



OPINION

Yo' Perceptive

The high school newspaper staff at North Harford High in Pylesville, Maryland, sends us their "Cry Of The Hawk" from time to time—which we read when they send it, to get a little insight into what teenagers are thinking. And while we are sure the center spread about birth control will be the most talked about feature in the April 16 issue, we especially liked Dale Smith's perception of history in his Dale's Tales column.

Smith writes, "The more I hear, the more obvious it becomes that all this has happened before, somewhere. Take nuclear arms for example, Richard Simmons in early 1960 said, 'Breakfast without prune juice is like defense without nuclear weapons.' Casper Weinberger in 1984, 'Defense without nuclear weapons is like breakfast without prune juice.'"

"Today's politicians have taken their eyes from figures in the past. Buckwheat said in 1938, 'Alpha! I'll trade you five marbles for yo' frog.' Ronald Reagan in 1965, 'Ayatollah! I'll trade you five aircraft missiles for yo' hostage.'"

"Music styles have changed over the years, but the songs still say the same thing," Smith says. "Take the '60s' song the Beach Boys' Surfin Safari, 'Let's Go Surfin Now, Everybody's Learning How'.... Compare that with the 1987 song by the Toxic Dock Rats Axmurder Surfer, 'Let's Go Surfin Now, Everybody's Learning How'...."

If you read our 30 Years Ago column each week, you'll know that in the farm community the more things change, the more they stay the same, too. Prices, weather and planning schedules are just as important to farmers today as they were 30 years ago. Summer and winter springtime and harvest continue to follow each other year after year.

But to get back to Dale's Tales to his fellow teenage peers, Smith concludes, "Where does it all end. It doesn't. Life is a continuous circle. And 25 years or so down the road you'll be saying to your teenager, 'You're grounded.'"

We say, "Yo' perceptive."



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Prepare For Soybean Planting

Soybeans should be planted in warm moist soil. A thermometer will help you decide when is the best planting date. Special bayonet type thermometers work very well.

The ideal temperature is about 62°F. The reading should be taken at about 8 a.m. when the soil temperature is stabilized. The thermometer should be inserted at least two inches in the soil.

Many people planting soybeans will either end up with too many plants per acre or too few. This will happen because they will use the pounds per acre philosophy which won't work for soybeans. Because soybean seed differs greatly in

size, this also means it differs greatly in number of seeds per pound. For example, one variety may average 2,100 seeds per pound while another variety averages 3,100 seeds per pound... that's difference of 1,000 seeds per pound. So, if you plant a bushel of seed with 85 percent germination, that's a difference of about 48,000 plants per acre.

The only way to plant beans is by seeds per foot of row. If a grain drill is used, three beans per foot of row is plenty. If a 30-inch corn row is used, eight to nine beans per foot is about right.

To Be Careful

With Weeds Sprayers

Farmers and gardeners should keep in mind that many weed killer materials will stick in the equipment for years. This is especially true of all forms of 2,4-D. Sprayers in which this material has been used should be kept only for weed spraying, or be very carefully cleaned. The use of very hot water and household ammonia (1 part of ammonia to 100 parts of hot water) is suggested; this mixture should be allowed to stand for 24 hours in the equipment and then should be sprayed out. Extreme care should be taken with this cleaning job after each herbicide treatment.

The safest method is to have separate sprayers for weed killers. Over the years I can recall a number of tobacco and vegetable plants that have been damaged because a sprinkling can or sprayer used last fall was not

thoroughly cleaned.

To Check Farm Ponds

Many ponds are showing both algae and weed infestation build-up and as the weather gets warmer, these pond plants will begin to grow. Permits are needed in order to use the proper material, and to protect livestock downstream from the pond. Before any ponds are treated in Pennsylvania with any chemical or fertilizer, the owner should obtain a permit from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. Application for the permit is available from the Pennsylvania Waterway Patrol Office or from our Penn State Extension Office.

To Inspect Lightning Rod Systems

The "rumble season" is upon us. I'm referring to lightning and thunder. Just a reminder that we are in the thunderstorm season and buildings that have rods should be protected, that is if the rods are connected and free of obstructions. We urge owners of rodded buildings, especially barns, to inspect them closely and remove all items that will stop the flow of the electrical bolt. In many cases straw, hay or bird nests might be between the rod and the building and cause a fire. Also, be sure the rods go into moist soil and are well grounded. A close inspection of the rod system will assure the protection that is needed.

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Farm Calendar

Saturday, May 2
Md. Sheep and Wool Festival, Howard County Fairgrounds, W. Friendship, Md. off I-70, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Continues tomorrow, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sheep auction May 3, 3 p.m.
Pa. Shorthorn Association Spring Sale, Mercer.

Grange, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday, May 4
PennAg Pesticide Workshop, General Sutter Inn, Lititz; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Hunterdon County Sheep Breeders Meeting, Extension Center, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 6
Lancaster County Conservation District Meeting, Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.
N.J. Agricultural Society Annual Dinner, Ramada Inn, Princeton. Reservations: 609-292-8897.

Tuesday, May 5
Spring Homemaker's Day, Stanton

Friday, May 8
Spring Steam Up, Rough and Tumble Engineers History Association, Kinzers. Phone: 717-442-4249; continues tomorrow.

Saturday, May 9
Western Pa. Sheep and Club Lamb

Sale, Mercer County 4-H Park, 6 p.m.
Eastern Shore 4-H/FFA Spring Show, Queen Anne County 4-H Park, Centerville, Md.

Monday, May 11
Annual Meeting, Dairy Sanitarians Association, Penn State University.
Combined 4-H leaders banquet and Wayne County Extension Executive Committee meeting, Bethany Methodist Church Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 13
Veterinary Nutrition Forum, Host Town Motel, Lancaster, 7 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Larry Muller, Penn State University.

Saturday, May 16
Fourth Annual Rhubarb Festival, Kitchen Kettle Village, Route 340, Intercourse.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

TOUGH, BUT SAVING LOVE

May 3, 1987

Background Scripture:
Hosea 1:1 through 2:1, 4:1-15.
Devotional Reading:
Jeremiah 3:1-5.

In the thirty years during which I have done pastoral counselling, I have found no Christian virtue that is more frequently misunderstood than that of Christian love. Unlike some Christian teachings, the failure to understand just what kind of love Christ demonstrated and requires of us can have tragic consequences.

Some of my counselees have been parents whose understanding of Christian love caused them to continue to let their children manipulate and exploit them. Others have been spouses who, for the same reason, have permitted their mates to brutalize them, wreck their marriages and abuse their children. Unfortunately, these counselees have frequently done the wrong things for the best of reasons: Christian love or, at least, what they thought was "Christian love".

The problem is that, what they have believed to be the dictates of Christian love, was in reality nothing more than sentimentality. It was a weak and misguided love without the power of redemption and salvation. He or she who gives this kind of love may feel "good" about loving in this way, but ultimately the person so "loved"

will be the worse rather than the better for it.

A case in point is a wife, whom we'll call "Judy." Judy comes to her pastor for counselling because her husband's long-standing alcoholism is getting worse and is threatening the safety and wellbeing of both Judy and their children. When husband "Bob" is drinking, he becomes physically abusive and has, at times, beaten each of them. Bob refuses counselling, maintaining that he can control his drinking but, after each drunken episode, begs his wife to forgive him and give him "another chance." After eight years of worsening alcoholism, it is apparent to Judy that her forgiveness doesn't seem to help Bob break out of his obsession with alcohol.

So, is Judy "locked-into" this tragic situation by a commitment to Christ to unconditionally love and forgive Bob no matter what her husband does or doesn't do? I think not, for Judy is mistaken in thinking that "loving" Bob means taking full responsibility for the marriage, the family, and even the consequences of Bob's drinking. That kind of "loving" is not the kind of "loving" that Christ demonstrated in his own life and it is not the kind of "loving" that he requires of us. It is a love without judgement, grace without the law, and these are inseparable and indivisible if there is to be redemption and salvation.

We can discern this even before the coming of Christ, in the Old Testament we find this concept of love as one of the themes of the Book of Hosea. The Lord instructs the prophet Hosea to marry Gomer, a prostitute, as a living demonstration of God's love for his people Israel. Like Gomer, the people of Israel have been unfaithful. Like Hosea, God will restore the people of Israel to their former special status. That's what redemption means: to buy back or restore something or someone to a former level of value.

So God's love is a powerful love that has the power to redeem us. But don't miss the fact that it is a love that is linked to judgement! Before he can call them, "Sons of the living God" (1:10), he must first pronounce his judgement: "I will have no more pity on the house of Israel...for you are not my people and I am not your God (1:6,9).

Christian love, like the love of God himself, must be both "tough" and "tender" if it is to be powerful enough to redeem and save.

329 Farms Apply For Dairy Distinction Award

(Continued from Page A1)

best kept farms in each district. The judges will view the farm from the milk consumer's point of view when driving past the farm.

The winner in each district will be awarded a farm sign and a plaque for the livingroom wall. Each district has begun to plan special awards programs during the month of June. In addition, winners will be invited to a

fraternal gathering of the Dairy of Distinction farm owners and their families at Ag Progress Days. At that time, the 11 by 14 color portrait of each farm from Lancaster Farming will be displayed and available for pickup by the winners.

Everett Newswanger, state president, said the large grassroots participation in the program this first year is exciting.

"We have an opportunity not only to encourage farm beautification, but also a vehicle to bring the farm family and the urban/city family together," Newswanger said. "One of the first rules of salesmanship is that you never get a second chance to make a good first impression. This program can make us a little more conscious of what impression our farm communicates to the milk-consuming public."



DAVE CARPENTER