life.

Most important for the Christian pilgrim, however, is the lovely Franciscan Church of the Visitation, commemorating the ecstatic

encounter between John's mother, Elizabeth, and her younger cousin, Mary, from Nazareth. Whether or not the tradition is correct in identifying Ein Karem as the "hill country...city of Judah" in Luke 1, the pilgrim can hardly escape catching there a spiritual glimpse of that great occasion which we commemorate again each Advent season.

Filled With The Spirit

Mary's quiet, uneventful life had been jolted by her own experience of God's messenger who came to her in Nazareth and told her that she was to become the mother of the Messiah. Informed that her cousin

Elizabeth was also to bear a child of religious significance by the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary rushed to visit with her. She needed to talk to someone who might understand. Who in Nazareth would believe her or know how to help her?

Entering the house of Zechariah and Elizabeth, she greeted her cousin the customary way. But Elizabeth's response was anything but customary. Without understanding what was happening within her, Elizabeth felt her unborn son move vigorously in her womb. This was no mere kicking movement experienced by many pregnant mothers-to-be, but

something much more than that! A wave of pure joy seemed to engulf her and without thinking of what she was saying, she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" (1:42). Elizabeth heard her own words with amazement and went on to explain to her cousin what had prompted this ecstatic outburst.

My Spirit Rejoices

But something was happening in Mary too. Caught up in a spiritual excitement few have ever known, she exclaims, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (1:46,47). The

words come from her own mouth but their source seemed to be "Something Other." In her ecstatic song, Mary expresses her awe, her thanksgiving for what God is doing in her, and prophecies of the mighty works he will yet accomplish in the days ahead. (This "song" is known as *The Magnificat*, after the Latin word which we translate into English as "magnifies").

Mary "magnified" the Lord. Caught up in awe, wonder, and thanksgiving, her heart overflowed with praise and joy.

In the winter light of this Advent season let us experience our own Magnificat!



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851

TO SORT TOBACCO

Tobacco stripping is underway in this part of the state and many hours will be spent pulling the leaves from the stalks. The days of special handling and sizing seems to be over; however, it is still very important that growers sort the ground leaves and the injured leaves from the good tobacco. If the crop is being sold on grade, then this is required. With some "pull-off" crops this is

of less importance. On the other hand, growers should be honest enough to sort out the undesirable leaves. If this is not done, then the buyers will be unhappy and look elsewhere for their tobacco supplies. Some sorting is necessary with every crop, regardless of the method of selling.

TO PRODUCE DAIRY BEEF

Since dairying is so important in this part of the country, it might be profitable for more dairymen to feed out some of their bull calves as steers. Dairy beef is very much in demand because it has good

flavor and does not carry a lot of waste fat. The beef trade today is demanding more lean beef. With the lower price of feed grains, especially corn, many dairymen can add extra income from their dairy herds by feeding out the bull calves; they can be fed out as bulls, or preferable steered at an early age. Open sheds or pole barns can provide adequate housing.

TO ORDER SUPPLIES

It's not too early to be placing orders for farm supplies for 1979. Many concerns may give a good discount when supplies are ordered and accepted in

advance of the growing season. This is the best way to get the variety and quality of materials that are wanted. Next spring there may be shortages of brands of fertilizer, or varieties of farm and garden seeds. The same is true with tractor and machinery repairs. If the dealer is given time this winter to work on the equipment, he will have it ready for spring use and may give some discount for keeping his labor busy during the winter season. Plan ahead and take advantages of discounts.

TO COOPERATE WITH AGRICULTURAL CENSUS

The forms for the 1978 Census of Agriculture are to be mailed out late in December. We urge commercial farmers to cooperate with this program by completing the forms and returning them to the Bureau of Census. We are informed that the forms

have been revised to make them shorter and more easily understood. The agricultural census is one way to evaluate the trends and status of American agriculture; we know of no reason why producers should not give the true facts on their farming operation. Agriculture is big business in this country and we should be glad to report the facts.

Farm Calendar

Monday, Dec. 18

Annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Seedsmen's Association, 10 a.m. at the Treadway Resort Inn, Lancaster.

Tuesday, Dec. 19

Ephrata Area Young Farmers annual Christmas program, 7:45 p.m. at Ephrata Jr. High School.

Lancaster County FFA farm mechanics contest. Penn Manor High School 12:30 p.m.

Seed, fertilizer, pesticide dealers and college crop specialist meet, (N.J.) Pfenningers Hilltop Inn, 6:30 p.m.

Board of directors meeting of the Lancaster County Farm and Home Foun-

ation, at the Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.

- **Wednesday, Dec. 20**
Crop Day at Upper Dauphin High School, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Garden Spot Young Farmers Tour, beginning at 9 a.m. from the agriculture parking lot at the high school. Return by 3:30 p.m.

Swine management meeting at the Hinkletown Alternative School, 7:30 p.m.

- **Thursday, Dec. 21**
Milk Marketing Board hearing concerning a proposed change for Area 1 dairy farmers, Downingtown Inn, Downingtown, 10 a.m.

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong

