



**EDITORIAL COMMENTS** By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR

**Is good news really no news?**

The old adage that good news is no news has been confirmed once again.

Last week an effort was made by some people to show that Pennsylvania's farming communities were healthy. In wake of all the reports and documentaries on the accident at Three Mile Island and its aftermath that is certainly good news. It's welcome news - at least to most of us. But evidently not to the big news chiefs around the country, and some stubborn individuals who are bent on believing nothing but the worst.

The wire services didn't think that a story about healthy cattle near Three Mile Island was worth covering. Dead ones would have been another matter.

When the stories coming out of the Harrisburg area were negative, everybody wanted to write and talk about it in the media. Give'em a positive story and it doesn't go too far. Granted, some newspapers in the area carried the story, and they did so quite well, but that information didn't reach New York and Chicago, etc. where the positive

effort is needed most. And in all cases the good news didn't make page 1 in the daily papers. Maybe that space is reserved for depressing and upsetting news only.

To many people that may not make much difference one way or another.

On the other hand there's the lady in New York, for example, who refused to go to Allentown with her husband because she is convinced that Pennsylvania is contaminated with radiation. For every person with such an attitude, I wonder how many rumors and fears are spread about our part of the country. And I'm convinced that those type of people would never knowingly drink a drop of milk or take a bite of beef that came from Pennsylvania. All that just because the negative stories get top billing and the positive ones get tossed out or buried on an inside page somewhere.

As a result, our image was hurt.

One newspaper columnist observed that while the crisis at Three Mile Island was going on, the reporters and editors were anxious

to the point of almost hoping that each day would give them a more sensational story. When the reactor cooled down some news media personnel were disappointed instead of relieved. The writer observed they were thriving on the negative.

Is this what life is all about?

We have no choice in accepting unfortunate circumstances when they happen. But why must we be deprived of the opportunity to read and hear the good news when we or others are fortunate?

Is there no room for encouraging reports?

My hat is off to those individuals who have done what they could to be a positive and honest source of information.

The general public needs ambassadors who are willing to give all the facts, not just the negative ones.

A tip of the hat is also due to the many scientists and researchers and official spokesmen who worked and are still working on the question of whether or not radiation may have actually damaged our agriculture or

worse yet our families. They are working not only with the problem of finding and identifying and assorting and answering. What they do takes time. A simple sample of soil sent to Penn State for example takes two weeks to return, sometimes longer. What's more, these scientists are also working with the human elements of emotionalism and suspicion. They must sift through all of that, and more, and come up with realistic, honest answers.

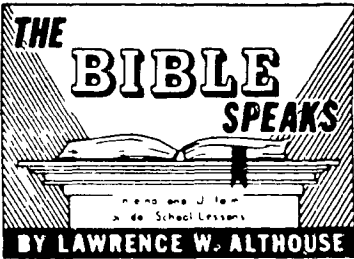
They assure us that nothing was damaged.

Such news deserves a triumphant headline, and I hope it will come.

But so far the scientists and official spokesmen aren't getting the type of headlines that were given to damaging reports. That's a shame.

Good news is important news. We must share it.

And we thank and congratulate those who make an honest effort to spread the encouraging happenings of life.



**THE WILL OF GOD**

Lesson for June 3, 1979

**Background Scripture:**  
1 Samuel 13-16

**Devotional Reading:**  
Psalms 40:4-8

There is a compelling

temptation to skip the sharp edges of this story about Saul and Samuel. It would be easy to focus upon Saul's disobedience and greed. Many people will study this passage and easily ignore its sharp cutting edge that ought to prick the conscience of every person who acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord and Master. The writer of 1 Samuel believes that Saul is rejected by God because he has failed to obey the command to slay every Amalekite - man, woman, child, oxen and sheep.

**"Destroy The Sinners"**

Of course, Saul was disobedient to God, as

Samuel saw it. But isn't there something in this story more troubling than Saul's disobedience? Saul is rejected as king because he failed to do an act which each of us, following our Christian conscience, would regard as nothing less than sheer barbarity. Samuel, the revered prophet of God, earnestly believed that it was God's will for Saul and his forces to wreak a holocaust upon the Amalekites because they were regarded as a sinful people. "And the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, Go, utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until

they are consumed" (1 Sam 15:18).

This is not the only place in the Old Testament where we find God represented in a way that seems to quite justify a violent and vengeful course of action upon people judged as evil and sinful. We tend to justify those bloodthirsty commands because the victims are "sinners," people who apparently do not merit mercy or compassion. This is obvious even in the case of Saul who, although apparently repentant, does not receive forgiveness or reconciliation with Samuel. Although he pleads, "Now therefore, I pray, pardon my sin, and

return with me that I may worship the Lord," Samuel replies coldly, "I will not return with you for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel" (15:25,26).

**Beyond Bitterness?**

No less evident is this malevolent spirit when Agag, the king of the Amalekites, is brought before Samuel. We are told that Agag came to him cheerfully, saying "Surely the bitterness of death is past." But Samuel replied "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless

among women." And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal" (15:32,33).

The history of Christianity is full of such scenes: the inquisition, the crusades, and pogroms against the Jews, to mention only a few.

"Destroy the sinners" is a cry that has been frequent on the lips of Christians. Yet, we seldom stop to question whether the Father of Jesus Christ could ever have given those commands, whether such passages could ever fit into the New Testament, and whether such barbarity could ever represent the will of God.



**NOW IS THE TIME**

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851

**TO BE ALERT FOR LEAF HOPPERS**

Weather conditions have not been very good for harvesting the first cutting of hay; however, by the time this article is in the mail we hope that many more acres will be harvested, the local alfalfa is ready to cut in relation to stage of maturity. One of the most serious pests to bother alfalfa growers in

this part of the country is the potato leaf hopper. This insect attacks the second growth and makes it turn yellow and become stunted. The treatment is to spray when the new growth is 3 to 6 inches high. This should be done as a preventative measure, do not wait until you see yellow alfalfa and then spray, it will be too late. Sweeps over the young growth should detect the leaf hoppers, if they are present, then the crops should be sprayed. Refer to the 1979 Agronomy Guide for rates and materials.

**TO PROTECT CORN CROP**

With the growing practice of no-till corn growing we can expect more corn insects to be wanting their share of the crop. This is more true during wet weather than dry weather. Cutworms are working on all small plants. Corn stalk borers have been found in small plants. In addition, we usually have some trouble with army worms eating corn as well as small grains. Growers are urged to check their fields several times each week in order to keep on top of the

insect infestation. Pesticide dealers and Extension Agents can give suggestions relative to materials to use. Unfortunately, some of the more effective insecticides on these insects have been removed from the market. Sevin, Diazinon, or Guthion may be used to keep down the infestation.

**TO BEWARE OF WOOD TICKS**

Reports indicate wood ticks to be quite common this spring. These are usually found on bushes and trees near wooded areas. They are dangerous from the stand-

point they may be carrying the Rocky Mountain Fever infection. Parents are urged to inspect their youngsters after being to picnics, hikes, or in wooded areas. They often attack a person around the head at the hair line. Pets are also often infected with the wood ticks. Sevin and Diazinon can be sprayed on trails, picnic areas, and on the grass in recreational areas. The dust of Sevin or Rotenone can be used to treat pets carrying the wood ticks.

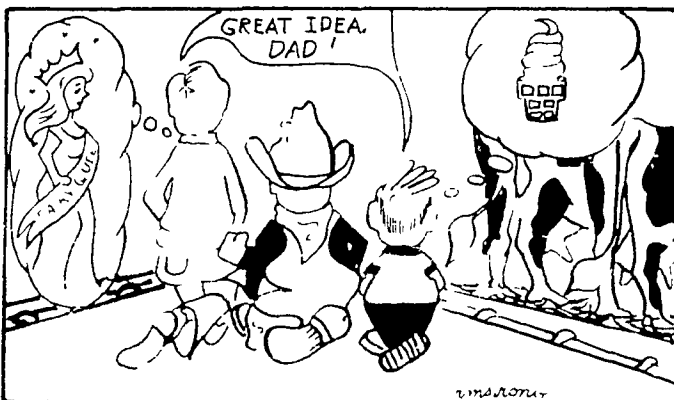
**TO PLANT TEMPORARY FORAGE CROPS**

Livestock and dairy

farmers who are short of summer forages might consider the planting of either Sudangrass or one of the Sudangrass-Sorghum hybrids. These hot-weather crops will grow rapidly and be ready to graze or green-chop in 6 to 8 weeks. They have the ability to grow well during extremely hot, dry weather. One word of caution - in the fall after a killing frost, both of these crops should be handled very carefully, they may contain harmful amounts of prussic acid and poison livestock. However, during the summer they are very productive.

**RURAL ROUTE**

By Tom Armstrong



**Farm Calendar**

Today, June 2  
Chester County Dairy Princess Pageant 8 p.m. at the Kimberton Fire Hall

Tuesday, June 5  
Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative annual meeting Syracuse, N.Y.

Wednesday, June 6  
Lancaster County Con-

servation District meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Fair and Home Center  
Berks County Sheep and Wool Growers Association annual wool pool, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Tulpehocken Farms

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