



# OPINION

## Lottery Drawing

(Continued from Page A1)

But the official in Harrisburg said "We did it to attract a crowd to the Monday night program." When the official was asked if he thought a lot of farmers would be against gambling at the family oriented Farm Show, he said, "I hadn't even thought of it. It never came up. The general public has accepted the lottery as a means of supporting the elderly. I would think the general farm community would feel the same way about it."

The text, that is reported to be in the official Farm Show program, says that this is the first time the Pennsylvania Lottery has ever taken the drawing show out of the television studio. In addition, the text says "The Pennsylvania State Lottery takes great pride in its operation, whether it is selling tickets or conducting the drawing shows. The security, integrity and credibility of all lottery operations is of utmost importance. The extensive security controls and measures you will witness during the drawing preparations and broadcast exist to maintain that integrity and credibility."

"The Pennsylvania Lottery was established by legislative action in 1971 with proceeds targeted toward property tax relief for the elderly. Benefits funded by the Pennsylvania Lottery have expanded to include rent rebates, inflation dividends, free and reduced-fare transit for senior citizens, reduced vehicle registration fees, a co-pay prescription program and Area Agencies on Aging services. The Pennsylvania Lottery is the only state lottery which exclusively targets its proceeds to benefit older citizens."

But the letter writer disagrees. "...don't use the cover-up for greed that you are buying a lottery ticket to help out senior citizens," the letter says. "...Whose interest really is at heart...? I go into a convenience store in Middletown, and there are ragged, unattended elderly people spending what little money they do have on lottery tickets. Supposing someone does win a \$5 million lottery; they are only entitled to \$30,000-\$40,000 per year. Who benefits from the other \$4,070,000 until you draw out your limit during the next 10 or 20 years? What if you die before your 20 years of installments come through? Where does that money go? Who decides what bank/investments that will be placed in to earn more money? I believe most farmers would be content to live off just one month's interest on the money of those who died before they received the full amount."

"Anyway, I don't believe the lottery should be part of the Farm Show. Does anyone else feel the same way. If so, call the Lottery Commission," the letter concludes.

Or you could write a letter to the editor of *Lancaster Farming*.

### FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

#### To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to send my thanks and appreciation to those who sent the really lovely apron, "Pork, the other white one," to me. I had sent a recipe and was overjoyed to receive it. It is such a great style &

top-grade quality! Please convey my thanks to the proper people! Have a blessed Christmas!  
**Frances Krammes**  
 312 Amwell Rd.  
 Neshanic Station, N.J. 08853

### Farm Calendar

**Monday, December 19**  
 Wayne County Farmers Association Board Meeting, Extension Office, Honesdale, 8:00 p.m.  
**Tuesday, December 20**  
 Monroe Co. Ag Security Meeting, Polk Township Fire Hall, 7:00 p.m.  
**Tuesday, December 27**  
 Lebanon County 4-H Livestock

Winter Roundup Beef & Sheep Show, Lebanon Fairgrounds, 7:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday, December 28**  
 Lebanon County 4-H Swine Show, Lebanon Fairgrounds, 8:30 a.m.  
 Lebanon County 4-H Livestock Sale, Lebanon Fairgrounds, 6:00 p.m.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Consider Manure Nutrients

Did you know that on the average, more nutrients are brought onto the farm in feed for the animals than fertilizer purchases? Well, that may be a surprising fact but research has shown this to be true in southeast Pennsylvania. This serves to make a point for considering the importance of manure management. In the past, management of manure nutrients has "taken the back seat" to other management problems. The research done in this area in the past several years has had the same conclusion: taking a closer look at the benefits you are receiving from manure applications is a profitable idea! It is time to turn the manure problem into an opportunity.

### To Review Partnership Agreements

There are a number of advantages to establishing farm partnerships, but an annual review of the agreement and its value in relation to current needs is essential.

I would like to offer a few suggestions for those who have entered into farm partnership agreements.

Once a farm partnership is drawn up, the agreement should be reviewed at least once a year. This should be done for two reasons. First, to see how well each of the partners is meeting his obligations -- and secondly, to carefully evaluate the agreement to see if it is doing its intended job.

Then too, farming is rapidly changing business. So, don't be surprised if the agreement you set up just a couple years ago isn't entirely adequate to meet today's needs.

So review that agreement carefully. If it doesn't quite measure up to current needs, plan to make necessary changes before 1989 rolls around.

### To Prepare For Slippery Conditions

Slippery roads, walks and steps will be a common hazard through the next few months. Many people use salt too freely in cutting the ice; it may get the job done but also may injure nearby turf or shrubbery. I'd suggest the use of sand or sawdust. These materials will make the surface safe without possible injury to vegetation. In

areas without any vegetation, salt will give good results. Along our main highways there is some evidence that the constant use of salt is inflicting injury to nearby trees and shrubs. Don't let this happen to your favorite tree, shrub or the turf lining your walk.

### To Protect Trees and Shrubs

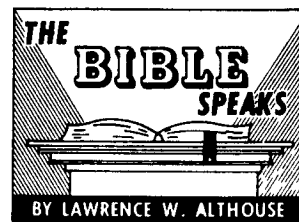
Your trees and shrubs will be able to withstand the winter conditions in better shape -- with a little help from you. Some winter protection might help save your valued trees and shrubs.

Thin-barked trees can be damaged by sunscald in the winter. That's why it's a good idea to wrap the trunks of such trees as sugar maple, tulip tree, American linden, flowering dogwood and

plum. You can wrap them now but be sure to take the wrapping off late next spring. You can use commercial tree wrapping, starting at the ground level and working up the tree, overlapping about every half-inch. Tie the wrap with twine or use a waterproof tape several places along the stem.

Smaller ornamentals should be mulched; this will not keep the soil from freezing but it helps keep the soil frozen to prevent root injury caused by alternate freezing and thawing of the soil. The mulch should be loose, but it should stay where you put it. Shredded bark does a good job.

Penn State Cooperative Extension is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educational institution.



GOOD NEWS!  
 December 18, 1988

Background Scripture:  
 Luke 2:1-20.

Devotional Reading:  
 Isaiah 9:2-7.

Christmas has become so many things to so many people—increased sales, time off from work, parties, too much to eat and drink—that it is easy for us to quite forget that essentially Christmas is good news.

No matter how old the story may be, nor how many times we've heard and read it, Christmas is always news and always good, even if what we make of it is not "good" and treat it like something "old." Someone has said that "A classic is news that stays news." That makes Christmas the ultra-classic. No amount of holiday hassle can diminish the meaning of Christmas, no matter how cheap, trite, commercial and vulgar it may be presented in our society.

### SAME OLD DRAMA

The Christmas answer to the world and its woes is just as fresh and untainted as it was two thousand years ago when the angel proclaimed: "I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people" (Luke 2:10b). The world is no less in need of saving than it was on that starry night. The cast and the plot may seem quite different, but it is essentially still the same old drama that is playing on the world's stage.

There is still poverty, hunger, pestilence, war, prejudice, injustice, oppression and tyranny. Mary and Joseph were poor and humble people, and today the plight of people like this is no better than it was then. There are still common people like the shepherds of Bethlehem who seem to be "out

in left field" when the pie is divided. Although I'm sure there was nothing romantic about the Bethlehem stable, it is likely that some of the places where babies are born today would make that stable seem like a palace.

### GOD'S V.I.P.S

Yet, old as the problems are, that fresh is the solution that comes to us in the Incarnation. The values and perspective of Christmas today are as much in conflict with society as when Jesus was born. The home into which the Messiah was born was a simple, humble family, the very antithesis of power, pomp and prestige. The announcement of Christ's birth was not made to the high and mighty, but to lowly shepherds. Of those who found their way to the manger in Bethlehem, there wasn't a Roman commander, a high priest from the Temple, a wealthy noble, or a government official. That doesn't mean that God didn't reveal it to somebody important, but that the "important people" of God are not the same as the "important people" of this world.

Another part of the good news is that this "great joy will come to all the people." Please note that it is for the "bad guys" as well as the "good guys," for the Gentiles as well as the Jews, for the down-trodden as well as the up-and-coming, for the poor as well as the rich, for both liberals and conservatives, for all colors, all races, all sexes. There may have been for Mary and Joseph "no place in the inn," but the good news of their son Jesus was for the whole world.

So, if Christmas is good news, why are we not telling it? That's what it is all about—not buying, selling or even giving gifts, but sharing the good news. The shepherds, poor and illiterate as they were, understood that: "they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child...And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them" (2:17, 20).

Why not put that at the top of your Christmas list!

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