

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

What's happening to Penn National show?

There was a time not too long ago when the Pennsylvania National Horse Show was one of the top events on the national horse circuit.

In fact, the Harrisburg show was one of three accredited horse shows in North America, basking in its fame with the successful shows held in Madison Square Gardens, New York, and the annual event in Toronto, Canada.

But where was the glory this week as horsemen from all over the Northeast assembled for the 34th annual Penn National at Farm Show?

Where were the packed houses which used to grace the Farm Show in bygone years and still flood the gates at Madison Square Garden?

Was it only the imagination of those at the Show, or were most of the people in the Large Arena really friends and family of those showing animals on the tanbark?

The furor over judging at last year's Show did little to please even those regulars who have supported the Penn National for years. Whether or not the complaints from showmen were justified, the poor publicity

within horsemen's ranks did little to boost the Show's image.

Despite the flood-washed Farm Show location, most exhibitors would agree Harrisburg is a better location for a major horse show than either New York or Washington, D.C., Penn National's major competitors.

Anyone who has ever jockeyed a horse trailer across Long Island appreciates the easy access to the Farm Show facilities. And accommodations must seem plush for anyone used to trucking horses from the Washington armory back to the stall area and back again the next day.

But still, the exhibitors and spectators alike flock to these shows and leave Penn National a relative wallflower.

It can't be the price of admission. Tickets to Penn National are dirt cheap when compared to the \$7.50 a seat spectators pay to get a look at the finest horses at the Garden.

It's not lack of interest in horse circles. Introduction of a pony division to include hackney, harness and roadster classes delighted a

number of exhibitors and proved the Penn National still is a growing and progressive show.

It's not convenience. Few show arenas can boast the convenience offered by Farm Show. A tangle of Interstate highways weave through Harrisburg. The Farm Show itself is only a few hundred yards from I-81.

The majority of complaints seem to stem from a lack of attendance by non-exhibitors.

How much fun is it for a junior exhibitor to show a horse to a vast, dark, empty hall? Even when the judge booms out the showman's name on the loudspeaker, the announcement has a hollow sound, echoing through an empty arena.

Since the International teams no longer compete at Penn National, much of the flair of the week long show is gone.

Some exhibitors indicate they are tired of paying their own way. They feel, with some justification, that purses should be supported by admission fees.

Exhibiting animals can become expensive if entry fees, drug fees, vet

bills, feed, board and travel expenses have to be covered by a purse only a few dollars higher than the original entry fee. Showmen finishing lower down the ladder hardly can hope to cover costs.

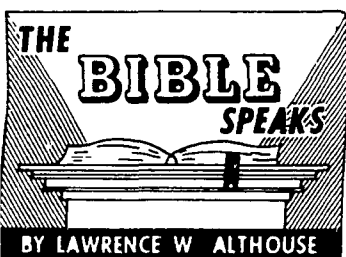
The Pennsylvania National Horse Show needs a whopping booster shot. Better publicity would help.

Even within horse circles, most of the emphasis went to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police—who provide a fantastic show, but can't be considered the focus of a week-long event.

There were too many local and regional attractions and exhibitors neglected in the promotional efforts.

The Show's officers and exhibitors alike need to join hands and encourage those outside traditional horse circles to buy tickets, attend the Show. Bathe the Penn National in an aurora of a high class spectacle. Make people crave tickets the way others long for Super Bowl seats.

The Pennsylvania National Horse Show is a fine event with a long tradition. It shouldn't be allowed to slip away from the public's eye.



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

GROWING OLD AND GROWING UP

Lesson for October 21, 1979

Background Scripture: Philippians 3.
Devotional Reading: Psalms 92:12-15.

A little girl who fell out of bed during the night explained to her mother: "I guess I fell asleep too near to where I got in."

Lots of people need to make the same confession concerning their lives: it is obvious that they have fallen asleep along life's way and are still all too close to where they started. Somewhere along the way they reach a point at which they decided that growth was no longer necessary. It was at this point that they stopped growing and started growing old.

There's a difference. In our culture today we are

very concerned about growing old and we take great pains to hold onto youth - or the appearance of it - at all costs. But the problem that should concern us is not that of growing older, but of maturing as we do.

I Have Not Arrived

The problem is that many of us come to that place in life where we assume that we have "arrived." We think that we have finally reached that place that is our destiny and objective. That particular "place" may vary somewhat from life to life, but it is either at a rather young age or somewhere in the "middle years."

Paul the Apostle was a man of great Christian maturity, yet in his letter to the Philippians he confesses: "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect: but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own" (3:12). Paul was constantly inspired by Christ to continue to grow toward a high ideal which always was just beyond his reach. He never felt he had arrived. Sometimes when you are going through the mountains, you climb and climb to reach the top of the ridge that dominates the horizon, but when you get to

the top, you see for the first time other ridges before you that beckon you onward. That's the way it is with Christian growth: every height attained helps us to see another height waiting beyond us.

What Lies Behind

One of the obstacles to growth is our preoccupation with the past. Paul puts it plainly when he says, "but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on..." (3:13). That is the only way we can grow beyond the past.

The headmaster of a New

England private school, in appointing a young man as head of one of the departments, passed over several men who had longer tenures at the school. When they protested that they had had much more experience than the young man, the headmaster replied: "No, in reality you have not had twenty years' experience. You have had one year's experience twenty times over." These men had obviously fallen asleep too near to the place where they had "gotten in."

It is said that no one grows old. You are old when you stop growing.



TO SEGREGATE NEW ANIMALS

This time of the year is one when many new feeder cattle arrive on local farms; this may also be true with

feeder pigs. These animals may not come down with infectious diseases because they may have had several injections to build up an immunity. However, they might very easily carry diseases to local livestock. This has happened in many cases. The new animals started well and were never sick; however, they brought

infection home to the acclimated livestock. Close supervision and segregation for 30 days is a very good practice. This is also true in the purebred business with all species of livestock.

TO SOW WHEAT

In the past week we have had a number of phone calls relating to the time of seeding winter barley and

wheat. Barley should be in the ground just as soon as possible. I hope that all growers will have it sowed by the time they read this article. However, there is still ample time to seed winter wheat. Mid to late October has usually given very good yields in this part of the state. When seeded during the latter part of

October, there should not be any trouble with Hessian Fly infection; this insect can bother some varieties that are seeded in late September or early October.

TO ERADICATE LIVESTOCK PARASITES

Both internal and external parasites reduce animal health and efficiency. During these times when livestock feeding profits need to be made of the gains,

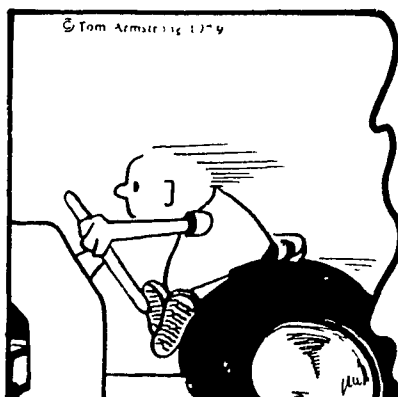
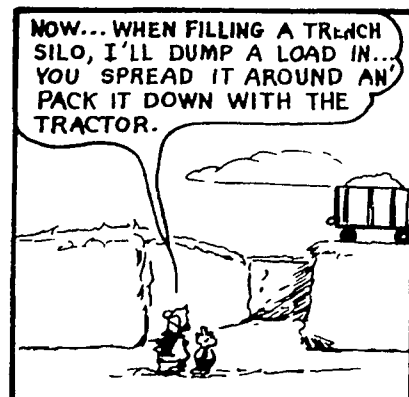
rather than on the margin, feed efficiency becomes very important. All feeder calves should be treated for stomach worms soon after arrival on the farm. This same thing is true with dairy heifers in this part of the state. Heavy population of livestock makes the parasite problem more severe. Fecal samples of animals taken to

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NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong

Farm Calendar

Monday, October 22
Fourth Annual Apple Medley, 6:30 p.m., Elkton Methodist Church, Elkton, Md.
Tuesday, October 23
Update on farm legislation, Dover Area High School, 7:30 p.m., in the ag classroom.

Wednesday, October 25
Chester County Holstein Association annual dinner meeting, 7 p.m. at the Upper Octorara Presbyterian Church.
Lancaster County Poultry Assn. annual banquet
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