

## STILLWATER, PA.

Jan. 10—As I mentioned before in one of my articles, the church where we attend has started a house to house visitation program in nearby Benton, and while there we spoke to a school teacher of one of the local schools, and she said that she is not allowed to comment on the scripture that is read but as she read the Christmas story she gave opportunity for questions. It was remarkable how ignorant the poor children were of the real meaning of Christmas. When asked, many really believed in Santa Claus, others suggested Christmas trees, etc. Only one knew that we have it because Jesus was born. This is a sad situation indeed.

Speaking of our witnessing program, many of you will rejoice to learn that around 25 have now professed faith in Christ. We of course don't know how many are sincere, but we have reason to believe that some are, as they have expressed a desire to have us come back and teach them more about this wonderful salvation. We have plans and are about ready to proceed with them, and visit their homes once a week.

We go every Wednesday evening, and are getting down into the heart of town now and more of the upper class to deal with. The results are not as spectacular as at first, because of this type of people, but this does not change the Lord's command, nor our responsibility. He says, "Is not my word like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

We start the conversation by asking, "What do you think is the way to heaven?" One lady was insulted by what she termed a silly question. We apologetically said we didn't know she was intelligent. She couldn't figure out why anyone would trouble himself about whether others will get to heaven or not. She supposed anyone who belongs and goes to church, will at least have a good chance of getting to heaven. All in all, this is an interesting and valuable experience.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Jan. 18—A few days of mild weather prevailed, during the wk. of the Pa. Farm Show at Harrisburg. At Harrisburg they had only an inch of snow, and up here we had about 4 inches. This year marked an increase in attendance, the first day 155,000 people attended. Last year total attendance was 650,000. The top prize beef was owned by Jack Gensler, 14, of Carlisle, Pa. It was a Black Angus and brought \$3.71 a lb.—a total of \$4,006. It was purchased by Howard Johnson Restaurant. I, of course, didn't see this being sold, just saw it in the paper.

Several friends of mine and I spent two days there, with the express purpose of passing out gospel tracts. This is a wonderful place to do this, as it is heated and thousands of people roam around that 14 acres of buildings. I myself didn't get too much done passing tracts as I met so many people I knew and just had to stop and talk a little. The men with me did not see one person they knew, so it's evident that a large number of Mennonite of Belleville attended. I would presume that one-eighth of the people are Mennonites and Amish, although I have no way of telling for certain.

I spoke to an elderly man whom I had known well but have not seen for several years, and he related an experience to me that I thought remarkable. He is an ordained minister, but didn't have a charge, so he went 30 mi. away and started a church. He termed it bare-footed faith. He bought an old school house, and made the necessary repairs and started holding services. The first service had 12 people in it. But he labored and prayed and the Lord blessed abundantly, so that now the building is too small. They are considering selling it and building a more commodious structure. This started three years ago and now they have 80 on the roll, with 50 out at prayer meetings, and 26 members. This man is in his 60's and wants to retire. He still lives where he did 30 miles away, but he has a young man there who is, as he termed it, really saved and on fire for the Lord. He preached his first message recently.

This is a Brethren in Christ denomination near Reading, Pa. It never was what is generally known as a mission station, so I'm convinced it can be done if God's man takes God's way in God's time and place.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Jan. 25—Millions of dollars worth of property and over 100 lives have been lost due to the storms that raged over the eastern half of our nation.

About 40 miles from here, at Pittston, the mine went under the Susquehanna river, about 40 feet deep, but somehow the water found a hole and it soon got very sizable, thus flooding the mine with water. Twelve men are still in at the latest report. They are trying to dig a hole at another place to reach them but hope has been abandoned that they are still alive. Billions of gallons of water are in the mine, making it impossible to use it any longer, unless a way can be found to pump it out, which could be done but at a terrific expense. The owners are calculating whether it would be worth it.

Several railroad box cars were used in trying to stop the hole in the river, but to no success. In fact thousands of dollars were spent trying to close it up.

Our sympathy goes out to those who have their loved ones down in the mines unaccounted for. How awful it would be to experience that! But let us consider, if someone in our family is unsaved, do we put forth near as much effort to have them accept Christ? In general, if we could save a life but would neglect to do it simply because we were unconcerned, we would be charged with criminal negligence. I wonder if God will not charge us with the same, because of our unconcern for the souls of men who will be lost forever because we didn't care enough to do something about it. How dare we place more significance on saving the physical life than the spiritual? Or am I being unreasonable?

It was reported tonight that the entire anthracite industry was at stake because of the water in the mines. This is in the Wyoming Valley.

About a mile below our place, a small creek passes under the road, and during the warm weather the ice, which was about 12 inches thick, jammed at the bridge, and for a long way up tons and tons of ice lay. This also created the flooding of a rather large place and several families had to leave home.

It looked as though the houses were built right in the lake, and the immediate cold wave froze it over.

This past week we were blessed with enjoyable visitors, namely Abe Grassmeyer, and my brother Eli Renno. Their visit was short but interesting. As I have previously stated, I enjoy visiting with the old people who love the Lord. Abe is a devoted reader of the Budget. John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Feb. 1st—It has been reported that the Russians claim they can not find God by sending up rockets into space and therefore deny His existence. But the way to find God is not up, but down—down on your knees in repentance and faith.

I have always enjoyed studying about the stars, and recently I learned of something new and significant. There are stars that are known as midget stars, so named because they are small, and the reason they are small is because of the intense heat there. They are literally lakes of fire, thirty million degrees fahrenheit. I don't know how they determine the temperature of a star millions of light years away, but it seems to me it would be easier than sending a guided missile 3,000 miles away and hit a pickle jar.

Speaking of these hot stars, Jesus said a place is prepared for the devil and his angels. Could this be the place?

It was reported in last week's Budget that three bishops died, two by natural death and one by accident. Death is no respecter of persons. Last week a young man, only 31, in nearby Mocanoqua, well known and looked up to as a civic leader, and a great sports fan, took a load of young folks to play basketball. While the game was in progress he said he didn't feel well and went to the dispensary. When he did not return they investigated and found him dead.

The 12 miners trapped in the West Pittston mine are still unaccounted for. Pumping operations will start but it will take a long time to get all that water out. They did succeed in stopping up the hole in the river bottom. Congressman Flood of Pa. sent messages to European countries asking for information on what they would do in similar circumstances and if they had pumps that would work better and faster, but they reported back that they knew of no better way than what was being used, and they have no better pumps since they got theirs from us.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Feb. 15—We have had our share of ice, and I don't like it as well as I used to.

You don't need television to see excitement if you have a wild heifer. We had an Ayrshire that we raised. She was supposed to be fresh in March, but as she was too unruly and wild, I was afraid of her and decided to get rid of her before she got rid of me. I hired a cattle dealer to take her to the auction. She was not too bad to load. Indeed, I was surprised at her lack of resistance, but at the auction the rodeo started. First she jumped to get over a high gate but didn't quite make it. Next she put her head between the legs of an old man and took him up the steps, then set him down and backed down again. He just balanced himself with outstretched arms and was not injured. They couldn't keep her in a pen by herself, so they put another one in with her. When they sold her she was very quiet, much to their amazement, but when they sold the heifer she had been in the pen with, that one started to tear around as though she got it from our heifer.

My mother, Mrs. John B. Renno, now has her leg in a cast. The one leg is in a cast clear down to the toes and the other one to the knee. Both hips are also in a cast, so she will be unable to sit for a long time to come. Evidently no pin was needed to keep the bone together, for these can be very painful.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Feb. 28—Gangsters or pranksters have the police on the run in Scranton, Pa. They get anonymous telephone calls stating that bombs have been placed in certain schools, then while they are gone to investigate they get other calls that bombs have been placed elsewhere. Each of these calls proved to be false, as no bombs were found and nothing happened. Scranton is 40 miles from here and is a rather large city.

Two men held up a bus with 61 passengers aboard not too far from here. They got \$665.50. The one held his gun on the driver while the other one went in the back and started to tell everyone to throw their money into a duffel bag, and they did. They then told the driver to put his in but he told them he had nothing in his wallet but his license, so they said they didn't want it. He had \$7.00 in it but they didn't look, they then told him to pull to the side of the road where they

got off into a waiting car and fled. I rode a good many miles on buses but never had that to happen and am thankful too. In Texas several men tried to rob a restaurant, but a waitress threw a hot cup full of coffee in the man's face, and while he gurgled and started to run they caught him.

I wonder what all will go on in the name of religion yet? A pastor down south hypnotizes his people then speaks to them, or to their subconscious mind. When they are thus he can ask them anything and they tell him. I don't know how this is done and am not interested in finding out, but I have heard of it being used to get criminals to confess what they did. I am convinced it's of the evil one and I certainly want no part in it.

According to our state department officials, we are treading on thin ice, as far as the danger of war is concerned. One news commentator said he doesn't think we will have another war, however one mirmove might touch off a shot and then we'd be in it.

Coming home from Harrisburg one day I picked up two Air Force men at Amity Hall and brought them along to Benton about 80 miles. They spoke of the security of our nation. They are stationed at the big radar station on Red Rock mountain, 8 miles from here. I asked what they have to do there, they said nothing except keeping things in order and see that they function properly. In that one situation there are 150 men employed and practically nothing to do. I suggested that the money could be put to better use. They said, yes but remember Pearl Harbor, we weren't ready that time and the Japanese could have taken complete control of our country had they chosen to do so. We could not have kept them from it. But now they said we have 1,000 jet planes in the air 24 hours a day watching, and 8,000 planes on the ground ready for immediate action. If the Russians sent a guided missile over, our 9,000 planes would be over there in a few hours. They said if war should come it would last only 3 days, and nobody would have won—we'd all be licked.

Some trust in horses and chariots but we will trust in the living God.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

March 8—According to recent news developments, war with Russia is almost inevitable. They say they want a summit conference but this is probably just for a cover up. The communist's policy is to eventually conquer the whole world, and this they will do unless something is done to stop them, and according to prophecy something will stop them.

May 27, 1959, is the day the Russians say they will turn Berlin over to the East German communists, this being a form of government which the United States does not recognize as legal, but they have to go through it to get to Berlin. If the East Germans do not allow supplies to be shipped in, there will probably be shooting, and if there is then we may as well expect the worst—whatever that is. About five big bombs would destroy our fair land and bring destruction and devastation everywhere. So far the Russians have broken 72 agreements and what is there to cause us to believe they will not break another one? This may sound pessimistic but we'd better get ready to die any moment because death is always imminent. Whether the Russians kill us or not, 83 people die every minute.

The weather has been rather favorable the first week in Mar., with the temperature hardly below 20 at any time. The ground is thawed now about 4 inches down while further down is still frozen making it real soft. The wheat is having a hard time of it, too, with so much thawing and freezing.

I wish someone would tell me how to keep the litter dry in the chicken house. We cleaned it out recently and it was more like a pig pen than a chicken house. I think I've tried about everything to no avail.

To answer the scribe's question of Belleville, Pa., about liberty. Paul was here comparing the two dispensations, law and grace. Law was glorious but grace is much more so, giving the adherents thereto liberty from ceremonialism & the yoke which Peter declared neither the fathers nor they were able to keep. It is human nature to want to keep laws and ceremonies as a means to an end, but where the Spirit of the Lord is, these are done away with because Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth. Paul calls keeping rules as a means of obtaining the favor of God "worldly" in Colossians 2:20.

## STILLWATER, PA.

March 15—The world tension seems to be easing up a little now. It seems old Khrushchev is getting to be scared and it is probably better for him and his, and us too. President Eisenhower will speak to the nation on every major radio and television network on Monday evening about the situation. It is pre-supposed he will present nothing new but reaffirm our old policy of being

firm. Eisenhower wants to have 4 billion dollars to set aside as foreign aid to give away to other countries to help them, so they won't accept communism.

Billy Graham's team is having spectacular results in Melbourne, Australia. Thousands have accepted Christ, and the newspapers and television and radio have gone out of their way to publish his meetings. The services were televised many times and at the invitation to receive Christ they, were told to call a certain number. They had installed 10 phones and at the invitation there was a tie-up in the telephone exchanges as hundreds tried to call at once, and they were told by phone authorities to discontinue this until more phones could be installed, so they put in 100 phones with that many people to answer them, and with amazing results. Seventy out of every 100 people that accepted the invitation were first-time decisions. It was beyond anything the team had ever seen in London, New York, or San Francisco.

It's amazing what railroad tracks will do. In our house-to-house visitation in Benton, we were working on Third street and the people were very self-sufficient and satisfied, but on Railroad street there was a big change. People wanted to hear the gospel and showed very much appreciation for having heard it. Now we know that the railroad does not make the difference, but the people of more modest means live there. When Jesus was here the common people heard Him gladly, and this is still so true.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Mar. 22—President Eisenhower's address to the nation was timely and very well worded. He said there always was trouble with Russia ever since World War II. He said it's just one crisis after another, like beads on a string. He also claimed that Russia regards promises as we do a pie crust, made to be broken. He made it plain that we would not stand for any pushing around in Berlin. If Khrushchev does that he faces nuclear war, and Khrushchev knows that too. However, as Gabriel Heatter put it, nearly all wars start with someone making a miscalculation, and Khrushchev might think we don't mean what we say but are only trying to scare him, and we might think he is only trying to scare us.

The bible says the Lord sets kings up and takes them down, and I'm sure it's all in God's hands. Perhaps a few nuclear bombs would bring our dope and liquor crazy nation to its knees. In Samuel's days, fifty thousand and seventy people fell over dead when they looked on the ark of the Lord.

I was interested in the discussion in the Budget concerning strip mining. Personally I feel like Mr. Mullet does. God put the coal here for us to use and we have to get it somehow. There are hundreds of food farms that are idle because no one wants to farm them, and where no coal deposits are. Nobody wants to leave a well-established community and move away, but it would be much better if more of it was done as far as being a Christian testimony is concerned, and perhaps God put the coal where he did to get some of our tightly-nested people to scatter and be a witness for Him. Can't we do that for Him who died for us?

In the Wilkes-Barre section there is some strip mining done, but mostly is done deep under the ground.

The next president of the U. S. could very well be a Roman Catholic, as John Kennedy is becoming very popular and will in all probability run on the Democratic ticket, and as every good Catholic's first allegiance is to the Papacy, his country could not be first but his church, and America would be under the rule of Rome. It is prophesied in the bible that Rome will again rule the world at the time of the end, and this would certainly be a smooth way of bringing this about. Surely the coming of the Lord draweth nigh!

John R. Renno

#### STILLWATER, PA.

March 30—It seems to be hard for Winter to yield to Spring as on Easter morning it was down to 10 degrees above zero. A Baptist church in nearby Berwick had planned to have sunrise services, and had built a platform at an outdoor theatre and the people could come and park their cars and listen to the services over the speaker system. They were also going to broadcast it on a local radio station, but then it was so cold the preacher would have almost froze preaching out in zero weather. The choir also was going to sing but the song would probably have frozen in their throats. So I guess their labor was in vain, building the platform and everything, as man's labor often is.

We were at the Locust Grove church at communion services on Easter. We enjoyed the noon meal at Tom Bylers, and also the fellowship. Tom seems to manifest a real love for the Lord. The funeral of Reuben Stayrook was held at the church at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon. He was 73. We visited my brother, Eli and family at their new home at McVeytown in the evening. They, in partnership with Jesse Kangas, purchased a farm there. They also intend to farm another place along with their own. They have a nice place to live.

My mother, Mrs. John B. Renno, is still bedfast and expressed doubt as to whether she would ever walk again, this being confirmed by the doctor. But she is at home now and being well cared for and seems to be contented. My two brothers-in-law were there, while the rest attended communion services at the place where we used to live, the old homestead. My brother, Joshua now lives there.

There is going to be a new road through Pennsylvania in possibly five or so years. Beginning at Stoudsburg and going to Sharon, a freeway just like the super-highway except it's a State road and therefore free to the taxpayers. It is supposed to be a direct route from New York to Chicago when completed. Work has already begun in the eastern part of the State. It will pass through about five miles from here.

According to recent mail, there is some doubt as to our motive of the house-to-house visitation program we have in nearby Benton. Some feel we are trying to do a good work, thereby making ourselves acceptable to God. But God can be approached only by one medium who is Jesus. And

we wish to make it clear that that is not our motive, but working for the Lord is a love affair. My wife and I do not live together because some preacher tied the so-called knot, or for social reasons, or for any other reason, though these things are right and proper in their respective place, but life would be a drudgery if love was not the binding force, and so also is the service of the Lord. If we labor because we feel we have to and not because we love Him, it is drudgery.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

April 6—The birds are coming from the south, and wild geese are going on farther north. The other day a flock was trying very laboriously to go on but the high winds prevailed and they turned and went east which was much easier going, but the wrong direction. I was wishing I could tell them to come down on the pond until the storm is past. They seemed so confused, being unable to fly in the right direction.

Very little plowing has been done yet. A few have been at it but it's very wet. It has been a hard winter on the wheat. One man said he doesn't think a certain field will produce more than three bu. per acre.

There are many old people in this community. We visited with Mr. and Mrs. John Bowman last evening. He is 87 and she is 76. He could relate many interesting experiences. In his youth he left the farm and wanted to do something else, so he went to Easton, Pa., and there worked for Swift and Co., meat packers, for three years. While there he met his wife, then moved to Kingston near here and was in the meat business for seven years. After this they returned to the farm where he had been born and now they've lived there for 49 years. They were married 56 years. He has two brothers still living. One is a retired medical doctor, the other is still active in the meat business at 80 years of age.

He said he farmed two years with a yoke of oxen, the nicest things to drive there is, with no reins or bits in their mouth, only walked behind them with a whip

and motioned with that and spoke and they would listen much better than you could ever get horses to listen. But they had only one gait and that was slow. When hitched to a wagon they would never trot unless a rain storm would come up. They just walked, and slow, but he said they would never run off like horses will do if scared. They were very good to pull big rocks out of the ground, as they would not jerk and tear like horses, but just one steady pull until they couldn't pull anymore or it came loose.

\*These people are Methodists by denomination, and there is an old Methodist camp ground near here where meetings are held every summer. He used to drive down with his horse and take his folks there. They had a cabin and lived in it while the camp meetings lasted.

Assurance of salvation is not something which sprang up in recent years. I'm sure there at that old ground many have lost their sins and found the Saviour as Methodists used to lift the blood stained banner high, and some still do. John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

April 12—The weather is very cold again. At present it's also snowing a little.

Spring fever is a real sickness, at least so it was described by a newscaster. He said it's at the time of the year when warm weather takes over instead of cold, and our blood stream must change accordingly to counteract the weather. Our blood must change and also our equipment to handle the blood. This seems logical, too, since now when it's down to 34 degrees it seems much colder than when at the same temperature in the winter time. He said we should not take spring fever to lightly, neither too seriously.

At the Knox Coal Co. mine where the Susquehanna river found a hole last Jan. 12, and 12 men met their death, the mine officials are being blamed for the disaster, because they were delinquent in some things. No punishment as yet has been decided upon.

The large 362-acre fruit farm about a mile from here was again up for sale at public auction. The highest bid was \$26,000. It was also sold last year, but all bids rejected. The money tied up there runs into several hundred thousand dollars, and the bank is going to have to lose a lot of money. I don't know whether it was sold for keeps this time or not. It's very doubtful. Six Weavertown Amishmen were there. They were from Bird-in-Hand.

Billy Graham and his team start the crusade in Sidney, Australia today. Sidney is described as very beautiful, with two million people, who put most of their emphasis on drinking and immorality. The principal church there is the Anglican or the church of England. All the churches are back of the crusade more fully than at any time before, with prayer meetings be-

ing held in 4,000 homes, and 9,000 counselors being taught. This is a greater number by double than at any meeting heretofore. They are looking for tremendous attacks from Satan because they believe Satan is becoming alarmed, seeing that already many are getting saved at the preliminary meetings.

I spoke to another old man here recently. His name is Kindig. He said his father came from Lancaster Co. and wondered if I knew anybody there by that name. Everyone here thinks I came from Lancaster Co. This man said his grandfather bought that farm where he lived all his life for \$2.00 per acre, but it had to be cleared, huge cork pine trees, the best pine in the country, with stumps measuring two and three feet across were just cut down and burned to get them out of the way so farming operations could proceed.

A Puerto-Rican lad was sentenced to 30 days in jail recently for desecrating the American flag. He threw it to the ground. How well it would be if those who desecrated the precious name of the Lord would receive an equal punishment, which name is far more sacred than a piece of cloth, representing a great country. John R. Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

April 20—Spring, which was so slow in coming, has arrived at last. The earth is green and everything is off to a fine start. Last year it was late but this year it's later yet. Last Sunday we had snow and now we have rain, but it can be used very efficiently. Only a little oats is sowed yet. The trees are just beginning to show signs of life.

Eggs are down to 29c per doz. and milk is coming down too. The farmer, as always, is the one to take the bad end of the deal, but then we have plenty to eat and clothes to wear, and are admonished to be therewith content. Business is getting bad, too, according to a local feed dealer. He is way behind last year in business, when he did a 200,000 dollar business, but had only \$1,008 left. But the men who work there said it's no wonder as he doesn't manage his business to the best of his own interest, and furthermore trucks carrying feed mills right to the farms are rapidly gaining business.

Last night at the young people's meeting at the church we had a little service pretending the Communists had taken over. We had only a candle for light and no Bibles and were trying to encourage each other and wishing we had taken better advantage of the opportunity we had 10 years ago. We were pretending it was 1969. It was only pretending, but was very thought provoking.

Things are really shaping up, getting ready for the Anti-Christ, as they are now talking about having a world court, etc. The world seems to be looking for a superman, somebody to take the reigns in hand and say he will right the wrongs of the world. Jesus said, "I am come in the Father's name but you receive me not, if one comes in his own name him ye will receive," and according to developments the one to come in his own name is at the door. Had we not better heed the warning of Christ in Luke 19:34, "And take heed to yourselves lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. Watch ye therefore, and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things and to stand before the Son of Man."

John Foster Dulles is at the point of ending his career. I believe he has been a good man and served his country in a noble way, but it seems his time has come. His successor will be Christian Herter, according to the President's announcement.

Man may soon be able to fly without the use of a clumsy airplane. A new contraption is in the making that works on the same principle as a jet plane, which is like when you let the air out of an inflated balloon. When let go, it will fly, the air coming out pushing it. This thing is reported to carry a man up and move him through the air at 60 miles an hour. I don't suppose I will ever have a ride like this but then it's hard to tell, because 10 years ago I would have most solemnly affirmed that I would never drive an automobile, but now I suppose I've driven the distance around the world in five years. This is no credit to me, as an automobile does not mean more to me than my buggy used to and not as much.

John R. Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

April 26—This past week has been wonderful to dry off the land. Much oats is yet to be sown as people are not in a hurry in this part of the country. We finished sowing yesterday but we plowed some pretty wet ground to get it done. The ground is far different here than it is in Big Valley. No hard spots that will not respond with the rest. Even though it is farmed wet it will not get hard, however, wet farming reduces the fertility very much. I've almost forgotten what big clods of hard ground look like.

Farming is so much different than it used to be. Especially is this true at our place. The methods used are so different, I used to slave and work behind those plow handles day after day, walking, yet getting nowhere—back and forth, back and forth, we went. But I enjoyed it, too. I liked to farm with horses while I did it but would not want to go back to it. However, I have no argument with those who do it that way. Now our 11-year-old son can go and plow, and throw three furrows in one strip, six in one round, and get as much done in a few hours as I used to do in a day and more. He can do it all before and after school quicker than it used to get done when I worked at it full time.

And it's so easy to get in order here in this neck of the woods—harrow it a few times and it's like a garden.

Eggs are still very low in price compared to last year. A paper quoting prices says it takes 14 dozen eggs to buy 100 lbs. of feed and the value of a case of eggs over feed costs at 50% production is 50c, while at 70% its \$2.12. Last year it was \$4.28 at 50% and \$5.88 at 70%. So the chicken people are not living too high at present. Leghorn hens, live wt., are almost a give-away. This indicates that they are moving fast, and possibly by next year prices will be more normal.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

May 3—We had a very wet week, and not fit to work in the ground until Friday, and all day Saturday. My neighbor hired me to sow his oats for him and suggested it was pretty wet some places. On going up a grade on a rather wet spot the wheels started to dig and down it went to the axle.

The county agent said that in this part of the country, for every day's delay, after the 20th of April, we lose a bushel per acre of oats. I spoke to one man who said he wants to sow 95 acres, so according to that he lost around 900 bushels for 10 days delay, but he said this is an unusual year, and that statement doesn't count this year, although the county agent knew what year it was and made the statement in spite of that fact. But I suppose all the county agents get their knowledge out of one book and regardless of the weather, make statements accordingly.

We had our old "buddies", Kore N. Peacheys as visitors on May 1st. They accompanied Daniel J. Peacheys, who drove down in their recently purchased '51 Dodge. Dan said he likes to drive, but still retains his faithful horse as he would hate to part with him, but I suppose his time is limited like the rest of our time is also. Kore's had their daughter, who is mentally retarded, to the Danville hospital for observation, and so, accompanied by Dan's, came 25 miles farther and enjoyed dinner and fellowship together with us. It's wonderful to know the Lord and have fellowship with his saints.

We hear very little these days about the Russian situation in Berlin, supposedly Khrushchev is

backing down. But reports are he is getting his eye on the little oil countries of Iraq and Iran, etc. This is what he is prophesied to do in the word of God.

A Russian diplomat spoke irreverently of his country, and to escape the consequences he took an overdose of sleeping pills, expecting to leave this world, but they rushed him to the hospital, and he recovered and tried to make his escape by jumping out a window, but was soon surrounded by 40 guards, and marched off — almost carried — by guards to a waiting plane with his wife and a nurse behind. The news reporter commenting on it said, "May God help him."

The storage situation in our own country is staggering. The tremendous amount of wheat especially is becoming a major problem. It is costing the government much over a million dollars a day just to pay for the storage, while India is almost facing starvation for lack of food, and her rate of increase in population is very large. Something must be done and soon. America would gladly give our surplus away. It would be much cheaper than storing it. The politicians, however, in that country do not want it as they could make no money on it that way. So we see most countries are run by gain-hungry politicians, not caring for their poor subjects. The big men get bigger and richer, while the poor get more miserable. Some day perhaps soon, the Prince of peace will come, according to Luke 1:32-33, then righteousness will cover the earth as the waters now cover the sea.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

May 11—We had another week of fair weather without any rain and much corn is already in the ground and some coming thru. A good many who didn't get their oats sowed before the wet spell had to finish that and are behind with the corn too. It's getting a little dry now.

The big four conference in Geneva is to start today, to try to negotiate and get the argument settled before a war breaks out. There was almost a stalemate before it got started however, as Russia's prime minister Gromiko insisted that East Germany be given a seat and recognition at the conference, which the others flatly refused, but they expect to get it settled with a small compromise by letting the East Germans speak at the conference but not give them a seat as if they were a recognized government. They can only offer suggestions with the Reds.

Here in our own country they are pushing into the space probe at a fast pace. It was prophesied recently by an efficient reporter that in a very short time we will have electronic satellites in space by which it will be possible to telephone to anyone anywhere in the world for 20c. The call will go to the satellite which will relay it back to earth. Also as soon as they learn how to put a man in space and bring him back safely, they want to put two men in a two-ton satellite and set them aloft.

Plans are also under way to send a manned rocket to the planet Venus early in 1961. That is the time when this planet is nearest to the earth. This they expect to do with a rocket that is already being built. It is supposed to be as high as a ten-story building, when finished, also a 3-stage rocket. It will be named Vegas after a star that is 26 light years away. That is, it would take 26 years to get to that star traveling at the speed of light, 186,000 miles every second. They sure have their wagon hitched to a star.

We are always glad for visitors, and for this last week we had David Hostetlers, along with Mrs. Hostetler's mother, Mrs. Penn Kaufman. This took place on Mon., May 3. But the stay is always short as most folks have to start for home so as to be there in time for their evening chores, and it takes two and one half hours to drive it from here to Belleville.

On Ascension day, Bro. John Yoder of White Hall also made a call. He came chiefly to contact Ralph Klimovich, a christian man, whom he came to know. He was formerly just ready to enter the Monastery and be a priest but the Lord got hold of him, and made him into a "priest" without going thru all that.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

May 17—When the weatherman says there is a cold air mass coming down out of Canada, then we can expect it to be cold for a while. You Canadians sure seem to have a lot of cold in store for us.

The grass is growing rapidly, soon it will be time to put the sickle to it. The wheat, where it wasn't frozen out, looks good. Much barley and winter oats has been plowed under.

The financial situation in this part of the country is steadily growing worse. One man, my neighbor, said he operates in the red 32 dollars every month. He, of course, has a small poultry farm of less than a thousand chickens. We are also working for nothing as far as chickens are concerned, but not losing anything yet. As it is sometimes said, this is bad, but if it gets no worse, I can stand it.

Another man who started farming in 1945 with a rather large operation told me each year got steadily worse from 1950 on. He said he still figured this year has been bad but next year will be better, but instead it got only worse. But he was successful, and got out of debt and has now sold out all except his farm, and put his money in with another man who is in the excavating business, who was about ready to go under, but now is in partnership with him. But as most of their work is among farmers, removing stone rows, and digging ditches for drain tile, and building farm ponds, and the state helps to pay for these jobs, the money is very slow in coming in and they have had to operate almost without money all spring.

He also told me of three farmers who were sold out by one feed company this spring. They couldn't pay their bills, and so out they went. The government is about the only organization that can operate in the red and stay in business indefinitely.

Visitors at our house were a local preacher and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Thomassucci (pronounced Thomas-ouchy). His parents came from Italy, his father is 76 but he speaks broken English. He told me he was saved back in 1922. He seems to love the Lord. There are very many foreign-born citizens around here and it is very unusual to find one that talks broken English that loves the Lord. Usually such talk is mixed with curses.

Steve Zooks and Sam Peacheys were also here a short time on Saturday evening. They started early in the morning and went in search of pheasants and wild geese. No they didn't go hunting, they bought them. Sam seems to enjoy having them around. He clips the wings of the wild geese to keep them home, but I don't know how he keeps the pheasants from running away.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

May 23 — I noticed that the writers in the central part of Pa. reported the weather as being wet all week, while here in the northeastern part we were wishing for rain. We had a little shower once in a while but not to the extent that we could not farm. The crops did not suffer, the oats looks real nice, deep green in color, and the early corn is several inches out of the ground too.

It is better the way it is for the hay crop, as last year it was very wet and the hay was plentiful but very poor quality due to the lack of sunshine. It is also plentiful this year and should be of good quality as sunshine prevails. It is 14 to 18 inches tall at this writing. I did not spray for spittle bugs this year figuring to get by cheaper, and as the clover was thick and predominating I thought the timothy will get a better chance if I let the spittle bugs have their share, and they are sure helping themselves.

I like the article in the Budget, "As I See It." It reveals many facts that the common layman would seldom find out about farming. It would be interesting to know where Mr. Stauffer gets his information.

The Billy Graham crusade had unprecedented effects on the life of the Australian people. Churches had overflow crowds and were unable to accommodate them all in one building some places. Testimonies were thrilling, a criminal walked up front and laid down his gun. Police said the crime rate fell 50%. This in our estimation is revival. A preacher told me last week that this country is due for another spiritual awakening. He related that history repeats itself, and in the 1900's we had a great awakening,

which revived the premillennial doctrine of the return of Christ. He held prayer services in his church three nights in succession to pray specifically for revival. And significantly enough this morning at the Baptist church where we attend, the pastor announced there will be a 3-hour prayer meeting held in the church next Sunday afternoon from 1 to 3, to pray for revival in that area. It's amazing how when you start to pray for something, God increases your faith.

It is also amusing what different beliefs will do. A Baptist preacher told me that I would have more power with God if I would be immersed, as the mode of baptism, saying I've never been baptized in God's sight, as he doesn't recognize pouring. While yet another preacher told me I would have more power with God if I would have the experience of speaking in tongues. Now, I did not ask for these suggestions, they were given free.

Khrushchev seemingly has forgotten his deadline to turn over East Germany as a government of its own on May 27. He is reported in Albania, and the Geneva conference so far has resulted in nothing. Neither side

is willing to give an inch. Khrushchev would very much like to come to this country and speak personally with President Eisenhower at a summit meeting.

It was reported of an old woman in West Germany, 91, wanting to see her nephew a short distance away but across the Communist boundary. Her people told her to wait until Germany is reunified, but she said she can't wait that long, and so getting her clothes and her walking stick, she started to go. But they insisted she can't go across the iron curtain, but she said nonsense, she's too old to bother with such foolishness as iron curtains, and off she went. She crossed the 30 feet of no-mans-land and visited her nephew and started back, and when she came to the line she met an officer who said she can't cross—she has to go down around and cross over legally. She said, "young man if you think I'm going to walk 160 kilometers just to have a cup of coffee with my nephew you're mistaken, I'm going home," and with that she started across. The officer scratched his head and looked at the others, who were looking away, and quickly he escorted her across then stiffened and marched back to his post. So you see the communists also have a heart sometimes.

## STILLWATER, PA.

May 31—It is getting dryer every day. Some places they say it's wet, but the eastern half of Pa. is dry, and getting worse. The total rainfall for the entire month was around three-fourths of an inch. The normal for the month is four inches.

The crops have not suffered extensively so far and if rain comes soon, no ill effects will result. On the other hand, it's costing us well over a million dollars a day to pay for the storage of our surplus. Perhaps if nothing would grow for a year it would alleviate this situation somewhat.

It was of great significance to me that the very day that the Soviet Union announced they would turn East Berlin over to themselves, thus greatly increasing the danger of nuclear war, was a very solemn day for most of the world. Foreign dignitaries from all over the world gathered in Washington to pay their last respects to a great statesman, and fearless secretary of state, John Foster Dulles. Many called him a war-monger because he would risk war rather than compromise.

Soviet foreign minister Andrew Gromiko was also at the funeral. The reporters for Mutual Broadcasting System were on the outside to report to the nation as to how it is going and who was arriving. One man was on the inside and watched, then came out and told what he saw. He said the front was lined with soldiers with guns and bayonets. Mrs. Dulles did not want the reporters on the inside, nor any part of the funeral sermon broadcast, as she insisted on having it as quiet as possible. And so a great man died and was buried and went to his place. He belonged to the Presbyterian church. The rich and the poor, the great and small, will lie together and moulder to dust from whence they were taken. John in Revelation saw a great white throne, and the dead, small and great, stand before God.

Men can plan and say what they will do on certain days, but little do they realize that God can change the order of events. Many feared that May 27, 1959 might prove disastrous, but God made it to be a day that many gathered together in the name of religion.

Bish. Henry Ginder of Elizabethtown, Pa. was at the Five Points church today and reported what he had seen and heard on his recent 25,000 mile trip to the old world. He, along with thirty others in the interest of the Youth For Christ, left New York in a jet airliner, flying 7 miles high and 600 miles per hour, and arriving in Paris some 6 hours later. He visited the Vatican City and St. Peters' Cathedral and saw scores walking past the bronze statue of St. Peter, each one stooping over and kissing the big toe of the statue. This is being done continually so that the toe is gleaming brightly, like gold. Henry got in line, too, and walked past, but instead of kissing he put his hand down and felt the groove in the toe. He said they kissed so much they almost kissed the big toe off. He declared he never felt so depressed in spirit in all his life as he did in the Vatican city at that Cathedral.

He also went to visit the mission stations of the Brethren in Christ church, in India and Africa. These according to his report are flourishing excellently, especially in Africa, where they have 20,000 young people going to Bible school. They also have many teachers in the public schools, where the government demands the three R's, etc., but they can spend 30 minutes each day presenting the gospel, and have evangelistic meetings as often as they want to.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

June 8—We had a nice shower of rain but still could use much more. The crops look nice tho. The early oats is 18 inches tall and the corn 10 inches. Some early birds are making hay, and much is being put in the silo.

My father, Bish. John B. Renno, is now beginning to live on borrowed time. I used to think 70 years is very old, but that has changed. I will soon be exactly half that and I don't feel older than I did at 16. I remember old Isaac Y. Hostetler, when he lived neighbor to us, told me when I had the 20th birthday, that the next 20 years will go much faster than the first 20 did, and how true!

On U. S. route 122, a little east of Pottsville, Pa., was a very bad wreck which killed 11 persons. It happened like this. A propane (or better known as bottled gas) truck was traveling towards Pottsville, when it stopped for a school bus, with a tractor-trailer coming behind. The driver saw the gas truck stop, and started to apply his brake, but his foot slipped off the pedal and before he had time to regain control his radiator was in the rear of the gas truck, breaking off the jet and immediately a fire started. The school bus driver, seeing the fire, made his escape through the field. He had forty children aboard. Fire companies were summoned to the scene to protect the houses nearby, and of course, many curious spectators watched the fire for a half hour. A policeman was directing traffic around the fire. He was standing on the road to the side of his car when he saw the flame shoot straight up and a terrific explosion. He quickly dodged behind his car and was kept alive, however, another man was not so fortunate. His head was blown off and in through the police car windshield. Another man was just turning around to walk away when it happened and a door struck him to the ground and when he got up there were four dead people around him. Bodies were blown to bits, arms and legs scattered all over. These people were 75 yards away. The tank off the truck flew a long way down the road. Radio stations from all around the eastern part of the country and from Canada, requested information from the radio station in Pottsville, concerning the accident. A man told me he saw the scene on television the same day it hap-

pened. Disastrous news travels with great haste.

We were to the Valley again to visit the Holdeman church. Many of our former friends and associates of the "fallen-off" Amish belong there now. John Enz from Inman, Kans., was the preacher. They are just completing one week's meetings. Moses Bender from Ohio and his fiance, and her parents from Michigan also attended. A Harry and Harvey, twin brothers from Chambersburg, were also among the strangers, along with Nelson Glick and us. We had dinner at John O. Peacheys along with many of the others.

On the way home we very narrowly escaped being hit by a car coming from the opposite direction. He was evidently going at a terrific speed and the car being too light to stay on the road at the curve at the little place known as Wagner, skidded across the road and reached the curb on the opposite side and overturned once around and back on its wheels again. It was loaded with boys, very young and daring. Had we been 10 seconds sooner it would have probably hit us. John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

June 14—The Lord has now remembered this part of the country with an abundance of rain. In fact when I came home from town, part of my corn field was coming down the road to meet me.

Old Mr. John Bowman of whom I referred recently has now passed on to the way of all flesh. He was 82.

My other neighbor is in his early 70's and worries just a little more every time one of his old-time associates passes on. He is afraid he will be next. I told him that salvation would take those fears away.

Anyone who had hopes that the conference at Geneva would better the world situation, may just as well abandon those hopes because nothing was accomplished. The Soviets still threaten to drive the West out of Berlin, with force if nothing else. Perhaps the prediction in the Budget recently will come true, that we will have an 11-day war the first 2 weeks in 1960. One horrible beyond description.

Gabriel Heater says we may just as well learn to live with our fears because that's what we'll have to do, probably for a long time to come.

Khrushchev did so want a summit conference with President Eisenhower but the President said if they can't reach an agreement at Geneva there will be no summit conference. Vice President Nixon will visit the Soviet Union shortly, and will see Khrushchev personally. It was suggested this will also aid him in the race for President in 1960.

A relatively new dish, and we are all interested in that, is Pizza pie. It's pronounced pete-tsa. It stems from Italy. Since there are many Italians around here, it is quite popular. It is not a pie as we know pie and doesn't even look like pie, but it's very good if you like it. It's made of bread dough and vegetable oil or margarine, and tomatoes and cheese, with a few spices baked together.

John R. Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

June 23—A rosy picture could be painted concerning the international situation, but it would indeed be only a picture and not true, not authentic. The situation looks grave, and war clouds hang heavy. The six weeks foreign minister's conference resulted in nothing but a lot of wasted time and money. The beer and drinks are served free to the ministers, but strange as it may seem, they did not use much of it this time, only water. It was also noted none of the ministers are total abstainers. They just didn't want to drink at this meeting. The conference has now recessed until the 13th of July.

Visitors this week at our house were Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Byler from Clayton, Del., along with Pre. Uri Shetler of Millersburg, Ohio, who is concluding a tour of the Eastern part of the country. He held services two nights at the new Beachy congregation at Millmont in Buffalo Valley. Ervin's got acquainted with us via the Budget, and due to the fact that Mrs. Ervin is a sister to Mrs. Shetler. Also to Mrs. Noah Yoder of said Valley. They came to these meetings and visited us too. However we live 50 miles from Buffalo Valley.

Their visit was like a cool breeze on a hot day, so refreshing, and spiritually uplifting. They had practically some of the identical experiences we had. This is different concerning Shetler. He related how he was reared in an Amish home, but was wild and disobeyed his father, who told him he will land in jail if he does not mend his way. But listen he would not, and because of it got into trouble with the law which resulted in his spending 3 years in reform schools. He said he learned one thing there, that was obedience. When he was given orders there he knew he had to obey knowing that a club was handy and would be wielded would he refuse. This he deemed a very valuable experience, which comes in very handy being a preacher. He now knows when God says something in his word he means obey. Perhaps all of us would be the richer, would we know the latter!

Now for some local news, another accident. Mr. John Wojciechowicz drove his car and crashed into the parked car of Mr. Paul Dlugolecki. (If you can pronounce these names, you deserve a prize). This happened at Mocanaqua. Damage to both vehicles was estimated at \$300.

We are now right in the heart of the strawberry season, and am right now enjoying a dish of strawberry ice cream. To some of you they are only a pleasant memory, being earlier than here. Strawberry soup, shortcake, and ice cream are the much used ingredients on our bill of fare. The Bible says the price of a good wife is far above rubies, and that I have. She planted the strawberries and cared for them. About all I have to do is eat them, and are they good!

John R. Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

June 28—The weather is hot and humid, with rain quite frequently. Things are really taking root downward and springing upward. The hay crop was rather short due to the dry spell we had earlier. Perhaps we will have to take the old way of cutting corn, and husking by hand to have fodder to feed to supplement the hay.

At a farm sale recently I overheard two men talking about how it's so hard to make farming pay anymore. You can't hire anyone to work for less than a dollar and a quarter an hour, and there's no cow alive that gives enough milk at present prices that you can afford to pay that much, and furthermore as soon as the milk check comes there are a half dozen people waiting for their share of it. The egg-feed ratio is reported to be the worst in 40 years. But fortunately eggs are now going up a little.

The price of milk would be down to three dollars if the government would not control the price, and I wish they would get out of it and let supply and demand rule the market. Due to more efficient shipping facilities, farmers in the west can produce and ship milk and eggs to our eastern markets cheaper than we can do it here in the east, thus creating real stiff competition. The small family-size farm will be forced to discontinue because of this.

Water has always been fascinating to me. The three boys and myself went to a nearby lake

and rented a boat for a dollar and a half a day, and went boating. It's so quiet and serene out there, such a good place to meditate, and think on the things of the Lord. I would advise anyone to take a day off and rest a while. It's so much like life to row a boat, the two oars representing faith and works. You must pull both equally hard or you will not take a straight course, and try as you will when you look back at the path you make in the water it's never straight. If you pull only on faith you will go around in circles the same way with works. They both must go together. And it also reminds one of the song, "You must paddle your own canoe."

The lake we were on is named Sylvan Lake. It's about 10 miles from here, and about a mile in diameter. There is also one five miles away, but it's man made and covers 20 acres. The signs say, "Private, for owners and guests only," and we are neither, so supposed it wasn't for us. The boys wanted to do a little fishing.

It has been reported twice today by long distance telephone that our Senior Bishop, Emanuel B. Peacheay of Belleville has ended his career. He died at the reception of a wedding of his niece. He is not an old man but has worked hard in his office while he was at it. He was relieved of his official duties over a year ago due to a severe heart attack. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

July 4—Bish. Emanuel B. Peacheay was at the wedding of his niece. He helped at the ceremony. While at the reception, before he had eaten, he bowed his head for the last time, here on this earth. He was only 54. His funeral was largely attended. Many out of state people were there. The junior Bishop Erie Renno presided, while Alvin Swartz of Talbert, Ky. and Emanuel Swartzentuber had the preaching charge. Also six other Bishops were asked to give testimony after the preaching and according to them a great man and great bible teacher had died. We also can confirm this. He loved the souls of men and I believe his desire was to tell them of Christ who died that they might live. As David said of Abner, a prince and a great man has fallen in Israel. He was not old chronologically, but has accomplished more in his few short years than many will at twice the age. It's the quality, and not the quantity of life that counts.

The bible conference has now started at the North Mountain Bible conference, and will continue for seven weeks. Anyone who wishes a folder describing the different services, may write and

I will see that you get it. Spiros Zotiotes is one of the speakers over this weekend. He is a Greek by birth, and has married a local girl from here, and lives in New York City. He is at the head of the American Missions to Greece, Inc. He said they can ship 148 lbs. of food over to Greece for \$1.00. It is government surplus food, of which there is nine billion dollars worth and we spend one billion to store the nine. The food is free and anyone with the authority can get it to ship away. It took the Mission a whole year to get this authority. The dollar is what its costs to distribute it over there.

The Conference is aimed at being a vacation resort with a gospel emphasis. They have different speakers for different weeks from all over the country, sometimes from the old country too. People come from far and near, rent a cabin and rest, and get enriched spiritually, if they want to.

This world is all upside down as far as values are concerned. A man from Sweden named Johanssen was a fighter in New York's Madison Square Garden, and he knocked his opponent down 7 times and got one hundred thousand dollars, plus royalty from the various radio and TV stations and theaters that showed the fight. He also was offered a half million dollars by a film company to have the story of his life on a film, but he refused the offer, stating he was too young to have his life storied. What couldn't be done if people would give as willingly to have the victory publicized that Christ has won over Satan?

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

July 12—The earth here is a beautiful sight to behold, with the golden grain waving in the breeze. The early corn is coming into tassel, oats is yellow, and the hay fields have six to eight inches of growth. It is especially beautiful where contour farming is practiced, with each strip ninety feet wide and curving around the hills.

What Ezra Kanagy said about the grain fields is certainly true. Some see only the dollars hanging on the stalks, while others take it as a gift of God. We can only put the seed in the ground and are powerless to make it grow or produce, but let us remember God will not work the ground for us and get it in order, or do the sowing, for he says he that soweth sparingly shall reap sparingly. He was not here speaking of material sowing but in giving to the Lord's work, but it holds true nevertheless.

This summer it rains every few days a small shower, with an abundance of lightning to make the nitrogen available to plant life. There has been no wheat combined yet but it will begin this week.

Perhaps I pressed the issue too far when I said the small family farm is being forced out of the picture. There was a rather comforting article in the Farm Journal which said that anyone who can get financing to enlarge his operations—for it is volume that counts from now on—can beat any large operation that must hire help. If you work it yourself and stay just on this side of the place where you must hire help, you will be much more efficient, because a hireling just works for his pay, while you work for top efficiency to make it pay better.

A nationwide steel strike will probably be in effect by the time you see this. This means only one thing—higher prices and more inflation. An elderly man said the person who is deepest in debt will be the best fixed financially when this country goes bankrupt, which it will if the present trend continues. He will never have to pay his bills, but the person with a big bank account will lose everything, because your money is worth only as much as the government. If it goes broke, you will too. They are not even trying to pay off the debt, but operating in the red every year. A day of reckoning is coming.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

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John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

July 20 — It was getting dry again, even after frequent rains. The water level in the earth is getting lower all the time, thus it dries off quicker than it used to years ago. It bears testimony that our stay on earth is getting shorter every year, or the earth is wearing out. We will soon need a new one.

The wheat harvest is now going on seven days a week, with the wheat only yielding a little over normal, due to the cold winter. It used to be hard work to cut wheat and shock it and reset it if it blew over, then haul it to the barn and unload it, and thresh it. But now a new kind of thresh machine comes and takes all that work away. The machine looks like some kind of a big bug crawling backwards, and runs over the wheat. All the farmer has to do is haul away the grain, then bale the straw,

and, of course, pay the bill of five dollars an acre.

Two of my neighbors each have a machine like this, both a Massey-Harris, and both would like to do mine. The one, Harry Bogart by name—is in his 70's, and says he has been threshing for thirty-five years, and thinks no one can do a better job of separating than he can, and I suppose it's true. He can prove he's an old thresher because he has all kinds of antiquated machinery, about a dozen automobiles that won't run, and several old Fordson tractors, two old threshing machines, and several of those old Huber tractors with the motor on sideways, plus many, many more things too numerous to mention. I would suppose several thousand dollars worth of junk could be found. He really enjoys talking of his experiences in threshing in years gone by. Many a time someone who wished him ill would put a horse shoe in a bundle of grain, or lay a piece of metal on the threshing floor to ruin his machine, if someone did not like the farmer he was threshing for or didn't like him, because he had competitors. He claims sabotage has cost him thousands of dollars.

We visited with the Brethren-in-Christ congregation of near Muncy, where John Bundy is the pastor for a little over a year. The attendance in Sunday School has doubled since he is there, and says 75% of the people come out to prayer meeting. He says a church that has been killed is much harder to work with than one that has never been alive. The membership there used to be up to a hundred, now it is twenty-nine.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Aug. 1—The weather is again very dry as we have had no real heavy rain for weeks. There seems to be rain all around us, but it doesn't come here. Someone suggested we must be bad people not to get rain when everyone else does. I will admit it makes one wonder, when you see thunder showers coming and going, and you don't even get a drop. (God sends the rain on the just and the unjust.) The crops are all harvested now except the corn, and unless we get rain soon it will not produce as has been expected.

The world tension seems to be easing up at this present time. With Mr. Nixon visiting the Kremlin and trying to present the truth to the common people. And as Khrushchev viewed the plane that brought Nixon, he commented that he would like to visit the U. S. in such a plane, or any plane, signifying that he very much desires to see our country. And it looks very much like he will get an invitation.

The Foreign Ministers conference at Geneva has now been going on for many weeks, without anything being accomplished. It is hard to reach an agreement in any given situation when all minds are made up before the negotiations start. But very possibly there will be a summit conference with the four great powers, Britain, France, Russia, and the United States, with the chief executives of these nations meeting and discussing things over. It sure sounds like the toes of the

great image, in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar which Daniel interpreted to him. The head lines, of our day, and the Bible sure read like someone who knew what he was saying when the Bible was written.

The old Methodist Camp meetings are scheduled to open at Patterson Grove, near here on Aug. 9 and last for two weeks. This place is almost like a small town with summer cottages surrounding the tabernacle. The oldtimers says this used to be a very spiritual environment where the Gospel was presented in all its simplicity, and many hit the sawdust trail to exchange their sins for eternal life. But now many just live there the whole summer and don't even attend the meetings, and he said this has killed the camp. There are many people living in this community who claim to be Methodists, but of course, many do not go to the bother to attend church, as long as their name is on the roll they feel pretty safe.

In Vienna, Austria, the Communists are having a youth festival, and twenty evangelists, four from this country are there preaching on the street corners and the public places, and passing out thousands of pieces of literature from the American Bible Society. They are not speaking directly against Communism, but promoting the cause of Christ, which in turn will eradicate Communism from hearts. The Communists are giving them plenty of trouble.

## STILLWATER, PA.

Aug. 10—The drought has ended somewhat, as a few showers came our way, but we could still use a lot more. Corn that was planted early has developed into ears already and they are not filled out clear to the end due to lack of moisture, and the lower leaves are yellow.

Harry Pettibone, a farmer who was never married, was making a hole on the top of his granery to put oats in one evening, and something happened. No one knows what. He fell from the granery to the barn floor and was found there the next morning by his neighbor who came over and wanted to use his telephone. The doctor thought he broke his neck in the fall. He was 46. I think he belonged to the Methodist church.

How strange we people are, who are religiously and denominational inclined. Last Sunday we were at Red Rock at the N. Mountain Bible Conference, and met people from the Brethren in Christ church at Millersburg. We enjoyed the messages that were brought, and could say Amen to the most of it if we added our denominational salt. But this Sunday we drove 124 miles one way to be present at the Brethren in Christ camp meetings at Roxbury, and we enjoyed it much better. The one is what is known as Calvinistic in doctrine, the other as Armenien. The differences in the two viewpoints were not discussed, but Christ was preached, but we still enjoyed the latter one better, even though the same Christ was upheld at each place. Does anyone know what makes us human beings that way? Is this the way it should be?

There must have been 2000 people there at Roxbury. Many of whom we knew and many more that we did not know. They serve meals there on the free-will offering basis. As you enter the dining hall there is a place to drop the offering. What's more, they operate the camp this way. Their need has been supplied down through the years, and they have thousands of dollars invested too. There is no charge even for lodging if you plan to stay the whole time of the meetings. Everything is free-will.

It is amazing how much better it is to obey the speed laws when driving. Time was when I didn't and did not understand why so much gasoline was consumed in so few miles and the tires wore so fast. But now I know why. We have what is known as a big car but can operate on 20 miles to a gallon of gas, if the 50-mile speed limit is not exceeded. And you also feel much better when you get home, because fast driving

is hard work, and what's the use to work when it's illegal and tiresome? And what's more you don't have to watch the rear view mirror all the time for fear of being pulled off by a state trooper.

Did you know that he is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose? John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Aug. 16—In the spring of the year we plant corn in the warm, moist earth, and how our hearts are thrilled as we see the tender young plants springing upwards reaching out toward the warm sun. We say thanks to God for the warm sun to bring life to the earth after the cold winter. But 4 months later we view the same corn with the leaves turning yellow before time and the rest curling up in the extreme heat of the same sun for which we thanked God in the spring. We think within ourselves, "why are there no clouds with some rain to water this parched corn? Why does the sky seem like brass and the earth like a hot tin roof, why must our crop be thus damaged by the same sun that creates life?" Why, we ask, Why! But about all the answer we get is our own echo, Why.

The answer is however in the Bible. God cursed the earth when Adam, the ruler of it, sinned, therefore we have nature that is very rewarding sometimes, and sometimes very destructive. Such as the storm they had which Tom Byler wrote about in the Valley of the Sun, in Arizona. They wanted rain but not all the destruction that the rain brought with it. We also find in the same Bible that the whole creation groaneth in pain. But we also find that the creation will some day be released from this bondage, to enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God. The wolf will lie down with the lamb, etc. No ferocious beasts, everything will be restored to its state before the fall except the serpent.

We attended the Conservative Conference at Belleville one day only. We met many old time friends there, and were instructed in the line of missions, as we were there on missionary day. The budget for the fiscal year is \$70,000.00. We were also warned that we had better change our method or our name, because we are not Conservative anymore, in the true sense of the word. One of the Budget readers also took me to task because I had afore stated that the rains go out around us. He wondered if only one righteous person wouldn't cause it to rain. I told him that Job's friends also accused him of being a sinner because of his calamity, but they were far wrong.

The next morning was one of those hot and humid mornings when you didn't have much ambition to do anything, and the fact that we did not get home until the wee hours of the morning, didn't improve the situation any. But I was quite rudely awakened out of my lethargy. My good wife claimed that the netting on the chicken house window was loose long enough and it's now time to fix it, so being obedient, I took the hammer and proceeded to the task.

I was just finished, when I found to my amazement that we have tenants living in the chicken house too. They were quite disturbed by the hammering and about four of them came in thru the netting (they were bumblebees) and began to fly about my head. I, of course, was on the defensive, and decided the quicker I get out of there the better. I came out in a great hurry slapping, kicking, jumping, twisting. They were very determined that I stay away, as one sat on me a little while afterward and was killed by my son. I also lost my glasses in the ordeal (one got me in the temple, and two in the throat) and while slapping, I knocked them off, and had to ask assistance of my wife who came out of the house laughing heartily. She then found the glasses, but I thought for a while they might be gone in the grass or the chicken house litter. I had several sore spots but it was nothing in serious. Needless to say I don't like bumblebees, but I am at a loss to know how to eradicate them as they have their nest in the wall of the house.

John R. Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

Aug. 23 — It's all over now, August 22 is past and gone forever and the Budget scribe reunion went with it. The scribes that were not there certainly missed something which in my mind was something worthwhile. I was somewhat skeptical at first as to how a meeting of this nature could be of much value, knowing that the scribes are composed of many different religious viewpoints. But my skepticism was soon removed.

I started at three-thirty Friday afternoon, and drove to White Hall and took John D. E. Yoder along. We drove most of the nite and arrived at William Martin's place around 2 o'clock in the morning. We were not willing to get the old man out of bed, so we just slept in the car until daylight. I laid myself on the back seat and slept long before we were there, while John faithfully fought sleep and navigated the machine.

Mr. Martin and I were having correspondence together for some time and I was glad to meet him personally, face to face. We went to call on Roy Schlabach before going on to Sugarcreek. Roy and his wife were very friendly and anyone with a little discernment could see sweet calm and peace written on their faces. It was the peace of God which passeth all understanding and no one but the possessors of this know anything about it.

After this we went to Sugarcreek, and on the way we met many buggies and in the small towns, people were standing with their horses tied, and were probably discussing the issues of the day. It almost seemed we were back in pioneer days. I was born in the horse and buggy day, but it was very unusual to see so many out on the road at one time, there being no meeting, everyone I suppose was going shopping. Also in the Big Valley there are not near as many buggies used as in Holmes County because there aren't so many Amish people. A good many cars also went by with Amish people in them. It was very warm and humid that morning, and I suppose the farmers felt like I often do when it's that way.

At Sugarcreek it was very hot there on the sidewalk, and a number of people standing there getting acquainted. Many of them took my hand and said, "who is this"? And after telling my name many said "oh I read your articles". I didn't know what to say to that at first but soon heard Ezra Kanagy saying when he was thus approached, that was why he wrote his pieces so people would read them. I then used the same expression.

I then stepped inside and viewed the printing procedures. It was much cooler there because fans were blowing air around. It was also very interesting to me to just stand in one place and look at all the people, and see what's written on their faces. Studying people was always a hobby of mine, and here I could see what the people looked like

that made the Budget possible. Many were scribes. I also was very much pleased and interested to meet man number one in the Budget, yes, I felt his warm handshake and saw his friendly smile, the editor George Smith. To me this was worth all the efforts it took to go, and the time and money spent, and all the rest of the enjoyable features of the meeting were free.

We were then entertained to a well-planned meal at the Community Hall by the ladies of the Mennonite church, after which the editor took the floor and called on each one of the scribes present to stand and say a few words. This was also very interesting and worthwhile. It reminded me very much of the time when we will meet together over yonder. To meet the people who did the writing of the word of God.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Aug. 29—The fall rains and equinoctial storms are now starting to take the pre-eminence, replenishing the water supply which was somewhat below normal this summer. The corn looks better than was expected after seeing it stand in the hot sun day after day, seemingly begging for rain. But there are many small stones here in this soil, plus a good subsoil underneath and this conserves the moisture a long time. When you plow in the fall it works still better, and it also never gets hard.

The mine disaster which happened Jan. 12, when the Susquehanna river found a hole in its bottom and billions of gallons of water poured into the mine, trapped many men. All were rescued but 12 which were never found to this day. The state spent five million dollars in an effort to pump the water out of the mine, but have ceased, since the amount of water was so tremendous that practically no headway was gained.

The mine was leased by the Knox Coal Co. from another mining firm. But all mining operations have ceased, due to the water, and they say that coal is not so much in demand anymore, due to oil, and soon atomic power. They do however want the lost men out of the mine, to prove that they are dead, thus enabling them to take them off their payroll. They have to pay them for a certain number of years, if no official statement is made that they are dead. And this cannot be done as long as no one has seen them dead.

The operators of the mine are charged with criminal negligence, and they are spending much time in court about it, and spending thousands of dollars. But think of the poor women with their children, whose husbands and daddies left home in the morning never to return. I have seen in the papers and heard on the radio, how the women and children stood at the mine before all were rescued, and there was great rejoicing to certain ones as their husbands came out. But I can in a small way imagine how the others felt when another man was saved—alive—but not their husbands. Some were said to have lost their minds because of their anxiety. How will it be at that great day when the one shall be taken and the other one left?

It would be very nice, and very efficient if every reader of these articles had a name which would at least serve as identification. As it is sometimes I get mail and no name to it. But then I suppose writing is somewhat like the preacher said, "If a man gets up to speak, anyone in the audience can throw a brick at him but he doesn't know where it came from." So I cannot tell where this last letter came from except that it was postmarked Norfolk, Va. It was evidently someone who didn't agree with the bible which I quoted that the curse would be removed from off the earth at some future date.

The U. S. space project has in its plans to shoot for the moon on Oct. 4. A 375 pound satellite is to go to the moon if everything goes according to plans. The moon is nearest to the earth at this time, only a little over 220,000 miles. That's not so far, depending how you travel. These rockets have a safety device on them, and in case anything goes wrong they come back to earth again. Someone has said our prayers are like rockets, but most of us have a safety device on them (if it by Thy will) to bring them back to earth in case God doesn't hear. If the thing we pray for is clearly in the Word that it is God's will, then we can defy all spiritual gravitation and send them heavenward, without his safety device.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Sept. 6—Beautiful fall weather, and the recent rains have refreshed the earth that the grass is growing nicely. Silo filling is in progress to those who like their juice to run away. I like to wait for a little while yet until the sap is more used up in maturity of the ear. It takes less corn this way and makes a better quality feed that lasts longer. The cattle can't eat as much of it because the total digestable nutrients are higher.

Last year we had soy beans and sorghum, and the tonnage per acre was high, but if it's tonnage only you want more than quality you can get that by adding water. That's what it is mostly in the sorghum silage. A very high moisture content, and the poorest and lowest TDN content, of all kinds of silage tested at State College. Corn was the best in TDN value.

Khrushchev now has the invitation to come and see our fair land, and will probably be here before long. At the first I thought this may be a good idea, and as some of the officials put it, "Let him come and see our munitions and military might, lest he mis-judge us and do something foolish, thus starting an atomic war." Jack Wyrtzen, the great youth leader in New York and all over the continent, was bitterly opposed to having him come. He wrote to President Eisenhower and V. President Nixon, of his opposition. He says we are doing the same thing King Hezekiah did when the King of Babylon sent him a gift. He showed those dignitaries all over his possessions and everything he had. But the Lord was displeased and said all things that they have seen shall one day be carried into Babylon, and it was so.

There are three ways in which total destruction is possible to every living thing on this earth,

and the power is in men's hands to do it, or rather the means are in their hands with which to do it. The first is to blow it up with the hydrogen bomb, and the next is to spread a very deadly disease, and the third is something they can send out that will affect the nervous system of every human being and bring a horrible death.

The situation looks bleak, and we have gotten ourselves into an awful mess that only the coming of the Lord prophesied by the anti-deluvian saint, Enoch the seventh from Adam, spoke about. In the book of Jude it's found, "Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, etc." Notice he comes with, and not for the saints, in this passage. "Then every hill shall be made low and every valley exalted, the crooked made straight, and the rough places made plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."

We were again pleasantly surprised by the coming of a Warfel family from Norfolk, Va. They were on their vacation, and had a cabin at La Port, Pa. to rest from their labors. He used to be a milk tester in this area during World War II, when he was in C.P.S. service. They read these Stillwater articles and wanted to know from whence they came.

The Budget sure is a unique paper. The more people you know, and the more places you've been, the more of an asset it becomes. It's the Saturday evening bible in many homes, including ours, and if it doesn't come on Saturday we are disappointed.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Sept. 12—Nice cool weather as compared with the 95 degree temperature the beginning of the week. Silo filling is in progress, and quite a few ensilage cutters are back in use again as hiring forage harvesters is very expensive. Farmers are minding the expense more, and getting more cost conscious as prices for farm products are ever going down, and prices for repairs and new machinery are ever rising. Everything you buy now is much higher priced than it was ten years ago, and everything you sell is much lower.

The government tried to keep prices up by buying the surplus for several years now, and the stock piles are getting so tremendous that they speak of selling it at a low price to get rid of it, and Farm Journal predicts farmers will take advantage of this low priced feed and flood the market with pork and beef, and every other farm product, and thus bringing prices lower than they have been yet. Milk would be much lower too, would not the price control board keep the price up.

I still feel the government entering in and trying to keep prices up higher than the demand is, just makes bad matters worse. I wish they would have stayed out of it in the beginning. We made a lot of money for a while but these tremendous taxes are sucking our finances down the drain. When will it ever stop, and where do we go from here?

Everything goes toward volume and larger operations. One man who gets a whole truck load of milk every day, told me he is not making any money. He said people think when they see his truck going into the milk plant that he's making it when they figure how much that load of milk is worth, and this continues every day. But, he continued, they little know the large expense of the entire operation, and then the hired help situation is bad, as it's so hard to get a good man that is interested in doing you good. Most of them are just after the pay check and care little about anything else.

Americans chewed 250 million pounds of gum in 1958, and paid \$306,000,000 for it. This is 250 sticks for every man, woman, and

child, in the country. I wonder who chewed my share?

Antiques are fascinating and thousands of dollars are spent on them too. While I am not an antique dealer neither have any of any value, it's interesting to see them. I am 35 years old, and considered a young man. But to get my silo filled I use a corn binder that is as old or a little older than I am. I've had it for years and it still works fine, but has many features on that were not when it was new. It even had an electric light on at one time to cut corn at night, but that operation has been abandoned. It's a little like the old axe the man had, which had several new handles and new heads in its time. An old ensilage cutter, that is equally as old I presume, has been purchased and with these the young man uses his old machinery and fills his silo all by himself. The cutter is not the self-feeding type. You have to pull the corn off the wagon and push it into the cutter. That's work!

The other day it was up to almost 100 degrees and I was trying to cut corn with the old antique, and a chain came off, halting the operation. I was putting the chain on and it was oh so hot! The sweat was just rolling off, onto my eyebrows and down over my glasses so that I had to lay them aside to see, and chains are hard to get on but come off easily. My shirt was soaked, and I was so thirsty, and put a big load of corn on before going in, and of all things the top, that which I worked hardest to get on, fell off again. All is vanity. Now if I had one of those old single-cylinder International engines to run the old cutter, I'd be fixed. Antiques are fascinating.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Sept. 21 — The Communist party boss is here, and is Communist's number one missionary. They gave him a royal welcome, laid out a red carpet, and the 21-gun salute, like they do to all dignitaries. But the President was not smiling and happy when he shook hands and welcomed him. The crowds did not cheer for him—they were silent as he went by. The road was heavily guarded and the man-holes welded shut, lest someone go in there and pop up with a tommy gun and shoot him. A policeman was on every house top lest someone get him from there. In Bible times King Solomon had 60 men guarding his bed at night lest someone kill him; he had a reign of peace. How much more must leaders be guarded now in these times?

We should put credit where it is due. The communists say there is no God and don't act like there was. While we in America say we are not atheists, we believe in God, but live as if there wasn't. The communists are at least honest in that respect. It is rather doubtful if the rate of crimes committed in Russia, are equal to here in America.

The Soviet scientists say they have hit the moon with their rocket, and American scientists say there is no question as to whether they did. Probably in a few years or sooner they will

put a man up there, but what he wants there is incomprehensible, because the same scientists say, there is no air on the moon, and being closer to the sun than the earth is, it gets very hot there during the day, up to 250 degrees and at night it goes that far below zero, because it has no atmosphere to hold the temperature more even. There is also no water there, as air and water go together, and how long could a person live in such a place? The Bible says God has given the earth to the children of men. Why not stay here?

Not only are men going up but also down. They want to start drilling procedures soon in the bottom of the ocean and drill down into where the earth is hot. That's 7000 miles. It is to be questioned whether they will get that far, but it was also questioned whether they will get to the moon, but they did it. Almost anything is possible in these days of unbelievable wisdom and knowledge, as Daniel foretold.

The Bible says the moon shall be turned to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord. Does this mean that a war will be fought on the moon and blood shed? Or will the moon just look like blood because of the smoke here on earth?

Now to come back to earth again, with some news from this part of the country. Silo filling is still going on, as no one seems to be in a hurry here, except once-in-a-while some young fellow decides he needs to get some place quick and drives fast, but other than that people don't do today what can be put off until tomorrow. The corn seems to be a good crop in spite of the dry weather this past summer.

One of our neighbors is in his 70's, and he says he gets charlie-horse in his legs, and they need sunshine, so he cuts off his overall legs at the knees to sun his legs. He said he used to get it in his arms, now he doesn't wear a shirt and it cured it. It looks as though he was really in a depression to see him around without shirt or pant legs.

"If nobody thinks you are queer, then you are not a good Christian, and on the other hand, if everybody thinks you are queer, you also are not a good Christian." John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Sept. 26—The rains that came were of a short duration. Some wells that never failed before, are getting very low. Records are being broken weatherwise. Last week it was the coldest on record, and this week it's above normal. It hasn't been so warm this time of the year since 1920. Silos are about filled and corn picking ready to start. We already have 500 bushel picked. Corn is a good crop in spite of the seemingly undue dry weather. Were it not for the occasional thunder shower, we would have lived on a desert.

The pulse of this week's news is about policemen, and New York city. The Wyoming Valley Federation of Men's Bible Classes had a meeting in the First Methodist Church in Kingston. For a speaker they had Captain Conrad Jensing, a captain over 300 police in the 23rd precinct of New York City, known as the "blood bucket", because the people there hate each other and policemen in particular. There are 180,000 people living in one sq. mile. This man is 48 years old, and has been a policeman for half that time. His first charge was in the first precinct, where the bankers and well to do people have their hangouts. From there he was transferred to the 23rd precinct—from the up and out to the down and out.

He reminded me very much of the centurion who came to Christ and said he is not worthy to have him come under his roof. This man had charge over 100 men, but Captain Jensing over 300. He said he was saved at the age of six years and has never found the Lord to fail him in 42 years. He seemed to be very humble and a devoted christian, loving the Lord with all his heart. Having the position he does, his counsel is sought. Recently he was interviewed by a large magazine firm, asking what can be done to curb juvenile delinquency. He said this is taking on fearful proportions, so that the authorities are at a loss to know how to cope with the situation. He very strongly maintains that Christ in the heart will remedy any situation, and is ever ready

to say so to both small and great. He spoke to a man that came from Washington to ask him what he thought of legalizing lottery. He and another christian pastor spoke to this man for 2 hours, until the man was visibly shaken, being convicted of his own sins and the sins of our country.

He was appalled by the decision of the court in Philadelphia, saying it is illegal to read the Bible in the public school, saying New York will soon follow suit. He says this is because men do not like to retain God in their knowledge, therefore God gives them over to a reprobate mind to do that which is not convenient. Hence our trouble will be intensified. He called Khrushchev a bloody, bull-headed butcher, not to be trusted farther than you can see him go.

He admonished us if we ever get stopped by a policeman, to be courteous and hand him a gospel tract wishing him well, knowing that he has a hard job for eight hours with other people's problems, and then go home to face his own personal problems. Police stand between society and chaos.

He helped to organize a police-man and firemen's group, composed of over 300 christian police and firemen of New York. They have a meeting once a month for strengthening in the faith and fellowship.

All in all, looking at the situation the way he described it is disheartening. It is because the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. The great world powers say they want peace, and are using every means at their disposal to secure it, but they will never find it as long as they look no higher than to mere man. John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Oct. 1—We had only an inch of rain all thru the month of September, but October started with an inch the first night, and it is predicted to be warm and wet during the month.

It has cost the American taxpayers \$150,000.00 to entertain Mr. Khrushchev while he was here, for meals and transportation for him and his company of about 70 souls. He had the strongest group along to protect him of any dignitary that ever visited our country. It was reported in the last Budget that he has shed much innocent blood, and he did. He was very brutal and beastly to those who opposed him. But if we go back in the Bible we can find such incidents reported over and over again. Manasseh, the son of one of Israel's most Godly kings, filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and many others were exceedingly wicked, who were of God's chosen people. What can we expect from an atheist. The same could happen here in our country and very likely will sometime.

It has been requested that I answer the questions asked in the Lynnhaven Gleanings concerning tobacco, wine, gum, and beer, (1) Why is it alright to chew gum but a sin to chew tobacco? Chewing gum is harmful to the stomach unless it's done right after meals only. As chewing proceeds the glands in the mouth secrete saliva, and the stomach does the same, and if the stomach is empty it is harmful, as this is very strong, made to digest food. We shouldn't do much chewing unless we eat. The gum itself is not harmful. Tobacco is high in nicotine, which enters the blood stream as soon as it reaches the back of the throat. Nicotine is deadly poison. One cigar contains enough to kill a man. As soon as this enters the blood stream the body immediately sets up a resistance to it, and disposes of it. Nicotine also makes slaves of the users of it. Prolonged users of it get addicted to it and their body craves it, so that their family goes without bread before the man goes without tobacco. Anything that is harmful to the body is a sin if practiced, be it gum or tobacco.

(2) Why is it alright to drink grape juice today, but a year or so later, after the dirt is worked off, it's a sin to drink it? Nowhere in the bible does it directly say it's a sin to drink wine. What it says is that no drunkard shall have any inheritance in the Kingdom of God. Wine is an alcoholic beverage and

alcohol makes slaves the same as nicotine, prolonged and continued use of it makes one an addict, a slave to it, it becomes his master and he must do its bidding, in spite of himself. Drunkenness will bar one from heaven the bible says. Total abstinence is far better.

(3) Why is it alright to go into the store and drink a bottle of soft drink, but a sin to drink a bottle of beer? Most soft drinks are more harmful than beer? Here again king alcohol is involved. Soft drinks are non-alcoholic and cannot make one become addicted to it. If they are more harmful, or harmful at all to the body, their use is a sin. A Christian's body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, and we are commanded not to destroy it in any way. Beer has 6% alcohol and would take a large amount until one became addicted to it, but that is what happens. It doesn't stop at one bottle. Furthermore its use has an evil appearance, and we shall abstain from ALL appearance of evil. Can one bow his head and thank God before drinking beer, or drink it in the name of the Lord Jesus? Whether we eat or drink, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, the bible says.

(4) Why is it a sin to drink a bottle of beer, or a glass of wine, but alright to drink cup after cup of coffee, which is more harmful than beer or wine. This is practically the same question as the one preceding and the same answer will apply. Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. Alcoholic beverages have caused so much drunkenness, immorality, poverty, and shed so much human blood that it is sheer folly to even consider having anything to do with it.

Coffee contains caffeine, and is hard on the body and it would be much better not to drink it either. We will be held accountable as to how we treated our bodies and if we considered things in the light of the Judgment seat of Christ and eternity we would live longer and be healthier. But anyone who is not saved, it makes little difference what you drink or don't drink, you will not get to heaven regardless of how good a life you live. No one gets to heaven by being good, it takes the righteousness of Christ to get there. But we will be rewarded according to our works, whether we go to heaven or hell.

John R. Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

Oct. 10—O sun and skies, and clouds of June, and flowers of June together, you cannot rival for one hour, October's bright blue weather. This time the Krick weather forecast in Farm Journal was right, October is warm and wet. Last night it rained two inches, the mild little streams became raging torrents overnight. Hurricane Irene was the cause of it. A week before this Gracie left us one inch plus a few thunder showers.

Harry R. Girard, a factory worker and part time farmer, drove his tractor down the road for the last time. He was 55. He had bought the tractor, an old model, from a junk dealer, and would have taken it home on Saturday night but the dealer didn't allow it. On Monday evening after dark he went and got it when the dealer was away and started home. This being an old tractor, it didn't have any lights. All he had was a flashlight. Two women came out a side road and narrowly missed him, and offered to drive behind him to keep other vehicles from hitting him, but he wouldn't allow it. His daughter was coming, but she was too late. Alton Farver lives 2 miles from our place, and operates a butcher house. He was coming home from an auction where he purchased a cow and 2 hogs. He saw a car coming behind him and thought it was a policeman, but it was his preacher friend, so he kept it right at 40 miles per hour.

A car also came the other way with his light on high beam thus blinding Alton that he did not see the tractor until he was but 15 ft. away. He quickly swerved his truck to the left but he was too close. The bed caught the tractor wheel and knocked it off and threw the man up in the air and he came down just in time to be run over by the car following Alton, and he was dragged about 40 ft. The car also hit the tractor and was damaged to about \$400. Girard was a member of the Pentecostal church of Berwick. The car that ran over him was driven by the Pentecostal preacher of Shickshinny. At a hearing both Alton and the preacher were aquitted, because the man was operating his tractor without lights. But Alton said he expects a law suit will follow in which the family will try and get a lot of money.

In New Jersey a man lost control of his car in town and ran up on the sidewalk and hit a group of girls, killing one and critically injuring 2 others. The man was not hurt but when he got out and saw what he had done he dropped over dead. Thus we see that life is very easily ended as far as this earth is concerned.

I am sorry that some misunderstood my statement that the Budget is the Saturday night bible in many homes including

ours. What I meant by the word, bible, was that it is rated the highest in literary value among all other papers in our home. Eternal life may also be found by believing the articles written by J. J. Hershberger. Technically speaking the bible is only a book made with paper and ink. The message contained therein is spiritual, we walk, not by sight. Paper and ink can be seen — hence, is temporal; but the message cannot be seen and is eternal.

The Salvation Army headquarters in Wilkes-Barre, has dozens and dozens of suits of clothes. Many are in excellent condition and can be bought for from \$3 to \$5 a suit, plus many coats of all kinds, for men that is. And also clothes for the whole family at very low prices. They also have chairs, beds, dressers, and furniture of most any description. Some is in very good condition. Anyone who does not demand, or cannot afford new clothes would do well to visit these places. Probably they have headquarters in every city, but I've never seen such a large place of its kind before. There is also a place in this city where you can buy new clothes for very low prices, if they have them. Someone from here has said, "anyone that pays \$75 for a new suit of clothes has rocks in his head."

John R. Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Oct. 18 — The weather—cold and windy, a bleak and typical fall day. It reminds you of the poem, when pumpkins are all gathered and the corn is on the shock. The corn has been a fair crop and we have an abundance to thank God for.

Speaking of bleak and dreary days, it was reported that very few people commit suicide on these days. Most of this is done in May and June, and between ten in the morning and two in the afternoon. The reason — these people are sad and bleak at heart, and when the weather is like this there is not much difference. But in the spring of the year when everything is beautiful, the contrast is so great it becomes unbearable, and they think they will end it all.

And now concerning being thankful for a good yielding year, the prophet Hosea says he will thank the Lord when the stalls are empty and nothing has grown. This also brings to mind the question that was raised as to whether that all things that are for good to them that love God, are circumstances, or the trinity. Personally I like to take the bible literally when the literal sense makes good sense. I believe when God says all things, that's just what he means — all things. Further down in verse 32 all things are again referred to and here it means all things too. God loves his children and guards them very jealously and sees to it that nothing can happen to them but what is for their good. But never read Romans 8:28 without verse 29 too, for here we see that all those who are called according to his purpose are predestinated to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

The bible question raised by Mrs. Lee Mast of Mountain View, Ark.: The answer is found in 2 Kings 13:21. They were taking a man to his burial and saw a band of men coming and they were afraid, and being at the sepulchre of the prophet Elisha they cast the man in there and he was made alive and stood on his feet when his body touched the bones of this mighty prophet of God.

I read with interest about the struggle the Amish have with the school authorities, and I sympathize with the Amish. I have been a member of the Amish church for 11 years, from 1941 to 1952. I enjoyed it there and still could but God has seen a job for me somewhere else. I know pretty much of the struggle that surge through an Amishman's breast, concerning his offspring. He does not wish his children to mingle with what he calls the world, when they reach the age of puberty. He and I may differ on what constitutes the world, but I heartily agree about teen-age children spend-

ing too much time with the world. It's not good.

I do not believe that the school laws are that rigid that the Amish could not be exempted from them, since they were made with the town children in mind, to get them off the street. Furthermore they are always stating how we face a serious teacher and classroom shortage, and some children cannot go to school because of it. Why don't they take the money they spend in trying to make the Amish do things contrary to their religion, and put children to school that want to go.

I believe it is just a matter of men trying to show their authority. How men love to rule and make people obey. The older children want to make the younger listen; the preacher, his church; the official, his jurisdiction, etc. It's a God-given desire, but men being sinful, have corrupted it to meet selfish ambitions. Rom. 5:17 says this desire shall be fulfilled for those who meet those conditions there stated.

John R. Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Oct. 25—Rain and more rain the past few days.

Alcoholics are being produced in the United States at more than 1,000 every day—over 50 an hour around the clock. Probably all of these reasoned within themselves that they would be moderate drinkers and quit at will, but they have not considered the power of the rum devil.

How strange that people who call themselves God's children will play with fire water. How strange that the question was raised in the Budget a few issues ago concerning why it isn't right to drink beer in moderation. Or is it so strange after all? Is it not possible and very probable that people who ask such foolish questions are not God's children at all, but are just deceiving themselves? Are they like Joseph and Mary when they left the temple for home and supposed that Jesus was with them, but when they looked for him among their kindred they found to their dismay that he wasn't even near them. They didn't make sure, they just hoped Jesus was in their midst. How many people in our day are very pious but sanctimonious in their appearance, to make a fair show in the flesh, but in their hearts love sin to the nth degree? This makes them ask such questions.

There are five hundred million children of school age in this world and only half of these have the privilege of receiving an education. The rest can get very little or no education at all. Schools are a by-product of Christianity. Where this isn't prevalent, much ignorance and poverty abounds.

The 103-day-old steel strike is still not settled and the situation looks not too promising, and it's causing many people to be out of work in our community. This is a community where at best there is much sin and iniquity, and poverty, but when people are out of work it increases the intensity of this. The beef cattle market is low, causing much concern among cattle dealers, who are complaining that they can make no money, some even with tears in their eyes. We farm the land of one of them who says he won't make enough this year to pay his interest.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Nov. 1—At the Beaver Run Mennonite church, Pastor Floyd Eby from the Stumptown congregation brought the message & spoke on the text "Behold the Bridegroom Cometh" taken from Matthew 25:6. He said the ten virgins were all saved at one time—they all had oil—the Holy Spirit, but five of them through the legitimate pursuit of the things pertaining to this life, and making a living lost their contact with God, hence their oil. He used the premillennial approach in which he said he believes, and after hearing a biblical message like this it is hard to see how anyone could deny the doctrine of the premillennial return of Christ. He comes to this congregation once a month. Ben Lapp is the regular pastor.

According to the reports in the Budget the whole eastern section of our country is very wet, so there's little use commenting any further on the weather, except to express our thankfulness that we are not excluded from the blessing plenty of water brings, which we were somewhat denied this past summer.

People who make their living on the proceeds they get from their chickens may have to tighten their belts and live on a narrower margin of profit for an indefinite time. According to reports there is no relief in sight in spite of the fact that there are fewer chickens in the country now than there were since 1931.

Personally I feel that if the poultry industry would advertise their product like the beer and cigarette industry advertises their's, the egg business would have a brighter future. The use of beer and tobacco is a sin, and sin appeals to the flesh more than legitimate food does. The bible asks the question "Why do you spend money for that which is not bread?" And there is no good reason. Eggs and meat from poultry could be classed in the same line as bread, in that it supplies energy needful for bodily maintenance, where beer and tobacco only are harmful agents.

In our local school one of the teachers was found with two revolvers in his brief case. One a .22 calibre, and the other a .38, which was loaded. He showed it

to one of the other teachers and commented that there is going to be trouble. This teacher reported it to the principal who called the police. They put the man in jail but the local banker bailed him out. Now people are reported complimenting him for standing up for his rights. They say, might makes right in Luzerne County.

At a meeting where 500 people were gathered to investigate this scandal, Gentile's wife (that is the teacher's name) said he took the guns along to school for fear his own children would get at them at home. Then someone asked the question, "If he is afraid his own children will get at them at home, why bring them to school where my children can get them?"

The principal of this school was reported to be an honourable man, and was quite worried about this whole situation, and after the Hallowe'en parade he collapsed with a heart attack in his own home. He was not an old man but went to meet his maker.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Nov. 6 — In a doctor's office was this sign—"As a rule a man's a fool, when it's hot he wants it cool; when it's cool he wants it hot, what it is he wants it not." This may apply to us in this present rainy weather. Last summer it was so hot and dry we wished so very much for rain, but now it rains every day, we wish it would stop. We can't do any plowing or anything outside of that nature.

In Canada the theologians of The United Church decided that Hell is not necessarily a place of eternal torment. They wrote a book about it and are encouraging their people to read it. The book is a result of five years of study on the subject. They say the strong language used in the New Testament concerning the unquenchable fire, cannot be explained away, but that language dare not be taken literally. They also decided there is a second chance for salvation after death, and that prayers for the dead are helpful. And in Mifflinville near here, a Methodist is reported to have said that it's time we all get back to the mother church, and this man is a leader of this church.

This all points and proves the authenticity of scripture that declares, men shall heap to themselves teachers having itching ears, and shall depart from the truth and turn to fables. Also the time is drawing nigh when there will be one main church again, that which is known as the mother church. The bible calls it the mother of harlots.

Three issues ago I stated how I was conversing with a Jewish man who asked me for a good reason why he should believe in Jesus; being Jewish. This statement took me unawares and I momentarily didn't know what to say, having never been asked point blank such a question. The fact that I didn't know what to say has alarmed some and have criticized my ignorance. That was my reason for stating I had nothing to say, to cause the readers to think. My silence was only for a moment because I was afraid of saying the wrong thing, which is worse than saying nothing. I did not leave the man in the dark.

On Nov. 3rd at 4:30 my good wife was delivered of a baby girl. This happened at the Nanticoke State Hospital. The baby was on time but it was stillborn. We wanted another daughter but would have enjoyed having her normal, but it was the decreed will of God we believe, that we can have her but He wants her. We gladly say, thy will be done.

Some believe that such infants do not exist, having never drawn a breath, but we beg to differ, because the bible says the soul is in the blood, or the life is in the blood, both are proper. Unborn babies have blood. They are individual units, being fed and nourished via their navel, thru which they get oxygen from air, and nourishment from food. We get this from our nose and mouth, while they get it thru another's. They are alive. Adam was not alive until God breathed into him the breath of life and he became a living soul. Adam was never born as we were. He did not live before he breathed, like we do.

I took the body to the Locust Grove cemetery where we had two more lying there awaiting the resurrection. Now we have three. We believe we shall join them at the throne of Jesus.

Job, that great example of patience given in scripture, wished for such a life, and Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, cursed the day he was born, and the man who brought the tidings to his father, wishing his mother would have died before she was delivered of him. And Solomon said, the day of death is better than the day of birth, and he that was never born is better off than both these. And Jesus said it would have been good for Judas had he never been born. We do not see how anything could be good for anyone did he not exist. So we believe people exist before they breathe.

John R. Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

Nov. 15—Winter is coming, and soon we will be battling the elements. The house we live in is well insulated and easy to heat. We are oft made to think of those who have no homes.

Recently we read a book entitled, "The Bridge Is Love", by Mr. DeBoer. He traveled extensively, almost around the world, looking into situations as they really are. In Africa during the Mau Mau uprising he went into their territory unarmed, and walking alone, as nobody would venture to take him for fear of being killed on sight. This is an African tribe that was fighting for their freedom and took an oath to kill any white man they saw. He thus proved what non-resistance will do if put into practice. They were aware of his coming and gave him audience. The other people never expected to see him again as they supposed he would be killed. But he came out, after speaking to their leader, without a scratch.

In India it was something dreadful indeed to see the thousands homeless, hungry and wandering aimlessly about, ever in search of food, until they finally succumbed from lack of nourishment and starvation. One morning early he went for a walk and saw many lying along the streets asleep, as they had no home. As the day drew on many arose and went their way, and one, a sixteen-year-old lad took his attention as he failed to rise. He went over to him and saw he was dead. He looked this way and that, not knowing whether he should report him immediately, or what to do. Soon he heard a noise of a truck coming along and men walking beside it and every once in a while they would pick up a dead body and pitch it on the truck. They came to the boy he had found and likewise threw him on and went their way and hauled them to a dump. This happens every day.

People are very hungry and poorly fed, but they will not eat meat of a cow or do anything with them as cows are held sacred. On one occasion he was traveling with another man in a very old automobile and coming to a little town with a narrow street, a cow lay in the middle of the road and refused to heed the warning given by the auto horn. So Mr. DeBoer got out and took hold of her horns and this aroused the indignation of the town people. They immediately came running with water and all kinds of things and poured it all over him for touching the sacred cow. This confusion scared the cow and she got up. The other man said they would just have to sit and wait until she chose to get up.

People who worship gods of their own invention are much more devoted to them than we who hold the true God in esteem. People by nature hate the true God. In 1959 the Metropolitan Opera of New York City put on a play entitled, "The Sin Of Jesus Christ". One of the dancers, representing Jesus, was on a cross; Mary Magdalene danced sensuously before him and an evil character, representing either Judas or Satan himself, danced with Mary until Jesus came down from the cross and wooed her away from his rival. The leading newspapers spoke adversely of the evil music and dancing, but not one word of protest against the horrible blasphemy of it all.

All this in (Christian) America. Wife is regaining strength rapidly and enjoying unusual good health, considering what she went through. Our nurse, Dan A. Yoder's Edna, will be going home soon, and wife will again take up the domestic duties.

John R. Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

Nov. 20—In the morning it was in the 40's, but predicted to be down to 12 above the next morning. I seriously doubted whether this would be so, but such it was—and what a morning—unprepared for the sudden change as is about always the case, resulting in a lot of frozen pipes and things we wish were otherwise. Will we never learn?

Among our visitors this week were Daniel Peacheys, John O. Peacheys and Jess Kanagys, all came together in Dan's car. The two Peacheys are from Belleville and Jess's from McVeytown. They were not here very long as they wanted to do some browsing around in Wilkes-Barre at the Salvation Army service store. We also visited the Wayside Mission, another place where people give their unwanted, but good clothing and furniture. The latter was a place such as I never saw before; packed from top to bottom with articles of all description, only a narrow path to walk through. You could only see about half of the things because of this condition. It's somewhat like a used car lot, only full of clothing and things, which people give away and buy new. Supposedly many feel that by doing this they in a small way merit part of their way to heaven, ignorant of the fact that it's all of grace or none at all. There aren't too many children's clothing as they wear their clothes out mostly, but suits and top coats for men are numerous.

Old things seem to impress me more than they used to. I bought several old copies of The National Geographic magazine, dated 1923 to 1926. I tried to locate one that was printed the same year I was but couldn't. 1923 was the closest to it as it's 1924. Furthermore we have an old desk in our living room dated 1910, with my father's initials on it. He gave it to me, and I wouldn't part with that for a large sum. Money cannot begin to compare in value with things given by one's parents, as you get older.

It is now a little past 9 o'clock and I just came home from a meeting held at the Northwest Joint School. It is the trial before the school board of the charges against Joe Gentle, of which I had previously reported some-

what. He is the teacher who had the loaded revolvers at school. The meeting started at 8:00 and the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. They were quite lengthy as many of the accusations and recommendations were rehearsed word for word. It was requested by Mr. Gentle that this be a private trial, and it is the law that if anyone requests a private trial, it be granted. Only the chosen witnesses, and the school board and the defendant's company of lawyers etc. are in this hearing. I understand that only the witnesses be allowed to speak one at a time and not in hearing of the other witnesses.

Someone asked whether the minutes of this meeting will be available for the public to read. The answer was that if in this trial the defendant be charged guilty and asked to resign his teaching position then they are open before the public. If, however, the defendant be acquitted, then all records, including the minutes be destroyed. This is very much like the judgement of our sins. If we are acquitted because we have taken Christ as our justifier then all the records of the evil charges against us are cast into the sea of God's forgetfulness and never to be remembered any more.

It's good to know that there still are a few honest business people. Recently I wrote to the Young's Stock Food Co. asking whether it was necessary for me to feed their minerals to my poultry. I told them what formula I was feeding and they said it was the best balanced poultry supplement they ever saw and they could not honestly recommend my feeding minerals to any advantage. Their business is to sell their product, but they were honest enough to tell the truth even though it meant money out of their pocket.

"The reason more people do not shine for God is they will not stand the polishing."

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Nov. 28—Weather is continuing et. Snow flurries are prevalent, owever, the ground was not cov-ed yet in this area.

Evangelistic services were held the Beaver Run church, from ov. 11 to 22, with Henry Lutz

Mt. Joy as speaker. He is a ttle on the old side of life and ly spoke for a little over a eek, as on Sunday evening he d a stroke while preaching. The gular pastor, Ben Lapp, finish-l this service. Then a man by e name of Frank, also an elder-man, finished the rest of the eek. They took Lutz to the Dannie hospital, but brought him me again right away. He then on went to his home in Mt. y and the last reports were farable.

I certainly appreciate old peo-e, especially old preachers. ey have a wealth of knowledge hich can only be gotten by ex-rience. Sometimes I discover n getting older myself. Noah

Peachey once said the best ne to live with your family is hen your children are growing and you have to eat fast at e table in order to get enough. his time for us has now all too on, and unbelineably arrived. e do have plenty of delicious od to eat and I have to watch st I get too heavy, which will determined to health in later ars. You cannot violate the ws of nature and get by. It's so nice and easy to do ores since the boys are big e-ugh to help. In the evening nile Dannie milks and Joe beds e loafing pen, I put silage down d take it out in a big trough r the cows to eat while we ep. In a very short time we e done. Yes, I agree with Noah s a delightful time to be alive. But how very pathetic it would to get older and not know at will happen to your soul af- death. Any one of us could be tched away out of this life at most any moment. To just take chance and hope everything ll be all right is the height of ly.

We were glad for the many npathy cards that were sent us by many because the Lord v fit to take away our baby. me even went to the trouble

to write us a word of encour-agement. We say thank you.

Crist Kauffmans, along with Edna Yoder, were here on Sunday afternoon. They attended church services at Selinsgrove, then came and spent the afternoon with us. We enjoyed it very much. It's so delightful and spir-ituallly refreshing when God's children come and fellowship together in the things of the Lord.

A person also went to the ex-pense to order a book and send it to us. It came from the Bible Truth Depot, Swengel, Pa. The title is "The Basis of Millenial Faith," by Floyd E. Hamilton. It goes on to describe the three dif-ferent views concerning the Mill-enium, and the author evidently thought he viewed the thing cor-rectly and everyone else was a little off the truth. We did ap-preciate the fact he was more lenient with his opponents than usually is the case. He tries to take some unexplainable things and make the Premillenial view seem ridiculous. We only can say, if God did not mean what he said, then why didn't he say what he means? If the first ad-vent of Christ's coming was lit-eral, why could the second ad-vent not be literal?

Mr. Anonymous: Why did you send us the book? We would be glad if you would send us your name and address. A bank check is of very little value if there is no name on the bottom line, nei-ther is a letter, or a book.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Dec. 5—Very nice fall weather although it is mostly too wet to do any plowing. Farm Journal says December will be warm except a few cold snaps.

Our chickens are not producing eggs as we think they should, although they seem in perfect health. It was suggested that we take several of them to a laboratory and have them examined by a specialist in this field. While we do not have the microscopic returns yet, the veterinarian did say they are too fat, their livers are also too fat and since the liver has several different operations to perform in a chicken's body, when it is too fat it slows down its activity, thus hampering its usefulness. He also commented that the feed has sufficient vitality and fat producing abilities to keep the chickens warm in colder weather and the unusually moderate temperatures we were enjoying just put fat on the hens. He said laying hens should have two inches of watering space per bird; and upon figuring mine up I only had a little less than half an inch per bird. This he claimed was a perfect set up for black head, overcrowded houses, too fat hens, and insufficient watering space; saying the best investment I could make was to get more waterers. Chickens are lazy and if they do not have the water at hand when they want it they just do not drink enough. This veterinarian does not recommend feeding any drugs of any kind, like NF-180, which is so highly advertised, unless it is absolutely necessary in case of sickness; but having a good balanced feeding and management program is better than any drug.

The price of eggs is too low according to the demand. Eggs seem to be scarce and yet the price is low. Unner-Barry is a firm in New York that sets the price and since it is an old firm nobody seems to question their judgement; except recently it was reported to the secretary of our farm situation to look into it and try to correct the difficulty. Many poultry men in New Jersey had to close up and go look for work since the price of eggs was so low they went bankrupt. Egg buyers here are get-

ting more and more particular how the eggs are cared for and are quick to mention if they find something wrong with the quality. These random sample tests that the chick salesmen bring to our doors when selling their product, are often times very misleading. Many show a profit of four and five dollars per bird, thus if you had a thousand hens you would clear \$4,000. How ridiculous. If you make \$1.00 profit per bird here you are doing well. A hatchery man told me that most of these are made in Texas where the temperature is warm and birds do not eat so much feed to produce a dozen of eggs, hence boosting profits.

President Eisenhower is now making his much publicized trip abroad, in hopes of creating a better understanding among the free world, and if at all possible to negotiate with the Kremlin. We are glad that God sets up the kings and puts them down and rules the world according to the counsel of his own will. Whether this country will see the horrible war that was supposed to happen early in 1960 remains to be seen. According to present circumstances it seems unlikely. But we know things can change almost overnight, and we repeat that God worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Dec. 10—On Dec. 9th, 1959 I had an experience that only can come to any individual once in a life time. Not every one has this experience, but many do; and only once can it ever happen to anyone. I attended the burial services of my own mother. I saw her in that coffin; and saw them put her slowly down into a deep hole in the ground and shovel the ground back on her box. She went the way of all the earth, the way of all flesh.

Was thinking as the people walked by her open coffin, single file, to view her for the last time, on earth; how very insignificant is this day to the rest of society as it goes rushing by, how plain and common, her burial. When John Foster Dulles died less than a year ago, he was buried with great pomp and ceremony, probably costing several thousand dollars. But here, almost unknown to the rest of the world, lay very plain and simple the body that is the cause of my existence, the body who cared for me before I ever was born, the loving hands that soothed all my troubles when I was a child, one of the most precious bodies in all the world, to me. To no one in all the world am I more closely related. How very true the Bible when it claims the universality of death, to the one in highest honors, as well as to the humblest on earth.

How different life is now that she's gone. How vividly the scenes pass before my mind's eye. She was always limping, due to polio she had as a young woman. Her one leg was shorter than the other, and also weaker so she always limped. Back and forth, through the house, caring for the ones she loved. Often she would sit at the sewing machine, making clothing and humming a tune. On wash day she was in the wash house, and out hanging out clothes to dry. How long the days were for me then, when I was but a little fellow. I once fell sick, oh so very sick with pneumonia! They had almost given me up to die. Church was at our house, she and grandma were upstairs with me all day, nursing me back to health. How many were the sleepless nights she spent on my behalf, how

great the concern for my welfare, how much she would deny herself so that I had sufficient? She did it all so willingly, never complaining that I cost her too much.

Then there were the long trips we would make to Grandfather's house. Five miles with old Pearl in the top carriage. It took a long time on the road in those days. I used to be glad when Daddy didn't go along because I did not have to behave so well. Mother was more easy going. And one day when there, Grandfather wasn't feeling so well. They called the doctor who prescribed a medicine which mother gave him and he drank that, sank back in his chair and was gone.

Last summer, while preparing to go to church, she fell and broke her best leg. She was in the hospital a while, and then home, but never did she walk again. But now I trust she is walking without a limp, on the streets of pure gold.

I believe mother went to heaven. Not because she cared for me as she did. Not because she was faithful to the church she joined in her youth, not because she was good. No, no one ever got to heaven on those terms and no one ever will. If she is there, which I believe she is, she is there because she saw herself as a lost sinner and in need of a Saviour, and because she then called on Jesus to save her from her sins. Nobody ever got to heaven in any other way.

The funeral was about average in size for that place, approximately 300 were there, mostly from the church of which she was a life long member, plus a very few other close relatives. David Fisher from the Georgetown section of Lancaster Co. preached the longest, followed by Bishop Emanuel Peachey of Allensville.

She lived 68 years of which almost 50 she lived as the wife of my father. Twelve children were born, three are dead, and nine are still living. She lies buried in a new graveyard that was just started on the line of the farm where she spent most of her life. My father bought the neighboring farm of I. Y. Hostetler several years ago, and they started a graveyard half on one farm and half on the other, very recently.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Dec. 16—Very moderate temperatures compared with last year when the highest for the 15th was 21. It is also very wet. Seems like it can rain when there are almost no clouds or very thin layer of them.

Mr. Lewis, who is at the head of the Pure Food and Drug Administration, has banned cranberries for use as human consumption if they were sprayed with a certain chemical while they had berries on. This creates an enormous loss for those who have many cranberries that they were intending to sell for Christmas. Also roosters that were treated with a certain kind of capsule to make what is known as cappettes are banned. Ben Lapp, the pastor of Beaver Run church, has 900 of these. Now they don't know what to do with them. They had counted on the Christmas trade.

It has been proven that rats which are exposed to these chemicals developed cancer and people are so very much afraid of cancer, especially when it can be taken in food. It has also been proven that cigarettes cause lung cancer and cigars often cause cancer of the mouth, etc., but who ever heard of anyone quitting smoking for fear of cancer? They argue that others have gotten cancer, but not them. Furthermore it has been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that alcoholic beverages make renegades of the user thereof, and drunkenness is even condemned by God, but who is it that will not enjoy his sip of beer for this reason? Even people who pride themselves as being strictly orthodox and very modestly dressed, can be seen sucking those little white coffin nails and frequenting the saloons. It seems people can be very unreasonable and refuse to have anything to do with food that even shows remote signs of causing cancer, but will not quit sinning in spite of all the evil those sins will bring onto them.

The food and drug administration is expected to strike at milk the next blow. When cows have mastitis we buy a tube of terrymycin and inject it into their udders, and even though it says on the package the milk must not be used for 72 hours we get in a hurry and put it in sooner than that. This they say causes antibiotics in the milk. Everyone

has disease germs in the system and when this milk is taken internally that contains these antibiotics, this will cause the weaker germs to die and only the very strongest ones will survive, and it may happen that they will finally get so strong as to overthrow our resistance then we get sick with pneumonia or whatever, and the doctor will give us a shot of penicillin which will just be like feeding these strong germs ice cream and we may succumb. So those of us who have to use any kind of mastitis treatment for our cows had better be very careful not to put the milk in before it is time or we may lose the sale of our product. I heard one

man say he will stick to his beer and let the milk go.

It can be a very great temptation for a pastor of a church to have his ego inflated when people look up to him and listen to what he bids them. In London, England, in the State church which is very much like our Episcopalians, one pastor decided he wanted more people at his services, so he got a nicely colored juke box to play gospel jazz, rock-n-roll, etc. This brought the number of people up from 200 to 500. He also employed a young rock-n-roll singer to play his instrument, and he gets up front and plays and taps his toes to the music and the girls in the pews do likewise. All this in the name of religion, to get people to come to church. Rock and roll is very hideous and almost binds its victims with fetters so that they get into a frenzy and commit all kinds of wicked practices. One man I heard say he likes those records to play on his victrola since you cannot tell when they are scratched. It all sounds the same.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Dec. 24—Winter started off officially and practically on the 22nd day of Dec. We had only one cold snap that caught us unawares around the middle of November, and then mild weather until winter started. Snow is reported all over the East and more to come soon.

They changed the mail services around recently, taking it all to one central point before it is sorted. Our mail man goes around noon and get to the post office around 3 o'clock, and from there it goes to Wilkes-Barre where it is sorted. It has resulted in better service for incoming mail as we now about always get our Budget on Saturday. But these letter have to be written earlier than they used to be or they won't get in when they are uposed to. They now have to be written and mailed about ten days before they appear in print. Perhaps after this Christmas rush is over the west bound mail will go faster.

Still speaking of Christmas, I asked one of my neighbors what he means when he says Merry Christmas to anyone. He said he doesn't know, he supposes his mother just taught him to say that to be polite. He further commented that I should come over to town on Christmas Eve and see what some call a Merry Christmas. I then asked him why the birth of the Holy One is celebrated with all kinds of sin, wickedness, and debauchery. They act as though they were celebrating Satan's birthday. It does not add up, does it?

The church where we attend is 32 miles and forty-five minutes away. We helped them on Sunday the 20th in the afternoon to deliver Christmas baskets and sing carols to the sick and shut-ins. There were about 40 of us all together. We went in two groups and each group had about 14 stops to make, and we sang two songs at each stop. Needless to say the places we stopped were not the most commodious either. Several were so far back in the sticks and down in the hollow that you had to marvel how the other half lives. Some also were so small that we couldn't all get in so we just stayed outside and sang in the cold. One man especially lived all alone in the woods, and probably his nearest neighbor was almost a mile away. He has a crippled hand, and we thought of him when it was snowing.

It's hard work to hurry around and get in and out of cars, and sing several songs at every stop, and make a dozen stops in three hours. It's harder than hauling manure. It does make a difference as to how hard you work at it, but my throat just didn't want to co-operate toward the last.

Butchering is a busy time, or so wrote "you - know - me - Al" years ago in the Belleville Times. He commented how that John Kanagy and my brother Dave were supposed to go get the other two hogs and bring them over to the scalding barrel. They brought the hogs alright, but they got two young brood sows instead of the two they were supposed to get, which were out in the barnyard. This incident was an object of much fun for several years afterward. It was vividly brought to memory the other day when we butchered two hogs. I did the scalding and dressing all by myself, with the aid of the hydraulic loader on the tractor. I had a short chain with a hook on each end over the loader and into the tendons. When I wanted to take a half in I called my wife to cut the tendon, which she did. But I forgot to reckon with the fact that with one half hanging on a loose chain, gravity would pull it earthward. The result was, some muddy pork. My good wife also entertained the idea that I'm not fit to butcher.

John R. Renno