

**STILLWATER, PA.**

It is now almost a year and a half since I last saw the Editor, but cannot recall of having seen a nose that was out of proportion in size. I well remember him having a big smile; or has that concealed the nose? It was very amusing to read about the challenge he received to keep his big nose out of the Amish's social security dilemma.

There is a legal way out of paying social security. If you make less than \$1700.00 gross income you do not have to pay unless you want to. And I have known some who do not even file income tax returns. They also would not pay social security or income tax. But this is an illegal, and an unscriptural practice. If it is ever discovered it will probably be very expensive. I know of one, a former poultryman, who discontinued keeping chickens, because said he, "there is no use working so hard to make such a large amount, then just give it to the government." Yes, I also know of a legal way in which one can avoid paying income tax, unless you make a large amount. The government allows one to give up to thirty percent of his income to charity.

If you give money to charitable organizations you may count it on the debit side. If you are a Christian you probably want to give it for the spreading of the gospel, and we should be careful where we give. There are many organizations that can make heart-rending appeals for money, but we should not be overcome by emotions and give without knowing how it is spent. All we have does not really belong to us, we are only stewards, and will be held accountable for all of it.

We should give, and give very liberally, knowing the scripture that says, the Lord loveth a cheerful giver. The amount a person gives usually determines his spiritual temperature.

This year I again attended the Pennsylvania Farm Show at Harrisburg, Pa. This was the 45th show. I can imagine there would be quite a change in farming practices from that day to this. It is always interesting

to me to go to this place; it is a clean place, and unlike fairs in that there are no side-shows, etc. Many of the people are farmers, and it is generally believed that farmers are among those who have high moral standards. The place covers many acres, and it was about filled with people. This is also what I like. I like to stand at one place and just look at all the different faces as they pass by. So many people, all looks different, and yet are all alike in many ways. It is staggering to just think of all the people in the world especially when you are at a place where thousands are at one time, and going past you continually, and yet knowing that these are a mere drop in the bucket compared to those that you do not see. And to think that all who have ever lived on the face of this earth will one day stand before God.

There were very many Mennonites there; everywhere you looked you would see a woman with her prayer veiling, with her husband and children too. Also many going in groups, probably the unmarried. And then there were many men who did not have their wives along, to which class I belonged. I also saw quite a few from my former place of residence, and it was good to renew old acquaintances. The person I spoke to longest was Joe A. Yoder. We discussed the tense world situation, and the lethargic church situation.

The only new thing that I saw was a hay tedder. It was a far cry from the old tedder with the kicking forks on. It had two-wheels and no gears to drive it or anything. It looked much like a roller with prongs on, and as you drove over the hay these would go down and pull hay along up until it would get up to the top then and be pushed off. This should make nice fluffy hay and be a great aid in drying it. And since it does not kick the leaves would not be knocked off. The little machine sells for \$269.00. I made about one round in the main exhibition building where the machinery is shown, then it was time to go home and do chores.

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Jan. 7—The weather has moderated quite a bit. This will perhaps clear the side roads of the heavy coat of ice, and take some of the snow from the fields so that we can spread manure, and it will also give us some much-needed water to fill the springs and wells. The cold was of a long duration without a break.

And now to clean up some of the residue from last year that should have been published but wasn't. Someone had a cow that made him unhappy with her behaviour and he picked up a single-tree to throw at her, but when he let go of it, it did not let go of him. The hook where one fastens the harness trace caught hold to his thumb and tore a deep gash so that he needed stitches to close the wound.

I have also heard that some (English) ladies were in a doctor's office at Belleville and were quite displeased with my attitude toward the Presidential candidate, saying that I was in favor of a Catholic. May I clarify my opinion a bit further; I did not vote for Kennedy, neither was I in favor of having him, but now that he is in, all the squawking we can do will not alter anything except make us worse. We are like the little sign I saw that said "I don't vote, I just squawk." I believe Kennedy is a fulfillment of the demand of the times we are in, which are perilous times, in which the bible says evil men and seducers will get worse and worse. This is not to indicate that he is an evil man, but that he fits into the program for the time of the end of this dispensation. Incidentally (English) ladies do not necessarily come from England, but is a word used by the Amish to describe anyone that is not Amish or Mennonite.

Another thing that I heard, by way of the grapevine, is that one who used to be a faithful reader of these articles now does not read them anymore. He was offended, not by what was in here, but by a personal letter he received from me. I have not heard from him concerning the letter except by way of the grapevine. It would be good if he could write and declare the displeasure. This would be a much better way to settle difficulties than to just settle back in silence and pout about it. How am I to know?

Another party showed their displeasure of my articles by writing and telling me to stop writing, if I cannot write anything except junk. They said they would not get the Budget were it not for J. J. Hershberger's articles. They demanded that I write only religious articles, but I refused on the basis that they would not be published, and furthermore the Budget is not a religious paper, but a news paper. We need the gospel in our every-day reading but if folks want a religious paper, there are many good ones to be had. Most of the New Testament teaches us how to live in this present time. What is more repulsive than a person who poses as very religious but cannot manage his civil affairs to keep them above board?

And now for a little bit of news. Yesterday we took a trip down East. The first stop was at Linglestown, near Harrisburg, where we called on a party that is soon to leave for Sao Paulo,

Brazil. They are going as tract evangelists; going by faith as a means of support, and by faith for a place to stay. They are not sent by any church, but they say they are sent by God. They do not belong to any church and think all denominationalism is off the beam. Now we differ very sharply on doctrine and had some hot letters between us, but nevertheless we are obliged to hold them as brethren, and we rejoice that the gospel is preached. Are methods more important than facts?

We also stopped at Earl Martin's home, elderly folks whom we have known for some time. They belong to the Brethren in Christ. We also differ doctrinally, but keep our differences in the background. We then proceeded on to New Holland, to the Robinson department store. Here it was interesting to me to observe the Amish go in and out. I tried to start a conversation with an old gentleman, but he merely grunted that his name was Kinich, and went on and talked to his wife. They seemed to want to mind their own business. At Ephrata we purchased some farm machinery parts, but were disgusted with all the displays that are to be seen along the highway with "Dutch stuff". One place had a great big image of an Amish man, twice as large as a normal man. He looked very inhuman. They said "Amos invites you in to eat." One place they advertised to take you on Amish tours.

We also stopped at the Weaver's book store near Blue Ball, and learned that this grew out of a harness shop when the owner decided to sell a few books on the side, but now they major in books and minor in harness. The large store in Lancaster city is an outgrowth of this one. It's interesting to take trips like this, if you have enough business to justify it. We drove 280 miles.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Jan. 20 — This week's mail brought some very encouraging letters from some of the readers of these articles. Excerpts from some go like this . . . "Just finished reading your column and decided here is a scribe who needs a little encouragement. Your column is very interesting to me, and I feel to others also. Do not feel discouraged or out of sorts when you receive letters criticizing your writing for that is sure to come to any worthwhile writer. It is a known fact that no two people think exactly alike on a series of subjects." Another one writes — "I read your letter in the Budget every week and hear about your writing to others. Why do you not write to me? . . . we visited your parents in Big Valley often; we know them well. We had very nice visits with them, drove with them, ate with them, and prayed with them." Another one says,—"three articles I always read, J. J. Hershberger's, Tom Byler's, and John Renno's. It's junk when it says Joe's visited at John's for supper, and then both went to Ben's overnight. I pray you will keep on writing and I along with 9,999 others will keep on reading."

A news bulletin from The Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities has brought some very encouraging news about the mission work in Tanganyika, Africa. (This is only the work of the Lancaster Conference. It is believed that other missions are doing similar work). The work in Tanganyika has been growing and the membership now stands at about 2300, with 1700 additional folks under instructions. There are about 80 preaching points carried on by leaders appointed by the church.

An event of major significance took place at Shirati, Tanganyika on Aug. 25. Sixteen African ordained men, including ten deacons and six ministers, plus ten elders and six ordained missionaries gathered to consider and approve a constitution which was to become the instrument for a new conference—the Tanganyika Mennonite Church. In an atmosphere of eager expectancy and with a spirit of confidence and cooperation, the constitution was unanimously adopted and a new era of missions was begun. The Tanganyika Mennonite church now takes over the programs formerly carried on by the missions—education, literature, medicine, and Bible School . . . the Tanganyika brethren are eager for a close fellowship with the church in America. End of quote.

Personally we are very happy to note this kind of progress. It is very different from the reports we heard of one missionary who was reprimanding another for giving too much responsibility to the natives. Says he, "I cannot trust my deacons yet with the money". To which the other one replied, "You'd better get another kind of gospel to preach or go home, if that's all it does for the adherents to it".

Incidentally, the number of missionaries now in Tanganyika from the Lancaster conference stands at 49. These have 29 children. The Tanganyika Budget for 1961 stands at \$100,000.00. This is the total expenditure for only this phase of the Conference's work. If any of you belong to a church which does not have any missionary program, and you have some money you would like to give, but are not sure where it will best do the job you desire; we believe this is a place hard to excel for getting the money directly to the field. Only 5% of it is used in administrative purposes, and I believe this is less than any other mission program. This money can also be deducted from income taxes, up to 30% of your net income. They are a non-profit organization recognized by the U. S. Government. How much better it would be to use our money in this way where it will lay up treasures for the next world, than to help produce munitions to destroy human life. 58% of every tax dollar we now pay goes into weapons of destruction.

And one thing more; if you find much help in worrying about things, here is something new to worry about, and we suggest you start right away. The dreaded social security number is just a beginning of things; now due to so many people having the same name, and since names will not work in electronic computers, they are now thinking about giving every one who files income tax returns a special number. Everyone having a different number will simplify things a great deal. Many banks now have your number which appears on your personal checks, and with these it is impossible to credit anyone else with your ac-

count. These electronic devices will not take checks through if they are not yours. And it will be the same with income tax returns. If you do not file income tax you are treading on illegal ground which may cost you much.

And speaking of numbers, do not be afraid this is the mark of the Beast, this has not appeared yet, as some so foolishly suppose. When it does, as it surely will, things will be quite evident to the godly person.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Jan. 27—The Lancaster Conference has voted to permit preachers to own and use radios. Formerly the preachers were not supposed to have any, in order to be an example to the people. Most of the people got them anyway, so now the preachers have gone along with it, but you cannot belong to this conference and own T.V.

It seems anything new is frowned upon by many people. First when the locomotives were made they said it was powered by evil spirits; and indeed that is what the word means, "loco" means crazy in Spanish, and "motive" in English is why something goes, so it is called "crazymotive". Many are yet opposed to radio, saying it is bad to have around children. We have not found it so, but television is something different. It employs two of your senses; the hearing and the seeing. You remember much more of what you see than of what you hear. If one saw only that which is good on TV it would be a wonderful medium of expression, but such is not the case. Most of the programs appeal to the lower nature of man and that is always evil. Furthermore television is very expensive. They do not last long without any attention. Our neighbor said they spent \$70 on their TV for repairs last year. No one with eternity's welfare in view should have time for it.

The youth group at the Beaver Run church have a fellowship once a month. They get together for fellowship, much like the Amish youth have their singings on week day evenings, with games, etc. Although I dare say it is more constructive than it was when I was young among the Amish.

The last time the main object was a debate, "Horsepower vs. Tractor power." Clarence Zeaber and Albert Hebner, were arguing for the tractors, while Walter Klemmons and I were arguing for the horses. We had two acting as judges, Ben Lapp, the pastor, and Alfred Kerr, an Ag. teacher at a nearby school. You may think that the tractors won, but such is not the case. All four of the panel members had each two minutes time to present our case, then we had 12 minutes time to debate among ourselves, and then there was five minutes given for the audience to ask questions, after which the two judges withdrew and decided which was the better.

I had quite a bit of experience behind me with horses. I farmed with them all my life until about six years ago. I could speak out of experience. Walter had also used them somewhat, but he never plowed or harrowed with

them. He had facts about what it costs to keep a horse for a year, and discussed the fact that tractors stole the three-point hook-up from horses. They have always had that — two places where you fasten in the back and one in the front. And tractors also in recent years came out with the boast about this new kind of rear-wheel lock which will not allow one wheel to spin, when stuck, but he said horses have had this differential apparatus all the while. He said he wanted to plow one day with a tractor and damaged the valve stem of his tire and lost a day's work. I also brought up the argument that horses are self-recovering when damaged, and they are able to reproduce of their own kind, which tractors cannot. And in driving a horse you are dealing with life, while a tractor is only dead steel. Also the fumes from horses will not kill you like the carbon monoxide of an exhaust. It is also not near as tiring to follow a plow all day as to ride a tractor. When walking your legs get tired, but the vibration of a tractor makes you tired mentally, and physically, and it's a kind of fatigue that one can never get used to like you can walking. People would be healthier if the old method were used. You can get far more done in a short time with a tractor, but you have to, to get the expensive equipment paid off. I used two horses to plow in the early spring, two in the forenoon and two in the afternoon, only worked them about four hours a day and fed them all they could eat of oats and corn—no chop. They have their feed grinders and corn shellers attached.

Now I presume that some are about ready to write me a few salty words. Why don't I use horses if they are better? But remember, this was a debate. I do not use horses because I do not think they are not practical in the age and time and manner in which I live. John R. Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

Feb. 3—Sam Guss is Extension Veterinarian at the Pennsylvania State College. He claims to be an expert in telling you how to milk cows and to take care of them. The local assistant county agent had a meeting at the Millville school, at which Sam had pumps and milkers set up to show us how to milk.

Some time ago I had written about milker inflations, and received quite a few comments on it, so decided it would be advantageous to relate some of the things I learned at this milker meeting. He had three kinds of inflations there, on one Surge unit. The old type large bore, which he says is the fastest milker of them all, and the Mayes inflation, and the new Surge inflation called the cushion dome. It is a narrow bore inflation and is much easier on the cow's teats than the old type Surge. He says it does a better job of milking than any inflation heretofore found, but it does not milk as fast.

The machine does not milk as you do by hand, squeeze the milk out, it opens the teat and draws it out. In order for it to do this it must have a vacuum, and this is what is so injurious to the cow's teats, causing mastitis, which Sam said causes millions of the farmer's dollars to be lost every year. Much of this loss is needless if more proper care were taken. When the machine is left on after the cow is milked out it creates a vacuum inside the teat, which causes mastitis. Also the udder should be washed and massaged before putting on the milker, to stimulate the flow of milk, and when a cow starts to let her milk down and it runs out on the floor she should be milked first. Some cows do this as soon as they are in the stable, or as soon as milking is started.

He also said there are many milker pumps in use that are entirely too small to do the job. The vacuum should never change more than several inches when one machine is milking and the other one turned on, and the dial should stand perfectly still when milking. If it does not the pump is too small. Also the vacuum pipe should not be under one inch in diameter, larger is preferred. It is very important that the vacuum supply is steady all the time, much more than the amount you use. He said there is nothing as good as having the bucket right there near the cow which holds a large supply of vacuum thus holding it more steady. His personal opinion was that the surcingle type unit was the best, as the long hose type has more trouble to get the milk away from the teats fast enough. This is also what causes the trouble with pipe lines.

It is quite evident that the best way to milk is by hand as far as udder health is concerned; but that is like horse farming. It is not practical in the age which we find ourselves.

I am sorry if I have hurt anyone's feelings when I put some of the comments in print that I have received from readers, but these were not original with me. I just said what they told me. It was not meant that only three of us were able to write to the Budget. I received some "slam - bang" comments so thought it advisable to put in some favorable ones too. But I would not do it had I to do over again. When we write we should bear in mind that it will

be put in 10,000 papers and probably at least 30,000 people have access to it. Will it be interesting reading to them? I received one letter from a scribe this week who said he has relatives scattered all over the nation and some in foreign countries, and he wants to relate the news to them from home. So he is not writing to everyone who gets the Budget but to his relatives and friends; I never saw it in this light before. He may have a point. I often wondered why so many articles are just of the Mr. and Mrs. type, and what the writer had in view when writing, but now can understand it a little better.

And Joseph Stoll wondered what I do with my ears when the hands are pocketed; he probably meant since I do not have the long hair to protect them. I wear a cap with ear lugs, and put them down when I have to be exposed to the elements very much. When it's too cold, I wear a parka. (And who can tell me what that is?) These can be taken off much easier than long hair can. But again, in this machine age with heated cars etc., it's not too difficult to survive the cold. One old timer said yesterday, that he can't boast anymore that the winters are milder than they were when he was young. This winter is breaking 80-year-old records.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Feb. 11—This has been an unusually cold winter. The reason was that high altitude westerly winds from the Pacific swept north and picked up cold arctic air then turned sharply, driving the cold into the central and eastern U. S. The warm moist air from the Gulf of Mexico met this cold air coming from Canada, and it resulted in very much snow. The far west has been unusually warm and dry.

Weather scientists agree that the world is getting colder. Since 1940 it has started to turn cold, but not all areas got colder at the same time. There used to be a theory that the winters are not as cold and they were afraid that with all the carbon dioxide put into the air by the increasing use of fuels that it would begin to melt the polar ice and raise the ocean and flood much of the land, but this theory has now exploded. The precipitation for February will be near normal in the northeast but above normal in the southeast, with temperatures well below normal for both sections.

The large amount of snow, and the ice on the rivers—as thick as 15 inches in some places—is causing the officials real concern. If it should suddenly turn warm about March and rain, the ice would break and jam the rivers, and the snow would melt and together with all the rain there would be a flood worse than it was in 1936. The potentials are greater now than they were then. It is said in Wilkes-Barre the dikes are in need of repair, and only thirty days time to do it. The cost will be around \$200,000 and they are wondering where the money is to come from.

Gasoline is to be raised 2c a gallon in Pennsylvania to help pay for the building of more highways. This perhaps would not be so bad, but much of this money received in taxes never reaches the place where it should, but it goes to make some people rich. It seems there are many loopholes wherewith money can be taken that was given for taxes. There is much taxation without representation, and this is only one more chip that will bring our nation to an inglorious ruin. Paul Harvey, a national newscaster, asked the question, "Will America Survive?" He said our forefathers did not come to this country to look for freedom to do as they pleased, but to do as they ought. He said because of this God raised this country up and blessed it above most others. But, he claimed, if we forsake God and do not serve God the way our fathers did, we are bound to fall.

He further said we in America think freedom is the ability to do as we please, and this is the same kind of freedom an airplane would have without a pilot, or a train without a track. He predicted that unless we turn and seek God, and get a purpose in life we will not survive. The Communists, he said, have a purpose. They want world conquest, they have a goal to strive for, and they are reaching their goal with amazing rapidity. True, they also do not serve God, but they make no such claims as we do in America. This makes them better than us because they are not hypocrites.

Near our farm there is a large 165-acre farm owned by a millionaire. His name is Leib. He

paid \$50,000 for the farm when he bought it a short time ago, claims he spent \$40,000 on the barn alone, plus many other outbuildings, along with a new house. He now wants to sell; in May he plans to have a dispersal of his livestock and equipment, and wants \$75,000 for the land with the new house, which is rather small, and of course the barn and outbuildings. He has a large herd of registered Guernsey cows, and he fixed up the cow stable so that it looks almost better than many people's kitchens, with wainscoating all around, and that is varnished. This farm changes hands pretty often as it requires so much hired help, and I would suppose it would be a non-profit affair. The equipment is all practically new, and with a ten-thousand dollar hay-drying outfit.

I have just finished reading the book about Dayuma, the girl that escaped from the Auca Indians, and it so was that Rachel Saint got in contact with her, and through her she learned the Auca language. Rachel is Nate Saint's sister, the one who was killed by the Auca's several yrs. ago, along with four other missionaries. Rachel and Nate's wife, along with Dayuma and several other women that came out to look for Dayuma, went in to the Auca territory and started teaching them the gospel, about which they had never heard.

The Auca's were hard to reach since they regarded all foreigners as dangerous and killed them whenever they could. They just lived a simple life in the jungles, not wearing any clothes, nor needing any houses—just roofs for shelter, and hunted game for food, along with what they could pick off the trees. They had so many wars among themselves before they heard the gospel that their number never was very large. I would recommend this book to anyone. It will give new insight concerning missions.

John Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Feb. 17—We hope the storm is about over—the storm of protest received when we submitted excerpts from a letter that was received, calling Budget articles consisting mostly of names of people who went visiting, etc. “junk.” People seem to forget that the article was not original with me, but was sent me by someone. Am I to blame for what someone else wrote? I also received a letter from Mr. Anonymous saying he would miss the articles if they weren’t there but he also likes the other type. Perhaps I shouldn’t mention his comments, but it was not the mean type, and he shouldn’t need to have been ashamed to include his name. They say silence is golden, but I sometimes think it is just plain yellow.

I was also quite surprised that we have so many well educated readers, in that they knew what a parka was from the fourth grade on. I had a little more than fourth grade education, but still didn’t know what that was until a few years ago. When I was young there were no such things, and, of course, I did not know the word. But I venture to guess there are some grandads that aren’t too familiar with the term yet, much less with the item. And I am surprised that the Amish children are allowed to wear them.

Our itinerary included a visit to the Valley again recently. At the Bazaar sale a man strutted up to me, somewhat akin to a young rooster, and said, “It’s a wonder you aren’t afraid to show your face around here, the way you write in the Budget.” I blandly told him that I did not think the people around there were dangerous; and no one attempted to lay hands on me. I received no more than a few scowls, by way of unpleasant things. But the nice chats I had far outnumbered the unpleasant things. Ezra Kanagy, the Belleville scribe, spoke to me for quite awhile. I suppose all we said would make several interesting columns. I have known Ezra ever since we “ran around.”

Kore Peachey and I then went to see Roy Hannon. He is in the Lewistown hospital; a man in his late 60’s. He used to be at the auction with a stand selling fish and tropical fruit and vegetables. He also used to go around with his truck and peddle from house to house. A great man to talk

about the Lord. His favorite verse was, “Verily, verily, I say unto you he that liveth and believeth on me shall never see death.” He could talk for hours—that is if you listened, and talked back.

But now he is on his back, and has been in and out of the hospital for some time. He was overjoyed to see us and could hardly contain himself, much less explain his thankfulness. His sickness and possibly his death bed has not dimmed his hope and witness, much more intensified it. He would talk awhile, then if he couldn’t find words to express himself satisfactorily he would sing a verse or so. With many tears he told of the goodness of the Lord upon his life thus far, and in giving him such wonderful boys who work and pay his bills. He claimed it was nothing he had done to deserve such mercies, he was but a dead dog, but it was all of the grace of God. Moreover, by the same grace he will live forever. He never did have time for what he called the “think so, “guess so”, “hope so”, religion. He demands reality. I would recommend anyone who has known him, to go and see him. If it doesn’t do your heart good, you need a checkup by the Great Physician.

We were told many things while in the Valley, things that are transpiring there now. Some things appalled us, while others made us rejoice. It is a very religious place; I doubt very much if there’s a place of its size, and with a natural fence around it, with so many different kinds of beliefs. There are now six different denominations of Amish alone, counting the Holdemans, and there is a slight wind of another developing, plus the different Mennonites, Brethren in Christ, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians and a few undenominational individuals hanging around. But not all is peace and tranquility, in spite of the many denominations. Some are still so hard to please that the fever of moving and getting away from it all has arisen to white heat. About all that’s preventing the move is the deep snow that’s covering the lands beyond, so that prospective buyers cannot see what they are buying.

Moving is a very expensive proposition, I can talk from experience, and perhaps I am slow (I know someone who thinks so); but it takes a long time to get settled in a new land—I mean the financial end of it—where you can make farming pay the way it used to back home. I hardly know why, but the soil is different, and wants different treatment, and a hundred and one other things that haven’t been anticipated. Perhaps it’s worse when you come from Big Valley, but after all we wouldn’t want to be back.

John R. Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Feb. 23—Farming is an interesting and rewarding vocation. It is hard work and poor pay, but the most vital part of our country; more important than industry, because people have to eat to keep body and soul together, and agriculture provides that food.

I had intended to write this week about farming practices, and especially on the line of poultry, but then a long letter in the mail changed all that. This letter is from an elderly man, for he says he has a big family, and he is quite concerned about me and my attitude toward the church of my youth. A few lines from the letter will explain—“Your father is an Old Order Minister, and according to your letters something went wrong along the line of faith. And the way I read you are justifying yourself in the matter and I want to call to your attention that that very idea has

an influence on hundreds of young people to guide them away from their parents which will break up their union instead of keeping them together as the scripture advises. If you wanted to take the chance to break away from your home training, that is up to you. But to justify yourself in the matter and influence others to do the same, you are loading quite a serious matter on your back."

He has also written much more. It was one of the longest letters I have ever received. It is written in a kind and fatherly way that would not bring offense. It has caused me to do some serious thinking. No doubt there are scores of others who feel the same way this man does but have not written.

First of all, let me say with the Apostle Paul: "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." I have one purpose in mind and only one, to live void of offense before God and man at all times. My home training was of the best and I did not depart from it, insofar as moral behavior is concerned. But religion is a purely personal matter with everyone. Each one must give an account of himself to God and to no one else. As far as the principles of religion are concerned, I have not departed from them either, namely faith in Christ, and that he died to redeem us, that he arose from the dead for our justification, and ascended to heaven there to make intercession for us, and to denounce Satan, and be true to the church of Christ as long as I live.

I dare say there is no good Christian that does not honor his parents, regardless of what kind they are. Anyone who has children of his own knows what parenthood is and the tremendous responsibility it brings with it. Children must be trained from their youth to honor and respect their parents. If they do not it is the parents' fault. They were not trained in the way they should go. This training must start in the cradle.

To those who are yet at home, teenagers and still under their parents' roof, I would say you are required to obey them, and fulfill their wishes. Just take the matter before the Lord and he will always work things out much better than you could by taking things in your own hands.

There are many things that I cannot write in a newspaper, and if anyone has any questions yet, feel free to write.

John R. Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

March 4—The weather is just wonderful! The traditional groundhog seeing his shadow theory did not work this year. I'm looking for an early spring. I remember the year we started farming it was so early. Back in '46, people were finished plowing real early. In fact it was almost too nice to go to the farm sales.

Roy Hannon, the man of whom I wrote several issues ago, has now gone on to the great and mysterious beyond. I was very glad I had the privilege to visit him yet just a few days before his death. I believe it has done me more good than him, to visit and hear his testimony.

As time goes on and we keep on living while others go on, it makes us feel as though we have more friends in heaven than on earth. For the bible says absent from the body, present with the Lord. He is now absent from the body.

In a little town a mile from here is a little white church which has only services once a month during the summer. There are only four who are active members anymore. An old widow, her son and his wife and daughter. She said it used to be a flourishing and thriving congregation, but during the time of the Ku Klux Klan the pastor went overboard on that and it wrecked the church.

It was started as a movement after the civil war to put down the negroes, as I understand it; but it went farther than that and here in the north it was directed towards the Catholics, a movement to discredit and disonor the Catholic church. This preacher was very much in favor of this and some of his members were not, and so there was a division among them, and many moved to another territory, some of the older ones died off, and it seemed the whole thing just went to pot.

After some time, they tried to go in with the Methodists, of which there are many, and the Methodist pastor took over. All went fine until one Sun. morning he announced that they would have baptismal services today and the one to receive the baptism was a small baby. This was too much for the original members of the church who violently protested afterwards, and then tried to get the preacher to just lay down their differences and dwell on those things on which they agree. But he said if he cannot hold forth all the doctrines of his church he will have none of it, and so they went apart and built a new church later.

The old lady gave me a book to read concerning the founder of her denomination, and I read it and found it very interesting. It gave the account of almost the entire life of the founder, Alexander Campbell. His father was here in America before his family to get ready a place. The family started later, but were long delayed when the ship which they had started on anchored near a shore and the sailors went on shore in small boats to get enough of whiskey to last them until they reach America.

The day they went ashore it was beautiful, but the next day a storm arose. They just held anchor and intended to await until the arrival of fairer weather, but the ship was too near to rocks and the waves dashed her against those and a hole was torn in her side. So they all had to abandon

her and go on shore, and they did not set sail until a long time later.

It was during this delay that Alexander went to school to further his education, and in this process he came in contact with several preachers, and heard their arguments, concerning the different religious views. He decided that was not for him and when he came over he told his father he had decided to leave the denomination in which they were in, as he does not think that was the way the early church had it. He expected to find his father opposed to his decision, but found he had made the same decision, and so they both left and started a new movement. It was not supposed to be another denomination, but just a movement to help people to believe the truth as it was instead of how they were taught. But any movement forms into a denomination, as they found out later.

Before Alexander's death the members numbered into the millions. He lived to be 77. He was a very wealthy man with much land and cattle and slaves at first, but later he freed them and they were hired servants. His death was shortly after the Civil War. He did not believe in the use of force to settle disputes, but both his son, and son-in-law were generals in the army; one in the North and the other in the Confederate army. The denomination which they started is now known as the Christian, or Churches of Christ, or sometimes also called the Campbellites.

This denomination is now itself split three times and now has three different doctrines. But the people here in town claim their church is from the real thing yet which Alexander started. But it is all but closed down and when they pass on they don't know what will become of the church here.

In London, today bumped into yesterday. A man was riding a horse down the road and a man in a car bumped into him. The man on the horse sued him for damages, but the man in the car said he had no lights therefore he was not responsible. The judge hashed with this problem for three days and then decided the man in the car was guilty for he could find no way in which to properly illuminate the rear of a horse.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

March 10—The grass is starting to show signs of life already; the frost is all gone except where the snow was cleared away and it froze down deep. Our chicken house water is not thawed out yet.

The other evening we had weather so unusual that I have never seen anything like it. It had been raining all day, and toward evening it turned to snow, a real northeastern snow-storm, but along with it thunder and lightning. It was just about like summer time with brilliant flashes of lightning quite frequently, but instead of rain it was snow. Now snow is an excellent source of nitrogen, and the air is continually full of nitrogen, but that nitrogen is not available to plant life unless we have electrical storms. Last spring even after it was warmed considerably, the grass did not grow fast because we had no lightning, and right after the first storm it grew. So this year the unusually early lightning should give it an early start.

Tomorrow, Saturday, Mar. 11, will be a large farm sale, with much livestock and equipment; Paul Sanger of Myerstown will be the auctioneer. Six farms will also be sold. It has been managed by two brothers who were operating eight farms, pooling their efforts and their finances, but with much hired labor who were probably more interested in their pay check than in doing honest work so as to be profitable to their employers. The old machinery was wearing out and had to be replaced with new before it was paid for. When these boys saw a farm in the neighbor-

hood for sale they bought it. But a day of reckoning has come. You cannot always go on borrowing more money without paying back fast enough to satisfy your creditors, and the result is sale. They will sell all but the two farms they live on, and start in again but on a such smaller scale.

I was looking at some of the farms that are to be sold; some of the best land in the country, with no stones whatever, and it's up on kind of a plateau with hardly any wet, springing ground, and so very easy to farm. It's soil about like in the Big Valley along Stone Mountain, we used to call it slate pencil, but it has a good subsoil so that it stands dry weather very well. Now, where I live, it's very easy to farm so that I hardly know

what cloddy ground looks like such as exists at where I came from if it is farmed a little too late, but here it just falls apart. The father of these two sons knows where I live and said these farms are much easier to farm than mine is. They are located seven miles south of here on what is called Savage Hill. But three of them have no house to go along with the farm. The boys bought the farms and had intended to keep them, so sold off the houses. Yes, the houses are still there but others possess them. The other three farms have houses and barns with them. Two of them are fixed up for dairying. It was forecast they will sell very cheap.

A man selling hospital insurance came here recently, and since I have a few gospel signs around the place, he started commenting and praising the idea. Immediately I was on guard, because nearly always when a complete stranger starts praising you he wants to sell something pretty bad. He said we have one thing in common, we both do not believe in war. He is a Quaker. I reminded him the former vice-president Nixon also posed as a Quaker but he believed in war. But he said the Quakers are ashamed of Nixon, he is not a good Quaker.

I then inquired of him how they conducted their religious services, since I've heard about "Quaker meetings". He said it's true they do just sit and meditate, and whenever the spirit moves anyone to speak then he speaks, but he said he is often times the only one who does any speaking. They do not practice the breaking of bread as we do at communion, nor do they practice baptism, as we believe the scriptures teach. They say this is all spiritual and not to be taken literally.

He went on to say how it must be alright to have life insurance, for a Mennonite pastor and his whole congregation have it. He said the pastor was sick and unable to work, and the congregation helped him until he finally said we might just as well take out hospitalization insurance, and each gave in a little all the time, then when anyone has a misfortune the money is right there. He wanted to work with the milk plant, and get my permission to have them take a little off the milk check every week and I would never miss it. But I told him even if I am Mennonite, and some of them do that, it's purely a matter of principle with me and they shall not determine my religious convictions. After all, the policy of any insurance company is to take in more than they give out, else they would soon be out of business. It's not that they care for me so much, as it is to make a lot for themselves. So the man left.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

March 17—The sale of which I wrote last week was very largely attended, in spite of the fact that two more sales were held in the vicinity on the same day. As afore stated, Paul Sanger was the auctioneer, along with three others he brought with him. I personally was disappointed with Paul. I was expecting something very unusual in auctioneering, as I've heard him before. Years ago he was extraordinary, but not any more. He has aged exceedingly, and spent entirely too much time selling 6 tracts. The cows were sold too late so that I could not watch that. I don't know what time it was over, but I can imagine it was well toward midnight until everyone had left.

The farm where the sale was held was not sold. It didn't bring enough. It was bid to \$15,000. Another one consisting of 160 acres sold for \$13,300, and was purchased by a man from Lancaster Co. I do not know his name, but the local banker told me he is not sure he's not Mennonite. He said at least he's no rowdy. He doesn't swear nor smoke cigarettes. An 80-acre tract sold for \$3,500, and the rest brought less than \$100 an acre, some not much over \$50.

There were six Old Order Amish there from Lancaster Co., to whom I spoke and they responded as if they would like their names in the paper. The one was Levi Stoltzfus, and I think a cousin to Bish. Levi who was the officiating minister when we were married 15 years ago. And there was Jake Esh, and Dave Byler, and Deacon Emanuel Lapp, Isaac King, and John Lapp. There was also another one with them and I requested his name, but he replied that he has no name. They forgot to name him. (Could he be the one who sends these nameless letters?)

Some came to the sale in the interest of dairy cows, and a few mentioned they just wanted to get away from work. Especially the deacon said he escaped a day's work of pitching manure.

The Beaver Run Mennonite church where we attend regularly, is located 7 miles northeast of Milton, 5 miles east of Turbotville, and 5 miles west of Washingtonville. It is an outpost of the Stumptown congregation in Lancaster Co., where Lloyd Eby is an assistant pastor. He came to us about once a month to preach. This last time found Ben Lapp of Media, Pa. in Chester County. Ben's were at his sister's place on the preceding Saturday evening, where all of his brothers and sisters were supposed to be for supper. So it was quite appropriate that Lloyd was there.

He preached on Christian assurance. 1 John 5:13 was his text. "These things have I written unto you that believe, that ye may know that ye have eternal life." He said there are two schools of thought about assurance, the "know so" and the "guess so" classes, and claimed it is more scriptural to be in the "know so" class, because that is where God indicated by His word that He wants us to be. He also stated that there is much ground for hope in Assurance; today he is a child of God and he knows it for certain, but there is no guarantee that he will be in ten years from now. He hopes he will be then and is quite possible that he will be, but that is yet future, therefore a living hope dominates it. He said that if we profess to have assurance but there is an ill felling, or grudge in our hearts, toward any other person then we are in darkness and not walking in the light.

We are always glad when Lloyd comes to us to bring us the message. He lives right in the heart of the Lancaster Amish settlement, and knows many of them personally. To those of you who know him but have never heard him preach, we say, you sure have missed a lot. We do of course not know his every-day life as his neighbors do, but have this confidence that he also is a "good liver". He is not what one would class as an eloquent speaker, but he knows what the bible has to say, and knows how to say it. There is no lack of words to express his ideas.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

March 23—The threat of war is very grave tonight. It is quite possible by the time this is read that fighting will be going on. Of course it depends on the Russians, what they decide to do about President Kennedy's message.

I've heard the President speak to the nation and to the world and threatened that if the Communist aid to the rebels in Laos does not stop shortly there will be trouble. It is reported that the State Department has great secrecy about the matters, but is suspected that ships with marines left Hong Kong early this morning. This question was publicly asked the President but he refused to answer. I hope for the best.

We may be sure of one thing, that the Russians were listening intently. If the Russian ruler is just a big bluff as some believe, he will probably stop the crisis in Laos. He made a big speech to his people the other day, and told them that they will conquer the world, and that they must not rest until that goal is achieved. I wish someone would tell him to read Ezekiel 38 and 39 where he would find out what kind of an inglorious end he or his successor will have, and perhaps he would calm down a bit.

Today I was going from Benton to Derr's and on a road that is traveled very little during the day. It is a very crooked road with sharp curves. As I approached one of these curves I saw a man standing, and I looked intently to make sure I was seeing correctly; yes it was a man, but such a disfigured face! Holes in his forehead and the blood running down over his face. I stopped and he asked me if I would take him home. His truck ran off the road and I looked and saw it down over about 75 feet, laying on the side on top of a brush pile. After he got in the car he got delirious and talked irrational, or as we Dutch would say, "ferhoodled". He did not know where he was or where he was going. He knew his name and where he lived, and that his truck was down over a bank, but that was about all. It was about six miles to where I took him and I was rather anxious to get there because I could see he had serious injuries, and the road was slippery. But I got him there and they immediately sent for an ambulance and took him to the hospital.

His wife was not at home. She is a nurse, along with his daughter, and his sister-in-law. His sister-in-law was there and also his mother-in-law, and they were so excited they paced the floor

and cried. My emotions were aroused, too, so that I could have cried with them. We humans are so helpless at a time like this. There is so little we can do. They finally contacted his wife and told her, and I have a slight feeling of how she felt.

I have since heard from his wife and she said that he has no broken bones but has brain damage, and the doctor said he was all but scalped. He was not yet out of his stupor. His truck rolled over two times.

Kore Peacheys from Belleville and Howard Millers were here from Michigan. They are of the Holdeman faith. Howard is the spiritual counsellor for the congregation at Belleville, has somewhat of an oversight. Howard was relating to us some of the experiences Harry Wenger, the ring leader of the sect, had in Ligeria, Africa. It so was that a native from Ligeria came to America and in the course of time

found out about the Holdemans, and they pleased him and he joined them. An invitation was extended for them to come to Ligeria and start a church there. So it was appointed for Harry and another one to go. It was told them, however, by more than one mission effort that the Chief of Ligeria is not favorably inclined toward Christianity, and it is impossible for anyone to establish a work in his country. Visitors may come and go but may not stay long. So Harry went and purchased a small car with which he traveled and held meetings, etc. Also an audience was gained with the Leader, and Harry told him of his mission, and of the need of his people and their desires, and of his capability of contacting the One who would meet the need. The Chief listened, and agreed that his people need spiritual help; but evidently there had been some in there who walked not after the doctrine according to godliness, causing some skepticism on his part.

After a thorough questioning about what they stand for and believe, he said he would grant them a visa to return and stay indefinitely. Then it was Harry's turn to be skeptical, and said he is afraid that after he goes home and rounds up some workers to come to the boundary of his province that he may change his mind and they could not enter. And to prove he would not change, he left them and returned with a visa, good indefinitely. So now they have a wide open door to return and work among those people.

This seems rather strange because every effort to gain entrance by anyone before was definitely denied, and they all said there is no use — the door is tightly shut. But Harry, the delegate for the Holdemans, got in and with a wide-open door. We trust the Lord will be able to use them towards the salvation of many souls in Ligeria. May they be faithful to that which is committed to them.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

March 30—I have been associated with farming all my life; was born and raised on a farm. When Dad didn't need me at home I worked for my brother-in-law on his farm. Was married to a farmer's daughter, and in 1946 we started farming on our own. Perhaps some would claim I am a victim of circumstances beyond my control, but nevertheless, the lines have fallen in pleasant places. Yea, I have a goodly heritage; not only in the mundane things, but also in spiritual things am I blessed far beyond my deserts.

One cannot be a very efficient farmer without having livestock to feed the things he raises, and then sell the products of the livestock for cash. Oh, I know there is such a thing as truck farming where perhaps one could get along without stock, but I know very little about that. I have worked with diversified farming, the kind of farming that's here to stay when those big operations have tried and failed, as so many big poultry operations have here in the east a few years ago.

Having livestock and poultry to take care of, requires knowledge of feeding and management. What kind of feed is very important, to be sure they get all the vital elements that nature requires them to have. My father fed minerals, and my brother-in-law, being a little more of a scientific technician, was more particular about it, and so naturally when I started that is the procedure I followed.

Going on like that for several years and being tired of having to be paying for things like trace elements found only in sufficient supplies in a specially prepared mineral and vitamin supplement, I decided to try doing without them. Just feeding bone meal, and ground limestone, etc. This was much cheaper, or so I thought, but it caught up with me in a few years. It came on so gradually that it was unnoticed at first. But eventually it became so bad that I spent more on veterinary bills and loss of production than I had spent on minerals before; and besides all this, prevention is much more to be desired than the best of cures. Hardly a cow would come in fresh but what something ailed her, mastitis, milk fever, or they wouldn't clean, and even when they weren't near the freshening period sometimes they would just succumb to what the doctor called "grass tettany", a lack of sugar in the blood stream.

Astrol is a product that has been advertised in the Budget for quite some time now, but before that I remember the first time it was introduced to me. I bought and showed it to the

veterinarian, and he was quite provoked, saying the only people that make any money on such stuff are those that sell it. I believed him then, not anymore. It has been a long time since I've had ascetonemia, or failure to clean at freshening, etc. Very little goes to the vet.

When I started feeding minerals the second time was before I knew about Astrol. The mineral I then fed had 100 thousand units of vitamin A per lb., and good results were obtained. But Astrol has 681,000 units of vitamin A per pound, almost seven times as much. I do not say that Astrol meets all the mineral requirements of animals, but you can get minerals at a fraction of the cost of those having high vitamin A potency. Not only has Astrol high vitamin A, but also other essential elements. It is made mostly from cod liver oil, and black strap molasses. These can be bought much cheaper than Astrol, but you cannot mix oil with water, and furthermore cod liver oil takes so long to digest that it gets through a chicken's digestive tract before the full benefit is derived. Astrol is put into a process that predigests it, so that when it gets to the digestive organs it's ready to go to work, and it will mix readily with water. Some buy pellets for their chickens, but these are only egg mash made to stick together. It is much better to mix a little Astrol in water and pour it on top of the mash, this causes them to eat more, plus meeting their vitamin requirements. No, you cannot get the necessary vitamin A in the mash you buy. That is something that disintegrates when in contact with the air. Even if put in at the mill you pay for it but do not get it.

The full benefit from Astrol cannot be obtained when mixed in feed; you must let it in the barrel where the outside air cannot reach it. A special pump is supplied free, and you just get some out and feed it immediately. In the mineral I used to buy they put it in little capsules so the air cannot reach it.

Astrol is very easy to feed to cows too. Just take some in a gallon jug with a lid on, and when you feed the cows grain pour a little on top of the feed, so that about a gallon is consumed as soon as a ton of feed is fed. Yes, it costs twice as much per pound as the best mineral, but has almost seven times the potency.

John R. Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

April 6 — Have you ordered your spring fertilizer yet? I have none to sell, but last fall when I sowed wheat I reported to the Budget that it was with confidence and satisfaction that I did so because I thought I was working with, instead of against nature by using an organic base soil builder, instead of chemical fertilizer.

Because of that article I received a number of letters from people who had experience with this product and I will let three speak for themselves.

Date line, Oct. 31, 1960; Topeka, Ind.—In your last letter you mentioned an organic soil builder. We handle a lot of it, last year sold over 200 ton. I have used it three summers now, and it does everything they claim. Right now I am husking the biggest ears of corn I ever husked . . . This organic soil builder is especially adapted to our method of farming with our manure and clover we plow under. We need a lot of bacteria to break it down to available plant food. It has also many minerals added to balance most any kind of soil. It is not a plant food, causing large stalk growth. We raise smaller stalks but bigger ears, less straw and more grain, no lodging, and grain that ripens earlier and of a much better quality; oats and corn are very rich yellow with more protein, less moisture. The hay has a lot better taste. We shredded corn two weeks ago today, and the fodder is eaten like hay. I even notice my livestock is doing better. No mastitis in our cows anymore. This summer one of my mares 24 yrs. old raised her 18th colt. All my mares are in foal again . . . We have heavy soil, that was very touchy to till at the right time, but not anymore. It dries off quicker after a flood, and crops suffer much less in drought. This summer we held a good test. In very hot, dry weather our corn didn't seem to suffer, while the neighbors corn across the fence was wrinkled day and night. I used to be a heavy user of chemical fertilizer and it was rather hard to change my mind, although I knew all the time that I was just cutting off one end to put on the other. Plant foods are strictly no soil builder. The first summer you will not see much results, the second showed some merits, and now I think I've got something.

The next letter is date lined Oct. 30, 1960, Middlebury, Ind.—This is the third year for this organic soil builder in this community. The first year people try it and do not know what to expect, and are disappointed,

but some know and have better results with it. As for me, I have been using it for the third year and like it all right. I think the corn this year showed plainly how it works. It makes a good germination and you will have a good stand to start with. It usually does not grow quite as fast at the start, but when the dry weather comes it sure stays a lot greener longer. My neighbor gave it a good try this summer. He alternated it with 10-10-10 chemical fertilizer. He is husking it now and said he cannot tell any difference.

The next letter is date lined Nov. 6, 1960, Shipshewana, Ind.—We have used organic soil builder but did not use it side by side with chemical fertilizer, as we don't use any of that. In the spring we sowed 200 or 300 lbs. soil builder an acre and plowed it in, then at planting time we put another 200 lbs. in the row. End of quotations.

Today I helped a man haul manure who said he worked for the government for a number of years, testing soil, and lime, etc., and went on to say how so many get lime fever and just keep on buying lime when it's only a waste of money. Also said that ground burnt lime is better and lasts 8 years while ground rock lasts only five years. 1,500 lbs. of burnt lime is equal to a ton of ground rock. He said he does not think it pays to put too much nitrogen on corn as it lasts only three months in the ground then disintegrates. And if corn is planted early and grows without too much chemicals it will dry out much better in the fall. He also said it is very harmful to the soil to plow it when it's too dry, as it kills so much of the beneficial bacteria that it takes five years to get the soil back to where it was.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

April 14—The hoped for early spring that we wrote about did not come, and now it's later than usual. We had two snowstorms this week. We have about all our plowing done but hope it gets warm very soon because our cattle feed is very meager in amount.

Today I burned brush. The amount cleared away was enough to keep a man busy for a whole day, but I did it in a few hours. To get the fire hot quickly so that it burns green wood readily, I took several automobile tires and with dry wood set them afire, and piled some green brush on by hand, and it started to burn as fast as I could throw. Then I employed a tractor with a front-end loader and pushed big piles at a time, rolling them on top of the fire. It was terribly hot and burned much faster than I could get them there even with a tractor.

I like to watch fire burn—especially a raging fire like this was. As it burned I thought of a discussion I had with a man recently. He claimed that nothing new is ever placed on the earth and nothing is ever taken away. I tried hard to think of something new but could not. Although so many more people live on the earth than ever before, they were all here as soon as the earth was created. All the machinery and new inventions were all made when the earth was made. Man cannot make anything—he only puts it together.

As the brush burned, great piles of it just seemed to melt away into nothing, but they didn't. They only changed form because they went through the heat. Most of it went into the air in the form of gas, a little stayed on the ground in ashes.

Where did the brush come from when it grew? Some of it came from the earth, most of it from water, and some of it from the sunshine that made the nitrogen in the air available to plant life. So I believe it true

that nothing is ever destroyed, it only changes form. A human body comes from food, air and water. Man cannot even make a tiny drop of water. Much less can he create life, nor make anything out of nothing. It is all here and he just puts it together. So man isn't so smart after all.

The first human ever to be out in space in a man-made vehicle, has received much acclaim. Today they had a great celebration for him, and he was heard to have said he would sooner take another ride through space than to go through all the publicity again. I'm not so much enthused about him, but much more about Him who ascended through space and some day is coming back in like manner. The world did not have a hey-day about Him, but when puny man accomplishes something they raise an awful fuss.

One news commentator said with the earth getting so full, that perhaps we will have to put many in orbit just to give them a place to live. He also said, "Is this the end of the beginning? or the beginning of the end?"

A man in Savannah, Georgia, was crossing a bridge and a car came the other way and crowded him so that he ran into the side of the bridge and wrecked the front end of his car. As he stood and looked at the damage, a car came from the rear, and ran into that, so he had both ends wrecked. The man was so disgusted he jumped into the river; and the man in the other car quickly threw him an inflated tire as a life saver. He got on this tire and floated down the river for about three miles. By that time he became a little more settled, so he got out and walked back only to find his car had been ticketed for illegal parking. He's supposed to have said, "There's no use worrying, nothing is going to turn out alright."

On Sunday, April 16th we are to have communion services at our church, in the afternoon. In the forenoon at the regular services, six young people are to be received into church fellowship by the rite of water baptism. Our oldest son is one of them. Last evening they wanted to give the applicants final instructions, and a little on the 19 articles of faith. So I sat in and listened. I was reminded of the time 20 years ago when I received the same instructions. It was in Benny Peachey's barn that the rite of baptism was administered to me, plus many more.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

April 19—Cold weather. Had all the clothes on I usually wear in mid-winter. Grass is coming slowly in spite of cold weather, wheat fields are greening. But Meteorologists say this April is no exception for cold weather; maybe it will get warm sometime. Farm Journal says we will have a dry summer, and also the 100 year calendar says the same.

One hundred and twelve thousand dollars; that's what a belly ache cost us as taxpayers. A Soviet "scientist" was with our men at one of the poles, and he was thought to have a serious case of stomach ulcers, so they rushed him to a far-away doctor, at an enormous cost, only to have tests reveal that he had nothing more than a bad belly ache.

The world tension is ever growing more serious, and Communism ever advancing closer to our shores. I read in a book recently how they planned, to do by certain years and their plans are holding out, and they plan to have our country in a few years. The way we are losing popularity it looks very much like their threats are not only idle words. The revolt in Cuba has evidently met with defeat, and our officials are plainly worried.

But then I remember how it was forecast back in 1959, how that we will meet with defeat early in 1960, and by a man who correctly forecast other events twice before, but it did not happen. But crime made a 12 percent increase the last year. Perilous times are on us. Evil men and seducers are waxing worse and worse, but this should not discourage the Christians, they should only shine the brighter in so dark a background. Does not the bible tell us that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the church?

The price of farm land is coming down locally here. When we bought it was rather high, as farming was not such a bad proposition financially, then as now. But if we would want to sell now it is quite evident that we could not get what we paid. But we do not want to. A man who owns a farm a mile to the southeast with 70 some acres wants to sell and asks \$15,000 for it but I don't believe he will get near that. About 18 years ago

he bought the same farm for \$900.00. Another farm 3 miles south is for sale, and a nice farm with very good looking buildings, and lays nice, also not too large, only around 70 acres; it is fixed to keep quite a number of laying hens. It is owned by a young man about my age. It is reported he got the farm almost given to him but now must sell because of financial difficulty.

Another farm, and this is a large farm, and equipped with the last word in modern conveniences, will be put up at public auction on May 6th. Also a full line of farm machinery, and a large herd of pure bred Guernsey cows. The man who owns it now had it to lose money on, to evade income taxes, evidently, and he bought it also for his son who now says he doesn't want it but will go back to the city of Norristown where they came from. He spent large sums of money putting up buildings, etc. Probably has a quarter of a million dollars in the farm and everything. It is located only a mile or less to the northwest of us.

It has been told to me by someone who thinks he knows that farmland will be much cheaper yet, and I am inclined to believe him. There is much land in the soil bank at present; some of it is starting to come out now and cannot be put back in. The people who own them do not want to farm. In fact a neighboring farm with a very large barn on it, and two silos, the one was never used, was for sale when we bought this one, and the lady's husband died and she couldn't sell for her price so she just put in in the soil bank. All the farms that I know of that were put in the soil bank were not put there for the purpose which the soil bank was intended. But put there by people who couldn't sell their farm nor rent it to anyone, and this was a good way to get some easy money. The soil bank was a complete failure to cut down surpluses, which is what it was intended to do. The people who wanted to farm didn't put theirs in, just those who wouldn't have farmed anyway. But now they are out with some other plan. I don't know very much about it yet, but I'm not interested; they want to pay you so much an acre this year if you don't raise any corn on it. That is if you raised corn last year. You are supposed to take the money they give you and buy other corn, if

you need any to feed, and thus cut down the tremendous surplus, which is costing us a million dollars a day for storage. I still say there is no substitute for the law of supply and demand.

Some have written to me asking about Super Gro of which I had testimonies in the Budget. I am not an agent for this and cannot tell you much about it. This is my first year to use it. If you want to know about prices and where to get it locally, if that is possible, write to Webbs Super Gro Products, Flemington, Pa., or phone Lock Haven 6724. The plant is at Mill Hall.

John R. Renno

Now there are fifteen things we had for supper, and what would you do if a restaurant had a menu like this. I had no idea what these things stood for and didn't take time to think, I just wrote down what to me seemed the most important. The first four I wrote down were, first love, tongue smoother, vitamin capsules, and square deal. When they brought my order it was a tray with Hershey kisses, for first love, a spoon as the tongue smoother, peas for the vitamin capsules, and a square slice of ice cream as a square deal. It was rather amusing to see what others got, for my neighbor beside me got nothing to eat, only a knife (separator), a fork (speedy pickup), a spoon (the tongue smoother), and a toothpick, the builder's need. Some got food but no utensils to eat with. The springs offering was water, Silver birds served with eyes was a baked potato wrapped in silver paper, Red Riding Hood in a manhole, were some olives with peppers inside, Ferdinand wrecked on a raft was a hamburg sandwich, Black Sambo and polka dot were cookies, sleeping relatives was a paper napkin, and marigold cups was carrot salad.

To make the supper event all the more enjoyable for me was that I was privileged to sit beside a young preacher from Philadelphia, at a mission there—Don Wenger by name. He came all the way from Phila to speak at this meeting, and went home again that night to be at his church in the morning. He works at night at a mental institution, from eleven till six in the morning. He said this schedule suits him very well, since he is night watchman, and has to make his rounds every hour just to see that everything and everyone is quiet. There is not much to do very often, but someone has to be there just in case.

Mr. Wenger claimed that a big factor in people winding up at a mental institution was that they cannot get along with themselves. They cannot accept themselves for what they are, they

## STILLWATER, PA.

April 27—This news item, or perhaps the whole article, will mean different things to different people. But if you do not like it you have nothing invested in it, except some of the most valuable and precious commodity, time. The time it took to read it.

It's about a new kind of supper I attended recently, a mystery supper. It was sponsored by the Mennonite Youth Fellowship, of the Beaver Run church. Paul Landis is the president. Our oldest son is in his teens, but not old enough to legally drive a motor vehicle. So it became my lot to see that he gets to the meetings, where he will meet friends that will be beneficial to the upbuilding of his character. Youth will have friends, and if the right kind are not available, it might result in disaster.

This supper was held at the home of Walter Clemmens. Walter's, Reuben Meyers, and Paul Landis' were the waiters. We were all seated at tables, about forty of us; with nothing on the tables. The first we received was menus consisting of three courses, the first had four things, the next two, 5 items each. On the menu were the following — first love, Red Riding Hood in a manhole, tongue smoother, vitamin capsules, square deal, Ferdinand wrecked on a raft, separator, springs offering, silver bird served with eyes, Black Sambo and polka dot, speedy pickup, builder's need, marigold cups, and sleeping relative.

are continually worrying about what others will think about them. They develop an inferiority complex, and think that no one is quite as foolish, and dumb, and bad off as they are. He said some are very bad, and are like a three-month-old baby with an adult body, and others are so intelligent that they seem out of place there.

Wenger also had a very good, timely message for the youth, concerning dating, marriage, and keeping oneself pure. He said a good guiding principle in dating was to first of all know the Lord, make His word the standard by which you guide yourself. Be honest, and be sure your love letter, if any, would be fit to be read by the public. Be willing to take counsel from other Christians, date one whom you can trust. Avoid parking alone somewhere, or petting, fondling, necking, etc. All these things lead down, and must be avoided.

He then gave opportunity for anyone to ask questions, which questions and answers created more questions, and made quite an interesting discussion. He didn't know for sure, at what age one is old enough to get married for sure, so I supplied that answer, and said 25 is plenty soon enough. You are only young once and can enjoy life better, and are more free to serve the Lord being single. Several then demanded to know at what age I was married, and I said 21, but believe I would have been just as well off and better prepared had I waited a little.

John R. Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

May 6—Corn planting time is here once more. It seems like last week that I put the planter away and yesterday I was using it once again. It used to be I had quite a time remembering just how to set it from year to year, but not any more, the years seem to pass much faster than they did at the first when we started farming.

The weather was very cool until yesterday. Even though we had frost in the morning, by mid-afternoon the bumble bees were flying.

Allen Shepard is about the same age as I am, and is also a preacher's son, but has now arisen to national fame by taking a big jump into the sky. Unlike the Russians, this was done as news reporters from all over the world were watching on; and the world was watching and listening on radio and T.V. No, I was too busy planting corn to listen. I was favorably impressed by what he said when he was 115 miles high, "Oh what a beautiful sight, I am greatly humiliated." But as time progresses they will probably do more and greater things; they are now speaking of sending a man aloft to go three times around the world, and then come back and tell us about it. And by 1967 they want to send one around the moon and back. The bible says, "and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do." This was said when man first tried to enter space, but God intervened by changing languages.

The Old Order Amish are again in the news, and one of them was heard speaking on a nationwide radio broadcast. It was someone connected with refusing to pay their social security tax, and what he said to a news reporter was aired. I don't like to pay it myself, and doubt if I will ever draw it, but we must pay our taxes if we don't want to get entangled with the law. It is not a tax to help operate the government, but one which the government takes and helps those who were unable or unwilling to lay up for themselves. Then when they get old or disabled they have somewhere to get aid. I suppose they are quite anxious to get the tax from those who say they will never draw social security for themselves, for there are many who never make much and live long, and so draw more out than they

put in. They also want plenty of those who pay in but never take out. I don't think it wrong to pay it, as far as scripture is concerned, but I don't like to send them a check when seemingly I get nothing for it.

But men will have their senses of right and wrong warped, for recently I received word from a man who criticized me for writing about the things I do. He suggested he would rather read something in favor of cigarettes. He doesn't think they are nearly as wrong as bulk milk tanks. He says it is wrong for

me to have one, and by recommending it to others thus lead many others into the same error. But there is a connection between tanks and cigarettes. I have a near neighbor who says he smokes 40 and 50 every day. They cost at least 2c a piece, some places 2 1/4, but for easy figuring let us say 2 cents; this would be a dollar every day, or \$365 a year. And in ten years you could more than have a tank paid for. I suggested this to my neighbor, and he said he knows that, and he can quit whenever he wants to. Said he did quit once for three days but then his wife started growling about something, and got on his nerves so he had to smoke to quiet them. I asked why he didn't just walk out, but he said he couldn't too well, he had his shoes off already.

Gospel tracts are a very good way to get the gospel to the man on the street. Would it not be wonderful if every bible-believing church would take their religion serious and distribute them once a week? Since only eight per cent of the Americans are truly born again, this would mean that only over 14 million are going to heaven from here. Would not their number increase if all Christians would be serious enough to act? Some from the Beaver Run Church go to Williamsport every Friday evening for this purpose. What results we would see if every church would go to their nearest city every Friday evening!

Jake asked rather impatiently when will men beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. But the answer is right there; whenever the word goes forth from Jerusalem, and He shall judge many nations and when men say let us go to the God of Jacob, he will teach us his ways and we will walk in his paths. Then as a result of that, nation will not lift up sword against nation nor will they learn war anymore. There will be no need for war, for everyone will obey the Lord. Such a time has never been since the history of man that we know of, but it is promised. J. R. R.

### STILLWATER, PA.

May 13—The Sun Oil Company sponsors a nationwide newscast each weekday evening. The main speaker is Ray Hendley. They have won awards for the best news coverage. He spoke recently about the way the government is using the social security law.

He said Valentine Y. Byler of New Wilmington, Pa. is a member of the Amish faith. These are a group of people who shun worldly practices, modern machinery, automobiles, etc. They live plain and simple lives, and do not believe in asking the government for handouts. While this man was out plowing one day a government officer came (and he gave his name). He, and several others with him, took the three horses from the plow, harness and all, and sold them to get the money which Valentine refused to pay as social security tax. Mr. Hendley said this tax is to help the aged who aren't willing or can't provide for themselves, a part of the New Frontier promoted by Kennedy, and they also took this man's horses so they would have money to support Valentine when he is old. The way he said it and the tone of his voice, made the whole thing sound very ridiculous.

A man who has the office of Justice of the Peace in Huntington Mills said some of the things practiced by some of the local government officials is enough to make your hair stand on end. They just work for the government for the job security it provides. They have no sense of justice and equality whatsoever; they are certainly not fit

to hold public offices. I asked him why he doesn't report some of the offenses to their superiors. He said that wouldn't do any good—their superiors didn't hire them and they have no power to dismiss them. He also said the American people have lost much of their integrity in the last 25 years. It's not what it used to be. The people are soft, wishy-washy, not willing nor able to stand on their own two feet. All they want is pleasure and more and more government aids. They forget that for every dollar we get from the government, it costs us a dollar and sixty-eight cents in taxes. Oh, where do we go from here? We are headed for the ditch with increasing momentum!

The Northeastern Chapter of the Red Cross gets blood in this community every six months. They would like to get 110 pints every time at each place. But here and a few other places they are far short of the desired goal. While at some places with less of a population they do much better. A nurse complained to me about it, and I surmised that wherever the Christians are few and far between it's harder to get them to give blood; she didn't know. I also asked her what they do with so much blood,

saying I gave blood at hospitals already when a certain patient was there. She said some hospitals do not accept Red Cross blood and must collect their own. But there is always a very great need for blood.

I then asked why, since men know so much and can do most anything, why don't they make blood out of something else? The doctor said this only God can do. Blood contains live corpuscles. It's true we know what chemical elements blood is made of and we could put these together, but there still would be no life, only God can create life. He said the Germans tried to put animal blood in human veins, but that only creates a toxic condition and kills the human. The animal blood is of about the same constituency, but those corpuscles are created much faster and die off much faster than human corpuscles, and it just will not work in a human body. He said all the machinery, and all the instruments that the DuPont Company has in Wilmington, Del., and what they can do

with that, is very small compared with what the human liver does. It looks like child's play in comparison. I then quoted to him that the bible says, "I am wonderfully and fearfully made," and he said this is very true.

One nurse was a little alarmed about the slow pulse I had and she went for the doctor to look if I was alright. My heart only beats 52 times a minute and some hearts beat 90 or a hundred. "Oh, he said, "that's alright," confirming that a slow heart has a much better chance of beating longer than a fast one. They don't wear out as fast if they run slower.

This is another reason why tobacco and liquor shorten life. The heart has to run so much faster to keep all the poison worked out of the system.

Alcoholism kills 155 times more people than polio, 11 times more than T.B., six times more than cancer. It's the number one health problem. J. R. R.

### STILLWATER, PA.

May 19—There are conflicting reports as to how the weather will be for the next 30 days, so I will believe that which suits me best. Farm Journal says it will be dry, but others say it will be near normal in temperature and precipitation. It has been on the wet side so far, but not to extremes. The oats is several inches tall and corn planting is well under way, but that happens only between showers which come about every 2 days. Alfalfa is knee high and the other grasses are coming along well. Egg prices hit the skids again. Guess we'll have to try to live within our means.

The Danville Livestock Auction is 25 miles from our place and that is the nearest place we can sell beef and pork at auction. But that seems to be on the way out as there are only a handful of people there anymore. I go to Dewart, about 40 miles away, but they have a large crowd and you have a much better chance of getting what your stuff is worth.

While taking a cow there the last time I was only about 20 miles from Simmy Bender's place, so I went on over to see how he's making out. I have known Sim since we were children, and he just moved on his present location this spring. It's about four miles west of Mifflinburg, and he has a very nice prosperous-looking place. He had owned the farm for several years and had it rented to another man who happened to be a fertilizer salesman, and he used it very heavy on his farm so that now it's really showing up.

We had quite a discussion going, too. It was about the same as last summer at Dave Wagler's house. Sim has no church home where he is now, so they attend the Beachy Amish at Milmont. He says he really enjoys the rich spiritual feast he gets there, and can hardly wait till it's time to go to church again. But he never intends to become a member there. He says he could not conscientiously share their viewpoint on material things.

I see by the Belleville Times that another of my friends has gone the way of all flesh. Harvey Hess came to Belleville about penniless, and in a few years time had worked up a business in hay, and machinery and junk that was outstanding. He was a man that was not afraid to get his hands dirty with work. I used to drive his hay truck for a while, and enjoyed it too, until someone mentioned to him that he would get more hay business if he didn't hire me.

A local Baptist preacher also will be buried tomorrow. He was 39, has a wife and 4 children, the youngest only four months old. He was not too well, nor strong, as he had only the half of one lung left. T.B. took the other.

I hired a back-hoe to dig some ditches in my field, to drain a big wet spot. I put some tile in but where the tile didn't reach, I just put in stone. The ditch is 18 inches wide and 2½ ft. deep,

so I have about a foot and a half of stone, and surely the water should be able to find its course through the stone and into the tile. So today I was picking stone, hauling them to the ditch, and as I worked I did a lot of thinking. This land has quite a few stone. You get about a load from two acres every time you plow. Not big stones—some are big enough to drag in the harrow, but many are not. The fence rows are piled with tons of stone. Someone worked hard to get all those stones picked, and there are not near as many now as there used to be. But those who have picked the stones (many of them are gone now), did they pick in vain? Why have they worked so hard for me, to improve my land? Why am I working, draining this land, am I doing it for someone else? When my father was my age I was 2 years old, and I'm sure he also worked hard providing for me when I could not provide for myself. Why did he do it? Did his thoughts run along the same line that mine are running? I'm sure he had no jet planes flying overhead, he didn't wonder how long it will be ere someone pushes a button and sends a guided missile this way, there were no such things then, and yet his future was no more secure than mine. God is still the same, and man has not changed basically. I thought of the poem, "We tread the same paths our fathers have trod; we think the same thoughts, we view the same sun, we run the same race our fathers have run." I enjoy farming — working with nature, with God.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

May 26—It seems this has been a short summer, for the temperature dropped rapidly today, and the air feels like a refrigerator. The weather is breaking old records. The corn that is up looks yellow and is shivering in the breeze; but the oats seems to like it and looks very good.

Another 34-year-old record has been broken, or rather an anniversary celebrated, by breaking a speed record. An Air Force plane flew from New York to Paris in three hours and twenty minutes, while just thirty-four years ago Charles Lindberg flew the same distance for the first time it was ever flown by man in 33½ hours. The plane today flew 1125 miles an hour. I don't know that I've ever traveled faster than 90 miles an hour and I thought that was fast, but slow compared with today's feat. No, I wasn't driving that time. I was still Amish.

But world conditions are steadily growing worse, in spite of our spectacular developments. If we think back ten years we thought it was bad but that was mild compared with now. The Communists in Laos are still battling away in spite of the cease-fire agreement. It's an easy victory for them because those with the Communist conspirators naturally believe in the use of force to get what they want, but the Nationals have no ambition to

fight because their Buddhist religion is opposed to it. Kennedy said America would not stand idly by while the Communists take over Laos, but that's what they have done. Now there will be a double K meeting, an opportunity for them to size each other up. Paul Harvey said Kennedy is crawling to Moscow, something he said he would never do. Here at home the state law is defying the federal law, over the segregation issue, and civil rights. No wonder we have a hard time selling democracy, with the idea that all men are created equal to other countries, when it will not work here.

One man said the only way you can take it any more is to drink, use tranquilizers, or commit suicide. But I know of a much better way, yet, a great tranquilizer. It does not cost you

anything, but it is very habit-forming. It's a habit much to be desired, but the fact that it's free does not mean it's cheap. It was too high in price no one could ever pay it, so God paid the bill. It is salvation. And to learn more of this wonderful plan, the church at Beaver Run had the annual youth meetings which we have every third Sunday in May. Last year's meetings were reported in the Budget. We had Erie Renno from Belleville and Donald Lauver from McAlisterville.

The officials at Beaver Run found out just what kind of speakers come from the Valley, and so this year they had Elam Peachey from Belleville, and Cleon Nyce from Easton, Pa. Cleon is a man 9 years my junior, and has some experience in city mission work. He speaks easily and calmly, just as though he were speaking to a group of friends. But one thing that takes when he speaks is his humility; no, he doesn't boast of it, but he has it.

Elam was ordained only a few years ago, and is 50 years old, but he knew the bible well for years and now with the aid of further study, can draw a wealth of knowledge. He is a brother to the late Emanuel Peachey, and may well fill his place in preaching engagements. He can speak with authority and knows where he stands, and why he stands there.

He spoke on Saturday evening on the subject, "What! The Abundant Life For Youth?" One thing that I especially appreciate about his preaching is his ability to go into the Old Testament and show how it typified the New. When the Children of Israel had no water, Moses smote the rock, and it gave forth water. This is a type of Christ smitten on the Cross, when he came to give us life. But the second time when they had no water he was supposed to only speak to the rock, but Moses was angry this time,

and was forbidden an entrance into the promised land as the penalty. Nevertheless in spite of his disobedience the rock gave forth water abundantly this time. This is the type of our Heavenly Advocate, which gives us more than just life. He give it in abundance if we but speak to the Rock. He said the abundant life is possible for youth, and it's a great necessity, while they have their whole life ahead of them.

We were also privileged to have Elam and his wife and two daughters at our house over night.

John R. Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

June 2 — We had frost two mornings in succession, the last of May. The temperature dropped 20 degrees one day, and the wind went right through. Some places reported 30 degrees. The early-planted corn looks very sickly.

The last of the horse farmers around here that I know of has now sold the last horse he had and uses all tractor power. He had used only horses until quite recently he bought an old tractor. The man is an old-fashioned fellow and is almost 70 years old. I'd say too old to start farming the modern way.

Our forefathers who came to this country and moved to a place all grown up in trees and started to build a home and clear land to farm sure must have had a hard time of it. A man in town has a field that borders mine. One end of it wasn't farmed for about 20 years, and was overgrown with brush. I thought it would be easy and hired a bulldozer to push off the brush but I didn't want him to take all the topsoil along so he didn't get the small roots, and such a mess as that was to get ready to plant corn. I never realized how hard somebody must have worked to clear land until I tried it myself. We don't appreciate what we have until we experience something to remind us. But now many are the farms that are not taken care of and are growing back up. Some are planted to Christmas trees. Then some of the land that is cleared is very steep, and some low lying places are swampy. One wonders why they went to all the bother to clear such land, as difficult as it is to do.

Many have responded to the

invitation to let their land lay idle and just take a pay check for the corn they would normally raise. They pay half of what they think it would produce. We will have thousands of bushels less corn in this community. One wonders at the wisdom of such a procedure. Do we actually have so much in this land that we reject the blessings of God? China is now going on the third year with crop failures, due to floods and drought. The people are starving for want of bread. And we are so blessed that we have to stop raising so much to cut down on our terrific surplus. How long can this trend continue?

One who works for the government on soil conservation told me he does not know where all the money will come from to pay for all the idle corn land. He himself does not approve of such a practice, and he criticized some of the practices that are taken, and the way the money is spent, but he said I shouldn't tell anybody, it might cost him his job. I told him there are now 2½ million people working for the government, and I think that is too much.

The dictator of the Dominican Republic was very careful to guard his sons who went to school in this country. They had armed guards at all times. But he failed to guard himself properly, and he was machine-gunned. They now fear Communism is ready to take over there. The oldest son is now in power, but there is, as always, a quest for power, and there may be more trouble soon. The oldest son was quite a figure in Hollywood. He had a wife and four children at home, but when here in America he liked to sport the Hollywood stars. Those he liked best he gave gifts, expensive gifts; sports cars of their own. He was rich, or so he thought, for he used the money our government had given his father's regime in foreign aid. This is quite an item in government spending. We are trying to buy friends. But Communism is creeping closer each year, and now has a strong foothold 90 miles to the south of us in Cuba; where they have bargained to give us 1200 Cuban prisoners for 500 tractors. They undoubtedly want to use the bulldozers to make missile bases to help destroy us.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

June 9—The first four days of this week were about perfect for making hay, and we did put some up. But on Thursday afternoon we had baler trouble and it rained before we got any in, and is still wet with no prospect of clearing off soon. Wife suggested if we used the old method of haying we would have gotten more away, which is true for that day. But now we are negotiating for another baler, perhaps it will go better soon.

It's very interesting to me to speak to old people, and last night an old man whom they call Bart Long drove in. He is an old bachelor, stone deaf, 75 years old. I bought quite a bit of straw and oats from him and got to talking. Of course he does the most of the talking, and reads your lips when you talk, and if you can't make him understand he has a pad and pencil handy for you to write it down. Since he cannot hear himself talking he does not talk very plainly and is hard to understand until you get used to it. He said last night, he used to help make hay the old way, and I mean old—when they mowed it down by hand with a scythe. He said an acre mowed down in a ten-hour day was considered good work for one man. But things have changed now, as I can mow down two acres in one hour, and with a lot less effort.

A news dispatch from Philadelphia, Pa., by a cancer authority, says that if cigarette smoking were stopped, the death rate from lung cancer could be reduced by more than 60%, a saving of at least 20,000 lives a year. Dr. Michael Shimkin, associate director of field studies, National Cancer Institute, told a meeting of the American College of Surgeons, that studies by medical experts had concluded that smoking is a cause of lung cancer.

Now, before you pride yourself of your possible longevity because you do not smoke, let's consider another fatal mistake, that of overeating. This is gluttony, and classed in the bible right along with drunkenness. The question then arises, when am I eating too much? A good way to find that out is to ask your doctor how much you should weigh for the best of health. Not all but most of us are overweight, because we have so much to eat, and how we love to eat! I love it too but must use self discipline, or I will surely pay for it in later years. Nature has a way of penalizing.

I was ten pounds overweight, and Dr. Paul Dudley White said

this is as bad as smoking forty cigarettes a day. I tried different methods to reduce but all failed until this last one. I tried missing a meal a day, but then my hunger was so great when I did eat that I overloaded again. Working and exercise also just increased my appetite, and I don't like to go away too hungry. I at last heard a sermon that gluttony was a sin, and being overweight because of eating too much was wrong. This preacher also stressed the fact that laziness also was sinful, saying he used to be so lazy, and he discovered his sin, so he told himself, "get to work, get to work, in Jesus name, get to work, at once!" This cured his laziness because he felt he was pleasing God. He also told how to reduce and I have tried his method and I lost 5 pounds in a week. When at the table I take only once of everything, and when that is all I stop because there is no more, and if I refuse to get any more I can't eat. Just like at a restaurant. This hurt a little at first because my stomach wasn't full, but I believe the stomach is getting smaller because it doesn't take as much to fill it as it used to.

The Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. is a Democratic representative in Congress. He is also the pastor of a large church in New York City, the Abyssinian Baptist church. The church had a building program which cost \$450,000. To raise some money the pastor dropped 11,000 members from the church roll and charged them a dollar each to rejoin.

The Poultry Digest states that in Cuba the broiler industry has gone to pot since Castro took over. Before the revolution one grower hired 69 people to care for his 110,000 broilers. Now this man has been stripped of everything; he had a \$65,000 home, now nothing. Castro took things from the rich and industrious and gave it to the peasants, but they did not know how to manage, and everything went to pot. Some poultry farmers are in jail today. Their crime? They sold eggs to their neighbors. They were supposed to sell to Castro and he would sell to the neighbors. On the eastern end of the island, farmers could grow two good crops of corn a year, but now there is no more corn. The farmers rebelled and did not plant, so there is no harvest.

The U.S. News and World Report says it's about the same in Russia and China. The government wants to control everything, and people have no incentive to do anything, and there is a serious food shortage. J.R.R.

## STILLWATER, PA.

June 16—Weather is very cool for this time of year. We started a fire again at our house. Hay making is well under way, and we had a few acres that we are making for the half, for our neighbor; his house is just about 150 yards from ours. He is an old bachelor, and lives alone, and his age is 83. His farm is only a small place, and I tried to convince him that he should let me farm it on shares, but he isn't interested. When it rained on his hay I told him if he now had corn out he would at least get some benefit from the rain. He told me that he minds his own business, insinuating that I should do the same. I believe the man is lonely, but it is very hard to help him since he is so crabby. Someone greeted him as Pop, and he glared at him and said, "I want you to understand that I am nobody's Pop, and will not take that title from anyone, and especially not from you."

Lightning is a very interesting study, yet nobody knows too much about it. One hard bolt has around a million kilowatts of electricity. We pay almost 3c a kilowatt hour for what we use, and so this would cost somewhere between 25 and 30 thousand dollars. If we had to pay for the lightning strokes it would be expensive. Yet they are very vital for our life on earth. Without electricity we could not live on this planet. Lightning is not as dangerous as it seems, because it does not kill near as many people as do other accidents. Take automobiles for instance. They kill more people than did all the wars put together. Lightning kills around 400 people a year, injures 1500, and terrifies millions.

The situation in India is serious. Such a tremendous food shortage, and one thing that plagues them is their religion. They worship the cow, and would not think of killing beef to eat. Yet cows eat a lot more than humans and it takes a lot to keep the cows alive and the

humans starve, many of them. One doctor in India said if we want to help them we should not send them better medicine, and more hygenic practices to prolong the life span. They have too many people now.

And may I again mention overeating? Doctors say that is our number one cause of heart disease in America. We eat too much and are too fat and our hearts just won't take it.

As people are, so is a nation. As long as a nation is young and growing, getting stronger, and has economic straits, it will remain active, and will prosper, and enjoy national health. But when that same nation reaches the top there is no other place to go but down. The people become lazy, dissatisfied, they want more and more for less and less. Corruption and crime increases. Its people have no goal in life, nothing to strive for, they indulge in the same thing as Sodom indulged in—pride, fullness of bread, and idleness.

Great nations are not defeated by enemies from without. They are too strong for that; but they just rot away, and deteriorate from within. The news commentators are crying against our way of life and predicting what will happen. A few take heed, but a large majority do not. Our national prestige abroad is slipping fast and it seems we are just helplessly watching our downward trend. Have we forgotten that the bible says, "He maketh wars to cease, from the ends of the earth, He breaketh the spear and the bow asunder."

As one Budget reader wrote me, it's the fault of the church that our nation is going the way it is, and I agree with this wholeheartedly. But a church is no better than its members. If we want the church to improve we must start at home, and not try to get a splinter out of someone else's eye with a saw-log sticking in our own. It's past time we get back to the bible, and practice that in our every day life, and lay aside some of our dogmas. It will give us new vision, and teach us to discipline our lives so that we are temperate in all things. It will make us better farmers, better business men, it will improve our homes, our church, our nation.

John R. Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

June 23—Marriage is for adults and not for children. So many people are entirely too young to get married, they have no sense of responsibility, they haven't insight of what such a step involves. Many feel their parents are old fashioned and have forgotten the time when they were young. They feel that everything will be rosy and fine, there will be smooth sailing from marriage on in. But the truth is that marriage does not solve problems, it creates many more and people who are young and immature do not know what to do about them.

I have a good Christian friend who is a cashier at the bank, and he complained to me of the tough situation young people can create by getting married too young.

He is in a position where he should know, and he sees now where he has been too lax with his own children, and they do not render the proper respect towards him they should. His own son is 19 and has been married for some time, is in the army, and separated from his wife for long periods.

Some around home have three or four children, and the husband out of work, and the money gets all, so he up and leaves home. The wife sits there with her small children.

This man also said it's so very hard to find someone to work at the bank as a teller who is any good. Most people are only interested in the weekly paycheck and that's their only reason for working, and as such they are very inefficient. All they want is run around and have what they call a good time. This is caused by lack of a goal and purpose in life.

There are three questions one must be able to answer before life has a real meaning, and the answers are found only in the bible. They are: where did I come from? Why am I here? and where am I going? If young people don't know the answers to these questions they are not capable of taking on the responsibility of marriage. If they do know them, they know enough to not rush into such a sacred step without careful thought and weighing every possible maladjustment that may develop.

I enjoy reading Lee Kanagy's articles from Japan. I knew Lee for a long time; although he is quite a bit older than I. And I notice the different way he thinks than what he did when he and I were in the same church. Yes, we still are in the same church, both of us, but in a different conference.

His letter thus caused me to do some thinking, for he wrote: "Brothers this is no time to add

land to land, house to house, buying conveniences, not needed, and living at ease in Zion." This also brought to mind the comment made by Elam Peachey recently, or someone who said, "we should take no rest, and go on our hands and knees to take the gospel to the unsaved." He further said, "This would be intemperate, we must take care of our bodies, or we would soon have no way to go to them, since when we leave this world our work is done here." As a farmer one cannot give everything he has so that he has no working capital, it takes money to make money, and if it would be profitable to add more land to that which you already have, or invest money in machinery that must be replaced or added, I see no harm in that. As long as it's done with the scriptural view of working with your own hands so that we can give to him that needeth. And I am heartily in favor of giving through sound channels that we know are reliable. But when it comes to paying extra for conveniences that are not needed, so that we do not have to support our missionaries, and charitable institutions this is unscriptural. We must learn to put first things first.

On June 19th we've had an addition to our family; Timothy came to stay with us, he weighed almost 11 pounds. The doctor was assisted by a specialist. Both mother and child are doing well and we are expecting them home by Sunday, June 25. The above took place in the Bloomsburg hospital.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

June 30—The weather is what nearly everyone starts out with, and it is an important and interesting subject. Solomon says there is a time for everything, and it is now high time to have the haying finished for the best quality hay, but weather was not co-operative until late. This week was the hay week because it was nice and sunny and warm every day, and much hay has been put up, but the quality was not too high as the grass was rather old.

Weather is what everyone talks about, but nobody does anything about; but this may not be true in a decade from now. Many secrets that have aeretofore been hidden from mankind have been revealed in the past few decades and our weathermen think it quite possible that they can in some way control our weather to a certain extent with all the weather satellites, etc. Should this become possible; which country would have the say in what the weather would be? And if a warlike country could control weather it could cause much damage to another country, and in Japan this while they have been having much rain according to reports so that whole villages have been buried with giant landslides. Many have lost their lives.

July 1, 1891, seventy years ago, is when the United States Weather Bureau was started; and they have records back that far. I was surprised recently to learn that the forecasting is still pretty much guesswork. They look at past records, and what caused the different weather, and when the same situation prevails they make a forecast. But of course with the hundreds of weather stations across the country and the communications as rapid as they are, can tell when a storm is approaching, but they cannot tell exactly where it will go. And they have learned how to predict which way hurricanes will travel by the way the eye is shaped. When it is round it goes straight on, but when it becomes oblong it will change its course accordingly. They have learned this with Donna last year.

President Kennedy had quite a surprise when he opened the Newsweek magazine recently, and read there in detail what the government will do about the Berlin crisis. The prediction was correct but it was a secret that nobody was supposed to know except the Pentagon officials, and now the F.B.I. is after someone who works there and has left the cat out of the bag.

The Berlin crisis is considered very serious now, for Mr. K. says he has put it off long enough now and he will make a separate peace treaty with Communist East Berlin by the end of this year, and our government does not officially recognize East Berlin and so can have no diplomatic relations with it. The western allies seem to stand together and—say they will shoot their way into their part of the city which lies many miles inside Soviet territory. And the Soviets say if they start shooting they will shoot back and blame the west for starting a war which will end up being a nuclear war. In December 1959, this was supposed to take place, but then John Foster Dulles died, and the day the possible trouble was to start was the day of a great funeral in which many diplomats attended. What may have been a war turned out to be a religious service. What will happen this time is a guess, but I doubt that world war three will start then; however, I will admit, I don't know. But in spite of all the trouble we seem to be having with Russia, this country is shipping surplus food over there to help feed the hungry, and for this I am most thankful, although some newscasters cry out against such dealings, saying we are only helping to feed our enemies, but is not this what the bible tells us? If thine enemy hungers, feed him. I wish they would also send some to China, but since they do not have diplomatic relations with Red China there will be no such dealings. According to U.S. News and World Report the food shortage is very serious there, saying the people are very inefficient workers there because they are so hungry, and some also feel that the people will rise up in rebellion against the Red regime because of the situation. They had many people herded together in large communes, but they are finding this does not work too well as the people have no incentive to get things done, so they are trying to send them home again and giving each man a pig to raise, etc., something he can call his own. Thus it proves that the free enterprise system is by far the most efficient way. In this country we have much less farmer per capita than they have, but we have a tremendous surplus of food stocks. John Renno