

LIFE on the farm

By Dieter Krieg, Editor

I was glad Dad wasn't around on July 16, 1969 and a few days thereafter. That's because the work routine was adjusted pretty much during that week. Dad was never one to take time out or make postponements for anything.

But as far as I was concerned, a lot of things would just have to wait while I watched television.

Ordinarily I'm not at all excited about watching TV, but 10 years ago around this time the world was preparing to take "one small step for man, but one giant leap for mankind."

I'm an avid follower and supporter of the space exploration program, and I'm proud to admit it. And, if an important historic event such as the

blast-off of a Saturn rocket was to be broadcast on television, I made every effort to get to see it. It never mattered how many blast-offs I had seen previously. They were all interesting and exciting.

So I watched Werner Von Braun, the famed German-born genius of rocketry, Walter Cronkite, anchorman for CBS, and Christopher Craft, at "Mission Control," among others, as they showed and explained what was going on. As far as I was concerned, what I was watching represented one of the proudest moments of all history.

America may have a long list of significant achievements, but as far as my life-time was concerned, none could top a trip to the moon.

The three astronauts aboard the Apollo space craft became heroes. Their names - Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin, and Michael Collins - were household words at the time. Now, unfortunately, they're beginning to fade from memory.

The television crews used to devote most of the day to broadcasting what was happening at Cape Kennedy and beyond. As commentators talked, I watched the vapors escape from the powerful rocket - many times taller and heavier than the biggest silo on any farm. It was hard to comprehend that any such thing could get off the ground! In fact, that big beautiful thing was going to go all the way to the moon!

It was fascinating, to say the least. Words can't describe the awesomeness of the project and how thrilling it was to see it all happen.

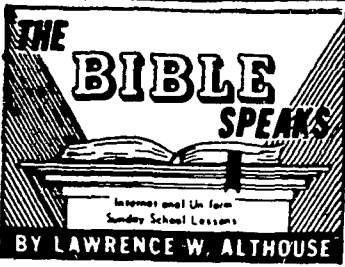
In recent weeks we were all reminded of the phenomenal dimensions of the space program. Not only did we read about Skylab and its death over the Indian Ocean and Australia, an unmanned spacecraft is sending sharp pictures of Saturn back to Earth.

America's flight to the moon represented a project which

benefited more than science and industry. Just as important, or perhaps even more so, was the fact that the project gave us all something we could be proud of. There was, and still is, opposition to the space program, but for the most part it was an undertaking which had the backing of the entire country. We don't have much of that anymore. But that's exactly what we need to help solve the problems we're facing.

Yes, life on the farm was changed temporarily for me when a powerful Saturn rocket left Earth. And when you think of all the technological advancements that have come about since those famous days of July, 1969, you realize that farming itself has changed because of what was learned through the space program. The fancy tractors and milking parlors with computerized circuitry and space-age plastics are just two examples.

Next Friday will be the 10th anniversary of man's first moon-landing. I'll be observing it with pride. And if there are any television documentaries about it, I'm hereby giving notice of my intentions to watch as many as possible.



THE PROPHETS WE HATE

Lesson for July 15, 1979

Background Scripture:
1 Kings 22
Devotional Reading:
Psalms 86 1-13

King Ahab had four hundred and one prophets. Four hundred of these men pleased him greatly, but there was one whom he deeply hated. Just one prophet among so many...but that one man was enough to feed Ahab's anxieties.

Ahab, King of Israel, attempts to persuade Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, to join him in a military campaign against Syria for the purpose of wresting control over the city of Ramoth-gilead. Jehoshaphat is almost persuaded, but, being a devout man, he

requests that they "Inquire first the word of the Lord" (1 Kings 22:5).

Another Prophet?

So Ahab assembles four hundred of his four hundred and one prophets and in response to his question, "Shall I go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or shall I forbear?", they reply: "Go up; for the Lord will give it into the hand of the King" (22:6). Four hundred prophets in agreement! That should have clinched the matter. But something must have told Jehoshaphat that four hundred prophets were not enough. Is there not

here another prophet of the Lord of whom we may inquire?" (22:7).

There is nothing subtle about Ahab's petulant response: "There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the Lord, Micaiah the son of Imlah; but I hate him, for he never prophesies good concerning me, but evil" (22:8). Obviously Ahab judges a prophet by one criterion alone - whether or not he tells him what he wants to hear! Ahab hates Micaiah, not because he is not an authentic spokesman for the Lord, but because he disturbs Ahab with his prophecies.

But Jehoshaphat prevails upon Ahab and Micaiah is summoned to prophesy on the campaign. Ahab is shocked when Micaiah mimics the advice of the four

hundred prophets: "Go up and triumph, the Lord will give it into the hand of the king" (22:15). At last,

Micaiah has told Ahab what he wants to hear, but Ahab doesn't believe him. He suspects that the prophet is poking fun at him and asks Micaiah how many times he will have to ask before the prophet tells him the truth.

Didn't I Tell You?

He doesn't have to wait long and when the prophet tells him of his impending defeat and death at Ramoth-gilead, Ahab turns triumphantly to Jehoshaphat: "Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?" (22:18). Later, when it was too late, he would learn that Micaiah alone of the four hundred and one prophets had spoken the truth.

But, really, is Ahab's reaction all that hard for us to understand? Do not most of us have some prophets whom we hate - for much the same reasons?



NOW IS THE TIME

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

TO KEEP RECORD OF PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS

The importance of keeping accurate record of all applications of pesticides comes to our attention at this time. As we all should realize, the Food and Drug Administration is constantly monitoring our feed and food crops. Some of the tests are quite accurate and can detect a very small amount of residue. When these residues are found in excess of the tolerance level, the product may not be permitted to be sold. In these cases it is very important to have written record of the material that was used.

There could be moral and financial assistance if approved materials were used correctly. These records should be kept on crop applications as well as on livestock. Don't depend upon your memory for these important records.

TO CONTROL WEEDS

All kinds of weeds are maturing and the battle continues for good control. In the last few days we have seen Canada Thistle seeds blowing in several localities. This will surely bring complaints from the general public. As we have mentioned previously, we urge every land owner to try and control Canadian Thistles on their property. Some local ordinances require the control of these weeds. We suggest more rigid enforcement of these ordinances. Farmers should take the lead in trying to

eliminate so many thistles. At this time of the year mowing is the best control. Several weeks ago the spraying with some weed killer, when in the early bud-development stage, would have prevented them from developing seed heads. Don't be content to stand by and observe the thistle seeds blowing over the landscape.

TO OBSERVE CORN SILKS

Folks are asking about the danger of Japanese beetle preventing the pollination of both field and sweet corn. This could happen if the beetle eat off the silk before the corn pollinates. We urge growers to inspect their corn fields frequently in the next few weeks. If less than 50% of the stalks are in silk and if two or more beetles are found on these early silks, then some spraying could prevent loss of good

pollination. If 75% or more of the stalks are silking when the first beetle are noticed, then it is doubtful if spraying will be needed. Insecticides such as Sevin, Diazinon, or Malathion can be used to kill Japanese Beetle. In most cases field spraying is not practical for the control of beetles. Some gardeners may want to spray in order to get perfect pollination.

TO BE CAREFUL WITH SEED WHEAT

Many local growers have reported poor kernel development in the wheat heads. Some are lacking any normal wheat kernels; others have poorly developed kernels. This condition is caused by two possibilities, one known as Scab and the other is Glume Blotch. Both of these diseases can cause poor seed head development. Also, there is some possibility of

toxicity in these poorly developed kernels, we are investigating this item. In the meantime we suggest that growers observe the

condition of their wheat heads and be careful about using the wheat for seed purposes this fall without disease treatment.

Farm Calendar

Today, July 14

Polled Hereford Field Day, Spring Bottom Farm, Fairfield, 9 a.m.

Lancaster County 4-H horse show, 9 a.m. Lancaster County Riding Club, Columbia Pike, Lancaster

Alternate Energy Fair, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fellowship House Farm, Fegleysville, east of Pottstown.

Colonial Charolais Junior Show and Field Day, Myers Charolais Farm, Clear Spring, Md.

Monday, July 16

York County 4-H horticulture picnic and tour, Harold Raubenstein farm, Hanover, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 18

York County 4-H dress rode, at the 4-H Center, 9 a.m.

Soil Conservation Field Day, Donald Mowrer farm, Marietta.

Thursday, July 19

Land use workshop, Capitol Campus of Penn State University, Middletown, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Land use laws and legislation,

government's role in land use control and control techniques such as taxation, transfer and purchase of development rights, agricultural districts and the free market place will be discussed.

Friday, July 20

Pennsylvania Seedmen's Association Summer Meeting, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hershey Parkview Manor, Hershey (next to Chocolate World).

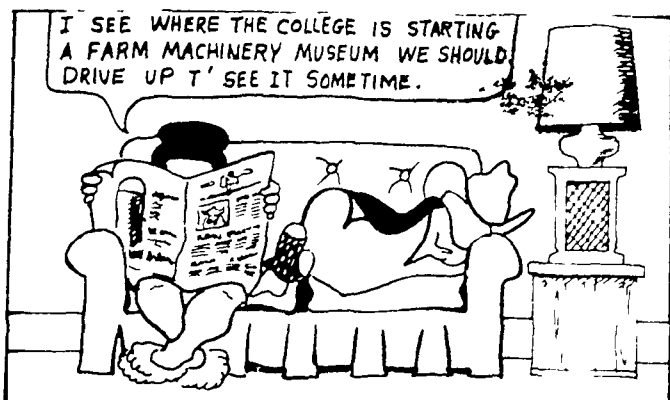
State Conference of DHIA supervisors, Keller Conference Center, Penn State University, today and tomorrow.

Farmers Market opens at Liberty Village parking lot, Hunterdon County, N.J.

Harford County Farm Bureau picnic and Farm Queen Contest, Rocks 4-H Camp Grounds, afternoon.

European farm tour slide program, open to all persons interested. Free admission, Fulton Bank, Main Street, Akron, 7 p.m.

RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong

