

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

Here's the security we need

All parties to Pennsylvania's proposed Milk Security Fund were front and center Wednesday to show support for SB 1287.

That bill will establish a \$4 million fund, paid solely by milk handlers. While it includes provisions for a Co-op Fund, that probably will be ignored by co-ops who have made it plain they want nothing to do with security funds.

It includes the intent of the legislators to accelerate payment by handlers to the farmer. We applaud this inclusion and hope to see action taken on the prompt payment provision as soon as the fund gets off the ground.

Another important feature is that the title to milk changes at the farm—or as soon as the milk is transferred from farmer to buyer. This means milk shipped across state lines will be covered and farmers no longer have to sweat payment for milk which ended up at a dairy not covered by Pennsylvania law.

The fund will be established at the rate of one cent per hundredweight milk purchased, less exclusions for government purchases.

Pennsylvania Farmers' Association gave strong opposition to the penny rate, saying its members want a fund built at two cents. The statement

soured an otherwise harmonious session Wednesday.

We would hope PFA's members or dairy committee would adjust policy soon on this single point. All other parties involved made compromises.

Even should PFA not make this change the bill probably will pass as written. PFA members should take their representatives off the hook so they do not lose face and appear boorish on Capital Hill and in ag circles.

It is a bit ironic that the dairy co-ops had so much to say about SB 1287 when none of them will be participating in the fund it establishes.

The Milk Dealers deserve a nod for their stiff but fair opposition to many points of the bill. The fires forged a stronger program.

The bill has the support of both Democrats and Republicans. Senators Patrick Stapleton, Frank O'Connell, and their staffs deserve credit for shaping the bill and gathering support.

Such sentiment in both the upper and lower house should streamline the bill's course to the Governor's desk. The backing of Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell should assure the Governor's signature comes easily.

Fenton Murphy, chairman of the

cooperatives for a milk security fund, said the effort "is a milestone in agricultural history, because it represents so much cooperation over

so long a period of time." That it does.

After three years, dairymen will have the security they need.

We need Saturday mail

The Carter administration is considering elimination of Saturday mail as part of its anti-inflation strategy.

The House Budget Committee has asked that deliveries be cut in a move to save about \$500 million in expenses and reduce the government's subsidy. That figure is questioned by many postal experts.

The proposal quickly ran into trouble from all sorts of rural organizations.

And Congress should expect flack from its constituents, should the House or Senate move on such a proposal.

When a similar move to cut mail delivery from six days to five was proposed about three years ago, the House passed a resolution 377-9 urging the Postal Service to continue six-day delivery. If that is not a mandate we don't know what is.

This time, it seems, Congress isn't quite so sure about how people feel. Two Pennsylvania legislators this week indicated that if money could be saved by cutting mail service then

Saturday mail may have to go. But there is more to mail delivery than money.

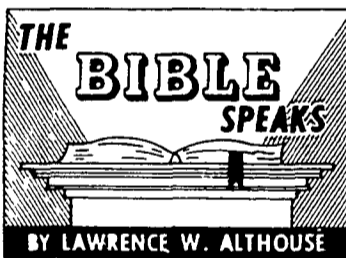
Weekly newspapers, received by 42.3 million Americans, are one of the reasons farmers need Saturday delivery. It's not only farm papers like **Lancaster Farming** which are distributed through the mail, but also local papers and the weekend editions of daily newspapers.

The House Post Office subcommittee figured going to five-day delivery would save less than a penny per letter in postal costs, hardly a major contribution to inflation.

There is also the importance of parcel post, containing shipments of parts and units needed as soon as possible for on-farm use.

Rural mail delivery in particular was set up to be a service, not a money maker.

Retreating to five day delivery to save a few cents is a poor idea. Farmers must let their legislators know any such idea should be nipped in the bud.



THOMAS

Lesson for March 30, 1980

Background Scripture:

John 11:7-8, 14-16;
14:1-7; 20:19-29.

Devotional Reading:

John 17:16-26.

In my opinion, Thomas' reputation as a cynic is undeserved. He has been tagged with "Doubting Thomas," and the name has stuck, despite the various positive qualities which this man displayed. I think Thomas was hard-headed, and at times given to pessimism, but I do not think he was the "Doubter" most people paint him to be.

Our first glimpse of him is in John 11 as we find him with Jesus and the disciples when the bad news of Lazarus's death reaches them. When Jesus proposes to re-enter Judea, his disciples are quick to warn him of the danger there from

his enemies. And who is it, who challenges the rest of the disciples to put his fear aside and join the Master in Judea? That's right, Thomas! "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (11:6). He was pessimistic about the consequences of this decision, but he did not waver in his loyalty.

How Can We Know?

Again we find Thomas with Jesus and the disciples in John 14. Jesus has been speaking to the uncomprehending disciples about his impending separation from them. Jesus reassures them that "you know the way where I am going" (14:4), although

obviously none of the disciples understand what Jesus is saying. They know, but they do not realize that they know. Most of the disciples, however, rather than admit their incomprehension, would remain silent at this point. Not Thomas, though, he wants to know what Jesus means! "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"

At this point, Thomas displays both a passion for understanding and great courage. He would rather ask Jesus' disdain than fail to grasp what the Master is saying. Thus the meaning is

made clear for all the disciples: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me" (14:6). Call it "doubt" if you will, but from his questioning there came greater faith.

My Lord And My God!

This brings us to the final appearance, the only one most people remember: "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hands in his side, I will not believe" (20:25). Even here, Thomas is asking for no more proof than had been available to the others who

had seen the resurrected Lord. He was simply the only one to verbalize it.

We all remember that Jesus, when he appeared, invited Thomas to make good his boast, "Put your finger here and see my hands..." Yet very few ever realize that the writer of John's Gospel does not tell us that Thomas accepted that invitation. Instead, he records what has stood as one of the most profound confessions of all time: "My Lord and my God!" (20:28).

That is why Thomas is my candidate for one of the greatest of the apostles — a man with both an inquiring mind and a faithful heart.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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TO CLEAN UP TOBACCO TRASH

The current tobacco

growing season will soon be getting started. A number of growers will be seeding their

beds as soon as weather conditions permit. A very important part of any enterprise is to practice good sanitation methods. In the case of tobacco, I refer to the disposal of all old tobacco stalks and ribs. Since a large

number of growers had blue mold in the field last summer, it is very important that the stalks and stems be either buried, plowed down, or burned where regulations permit. These old left-over plant parts will carry the

infection to the new plants in the bed. It would be best if the stalks were not plowed down where tobacco is to be grown this summer. This matter should be taken care of soon, before the plants are up in the tobacco beds.

TO PLACE

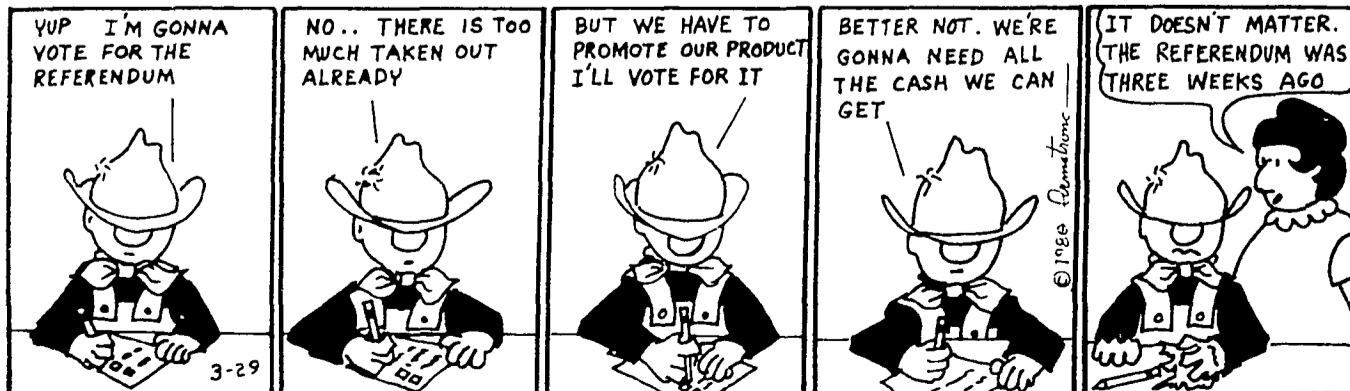
FERTILIZER PROPERLY
In the next several weeks, many gardens and fields will

be planted. No doubt tons of various kinds of fertilizer will be used. Growers are reminded that fertilizer containing nitrogen, or potash, will burn seeds and plant roots. This is often the case where we get poor germination. The fertilizer should be placed either to the side of the row, or several

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RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Saturday, March 29
Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers' annual meeting; Hunt Valley Inn, Hunt Valley, MD; 10:00 a.m.
4-H Swm Party; 7-9 p.m.; Golden Meadows, Lancaster.

Monday, March 31
4-H adult leader training workshop; 7:15 p.m.; Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

Tuesday, April 1
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