

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



# Lancaster Farming says... Welcome, National Grangers

They'll be pulling in from all over the United States this weekend for the 113th annual session of the National Grange.

They'll come with boots and Stetsons from Texas, with strange accents from up in Maine and down in South Carolina, with many miles behind them from California and Arizona.

The Order of the Patrons of Husbandry, born in 1867, will carry on its long and fine tradition at the Host Farm for regular meetings, and the Host Corral for youth activities.

Dignitaries of local, state and national importance have readily agreed to appear on the stand to say a few words to the Grangers. After all, the Grange has a long history as an important lobbying group and it's a politically sound maneuver to greet friends from the farm at such a large convention.

But here in Lancaster County, and throughout much of southeastern Pennsylvania, things aren't quite the same as they were years ago.

It's almost certain our guests from the midwest soon will be bored with repeated statements to the effect that Lancaster County has the highest gross farm receipts of any non-irrigated county in the nation.

And they'll eventually stop marveling that Lancaster County has more cows than Lancaster City has people.

They may go home to Iowa convinced that there's a great agriculture in Pennsylvania tucked in somewhere between the steel mill smoke stacks and the scars left by our coal mines.

They may not believe, as they return to North Dakota, that farm-land assessments are vital to survival here and may one day be vital there.

They might not want to here about our problems with nuisance ordinances. But history will repeat itself and the Grange, if it is to continue to fight legislative battles in the farmers' best interests, needs to be strong.

It's no secret the Grange, like many other organizations, is fighting to keep membership numbers up in many states. Perhaps a "radical" proposal advanced by Pennsylvanians last year deserves to be reconsidered by Grangers as they head home for another year's work at local Granges.

Pennsylvania Grangers a year ago approved by two-thirds majority a call for Affiliate membership.

Such members would pay dues but would not be involved in voting or ritual. They would be showing their interest and support for Grange policies.

Unfortunately, the Pennsylvania proposal never even was reported out of committee at last year's annual session. What a disappointment.

There is little reason to doubt the Grange's claim to possessing one of the most beautiful rituals in the world. But ritual for ritual's sake is vacant of meaning.

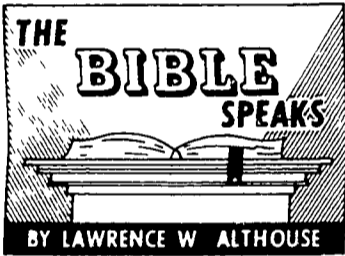
The Affiliate membership proposal

would in no way disturb the ritual. It simply would allow the Grange to add to its numbers and political clout. It would give rural folks interested in supporting Grange policy a vehicle to do so without feeling like complete outsiders. It would put zoom in sagging membership in some states, add weight to political influence in others.

The Grange's history is progressive, from its legislative stands to its treatment of women. In a world where womens' rights are trendy, the Grange can point out it has four of 16 offices which can be held only by women and it was first to give women equal voice and vote.

As sessions at the 113th meeting are conducted, it may be well to ask how many more solid rural folks would back the Grange as Affiliate members, and how much stronger the Grange's voice could be.

For these nine days, at least, enjoy Pennsylvania at its autumn finest. And welcome, Grangers, to family farm living at its best.



## THE END OF HOSTILITY

Lesson for November 11, 1979

**Background Scripture:**  
Ephesians 2:11 through 3:21.  
**Devotional Reading:**  
Ephesians 3:7-13.  
Some hostility is blind and irrational, but often it is

quite understandable. I have been to Israel and I can easily understand why the Israeli is often bitter and cynical. The shadow of the Holocaust is never eclipsed for long. Nor do I find it hard to understand why my Palestinian Christian friend despises his Israeli overlords who seize his home and harass him every day of his life. There is--unfortunately--nothing unreasonable or irrational about the way the Jew or the Arab feels. A case is easily made for either.

**The Dividing Wall**  
I find myself similarly torn when I weigh the pros and cons of the strife in

Ireland. Reason alone would be sufficient to motivate me to stand with either side. Neither faction is completely on the side of the angels or the demons. I can rationalize the bitterness and hatred that exists on both sides of the wall.

What is true in the Middle East and in Ireland, I'm sure, is true in many other areas of the world where there are bitter conflicts and violent warfare. What makes them so difficult to mediate is that it is seldom a case of the "good guys" versus the "bad guys." There is usually something to be said for and against both factions.

As a rationalist, therefore, I find it easy to understand these bitter and violent emotions and the often tragic consequences they bring. But the Christian is called to be something more--not less but more--than a rationalist! The gospel of Jesus Christ does not for one moment deny the justifications for these human tragedies, but it does call us to go considerably further than reason along to catch a glimpse of God's will and purpose for humanity that most certainly transcends those justifications. Although we may understand how those dividing walls came to be, we are also

called to understand that those dividing walls are meant to be broken down.

### Made Us Both One

The writer of Ephesians catches this great vision and shares it with us: "For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility..." (2:14). God intends something more for humanity than dividing walls, no matter how justified or reasonable they might be. There may be many reasons why you and I should be hostile to one another, but all those reasons melt in the light of

the love with which he loves us. The cross of Christ represents an even higher logic: "that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end" (2:15).

Ephesians tell us, "And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near" (2:16). He is still preaching that kind of peace to the world, calling us to bring our hostilities to an end--no matter how justified they may seem to us.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent  
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**TO INVEST IN LAND**  
Many folks are concerned as to whether or not land is a good investment at these high prices. That is, the prices seem high at the present time. According to the most recent information

farmland prices rose about 14 percent last year. They have been on the increase for the past decade or more and there is every indication they will continue to increase in the eighties. Some forecasters are so bold to say that land prices will at least double in the next 10 to 15 years. One thing is certain is that we will not have any more land to deal with; we'll have to utilize the land surface that is currently in

the United States. Also, it appears that we have a strong demand for land from many angles. All of this points to the decision that land will continue to be a good investment in the future.

**TO CHECK FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**  
This is the time of the year when farm buildings include maximum amounts of feed and livestock. Fire extinguishers should be a part

of all farm equipment and also, in the home and other places where there is equipment and people. The first step is to have the extinguishers; the second step is to be sure they are in good working condition; the third step is to be sure that all members of the force and family know where they are located and how to operate them. In many cases a good fire extinguisher can help control a fire until the fire

company arrives. Be sure they are filled with the proper chemicals and are in good condition.

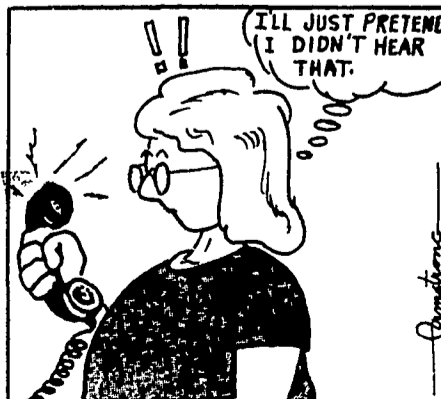
### TO EXERCISE DAIRY COWS

I fear that too many dairymen keep their milking cows confined to the stall barns too much of the time. This is very easy to do when short of farm labor during the winter months. In order to have a healthy herd the cows should be allowed outside exercise daily unless severe weather conditions exist. This exercise will not

only keep their feet and legs in better condition but will permit the cows in heat to be detected; this is often a problem when cows are confined too much of the time. If the herd is turned out from 15 to 30 minutes each day, there will be very few days that the weather will interfere, and the time involved will be very worthwhile.

**TO SEGREGATE "SLOW" ANIMALS**  
Many new animals are added to local herds this

## RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong

## Farm Calendar

Today, November 10  
Dauphin County 4-H Achievement night at the Susquehanna High School starting at 6:30 p.m.

Loganville 4-H Achievement night dinner at Codorus Church of the Brethren starting at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 11  
PFA Annual meeting at Hershey Motor Lodge continues through Wednesday.

Monday, November 12  
National Grange Convention today through November

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