

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Jan. 1—What is the value of a human soul? The bible does not exactly say, other than that it mentions the fact that if a man were so successful in financial matters that he would finally own the whole world, and lose his own soul it would be a bad bargain.

But you or anyone is entitled to gain a ten thousand dollar reward if you come to this community and find the body of a man, who is believed to be dead, but no one knows for certain. He was a very wealthy man, for he played the stock markets and won. He also was a very wise man in financial matters or he would not have been so successful; but on the other hand he was very foolish, for evidently money meant everything to him.

It meant more to him than a comfortable home and convenient food, for he slept under the railroad tracks, and for food he collected things that grocery stores discarded as unfit for human consumption, and lived on such fare. His clothes were shabby, and unkempt so that a real hobo looked neat in comparison. He had much money in his possession, but never quite enough for he always wanted just a little bit more. He didn't want the things money can buy either, he just wanted money, and money he had. His monthly income from the stocks and bonds were enormous. One day he went to the post office for his check, and to the bank to have it cashed, and was never seen after that. One brother is his closest relative, and this brother put up the \$10,000 reward, for until he is found either dead or alive the money he has in the bank or elsewhere cannot be touched for years to come. He had no will made out and apparently he had expected to live a long time yet, but now he is believed to be dead.

It is supposed someone got him after he got out of the bank with his cash, and hid the body, and took the money, but no one knows for certain.

pecially the temperature, with Christmas of 1964. The temperature at Harrisburg was 64 this year and back in 1889 it was 66, and that was the same year my father was a little baby. But I like the way it is now, no snow, mild temperatures, and the recent rains have replenished the water supply somewhat. We have much to be thankful for, and also much to worry about, if we are good at that.

The hay price, as I see it, will remain about the same. And I've sure handled a lot of it this past year, I would estimate about 50,000 bales. There was much dry weather, but other areas had wet, so it's about equalized, and I serve as a medium between the have's and the have not's. At present I am hauling it out of Warren and Crawford Counties, into Snyder and Mifflin Counties. I would advise if you have to have hay, buy just what you need, and possibly next spring it will even drop more, just like last spring. But please don't wait until you have the last bale in the feed trough, then call for more immediately. And don't underfeed just because you think you are saving money. You are thus just wasting what you do feed. You can always buy from me at very easy terms; 100% down and no monthly payments as long as you desire.

John Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Jan. 9 — Seems very strange to start out from a place where the roads are ice covered, the ground is white with snow, and the weather is cold. The trees are bare in the leaden sky, and the cold winds blow, and you turn towards the South.

It made me think of the phrase in the Bible, and Abraham journeyed on still towards the South. So did I, and went almost as far south as one can go without leaving the country. No, I did not as so many do, just go to get away from the conditions here in the north, but if you could afford it, it would be very nice.

The farther we went the milder it got. And the Florida border is just two-thirds of the way when you're going to Miami.

You see being in the hay business affords many opportunities. I stopped at Firestone Motors, at Harrisburg, Pa. on my way home from Norfolk, Va. for some things; as this company deals with old Government surplus motor parts. The owner saw my truck and wanted to know if I would be willing to take two old army trucks to Miami. He had them sold but nobody to deliver them. I was not too anxious to go, but he said put your price on it, and call the man. So I did. I made it high enough to pay for all my trouble, and he said "All right, bring them down."

So we started from Harrisburg at 3:30 in the afternoon, and drove all evening and all that night, and all the next day, and that brought us down to the Florida border, where we slept the second night. But we still had 400 miles to go to reach our destination. The trucks were heavy, weighing about six and a half tons each, and the load was top heavy so we couldn't make good time, and it took us almost 48 hours to get there.

These trucks cost you, the taxpayer, twenty-six thousand dollars

each. They were made to run where the soil is sandy and loose so they have big tires on them and all four wheel drive. Very big and powerful motors in them too. But they never did what they were supposed to do, so these new trucks that were bought and paid for with our money, were just about given away, and we must bear the loss.

Down at Miami they shorten them and make tractors out of them to back loaded trailers on ships. This firm is in the shipping business and to back 25 or more ton up a steep ramp takes power plus traction, and these old clunkers have both, so that's what they will be used for.

We arrived there in the evening, and they didn't unload us until the next day at noon, so we had some extra time on our hands. The place where we took the trucks is right close to the International airport, and those big jet planes flying low, some as low as 500 feet, are very noisy, and shake the very earth you stand on. I don't know just what all would happen if one of them would fail to go up and crash right down in a congested area, but things would sure be shaken up for a while.

The city of Miami is just teeming with Cubans. It seems they are about as plentiful as the Negroes. Many can hardly speak English, so they rattle off the Spanish to one another.

There in this land of perpetual summer very little is needed in the way of protection from the elements, so many just have their eating stands along the streets in the open except for a roof. Eating is no problem either if you get to the right place. We got a T-bone steak dinner with all the trimmings for 99c.

In looking for a place to sleep, I'm also a penny pincher, for it's amazing how fast they disappear while I'm away. I saw this hotel, and knew by the looks of it that it was not a very expensive place. We went in and asked a price for a bed for the night, and he said 87c a piece. I wouldn't have been more surprised if he would have said eight seventy. So I paid the man and he took us to where we were supposed to sleep, and there were already some bums there in this room. No electric lights and a very dirty bathroom.

I stood and scratched my head, and my son said, "I don't want to sleep in a place like this," and I had in mind to just walk out, but I reached down and felt the bed, and it was soft and I was tired, so I laid down, and soon it was morning. I told my son in the morning that it wasn't too bad, as our bed fellows were humans too, and Christ was born in a stable, so we made out none the worse, and I was glad for the opportunity to sleep where they sleep. John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Jan. 16—Winter has come. Cold, snow and blow. Makes it difficult to get around with a truck in the hay business, but we have to nevertheless; 'cause cows eat whether it's cold or not, and people, true to their nature, wait until they are pretty low to call for more.

This week I sold one load, and it will do me for a long time to come. I can buy straw locally and last Saturday afternoon we loaded it at a nearby farm. I was afraid we would have trouble getting out as the farm is away down over the hill on a dirt road, and it had just rained. Sure enough we could not get up unaided. The man from whom we got the straw hitched his tractor to it but that was not sufficient. He went for his neighbor with his tractor, but still it would not go, and backing up to get a fresh start the back end slipped into the ditch.

All this was on Saturday afternoon, and it was already dark, and we were long overdue to be home for supper. We finally got it out of the ditch by pulling sideways, and were just ready for one last final try before abandoning it until next week. The man whose straw it was had left his tractor set on a little knoll while he went to get boards to put in the ditch to run over. We were just about ready to hitch up when his tractor started to roll down hill. He ran for it and by the time he got to it, it had gained too much momentum, and he, without thinking, went in front of the rear wheel to grab the brake. This was the wrong thing to do for it did not stop but knocked him down and flattened him out and went on. It went over across the road and stopped when it hit the bank. The man lay still as though he were dead. He finally began to gasp for breath and struggle so that we knew life was still there. He moaned of having unbearable pain, saying "Oh Kent, oh Kent, I can't stand it." Kent Shellhammer was the neighbor who came to help us. An ambulance soon came and bore him away. X-rays revealed a fractured pelvis.

We then left everything set and went home, and that night it snowed. Monday we didn't bother with it, waiting for the snow to melt and the roads to be opened. Tuesday morning we went at it again only to find a dead battery. We put chains on and it just would not come up out

of there. Finally in desperation I went to a man who owns a big bulldozer, a D-7, and asked him to come pull it out. He claimed he could do it but it would cost pretty much. Well, cost wasn't the question. I wanted that truck out of there. He hitched to it and it walked out just as nice as you please. But that is still not all.

We took the straw down to Ephrata to Frank Hoover, but on the way down the trailer broke down. It was an old car carrier with the top cut off which weakened it considerably, and the weight was all on the sides. The one side bulged out thus leaving the weight all on the bottom rail which bent down and just about hit the road. We turned in Frank's lane and got one driver wheel in his tobacco patch, and the low side hit the ground and we could not go forward or backward.

Then the fun began. Frank hitched one horse and an old white mule together to the wagon and we began hauling straw. Could only take about 30 bales at one time, because of the snow and mud underneath. But neighbor Sam soon saw our predicament and brought his tractor and wagon over, and called another neighbor's boys and we soon had a sizeable gang there. Frank's mule was true to his nature and wouldn't pull very good unless he had to. Frank says he eats too much straw, and if he could get it he would eat a ton of hay a day. His belly was like a barrel. That is about all the straw I want to handle for a while. But Frank, true to his Lancaster County nature, took us in the house and we had a big roast chicken supper with all the trimmings. It's an ill wind that doesn't blow somebody some good. John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Jan. 23—I was at the Farm Show at Harrisburg. Saw Governor Scranton, too. Now I know there are those who think Christians have no business there, and I'm not too sure that they are not right about it. I remember Myron King told me that I am the only spiritually-minded person he ever met that attends the Farm Show. And furthermore (I have heard) that he will expel pupils from the private school they have if they attend the farm show. That's how serious he thinks it to be. And it could be that he's right. It could also be that he's wrong. And it could also be that he's neither right nor wrong.

Now this is the essence of what I wanted at the farm show. My own sons (three of them) wanted to go. I personally went to see people, and not farm machinery; and I saw just what I went to see. I saw that mighty genius who invented the Smoker Farm Elevators. I am glad that for all his intellect that God has shared with him it didn't go to his head; he is still humble enough to stoop to talk to common people like myself. Even said he likes to read these articles, and told me to keep on writing. He didn't have to leave his semi-plain church either, because of his business. And for what I could observe, it seems like he's seeing first the kingdom of God.

Another man I met that I was impressed with was a man named Miller. Don't know his first name. I asked him why he wasn't a Smoker and he said because at the first everyone was named Miller, and as time progressed some were born that the Millers were ashamed to have their name so they gave them some other name like Smoker, Renno, or what have you? This man also said he was at the Farm Show because the boys wanted to come and he was not at all sure that it was the proper thing to do but said there were a lot worse places to go to.

He is a butcher by trade, and was a little disturbed by the trends of the day. Also claimed that he was not prospering in his business. The government has about everything sewed up to keep the small man from profiting. He said a meat inspector comes around to inspect all his meat, and one day the inspector called him to come and look—there was something wrong with the beef liver. Well, he went out to look and the liver the inspector saw happened to be a lung.

This Miller was also much disturbed with the religious world. He said some boast of the great mission trends we are making, and winning souls for Jesus and at the same time we can't even control our own offspring. We think we are doing so much more than our forefathers did, but we are not making the gains they did, in real practical christian living.

I was in the large Arena when Governor Scranton came in, everyone stood up. They had a big band playing, and they introduced the different queens—the dairy, the apple, the honey, the poultry, and whatever kind of queen they have these days. They also had the State Police Rodeo. It was an entertaining pro-

gram, designed to make people laugh and feel happy and gay, and forget that such a thing as trouble ever did plague you. I can't say that it did me harm, but if it did not do any good, that in itself is reason to abandon such things. Such things do not build character. It is related with the pleasures of sin which endure but for a season and after that leave you empty and frustrated, and hopelessly entangled in a net and mesh of your own making. John Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

Jan. 30—When the snow blows, one thinks of how nice and calm it was down in Miami. It reminds one so much of heaven there because the bible says they shall not suffer from cold or heat, or storm, etc. but it will always be just right. Now I know that they have storms in Miami too, but while we were there it was not so. It is a place of very rich people. We took a 2-hour boat ride and the man told us about who lives where and what they paid for their houses.

One man built a \$75,000 house for his wife as a Christmas present. Then we saw the house that Deering built—the man who was responsible for the Deering farm machinery. He had so much money he hardly knew what to do with it, so he built massive buildings, and had sculptors make him images out of marble and stone. He also had singing maids and young men to entertain him, but he never had a wife of his own, and died a bachelor, and he was not very old either.

Then we saw Liz Taylor's house, too. The man said she likes to come and spend her honeymoons there on the seashore. Said she just redecorated her house—she must be getting ready for her next husband. It's hard for us who are struggling to make ends meet to imagine that at the same time there are hundreds of people who are trying to spend money, and hardly know what to do with it all.

But Miami is not an ideal place to live for there is much sin and corruption going on. To hear the average man talking he has two things he is living for—sports and sex. And that part is just about the same as here too.

But there still are some good things going on, and I suppose that's why the judgement has not fallen already. The first thing that took place at the inauguration of President Johnson was a church service. It was supposed to be a union service suitable to everyone of whatsoever faith he was, and Billy Graham was the preacher. But the day ended with a dance. The President and Vice-president exchanged wives to dance with.

Not only did they dance with each others wives but the paper showed pictures with them having other men's wives in their arms. It reminds one of what the Lord said concerning Israel—each one is neighing after his neighbor's wife like a stallion. And if the leaders of our land are practicing such things what can be expected of their subjects? I was glad that they have enough respect for holy things that they demanded a gospel preacher to start the day with.

Here are some more observations at the Farm Show: I was speaking with a man who was a total stranger to me. He claimed he was a Mennonite too, but his speech showed he did not belong to Christ, for he could take the Lord's name in vain quite easily, and that is always a sign to me that such a one is not what he professes. As I looked at

that vast audience of thousands of people I could see many women who still wore the prayer veiling. I believe if all the Mennonites left the place that at least one-fourth of the audience would have gone, and maybe even many more.

After having read Nick Stoltzfus' book "Worth Dying For", and in the light of what gospel believers used to stand for and what they stand for now, if anything, there is almost no comparison. Those early believers were really separated from the ungodly, and they could win them; but we have the idea if we conform with the ungodly and be more like them that we can do the same. And although we can see no such results we still go on deluding ourselves that this must be the way. John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Feb. 6—I was at church. Now that's nothing so unusual that it needs to be put into print; but it was a special service, and in a special place, for me. And with that special preacher whom all Budget readers are familiar with, either by personal acquaintance or by pen. That's right, J. J. Hershberger.

Hauling hay is a somewhat dangerous occupation, for at this time of the year it is often slippery. Even though it may be nice when you start at this end of the state, by the time you reach the other end it may be snowing, and fast, too. At those times I think of how nice it would be if I was at home, but while I'm out I may as well take a load along. It is somewhat like when sailors are out to sea in a storm, they promise themselves if they ever get home alive they will stay there. But then when they are home they get the traveler's itch again and away they go.

But along with the dangerous conditions, there are many benefits. I meet so many wonderful, Godly people, that are a real inspiration just to do business with. Like Solomon says "as stone sharpens stone, so a man's countenance does to his friend." It does not take me long to decide for myself at least if a man wants what is right for righteousness sake or for prosperity's sake.

Joe Kurtz bought a load, and I left my trailer set there until the next week, and when I came to get it, it happened to be the day of Crist Kauffman's wife's funeral. Joe told me they have church this evening, and invited me to attend, saying that there were many strange preachers there, but he had an idea that J. J. would preach. I had only my work clothes along, but he said he thinks he'd better stay home with his wife, as they just had a new baby and she can't go, so I can have his clothes. That was in the afternoon and I had a few repairs on the truck I wanted to do so I decided I'd just take advantage of the opportunity. And an opportunity it was!

The singing was somewhat like I was used to when Amish. The slow tunes from the Ausbund, the eldest known hymn book, but they were put into high gear. And it usually took about 15 minutes to sing the Loblied in my church, it took them only about eight or so.

Church started at 7:30, and at the first song the preachers retired into the ante-room as is customary; Menonites don't do that any more; but in about 20 minutes they were back, and Elam Kauffman had a very fitting introductory message, from Eph. 2:1, after which Hershberger spoke for a full hour, and he said he'd take his favorite verse in the whole bible to speak on. It's Matthew 1:21 . . . "and you shall call His name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins."

He seemed to be alarmed about the sin in the church. He didn't talk about world conditions, and the evils in the world, speaking in general

terms, as popular preachers do; but he got right down to where we live, and if there were any toes sticking out he sure tramped them good and hard. He mentioned sin by name, calling a spade a spade, etc. And he talked about the things which we are liable to.

Some preachers fly overhead with their message, spraying it over all, hoping it will hit home but he walked among us and came to our very doors, and delivered it personally. And I declare this is the most dangerous, the most unpopular, the most unethical and untactful kind of preaching there is. To name a certain (small) sin and come to your door to declare boldly "if you have any of this in your life you will never see the pearly gates". And he mentioned such common things as (small) lies, or even acting a lie, saying one thing and meaning another to cover up what you did. And he had scripture to prove his point.

No, I did not see anybody nodding in sleep either, although I was sleepy and weary in body, my mind was too alert. I couldn't sleep. I believe if preachers are awake, the congregation is too. Not only was it Jake that preached. One could sense the presence of the Spirit. And if any unsaved were there they sure had no comfort in that state.

One thing that I noticed, and think it very fitting, was the young people sat up front where there was no escape. In most churches they sit clear in the back as far away as they can, and have a "good time" unseen. But not here. The younger they were the farther up they sat, and they behaved, too. They had to, for everybody could see them. Would to God we could have this in our church.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Feb. 13—Since others in this last issue have reported sightings of strange things, such as flying saucers, or cone-shaped ships of a mysterious nature, it is probably fitting at this time to report my closest personal relations with such objects. I have never seen any such thing personally, but spoke to a man that is in the U. S. Air Force, and stationed here at the radar station on top of Red Rock mountain, about 7 miles from us. This man saw something coming in at a very fast rate of speed, and it stopped right above the station, and just stayed there. No, it was not just a hallucination, because the radar device picked it up. It must have been some kind of metal object. At the station they didn't know what to do. According to their measuring devices it was about 25,000 feet up. They do not have aircraft at this base. All they do is watch every aircraft that is in this area, and report it, if it is unidentified. So they sent the word in about this object and they sent interceptor planes out to see what was going on, but just before the planes got there the thing just disappeared. It did not go away, it just vanished, and the radar could not pick it up anymore. He said he knows of planes that got too close to such objects and they just blew up, and could never return to report what it was.

This is not just a small station. They employ about 250 men, and are watching around the clock. I often went past it and watched the big screen going 'round; and they also have a big bubble-like affair covering a smaller screen, air blowing up to keep it from collapsing. I often wondered just what they would do if someone would shoot into that bubble, so I asked the man and he said such a man would probably hang, as an enemy of the country. This is a well-guarded base under tight security.

The history of mankind is the sto-

ry of war and bloodshed, of pillaging, and plunderings. In the supposedly six thousand years since the habitation of man there are only a very few years in which there was no war any place on the face of the earth. And according to prophecy this will continue, until the Prince of Peace returns, and sets up a rule of entire peace over the entire world. Then and only then will there be world peace. But war in these days is so horrible and so devastating that they are led to believe, because of the very nature of it, no one will be fool enough to start total war.

In these days we are taught so much of the love of God, and his mercy, that we seem to think that he is getting more liberal, and will overlook evil somewhat more than he did in other ages. And many cannot reconcile the God of the Old Testament with the God of the New. Elmer Coblenz of Fredericksburg, Ohio seems to be puzzled with the verses in Psalms where the writer asks God to reward men with their just deserts, as is stated in Psa. 28:4-5. But verse 3 speaks of those who speak peace with their neighbors but mischief is in their hearts. What else can we expect a righteous God to do but to deal with every man according to his works. Surely in this age of grace we believe that we should return good for evil, and we are told to let all judgement to God; but just because judgement is not executed immediately, is certainly not saying that it will never come. Men who are continually confronted with the gospel message as in this country, and still do not respond, certainly do not deserve any more mercy at a later day when their time is up.

Last year my near neighbor to the southeast sold his cows, and now on the 26th of this month my other neighbor to the northwest will sell his herd. His cows are among the best in the country, and his herd average the highest in this county. He lives right close to me. In fact, will sell his machinery on my land. About three years ago he had a massive building and remodeling program going on, spending thousands of dollars to enlarge the barn, and double the herd size, and putting in pipeline milkers, and bulk tank; but now it's all over. Why? Well, the grass looked greener in another field. He started selling life insur-

ance, and hired a man to take care of his herd but soon discovered there wasn't much profit in that. He has a good personality, and seems to be a natural salesman, so now he has been promoted to district manager and has seven counties over which he has jurisdiction over other salesmen. The dry weather also played a large part in causing him to make this decision, and if next summer will still be so dry many more will follow suit. John Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

Feb. 20—I was told that it does not matter one iota to the ground hog, when he comes out on February 2nd, whether he sees his shadow or not. It's around this time when he comes out of hibernation and he stays out of it, and does not go back for six more weeks of sleep or forty winks as we do in the morning.

I went to visit the Belleville scribe this past week; he was in his shop fiddling with his bench saw that he got at Omar Peachey's sale. One of the boys was painting a sleigh, and another one painting a bird house.

He is getting to be quite an important man, and no wonder for his first book is just off the press. It's supposed to be a record of genealogies, but it has much more in it than that, and it anyone is interested in just how the people got started in the Big Valley this book should clear up many mysteries.

People marvel at the many different denominations that exist there, and in this book you find a little of what happened. It did not used to be so, but through the course of time, and variations of opinion, and possibly the manifestation of pride, it divided into many different factions. Probably one main reason was that it is one of the most fertile places in central Pennsylvania, and because of this the people became prosperous, and a prosperous man is not about to take instructions from anyone, unless he feels so inclined. I

don't know of anything else that will feed a man's ego like prosperity; and egos if they don't match, will separate. Ezra was also visited that day by the man from the Mifflin County historical society, from Lewistown.

Perhaps you will recall some time ago that Ezra had an account in the Budget of several young farmers who were very successful financially, and I asked him about these, who they were and why, and if he is not like them. He said he is not that successful, and said the reasons were twofold: the first, he is not that good a manager; and the second, that he does not think making one's living and paying expenses should be the main goal in his life. He thinks living for the Lord, and to glorify Him is of far greater importance than merely being very prosperous financially.

I asked him why he doesn't write longer articles for the Budget, and he said sometimes he does but the editor cuts them down to size, and he feels it a waste of time and effort to write long articles, and then not have them appear in print. But this to me is a challenge to write articles of enough importance that the editor will think them worthy of publication.

I also visited with Levi Burkholder this past week, down near Frystown. He is also a hay jockey like myself,

and it's always interesting to me to discuss the business with one of experience. But it seems everytime I visit with him I come home feeling miserable and disturbed for a few days, for we talk about more than hay. You see, he is one of those who left the conference church because he thinks it's on a collision course, and what troubles me is that I am afraid he is telling the truth. He showed me a news story of a liturgical dinner that was held at the Indian Valley Country Club, on Jan. 6. At this dinner the Rev. Francis V. Bielski, S.T.D. perfect of the studies and professor of liturgy at St. Charles Roman Catholic Church, Seminary in Overlook, outlined for the Protestant guests the details and reasons for the widely heralded changes in the liturgy of the Catholic Mass. This ecumenical session was the idea of Father Thomas Doyle, Rector of St. Marie Goretti parish, Hatfield, and his assistant, Father Edward Cullen, following very friendly visits with Rev. John M. Light, UCC Hatfield, and Dr. William R. Seaman of the Emanuel Lutheran Church, Souderton. The session was sparked by a question and answer period, and described as very fruitful, by Catholic prelates. Among those present were four Mennonite preachers, namely John R. Mumaw, president of Eastern Mennonite College, Alvin J. Beachey and Robert Hunsicker of the Zion Mennonite Church of Souderton, and Norman Yutzky of the Souderton Mennonite Church.

There were also UCC, EUB and Lutheran preachers there and the Catholic fathers were doing the teaching and explaining liturgy and the changes in their manner of holding Mass. It used to be all in Latin, but now they changed it into English, and thus there is very little difference between their service, and any other, I understand.

Liturgy is described in the dictionary as the science of worship. What will come out of this friendly gesture remains to be seen, and probably nothing of any significance, but it's another step in this great ecumenical movement, which I personally believe is geared and empowered by the God of this world.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Feb. 27—We are now well on our way towards spring, and none too soon for me. I'm getting old and old people's blood gets kind of thick, and runs slower—thus they get cold.

Our near neighbor's sale was well attended, by people from near and far, and must have been people with bulging pockets, or crazy ideas, or both. I have no official tabulation, but my estimation would be that the cows averaged well over \$500 each, and the highest cow brought \$1925.00. She was a show cow and her hide brought \$1500, for beauty goes only skin deep. Now if there's so much profit in the milk business that they can pay these prices for cows, why didn't my neighbor stay in it? But you know how it goes. Cow buyers kind of get on the band wagon, and these high-powered auctioneers get the bids out of them, shouting gleefully when another bid is put in so people bid to hear them shout and get excited. And who would not get excited if he got ten percent of the sale for the selling?

The price of hay is holding fairly steady, and I personally do not think it will get any lower. I get it all out of the western part of the state, near the Ohio line. The best hay that I can get sells for \$45.00 per ton anywhere west of the Susquehanna river or Selinsgrove. This is very good second-cutting alfalfa delivered to the barn in lots of 8 to 10 tons. Also have a smaller truck taking 5 ton loads. First cutting mixed hay timothy and alfalfa, or clover sells for \$40.00, of good quality. I can get hay for less money too, but it is hay of lesser quality.

It is dangerous to go to war and fight. You might get killed. But according to statistics it's far more dangerous to go on our highways in a simple thing like an automobile. In all of our wars since the battle of Lexington in 1775 only one-third as many people were killed as in highway accidents. In 64 years 576,286 people were killed in wars, but on the highway 1,501,000 were killed. Every week nearly 1,000 Americans lose their lives, plus 35,000 injured. Just about 140 killed every day on the road. Property damage is three billion dollars—twice as much as all the fires in the U. S. Speed and drink are the two major causes. I am very often guilty of the first, but never of the second. In a big heavy car you don't realize how fast you are going. 70 seems about the same as 50 in a

small car. I have had one accident and hope I never need to have another one, and this one I know could have and would have been avoided, IF I would not have been driving too fast for conditions, which in this case was smooth ice. I am also convinced that a major part of the so-called accidents do not just happen. They are caused, and needlessly too. You should not drive when you are sleepy or lazy. It's much better to get there late than never.

In spite of the fact that beverage alcohol causes so many needless deaths, right after you read or hear a warning of the rise in traffic mishaps you see a liquor advertisement, telling you which beer or wine to indulge in, saying Stegmeyer is the one beer to have when you are having more than one. Two prominent women were killed near here when for no known reason on a three-lane highway a car coming the opposite direction came over and hit them head-on. Yes, the driver is supposed to have been drunk. Drink is supposed to be a great thing to help you forget your troubles, but I think the trouble it creates is greater than the ones it helps you to forget. Solomon says "give strong drink to him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts, let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more." But this is not advice for those who are not ready or willing to perish. Wine is still a mocker, and strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

March 6—We pulled into Belleville on a Thursday evening and the Pilgrim church has their prayer services on that evening, and I knew it. Now this Pilgrim church might be better known as the Holdeman group; and I know they do not like to be named after a man, but nevertheless it was a man that lived several decades ago and thought that all churches were not according to New Testament pattern, and he claimed to have had a vision from God to originate a group of believers that are true to the Bible all the way through.

This group now numbers around seven thousand members, and is composed chiefly of ex-Amish in the Belleville area, but by now they also have some from groups among their members.

The service was not a prayer service this particular evening, because they first had a member's meeting, and business transactions, and a baptismal service, and it was time to close by the time this had all taken place. I had never witnessed a baptismal service of this group before and was glad for the opportunity.

I do not know whether this service was different than any other, but I was impressed with the close scrutiny that the baptismal applicant goes through. It was almost similar to a court trial. He was first asked to publicly give his testimony, of his faith in Christ. The applicant was just a boy of about 19 years of age, not accustomed to speaking publicly, and rather bashful, but speak publicly he had to if he wanted to be affiliated with this group. He gave his experience with the Lord and of peace of heart and soul because of this, in as few words as possible. I

felt for him because I was a boy once myself.

He did not speak too loud nor clear so that the whole congregation could hear, so the preacher went over again what he had said, and then questioned and reasoned with the congregation as to the authenticity of said testimony. The applicant was then cross-questioned and examined closely, and those who knew him personally also gave testimony concerning his life as they knew it, and that his experience has been genuine in their minds, and that he is ready for baptism.

A show of hands was then asked for of those in favor of it, and also of those in disfavor. Of the former it was almost unanimous, but two declined, and raised their hands in opposition. But their opposition was due to a misunderstanding, and after this was cleared up they also gave their consent. For a while it looked as though he would not make it that evening. In my own mind he was in the clear, but every man does not understand the same words the same way, and it is their policy not to receive anyone into their fellowship without the unanimity of the whole group, and his testimony must ring true and clear.

In spite of all this cross-questioning, and close examination with a fine-toothed comb, there are times when members get in whose life afterward does not measure up to the doctrine of godliness, and they are given time to reform and repent. If this is not in evidence they are expelled, as was the case in this evening. A man and his wife who refused to attend worship services anymore, and their life and daily practice did not measure up to New Testament practices were excommunicated; but not abandoned to their fate. They are supposed to be won back again if possible. I would suppose this will now depend on the congregation as to how they are treated and love must be manifested in such a way that cannot be spoken against, nor gain said.

I then spent the night with Nelson Glick who is not a member there but attends their prayer services quite regularly. He lives but a stone's throw from the church. He testified that he thinks this group is the nearest to the New Testament in doctrine and practice, claiming they have more than just preaching, and exhortation. They have action, and power.

Harry Wenger is from the state of Kansas and in my opinion he is the leader of about all the major decisions of the Holdeman group that are made in any area. He was present that evening, and afterwards said he is a faithful reader of the Budget. No, he did not tell me to report this to you, and I asked him what I shall write concerning him, but he claimed to be of too little importance to write about, saying that he is what he is by the Grace of God.

And one thing more, even though Nelson did classify them as nearer right than other groups, he still thinks they have some practices that are not entirely scriptural.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

March 13—I did not feel too good when I started for Norfolk, having sore throat and cold, but I promised to be there on Tuesday, and I didn't want to delay it any longer. It was the last load of hay for Norfolk, Va., I suppose, for this season. Down there the ground was dried off and farmers were putting their faith in action, and plowing their fields, and sowing clover seed. I believe it was the first cold I had for the whole season, and it sure stayed a long time. I came from Chesapeake, Va. to Frederick, Md., a distance of about 250 miles, in seven hours. Something you didn't use to do, having Petersburg and Richmond, and Washington, D. C. to go through, but now you can just breeze right past or around them as fast as you can, never a stop light, nor a cross road, nor a steep hill to climb. Men sure can do great things when it comes to making good roads, he has conquered just about everything now but himself, and it seems at that he is losing ground very rapidly.

We were at Dan Martin's place

for church on Sunday near Mifflinburg, Pa.

Dan's moved in from Ohio several years ago, and they are of the Huldeman faith. They have no church as yet but are trying to start one. They just have services in their home. It looks as though it might go over too, for they are now in the process of having a resident preacher. A man by the name of John Penner, just newly arrived from Old Mexico where he was engaged in trying to win those of the Klein Gemeinde over to his way of thinking concerning religious matters. I don't know very much about why he did not stay. I couldn't find out, but I did gather he wanted to bring his daughters home to find better companionship, for they are of the age when they feel young and gay, and sometimes they are not too wise when it comes to choosing comrades, especially if they are scarce.

What I wanted to say is that we were at Dan's to church. They live about 55 miles to the west of us. We know them well, and they are very sociable people, and his wife is a woman of great sagacity, and integrity, and you should hear it when she and I get into a discussion, because she really believes what she believes and I am of the same nature, and it gets quite interesting.

We were to Simon Benders for dinner afterwards. Simon's belong to the Beachy Amish and we knew them ever since we were old enough to know anybody, my wife having lived just neighbor to them. They now live in the Mifflinburg area, and we had an interesting and valuable time together. Rudy Bylers, and Abie Peacheys were there too.

John Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

March 20—Farming is all many of have ever know for a way of life, to provide sustenance for our own, but it seems to be getting harder to do. And many of us might just as well look for another way of providing a livelihood, whatever that may be. Our government says there are just too many farmers — far too many.

feeling too well, having a bad cold and fever, and it was night, so he curled up on the back seat and went to sleep. The one doing the driving decided to stop at a restaurant for a bite to eat, so he just stopped and went in, leaving Billy lying on the seat. While he was inside, Billy woke up and decided he would go to the rest room. The driver did not know this and came out and drove off. Billy Graham came out just in time to see the tail light disappearing 'round the curve. He hailed a truck and tried to catch him but it was useless, the car was soon out of sight. So he went back to the restaurant, and tried to call home but he forgot his unlisted number, and the operator would not give it to him, for they will not tell unlisted numbers. So he tried to get someone to take him into town; he told them he was Billy Graham, but they laughed at him and didn't believe it. One man finally agreed to take him to the city for \$20 paid in advance. So they went, but there was no room for him at the Inn, and there were no vacancies at the motel either, so in desperation he went to the airport and rented a car and drove home that night yet. The other man went on alone, trying to drive very carefully so as not to jolt his "sleeping passenger", but when he arrived at his destination he found the back seat empty and was so amazed that he was speechless, not knowing what had become of his passenger.

The calendar says spring is here, and its snowing. The weatherman is warning that a heavy snow is on the way. This interrupts our plans and gives us a day off from our regular routine. This snow should do a lot of good, though, for the water level is still low in this area and some wells are still not giving forth their normal supply of water. The frost is not out of the ground and the snow melting afterwards will have a soaking effect.

John R. Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

March 27—Glen Sell is at present holding evangelistic meetings at the East District congregation. This church is about six miles from Beaver Run to the westward, and Homer Bomberger is the bishop in this diocese. Lester Miller is the preacher. Perhaps many will know better who Lester is if I tell who his wife is; she is the daughter of the Keener who has the large machinery yard near Lancaster, Pa. just acres and acres of used farm machinery. He used to have sale there every spring where the machinery dealers played football, buying and selling to each other. But this sale has not been in existence for a long time now.

But I wanted to speak of Glen Sell, and not farm machinery. He is the evangelist at the above named church. He used to be the preacher at a church at Gaithersburg, Md., near Washington, D. C., but has now no church that I know of but is continually out in speaking engagements.

He had a successful eye transplantation in the late past. One of his eyes was so poor he could hardly see, so they took it out and got an eye from someone who did not need his any more, for he was leaving this world, and put it in Glen's head, and he uses it.

He is just a young man, barely 30 yet. He is very conservative in his theology; and if there's one theme that he harps on all the time, or as some would say "has gone to seed on," it's walking with Jesus. He uses many different areas of approach, and is quite handy in interpreting Old Testament scriptures to prove the need of walking with Jesus, or to show the curses which came upon those who refused to obey God in olden times.

He's a popular man, for he has such a pleasant disposition, and it's not something put on. It just comes naturally with him.

It would be nice if everyone that so desired could have a small family farm and there raise his family, make his living, serve his God and his generation, retire into the small house beside the big one, then go on to his reward when his times comes. But that for many of us is a thing of the past, and it's partly pathetic too. A life of business is much more difficult and nerve wracking than a life lived in seclusion and privacy. When in business you cannot do as you please, for there are too many others involved.

On a farm if mistakes are made there are only a few who must suffer, and it's all a family affair, but in business it's not so—some may have to suffer who have no interest in you. Business is a rat race. You have to walk the line. You cannot do as you please. It's hard on the nerves, and it takes nerve of steel to stand up under the pressure. Business is man-made, and as such it's very faulty. It is not necessarily wrong though — it's just what you make it, but it's harder to do right when in business than when on the farm.

But farming is also becoming a business now and a far cry from what the small family farm used to be. It's the age in which we live, and because iniquity does and will abound, the love of many will wax cold. Indeed this is now true. Many feel what's the use to try to do right any more since the good man is not rewarded with public applause, and it's much easier to yield to depraved human nature than to swim upstream. Many thus just give up and quit trying.

John Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

April 3—George Brunk used to be a widely-known evangelist throughout Mennoniteism. Although he is still a big man, and popular, yet his ministry is not so far acclaimed as it once was. He's much too big to preach at a little country church like Beaver Run, but because we happen to have as a charter member of the church, Clarence Zeager who is a bosom friend of George we will be privileged to have George as speaker Sunday morning April 11, also afternoon and evening. If you read this before then it might be profitable for you to drive over to our church. It's hard to find, and back in the country on a dirt road, but they built the church where they could get the land. If you come from Milton, east, you will see a sign pointing the direction to go to get there, off route 254.

I am glad I am not the President of the United States, and I suppose my chances of becoming one are absolutely nil, but as of now, his secret service men have 130,000 names of people who are considered dangerous to the life of President Johnson. When I heard this, I was made to think of the Song of Solomon 3:7 which says that 70 men stood around the bed of Solomon. They all held swords, being expert in war: every man had his sword upon his thigh because of fear in the night. Being in public life probably has its glamor and acclaim, but it sure would not afford a man such privacy if you were watched 24 hours a day by secret service men. Oh, I suppose he can be alone sometimes in a certain room but you can be sure there are men standing right outside the door all the time. And to think that even back in Solomon's day they did the same thing. These secret service men are certainly nothing new.

The time was when men did nothing but drive horses for a living, and they were called teamsters, because they took care of teams. But the iron horses replaced those of flesh and blood, and now when you see a big truck going by the chances are the driver belongs to the teamster's union. James R. Hoffa is the head of this union, and by all appearances he is too smart to be caught in any illegal act, although he is guilty of many. Recently he gave a check for \$25,000 to the Negro preacher, Dr. Martin Luther King, to help him in his civil rights fight. Now, I would suppose it would be perfectly legal and right for one man to hand a gift of money to another, of his own hard-earned cash. And perhaps this is what Jimmy Hoffa did, but it was probably money taken off the truck driver's wages as union dues. I have been told that if there is someone who will bear testimony against him in court, that man usually does not live until the court trial.

Recently there was an affair held at a school near Towanda. A certain young man was there and decided he wanted a car to drive, so he goes out and gets into one from which the driver had not removed his key, and drives off. When the owner of the car found his car missing, he reported it to the police. About the same time the boy's father called the police, saying his boy was miss-

ing from school when he came to bring him home. Then a gas station attendant called the same police saying that a young man drove in to the station, got the car filled with gas and drove off at high speed without paying for it. The police radioed to others who were coming toward Towanda, and they soon saw the car coming at a fast rate of speed. They turned around and gave chase, and the boy became aware that he was being followed. He just stepped on the accelerator and was clocked up to 95 miles per hour, but alas for him a curve was out ahead and he failed to make it. A terrible crash, and for him it was all over in this life.

John Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

April 10—The time of the singing of the birds is here. The turtle dove is heard in our land.

Another sure sign of spring is that Nelson was here. And who is Nelson? Oh, he's our adopted grandfather. He comes every spring and graces our home with his presence. We like him. The children jump up and down when told of his appearing, and he gives us a shot in the arm. But it also seems each time he comes he has more gruesome tales to tell, of sin and iniquity abounding on every hand. Not only has he evil reports, but there are also many things to rejoice about, of victories won, of people rededicating their lives to their creator, etc.

But Nelson is a queer old man; his ideas about things are so antiquated he just seems like one of the old prophets coming back to show us just what made things tick back in the olden times. He is an excellent bible teacher, especially in the Old Testament, and he loves to talk of such things. He's so different from anyone else we know, and different in a way that we can appreciate. He can disagree without being disagreeable. He can challenge without being frustrating. He can reprove and rebuke, and we like it. It must be that he knows Jesus Christ.

The congregation at the Buffalo church is planning to build a new church. They never owned the one

they have at present, but is an old building owned by those who don't use it anymore, and has a partition up through the center so that the men and women are separated. Seems it took more than an aisle to keep them apart in those days. Things are different now, and even the women now dress so as to attract the attention of men. They must have lost their modesty and virtue, or something vital along the way. Else they would not need those superficial things to attract attention. And why married women want to attract attention is beyond me.

Were you ever thirsty and someone handed you a glass of water? It's really refreshing isn't it? Would it be any less refreshing if after you had drunk it he would say it was from the outlet of a septic tank? That would be a revolting development! But the time is near when you may do this, for they now have a new kind of tank that when the water comes out it is fit to be run in any stream, and your neighbor down stream will get his water supply from it. And did you know that man has done this always. No new water is ever added to this earth, and none ever diminishes, and yet millions of people living on the earth cannot contaminate it. We dig deep holes and expect our sewage to go away down into the earth, we know not where, and yet we dig into the same earth to get our pure water to drink, so why not take a short cut and drink it before it goes into the earth?

This new tank I speak of has an electric motor on it that runs continuously, and mixes air with the sewage, and then it goes out through sand and gravel, and it is claimed to be 95% pure when it goes out, and that is more pure than our mountain streams of which we drink freely. They used to say that if water runs over 9 stones it is pure again. It is a very expensive piece of equipment too, costs some over a thousand dollars, but we get into places where the sewage is a real problem. You cannot dig a hole for the ground is of such nature that it will absolutely take no more water. And some have just small lots with no place to go with it, so this kind of tank is just what we've wanted, and you can legally run the water right into a stream. It is made by Avco, Inc. John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

April 17—First I wish to correct a mistake in the last issue which stated that George Brunk would be at our church all day Sunday. He was to be there on Saturday evening and Sunday morning and afternoon, and then the Choraleers from the Lancaster Mennonite School were there on Sunday evening. George was there on Saturday evening and Sunday morning as scheduled, but his wife down home informed him by phone that he'd better not stay for Sunday afternoon for it was raining and very foggy. You see he is a flying preacher, and they were afraid he couldn't see to land; so he just preached two sermons on Sunday morning, and left for home. People came for the afternoon service but there wasn't any. Simon Benders and Norman Groffs came on down to our house then to spend the afternoon.

There is much that could be said about his sermons that was right and commendable, but also some that was not so. It was somewhat like reading the book Uncle Tom's Cabin, by Harriet Beecher Stowe. At times it makes you laugh and at other times it makes you weep. There was much laughing going on during his sermons, because he said things humorous and implied and applied things back there to present experiences, etc. He didn't ask me what or how to preach. And why should he, for he has been at it now for years.

He is at present going to a theological seminary at Richmond, Va. He wants to increase his learning, for he claims there is much today to be gained, and one must know the trend of modern day thinking, so he goes to school to learn of what is being thought and tries to get something to counteract it.

He said we are living in a different age than what Paul did. Man is far different now than then. Evidently he thinks man has changed so much that even just plain scripture cannot do the job effectually, for Paul said when he came to the Corinthians he did not want to know anything save Jesus Christ and Him crucified, and he did not come with excellency of speech and of man's wisdom, but with the foolishness of the cross of Christ.

I personally don't know what or how to preach, and it's even hard to know what is right or wrong any more, for what was considered very wrong a few years ago is now very proper and fitting. It seems there is no generally accepted standard of righteousness any more, but every man does that which is right in his own eyes. John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

May 8—Man was created a social being. He despises being alone, completely isolated from everyone at all times. Solitary confinement is described as the most gruesome of all penalties. The church where one attends serves as a great social function.

It is said not to be good for man to be alone, because of his social attributes, so a man and woman live together, and normally they have children, and live together in one place, but this also does not completely satisfy man's social desires. He wants to have something to do with others outside of his family sphere.

There are many who have put aside the church as needless and useless, a place for the weak to be comforted, and children to be taught, but not for real strong men with a backbone, and quite able to stand on his own. But still he has this desire to visit any group together with colleagues, and since he's too grown up to attend church, men have developed a substitute and this has resulted in various lodges, where men gather for what is known as fellowship.

I do not believe that church is only for "sissies" but for the strong who want to become stronger. And last Sunday our Bishop, Paul Landis, brought us a message that was something special, and needs to be reported here. It was on nonconformity, or rather conformity to Jesus Christ.

He said if he would ask everyone present just what worldliness is, he would probably get as many answers as there are people, for each one of us has just a bit different view of what is worldly and what is not. But he brought us a common denominator on the which many, if not all of us, agreed. He claimed it's an attitude of the heart. Some like finery, and look what the latest fads are and act accordingly, to appeal to others and make themselves noticeable. This can be in clothes, or automobiles, or horses, or buggies, or homes or what have you. He claimed none of these things are wrong alone. It's when an evil human heart uses them for purposes to exalt itself that they become wrong. And if this is true, it would be indeed difficult to make a church regulation, to try to keep worldliness outside.

He said if we build social walls, such as using a different language, or different types of machinery, etc., to try to abolish worldliness, then Satan goes above those walls and pours it in from the top, and we can be worldly within these walls. He also emphasized that if we reject what we call worldly in others,

to the point where we become hardened, and critical, then we are also being worldly, for we wish by these means to make ourselves noticeable to others. In fact he made the Christian walk so hard that I despair to even try to walk in it. I know right from the start that I can't do it alone. I must have someone bigger than myself to lead me by the hand.

But I do not attend church only to worship God publicly. That is only one of the reasons. I like to talk with others and discuss the issues that are common among us. Many think it evil to talk of mundane things at church, and I used to be thus minded, but not anymore. We shouldn't have anything that is wrong to talk about. And neither should we let our possessions possess us, and make us slaves to them. But the high point of church service is the sermon, and when this is delivered in a fearful and evasive way it takes much out of the value of the whole. We need men who speak with authority.

J. R. R.

### STILLWATER, PA.

May 15—This next year should be a good year to have chickens, if you like such work. So many have quit because it did not pay, that next year it should be good again. Perhaps one could make out with them if he went out when others were going into it and get in when others are going out. If any of you want to make an investment in the business there is nearby a poultry farm ready equipped with cages, and chickens and land, and everything. The man that owned it went into it right, and let Agway finance it, and fixed everything up to really make money on chickens. Evidently the money was not coming in as expected, or came but did not stay long enough, or something, and the man evidently was discouraged. At any rate he called up Agway and told them to come and tend their chickens, he's leaving. At the last reports the farm and equipment, and chickens and everything was for sale, so that they could get out what they have in it. If someone likes a poultry farm better than \$40,000, it could probably be arranged as they are in the feed business and not in the raising of chickens. This report is just what I heard from others, and is not authorized by those responsible.

We have had weekend meetings at the church again, that which is an annual affair, every third Sunday in May. We had it the second Sunday this year because we wanted it to be a kind of Missionary conference, and in order to get the speakers we wanted we had to make it to fit their schedule. We had Raymond Charles for one and he has three full-time jobs for any man. He is the Bishop of several churches, in one whole district; a school teacher at Lancaster Mennonite school, and he is the President of the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions, at Salunga. I don't know how he gets time to go out on speaking engagements yet besides, and with all these things to take care of I wonder just how he can find the time to worship the Lord privately, for I find myself almost too busy to do that if I'm not careful, and I am nothing by way of church work; just a bench warmer.

He is a well educated man, and a fluent speaker, and according to him the church is doing very well in mission work and in many other ways. He does not think the church has any business in peace marches such as some preachers took part in, nor in the round-the-clock prayer vigil, that was held in Washington, in protest of the way our government is doing things in Viet Nam. He claimed we should not pray on street corners to be seen of men. According to him, many people stand out on the street around our capitol, praying, and I would suppose the reason they are there praying, and not at home where they belong is just to be seen of men.

The other speaker was a returned Missionary from Tansania, Africa. He is around 40 years old, and has been on the Mission field now for 20 years, and is soon to return. According to him, life on the field is far from easy, for while there you meet with the same everyday life we all have to face here at home, but there it's much more difficult for missionaries are supposed to be a kind of "show-case" of working Christianity. They are supposed to be the best of people. He claimed he failed in this for a long time, and was so discouraged that he was about ready to call it all off and come home. But they had a great revival among the missionaries there, then they had more power in their lives, and things went much better.

John Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

June 5—This decade will probably be known as the soaring 60's, for men are now soaring through space.

I saw this last one start off on TV. You see I was digging out for a basement to enlarge the Al-media Bible Church and heard that they were about ready to take off so I went into the house and watched. There really wasn't much to see, just a tall rocket standing there like a big silo, with things along side of it to hold it, and when the final second came there was a big cloud of smoke, and the thing rose off the ground and soon gained tremendous momentum, but you couldn't see it was moving for they had their television cameras right on it as long as possible, until it was just a little white spot, which disappeared. The two men were in it and made a round or two—one got out into space, connected on with a cord, and was outside of the capsule for about 20 minutes.

It would seem strange being up there, well, we call it up but it isn't really up, it's just away, for it makes no difference to the men up there whether they are upside down or how they are turned — they are completely weightless. We call "down" the way gravity pulls, but when there is no gravity there is no up or down.

They say necessity is the mother of inventions — I had a great necessity for an invention to haul manure.

A man living about 40 miles from me called and said he was dumping chicken manure on the ground outside all winter and it's running down into the stream, so it had to be moved. He has ten thousand birds in that house in cages, there was no litter or anything in it, and it was just a thick slop, the most of it. I loaded a lot of it onto the truck that was not too sloppy, but the most of it I could not handle in any way.

Now our deacon is in the cow business in a big way and he remodeled this spring, washes the cow manure from the milking parlor down into a big vat, then draws it out into a tank. So I went and borrowed this tank to see if it would work, and it did work beyond my fondest expectations—the only drawback was it was too hard work to keep this slop pushed over to the end of the hose, and another one was it had to be pulled by farm tractor, and this was too slow, but the main thing was it worked splendidly. This method will draw that 800 gallon tank full of water in a matter of

minutes, just as much as can rush through a 4 inch hose.

So if any of you have to haul water for your cattle when it's dry, the thing to do is to get a tank of heavy material that will stand the vacuum and an old milker pump to draw out the air from the tank, and you have something that will beat any pump for filling a tank.

Chicken manure is very good fertilizer and I can have it for the taking, but I had to have some way to handle it. I was racking my brains for several days trying to find an acceptable solution to handle it without involving more expense than it's worth to me.

John Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

June 11—Weather is rather dry, with a few scattered showers. The local hay crop is poor, because last years drought. We are still hauling hay in from Mercer and Lawrence Counties and there is much rain again. It rained on Ascension day, and that is supposed to be a sign of sufficient rain for the summer. The water table is low too.

I took a day off this week and boarded a Lakes to Sea bus at Berwick and was in Philadelphia three hrs. later. Well, no I did not go just for the pleasure of it, although it was very pleasant. You see my heart seems to want to slow down when it should not. Now MD's say my blood pressure is normal and the heart is strong and there is not a thing wrong. It's the nerves that control the heart. So I went to Bernard Alpers in Phila. and he told me the same thing.

Dr. Alpers is a Jew, and he asked me what I do for recreation, and I had almost forgotten there was such a thing, but said I like to read, and he wondered what kind of reading material I read. I did not then know he was Jewish but told him that Flavious Josephus was one of my favorite authors, and his eye brightened and he was delighted. He asked me what part of the Bible I like best and I told him I'm an "Old Testament fan". He again asked me which book, I told him Jeremiah is my favorite, and he was again delighted saying he reads the Bible every day and Jeremiah is his favorite. He is a neurologist and works just on the nervous system.

I also spoke to an old doctor on the bus, a surgeon from Berwick. He is a Spiritualist by religion and claims he can speak to those who have long been dead. Said he spoke to Socrates, the Greek philosopher, but I could not get him to elaborate and explain why he believe as he does, for he claimed I am too biased and ignorant and senseless that it's just a waste of time. But I did get a lot of health information.

I also spoke to William Rosenbergy, who has a mission in North Phila. He used to be affiliated with the Brethren in Christ, but he and the whole church with him withdrew from that body, because he claims they are on the liberal way theologically. He is quite well known and travels quite a bit and is a radio preacher.

John R. Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

June 19—There is still very little rain, and it's very dry. It has been very cool this past week, so that one had to wear a coat most of the time to be comfortable. Much hay is down but no sunshine, so that what little we do have will now be of less value. It just sprinkles about every day, and keep it from drying out. The hay crop is extremely short here, due to the drought last year, and doubtless many more farmers will be forced out of business. Indeed there are not very many now that I know of that do not have an outside job of some kind, either that or the wife works out to help meet the expenses.

In digging, which is what I am at mostly, I often think of the parable of the unjust steward that was put out of commission, and he reasoned within himself just how he would manage without his job. He said he is not able to dig for a living and he is ashamed to go around begging. But begging is not what it used to be either. The levers on my backhoe are very smooth, and it's very easy to push and pull them, but I find if I do it for a whole day, without getting off and doing something else, my hands get sore.

Now I know a shovel handle is also smooth, but you will get blisters if you use that very hard and long. People around here call a shovel an "idiot stick", thus intimating that anyone who uses one is just not quite all right upstairs.

This is a very fast age. We travel so fast, and we have much power with which to get around and do things. But we, the drivers, are getting weaker all the time, and it is predicted that the human race will eventually get so weak that we cannot do much of anything, and instead of eating cooked foods as we now do that requires chewing, we will just swallow some high-powered pills, which will supply all our energy. I hope I need not live to see that day. I like to work. The older I get the better I like it, and the more honor seems to be connected with it. Well now, I did not say I like hard labor, but I do like the satisfaction one gets of seeing things get done.

The other evening I went out to Stillwater at six o'clock in the evening, and dug about two hundred feet of ditch, 3 feet deep, and four under the road, and laid the water pipe in and covered it back up, and was home by 9:30. It used to take days to do this much work, but in spite of all the efficiency with which we operate we are busier than ever. We can do things so quick, but then we just have so much more to do, and we have to do it to earn our high priced things. This is one tool the devil uses, to keep people from serving the Lord, just being busy in legitimate business. John Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

We are getting a little bit of rain, but it's very little. Corn looks good due to the frequent sprinkles, but hay was less than half a crop, and will be no second cutting unless we get a change soon. July is much cooler than normal, which should make for a good oats crop, although the straw is short.

We are still hauling hay in from the western part of the state, but no feeding hay. We have no orders for that. Farmers don't feel like buying hay now and those that know they have to feed hay feel more like selling out. We sell all the hay we haul for mulching, to a seeding company that gets all the contracts for seeding along the new roads which are being constructed, and it takes thousands of tons every year. The way things looks from here, by the time all the new expressways will be finished the end of the age will be here; and I suppose Solomon would say "all is vanity", which is true.

The North Mountain Bible Conference is located only seven miles from our place, and is again in session for eight weeks; they claim to have America's outstanding gospel speakers, and musicians. It started back in 1948. There was a small church there which had been closed for years, but owned by a lady and her brother. It used to be a Union church, but people lost interest, and did not go so it was closed. Robert and Arden Lancaster were two young preachers at that time, and started to hold meetings there. Once a year they had kind of a reunion back in the woods, and one thing led to another until the community did not want them to have meetings there. So they tore the old church down. But they had the land donated to them by this lady, they built a tabernacle, and soon had thousands of dollars invested to hold meetings

only several days out of a year, so they built cabins for people to stay in and held meetings every day for weeks at a time.

It has now grown to large proportions so that their annual budget is around \$25,000.00 and they can accommodate 150 people — that is feed them and keep them over night. No, it is not free by any means, but they say it's about the least expensive Bible camp you can find. They have a meeting at 10:30 in the morning, and at 7:30 in the evening. A large swimming pool is right beside the auditorium, where they go to cool off in the afternoons; yes, mixed bathing, but they are not supposed to walk to their cabins without a towel around them. I know they use a lot of water for we were supposed to get rid of their sewage, and there is just hardly any place to go with it. We piped it far down in the woods and laid about 700 feet of drain but that does not take care of it.

150 people can sure put a lot of water through in a day. It just runs down in a steady stream, and the ground is not absorbent, so what cannot soak into the ground just comes on top and runs down to the swamp, or evaporates and smells while it's doing so. Especially in the evening when the air is heavy and the westerly breeze blows it carries the smell right into the main auditorium. They pour a gallon of chlorine in a day, which helps some to neutralize the odor.

While working there I got a drink at the fountain and the reference John 4:13 is imbedded in the concrete, and as I am inquisitive by nature I asked the girl that walked by what that scripture was. She didn't know, but we then started a conversation. She is from Alexandria, Va., is 20 years old and was saved at a Youth-for-Christ meeting five years ago. Her parents were opposed to her religion, and made it difficult for her but she remained firm in her faith and convictions. She goes to what she calls a "dead" church where she said the pastor preaches salvation through the blood of Christ, but he has absolutely no power in his messages. Her father was finally convinced that her way of life was better than many of her contemporaries for he also thinks it's better to go to church, etc., than to hang around gang meetings on streets.

She certainly had a glowing testimony and seemed like a nice Christian girl. If I would have been blind-folded I would have thought—How wonderful! I did appreciate her testimony but it was a little confusing to me for she was very scantily dressed, with shorts and a sleeveless blouse. John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

July 17—The U. S. has at last been first with a major accomplishment. They sent an instrument loaded with equipment to our nearest planet, Mars, and last week it approached that planet. Everything seemed to work perfectly and at that exact time the batteries became operative and took pictures of what it saw at close range and sent them back to earth. Now we know more about the planets than man has ever been able to discover before, because we have pictures showing greater detail than it is possible to get with the most powerful telescopes.

They tell us there is an atmosphere around Mars but it is far too thin for man to exist on it. And they are still not certain whether any

form of life exists on it. They really didn't find out much more that has been beneficial to mankind, that I can see, and they probably got a poor return for their investment. But I also do things that are more experiments than anything else and while they in themselves may not be profitable, what I learn may be.

Adlai Stevenson, America's ambassador to the United Nations, died suddenly last week of a heart attack. He was in London at the time. I do not know what his religion was, but he was one of the great men of the earth and there is much ado about his death. No expense is counted too great for such a dignitary. He will be buried in his home state of Illinois, where he served as governor at one time, and he also ran for the presidency of our nation when Eisenhower went in with such a sweeping victory.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

July 25—The end of July has arrived and we here in the Northeast have not received the rains that were promised us by the weather reporters—in the Farm Journal and elsewhere.

There are spots where the moisture is quite sufficient to grow normal crops due to frequent thunder showers, but on the whole the water table is far below normal. It has been said it would take a whole month with rain every day to raise it up to where it belongs.

The cause of our drought here has also been determined, and there is in one chance out of ten that the cause may be removed. High in the stratosphere there are high winds called the "jet streams" which we are told bring us our weather, and these streams are blowing in the wrong direction to allow rain to come this far inland. Out in the Atlantic Ocean it is reported to rain abundantly, but most of the rains never reach our shoes.

Here in this area we have not had a northeaster, bringing rain, all summer. What we did get was from thunder showers from the west.

It is only in the northwestern part of Pennsylvania around the lakes that they have sufficient rainfall. I was out there recently looking over the hay situation, and I found there are hundreds of tons there that are

just going to waste because there is no room to put it anymore, and they have all the hay they need all the time. One old man, 79 years old, said in all his years of farming he has only seen one dry year.

But in spite of the wet weather there, farming is fast going out of the picture. There is much land there and more yet in the Jamestown, New York, area that is not being farmed anymore and has not been for years. One man showed me 150 acres of hay that I could have for the small sum of \$250.00.

Owing to the distance and the time involved in making it I declined. Also there are many weeds in much of it, because of it not being under cultivation for so long. In some fields there are small shoots of brush starting to spring up and if not farmed it will soon be grown up into a wilderness again.

The area in the northwest is a very nice area, too, with level ground, and the farms that are under proper cultivation look very beautiful. Perhaps we had better migrate with the weather if we want to raise crops. We read in the Bible that Abram went down into Egypt when the rains did not come in the land of Canaan where he lived, but then he also got into trouble there. It may have been better if he had just endured the drought.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

July 31—Several have written concerning the Negro versus the white man, and some think the white man has the supremacy, and that the Creator has made us different. Personally I do not think any man has supremacy, or is better than the other, but the fact that we were created different, with different likes and dislikes, and different abilities should be no cause for argument. Just because we can take the blood from one race and put it into another, does not prove anything, except that we are basically the same. We still vary widely in temperaments.

George Washington Carver was a negro and all the odds were against him; and yet because he refused to be defeated, he rose to great fame, and could have been a very rich man, but he did not set his heart on riches nor honor. He had the good of his fellowmen, and especially his own race as his goal, and he lived to see that goal achieved to a great degree.

We had a sermon at our church by our bishop, on civil rights. He claims to have worked with the Negro, and knows a lot about it. He said that curse found in Genesis 9:25 does not apply. He said this was not given by God nor do we find that he sanctioned it; it was given by a man that was just coming out of a drunken stupor. I personally do not feel anyone should talk that way about one of God's prophets, but who am I to reprove the Bishop? That can sure get one into a peck of trouble. I also feel that there are so many more important things to preach about, but preachers do not have a habit of asking me what I want to hear. The sermon was one designed to be delivered in all the churches that belong to the Mellinger district.

Then last Sunday Lloyd Eby delivered another sermon, pre-determined by the Bishop board or someone, on television. Now there isn't anything in the bible about television, either good or evil, but many things that can and do apply to it. He used a sane and methodical approach to the subject and it probably did not offend anyone. He remembers the time when the radio was a much-discussed issue, and our members were forbidden to have them, but now it is common practice to have radios.

It was the same when automobiles were replacing the horses, and now

it is no longer considered evil to have either a radio or an auto. And the way he spoke it will be the same with television. He did say that television is not in itself evil, but we are taught by what we see more than what we hear, and we are claimed to remember 80% of what we see and only 20% of what we hear. Television uses both these senses, therefore it is the most effective media used in our day to get our ideas across. He claimed it to be the greatest invention in this century. But he said that 95% of what comes over the television screen is less than good, and only 5% that is good. And it is unbecoming for any christian to waste his time watching and listening to things that are less than good.

Neither did he say it was wrong for anyone to have a television set in their home, he just proclaimed the evils and dangers to which we expose ourselves to if we have one, and he said no man is strong enough to control the set and just view those things that are good. You could hear by his talk that he is not in favor of them coming into our homes but as of now it is not a test of membership and there are several members in our church who have television.

Personally, I don't see how I would have time to watch it. I am much on the road with the hay truck, and for this reason I often don't even get to bed at night, let alone sit before a console god.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Aug. 8—And finally it did rain, not only a small shower but several inches. Things are looking more like normal. The grass is green, and the fields are showing their colors.

The Brethren in Christ have an

old fashioned camp meeting at Roxbury every year, and one of the preachers there, John Rosenbury by name, told his audience the first Saturday of the meetings, that they should come tomorrow and bring their boots and raincoats along because he prayed for rain and it's going to come. And come it did the next day. We were there that day with our whole family, and it just rained and rained, just about all day.

They took a bus that had brought a load there and hauled the people from the auditorium to the dining hall, and back. Although it is not far but the way it came down one really got wet. One small girl was heard to comment that "We didn't ask for this much rain did we?" But in spite of the rain the crowd was still very large, and the speakers enthusiastic.

Personally the dry weather favors me, for then I have much pleasant weather wherein to work, and farmers that would never think of buying hay normally, are after me to deliver them some too. But on the other hand there is a sour note to the hay business this year too. It is very difficult this year to get good hay, if not impossible many places.

I don't know just how it will turn out, but I suppose they will again have to buy that prairie grass shipped in from the west by next spring, and at a price above what I'm asking for hay that far exceeds it in value. I buy some from a dealer at Evans City, Pa. and he said he's been in the business for about 30 years and has never seen a year like this, with hay so scarce around there. And not only am I hauling it out but many others likewise are at it, and it's going by leaps and bounds. This is still very early to make any predictions and the growing conditions from now on will help to determine it to a great extent, but as it looks from here, hay will get to be a pretty scarce, and expensive item by next spring. I may have to stop for lack of hay. No, there is not much use to go up into New York state very far for I spoke to some residents of there in the northeastern part and they said they are experiencing very dry weather there too.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Aug. 21—In a recent article for the Budget I reported upon two sermons delivered at our church, and it seems about all I said was wrong. One thing in my favor was that I just wrote the way I understood them, but my understanding was incorrect. Lloyd Eby spoke to me in person and gave me corrections to make. The way my article read it looked as though he was soft towards T.V. but he wants it understood that he is not, and in his sermon he quoted Oswald J. Smith, the pastor of a great church in Chicago; and he said the atomic bomb is bad, and the hydrogen bomb is frightful, but T.V. at the present rate it's going will be worse than either, and far more destructive. It can demoralize the coming generation and turn the U. S. and Canada into a Sodom and Gomorrah that will be worse than that of Bible times.

And I was correct when I quoted him as saying that only 5% seen on TV is good and 95% less than good, but I did not go far enough; that which is less than good goes on down to vice promoting, sex glamorizing, and demoralizing, and that which is less than good, even though one may think it is not so low down as the above mentioned will still deaden the spiritual impulses, and dull the spiritual appetite, and break down christian sobriety, and seriousness, and in its place produce light-heartedness, and make the person unrealistic.

He also told me that radio was never forbidden in the Lancaster Conference, and that TV is forbidden, and is a test of membership. The fact that some members have TV does not change the fact that they are forbidden to have them—it just goes to show they are disobedient members. Sorry for the mistake.

Bishop Paul Landis was much displeased by what I had recorded about his sermon and wrote a letter. He did not ask me to make corrections as Lloyd did, but I will do so nevertheless. He said the sermons that were delivered were not predetermined by the bishop board, but by the ministers of the Mellingers district. And one paragraph from his letter is self-explanatory, quote—"I am not planning to get you into (a peck of trouble) about this column, but I do have a sincere concern that any reporting that is done is factual and honest. First of all I would say that I did not deliver

a sermon on "civil rights" as you reported. I don't think I even mentioned these words in my message. The title of the message was "The Bible and Race". You are the last person I would have expected to react to a message on the Bible by saying there are more important things to talk about. In this message I delivered no less than 45 verses or groups of verses. I was sincerely typing to discover what the Bible says on the subject . . . I encourage you to continue to write in the Budget but that you do it correctly, and where you do not have the total information that you wait until you get it before reporting, or giving inferences that are incorrect." End of quote.

So you see there are penalties connected to writing in the Budget. Even if you do write what you think is factual it may be far from it, if you do not have notes. And two comments that I have about the above mentioned. I should have said the Ecclesia planned these messages, and not the bishop board. I do not pay that much attention to the difference between the ministers of the Mellingers district, or board of bishops. It's all one to me, being so remote from any of it. To bishop Paul it would make a great deal of difference, because he knows them personally and I do not. To me it's just a group of people in authority of religious affairs. And the other comment; when I hear speak of "race relations" I immediately think of the "civil rights" struggle, and to me they are synonymous, although actually they are not.

And speaking of civil rights and the small war they had in Los Angeles recently, where 32 were killed; Billy Graham said this is but a dress rehearsal of what can be expected to come in the future. He believes, and I do too, that things will really get bad; men's hearts failing them for fear; is it any wonder that every two and a half minutes someone commits suicide in the U. S.?

John Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Aug. 24—It's still wet in this area. I had a load of hay setting out one Sunday night and figured it wouldn't rain very much anyway, but the next morning the tin can showed two inches, and that hay was very wet on top. This was clover hay and that doesn't withstand the water very good like timothy does. And another thing I wonder is if there's anyone that can figure out for me how much water falls when it rains two inches on a load of hay 38 feet long and eight feet wide, so I know how much weight to take off, for I did not have it weighed yet. I tried to figure the best I knew how and the answer was around 3300 lbs. of water.

We read so much in the Budget about how people go fishing and how they come back with so many fish. Either they do not report when they go and catch little or nothing, or else most of it is just a "fish story." We went down to Lewes, Delaware and went out on one of Capt. Parson's day boats. It was a fairly good sized boat 62 feet long, with two 300 horsepower Diesel engines to turn the propellers, and some over 30 people on it. It traveled at 17 miles per hour at top speed, and going that fast on water for a small boat with such a load on it the water flew out the back and up into the air almost as high as the boat. And the front end was up almost out of the water.

We went out when the tide was coming in and it really rocked up and down over the crest of the waves. Now there were many Negroes on this boat. About half and half Negro and White, and most from Baltimore. One old Colored man said he comes up once a week and goes fishing that way. And he also said he never saw the fishing as poor as this. They have some kind of device on the boats that they call a fish finder, and the captain said he knows the fish are down there but they refuse to bite.

There are very few times when they did as poorly as on this particular day that I went out. Ralph Owens and his young son, and Hershey Groff also were along. Ralph said he crossed the ocean 4 times and he never got sick, and he did not think he would this time, but he did. He laid around most of the time we were out but he caught more than all the rest of our party put together.

He would get sick and very pale, and fish till he could go it no longer, then lie down till he felt better, then fish some more, and the fish would go for his bait more than ours although we used the same kind, it was the tactics he used and not the bait. One Negro caught 14 and that was about the most anyone got.

But I figured it was well worth our while to go for I am always impressed with the greatness of the sea, and the helplessness of man while out on it, with the waves always rolling, and the boat rocking up and down and back and forth.

They charge you six dollars each to go out for the day and they supply the bait, which is cut up clams, and if you do not have your own fishing rod it costs a dollar and a half for that. Now, if you could get enough edible fish to take along home it would not be bad financially, but if you don't you just have to figure your trip worth that much, or else write it off as a total loss.

But I am not satisfied, I want to go again. I know a little more about fishing than I did, and if the fish would bite I should make it worth while. Besides I enjoy the ride out to sea so much, I suppose mostly because it's something new for me. I took a pill that was supposed to prevent sea sickness, and felt bad until the effects of it wore off then I felt better.

John Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Sept. 4—We had much rainfall during the month of August, but due to the shortage before it is still below normal for the year so far. And we have also had frost the last few days of August, the hottest month of the year. Not a killing frost but it was very cold for August. The temperature at our house was down to 33. This leaves us only two months of the year that are frost-free, for we also had frost the last few days of May.

They fed all the information they had concerning the weather pattern, and how it has changed the last few years, into an electronic computer at Penn State to see how long this would last; the answer 75 years we would have cold winters and dry short summers.

We were to Belleville several weeks ago to attend the J. Y. Peachey reunion, who was my mother's father. It was poorly attended as usual. Seems there are so many different reunions all summer long. There was also many other activities going on. The Old Order Amish had church that day because Bishop Aaron Esh had been up for the funeral of Dan Yoder. We wanted to attend the Holdeman church there at the old Weiler school house on Sunday but they did not have church. They are organizing a new assembly down in West Virginia, not far from the Mason-Dixon line, and they all went down there and had baptismal services, and baptized quite a few converts to their faith. We just went to another church that has started in the Valley in recent years, and now belongs to the Brethren in Christ conference. There was no such church in the area before and some felt a need for it, to satisfy the denominational tastes of everyone.

Our main reason for going to Belleville and the thing we enjoyed most was the prophecy conference held at the Mennonite school grounds. We were there for three successive evenings. Arthur Glass is a converted Jew, and spoke every night on prophecy, and Jews are unexcelled when

it comes to preaching for they know the old Testament so well. It is drilled into them from their youth. As the Bible says of Timothy, "Because thou hast known the Holy scriptures from thy youth, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation." So Glass knows the scriptures very well, and is pre-millennial in doctrine, and I never saw or heard of a converted Jew that was not so.

The other speaker was J. Otis Yoder from Harrisonburg, Va. He spoke from the Book of Revelation, mostly on the message to the seven churches of Asia. And by the time we got there he was speaking about the church of the Laodiceans which is an evil omen, for that was for the church that thought they had everything they needed; they had wealth, and much activity, and a great mission program, and thought they could not possibly need anything more, but the Lord of the church thought differently, for he called them miserable, wretched, poor, blind, and naked. Otis said the word Laodicea means when the laity rules or gets what they want. This is democracy, and is only one step away from anarchy, for everyone does that which is right in his own eyes, they have no common denominator or standard to go by. He was very pessimistic about the future of this church age, and said most or many of the people in it will miss the rapture and worship the Anti-Christ. It is a church where Christ should be the central figure, but he is completely outside and knocking on the door for admission; not at the door of the church, but of individual hearts.

He believes the time will come when all churches will band together into one big church, and will be the great woman we read about in Revelation; and when many governments of the world will be one world government, dominated by the Anti-Christ who will claim to be the one to end all wars and bring universal peace.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

It would be interesting to sit in a space capsule and whirl around the earth every 96 minutes. The two men that did that traveled over three million miles and did it all in preparation of going to the moon and back. Now this distance is only 240,000 one way, and the round trip would be less than a million miles, but they still figure it will take eight days, for when they get away from the earth's gravitational pull they will travel much slower. And going to the moon will be much more complicated than just going around in circles.

They first of all will have to blast off the rocket with three men on it, and next blast off another rocket with the necessary equipment in it, then while up in space while circling the earth they will have to get these two vehicles coupled together. The one will fit right on the back of the other. They will then stop circling the earth and head for the moon. When approaching it, two men will get into the back capsule, which will again separate, and the two men will land on the moon while the third one will circle the moon and wait until they have gotten the necessary data, and rocks, etc. The gravity of the moon is supposed to keep the one circling until the two on the moon will blast off from there, and again couple the two vehicles together and head back home. All this takes tremendous technicalities, and instantaneous decisions, much too great for the human mind to calculate. They have to carry aboard a computer to do the swift thinking for them, so they will not just keep on going on out in space with no means of getting back, and thus will freeze to death.

Now if these men would cease getting along together out there and threaten to kill each other it would end in chaos. We are on a little space ship called earth, and are circling around the sun once every year, but we cannot get along, and never could

since the tower of Babel ended in colossal failure. It was not that men in those ancient times were doing wrong by building a huge tower, it was the fact that they were trying to work out their own salvation without God.

This space ship seems to be too small for us with all our various opinions and differences, and we are greatly concerned that we get along, and not blow each other in oblivion. The nations are in a great search for peace. They want peace at almost any price.

The religious world is not immune to this great search for peace, with the result being all churches are slowly but surely joining into one big body, where we are supposed to lay our denominational differences down, even at the expense of truth. I predict the time will eventually come when one can neither buy nor sell unless they belong to this great one big body, and this will really put the pressure on everyone, to either join up or starve. It will seem much more sensible and reasonable to join up in the beginning than to wait until we are forced, and it will certainly not look wrong to do this. We are so good at compromising already that it will seem but a small step to join, and certainly make it much easier for everyone, at least for a time.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Sept. 18—The weather is now very wet. The remains of Hurricane Betsy passed over us last Sunday. There was no wind but much rainy weather, and after the rain it still remained very humid. I have heard how Betsy

by-passed the Bahama Islands one Sunday and they had a special praise service that no damage was done. But the next day the storm turned and battered the island after all. It is claimed around 200 people died, as a result of the storm in Florida and Louisiana. But then many more than that died on our nation's highways during the Labor Day weekend.

Our highways are getting so congested that traveling becomes a real problem. The new freeway, Route 80, is now well under way and opened in some parts, but it will be a few years until it's opened all the way through Pennsylvania, from Stroudsburg to Sharon. This should take a lot of traffic off the smaller roads. But by that time so many more cars and trucks will be on the road that it will still be hazardous to drive.

Men who claim they are thinking far ahead are really worried about what we will do to take care of all the people in 25 years from now. The birth rate is high and people live longer than they used to. But I doubt that this needs to worry them, the way wars are breaking out in different parts of the world, many will die from that. And the way the Book of Revelation reads, 'people will be wiped out by the millions at some time in the future, by so-called natural disasters and by man-made calamities.'

Billy Graham seemed to have good success in his preaching at Denver, Colo. The seating capacity was 24,000, and there were about 8,000 more seated on the grass out around, and that night there were 1800 who

came forward at the invitation. Although probably many came who don't know why, they still come. He was on television for three nights in succession. Two things that he said I will remember; he was speaking about how the Phillipian jailer was told to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and he would be saved. He made that text very clear, and I thought no sinner could get around the fact of what he meant, but the next day I was loading hay at a certain place where I know the man is not prepared to meet God, thus a sinner. I asked him if he saw Billy Graham, and he said, "Yes, he had a very good sermon for sinners." But it was evident he did not consider himself in that class at all.

Billy was speaking about how our salvation should create some show of emotion if we really believe it, and not just be cold and mechanical. He spoke of those preachers who joined in the civil rights march in Selma, Alabama, said they were wearing their clerical collars, and robes, and walking along singing and slapping their hands, because here was something they believed in; thus intimating that they did not believe in their religion in church, for there they could show no emotion at all. He also told of the woman who came north for a vacation, and decided to attend a Sunday service at a Baptist church. She thought the minister preached just like her own southern Baptist would do, and she was elated, and said "Amen brother". Every eye was turned her way, for this was something very unusual, and the minister was so shocked he almost got sidetracked from his message. Everything quieted down then for a season until she said "Preach it brother"; at this the usher came forward and tapped her on the shoulder and said "you can't do that in here". "But", she ejaculated, "I've got religion", to which he replied, "You may have, but you didn't get it here."

Right after the Denver meetings, Billy Graham was hospitalized with prostate gland trouble, and at last reports he is not doing so well, and all his meetings are cancelled. But he has a number of associate evangelists who go around the country preaching just the same. Some almost equal him in ability, but none are able to quite get it across like he does. John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Sept. 25—The news reports sound like echoes from the first century, when the book of Revelation was written. Take for instance 18 inches of snow and near zero weather, in the west, in the middle of September. Something that was never seen before. And such weather is recorded in Divine writ, only not unduly cold weather but extremely hot, when men shall be scorched with the great heat. And the great fires that swept thru a section of California where it has not rained for six months, and now declared disaster areas, where millions worth of things went up in smoke. But then just as long as those things are only news reports, they do not affect us too much, unless someone that we love has been involved.

Many thousands of people read J. J. Hershberger's articles in the Budget, but now he also has been removed from amongst us. When we read that so many hundreds have died in auto accidents, we are amazed, but when it comes to one that we have known so well, we wonder why God would allow someone deemed so necessary to be taken so violently away from us. Some people are just worth more to us than others, because many are just statistics, while others are real life people, but God is no respecter of persons, and will take one as well as another, although not until he sees our life work to be finished. A man living in the will of God cannot be dispensed with until God allows it to come to pass. And so Jake will not appear nor write to us any more during this dispensation. He is history, and will be forgotten, and to another generation he will merely be a figure. No wonder the Bible places so little emphasis on man and says, what is man that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that thou visitest him? Our life on earth is likened to a vapor or smoke or haze, which will vanish as soon as the wind disintegrates it.

Our preacher has probably been affected by his sudden passing for he spoke as one coming out from under the juniper tree. His sermon was entitled "Move Over Elijah".

He used his imagination a lot, but the message was one with authority. you either had to accept the warning, or reject it to your own hurt. He imagined Elijah sitting in the cave wishing to die, when Mr. Average American came to him telling him all his troubles, and upon this came Brother Warm Church member (probably a cousin to the one

who writes lukewarm prayers in the Gospel Herald) and tells him his, while Brother Missionary Pastor stands and listens to them all and says they don't know what trouble is until they listen to his story. All three of these requested that Elijah move over and let them sit with him under the juniper tree. The preacher said that for all the mighty feats that Elijah did, he is best remembered by the time he was down on the dumps, and feeling sorry for himself. And the remedy was "get up and get to work, there is much to be done yet before you die. Get busy"! John Renno

### STILLWATER, PA.

Oct. 2—We enjoyed the Sept. 23 issue of the Budget especially, because of the many words of deep thought that were expressed due to the passing on of Jake Hershberger. We were reminded of the words of the late Lewis Beachey of Oakland, Md. when Big Crist Fisher and his two sons were so violently killed in a truck-buggy accident on the Lincoln Highway near Lancaster, Pa. They were well-known by him and many other Amish likewise. He stood up to preach sometime later in Big Valley, and commenting on their death, he said when he heard that they had gone on over, he was glad. And so we can and should be glad in that sense that a well-beloved brother has gone on away from all the suffering, the sin, and heartache, with which he was very familiar, to a place that is far better. Let the joy of the Lord be our strength;

I, along with my three oldest sons, was at the World's Fair in New York City. Now I am aware that this will cause some raised eyebrows among many who are well-meaning and their conscience would forbid them to go; but I do not wish to argue whether it is right or wrong to go. If anyone wishes to challenge me on this by private letter, you are welcome. I only wish to relate that which I have seen at that place.

The first item of interest was the Mormon Temple. This was a very tall building with a statue on top. I did not know what it was at the first. I only saw a message with a religious appeal so we went in, and after being in I thought it improper to just walk out for they were very cordial. A young boy spoke to us. He was not much more than sixteen. He showed us the pictures, and explained to us of the first parents, how they by transgression, fell, and with them all men likewise, then God sent the prophets, and finally his Son to redeem fallen man. The Apostles then took up his work being led of the Spirit, and they were all killed save one.

I agreed with him up to this point, then he went on to explain that during the dark ages God took the church leadership away from the earth, and it was not returned thither until Joseph Smith came on the earth and he was a man seeking for the truth, and it was revealed to him by the Lord, and the church again reinstituted upon the earth. He also wrote a book, and they hold this to be just as Divinely inspired as the Bible is. I was much impressed with their sincerity, and the way those teenagers took an interest and the knowledge of the word they possessed.

We visited the Orthodox and Protestant center, where many of the larger denominations had displays, those who belonged to the NCC. They wanted people to take Bible study courses, and learn about their religion as well.

The Billy Graham Pavilion was very well attended, but not as inspiration as I hoped it would be. The place I enjoyed most was the Wycliff Bible Translators building, where middle-aged ladies spoke to us of the work they are doing. They send people out to tribes that have never heard of the Bible and have no written language. They communicate with the savages, and learn their languages, and put them in writing, and teach them to read the Word in their own tongue. There are only two thousand tongues to go yet, that have no Bible, and these people will all be damned unless they believe on the Lord Jesus of whom they have never heard. Even while you read this approximately 500 went out into eternity.

The three main auto manufacturers, Ford, Chrysler, and General Motors, all had large displays, costing them thousands of dollars, and it was all for free, to those at the fair. They all seemed interested in starting at the very beginning of creation, how man developed himself, and how thru self efforts he gained knowledge. They never gave any credit to God, neither did they deny him, he was just completely ignored. They took you for a ride which they said was in the past, and you went down into darkness, where they showed pictures and images how they imagined it was far back there, and brought you up thru the present far into the imaginable future, where they think cars will be electronically controlled on the highways, travelling at high speeds, and thus have no accidents anymore, and man will travel or live in space. And showed how man is exploring the depths of the sea, and there is enough food there that will sustain life on the earth for twice the population that now exists upon earth.

In the General Electric show they took you in a great round circle, with seats just like an auction barn. This thing must have been at least a hundred feet in diameter, and partitioned off in four sections, then down in the middle or hub of this big wheel affair, was what they wished to show. How it was in 1900, and 1920, and 1960, each generation thought they had arrived. While one part of this wheel was viewing one part another section was loaded up, and so it went round and round, then you got off and walked down through the middle and down a winding ramp that took you downward, and they showed how that sunlight can be made to produce heat and energy. Perhaps the time will come when we even won't need electricity. We did not get to see it nearly all, for one day is too short; but we did get a glimpse of man's attempt of happiness without the need of God. Vanity Fair! John Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Oct. 9—The weather, first of all, is wet. The alfalfa, and grass laid almost in a dormant stage for so long, due to unusually dry conditions, that the fertilizer and plant building nutrients did not avail too much because of conditions; but now things are different. It all seems to come to help at once, and the stalks can't take all this, so they are weak. The rains keep coming, and the grass just lays flat, so how shall one get to cutting it? The second growth timothy is so thick that the mowing machine can hardly handle it.

I find that as I get older and with all the machines equipped with comfortable seats, I get very little exercise. The other day, I was working just a mile from home, and decided to walk home. The neighbor very kindly offered to take me home and thought it rather queer for me to let the truck set and walk. But I did walk, and the calves of my legs got so sore in just one mile that they ached. But I walked back after dinner and the next morning I was really sore. I've decided this is enough of that. If that's all I can stand walking anymore I'd better work up some more experience, so the next Sunday I walked five miles.

Walking is very hard to do because of social pressure. People look at you and wonder if you have trouble, and the people who pass on the road, that you know, are willing to offer you help if you are broken down, and not only that, but those of your own household hold the sneaking suspicion that you are getting old and queer, by walking on a Sunday afternoon, instead of the usual nap.

In spite of all the difficulties encountered, I enjoyed it immensely. If you walk around the neighborhood, people are friendly if you go slow enough, and will talk, so it took me a little too long to get around. The boy came looking for me, for it was getting dark, but I walked in the driveway just the same time he got back from an unfruitful search for me.

I also discovered that is one of the best ways to get away from it all. You are all alone out in the great universe, and the beautiful fall Sunday afternoons really make it quite a rewarding experience, and give you time to think.

The Bible says we should think on things that are above, and if you know God, it's hard to have your thoughts anywhere else but above when you walk all alone on a beautiful fall day.

Recently the Belleville scribe, Ezra Kanagy, was ordained to the ministry. Now that is nothing unusual, for a person to be ordained, except it is new for the one concerned. And knowing Ezra, I am well pleased for him, and believe he will be capable of fulfilling this office in the way that will be according to the doctrine of godliness.

This thing of getting men out of college to serve alone in one place every Sunday and depending on the congregation for financial support does not tend to make the best preachers, nor leaders. This tends to make a Laodicean church, where the laity will have their way. What is one man to do if the whole congregation does not feel about a matter the way he does, and he is more than likely to bow to their whims, even if it is against his God-given conviction, and against his better knowledge. Besides, if one has to depend on his congregation for financial support, and he does not bow to their wishes, the support can easily be diminished, so he has to be careful where the chips fall, and upon whose toes he tramps, for the most wealthy men are often the most influential. If a preacher supports himself he can be much more free—if he will be. John Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Oct. 24—Seems our church is the center of attraction for many this past while. We have around 40 members now, and three times that many attending Sunday school, with the children and all, and 150 people is about all our building can comfortably accommodate. We were blessed with many visitors, too. There were 45 there the last time. Our assembly is made up with many from various congregations in the east, and the fall is a good time to visit, and a visit to your friend's church is often rewarding.

I was in Philadelphia recently and had fish for dinner, "porkies". They were very delicious and prepared in a way that I never had eaten before. Fresh fish are something that are above what we think our budget will allow, so we must be content with frozen fish, which we can get for about 15c a pound.

I was down in South Philadelphia at the Piers, and saw there an old dilapidated bus and a Colored man dishing out food to customers. The place will never make a mark for its sanitation, and probably many of the more finicky eaters would shrink at the thought of eating there, for it sure wasn't much for looks.

It was on a Friday, and most eat-

ing places have fish for a special on this day because there are so many Catholics, and they claim Friday as a fast day. They will abstain from eating meat on that day, as a way of crucifying the flesh, and they say fish is not meat. (Personally, if it isn't meat I wonder what it is.)

I am very fond of fish, and especially "porkies". These are whole fish, except they had their heads off and the scales, but the fins were only clipped off. I don't know how they were prepared, because they were not fried. They must have been cooked for they were very soft and tender. No, the Negro did not use the most sanitary methods of giving them to you either. He just reached into the kettle with his hand and put them on your plate.

John Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Oct. 31—When I hear and read of all the riots, and lawlessness that takes place across the country, I am appalled at how far we have gone down the road to total destruction. Our laws are made and voted upon by men to whom is given the authority of such procedures, but then someone decides this law is unjust, because it does not happen to allow him the freedom or licentiousness he desires, so he calls upon those who look to him for guidance, and a march is started. I don't believe in marches, of any kind or for any reason, and am especially opposed to those who defy authority.

Now I know that the new civil rights law which was made will never work, as it is expected to, because the human heart cannot be controlled by legislation, but two wrongs will not make one right. If justice were meted out to those who are guilty of crime, much that we hear of today would never have occurred. But in this country, as in many others, they are trying to do away with capital punishment, and let those who commit murder, be incarcerated for a while then paroled, and given another chance. They seem to be unmindful of those who are victims of his evil deeds.

There are also many who profess to believe the Bible from cover to cover, that cannot say the things that took place in the Old Testament were right. For instance, recently I asked a prominent preacher what he would have done if he were in the prophet Samuel's place when the Amalekite king Agag was presented to him. Saul was supposed to have slain Agag but shewed him mercy, and brought him along back with the loot.

This preacher just laughed and said he is glad he did not live back there. But when the issue was pressed, as to whether Samuel did what was right by cutting Old King Agag to pieces before the Lord in Gilgal, he did not want to say he did wrong, but he said he does not think this was the Lord's best way to deal with the situation. In my mind it will only be a matter of time until we question the fact that God who is so merciful, will actually condemn a man to an eternal place of fire and brimstone. If we start believing only what we think suits us, where will we stop?

The war in Viet Nam is raising many questions too, and some march to our state capitol in protest. Then there are the public demonstrations of burning of draft cards. These all are forms of violence, that should not be condoned, and would not have been condoned back in the days when our country was young, and the men in it still strong.

Again there were several preachers coming to our church who berated the policy our government is taking in Viet Nam. Again, I asked them what their personal opinion was as to what course we should take. Should we just pull out and let the Communists take over, as is their desire, or should we not? And they did not know. They did not like the idea of killing people over there, but they also know that if Communism is just left to run its free course many more will die. So we just did not know what to suggest, and my opinion is that if we do not have a better plan, we should not condemn the present one. I also wish war were not necessary, but that always has been man's way of settling a difficulty, and it always will be until the Prince of Peace comes and puts down all war.

John Renno

**STILLWATER, PA.**

Nov. 27—There is rain and more rain, and the ground is soaked on top, and much water running away, while down about three feet it is still on the dry side.

Co-operatives were formed with the idea of helping the average man, and with an interest in the individual. They started in a small way, but it seems unfortunate that things either have to grow and get bigger and bigger, or diminish and get smaller, and soon be extinct. But such is the way of things on earth, even in nature things grow from a small seed, and at first are tender and small, but they grow and with the years small acorns grow into high and mighty oak trees, but with time they will have outgrown their usefulness, and will be cut down or stand, and be a witness of brighter days in the past.

Co-operatives were organized with a group of interested men who banded together, and bought and sold their needs and commodities in volume, and so could do it more economically and efficiently, and what was left of profits, were sent back at the end of the year in dividends to each individual. It still operates that way in part, but now those that were formed to save money for the farmers are often just the opposite. Take for instance, the Dairymen's League is a co-operative in the buying of milk from farmers, and selling it to consumers. Now here in Berwick there was a small dairy and they operated very efficiently, and bought only as much milk as they needed, therefore had no surplus. They put their farmers on a strict quota, and they could only ship so much and no more, but for that which they did sell they received \$6 or more per cwt. The farmers that were fortunate enough to sell their

milk there fared very well. But along comes the Dairymen's League, and negotiates to buy this small individual dairy, and the deal was accepted. The small dairy was bought and swallowed up by the large and powerful one. The farmers that used to receive \$6 per cwt, now must settle for \$4 per cwt. for a Co-operative has bought it and taken possession. Of course they will pay back dividends at the end of the year, but what is that compared with \$6 per cwt.?

Such is the way of the Co-operatives that were started in a small way many years ago for the express purpose of saving the small man and helping him along in business, to save him from big companies that would swallow him up. They are Co-ops you see, for they do not operate on a profit basis. Whatever profit they show on their books is returned back to the individual, and therefore, because they show no profit as a corporation they cannot be taxed with income tax and can save thousands that way. The men who form it and manage it are well paid and draw large salaries, but as a company they show no profits.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Dec. 5 — Christmas is just about here again, and with it the usual round of bustle and activity. Time was when I could hardly wait until Christmas, and now things have changed for me so that I can hardly wait until it's over and we can get back to normal living.

I personally do not get excited about it and the buying of gifts for others is taboo with me, but I constantly hear others commenting, and see it constantly advertised. In Washingtonville they have little rubber images of Santa hung on the decorations that are strung across the street. It's the first time I saw him hung up by the head. I would like it better if they had a rope around his neck.

I did get involved in it somewhat for the last two years for someone wanted me to haul Christmas trees up to Worcester, Mass., which I did. You see the special-built trailer we have to haul the maximum amount of hay can also hold a lot of trees. Yes, he paid me to haul his trees. I didn't know whether I should or not, since I myself don't believe in having a Christmas tree in the house, and he even offered me one free, which I declined to take. Now, there is nothing morally wrong with hauling trees on a truck, but when we think it to be wrong for us to celebrate Christmas in this way, and yet help to make it possible for others to do it, because of the revenue we get, that is where the wrong may come in. I will let you be the judge.

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association is getting bigger and bigger. Holding meetings all over the world, with associate evangelists, such as Leighton Ford, and Grady Wilson, and Roy Gustafsen, and others. The last mass meeting they had with Billy as the principal speaker was in the Astro-dome down in Texas, which is called the eighth wonder of the world; being an entire football field covered with a glass dome, and fully air conditioned, and having every comfort available for the comfort of mankind. They had meetings in there, and as usual many thousands coming forward at the invitation to receive Christ as Saviour.

What makes them come I don't know, if it isn't the Spirit of God, unless it's just plain curiosity for when we have meetings on a much smaller scale, we have a hard time getting anyone to respond, and yet we claim to have the same message Billy does. What is it that makes the difference? I cannot tell. President and Mrs. Johnson were at the meeting there, too, and it's the first time in the history of the Association that a president in office attended, but I don't think he went forward.

In commenting about our meetings here with Richard Buckwalter in a recent issue; I did not know that he is so well known in the Amish country, but evidently he is, as I got some mail response. Also received a card from Tennessee, but it was written in Pennsylvania Dutch, a language in which I am well "at home", for we speak it here all the time; but I could hardly get what this individual was trying to say, other than that he was reprimanding me for not being Amish myself. You see the use of language varies so much from one community to another, and I don't know what all the words mean, and also the penmanship was not the best, so if this man wants me to fully understand he must write again.

I did receive one that I fully understood and appreciated. He said he was a poor writer, but likes to read. And he claims the reason that his church grows so fast and can hold what she has is because of the fact that they practice avoiding, in daily communications, anyone who leaves them. And the last paragraph says: "One more thing, I believe every church that softens on dress, radio, TV, and many other things just to keep its members, is on the road to being a church that God is not pleased with. We can not live like the rich man and go to heaven with Lazarus."

Now I know that the Bible teaches that the church should practice avoiding anyone who is a brother and yet lives in gross sin, in the daily communications, such as eating and fellowship, etc., but where I am a member we do not practice this, because it is too inconvenient, and hardly fits in with our modern living. Also this practice has been grossly misused to gratify the lusts for power of those in authority, so that because of this many have discontinued it completely, but whether it is used right or wrong, it is still in the Bible and is to be obeyed if we would enjoy the blessings of God.

John Renno

## STILLWATER, PA.

Dec. 12—George Post is our store man. He has been in the business for many years; and at times likes to sit and reminisce, comparing how things are with how they used to be in the field of selling household commodities. He used to be in business in partnership with Tom Lutz in Cambra, only a mile from here, but before we came here he moved his place of business, dissolved his partnership and started a business in

Fairmount Springs. He used to have many parts for horse-drawn plows, which he tried to almost give away but no one around here uses horses extensively. In fact, if you have a horse, it's more of a prestige thermometer than anything else, and horses bring high prices.

George came all the way from the horse age to the space age and he still is doing a good business with his store, even though it is just a country store back in the sticks.

The main thing I suppose that keeps him in business is because he was not afraid to stick his neck out, and he himself says that a turtle never gets any place until he sticks his neck out. He gets on the phone every week and calls to the housewives, and asks them what they need. It has become very routine. I suppose many would be very disappointed if George did not call.

No, he does not haul things around and displays them in a big walk-in truck as many used to do, but he saves all that expense. He makes a personal call, and just asks what they need, so they have the list ready and he delivers. This is much better than going to the super market where a woman sees so many things she thinks she needs, and they are so attractively displayed, market to look very inexpensive to make many buy what they really don't need, and perhaps don't want. Having him ask what they need and just delivering that, saves his customer money and also time.

But his store was robbed last week. He said he has had a safe there for a long time, but never kept any money in it. But he likes to have a lot of cash on hand for people who want checks cashed, and so this

particular night he had much cash on hand—too much, he felt, to take it all over to the house, so he put it in the safe. That night someone entered the back of the store, thru a window, and with tools they found there they turned the safe upside down and hammered and hammered until they had it opened, and they took over six hundred dollars with them. Now do you suppose these men will have a happy Christmas? They evidently thought if they could just lay their hands on some more money they would be happy; but I imagine their happiness has turned into fear.

John Reno