

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR

Are you being a good parent to your country?

Something ought to be done about The Fourth of July.

In this part of the country The Fourth of July passed as little more than just another day from the calendar.

Newspapers reported how dreary the day was and how people were forced to cancel picnics and games because of inclement weather. Periodically there are reports on the radio about the postponed fireworks in the area. And the big story seemed to be how Americans were trying to get by the holiday with gasoline in short supply.

That's it. That's pretty much how Independence Day came and went. It was observed with a gas shortage, rain clouds overhead, and people scribbling new dates and hours for fireworks displays.

That's a pretty sad celebration. The weather was only a minor factor, if it should even count at all.

What happened to the true meaning of Independence Day?

Considering how much effort and suffering had to go into this nation's birth, we aren't giving it much observance. But that's understandable, I suppose, since two

centuries separate us from colonial times.

The point is that the United States of America wasn't just born, period. Like anything else, it was conceived and formed, and then had some growing to do. It may surprise some people, but America is still alive and it is still growing.

When someone we love turns 20, 50, 70, or even 100 years of age, do we just about ignore the day simply because the person has been around for a long time? Do we take all the years for granted?

Our country's birthday isn't really celebrated. We simply take the day off and enjoy ourselves without much thought as to why we have the fourth day of July as a holiday.

True, America has changed a lot since the days of George Washington. No doubt it has changed considerably just in the last couple of months. But that doesn't mean we're without reason to observe our independence with gratitude and pride.

America is still the country which many people of the world consider paradise. But we take it for granted.

People want to come to our land by the millions, and most of those who

do, make a good life for themselves. With few exceptions, they find much improvement here over situations they left in their homeland, despite the fact that they had to leave everything behind.

It isn't just the material things that overwhelm the newcomers. It's the degree of freedom. The rights of the individual are still respected here.

Those of us who have been here for a long time can't fully appreciate what we have. Also, we seldom "tune in" to the harsh realities of life in less fortunate countries, particularly nations which have been enslaved by communism.

Something ought to be done about The Fourth of July.

Our country's birthday should be observed with more than fireworks. Let's have some programs which remind us of what our forefathers had to go through in order to give us the gift of freedom. And let's not just make it a once in a hundred years affair. We did a terrific job of observing our independence in 1976.

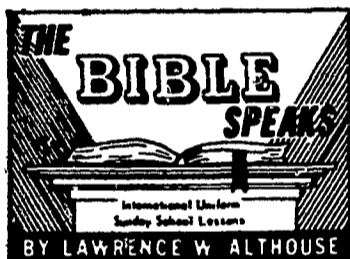
And despite this nation's shortcomings and problems, let's present ourselves in a prouder fashion every day of the year, not just Independence Day.

Add some pride and patriotism to our population, and those two intangibles alone would be strong medicines to help solve our problems. Many of this country's shortcomings exist because we have little or no pride for our country. Neither do we have national goals.

No, all this doesn't mean we should be happy, flag-waving citizens oblivious to our problems. We are fortunate to be able to recognize shortcomings and we have the means to bring about changes for the better. We're free to cheer our country; we're also free to criticize. Both are essential for continued development.

The Fourth of July has come and gone for another year. But today and tomorrow isn't too late to start showing your colors. Who knows, maybe some of it will rub off on the labor union bosses and politicians. They're the ones who need to be particularly reminded of what the United States of America is all about.

America is alive and still growing. Let's not forget it. Good citizenship might be likened to good parenthood.



TROUBLEMAKERS

Lesson for July 8, 1979

Background Scripture
1 Kings 16:29 through 18:40.
Devotional Reading:
Psalms 65:1-8.

In our society today we place a high value on being "well-adjusted." The term is varyingly interpreted, but usually it means that a person has adapted him or herself to things as they are in their environment. Correspondingly, the unadjusted or maladjusted person is looked upon as a problem to be solved.

In his book, *Healing And Wholeness* (Paulist Press, 1977), John A. Sanford tells of a Nazi fighter pilot who during World War II was sent to a Jungian analyst because the 22 year-old youth had developed a hysterical color-blindness.

The patient was cooperative but unyielding in his rabid Nazi beliefs. After some time had elapsed without much apparent progress (he could see only in black and white), he had a series of dreams which eventually led him to see for the first time the horror of the Nazi philosophy. At last the young man began to move toward wholeness. Ironically, says Sanford, "... at his moment of greatest nonadaptation he achieved his greatest spiritual and psychological wholeness." In the eyes of his Nazi society, he had been "well-adjusted" but ill. Now, he was well, but in the process of becoming well he

was no longer "well-adjusted." Sanford concludes: "If the individual adapts to a sick situation, he becomes part of that sickness."

Troubler of Israel

This is what we find in the story of Elijah and King Ahab. Ahab has won the dubious distinction of being the king who "did more to provoke the Lord... to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him" (1 Kings 16:33). Not only did Ahab offend God by marrying Jezebel, a pagan worshipper of Baal, but he aided and abetted her efforts to establish Baal as the major religion of Israel.

One gets the impression that almost everyone went along with Ahab's vile reign, except for a few prophets, among whom the most vigorous in his condemnations was Elijah. Thus, when at last they meet fact-to-face, we find the bitter king calling to the prophet: "It is you, you troubler of Israel?" (18:17). In Ahab's mind, Elijah was chiefly responsible for all the troubles that had descended upon his kingdom. Elijah was not well-adjusted!

The Real Culprit

But the prophet puts the blame squarely where it belongs: "I have not

troubled Israel; but you have... because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals" (18:18). Ahab has brought this kettle of trouble upon himself and his nation. How typical to want to make someone else the scapegoat because they have the courage to resist adjustment to evil!

Today prophets still meet the same kind of resistance. Because they refuse to adjust to a sick situation and become part of that sickness, they are labeled as troublemakers. But God knows who the real troublemakers are! And we do too - when we want to.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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extent of the root growth. In many cases the cultivator will shear off the roots and do more harm than good.

TO CULTIVATE CAREFULLY

Due to the wet spring this year, plant roots may be closer to the surface of the ground. When cultivation is done with garden or field crops, the operator should first examine the depth and

TO BEWARE OF WOOD TICKS

We have some reports of youngsters and pets coming to the house carrying wood ticks; these are often called dog ticks, because they infest dogs and pets quite readily. These ticks are found in brush and tall grass and often near trails and playgrounds.

The ticks attach themselves to the skin and suck blood. On humans they are commonly found on the neck near the hairline. When

found on humans they should be pulled out carefully with small tweezers; when taken out improperly their heads will stay in the skin and cause infection.

The wood tick should not be tolerated because they may be carrying Rocky Mountain Fever. Areas should be sprayed with Sevin, Diazinon, or Lindane to eliminate the problem.

TO STORE

GASOLINE CAREFULLY
Our safety engineers remind us of the danger of

storing gasoline in anything except a metal tank or container; also, it is not advisable to store gasoline for more than 60 days.

In addition to evaporation, the physical properties of the gasoline change and will not be as easy on motors. Also, if gasoline is stored above ground, which is to be discouraged, it should be in a white or light-colored tank.

In this color of tank there

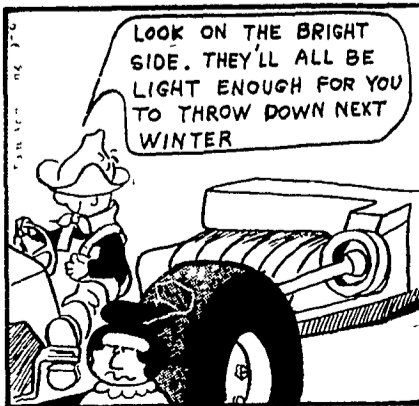
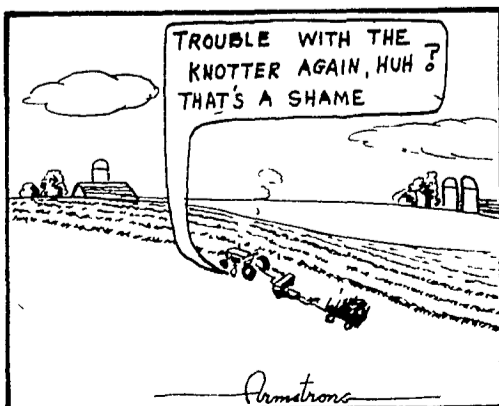
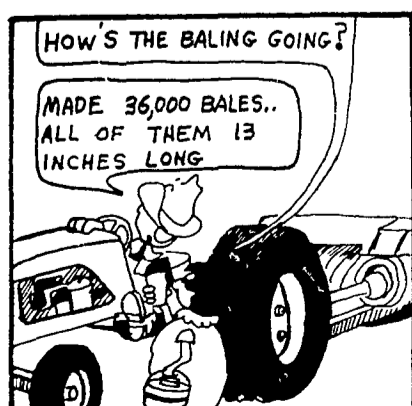
will be much less evaporation than in a black or dark-colored tank. Keep pumps under lock and key, at all times.

TO CONTROL FLIES AND MOSQUITOS

The insect season is here and some properties are bothered with flies or mosquitos. In both cases the place to start is to clean up

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RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong

Farm Calendar

Today, July 7
Cattlemen's Summer Field Day at Penn State University, at the beef and sheep barns, all day.
Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association Summer Picnic and Tours, Blue Mountain High School, Schuylkill Haven.
Juniata County Farmers Association annual picnic, Lions Park, Port Royal, 7 p.m.
Monday, July 9
Cereal Crops Day, 1:30 p.m.

at Penn State's Agronomy Research Farm, Rock Springs, Centre County. Center for Cereal Research presents topics.
York County 4-H swine roundup, Sechrist Sales, Stewartstown, show at 3 p.m., sale at 8 p.m.
Tuesday, July 10
Invitational Livestock Judging Contest, Snyder Farm, near New Tripoli,
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