

Over The Back Fence



by Max Smith

MANY dairymen have remodeled their barns in recent years while many others are considering some changes or expansion. This is to be expected as herds get larger and the individual cows in each herd get larger. Many stalls are too small for the larger cows of today and do injury to the udder and the teats. Dairymen who are planning some change in their barns are reminded of Penn State Extension Service Circulars on dairy barns; a recent one on Stanchion or Comfort Stalls is already available and a new one on the Free-Stall Loose Housing System is being printed. These should be of help and are available without cost.

MODERN agriculture has made changes in the past quarter century; scientific research has uncovered many new varieties of grain and crops and many methods of increasing production. These are "bred" in improvements that come along with the seed or plants; most of us are willing to accept them because they increase our gross income. However, when we come to other scientific advances such as soil testing and forage testing, these require the interest of the farmer and some effort to utilize the progress. We are aware that most farmers and gardeners have used soil testing as a means of making better use of the lime and fertilizer dollars. On the other hand, it is hard to understand why more livestock men, especially dairymen, do not use the Forage Testing Service. Early fall is a good time to get started and formulate the grain ration according to the quality of hay and silage.

ONE GOOD sign of proper farm management is the protection of farm machinery and equipment over the winter months. On many farms most of the equipment has been used for the last time this season and should be cleaned, greased, and put in the dry until next spring. One of the greatest enemies of machinery is rust caused by getting wet. When machinery is left outside during the winter months, its lifetime is greatly reduced. In southeastern Penna. the practice is to store most of the machinery in the barn because the barn floor is large enough to hold it; this increases the danger of greater loss in case of fire, but does give the machinery the needed protection. Special machinery sheds or open-fronted sheds are good places to store machinery.

MANY fields of August-seeded alfalfa are not about one month behind in growth and development; this could result in heavy winter-killing if we get much zero weather when the ground is not covered with snow. A coating of straw manure this fall may give some protection. If the

Halloween Is Man's Emotional Tightrope

Man's fascination with the supernatural is an emotional balancing act between fear and fun. The hearty laugh of those who sneer at ghost stories frequently has an embarrassing resemblance to a nervous giggle.

There's an irresistible appeal about the shadowy world of the occult that has attracted poets, playwrights and authors for centuries. And, throughout the history of mankind, this appeal has spelled success in the entertainment business—from William Shakespeare, with the ghost of Hamlet's father to Rod Serling and his probes of the "Twilight Zone."

Current manifestations of the allure of the weird are three new television programs. Two of the shows caricature eerie families in haunted houses; the third features a contemporary witch in the guise of a normal housewife.

For instance, Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia relates that the ancient Druids believed spirits of the dead roamed on Halloween and they lighted bonfires to drive them away.

They also thought that cats had once been human beings but were changed as a punishment for evil deeds. This curious notion found its way into 20th century melodrama with the broadcast of Arch Oboler's hair-raising radio play, "The Cat-Wife," which starred Boris Karloff.

A more neighborly explanation of the European custom of blazing bonfires on Halloween is found in Sir James Frazer's classic book on primitive customs, "The Golden Bough." He points out that the souls of the departed were supposed to revisit their old homes in order to warn themselves by the fire and to bask in the good cheer provided by their affectionate kinsfolk.

The Irish say that jack-o-lanterns originated with a man named Jack who was doomed to walk the earth with his lantern until Judgment Day because he was unable to enter either heaven

stand is very poor, the early spring seeding without any nurse crop would be the next best practice to try. Many farmers have gotten good results with the straight spring seeding under normal weather conditions. Chickweed time is approaching in fields of new grass and legume seedings. This wintertime weed should be killed during November or December when small, rather than to try chemicals next spring when the plants are more mature.

DAIRYMEN who are buying hay should be interested in the production practices followed in growing the hay crop. To buy hay of unknown origin is definitely taking a very big risk. We suggest that a chemical residue test be made on the hay before purchasing it in order to protect the herd and your milk market. Since forage insect control chemicals have been used more intensely for a longer number of years in southeastern Penna. than in other areas of the state, it might be in order to buy hay in northern or western Pennsylvania with less risk of chemical residues.

or hell. Even after November 1 became a Christian feast day, honoring all saints, the peasants clung to the old pagan beliefs and customs. According to Compton's, the holy day traces back to 610 A.D. when Emperor Phocas gave the Roman Pantheon to Pope Boniface IV as a church. But when the Druids were calling the shots, they combined their fear of ghosts with fun and rejoicing. A 3-day celebration centered around Halloween. The festivities included roasting of nuts and apples as symbols of the harvest.

Today, the trappings of rituals are still with us on Halloween—grotesque masks, witches, black cats, white ghosts. But the glamour of mystery and awe that clung to the annual observance has long since been dissipated. Owners of black magic into-

day's enlightened space age. Superstitious fear of the unknown has been uprooted by technological advances.

Of course, even the most sophisticated take a dim view of walking by a cemetery at night. And, sometimes when you're alone late at night you can hear some awfully strange noises and see some mighty peculiar shapes in your own house. And when this happens, remind yourself that it's fun to be scared.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO MEET NOV. 4

The Mount Joy Community Council will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 4th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall. Main topic of the evening will be the discussion of the suggested revisions of the By-Laws.

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Special Meeting At Mount Joy

The 1964 Agronomy-Dealer meeting for Lancaster, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lebanon, Philadelphia, and York counties will be held Nov. 12 in the Hostetter's banquet hall, at Mount Joy, beginning at 10 a.m.

County Agent M. M. Smith announces that the meeting is designed to bring farmers up-to-date on field and lawn seeds, lime and fertilizer practices, new crop varieties, lawn management, and weed control chemicals.

Extension specialists from Penn State University will speak at both morning and afternoon sessions.

I believe in the equality of men . . . the good and the bad are the only distinctions.

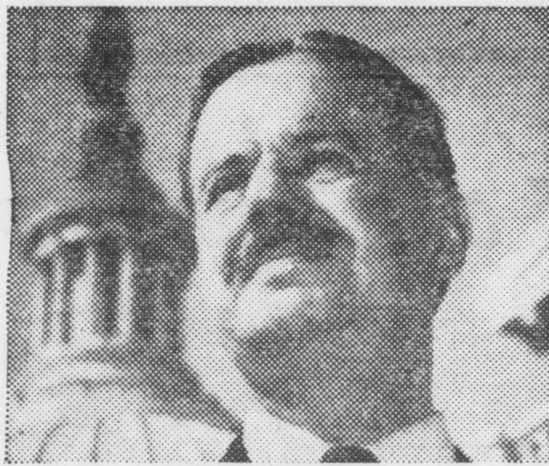
—Thomas Paine

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