

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

How to travel first class

There's an old saying that when the going gets tough, the tough get going.

The example set this week in Lancaster by the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation members ranks right up there with the best of stories of struggling onward against the odds.

It's the kind of story that should make other segments of agriculture, enjoying better financial success, blush with shame.

The poultry people, faced with overexpansion in the broiler business, poor egg prices, and a turkey market which has its feathers trimmed, came out Thursday night over 1600 strong.

They paid \$75 each for the privilege of eating dinner with some like-minded supporters of the state poultry business.

An amazing 99 whole tables were sold—a table consists of 12 dinners, and there was no discount from the \$900 bill.

Now, it may not seem the best of short-term economics to spend \$150 to take your wife to dinner when you've got a house full of birds and it's going to cost you a few cents each for the fun of feeding them. But long term, it is good business sense.

Poultry people paid the freight gladly, knowing they would be the ones to reap the reward in the end. Banquet receipts provide the lion's share of PPF's operating revenue for the year.

Generally it's when things are toughest that one needs to draw on the reservoir of promotion, research, and unity that was filled during the

flush periods.

The poultry industry has done just that. Banquet attendance has risen by about 200 persons for the third straight year. A similar jump next year could mean the banquet will outgrow the two giant rooms filled at the Host this year.

As one Federation member joked, PPF may be forced to move the

banquet to Farm Show and serve box lunches.

It's doubtful that would make a difference... the name of the game is mutual assistance, not food.

Even under those circumstances the poultry people likely would set an example that other commodity groups would do well to emulate.

It's the real thing

At the 10th annual meeting of the United Dairy Industry Association in New Orleans, the Real Seal got a boost from the nation's dairy industry.

UDIA and its member organizations are planning an immediate nationwide campaign to sign up processors and handlers to display the Real Seal symbol on all packages containing natural dairy products.

The Real Seal is a picture of a drop of milk containing the word Real. It will help shoppers tell the difference between authentic dairy foods and fakes.

That's not always easy. Ice cream usually is a dairy product—is ice

milk? Is pasteurized cheese food? How about stuff which contains real milk? What's un-real milk, anyway?

The Real Seal symbol was started by the California Milk Advisory Board back in 1976. California always seems a bit ahead of the country with innovative ideas, including this one. But it's not too late for local dairymen to benefit from a good thing.

A number of local dairies probably will join the campaign with little or no hesitation at all. Some others may be slower.

This isn't being set out for the general gratification of the Pennsylvania dairy farmer. He has some action to take, too.

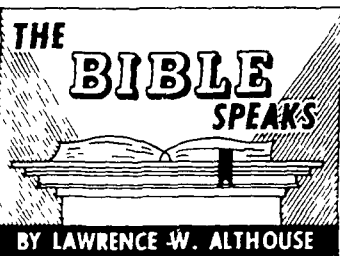
He can contact fieldmen, district

directors, or other representatives of the dairy buying his milk. Let them know farmers in this area think its about time they stopped losing sales to ersatz products.

The government has shown little inclination to require truth in labeling for dairy products. But the industry really doesn't need government help to whip this one.

The Real Seal campaign can assure each consumer the weekly food budget is being spent on the real thing. Its cost to the farmer and industry will be minimal.

After all, if the consumer is paying for the best, the consumer deserves the best the real thing.



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

FREEDOM OR PRETEXT?

Lesson for April 13, 1980

Background Scripture:
1 Peter 1:3-9, 2; 4:1-3
Devotional Reading:
Galatians 3:23-29

The other day on television, a talk-show host was interviewing a woman whose ex-husband had successfully sued her for her custody of their two children. It was an unusual legal case, because, in most courts, custody of children in a marriage broken by divorce is usually awarded to the mother. However, the ex-husband maintained that the children should be taken from the woman because she was living with another man and therefore not providing a "wholesome" home environment. The judge agreed.

Living Free

On the talk-show the woman vowed to fight this decision to the Supreme Court. The judge, she insisted, had no right to tell her how to live if she was not breaking any laws. "I am free to live as I please!" she proclaimed to the audience. Then a woman in the audience asked her if, in order to regain custody of her children, she would consent to marry the man with whom she was living. The mother hesitated for a few moments before answering, "No, I do not have to submit to that kind of

coersion.

This woman's attitude is reflective of a mood that has captured many people in our country today: "I am free to do as I please." This mood is not necessarily either good or bad. In many ways, the development of personal freedom has been long overdue. It was an emphasis, I believe, that needed to be made to free us from the pharasaic legalism that pervaded much of our standards.

Yet, at the same time, it has not taken very long for it to be evident that the pendulum has swung much, much too far. The emphasis

upon personal freedom to the exclusion of virtually everything else is like a cancer running rampant in the body of our society. Freedom has become license and a justification for avoiding all responsibility, except to one's self.

Live As Servants

The writer of 1 Peter was aware of this: "Live as free men, yet without using your freedom for a pretext for evil" (1 Peter 2:16). When we live without any constraints, external or internal, we may be no more free than the legalist. We are no more free than a truck

whose handbrake has been released while standing at the top of a hill. A runaway truck is not free; neither is a runaway human life. The cult of personal freedom is just another kind of bondage.

Living free does not mean there are no restraints, but that we are the ones to determine what restrains we will place upon ourselves. As the writer of the epistle says, "but live as servants of God" (2:16b). Servitude is only a loss of freedom when it is imposed upon us, but the true freedom of Jesus Christ consists of the servanthood we freely choose as followers of Christ.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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TO CONSIDER OTHERS
This is the time of the year when relations become a bit strained between farmers and non-farm residents of the rural community. This

does not have to be this way if each person tries to understand the feelings and intentions of the other person. When livestock and poultry waste is spread on

the farm land, which is a very good practice, some folks think they are going to be permanently injured by the odors. When farmers understand the possible reaction from others in the community, they should attempt to spread this waste on fast-drying days and then try to get it incorporated into

the topsoil just as soon as possible. On the other hand, non-farm people should understand this practice is a part of modern farming and a part of rural living. It may be unpleasant for a short time, but as far as I know, rural odors have never been proven to be a definite health hazard. Special efforts to

understand the living and working practices of other parties, working both ways, is suggested.

TO PLANT TREES

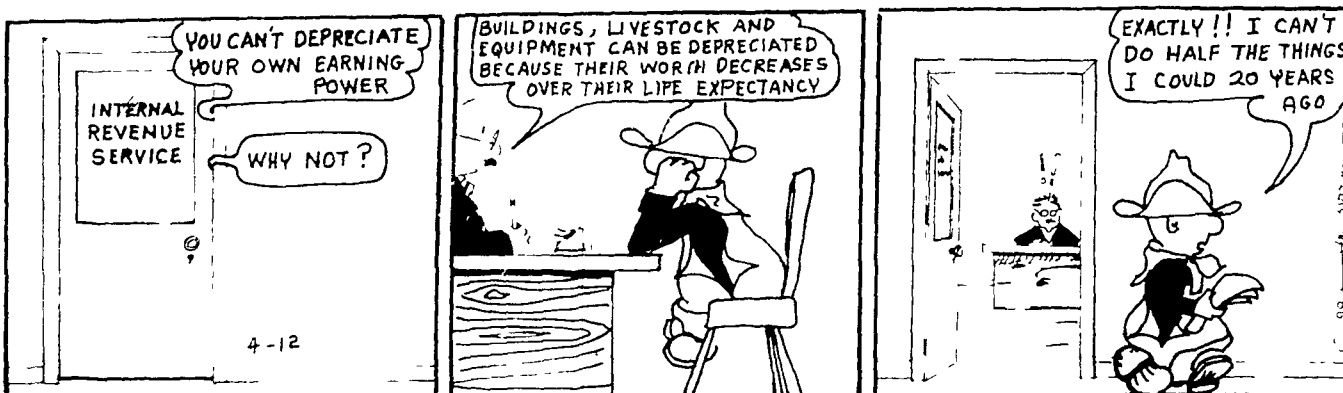
Trees are a very important part of our landscape; this is true in the urban areas as well as in the rural areas. This is the time of the year best suited to the planting of all kinds of trees. Some are used for landscape

purposes, some for shade, and some for windbreaks. Trees are important to our environment and add grace and beauty to many areas. Trees provide shelter for many kinds of birds and wildlife, as well as the ability to conserve soil and moisture. Folks desiring to plant trees should attempt to

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RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Today, April 12
Pa Dairy Goat Assoc. Meeting; 10 a.m.; Pine Grove Mills Lions Club
Maryland State Simmental Sale; Frederick Fair Grounds, Md.
Frederick County, Maryland Pomona Grange Banquet; 7 p.m.; Walkersville Fire Hall.

Tree Seedling Pick-up; Long Park
Trout Season opens.
Monday, April 14
Lancaster County Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Jersey 4-H; 7:30 p.m.; at the home of Paul Trumble.
Cumberland County 4-H Dairy Club; 7:30 p.m.;
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