

Holding On To Rural Ethic

everyday scene is it possible to take in the whole picture. What picture? In our case it's the farm scene. Not only our little segment that we like to call the Dairy Business, but the whole of agriculture. We are all in the same boat, and what affects the dairy business, will have its impact on the rest of the farm scene.

The cliche, "It's hard to soar when you're working with a bunch of turkeys", is more humor than fact. The truth is, you and I are not a flock of mindless fowl. Farmers

Only by soaring high above the have become an elite group of individuals, comprising an ever smaller minority of the total population. Our greatest danger from occupying that position is that we get so busy and intrigued by what we are doing that we fail to comprehend the whole.

Our unique obligation to the whole of humanity is not only to feed them. We are already doing that only too well. We have an even bigger obligation to humankind. That is to find a way to spread our rural ethic of hard work, honest dealing, and love of the land to the rest of the world.

Not that we as farmers have the only handle on these things. There is a large segment of society that maintains the same ethic. But there is an even larger segment that has little exposure to the kind of rural culture that made America great. The rural ethic is made up of a lot of little things-

things that we take for granted.
Closely tied to the standards implied and founded on Christianity, most of what we call a 'Rural Ethic' is really founded on Judeo-Christian teaching. Stated almost too simply, it is grounded in love for your neighbor, love of the land, your animals, and the beauties of creation.

Farm life seems to promote and expand that kind of Ethic. It can be applied to business dealings, as well as every aspect of everyday farm operations. When seeds are sown with hope and optimism, it will be done with all the care necessary to get results. When the crop is sold with the same charitable attitude, the business deal is consumated with all parties satisfied. The Rural ethic is alive and well.

The same applies to the way we

we work with and that work for us. They are chattels, but for the true husbandman, they are more. They become almost a part of the family, and our human emotions are often imparted to their care and tending.

The world is too full of the brothers of Judas, who are willing to sell drugs to our youth, trade secrets to competitors, and our country's defense secrets to potential enemies,—all for a fast dollar, and with no thought for the welfare of their fellow men. The pursuit of this kind of non-ethic can only be destructive to society as a whole. It can even invade our rural-Christian ethic, if we let it.

Our farm publications give air to the latest ideas on how to deal with modern problems. Some are valid, and some are false. Read them with care, and be alert to shallow

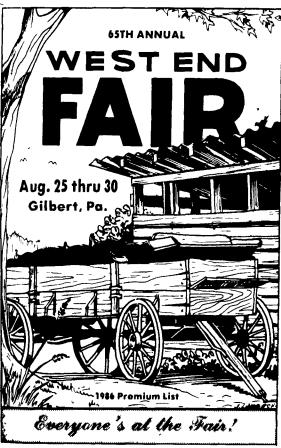
express our love for the animals and self-serving doctrines. Be aware that there are false prophets, very glib of tongue and therefore very convincing in their arguments. There are also honest, sound thinkers who have good ideas about the trends in agriculture. Our task is to sort them out and help expand on their ideas, and to help others understand the truth.

The future of our Agricultural economy will depend on how well this small minority of people now engaged in working the soil maintain their Rural ethic. The Ethic of work, honest dealings, and love for the land as well as their fellow man can be expanded. Only the high-flying eagle can see the whole landscape below, and only the high-minded person can see beyond the cracks and crevasses of the crumbling morals of modern



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1986 Schedule of Events



ROUTE **DIRECTIONS**

How to get to the West End Fair

Off Penna Turnpike (Exit 34) take Route 209 North for

From Rt 33 to Rt 209 South 7 miles

From Rt 80 to Rt 115 - South on Rt 209 S

From Rt 80 to Rt 715 - South to Rt 209 S

FREE PARKING

ADMISSION: \$3,00 over 12 years of age includes oil Stage and Arena Shows.

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SUNDAY: AUG. 24 -

8:00 A.M. - West End Fair Open Horse Show

11:00 A.M. - Entering of Exhibits 6:30 P.M. - VESPER SERVICE

<u> MONDAY: AUG. 25</u> -

7:00 P.M. - PLEASANT VALLEY H.S. BAND

8:00 P.M. - DEMOLITION DERBY

<u>TUESDAY: AUG. 26 -</u>

6:30 P.M. - 5th Annual Fiddling Contest 8:00 P.M. - ROYAL LIPIZZAN **STALLIONS**

WEDNESDAY: AUG. 27 -Sr. Citizen Day

12:00 Noon - BIG BAND

AMBASSADORS

1:00 P.M. - OPEN FUN SHOW 4-7 & 9 P.M. - THE BONNIE NELSON

SHOW

7:00 P.M. - GYMKHANA HORSE SHOW 8:00 P.M. - THE LEISURE SQUARES

THURSDAY: AUG. 28 -CHILDREN'S DAY

1:00 P.M. - CHILDREN'S CONTESTS

4-7-9 P.M. - GRESHAM

6:00 P.M. - CHILDREN'S

PRESENTATIONS 8:00 P.M. - DEMO DERBY

<u>FRIDAY: AUG. 29</u> -

4-7-9 P.M. - THE MIGGLESTONES 7:30 P.M. - CLASS B TRACTOR PULL 8:00 P.M. - THE LEISURE SQUARES

SATURDAY: AUG. 30 -

11:00 A.M. - THE PK'S

4-7-9 P.M. - THE RONNIE PROPHET

SHOW

6:00 P.M. - 4-WHEEL DRIVE PULL

DAILY APPEARANCES BY

Smilie The Clown & Circus Galaxy The Antique Engine, **Tractor & Toy Club**

NICHOLAS AMUSEMENTS ON THE MIDWAY - NOON TO 11 P.M.

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