



Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

Hit and runs take farm toll

Although there aren't any statistics to prove it, more farmers in Pennsylvania are the victims of hit and run drivers today than ever before.

By hit and run, I'm not referring to bodily injury to the farmer by motor vehicle, although I'm sure denims are not fool-proof armor against such an accident. What I'm talking about are the uninvited, unwelcomed excursions taken by cars and trucks through cropfields and meadows.

For instance, just after you get that white board fence to accent your farm's roadside appearance, some unappreciative driver decides to mow down every fence post as his car fails to negotiate the curve. All too often, however, you only learn of the fence's relocation after an infuriated neighbor calls to tell you your cows are munching contentedly on her just-ripe sweet corn and other garden goodies.

Since local police have a hard time tracking white paint scratches on cars, chances of your ever running down the culprit who thought the road looked "greener on the other side of the fence" are unlikely. In the meantime, the fence has to be mended so the cows can get back on pasture. So much for hard evidence.

Even tougher cases for the local township police detectives to solve are the ones that involve tracing corn silks, a fruitless effort to prove that quarter acre of crushed corn was the result of a hit and run driver who also was searching for a short cut home.

One driver I happened to pass this week wasn't quite so lucky. When his car dropped off the road to explore the adjacent hay field, there was no way for the driver to hop back onto the highway and speed off undetected. Instead, the driver had to trudge through the wet grass to implore the kindness of the farmer to pull his car back onto the road.

While the farmer went to "fetch" the tractor, a state trooper happened to be cruising the area and witnessed the mishap. This time the farmer was in luck and won't have to report the damages incurred by his ready-to-cut alfalfa stand as a loss, much to the displeasure of the driver's insurance company.

Not only are farmers at the mercy of careless automobile drivers, but they also have to keep their eyes turned heavenward. Rather than watching for storm clouds, farmers must keep a look-out posted for low-flying aircraft.

One area farmer mentioned to me that he has to pull an airplane out of his rented corn field about once every week. Miscalculations in landing and takeoff at a small airport next door leave surprised and shaken pilots facing an unhappy farmer instead of friendly skies.

But, said the farmer, he has yet to charge the airport or the pilots for his tractor towing service. Accepting payment, he said, might be misconstrued as approval for the trespassing planes to continue to invade the corn field. So, he bites his lip and keeps his hands in his pockets, hoping someday the pilots might learn the difference between landing strips and field strips.

And what about the recent airing of a PM Magazine television show about a hot air balloonist that launches a hang-gliding passenger while high in the sky. The story was interesting and entertaining, but the conclusion hit a raw nerve.

Nonchalantly, as if nothing could be more right, the narrator reported that the hang glider found safe landing in a pasture full of sheep while the balloon came back to earth in the middle of a farmer's corn field. How nice. Of course, they didn't show us the rows of corn swept over by the descending gondola or covered by the balloon's canvas. Nor did their cameras zoom in on the scurrying white sheep as they fled from the "winged" intruder.

This entire scenario brings to mind a similar episode that occurred Aug. 17, 1978 when three Albuquerque, New Mexico men completed the first successful transatlantic balloon flight.

Ben Abruzzo, Larry Newman, and Maxie Anderson were heroes as they navigated the "Double Eagle II" across the Atlantic Ocean to land in the center of a French farmer's grain field. As camera crews and spectators swept across the golden field, a happy "bonjour" was probably the last greeting the Frenchman wished to convey to the aviation record setters. What moments before was a ready-to-harvest bumper crop suddenly turned into a disaster-wrecked field as the grain was trampled under foot.

Whether from the road or the sky, farmers and their cropfields seem to emit an aura of "safe harbor" to errant navigators. Luckily, we don't have much trouble with ships — but wait, what about the Massachusetts cranberry farmers . . . ?

OUR READERS WRITE

Small Favor

President Reagan's move to extend a restrictive grains trade agreement with the Soviet Union for another year does farmers small favor.

With U.S. producers of corn and wheat sitting on vast carryover stocks of 100 million metric tons, an agreement to sell off some six to eight million tons a year to the Soviet Union is a little like spitting in the ocean.

Worse, with shortfalls in the Soviet grain crop running as much as 50 million tons below original estimates, U.S. farmers have now been denied a rare opportunity to sell themselves out of overstocks that government mismanagement of farm programs has piled up in the first place.

We have simply invited the Soviet Union to shop elsewhere to fill in its shortages.

So what we got from the president was only an extension of

government authority to impose arbitrary ceilings on U.S. farm exports.

Farm Bureau has called for no agreement at all on grain sales to the Soviet Union, favoring instead sales on a cash-and-carry, come-and-get-it basis — with no credit terms that might impact against the economy in any way.

The record of grain sales to the Soviet Union points to the wisdom of such a position. In the years,

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE
THE FORGOTTEN MAN
August 8, 1982

Background Scripture: Acts 4:32-37; 9:26-27; 11:19-26; 13:1-3; 15:36-40.

Devotional Reading: Acts 13:44-52.

Somehow it doesn't seem quite fair. In my opinion, Barnabas is one of the most admirable persons in the New Testament, yet few Christians even remember him. If Barnabas were to come back today, we might expect that he would experience not a little hurt that his contribution should have been so largely overlooked and forgotten.

Yet, although we might expect such a reaction—a very human, one to be sure—I think I'm quite safe in judging that Barnabas would not react in that manner. In fact, that's one of the things that makes him so admirable. He was secure enough in his faith to be magnanimous to others. For Barnabas, discipleship was not an ego trip.

"Son of Encouragement"

Our first glimpse of this man comes in Acts 4, where the writer is telling us of the early church's policy of sharing their material goods to alleviate the needs of the whole group. Selling their valued possession, they distributed the proceeds from their sales to the more needs members of the group. Joseph Barnabas, originally of Cyprus and a Greek-speaking, Greek-cultured convert to Christ, is mentioned by the writer of Acts for his exemplary generosity in

sharing with the church the proceeds of the sale of his real estate.

Our next view of Barnabas comes in Acts 9. Although the church in Jerusalem is frightened of having anything to do with Paul who was claiming to have been converted to Christ, Barnabas recognizes Paul's great potential and brings him together with the disciples in Jerusalem. Because Barnabas believed in him while all others distrusted him, Barnabas found for the church the great apostle it needed. Ironically, up until the arrival of Paul, Barnabas was the most prominent Greek-speaking Christian in the Jerusalem church. Soon, however, this was a place that Paul would quickly take over.

Barnabas Took Mark With Him

Instead of being bitter against Paul for taking over the place he had occupied, Barnabas developed a close friendship with Paul and left his established life and trade to embark with him on the first missionary journey. Barnabas proved an invaluable travelling companion and co-worker with Paul.

Nevertheless, in Acts 15 Paul and Barnabas come to a parting of the ways. In preparing for their next missionary journey, Barnabas wants to take with him his young cousin, John Mark. But Paul strongly disagrees, remembering that John Mark had deserted them on a previous trip. So a disagreement broke out between these two men: Paul, who wanted nothing to do with John Mark, and Barnabas who still believed in his cousin. Unable to agree over this matter, Paul and Barnabas went their separate ways: Barnabas and John Mark to Cyprus and Paul to Asia Minor.

And that's the last we hear about this self-effacing man. Yet, although his name hardly lives on, his unselfish work does—and that's what Christian discipleship is really all about!

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Make Plans To Attend Ag Progress Days

"The Growing Business" is the theme for this year's Ag Progress Days. Come see how Penn State is helping discover better ways to meet our needs for food. There is something for everyone, including educational displays, farm machinery demonstrations, specialists to answer your questions about your home, garden or farm, also blue grass music, demonstrations in the theatre, and a museum of agricultural implements.

Dates for the annual event are Aug. 24-26. Ag Progress Days is located just nine miles southwest of Penn State's main campus on Route 45. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Parking and admission is free. Take a day out of your busy summer (you've earned it) and plan to attend Ag Progress Days.

To Observe Poultry Month

The Lancaster County Commissioners have proclaimed August as Poultry Month. So, this is a real good time to reflect on the impact this important industry has on the economy of Lancaster County. Poultry products in Lancaster County provide nourishment for over 6 million people. The value of the poultry products sold totals over \$143 million. It is estimated that nearly 20,000 people are employed in the

many different areas of the poultry industry in Lancaster County.

The industry is strong because of the dedicated, well managed poultry farms along with a highly efficient and supportive allied industry. Eggs and poultry meat are two of the most nourishing foods in your health diet. Let's be supportive of this important part of our agricultural economy during Poultry Month.

To Be Aware Of The Stinging Insects

We are receiving a lot of inquiries about the stinging insects — the wasps, hornets and yellow jackets. The yellow jackets usually build their nests in the ground while the hornets nests are made of paper materials and built in a tree. Wasp nests are made of mud and are usually found under the eaves of a porch or shed.

Bees are essential for pollination and hornets feed on flies, but unfortunately they sometimes become aggressive and their sting can be very painful. In fact, some people are very sensitive to bee stings and become seriously ill. These people should consult a doctor if stung.

To control the stinging insects around the house, spray the nests with an aerosol made for wasp control or an ordinary ant and roach spray. These insecticides contain a "quick killer" for instant effect. Spray toward evening when

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