

## Utility watch, feed watch, milk watch, vet watch?

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

Spring field activities will soon be in full swing once again. More and more, family members will be spending long days in distant fields away from the immediate farmstead. Fewer people will be around the farm house and barn during the day and equipment will be left in the fields overnight.

As field work becomes more hectic, less and less time can be found for the more routine, everyday tasks around the farm. One of these more routine, but very important tasks involves farm security.

The migration of crime from the inner city, through the suburbs to rural areas is a well-documented fact. Rural residents don't need any statistics to know their country properties and farms are no longer safe from burglars and other criminals. Gone forever are the days when doors were left unlocked year-round.

But along with the crime migration into the country also has come a "tool" that can be

used to fight that crime. In the city, it's called crime watch -- neighbors keeping an eye on each other's property and immediately reporting anything suspicious to the police.

Now, this concept has been adapted to rural areas. Employees of various rural electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania are becoming involved in a "utility watch" program. As they check lines and perform other work throughout rural areas, they'll also keep their eyes open to suspicious activities or strangers. Prompt reporting to police is facilitated by the use of two-way radio equipment with which many of the utility vehicles are equipped.

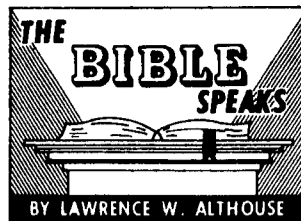
The Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association and the participating co-ops are to be congratulated for this program, which includes cooperation with and training by the State Police. Our large and expansive rural areas need such supplementary eyes and ears more than many urban areas.

This "utility watch" could become the first such organized program of its type in rural areas in the country. And with the largest rural population in the U.S., Pennsylvania is the ideal place to start it.

Could this program and its possible effectiveness be expanded even further? There are many more agribusiness and other people who regularly travel country roads who could also be similar country crime watchers. Numerous milk haulers, vets, livestock haulers, feed trucks and farm equipment personnel are daily travelers on the back roads of the Commonwealth.

Finally, each of us as we travel to and from rural homes and farms can also become involved. A little extra vigilance and prompt reporting could save a neighbor from a sizable loss.

Sporadic disappearance of livestock and equipment and the recent semen theft are dramatic reminders of the toll that crime can take in the country. But unlike the weather and the markets, over which little control can be exercised, this is something that everyone can do something about. That something is being more vigilant and becoming involved.



### PETER'S REBUKE March 25, 1984

Background Scripture:  
Mark 8:27 through 9:50.

Devotional Reading:  
Mark 9:33-41

Everyone wants to be a winner -- or at least to be able to identify with one.

No one wants to be a loser. And that's what it seemed Jesus was going to be. By his own words it was evident that the movement was in great danger of failure. The writer of Mark says, "And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again" (8:31).

#### PLAIN SPEAKING

Jesus made no attempt to hide the forboding path that he was going to travel. The writer says, "And he said this plainly." He didn't want anyone to misunderstand what it would mean to follow him. This is not what Simon Peter wanted to hear. So, "Peter took him and began to rebuke him" (8:32).

Jesus' reaction to Peter's rebuke was, to say the least, startling: "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not on the side of God, but of men" (8:33). Those sharp words

must have quickly gotten Peter's attention!

Yet, if we examine this exchange, we can begin to see the reason for the harshness of Jesus' reply. He was not condemning Peter for his wrong thinking, but because Peter's words were like the temptation of Satan himself. Jesus rebuked Peter harshly, not because what Peter was proposing was so unthinkable, but because it seemed so reasonable.

Jesus said that Peter's thinking on this represented, not "the side of God, but of men." Thus, Jesus was acknowledging that it is very human to think the way Peter was thinking. It must have troubled him to think his ministry was headed for failure. He was as aware as we are how the world regards "winners" and "losers."

#### SAVING AND LOSING

Worst of all, Jesus made it clear that the path to Calvary was not only his, but all those who would be his disciples. They too were to become "losers" in the eyes of the world. "If any man would come after me," said Jesus, "let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (8:34).

No matter how many times we read or hear these words, we scarcely can take them in. The words bounce harmlessly off our hearts, for it is hard for us to think of self-sacrifice when everything in us cries out for self-preservation.

Ah, but Jesus knows that and it is here that he reaches us with the full force of his challenge: "For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it" (8:35). Thus, we can only achieve self-preservation when, following the example of Christ, we learn self-sacrifice.

## Farm Calendar

**Saturday, March 24**  
Farm toy show, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Historic Strasburg.  
Buck County Unit of NFO annual dinner, 7 p.m., Plumsteadville Fire Hall.  
Bradford County Holstein tour to Springfield area.  
Bucks County dairy tour to Perry County, 6:30 a.m. leave Cross Keys Office Building.  
Lehigh County FFA banquet, 6:30 p.m., Vo-Tech school, Schnecksville.

**Monday, March 26**  
Federal Land Bank of Baltimore annual meeting, Host Farms, continues through Wednesday.  
Wye Angus Production Sale, Noon, University of Md. Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, Md.  
Bradford-Sullivan Forum, 8 p.m., Bradford Extension Office.  
Farm Computer program, 9 a.m., Hunterdon County, N.J. Extension Office.

**Tuesday, March 27**  
Potter, McKean, Cameron beef meeting, 7:30 p.m., Port Allegany.

Southeastern Pa. Poultry Association, 6:30 p.m., Meyers Restaurant, Quakertown.  
Hazardous waste forum, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sheraton Inn, Danville Exit of I-80.  
Bradford sheep production barn meeting, 7:30 p.m., Tom Horton's farm.  
Md. State DHI meeting, Sandy Cove.  
PFA Legislative Conference, Penn Harris Motor Inn, Camp Hill, briefing at 1 p.m., Capitol visits at 2:45 p.m. and banquet at 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 28**  
Spetage treatment and disposal conference, Grantville Holiday Inn, continues tomorrow.

Conservation meeting, 7 p.m., White Horse Fire Hall, Salisbury Twp.

Pesticide Update Training, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., Cumberland County Extension.

**Thursday, March 29**  
Geotextile workshop, Lancaster Farm and Home Center.  
Pa. Holstein Assn. Show and Sale, Farm Show Complex, continues tomorrow.  
Adams County Farmers Association annual banquet, 6 p.m., York Springs Fire Hall.  
Pequea Valley FFA Banquet, 6:45 p.m., Plain and Fancy Dining Hall.

**Friday, March 30**  
Red & White Dairy Cattle Show and Sale, Farm Show Complex, continues tomorrow.

Northern Tier Regional Executive Committee, 10:30 a.m., Bradford Extension Office.

Solanco Young Farmers banquet, 7 p.m., Quarryville Methodist Church.

Cloister FFA banquet, Mt. Airy Fire Hall.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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#### To Practice Safety

We are now into spring, and that brings heavy demands on field work. This includes the use of many different types of machinery which increases the potential for accidents. We urge farmers to take time to be safe; in many cases, haste has been the reason for farm accidents. When we are in a hurry we overlook safety measures and face additional hazards. There are three elements of safety ... people, machine and environment. Controlling people is by far the most difficult, especially in farm safety.

Take time to be safe ... otherwise you may be sorry for the rest of your life.

#### To Wait Until Soil Dries

Many people are impatient about starting their field work in the spring. I would just like to encourage you not to start your field work when the soil is too wet. We

have had a good deal of moisture over the last several weeks, so the soil is very wet and soggy. It will take some wind, sun and time to dry out low-lying fields and gardens. If the topsoil is worked when too wet and we get freezing temperatures, the soil will become mellow and work satisfactory; however, when worked too wet without any freezing temperatures, the soil will be hard and clumpy for the rest of the season. Let's give Mother Nature time to dry out the topsoil before working.

#### To Beware of Trash

Land owners along rural roads are the victims of people who have little respect for the property of others. Too many people are dumping trash in fields along the road. In all cases when this is dumped on pasture or crop land, the trash should be removed before spring growth begins. This trash will be hard on farm equipment when on crop land and may be poisonous to livestock when on pasture land.

We urge property owners to remove the trash in the next few weeks. If any type of identification can be made, as to the owner of the trash, this should be reported to township officials; prosecutions can be made for dumping trash along the highway.

#### To Prepare A Will

The statement "we don't own enough to justify a will" is overused by many families. If you have a family and you own anything, you should have a will. If a person dies without a will, property is

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## Otis

