

Second childhood

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

Chronicling the dynamic, ever-changing face of agriculture has its rewards and sometimes they come at the least-expected times.

I'll let you in on a secret. I don't particularly like being an editor. It's too confining and office-bound. Very little real farming is done in a windowless office.

But a couple of hours out of the office this past Tuesday during the first real "hay week" of the season helped to get rid of some of the "editor blahs" at least for awhile.

Wandering aimlessly through Northern Lancaster and Southern Lebanon counties unveiled some panoramic farming scenes that help you maintain a balanced perspective of what it's all about.

The first such scene contained all of the elements needed for a good Dairy Month photo -- a stream running swollen beige, a lush pasture nurtured by the recent monsoons, a big old tree slowly coming into leaf, lazily lounging cows and a farm conveniently positioned in the background below a blue-hued sky with high wispy clouds.

Add to this a muddy bike, a fishing pole and a tackle box.

But what is missing from this scene, shown on Page One? The boy, of course Barefoot and carefree not really caring if he catches a fish or not.

So photographically, I became this boy and continued a trek from one scene to another -- as shown elsewhere in this section. Scenes that unfolded before my eyes today but unlocked the mind to yesterday.

A blossoming, clover field with old flattening round bales. (Bales never came in such weird shapes as a kid.)

A disinterested duck waddling through soggy windrows.

A meadow that squooches to the step (I can

hear, Mom: Do you think shoes grow on trees?)

A little old brick barn -- climbing ivy and weathered wood offer a contrast of textures

Rye as high as an elephant's eye

A herd marching back to the barn

As I write this I'm back in that office again, staring at a paneled wall with its phony wood hues. I close my eyes and see a gnarled tree or barn wood weathered regal grey

Overhead is that monotonous rectangular suspended ceiling. I close my eyes and see that blue sky with wispy clouds.

The office smells stale and musty. I close my eyes and smell damp hay curing in a warm sun.

Now, that infernal plastic and electronic contraption on the desk rudely interrupts. Curious cows who instinctively pose always have the courtesy not to interrupt.

My fingers are linked to a computer age machine but my mind is linked to a slower time of another age -- a better time. It almost seems to be literary blasphemy to write about that former time in such a modern manner

Just as you can take the boy out of the country but not the country out of the boy, you can plunk my body into today but you can't take my mind out of yesterday.

OTIS ORIGINALS

How would you like an Otis' Original?

If any of you are interested, we'll be giving away the original pen and ink drawings of the special Otis Dairy Month cartoons that are running throughout June in Lancaster Farming.

The originals measuring about 4 by 14 inches are signed by Dave Carpenter, who draws them way out in Iowa -- another state that's known a little bit for its farming.

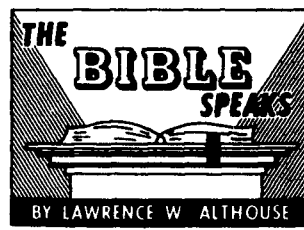
We'll even frame them for you for hanging in your trophy room or even just in the barn as a conversation piece.

To try for one of the Otis' Originals just drop us a postcard with your name, address and telephone number on it. We'll draw five winners at random early in July and the first will get his or her choice and so on until all are gone.

Send your postcards to:

Otis Originals
Lancaster Farming
P.O. Box 366
Lititz, Pa. 17543

So get those postcards into us. Who knows -- Old Otis may become a dairy memorabilia collector's item one day.



RESISTING THOSE "EVIL SPIRITS" June 10, 1984

Background Scripture:
1 Samuel 18:1-29.
Devotional Reading:
Genesis 37:12-24.

Saul was a real human being, wasn't he?

At first, when with God's help they wanted to make him king over Israel, he hid among the baggage. But later, when he had drunk deeply of the cup of political power, keeping his throne became in insane obsession. Yes, how very human.

Of course, Saul's problem was not that the people didn't respect him. When he returned from his battles with the Philistines, the people would line the streets and hail him with "Saul has slain his thousands." With an accolade such as that in the midst of all the singing and dancing, the timbrels, the songs of joy and instruments of music, wouldn't you think he would be satisfied?

WHAT MORE?

But what really angered Saul was the fact that the people also sang, "and David his ten thousands." Instead of feeling gratified and pleased with his choice of David to lead his armies. Saul could only feel fear: "...what more can he have but the kingdom?" Like a petulant child, Saul goes into a sulk and the writer of 1 Samuel tells us, "And Saul eyed David from that day on" (18:9).

From this day forward there would be no peace in Saul's heart or his house:

"And on the morrow an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house, while David was playing his lyre, as he did day by day" (18:10).

I would give a name to that "evil spirit" which rushed upon Saul, I would call him "Jealousy." But unlike the writer of 1 Samuel, I would not ascribe this evil spirit to God, just as Jesus did not attribute evil spirits to his Father. Nor would I be willing to say with the writer that the Lord "had departed from Saul" (18:12). Rather, it is apparent that Saul had departed from the Lord.

SAUL WAS AFRAID

Furthermore, the reason that the "evil spirit" could enter his life that there was a void in Saul where God had been pushed out of his life. As Jesus was later to illustrate in his parable (Matthew 12), the evil spirits of life -- fear suspicion jealousy, etc. -- can rush in only when our hearts are empty.

Had Saul been grateful to God for what he had done with and for him, if he had been content to be the great Saul who "has slain his thousands," the evil spirit of jealousy could not have "rushed upon" him. If he had continued to walk with God, he would not have had to fear David. For it was God, not himself, who had made him king, just as it was God who was giving David his success.

"And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in awe of him" (18:16). That was Saul's fatal error: he kept looking at David when he should have been watching God. And is that not also often our mistake, too, focussing on the creature instead of the Creator, creating a void in our lives that invites a host of evil spirits to rush in upon us?

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent
Phone 717-394-6851



To Move

Livestock Carefully

Hot weather requires some special handling of livestock, if losses are to be kept to a minimum. When temperatures and humidity both reach 80°F., livestock suffer the same as human beings. Fat animals suffer more than breeding animals, and fat hogs can stand the least amount of heat and humidity.

We suggest that livestock be moved during the early morning hours, and be hauled on trucks bedded down with wet sand. A minimum of stress and excitement will also reduce the danger of heat exhaustion. Trucks should be either open-sided or have good ventilation during hot weather. Losses during breakdowns can be reduced by having a stand-by truck available on short notice.

Livestock are valuable; don't experience losses because of careless handling.

To Use

Medication Wisely

Every livestock and poultry producer should be sure that medications are used in strict compliance with the directions and regulations. Failing to do this will invite more regulations and place the product in jeopardy. When these materials are used, be sure to read the directions and follow them accurately.

In addition, I would suggest keeping a record of the application or treatment. This could be very important if the Food and Drug Administration find excess residues. Withdrawal periods should be recognized as vital to the future of the market. Don't take chances.

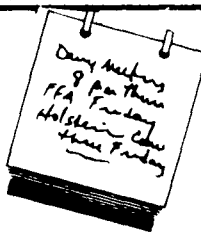
To Prepare Grain Bins

We are approaching barley harvest season with wheat not too far behind, so I would like to remind our grain producers that now is a good time to clean up your grain bins in preparation to harvest. First, clean out all the old grain, sweep down all the sidewalls and floors making sure to remove old grain lodged in the cracks.

Next spray the floor and walls with a residual insecticide. Malathion and methoxychlor are still very effective - follow the label for directions. Finally, prevent birds and rodents from entering

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Farm Calendar



Saturday, June 9
Dauphin County Dairy Princess Pageant.

Dairy Month Cal Ripken Jr. "Growth" poster give-away contest, Orioles-Tigers game, 3:30 p.m., Baltimore.

Strawberry Festival orchard and farm tour, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Blevins Fruit Farm, R1 Stewartstown.

Hunterdon County, N.J. Dairy

Princess Contest and Milk Promotion, Turntable Junction. Pa. Lamb Cook-off Contest at Grand Opening of Appalachian Lamb Company, Greencastle.

Sunday, June 10
Northeastern Assn. of State Departments of Agriculture Conference, Rehoboth Beach, continues through Wednesday.

Monday, June 11
PennAg annual grain meeting and

pesticide re-certification workshop, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sheraton-Conestoga, Lancaster.

27th Mushroom Industry Short Course, continues through Wednesday at Penn State.

Tuesday, June 12
Bradford Jr. Holstein Club, 8 p.m., at Alfred Sparling's.

Wednesday, June 13
Bradford Wool Pool, Bresee's

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