



# Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

## Butterflies at Farm Show?

Nobody has to explain these butterflies we've been feeling for the past few weeks. No, they're not the result of pre-Christmas jitters or New Year's Eve excitement. What's been causing all the flutters can be summed up in two words — Farm Show.

Here at the paper, everyone has been pouring all of our energies into bringing you a super pre-Farm Show issue. Now that the big week has arrived, we'll be heading to Harrisburg to bring you all the news and happenings Pennsylvania's largest indoor agricultural show can provide. We hope to see you all there — and be sure to take a minute and stop by Lancaster Farming's booth in the Main Exhibition Building (Number 30) to say "hi."

Just as it takes weeks to get a pre-Farm Show newspaper ready for the big farming event, farm families across the state have been preparing for months to bring their finest livestock, poultry, crops, Christmas trees, fruits, nuts, and home economics projects to the state's historic agricultural complex in Harrisburg. But it always seems that no matter when we begin getting ready for Farm Show, procrastination asserts itself and wins the upper hand.

For those who find that hard to believe, consider this. Who could have possibly been thinking about getting entry forms filled out for Farm Show when Halloween costumes and trick-or-treat prank possibilities preoccupied our minds? But, regardless of how involved we were in picking out the scariest face mask or carving the funniest jack-o-lantern, we had to drop everything and concentrate on "how many" and "which ones of what" we'd like to take to Farm Show.

Why then? Well, for most Farm Show exhibitors, all that sort of paperwork had to be completed and in the mail to Horace Mann's office (Farm Show director) by Nov. 4.

With that out of the way, there's nothing left to do until the big day arrives for the drive to Harrisburg, right? Wrong. But that doesn't mean we remember to get everything done.

So, with thoughts filled with Thanksgiving turkey and the number of shopping days left until Christmas, it's no wonder the fact that all the blood work and health charts on animals slipped out of our minds. Miraculously our memories returned in the nick of time so that our temporary Yuletide amnesia still permitted the necessary tests and paperwork to be completed. (With a sigh of relief, we opened the envelope containing the health charts that somehow were rushed through any red tape delays and arrived in the mail this week.)

With entries accepted and health charts

complete, we remembered too late the vows of "I'm going to have those animals clipped and ready to go," made hastily during longer, warmer days. Now evenings find us freezing our fingers off in 20 degree weather, promising ourselves through shivering lips that once we've thawed our typing digits we'll send a letter to Secretary Hallowell asking for Farm Show to be rescheduled in July. Despite these frosty late night vigils in the barn, during which clippers go on strike, cattle kick, and tempers flare, many of us will still be frantically clipping away on our livestock entries just hours before the show ring call.

I have to confess, although some folks are more organized than I am about traveling to shows, I always seem to forget something — whether it's feed tubs, water buckets, combs, brushes, . . . whatever. Luckily, and probably quite by accident, I have yet to forget the show entries or my camera and notebook.

But, as the hours wind down to departure time for our trip to Harrisburg, I listen with strained attention to every radio news broadcast, hoping that the weatherman doesn't make my nerves stretch even tighter by coating the highways with snow or ice.

First-hand experience has given me a better insight into what each Farm Show exhibitor goes through to bring the thousands of Farm Show visitors a better-than-ever show each year. From paperwork to packing the show box to pulling a reluctant calf into a crowded, noisy show ring, the Farm Show initiation has opened up another side of this awesome event for me.

Quite conveniently, I can't remember exactly how our cattle placed after our debut on the Farm Show tanbark three years ago. But I vividly remember straining my eyes in order to see the other end of the lineup and who had received the blue ribbon in the class.

Now, some folks might be discouraged by that kind of "success" at Farm Show — but it sure lets you know how your breeding program compares to others in the state, and whether a change is needed. The message came through loud and clear that year.

So, three years and a change of bloodlines later, we're coming back to Farm Show. No matter where our calves stand in their class, the week-long effort will be a worthwhile experience for us, just as it has been for farmers across the state for more than six decades. We'll be joining the rest of the Keystone farmers in measuring our agricultural performance by the state's oldest, biggest and best yardstick — the 67th Pennsylvania Farm Show.

## Something for everyone



### Letters To The Editor

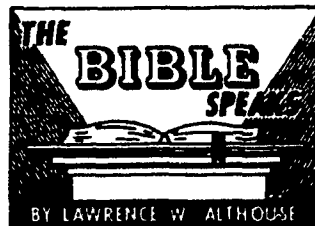
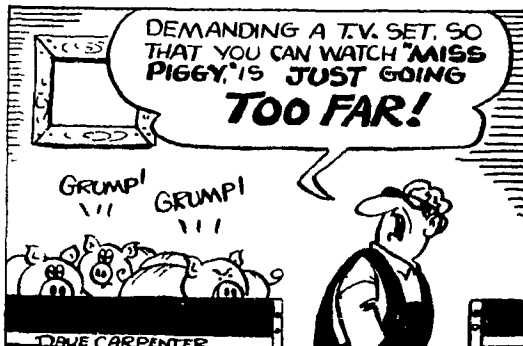
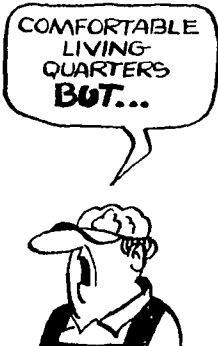
I would like to compliment the Lancaster Farming staff on the fine job you do on the paper.

Your articles are timely and accurate, not to mention that there is something of interest for the reader of any age from kids to great-grandpap.

Joyce Bupp's articles always "hit home." The recipe page is always useful and "Off the Sounding Board" is informative and thought-provoking.

So here is a pat-on-the-back for each of you, to start the new year.  
A Faithful Reader,  
New Enterprise, Pa.

### OTIS



### GETTING "PERSONAL" January 9, 1983

#### Background Scripture:

Luke 7:11-23; 10:25-37.

#### Devotional Reading:

Luke 6:8-11.

Lots of people I know like to talk about religion. They love to discuss and argue the fine points of religious ideas. In fact, for some people, the essence of religion seems to be doing battle with "wrong" religious thinking, combating "unsound" religious concepts, and debating differing theological formulations.

Those same people, I've often observed, are considerably less enthusiastic when those abstract religious ideas are personalized. For example, it is one thing to discuss the nature of God and quite something else to begin to spell out what demands our belief in God makes upon the way we live our lives.

#### TESTING JESUS

This was true in the encounter between Jesus and the lawyer who asked him, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" It was a perfectly good question to provoke a religious discussion. People often discussed the meaning and nature of "eternal life."

But, of course, Luke tells us that the lawyer's interest was not really in eternal life, but in putting Jesus "to the test." The lawyer wanted to see how Jesus would answer this question. Perhaps he would say

something that could be held against him. Or maybe he would be embarrassed not by having a worthy answer.

At any rate, the lawyer probably figured he could hardly lose, for, if Jesus gave the traditional answer the lawyer would be able to get some points with his perfect obedience to the pharisaic life under the law. And, at first, that's what appeared to be happening. Jesus asked him, "What is written in the law?" and this gave the lawyer a perfect opportunity to parade his own moral rectitude.

#### MY NEIGHBOR?

Flushed with success, the lawyer went one step too far. Not content with his victory, he pressed Jesus on still another debatable point: "And who is my neighbor?" The lawyer should have quit while he was ahead, for at this point Jesus got "personal" in a way the lawyer would have preferred to avoid. Instead of discussing the question in theological or philosophical terms, Jesus told a parable that made the answer so clear to everyone as to place their behavior under judgement — especially that of the lawyer.

The lawyer began the conversation on a wave of religious pride, but when Jesus personalized it, the proud lawyer was humbled by the Master's answer. To inherit eternal life would make some requirements on the lawyer that he was not prepared to make.

So long as the preacher inveighs against sin in a general way, we may be led to express enthusiasm for his preaching. But if he should move from generalizations to specifics that touch our lives, we may be led to conclude that he has moved from preaching to meddling. In that sense, Jesus was more a meddler than a preacher, for the essence of the gospel, as he saw it, is in "getting personal."

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent  
Phone 717-394-6851



#### To Attend Farm Show Events

Time has a way of creeping up on us, and here it is — this week is Farm Show week. The Farm Show will open again this year on Sunday, Jan. 9, and close on Friday, Jan. 14. The theme for this year's exhibition is 'Pennsylvania Agriculture - We're Growing Better.' Well, our agriculture is growing better because of the hard work of our family-operated farms. And here is an opportunity for our farmers to show the consuming public, the high quality product that's produced on our farms today.

Active farmers should recognize the many educational meetings and banquets that are held during the week. Many of these are statewide organizations and should have economic benefits to the producer.

#### To Evaluate Computers

Farm people have always looked at new ways to do a better job in producing food and fiber and now, as we enter the computer age, farmers are taking a good look at the potential of computer to assist in the decision-making process. We urge farmers to become aware of the many and varied ways a computer can be used.

In an effort to assist farmers in sorting out and evaluating this information, the Extension Service in south central Pennsylvania will hold a Farm Computerization Symposium and Trade Show. On Feb. 1, the event will be held at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center, and on Feb. 2, it will be held at the Embers Restaurant,

Carlisle. We encourage pre-registration — obtain a copy of the program and registration form from any Extension office in south central Pennsylvania. The symposium starts at 9 a.m. both days. Two half-day programs will be presented each day with identical programs in the morning and afternoon. A trade show with various types of computers will run concurrent with the symposium.

#### To Be A Better Manager

As we look ahead to 1983, it is difficult to realize just what major problems will confront the average farmer. However, it is evident that profits will be more difficult to realize and some very good management will be needed to come out in the black. Today's farmer must be a better businessman than his forefathers. He must be able to handle labor, money, equipment and keep up to date on all regulations and cultural practices. He must be able to plan ahead and to be organized with all his responsibilities. He should practice good public relations with his neighbors and respect the rights of others. Good management is just as important in farming as it is in any other industry or business. Work at it and it will pay dividends.

#### To Segregate Animals

One of the major practices in preventing livestock diseases is to segregate new animals when brought to the farm. This is true with all species of livestock. Too many diseases and infections are

(Turn to Page A12)