



OPINION

SOS In Chester County

After months of research and investigation, The Open Space and Environmental Task Force in Chester County assembled its recommendations on current and anticipated development in Chester County. In their report to the Chester County Commissioners, they called for a \$50 million bond issue to acquire land for county parks, to help preserve farmland, open space, environmentally and historically sensitive areas, and to provide matching grants and loans to local municipalities and conservancies to help accomplish the same goals.

Because of the magnitude of the project, the Chester County Commissioners requested a referendum question for the November 7 ballot in order to measure public support for open space preservation.

Following the Commissioners' decision to hold the referendum, several members from the Open Space Task Force, recognizing the importance of the issue, decided to form a temporary, non-profit committee to educate voters about the importance of the issue of preserving open space and to encourage voters to vote YES on the referendum.

This new committee is called Chester County Citizens To Save Open Space. Headquarters have been established at 152 West Gay Street in West Chester. The organization is chaired by Peter O. Hausmann, a member of the Open Space Task Force. Linda L. Peterson was named Executive Director in August. Former Judge Theodore Rogers was named Treasurer.

The organization has won endorsements for the passage of the referendum from leading environmental, business, political, civic, and municipal organizations, as well as numerous corporations and political officials in Chester County. Field coordinators throughout the county are being appointed, phone banks are being created, and a broad based promotional effort is being mounted.

Here are a few of the facts the Task Force has assembled for voter consideration:

— 90 acres of open space are being lost every day to development (average over last three years). In 1988 alone, approximately 32,812 Chester County acres were proposed for development.

— Over 12,000 new housing units were proposed for development in 1988. This is the equivalent of two new "West Chester Boroughs" being created. In the past three years, 34,781 new housing units have been proposed in the county.

— The county is becoming increasingly urban and suburban, rather than rural. In 1985, it was estimated that 22 percent of the County was developed, double the amount developed between 1970 and 1985. Today, 44 percent of the county is now classified as urban or suburban, double the amount of just four years ago.

— Farmland is being lost at the rate of 6,000 acres per year, or about 16 acres per day. This rate continued steady from 1982 to 1987. We have lost 30,037 acres of farmland since 1982. At the current rate of loss, there will be no farmland left in Chester County at the end of this generation (specifically, 32 years).

The SOS (Save Open Space) call has gone out in Chester County. Let's have the voters give a positive response to this call.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Observe Weed Populations

Now that most of our corn is harvested, we can plainly see what weeds failed to be controlled in those fields. We are seeing more of the persistent, hard-to-control weeds appearing in our crop fields during the past eight-10 years. In part, this is because we have changed our farming methods, particularly tillage techniques and we're not using crop rotations in the case of continuous corn.

Bindweeds, hosenettle, hemp dogbane, curly dock, Canada thistle, Johnsongrass, and yes, even woody plants such as brambles and small volunteer trees have appeared in increasing numbers. We need to note the presence of these weeds now and then prepare to deal with them.

When you notice a new weed, have it identified and take appropriate control measures before that weed becomes a menacing problem. If weeds are presently escaping from your control efforts, find out how to change your weed management program.

To Prevent Pneumonia

As temperature and weather conditions vary considerably from day to day and from hour to hour, precautions need to be taken to prevent pneumonia. Pneumonia causing organisms are normally present in the respiratory tract, but under periods of stress an animal's resistance can be lowered to the point where it can no longer fight off the infection. So, it's important to minimize stress on animals. Keep barns well ventilated, but avoid cold drafts. This may require frequent adjustments of doors and windows, or the proper installation and use of fans. Good ventilation prevents the buildup of stagnant, moist germ-laden air. That's important! Also avoid overcrowding. During inclement and rapidly changing weather conditions, one should also minimize stresses associated with transport-

ing animals, weaning, changing feeds, deworming, vaccinating, etc. When necessary, consult your veterinarian for advice on immunization and treatment.

To Winterize Small Engines

Many small engines on farms and around houses will be hard to start next spring. But you can change that by properly winterizing your small engines. Here are some suggestions:

- After running the engine to reach operating temperature, drain the crankcase and refill with new oil of proper weight, as specified in the operator's manual.

- Add a few teaspoons of gasoline stabilizer into the gas tank and run the engine for several minutes to make sure additive flows throughout the fuel system.

- If the engine is water cooled, be sure the anti-freeze in the cooling system is sufficient for the lowest temperature.

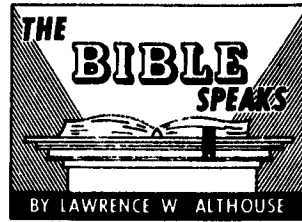
- Remove the spark plug and pour a tablespoon of clean oil into the cylinder. Also clean and regap the spark plug or replace with a new one.

- Use an air gun to blow loose dirt and chaff from the engine. Remove and service the air cleaner.

- Finally, cover the engine with a piece of canvas and store in a dry place under cover.

To Check Stand-By Generators

The winter season brings with it snow and ice storms that can damage and knock out our supply of electricity. Most farmers are badly crippled without electricity so the need for a stand-by generator is recognized. I know that many poultry farms already have this equipment. However, if the generator is not in good working condition, it may not do the job in case of emergency. These generators should be run once a week to reassure yourself that it's in good running condition. If it is a tractor hookup type, then take the time to make that connection each week. When the power goes off, you don't have time to run tests of the equipment to make sure it's in proper working order.



SPIRITUAL FREELOADERS October 29, 1989

Background Scripture:

2 Thessalonians 2 through 3.

Devotional Reading:

Matthew 24: 15-28.

I've known a fair number of people in the churches I've served who always could be counted upon to do much more than their share. As a pastor I was always glad to have these people. But I would have been just as satisfied to have everyone do just his own share. The fact is, in the church, like just about everywhere else, there are lots of freeloaders, people who don't pull their own weight.

I'm reminded of the young man who was inducted into the U.S. Navy. In his first letter home he wrote, "Dear Mom, I joined the Navy because I noticed that they always kept their ships so nice and clean. Now I know who it is that keeps them nice and clean!" Lots of people take for granted the tremendous amount of effort that goes into sustaining congregational life. When they arrive at church there's never any question but that it will be open, lighted, heated or cooled, cleaned and ready for worship or Sunday school. There will be worship bulletins handed out at the door, fresh flowers on the altar, an anthem for the choir and a sermon from the minister. It would never occur to anyone that any of these elements might not be ready on any particular Sunday morning.

DOING YOUR SHARE

I now am on the staff of a very

large United Methodist Church with a considerable staff of paid employees. But even with all our paid employees, the church still couldn't begin to fulfill its basic functions without the efforts of lots and lots of volunteers. ("Volunteers" includes people who didn't actually volunteer, but didn't say "no" when you asked them.) No church can be very effective in serving either its members or the community unless it can find enough people who are willing to do their share and perhaps more.

I have found over the years that most of the freeloaders in the church is unintentional and unconscious. These people don't go out of their way to shirk their share of the work; for the most part they are simply oblivious. They never stop to think how all these necessary tasks are accomplished in the church. And the reason they are usually unaware is that someone else has picked up their share of the load.

GOOD EXAMPLES

Paul's concern for the people of the church at Thessalonica was along these same lines, although the cause was somewhat different. Lots of these people were so certain that Christ's return was just around the corner that they just sat and waited. Paul pointedly reminds the Thessalonians of the people he and his associates set when they were with them: "We were not idle when we were with you, we did not eat anyone's bread without paying, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not burden any of you" (3:8). It was because of this example that they set before the church at Thessalonica that Paul and his associates felt confident in commanding them: "If anyone will not work, let him not eat" (3:10).

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Farm Calendar

- Saturday, October 28**
Great Pet & Animal Fair, York Fairgrounds, York, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Lancaster County Sheep & Wool Growers Association sheep to shawl contest, Watt & Shand Mall, Park City Center, Lancaster, 1:00 p.m.
- Dutch Country Calf Sale, Lebanon Area Fairgrounds, Lebanon, 1:30 p.m.
- Pennsylvania Simmental Association show and sale, Greene County Fairgrounds, Waynesburg; show at 10:00 a.m., sale at 1:00 p.m.
- Lebanon Quilters Guild 5th annual quilt show, Lebanon Area fair-

- grounds; runs through October 29.
- Monday, October 30**
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Readers Write

Editor:
About your editorial October 7, 1989, you mention a "World Resources Institute." Who & where are they? How do they make money to keep going? Did you ever look at their income reports?
Another thing about your comments relative to 1½ billion metric tons. Who weighed all of this

stuff? And if it's hanging up in the atmosphere, what holds it up?
Please answer these simple questions in your next editorial.
I'm in favor of using farm grown materials for fuel, but I believe you're out on a limb by your comments.

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Three Bridges, NJ

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