

SOMERSET COUNTY AGENT'S NEWS LETTER

Paper Twine for Tying Sheep Fleeces

The Somerset County Sheep and Growers' Association have just received their allotment of paper twine. Growers who do not have sufficient paper twine to tie their fleeces should make arrangements at once to buy fleeces always cut the price of fleeces are not tied with paper twine. The strands of sisal or similar fibers and the refuse makes a grade of cloth. Paper twine is used in the preparation of the raw fleeces.

Farm Gardens

Mr. J. M. Huffington in charge of the garden extension, spent Tuesday and Wednesday of the week in discussing matters pertaining to the production of vegetables for the family. Vegetables from the garden should supply the family with greens during the entire winter months of the year. The demonstrations conducted last year were seen by many good gardeners.

Good Feeding of Ewes Aid to Fine Lamb Crop

To ensure a profitable lamb crop by feeding correctly the breeding ewes, it will be, should receive a good ration containing plenty of protein. Good, fresh corn silage, fed in combination with clover hay, furnishes a splendid roughage.

With a roughage of this kind, each ewe should get one pound a day of a mixture made up of 300 pounds of cracked corn, 50 pounds of bran, 100 pounds of shelled corn, 100 pounds of alfalfa and 50 pounds of meal. The amount of this grain ration to be fed depends upon the stage of the breeding ewes. For example, a big Hampshire ewe suckling lambs will require more feed than a fine wool ewe mothering only lambs.

The general practice of feeding oats with a roughage that carries a high percentage of timothy is deplorable. When forced to such poor roughage, bran and alfalfa will add a fine source of protein to the ration.

Plant Soybeans for Emergency Hay Crop

Farmers with poor prospects for a good supply of leguminous hay still have a chance to provide their cows with nutritious roughage.

It is the note of encouragement for those who have clover damaged by winter-killing or have no clover soil of such high requirements that it must be at least partially satisfied before red clover will grow.

Soybeans will grow under such conditions because they are more tolerant of acid soils. They are high in content, being about the same as alfalfa in feeding value. Another feature of the soybean is that it can be grown in any part of the state, providing the soil is of average fertility.

Consider Market Needs in Growing Bush Fruit

Pennsylvania is characterized by a number of local marketing products such as few other states can produce. This unexcelled condition, the requirement for successful small fruit marketing has been met. Regardless of the potential production of the proposed small fruit production site, the grower should consider market prospects and select the varieties to be planted. All kinds of raspberries are not set favorites; consequently, selection should be made from the lead commercial varieties.

Growers must consider the varieties of raspberries that are of equal commercial importance or if they offer the same possibilities. During the past few years there have been few displacements in the recommended bush fruits. The following varieties are considered the best: raspberries—Cuthbert, Latham, Newspan, black raspberries—Cumberland and Farmer, purple raspberries—Columbian, blackberries—Eldorado, blueberries, such as Ontario, and Brant, should be planted to get comparisons with the new varieties before making extensive new plantings.

Prepare Garden Soil Well for Production. Prepare the soil of the home garden if maximum yields are expected.

Garden soil can be improved by the application of at least 20 tons of well-rotted animal manure per acre or by plowing under a green manuring crop. Lime should be applied as needed and drainage provided where necessary.

Cultural practices include careful plowing, thorough discing and harrowing and final smoothing. Heavy soil should never be worked when it is wet.

Sufficient fertilizing also is essential in good gardening. This can be accomplished by applying broadcast at least 1200 pounds per acre of a complete commercial fertilizer, with top-dressings of nitrate of soda or chicken manure in addition where needed. A fertilizer analyzing 4 per cent nitrogen, 12 per cent phosphorus, and 4 per cent potash is good on heavy soils where manure also has been applied. Without manure, on light soils, the formula may be 4-8-4 or 5-10-5.

C. C. McDowell, County Agent.

Mortgaging the Community, Detrimental

Nothing can be more detrimental to a community's progress and prosperity than a burden of bonded debt. Private citizens and industries alike are wary of any locality, no matter what its other advantages, that has a constantly increasing tax rate. Improvements which require bond issues are liable to turn into white elephants. The debt often remains long after the improvement has been forgotten. And a generation or more of taxpayers must pay for it.

For every dollar borrowed on a five per cent serial bond issue running over 20 years over \$1.50 must be paid back. If the issue runs 40 years over \$2.00 must be returned. And at the end of the community has often paid out all proportion to the value of the improvement gained.

When practical the pay-as-you-go plan should be rigidly adhered to. When not practical, every voting citizen should consider if the improvement is necessary, or if it will place a further serious burden on industries and individuals, and if its benefits will be equivalent to its cost and the interest that must be paid.

Extensive Use of Cellophane Wraps

Cellophane was first produced in America four years ago and now it is found everywhere, serving as a beautiful transparent wrap, or casing, for apples, candy, fish, ham, lamb, mutton, nuts, pears, prunes, raisins, sweets, sausage, etc. The first factory was erected at Buffalo, New York. Due to increasing use of the material in a variety of industries, the original Buffalo plant is now producing annually more than four times its original capacity and several million dollars is being spent in building the second du Pont plant at Old Hickory, near Nashville.

Cellophane is considered an industrial chemical product of first importance because it is the first moisture-proof, transparent wrapping material ever produced. Moisture, gas, oil and odor-proof, this material protects indefinitely in its original condition, any article wrapped in it.

"SINGING FOOL" COMING TO THE PAR-K THEATRE

The greatest singing, talking and sound picture that has been made is scheduled to be run in Somerset next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. It is without question one of the most heart-rending stories ever presented on the silver screen and this coupled with the fact that such a star as Al Jolson should be playing the leading role, with his touching mammy songs make it a sure bet that everyone who sees this picture will remember it for a long time to come.

This is the second picture that stars Al Jolson, his first being THE JAZZ SINGER which really had the making of the sound pictures, but after completing the SINGING FOOL there was no stopping the talking pictures from becoming a dominating factor in the motion picture world, so while the JAZZ SINGER advanced talking pictures from their cradle stage it was really the SINGING FOOL that put them where they are today. And it is earnestly recommended that you make seeing THE SINGING FOOL one of your worthwhile duties next week.

"Mother," asked little Jack, "is it correct to say that your 'water a horse' when he is thirsty?" "Yes, dear," replied his mother. "Well, then," said Jack, picking up a saucer, "I'm going to milk the cat." "What?" "The Pathfinder." Speaker—I wish you'd kindly refrain from cracking walnuts while I'm speaking. Guest—I will when you refrain from cracking chestnuts. —The Pathfinder.

Bobby's Sister His Proxy

By DOROTHY DOUGLAS

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BOBBY was struggling with a refractory tie and muttering strange sounds under his breath, for the hour was advancing, and it was nearly time when he should be arriving at the annual dinner—that famous dinner which had been held every year for the past ten and for which there was an increasingly heavy fine each year for even a moment's tardiness.

The other twelve men would be already cooling their heels and wondering whether Bobby Granville would appear or whether he would be fined the one hundred dollars imposed on any one of the thirteen friends who failed to appear for the annual dinner. The first year the fine for non-appearance was ten dollars and each year it jumped up another ten. In their early twenties, ten dollars had seemed a lot of money; now in their thirties, the hundred didn't seem quite so bad—still it was enough to be there. Besides, the dinner was a grand and glorious affair and especially as it was the only time during the entire year that some of the friends were able to enjoy a personal meeting.

The telephone rang imperiously as Bobby was slipping into his immaculate dinner coat. A forceful word flew from Bobby's lips as he picked up the receiver.

When he hung it up he looked dejected.

Seeing his sister Peggy flitting past his door—a billow of fluffy pink—he shouted to her.

"Peggy—you've got to do me a favor tonight. The hospital's just called me up—urgent case—I must go. No time to get a substitute for the dinner and I can't stand the racket just now of that hundred-dollar fine. Hop into your evening cloak and into a taxi, quick. You've got to be a sport and represent me at that dinner. Be a darling, Peg—they're an awfully decent bunch of men."

"But, Bobby—it's a stag affair—I should be the only girl—"

"Never mind—you can stay only for the soup or fish and then retreat. I just want you to be my proxy—save the fine. Hustle—there's a dear."

So Peggy, her cheeks like crimson roses and her eyes like stars, had rushed off to do her beloved brother's bidding.

She quaked inwardly as she neared the doorway where she knew those twelve men would be gathered to welcome Bobby; but outwardly she was the picture of feminine charm.

When the door of the private dining room opened and the twelve men looked up expecting to see their thirteenth member, there was first a stunned silence, then a swift pushing back of chairs as they one and all rose.

"I—I have come as Bobby Granville's representative," she began haltingly and feeling the ordeal of so much admiration all at once a bit disconcerting. "He suggested that I just sit down and—well—try with the first course or two—then leave you—to enjoy your dinner in Evesless peace."

Even the married men of the twelve and those that were nearly in double harness realized the fact that Bobby Granville had played a rather mean trick on them all these years in having concealed a sister like this from them.

John Manners felt it most keenly. He was about the only one of the bunch neither tied nor half tied to the matrimonial yoke. He felt he should like to shake Bobby into an explanation. He, John, had been circling the globe in search of just such a wonder woman as this sister of Bobby's and now she was going to be snatched from his grasp after the soup or fish course.

"I say," he cried loudly to the eleven men—who were still wondering just how to arrange a somewhat delicate situation, but were all feeling a certain desire to keep this vision in their midst; "couldn't you chaps call up wives and near wives in a hurry and get them here for this dinner. Sprint out to the telephone booths and get busy and I'll speak to the waiters about doubling the places. What do you all say?"

"Great head—that's what we all say," came a quick response.

Meantime, Peggy stood by and inwardly laughed. Men were certainly amusing creatures. She felt glad that the particular man who had taken this matter in his own hands and was now having a heart-to-heart talk with the head waiter had time also for swift glances in her direction.

It wasn't until he saw the extra chairs being brought in and the table being drawn out to accommodate double the number it had been arranged for that he came to sit beside her.

It was while a mass of pink flowers were being brought in to decorate the table—flowers that exactly matched the glorious pink of Peggy's frock—that Bobby's sister realized how wonderfully thoughtful some men could be—in fact, John Manners. Would any other have thought of such delicate flattery?

POULTRY

EARLY BIRD GETS RICH EGG RATION

February Chicks Should Make Rapid Growth.

Leghorn chicks hatched in February should be fed rations that make for continual rapid growth, is the advice offered by the poultry department of the New Jersey Agricultural college.

Pullets from early hatched chicks cannot be expected to produce a profitable number of eggs during the summer and fall, if their growth is stunted in any manner. Any good baby chick ration will prove satisfactory until the birds are eight or ten weeks old. After that date, the specialists advise that they be placed upon a ration similar to a good laying ration, but containing a larger amount of minerals. To have the bird come into production as soon as possible and at the same time have her continue her body growth is the poultryman's aim.

No matter how they are fed, February hatched birds can always be expected to go through a moult in the late fall. They can use this period for any increase in weight or growth that has not been accomplished previously.

One must remember that an early hatched bird is an entirely different individual from a late hatched bird. The later hatches should have a much slower development in order to prevent an early winter moult, but with the early hatched stock the aim is to get all of the eggs possible before the early winter moult.

Feed Turkey Breeders for Vigorous Poults

Too much corn in the turkey's winter ration may make the birds too fat for the production of eggs of high hatchability. Some breeders feed 3 parts of oats to 1 of corn and find that the stock come through the winter in condition to produce vigorous poults. Equal parts of corn, wheat and oats make a good grain ration for turkey breeding stock. The addition of cull vegetables, and alfalfa or clover is necessary until the turkeys can forage in the spring.

Before the turkey hens begin to lay, it often pays to give them a hopper of the same balanced laying mash which is used for the chickens. Where they have had nothing but grain they may be reluctant to eat the mash but if it is kept before them, some of the mash will probably be eaten and it will help to improve egg production and keep up the vigor of the turkey hens while they are laying. Keep a hopper of oyster shells before the turkey hens to help in producing firm shells on the eggs and reduce breakage in the nests.

Feeding the turkey breeding stock on soil away from the chickens is a help in preventing blackhead and other turkey diseases. Diseases are often spread through the medium of the feed. Some losses may be prevented by feeding both the grain and the mash in hoppers so that none of the feed will touch soil which might be contaminated with disease.

Poultry Notes

It pays to rid hens of worms. One water fountain is needed to each 25 chicks.

A hot, stuffy brooder house is as undesirable for chicks as it is for the attendant.

Cod liver oil isn't just a fad. It helps to remedy the lack of sunshine and green feed at this time of year.

If there were losses from bacillary white diarrhea last year it is not safe to use infertile eggs for the young poultry this spring unless the eggs are so well cooked or baked that all bacilli are destroyed.

Warm water is fine for hens in cold weather. A safely-heated water fountain will return several times its cost in eggs.

If the litter gets damp in a short time it means poor ventilation—and then there's danger of roup. A straw lot overhead will help.

It pays to study your flock and make the birds like you. Doubters may laugh, but hens will lay better for a caretaker that they know well and are glad to see.

It is not considered good practice to take breeding cockerels from the same brood from which you get your pullets.

It is said that if alfalfa hay is used for hens' nests and scattered around the chicken coops the chicken mites will beat a hasty retreat.

Protein derived from animal sources, such as meat products and milk, is of greater value to the hen than protein from vegetable feeds, such as cottonseed and linseed.

Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

MARY GRAHAM BONNER

THE GULLS' SONG

"Come, Sea Gulls, and listen to the song," said Mrs. Sea Gull.

All the sea gulls came around and then they all rested on the top of the waves while Mrs. Sea Gull sang this song:

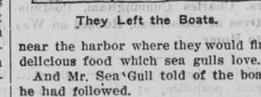
Let's sing a song, a song
As we fly, fly along.
Let's wave to the people on boats,
And sing for them shrieking notes,
Let's whisper sweet words to the waves,
And laugh when the old wind raves.
We can fly o'er the sea, the wonderful sea,
And so we should happy be, happy be.
Oh, life can never be dull,
When one is a strong sea gull!

Mrs. Gull paused for a moment, and then she said:
"Now, Sea Gulls, I will teach you the chorus, which we will always sing twice. Here it is:

It's joyous to fly
And Mr. Sea Gull high,
And 'tis wonderful bliss
The great waves to kiss.

The sea gulls all sang this song until they knew it by heart, and every time they sang the verse they sang the chorus twice over.

Then they followed the boats, and after a time they left the boats, which were going far across the ocean, as they wanted to go back to their coves



They Left the Boats.

near the harbor where they would find delicious food which sea gulls love.

And Mr. Sea Gull told of the boats he had followed.

He told of the food which had been given to him from some of these boats.

He told of the adventures he had had, of the great wild storms on the sea through which he had lived.

He told of boats he had seen rock and toss, he told of people to whom he had waved his wings as they waved their hands or arms or handkerchiefs to him.

He said he wasn't quite sure which were arms and which were hands and which were handkerchiefs, but anyway it was very nice to be waved to by the people who were on the boats.

And all the little sea gulls listened to his adventures and hoped that they would have interesting adventures, too.

And all, all the time, the sea gulls kept whispering secrets to the waves and the waves kept bubbling over with laughter, for some of the sea gulls were so merry and jolly and funny and gay.

And the waves roared in their deep voices:
"Oh, sea gulls, we love you. Oh, sea gulls, we love you!"

RIDDLES

When is a ship like a floor? When she's boarded.

Why is the oyster the wisest of animals? He keeps his mouth shut.

When do you become a country of South America? When you are CHILL.

Why is an orange like a church steeple? Because we have a peel from it.

On what condition would women wear men's clothes? If it were the fashion.

Why is a brave man like a tin soldier? Because he is a man of metal (metal).

Why is the Fourth of July like an oyster stew? Because we enjoy it best with crackers.

Why should a fainting woman have more than one doctor called? Because if she is not brought to (two), she will die.

What is the difference between a new sponge and a fashionable man? If you well wet one it makes it swell. But if you well wet the other it takes all the swell out of him.

What is the difference between a man and a banana peel? Sometimes the man throws the banana peel into the gutter, and sometimes the banana peel throws the man into the gutter.

Certain Legumes Improve Soils

Cowpeas and Soy Beans as Effective Fertilizer as Manure.

Anyone having a field which he is not going to use for producing a market crop this year might find it a good plan to improve the soil by sowing cowpeas or soy beans, suggests H. R. Cox, specialist in farm crops at the New Jersey State College of Agriculture, New Brunswick. It is cheaper to grow these crops than to use ten tons of manure to the acre, and they are considered as being practically as effective as this amount of manure if the right kind of fertilizer is used on the market crops of the following year.

Soy Beans Cheaper. Soy beans are cheaper than cowpeas by about 50 or 75 cents a bushel. Soy beans are, therefore, a better crop to use for this purpose. In the case of soy beans it is desirable to inoculate if the field has never raised them before. One may buy commercial inoculants or he may use the "seed and soil" method. This method consists in mixing a bushel of slightly moistened seed with a quart of soil taken from a field which has raised soy beans successfully in recent years.

Drill or Broadcast. Soy beans or cowpeas should be drilled, but if a drill is not available, broadcasting by hand and harrowing will do. Five pecks to the acre drilled or six pecks broadcast by hand is a good rate of seeding. An application of a complete fertilizer high in phosphoric acid and potash and low in nitrogen may well be made at the rate of 300 to 400 pounds per acre. When the crop is beginning to mature, plow it under or disk it in and sow rye or vetch as a winter cover crop. A surprising improvement in the fertility of the field will result.

Bankers Approve Service Charges

The Somerset County Bankers' Association held its quarterly business meeting at the Hite House at Stoyestown on Thursday night and approved the proposed assessment of the handling of past due notes. Delinquents will be assessed 50 cents for the first day of delinquency and 25 cents for each succeeding day.

Labor Cost Is Big Item in Production of Milk

In large herds labor is usually the second most important item in the cost of milk production. From the keeping of cost accounts in many sections of the country the amount of labor required in caring for a cow has been found to range from 100 to 175 hours per year. Under average conditions the care of a cow for a year may be considered equivalent to about 15 days' work.

On general farms where only a few cows are kept no additional labor is hired for their care. The work is performed either by the farmer at the time of day when it does not interfere with the field operations or the cows are cared for largely by the children of the family before and after school hours. Thus the keeping of a few cows provides employment for unpaid labor, contributes a considerable proportion of the family living and adds to the farm income. The amount of labor expended depends upon several factors, among which the size of the herd, convenience of barn and milk house, distance from market, and cleanliness of milk produced, are important.

Sell Cream to Creamery Before It Is Real Sour

Allowing cream to become real sour before delivering it to the creamery houses lowers the grade of butter made from the cream and makes the taking of an accurate sample for determining the butterfat content of the cream more difficult.

Cream is not pure butterfat. It contains moisture even when the test runs high. When the cream is exposed to a temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit or above, some of this moisture evaporates. This lessens the weight and volume of the original sample of cream. It does not increase the original amount of butterfat which was in the container. When a can is filled with cream which has thus parted with some of the water, it naturally brings a larger income than a similar amount kept at lower temperatures.

Allowing the cream to become real sour may induce more variation in test than if it is cooled after each separation before adding to other cream. There is nothing to be gained from selling very sour cream.—G. A. Williams, Purdue university.

Agricultural Hints

Most wheat growers who use commercial fertilizers commonly drill the fertilizer directly with the wheat.

Calves are like human babies. Some are so husky no abuse could kill them, while others must be handled like soft-shelled eggs.

A good time to lime the soil that needs it is when preparing for the corn crop. Plow down the clover and before disking spread the lime.

An eight-year-old Holstein cow at a farm near Petersburg, Ont., established a record by producing 19,669 pounds of milk and 819 pounds of butterfat in 305 days.

Where alfalfa has winter-killed soy beans can be grown as a substitute for the year, say authorities at the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment station. Soy beans increase butterfat in the milk.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SPADE

Will the archaeological spade, Yet find the ark that Noah made? And if it be extant, The ark of the covenant? Will the stones from old Sinai, The original dealogue verify? Will the spade by turning sod, Locate the ancient Land of Nod? Will the Garden of the Gods, Yet be found 'neath Eastern sods, Together with bona fide evidence, Of the Adamic residence? In the Euphrates valley, they say: Eight feet of silt and clay, Give evidence of a catastrophe, Such as the biblical flood would be. This is in corroboration, Of the Mosaic narration, Will the spade's manipulation, Expose for veneration; Antedeluvian Mausoleums, Vast cities and colosseums? Will it, opportunity unfold, Joseph's brethren to behold, In Egyptian sarcophagi, After millenniums have passed by? Already, the spade has wonders shown, Added much to the unknown, Ere the Adamic line began, Existent was civilized man. Marks of civilization Chaldean, African, American and European, Existent, long before men, Learned the use of pen, Have been brought to light, Now exposed to tourist's sight. Let us hope, that all efforts of the spade, Which in futurity shall be made, Shall but be in substantiation, Of the scriptural narration. JOHN P. VOGEL.

March 20, 1929.

Bankers Approve Service Charges

Somerset County Association Proposes to Assess Delinquents on Overdue Notes.

The Somerset County Bankers' Association held its quarterly business meeting at the Hite House at Stoyestown on Thursday night and approved the proposed assessment of the handling of past due notes. Delinquents will be assessed 50 cents for the first day of delinquency and 25 cents for each succeeding day.

It is expected that the plan will be adopted at the next quarterly session of the bankers in June. Speakers at the meeting Thursday pointed out that the service charge would not necessarily be made for the purpose of increased income, but principally to do away with the confusion and waste of time in handling delinquent papers. There are 31 banks included in the county association and about 75 bankers were in attendance at Stoyestown.

The officers of the bankers' association are: President, A. J. Bantley, of Windber; First Vice President, R. H. Philson, of Meyersdale; Second Vice President, J. H. Fike, of Somerset; Secretary-Treasurer, L. G. Lichliter, of Jenntown.

Fell From Top of Pole

Wm. F. Barnhart, popularly known as "Pete" and who is employed by the Johnstown Telephone Company had the misfortune to come in contact with a live wire and was knocked from the top of the pole on which he was working, near Stoyestown, Wednesday morning.

He was brought to the Community Hospital for examination and while the extent of his injuries are not fully known he is not seriously injured.

Community Hospital News

Mrs. Thomas Craig, of Somerset, is in the hospital since March 27th for observation and treatment. Dr. F. B. Shaffer is in attendance.

Mr. John Hostetter, of Berlin, R. D. 1, employed by the Mountain Valley Coal Company, of Garrett, Pa., was admitted to the hospital Friday, March 29th for an X-Ray of the lateral spine. He returned home the same day.

Mrs. S. A. Miller, of Somerset, gave birth to a baby girl, last Wednesday, March 27th. The baby is named Charlette Mae. Dr. F. B. Shaffer was her physician.

PLACE RED FLAGS ON ROAD TO CENTRAL CITY

Red flags warning motorists to drive cautiously have been placed by the State Highway Department on the new stretch of concrete road between Keel's Corners and Central City as the result of some of the joints having been raised, due to the warm weather.

The raising of the highway at the joints was caused by frost getting underneath the concrete, resulting in an expansion when the warm weather caused a thaw.

There is nothing serious wrong with the highway, according to announcement by Division Engineer Wayne D. Meyers, in charge of the State Highway Department's office at Hollidaysburg. Mr. Meyers stated that nature will take its course and these raised joints will go back into place without the need of any repairs.

Somebody quotes Mr. Hoover as stating that the Everglades are like the garden of Eden. But we are reliably informed that Miami is a better place to raise Cain.

Cop—Confound these pedestrians, anyway—you broke this one's leg! Taxi Driver—Wo'll be do—shoot 'im?—Judge.

—The Pathfinder.