



Here are three good reasons for a father to be happy.  
Left to right are Paul, 6; Heidi, 2; and Karl, 5.

# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY.

I suppose the meaning of fatherhood and Father's Day can't ever be fully understood unless one is a father himself. I've been in that most blessed situation for nearly seven years now.

Children are a joy to have, and consequently, I have a happy father's day every day.

Innocent, sweet, sensitive, imaginative, and observant, the little ones offer an education that no adult can get on his own.

When a charming little 2-year old girl makes a sandwich and gets jelly all over her arms up to her elbows, you grin in partial dismay. But you're thrilled when she stretches your way and says "Here, Daddy." The sandwich isn't the most beautiful, but it has the most love packed into it, I can assure you.

And what can you say when 5-year old Karl coasts down a hill on his tractor and exclaims "That's fun! That tickles my tummy. Maybe Jesus liked that too, 'cause Jesus lives in my heart."

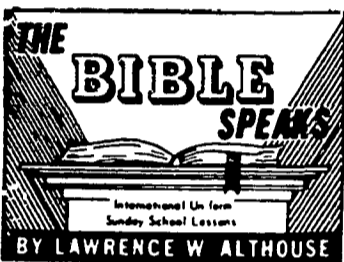
The joy goes on, day by day, and hour by hour.

Recently, for example, Paul and Karl put their boots on and went outside to the "barn," just the way Daddy would. Then they took all the grass clippings they had collected and fed this "hay" to the "cows" behind the house. Their imagination had turned the pine trees into cows. Who else but a child can do that? It's wonderful!

The boys have also planted corn already. Actually, they were just tulip leaves that their Mommy had snipped off. They're busy little fellows. Full of energy, full of fun, and full of love, that's how children are.

Heidi, our cute, lovable little sweetheart is almost always eager to please. Whether it's a slice of bread that has been buttered on both sides, or a hug, she knows how to get to her Daddy's heart. She's on the go from early in the morning until bedtime. When I come home she gives me the most pleasant-sounding

(Turn to Page 45)



## AN UGLY BEAUTY

Lesson for June 17, 1979

**Background Scripture:**  
2 Samuel 13:23 through 15:12;  
18; 1 Kings 1:5-6.  
**Devotional Reading:**  
Proverbs 3:1-6.

This is the story of three men:

Joab: the faithful general who is deeply concerned to see his king grieve over the estrangement from his son.

David: the great king who was something less than great as a father — often when discipline was needed, he was too lax; now when forgiveness is needed, he is too harsh and remote.

Absalom: the handsome, popular son behind whose beauty there is an ugliness that too frequently bubbles to the surface.

**Absalom Dwelt Apart**  
Joab was genuinely concerned about his King

and it was this, not admiration for Absalom that triggered his attempt to bring father and son together in reconciliation. He knew that it was better for them to be reunited: better for David's morale, better for the security of David's reign (Absalom's popularity was beginning to rival David's), and better for the kingdom of Israel. It might even be better for Absalom. Perhaps if his father tendered him forgiveness, even Absalom's heart would be melted.

Joab was well-intentioned, but the situation required more than good intentions. One problem that good in-

tentions did not overcome was the stubborn inflexibility of the King. His initial response had overjoyed Joab: "Behold now, I grant this go, bring back the young man Absalom." But Joab's rejoicing was premature for, although David could go part way to a reconciliation, he did not go all the way: "Let him dwell apart in his own house; he is not to come into my presence" (2 Samuel 14:24). There was too much bitterness and pride in his heart to open his heart to his estranged son. For two whole years the proud father and plotting son lived in the same city but did not see

each other. Although the story is thousands of years old, it has a contemporary ring.

### Absalom's Beauty

It is difficult to know just what went on inside Absalom's heart. On the outside there was beauty. In fact, says the chronicler, "in all Israel there was no one so much to be praised for his beauty as Absalom; from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him" (14:25). But inside Absalom, where the casual onlooker could not see, there was something else.

Perhaps if David had been truly forgiving to his son,

Absalom might have changed within. We will never know, for David did not hide his bitterness and Absalom never ceased plotting against his father. He simply awaited his time and gathered his followers. Beneath the storied beauty, a terrible ugliness grew like a spiritual cancer that would some day claim his young life and break his father's heart.

No matter how well-intentioned, the reconciliation was only a cosmetic to cover over the ugliness in two men's hearts. A reconciliation without reformation is no reconciliation at all.



## NOW IS THE TIME

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

### TO EXAMINE CORN PLANTS

The corn crop is off to a good start in this part of the state. However, growers should be alert to the possibility of insect damage and fertilizer deficiencies. Army worms are feeding on some corn fields; they can clean out a corn field in a few days. Sprays or dusts of Sevin or Dylox should reduce the infestation.

Signs of fertilizer deficiency can be detected during the growing season. Nitrogen deficiency is detected by lower leaves turning yellow up the midrib in an inverted V fashion

The lack of phosphorus is shown when the leaves turn purple in color. Potash deficiency results in the outer margin of the leaves turn yellow, then brown... just the opposite of nitrogen deficiency. Magnesium shortage causes the lower leaves to have a white, striped appearance with the leaf veins remaining green.

Corn is important; examine the crop frequently during the growing season.

### TO PREPARE GRAIN BINS

The current barley crop is ripening and wheat is soon to follow. If the grain is to be stored in local bins, the bins should be cleaned out of old grain and sprayed for insect eradication. Prevention of insects in the grain is much better than to try and eradicate them after they have moved in.

We suggest the bins be thoroughly cleaned and then sprayed with Malathion using one pint of the 57% emulsion in 2½ gallons of water. Cover the walls, floor, and ceiling of the grain bin. If infestation is found after the grain is in the bin, then fumigation of the bin would be in order.

### TO PRACTICE GOOD SANITATION

The control and prevention of various diseases start with a good sanitation program. This is also true in the elimination of serious fly problems.

In spite of the rumor that the 3-Mile Island problem eliminated most of the flies in this part of the state, we find too many of them around most farms. Here again, the place to start is to clean up the premises and

eliminate all breeding places. This practice along with the use of suggested insecticides should keep flies to a minimum.

Residual wall sprays, fly baits, space sprays, and larvicides can be used to eliminate the fly problem. Additional information is available from local Extension Offices.

### TO PLAN FOR SUMMER SEEDINGS

It is not too early to be making plans for the Summer seeding of alfalfa or the early fall seeding of permanent pastures. The starting place is a complete soil test. The ground should be well prepared and treated according to soil test

recommendations. Seed supplies should be ordered in order to get the quality and variety wanted.

In this part of the state alfalfa seedings are often made during late July and early August. This is only six weeks away and times go very fast during the busy, Summer months. Make good plans for Summer seedings.

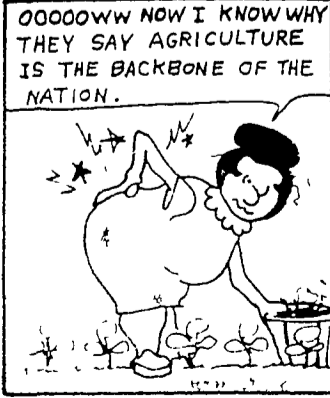
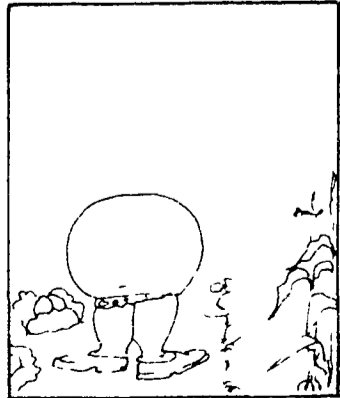
## Farm Calendar

**Today, June 16**  
Lancaster County dairy princess pageant, Farm and Home Center, 6:30 p.m.  
Adams County dairy princess pageant, 8 p.m. at Biglerville High School  
Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Union Counties dairy princess pageant,

7:30 p.m. at Susquehanna Valley Mall, Selinsgrove  
York County 4-H Chicken Barbecue, 4-8 p.m.  
Kempton Fair continues today and tomorrow, Berks County  
**Tuesday, June 19**  
Forage Day, all day at Plum Bottom Farm, Belleville  
Grange leadership school, Gettysburg College  
**Wednesday, June 20**  
Young Cooperator Contest for Pennmarva Federation dairymen, Gettysburg, today and tomorrow at the Sheraton  
Cumberland County Wool Pool all day at the Fairgrounds  
Adams County alfalfa management meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Ray Reinecker's farm, York Springs

Grange leadership school, Gettysburg College.  
Cumberland County dairy princess pageant, Cumberland Valley High School, near New Kingston, 8 p.m.  
**Thursday, June 21**  
Pennsylvania Poultry Conference, all day at the Host Corral, Lancaster  
National Red Cherry Institute meetings, Sheraton, Gettysburg  
**Saturday, June 23**  
Pennsylvania Cherry Growers Annual Meeting, Lamp Post Restaurant, Gettysburg  
**Sunday, June 24**  
Dairy goat picnic and demonstrations, Vaughn Solomon farm, Fairfield, 11 a.m.  
Ephrata Area Young Farmers family picnic, 12:30 p.m.

## RURAL ROUTE



OOOOOOW NOW I KNOW WHY THEY SAY AGRICULTURE IS THE BACKBONE OF THE NATION.

By Tom Armstrong