



Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

A vote for ag

Lancaster County's former Senior Extension Agent M Maxwell Smith, known affectionately by most as just plain "Max," may be in for one of the toughest competitions in his life. And, we here at **Lancaster Farming**, are certainly pulling for him to win.

Max has thrown his hat into the ring for the honor of being selected as a Penn State Trustee. In his bid for this coveted position with Pennsylvania's land grant university, Max will be one of ten alumni vying for only three positions on the Board of Trustees.

Of the slate of candidates running, Max is the best qualified nominee to represent agriculture's interests at the University. And, lest anyone should forget, agriculture gave birth to Penn State and provided its reason for being, or as the French would say, "raison d'etre."

In a prepared statement, the 1936 Penn State graduate voiced his reason for seeking the Trustee seat.

"My 44 years in the Extension Service of Penn State have made me well aware of the important contributions our alma mater is making to Pennsylvania's citizens. Penn State's three major functions — teaching, research, and Extension — make an educational opportunity readily available to everyone.

"The University's designation as the land-grant institution in Pennsylvania challenges its leadership to maintain top-notch education in all fields, at a minimum cost. This should be especially true in agriculture, the first major subject to be taught in Penn State history.

"With higher education in stronger demand than a generation ago, every college and university faces the challenge of meeting inflation, decreased funds, and the need to offer a wider range of subjects.

"Considerable thought and effort will be needed to meet these challenges. An active and responsible Board of Trustees is needed to guide the University's administrators. Penn State must be kept among the very best universities in the country. I would be glad to help represent alumni to achieve this goal.

"At this time I do not profess to be acquainted with all of Penn State's problems; however I recognize the great importance of the Board of Trustees whose members must be dedicated, adopt good business methods, accept changes, have foresight, consider the needs of people, establish policies, and practice good public relations.

"With my past experience in working with people, I feel that I can contribute sound leadership in these areas. If elected, I shall be proud to work for all Penn State alumni as a member of the Board of Trustees."

Well there's no question that Max has the dedication needed to succeed as a Trustee

member — his 44 years of almost 24-hour-a-day service to Lancaster County farmers is living proof of that quality in the man.

Accepting change and having foresight are exemplified by Max's record of winners in 4-H livestock competition. Over the years, as various livestock judges changed their opinions on what type of animal constitutes a champion, Max was able to guide his "kids" through the changing times and captured 16 Farm Show grand champion steer trophies, 15 reserve champion steers, 19 grand champion lambs, and 17 reserve champion lambs.

Max passed his "eye" for livestock on to his 4-H'ers, too. And, through his efforts as coach, 30 of his livestock and dairy judging teams came home from State 4-H Achievement Days as winners.

During Max's "reign" in Lancaster County, he watched and kept up with the changes of agriculture on the farm. He witnessed concentrations of poultry and hog-rearing facilities sprouting up next to the county's productive dairy operations.

As agriculture in the county grew and modernized, so did Max. He proved that he had a businessman's head on his shoulders as he provided counsel and sound management advice to farmers on how they could operate most efficiently.

And, in the realm of public relations, who among the other candidates could even hold a candle to Max? It was Max who organized and presented the very first Extension television program in Pennsylvania. The year was 1950.

Max was one of the catalysts for planning and developing the Lancaster County Farm and Home Center which fused both state and federal agricultural agencies in a convenient, one-stop location.

Helping to make country and city folks aware of the importance of agriculture in Pennsylvania was accomplished by Max, not only through the news media and through conferences at the Farm and Home Center, but through one of the East Coast's largest agricultural events — Ag Progress Days. Max served as general chairman in 1973 when the field days were still held in Hershey. That year, more than 50,000 people shared in this agricultural experience.

Awards and honors too long to list have already been bestowed on Max for his life-long dedication and service to agriculture. And still he wants to serve — this time as a Penn State Trustee.

The ballots have been mailed and the deadline for casting them in this year's election is 9 a.m. Thursday, May 27.

Study the candidates and make a selection. But, keep in mind that a vote for Max is a vote for agriculture.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Prepare for Corn Planting
It always seems like we are in full swing of the spring rush by the time daylight savings time arrives. Well, this year is no exception. We are fast approaching corn planting time and if your planter is not "ready to go" then put this high on your list for jobs that must be done. If you plan to change the row width, be sure to calibrate your planter to the plant population you

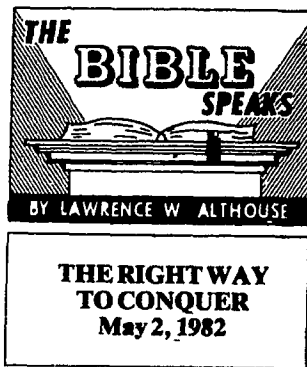
desire. This should be done well ahead of time — so if you need new plates — they can be picked up and installed. Also your pest control programs should be worked out.

If you are on a no-till program and have a cover crop of rye, wheat or barley then it should be sprayed when the vegetation is 18-24 inches tall. Paraquat plays a surfactant does an excellent job.

As far as insect control goes, research data collected from

numerous sites over the past several years indicates that soil insecticide treatments for corn rootworm control have not significantly increased yields except in a small percentage of the fields. If rootworm was not a problem in the past, treatment will not be necessary. If the field was in anything but corn last year, there would not be a rootworm problem,

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Background Scripture:
Revelation 2 through 3
Devotional Reading:
1 Corinthians 4:1-7

A little less than a year ago I had the opportunity to visit the city of Pergamum in what is now the nation of Turkey. Even in ruins, Pergamum, I found, is very impressive. Its ancient splendor still shines across the years, like a star long dead but still twinkling in the sky.

Several months later I visited East Berlin's great Pergamum Museum. Although it houses antiquities throughout the Middle East, the museum is so named because of its stellar attraction, a gigantic altar to Zeus and Athena built in 180 to 160 B.C. and which at one time ranked as one of the wonders of the world.

NOT FOREVER

Yet, for all its ancient splendour, Pergamum, like all of the rest of the seven cities of the Book of Revelation, has a sobering message for us today. Pergamum is a ruin—a glorious one, to be sure, but still a ruin. Ephesus is also a magnificent ruin which attracts visitors from all over the world. In fact, the other five cities—Smyrna, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea—are also ruins, although not nearly so impressive as Pergamum and Ephesus. In other words, the seven

churches to whom John wrote the Revelation are dead churches, congregations no longer in existence. Not one survived into the twentieth century.

Thus, although the Book of Revelation itself has survived and become an important—if not well understood—piece of Christian scripture, the churches to whom it was addressed have not. Read each of these seven letters from John and even in their brevity there appear glimpses of congregations not too unlike churches we have known. It is sobering to realize that each of these congregations died, never to be revived or replaced, reminding us that, although the Church of Jesus Christ is everlasting, his congregations are not forever. My own local congregation, First United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas, is a strong and vital church. But 25 years from now it may no longer be here.

THOSE WHO CONQUER

Actually, that is part of the message of the Book of Revelation. John's message to the churches is not one of how to survive definitely, but how to remain faithful in the midst of persecution and destruction. I am confident that, should we be able to speak with John today, the question would not be a matter of which churches survived, but which were faithful.

In each of the seven letters John says, "To him who conquers..." and a promise is given to each. The term "conquer," as he uses it, means to prevail as Christ prevailed through patient endurance, courage, steadfastness, loyalty and devotion to God even unto death. In other words, they are called, not to take up arms against their foes, but their crosses, conquering with faith and love.

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

Milk dealers look at referendum

In recent weeks, much has been said and written about the upcoming Milk Referendum where dairy farmers of Pennsylvania will vote on a mandatory deduction from their milk checks for dairy advertising, promotion and research. This is to be conducted

by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Some of the statements made were inaccurate and some were unfair to various parties.

Opponents of the referendum have called it a "Milk Tax". They

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HAY HAWS



"How long does your mother plan to stay?"