

## STILLWATER, PA.

July 1—Except for a short dry spell in April, the weather has been ideal for the farmer. A very wet hay season prevailed. But in spite of that there was a lot of excellent hay put up. About three days in succession that were dry and sunny.

Aaron Kanagys and another family from Belleville were at the Beaver Run church last Sunday morning, where Aaron had part in the devotional exercises. A Baumberger from Manheim, Pa. preached the sermon. Ben Lapp, the regular preacher, was to his wife's sister's wedding. We had the message before the Sunday School lesson because the above mentioned Baumberger went about six miles farther, to a place called the East District School, where a group from the Lancaster Conference is starting a work.

Aaron Kanagys and their traveling companions then came to our house, where we were privileged to serve them with food, and we all had a delightful time of fellowship together. It's very interesting to us to have some of our old acquaintances once in a while for a visit; and to get their news and views, in exchange for ours. It's now almost three years since we left the Valley and quite a few changes can take place in that time. We all had pretty much in common since they are also making their living from the soil, and we attend basically the same denomination, and serve the same Lord. It's so good to be a child of the Kin, that we wonder how anyone can possibly get along without this assurance. Without it one cannot have real fellowship, nor peace.

Robert Raycroft is the local Methodist preacher at Harveyville. He has six churches in the circuit. He says in the last year they had about 70 people get saved, and most all of them were church members. He thinks that is being successful. But now he is being transferred to Millville, where he has only two churches, but more people than he had in the six churches at Harveyville. This is a distance of 17 miles, between the old and new parishes. At Millville he declares the churches have only one service a week, on Sunday morning. No evening services, no young peoples' work, no prayer meetings. This is something he had in the old parish. Now he says he can sit down and take life easy. But he then confided

that this kind of ease will probably make him uneasy. He also related that he expects to see 250 people get saved in these two churches, and get all the above mentioned activities going, that are now at a standstill. A teller at the local bank has spoken favorably of attending his church and help in the work. He is a Christian. Mr. Raycroft also asked us to come and help but we declared we would go right on through Millville, as we do to get to our services, and about all we'd do is blow the horn.

His wife then declared she is

dying of curiosity, as to how our church members maneuver when we have feet washing services. She thought it would be immoral for the ladies to take off their shoes in the presence of men. We told her the ladies are in one part of the building and the men in the other; but she thought it should not be done in the same room. But we maintained that is not nearly as bad as when ladies go to church scantily dressed, and what little they do wear is very form fitting, thus causing the eyes of the unwary men to wander. We hope she is convinced. They do not practice the ordinance of feet washing, but we told her that they do not have to practice it, but their negligence will not eradicate the doctrine from Divine writ. We hastened to add that the doctrine also does have a spiritual significance which may be more important than the literal fulfilling of it.

And then we apologetically affirmed that it is true that many unduly adhere to the doctrines which we can fulfill with our hands, and our hearts remain stone cold, but this should never deter anyone from doing that which scripture demands. If Satan has a counterfeit there must be a real thing too, and we must strive for that.

Dr. Frank Laubach is a great literary missionary. He teaches those who cannot read to read. His home is in Benton, and the Kiwanis Club erected a roadside sign to tell the passerby that this

is the home of Dr. Frank Laubaugh, world famous missionary. That he teaches many to become literate is noteworthy, but if the Communists then give them material to read of what advantage is it. Christians are way behind Communists in publishing efforts. We wonder if Dr. Frank has read Luke 6:26 lately.

The National Council of Churches distributed a message preached by Dr. Ralph Sockman in which he declared, "Let us not torment ourselves with those old fashioned pictures of endless hell. God is a Father; He is Just. He punishes, but always with the purpose of redemption. Therefore I cannot reconcile endless punishment with the Heavenly Father revealed by Christ." This shows how historic Christianity is rejected by leading spokesmen for the National Council of Churches. John R. Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

July 7—According to statistics, just 36 years ago on the ninth of July a man child was born. Of course, this is nothing unusual, but this particular child is now pounding out this article on the old typewriter that is almost as old as he is. I did not have a choice as to where I would be born or when; but the time and place suits me alright, and I have a superabundance to be thankful for. I know that my life was planned in minute detail by an all-wise Father, and I'm sure He made no mistake.

We were very pleasantly surprised yesterday when Harry Baer, wife and seven children, from near Chambersburg, Pa., drove in to our place. This is just another value the Budget proves to be, because these people were traveling up through the New England states, and since they are Budget readers they wanted to see what this author looks like. It was not revealed whether they were disappointed or not, but we did have a good time of fellowship. We are always glad for visitors, especially those who have nothing to sell.

We learned many things that we were wondering about for some time. These same people were up to British Columbia, Canada last summer to visit their nephew and wife, Jesse Peacheys. They were in a position to give first hand information concerning them and the locality in which they live. Jesse was a former Big Valley boy the same as myself, although somewhat younger. I knew him quite well. They also gave us first hand information concerning the new Mennonite Conservative Fellowship that we wanted to know for a long time. Thus proving that if you wait long enough the information you desire will get to you. They also knew quite a bit about the Church of God in Christ Mennonites, and since we

have near kin belonging to this sect, their information proved very beneficial.

Evidently many people are getting excited about world situations. It was reported this morning that a small religious group is hiding away in a bomb shelter, while police are guarding their homes against invaders. They say Russia will bomb this country in a few days, and they want to be safe. It would be interesting to know why they want their homes guarded if they will be blown up, but then I suppose they want to make sure just in case they won't be bombed. And concerning world situations I received a letter that amused me, quote: . . . "and concerning earth quakes, pestilance and famine in this country, where have you been? Real catastrophe I call it. We are living in the time just before the end, or when the bottomless pit will be opened." end of quote. If we are having real catastrophe I haven't found it out yet, at least where we live.

We have celebrated Independence day this year. The four churches in this area that are Mennonite missions have what they call a fellowship twice a year. This summer it was held at the farm home of Edward Wiand, near Mansfield. That is about 80 miles from Beaver Run. There is one church at Morris, where Arthur Kolb is the pastor; and the other one at Morris Run, where Elmer Martin is pastor, and another one at Estella, where Henry Goshow is pastor, and Beaver Run, where Ben Lapp is pastor. These four cover a radius of about 100 miles and we don't get to see each other too often, and our young folks need companionship, so these times of fellowship prove helpful. We all take something along to eat and then put it together and walk around the table cafeteria style and pick out what we want. It was very cool this year for the Fourth of July, many of us had no coats along and were quite chilled when we got up to that higher elevation. It was cloudy part of the time, thus adding to our discomfort, but we had a very enjoyable time. We did not make a count of the number present but we would judge around one hundred twenty-five.

To Ezra Kanagy of Belleville, yes; you were right and I was wrong, concerning the time it takes to walk six million, I figured one a minute and not one hundred. Will try and do better next time. John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

July 15—The Democratic Convention is now history. They have chosen for our candidates, Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts to be in the White House, and Lyndon Johnson of Texas to be vice president. They have high hopes of winning the election in November.

This is the first year that I took much notice of the convention. Because of the critical world situations, and because I would not like to see a Catholic in the White House I listened in more than ever before. There was some mud slinging done of course, but there was always a serious note in the speeches. Speaker of the House, Sam Rayburn, also of Texas, introduced Lyndon Johnson for a nominee for the Presidency, and in his speech he said that this country is in one of the most crucial times in its history. He seemed to sense that we were but a step from annihilation, should someone make a foolish move; as they are always afraid Khrushchev will do. I hoped Johnson would make the candidacy for president, but he was way behind.

It was a surprise to many that he was then chosen for the second place, that of vice president. Even Kennedy declared he was surprised. But it seemed to work out better that way. They knew the South was opposed to Kennedy, and in favor of Johnson so they put Johnson in for vice-president to get the Southern votes. Most people were looking for Stuart Symington of Missouri to be chosen for vice president.

I heard several prayers made at the convention, one was by a Catholic and the other by a Jewish Rabbi. They always had an invocation before opening another session. The Rabbi's prayer, I thought was very good and I could have endorsed it; except that he left Jesus out of it completely, and such prayers aren't right. He prayed that the candidates would live up to all the promises they make at the convention, and that they would be just as zealous in fulfilling them, as in making them.

There was much jeering and shouting, and hand-clapping done, depending on what was said. The demonstrators had 10 minutes time in which they could demonstrate their joy that their favorite candidate was introduced. The nomination started around 7 o'clock (EST) and as long as it took for one man to

be cheered, I suppose they were at it most of the night. It sounded very much like some of these healing campaigns do in which some demonstrators also want to manifest their delight.

Ex-President Harry Truman was invited to the convention but he refused, saying it has been rigged in favor of Kennedy. He was insulted. And in spite of all the seriousness which pervaded the meeting, one could still see old man self cropping up all the time. Some were working very hard to get Adlai Stevenson to be nominated, but he had the least votes of all, and many resorted to tears and anger because of it.

Oliver Greene of Greenville, S. Carolina is a nationwide radio preacher, and is on every day. At present he is preaching on Khrushchev, the Anti-Christ, and the time of the end, etc. He says he is not worried one bit that Russia will bomb us with nuclear weapons; every night he goes to bed and covers up and sleeps confidently. The reason for his confidence is because of God's promise to Abraham; "Blessed are they that bless you, and cursed are they which curse you." He says America and England have always been good and kind to Abraham's literal seed and that is the reason God protects them. He has recently made a trip to Israel, and says it is unbelievable how they have prospered in such a short time, and that there is enough wealth in the Dead Sea, to buy the whole nation of America and pay for it in cash. That's how rich the land of Israel is. And Russia will see this and will soon come down to the land of unwalled villages to conquer it, as the bible says; and in doing this they will touch the apple of God's eye, and only one-sixth of their army will remain alive and get back home.

As I reported last week there was a small group in Benson, Arizona, calling themselves The Full Gospel Assembly, that went underground in a bomb shelter, saying that Russia will bomb this country that week. Well, thank God it didn't happen, but when they came out there were two women that were promptly arrested on kidnapping charges, presented by their husbands. They said their women took their children against their will for a

week and they wanted them arrested. The women said that the Lord told them to do it. We have some (friends) that are storing up great quantities of food saying the Lord tells them to, because the time will soon come when they can neither buy or sell unless they take the mark of the beast, and they want to have something to eat during this time. How does this coincide with Matt. 6:31?

The current Sunday school lessons are very interesting, taken from the Prophet Amos, and should be diligently studied by everyone, as these people were living in practically the same condition as many Americans are today. It was the time just before a great catastrophe, but they would not heed the prophet's warning, and told him to go home and shut up. John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

July 22—It's a wonderful summer for the farmer. Rain just when we need it, yet not too much so we can get our wheat harvested, which is a fair crop. Corn look excellent and coming into tassel.

Old Abe Grassmyer of Spring Mills wrote me a nice letter this past week. He says he has been thinking about writing for some time, but then I wrote about the Methodists and that touched it off and he sent me a letter. He further stated he always looks for the Stillwater articles, and then went on to relate if some of the old people like his father and mother could talk they would tell how the Methodists used to wash feet at Communion; and they would get blessed in doing it, so much so that they sometimes split the water and the preacher would have to go get some more. He claims it is a mystery to him how some people now get around this plain command of scripture and neglect to wash the saint's feet.

I enjoy getting mail, and especially so if it's from old people who have been through the mill.

Personally I believe getting old can be a blessing, especially if one walks with God most of his life. I personally am looking forward to getting old. I want to do it gracefully, and healthfully. It is my conviction that if we take care of our bodies sufficiently when we are middle-aged and younger, then we will have better bodies to take care of us when we get old. It is a true saying that more people die of over-eating and over-sleeping than over-work. When we get tired, overly tired that is, then our resistance to disease is reduced, and we are liable to get sick. We should not eat more than we need to keep the body at an even keel. When we are getting fat, or what is known as a "bay window", then we are asking for trouble in later year.

One lady asked her preacher if it would do any good to rebuke the devil because she claimed she was getting too fat. But the preacher said she should not blame that on the devil, what she needs is to push away from the table quicker.

Jesus gave us a perfect recipe for growing old gracefully and healthfully in the Sermon on the Mount, when he tells us not

to worry ourselves about things that we can do very little about. We should slow down and take time to live. I find that the people that are trying so hard to get ahead financially are those who do the most of rushing about and worrying, thus shortening their life.

Around here the people just don't seem to care much about anything, and sad to say not even their soul. There are also very many old people here. Benton has an unusual amount of them, people who cannot work anymore, and they are living on pension that was designated to them years ago when a dollar went farther than it does now, and they are having a hard time to make ends meet. The younger generation certainly doesn't do much rushing either, but their chance of living long is reduced because of improper living, and indulging in what they call pleasure.

I can well remember what Sammy K. of Belleville told me when we were speaking of what kind of body we will have in the eternal ages. He said this body that we now have is certainly well made, and very efficient. It serves its purpose well, we enjoy it. How much better will it be when it is made perfect, and not subject to sickness, sin and death? It is good now. How much better will it be when it is redeemed?

I find that my article is just about long enough, and I still did not even start to write about the subject that I had planned on. That will just have to go until next week. We will blame it on Abe Grassmyer. If he had not written, I would not have started on old people. Studying people is my hobby, and I find it so hard to stop; write again Abe!

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

July 29—Dr. Frank Laubach, the world-famous missionary, about whom I had previously written, has written in our local paper stating his views concerning the tense world situation.

He says President Eisenhower abandoned the pacifist convictions of his forebearers and became a military man, but carried some of the principles along into the military career. Eisenhower says he has prevented a war with the Soviet Union by being strong enough to destroy her if she shoots, and it has worked so far.

But now Dr. Frank says the President is embarrassed by his military strength. Nikita Khrushchev came to this country to secure total disarmament. He, Khrushchev, is afraid of a war by accident, even if America would not start it. And he is also afraid of Red China if, and when she gets the bomb and missiles, which she surely will. Khrushchev, is afraid of a war meant to get the financial burden off his country's back, which must get lifted if he is to remain world leader. He would probably go the whole way with disarmament, if properly safeguarded, because he knows that with one nation after another getting these dangerous weapons, it will mean annihilation of his country, along with America, and probably the whole world. Khrushchev does not want disarmament because he is good, says Frank, but because he is not insane. America also wants disarmament for the same reasons, but we are in a paradox. If we disarm, thousands of industries would be driven out of business, because weapons is their bread and butter. Wall Street would also suffer a shock and perhaps a panic if we would stop making weapons. Because so many people have money invested in stocks and bonds of these weapons manufacturers. Therefore many people would protest against disarmament.

Dr. Frank goes on to relate that there are some people who know how the situation looks. One of these is the owner of McDonald Aircraft Co. who says he would rather go out of business than put the whole world out of business with an atomic war. And there are many far-sighted men who feel as he does too, but the vast majority of the people are

lulled to sleep with the news of our military strength. What most people do not realize, says Dr. Frank, is that if we would do all the shooting, and Russia never shot a bomb, the strontium 90 which such bombs let loose in the atmosphere would float around the world and destroy us within a month. And we would all die in a horrible pain and agony, which the Japanese experienced for months after Hiroshima. The losers would die painlessly while the winners would die in prolonged agony. Military leaders never discuss the poisoning of the atmosphere if we knock out Russia. William Frye of the United Nations writes, "the world is fast approaching a point of no return."

So much for Dr. Frank Lau-bach's views. May I point out that in spite of the dark thunder clouds that hang over our heads threatening our destruction, and in spite of what men say, let us not forget that this is God's world. He made it, and He up-holdeth ALL things with the word of His power. We know that no one could lay hands on Jesus Christ until his time was come, so why get all excited about the possibility of what mere man can do. The Lord told us not to fear man, who after he has killed can do nothing more, but to fear Him that can cast into

Hell. We knew that the bible says the earth will pass away with a great noise, since we were small, and the elements will melt with fervent heat, but we put off that day for a great while to come, and didn't get excited about it. We knew that this was in God's hands. But now that we can see it looks like God has given this power to men we are afraid. Where is our trust and confidence? In men, or in God, who made the men?

Richard Nixon and Henry Cabot Lodge are the Republican nominees to run for the nation's two top offices next fall, and it looks like a close race, so say some elderly men whom I have contacted. A Mr. Davis is nearly 80 years old, and lives near here. He long has lived a fast and sinful life, but says God took away his wife which led to his conversion. He was a political man, and a livestock dealer, and I suppose is in a position to know whereof he speaks. He says Nixon is a Christian man, and Eisenhower is too. Nixon gets \$25,000 a year for the Vice Presidency, while the President gets \$100,000 a year. Nixon is not out of debt yet, but he helps keep his aged parents. It is said he was offered \$250,000 if he would not run for President but did not accept. So I suppose Kennedy, who is a millionaire, is more than a little troubled at Mr. Nixon's popularity, and is afraid he will be elected. But I believe God will put the right man, at the right place, at the right time. John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Aug. 5—The rainfall for August will probably be more than normal, even as it was a little above normal for July.

A split-level home is supposed to be a modern trend. Well, our house is not built that way but the barn is, being built on a slope. The lower side serving as a calf pen, and as a rain gauge. Under the concrete cow stable there must be a spring or something, because when it rains superabundantly this will overflow. Last night it rained, what we thought pretty much as the calves were stomping in water and manure knee deep. It was announced at the breakfast table that the calf pen would be cleaned. We were about half done when a thunder shower just to the north of us was going on. Now Harry Bogart is a neighbor and a life-long resident of this community; and he said the thunder storms to the north of us usually do not trouble us, but when they do they are very severe, "such as one took my barn away". (Others said the barn wasn't hard to take away.) Well, today we had such a storm. I

thought of Harry and what he said. The rains came, harder and harder, not much wind but how it did pour and rain! And for a long time. The calf pen rain gauge was now really taking in water, we had taken the manure out but the poor calves were now almost to their belly with only water, and no manure in the one end. So I believe I have never seen anything like it. Yes I know some will say, "I wouldn't like such a barn."

At our place we have finished threshing oats, which was planted early, and some parts were fairly good while others were the poorest we've had yet. During the summer when growing I noticed so many brown leaves and didn't know what it was; but was told that's rust and will greatly reduce the yield. Well, it surely did. The leaves affected must have died because the stand was very thin on the ground.

It has been reported that the President has appointed a committee to look into the cause of the lack of purpose in the American citizens. He is aware that many are living, but they know

not what for, they simply have no purpose, no goal, no vision; without which the bible says the people perish. We don't want Communism, that's settled, but we don't exactly know what we want. We seem to be like a ship at sea, without rudder, chart, or compass. The cause of this lethargy is quite evident, but not visible to the human understanding. When our forefathers started this country they put God first, and country next, but we seem to have things turned around, much to our detriment.

Last year Americans smoked 462,700,000,000 cigarettes, at the cost of 7 billion dollars, more than Canada spends on its entire national budget. No wonder we have lost our sense of direction, we can't see for smoke. Some smokers believe filter cigarettes to be better, but they are made out of inferior tobacco. The manufacturers like filters, because they cost less than the tobacco they replace and sell for more money, and they can use a stronger and cheaper grade of it because of the filter. A doctor from Cornell University said that the studies he recently conducted show that the throat and lung irritation caused by smoking makes a person a very good target for cancer. Smoking is still slow suicide. We think it horrible to take poison in big doses, but is it more wrong in big doses, and get it over with than in little doses?

Nine scientists were appointed by the government to attend 80 cocktail parties to learn how people behave after taking a few drinks; the cost: \$89,000. The agency that appointed them was the National Institute of Mental Health of the U.S. Public Health Service. What a shameful expenditure of your tax money and fine.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Aug. 12—The weather has not been quite so wet, but not very drying either. Second cutting hay was a little late in getting in. My neighbor said he has 8,200 bales, and most of it is good quality. He uses a barn fan to dry it. Some was put in the same day as mowed. He has only twenty some cows.

Good weather for corn that was planted at the right time. It looks like a bumper crop. A little to the west of us where the land is flat and the corn was late it doesn't look as though it will make much even for ensilage. Some is only a little over a foot high and looks yellow.

One wonders just how long farmers can hold the ends together. 10 years ago milk sold for a better price than now, and eggs too, and the price one had to pay for repairs was considerably lower. Furthermore a new tractor now costs about 3 times as much as it did then, and still new tractors are being sold regardless of the prices. When the steel workers wanted more wages they just quit working until they got more. They weren't concerned as to whether people would pay the price for steel. New cars are much higher priced too, and in spite of the price, record sales are being reported.

One machinery dealer said it's the farmer's own fault that he is being squeezed so hard. He does nothing about it. He said farmers will have to band together, or join the Teamsters Union and demand a better price for their product. The salesman that was with this dealer told of his experience when working for a milk company. Milk is priced in three classes. The first class or class One milk is bottled and sold. Class Two is manufactured into ice cream, and butter, or dried milk by-products. The New York milk shed then has another class called class Three. And he said the milk companies make their profits on the lower classes. They do not want too much milk sold for class one, which milk brings by far the best price for the farmer. He told of one restaurant owner that bought ice cream mix and made 300% profit on it. The milk company also making a large amount, while the farmer was left holding the bag.

Then there's the Inter-State Milk Producers Co-Op that wants you to join forces with them, claiming they do so much to help the farmer—they fight for him at the milk hearings etc. They take 6c per hundred off the price you receive for milk if you join them.

Personally I do not see how joining any Union can be of much benefit, and furthermore I do not believe it's right. Neither do I have very much time for the Inter-State fellows. If one believed everything you are told your confusion would know no bounds. Making a living on a farm takes a sharp pencil and some make-shifting. It's hard to do and probably will not get better very soon. Especially is this true if you have to farm with modern equipment. I do not see how some will avoid financial disaster, as much buying as is going on irrespective of the high prices. One farmer told me he is being sued now for unpaid bills and yet he recently bought new equipment. Another one went under this summer. He got away with a lot of unpaid bills. When he saw they were foreclosing on him he just took his family and left the country and left his farm and stock set for his creditors to wrangle over. That's one way to get by, at least for a time. It's always better to be honest right from the start and stay that way.

Last Saturday, Aug. 6th, the annual J. Y. Peachey reunion was held. This year it was at Happy Wills' orchard. We have not attended this for 2 years but decided to take it in this year. (Last year it was held on the same day the Budget reunion was held, at Sugarcreek). It was attended by a little over half the eligible ones, or the descendants of my grandfather, Josh Peachey. He was married three times and the children from his first wife were the only ones that remained in the church where he held his membership. There is only one of those living any more. There was a great grandchild there this year for the first time. No, I mean thrice great grandchild, which child was also the youngest there, and received a prize for being the youngest.

Henry Goshow's enjoyed supper with us and a time of good fellowship last evening. He is the pastor at the Estella Mennonite church. In the summer time so many from down east come up for cabins to live in for a week, then attend church there, thus making it rather crowded at times. He says he tries in those instances to pay more attention to his home folks, than to the strangers. A few visitors in church are good, but it can be overdone.

John R. Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Aug. 19—This is being written at the home of John Unruh, Ithaca, Mich. He is the father of the bride of Eli B. Peachey, my wife's brother. We are 600 miles from home.

We visited the Niagara Falls on the way up, but I was disappointed there. The falls weren't big enough. All the fuss that is made about them, the advertisements, etc. are just a lot of propaganda. They sure like your money, but I don't suppose they care much about you after they have that. They didn't get one cent of ours. We just saw what we could, then left for Aylmer, Canada. This was about 100 miles from there.

We were impressed with the simplicity of the Canadians, or should we say antiquity. While coming up through New York state there were motels and eating places scattered all along, but not in Eastern Ontario. Here one drives for miles and no place to eat. We finally did find a restaurant, if indeed it can be called that. The waitress, a young girl, in her bare feet, with tousled hair, probably the daughter of the owner, didn't seem to care too much whether business was good or not. She finally did come with a bowl of "chicken" soup (it must have flown over the

top). It should have been called gravy soup.

The country seemed rather uninhabited with much swamp everywhere. They do have very good roads, smooth, wide and straight, every route sign has a crown on top and underneath it says "the King's Highway".

We came to David Wagler's place, the Budget scribe, around 7 o'clock in the evening. We stopped at a gas station in Aylmer and asked if there were any Amish people nearby. The people just shook their heads saying they never heard of them. I then asked if there are people around whose men wear beards. Then they said, those are Mennonites. There are about 12 families there, all in one colony, with no more than about 2 miles between them,

Dave was out in a 20-acre field of timothy, cutting it with a binder, pulled by three horses. I walked out and followed the binder, which brought back fond memories of my boyhood days when I followed my dad's binder. The mosquitoes there seemed to like the taste of me too and I'm still scratching mosquito bites.

They hadn't had supper yet, and I must confess I never saw a damsel set the table as fast as Dave's oldest daughter did. Perhaps she was growing impatient as it was getting late, and it seems to me visitors are the rule at their house, rather than the exception. We enjoyed our visit very much, and had an interesting discussion concerning the Christian and modern equipment. Dave thinks the Amish way of life cannot be beat, for simplicity, humility, quietness, and raising a family in the fear of the Lord. He asked me my opinion and I admitted he was right in one sense, but what about the half of the people of the world that never heard the names of Jesus once. Does this way of life spread the good news of liberation from bondage, to them?

After stopping and chatting with Nicholas Stoltzfus and family the next morning we then proceeded West for Michigan and crossed the boundary at Port Huron. Standing on the shores of Lake Huron and watching the waves coming in one after the other, beating the sand, casting up mire and dirt was one of the best sermons that nature ever preached to me. I could spend a whole day watching the waves.

We also saw a lift bridge in operation, where the road and all was lifted straight up for about 50 feet to let a ship pass through. This is man's doings and is marvelous, but the Lord's doing in creating nature far excels this.

Next week perhaps I shall give a report on the wedding we were invited to attend, and was the cause of this trip.

John R. Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Aug. 27—The wedding of Eli B. Peachey and Lillian Joan Unruh was held at the Church of God in Christ Mennonite church near Ithaca, Mich. It was well attended. The building is large enough to hold nearly 400 people in my estimation, and it was about full. Two of Eli's brothers and two sisters were present from Pa. along with a goodly number of others from the same place.

It was the most scriptural wedding ceremony that I have ever witnessed. The sermon dealt with how a man and his wife should live together; with the whole sermon built around two scriptural sayings; husbands, love, and wives, submit. The preacher allowed that if this rule were adhered to, the marriage would invariably be a happy one. He said women love without being admonished, but they have a rather difficult time to submit always. And I suppose men have a tendency to submit, but do not always love as they should, hence the scriptural admonition.

We have been at some weddings where modesty was almost forgotten, and the scene seemed more like a photographic studio. Here everything was done in decency and in order. They did not have a full course meal for the reception, but only a hunk of ice cream, and a small piece of cake. It was enough to make you hungry. This was held in the basement, where afterwards a few songs were sung by a quartette from the home church. The gifts were piled on a table where the bride and groom, and the 4 attendants were doing the unwrapping, after which they handed them to one of the preachers who held it up for everyone to see and announced by whom this gift was given.

And now let us go back to Ontario, Canada where we spent the night at Dave Waglers home, and view some of the discussion that was held there. It was centered mainly around modern conveniences, whether they are right or not. Starting with the automobile, Dave recognized that for what it is, a machine, neither good nor evil in itself. But he thought these may not be proper from the stewardship standpoint. We, as christians, are only stewards of our possessions and not owners. He averred that some people must have the latest models even though they cannot afford it, but go to great pains just to keep up with the Joneses. And besides the car, the home must also have the latest equipment, thus draining the finances, and greatly hindering the ability to give to the cause of the Gospel. We agreed that this was true in some cases but not with us, as our car is now nine years old and would not cost more than a driving horse and not as much as some. And in our home we do not have new furniture, nearly all is second hand, but is still in usable condition.

He also thought they could live cheaper, and added that the Amish way of life cannot be improved upon, for simplicity and scriptural principles. Also they do not spend nearly so much for transportation in a year's time.

We traveled 1500 miles on this trip, and the cost of gas and oil was \$25.00. The car being worth about \$250 cannot be depreciated very much. Of course, there was some wear on tires but that was not noticeable, as a good tire will roll for 30 or 40 thousand miles. Now, had we bought bus tickets, the cost would have been much greater to travel this distance. But nevertheless we did not let our disagreements bother us too much, because we both believe in peaceful co-existence, of which we hear so much about in these days. We both love the same Lord, and this makes us brothers.

We traveled from Michigan down to Ohio on Saturday. We stayed at the home of Joni Yoders this night. I was pleasantly impressed here to see the gospel put into practice. Their neighborhood came over for something, and he needs mentioning here. When told my name, he said he wondered whether this might be the fellow from Stillwater, but did not ask, for he said he supposed if he would wait it would be revealed. I could wish for some of his patience. His name was Mullet. He says he got, and uses, and likes the Mayes milker inflations that were recommended in these articles a while ago.

We were to church at Maysville in the old church building there, which is now occupied by the new (Beachy) fellowship and led by Uri Shetler. These also have a new building near Millersburg but that became too small as their number is on a rapid increase. They think it more appropriate to have many small groups than to have one large one, to which we wholeheartedly agree. They also consider starting somewhere else in a school house in the near future. We have so much to say about this trip that we could almost write a book, or write the Budget full, but suppose this will suffice for this time.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Sept. 2—We were again impressed with the brevity of human life recently. A family who were regular egg customers got their eggs one week when we were away and didn't pay them because we weren't home. The next week the woman came alone looking very sad, then she began to cry saying she has come to pay for the eggs they got last week. Her husband died. She said they were at the fireman's carnival and he dipped ice cream for customers for quite a while until someone relieved him, then they went to play a game of bingo, and ate some more ice cream then went home. The next morning as her husband was dressing he said he was so dizzy; then with a great sigh he fell back on the bed and was gone.

We knew the man quite well but did not know he had died until his wife told us and it was the next day after the funeral. He was a church man, at least in that he was always willing to help at a church-sponsored supper, etc.

I was also impressed with juvenile delinquency in action, at our place by another couple who also bought eggs. They had their son along, a boy 12 years old. He was actively engaged in tickling our small son when his father reprimanded him, threatening to punish him; but the boy only looked at him disdainfully and said "phooey". The father quickly quieted down. I felt sorry for the son in that he did not have the privilege of being chastened much earlier in life. But it was too late now. Once a child reaches 12 years and does not know who has authority it is deplorable. No, this was not juvenile delinquency, this was parental delinquency.

Just today we heard that the above mentioned woman, whose husband died so suddenly, was again bereaved of her brother. He was painting the porch of his sister's, where he stayed during the summer months. After he was done painting he just dropped over dead. This man we once contacted about his soul and he affirmed he had made preparations for that years ago.

Poultrymen are again replacing the concerned look with a grin, as egg prices have advanced somewhat. They are bringing a-

round 50¢ a dozen for large whites. Reports are made by Farm Journal that hatches are up 50% compared with last year, and they predict a short-lived egg prosperity. The in and out men will probably be in just when they should be out, as is so often the case.

And so Khrushchev is coming back again. This time not to America, as such, but will have to cross American soil to get to his destination; the U. N. General Assembly. The free world leaders seem to be unimpressed, and show no signs of following suit. President Eisenhower will probably be at the general assembly, but not until Mr. K. has gone. This time he will not come with so much protection offered him, as was the case when he visited here; he will just be another U. N. delegate, and will be afforded the same treatment. Relations between Russia and Red China are not the best at the time, and it has been hinted that he is coming in hopes of solving some of his own problems.

Prime Minister Fidel Castro of Cuba is staging another great shin-dig today. His supporters are flocking into Havana, and there is great apprehension among the foreigners there as to what will come of it all. Many are fearing physical violence. There are six thousand Americans in Cuba. Also today the Cuban government seized a large chain of super markets, charging that the owners were hostile toward Cuban employees. This seizure was worth five million dollars. Some time ago the government took the oil refineries worth millions of dollars. These were all owned by American businessmen, and one wonders just how long, or how far this can be carried on, without someone showing retaliation.

Almost 300 people were killed in the Belgian Congo as a result of the natives fighting one another. Also some U. N. soldiers opened fire and killed one person in self-defense. This was the first time that any U.N. soldiers ever had to shoot, since this type of policing was begun.

There is a growing antagonism in our own country toward Kennedy for president, because he is a Catholic. Senator Kefauver says this belligerency will probably get worse before it gets better. This may be a good thing for those who do not want to see a Catholic in the White House. Perhaps America isn't ready for a Catholic yet, but as I can see it Catholicism will be the predominating religion at the close of the age, and the one

that will rule the world. To do this in America they need a man in the White House.

J. R. Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

Sept. 9—The Boyer congregation, where Lewis S. Peachey, formerly from Belleville, is pastor, held meetings in the Penns Creek camp ground, with Joe Esh of Mt. Union, Pa. as evangelist. Sunday, Sept. 4 was the last night. The Big Valley Mennonite Men's Chorus sang several selections there the last night. I used to be a member of this chorus for several years, and have also heard much about Joe Esh, so we drove the sixty miles to Penns Creek and took it all in. It's astounding how great a change can take place in a chorus in five years. There were about four boys that I did not know at all, some new ones had joined that were not members when I was. Few were the ones that were still there when I belonged to it. But it was very interesting to me and brought back many pleasant memories. Joe Esh preached about the home, and woman's place in it. He claimed the reason we have so many young people who are on the wrong track is because mothers do not heed the scriptural admonition, where it says they are to be keepers at home. Instead of staying home and taking care of their offspring, they hire baby-sitters while they hold down jobs. Furthermore, he claimed some jobs require that the women wear jeans; and because they do not stay at home like they should, one sin requires another one, so they wear jeans. He further stated that any job, be it on the farm or otherwise, that requires that the lady dress in an unbecoming manner is sin.

Hatchings for June were up 65% from last year, and this probably means that due to more favorable egg prices many are going back into the chicken business. And because they are going back in it will probably flood the market again thus bringing prices down to an unprofitable level again by the time the June hatch is laying. It would be wise for the in-and-outter if he would give it up for a bad job, and go find something more substantial to do.

We get too many eggs to wash

by hand, so we purchased a machine to do the job. This machine proved too flimsy made and did not last long; so we paid \$165 for a better one. This one we thought should stand up to it. The machine basically stood it well, but there were minor defaults that were constantly giving trouble, such as the motor shorting, and if we had it grounded it would not stop, and if it wasn't grounded it would shock you. This because it was underneath and in a damp place. Finally the seal that kept the water away from the motor broke. And after spending half a day finding the trouble and taking it apart we came upon an idea that we thought would perhaps help our Budget readers. Instead of getting the repairs needed, we just bought an old refrigerator pump and put the washer motor on this to pump air in the bottom of the washer. The small air hose was just a tight fit where the motor shaft came through. And now the air being pumped into the water naturally comes to the top and keeps agitating the water which in turn washes the eggs just as good if not better than the impeller did.

To wash eggs satisfactorily the water should be around 120 degrees. We used to, before we had an egg washer, put hot water in a bushel basket and dip the basket of eggs up and down for three minutes, this cleaned them fairly well but is a tiresome job, and not as good as a real egg washer. Had we known what we do now we could have saved a lot of money. If one would take a ten-gallon garbage can and put a heating element in with a thermostat, which can be gotten most anywhere, and fix a frame to set the basket on, and buy an old electric refrigerator, which can be had for \$15, he would have a motor and a pump, and all you need to do is put an air hose on the pump, and pump the air thru the bottom of the garbage can, and presto, you have as good an egg washer as can be bought for ten times the money.

Now, we are aware that many of our readers do not have electric, but do not let that worry you; all you do not have is an even temperature of water that is important, but not all important, you could wash 3 or 4 baskets with one water anyways. If you would put a small gasoline motor on the pump, you would get the same results. What you want is air coming up through the egg

basket while it sets in the warm water, this will clean most of the eggs. Some that are real dirty will not get clean any other way than with a brush. But those eggs with only a little stain on will be perfectly clean. It takes so much time to clean all these by hand, and besides with the powder that is made especially for egg washing, also sanitizes the eggs, thus retaining the quality better. The air dare not come too fast or it will crack them, but just fast enough to have a gentle agitating effect. This can be controlled by the speed the pump is run. If anyone is windy enough you wouldn't even need a motor and pump.

John R. Renno

It is quite possible, although not probable, that we will not enjoy another summer. The awful tense situation that exists between the nations of the world, causes any serious minded person who knows what's going on, to be in doubt of the outcome of it all, possibly in a great and terrible holocaust the likes of which no one has ever witnessed before.

The State Department just today sent the most scathing denunciation to Cuba, because they took into custody a woman from the U.S. Embassy and imprisoned her without any reason, except that they blamed her for meddling in the internal affairs of Cuba. The police department in New York City is going to have their hands full during the arrival of the Communist leader and all his satellites, along with Cuba's premier Fidel Castro, who are so much disliked by many citizens, and officials are afraid someone will do something to offend someone that we do not want offended, and he will go home and start World War III.

It is a marvel to me how people who listen to news reports and read the newspapers, and still have no hope beyond this life, can endure it all. The only thing that I can figure out is that they are dead; walking corpses; blind, who cannot discern the signs of the times.

Recently I had a few minor repairs done on our automobile, and at a place where I do not usually have work done. I had just paid for a load of coal and

was about penniless when I got the car, so I asked if he could trust me for a few days and give me credit. He said they had quit trusting people. They now have so much money on their books that it's not even funny. People just refuse to pay anymore. The reason I took my machine to this place was because the mechanic who normally does my work had closed shop, and got a job with the electric company on the high line, and now makes around \$30 a day. He had just a small business and did not have too much overhead and did not charge so much, but did very efficient work. I asked his wife why so sudden a decision; she said they have so much money out on the books and their credit is stretched to the breaking point, and she was tired of lying awake at night wondering which door the sheriff would come in.

The oil dealer from whom we buy our oil declared how in his business he also lies awake at night wondering just what to do. The big companies they serve are not paying anymore, and companies that used to be reliable are not so any more. He has to pay spot cash when he goes to the refinery for oil and grease and he brings it home and sells it and his customers want credit.

The above incidents tell me one thing. People are far more in love with pleasure and entertainment than in honesty and integrity. They keep on buying and paying for their cigarettes and beer. They go to the ball games. The arenas are filled, the carnivals, the fairs, the bowling alleys, all are thriving with unprecedented success, and people pay cash there for things that cannot profit, and they cannot pay their honest debts at home. Something is seriously and radically wrong. Let us as Christians keep our slate clean.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Sept. 16 — Hurricane Donna, the most devastating storm since the weather bureau has been keeping records, has just left this part of the country with around 4 inches of rain. The rain was appreciated in some places, no doubt, but not too much around here, as we didn't need any. The springs are gushing out water like in the Spring of the year.

Donna is reported to have left over one hundred dead, and a billion dollars in damages; with most of it in Florida, and southward. Meteorologists are still not sure just what causes a hurricane, a lot of surmising has been done but no definite proof. They always start far out at sea when there's a warm and cold air mass meeting each other. These air masses often meet, but still there's not always a hurricane, just sometimes. They occur most frequently at the time of the year when the days and nights are of equal length, called equinox.

Hurricane Ethel had us guessing, and we thought we'd be in for another heavy rain on top of that we didn't need, but then, unpredictable as hurricanes are, she turned inland over Mississippi, and as they always do over land she lost her punch, and we had only an overcast sky. One man remarked that this was a very queer summer, but I remonstrated that it all depends on how you look at it.

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Sept. 23—Corn is very late this year. And the weather cooperates because we have not had a frost yet. We like the corn dented to put up for ensilage but the time of year is almost past to fill silo and we can't wait, so we are putting it in a little soft. The corn for grain is dented and would not be damaged by a frost anymore.

And speaking of corn; it looks like we've now made a round trip. A few years back the cry was by State College to grow grass for ensilage, it's much cheaper and makes a better feed. But now it's reversed again, and they say nothing can come up to a good quality corn silage. Furthermore Farm Journal carried an article where a man feeds corn to his cows (I mean the corn fodder). Says it is as good as hay, and it does not lose its quality when rained on like hay will. The big problem with that is to get it harvested. We used to cut it and shock it and it would make good feed, but that is now out of the question in this modern jet age. The man in Farm Journal suggested we get a pelleting machine and dry the fodder right after picking the corn, and make it into pellets. There is now a hay machine on the market that makes hay into bit size wafers. Perhaps we could somehow employ this to also put up good corn fodder. The machine costs only \$6,000.

It was announced on the newscast that the Mennonite Conference does not sanction its members the privilege to vote. But in spite of this there were a large number of Mennonites who registered this fall in preparation to vote. The idea is to try and keep Kennedy out of the White House, because of his Catholic religion. And the Mennonites are not the only ones who are doing all they can to keep him out; the Democratic party announced that the mails are filled with anti-Catholic propaganda, and they say no religious groups has enough money to put out all this literature, and they are blaming it on the Republicans. Adlai Stevenson was one of the chief accusers, but the Republican National Chairman, Thurston Morton, said Adlai knows better than that.

There is a large religious group organized to try and keep Kennedy out, and the author of the book, "The Power of Positive Thinking", Norman Vincent Peale, was a big man in the organization, but the pressure got so hot for him he resigned. I suppose positive thinking didn't work in this instance.

The Democrats had a big dinner at Harrisburg recently, to raise money for the campaign. The price, \$100 a plate. And I would venture to guess that not all who ate there had all of their honest debts paid. There were 7,000 who were at the dinner. What great benefit and blessings could be accomplished, if people were only half as enthusiastic in mission work, and lay up for themselves treasures in Heaven besides. The money spent on the campaign trail is in vain for one of the candidates, but money spent for missions can never be lost.

Kennedy makes glowing promises for the farmer if he's elected, declaring the farmer will make just as good a living as anyone else. A news commentator suggested we read the fine print of these promises. Where will the money come from that he will give to the farmer?

We were well blessed with visitors this week. The new pastor of the Five Forks Brethren In Christ church near Hunlocks Creek, was here. They came around 11 o'clock and said they won't stay for dinner. They had a late breakfast. But fellowship was good, and they finally consented to eat a little, and they were here until three, when he looked up at the clock and wondered where the time went to. His name is Ross Morningstar. He was the one that started the mission there at Five Forks quite a few years ago. He was absent for twelve years and now is back. He claims there was a great de-

cline in the work in his years of absence. He aims to build it up to where it was, and far beyond, depending on the Lord and His people for financial assistance. He has five children.

The next day, Gerald Bullock, along with John D. Yoder, were here. They seem to be very much interested in the things of the Spirit; and where your interest lies, there will your conversation be. John can well be classed as an old man by now. In two more years he will be 80. He seems to be well outside of a crippled hand which came as a result of a light stroke a few years ago. He claims you must keep on going to maintain your health and vigor. He said he did not visit any doctor for 40 years until he had a stroke. They apologized for keeping me from work, seeing I was busy, but I informed them I would rather visit than work anyways.

J. R. Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Sept. 30—The annual fair at Bloomsburg near here, is getting bigger every year. They always give to the Bloomsburg hospital what they take in the first Sunday and this year they gave \$15,000. It seems as though they must have a little religion mixed in too, as always the first Sunday evening they have a vesper service, and some preacher delivers what he calls a sermon.

No, I wasn't there at any time this year. I hate the sound and smell of it. I suppose every fair is alike. I've never been to any other, but everyone who has something to sell is trying to get your attention and so tries to outcry his competitor. And the tents where the side shows are held sure look spooky with all the advertisements they have on the outside, pictures of Satan, etc. and some kind of orgies. Makes the chills run down your spine just to think of all the evil that is probably going on inside. Some of the churches here sponsor a gospel tent there too where they have bible classes for the young folks that will come in, and others stand at the entrance and pass out gospel tracts, and invite people inside. Many go, too.

The independent Baptist churches have people at the gates of the grounds to pass out those little salvation bibles. It's just a little booklet about two inches square with around 20 pages with all scripture verses on them. They are put out by a business man at Salunga, Pa. He wants to pass out as many as possible while there is yet time, before the Lord returns; for says he, after the church is gone these people need the gospel and the little Bibles will stay here and will then be read by those who stay behind. The above mentioned churches had planned to pass out 68,000 of these. They cost 3c apiece.

So going to the fair can be profitable if you avail yourself of the constructive things that are there. But if someone asks me, as they often do, whether I went, I like to say no, and then there will be no explaining to do as to what I wanted there.

The six Mennonite churches at Belleville are trying something different this year. Instead of having a big tent where all the people can come together, each church has its own Evangelist. We would have liked to heard all of them, but that would have taken six days, so we left at noon and visited some friends—we still have a few left in the Valley—and bought some apples, for they can be had much cheaper there than here. In the evening we went to the Woodland chapel, where Ivan Yoder is the regular pastor, and Jesse Yoder, of Flint, Michigan was the Evangelist. I went along with a group from Locust Grove when a tornado hit Flint several years ago and helped to build under Jesse Yoder's supervision.

After the services a middle-aged man came and shook my hand, and wondered of this was John Renno. He thought he never saw me before, but is a Budget reader, and asked someone who the stranger was, and you know the rest. He had seen me before though. After he told who he was, it was vividly brought to mind what transpired about 18 years ago. Ez's Jake and I worked in Somerset Co. He at Brennemans and I at Amos J. Yoders, for six weeks during maple syrup time. We went to Oakland over Sunday and were at old Simon Swartzentruber's place overnight. This man that saw me at Woodland turned out to be one of Simon's son. He now lives in Big Valley and makes cheese. This all was so interesting to me, I thought I had to report it. But it does make one feel rather old to think back and recall what happened 18 years ago. It seems like only a few years ago that I was only 18 years old, but it's striking how things have changed in those years.

The telephone company has run out of words. Most phone numbers have two letters in front, but now there are not enough words to go around, there are so many different exchanges, so they just use numbers. Our new number is 864-7072, the exchange is Huntingdon Mills, and all customers on Huntingdon Mills now have 864 for their first three numbers. J. R. Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Oct. 7—The two top political figures, Nixon and Kennedy, are bidding for the top job of our country, that of chief executive. Tonight they again had a public debate, that was broadcast and televised across the nation. Several weeks ago they did the same thing, except they first were allowed to make a speech, and then were questioned by the newsmen, one from each broadcasting company.

Kennedy has a strange accent to his way of talking, and the things he says are not near as sensible, in my mind that is, as are Nixon's statements. Nixon faces the situation more realistically, and as they are, and does not have such a glowing promise of a coming utopia. The things they say to each other over these public debates are remarkable, in that they do not spare to point out each other's weakness, and the failures each has made in the past. Kennedy criticizes the Eisenhower administration, and relates how we are in a recession, and people are out of jobs, etc., farmers are almost facing financial ruin, and we have a tremendous surplus problem. And Nixon says how we have improved economically over the Truman administration.

Personally I feel it would be good if we had a change of political powers every 8 years at least, and perhaps things would not go too much in one party's favor. If I would be asked to guess who would be elected I would say probably Kennedy, from my observation, and talking with different people who are willing to express their opinion. However, all admit it's going to be a very close race.

Judging by the stickers on the automobile bumpers it looks as though Nixon is in the lead, because nearly all of them suggest you vote for him. But I can see only a small part of the true picture that way, as it only reveals how the majority of the local people feel.

Now some are very much disturbed by the fact that Kennedy is a Roman Catholic. I was too, more than a little, until I read the last two articles in the Gospel Herald, the official organ of the Mennonite church, by Guy

Harshberger. He says that many Catholics have held office in the country and were above reproach publically. He also relates how the Catholics were so persecuted in this country when it was first settled. Those of you who get the Gospel Herald should read that article if you haven't done so.

We are glad for the interesting news letters, and thoughts of J. J. Hershberger which he observed while abroad. Especially glad to hear that he was at the Billy Graham meetings, and the comments that were made. It is good to hear a first-hand report from someone who was there, and from someone who is not biased along the same lines as some of the evangelicals who call themselves fundamentalists. We have read some reports about what Graham is supposed to have written, and we thought his sayings were taken out of the context and made to sound as though he was opposed to the truth. We have always enjoyed his preaching on the radio, and as far as we know it was the truth. It is also true we could not sanction everything he does but we do not want him to be conformed to our ideas for he could say like Paul the Apostle, if any man thinks he is Christ, let him of himself think this again, as he is Christ, even so are we Christ.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Oct. 15—Fair weather this past week, as a high pressure system over the eastern half of the country held sway. The leaves are fast falling and the trees are getting bare. Corn is a very heavy crop. It took us six weeks to get our corn planted, but hope we will not be that long in getting it harvested.

President Eisenhower was 70 years old on the 14th of this month. He is the first president ever to arrive at this age while still in office. They planted a young oak tree and he removed the first shovel full of dirt at a public ceremony on the White House lawn, in memory of his age. He says it's terrifying when he thinks of retiring. We believe we know what he means by that; we are half that old now, and in just ten more years, our oldest son will be 23 (he was a baby just a short while ago) and we will be in our 40's.

We realize more than ever the scriptural admonition to remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, and you will say I have no pleasure in them. We can now see why so few old people who are still not reconciled to God remain so, and die that way. When you are young time seems to hang heavy, but the older you get the faster it seems to go, and if you don't accept Christ in your youth, you will have no time for that. I. Y. Hostettler told me when I was twenty, the next twenty years would fly much faster than the first twenty did, and how true.

Robert P. Raycroft is now the pastor at the Millville Methodist church. He is the son of the old Raycroft that was pastor at Belleville recently. They are having a missionary conference this week at the church. We attended last night. They gave breakfast this week for the teenagers before they went to school, and one of the missionaries spoke at the breakfast meeting just to the youth. It was attended by around thirty. On Friday morning they gave an invitation for those who are unsaved to receive Christ, and eleven responded. Two dedicated their lives for full time Christian service.

I spoke to an old man there, who said he belonged to that church for 21 years and they never had any evangelistic efforts whatsoever in all that time. It was just a nominal Methodist church. It was reported that there was much joy and gladness at that breakfast table as those youth accepted Christ. Their main effort is to reach the youth as this must be done if the church is to succeed.

Their goal is to get \$2,000 in offerings which will be sent direct to the field, and the pastor said he believes this will be reached.

One of the missionaries who was formerly, in his words, a proud and sophisticated news re-

porter, who belonged to the Methodist church but never heard the gospel, also said that had we as a nation sent missionaries to Japan instead of technical knowledge, we would not have had to lose 30,000 men at war with them. And besides we are still paying bills that war cost us. He said the leaders of Communist China are men who were trained by would-be missionaries, that had ceased to believe and teach the gospel, and had resorted to teaching only that which is beneficial to the body in this present world. He is now with Word of Life, and Jack Wrytzen. He further commented about the youth work in Brazil, South America, saying that every year the attendance at the youth camp is doubled, and that there is more freedom in Catholic - controlled Brazil to preach the gospel than in America. He predicted that in just ten more years our freedom of preaching will be lost.

The other missionary was planning to go to India but the door is now closed there. He is presently teaching at Williamsport, and training others who will go to the mission field. He said that in Venezuela there are yet 400 tribes of Indians that are heathen. Some are being reached though. A lady news reporter for

an American newspaper came to the mission station and requested that she be taken to an Indian tribe, she wanted to make a report. She was taken to a tribe that was converted. The elder came to her & spoke through an interpreter, and the first thing he said was "do you love Jesus"? She said, "Yes, I'm an American, I love Jesus", but he asked why she wears shorts. He asked her the second time whether she loved Jesus, and when she affirmed it he said, "Then why do you smoke and paint yourself up like that. When people love Jesus here they quite those things." When this woman came home she wrote back that she had to go all the way to Venezuela to find reality, which she did not find in America.

J. R. Renno

The Lord being the creator of nature, and having made the soil self-sufficient, if properly taken care of, we pay heavily in damages to our stock, and to ourselves in the long run if this soil is not taken care of the way it was intended to be. I do not believe chemicals are supposed to be put into the soil, especially in large quantities. Furthermore, the spray supposed to kill weeds is harmful to the soil. Soil is a living thing, and you cannot add life to it by adding dead chemicals. Spray kills the living organisms that make the soil productive, and if this modern method is taken long enough we have only a dead soil incapable of growing anything except weeds. Weeds grow on one type of organisms in the soil, the type that develops if wrong practices are taken, and the things that are good for man and beast grow on the opposite organism.

I believe if we would use only organic materials, which weeds do not thrive on so well, we would not have near the weed and bug problem we do as it is. The Indian had the idea when he planted a fish along with every stalk of corn.

I have heard that this company ships many truck loads of this to Ohio to Amish people, and also down east to the same sect. The salesman said the Amish are big users of organic soil builder. I would appreciate hearing from someone who used it as to what kind of results were obtained.

It seems the article I had in

the Oct. 13 issue of the Budget created some misunderstanding. I did not say who I will vote for, or whether I vote or not, or whether I think others should or should not. I was merely reporting some news that I had gathered. The following letter explains one person's opinion: Quote: "I saw your letter which I read with much concern. Up until this letter I enjoyed reading your letters. I never could make out by reading your letters

whether you were a Christian or not, but now by this last letter, I can see that you might be a church member somewhere . . . I never voted in my life and I don't care about such things, only I'm sure all true Holiness people will use a lot of kneeology to keep a Catholic out of the White House." End of quote. I appreciate letters like the above in that they are straight forward and to the point, but I feel sad that I have so poorly expressed myself that the writer could not determine that I was more than just a formal church member, without any spiritual life.

And concerning my views about a Catholic in the White House. I do not wish it so personally, but the awful condition this country is in, and the great laxity that possesses the professed church of Jesus Christ, I cannot think that any good man will get in. When a church ordains a minister, they usually get just what they want — a dead church—a dead minister, and I also suppose this country will get just what the majority want, someone who is careless with the truth.

A preacher told me the church in other countries is getting cleansed, and he suggested that this will happen here too, and it sure needs it. But about the only way this can be brought about is persecution, and would this not be a good place for persecution to start, with one who thinks all true born again people are heretics, in the White House? I want to be satisfied with whosoever God appoints for the office, but God has chosen to put in the man he wants by individuals voting. This is the method God has chosen to put him in. Are we satisfied with the method?

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Oct. 21—Beautiful fall weather prevails. We haven't had rain now for several weeks. We are about ready to start in on an abundant corn harvest. It is a little too green and sappy in the stalks yet so that it causes trouble in the snapping rolls.

My one field has a sight in it that probably wasn't there for a decade or more; that is corn fodder shocks. Being unwilling to pay anyone the high price to have my silage put up mechanically, the modern way, I did it myself, the old fashioned way with a cutter. This method being slow, the several light frosts we had in the low lands killed the corn before I got it done. Consequently, the corn shocks. It will be fed as is, corn and all.

This fall I sowed wheat with a clear conscience. I never did like the idea of chemical fertilizers, and a little while before sowing time a man from Organic Fertilizer Co. of Lock Haven (Super-Grow is the name) approached me with this product, and having wanted something like it a long time it didn't take me long to decide.

## STILLWATER, PA.

Oct. 27—The crops have been good, especially the corn. Never have we had corn such as this. When we started farming, we planted it about 12 inches apart, and now we plant it only 9 inches apart. A heavy application of fertilizer was aided by a wet year. The corn, most of it, was planted late and it seemed every stalk took, and is bearing an ear. We also have more acres in corn than ever before, because it takes about 1500 lbs. of shelled corn a week for the chickens alone. If we had all that we spent for buying corn this year!!!! We are hoping next year will be different, barring any difficulty in the harvesting of it.

One of my neighbors said if Nixon gets into office, I should come down—he wants to sell his farm, there is no use going on like this for another eight years. Another one who is also Justice of the Peace, claimed in Harrisburg at the Internal Revenue office they are all Democrats except one and he balled up the whole works. I sold a truck to a man and he never did get his '60 license yet, even though the check which was sent to pay for them by the J.P. was paid and came back. This J.P. claimed it's that Republican in there that's causing all the trouble. It's rather amusing to me to get him stirred up. He is an elderly man who spent years with a thrashing rig. He said when he was young the first method he used was the flail, and now he rides a big self-propelled combine. The way some of these old threshers can boast and relate experiences to us youngsters is amazing. He said during the depression in the 30's hardly any farmer could pay him, and yet he had to pay for his gas, and when his money got down to 30c he made an agreement with the local miller to get wheat from farmers instead of pay and sell the wheat to him for money. To this the miller agreed. So he went to those who owed him and gathered a load of wheat and took it over one evening. The man was in eating his supper and seemed in no hurry to come out. When he finally came he said he does not know how he could take any more wheat as he is full. But he says he could take it at half price. The old thresher asked how it was that he isn't filled up at half price if he is at full price. He wouldn't sell the wheat at half price so he brought it home and gave it away to poor people, which he says were so plentiful

in the neighborhood. Now practically everyone in this neighborhood claims the man of whom I am speaking is a very shrewd trickster, and yet he is constantly relating the good deeds he did.

We have three sons that go to school, and yet all three go to three different places. The one goes to the seventh grade, at the new million-dollar school. Here he is required to take gym as one of his studies twice a week. He is required to wear special gym shoes, and blue shorts, and a white T-shirt, everyone must be dressed alike here. I don't know what all they do in gym but I was to that school once and looked in the window of the gymnasium and saw a teacher with a class of girls, and each one was lying on the floor with one leg up and doing all kinds of stunts.

The second son goes to Shickshinny to a special education class. They have two classes of this kind here. It is made up of those who cannot learn and grasp facts as soon as others, so they have these kind all together. They even have a class here of those who cannot talk plainly. They are known as "teachables", entirely incapable of learning any mathematics etc. They just try to teach them to get along with others, and to keep themselves clean, and about all the education they get is to learn to write their own name. Schools are far from what they used to be. They have the different mental abilities into classes instead of merely age groups. They want the very brilliant ones together, and the lesser ones, and on down the line like that. The teachables, spoken of, are at the bottom, but no one is excluded from going to school if they are physically able. This type of education has its good features as well as those objectionable ones.

And now speaking of airplanes, the big Jet that crashed in Boston recently, killing 62 people, is claimed to have collided with a large group of starlings. These birds got into the jet engines and stalled them, and brought on a great catastrophe.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Nov. 4—By the time this is read the man who is to be our next President will have been elected. There has been much heated discussion as there always is. One man said if Kennedy gets in, he guarantees that in three days time after that, the banks will be closed, and there will be soldiers marching the streets. What he meant but did not say was that three days after the 8th will be Armistice Day and the banks will be closed on that day.

My neighbor said he saw some of my friends last night on TV. I said I do not think I have any friends on there. He said he saw Nixon in the city of Lancaster, and the Amish were out to see him, and some women almost embraced Mr. Nixon. He didn't feel too good about it because he's for Kennedy.

In the Wilkes-Barre paper, with a circulation of 126,000 copies daily, was an article reporting the Amish wedding time. It says they do not marry just any time in the month of November, but it must be on a Tuesday or a Thursday. And went on to say that an Amish wedding day starts at 8:30 a.m. and lasts until well after sundown. It is by no means uncommon for as many as 4 to 5 hundred guests to arrive, and that guitar and harmonica players come for miles to provide music for the dancing. And also how they try to throw the groom over the fence, and get the bride to walk over a concealed broom, a ritual symbolizing a new status. But it went on to say that griety is not the whole story; an Amish wedding is a very spiritual occasion, hymns are sung and prayers spoken, and the couples hand clasped in the Bishop's, signifying an undissolvable union. Amish divorces are unheard of. It says the bride wears blue organdy, before and at the marriage, but afterwards wears only black. Plus many other things that are customary among the Amish, some that I know to be true and some that are not true.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Jacob Hostetler family of Selinsgrove, Pa. over the loss of their son, who was killed when his car hit a bridge abutment, while he was enroute home from a wedding in Big Valley.

We do not know how it would be, but can in a small way imagine how one would feel when a call would come through reporting such news about our own children. But, and if, one is resigned to the will of God regardless of what that will may be, such calamities are but minor incidents in the pages of the history of our life. There is a great necessity to live one's life with eternity in view.

Perhaps we were too busy, or the material things got in our way, but this past week has been one of the most painful in my entire life that I can recollect. As was reported last week we were too busy to entertain visitors. That has now been revoked. Due to the corn crop we had the privilege of putting away, I overdid it somewhat and sprained my right arm in shoveling off. Now there probably will be no more shoveling for me this year. We have to hire help for the rest of it.

What upset things was that I felt a maladjustment in my neck on Friday. Nevertheless I went on working and because the Red Cross was receiving blood donations, and the manager of that, a local preacher, called and asked me to contribute as he always does; I resigned to his will and gave blood on my way to a chiropractor to get an adjustment. He told me to come back on Saturday evening but I felt so good, and having worked hard all day Saturday, I felt no need of going; that is not until about 4 o'clock Sunday morning. I awoke from sleep with a very stiff neck, and my head drawn over to a side, and a piercing pain going down through my arm. I did my chores as usual but the pain intensified as the day wore on. Having given up going to church by then, my wife suggested I see an M. D. who lives nearby. I came to his house at 8, and ringing the doorbell brought no response. I called to an upstairs window, which brought his head out and in very angry tones said, "What-da-yawant"? I told him I'm suffering much pain and want relief, but he refused to help, telling me it was too early, and he was out all night. I should come back in a few hours. I called a chiropractor which brought small relief, as my neck muscles were drawn very tightly and he could not adjust it then. It was a very long day.

All week I had to get up at night and take aspirin in order to get to sleep, and this would last only a few hours. The doctor said some would call it rheumatism, but he says it's all the same—a poisoning of the system, and a lack of circulation to ward it off.

John R. Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

Nov. 11—You will pardon us if we again make mention of the nice fall weather we've had so far. The corn crop is pretty well harvested. Have saw no fall plowing yet and it's very near Thanksgiving now, at which time it usually gets cold.

And now that we are finished worrying about who will be our next president perhaps we can get down to business once more. Most people around here voted Republican that I've spoken to and yet Penna. went all to Kennedy, as far as Electoral votes are concerned. He also had a small number more popular votes than Nixon. The President is elected according to the electoral votes, and not the amount of votes he gets. This is in our constitution so as to prevent any big power from putting the man in they want, by causing the people to vote the way they say. Pennsylvania has 32 electoral votes and they were all for the Democratic party, so the votes to the contrary really did no good.

And about being afraid of having a Catholic in the White House; I doubt that our fears were well grounded. It is true that the Catholics have persecuted the Protestants in times past, but I doubt that there will be a recurrence of that. There are several reasons. In America it's different than it was back in the old world, and if you will look at the records it was not the Catholics that persecuted the Ana-Baptists all the time, but Protestants. In the book, "Not Regina" by Christmas Carol Kauffman this was true. The Lutheran reformers went a little ways for a while but kept many of the traditions they were taught. It's very hard to make a complete break from traditions that were drilled into you from a child on up.

Another reason why persecution is improbable at this time is that Americans are too well educated. Where ignorance and darkness prevails there the people can be made to do just what their superiors want them to do. I spoke to several Catholics about this and they declared up and down that never would the Catholic church promote persecution. One said if they did he would certainly leave the church.

Furthermore, I believe the return of the Lord to be very near, and at that time there will be a great falling away from the true faith, and you do not find this during a time of great trials. I am looking for a great united effort, which in fact is already underway; to get all faiths working together, and the Catholic church will open her arms and say come home children, let's work together.

The numerical system is also well under way. They are already speaking of giving everybody a number as well as a name for identification. Already the dairy farms are numbered, and many other things are going by number. This in my mind is all shaping up slowly, very slowly in preparation for the Anti-Christ to take over and refusing anyone

the right to buy or sell unless they identify themselves with him by also bearing his number. Now, if we are true Christians we have nothing to fear except evil, and fear itself, for at the coming of Christ we will be caught up and escape what will be going on here below.

The Kennedy administration will probably be much different from the present one, with more and more government controls. Also there is a great possibility that there will be more prosperity for everyone. In fact that is a big factor that gave him the votes. So many are in distress, and out of work and he promised them aid.

But just because I surmise that these things will come to pass is not an indication that I am in favor of them. I have just taken what I was able to gather from other sources, and my understanding of the scriptures. I believe God wanted Kennedy in office else he would not have gotten in.

The article several weeks ago about organic fertilizer has brought much more response than I anticipated. I was quite surprised to find it so well known and tried and proven. I will not try to answer everyone that has written concerning it, except in this way. I am now more than ever convinced that this is what I want for our farm, and livestock. I doubt that I will again use any chemical fertilizer.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Nov. 18—A man was commenting on the functionings of the human body, saying that organs that are not used get weak and they eventually are useless. The appendix he said is such an organ, and many people could do without teeth as very little real chewing is done anymore. He even suggested that in about a million years we won't need our brains anymore, since so little thinking and reasoning is going on.

On Saturday evening, Nov. 12, we received a long distance telephone call urging us to come to the Valley to the Holdeman congregation the next evening as my brother Eli was going to be ordained to the ministry.

An old building known as the Weiler school house is the place where these people hold their meetings. This building stood empty for ten years. The school board decided to sell it, receiving sealed bids. Kore Peachey, then belonging to the Conservative Mennonite church, but not feeling at home, decided to put in a bid; feeling his way to see if the Lord would peradventure be pleased to start another church in which he could feel better at home. His bid was the highest. He confided to me that he thought if no new church would be organized it would make a good home for someone.

As time went on more people became dissatisfied with their denomination with the result that a new congregation was formed. The group that they invited to their aid is known as the Holdeman, in that it was formed by John Holdeman. He was a man that was confused in that there were so many different denominations, yet each claiming to be right, but he decided they were all wrong. And so, after much prayer, he claims to have received a vision that he should start another denomination, one in which no unsaved people can possibly get in, the demands for membership being so rigid that no goat could possibly get by the door. The group is called The Church of God in Christ Mennonite. They demand that the men wear beards, believing that God intended it to be so, seeing that whiskers grow.

They wear store-bought clothes, and no plain coat is required as in the Mennonite groups. The women, instead of the white prayer veilings, wear black bandanas, or three-cornered cloths. They all are dressed plain, altho in the larger congregations one can notice that the younger generations gets an eye on old dame fashion.

This group avers that Christ has only one body, visible on earth, and that body is one where all know him from the least to the greatest, and not one unsaved member; something which no other denomination claims. So they uphold the doctrine that they are the body of Christ exclusively.

They also practice avoidance upon any member that leaves the denomination. So much for the history and doctrines of the denomination.

We accepted the invitation and attended the ordination services where Eli Renno was ordained to the office of minister, and Kore Peachey to the office of deacon. The speaker for the occasion was Frank Wenger, a man in his 70's. He said he was saved for 50 years and has served as a minister for 40 years. Now I enjoy hearing age speak, much more so than formerly. Not that I would discourage the young men who are called. They have a place too, but I much prefer someone with a wealth of experience back of him. This man in his message claimed that God calls men to the ministry, and no man has a right to be there unless he is sure of his born again experience, and of his calling from God.

Now Eli was formerly ordained as minister in the Old Order Amish denomination, but had to drop that when he joined the latter. As afore mentioned, they do not recognize any other denomination as genuine, so of necessity cannot recognize anyone's baptism or ordination.

We however enjoyed ourselves

there as Kore was my closest friend when we both were yet single, and for a long time after marriage. And we enjoyed witnessing the occasion. Nelson Glick was there too. I have known him since I was but a little boy. He used to drive past our house in a very old model car. He is just the same now as then, has not aged much, says he is healthy and has no pain. (That's more than I have been able to claim for the past few weeks.) It has always been a scourge of encouragement to meet him.

We were also favored by meeting with John S. Zook, one of our former schoolmates. He also played a major part in my own personal assurance of salvation, doing so as a result of an argument we had, which set me to thinking. We also went to the same church for a number of years when we still lived where he does. John has also been a personal friend of Kore, and it was good that he could witness his ordination to the office of deacon.

And now they have a full-fledged church there, thus making the seventh plain denomination for the Vale of Kish, which is 30 miles long and three miles wide; but the saying is there is always room for one more.

John R. Renn

## STILLWATER, PA.

Nov. 25 — The meteorologists claim that according to the streams of air high above the earth, known as jet streams, which are strong winds of high velocity, we should have a mild winter. They are blowing east and west. When they blow from north to south they bring very cold weather. We have no guarantee that they will continue in this direction to favor a mild winter for us. They sometimes change quickly without notice.

The new weather satellite which was sent aloft recently, which is 400 miles above the earth and circles it every 98 minutes, has two television cameras in it. One of them, the smaller one of the two, is functioning properly, but the larger one is giving them trouble, and the pictures which it sends back are blurred. They are hoping it will correct itself in time. If it doesn't we will probably spend several million more and put up another one. They are speaking

of sending a manned satellite into orbit within the next year.

Clark Gable has now died. The news reporter said the whole world was shocked. For nearly everybody knew of him. He was known as King of Hollywood. He was in the hospital with a heart condition and was thought to be coming along satisfactorily. When he was speaking to the nurse one evening he gasped for breath and fell backwards and was gone. His wife was across the hall also with a heart condition, and the nurse went for her quickly, but it was too late. All of Mr. Gable's money could not grant him one minute more of life here. He was 59. The wife he presently had was his fifth one. He was buried beside his third wife, who was killed in an airplane crash.

Dr. Paul Dudley White, who was President Eisenhower's personal physician when he had his heart trouble about four years ago, said the best thing to do to prevent heart trouble is activity. We should never cease to be active and use as much of our energy as we can spare. He also claimed one who is overweight ten pounds is doing himself as

much harm as if he was smoking 40 cigarettes a day. Now we who like to eat, then sit around and talk about the "cigarette-suckers", how they are sealing their own death, had better be a little careful lest we do the same with food our body doesn't need and can't use. This is not to justify smoking, but to warn us from over-eating.

The Communist block is having their troubles too. They had a conference in Moscow for several weeks now but can't seem to agree on how they will treat the western world. China wants to be more strict and threaten us with atomic war, but Khrushchev wants to go a little more slow, speaking of peaceful co-existence and disarmament. He plans to conquer the world the slow way by communist infiltration, and gradually taking it the peaceful way. Red China is well on the way to having nuclear weapons now too. By the end of 1961 she claims to have them, and Khrushchev is afraid of that.

The first bicycle was invented in Germany about 1816, by Baron Drais. It had no pedals and was pushed along the ground with the feet, much like a baby walker. About 1862 the first one with pedals was invented, but had no rubber tires, and no chain to the back wheel, but pedals on the front wheel like a tricycle. Ten years later the kind with a larger front wheel was invented and a real small back wheel. These had ball bearings and solid rubber tires. The kind with the chain drive to the back wheel was invented in England by J. K. Starley in 1884. Air tires were invented in Ireland four years later. In 1899 Charles Murphy startled the world by riding a bicycle 60 miles per hour. They laid down a board track on a railroad and built a hood over the back of the train to protect him from wind. He followed the train, going a mile a minute.

But recently, with a special-made bicycle with a large sprocket wheel, Alfred Letourneur rode behind a race car with a shield to protect him from the wind, on a concrete road, and he went 108 miles per hour. He traveled with his own power by pedaling. The car did not pull him, it only drove in front to keep the wind off him. It took him 3 miles to gather up speed, and 4 miles to get stopped. This man was a Frenchman.

The Bible likens this life to a race, but it's not speed that counts here. For it says he that believes shall not make haste. There's no need to hurry—the main thing is to make sure you are on the right track, and then with your eyes fixed on the goal, not on the other racers, we need to go straight forward and not let our attention be drawn away by the many problems that seem to hinder us, but only use them as a means for a closer walk.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Dec. 1—After three weeks of wonderful Indian summer, and below normal rainfall, the weather has turned colder. A much needed rain was followed by a cold spell.

There is more and more talk going on about the election, and the vote fraud. In one precinct in Illinois, where only 22 registered voters live, there were 77 votes cast, nearly all for Kennedy. All on the election board must have been crooked. In a large city it is possible for voters to vote twice where many people vote and are complete strangers to the board. They could come in twice and sign the name of a deceased person and thus keep his name and voting privilege alive; but where only 22 people are this would not be possible unless all those on the election board would be agreed to be fraudulent. Now, if Illinois takes its electoral votes from Kennedy, he will not have 269, thus making him ineligible and give more to Nixon which would throw the matter into the House for them to decide who will be president. But nevertheless it will still probably be Kennedy.

Stray dogs are a nuisance. I have put many of them to death already, but recently one came around and was very insistant in getting into the house. Every time the door would open he would rush in, until he got kicked out often enough. I gave time for a possible owner to come and claim him as he had a collar on but no license. He was a hunting dog but nobody came. So one day I had enough, and stood out on

the porch steps while he looked so friendly and wagged his tail looking for food. I put a bullet into his head and he dropped and the boy dragged him down into the field. I thought that was the end of him, but lo and behold, about five days later he came back, very sick looking, and starved. He was a sorry sight. Yes, I felt badly. I was sure he was dead the first time, but misjudged his conduct. Needless to say I made sure he was dead the next time. I don't like to shoot a dog, but we can't have everyone that comes and wants a home. What else is there to do? They say the average man has one dog, a poor man has two, and a very poor man three. We insist on staying average, although the boys want to keep them all that happen to come by.

Egg prices are unsteady again, after being at 58 cents for large whites. They again are on the decline, dropping a few cents a day. The last time they did that and came down to 45 cents. We hope they come no farther this time. There are indications that pullet hens are scarce since the pullet eggs are so high priced and at a time when they usually are lowest. But predictors can see no special boom for eggs in the next year. So many people don't eat them any more, but live on coffee, and doughnuts and also a large quantity of beer is consumed. Regardless of the price, it must be had, so they think.

Milk prices are a little over six dollars per cwt, F.O.B. Philadelphia. We ship ours bulk and it costs \$.60 to get there. Milk is a little higher than last year. It seems to be more of a necessity to people than eggs.

Bulk tanks are the coming thing for the farmer in the dairy business. The milk man predicted that by next fall all in this area will have to be that way. I like it much better too, the convenience of it is gratifying. No more standing and waiting for cans to fill up before you change over, while the milker is squeaking and needs to be taken off. No more milk running on the floor because you forgot to change cans. No more buying milk cans, or having tags on them that must be retained. Yes, it costs a lot to buy the tank but our test went up three points too, and we get it hauled a little cheaper. It is much more particular when you sell this way. For the bacteria count they take

the milk raw and put it in an incubator for 48 hours for it to hatch out. You dare not have more than 50,000. When you ship in cans they count the bacteria after it's been heated and a lot of them have been killed. But it isn't hard to meet their specifications if you practice cleanliness. Keep the udders clean when you milk and wash out the air hose on the milker often. These are two of the main things. We often had no bacteria count when we shipped in cans, so do not have any trouble now. We run hot water through the air hose every morning, thus washing out any milk that gets there.

I think a bulk tank is a good investment, since it is something that will be demanded later on if one wishes to have a market for the milk. And it isn't something that should wear out too readily as it sets in one place all the time. John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Dec. 8—Those jet streams that they have been suggesting that will prevent the winter from being too cold, have now changed. They now say these will bring cold frigid air down from Canada and Alaska. The way it feels now they are off to a good start, as it's Pennsylvania Dutch (hossaac vetter).

Lloyd Eby was again at Beaver Run to preach for us last Sunday. He is from the Stumptown church, which is the original sponsor of Beaver Run. He claimed the Lancaster Conference, of which we are members, has one missionary on the field for every 100 church members. There is only one other denomination that has this many per member, that is the Christian Missionary Alliance. But it costs us only 5 percent at the mission board for administrative purposes. That is, for every one dollar the mission board gets it will spend five cents for the expenses of operating. The next lowest mission board spends 15 percent.

It costs the Lancaster Conference only half as much to keep a missionary on the foreign field as the Alliance Church. These are the figures Lloyd gave and are not original with me. He also said we have 15,000 members, which would mean we have 150 missionaries on the field. This

coming Sunday the whole conference is supposed to take a missionary offering and for the mission board to meet its deficit and have enough left to start a new year's budget it will need 10 dollars from every member, or \$150,000.00. Will we get it?

In response to the article a few weeks ago concerning the Holdeman church, I received 2 letters on the same day about it. One was from an old member here who said it was such a nice article. The other from a young member who asked me to make an apology in the Budget for a gross overstatement. He said they do not make the claim to be the body of Christ exclusively but only that they are the church of Christ. He said there are many people who are going to heaven but do not belong to the church of Christ.

long to the church of Christ yet belong to the body. The body he claimed was invisible, but the church was visible. I cannot at this time make an apology, because as I see it the body, the church, and the bride of Christ are one and the same thing. And I know it sounds ridiculous to see a statement in a national paper for anyone to claim to be any one of these exclusively, but I am not responsible for the claims they make. All I did was report it. I know of three groups that make this claim, that they are it. What a surprise it will be for them to meet people from every tribe, people, tongue, and nation, when they were so sure they were it and no one else.

Warren Fusner asks the question, "Why do they not go some place where the bible is not preached, if they want to start a new denomination?" To that, I say, I suppose it's much easier to go where there are sheep, and change the color of their wool, than to go where there are dogs, and pigs, and convert them to sheep. Warren further asks how they know they are saved. This is not hard to find out. If one is saved himself he is alive spiritually, and those who are not saved are dead spiritually. It usually is not too hard to distinguish between life and death in the physical, and only a little harder in the spiritual. The scriptures he gave to disprove assurance of salvation were taken out of the context, but due to lack of space I cannot discuss them here, except a little on Rom. 8:24 which seems to be confusing to so many. It says we are saved by hope; but hope that is seen is not hope; for what a man seeth why doeth he yet hope for? He is not here speaking of salvation of the soul, but of the body. And if this scripture is read with all the foregoing it would be much clearer. For he states that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain, waiting to be delivered from the bondage of corruption. That's why we have hurricanes, floods, drouth, earthquakes, sickness, and death.

Not only do these calamities happen to the beasts and the earth but to man as well, even

though his soul and spirit is saved. Verse 23 says not only does creation wait to be delivered but also we wait for the redemption for our body. And it is in this hope, the hope that our very bodies will be redeemed from the bondage of corruption, that we are saved. We know that they are not yet redeemed, if they were we could see it and not just hope they will be. But this is not just a blind hope, like the hope we have concerning the things of life. We cannot be sure whether they will come to pass or not. But not so with the things God has promised. He cannot lie, and if he promised us something that's yet in the future it is a live hope. We can be very positive beyond the shadow of a doubt that it will come to pass. But we do not hope for the salvation of our souls and spirits, as that must take place in this life which if it does not we are under the wrath of God yet, and cannot hope for salvation. In short, those who are saved now, do not hope to be saved. They know that, but they only hope for the return of the Lord and the salvation of the body, and creation.

John R. Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Dec. 15—The U. S. Space agency is more than a little concerned about the possibility of finding intelligent beings in outer space. Much more intelligent than we are in fact. They are not sure that there are such beings, but according to the recent news report they think it highly possible. And they are concerned about what effect such a find may have on the citizens. They suggested we start worrying about it. They are now about ready to put a 400-pound satellite into orbit around the moon, and by the time you read this it will be circling the moon unless they fail in their objective. They must do it this week or they will have to wait another month, because the position of the moon will change. They by all means do not want to hit the moon. They think all rockets that hit the moon must be decontaminated; be made free from disease, so we do not spread disease from earth to the moon.

It is costing a tremendous amount of money from the taxpayer to launch all these rockets, and officials are concerned lest we go into bankruptcy trying to hit the moon, while the Soviet Union stays at home and tries to possess the earth.

Personally, I am pleased with the way president-elect Kennedy takes account of the situation at hand. The men he selects for his cabinet, etc. He is not so far on the left from Republicanism as the Democratic party wanted him to be and some of them are fussing about it. A neighbor lady who is a strong supporter of the Kennedy ticket, told me that he has all the money he wants; he did not seek this position for the money that's in it, and he will not spend so much of the taxpayer's money going fishing from a helicopter, and golfing, and traveling abroad, etc., but the one objective he has in mind is to lead the affairs of the nation so as to make himself a great name that will be renowned far and near like that of Washington and Lincoln.

The President of our nation gets \$100,000 a year and I suppose he is about the highest paid public official in the country, but recently I learned that he asked the president of the Ford Motor Company to be the secretary of defense. This job will pay \$25,000 a year. The man was making \$400,000 a year as president of Ford. Also he will have to liquidate about a million dollars

worth of Ford shares before he can be the secretary of defense. There are only 365 days in a year, so this man was getting well over a thousand dollars a day. Henry Ford, Jr. says they have a great loss in losing their president, but he believes their boss will be more than made up in the very efficient way in which the defense issues will be handled by this brilliant mind.

It was reported that the nations abroad were very much interested in the way our election went. Most of them wanted Kennedy, and if the other nations of the world had a chance to vote there would have been a landslide victory for Kennedy. We are not sure whether this is good or bad news.

The election was very close, a little over a hundred thousand popular votes more for Kennedy than for Nixon. This out of 68 million votes cast. Those who raved so about having a Catholic in the White House now have just what they feared, but we doubt that there will be any difference from a Catholic or a Quaker for that matter. About the only victory that was won was the door opened for a Catholic to get in and take over which eventually will possibly happen. But big things like this do not happen suddenly.

The most popular preacher in the Mennonite church was at Beaver Run last Sunday morning. There is hardly a Mennonite living in America that has never heard of George Brunk, and probably a large majority of them have heard him preach. Not only Mennonites but many others as well. He flies his own private plane, and flew to Williamsport on Sunday morning, and back to Mellingers church in Lancaster Co., Sunday evening. He preached on John 8:28. He said three things happened when Christ was crucified that told the people that he was God. When he was on the cross, God in heaven pulled the master switch and all the lights in the universe went out, it was total darkness in all the land. Also the vail in the temple was torn from top to bottom and left everybody in to the Holy of Holies. And a great number of the Saints that had died arose and went into Jerusalem and appeared to many after the resurrection. He said it would have been strange indeed to have been to a funeral years ago of some of your relatives, and then years later have them walk up to you, and if you had turned to run in fright you would have probably have run right into somebody else that you knew was dead and came walking to you.

John R. Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Dec. 22—Cold winter weather prevails, with temperature 8 to 10 degrees below normal. We also had some snow although not near as much as they did farther east. Two snow storms, only a week apart, gave us plenty of the white stuff.

The past week seems to have been fatal to several hundred people. On Friday, the 16th, two big airliners collided over New York City, killing all aboard the two planes, plus some on the ground, resulting in 140 dead. Observers from the ground that saw the two planes wreck certainly had an unforgettable experience. And in Munich, Germany, an Air Force plane crashed into a crowded streetcar, killing over 40 people. And again in Brooklyn, N. Y. at the shipyards, where they were building an aircraft carrier, it caught afire and burned all that was to burn, and killed many of the workers, although a lot did escape. There were several thousand aboard. About 100 miles from Cape Hatteras, No. Car., an oil tanker broke in two in the angry sea, but most of these men have been rescued, although several have disappeared. And again, over Montana, 2 light planes collided taking three lives. The airways are getting crowded. Our roads are so congested that more died in auto crashes than were killed in wars since this country was founded. And the air-ways are fast following this pattern.

A few of the ladies were quite disturbed about the account given about the stray dog in these articles recently. How about when men go to the mountains after deer and shoot and cripple them but they get away. These never return so no one knows, but it's just as bad.

I've just finished reading a book written by John Noble, who was an American, but along with his father, moved to Germany and were there during the last World War. They were in the East zone taken by the Soviets and held in prison in solitary confinement. The father had a camera business and John claimed they took them prisoners because they wanted to confiscate his property, which they did. They first told him they would buy but probably decided it was cheaper just to take. They were in prison at Muehlberg, which was a concentration camp built by the Nazis to house

by the Nazis to house prisoners of war. For a little while they were held captive in another prison, each man in a small room by himself, with nothing to do all day, no one to talk to, even nothing to eat for nine days at a time. Only a bowl of warm water. Many of the prisoners cursed and yelled for food and made a terrible uproar but all they got was a severe beating from the guards.

Many of the voices were soon silenced as nearly half the prisoners died of starvation, and daily he heard them dragging the dead bodies past his door.

His father was freed from prison, and he, because he was later called on to keep the prison record, they figured he knew too much, they sentenced him to 15 years of hard labor in the coal mines in Siberia. He was released before his time was up due to the prayers of God's people in America.

He writes how some Catholic nuns were taken to prison and refused to work, saying these Russians were of the Devil and they would not work for him. They tortured them very cruelly, but they did not want to kill them because they didn't want the expense of bringing prisoners up there only to kill them. At last they gave up and sent them out on a hill all alone with very little clothes on in zero weather, and there they prayed all day long. At evening when they brought them in they were not cold at all—their ears were not even frostbitten. The workers that were well dressed could hardly keep warm but these 3 Nuns were out there day after day, kept by the power of God. They finally let them stay by themselves not knowing what to make of it.

He also wrote of the religious life in these mines. The meetings had to be secret, but they were held nevertheless. The Catholics held their Mass down in an a-

bandoned mine shaft. Often others were held in the washroom. When one guard saw it when he was alone he seldom reported it but when two were together, they did not trust each other so reported it and the worshipers were punished one way or another. There were people there from all walks of life; Mennonites, Jews, Catholics, Baptists and others. He said the Baptists were the strongest. When one Baptist was at one place for a little while there were soon two there, and when there were two they soon grew into four. There were also prisoners there for crimes they had committed and these were to be watched. They once murdered and stole a man's money when he was going around bidding good-bye after having been set free.

This was a very interesting book and if you want to know what's going on behind the Iron Curtain you would do well to read it. It is published by St. Martins Press, N. Y. I would suppose the Mennonite Publishing House would have them on sale. Our church has a lending library. That's where I got it to read.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Dec. 30—This December will be the coldest in 60 years. There is a saying that if we have summer in the fall, we'll have no winter at all. We had an unusually nice fall, but an unusually cold December. Forecasters say January will be colder than normal, with much rainfall along the Atlantic coast. We sure could use some rain as we had very little for almost two months. There is quite a bit of snow on the ground now. Very seldom does it warm enough to melt much snow except on the highways. We could wish for some of Tom Byler's Arizona sunshine.

Anyone who does not know what "Hossa Saac vetter" is may as well give up calling themselves Dutch people. In English it would mean trouser pocket weather; when you spend a lot of time warming your hands in your pants pocket. I well remember the broadfall pants (or barndoors pants as they are sometimes called) did have warmer pockets than these store pants. It is possible to buy pants made basically the same way in pocket construction but they cost a dollar a pair more. And speaking of pants—when Joe Renno gathered up calves in the days of my youth, he was once at our place when I started for uncle Ez's. I walked slowly down the road, hoping to get a ride; for a truck ride was something very special for me in those days. But he drove on by, and told my Dad later that I walked down the road looking like I had seven pairs of pants on, and looking hither and yon as though I had never seen that part of the country before. And it took Joe Renno to say something like that.

The mail service is super; our Budget, I presume, is mailed at Sugarcreek on Thursday evening, and it is usually at Stillwater by Friday morning around 9 o'clock. That's almost as fast as if Editor Smith brought us a copy (right after printing it) in his car.

The day after Christmas this year was one of the highlights in 1960. We received a card from John O. Peachey, written as only he can write, and inviting us to his home on Dec. 26. We did not know who else would be there, or if anyone would be, but it turned out to be almost a reun-

ion. A large and sumptuous meal was provided, consisting of both turkey and duck, by way of meat. And of course all the necessary side dishes, and some that were not so necessary. Besides eating, we discussed ideas, as large minds do; ideas of what to do in the light of present events that are seeming to take shape in the Big Valley.

I have heard by a good preacher that if you try to run away from trouble you are sure to run into more trouble. This is one idea I tried to get across in the afternoon panel discussion. I do not know much about the situation there except what was told me, although I had somewhat similar experience, but in a much different way because I do not value old customs and traditions as much as the parties involved do. I know this all sounds hazy, but for security reasons I cannot go into more details. To understand my statements one must read between the lines. But to anyone whom this may concern: If you have trouble in the community where you live, be it in Big Valley or elsewhere, if you move away thinking to leave your trouble

behind, you are in for a disappointment. Trouble seems to be somewhat like a snowball, the farther it rolls the bigger it gets. To get rid of trouble is rather simple, in fact so simple that many miss the solution; just clean your own house, stand on a good firm foundation, come out in the open with all your motives, just like an open book, be honest and sincere with yourself and everyone else, let love be without dissimulation, stay where you are until God moves you. If you are not sure that you know Him, this is the first step in getting rid of trouble. Seek the knowledge of Him as the heart panteth after the water brooks.

We also stopped in at my brother Eli's house a little for a few words and to see their new daughter, Rhoda Jean. She weighed slightly over 10 pounds upon arrival. This makes their 5th child, and 4th daughter. Eli, you will recall, was newly ordained to the ministry in the Holdeman church.

Jesse Kanagys live in the same yard in a house trailer, and Mrs. Kanagy is doing the housework. Jesse insisted he is helping his wife doing the wash, but all we could see him doing was holding down the chair.

John R. Renno