

Over Back The Fence

By Max Smith



THE WEATHER continues to prevent normal farm operations throughout the area. Too many acres of first-cut hay are still standing, the barley crop has been severely lodged too long, and tobacco planting is so late that it is expected that some intended tobacco land will be planted to other crops. All of this adds up to a wet, backward growing season needing more sunshine and dry weather. Good quality hay and straw may be a scarce commodity this winter unless weather conditions improve. Second cutting of alfalfa is ready on some farms and is a crop containing high feed nutrients when it can be properly harvested. Growers are urged to be on the alert and to take advantage of every good drying day.

SINCE THE heavy rains of several weeks ago, and due to the constant rainfall in many parts of the county, we have received a number of phone calls relating to the applying of additional fertilizer to crops and vegetables; the thought being that the heavy rains may have leached most of the plant food from the topsoil. On sand, gravel, or shale-type soils this may be true and extra amounts of nitrogen may be needed; gardens on these types of soil will surely respond to extra nitrogen or an application of complete fertilizer. However, on most of our heavy or clay-type soils for the average farm crops it is doubtful if extra fertilizer is needed. Some vegetable crops such as tomatoes and sweet corn will respond to extra fertilizer if they are to be grown on the lighter soils.

THE OFF-COLORED leaves in many corn fields has been called to our attention many times in the past days. As we drive the rural areas of the county we notice that about 10 percent of the corn plants have one white or a yellowish-green leaf. In some low, wet areas nearly 50% of the plants have this condition. I assume there are many answers to this unusual situation but feel that it is due to excess moisture and to the food intake of the plant. Larger plants do not seem to have this discoloration. At the present we would place the blame on the wet conditions and suggest that the plants will continue to grow and to look more normal several weeks from now when more sunshine prevails. This condition is not to be confused with yellow corn plants trying to grow in low, soggy areas.

SMALL GRAIN producers are urged to make every effort to get all of their straw into the barn for bedding purposes this summer. In the past several years there has been a bedding shortage with extremely high prices being paid for straw and other types of bedding. In this barley and wheat harvest season we hope that the weather will improve so that all growers will be able to get all of their straw. The demand is strong for it and the prices should continue to be favorable for selling the surplus. The straw may have to be turned several times in order to get it dry enough for baling without becoming moldy or musty.

THE SUMMER days are creeping along rapidly and in less than a month it will be time to make that August seeding of alfalfa. The ground should

Letter to the Editor

July 5, '72

Dear Sir:

As life-long residents of Marietta, and although not directly affected by the flood of 1972, may we take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to all who have given so much of their time, energy, resources, and innate goodness to alleviate the sad misfortune of so many of our townspeople.

Being "not directly affected" is meant to convey the fact that, fortunately, our home was not in the flood area; but, being a small close-knit community, each one of us has seen the utter shock and despair on the faces of our families and friends when they were driven from their homes by the angry waters of the normally peaceful Susquehanna.

A sister and brother-in-law, now 66 and 72 years old, whose life now primarily consists of maintaining, painting, and improving their well-kept home, and working in a now-ruined garden, which, happily, in other summers, produced all sorts of vegetables, fruits and flowers; a niece with her husband and family who have improved and extended their trailer into a moderate-sized home, most of which they have built themselves; a nephew with his family including two young boys and a baby daughter whose home on Hazel avenue was in the path of both the rising creek and the river; a close friend with her two sons, one of whom had to carry her through knee-deep water from their home to the shelter of ours on that awful Thursday night; other friends who lost valuable furniture because the husband, recuperating from a recent heart attack, was unable to move it to the second floor.

These are a few of the many families in Marietta who are flood victims; not because of any negligence, nor of any immoral or unclean habits, as one of our councilmen implies when he states that the promised mobile homes would be placed in a public park so that "they will be kept clean if they are out there for everyone to see" . . . But because floods are not respecters-of-persons (even our Governor's mansion was vulnerable).

The first week-end is like a dream now (or, a night-mare) and it's difficult to remember any sequence. There were news reports, and predictions, false rumors, the incessant

rain, the slowly but surely rising river, and finally, the Crest, and the water began to recede. But long before that, our town was alive with people wanting to help. There were volunteer firemen and fire police, civic defense workers, boy scouts and girl scouts, church and civic groups from every community in the county, the National Guard, the Red Cross, bringing food and clothing, guarding, directing traffic; our own volunteers serving food and coffee to weary workers, teen-aged girls feeding and entertaining children at Riverview, teen-aged boys relieving the guards. They wanted to help—and they did!

With the recession of the water, the mud and debris remained. But with the kind help of the Amish and Mennonite people the massive clean-up had begun. Each morning they came by truck, separated into groups, went from house to house, cleaning, doing what needed to be done, until dusk each night—with no thought of remuneration. The Clean-up will go on for a long, long time, but without the help of these kind people who really 'Live' their religion and who came immediately to initiate the first attempt of return to normalcy, our situation would be much worse.

To cite any individual or group for any special kindness is an impossibility because so much has been done for us anonymously by so many.

There are, undoubtedly, scores who have given of themselves and their talents to those less fortunate. YOU know who you are, GOD knows who you are, and the people of Marietta are eternally grateful.

Very sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar E. Brayman
Marietta, Pa.

If You Would Write --

Would you like to write to your state or federal representatives in Harrisburg or Washington? Here are their addresses:

FEDERAL

Sen. Hugh D. Scott, Room 260, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C., 20515.

Sen. Richard S. Schweiker, Room 4317, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C., 20515.

Rep. Edwin D. Eshleman, 416 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, D. C., 20515.

STATE

Senator Richard A. Snyder, Box 21, State Senate, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120.

Rep. Jack B. Horner, 23-A S. Market St., Elizabethtown 17022.

NATIONAL BROADCASTING CO.
Julian Goodman, President
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N. Y. 10022

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING CO.
Charles Ireland, President
51 W. 52nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10022

AMERICAN BROADCASTING CO.
Elton Rule, President
1330 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N. Y. 10022

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EDITORIALS

A Long Hot Summer?

There's nothing like Florida sunshine—especially the kind in Miami Beach — to cause things to grow!

Best growth in recent days has been noted in such areas as hopes, fears and frustrations.

Hopes, of course, are for many Democrats who have seen McGovern nominated as party candidate. Fears are by more Republicans than might be expected and frustrations by hundreds, thousands and yes, millions, of Democrats who are disappointed, confused and disoriented.

Those with hopes are those who have espoused the left side of the political spectrum and who have come to believe that the senior senator from rural South Dakota "has the answers."

These people, many of the delegates to the Florida convention, but not all, overwhelmingly found for McGovern's far left position and thus are presumed to be feverishly hopeful.

Some revealed situations last week, however, have caused increasing concern among the Republicans, who until the Democrat meeting, were secretly rooting for McGovern, feeling that he would be "the easiest to beat."

But, such facets of the situation as "where do the new, young voters really stand?" suddenly has loomed as important. Republicans are asking themselves "are the people really this disturbed?" The concern in GOP ranks this week is of a different breed and variety than the attitude just two weeks ago.

But, the frustration of the rank and file of the Democrats is the biggest story of the convention postmortem.

Democrats we know in this part of the country are not the wild-eyed, far-leftists who automatically espouse McGovern's brand of philosophy.

Many Democrats in this area have grown up with an entirely different philosophy. Basically, they are more nearly aligned with Mr. Wallace and his right ideas. The Pennsylvania Dutch code is strict—more like the Alabama governor's—and about as far from McGovern as Southeastern Pennsylvania is from South Dakota.

These people wish that the senator — because he is a Democrat — could be their candidate. But, they just 'can't buy' his brand of liberalism.

These are the people who found the Florida sunshine to be the hottest. These are the people who are feeling the hurt of political sunburn for which there is no magic balm.

These are the people who are now experiencing the "long hot summer!"

Courage Is The Word

The word this week is COURAGE.

When the rains came and people were driven from their homes, the community acted with responsibility to provide for their immediate needs.

But, now, with the streams and rivers back in their banks and most of the world back to normal, those people who were given shelter from the storm are now fighting back to reclaim their homes.

Even to face the job is an act of courage. To begin to salvage and to clean is another. And, to continue in the face of the almost interminable task is almost more than one can measure.

A slow drive along Front street in Marietta is a heart-crushing experience.

Homes are placarded one of four ways — "Occupancy Permitted," "No Occupancy Permitted," "Cleanup Permitted," or "Danger, Do Not Enter."

Multiply Front street by hundreds—yes, thousands—up and down the Susquehanna river basin and you begin in your mind to comprehend the magnitude of the recent disaster. Harrisburg, which some people of this community have had an opportunity to see, makes the Marietta damage insignificant by comparison.

Yet, the natural courage of people comes rushing to the front. They tackle the herculean problem of remaking a sorry building back into a home or into a business. They heap huge piles of their belongings onto the curbside and with whatever they can, begin to scrape and wash ceilings, walls and floors.

Politely we speak of their approach as an act of courage. Realistically it is a matter of pure guts and a tough stomach.

Yet, work back they do. It must take a lot of tears, a lot of philosophical stoicism, a lot of faith and, by whatever name they choose to call it, a lot of what the world recognizes as prayer.

In a recent essay on the subject of courage Norman Vincent Peale said that "you'll need it to carry on, to stand up to things, and to keep on keeping on."

That is the story of the river communities this week.