

DANVILLE, PA.

The so-called "peace" churches oppose the use of force in any area. Since they have multiplied, the government recognizes this and has worked out an agreeable solution as to what to do with those who are not willing to participate in war itself.

These men do alternate service, which is an aid to prolonging life rather than ending it. Working in hospitals is a major part of this service, better known as 1-W. This has worked out as far as the government is concerned but many are the fatalities in wrecked lives of these boys who are away from home and the restraint of those who are over them. With much free time on their hands and no restraint they are so apt to try their wings and instead of making a safe landing they sometimes land in a cesspool of iniquity.

There are men with a vision who have done something about this. It is better known as the Mennonite Messianic Mission. It is composed of a board with the usual procedures but their aim is different. Preventing a catastrophe is much better than a cure, hence the idea is to form a unit with older people as leaders, where the boys can find a home and guidance in substitute of home guidance. A 1-W unit is nothing unusual. There is many of them, but a place where the boys are kept under strict surveillance, and not allowed to mix with the unregenerate, is rather unusual.

The Mission has formed a unit at Wilmington, Del. and at Danville, Pa. Anyone working at these hospitals in 1-W work must come through the Messianic Mission. They have this agreement with the hospitals. The boys who wish to work there are closely examined as to their spiritual vitality and sincerity and are required to adhere strictly to the standards of the church of which they are members.

The units are visited every month by the bishops and the members are interviewed and helped to solve any problems which may arise. Any that are not sincere can at any time be given their walking papers. Fortunately this has never taken place at any unit for the boys know what is required beforehand. The counselors' duty is to take any undesirable circumstances to task before they can do much damage.

These units have group counsel every other week, when unit members have an opportunity to give helpful criticism and suggestions for the smooth running of the unit. Each boy takes his turn in regular daily family worship periods. They also have cottage meetings in private homes.

At the Danville unit there is no lack of something to do when they have time off from work. They have two acres of garden and four acres of lawn to mow, which includes the church lawn, and that at the Numidian school building.

The boys at these units give two years of their time free to the church and their testimonies are always that they feel it was well worth it. The hospitals pay them their regular wages, but they get only a very small portion themselves.

Oliver Keener is presently the leader at Danville, an elderly man who has had experience in working with people. Girls also give of their time and are a real asset at this place, for when a young man faces a sex-crazed world all day, he needs to come home and see decency.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Mar. 7—On Wed. we got some snow during the day. By the next morning we had at least 10 inches of snow. On top of this we had wind which was pretty strong for it blew shut the roads. Thursday morning I got up to go to work but to my surprise the roads were completely blown shut. Levi Masts from Ill. have moved in and seem to be enjoying it here in Pa. He started right in where the other farmer left off. He took over the chickens that the other man had. John Hurst was out in Ill. to get a load of Levi's machinery and arrived here on Friday sometime. They were unloading the things they brought in yesterday. The farm has an orchard on it, and Levi will take care of that.

Just returned from a visit to Eli Burkholders. Our family went over after dinner. They also had other visitors. Eli's brother and family were over to Rush in the morning then there for dinner. Henry Brubaker and some of the children were also there for dinner. (Eli's brother from near Washingtonville, Pa.).

This is a new experience for me to write to a widely read magazine for all who care to read. My father had been writing for some time and then stopped with the exception of once in a while. Many people have wondered why he stopped and there was no real reason so I'll try to resume the writing because of his stopping.

W. Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Driving truck is an interesting occupation but I don't like those long trips, even though the pay check is much larger, the rate per mile is less. Nevertheless there are times when they can't be avoided.

I was unloaded in Buffalo, N.Y. one forenoon and the agent had a load going to Owensboro, Ky. I did not want it, because of the distance involved but he wouldn't take no for an answer. I delivered it, then was down there empty. There was a loaded trailer there which I had to take and let mine set. That load was delivered in New York on Monday, the truck was reloaded Tuesday for Syracuse, N.Y., then I came home, but left for Kentucky Thursday.

I had a light load of spun fibreglass insulation. The man who was getting it and I did a lot of talking while unloading the 500 bags. He was a one-time alcoholic and was drunk about every night. He spent all his earnings on drink and his wife got a job to keep the house going.

One night he awoke and heard his wife sobbing to herself. He began to consider his wasted life and then and there determined he would never taste another drop of liquor, and he didn't. Now he has a good business and obviously isn't afraid to work with his hands.

Having plenty of money, they decided to build a cabin out from town where they could spend week ends, but there are many lakes there so they decided to build a house boat. They have 20 miles of shore line and can spend their weekends in different locations.

They are not religious to the extent that they have fellowship and since he does not drink this deprives him of many friends. Many would

spend their week ends with them, but it seems absurd to go out on the lake without beer and he wants none of it. He says he doesn't watch TV either as it's a waste of time and makes robots out of ordinary people.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Apr. 10—I just returned from a wedding at Allensville Mennonite Church. Sylvan Yoder and Susie Peachey were married, with Harry Wenger of Hesston, Kans. bringing the message and Eli Renno performing the ceremony. The church is a big building and it was about full.

After the wedding our family visited grandfather Dan Peachey of Big Valley.

Apr. 11—We attended church here at Rush this morning. Walter Newsanger brought the message. We then went to David Lehmanns for dinner.

We have been spending a lot of time spreading plow-down fertilizer. The farm I am working on is a 30-cow dairy farm. The man who owns it the deacon at Rush. I worked here all of last year and will be here this year yet.

We just received a new member in the V. S. unit at Danville. Maurice English of New Jersey started last Monday. He works in the house-keeping department at Gisinger Medical Center.

Wm. L. Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

April 15—Very nice weather to do field work.

Levi Masts went west this week. One of their parents passed away. They arrived home Friday.

Our revivals start here at Rush Sunday evening, April 18, lasting till the 25th. Paul Smith from Ohio will be the evangelist.

We are having quite a dry spell this spring.

Wm. Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

May 2—This is a hairy generation. The old Dutch phrase of exclamation "Hoarich Keit", would well fit at this time. When I was a boy, and had the hair cut in bangs in front and even with the ears around the back and we were known as (swen-slies) meaning tails, it was somewhat humiliating. But the church demanded it so it was done by those who were fully obedient. Now it's very popular to let the hair grow, and suddenly, the ones who used to ridicule those who did it, now do it themselves, because it is popular.

I spoke to Carrol Wenner, a noted banker, also a very religious man who is often called upon to give speeches, at religious affairs. He lamented at the deadness of churches, saying many don't even know what a conversion is. To remedy this and supplement what the churches lack he, along with many others, is sponsoring an eight - day religious crusade, with a noted famous football star as speaker, Glass by name. Their budget for the eight days will be \$22,000.00. It will be held at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds in Sept.

They had a kick-off dinner recently, in which they received \$11,000.00. This dinner had around 700 people in attendance. One woman, a widow, whose finances are very meager, gave a check for \$500.00. Incidentally a picture in the newspaper of this Mr. Glass also revealed that he also caters to popularity with long sideburns.

But to make the meetings really worthwhile, and to get the people to come who will not go to church normally they are planning to have other famous celebrities to give their testimony. A lady who was formerly a Miss America, noted for her beauty, claims to be converted to Jesus Christ, and will be there one night. On four different evenings they plan to have special testimonies by famous people who also claim to now follow the lowly Nazarene. But they are so famous that they now do nothing else but travel all over the world, wherever they are called upon to go, and give their testimony. Personally I did not know that giving one's testimony was so popular but it is gaining, for these people get \$1500.00 for one evening of testimony as to how they have been converted to Jesus Christ, and follow His way of life, in rejection of the world and all its allurements. This

is in addition to the regularly scheduled speaker who makes no charges for preaching each evening. He takes only what he gets in gifts.

Mr. Wenner claims that something has to be done to get the people saved in one way or another. Even if only two souls are saved it would be well worth the time and expense involved; of course he's expecting many more responses than that. If the churches were only doing what is expected of them these means would not be necessary.

John Renno

7-22

DANVILLE, PA.

Hot and dry weather, but crops look fairly good yet. Second cutting alfalfa is not very big. We made 50 bales of good hay from about 6 acres.

I attended the meetings at Numidia Bible School over the Fourth of July.

Also attended the wedding of Jonas Peachey to Karen Sue Schrock of Saturday, July 10. This was at the Allensville Mennonite church. Reception was at the Belleville Mennonite School. They will reside at Sarasota, Fla.

Ralph Shank brought the message in our church and then was at our place for dinner. He is a brother to Bish. Aaron Shenk of Myerstown, Pa.

William L. Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

July 23—This morning we had the milkers on the last of the cows when suddenly we heard a grinding, crunching sound, the barn got dark, and everything electric stopped.

The reason - a red car had come zooming down the middle of the highway forcing a station wagon off the road. The driver of the station wagon lost control and she skidded across the highway striking a telephone pole and an electric pole and clipping it off. She went through our fence, rolled over, and the car came to rest on its wheels, headed the opposite direction. It is a total loss.

The red car, in the meantime, sideswiped another car and continued on another 500 feet before it was able to stop. The driver was a young man about 19. No one was seriously hurt. Two hours later the power was back on and we finished milking.

We are getting the wheat in today. The yield is pretty good. We baled about 20 bales of second cutting hay today from 4 acres. We don't get much but it's good hay.

Wm. Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Sept. 24--We are having weather that suits one day and not the next for field work. Today I was in the field all day long disking for the winter grain that ought to be up. Some of the neighboring grain is already up, which makes us realize later that the neighbor was only too early.

Silo filling is well under way in the vicinity. Some of the corn had blight on it and its time for it to be put in the silo because it will rot if left stand. Had to pity the fellow with the blight and no silo to fill. He will probably lose the crop or at least part of it. Our corn doesn't have blight because it is supposed to be blight resistant. Lot of our stalks are pretty green yet. Too early to fill the silo. We have a 20' by 60' Star, with about 10 feet of the year before, silage left that wasn't cleaned out last year. Cows still eat it.

I will be changing jobs the first of October to a man with about 200 steers. He is a rather big operator, but only in his 30's. Will be a change to go to work and not milk, for this what I am used to doing first thing in the morning.

Attended the wedding of my brother Joe to Darlene Moyer of Souderton, Pa. daughter of Russell Moyer. They will reside near Sunbury, Pa. That is the last of my oldest brothers, and I'm told I'll be next in line.

Wm. Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Oct. 25—We are having some rainy weather far a change. It'll help push up the wheat which we finally got sowed.

Our silo's are full and we are starting to put high moisture corn in the silo. Putting it through a recutter which makes it as fine as if it went through a hammermill. We're having quite a bit of trouble lately but on Saturday we got eight wagon loads in.

The man I work for recently bought a dump truck to haul grain on. We made sides for it, loaded it up with high moisture corn, and when we raised the dump, it snapped the frame behind the spring mounts. It ended up that the load was shovelled off, about 10 ton of shelled corn, close to 315 bushel. Really makes the tractor snort when the corn goes through. Tractor is supposed to have at least 90 horsepower.

Seems so many people ask me why I didn't write to the Budget for so long. Well, I guess if there would be some time between my busy schedule I would. So that is how I got to writing the letter. I was writing a letter to my friend so decided to write to the Budget too.

I got another car this past week which some people call a death trap. I guess it is as dangerous on the highway with a Cadillac as with a Volkswagen. Since I get around quite a bit my other car took plenty of gas I just decided to economize a little. I get me where I want to go and back.

W.L. Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Nov. 4—Every year, the early part of November, the Eastern Mennonite church has a 3-day Preachers' Institute. It is held at Numidia, Pa. at an old high school building which the Mennonite Messianic Mission, a subsidiary of the Eastern Church has purchased and renovated and remodeled. They hold 3 months of Bible School for youth every year in Dec., Jan. and Feb. Also there is a Bible Conference over the July 4th week end.

I was there this week for half a day. Jesse Neuenschwander, a man of Swiss descent, was one of the speakers. He spoke about population control. He said God gives life and only He has the right to take it.

He said that vasectomy and the pill are both nationally recommended as a means of controlling the population but that they are nothing more than a preparation to fulfill the lusts of the flesh. He recommended that we let God control the population as that is his business and not ours.

He also said that if people would live cleanly and sparingly instead of wasting things by living like pigs, there would be no environmental pollution.

John R. Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Nov. 25—The evening before Thanksgiving there was about 4 inches of snow on the ground that had accumulated in about two hours. By morning there was a foot of heavy, wet snow. We had no power to light the electric bulbs and operate the furnace. The power had gone off at 2 a.m. We rigged up the old kerosene stove and had bean soup with moon pies for our Thanksgiving dinner.

As soon as the roads were plowed we were off to town to get some kerosene as our small supply had run out. Then I went over to where I used to work and helped the farmer who was trying to do his chores without the help of his electrically operated equipment. He couldn't even milk until a neighbor came with a generator to operate the milkers.

Many of the main roads were closed for a while but everything is nearly back to normal now.

Wm. L. Renno