

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

BY DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR
*I say good bye, and thank you all
 for the satisfaction I found*

Today marks the closing of a chapter in my life. It's time to say good bye.

In doing so, I want to acknowledge once again the appreciation I have for the thousands of people who have made me feel welcome in their homes, on their farms, at their field days, and at numerous other gatherings. I want to thank those who wrote and called or chatted with me at meetings. That, more than anything, made my job pleasant and rewarding.

Since becoming editor of **Lancaster Farming** in July of 1975 I've had the personal satisfaction of watching this newspaper's readership double. That fact is an intangible trophy for me, and I have all of the subscribers to thank for it.

The editorship of **Lancaster Farming** has been a rewarding and educational experience. Yes, it's been a demanding job too - I think every bit as much as farming - but it's all been worth it. The tasks and the hours aren't so bad if one enjoys his work. You, the readers, have helped to make it that way.

I've gained many friends and recognition. My position has allowed me to experience situations which are truly unusual and gratifying. For example, I've dined with Amish families in Lancaster County, and I've been to the White House twice to meet with the President. I've

traveled to parts of the country which I might otherwise have only read about.

This job has been an education over and over again. The entire world has become bigger because of it. The hundreds of farmers I've talked to had interesting ideas to share, as did the scores of agricultural leaders and researchers I've become acquainted with. All that and more helped to make my job interesting.

I can honestly say, as a final editorial note, that I would encourage people - young and old alike - to mingle with one another at neighborhood picnics, educational functions, banquets, fairs, or what have you. It has proven to me that a warm, honest, friendly, helpful spirit is very much alive in our farming communities. That's a credit to our families, community, and country. Please keep it up.

Being a sentimental person, the memories of my 4-year career here at **Lancaster Farming** will undoubtedly linger on for the rest of my life.

I have much to be thankful for.

I thank God for the guidance He has given and all of you for the support you have shown.

It is time to say good bye.

In doing so, I offer my best wishes to my successor, and all who made my job a pleasant assignment.

Auf Wiedersehen!

Tobacco crop

(Continued from Page 1) the symptoms of wilting and breaking of the stalk.

The disease was brought to the attention of John Yocum

and Arnold Lueck a month ago. By the time the disease was noticed in the field most of the damage to the plants had occurred so spraying was not recommended.

According to Donald

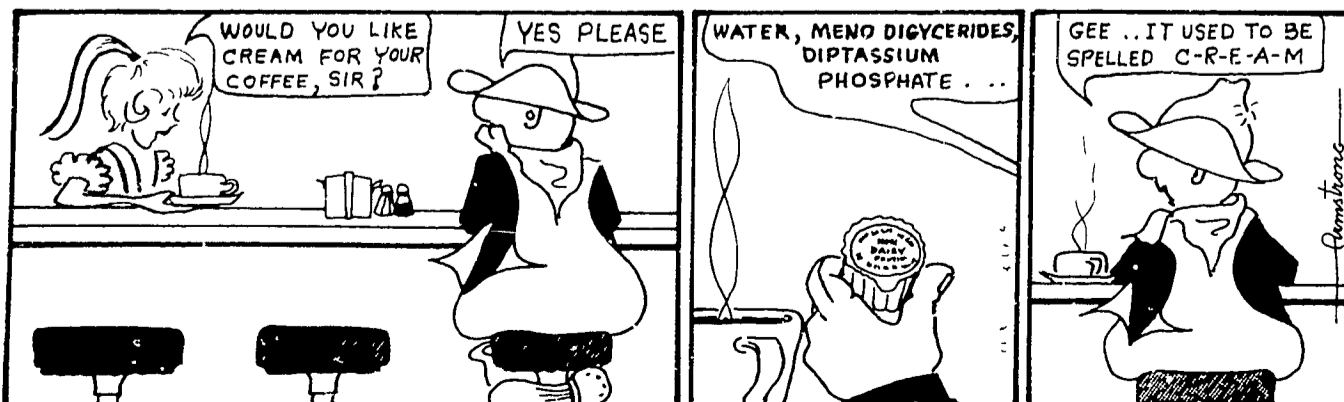
Rohrer, a Strasburg area tobacco grower, blue mold is more noticeable in the newer tobacco varieties. John Yocum admits that at the present time there is no type

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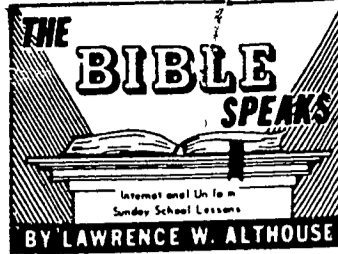


John Yocum points to the yellow spots and dead areas of a tobacco leaf at the Penn State research farm near Landisville. This spotting results from the blue mold disease.

RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong



NATIONAL SECURITY

Lesson for August 19, 1979

Background Scripture:
 2 Kings 16;

Isaiah 7 through 8.

Devotional Reading:
 Psalms 25:1-10.

King Ahaz holds a rather dubious distinction: he was despised even more than most of the kings of Judah. In a sense it might be said that he excelled in being a terrible monarch.

The reason for his blackened memory was his betrayal of the worship of the one God of the Hebrew faith. The heinous practice of child sacrifice was reintroduced by this king who led the way in sacrificing his own son. It also appears that he took an active role in introducing other religions into the life of Judah.

Anyone who has studied the Old Testament with any depth knows that Ahaz was one of a number of kings of Judah and Israel who reigned as virtual enemies of God. But it is not enough for us to dismiss Ahaz simply as just one more evil king. If his story is to have any value for us at all, we must try to discover why he did what he did. And if we make that discovery, we will find that we stand much closer to Ahaz than we might have imagined.

Come, Rescue Me!

Why did Ahaz encourage the intrusion of pagan religions? Was it that he wanted to defy the God of Israel and Judah? Was it because he wanted to lead his people into debauchery and moral ruin? Probably not. When we read his story in 2 Kings 16 we detect that his strategy is a practical one, rather than theological. His kingdom stands in peril of being overwhelmed by Judah's traditional foes, Israel and Syria. Both of these nations alone were mightier than little Judah; together they were truly frightening.

So Ahaz did what countless other statesmen in the same predicament have done: he made an alliance with an even stronger power in order to protect his kingdom. To the mighty Assyrian king, Tiglathpileser, he sent a desperate message: "I am your servant and your son. Come up and rescue me..." (2 Kings 16:7). Ahaz bought Judah's protection at the price of groveling before the mighty Assyrians.

Up To Damascus

In the short run it was a wise move. Tiglathpileser



TO ATTEND AG PROGRESS DAYS

To the best of my knowledge Pennsylvania does not have a State Fair. Most folks feel that the State Farm Show in January takes place of a State Fair. There is another event that helps fill the lack of a State Fair and that is Pennsylvania Ag Progress Days.

This huge event is to be held August 21 - 23 at the Rock Springs Research Farm near State College, Pa. For the purpose of farm crops and farm machinery exhibits and demonstrations there is nothing in the state to equal Ag Progress Days.

In addition, there are displays and events for youth and for women. A brochure is available from any Pennsylvania Extension Office that will give full details. This should be another very helpful and educational event.

TO ESTABLISH SECURITY MEASURES

Farmers have a difficult task of protecting their property from robbery and thefts. They have so much equipment and livestock in different places. However, we suggest that every effort be made to protect farm materials and animals. Good lighting during the night is very helpful.

A good watch dog can be used to warn owners that strangers are around. To keep machinery sheds and shops under lock and key is also suggested. Dairy and livestock producers may want to keep gates locked. Loading chutes make it easy for the theft of livestock unless the gate or bars are locked. Some attention to the protection of property is suggested at this time.

TO MEET

MARKET DEMANDS

Livestock producers should make every effort to put out animals that are in strong demand. We are aware of the situation in the fat cattle market where

feeders are continuing to feed heavy cattle hoping that the prices will advance. This is a risky decision because too many times the market does not improve; the result is that the heavy cattle are discounted and the cost of gains were too high.

With the value of feed grains stronger than in recent months, it continues to be questionable about feeding cattle too long. This same thing is true in hog production. The producer should keep abreast of the market and try to move the animals when they reach that certain weight and grade. To keep them on feed longer is poor economics.

In addition, we might add that when market animals are slaughtered the feeder should try to learn how they suited the packer. Too many bruises, or too much of other unsatisfactory things, will turn the buyer away from that string of livestock the next time.

TO MAKE GOOD CORN SILAGE

In a few weeks some livestock and dairy producers will be making corn silage. This is one of the most economical feeds known today. We urge growers to cut the corn in the dent state when feed value is at the peak. Silage additives, such as urea for dairy and beef animals, and ground limestone for beef cattle, will improve the feeding value of the silage. When corn is cut at the proper stage of maturity no preservatives should be needed. Silages made from other than whole-plant corn may need some feed additives (ground grains or sweet mixes), organic acids, or sodium metabisulfite.

Additional information on these materials may be obtained by contacting your local Extension Agent. To make corn into silage is one of the best methods of preserving the maximum feed nutrients from the crop.

Farm Calendar

Today, August 18

Northeast Chianina Field Day at Lauxmont Farms, south of Wrightsville.

responded to the plea and devastated Syria with his massive armies. In the long run, however, Ahaz, it turned out, paid a price far too great. He and his kingdom not only became the puppets of Assyria, but the introduction of the Assyrian religions into Judah sealed the demise of that kingdom.

If was not that Ahaz hadn't been warned. Isaiah, inspired by God, called Judah to put their trust in God alone, not their alliances. But Ahaz did not listen and disaster was the eventual result.

It is so easy for us today to discern Ahaz's tragic mistake. Yet Ahaz's ghost rises from the pages of our Bible to point an ethereal finger at us and ask: "And where do you turn for your national security?"

Sunday, Aug. 19

Lancaster County Farmers Association picnic at the Quarryville Fairgrounds, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 21

Ag Progress Days start, continue through Thursday at Penn State University's research farm in Centre County.

Lancaster County Guernsey Field Day at Bob Rohrer Farm, Lume Valley Road, near Lampeter, 7 p.m.

All New Jersey Holstein Show, Warren County Fairgrounds, Harmony, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 22

Threshermen's Reunion at Rough and Tumble Engineering Grounds, Kinzers. Today through Saturday.