

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

Beware still-born thinking

The absence of an alcohol producing still at the opening of the 1980 Farm Equipment Exposition was more than a vexation to visitors.

It was a prime example of bureaucracy at its worst.

The presence of the still had been promoted by the Farm Show, the Agriculture Department, and several other groups. Indeed, for many visitors it was a "must see."

In these days of one fuel crisis after another, the exhibit had an air of patriotism, a way to beat the Arabs with good old Yankee ingenuity.

It featured timely technology. It was educational.

It was of interest to farmers and other energy-buffs across the state.

At the ribbon cutting, State Representative Noah Wenger had hailed the Expo as an opportunity to see innovations in energy production.

All of this contributed to the confusion of Expo guests who wandered around the Farm Show building Thursday looking for this major attraction.

It wasn't there.

The state Liquor Control Board would not allow Martin Distributors to set up their still because they said Martins did not have the necessary permit.

One might have thought LCB

would have recognized the sentiments of the public and state legislature after the Horst incident. In that case, the lawmakers took less than 30 days to set right the problems created by a similarly narrow-minded interpretation of the liquor law.

But the survival of any bureaucracy depends on its

protection of what it sees as its turf. And if it contains C₂H₅OH in its chemical makeup, LCB wants a say in what goes on.

As it turns out, Martins had applied for the needed paperwork. Frantic phone calls by the Ag Department managed to cut some of the red tape. The still was set up on time for the final days of Expo.

LCB gained nothing but bad PR for its efforts. No moonshiners were put out of circulation.

But sizable numbers of Expo guests missed learning. It demonstrated to the disadvantage of all another case where the 'spirit' was not strong enough to overcome the letter of the law.

Get a big return for farm deposits

The days of "no deposit no return" are numbered. And starting this month a major U.S. farm chemical manufacturer is hopping on the anti-litter bandwagon.

Farmers long have decried the mess from non-returnable bottles and cans which litter every farm's roadfront footage. In addition to soda and beer cans, farm chemical containers often are found in the rubble along the fencerow.

Federal laws mandating safe disposal of chemical containers have placed a heavy burden on the farmer. Most local dumps or landfills want nothing to do with chemical waste of any sort, including the minor contribution a farmer would make.

The containers certainly are

useless once they have been emptied. Only a fool would refill a used container and risk contamination of whatever was put into it.

Now Monsanto Agricultural Products Co. has come up with a returnable herbicide drum, primarily for use with Lasso.

The firm will give farmers a \$20 rebate for each drum returned in good condition to the dealer. After acceptance by dealers, the drums will be shipped to a designated reclaimer by Monsanto distributors.

Unfortunately, the program applies only to 55 gallon drums of one material. But it does represent a start in the right direction.

We would encourage all chemical manufacturers to offer similar rebates, or deposits, on any pesticide

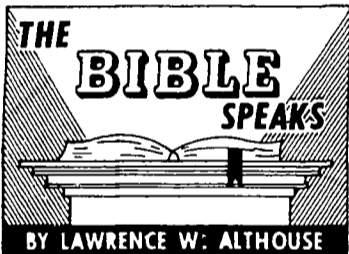
container they send out to the farm.

We can see no reason why such a program could not be just as successful in encouraging container returns as those run by local milk juggers or cider bottlers.

There would be a small burden shared by chemical dealers and farmers in getting containers back to the proper location. But the program should outweigh the small inconvenience of an added stop on a trip to town.

It would eliminate wasteful remanufacture of thousands of containers each year. It would assist farmers in the disposal of hazardous containers. It would slash the odds of children or livestock being poisoned.

In sum, it's a big return for a small deposit.



JUDAS ISCARIOT

Lesson for March 9, 1980

Background Scripture:

John 12:3-6; 13:21-30; 18:1-8.

Devotional Reading

John 15:1-11.

It was that "money box" that was the undoing of Judas Iscariot! Jesus had chosen Judas to be the keeper of the disciples' funds, but instead of Judas managing the money, it seems that the money managed him.

We must assume that Judas was not born a villain, but that he became one. When Jesus called this man to him, he no doubt saw something in him that would be helpful to him in his mission. Jesus probably admired his ability to take care of money. Some people seem to be talented in the handling of funds and Judas

was likely one of these. So, Judas was not doomed to become a traitor, but in time he doomed himself as he allowed money to distort his perspectives.

Satan Entered Him

We see some indication of this in the fact that the disciples of Jesus seemed not to suspect Judas of being a thief until after he had demonstrated his treachery by betraying the Master. Even at the Last Supper they do not suspect him when, in response to Jesus' "What you are going to do, do quickly," he abruptly leaves the Upper Room. John tells us: "Some though that,

because Judas had the money box, Jesus was telling him, 'Buy what we need for the feast'; or that he should give something to the poor" (13:29). Jesus alone seemed to know what had happened within Judas.

"So," says John, "after receiving the morsel, he immediately went out; and it was night" (13:30). It was only after he had eaten the morsel that, according to John, "Satan entered into him" (13:27). But, as John himself has previously indicated, Judas was already a thief, and we can only conclude that it was not the first time that "Satan en-

tered into him. Judas and Satan had already formed an alliance of sorts — not that Judas necessarily knew it. But his preoccupation with material wealth had allowed Satan entry into his life on many occasions, so that his final betrayal of his friend and Master was but the logical conclusion that followed the course he had already chosen.

With A Kiss

One cannot play with evil without paying a price. If we allow weeds to infest a small corner of our garden, we can hardly be surprised if the weeds begin to take over the whole thing. If we open the

door to one kind of corruption or wrong-doing, we will usually find that a whole troop of corrupting influences manages to slip inside while the door is open.

That distance from putting one's hand in the till to betraying the Master with a kiss is not so great as we might imagine. Our preoccupation with money and material things may seem a harmless enough deflection, but how many of us have been led astray — or nearly — because we have allowed ourselves to become captive to the very things that are given to us to manage?



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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TO EVALUATE AN ADVERTISEMENT

In the Feb 16 issue of Lancaster Farming there ap-

peared an advertisement of a soil inoculant. The ad reported on the results of testing this material at Penn

State University. In the Feb. 23 issue there appeared a "Letter to the Editor" from Dr. Dale E. Baker, Agronomy Chemist at Penn State, who was in charge of this research project. The interpretation of these results do not agree between the ad and Dr. Baker. I'd strongly

suggest that all readers study Dr. Baker's letter. After that evaluation, farmers and gardeners can make their own decision relating to the merits of the material.

TO TOP-DRESS PASTURES

Areas that are in perma-

nent pasture will respond well to additional fertilizer. On many farms this area cannot be used for crops, this does not mean that it cannot be productive. On straight grass pastures applications of a 10-10-10 fertilizer will make a big difference. In pastures with considerable clover fertilizer such as 0-20-20 will increase grazing capacity. Some livestock farmers will treat only part of an area

early in the spring to produce grazing several weeks earlier than the balance of the field. Just because a tract of land is permanent pasture is no reason that it cannot be productive.

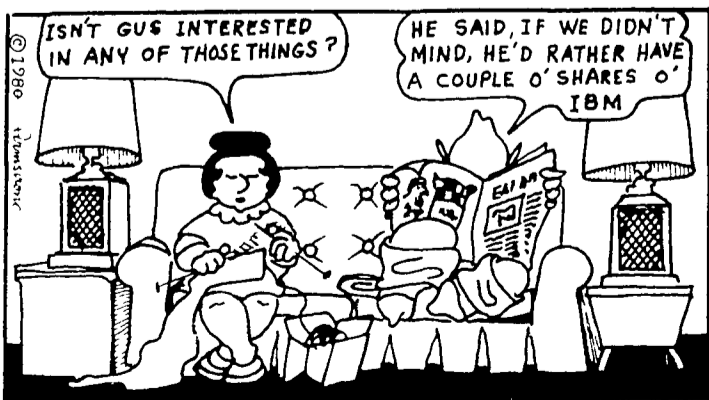
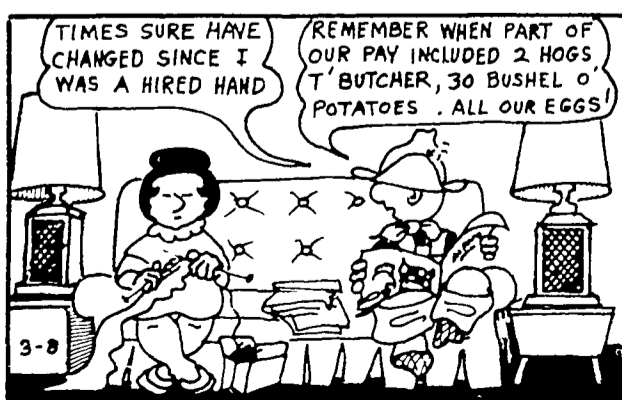
TO BE WARY OF LIQUID MANURE PITS

The time is here when many manure pits will be emptied on the fields. This by-product of the livestock

(Turn to Page A18)

RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Today, March 8
Forestry meeting at Blackbird State Forest, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Delaware
Elizabethtown Young Farmers Banquet 6:45 p.m. at Hostetter's Solar Water Heater Workshop, Lebanon Co. Extension Office

Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; 1:00 p.m. Sunday, March 9
Pennsylvania-Maryland Polled Hereford Association; 6:00 p.m.; at Green Mount fire Hall, Bus Rt 115, for performance test.
(Turn to Page A18)