

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

Agriculture to the rescue

Back in the 1930s it was easy to tell a hero: he rode the fastest horse in the movie and always had a white hat.

In the 40s he was a Marine, somewhat dirty and usually grunting, but he did a job for his country.

In the 50s the hero was a ball player. He usually carried a black bat and swaggered a bit as he came off the bench, to face a do-or-die situation the way any hero should.

But in the past decade, Americans have a new hero. He rides a John Deere, still grunts a lot. His cap has a seed corn logo above the visor.

With the 1980s less than a full week old, the hero of the 70s was called on to pinch hit again.

The Soviet Union has invaded Afghanistan and the United States of America, with all of its military budget and high priced generals once again turned to its pinch hitter to do something to save the day.

It isn't the first time farmers have been called upon to save the day for the country. They endured the pain of the Nixon Administration's wheat deal, forfeiting millions of dollars in potential profits in the name of diplomatic strategy.

Just two short years after that the

farmer, with promises of unlimited markets planted fencerow-to-fencerow and produced the biggest crop ever, only to see trade embargoes slapped on his goods.

And now, in early 1980, the farmer once again finds his production will be a pawn in the chess game of international politics.

U.S. President Jimmy Carter told the Russians that 17 million tons of grain, in excess of the amount we are committed to sell, will not be delivered.

This was more than a slap at the Russians. The 1979 USSR grain crop was a disaster, down more than 25 percent from the previous year. The Russians were counting on purchasing grain in excess of that called for in our five year agreement to cover this shortfall.

Carter said the grain was not intended for human consumption but was to be used for building up Soviet livestock herds.

Be that as it may, it means the Russians will slaughter rather than feed a great deal of cattle this year and will not hold back the breeding stock intended for market in 1982.

These long-term effects of the embargo probably will bother the

Russians more than the short term effects.

Carter said he was determined to minimize any adverse impact on the American farmer. He said the undelivered 17 million tons would be removed from the market through storage and price support programs. He spoke, too, of using the grain for gasohol.

But the farmer of today, unlike heroes of the past, receives no glory, no pat on the back, no cash bonus for playing the game.

While nobody would suggest the U.S. enter a shooting war with Russia, it's difficult to believe the American farmer won't be the one hurt most by the President's proposal.

Carter's announcement of the grain embargo was a shock to the grain marketing system. All member exchanges of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission closed down Monday and Tuesday to let the market digest the new developments.

A number of questions remain to be answered. Do farmers have a guarantee the grain will not come back onto the market at all? Won't

the very existence of the grain stocks be a drag on market prices, with a temptation to future administrations to release it to hold down consumer prices?

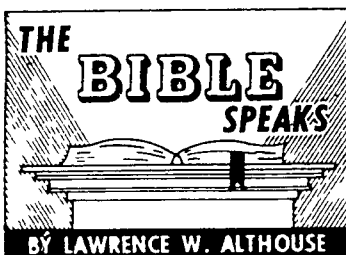
What provisions are made for keeping an orderly market should the Russians, by some outside chance, bow to our demands and ask for the grain? While the President's idea to use the grain for gasohol is laudable, where in this country do we have stills set up to use 17 million tons of grain? And at what price will the grain move?

Is it unpatriotic to ask these questions in time of national crisis? We think not. . . no more than it is unpatriotic for firms to assure themselves of a profit when they build tanks and airplanes.

We wonder, too, if the heroes of old didn't get tired of riding to the rescue again, climbing one more hill, warming the bench until the team was in trouble.

Farmers again are being asked to fill the gap. We'll do it because it is right, because our country calls.

But once, just once, it might be nice if payday were to come — even if only in the form of a pat on the back or a simple "thank you."



FRIENDS AT BETHANY

Lesson for January 13, 1980

Background Scripture:

John 11:1-44.

Devotional Reading:

Romans 6:1-11.

Among the most troubling

sentences in the gospels are these two:

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place that he was (John 11:5,6).

If I had been writing the script, I should have written:

...So when he heard that he was ill, he left immediately to go to his friends at Bethany!

But John does not report the incident as we would have written it, but as it was reported to him — baffling as Jesus' response to his friends may seem.

I Go To Awake Him!

The writer of the Fourth Gospel makes it evident that Jesus purposely delayed his departure for Bethany. And when, at last, Jesus approaches Bethany two days later, Martha realizes that there has been a tragic delay on the part of her friend: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (11:21). We cannot fail to detect the note of reproach in this greeting. Martha might just as well have demanded: "Why didn't you come right away?"

Some of the neighbors of the Bethany family of Martha, Mary and Lazarus

also were dumbfounded by Jesus' seemingly callous tardiness: "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" (11:37).

His disciples didn't understand; Martha and Mary did not understand; and the People of Bethany did not understand either. But the writer of John indicates that from the very beginning Jesus has a higher purpose to perform. It is because of his love for the Bethany family that he delays. Even as he leaves for Bethany, it is apparent that Jesus knows that Lazarus is already dead and the resurrection of his

friend in Bethany is planned as an opportunity wherein the Son of God may be glorified. "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awake him out of sleep." (11:11).

Yes, Lord

Yet, even in her sorrow, there is a flicker of faith in Martha, for, after reproaching her friend, she says, "And even now I know that what you ask from God, God will give you" (11:23). And it is this confession of faith that brings forth the true meaning of this event: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in

me, though he die, yet shall he live. . . Do you believe this?"

So Lazarus was resurrected because his sisters trusted in the Master. But eventually he would die again — as we all do. So the meaning of this incident is, not that the disciple of Jesus Christ shall not experience death, but that he is the Lord of life and death and, if we put ourselves in his keeping, then we will know that victory of eternal life that transcends death of all kinds experienced on either side of the grave.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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TO ORDER SPRING SUPPLIES

It might seem a bit cold and wintry to be thinking about spring plantings and

spring work, but it is not too soon. According to the calendar about 8 to 10 weeks from now we will be thinking about making a garden and getting the early crops started. Supplies may not meet the demand on many items; therefore it is not too early to be placing your order. We have already stressed the need of buying

fertilizers early because of higher prices. Many agribusiness concerns will appreciate early orders to give good service.

TO SERVICE FARM MACHINERY

This is the time of the year to be getting the farm equipment ready for work. In the first place, it should be brought in out of the

weather. I still see too much machinery left out in the fields and barnyards. This is very poor management and will shorten the life of the equipment. The repairing of farm machinery is needed every year and now would be a good time to make use of the off-season labor supplies. Machinery is a huge investment and should be kept

in good condition at all times. Rain and snow results in rust development; rusty machinery has a shorter life span and will end in numerous break-downs.

TO PROTECT EYES

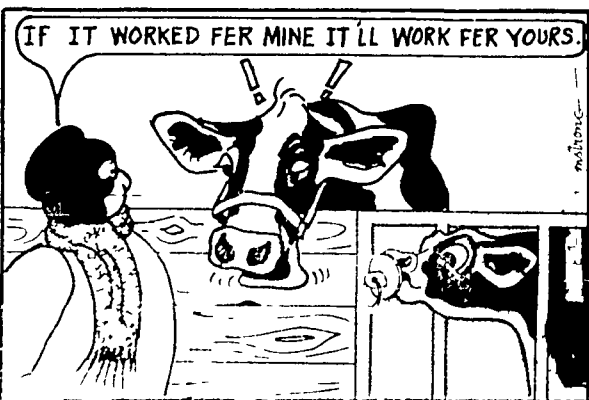
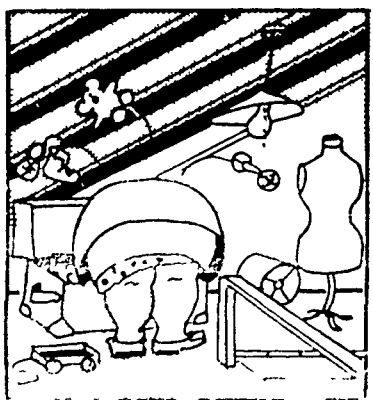
Many farmers are guilty of not wearing safety glasses or goggles as much as they should. When working around electric welding outfits it is a "must" to wear safety glasses. This same thing is true when using some pesticides in which

case the drift can be injurious to the eyes. After all, eye sight is one of the most important personal properties in life. The eyes should be protected at all times. Don't be guilty of taking chances with your eyes. Wear those safety glasses.

TO CHECK ICE THICKNESS

Ice skating is a very popular winter sport. Farm ponds offer this kind of (Turn to Page A43)

RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong

Farm Calendar

Tuesday, January 15
Delaware Dairy Day,
Sheraton Inn, Dover, 10
a.m.
Montgomery Co Turf School
& Exhibits, Westover
Country Club, continues
through Wednesday
Garden Spot Young Farmers

Meeting, financing farm
business, Garden Spot
High School, 7:30 p.m.
Franklin Co Corn Clinic,
Kauffman's Community
Center, 9 a.m. to 3:30
p.m.

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