

## DANVILLE, PA.

July 11--I am writing the Budget letter this week for my father. He pulled two mobile homes to Kentucky.

The weather had been quite warm this week, but today it was quite a bit cooler.

The Fourth of July meetings at Numidia began last Thursday morning and ended on Sunday evening. It was pretty full this year.

We are having Summer Bible School at the Rush church now. We have them Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evening for ten evenings. This Sunday evening we have church services however.

The day of my brother William's wedding is approaching rapidly, July 20. He is planning to be married to Sharon Brunk at Carbon Hill, Ohio. She was our school teacher for three years.

Friday is the baking day here. We sell bread, pies and sticky buns. We put signs out and people stop and come into our front porch, which is a convenient place to sell our things as it is closed in.

I am presently employed at an egg place where we process our own eggs. They have the capacity for 45,000 chickens. There is a place where six rows of eggs go into the washer at a time. They then go through two fans and then into the candling booth. Here bloody ones, dirty ones, Grade B's and Crax are to be picked out. The rest go into the grader where Jumbos, Extra Large, Large, Mediums and smalls and Peewees are separated. The Jumbos and Peewees are packed by hand. There are four packers one for each of the rest of the sizes.

The cartons or flats are placed upside down on the eggs and then they go around underneath and belts carry them through the closer where the cartons are closed. Then they are placed in cases or baskets. They have two delivery trucks a big one and a van and a regular delivery man. I enjoy working there. Now it takes from three to four hours to do the eggs.

"We'd worry less of what others think of us if we'd realize how seldom they do!"

Irene Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

July 18--This section of the country, and in a wide radius, is very prosperous as far as crops are concerned, we get rain just about when we need it. There was much spoiled hay with too much rain, but there is much more that is good, with very little or no rain, and the crop was heavy. One man claimed his wheat was about four feet tall & very thick, with a super abundance of straw, and the grain making 55 to 60 bushels per acre, and it was so dry none of it tested above 14 percent moisture. The price of wheat being about \$3.50 per bushel.

The corn is just coming into tassel, has a deep green color, and barring any natural hindrance it should yield abundantly. But the price of milk dropped a little over a dollar per cwt., something over \$8.00. Hogs are selling for 37c, and fat steers must be very thrifty to bring 40c. Holstein steers sell for a few cents less. Feeder cattle at 400 lbs. bring a few cents more than fat steers.

Our neighbor, Andy Comry has decided to give up the fight for financial survival, sell out and go back to an eight hour day. Now that he has his sale bills out and the sale advertised, he is torn between two opinions, thinking maybe he shouldn't have, but a reversal is almost too late. He lived on the farm where he now is most of his life, having taken over the farm from his father before him, and his debts are not much at all compared with some, but he says he is tired of working seven days a week from dawn till dusk, with not more to show for it than he has.

He did some figuring, and all the faster he is paying on his farm, and with interest on the money he owes making his farm very expensive eventually, and knowing that if he sells now he can be clear of debt, with some besides, and he would like to have some time to live, to give himself to the study of the Word, for he just discovered recently, that there is more to life than constantly spinning your financial wheels, and even if one does get ahead, what shall it profit a man if he should gain even the whole world and lose his own soul, he can see no gainful point in that.

He is a Presbyterian by denomination, and quite active in his church, and tries to point out what he found to others, and is quite astounded that they pay so little interest to the things

which he has found so useful and precious. His former associates look askance at his ambitions and wonder if he might be a little off his rocker, for the things which he once supported he now hates. His sense of values have changed completely, and he is discovering that all those who will live godly must suffer presecution. He does not enjoy it but he would not go back to his old life, which was without purpose.

The workers at the local electric company have been out on strike for some time now. They were making \$6.00 per hour, and many were satisfied with their wages, but when the bosses say walk out thats what they have to do or pay a fine of \$100.00 per day to the union.

They have been out so long now that even if they get what they ask for it will take them ten years to just catch up to where they are now. Its hard for me to see the sound reasoning in that, but that's the way it is. We have noticed no lack in electric power at all, the personel at the plant are going on the same as before, and it is thought that its going so good without the workers that perhaps they will just let them sit.

Canneries have trouble getting tin plate to make cans, for the price of making tin plate is not high enough so the steel mills can make it as profitable as other commodities, so there is a scarcity.

One good thing on the horizon is that gasoline prices are expected to drop, for they expect the market to be glutted very soon. Is it not strange that several months ago Simon, the energy czar decided there is an oil shortage, and now there is a great surplus, people are very gullible, and believe about anything thats put in print.

Our national leaders now admit that we have run-away inflation, and are trying to take a new approach to it, talking of balancing the budget, they are finding out that the raising of the prime interest rates do not quite bring the desired results, for it stops the borrowing of money in so many places, thus shuts business down. The

building of mobile homes is a major part of the economy in this area, and they are almost at a stand still, people would buy if the banks would lend them the money, but they are more cautious, fearing they might not get it back. But if they balance the budget it will mean a farther recession, for that would mean they would have to stop printing more money to pay their bills.

If you or I run low in funds we have to economise, but the government has been just printing more paper money instead of cutting costs, this is the cause of inflation, too much paper money with nothing back of it.

The world monetary leaders have just completed another of their meetings but they cannot reach any agreement either, it just looks like the whole world is hoplessly entangled in a financial mess from which they know not how to extricate themselves. We don't like inflation, but its so nice to have a lot of money.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

July 27--The most important wedding that I ever attended was held at the home of Isaac Yoder, near Allensville, Pa. on November 29, 1945. Levi Stoltzfus officiated, and my wife and I were the central figures. Now no doubt to others it was just another wedding but to us it was important. Now for the last six years there is a wedding in which we are also involved, every three years. Our third son William was married on July 20, 1974, the two older sons were married at three year intervals before. The first two weddings were held to the eastward near Lancaster Co. but this one had to differ, this time we went 480 miles to Carbon Hill, Ohio. This is where the Messiah Bible School is held annually, where many of the younger generation have spent some time in the past.

Marion Good is the bishop at the church at Carbon Hill, but like bishops are wont to do, he is not at home very much when Sunday comes around. Gaylord Baer is the associate pastor, and Norman Brunk the deacon.

The bride that Willie has chosen to accompany him through life is the daughter of Norman Brunk, the deacon, she has proven herself in this area for she taught in our schools for the last three years, so she seems like one of our own community, but the home of her close kin is at Carbon Hill. But she has consented to follow her husband to live in this immediate vicinity, and make her home here.

Now the above mentioned wedding was nothing out of the ordinary except that it was our third son leaving his home never to return in the same way he left; it is getting increasingly difficult for me to surrender my own offspring in this way, now we have only two left, which makes mom and me look rather on the aged side of the ledger.

I well remember when my father was my age, and time took us on, and in its process things have changed, he is now gone over that wide river and has left us only memories. He once was young too, and full of plans and calculations; he lived, and worked and raised a family, but all too soon his time came and now he is gone. So was I young at one time, but I see by the sign posts along this road, that I too will go the same way he did.

Now a bit of family records of the bride Willie has chosen. The wedding had taken place on Saturday afternoon, but we stayed there, and slept at the Messiah School building, and so did many of the relatives of Sharon's father, in fact he told me it was the first in a very long time that his kin were all together. He stems from the area of Elida, Ohio, and most of them were from there, but some are from Virginia.

This was proven to us the next morning, for they slept in the same building we did, and they got up early like old people do, and were preparing a little breakfast down in the kitchen, but the noise they raised put little more sleep out of the question; and as the saying goes, "if you can't lick em, join em", and we did just that. They had brought fresh peaches along from Georgia, for the one couple resides there, and four women were peeking them & preparing them to eat, but the amount of fuss those four women raised, who were related but had not seen each other for years, and occasionally the men would throw in curt remarks, in that large high ceiling kitchen, you could hear all through that slumbering building.

They were from Georgia, Virginia, and Elida, Ohio, so had circumstances scattered them out, and they made use of the occasion.

At the church service there were two grandchildren of the old grandfather Brunk doing the preaching, Gaylord Baer, and some Showalter son who is pastoring a church in West Virginia. After the service which was unusually large, we had dinner together on the lawn of Marion Good's home. I was a little concerned lest I don't get enough to eat ere we start our long journey home, and to buy food on Sunday is not considered the proper thing to do, but my fears were all ungrounded, for there was very much food on the tables.

We then started on our long trek homeward, at two o'clock, and arrived home at 10:30. It was enjoyable, enlightening, uplifting yet depressing. The penalty of progress.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

August 2--Our oldest son works at the feed mill, and also drives the truck, hauling wheat and corn to various places, some of it goes to the peirs for overseas shipment. He has to start early in the morning to get there, and back before it gets too late, often times bringing a load of brewers grain back, or malt sprouts, and such things that are used.

In the busy season he gets many hours of work in but lacks the hours that are needed to sleep. He does not work there on Saturday afternoon, but has work at home in his garden and lawn. Last Saturday he was out pulling weeds, and the sun was hot, and he was tired and drowsy, so he laid himself down along the fence in the shade for a little rest, having the garden tractor on one side so as to be hidden from too public view, as they live along a road.

He was soon fast asleep, catching up on much needed rest, but it did not last long; for his wife came outside, and saw his feet sticking out from behind the tractor, and she wondered

why he would be laying there, was he ill? She called him but he gave no answer; she became a little alarmed, wondering if he was electrocuted by the fence, so she went a few paces toward him and called again, but still no answer. By now she was really alarmed, and ran over calling him loudly but by the time she got to him his chest was still heaving by his breathing, and finally by her persistant noise making he awoke, and wondered what all the fuss was about, is not a working man entitled to his rest?

Earlier in the year I had sold roof coating to Steve Moser, and his parents to coat their barn roof, for it is getting very rusty, but after having ordered the paint, and thinking it over, they decided they could not afford it, so they cancelled the order. This was alright there was no harm done. Well lately there was one of these painters from the deep south came around, driving a fancy Cadillac, and he sent his ten year old son over to make the request to paint the barn roof. He was rejected at the first but then the father came over to put the pressure on, and the price so low they could not resist, for he offered to paint the whole roof for \$150.00, and the paint they had ordered from me would have cost them over two hundred, plus the labor of application.

So in a few hours it was done, the men collected their money and left. That evening it rained, and the half of the paint went down the spout. Steve was very angry, and called the police, but they informed him, they are unable to help him if their was no written contract, and the men left no name or address, they would be on the lookout.



but left little hope. Steve thought they had told him they stayed at Williamsport, so in the morning he headed for there, and sure enough he met them; two pickup trucks and the man in the Cadillac behind. The man's son was in the front truck riding along; so Steve turned around and passes them, and crowded the front truck off the road. He stopped his car, ran back and grabbed the boy, and shook him, and hollered as loud as he could, threatening him with evil, if not something was done about their bum paint job. By this time the father came running forward trying to stop his son from getting hurt, and got the \$150.00 but wanting to give Steve back his money immediately, but Steve said he does not want the money back, he wants his barn roof painted, so that it does not wash off the first rain, but they said they could not paint it again, and finally persuaded him to take back his money, so that he had no loss except some excitement.

We had a flat tire on my paint truck, and it was one of those kind of wheels that split in the middle, and hard to work on. Now the deacon of the Mennonite church at East District has a garage, and he told me he could fix it for me, if he had the time, but he was just going for lunch, and has a lot of work ahead that's promised, and besides he has to stop early tonight, for he wants to go to a banquet.

The Mennonites over in Montour County, built themselves a school, calling it the Maranatha Mennonite School. Last night they were having a banquet in honor of some of the students. David Thomas the bishop was up from Lancaster County to give the address.

The thistles in our pasture are not doing so well this year, they grow up, but the goats like to eat the flowers off just when they come into bloom, this seems to be a delicacy.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

Aug. 5--I have been seriously reprimanded recently for some of the things I put out in the public's view. Some wonder just what kind of a person is this John Renno, what kind of a church does he attend?

If I am allowed to speak for myself, I would say my bark is worse than my bite, but if you really want to find out you have an invitation to come and see where I dwell. There's nothing like a personal encounter.

The Rush congregation where we attend is a part of the Lebanon district, of which Aaron Shank is bishop, and just recently the ministry has decided to exchange pulpits once a month within the district. I think it's an excellent idea. You get to know other men better that way, that help to decide local policy. It does make a difference to your receptivity of a message if you know a little about the bearer of that message. And to reshuffle preachers by an edict, within their own district helps people and preachers to know each other better, and many misunderstandings can be averted thus.

The last time Ralph Shank preached for us at Rush. He regularly attends at Rhersburg congregation and is an elder brother of Aaron Shank the Bishop of the Lebanon district. They do not have an assignment on what to speak, but just to be among the various churches, and speak that of which they see the need.

Ralph spoke to us of Cornelius the Roman centurion, who greatly feared God and gave much alms; emphasising the fact that he that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord, saying if you want a safe place to invest your money so that you get a fair return and don't lose any of it, but get it all back with much interest, you give it to the poor.

Ralph is well known by many of those who get the Budget, for he was in Florida for some time even operating a laundramat there. At the present he is engaged in the hanging of overhead doors.

Truth is stranger than fiction; ten years ago the major denominations decided on a

more liberal policy, to please the people more so they do not leave the church. But the exact opposite has happened. The main line protestant churches are losing members very fast, while the more conservative type are gaining rapidly. The result, since the liberalization of their policy the Episcopal church has lost 154,000 members. The Lutheran church 35,000 members, and the United Methodist church lost 174,000 members in the last decade.

In contrast to those losing members the more conservative type, the Assemblies of God, have gained 21,000, the Mormons 14,000, and the Seven Day Adventists 15,000, but the largest gain of all was the Southern Baptist that gained 240,000, and now has a total membership of over 11 million. This shows that human nature demands some rules and laws to go by. Those who throw disciplinary action away are, like the proverb, throwing the baby out with the bath water.

Recently I paid a visit to the Hans Herr house at Willow Street near Lancaster. That is a worthwhile visit for anyone, even if you have no interest in history. Just to see the structure itself is a lesson in building. With the big wide stone walls, and the fireplace in the middle of the house, instead of the end, and the cool basement underneath, it's almost like air conditioning. Then in the winter time with the fireplace in the middle of the house you get the benefit of the heat of the back side of it too. And a little hole in the back where they set the bread to bake. And also in the upstairs there is a place to build a fire, the chimneys fusing together in one.

The rafter plates were rotted through, so they dismantled the roof, and put new in, and to make them like the original out of hewn logs at the present day labor prices would have cost a lot. Also the shingles for the roof had to be replaced, and they were also split out by hand, all 3000 of them.

Earl Groff is the caretaker thereof, and is very interesting to listen to explaining the various phases of the workmanship. It would do a modern day contractor good to see the workmanship to past generations.

John Renno



## DANVILLE, PA.

August 16--My father went to Texas this week pulling two campers. They were loaded on a trailer.

The east of the Teachers Instruction course at Numidia Bible School was this afternoon with Issac Sensenig bringing the concluding message. It started on August 5. Rosa Mast, Lois Hurst and Ethel Steiner attended from our community. Ethel Steiner is one of our school teachers. She is formerly from Ohio.

There were four men from Mexico attending the Teachers Instruction course. They stayed overnight at our place last Friday and Saturday evenings. My father took them to New York City on Saturday. On Sunday morning they attended the Valley View Mennonite church down at Schoeneck, Pa.

On Sunday evening at our church Bro. Donald Newswanger brought the message.

Lois Hurst is planning to leave tomorrow for Leburn, Kentucky where she serves as teacher.

"Courtesy costs so little but goes so far".

Irene Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Aug. 15--We had visitors from the Klein Gemeinde, (Little Church) in Mexico over this weekend, a delegation of four men were here at Numidia during the teachers institute, to get acquainted with our set up.

The Kleine Gemeinde is now called the Evangelical Mennonite Church by those who are still in Canada, from whence these in Mexico moved in 1952 and live in camp 304 in the state of Chihuahua, about 80 miles north of Cuacuatomec (pronounced cow-to-mec).

The Kleine Gemeinde originated in 1814 in the Molotchna Mennonite settlement in Russia, which settlement was founded in 1804. And ten years later there was a small group dissatisfied with the Old Colony church because they claimed they were too lax in their discipline, and their moral standards were too low.

Klaas Reimer was elected minister of the old church in 1801, and became the leader of the dissatisfied group, and was elected elder, or partly so, but it never materialized fully, for Elder Heinrich Jantzen from the Old Colony of the Schonwiese church helped them along but hesitated to ordain Klaas Reimer as an elder, so he assumed the functions of an elder without a formal ordination. He assumed this role in 1814 but then left that church and again went back to the Old church in 1822. But by then there were three other preachers to carry on the work which he had started, who came to the Kleine Gemeinde when he left, they came from the Old church to which he again joined, namely Heinrich Wiebe, Heinrich Balzer, and Peter Penner, who came in 1835.

The basic characteristic of this small group was a radical attempt to save a small remnant of the children of God from the disastrous influence of the world; they were very strong on their ideas of non-conformity, humility, and church discipline, were very diligent in the reading of the scripture and Menno Simon's writings, as well as Dirk Phillips, and the Martyr's Mirror. They condemned card playing, smoking, drinking, higher education, mission work or musical instruments, and any worldly act or sentiment expressed was punished by excommunication and shunning.

Today there are about 100 families of this group living in Mexico; they live in colonies, but do not have all things in common as do the Hutterites, they seem to be a thrifty people, and now believe in mission work, for they have one mission station, in the which they have some converts from the Old Colony Mennonites, of which there are about 20,000.

They have their own schools, but they were aware of their inadequacy in their teaching profession, and asked the Rod and Staff publishers where they could get help, who referred them to Numidia.

Thus it was, when I was to Numidia one evening to hear the very notable speaker Merle Ruth on the subject of Christian Ideology, that after the services I noticed these four strangers, and upon learning that they were from Mexico, I soon found my way to them, for I had been in Mexico last winter. Two of the older ones can speak english very well, for they went to school in Canada, but being in Mexico for 18 years and speaking mostly low German they must at times search for english words. I invited them over to our house on the weekend after the schools session was over, and they came, but expressed the desire to visit New York City, to see a few of the notable things, and to say they have been there. I assured them that I had been to New York many times and knew my way around pretty well, although it is very large and there are many places I have not been. So on Saturday morning we headed for New York City, about 200 miles from here.

We parked our car in a public parking lot, and took a taxi to the Empire State Building, for in New York, you cannot park

just anywhere, for there is very much traffic. There are thousands of people there to visit the same building, for it is called the eighth wonder of the world and is 1245 feet high, or 102 stories, just about like being in an airplane.

We had to stand in line up there to wait on the elevator to bring us down, and we waited for about 30 minutes, but it was profitable, if you enjoy watching people, for in front of me there were two Italians, one Swedish and a family of Japanese, and in the back of me were these from Mexico. They come from all over the world to see this great wonder.

Being in a car for six hours with four other men you can gather a lot of information if you are inquisitive by nature, now they spoke among themselves, as they often did, and the two younger ones could not speak english too well, they conversed in Blaas Deutch, which is almost the same as Penns.dutch, but they spoke too fast and I could not get it but it would not take me long to learn.

The names of these men were Henry Reimer, who is 44 years old, and a farmer, as they all are, and the father of 10 children. Then there was Klaas Kornelson, who is 41, and not married. Then Benhart Loweens, who is a school teacher, married with two children. The last one was John Reimer, and I did not learn his status, for we had trouble conversing, due to the language barrier. We can both speak High German, but my accent is different from theirs, and to speak in everyday language, I am not well enough versed. They all four of them drove up from Mexico in a pick-up truck, for these Mennonites always have had cars; they were never forbidden. I have their address if anyone is interested to write to them.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

August 30--We are going down the valley one by one. The last one to travel that lonesome valley, where no human help can avail was my aunt Becky.

My Grandfathers both were married 3 times. Becky was the daughter of old S. Y. Peachey, a well-known resident of Allensville. He was married the first time to a Hooley girl and from this union was born John M. and Molly, my mother and Joshua. She then died and he was married the second time to a Yoder, from which were born Mose and Becky, Annie and Fronie. The third marriage was to Malinda Rheil, who I still remember. From this were born Katie and Rudy.

Becky left the church where she was raised and where her parents were for there was a division shortly before that and her fiancée went with that. She was then married to him, namely David Byler, known as Becky Davey, in distinction to "Oppey" Davey Byler. David was the son of Ben Byler who was a brother to my grandmother, my father's mother. So we were related on both sides.

Two years ago she had a serious operation, and she knew that sooner or later her time would come to depart from this life, so she had her funeral service pre-arranged. Erie Renno, her bishop was in charge. She was 75 years old, having lived 6 more years than my own mother, and I used to enjoy stopping in to visit her. She looked and was tempered much like my mother.

This generation does not know what hard times are, having always lived in affluence. We are very wasteful, because we have not learned the real value of things. Paper plates and cups are used at weddings, etc. because nobody wants to wash dishes.

Now paper is made from wood, and much labor is involved in getting and preparing it for us, but we have money and buy such things at the grocery store, never thinking of how wasteful we are, then complain about the cost of high living. This waste will likely stop in this generation.

Because of the high interest rates, making borrowing money impractical, or impossible, the

mobile home business has all but stopped, and I was engaged in their movement since the beginning of the year, but now, this has given rise to something more profitable, so presently I am engaged in hauling fibre glass insulation. That is made near our place, and they are moving a lot of stuff, but the dealer where I unloaded said it won't last long. He looks for a great change by fall, the home building has also just about come to a stand still, and this will put many people out of work. He knows many of the big building contractor's in New York, and they are in serious financial trouble.

But the next day it was the exact opposite for I delivered a load to Sutersville, near Pittsburgh and that is so far back in the sticks they would hardly know the difference if a depression came. Business was really booming there, for people came all the time I was there. They just bought a little bit at a time. Even though big business is hurting the small business is still going strong. At least as long as they have money to spend, and a little fixing up to do here and there.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

September 6--Christianity was first brought to the United States by Huguenots, in 1562 a band of them settled in Port Royal, South Carolina. Others settled near St. Augustine, Florida, but these were later massacred by the Spaniards, who were the establishers of this, the oldest city in America, in 1565. For two hundred years the Spanish had control of the religion of America, which was Catholicism. From Mexico they established a mission station in New Mexico by 1598. Many Indians were received into that faith, which lasted until the great Indian rebellion in 1680.

On December 21, 1620 a band of 100 pilgrims landed on the shore of Cape Cod bay on the Mayflower. They had a rough time and many died that first winter, but they survived, and through the wise leadership of Governor Bradford. They did not come to America for complete religious liberty, but for what they thought was the only right kind of religion. By 1661 they had already put some Quakers to death because they refused to accept the Puritan religion. Roger Williams started the first freedom of religion in Providence Rhode Island, the first Baptist church in the new world, in 1639.

By 1728 the general religious tenor became very formal and legalistic and many lamented, for the real true spiritual life. This came about then by Jonathon Edwards who began to preach with great power, and was so prominent that he finally refused to grant the communion bread to those who manifested anything less than true spiritual life, but this was considered too strict by the then religious heirarchy, and he was soon demoted, and defamed, and died very young. George Whitfield was soon there to take his place, and the revival fires spread through out the whole New England region, and this was the harbinger of the Constitution of the United States being written the way it was, by religious men of great principle of truth. Then after the war of Independence in 1776 the religious life died down again. And after that there were no great prominent evangelists,

but new life sprang into being in various places by local ministers, and before every war there sprang a new revival, only to die down after the war.

But all these religious awakenings did not touch the Mennonites until about 150 years ago or less, when John Funk of the Old Mennonite church became a good friend with D. L. Moody, and began to bring the English language into the Mennonite church, which to this time had kept their own German, which created a language barrier so that the popular revivals did not greatly influence them until this time. The change in language then brought with it the popular

religious influence that all the other denominations were practicing.

Because the Old Order Amish kept the language barrier intact is one of the major reasons why they did not mix with the other denominations, and were also able to keep far more of their offspring with themselves, then their religious cousins.

We were to visit the Gospel Light Fellowship near McVeytown, at the Lewistown address, which article appears in the Budget. This was established several years ago because there seemed to be a need of the required fellowship by some brethren who could not find a satisfactory fellowship elsewhere. The Melita church then took them under their wing and is supplying the leadership, which were formerly Old Order Amish in Lancaster County. This church now seems to be well established, and they have quite a sizeable group. It is also known as the cider press church, for their services are being held in an old converted cider press, but the building makes very little difference, it's whats on the inside that counts. Their service is of course no different in nature than any other church, in that they use the English language, and have Sunday Schools, with classes for all ages etc. Its a nice place to visit, the people are congenial and very friendly.

Henry Foreman and myself, were traveling companions last winter, and we saw by the Budget that Harry Wanner was now up in Snyder County, so we went down there one evening just to renew old acquaintances.

They all live together in a large three story building, near Route 11 and spend their time in picking tomatoes for a large grower. Ed Schlabauch and his family are also living at the same place, he is also from Salem, Indiana, where most of the formerly Punxutawney group moved to. Also living there is a man and his family whose grandfather I well knew, he is David Byler, the grandson of old Menno Byler of Belleville and his half uncle Harvey lives in Belleville.

David has different religious scruples and wears a robe like a large overcoat all the time, he says that women are supposed to wear modest apparel, and he thinks it does the men no harm to be likewise, dress modestly. They all have large families, and while I did not count them all I would guess there are approximately 35 people living there at this time. But it will only be temporary, for when the tomatoes are all picked they will again go back to their home.

They say the picking is not so good this year for the tomatoes did not do so well, as the vines are dying and many tomatoes are very small, and it takes longer to get a basket full. They get 30c per basket, and Harrys had picked 240 baskets that day. It pays in more ways than one to have a large family with you.

John Renno



## DANVILLE, PA.

Sept. 13--Electricity is a very useful item which we seem to think we have to have, but when the power goes off, we sit in the dark. This happened to us last night, it was our annual church business and reorganization meeting, something that only happens once a year, and when we were just ready to start the lights went out. This was something different, our bishop then told us the story of the church where they took a vote of buying a chandelier for the building; now that is a big word and many don't know what it is anymore, but its a fancy light fixture suspended from the ceiling. This vote however was turned down by a very prominent man in the church, and later the parson asked him why he was so opposed to it. He said there are three reasons, the first, they don't have the money to spend on musical instruments now, and secondly, they don't have anyone there who knows how to play a chandelier, and thirdly, if they do have some extra money, they should spend it on better lights.

But we could not let a small thing like insufficient lighting stop us last night, so after deliberating sometime, and knowing that there were lights over at our school, for it is two miles farther to the east of the church building. It was said there would not be enough of seats at the school, but we took chairs along, and till we were all seated there were still empty chairs. Our congregation is quite large by now having 71 members, plus many children, and makes for a full house.

A few items of interest, there were five babies born into our congregation this past year, down 100 percent from the year before when there were ten. The highest attendance at the church was in Aug. when there were 155 present, and the low was in May when there were 78, with an average attendance of 110.

There are nine different offices in the church which members hold, and are changed every year.

Now our school is operated solely by free will offerings except by those who send their children, who are not church members, so the budget comes rather large. But last year the total school budget was only some over \$9000.00 for everything, this includes those correspondence lessons for those who are through the grades. This made us feel pretty good, for we were informed of another church school which has hired a teacher and his pay alone is that much. Our budget for this last year was some over \$17,000.00 which included a church building fund. Also having any kind of insurance is discouraged, so when anyone has a misfortune the whole church helps him out, and this also is included in the total budget.

I having been a member of the Old Order Amish church for 11 years and know the internal workings of that compared with ours there is quite a change, for they have no buildings to keep up, no committees to appoint, no missions to support, no offerings for visiting ministers. It is amazing how much they can get done with so little organization.

I was raising our potato crop the other day, and being a firm believer in ecology I wanted to get it done with the least amount of power. To take a horse pulling a plow takes a lot of power just to move the equipment for it takes a lot of energy to move 1500 lbs. across the ground. And a tractor takes much more than that, and having neither of these I just used a dung fork, digging them and picking them up at the same time. A man with one

simple little tool takes the least amount of power to move. It was useless for me to use a plow, I could not pull that, and to get something big enough to pull it takes much more energy. Now a big truck alone weighs around 13 ton, and it has to move all this weight before he can haul any pay load. Furthermore it takes five horse power for every foot of drive shaft, and to transmit the power of the engine to the wheels takes much power so that a big truck uses about 40 percent of the power it can produce just to move itself. So the cheapest and easiest way to transport anything is to carry it. And the cheapest way to get your field work done is with the hoe, for this way you need no energy to move the machine.

The larger the organization is the more power and machinery it takes to move; so perhaps we need just one more committee, whose business would be to see how efficiently we could move with the least amount of machinery, so we could use our energy to get our aims accomplished instead of just being able to move about.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Sept. 21--The chief analyst of the Common Market Confederacy, Dr. Hendrick Eldman from Brussels, announces that there is a computerized restoration plan ready in the case of the complete breakdown of the monetary systems of the individual nations. It was at a crisis meeting of the Common Market leaders that Dr. Eldman revealed a gigantic computer which takes up three floors of the administration building of the Market Headquarters.

They eventually plan to put all the world trade into a computer, and of course, the only way this will work is to have every person that lives on the earth numbered. And this will not be too difficult for most of us here in America, one of the most advanced nations, must have a social security number, even to file income tax return, or to work anywhere. The present numbering system is not what we are speaking of but it is a forerunner of what shall be next and to get the populace conditioned to accept it. Just like last winter they said there was an oil crisis and everyone believed it. Like during the last war a certain store keeper had a certain item that would not move, so he put up a sign that because of a shortage there would be limited one to a customer, then he soon got rid of the unwanted item, for people just bought it regardless, if there was going to be a shortage they would stock up on it.

People are today conditioned to believe everything they hear or see on the news media, and the mass numbering system will pose no problem. The master plan involves a digital numbering system for everyone who wants to buy or sell; the number would be invisibly tattooed with a laser beam of light on the forehead or hand of everyone that wants to do business of any kind. This would be so much better than a credit card for it could not be lost or stolen. The number of the individual would then show up on an infrared scanner, at all places of business. Or it could be done from a closed circuit T.V. set from the home.

The Common Market officials believe that the chaos that is coming, points to the need of a world monetary system, and where everyone would receive his mark or number to do business. There seem to be just too many people on the world now to do everything with paper, and almost worldwide the present monetary system is floundering, and does not work. Also people are clamoring for a world ruler that can bring order out of the present chaos, and if and when that takes place will he not be hailed as the long awaited Prince of Peace?

Last Sunday was an anniversary of the marriage of our oldest son, and his father-in-law was up to observe the occasion. He is Levi Burkholder, a son of the late preacher Noah Burkholder, who was the originator of the present Green Dragon auction at Ephrata, Pa. Levi has been to Paraguay last winter on a chartered plane load, and they are looking for a load to go down this winter again, and plan to stay for a while. It will not cost very much, they think about \$400.00 per person round trip. It is about five thousand miles down there, and is inexpensive. If you want to see some of the Southern Hemisphere get in touch with Levi at Frystown, Pa.

The church at New England Valley comes up to Hazleton, Pa. once a month to the shopping center, and conduct what is the equivalent of street meetings, and other churches of the Eastern persuasion help out each month, and last nite was our turn here at Rush. There were about 19 people all together from here. They have an amplifying system to speak to the public and sing together.

and Oliver Keener, our oldest preacher had a short message. Some passed out tracts to the public. Not too much attention is given, as the people are coming & going all the time. A few sit in the cars and listen. There was once a man there who praised the Mennonites very highly as being good moral gospel oriented people, and Eddie Gehmen the pastor at the sponsoring church asked him if that is the case whether he would not like to belong to such a high class of people, but he declined, thinks it was alright for some but not for him. I have never been to one of these street meetings, but hear some about it.

There is a church at Hammond, Indiana, that I would not mind seeing sometime, just because of the immensity of the situation. It has the largest Sunday school in America with a weekly attendance of 11,303 people every week, and they are still growing, for this year the attendance was 3466 higher than last year. I cannot imagine how that would be, to be in such a mass crowd. I've been to churches where there were three hundred, but 11,000 and 303 surpasses my imagination. This church was a staff of 700 laymen to operate the Sunday school and they have 175 buses to go and gather up the people. They take the parable literal of bringing them in. And the founder and originator of the church is Dr. Jack Hyles who was born and reared in a small town in Texas called Italy with a population of 1309. Recently they erected a monument to honor Dr. Hyles, but it was private lest too many people want to attend. The monument erected in his honor was in a little lot and with enough scripture on it to convert a sinner, for Jack is a great soul winner.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Sept. 26--Last Sunday at our church we had what would be called an high holy day. Usually once a year we have all day meetings when we ask someone from another church to come and give a series of messages on a certain subject of scripture. Also usually we give lunch in the church basement, and visit together for some time then have afternoon meetings. But due to the fact that when humans eat and the afternoon gets warm it induces drowsiness, and many cannot keep from nodding their head while the preachers preach, we decided to do it different this year. We had no afternoon sessions, we all went to our homes and the strangers that were present and would consent we took along home with us, and spent the whole afternoon in social fellowship. This is so much better, it provides the missing link towards better relationship. For we are prone to have so much church, and so many religious activities that we loose sight of the purpose of our meetings, which is to induce holiness and sobriety. These characteristics do not come by an endless round of action, but to be quiet and still.

The Sunday School was so much better too, for Amos Rudolph, who does much of the interpretation for the material we use from Rod and Staff; was with us and spoke to us. Amos Rudolph is a cripple, several years ago, he was working on an overhead bridge, over a railroad track, and the y were spraying weeds along the track while he was up overhead, and the weed spray, was inhaled by him for he could not get away from it, and he became unconscious and left himself fall, and broke his back, now he has no control over his body from his chest down, has no feelings in it either. We put him and his wheel chair up on the pulpit and he spoke to us.

Stanley Wine was our speaker, he is from Lebanon County and preaches at Miners Village, near Cornwall, Pa. His forebears stem from Virginia. He is just a young man, hardly more than 25, but is real serious and preaches with an urgency.

He is not an excellent orator, but the words he speaks, and the way he explains the scripture calls for attention. One thing that he said was that there is much more hope for the man even if he is far off from the true light, as long as he has his face turned towards the light and is coming, that man is in a much better position spiritually than the one who is sitting right at the light and knows all th ins and out of it, but yet he has his back turned and sees nothing but his own shadow.

This year the World congress on Evangelism was held in Lausanne, Switzerland, and is being hailed as a great success by those who were disposed to go. There were 4000 religious leaders there from 150 different nations, and world Evangelism was the theme. Planning and scheming as to how to approach the business of evangelizing the world, and get as many souls saved as possible before this world passes away into oblivion, and they are having a great time doing it.

We had Clinton Ferster and his wife to our house for dinner on day, and he has been in Africa as a missionary for a number of years.

There he says when a man wants to marry a young woman, he does not consult the woman, but the father of the girl, and barter with him, like we do when buy chattels. And a man that has many daughters is considered a wealthy man, for it costs quite a bit to get a wife in Africa. And if after the young man gets his wife and she does not please him he can bring her back to her father and claim he has been cheated, she is not what she was supposed to be. The father will then speak to his daughter and severely warn her

to fulfill her duty, for he does not want to take her back, lest he must then give up all the cattle he received as payment for his daughter. The more wives a man can buy the better off financially he is too. They gets these kind in as converts too, and he said there was one who agreed to everything they demanded of him to become a member, except one thing, he will not give up any of his wives. The Clinton said that would bar a man from membership, but today it is overlooked, and statistics say there are more colored Mennonites than white. The Africans now say the Americans should go home they can do a better job of Evangelization than the white for there is no race barrier. I was very pleasantly surprised last night to have Melvin Barker call me on thephone. He is from near Goshen, Indiana, ad is a Budget reader. He also is employed in driving a truck, hauling campers, and is the one who wrote an article in the Budget concerning a trip he took to Alaska. He is 40 years old and was married seven years, to a woman he found at a truck stop at Breezewood, Pa. She was Brethren-in-Christ, and is a good christian woman, having born him two children, they are members of the Mennonite church near Goshen, Michigan-Indian Conference.

John Renno



## DANVILLE, PA.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is planning to conduct tent meetings in the near future, going to try to sing and pray their troubles away. They want to sponsor meetings in various localities, to inform the people as to how good they yet have it, and that our nation is not near as bad as it is in some places, and that even though food is high in price it is also high in value, and if we compare ourselves among ourselves in other nations of the world we still have it very good.

They must do something to pacify the populace, and they find that to get people worked up emotionally, is a good way to get the message across. When emotions run high people will accept about anything you tell them.

And the energy problem will not go away either. It would pretty well take care of itself, as there is sufficient energy available, but to get it legally is the problem. The Environmental Protection Agency is the biggest enemy, they go under the guise of trying to protect the environment, keep the air clean, and the waters pure etc. but the real reason for their existence is not that, but it makes a job for someone.

It closes down the small operators, because they cannot afford to operate and meet all the requirements that are requested of them, in the name of ecology, so that leaves a few large operators around, and these they can control better. The small farmers also have to go, and leave only the large consolidated operations to produce food, and the small folk who could not make ends meet financially must work for the big ones, so eventually you will have only the rich and the poor, and eliminate the middle class.

There are suggestions in the wind of penalizing those who use too much electricity, or gas, making the price prohibitive,

and give back some of the revenue to those who use less. There is even suggestions of teaching people how to get along without electricity, the one Senator from Pennsylvania, suggested that they turn off the power for 48 hours every now and then to get people to shift as best they can without that. Governor Shapp was very angry at this suggestion & asked that man who dared make such a suggestion, to resign his post. Who would have thought a few years ago that the utilities would be threatened? They stood as stable and firm as anything, but now they are tottering on the brink of destruction.

The Summit meeting in Washington did not come up with any answers either, as to how to control inflation, just as there is no control of a runaway horse.

Since the mobile home industry has almost shut down for lack of funds in the hands of buyers, there are many of those who were engaged in that now looking elsewhere for means of a livelihood. The Bendix Corporation here in Middleburg has

decided to stop making homes, and go to pleasure equipment, as campers etc. I myself had been pulling a few homes, but since the scarce money situation, I have diverted my energies elsewhere. I'm pulling vans now out of Mountain Top, Pa. loaded with fibre glass insulation, they make it there, and are very busy, loading trucks 24 hours a day. For with the energy not available, people must conserve what little they have, and insulated their homes, the government also giving consideration to those who try to conserve heat.

The pulling of these vans does not make one wealthy in a hurry and the revenue obtained does not rise with costs, but if you are careful you can still make out, if that is what you like to do, but beggars cannot be choosers, if jobs are scarce you must do what is available.

The other day I was going to Little Valley, N.Y. and went past the small town of Crenshaw. Now when we were attending church at Locust Grove we worked so hard to get a church going there at Crenshaw. People gave, and worked, and sang, and prayed, they built a new house for the preacher. Jesse Byler started the work, with the idea of preaching there himself, but it did not plan out that way. Richard Moyer a man from the Franconia area has now been there for years.

He is self supporting, although the church at Locust Grove still owns his house. Richard has a school bus, and transports children twice a day. He also got in the trucking business, somehow, for there was one of his converts in this business and it was not going very efficiently and Richard being a good manager, helped him with his bookkeeping, and got the business on a better financial base. Then there was need to make it still better, and Richard went into partnership with this other man. But today the man has no legal operating license, and cannot drive truck and somehow lost interest, so that leaves Richard alone with his trucking business, having two late model trucks, and seems to make it go. He now preaches at two churches, for a community church opened up about 20 miles to the north, and has asked him to come and preach for them too, so every Sunday morning he preaches two sermons, and the other church does better than his own, for that the people of the community sponsor and take an interest in it, the other one at Crenshaw is just a Mennonite church, and people stand aloof, since it does not belong to them.

JRR.

## DANVILLE, PA.

Farming was for a long time the best occupation and vocation for all. When farms were small and things inconvenient, when there were no inside bathrooms, or only the wealthy had them, when one had a few cows, and several hundred chickens, it took about a man's life-time to pay for his farm. It is good to live close to the soil from whence you were created, and to have your children work with cattle, and to learn of their ways and methods of reproduction, etc.

But due to easy credit and farming being hard work and poor pay in a monetary way, many have left the farms, and went to get an 8-hour job. And farming is now big business, and takes much technical knowhow to operate successfully, that is if you have all the modern equipment. If you are unable to clean out the cowstable by hand, or throw down ensilage with a fork, and do things the so-called hard way, then you must mechanize, and this takes hard cash, or good credit, and most farmers do not have the cash—they only have the collateral, and the modern trend is to every year borrow more money to stay in business; you need new equipment to make life easier, & more efficient. Banks and farmers' credit organizations were willing to loan farmers the money, because their real estate value was always increasing, and the only way the farmer could get hard cash was to sell out, and turn his collateral into hard cash.

Things are changing now just a bit. I have a friend who is in the fertilizer business, and he sold fertilizer to farmers on credit, and they always went to the bank to make a loan to pay their fertilizer, but now three of them told him they cannot pay for the bank will not make them any more loans. They are afraid to, fearing a financial collapse. This of course, hits the small farmers first. Those who do not have the collateral behind them.

Another friend has a dairy farm, and his herd production is one of the best in the community. If he milks 30 cows he

insists on shipping 3000 lbs. of milk every other day, or 50 lbs. per cow per day. Says he must have this amount of milk to meet his payments. The feed-milk ratio is lower than it ever was since records were kept, and it costs him more to produce that amount of milk than he really gets back, but he has to have that milk check the same size every month, to keep solvent. He said he knew and was told by experts that 1974 is the year to sell out, but he was not ready and did not, and the screws are getting put to him.

Eli Burkholder is also in the rat race; this is that Eli who moved into this area from Illinois. He formerly was from Lancaster Co. and was raised in the Pike church. He operates a bulldozer now for Schuler and Adler, a house-building contractor, and he is the most efficient operator.

In the first place he is conscientious and wants that which is right for everyone. He will not quarrel, and wants to do an honest day's work. In fact, he loses sleep if he feels his customer is not getting his money's worth. But he also has two other projects; he built a calf barn, and raises veal calves to sell. He is farm born and oriented, and is not satisfied unless he has farm-related business to plague him. He has no calves this summer for it is hard to keep them healthy in the warm season.

He also shares his home for patients from the state Hospital; those who have no home of their own, or those who are mentally deficient on a slight scale, with no one to care for them. These patients are all women, for they are much easier to keep than men. He, of course, gets paid by the State to keep these, and this also makes a good income for him, but in order to do this you must have a wife with lots of patience, and a good co-ordinator to keep the patients from quarreling excessively. He is building his house larger and has Norman Auker employed as the contractor. Now Norman and Eli are big buddies, just like two peas in a pod, they both have the same religious background and they both speak dutch fluently, and this of course makes them very easy for me to be around. I

would also rather speak dutch than english. Norman also has a home for these women, and recently he purchased a larger place, and plans to expand. He says he is very busy in his carpenter work, busier than he likes to be, for he is not getting any younger. He is very prosperous, and his work is in great demand, but does report he has a little more trouble collecting than he once had; just the last few months it's getting tighter. This may be a sign of hard times. Norman and his wife Maggie live in Lebanon County, at Richland, Pa.

Those of you who are up to date with the news and have read of the speech & proposal President Ford has for curbing inflation, may know that events with serious consequences are staring us in the face.

These are fearful times and I expect them to get extremely difficult, but they are also very interesting, and noteworthy. For those who are prepared it's a time of rejoicing, for our redemption is near to come.

J. R. Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

For those of you who like the study of history, there is a new history book in print, about the Greenwood Mennonite church, at Greenwood, Del. They did not get very many printed for a book like this does not have value for the general populace, but for those whom it concerns it has much sentimental value, and if you can learn from history it has value for anyone. I know we are all in a very busy age and many do not have time to read even what they should, let alone being concerned about the happenings of a church in Delaware. But I saw many at Greenwood who take time to read the Budget.

This book is about 300 pages, and has about all the statistics in that could reasonably be put in for the public eye. It sells for \$7.50, and can be bought from Laban L. Swartzentruber, Greenwood, Delaware.

I am already half through my copy, and having heard much of the Greenwood church, for being raised Old Order Amish, and they have a constituency at Dover, 30 miles north of Greenwood, and of course some sheep left on fold for another which promised greener pasture, and I also was a member at Locust Grove at Belleville while Nevin Bender, who was a good friend and collaborator with Emanuel Peachey who was then Bishop at Locust Grove. Reading this book made me inquisitive, and I went down one Sunday morning. The service is no different than any other church, but the history behind it is.

It was started in 1914 by several families moving in from Somerset Co., Pa. or Grantsville, Md. and many of the people there stem from that area. I well remember old Lewis Beachey from Oakland, Md. as he frequented the Amish church where I was raised, and his co-minister was Dan Swartzentruber, whom I heard preach at Oakland church one cold winter day. When Jake Peachey and I worked in Somerset Co. we went up there over Sunday. Dan preached that Sunday, and I remember what he said, "Shall I give ten thousands of rivers of oil for the sin of my soul."

We were at Dan's nephew for dinner at Greenwood, L.L. Swartzentruber. He is getting well up in years but does not show it. He's just a bit too active for old age to catch up with him. He was very active in church work, having given 14 years of his life in voluntary service, as he was at Altoona at the rest home there, and at Eldorado Home in Arkansas. He presently has charge of The Country Rest Home, Inc. at Greenwood. He said he flew about a million miles in travel, and landed in 50 or more cities in America. He knows a lot of history, about the Greenwood area, as well as much of it in the Grantsville area. His wife is a sister of the old Bishop Nevin Bender who is now 82 years old, but is still quite well, lives alone in a mobile home by his daughter's place, does his own cooking, and can drive a car, but you can hear in his voice it sounds like a very old man, as it gets a bit unsteady, and he has spoken many words in his life time. Laban's invited him over to their house too, while we were there. He said it's just seven years now since his wife died, and he so vividly remembers that for she died in a way few people do. They were on a trip going out through Oklahoma, when he noticed out of his side vision that she laid her head back on the seat, and he looked over and saw that she had died. All alone out in the vast area of the west with his sole companion dead beside him. He did not know what to do; he got to a phone and called his daughter-in-law down in Mississippi, and she told him to hang up, she would find out what he should do. She then called him back and told him to take her to a doctor, and then to a mortician.

Now Nevin was ordained at the age of 24 and he did not marry until he was 32. He said he was the first single man ever to be ordained in that Conference up until that time. He

also was the first man there to be ordained without wearing a beard, the other two ministers both wore theirs, but they then soon moved away, and left him alone for a time. The first two years the services were held all in the German language. Then they gradually changed to English so that if and when the surrounding neighborhood came in they could understand too. However, they did have some German Lutheran neighbors at that time. Laban said Greenwood is an old Methodist stronghold, and John Wesly had one of his first established churches in America near there.

The above mentioned book should be interesting to a large area, for Grantsville and Somerset is one of the oldest Amish strongholds. There is still a strong Amish church at Somerset, but the so-called liberal and conservative elements in that area decided to part ways back in 1892. And the Greenwood church is from the more liberal mission-minded area. They first called themselves The Conservative Amish Mennonite Conference but they now dropped the words Amish and Conservative, and just name it The Greenwood Mennonite Church. From this church there are also three other churches by now, the one is the Central church near Dover.

There are many things that could be said, and some things that can not be said to the public, for other people have feelings too, and may differ in opinion from me, to which they are welcome if they grant me the same privilege.

John Renno



#### DANVILLE, PA.

To every pace of progress there is a penalty, and there is a hazard to every profession, or occupation, with much knowledge there is also much grief. Therefore the simple life is much the best. But man is so bent that he is not satisfied with the status-quo, and he wants to improve his lot in life, and fails to realize how well he has it until he has himself wrapped up in all kinds of inventions to make life easier, when in reality he is making it much more complicated.

I was born & reared on the farm, and farmed on my own for almost 20 years, but there were things that I would rather do than farm, because the penalties of farming were greater than the benefits received. When I farmed with horses it was well, we did not have much, so there was very little to go wrong. We had only a few cows and chickens, and made out good enough, but did not know it. But today things are different and it would be difficult to make ends meet that way, but it is difficult in any wise at this time in history.

Due to circumstances beyond my control, or so I thought, I purchased a common farm tractor for power to pull my farm machinery, and that was well, for a tractor does not eat if he does not work, and with the food and space horses took up I could keep a few more cows, and thus increase my income, and that was well. But things change, other men had modern equipment, and boasted of the advantages, and minimized the penalties. So I purchased a brand new tractor, with all the modern conveniences on it. Live power take off, live hydraulic system, torque amplifier, etc. And this was good as long as it was new and everything functioned normally, but with much equipment designed to save labor and make life easier, are many complications. If one of those little handy gadgets did not work, the whole machine was useless. But after

having spent so much money to purchase the machine, it required just a little more to keep it in operation, and a few littles soon become a great heap.

All this is the penalty of progress. And with times as they are, and we are very dependent upon electricity, and there are rumors that we may be forced to do without it at times, we had best prepare. But in reality nobody can live without electricity, it activated

the nitrogen in the air and make the soil produce, and our bodies are so designed that we are kept alive by it; but when man generates it from the air and puts it into lines, if this would cease we would have just as much as ever but not at the place where it could be utilized.

To drive an over-the-road truck has many benefits if one is so inclined, and economically it is one of the better-paying jobs. But because of the heavy penalties many would not consider this profession, and many have fallen into disrepute through this employ, but what profession is there without casualties? What profession has taken a greater toll than the ministry of the gospel? I could name quite a few men who have fallen because they would not withstand the temptations which are peculiar to ministers, and preachers are considered much better men than truck drivers. Both are required to be away from home at times, and this is a penalty that few enjoy, if you have a good home life.

But in my mind the benefits greatly exceed the penalties in driving truck, if you like to be alone at times for hours on end, you have much time to meditate, and think, and it takes very little knowledge to keep the machine on the road, so your mind is free to wander elsewhere.

This past week due to circumstances I was delayed in Newark, Ohio, waiting for a return load. I had my nephew Ezra, along the son of my elder brother; he wanted to come along to see his relatives in the east. And he insisted we go up to Mt. Gilead and see Jake Hershberger, and friend of his who moved up from Hartville. So we went and the benefit greatly exceeded the hazards. Jake is an operator of a large dairy setup, and about everything at fingertip control; he can lay in bed in the morning if he wants to and the boys milk 75 cows in about an hour. This is good for the boys and good for Jake, for he is getting up there where he's not what he used to be, and teaches the boys responsibility. The next morning he took us in his car and we drove to near Kenton, O. where Wallace Byler moved to in the spring. Wallace is a simple man and farms with horses, and travels that way to if the distance is not great.

There are several families living there by now, and are still struggling to get things in shape, for man is always trying to improve his lot. The land is like much of Ohio, slightly rolling, and you can see that it is not a Mennonite community, for the fence rows are not mowed, and there is quite a bit of land that is not being farmed anymore, but it would be a nice place to live, if you like it quiet.

We stopped and asked a lady along the road if she knew of if she knew of anyone by the name of Byler, and she said no "she has lived there all her life and knows just about everyone around, but has never heard of that name. But she said down at the cross road you turn left and you'll come to an Amish place, there are no curtains in the windows, and they are plain people, have no modern equipment, they might know where he lives. They then gave us directions to Wallace's place.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

There was a major mistake on of my recent articles that needs some changing. I had stated that Eli Burkholder was formerly of the Pike church and this was not correct, he was raised in the Horning church. To me its about all one, but when the error was brought to my attention I looked up the matter of the various phases of the Lancaster Conference.

It first convened in 1711, and from this Conference there spring a number of various groups. During the Revolutionary War days the United Brethren church started from this conference. Martin Boehm a reformed minister met with Phillip Otterbein in 1767 in Isaac Lomg's barn and shook hand and declared they are United Brethren in Christ. Boehm was excommunicated from the church, and him and Otterbein and six lay evangelists started that congregation. Boehm claimed to have been reformed because he received new light on the subject of revival etc.

Only a few years later the Brethren in Christ church started in 1780.

Then in 1812 the reformed Mennonites seperated themselves from the main stream of conference, but these never advanced very much numerically. The Stauffer division then occured in 1845, and met in the Pike Church building, this is why they are called Pikers. From the Stauffer division there sprang a number of smaller groups, such as the Weavers, and the Brubakers, and some others here in Snyder County.

It was in 1893 at the time when Sunday schools were coming into popular use among many of the churches that the Jonas Martin people with drew. There were other things too, but that seemed to have been one of the major items.

From this division from Conference then in 1926 they had a division among themselves mainly about the owning and using the Automobiles. I spoke to Daniel Wanner recently who was born in 1904, and he remembers this division, for he was with it. Mose Horning was the bishop, and a very kind congenial gentleman, who did his best to please everybody, he

wanted no enemies, but his church was divided as to their opinion of the use of automobiles, the division was about down the middle the one half wanted them and the other half did not, and of the six ordained men they were evenly divided too. So Joe Wenger announced that those who want to refrain from owning cars would meet at a special place the next meeting time, and this finished the seperation. So today you have the Horning Mennonites, or sometimes called the Black Bumpers, because there was no shinning chrome allowed on cars. And the other was known as the Wenger Mennonites, and these have no cars to this day, both are flourishing congregations numerically.

The next division from Conference occurred a few years ago, when was formed what is now known as the Eastern Pennsylvania Mennonite church.

This group today numbers around 2000 members, in the which I find myself a member too; and just now we are completing another annual affair, when the ministers and other interested men gather together for a few days of instruction and fellowship. This meeting is held annually at Numidia where they purchased an Old School house and have renovated it into living quarters, and a place suitable for holding annual gathering. The Bible school is held there every year for 12 weeks,

housing conveniently 100 students and the staff.

I usually like to attend the ministers week which I did again the other day. It was well attended not having taken a definate count I would suppose there were about 150 ministers there and some wives, but mostly men. I was a bit out of place for as far as I know there were only two others there beside myself that were not ordained, but the meeting is open to the public and everyone who wants to attend is welcome.

The messages given there are directed to teach those who preach to others, but there is much valuable doctrine discussed too, god for any one else. After the messages there is time given for open discussion for anyone who has any questions or comments to ask or give, which is always interesting to hear what opinions were formed and developed during the course of the message.

There were quite a number down from Canada. Ira Huber's son was there from Listowell whose wife is a Budget scribe, she was not there. N. Harvey Witmer from Unity, Wisconsin, I noticed. And Wilber Krof from Harrisburg, Oregon, whose step-mother also write in the Budget from there. Also different ones from other places who are subscribers to the Budget.

Henry Weaver of Robesonia spoke in the evening on Our Respnse to the Socialistic Tendancies. He said Socialism is the result of a carnal mind searching for peace and security.

He said in 1890 the Party was organized in America. By 1904 there were 400,000 members; by 1912 there were a million members, but in 1956 the membership was down to 2000 again. It is not that the party is going out of existance the ideology is very strong but those who believe this philosophy are infiltrated in all of the various offices of our government. They say a man is entitled to a fair income even if he does not produce. But the Bible says he that will not work shall not eat. Communism claims to be a step ahead of Socialism, but Socialism claims Communism just to be a form of State own capitolists.

The perilous times predict for this age are now upon us.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

David Linebach's from Bowmansville, in Lancaster Co., have a daughter about the same age as our daughter, and they wanted to see the parents of the close associates of their daughter; something that is almost forgotten in our day, but they are a bit different, they care for their offspring, and make efforts to check and see that everything is good. And one look at their well mannered family will tell their efforts are very rewarding.

They came to our house one Saturday evening for supper. This is also different; remember when we were young and there was lots of time to do important things? Like dropping in on the neighbors unexpectedly? When the chores were all done by six o'clock, and you had time to relax or go visiting etc. Of course that was before all these new fangled labor saving devises were around, which are supposed to save you so much time and money. But now we would not think of dropping in on the neighbors for a friendly evening visit, for they are not done with the chores now until late, and they are so tired and worn out they must retire immediately.

You see having purchased all these labor saving devises costs money and they now can have so many more cows to pay for them and this takes all the spare time away. Instead of becoming our liberators they have now become our masters.

But Mr. Linebach being a carpenter, he has more time to enjoy life, and learn what it is all about, and to live with his family. The fact that they took the time to visit at our house for supper during the week is a bit unusual and deserves mentioning. Their visit was appreciated.

Our oldest daughter works for our neighbor every morning helping to candle eggs, and pack them ready for shipment. Levi Masts who are neighbors on the other side of us also have one of their daughters working there in the morning, then there is Mrs. Patton, a housewife, who works there too. The owner saw that they carried thermos bottles with them for a bit of refreshment at times, so he got them a coffee perculator, and now they have fresh coffee when ever they want it.

I was helping to paint some time ago, and the dogs were penned in the barn, but I had to go in to plug in the current, and on my way out one of the dogs got to nipping at me so I hurried out climbing over the gate, and coming down the other side my foot caught, and I fell headlong. And as is normal you throw your hands out front to catch yourself, my own weight was too much, I fell on my outstretched hand bending the fingers backward much faster than they are to go. It was swollen and very sore for a long time, and I expected it to get better but still at times very sharp pains fly into it, and seems when the weather gets on the rainy side it gets worse, perhaps I'm just feeling my age.

When heading out west the other evening just after dark, was just musing along, when suddenly a car passed me going east on the west bound lane of Interstate 80. It was quite a distance from any exit, so I assume it had been going for some time, but as I looked in my rear view mirror, I saw behind me both lanes full of lights. I did not stop to see what happened, but I was the last one to go before something did happen for then I was alone on that busy highway, for about the next 50 miles. The east bound was still going, but the west bound was stopped off.

I knew before I left that I should pay attention to the main ignition switch, but just put it off, until it failed to make proper contact, and the two

speed rear shift is connected to this, so that quit working too. They delayed me for about 5 hours until I could get someone to repair it and until they had to go and get the proper parts, I could pull into a truck stop, but they are used to breakdowns they are fixing them all the time, and if they would get excited about anything they would be living under constant tension. But they take their time to it, and you may as well relax, what will be, will be, unless you prevent it.

The man who did the repair work gave me a few tracts, and proceeded to tell me of his new found religion. Saying he was formerly a musician, and night club entertainer, until his wife got him to a revival meeting, so he went forward and started praying, until he had gotten through, and spoke in other tongues as the spirit gave utterance, and he demanded to be baptised that same night, for he claimed this washed away his sins. He said if you shout hallelujah and the Lord will finally take notice of you and let you speak with tongues, as a sign.

Although I did not agree with him, I did not let him know, just said yes, yes, ah huh, for when a man is so full of his ideas as he was there is no time to deal with facts. Where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise.

John Renno



## DANVILLE, PA.

November 14--The day of November 9 was bright and sunny. A perfect day for the wedding of Timothy Newswanger and Kathryn Sue Keener both from the Rush congregation and both ministers' children!

It was held at Numidia Mennonite Bible school. The bride's brother Joseph from Wilmington, Delaware, or somewhere around there, led the singing. The groom's father had the devotional meditation and the bride's father brought the message, after which they were united in marriage by Bishop Aaron Shank.

The reception was held in the basement. I was a gift opener with Grace Kerr and Ethel Steiner.

Dad wanted to plow the garden one day but the tractor he wanted to borrow wouldn't start. On Tuesday then he was going to plow it and it rained. Today it rained again and tonight its raining and snowing and it maybe won't get plowed at all this fall.

This Sunday Mark Zook's from the Goodwill Mennonite church are coming to our place for dinner. Harold Siegrists are also planning to come.

We are going to Goodwill on Thanksgiving day this year.

On Sunday evening, Nov. 10 at Rush church Ralph Shank brought a message. On the 24th Harold Goods from the Denver congregation plans to be with us.

The person to watch is the person behind the person in front of you.

Irene Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

One of the lost coins of our present day church society, is the art of visiting in each others homes, our church life is too heavily organized, and breaks down under its own weight, just too many meetings and committees, that it hinders the very life it is supposed to sustain. In this present local setting here in Northumberland County it is somewhat better than the church as a whole, for we are small and the only Mennonite church in the area, or any so-called plain church for that matter. Making it somewhat easier to live a non-conformed life, and we do not have services every Sunday evening, and have cut the so-called revival meetings back to once a year. This grants us a little more time to live.

I am a pragmatist, which means I am in favor only of the things that have been tried and proven to work for the welfare of society, in general, and the religious society in particular.

We had Harold Seigrists, and Mark Zooks here at our house for dinner last Sunday. Harold is our school teacher, he is the son of Henry Seigrist from Lancaster County. Henry is a produce man by trade, and Harold being raised in this environment has also been engaged in raising, buying and selling produce.

He is married to the daughter of Sam Yoder from Salisbury, Md. Sam is formerly a native or nearly so of the Belleville area, and has a brother Harry in Mattawanna. This makes Audrey, Harold's wife and my wife's second cousins, all being descendants of Strong Jakie.

Mark Zook is the son of Chauncey Zook, who used to live near Allensville, and he is married to a girl from Lancaster County, but her father died when she was young, and her mother being a widow and a former school teacher was asked to teach at the Belleville Mennonite school in the by gone years.

Mark and I were both engaged in singing in the Big Valley Mennonite chorus, near that time too, but as time goes on it separates people, and sometime they come together again. Mark and his family were down in the hills of Kentucky for 13 years in mission work, he was never ordained to preach but he did while there.

Circumstances changed and with them brought Mark back to near home, for he now lives near Richfield, Pa., in Snyder County, and works at the lumber yard at Kramer, which is the one Tom Hostetler started when he first moved to Snyder County. He then sold it to John Hummel and now lives in Tennessee.

I am watching J.H. Miller of Cheasapeake, Va., who writes in the Budget, and at times his feelings leak a little over into his writings, about the old age factor. He is just ten years ahead of me but I already have mutual feelings with him, concerning the pathos it brings with it. In spite of our modern technical advances, there are still some around who do not believe the world is round, but flat just like it appears. It is rather difficult for them to explain how man could have gone to the moon and back, and about all the satellites that are now out in space but they try to ignore this theory, for it does not make sense to them.

Scripture speaks of the circle of the earth but it also mentions the four corners, and men for a long time believed the earth to be flat. This fact was substantiated by the Greek scientist Ptolemy about 150 A.D. and made church doctrine. Then Galileo was born in 1564, who was also given to the study of the heavens, and he declared he could prove that the earth was round and went around the sun, likewise all the other planets. But this was considered serious heresay by the church, and on June 22, 1663 he was obliged to fall on his knees in order to escape death which

sentence was pronounced by the Pope, unless he recants. He was forced to sign a declaration by his own hand of a retraction. He was forced to swear that which he knew was not true, to save his own life, but privately he also told some of his friends that he was sure his oath would not stop the revolving earth. But his supposed error was thought so serious that he was put under house arrest for the rest of his life.

At this present time those who watch the earth and her population, say that there are only enough resources upon the earth to last man for another hundred years, after that they don't know what. And we are constantly bombarded by requests for help for the starving millions in other parts of the world, and that we only are 90 days away from starvation ourselves, that our grain reserves are lower than ever before.

So that if the weather does not co-operate very well, we will not have enough to eat, and there shall be famines and earthquakes in divers places, wars and rumors of wars, are the words of Divine Writ.

But there are also words to the effect that at the time of restitution of all things, he whose right it is to reign shall come and put all things under his feet, and will prove to man that there are enough resources upon the earth if it is rightly managed, and man is not governed by greed, but by righteousness and truth. Then will be world evangelism, and the gospel of the kingdom preached to all the world. And all will know how good it can be when truth reigns instead of greed, and fleshly lusts.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

Amos Hoover is a prosperous farmer, apparently so; he lives back in the so called (sticks) as compared with the rest of Lancaster County; but then its just as well, for the place is loaded with hogs of all descriptions, I don't know how many there are and I don't suppose he knows either, for hogs have a way of multiplying very fast.

He also has a few chickens, in cages, and an old house at the end of his lane where lives a German immigrant, who is a little hard to understand, for English goes very hard for him, and his everyday High German is just a little too much for me to comprehend as fast as he speaks.

We were there for supper the other night, my wife and I, and this old man was there; for they have a family tradition whenever one of them has a birthday anniversary they invited him over for supper.

He asked me at the end of the meal "hat ess goot geschmeckt", which to me meant did it smell good? But the word schmeck to him means taste, he was asking whether the supper tasted good, I thought he said smelled good; but he informed me that schmeck is taste, and reichen, is smelling. He was interesting for he has a brilliant mind.

Amos Hoover is just in his early 40's, and just at the time of life when he won't have it any better, for when the children are growing up and you have to eat fast to get enough, is the best time; when once they leave home and leave you set, and you cannot eat like you used to, and there aren't many around, then you start thinking of the good old days.

Now Amos has a unique hobby, he likes history, and birds of a feather flock together, this is why we were there for supper.

But he is now about to do something that needed to be done for a long time but was neglected; he is taking steps to have the old Froschouer bibles reprinted, so that they will be available to all who want them.

Christoph Froschouer, was born in Neuburg, Bavaria about 1500, wrote many books, and translated the bible into the

Swiss language, or rather he used Luther's translation of German, and translated it with the Swiss accent, for many of the Ana-baptists were of Swiss descent. They greatly preferred the Froschouer translation, because he was a believer like unto them, while Luther, although a great proponent of a life of Faith, because the Ana-baptists did not abide by his recommendations of being faithful to the State Church, he advocated their martyrdom, because he thought they were disobedient to God.

For this reason the Anabaptists did not use the Lutheran translation as much as the Froschouer, for he was one of them. And Jesse Neunschwander, a present day preacher in the Eastern Mennonite church, and a very wise man said, the Froschouer is the best translation. For some reason unknown to me the Luther translation was mostly used by the German Mennonites in America. The Amish brought the Froschouer translation along, and Amos Hoover knows of several people who still have in their possession one of those bibles that were brought to America.

My father, who was bishop had a Froschouer translation, which he received from his predecessor, and is supposed to be passed on to the succeeding bishops in that part.

Incidentally I have written a short history of this denomination, in Mifflin County; tracing the ancestry back to the early 1700's and bring it up to 1970; just as it pertains to this denomination, known as the Peachey church, and now the Renno church.

The reason for the writing was that there is no written record of the trials they went through, and the several occasions where they were almost extinct, because of misunderstandings. Nobody kept any minutes, and I had to go by different bits of history gathered here and there, and there are yet a few

living who know some of the things that took place. I tried to gather them all together, on one piece, and while it is yet in manuscript form, I will send a copy to anyone who desires it and writes to me; the cost is \$1.00 per copy. I am just re-checking to see how much interest there is, and if enough, I will rewrite it and make it more complete, and get it printed in a booklet.

Now to get back to Amos Hoover; he is presently getting prepared and in co-operation with the Hutterite Brethren, who use this extensively The Froschouer translation; he has to take one of his cherished copies and take it apart sheet by sheet, and a photostatic copy will be made of this original bible which was produced in Strausburg, France in 1744, which was reproduced from an earlier version of a 1536 edition.

Amos also wants to know how much interest there is among those who would prefer a copy of the Froschouer version, for their own use and study, if anyone is interested just write to Amos Hoover R.D. 3, Denver, Pa. 17517; his telephone number is 215-484-4849.

Since many of the former Amish now have modernized a bit and are now called Beachy Amish, or by whatsoever name they choose, and use the English language for scriptural study, none who can possibly read the German should be without it, for if you cannot read the scripture in two languages or more you are greatly hampered in your understanding.

The Greek language is the best, for that is the original, but German is second best, for many phrases are much clearer in German than English.

The price of the new Froschouer reprint is not settled but Amos thought \$15 would cover the cost.

JRR.

12-19

#### DANVILLE, PA.

The happenings that take place in this country of ours are not very encouraging. I do not subscribe to any daily newspapers anymore, neither do I make a practice of listening to the news casts that are made continually, I just don't have time for that. But I do not want to be totally alienated from the current events, so as to better prepare for the things which are coming to pass upon the earth.

Crime is making such inroads into our society; according to the population, and the amount of money spent to combat crime, it costs \$420.00 for every man woman and child in America. And then it is assumed that only about half of the crimes are reported. This all comes as the tally for the wave of promiscuity that has swept the country for the last decade. People call freedom the lack of restrictions, and doing just what you feel like, regardless of how much your freedom infringes on the rights of others.

The greatest take is the illegal gambling, but there is so much legal gambling that we can hardly accuse anyone of illegal gambling. The lottery system is advertised everywhere and we are called upon to give money towards this for we might win a hundred thousand. Each one of us have the instinct to try and get something for nothing, this is evil and should not be followed up, for there is no such things as a free dinner, someone has to pay for it, and the natural laws of vengeance and retribution are always in force, so that no one ever gets away with anything, it may seem so for a while but chickens come home to roost.

President Ford is accused of cutting back on giving so much away for nothing, such as health, education and welfare, and using more money to spend for defense. This is as it should be, for any country that has anything of value, must be prepared to ward off those who would seek to take away those

values. A strong man seldom has to fight, for his enemies are afraid to attack him, knowing that they have a very slim chance of winning the battle. And to give money to those who are unwilling to earn for themselves always makes enemies, and not friends.

So many of our high government officials are caught in crime themselves that it is small wonder that the citizens do likewise.

The evil that is coming upon us is not only in America, but is world wide, there is absolutely no place to go to get away from it, because we are in the time of the end. Businesses are folding up in France, and West Germany one out of every six construction companies are folding up, for lack of profit. Likewise in Switzerland, once considered the soundest economy in the world, is getting shaky, and many business are failing, mostly due to lack of management.

Land prices, once thought a sound investment, in that land will always be in short supply, are now dropping; even in Japan where land is extremely

leveled off, because people just cannot afford to buy.

Kurt Waldheim, the secretary General of the U.N. in his annual report to the General Assembly said there is almost universal sense of apprehension about the direction in which the world is heading; because of runaway inflation, and dwindling food supplies and economic upheavals. Then besides all this we have so many natural disaster, so that it looks as if the forces of nature themselves are against society.

Air pollution seems to be a problem, although not as great as the environmentalists would have us believe, for they will not allow any trash to be burned in many of the towns, even a small town like Danville, you dare not burn your garbage, you have to take it to the dump and pay to have it buried. This makes work for someone.



But the Amish who still use horse and buggies do not look near as foolish as they used to. So says an account in *The Christian Family* a small paper printed by Dan J. B. Byler of Seymour, Mo. and some of his associates. Because of the poison that automobile exhausts put out; and they can make things to take the dirt out of the exhaust but not the poison; the same way with the big factories. Already some cities are restricting parking facilities, to discourage people from driving.

But that is enough bad news for now. I haven't mentioned it for sometime and have already had mail to the effect that the writer said he does not know what goes on in the world if he did not read the Budget. So a little at times will do not harm.

We are having so-called revival meetings at our church, for a week; with John Risser from Va. as the speaker. He knows the scriptures very well and can speak intelligently.

Now evening meetings are of very recent origin in the Mennonite church, only about 150 years since they were started.

John Renno

12-26

## DANVILLE, PA.

Danville lays on the north side of the Susquehanna River, the north branch; then about eight miles down stream the west branch joins it and this makes it a large stream of water, and goes by Harrisburg, and out into the bay at Havre de Grace, Maryland.

Arther Folke wrote a book about Danville, and its interesting to note how much of importance was invented by people who were natives of the town. It has 15,000 people living in it.

There is hardly a woman who does not know something about bobby pins. Just think of how you would fix your hair without them. They were invented by Frank Emerson DeLong, born in 1864-died in 1939. His invention was small in size but very important. He is also credited with inventing the first folding cardboard box.

And the other inventor that was reared in Danville aids me much in writing; Christopher Latham Sholes, was born in 1819, and lived until 1890. In the year 1868 he came out with the first typewriter; this is a great aid in putting your thoughts into words faster, and putting them onto permanent record. Writing is much better than speaking for then you can refer to what was said again and again. With the typewriter you just let your fingers do the walking, and if you hit the correct keys you come up with words.

And railroads were one of the things that helped greatly in the establishing of the country, many people have ridden on the railroad. The first iron T-rail was forged from ore mined in the surrounding hills of Danville. Although mining is not done any more in the immediate vicinity, it did get a good start, here in this town.

Then I suppose you have heard the term Coxey's army? That started here in Danville too by Jacob Sechler Coxey, born in 1854, and died in 1951. As a boy he worked in the steel mills in Danville. Although he was no military hero, he was

concerned about the many idle people in the community, as he got together a band of men and they went to Washington to protest poverty and unemployment in 1894, this helped to focus national attention on the plight and waste of unemployment.

Although I myself do not approve to appeal to the help of government nor of the act that Coxey was responsible for, I suppose many who used that

term when you see a band of men coming, did not know who Coxey was or why they are called Coxey's army. So now you know.

There is much industry here in Danville too; Roselon Yarns, Inc. are makers of yarns for the knitting industry, and there is Merck and Company, makers of chemicals, and medicines for man and beast. And the TRW who used to make the jet engines for Jet aircraft, but of late have remodeled and are now connected with General Electric.

We also must not forget to mention the great and popular hospital here on the north side of town, the Geisinger Medical Center; many people come there for aids in the healing of the body, and also many die there.

On down stream, across the river from Sunbury where the two rivers merge is the town of Northumberland, the county seat of Northumberland County. This was the landing place of Joseph Priestly, who just discovered oxygen, and how to put it to good use.

Although Joseph was not a native of this area, he came from England, and was a Presbyterian clergyman, and became so absorbed in science that he became Unitarian in doctrine, that is the religious doctrine that in the final analysis every man and devil will finally be saved forever. He had a laboratory & discovered

oxygen in the year 1774, being engrossed in scientific discoveries. He was also sympathetic towards the French Revolution, and this was too much for the people there who came in a mob, and drove him off their coasts, forcing him to flee London in 1791. He came to America in 1794, and was a Unitarian preacher, and kept up with his science, and lived at Northumberland in the later years of his life.

The weather in this area so far has been ideal, very little real cold, and hardly any snow. The children wish for snow.

Of late the snow has turned to rain and we have had very little, but very much rain; there is hardly a week goes by that we do not get rain.

And in spite of the ominous reports of the news, and the general recession that is upon us, we still get up in the morning, and get to work, that is if we have work, and most everyone that wants work can find something to do, and not like the man who said he was unemployed; he could get work for three dollars an hour if he wanted it, but he was used to getting six so he would rather be unemployed.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

I got my buck this year! Many years ago I purchased a 30-30 rifle, and put license on my back and took to the mountains in hope of bringing down some game. There is excitement, there is a thrill, in killing game. In back of it all lies the something for nothing idea. And sports is something that gets in your blood, if you are born with that inclination.

But try as I would, I just could not see the sense of taking time off and go to the mountains in search of game and spend time there thinking of all the things you ought to be doing at home. I just was not born with the natural appetite, and instinct to observe game nor see the value in going in search of it.

Yes, I got my buck this year without trying so hard, I did not even use the high powered rifle, just a little .22 at very close range. You see I have a friend who knew of this buck and he had him tamed, because he would place feed within easy access to it, and he would come and eat it. He even got so that he would come when he called it; Looks like fiction?

Well by now you are thinking of deer and I am thinking of sheep, I was all the time, it was a sheep buck, that I purchased from my good friend and faithful reader Eli Zimmerman, up in Union County. This was a big buck, weighing a little over two hundred pounds, and very young yet, only two big teeth in front, and his meat is so good and juicy, with such a delicious flavor, it really must be tasted and eaten to be appreciated.

Furthermore Eli is an organic farmer, he raises beef, fed to the specification of the natural food store near Penns Creek, called Walnut Acres. No toxins, or anti-toxins as medicine, no chemical fertilizers, or harmful weed sprays, no high powered feeds, just that which the Lord has provided and fed according to the laws of nature. This makes delicious eating, and

then to top it off, with my wife being of the Amish stock, known for their delicious food preparations, I would not know of anywhere that eating could be better, than right at our own table. If anyone cares to come we have never charged anything for meals yet, except a thorough questioning out, which my natural appetite.

Speaking of food, one of my friends has a brother who works at a food manufacturing plant, where they make spaghetti, and ravioli, etc. He says the spaghetti's comes out at 400 degrees F. and goes into water at 250 degrees, and to prevent it from sticking together, as it goes into the water they spray it with a very fine plastic film and formaldehyde, that very strong solution which is used for

embalming fluid to preserve the corpse from decomposing so fast. They use it at this food processing plant by the barrel, keeps food from spoiling on store shelves.

The welfare agency has more power than I was aware of. In a nearby area, a young couple that I know, have five children, and two girls go to school. In the gym class when they were changing clothes, the instructor noticed some black and blue wounds on these girls, and asked how they obtained these wounds, and they said their daddy had given them a licking recently, for something they had done. And without saying anything to the parents, when it came time to go on the school bus to go home, they prevented these girls to go on their usual bus but told them to go home with them, the welfare agency, indicating their daddy was not fit to keep children if he is so stern in his disciplinary measures, as for them to suffer black and blue wounds. They took these children away from their parents, and notified them after they had taken them, but they did not know where they took them, and now they have to appear at a court hearing, to explain the situation.

I am not defending the man, who so used his children, nor accusing him; but the principle of this thing is; if the welfare agency has so much legal authority to come and take your child out of school, without the knowledge, of the parent or even giving them a warrant, then it has more power than is good for anyone to have. How long will it be until they decide that a certain faith of religion is wrong for you to teach your child and come and take him away on that basis. It gives rise to some serious thinking.

I had afore mentioned that John Risser from Harrisonburg, Va. was scheduled to have revival meetings for us and those meetings are now history. He preached ten times to us and every time it was on some aspect of the christian home. The part of the father, the part of the mother, and the childrens part, and how to discipline etc. John knows the scripture and how to apply it, and seemingly the thing he wants to prove his point come at the right time. And I know this type of biblical exposition can come only to one who has given himself to the intense study of the Word. This kind does not come by idly reading the newspaper, and having his whole life wrapped up in making a living. Although John does make his own living, for he is an electrician by trade, this does not seem to take away from his study of the scripture.

In the August 1974 issue of Readers Digest is an interesting story of people who were victims of a plane crash, high in the Andes mountains, that lived to tell the tale. It was 70 days before they were found. Their food was soon spent, and where nothing grew ever, they had nothing to eat except flesh from those who had died in the crash, they survived.

JRR

## DANVILLE, PA.

December 30--This is the passing of the old year, and this past week many people have passed away with it. I have been told that at this time the strength of the earth and the power of physical life is at its lowest ebb, and the old and infirm who can survive through December, usually make it, for a little while longer.

In the Big Valley, the land of my nativity, my fathers first cousin Ben Byler passed away, and I understand he was in apparent good health, and was out hauling manure, when his end came. Then there was S.I. Yoder a cousin of my mother, and the former owner of the S. I. Yoder Oil Co. at Belleville, he had just sold his business, and went into retirement went to Florida, and there he died; they brought him back up to Belleville and buried him. Also at this time Jesse Spicker, whom I had well known and his farm was near to the one where I grew up, he also was buried.

All these had passed their fourscore years and ten, and then some. Then here in Snyder County there was a very unusual funeral held, in that both Boyd Kauffman and his wife were buried on the same day. This was partly the result of an accident. They were on their way to church one Sunday morning, and it was raining, and they came behind a car that was turning off to the right, and Boyd swung out to the left to miss him, and it being somewhat foggy he hit another car coming towards them. Boyd was hurt rather seriously. They rushed him to the hospital at Danville and aided him in getting his breath, for he had broken ribs, and these punctured his lungs. He could not talk to anyone, and was kept alive by means of an artificial apparatus, until his lungs healed sufficiently so that he could breath on his own again, and when he was thought to be well on the way to recovery his kidneys ceased to function normally, and death soon followed.

His wife was not seriously hurt at the accident, and was at home, but she has had heart trouble for some time; when they took her to see the body of here husband, she said "Oh she wishes she could die too just now." And that night her wish was granted. He died on the evening of Christmas day, and she died the night of the 27th. They were both buried last Saturday. He was 72, she was 74.

The funeral was held at the Lauvers Mennonite Church, and the house was packed, both the auditorium and the basement. They were buried in the church cemetery. Melvin Hurst of Columbiana, Ohio was in charge. He was a colleague and co-worker of Boyd's in the work of the church. Boyd Kauffman was bishop, at what is called the Bethel Mennonite church. He was ordained minister earlier in the Juniata district Conference church, supposedly at Lauvers.

The Bethel Mennonite church started about 14 years ago, when Alvin Schaffer who was then minister at the Sesquehanna Mennonite Church, could not agree doctrinally with the Conference of which that church is a part and him and some others started a separate church farther north, a few miles. It was at the time when many of the Non-Conference groups were organized, and many new churches were started at that time.

Boyd then came into this setting a few years later, but he had relenquished his ministry, but was soon asked to take it up again, and was then later ordained bishop, when Paul Hollingshead who had moved there from Belleville, to teach their school, and was ordained; when he moved to Paraguay, then Boyd was given the charge.

He was a busy man yet and had special plans for the near future, in ordaining other men to the ministry at other places. He belonged to what is now known as the Mennonite Christian Brotherhood. Was active in the work of the church, and trying to help and establish her; but what we plan to do can be cut short, so it is important that we do now what we can and leave the rest for someone else if we don't live to see it through. The church has been on the life of any one individual two milleniams and is not dependent on the life of any one individual or group of individuals.

The Numidia Mennonite Bible school is at this time again opening its doors for the youth of the church who are interested in getting them selves established in the faith and getting biblically oriented, with



a more conservative emphasis. This is about the eighth year of its existence, and last night they had song service mostly for those who came to stay for three weeks or for all 12 weeks. It runs in three week cycles, and they have some good instructors there. They also teach church history and Christian writing, and things related to the establishing of a sound biblically oriented church.

It is a well disciplined group there, and no frivolities are allowed, and everyone is kept in strict surveillance, for the leaders are aware of what the heart of man is privy to if left unrestrained. It is the strictest school of its kind that I know of and those youth who like to do what comes naturally do not attend here.

It is also an excellent place for the conservative youth to meet together and find life companions, and what better place could you think of to find one of like faith?

John Renno