



Sowing today to reap a better tomorrow

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

This week, I encountered two entirely different events. Despite being entirely different, the two came together as if they were made for each other and fit like the dovetailing on an old wood chest made by an expert craftsman.

The first event was the receipt of a letter from a sixth grade student who wants to be a farmer. You can read it elsewhere on this page

The second event was attending the annual convention of the Pa State Grange at Gettysburg

Let's look at the differences between the two

The letter involved the hopes and dreams of a single individual.

Hundreds and hundreds of delegates from throughout the state participated in the convention.

The difference in age between the lone letter writer and the average convention-goer is about a half-century

The young man was looking ahead -- admittedly with some naivete, but also with a lot of understanding.

And, most of those attending the convention had to look back to their active years in farming.

One looking ahead; the others looking back. But is this really true? Everything at the Grange Convention --

discussions, legislative resolutions, awards and speeches -- was focused forward, not backward.

Legislative resolutions are aimed at helping agriculture and improving the quality of rural life.

Awards like community service and grange improvement center on what's to come and not what has been.

New granges have sprung up during the past year and even more are being planned

And, even new Grange services like a tax and accounting system for farmers, are recognizing the changing times and adapting to them

So, while there is some difference between the young letter writer and many at the convention, there is much more that is the same

Both are vitally interested in and concerned about the future And both are involved in helping to shape it

Some of those at the Grange convention won't even get to see the fruits of the seeds that they helped to sow this week They could have stayed home and not become involved But they chose to become involved.

But the fruits of their efforts this week will not only help that youthful letter writer, but it will help the many younger members of Grange who were back home tending the farm. And their efforts will help all of agriculture.

And such is the way of farming -- you sow today to reap a better tomorrow.

Background Scripture:
Ephesians 5:24 through 6:4.
Devotional Reading:
Ephesians 5:3-27.

This is one of those tough passages that most of us would prefer to skip, if we could: "Be subject to one out of reverence for Christ" (5:21).

It is a tough passage because we live in a different world than the one Paul lived in. In his day slavery was an accepted social institution, the family was radically patriarchal, and the status of women was little more than that of "property." There was little personal freedom for anyone and life was largely a matter of being subject to almost everyone.

Today we live in a time when absolutely no one wants to be subject to anyone. No one wants to be a slave or even a servant of anyone else. Children do not want to be subject to their parents and society encourages them to persist in that struggle. Women do not want to be subject to their husbands and even the authority of the state is frequently called into question.

REVERENCE FOR CHRIST

Ours, then, is an age of liberation

from subjection of all kinds. It is an idea whose time eventually had to come. One can hardly try to live by the Gospel of Jesus Christ without experiencing that deep determination to be free of all external restraints.

As a pastoral counsellor I must often try to lead people into a greater sense of self-reliance and independence. Often this means teaching people how to assert themselves. I refuse to live in subjugation to others.

Yet, much as I prize independence and autonomy, I must confess these are not the highest of human achievements. Higher and more valuable than self-assertion is the art of self-giving. Once we have learned to exercise our autonomy, we must also learn how to go beyond autonomy to higher responsibility.

Actually, there are two different ways of being "subject" to someone else. The first of these is involuntary submission: we permit someone to take away our autonomy. We allow ourselves to be subjected. In this we are victims.

A MYSTERY

But there is another way of being "subject." It is purely voluntary: no one takes anything from us, we simply give it. We don't have to go along with someone else, but, for one reason or another, we do so. Because we have learned the importance of autonomy, we can also use that autonomy to give ourselves to someone else.

Therefore wives are subject to their husbands and vice versa, not because they are forced to do so, but because they choose to.

Society has changed radically since Paul first wrote these words, but the need to willingly subject ourselves is still a vital one.

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

I want to be a farmer

Dear Editor

I am a classroom teacher at Tri Valley School District teaching Sixth Grade. I had my pupils write about a profession they desire to choose for the future. One young fellow submitted his dream "A Farmer," which I feel worthy of sharing with society.

If you deem it worthy of content, perhaps you could find a suitable page for printing.

Nolan's father is a farmer and Nolan has a great interest in agriculture.

Thank you.

Mae Kahler
Pitman, Pa.

Farmer

I would like to become a farmer because I don't want a regular schedule and I can be my own boss. A farmer may work when he wants to, but loses money if he doesn't complete his chores.

Farmers belong to the land and feel a great sense of accomplishment when they harvest a crop and know their products will feed many people and animals.

A farmer may have a bumper

crop one year and a crop failure the next. The amount of produce may vary greatly from one year to the next, but with hard work and being willing to stick to it, he can expect great rewards for his efforts.

Nolan Masser
Grade 6
Mahantongo Elem.
Tri-Valley School Dist.

More on the Bay

Dear Editor

An important step to alleviate the Chesapeake Bay problem would be to strip and terrace all farmland. Anyone knows that good top soil is limited and irreplaceable. Soil losses uncover shale and rocks.

On the farms we operate we have put in terraces, waterways and collector ponds. We can control two-inch rainfall in one hour and the runoff leaves the farm clear in six-inch pipe. Before the terraces, we could go boating in the muddy runoff.

We Americans do not like to be told what to do but conservation practices should be compulsory. Every generation has an obligation to posterity.

If justice was done on our farms and in our homes and industry, the Bay would not be a problem.

Harold C. Herr

Farm Calendar

Saturday, October 27

Delaware woodlot management workshop, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Redden State Forest Lodge.

Mid-Atlantic Forestry Seminar, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Frederick, Md. (Turn to Page A12)

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Plan Winter Weed Control In Alfalfa

As that alfalfa plant slows down and prepares to go into dormancy, other plant populations in that same field can be increasing in vigor and growth. These are the winter annual weeds: chickweed, shepherds-purse, yellow rocket and some grassy weeds which overwinter. All are in their young stages of growth.

You'll not see crop injury now, but wait until that first cutting comes off next May. Those same little weeds all will have flowered and set seed by that time. Not only do yield losses occur but field

curing problems and lower hay quality results.

Fall applied herbicide (s), will largely eliminate the costly winter weed problem. The Agronomy Guide lists a number of effective materials.

To Check Chimneys and Flues

The heating season is here and many stoves and heating units will be fired up. In order to prevent the potential for fires and other problems, I'd suggest that all chimneys and flues be checked for cracks and places where sparks can escape.

In this part of the country, tobacco sheds have stoves to

provide comfort for the winter job of stripping tobacco. Many of these have been in operation for many years and may need some attention. The mortar around pipes and between bricks may have fallen out; in many cases a repointing job with mortar will make the system much safer.

Don't take chances on a faulty system; it could start a major fire or the fumes could cause suffocation.

To Hunt Safely

The small game hunting season is here. We need to remind ourselves to be courteous and considerate while hunting on farms. (Turn to Page A12)

