

DANVILLE, PA.

April 6--Maurice English finished his two years of Voluntary service at the Geisinger Medical Center at Danville. He is, as his name signifies known by the Dutch as English; being a native of New Jersey coming into contact with the Mennonites there near Vineland, he embraced that form of doctrine. But upon coming into Lancaster County and working among the Amish with their simple way of life it appealed to him as being nearer the ideal way for a stranger and pilgrim to embrace.

I watched him here for he was two years in and out at our church, I saw the smooth shaven face grow whiskers, and the short hair on his head grow longer until you would not have known that he was not of Amish descent, until you spoke Dutch to him then he would smile and shake his head.

He is a very well mannered boy, as English people usually are. He gets many of his doctrinal views from William McGrath, and others of the A-Millennial persuasion. I had the privilege to take him to his adopted home after his term of service had expired here. He chose to go to Punxsutawney, with the group shepherded by Nicholas Stoltzfus.

I was visiting with the group on Saturday afternoon and went to their Worship services on Sunday morning. I thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and the location and manner of life appeals to me. It's really hilly there but not many stones, one did not see stone rows along the edge of the fields as you do when the old timers picked many stones. It's a real quiet place to live, far away from industry, and noise of the busy city.

I was at Rudy Wickeys place overnite, beside a dirt road and never a vehicle did I notice all the time I was there. It is not necessary to move to Brazil or Paraguay to live in quietness and solitude, it can be done right in Pennsylvania. It is sparsely populated, and the needs of the people are few. They do however live very well when it comes to food, like Amish they do like plenty to eat. Godliness with contentment is great gain, and blessed is the man that has the grace to obtain this.

According to the signs and the consensus of the people in the know and with ceiling prices on meat now and others to follow, this will create a shortage, and black markets, and with the dollar being depreciated so rapidly, there being only four cents worth of gold behind it; when once this bubble bursts, which it will, we are likely to experience one of the most serious holocausts ever experienced in this country.

We now have runaway inflation, and soon it will be galloping inflation, after that it's only a matter of time until the great crash. At this time the people who live back in the sticks will hardly notice anything out of the ordinary, but it's those in the cities, and in suburban areas where chaos will reign.

All this is caused by deficit spending, which was started back in 1930, remember when farmers were paid to kill little pigs? and plow their wheat under? All this is not forgotten by Divine Providence and the country that does it will reap just what they sowed.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

April 11--I have been asked many times in the past as to why I do not write to the Budget anymore; I could not answer intelligently, for I did not know the exact cause, except that I got tired of meeting such a tight schedule, a week rolls around pretty fast, and if you write regular you ought to have something to say, and not just fill up a column with so much nothing.

Writing to such a paper has its disadvantages, for you become so well known by your readers. Many times when I meet total strangers and merely mention the name

Renno, they immediately inquire as to whether I used to write to the Budget and they nod their head wisely, as if to say "I know all about you". Also if you meet people at the time you are a scribe, they are so careful lest they tell you something that they do not want in public print, they are not as free to talk.

There are also advantages, it helps one to write his thoughts on paper, it does about as much good as to see a psychiatrist, to relieve what's on your mind, plus it makes many unknown friends, and friends are very valuable, he who is without them is indeed a lonely individual.

I have read a very interesting book recently, and would highly recommend it to anyone who is willing to face facts as they are with an honest heart. All those who are not willing to face themselves realistically will not appreciate it for its very revealing.

The title is ONE WAY STREET by Elmo Stoll, put out by Pathway publishers. Now they did not ask me to make a report, in fact they avoid me because I am in the ban by some Amish. But this very reason is why I appreciate the book, its so revealing.

Is it not pathetic that we are so soon old and so late smart. Had I only known 20 years ago what I now know, I could have avoided many pitfalls; true I could have avoided them then, but I did not know they are pitfalls, and those who told me so I reasoned did not really know.

Elmo Stoll brings out the real and true facts in this book, of course it is with an Amish slant. Mr. Stoll tries to be fair and honest, which is what I appreciate. He does not jump to conclusions, but digs for facts, and then searches why they are facts. I'm sure he spent many hours to get all the facts and many more putting them on paper, but he has been a great help to me, and I am sure to all those who are willing to face true facts realistically.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

April 18--The weather in this area is normal for this time of the year. There has been an abundance of farm sale in the area this spring, and they are still not all over. Many are moving into other areas, and others from outer areas moving in, although many farmers are just quitting; some due to age and lack of good help, and others are folding up financially.

I have never seen so much economic instability since the dollar has only 4c worth of gold back of it, and only 30 some cents in trade value it is handed back and forth by faith, faith in the strength of the nation. But that is also waning. Cattle dealers are very cautious about buying, not wanting any more inventory on hand than necessary. Butchers also are experiencing difficulty, having their freezers full of beef which they paid too much for before the meat boycott.

There is a local organization in this area which goes by the name VOICE, Victims Of Inflated Costs Expenditures, it grew out of the latest meat boycott. They have a public meeting once a week in Sunbury, except this week, which they said is holy week. I was inquisitive so went last week, its mostly women that run it, having very little judgement as to how farm operations are run, but they are sure the farmer can very efficiently operate at a loss, and still keep at it. They think the government will subsidize the loss. (But they don't figure that all the money that the government gives they must take away first). They did speak some sense in that they finally realized that all the fancy packaging and displaying at the stores cost extra money, so they are going to cut the stores out entirely, going directly to the butcher and buying meat by the half, and chicken in large lots, several of them going together.

Also some are raising their own vegetables, or going direct to the farmer and preparing them themselves, and thus beat the cost of high living.

We were at the wedding reception at Belleville for Amos, son of Dan Swarey, and some woman from Kansas. It was just about like a wedding but the party was already married, so they just had a few words. The thing I enjoyed most was the meeting of old friends and acquaintances. An iron sharpeneth iron, so does the countenance of a man his friend. It was held at the old Weiler school house which is now the Holdeman church house. They had a large increase of members this spring and are getting quite cramped for space, especially at occasions like this when many strangers come in. I didn't see my friend Nelson Glick though, he usually is there at special occasions like this.

Sam Glick of Belleville is at the Geisinger at this time having an ailing heart. He gets much mail but not as many visitors as he would like.

John R. Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

April 27--The consensus of the people with which I work is one attitude of fear of waiting for the things which they expect to be coming to pass shortly. One made the prediction that about July of this year the great beautiful financial bubble under which we lived in this generation will burst and collapse around us. You can get free advice from almost anyone, but scripture has the final word. I have had to quit driving truck over a year ago, because my health was such that it would not permit my continuation. I now assume it was caused largely by improper food, for eating out of restaurants continually one does not get a proper balance of the vital elements to maintain the chemical balance of the body and it begins to break down.

Now I am a representative of the Central Petroleum Co. In other words I'm a salesman; also while I'm at it I take orders for Knapp shoes. I have three counties in the which to work, and part of the fourth, Snyder, Union, Montour, and the upper part of Northumberland County. I get to see many people in a weeks time, and find out much news, some good and some otherwise.

Raymond Yoder who is also a native of Belleville, lives nearby, and he also sells the same product, although in different counties, he also runs the delivery truck, and farms when he gets time. We went to the Belleville Auction together, and saw many of former acquaintances; he visiting his three remaining uncles, also in the evening we went to Locust Grove church to hear Martin Weber, a former neighbor of Raymonds when he lived in Chester County.

Mr. Weber is now working in prison reform labors, teaching them from the bible, how to conduct themselves in life according to the Word of God. He was interesting to listen to giving us an insight into prison life, showing us the depths of what men sink to mostly because of improper child training.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

May 5--My old friend Sam Glick a native of Belleville has been in the hospital a long time, and at this writing is still there. I went to see him this evening but he did not speak to me, he may have seen me but is now too weak to do much beside get his breath. He has been under oxygen for a long time too, he has a malfunctioning valve in his heart but he is too weak to operate. I just sat at the foot of his bed and observed him, saying nothing; many things came to mind for I knew him for 35 years, lived close to him when he farmed, sang in the same chorus he did for several years. He was always very active, with lots of gusto, but now all that has changed.

I was reminded while sitting there of the three friends of Job who sat for seven days saying nothing, for they saw that his grief was very great.

Selling is a very interesting occupation, very rewarding, but not always in a monetary way. When in Union County I like to stop in at Iddo Yoders restaurant for dinner. While there I met Marvin Freed who is a preacher from up in Center Co., in Brush Valley. He says he still believes that non-conformity and evangelism modern mission work go together, and he is trying to prove it. I questioned the wisdom of trying to prove something that history has already proven cannot co-habit, but he says regardless of what history proves, the scripture teaches both of them at the same time and he intends to obey; to this I conceded, but the methods is where the fault lies.

If people ask about our hope it is our duty to speak, but the peddler method, is not to be used in scripture. To use that method you have to undersell your competition and when this is done you have a watered down gospel that does nothing but make men miserable, for it is better not to have known, than to know, then turn away from it.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

May 11--Here it is almost the middle of May already, and we have rain almost every day. Sometimes its nice for a day then rain again the next. The ground is not overly wet, and farmers have most of the crops in the ground, that belong there at this time. Its about time to make hay if you want it good, but constant rains make it hard to dry. We have it very good, and much to be thankful for, we would like to get our garden planted but it lays at a wet place, and wasn't dry enough all spring.

Our neighbor who was born and raised on this farm, said he

never saw so much water around here as it is now; that flood last spring made the ground so full of water, we are still having the effects of it.

My friend Sam Glick has made a great turn for the better at this time; I was to see him last night, and he was sitting in a chair, without oxygen his wife was feeding him potato soup. He was rational, & spoke to me and even argued with his daughter-in-law, he said they left the bed pan under him all night, he was so made he could have thrown it at them. Young Sam's wife said she doesn't believe that, he just imagined so, but he like his old self constantly affirmed it was even so as he declared. He spoke of going home to rest up for a while, and possibly will soon leave our area. He was in the hospital for a long time.

Another friend who now lives near Manheim, was stricken with a stroke one night. He is in his early seventies, but was always well and very agile for his age, with black hair on his head, and could have gone for ten years younger. His name is

Samuel Miller, was long a native of the Millwood Mennonite church, but then sent up to Northern Pennsylvania at Leroy to take charge of a mission station, there. He maintains that position for which he was ordained, in the Lancaster Conference and remained in it until a few years ago when the Eastern Church seceded from the conference, he went with Eastern, and fellowshiped with us at the Rush Mennonite church at Danville, quite frequently. But he was getting up in years and not used at the mission station, which is now the West Franklin church, presided over by Bishop Melvin Kauffman.

He sold his nice place there at Leroy and built a house near Manheim, moved there last fall. Now the thing for which he was prepared has taken place. At eleven o'clock at night, after a very busy day, he stirred, and his wife asked him if he was alright, he did not answer, she got up and turned on the light and saw that something had come over him. They then took him to the Lancaster General Hospital, where he is now. His right side is paralysed, he cannot move that side at all, neither can he talk, although he tires to, he can understand when Lizzie, his wife speaks to him, but cannot respond intelligibly. She is not sure that he knows other people, she requests prayers.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

May 18--The small diversified, family type farm is still the best way of life, but it is not adapted to the modern trend that has now possessed most farmers, where religion or tradition does not forbid the use of modern machinery. These have a vicious cycle of getting more machinery to make more money to pay back the machinery, and its telling on the spiritual life of many. They are up early, and work late, don't get sufficient rest, have no time to enjoy life, or worship the Lord, except going through the routine of family devotions, and attending church.

We live on a very small farm of only eight acres, but have all the facilities, house, barn, cows

pigs, chickens, sheep and goats. We have no tractor, or horses. Only several small garden tractors, for we have lots of room to grow many of the things we eat, with some left over to sell.

We do not have any dairy cows any more, we had one, but sold her as she was getting very old, and to replace her would be very costly; so we went and got several poor man's cows, namely goats. These are very interesting creatures, having personality like people do. They are like mules, a little feed goes a long way, yet they are strong and very durable, they are also very smart, and get the best of you if they can.

We stake ours out during the day on my neighbors weed patch, having them in the barn at night, they are very clean. I also know why my forebears used to say I had a goat, when I couldn't eat all my food on the plate for goats are very finicky eaters, & eat only what they like, leaving the rest lay; but they like things that aren't good like weeds, and briars, etc., but their milk is delicious!

No, we do not depend on the farm for a living, we depend on services rendered to others. True we do not have such a large income, but then it does not take so much, and we have more time to live and worship. My friend Sam Glick that was so long at the hospital, has been taken home to recuperate, but died in his sleep the second night he was at home.

I am glad for Sam, having this confidence that he was one who had made his calling and election sure while he was still in good health, and enjoying his life, then when sickness came and the functions of the mind and body failed he was secure, knowing in whom he had believed. He was concerned for the welfare of his family and church, he was ordained to the ministry late in life, but has done much good before that, being an encouragement and spiritual help to many, his ordination just made his office official. Now who will take his place?

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

May 25-- This month has been very wet, only about one day a week in which there is no rain, the ground is very saturated with water, and all we'd need to have another '72 flood would be about ten inches, but I hope it will not come to that. There has been and is much crop land being damaged in the middle west, also much cattle died; this all indicates that there is great catastrophies ahead, in the not too distant future. To worry about what lies ahead is futile, and wrong, we should not concern ourselves about what we will eat or wear, for all those who lack trust in God do this, and we should not be like that. But it is very interesting to observe the proceedings.

Again speaking of wet weather, I saw the new moon forming at the beginning of the month, and it was farther on its back than I've ever remembered seeing it before. The Indian clique was that if you can hang your hunting bow on the moon there's no use going away to hunt for it will be too wet. This has held true this month.

By the time you read this my friend Sam Miller from Manheim will be in his grave. He suffered from a severe stroke about a month ago and was paralysed in his right side. He was not able to talk, but seemed to understand when his wife spoke to him. He tried to speak but was unable to say anything. She said he could not read his mail either; she would show it to him, but he did not seem to have the ability to read, so she read his mail to him. Then on Wednesday night he died. His funeral will be held in two places. On Saturday, May 26 it will be held at his home church, where he preached the sermon on the day we last saw him; that is at Homer Bombergers church. Then the next day for a long time, before he was sent up to the northern part of Pa. at the church at West Franklin, where he was ordained to preach. He was born in North Dakota, was

partly reared there, and knew what hard times were. When they had little to eat, and there were no forests from which they could get wood for fuel. He knew what it was to walk over the prairies looking for dried cow dung to take home and burn for fuel to cook and keep warm.

Sam's brother was to see him at the Hospital, and in a matter of days he too died. He was two years younger than Sam. Sam's never had any living children. They had one that died at birth. They had several foster children which they raised.

This makes two of my friends that died within two weeks of one another. They were both about the same age, but I don't suppose they knew each other. Sam Glick, and Sam Miller; I am thankful for the privilege of having known them, they have added more meaning to my life.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

May 30--Ascension Day. In bygone days it was the day of days, the day one looked forward to with fond anticipation. It was only semi-religious, the day in which you could take time to see how the other half lived. On Sundays it was considered wrong to drive too far and go sight seeing, and you weren't allowed to do your own pleasure, Sunday was the Lord's Day. But Ascension Day was the one day out of the year that many restrictions were off, and it was in the summer time, unlike Christmas and New Years, when it was hard to plan anything definite, because of the weather, but Ascension Day there was often times no rain, and clear skies.

One year we planned a long excursion. David Kanagy, and his brother Henry, Andy Hosteller, Andy Peachey, and several others along with myself took our horses & buggies, two to a buggy; left our homes early in the morning, and headed for Stone Valley, drove clear up to the other end and wound up in the town of Huntingdon, through the streets with the clop-clop of the horses feet and the rumble of the steel buggy rims on the pavement was as much a sight for the residents as it was for us to see where they lived. We came down through Mill Creek, and entered the Valley at the W. end, known as "Tight End" because the mountains came together there with only room for the creek, and the road. I took Tony, my sorrel horse which we purchased from "Pete Elmer" and he was tough, & stood the many miles well. Henry Kanagy had an old retired race horse but he could not go as it was decided Charlie was too old to make such a trip. We came back to a week day singing in the evening, which was different from Sunday evening singings, because then we played Dollar Dollar, and

Simple Family, and such things, which to me now are worse than child's play, but those were the days when I was young and free and gay, having very little that I was responsible for except my good conduct, which at times left a bit to be desired. But that was now almost 30 years ago and responsibilities have come, and some have gone, but I am getting gray headed, and my joints creak, and the tiredness of the day before does not go away like it used to. I am also a user of Shaklee-Vits, which I saw were advertised in the Budget, which I could highly recommend to anyone, and were it not for those I suppose I would mind my age much more than I do; they do not restore youthful power and vitality, but they do help you to grow old a bit more gracefully and with less nostalgia. The vitamin depleted foods which we eat do control our thought life, to a great degree, and what we think we are.

Another bit of reminiscing, was brought to bear recently, enroute to Sam Miller funeral, which was held at the Millwood Meeting house, on a Sunday afternoon. We left early in the morning and arrived at the Amos King home near Churchtown, where a New Order Amish church was being held. It was much as usual, I sat in the living room with the men folks and joined in the singing of the slow tunes from the old Asbund.

It is not near as sensational as the fast tunes that make you want to tap your feet to the rhythm, and flail your arms to the beat, but it was inspirational to me, somehow it does not leave one with such an empty feeling; I know it takes a lot of time to sing a few verses, and to say a lot of words, but when you look at it from God's view point there is lots of time, if time it can be called, where a thousand years are but as yesterday. If a song is non-

sensational it is not popular and does not excite one's feelings, it gives you more time to think.

The message was about the same as I was used to 30 years ago, with a bit more of the vernacular mixed in for easy listening, but it was bearable. I still appreciate the high German language, which fits my culture better, and has more meaning to me personally, not that it has more value. But it takes church out of the ordinary and makes it something special. It was very unusual to sit in an Amish church setting and see the electric light in the ceiling, I did not hear the phone ring, but I suppose that would have been possible. It was a combination of the old, the tried and proven, with the new era, of mechanical genius, but the message was the same, basically, with somewhat more emphasis on making one's calling and election sure rather than just taking a shot in the dark and hoping for a favorable outcome, as pertains to the eternal realm.

We were then present at Sam Miller's funeral, along with 269 others. Richard Danner of Hanover had the sermon, and he did not preach about or to the dead but to the living, warning us of righteousness, and truth, and the judgement to come. He said this is one appointment that no one can be absent from, nor will any be late, and we will receive for the things done in the body whether it be good or bad, and that eternally.

Sam had his funeral arrangements all made out while he was in good health yet, for he expected to die. He looked very natural there in his coffin, just like he did in life, but the spirit had fled, and that leaves Lizzie a widow. Those of you who went through similar experiences should rise to the occasion, and lend her a bit of comfort.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

June 8—We had six days in May in which there was no rain, but if one can go by the New Moon, this month should be different, for it was set on edge. Last month it was lying on its back. We'll see.

Howard Eastland Jr. is at this time in the Sunbury hospital due to serious wounds he received at the hand of some neighbor boys. It appears they were fishing at a nearby pond, and as boys will do they began to tease Howard and pull his beard. He did not take kindly to this and he threw a twelve-year-old down on the ground, whereupon his older brother picked up a stone, and threw it at Howard and hit him in the stomach, so hard that it ruptured his spleen. Howard then almost went into a swoon, saying he knew what was going on but couldn't speak nor help himself. The boys who inflicted the damage then became alarmed, and got him on the buggy (for they are Amish boys) and took him home and went for their father, who hired a neighbor to take him to the Hospital at Sunbury and none too soon, for he had excessive internal bleeding. Had they been a half hour later it is claimed he would have died from loss of blood.

I went to visit him on Tuesday evening. (He was taken to the hospital on Saturday evening). He was so weak he could hardly speak, saying he had no water for several days, and had a tube down his nose to drain his stomach. They operated on him and removed his spleen before that. Last night I was to see him again and he was much better, sitting up in a chair.

Howard has a farm near Port Trevorton, having lived there a number of years. He has never been married, and lives alone. An excellent historian, he is very interesting to visit with if you like history and his memory is very unusual, for if he sees something once he can remember it vividly, in explicit detail.

His father Howard Eastland Sr. lives 80 miles south of Kansas City, Mo. He and his wife both came upon hearing the fate of their son, for he is an only son. I had the privilege of speaking to him at the hospital. He is a large operator, having thousands of acres; but the weather being very adverse this year and last, it will be hard for him to keep going. Last spring he said it was so dry and hard the spring crops dried up, then it rained and was exceedingly wet so that of what did grow he harvested very little. Then last winter was very unusual, with severe ice storms; he had 3500 cows out on the range, and the ice being six inches over the ground, the cattle could not walk very readily, and many had their hind legs split apart when they slipped thus tearing their pelvic bones apart, and they could not get up. He lost 300 head. But this is the fate of only one farmer. When you multiply this by the number of there are, you have quite a carnage, of cattle that will never reach the steak counter. He said there are many horses there too, but the price is too high to be of service, for unbroken young horses sell for \$400.00, going for meat for human consumption. Buyers come from Canada, and other countries.

He is also an Oliver Machinery dealer, but says he can get no new tractors. Those he ordered last spring he still did not receive, for they are being shipped to foreign countries. The U.S. dollar is of such little worth that if we buy goods from abroad they do not want our dollars for they will not buy much, they want goods. We buy much oil from the Arabs but they don't want worthless dollars so we must give them goods. This makes a tremendous shortage of goods in America and if our horses go for meat, and our machinery goes for power, what are we going to do in a few years. Without much doubt there are severetimes ahead for every one. We had better start practising living on much less than we are accustomed to.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

June 16--The weather has taken a change for the beautiful the first two weeks of June. The new moon which stood on end, which some say it pours out and will rain, was not so, for we had nice weather, it's when you can hang you bow on the moon that it too rainy to go hunting; if you make your living that way.

As William McGrath from Costa Rica has envisioned for America, that of burning churches, massacre, and general disorder, will probably be coming to pass shortly. For if in the highest office of the land, stealing and lying is used as a means of doing business, how much more will lesser offices do the same. As religion and economics together, no country, or civilization can long endure without either one. The true religion, which has started to deteriorate, in doctrine about 100 years ago, and economics has soon followed suit.

We have lost our religion, and now our money. Not only is this a national calamity, but it is worldwide.

It has been suggested that we move away from America to a lesser, and more under developed country, like Costa Rica, but it seems to me this would avail very little, for it is still located on planet earth, and that's where the danger is. But while chaos is beginning to come, and as it gets worse it would be safer to live far away from the large cities, out in the sticks, and raise your own food as much as possible. But the ultimate is to look up, for scripture says when these things begin to come to pass then look up, for your redemption draweth nigh, pray that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things and to stand before the Son of Man. There is a remedy for all this, but it is valueless unless applied.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

June 22--On Monday, June 18 was wool pool in Northumberland County; the only day in the entire year that you can sell wool. The sheep and wool growers association has formed and they sell the wool for you, but you must have it at the right place on a certain day. The price is around 50c per lb. according to the quality. If your wool is brittle and pulls apart easily it goes for reject, bringing about 5c less. If you sign up for it you can also get a government subsidy, thus increasing the profits from your sheep. But I don't believe in all those benefits that one is eligible for, they are not benefits really, but enticements to bring you into bondage.

We had only three sheep left to shear this year, we had six earlier but our own dog disappeared and he wasn't around to bark at strange dogs

and one night they came and chased sheep. There is a ditch with constant water running through our field, and the sheep would run into the ditch and get stuck in the mud, and had to stand there while the dogs chewed their faces all up. They had too much wool over the rest of their body that wasn't good eating, so they started eating the face. One did have the wool pulled off the rear, and they ate a lot of meat, that sheep was dead, but the other was still alive, with its face torn to shreds, and the wool all water soaked and dirty.

We bought six more sheep now after their wool was off, and we also got a German Shepherd dog, and tied him in the front of the house, if any intruders come around he raises an awful fuss. One night the dogs were back but I went out and scared them away. Its hard to shoot them at night because you can't see, so I just took a shot in the dark, and they haven't been back since. But

now we have to content with a barking dog at night, for he often sees things to bark about, and you can pretty well hear by his tone if its serious enough to warrant your attention. I take his barking noise as his way of praising his creator, and it doesn't disturb my sleep so much.

On Monday, June 18 was also the funeral of John Zeager, 25, the son of Clarence and Ethel Zeager. She was the daughter of Ammon Kreider who is 81 and very well yet. John was stricken with infantile paralysis when very young, and has been a serious cripple ever since. He could walk unaided with his braces, but his diaphragm was so deteriorated that he had trouble breathing, and conditions got worse as he got older until he expired. He repaired watches when he was well enough.

George R. Brunk was supposed to be at the funeral, as he is a great friend of Clarence Zeager, but the weather was too cloudy so that he could not see to fly his plane so he was not there, but was scheduled to be at the grave side service, near Lancaster, where he is buried.

Also on Monday, June 18 we were at a church service that was different from the usual for us. It is supposed to be one of the great soul winning churches in the area. They have an exceeding large crowd every Sunday morning, one of the largest churches in the area, and just started about 15 years ago; The Turbotville Baptist Church. I suppose their auditorium would hold well over 500 people.

On this particular evening, John Rice, was there, and his colleague Jack Hyles, who has one of the largest churches in Hammond, Indiana. His specialty is building large churches and he tells how its done.

I have known John Rice, who is editor of the Sword of the Lord for many years, he is 77 and looks it too, but in spite of his age he tried to act like a youth, he had a red striped neck tie on, and gleaming white shoes very colorful, which attracts attention. He has many religious jokes to tell and has the crowd stirred up all the time, you have to laugh whether you feel like it or not, the things he says are so funny.

Jack Hyles had the sermon, who is a little over half as old as John and he had many stories to tell, of his drunken father, his saintly mother, his successes and reverses in life, and of his great soul winning efforts. He is a comedian, and can change his voice to sound like others of whom he is speaking, he can sound like he is right on the verge of tears, and has woeful tales to tell, moving the crowd to tears, and the next he has them laughing again, all in the name of the Lord Jesus. But he gets the people out to church, which is something we cannot do, we have nothing to entertain them.

Natural man is at enmity with God, and will have nothing to do with holiness, but if you dress it up and make it pleasing to him then he will come. Just like our goats, they tolerate being milked, and they come in to their stable, but if there would be no feed there they would not come in, they do not have my welfare to their interests, but their own, they let me milk them and come in to me, because of what they get, and not for what they can give. They like that which pleases them and will inconveniences themselves to get it. So if you want to get a lot of people to come to church, you must give them what they want.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

June 29--A very unusual summer thus far, very little sunshine, we have fairly good growing weather, with sufficient moisture.

All that we have to eat, and our physical constitution comes all from the ground, and as our soil gets depleted year after year, our bodies too get more and more weakened and void of vitality. An abundance of sunshine will make up for this lack in a great measure, but when this is missing, then we will suffer.

Our body chemistry is made from what we eat, and if this has too many trace elements missing, it will effect our brain chemistry, which controls our actions, and this explains why we have people who are far out in left field when it comes to living together peaceably.

Corruption is widespread, the Watergate episode is a part of it, the very men who are over us as a nation, are no better than what they eat, and we have for the last 30 years or more been feeding the things we grow with chemical fertilizer, this feeds the plant and we get good crops, for a while but it does not feed the soil, our soil is getting robbed of the vital trace elements and some not so minute, and the breach is getting greater all the time, and we have passed the point of no return, in this present setting.

If we would all start now and go back to the old methods of farming, and start feeding the soil, there just would not be enough of food to eat for everyone, there would be mass starvation; but we are arriving at the same place anyways, by our violent actions we will destroy much of civilization.

Anyone that looks can see famine coming very soon, with all the natural disaster, that is taking place, and the financial crisis resulting from a controlled economy, it just does not pay great enough anymore to raise crops and feed cattle, and produce eggs and milk, and this will create a serious shortage of foodstuff, and the lack of sunshine will further deplete the vitality what does grow. The situation does not look good at all. There is hope though, but not in this present world.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

This is the fourth of July, 1973. It is now 197 years since America had declared her independance from the Queen of England. Those men who formed America wanted to be free, from foreign dominion, and from the high taxes they were required to pay. Think of it, they resented the taxation without representation; and now 197 years later we must work for four months out of every year just to pay our taxes.

History proves that no civilized nation has ever stood for 200 years, and according to that we are due for a big and drastic change. Also no nation that has ever gone off the gold standard has ever survived as long as we have here in America. 5000 years ago an ounce of gold bought 400 lbs. of bread, and today an ounce of gold will buy 500 lbs. of bread.

Gold is gold and has intricate value, it cannot be manipulated, no matter how corrupt men become, as long as they have gold for money, they have a sound economy.

This present economy will last just as long as people with money have faith in our national government, there is nothing back of our dollars, with any intrinsic value, it is faith, and how long will people have faith in a government that is caught red handed in lies and debauchery?

There will be a short time between the fall of one system and the rise of another that you will need some medium of exchange, so while you still have opportunity, and a few paper dollars, change them for silver, dollars or halves or quarters or dimes. The real ones are hard to get any more, and since 1964 they started mixing copper between the

outside layers of silver, and since 69 the silver is real thin, but it will still have more value than paper dollars in a time of crisis.

A man said he bought 25 lbs. of dried beans and brought them home, and his wife said he is very foolish, why those beans will be all worm eaten before we will ever need them. He said if they get wormy before we will need them I'll bow my head and thank God that he has allowed us to enjoy a few more years in peace, and I'll buy more beans to store away. He says we should can and dry the perishable things, because if and when the electricity goes off the freezers will not work. He says we should prepare for a year or more to live without outside help, for he expects things to get really bad.

Now I am sure some will scoff at all this and say that is not scriptural, to lay up treasures on earth for thieves will break through and steal, but those same people prepare food in the summer to eat in the winter, and they will put up feed for their cattle too, and even many have a few worthless dollars saved away for the rainy day, which they will all loose, for they have no intrinsic value. And of what avail will the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation be if the economy fails? None whatsoever, each will be on his own. If thieves and robbers do come to kill steal and plunder, what have you lost by preparing? You have at least done what you could, and trust the Lord to keep you for what you could not foreknow.

The above mentioned man, Frank Gaydosh by name, said it took him ten years to convince his wife of a coming crisis, and its just now beginning to dawn on her that what he says just might be true. And there are far too many who do not read the signs of the times and scoff and all things will continue as they were from

the beginning; saying it can't happen here. But remember the bible says, the wicked will be cast into hell, and all nations that forget God. And what nation on the face of the earth has enjoyed greater liberty and freedom than America? And has she forgotten God? A look at the newspapers and the billboards will tell you that the thing uppermost in the minds of men, is not God, and good, but all that evil and defiling, for they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them up to do not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them up to do that which is not convenient. If you could take sports and illicet sex away from America, what would she have to live for. They worship the holiness of beauty, and not the beauty of Holiness.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

July 12--It was in the spring of 1924 that John B. Renno was ordained to the ministry of the Old Order Amish church, then in July of that same year they had a son born unto them and called his name John. To celebrate the anniversary of this occasion, Kore Peachey along with his family went to all that is involved in the preparation, and making of ice-cream, and drove 80 miles to our house, and spent the evening with us. It is rather humiliating when you realize to how much trouble and expense some of your friends will go, just for your sake; of course in blessing someone else you also are the recipient of a blessing, for it is in giving that we receive.

The sixth annual Bible Conference was held at the Numidia Bible School building, July 4 through 8. The weather was very warm, but in spite of all the physical discomforts it is inspiring, and spiritually uplifting to hear men bring forth teachings from scripture, to bolster ones faith, and to get

you more deeply rooted in the Word of Truth.

There are many men in the Eastern Mennonite church that do not make their living on a farm anymore. The land is too expensive, and the requirements of a successful career in agriculture too demanding, that many take other means of keeping body and soul together. These then can have a paid vacation for at least one week out of the year, and they take this week, and spend it at the Bible Conference.

Many bring campers or tents and live on the grounds for the duration of the meetings. Also those who have not these facilities can have lodging provided in the dormitories, but they cannot live in family style. But food is provided for everyone. There is no charge for anything. There are several offerings lifted, and those who want to may share, but no one is under any obligation. Usually the offerings meet the expense.

Merle Ruth spoke on the subject of how we got our Bible; and starting from the beginning he told how the scriptures were hand copied on scrolls, and the copiers dared not write anything by memory, lest they make a mistake, they had to look at every word, and there are over 800,000 words. When the scrolls got old and worn, they were destroyed, for the Jews thought it a dishonor to Jehovah to have worn out scrolls. When printing came into use, it made the work much faster, but people multiplied, and there was a great demand for scripture, that at times a load of hay was given to pay for the use of the scriptures for one day.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

July 20--At the Rush church we are having bible school this week, instead of having it every evening we have it Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, ten sessions in all. This always makes everyone very busy, for it takes many teachers, and if one would impart knowledge, it helps if you know a little whereof you speak. And besides all this we all have our regular mundane duties, and it makes for a hectic week and everyone is glad when its over with. Now we all realize this is not as it should be, when it comes to religion, but when we face facts we must admit this is true. But bible school is an old tradition and traditions can become very binding, so that they have more power to bring men to obedience than Holy Writ. Bible school is the daughter of Sunday School, which began as early as 1500; but the modern Sunday School as we now have it was started in Gloucester England, by Robert Raikes, in 1780, he launched what he called the Ragged school. He got the poor children of the streets on Sunday afternoons, and taught them to read and write. He was a publisher and advertised in his paper, which idea soon was widely accepted and by 1900 it had spread to all parts of the world. When Raikes died in 1811 there were 400,000 children enrolled in Sunday Schools. Today there are more than 72 million, in 437,000 Sunday Schools.

It is only about 150 years that it was accepted practise in the Mennonite church. It started in what was known as the great awakening, when revival meetings, prayer meetings and all the extra meetings started to support and buttress the church. Now today's Summer vacation Bible Schools are the going thing, and if you want to be socially acceptable in religious circles you must needs sponsor a summer bible school. It is a great tool to make

good people so busy, serving the Lord they forget to worship him.

We are getting new song books at the Rush church too, those that have been published by John Overholt. This is a good thing, for it has many of the old songs in, even some out of the Ausbund, the oldest known hymnal. Most of our songs that were written in this century, are of the gospel song type, and are geared to support the modern mission movement, but they have no weight to them, making the soul feel good but leave the spirit empty and are not conducive to building strong saints. The old songs that were written before the great awakening, with people under severe trial have much more depth, and speak to the spirit of man. Christianity is somewhat like grapes, it does not produce anything of much value until it is put under severe pressure. Before that it is only good to look at, and feeds the lust of the eyes, but has no power to stature.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

July 27--This is being written from Crockett, Ky. at Rod and Staff Publishing Co. where a band of men gathered to erect an additional storage space. From the East there were only 6 men and 3 boys, but one of those was Elmer Zimmerman who, in a project like this, is worth more than six ordinary men. He does not do much work himself but he knows what needs to be done, and how, and he has the capacity and management to keep a band of men gainfully employed.

In the car which I rode in was Elvin Stauffer, driver and Stanley Champ, both from Tower City, my son William, and Ben Garber and his son. We left home Monday morning and 11 hours later arrived at Crockett, Ky. Now when we arrived the place seemed dead, hardly anyone paid any attention to us, for visitors are very common here, someone finally showed us our room, and asked if we wanted supper and we sure did, for we were hungry.

On Tuesday morning there was a 50'x60' concrete slab and the material laying by. Now Elmer hustled us to carry the studding in its proper order, and nailed it, and calling the employees from the Print Shop we set it up and fastened it. By noon we were ready for the rafters. And much to our pleasure two more van loads of nine men each arrived from Ohio, one from a new Amish settlement at Utica, Ohio; the others were Wisler Mennonites from Stark Co. near Wadsworth, O. By Tuesday evening, due to Elmer Zimmerman's ingenuity, we had the rafters on and the sheathing and covered with paper. It was very warm weather and the Joywood sisters were busily engaged in carrying drinks. Also the Lord was kind and sent us a shower of rain giving us a half hour rest and cooling the air.

Tuesday evening after work they served us good home made ice cream.

On Wednesday morning we put all the asphalt shingles on the roof, and at noon the van load of Amish left, but they gave us a real boost, for several were original carpenters and really knew how to get things done in a hurry. Sam Gingerich was a Preacher among them and said this Publishing house is doing a very good work and should be aided. By evening the building was erected, except the finishes, which the rest of us did on Thursday between showers.

Now Crockett is a mini-town consisting of a 12'x14' Post office building, a Mennonite church by Virginia Conference that is closed, about 3 dwelling houses and a few mobile homes. The Rod and Staff Publishers are a half mile east of town setting on a hill, probably employing more people than live in the entire town.

We went visiting a few homes after the work was done and here the people live very simply. Their needs are few. Imagine a 75-acre farm for \$4000.00. Now, it's not exactly what we Easterners would call a farm, for there is hardly any level land here, one hill just stacked against the other, and people living along the streams. The houses are very small and simple. The people are too, some even showing more interest in promoting Gospel literature than making a lot of money. They have time to live and worship here. It seems like another world.

Isaac Martin is a young man having a farm with only a very few acres tillable, a big high hill that really looks pretty with a few trees and the grass clipped short by the sheep dotting the hillside. He was putting up beans, having a nice garden. His work is to edit school books and he claimed he watches the Sunday school literature to weed out any Pre-millennial slanted literature that might taint the minds of the unwary.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Aug. 3--Steve Zook Jr. of Belleville, Pa. has his share of back troubles. It is not so long ago that he was here at the Geisinger Medical Center having a disc removed and the bone fused together; and recently he was in again. He is a farmer by trade, and was mowing hay, with one of these newfangled machine known as a haybine, and the thing clogged, up and he in trying to extricate the tangled grass took a wrench and attempted to turn the machine backwards. He is big and strong, in fact seems too strong for his frame, and he pulled so hard he severed another disc in the neck area. This means another big hospital, bill, and another long siege taking it easy. I was to visit him, for he calls us when in the area, and I suggested he persue another occupation, but he looked askance at this suggestion, saying he likes to farm and would not know what else to do.

He is the son-in-law of Alvin D. Yoder, who is the brother of the late Noah D. Yoder who died back in 1953 from a brain tumor. Noah was bishop of what is now known as the Renno church, having derived this name from my late father who received the bishop office when Noah was ill. Noah was ordained bishop to replace David C. Peachey, who was bishop at the time of the division of the Old Order Amish church in the Valley. The late John Zook was the other bishop. The above mentioned Alvin Yoder was stricken with a stroke sometime ago, and stays at the home of his daughter, and son-in-law. He gets around by his own power by using a walker. His brother Noah was only 51 when he died but Alvin is still around. But Alvin chooses to go with the group that left the Old Orders, which are now better known as the Beachy Amish.

Now Steve would disagree with me as to who left who. We talked about this very thing, and he constantly affirmed that his group is the old original group and not the one where I formerly was from. But that is an arguement that will never quite be settled in this world; there are three sides to such an argument, your side, and my side, and the Lord's side.

When in Kentucky recently I met some of my faithful Budget readers, and they wanted to know just what profession I do to make ends meet. They could not detect that I did anything by reading my articles; and if anyone else is wondering you better get a pencil and pad out and mark this down and file it away, for future references, for I don't like preachers who are constantly speaking about themselves, neither writers who figure so big in their own eyes, that everything, and everyone revolves around them.

I am a salesman, a painter, and truck driver, with a little philosophy thrown in for good measure. No, I'm not a salesman, just a order taker. I represent Central Petroleum Products. Oil, grease, and paint, are the basics. I also take orders for Knapp shoes if anyone wants any. Last year I sold 151 pairs, and the commission averages around \$3.50 per pair, so now you know how much I made on shoes. And there are various other oddities that I sell occasionally, such as Handiman jacks, or toilet paper, oil filters, known as the eternal oil filter, although I don't like that name for an oil filter.

Then recently there was a man here that sells Shaklee products, and he wanted to sign me up for a salesman of these products. I was undecided for a long time, but he was a real salesman. He got me to sign up when it really was not my decision, but his persuasion that caused me to do it. (That's what I call a real salesman, one who can persuade you to sign the order when if you were not

under pressure you would not do it). Now I can use those tactics, and I did for a while, but I don't think that's quite honest. After you made the sale, and counted up your profits, you are still not at ease for you fear lest the thing flow up in your face. Right will forever be right.

But there is certainly nothing wrong with Shaklee products. I can heartily recommend them.

Yes, I paint barns, etc. with a 3000 lbs. pressure sprayer, run by electric. No air, just paint, comes out of the gun with the speed of a 22 calibre bullet. I used ladders at first to climb, but at the time I did not know about the Shaklee vitamins and it made me very tired, so I invested in a hydraulic lift truck. You just step in the bucket and maneuver the levers and it will take you up and around, up to 45 feet high, and a wide radius, making the work faster and easier.

I used to drive truck all the time, and I'm not content to be off the road too long a time. I like to take trips and let someone else pay my expenses. So I recently bought a truck tractor, and am pulling a load now and then. I do not make much at anything, and I don't intend to, nor need to, but I want to be gainfully employed, being of service to mankind and enjoy that service. I am 49 years old, and almost gray.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Aug. 10—Since I had mentioned in The Budget that we have purchased the new song books, edited and compiled by John Overholt, I have received several inquiries concerning the books. Now I want to make it clear, I do not sell these books, I can recommend them very highly for the quality songs that are found therein, and they have notes so that anyone who can read music can sing the songs. There are a

little more than a thousand songs in them. But nobody told me to make mention of the books neither advertise them for sale, I do not have them for sale, if anyone wants to know more about them you should write to the author although I do not know his address.

I do know however that Rod and Staff Publishers, of Crockett, Ky. sells the books, and also Park View Press, of Harrisonburg, Va. I think are the printers, so they should know about them. There are two kinds of books, the one is thicker than the other.

Most of the songs are in English and the book would not be advisable for those who still adhere to the high German language in their worship services.

By the time this gets into print the teachers training institute held at Numidia, Mennonite Bible school will be history. They have dormitories and facilities for around 100 people, and they were more than filled up they had to get some additional beds where they could find a place. There were several from the Old Order Amish of Johnson Co., Iowa to church on Sunday, I thought they were Beachey Amish, because of the shortness of their haircut, but they assured me they were not. Now this tends to prove something that I have wanted proof for the last 30 years. When I was a boy, the Old Orders were decried in Johnson Co. for their short hair cuts, many of them had them almost shingled, and the saying was that they will not stay Amish long this way, but they are still Amish, after 30 years and have about the same ordnung yet. They do not lose near as many of their youth as some of the more liberal Mennonites do. This man claimed they lose about 10 percent. They have 6 church districts and well behaved youth; if any want to live a wild life they are put out immediately.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Aug. 24--Crops look very good in this area, beautiful beyond expectation, according to the late start we had in the spring. We were expecting dry weather, because there was so much rain early, but every time we need it we get a shower to add sufficient moisture. The wheat did not yield as good per acre, just about like it used to 30 years ago.

It is hard to understand why there is a scarcity of sugar & flour in the stores, but there is, and what is there is really going up in price.

I sold two fat hogs on Monday, that brought \$100.00 apiece, and they did not weigh quite 200 lbs. We do not have hogs for profit, but to eat our garbage, although we do buy feed besides. We are having runaway inflation.

Dairying used to be about the most profitable business to be in, but now that has come to a standstill, or perhaps receding a little. Last year this time it cost around \$3.60 per hundred lbs. of feed, but now that has doubled. The price of milk has not risen to keep pace with feed costs and cows are being sold. Those who can are still holding on hoping they can survive until it again pays, and some are selling collateral to keep current expenses paid, which is the same as going backward slowly.

President Nixon says he will not resign, he has been elected to do a big job and that's what he has to do. He will leave the Watergate scandal to the courts. And will not release the tapes of the conversations held between him and his colleagues, to do so would intimidate people in the future to speak their mind freely.

There is virtue in his argument, for if all of us knew for sure, what we say in private will be played back for all to hear, would we not be greatly restrained in our speech? Yes, everything we say and even think is going on record and can be heard again but not on mechanical tape players, and it is not in the controls of a sinful and biased human being, but in the hands of the Judge of all.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Aug. 31--Last Monday I was to Don Rovenolts place, and the children said, "Mother is not at home. She took a load of Amish to a funeral at Belleville." Now being formerly from Belleville I wondered who died, but they did not know. I stopped at the Dewart auction a little and as usual saw old man J. L. Hostetler, and knowing he was formerly from Belleville, asked him whose funeral it was that his children went to; he said Yone Hostetler died and was being buried today. He was a deacon in the Nebraska Church, the plainest section in the Belleville area, related somewhat to these Hostetlers here.

Then on Thursday of the same week I drove in to Rudy Hostetler's place and the children said, "Daddy is not home he's over at grandpa's. Grandpa died last night." Now this grandpa was the J. L. Hostetler mentioned above and little did I think that in seven days I would be at his funeral. But so it was. He was 67.

This is the first funeral that was held in this area among the Amish, and they had no local cemetery but they started one on one of the farms, at Henry Yoder's farm, Henry is married to one of the Hostetler girls.

Instead of going to my usual church service I went to this funeral service. It was held in a barn, at the eldest son, Eli's place. Now sitting there in the barn full of people a little before the service started I thought this is heavy with 200 people in it and each mow at the end stacked full of baled hay up to the roof. What if it would break down?

Jake Yoder, who had formerly lived in Snyder county, was the one who spoke. Jake had just moved away from the

area in the spring, to Wisconsin. He had belonged to the house Amish Beachey church, but had put his auto away, and gone to horse and buggy again, but still rubber tractors. First, when he got up, he spoke of the fact that this is an unusual meeting which we had not planned on before hand, and there are many people here from many different localities, and many different church relations and yet there is only one God, one Bible, and one Jesus Christ, and we all hope to arrive at the longed for destination, being altogether as one then. To illustrate, he said he had told his wife that he is going to town to get a loader for his tractor; to one of the children he said he is going to get his tractor fixed. Now, while he was gone, his family had an argument. The one said he went to get a loader, but the other one vowed it was not so far he had plainly said he was going to get his tractor fixed. He said they were both right, but that did not help any. Each thought the other was wrong, but they did not take time to sit down and think it through. They really were not far apart for he did both get his tractor fixed, and got a loader. So he concluded it is with out different denominations. We are speaking of the same thing and are right in our opinion, but arrive at different conclusions. If we would take time to consider one another perhaps it would be better. But, he conceded, no one knows for sure just whether we are saved or not. We all hope so, and we are told to strive, and have a living hope but we do not know. We cannot for we cannot know the final end of our life, and that determines our destiny.

It was a well attended funeral, from Lawrence County, Enon Valley, his former home, and from Belleville, the land of his nativity, and relatives from Ohio, Wayne County. They knew they were coming close to Danville and wondered whether the man who is responsible for these articles might not be there. They assured me that they read them all the time, and I assured them that this is why they are written, to be read. I do wish to impart benefits, and create sober thinking. Not everything that is here written is according to my thinking, but I want to state things as they took place, even though I may not agree in detail.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Sept. 8--This is being written from Roxbury, Pa. where the first annual Hymn writers Conference is being held. The first session was held Friday evening with about 150 people in attendance. The conference is sponsored by the Christian Hymnary Publishers, Uniontown, Ohio. John J. Overholt, the compiler of the New Hymn book, is the chairman of the Conference.

The conference has an historical setting because many of the hymns in the book have been translated from the German by Mr. Overholt. Also John F. Miller from Sarasota, Florida had the opening remarks, and he is a long time friend of John. It was a very difficult task, taking years to complete, and going through many hymn books to find good, solid songs. Mr. Miller said, "Of many thousand people John had the ability given by God to do this work and the rest of us who cannot write songs or compile books should give of our means to support this great effort."

The last but not least of the speakers on Friday evening was William McGrath from Alajuela, Costa Rica, well known Budget scribe. He claimed he has 500 books in his home on Church history, a wealth of information to draw from. He gave us the historical setting of many of the old hymns. They were not allowed to worship in public as we do, and many suffered severely for their faith, so they wrote the narration of the doctrines of Christ in Poetry and some of it was read in public, some of them having as many as 100 stanza's.

Mr. McGrath claims he is expecting we are on the threshold of a great war of persecution again, such as was in Anabaptist times. This will melt the true saints of God together and possibly more hymns will be written then. He is a very fluent speaker and exceedingly interesting, having a photostatic mind, and excellent memory.

On Saturday morning they had an early start having church before breakfast at 6:30. Henry Raber of Virginia Beach was the speaker.

It's interesting to meet and get acquainted with people, and most of them Budget readers.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Sept. 14--The first annual hymn sing and song writer's conference, held at Roxbury, Pa. at the Brethren in Christ camp ground, is now history. The sponsor and the originator of the idea, John Overholt, was well pleased with the results. There were quite a number of new songs written there, and more will be as a result of the encouragement received there. They will be compiled in a little song book, called Roxbury No. 1 and anyone wishing for a copy can obtain one by writing to John Overholt, Uniontown, Ohio.

I was of the opinion that all the good songs with deeper meaning that will be written, have been written in time past, but have been persuaded to change my mind on that idea, after seeing what was written, and some are in the new Christian Hymnary. Many of the new songs are written with a scriptural context in mind and they are all right, but many of the songs written in the last century, that came about by the Great Awakening, have mostly to do with winning the lost, and they are the lighter type songs that appeal only to the emotions, leaving the deeper needs of the spirit untouched.

The principal speaker at these meetings was the esteemed William McGrath from Alajuela, Costa Rica. He is a very gifted speaker, and speaks even better than he writes; due to the fact that he has an excellent memory when it comes to relating church history. He also claimed to have 500 volumes containing church related history. Many songs written in the Ausbund, the oldest known hymn book, were written under severe stress, and persecution, and this makes them better. And they were written in poetic form to be read in public, to relay the gospel message, some of them as much as 100 stanza's long. They did not know they were writing history or writing

a book, but someone compiled the poems together and we call it the Ausbund. The first hymn book that is known was compiled by Martin Luther and John Voltar, but it not believed that the Anabaptists used this hymn book, they being opposed to the sacerdotal type of churchianity propagated by Luther, and Zwingli.

McGrath related the thoughts he has when worshipping with the Old Order Amish, sitting on an old bench that only costs a few dollars to construct, in an open barn, singing the old hymns that were written by the Anabaptists, many in prison and in dungeons, and he compared that with the modern church building with the padded pews, and the massive hundred-thousand dollar structures, built by those who felt that it is an aid to worship to gather in a place beautifully prepared by the skillful hands of the architects.

Mr. McGrath thinks that a great wave of persecution is just about to sweep the world to purge out of the nominal church those who are only in it for the gain and the good name they can get for themselves by being members of a good church. He said there is no safe place upon the face of the earth. He is only a foreigner in Costa Rica, and he may get word to leave, being a citizen of another country.

We did sing some German songs at this meeting, just to refresh our memories of the former years; even a verse of the Lobleid in the slow tune. Ralph Heatwole being there from Virginia, and not understanding even Pennsylvania dutch, I asked him if he was bored with the slow singing, and he said he enjoyed it very much. Martin Ressler, known as the singing dairyman, led some German songs; he milks cows for a living, but is an excellent song leader, does not know the meaning of the German language, but is able to read the words and sing them. To him it is but speaking

in tounge, that he is unable to understand.

The first evening there were only 28 people there for supper, and the last evening there were almost 300 there, and about 500 at the services. It was kept going by free will offerings, which amounted to some over two thousand dollars. This will pay the owners of the camp grounds for the use of their facilities, and for the food consumed, and if any left it will go towards the cost of compiling a small song book of the songs written there, which will be a souvenir of the first annual hymn sing and hymn writer's conference. Also the messages that were preached and the songs sung, were being recorded, by a professional recorder, a man by the name of Brunk, the son of Menno S. Brunk, and a grandson of the greatly esteemed George R. Brunk Sr. And if anyone was unable to attend the meetings but would like to hear what went on you will be able to purchase these on the small cassette tapes. They will be advertised later, and you will be told where to send for them.

It was discussed in after-sessions that the Old Order Amish are the fastest growing religious sect in America, due to the fact that they keep such a large percent of their youth. This fact does not necessarily mean the blessing of God, because other cult groups grow too, but it does mean that there are rules to obey, and laws set in order by providence, that if these are followed it brings earthly blessings. Plain people have more of a restraining influence on the society around them. History will attest to this fact too. Now if anyone will want to take issue with this, I refer you to David Detweiler of Hartville, Ohio. He is 71 years old and claims to have many of those answers.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Sept. 21--Because I am a representative of the Central Petroleum Co. I attended the semi-annual seminar, on Sept. 19 at State College at the Holiday Inn. State College being about the center of the state all the salesmen from Pennsylvania are expected to be there.

The usual trend is that we are ahead in sales over the previous year, and has been thus for many years; they do not take into account the inflation though, which gives them a good show of increase, but what they are interested in is an increase of dollars taken in. They don't care or take into account that the dollar buys less every year. Our price have made some increase but not near in relation to food.

But this year is different, we are still behind last year in sales, in spite of the inflation that causes our dollar to buy 25 percent less than it did two years ago, and the boss is harping about it, telling us we must get out there and get busy. He read a report stating that the farmers income has risen 2 percent above his expense, and we must get out there while he has extra money to spend.

Wheat is \$4.00 per bushel, oats is \$1.20, corn was up over three dollars, and it looks like a good crop, at least in this area. One farmer said it would pay him better to sell his grain, instead of putting it through his cows, and have all that work for nothing.

The above mentioned meeting was on a Wednesday, and the meeting only lasts about three hours, then they give us our dinner, and we go again. I went over to Belleville to the weekly auction, to see some old acquaintances, but there are not many there any more, like there used to be a few years ago. Up to the left of the entrance door, one could

often see my father talking with Sammy K. and some other old timers, but they are gone and will never return. Smiley Joe was sitting up in Sammy K's place. With him was Milligan Yone. They used to be too busy to attend sales, but things are different now. Smiley Joe kind of accused me of being a dishonest gain getter, going around and milking the poor farmers of their hard earned money.

The big cheese was there too, that Kurtz that comes in every week from Ohio, with cheese and some produce. He sent notice over to the sales area that he wanted to see me before I go home, and I suppose he wanted to take issue with me for some things I had in the Budget. He warned that I must be careful what I write, for some things are not always as I state them to be. For he said Jack Hiles and John R. Rice are not comedians, as I had said previously, but they are good gospel preachers, that tell us the truth. They are sound fundamentalists, that get people saved. I will leave him his opinion, and hope he grants me the same privilege.

He does quite a bit of hauling Amish around and he attends their church quite regularly, I understand. He said he gets more food there than he would at a Mennonite church. I certainly would not argue with him on that issue, although its been some time since I attended an Amish church service, I can well remember some of those stranger preachers that came from Ohio, that were really well versed, and had the ability to impart to us what they knew.

Along with educated preachers comes all the good preaching etiquette and they are so particular to mind their manners that it muffles their oratory. And of course those that are hired to preach must be careful to say only what is pleasing to their constituents, if they want to keep their job. Now the Amish preachers have none of these things to worry about. They earn their own living, and they are not hired, so can't be fired, and they don't have to worry about proper

grammar, for their parishoners would hardly know the difference anyways. The plainer Mennonite churches have the same advantage too. Those preachers can preach unhindered, because they also are self supporting. Just think! No young people to send through college, no hair dressers to pay to fix the ladies hair, many of the demanded expenses that the educated have are unknown to the simple folk. They can raise most of their own produce, their needs are very simple, and it takes much less money to get by on. They can live by the sweat of their brow as nature intended we should.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Sept. 28--The meeting of the One World Monetary system was held in Nirobia, Africa, in the recent past. We were to have new world money by October of this year, but they could not agree on vital issues so they postponed the coming of the new money until at least next July. We are not under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Government anymore, but under a Metro government, ruled over by the One World Bankers; of whom David Rockefeller is the chief, and its all tied in with the U.N. This is what causes many things to be scarce; it is taken from us & shipped to others who have less than we do. This is also the reason that milk is not higher in relation to feed costs; there is much milk in the world, & it's shipped over to us in the form of powdered milk. It is supposed that eggs are at a low point now for those who manipulate the market are now buying and putting them in cold storage, waiting for a price rise. A local man who has 1500 laying hens told me he makes about \$60.00 a week over feed costs; until he considers the cost of the chicks and the raising, and housing, plus his labor he has nothing, and besides several months ago, it was costing money just to have his hens; the cost was in excess of the income.

But we still have it very good, and we may as well enjoy it, doing the best we can, the fact that the new money system was postponed for another 9 months or so, gives us that much longer time. Many are preparing themselves, for there is a great upsurge in the buying of silver bullion, and diamonds and precious stones, also paintings, and antiques, people do not trust the stock market anymore, but are investing their money in something of value, for now value is money, or wealth, our paper dollars have nothing of any value back of them, the Europeans have most of our gold and we are left with the paper. Look out on the highways, see all the expensive machinery going back and forth, look at the massive structures that are being erected, the eating places that are being built, all these things have value in that they are capable of fulfilling that which they were designed to do, and those that are paid for were paid with something that has no value.

Never in history has any nation survived as long as America has, after going off the gold standard; when once that takes place, the fall of that country is inevitable.

Dan Martins of Mifflinburg, have sold their farm, their collateral, and have exchanged it for money, and are planning to move to Brazil in the near future. Both Dan Jr. and Sr. are going, the young man has married a wife whose father lives in Brazil now, and she wants to be nearer home. Young Dan says the natives of Brazil are much more open to receive the truth than they are in America, and thus mission work is much more rewarding. There are already 25 families in the Holdeman faith living in Brazil, so it not really pioneering, and many are getting themselves established. It has been said that those who moved to Paraguay several years ago have no interest in coming back again; they like it there.

Since I have again found employment in a limited sense that takes me across country, for about once a week I pull a load of potato chips to the western part of the state, for I like a paid vacation about once a wk. Route 80 is a good road, and one can go non-stop, but it is tiresome and boring so I often take the alternate route, through Lewistown and Huntingdon and there near Mill Creek along the railroad tracks was a Diner built some years ago, but business was poor, and it just did not pay its own way. Just down the road a bit is a truck stop, and they seemed to be going for a long time, but this little place just did not have the costumers for some reason; that is, not until Joe Millers from Belleville opened up for business. I went past one day and saw 17 vehicles parked there at about three o'clock in the afternoon and if there were two people per vehicle, and they both ate \$2.00 worth it would add up to \$68.00. Now I realize that some of these cars were there because they carried the employees there, but to have that many there in the middle of the afternoon what is it like at noon, or supper time? Now the Millers are Beachy Amish and did you ever see an Amish woman that could not prepare good food?

I stop in occasionally, & it is so different from the ordinary eating places; there is no loud & sensual music going on, the waitresses are decently dressed, the service is good, and the food too. I am never there at meal time, and never bought a meal, but only stop to refresh myself occasionally, & sit in wonder & amazement at how an unprofitable business like that could be reformed overnight, and turned into profit. It is not that the food is better, or cheaper or the service that much better; though that is a factor, but

other eating places are good too. What is it?

I believe its the simplicity, and modesty that is displayed there; there are so few good people left in the world anymore, that are honest, and are willing to give rather than to get, that are more interested in the service they can render than in taking your money away from you, that it's impressive, & draws customers, even in a place where nobody with the conventional methods could operate with a profit if he tried; here with this environment it can be done easily without really trying. How true the words of Holy Writ, Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. This is an inviolable law that works, as well among sinners as saints, try it!

J. Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Oct. 13--The days, weeks, months, and years go so fast one has to hurry lest he gets behind, for time and tide wait on no man. The reason for no Budget article last week, was that I was to busy, and forgot it. I had a man to do my painting for me, but he is a farmer, trying to earn a little extra money, to keep his farming operations going, and he has to sow his wheat and fill his silo, so I have to do the painting myself. It is that time of the year when all painting operations will cease very soon.

What would we do for time if it were not for Sunday to do some things we had in mind? Being an ex-Old Order Amish myself I have a keen interest in their activities. To persue this we went to Summitview meeting house, last Sunday. That is a beautiful place to have a church building, you look out over the valley just dotted with small farms, not a fence row, or sink hole, or waste land in sight, every inch of available land must be put to good use. There was a lot of money made in time past in that area; the buildings are well kept, and painted. There is only one great hazard in living there, there are just too many people around for convenience. The roads are full of buggies, and black cars, and an occasional hot road. And all the strange tourist cars really makes it a mess. True I had a car there, but that only made one more.

Now the Summitview meeting house is composed of Amish, if such they can be called (automobile dutch, would be the technical name). They separated from the main stream of Old Orders 5 years ago. From this secession, has developed three different denominations. Some have no cars, but all other modern conveniences, the next have cars, but still look Amish, and the third are not much different, except they have

ferent, except they bann tobacco, and some of those borderline things that people like to engage in. There really is not enough of difference in their theology, to make it necessary for them to be seperate. It is a good thing that they have seperated for the sake of size, it would now take a tremendous big building to house them all.

They all agree on the basic issues, that they want to be a God fearing people, and hope to gain acceptance with him in the final analysis, but none of them know for sure, for they say there is a great possibility to fall by the wayside, for their safe keeping depends on their actions, and attitudes; hence none are sure of reaching their desired haven, they just hope so, with an IF. This is something which The Old Order also agree to, so there was no need to seperate there. They all have the same articles of faith, but just a slight variation of interpretation. They all just about dropped the German language. At Summitville they sang all the songs in English, except the Lobe-Leid, the preaching was almost half English. For all practical purposes perhaps its just as well, for all our business is done in English, we must have the English language in our schools, it is much better understood by the youth. Its probably just sentimentality, and my frame of reference, but I would much prefer to hear it delivered in German; but that is fast leaving the area, even the young boys speak English to each other, in another 50 years it will probably be eliminated.

We took our lunch along, just in case, for with modern conveniences the old time entertaining unexpected strangers in church is fast leaving the picture, and with those who are conscientiously opposed to buying on Sunday they may just go hungry. But it is not all gone there yet for we had two invitations, and only needed one. An elderly couple invited us to go with them to their daughters for dinner, which we did, but as in every case there was gross misunderstanding of facts, for one young woman said she assumed by reading my writings in the Budget, I would know everyone, and everything.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

October 18-Now lest there be a question, as to the faithfulness of me attending my own church services, if you will allow me to compare myself with others, we do not miss as many services as some do, but more now than formerly. I say this because it has been questioned me as to whether I do not have a permanent place of worship, seeing I am constantly reporting some other place I've been. Now the following took place on Saturday October 13, 1973, I was at my own church service on Sunday.

The 75th anniversary of the Locust Grove Congregation, near Belleville, Pa. now affiliated with the Conservative Mennonite Conference, took place on the above date. They have just erected a brand new church building at the cost of around \$200,000.00. Now the above church had its origin in 1898, started by Abraham Zook, he with 118 followers withdrew from the then existing Belleville, and Allensville

churches. The which churches had their origination around 1800, Hans Beiler being the first bishop.

There was dissention among the leaders, concerning the mode of baptism and the encroachments of cultural influences, such as top buggies, hooks & eyes, versus buttons etc. The said Abraham Zook left with his followers and worshipped in the alternate Sundays in the other churches, when they had no services, for church was then held only every two weeks. Their first class of converts was nine girls baptised in a stream on the David Z. Yoder farm. The first wedding held of this church was when Amos B. Glick was married, the father of Nelson Glick who is still a staunch member.

They worshipped a while at the David Z. Yoder farm house, and this is just a half mile from where I was born and reared, naturally being of great interest to me. They then erected a new church building, the ground being broken in July 1899 and 91 days later they had a completed church building 38x58 with a cost of just 10 percent of what the new present building cost. \$2249.08 was the total cost of the building. George Wilson sold them 20 loads of stone for \$2.00. In 1911 they started taking Sunday school offerings and that year on August 11 there were 150 people present and the offering was \$1.55. The lowest offering was on June 11, 1916 when .82 cents were collected from 118 people. Jonathan Hooley had the first automobile, he was a relative of my mother. They then allowed auto's but without tops, that is until one of the preachers was caught in a rain storm in a car without a top, then the tops were allowed. They have a nice anniversary book prepared that will explain many more things and if anyone is interested they can possibly be obtained from

Joseph Renno, Belleville, Pa. 17004, who is chairman of the publicity committee. I have a keen interest in history, and much more so if it involves the area where I first existed. Also I was a member of the said Locust Grove in the years 1953 to 59.

Now it has been suggested that the Amish are the fastest growing religious sect in the world, and if so it is because their past is alive in their present, but for the Mennonites it is not so, they are almost ashamed to be identified with their past, especially in practice, when there was little or no modern mission activity, which seems to be what keeps them going.

John A. Hostetler a native of Belleville, and a former Amish boy was one of the speakers, and it was a great pleasure, and profit for me to listen to him relate incidents. We can learn from the mistakes and good examples of others if we are wise enough to know which is which.

It seems to be impossible to have a conservative church anymore without having stringent rules and regulations, and law enforcement to see that these are not violated. But we find no such rules in scripture, only the principles are laid down there, and the church seems to be allowed to make its own rules according to the understanding of these principles, but there is little use of having rules if you have no enforcement agency, and to enforce anything is not in keeping with the principle of non-resistance.

The above mentioned church

seemingly has abandoned all rules, and each does what seems right in his own eyes. The only rule is love for one another, but when the church ceases to set standards of dress and conduct, there is one who is right there to conform to, and that is old dame fashion, with all the latest coiffures, mini-skirts, jewelry and what have you. Years ago when the church made rules for a man not to have his hair cut like society around him, there was a constant battle to keep them from getting too short, and the beards were clipped real short, but now the world sets the modern standard, and long hair and beards flourish without any rules whatsoever. What is it that causes this among a people who would loudly confess that they certainly do not love the world? Is it not the spirit of missions, for if you want to win the world, you dare not be too strict with your demands, if they are not laid down in scripture. Old John Y. Peachey used to say "we could not do mission work, nobody would want to conform to our standards". So naturally the next best thing is to remove the standards altogether, and let the world come in if they would. This is what many churches have done and the world is right there.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

October 27--Oh sun and skies and clouds of June, and flowers of June together; you cannot rival for one hour, Octobers bright blue weather. We have had very beautiful weather here in the east for the last week, and a lot of corn is being picked and shelled, which was mostly a good crop. Most of the corn was planted late, but we had good growing weather and it came quick, then ideal drying weather, so that its much better than last year, it was so wet, and much of it molded on the stalk. Much of the rainfall this year came by thunder showers, so there are spots where it was dry and the corn was poor, but overall there is a good crop.

The price of milk has now gone up too, so that perhaps farmers can gain some of their loss back, if care is taken. But we are feeling the petroleum pinch, the Central Petroleum Co. has told its agents, not to sell any motor oil to new customers, neither sell to anyone in excess of what he has purchased from them the last two years. Also roof coating, which is made from petroleum, is possibly going to be hard to come by, so if anyone is thinking of having his roof covered next year, you'd better stock up on that. You should never buy an inexpensive coating, unless you like to paint roof, for if you put a good quality material on you only need to do it about once every ten years or less.

Our Vice President, Spiro T. Agnew has now stepped down from his office in shame. He was charged with evading his income taxes in 1967 to the amount of \$13,551.00. He pleaded no contest, which amounts to the same thing as guilty; he was fined ten thousand dollars, but not sent to prison, because of his high office, they thought it too humiliating for him to send him to prison, which is the usual procedure for income tax evaders.

Attorney General Richardson, said he had sufficient evidence to indict charges of bribery and extortion for accepting \$85,000.00 in cash payments while he was a Baltimore Co. executive. But he had said before he had nothing to hide, and that he was completely innocent, of any underhanded activity, even twelve days before he was convicted he pleaded his innocence and said he would not resign as Vice President even if indicted. But by now it seems one must believe just the opposite from what those in high offices say. It is disastrous to think of all the evil that is going on among our rulers, and how they lie right up to the last, when they full well know they are guilty, it seems the order of the day to lie until you are caught. But right will always remain right, this we know.

The Eastern Mennonite Church, better known as the Isaac Sensenig group has now answered a call from Dover, Delaware to come and help that small congregation, which was started by Richard Short, who is now with the Melita Group. They built a basement, and put a roof on that and are meeting in that, but as trouble would not stay away, for lack of sincere leadership they had planned to close down completely, but a spark remained, and Dan Beachey, and Roman Byler, and some others who are now pillars there decided to try once more, and come under the Eastern wing.

I was at their service last Sunday, the first, under the new administration. Ben Eshbach will be the officiating Bishop, and the Wilmington, Del. preachers, Clyde Mellinger and Glen Sensenig, will see that they have preachers to tell them the Word. There were 32

people there at that service; it is only a small place and cannot hold too many, until such a time as they decide to build on the remaining foundation. Fred Hostetler formerly was Bishop, but he now moved to Ohio.

I happened there quite unexpectedly for Victor Stoll who is from British Honduras was in Snyder County picking apples along with his large family, and he and his brother, own an old school bus with which they expect to go back home. He had asked me to drive the bus to Dover for them to visit some friends. This gave me two days of free time and I thought I made good use of it. I visited Old John Yoder who is 82 and I was to his place 20 some years ago, when I was in that area to the wedding of Enos Peachey, and Lizzie Lee. Old John is not quite bed fast but he was in a hospital bed with a railing around when I saw him, and he claims he is now a jail bird. I ate dinner at Neil Hershberger, his son-in-law, and went with him to the funeral of Henry Shrock, at Central Mennonite church, he was formerly Amish, but left for reasons known to himself, but death finally caught up with him at 77. I was glad to have the opportunity to ride in a horse and buggy again, reminding me of the olden days. Also was at the home of Bishop Eli Miller, he is 83, and in good health yet, a very interesting, man to visit with. We came back on Tuesday evening, and the Stolls want to start for Honduras on November 5 if possible.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Nov. 2--There seems to be a fertilizer shortage. Those who sell it are holding it for a higher price. It is expected to go up exceedingly, if you can get it at all. There are some analyses that are not obtainable now, and Urea, the man-made nitrogen, is unavailable at any price. This may be a good thing in one respect, although it will cut down the volume of things that can be harvested, it will still be a better quality, except in that soil which has been farmed out so hard, and the crops must depend on the fertilizer.

One man I know will probably not be concerned by a fertilizer shortage. He does not use any anyways, except that which comes naturally. He does buy turkey litter, and spreads that on his fields, and the manure which his cattle produce is spread, but chemical fertilizers and sprays he has not used for a long time; his crops are just as good as anyone's. He is somewhat restrained from using it, for he raises wheat, and other grains to be used at Walnut Acres, at Penns Creek, Pa. He also raises cattle to sell to them for meat that has no harmful chemicals injected in it fibres. This is a natural food store that has grown to tremendous proportions. It's just like a supermarket and if you have enough money you could live out of that and enjoy all naturally aspirated food.

The man above mentioned is Eli Zimmerman, son of Dan Zimmerman, and lives near Hartleton, in Union County. I was there early in the fall, and picked a few baskets of tomatoes while we visited together, and you did not have to go far to get a basket full. The vines were just loaded. Other tomato farmers have their major expense in the fertilizer and spray, but not

Eli. He doesn't spend a nickel on such things, but as far as I could determine, his crops looked just as good as anyone's. The corn was beautiful. He farms with horses, has no electricity bills to pay, nor telephones. It's not that his church dissallows these for others of the same group have it, but he chooses to do without these things, for to him it's more in keeping with the stranger-pilgrim concept way of living. He does not seem to have an over abundance of money, although if he did have he would not show it. He is just an ideal example of a Christian man.

While others fret and fume to try to win the rat race he has time to sit down and relax, and let them race by. He did not have to move to Central America to keep calm and live slower as God has intended for a man to live. But he said it was not always so. He was out there to try to win at one time, and worked hard and fretted when things did not meet his expectations, for he says he is of a nervous disposition, and things were getting him down, and had ulcers in the stomach, and all those ailments that are peculiar to those nervous tension folks, but he calculated, and decided it was not worth it. He must do more than race. He must start to live, and he did; he took the mastery over himself, and disciplined himself into subjection, and now you never think that at one time he was letting his emotions run away with his better judgement.

Now I know many of you readers are just wishing to be delivered from the mad race too and wonder how you could do it. One of the best ways I have found is to take time and study history. That is the history of the religious people. Learn of how they met life and what happened to them.

A very good book on the subject has just recently been published; it is by Clarence Hiebert, entitled, "The Holdeman People, a history of the Church of God in Christ Mennonite." It starts their history back in 1525, and brings them down to the present day. Of course the Holdeman denomination just started in 1859, but he goes back and gives a brief history of the Mennonites and others as they related. The major part of the book is about the Church of God in Christ Mennonites. The founder of this movement was John Holdeman 1832 - 1900. He was a son of a Mennonite Amos Holdeman. He was born in Wayne County, Ohio, and was raised in a strictly religious environment, and at the age of twelve, he seemed to have a religious experience, but he forgot about it, and lived the way he pleased until about the age of 21 when he claims to have received various visions and revelations from the Lord. He was also an ardent student of church history, and the confessions of the Mennonite church, and he felt that they were far from what they professed, and he also claimed to have been called to the ministry, and told his bishop, Abraham Rohrer so, but it was not customary to ordain men outside the use of the lot, so he was told to wait until such a time as the Lord would call him in this way, but he thought the church must have a reform now, so started to preach on his own to his own kin for he was not well received by his con-

temporaries, because of his sinful life in the past, and because he seemed like an impatient prophet, proclaiming special revelations from God.

This movement in all likelihood, would have perished by the wayside as most of these kind of movements do, but just at the right time there was a large influx of destitute Russian Mennonites, who were homeless, and penniless, and without religious leaders, and were glad for anyone who would lend a helping hand. John, taking advantage of this occasion, soon won for himself a large following. When he died, it left a great void in that denomination, for he was depended on for his leadership ability and it was some time before a suitable leader was found; but it did not founder, and today there are several thousand adherents to this religion.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Nov. 9--According to Dave Wagler in Family Life, the wood burning stoves are coming back into great demand. This is a very good thing, for in this insecure age we can expect anything to happen. We must be like Abraham of old, who looked for a city without earthly foundations whose builder and maker was God, but he prayed for Sodom, with earthly foundations, which was on the verge of destruction and we in America have no reason to hope for any better fate, as far as national life is concerned, for the wicked shall be turned into hell.

The University of Tennessee in Knoxville is now offering a non-credit course in voodoo magic, and witchcraft, according to their catalogue. This course teaches one how to prepare candles, and about the best incense and how to use it, also tells about the power derived from lodestone, all this is used in religious practises, and the course is taught by Mr. and Mrs. Francis A. Torrence who claim to be Bishops ordained by the Gospel of Secret Missions of Divine Research, with headquarters supposedly in the Bronx, New York. There is already a church there, called the first church of VooDoo, where they teach occult, which is nothing, new. It's just the old witchcraft, coming back into use. And this is all over the nation. In Miami, in Detroit, in New York, these cults are flourishing. It is Devil worship. They sacrifice goats and chickens, and even humans sometimes.

This is just the beginning, but remember the Lord is still at the control of everything, and everything is coming about to a great culmination. Even as the Greeks of old had a proverb, "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad", and if we study scripture we can see it put into practise. If a nation was ready to be destroyed all restraint was removed and she was quickly banished into oblivion.

Now coming back to wood burning stoves; we heat our home with oil, it is so handy, nothing to do but turn a thermostat, and you have the temperature just where you want it, that is if you pay your electric bill which comes due every two months to the tune of around sixty dollars. No, it's not the electric that heats the home. All that does is senses when the room temperature goes down, and turns on the oil burner, and makes an arc so that when the oil hits that it ignites, and starts to burn. Electric also runs the blowers, or water circulators which runs through radiators and they heat the home. Of course electric is used for many other things too, lights, and freezers, etc. basically it turns motors, which run compressors, and this does the freezing, or cooling. Heating water is about the same as lights, it heats upon contact. Electricity is gathered out of the air, and put into power lines, but it takes coal or oil energy to turn the generators. Many now have their own small generators so that if it does go off, they can still use their equipment, but it still takes fuel to turn these.

Another thing that many people should have right now is a goat or two for milk for their family. For a long time I had thought about goats but did not know just how it would be, had all kinds of evil imaginations as to the nuisance they would be. What information I had was gathered as a school boy, but now having had the experience many things were just now so or greatly exaggerated. So many people who now live in town, or in a small place could greatly enhance their purpose in life for themselves and their children, by giving them the

care of animals. Goats are very easy to keep. If you have woven wire fence they will keep the grass and weeds down; if no fence is available they can be tied to stakes; plus the fact you get milk as a bonus, and if the population gets too large, they are good for meat too. We killed a half-grown kid, and the meat is different from any we've ever had, but it's very good, although it's stringy like the meat from a Holstein cow, but there are many different breeds of goats and doubtless there is a difference in the meat. When the going gets rough, as it surely will, and the money gets all, you will be glad for an animal that's so easy and economical to keep, that will turn your excess grass and weeds into edible food. You can keep about 5 goats on the feed it takes for one cow, and they are much better to keep than cows if you just need them for the

milk. They are much like people, with individual traits, and once they get to know you they seem almost human. If you like animals, and you should, you will surely like goats. Their price is within the budget of everyone, and they reproduce themselves, and provide work for your children, which need to get first hand experience about nature.

So instead of buying all this milk, get a few goats. You will be glad you did.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Nov. 11--Everyone is much interested in what is going on over in Israel. There are doves who say all war is wrong, and nobody ever wins anyways, which may be true in some sense, but war has been on the earth about as long as fallen man has, and it seems Divine Providence uses war to pursue its ends, which are not always seen at first glance. Now the last war that America was engaged in was not really war, for the enemy had safety zones to go to and be free, it was a war in which nobody tried to win. That to me is little more than political gimmick to enhance prosperity. But in Israel it looks different they are at it to defend themselves, although overall the big powers are also using it to their own advantage. Remember scripture says when they shall say peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them. As long as there is bickering and fighting in the world, it will keep people on guard, but like a fever in the body if the body is sick, but the fever dies down anyways, then that body is about to expire, it has given up the fight. When Israel sits down at the conference table and makes peace with her avowed enemies, then you can expect the time of Jacobs trouble.

The last articles by Wm McWrath concerning Israel were interesting to me, he concludes that Israel is finished as far as God is concerned, he has now invested all his concerns to the church, which he terms spiritual Israel. This is so only to a certain place, the time will come, and is apparently very near when the wild olive branch will be cut off and the true vine grafted in

again; their fall has been salvation for us gentiles and if this is so, how much more their fullness? The time will come according to Divine Writ that nation will not lift up sword against nation neither will they learn war anymore. There never was a time like this since many has been upon the earth. Some suppose this to mean Christians but they are the pearl of great price, and hidden from public view, they are not now, nor ever have been a nation, they are from all nations, and people and tongues, but the time scripture speaks of is when there will not be a war anywhere on the face of the earth, but righteousness will cover the earth as the waters now cover the sea. Such a time has been spoken of, and has never yet existed, but he who made the promise is able to fulfill it. Let us be like Abraham, who against hope believed in hope.

Mt nephew Ezra Renno, the son of my brother Crist Renno has been hospitalized again, but in the Aultman hospital in Canton, Ohio, in the mental ward. He has a long history of hospital life, mostly mental institutions. He calls me about once a week, and wants someone to speak to, what he needs is someone to care for him and make him obey, but that person has not been found yet. There were many in the past who tried to help him out, but so far he has always taken the advantage of their mercy, and got the best end of the deal to his own advantage. He is about 26 years of age, and according to statistics come out of his mental derangement in a few years.

I being his uncle, feel strongly responsible for him, although so far have been at a loss to put that feeling into practice. He has now lived in Ohio in the Hartville area for a number of years, and it is doubtful if he would be satisfied anywhere else, but he has no close relatives there, they are all back in Pennsylvania, mostly in the Belleville area.

He lives in an apartment in Canton, when he's not incarcerated anywhere. He gets total disability from the state, amounting to almost \$200.00 a month, and with this kind of money he has not yet come to the pig sty where the prodigal son was, he has never suffered hunger or want, for the state supplies his needs.

This bothers me too, for we as a plain people say we are self sufficient, and take care of our own poor, and unfortunate, and do not as a rule accept government aid, but in an extreme case like this what can we do its very hard to help someone who will not listen, any length of time, if anyone had any money or any value they would be appreciated.

Those of us who have sound minds and healthy bodies and take them for granted, feeling that God owed us all this and more, had better stop and reconsider, for not everyone is blessed in this way, and could it not just as well have been me or you that is deprived of mental health. We have those subjects among us, and may as well face it, and do what we can to alleviate any unfortunate situation, but its usually not good to make a move until you know, just what the right move is.

Urie Kanagy near Hartville, Ohio, who formerly was from Belleville, and was raised in the same Amish church, seems to care about Ezra as much as anyone, he has considered getting an old house trailer and

setting it up to give him a home, but with all the zoning laws now in effect, we don't know what would be legal. Also one hates to go to all the bother to help someone who has proven so unfaithful in the past. The hope is he will out grow his condition.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

November 22--Death has come and taken away two of my friends and associates. They were both buried in one day; because of extenuating circumstances we were not able to attend both funerals. But the fact that they died and I could no more speak to them, nor have any communications with them in any way, forever, in life as we now know it, was a hard fact of life.

The one man was Sam Peachey, better known as blacksmith Sam, or black Sam, was an old man, having arrived at fourscore years, but he was always active, and I have never known him to be sick. He ate his last supper one evening, and gave up the ghost. His heart had beat many times, and it finally stopped, and he was gone. He was one of the first men in my boyhood days that I was so well acquainted with, especially a man from another church. Before my time, he and my father were in the same church, but as time progressed differences arose, and there was a church division, and Sam's father being a chief man in that episode, it was only natural that Sam went with him. He belonged to what is known as the Spicker church, it first went by the name of the Zook church, or Peachikes. John Zook was the first bishop, then John B. Peachey, then Enos Kurtz, then Jake Peachey, and now presently Jesse Spicker. But my friend Sam had left that church for a short spell and aligned with the John A. Stoltzfus church in Lancaster County, but that was very far, and inconvenient. But Sam was a Man somewhat like Sebastian Frank, a character in church history, he was a friend to everyone, and always looked for the good traits in people; I have never known him to be angry, or speak harsh words. But he was not blind to inconsistencies in people either, but was more of the type, that if he could speak no good of a man, he would rather not speak, than defame.

Many times I led, or rode a horse to the village blacksmith shop, for Sam to shoe, and stand around and watch, and gather a few words of wisdom now and then. But time waits for no man, and Sam got old and felt himself not equal to the task any more. He hauled a lot of Amish, and he hauled slab wood, and other odd things for people. He was not worried about time if he did not show up when he was supposed to it was nothing to worry about, he was detained some where, but he would not get excited. He never made much money, but he left a good legacy back for his children and to those who knew him. He of course did not know whether he would meet God in peace or not, for he insisted that none can know for certain for we must first meet him at the judgement bar, and we cannot be certain of the final outcome of that judgement.

The other friend that died and was buried, was quite different, he was a go-getter, a very successful farmer, and prosperous man financially. But unlike Sam he did not live very long, a little over half that long, he was 49, a month and three days older than I. John S. Zook by name; I grew up with him, went to school with him, often spoke to him, lived neighbors together for some time. I was raised Old Order Amish, and he was raised in the Conservative Mennonite church, but church affiliation does not make much difference to

children, they don't let things like that bother them. His mother was a daughter of old John S. Peachey, a man of reknown, and very influential in the community, an avid bible student, and all of his sons seem to follow that pattern and John S. Zook of whom we write seemed to follow that trait too, he even looked like the Peachey clan. I well remember the time when standing on the corner in Lewistown, looking for a way to go home John S. came along,

and took me along, but that time was different. John did not talk about making money that day, he spoke of the things of God, he tried to show me the truth of the scripture; we were not children anymore, right was right and wrong was wrong, regardless of the denomination.

But time went on and I moved out of the community, and the church which John adhered to did not meet his religious requirements any more although he never withdrew his membership completely; he attended a more conservative church about 30 miles away. They did not completely satisfy either, but he made do, until The Conservative Mission board called him to go to Kentucky and pastor a church, since he had experience in this field, having taught summer bible school in the area for eight years, he was qualified for this position. But it did not last long, a little over a year and he was gone. In spite of the fact that now he had found his life long desire and work, he could not stay, for reasons known only to his Creator, he was called upon to lay down his career, and face eternity.

Two of his colleagues, pastors of neighboring churches in that area spoke at his funeral; they spoke very highly of him, how he worked so zealously; he was not the type of preacher that was afraid to get his hands dirty, for being a farmer all his life, he was used to hard work, and being a successful farmer, he did not need financial support; he worked on construction, with some of his parishoners. This way he got to know them real well, and he cared for their soul.

My cousin Erie Renno preached his funeral sermon, on the last subject John spoke about, the last sermon he preached, about the fallacy of putting new wine in old bottles; it fitted the occasion very well.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

November 30--The so-called fuel crisis is getting worse all the time, and in only a little while now there will be rationing, which will make more jobs for some, but the loss of fuel will put a lot of people out of work.

Not only is gasoline and oil affected, but many things that we use are also products of petroleum. Plastic is big business today, many things are made of plastic, and this is dependent upon petroleum from which it is derived, and many people are employed in the manufacture of plastic products, and if this is curtailed it will put many out of work, and these will then draw their unemployment, while that lasts then many will file for public assistance, which comes from the coffers of the government, but the government can only pay out what people pay in higher and higher taxes.

Meanwhile there is much building going on, people who don't know are going at it very strong. Here in Danville the Interstate Route 80 passes nearby, and the big hotels and gas stations are really springing up all around. Holiday Inn has been here for two years, and just this fall the Sheraton Motor Inn, and Howard Johnson both put up massive structures at the cost of millions. There are also many gas stations all sitting there in a cluster. Three mile east at the next intersection there are three men who formed a company and built the Buckhorn Truck stop, plus a large motel, and two gas stations; they still have some gas but it is getting less. I asked the man why they did this in the light of the economy of our nation, and he said they had a lot of faith in the economy and much of our goods and materials are moving by truck, and many men are traveling on the road in related industry. They spent several million dollars to put up these buildings, and buying the land

is a major item too. West of Danville at the next intersection is a man from Philadelphia, Pa. who came up here and bought a tract of land to build a truck stop, and paid \$90,000.00 for just the land alone.

But now on the lighter side but still concerning traveling, there is a man known to many of you for he has been all over the country, and across the seas, he is from Stuarts Draft, Virginia; Joe Kanagy by name, he is a native from near Belleville, Pa. where I was raised. Joe has started back into farming again to a limited extent; he is too old now, but one must be gainfully employed. He did invest in a small travel trailer, for in their many travels its nice to have a little mobile home of your own, a little privacy.

This thing was one that folded up, and was very compact when in transit, but to set up camp you left the sides out over the wheels. So they set up camp one night, and being a nice place Joe figured there is no need to bother putting the stabilizers down. His wife Leah was slightly concerned about it and suggested they had better make sure it won't fall over, "But no", Joe said, "It won't fall over, go on to bed and stop worrying", so she was obedient and took his word while he was sitting at the table doing some writing.

The bed was over on the side of the wing, and as she rolled over into bed the weight was too unequal, and the thing rolled over on its side spilling Joe and his contents all over! I can imagine all the chattering that went on then for a while, with pots and pans, and Joe and the table, along with the oil light all over to the bed which Leah was under.

Needless to say Joe went out of the travel trailer business, he went back to farming now at the age of 65, and he leaves the travel trailer to people who have little else to occupy their time.

He gets nostalgia at times and longs after the good old days when he was young, back on the farm with his buddies, Reuben, Jakie, and Maany, but time has erased that, and it can never be again. I get that way too, and I know of no cure except get busy doing something worthwhile. Writing is creative and helps to alleviate some of that, but in order to write you must read too, and travel at times, to keep gaining information. Growing old gracefully is a full time job, not so Joe.

JRR.

DANVILLE, PA.

Dec. 7--We have had a beautiful fall so far, very little cold weather, and one would hardly think that the shortest days of the year are upon us, and soon the daffodills will be pushing up again for another spring.

The corn crop was excellent, and old farmer Lazurus, by name said he never had corn like this year, and we have had such nice weather to harvest it. One would have thought differently in the spring for it was so wet for so late, but things turned out for the good, as far as finances go, and the price of corn is higher than ever, for this time of the year. It almost does not pay to have all the work and put it through animals, and sell it in the form of meat and milk, but work is honorable, and we need to be gainfully employed.

We are having our annual fall meetings with Edwin Gehman from Tamaqua as speaker. He is 72 years old and well seasoned, a tall slim man with almost all his hair gone from his head. He is formerly from Lancaster county, the Weaverland section, but twelve years ago the church there sent him up to Tamaqua, which is about 40 miles from Danville, southeast. He along with Luke Weaver were preaching there and teaching Bible school. They finally got a small congregation established, but trouble would not stay away, as it usually does not. Edwin is a plain man and he likes to dwell among plain people, and he was teaching his parishoners the value of decency and modesty, and was succeeding to get his message across but every month or so the young folks from his home area would come up to help with the mission work, and by appearances they did not represent what he taught was proper, and it caused questions to be raised. Well, he was just too old fashioned to fit in this fast moving aggressive society, and when the Eastern Penna. Mennonite Church asked and received permission from The Lancaster Conference to withdraw, and establish their own form of discipline, Edwin was glad for this opportunity. He now can teach and preach what he believes in unhindered. James Burkholder is also an ordained man at that congregation, he is the son of Titus Burkholder, who is a preacher at the Centerville congregation, and about all his sons, and daughters are ordained or married to ordained men.

They have a small church out in the New England Valley and a nice sized small congregation. But all the members there except two ladies are natives from Lancaster County.

We here at Rush have a congregation of around 100 people, and also no natives of the area as members, for as yet we could persuade none that our way of serving God was the best for them. Yes we do have one native from the area, and his entire family; he is now ordained as Deacon of our church, his named is Edward Ker, and believe it or not he is as strict or more so than anyone when it comes to holding the line on conservative doctrine. We are also taking a long hard look at the popular so-called evangelistic thrust, to try to get sinners into church and preach to them there. The Mennonite church has now tried that for over 100 years, and the number has not grown near as fast as it would have had we just delivered our own offspring from being lost to the church. The number of converts is small compensation for the terrific loss of our own offspring, and it took us 100 years to see that our policy of

missions does not bring the desired results. We must have been doing something wrong. We are still not out of the woods by far, but at least we have started to ask the reason why.

Traditions do not die easy regardless of their inefficiency, and evangelistic meetings, and the giving of invitations for those who would to accept Christ, is just as much a human tradition as a broad brimmed hat. Neither of them has any scriptural support, except maybe that those who want to be saved should show it by standing or raising the hand. When Paul preached on Mars Hill and the assembly was departed there were those who believed what he said and they made effort to follow him and learn more. We have some where along the way been side tracked, and it has become a tradition that seems to have much more bearing than Holy Writ.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

December 15--Just three days ago was the 61 anniversary of a very important wedding that took place in the 12th hour of the 12th day, of the 12th month, in the 12th year of this century. It was when John B. Renno and Mollie E. Peachey were married, my father and mother.

They had invited the family doctor, and he said in the light of this being a very special day numerically, they would probably have 12 children; and this prophecy became true. Not only was 12 an important number but 9 was too, for only nine children survived, the rest dying in infancy, and 9 are alive today yet, although the parents are dead; the mother died in 1959, and father died in 1969, being 79 years, 9 months, and 19 days old. He was ordained to the ministry in 1924 being 25 years old, and ordained to the bishop office in 1942, being 53 years old.

As was afore referred to at times I like to get away from it all and be by myself, for if you want to write you have to think first. I took a load of potato chips which are made here at Berwick, to New York City. I did not arrive as early as supposed to, and had two drops to unload and the city being full of traffic, I did not get to the last place until 5 p.m. and it was too late to get unloaded, they spoke kindly to me and apologetically, and asked if I would stay over, to which I consented, having a sleeper berth in my truck.

I was parked along Spring street in lower Manhattan just by the Holland tunnel entrance. It was an industrial section of the city and not too many people around, although there were some walking the streets, there were no stores there, but a saloon on about every corner. I walked to just to see what I could, and it was interesting, I did not see any drunks, nobody was violent, there were some women out too, but it was raining slightly, and that kept many in.

I sat in my truck, and read awhile, and wrote a letter, for the place was well lit up being right near a bright street light. I went to bed at about eight o'clock and slept until toward morning, when that was all the sleep I needed, and they still weren't ready to unload until 8 in the morning, although they were there all night, it being a warehouse, where they load their own small trucks with food for delivery the next morning, and there were other buildings there too with men working all night, and I could hear the subway trains underneath the street all the time.

In the morning at day break I

walked the streets some more, it having cleared off during the night, and went down Houston street where there is a large Catholic church as long as a half city block, it called the church of St. Anthony of Padua, having to do with the Franciscan Friars. In the front was a manger scene with life size wax men and women, and the wise men with their camels etc., and the baby in the manger was about the size of a two year old, having nothing on it except a loin cloth, laying there in some hay, and a sign above it read that this idea of the manger scene was originated by St. Francis of Assisi 3 years before his death.

This man was born in 1182 and died in 1226 he is supposed to be the worlds favorite Christian saint, a lover of everyone and everything, he was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant and spent his youth in a harmless and frivolent manner and was transformed after a severe illness. He recklessly gave away everything he owned and much of his father's stock, to the anger of him, then he began begging for funds to help restore ruined churches, and also to help the poor. He was a preacher and started the order of the Franciscans. He was deeply acetic and given to much fasting and prayers, praying for long stretches of time, and had estatic visions, and even claimed to have bleeding wounds on his body where Jesus was wounded, he was so very religious. He is the one who is credited with started the manger scene at Christmas time, and it was on the occasion when he celebrated the feast of Christmas at Greccio, he decided to inaugurate a Christmas scene to represent the birth of the Christ child just as it took place at Bethlehem. So that men should see with their own eyes the hardship that he suffered as an infant.

Now the reason I give this report is to somewhat counteract what is commonly reported about New York City, as being full of rebels, and drunks robbing and plundering everyone within sight. It may be so in some sections of the city, in the slums, but I saw none of this, the city was very clean and orderly, and everyone I saw behaved himself very well.

Many of you know how it used to be in the summer time when you laid up in the hay mow and listened to the rain on the tin roof, it was beautiful, with the sound of running water down the spouts, and the continual dropping above. This I heard as I lay in the truck, it rained about all night, and the rain dropping on the tin roof, while I was nice and cozy inside, made it a night to be long remembered, especially in one of the largest cities of the world. But I can only be in one small part at one time, and I don't go looking for trouble, for the scripture tells us to study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and work with your own hands so that we have to give to him that needeth. This is not the way St. Francis did it, but then I suppose he was to busy trying to be holy by his own efforts that he forgot to see just what the scripture has to say. But he did have visions and estatic revelations, which proves nothing by way of Divine revelation.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Dec. 19--We were just wishing for a big snow storm at our house and we received just that, but it came different from the usual pattern, the wind was out of the north. Usually we have a strong east wind that is a harbinger of snow, for most of our precipitation comes in from the west off the great lakes, this makes for a low pressure area, and the wind goes toward the low area. This time it came up off the gulf, and we had a strong cold north wind, and toward evening it started to snow; by the next morning we had about four inches, and the wind was changing to the west, and this is usually a sure sign that the precipitation is over, but it kept on coming, snowing from the west, till it was all over we had around fifteen inches.

To make it interesting I had a load of potatoe chips to take to near Pittsburg, Pa. They were supposed to be there Monday morning at 7 o'clock. Which would necessitate me leaving home at midnight, but one look out the door and I went back to bed. When the next day about noon when the wind changed I was sure the storm was over, and left for my destination supposing I would get there by evening, but the snow did not stop, although it did not bother me much except to reduce the speed, and slow automobiles.

I drove 100 miles or so, and stopped at my favorite restaurant, near Mill Creek where Joe Miller is doing such a fabulous business, and there I heard that the roads were blocked by stranded motorists between Ebensburg and Cresson. I have learned long ago that there is absolutely no use quarreling with circumstances, if you can't, you can't, and all the arguing will change anything, I parked my truck got a motel room, and sat and read till bed time, gaining a lot of new information.

By morning I heard the traffic was moving rapidly along, so assumed the roads were cleared by now as it had stopped snowing by dark. But the storm was coming in from the east by then, and 10 miles east of Pittsburg they had no snow at all, the ground was bare, it was hard to believe, but seeing is believing.

There was still plenty of trouble going over the mountains, for some others, as they did not get the roads plowed fast enough, it was just packed down hard, then froze, and I had no trouble, for I was light, but many others were still parked where they stalled from the night before, and there was one way traffic. I felt sorry for one man, he was going east, and out in the west part the roads were good, he was starting up the Alleghenies with a load of steel on a three axle trailer, and a single axle tractor don't know how far he got, but he was about half way up when I met him and digging his way up, but to dig through four inches of hard snow takes a long time, when you have another mile to the top. I came home by way of the turnpike, for that's a private road, and the tolls pay for the clearing.

Pennsylvania is getting very hard pressed financially, and they just don't have the money to spend on clearing roads, and now that the so-called energy shortage, their revenue from gasoline is way off too. But they don't work like they used to, they may have a dozen men on a job, but most of them just stand doing nothing, and draw their paychecks, it's all poor management.

Isaac Sensenig and Aaron Shank, two bishops from the Eastern Penna., Mennonite church, just came back from a weeks trip to Guatamala, they were down visiting the church they have established, and baptising a few converts. Mrs. Frank Martin who is also a Budget scribe from there at the

mission can probably give a more concise report. Isaac is much enthused by the conditions there, and the people, he wants me to go down and investigate British Columbia among the Indians, who live on government handouts, and just live in luxury and ease.

In Guatamala the people have to work hard for a living, they provide for themselves, having no modern machinery, they cut their wheat, tying it in bundles, and carry it home. The mission purchased a farmstead, and on this was an old mill to grind grain, with water power. It had been abandoned, but they repaired it and made it useful again, and now the natives come every morning with a large bowl full of grain on their heads, standing in line even before they open up. They then pour the grain into the hopper, and hold their bowl down below and catch the ground meal, and after paying their small fee they again walk home with it. They also employ natives to work there at the mill, paying them 75c per day for their labor, the usual rate of pay is about 45c per day per man.

There are now five families living there who originated from Lancaster county, it is understood they will just stay indefinitely, and come home again leaving someone else go down for a while. They are supported by the home mission board as yet, but eventually they want to make their own living there just like the natives

do, but the time will hardly come when they will live as simple as do the natives, for Isaac says they have no windows in their huts, and no chimneys but they build a fire in them and cook their meals, the smoke goes out the best way it can through the eaves etc.

That would be simple living indeed, and as strangers and pilgrims, but those natives do not know any better their fathers lived and died that way and they are no better than they. They are a very friendly people, and very eager to get something to read, those that are literate, and unlike civilized America, they wear more clothes than many of our native women do; mini-skirts are not the usual practise, unless perhaps some who would get converted American style. There are quite a number of missionaries there of different denominations, people who do not believe the scripture still believe in missions.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Dec. 27--The Mennonite Messianic Mission, is the daughter of necessity, which is the mother of many inventions. It originated officially in the basement of the home of Homer Bomberger on Sept. 20, 1966.

The Lancaster Conference which first convened in 1711, is where the men formerly were in church relations, prior to this new venture. The Messianic Mission is not a church, neither does it legislate over churches, but the men who formed it are about all with The Eastern Pennsylvania Mennonite Church and Related Areas. This is not a conference, neither does it function as such, although to the average person it is the same.

The Messianic Mission was established primarily to be a true Mission, and still functions as such. They established two units for 1-W boys when that was yet going due to the peacetime conscription. They do have other places which they sponsor; they purchased a farm in Guatemala, in Central America, and have workers there, seeking in this way to spread the truth of the gospel. But there is also much work at home to do. It is a guide to the Eastern Church, and has monthly informative meetings which are open to the public. Now the Eastern Church, which is erroneously called the Isaac Sensenig group by some who are less informed, has five bishop districts. (Incidentally Jesse Neunschwander was recently ordained bishop in the White Oak District.) Each of these districts has a man in it chosen to serve on the Gospel Team Committee, and every month or so they send out a preacher along with about 15 others to accompany him to the various small scattered churches in the country. You see, that is why The Related Area clause is inserted in the name.

Walter Newswanger, who is a preacher at our local church at Rush, along with others, was sent on such a mission recently. They first went to Hephzibah, Georgia, and had services

there in the evening, for that group, where Earl Hartzler is the preacher, and Edgar Strit is deacon. Now this group does not officially belong to the Eastern Church, but is related. It belongs to the newly formed Southwestern Conference. Here the land is large, and the people are scattered, one living as far as 80 miles away. From there they traveled to Pensacola, Florida, where Eastern does have an official group, pastored by Herbert Ebersol, and Sidney Carpenter. This is a distance of 500 miles from Hephzibah. They had services for this small group, in the south land, and one family travels 40 miles daily to get the children to a church-oriented school. People who live in the outlying areas need the fellowship which can be obtained from these visits. Now these are not mission stations supported from a large church back home as some would suppose, but the people living there are self-supporting and earn their own living. Their pastors too have to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow; no easy job of speaking on Sunday, and doing some visiting during the week. We do not believe this is appropriate for a Christian minister, human nature being what it is, to financially give a man his livelihood, make him lazy, shiftless and irresponsible, seeking to eat the meat off the flock, rather than being an example for it.

The Gospel team then travelled some two hundred miles further southwest, to near Tylertown, Miss., where Levi Miller is a pastor. This group is not under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Church either, but is related. They are a non-conference group which seceded from the larger old Mennonite churches earlier than the Official

Departure, as the Eastern Church. Now this Levi Miller is the same as was formerly with the small group at Mt. Pleasant, Illinois. They live far away from any other related Mennonite group. I do not know just how this would be. We live along too here in Northumberland, Co., but we do not have far to go to any other neighboring congregation, the nearest being about 40 miles, in Juniata Co.

The Gospel Team of which I spoke travelled about 3000 miles, and some question the wisdom of burning up so much energy just to travel to different churches, but this is an old, and a good practise. Men did not travel as fast as we do now, and when they did they stayed for a few days or weeks, but is so much better to stir up the saints by way of remembrance so that they in turn will relate the gospel to society, rather than going to society, and there try to tell them something which scripture says they cannot understand, nor receive. They must see it lived out in holy lives, day after day, and not just be spoken to once a week. It is my wish that churches would stop and study just what scripture has to say on so-called mission work. We know that the conventional method has been tried for over a century, with great casualties in our own offspring. We had better stop and see what we are doing wrong.

John Renno