

DANVILLE, PA.

January 9--On this day back in 1919 a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. John B. Renno of Belleville, Pa. They called him David.

By now it seems like our winter will soon be over, for when the first day of winter arrives; the shortest day of the year, and we have had no cold weather to speak of, then we usually don't have much, for then soon the days begin to get longer. Personally I like a nice open winter, when you can fulfill your plans according to schedule. But the ground was not frozen very much, and this makes for hard plowing, and many weeds the next season.

I took a very valuable and enjoyable trip up to Mifflin county last week. Was a guest at the house of Jonas J. Yoder for the noon meal; one thing on the menu that attracted my attention was the tomatoes his wife had on the table. She dries them, because she was unable to get the needed jar lids to can them. She makes the juice, and lets that set until the water comes on top, then pours that off, and puts the rest in pans and lets them set where its warm until all the moisture is gone, and she has a thin slab of pure tomatoes. When she wants them all she does is add the water again. They are very good.

Jonas taught school for 40 years, and is now retired from that, but not from work, for he likes to raise garden crops. Even though it does not take much for just the two of them, he likes to raise things and give it away to his neighbors and friends. He is also an historian, having a lot of facts down on paper and in his mind. We went to visit old Sam S. Yoder a bishop in the old original church, and is now past 80 years of age. We also took his nephew, Kore Yoder, the son of Sam's brother, the late Abe S. Yoder Sr. with us. Sam was very congenial and speaking of people and happenings that took place long ago is a delightful past-time for him. He has a very good memory yet, and his hearing is not impaired, nor is his sight as bad as mine, for he can still read without glasses, something which I cannot do.

It is only a hundred and fifteen years ago that there was only one Amish denomination in the Big Valley when a schism developed through misunderstanding, and today there are six different ones, not including the Mennonites of which there are four. At the first they were just like the oldest denomination is now in dress and practice, but when the modern inventions started to come and with that what was known as the Great Awakening, most of them departed from that type of living, and are now quite well up in society. Of course living just the way our forebears did does not make one holy, but does bring satisfaction here and now. We just came home from a very enjoyable trip down into Virginia, which I wish to report quite at length, and will not be able to get it all on this or probably not the next issue.

It's only 250 miles from here to Stuarts Draft, Va. and on the modern expressway you can make it in five hours. Our first stop was at John Risser's home near Dayton; he was up here preaching for us at the church for a whole week, and until you see the preachers home and family you do not know very well whether the formula he give you for successful and godly living, works for himself or not. So if a strange preacher comes around and you think a lot of his messages, just stop in sometime unexpectedly and see for yourself by observation whether his methods work under his own circumstances.

Now John told us at the outstart that he is not a perfect father, neither does he have a

perfect home and family, but he does invite any of us down to visit his home. We were going right by there, so we took him at his word. He was not at home at the time, but was not far away, for he is an electrician by trade, and was at the school installing some lights. And while we were there a customer dropped in with a sweeper, which John also does slight repair work, and uses his dining room table for the workbench.

After seeing his home and family I was well content, and will listen to him when the opportunity affords itself. They have only four daughters, the oldest one being about 14, but they were decent and respectable, not having any rebellion sticking out of their eyes as you see at times. The old saying was that children should be seen, and not heard. His wife likes to read, and she is presently going through the church library, reading the books, and getting rid of those that are questionable; of which there have been many of the recent past. Stories that are not true to life, where they live happily ever after etc. or where for a simple descision a whole life was changed, without knowing the Word of Truth, or understanding the life of Godliness. These kind of stories are not true to life neither are they scriptural.

We next went down to Ben Swarey's for supper, who were both of them resident's of the area where we were at one time. Ben's wife Mary Yoder, being the daughter of Seth Yoder, and her mother being a sister of my wife's father, thus they are cousins. We spent the night at Uncle Joe Kanagy's, which was very interesting to me, for he has been a world traveler, and can relate many experiences, like the one time he was out in the state of Washington, and reached for his wallet and it was gone, had to have money wired to him.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

This is a continuation of the trip we took to Virginia. The Amish church at Stuarts Draft was started in the early forties, due to a group of people not willing to allow the automobiles as a means of transportation. The most of them living at Norfolk, Va. at the time and those who wanted to avoid the cars, moved to Stuarts Draft, thus starting a church there. About this time there were several families in the Belleville area, who were discontent with the church where the strict Miedung was observed, and knowing they could not get away from there without being put in the ban, they decided to move to Virginia. They were a little more liberal there in their method of farming, but it was understood that they would regard the ban of other Amish, & not take in anyone who was not at peace in his home church. Thus they were given leave to go, and others from other states also moved into the Stuarts Draft area.

Here they were allowed electricity and telephones and modern methods of farming but no cars; not for the time being. They formed a Beachey Amish church, now called the Zion Congregation. The original church is still in operation, but is very small. I would have liked to visit them all but did not take the time. We were at the Zion church, and it was the first time for me to be present at an Amish Sunday school, it was interesting.

Now when the Amish have Sunday school they have no preaching service that morning. They do have a preacher stand and admonish the people for about 15 minutes at the beginning after the song service. At this Amish church the classes were only very small, of about six in each. The idea of this Sunday school I have learned is to teach the young children to read German, for that language is still used predominately. But when once they turn to English entirely then this reason is eliminated.

We were at Sam Yoder's for dinner the day we were at this church, this is one of the Budget scribes from that area. There were also two of Ben Swarey's married daughters there with their husbands, all that were there had ancestors coming from the Belleville area, and most of them lived there themselves at one time.

Sam is the son of Abe of Belleville, who went with the Zook denomination back in 1910, and he wanted to get married to Mattie who was of the Peachey church, and since this was not considered proper, to leave this church, they took a long route, she went to Iowa and became a member there with the church that was in fellowship with her own church, but who did not have anything against Sam taking her to wife, so Sam went to Iowa to marry a girl from Belleville; one way of doing it.

Now they are an elderly couple, but very much seasoned with grace that comes from having laid the proper foundation while they were young.

We attended the Pilgrim Fellowship in the evening. This is a group that separated from the Zion church a few years ago on the mission issue among other things, but there is very little ill feelings.

It was necessary to separate, for both church buildings are now very well filled, and will very soon be overflowing, for both have a very nice group of young folks. One of the sons of old William Byler formerly of Dover, Delaware who moved there in the early part of this century, is now the bishop at the Pilgrim church. A Schrock is minister, also the son of Simon Schrock, who was the first bishop at Stuarts Draft.

This was special occasion for Jonas Hershberger, who is a bishop out in Geauga County Ohio, near Middlefield. I have known him before having met him at the Buffalo Church near here. He was on his way to Mission Home where one of his daughters is starting to serve her V.S. time.

Jr.

DANVILLE, PA.

Jan. 19-Jonas Kanagy, of Stuarts Draft, Va. is one of the major field men for Mennonite Disaster Service. A visit to his home can be very rewarding, for although he seems like a big man when he gets out on the front and his work gets on T.V. and National Newspapers yet he is just a small dutch Penna. farm boy, and is not ashamed of his heritage.

Several yrs. ago there was a mass demonstration in Washington, D.C. protesting the Viet Nam war, and dissatisfaction with the way things were done. They destroyed much property, defacing the Washington Monument and smashing benches and tables and doing whatever came into their evil minds, some discarding all clothing and engaging in evil to the fullest extent.

Jonas and some others got a band of men together and also went to Washington and also staged a demonstration. The police were so tired of all that had taken place that they were reluctant to allow them on the grounds, until they assured them, they came not to destroy but to build up. This was so unheard of that they did not believe them. Why anyone should want to help to construct, for days, working without any pay.

When this was noised abroad, they soon had trucks bring in material and they went to work. This also brought the T.V. camera men and newspaper men on the scene, for they are always looking for the spectacular events. This was translated in 5 different languages over the world.

Because he being the leader of the construction band, he was invited in for an annual religious affair with the President of our Nation and many great men. I asked Jonas if he does not have a pocket to stick me in so I could also hear what went on. He said he didn't and even if that were possible he would not trust me to keep quiet. He thought curiosity would rule and I would stick out my head and ask yet another question.

Jonas and his wife are now living alone, their family has grown and left home. He now likes to travel and she doesn't so they both have what they like.

From Stuarts Draft we went to Mission Home, Va. This place is far back in the foot hills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, off the paved road and the building sets on a high hill over looking the vale below. You can see it yet a great way off. Its back away from civilization but its a large institution and they form their own band. They keep retarded children that have an intelligence quotient of not less than 25. So they are not totally helpless, but need assistance all their life. They plan to keep them indefinitely even through adult hood. They teach them to be useful, making cedar chests and various crafts. They have about 40 patients and 20 VS workers there probably a good place to send youth between the age of 18 and marriage, they would at least learn the art of getting along with other people, and virtue as well, for it is in giving that we receive.

Mission Home is an institution and operated like that, but guided by Christian principles, and anyone who cannot take orders had better not apply for work, they have stringent rules.

From there we went to Norfolk, Va. for I wanted to check out this J. H. Miller the Budget scribe, according to his writings he is a bit more than the ordinary. He has lived there about all his life, his youngest son now 18, and engaged in cabinet work, of the finest calibre.

John is the mechanic for Yoder Dairies and keeps their trucks and expensive plant machinery operating smoothly.

He took us around the city and told us place after place that is now built up with dwelling houses, and told who used to live there when the Amish first moved into the area about 60 years ago. By all appearances he plans to stay, as many have moved away because of the urbanization.

Alvin Zook the son of Steve Zook of Belleville just got married and plans to live there, he is the grandson of the late S. W. Zook. Whom I well knew as a boy.

Yost Zooks son, the grandson of Israel B. Zook is part owner of the cabinet industries, they all work together and the Preacher Henry Raber is one of them. Yost's son said he didn't know that preachers were just ordinary people until he started working with one every day.

We stopped at Catlett, Va. on the way home. This is a nice place and I believe I could easily make myself at home there, the temperature seems ideal.

There has been an Amish church in this area for a number of years. Today they are automobile Dutch.

We were at Alvin Bylers for supper, they used to live here previously, although he stems from Lawrence Co., Pa. He was ordained to the ministry here, but later moved to Union Co., Pa. where I learned to know him. He also being married to a daughter of Willie Byler, a son of Will Byler formerly of Dover, Dela. All things put together I suppose things looked good in Catlett after all for they now live there once again. We had a nice visit with his daddy-in-law who seemed to be a seasoned, balanced and stable man, having learned the hard way.

A visit to the bishop there, Dan Nissley, was informative, for although he has large holdings, his main interest seems to be in the scripture. He has a well ordered and large family. Quite in line with Biblical Principles, his methods seem to work, what more could

you ask.

Last but not least we stopped at Lee Kanagy's place of business. This seems to be a resurrection venture, for the place was a dirty booze joint and business had died out. And now to open up under Christian Principles is something worthy of our attention. As you know Lee also writes in the Budget and is no stranger to many.

He has spent many years in Japan as a missionary and due to circumstances that he wishes were otherwise but are not, he came back to America which seems to be as needy a mission field as any.

He is now a self supported missionary, or those are the plans once he gets the business off the ground.

His business is only a few miles from Washington, west of Fairtax, Va. on Route 29 its not much out of the way if any are going to Florida on I 95. It would cheer him up in his venture to have friends stop in. He is now so busy he scarce has time to eat. A stop there would be rewarding.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Karl Marx is supposed to have said, "give me 26 soldiers, and I will capture the world", what he meant was the 26 letters of the alphabet.

The other day the conservative element of the Mennonite church were marshalling our forces together, and learning how to get these soldiers lined up and put on the firing line. We had a christian-writer's conference. This meeting was held at the Centerville, Mennonite church, near Hinkletown, we took the wrong road first and went in the Hawnstown which means the rooster road, while Hinkle means chicken, but we soon turned around, and went back.

There are several thousand people in our constituency, and an uninformed people is an easy to decieve people; so we want to meet the challenge and keep our people informed. We now have modern methods of printing such as feeding a tape with certain holes punched in one end of a machine, and out of the other end comes a ready to read book, or paper.

So in order to print or give people reading material someone must do some writing, hence the meeting at Hinkletown. There were about 150 people there, or about 8 percent of our constituency, and if only ten persent of these write we will have reading material.

Paul Landis, the esteemed leader of the publishing house at Crockett, Ky. was there as the principle speaker. He said he is not a writer, but he just writes anyways; and those who think they can't write, are wrong if they have not tried, and if they have tried and failed, they must try harder. Also he said those who think they can write are all wrong too, for no one who feels himself qualified, to write to instruct others in the way of truth, has learned to know his own unworthiness. Both are wrong.

The first and major difficulty to over come is the matter of the attitude of the mind, the power of positive thinking would be put to good use here. But he said you cannot usually write and succeed on the first try, say Daniel Kauffman wrote his first editorial over 25 times before he sent it in for publication. He said you must first get a topic to write about, then get all the facts together, jotting them down, as you go along with your routine work, and then sort out the weeds, and get the body together, and write, then lay it around awhile, and read it over again after several months, be sure you have not one misspelled word. Then give it to your marriage partner, or trusted friend to read for their evaluation, and if it passes their approval, send it in.

Be original, don't try to be someone you are not, and Aaron Shank, another one, one the staff, said its literary stealing to copy another mans writing and give it as your own.

You must get one central truth and stay with it, don't ramble all over the place, and if in the first paragraph you found you missed something then rewrite it, and don't try to put it in elsewhere. And if in reality the editors reject our writing, as unacceptable, and unworthy, we must not quit, but improve and do better.

Jesse Neunschwander also spoke, and asked the question whether we do not already have enough papers out in circulation, but suggested not until ours is out too, always room for important message to give and must not rest nor lay down our armor until the victory is won. Not until the war is over, the battle all won can we pull our 26 soldiers home from the battle front.

My own question is why are there almost no Mennonite authors of any prominence? We often hear G. Campbell Morgan quoted, Matthew Henry, Adam

Clarke, Merl Unger and some of the great authors of the past but none of these were Mennonites, if we have such an important message where are all our soldiers? I do not have the answer.

I was surprised to receive a letter from Park Ave., New York City, from Nancy Gaines, requesting 3 copies of the history of the Amish in the Belleville area; didn't even think anyone in the big city would know of the Budget. Incidentally I am getting a few more facts together and re-writing the history, and it will have all the present existing churches listed in their proper sequence, hopefully, it is a large task, and takes time, what with my mundane things to do finacially, it will be some time before this can be out for your inspection.

Jess Peachey from White Hall is presently at the Geisinger hospital, and we were out to pay him a visit. He had come with the idea of having another ball and socket put in his hip, since the one he has now is loosing its lubricating ability, and he has what is known as arthritis. He said he has been doctoring at Lewistown, and receive some help, but wasn't satisfactory, and the doctor even dared suggest that he walk with a cane, and he was too insulted so that he never went back, the very idea a young 66 years old man like him walking with a cane! They did not operate when they had expected too, for they found a blood deficiency, which needs correction first.

Simon Benders, one of my old buddies, that have moved to Wisconsin last spring, were back in the area, at their son-in-laws place Ray Peachy, and invited us over for dinner. It was interesting to see and hear him again, they like their new home, saying its a wonderful rich farming area, and top soil very deep, for they have very little erosion, and its only 60 years that it cleared for farming, dairying is the principle occupation, and he is happy with the Holdeman church where they attend.

DANVILLE, PA.

Feb. 3-The matter of insurance is an old question in the Mennonite church. Life insurance used to be a test of membership, but not anymore. The Eastern Penna. Mennonite church which has seceded from the main stream, better known as The Old Mennonite Church, still hold to the discipline that was then held; the Old Mennonites have largely decided that discipline is outdated and unpractical.

Life insurance is still a test of membership in the Eastern Church; and they largely discourage all kinds of insurance, even that which is not recognized as insurance, but just as an aid society. Like the Brother Aid Liability plan, sponsored by the Lancaster Conference, and originated some time ago, which is not an Insurance Company, but stands back of you if you are in good standing in your church, and happen to have an accident, they will pay your liabilities, if you join up with them. The cost is less than from a bona-fide company, but cost is secondary, by belonging to them, your money that you pay in does not go to help support drunkards etc. for the Mennonite church is not supposed to have such within their membership. It goes to help those of like faith who have been so unfortunate, and through mismanagement, and faulty judgement have succumbed to an accident.

All this kind of brotherly aid is frowned upon by the Eastern Church; Their theory is that you should trust the Lord, and insurance is a lack of trust. Also that if other members have an accident that the church in this particular denomination should respond; such as was practised in the book of Acts. They do not recognize the brotherhood in such a wide spectrum, and it helps to bind the members closer together, that if one suffers all the rest suffer with him.

My own personal view is not quite in accord with this, unless we are willing to live as they did in antiquity. There are very few accidents that take place that could not have been avoided, for instance a tired driver is an accident waiting to happen, you should not drive when very tired, but stop at a motel and go

home the next morning, for it has been proven that most accidents happen within a few miles of home. This argument is in favor of not having insurance at all. Another one is, if we would not have cars, nor ride in them, would eliminate a great need for insurance protection.

One hundred years ago when people had only very small holdings, & little automation, they could live simply, and had very little to lose in any event. That we do have too much in our day is without controversy; but if we want to copy the simple life in one thing, we should also in the other.

The new no-fault insurance law would make it mandatory for everyone that drives an automobile to have liability insurance, that is protection of the property of others that you should damage.

There have been various meetings held with state officials and the leaders of our church to try to get us an exemption from this law. We, along with the Old Order Amish have obtained an exemption from the Social Security law and do not have to pay that at all. Now we also would like to be excused from a mandatory insurance law. One sure way to get excused is to stop driving cars, but that will hardly happen as long as we can get energy to burn, and money to buy it. Personally I expect to live to see the day when both will be greatly curtailed.

Paul Landis, the Bishop from Crockett, Ky. was urged by state officials to attend a meeting at Pittsburg, Pa. where this issue was discussed. Paul said it took him only 15 minutes to say what he had to say, but he was detained on the platform to answer the questions that came to him. We do have fairly good record of taking care of our own, and we discourage to accept state aid in any form, and the officials know it. Some are favorable towards our view, and at this time it is too early to tell whether we will be exempt from this insurance law, as we have been from the social security law; but we hope so.

At the above mentioned meeting in Pittsburg, there was also another group seeking exemption, but they have a different stand than we do, for they do not believe it is right to have doctors or have health

safeguarded in any such form but just trust the Lord for everything. And while these people spoke they were just mocked, and asked ridiculous questions to make them look foolish.

Work is a bit hard to find in this area at present; the twin sons of Ray Yoder, near Sunbury, have come home from Phoenix, Ariz. where they were engaged in the carpenter trade, but the depression that we are in now has started out there before we noticed it, according to their claim.

But the economic situation is expected to get better in a few months, the auto manufacturers are going back to make their product, which means that due to the loosening of interest, people now have a little more money to spend, home building is expected to swing upward again, which should bring us out of the financial doldrums for a bit. But behind the scenes it is not expected to last very long, just like if you take pain killers too long they finally will cease to take effect, and you have to reckon with the cause of the pain. People and nations have always died, as a result of improper living.

John Renno

2-20

DANVILLE, PA.

What pleasure it used to be for us in the winter time when there was snow on the hills and we would slide down over on our sleds, then walk back up just to ride down.

We would think of means that would eliminate the walking but knew nothing of snowmobiles in those days. I have only ever ridden on a snowmobile once, and don't care for it. I would sooner walk.

Snow is still just as slippery as ever, and big machines with wheels slide too.

The last snow storm came while I was driving south on the New Jersey Turnpike. Near

Newark there are twelve lanes three for cars and three for trucks in each direction. It was not long in that snow storm until the lanes where cars go was blocked with traffic and soon I saw them all over the road setting every way in the ditches and all over with their fenders smashed.

It was snowing fast, and the road was slippery. There are electric signs along with warnings of ice and snow and a 35 mile speed limit but it was disregarded until too late. I was glad the lanes I was on were yet open, but not for long until I too was only going about one mile an hour and setting still much of the time. As I proceeded slowly I saw the cause of the jam up. An auto carrier loaded with new Cadillacs had slipped and hit the center guard rails and the back end spun around and the cars on top flew and landed where they could. The huge truck was laying on its side. Another truck coming north saw it happen and he did not mind his business and he too slammed into a bridge pillar and smashed his tractor up. Both drivers were injured.

I soon decided this weather is not good to be out in. I'm going to stop while I am still well. So pulled in to the rest area and waited for the storm to subside.

A Mr. Laughman from near Chambersburg, a Budget reader and goes to the church at Culbertson, this is the western most church that is affiliated with the Eastern Penna. church. They had invited us down to their church and to their house for dinner.

So as not to have 150 miles to go on Sunday morning, we went to Roxbury to the camp meeting ground and visited an old friend that we had not seen for a while, David Hostetler, he is of Amish descent and his grandmother was the wife of the Amish Bishop David C. Peachey.

Dave's wife is Edna, the daughter of Penn Kauffman, now both deceased. I used to go to school with Edna, and worked at Smiley Joes while she was there.

Dave and Edna are caretakers of the camp ground and he has two van buses with which he provided transportation for the Amish that live in that area an interesting occupation, he has much to tell of accumulated facts that took place over the years.

Laughman is formerly from York County and his mother died there and he and his father lived there together and somehow they got acquainted with Katie Spicker, who is formerly from the old school church better known as the Nebraska People. She kept house for these two men and when they moved to Middlebury, Indiana she went with them. The young Laughman found himself a wife from Indiana. They then decided they would prefer an Eastern affiliated church and moved to the Chambersburg area.

Katie Spicker came too although she is no longer needed for a housekeeper, she now works for a widow woman with a chronic bone disease, an invalid, she stays with her five days a week and weekends she stays with the Laughman's. It was an interesting visit and well worth the 20 gallons of gas it took.

There is one objection to going away so much since I am subjected to time and space I can only be one place at a time and so far this year I have only attended my own church half the time.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Now the state of the Union is such that those who have accomplished much in their past experience by worrying should really be working overtime in that profession; for even some of the top men in our country are concerned greatly. Henry Ford III made headlines the other day when he expressed concern that the auto industry is on the verge of collapse, and that he has never known the country to be in such a grave situation before. Chrysler Corporation is said to have just lost 73 million dollars, and the national deficit, that is we are going to spend over a million dollars every day this year, more than we take in.

But there are those who refuse to worry about it, they assume that God was well able to take care of His own in every generation and surely His arm is not made weak in this generation. I myself have never found worry to have any great

value, it makes you weak to face the real situation, but like a rocking chair it gives you something to do.

There are two young men in this community, members of our church, that are taking a great venture, but it will be of great benefit to the community. They are opening soon a Central Tractor Supply store.

These two men are David Martin and Harold Hurst. David is the son of Edwin Martin, a preacher at the Denver Mennonite church, a well seasoned man who knows what hard times are and able to give sound advice. Edwin also has another son that is in the same business near Meyerstown, Pa. and Edwin works there at his store.

The other man going in to this venture is Harold Hurst, the son of John Hurst, who is also a prolific business man, in this community, having vast holdings, he is the manager of Hurst's Supply Store, having all kinds of building material. All of these are former residents of Lancaster Co. And having moved to southern Illinois in the past and were there engaged in farming and business, but the East still looked better to them, and they are now in this area.

There is also a third party in the venture of these two men, he is a bit older, and has seen a little more experience, and they took him along in their business venture to act as a brakeman, and advisor; any business must have a good man at the steering department, but must also have good brakes, when going down grade, or when making sharp turns.

The third man in this venture, taken on as a partner, by the first two, is Donald Rovenolt, he is a native of the community, and is a good member in our church.

The price of new machinery is so high, that the repair businesses are doing a great business here, people are just keeping the old repaired and in running condition, and instead of replacing the whole machine they just replace the worn parts, and here is where a parts store comes as a great asset.

Their store will be located in Jersytown; a small hamlet northwest of Bloomsburg, Pa. and is well situated in a farming community. While it takes much money for an inventory, and takes good management to be successful, I believe these men have what it takes to make a go of it, and their career will be of great value to all.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

February 22--There is not much work around to do that brings you any income. We were used to having all we want, and it did not occur to us just how inconvenient it can be to be unemployed. The plans we had did not materialize, because the fibre-glass insulation which we were hauling came to a sudden halt, for their warehouse burned down. They still make a little but there were 130 trucks at it and kept very busy, for people are insulation conscious, but now there only about 100 loads a month to go.

There are other things you can haul if you want to, but the pay is so poor that you just about break even, and you ought to get a little more out of it than just a healthy occupation. Even at best the profit is not very brisk, for prices rise much faster than the revenue does. Fuel prices, and repair prices can go up without notice, and you must pay it or leave it; but tariffs are controlled by the Interstate Commerce Commission, and to

get a raise in that, takes lawyers many months to decide whether you need it or not, they are so concerned about inflation when it comes to paying for hauling. This is the way a controlled by the Interstate geared to get the small business man out of existence and make him work for the big corporation.

A friend of mine sells barn equipment for Berg, and he went to Marshfield, Wisconsin recently, for some equipment, and I had the privilege of going along. Now he is a busy man, for he has a dairy operation, and sells equipment besides, and installs it too. So he was not ready to leave until Monday evening, and we had about a thousand miles to go. We started at 5 o'clock, and drove all night, arriving at Colby, Wisconsin about noon; they are on Central Standard time so that gave us an hour extra. I had friends at Colby, the David Peachey family, he was born and reared in the same Valley I was, but about 5 miles apart. He married a girl from Oregon, then lived in the Belleville area, but now for the last few years lived in Wisconsin. As absence makes the heart grow fonder, it was good to see them again and renew our acquaintance. We did not take the time to visit Jake Yoder, who also lives in that area; he is formerly from Selinsgrove.

We then proceeded north for 150 miles to see another old time friend, and we were raised in the same church setting, but not in the same district. His name is Simon Bender. I well remember on Sunday afternoons we would be in the living room, and about 4:30 Iddo Bender's would go down the road in their horse and carriage, to see grandmother. That is a scene that I will never forget, and it reminds me of my own home setting, bringing fond and pleasant memories.

Now Simon was very glad to see someone from his own community. He has a nice place to live, and if I were young I certainly would not be stuck in a congested area, where it is so

full of people, that you can hardly find a place. Simon's farm like just about all of them, sets out on the plain; although it is not level, yet there are no hills to speak of, just nice enough to drain off any excess water.

Most places have a clump of trees to the westward part as a windbreak, for when the wind blows there, there is nothing to stop it, like here in the mountains we have gusts that are stronger than others but there it just blows. Simon says when it gets real cold, like 30 below zero, and a strong wind, then you stay at home. It is then

dangerous to go out even in an automobile, for if something should happen and it would stop, there is hardly any way you could keep from freezing; no matter how many clothes you have on, the wind just goes through and you are froze before you know it.

During the last blizzard with snow and the highways being closed, the snow plows didn't even try to keep them open, and those who were out in it with their cars, many of them just froze to death. One man buried himself in a snow bank, and he survived. Up there in the north country you do not try to beat the elements.

Now it is not like that very often, but will get that way. In the south it will not get so cold, but then the heat in the summer time gets unbearable, if you are not used to it, and all the insects that flourish in that kind of a climate.

The country of Wisconsin has only been under cultivation for less than 100 years, and is very fertile yet, for in the winter time it is usually covered with snow, and it is flat enough not to wash away when it rains and the top soil lies very deep. It is all farm country, no factories, for many miles, not even dwelling houses, just farms, and most of them look well kept. And there is only about one thing you can do there

for a living, and that is milk cows. It is great to grow grass, and oats, and even corn, in some areas, but about every farm has two or three silos to store the winter feed supply, and Simon said his ensilage tests 10 percent protein, and that compares with 3 percent for corn raised here in the east. They can also make nice hay, for the climate is more arid and does not rain so unexpectedly.

Simon is a member of the John Holdeman church of which there are two in that immediate vicinity, and just about all farmers, it is not hard to guess the subject of their conversation.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

March 6--Clarence Zeager, is a hard working man and one not given to quitting until the work is done. He suffered a stroke about two years ago, at the age of 60, and his left side was paralysed, and he was confined to the wheel chair, for a while, and he got better and was able to walk again and go about his work, but his leg and arm on the left side were always somewhat weak. He was warned by his doctor to quit farming and take life easier, but he was enjoying it the way it was, he liked to farm, and did not like the thought of quitting. He bought calves at the local auction and fed them, until they were grown, and he had a lot of hogs on the place too, large tractors and equipment, like grain drier etc. He was quite often seen at the Dewart auction bidding on feeder cattle and fed them out. He was slightly feeble, and many a man of lesser determination would have given up and taken life easier, but not Clarence. He also had sugar diabetis, and at times had his diet restricted, but that did not stop him from working.

He was also a pioneer, the first Mennonite to buy land and move into Montour County, which is just across the river from Northumberland where we live. He lived here alone denominational. Now some did come up from the Stumptown Mennonite church, and held Sunday school and services every Sunday morning. Ben Lapp, who is now the pastor there, and Paul Landis who is now the deacon there at Beaver Run church, Daniel Lehman was also very prominent in helping out, and Lloyd Eby a preacher from Stumptown seen to it that they had the preaching services supplied. When Ben Lapp was ordained, Lloyd was in the lot with him, but the lot fellon Ben. That was something like 20 years ago, and a lot can happen in that time.

Today there are now three Mennonite churches in the area. Beaver Run, where Ben Lapp is pastor and Derry where Raymond Hershey is pastor and East district where Lester Miller is pastor. Then up in the northern part of the state there are also quite a number of churches, they gather momentum so fast that I cannot keep accurate record. Many Mennonite hunters come up in the northern teir counties to hunt game in the fall of the year, and they see all these people living in the thinly populated areas of Pennsylvania, and they feel sorry for the people that have no Mennonite witness, and that way summer Bible school get started, which often result in anestablished church later on. There are many Mennonites that have hunting cabins up here in these mountains and hills.

We have attended the Beaver Run church for about 7 years, and are well acquainted with people and especially Clarence Zeager, for he always seemed like the bull wheel on a ground driven grain binder, which makes all the other wheels turn.

Now I know that Clarence would very modestly object to the idea that he is the reason that things ticked at Beaver Run; and probably by now and he through age has to sit on the sidelines more, things go on by anyways.

But he is not a man to give up. Even though he had sugar

diabetis, and even though the doctor told him to quit such an active life because of the stroke, he was not willing to comply until the work was done. The other Friday he worked hard, to clean out the stable; he knew he should stop but he was not finished, he wanted to bed it down, and wanted the manure all out first. Then when that was out he had to fix some boards to keep the steers from damaging his hog feeder, and every since he had that stroke he always minded hammering spikes into planks, but this is what he had to do. He said his heart reacted violently but he would not quit until the work was done.

The next Sunday he went to Lancaster Co. to Goods church, and sat during the service and as he was walking out past the preacher his right leg gave out, and as he was shaking hands with the preacher he fell and the preacher caught him. This was another light stroke that affected his right side, and he was getting sick, and they were 100 miles away from home in a little Volkswagen. His brother has a new Mercury, so they laid him in the back seat and he brought him home. They called the doctor, who examined him, and said he must go right to the hospital before he gets another hard stroke. So they took him to the Geisinger at Danville, on that same evening, and by the next morning he had another stroke. He said he saw his bed lined with doctors, on both sides but did not know for sure what was going on, he was only semi-conscious. This stroke was the hardest one he has had yet, and

left his right side completely helpless. He cannot even get out of bed, and can only wiggle his fingers a little last night. But today he said he can now almost raise his arm so life is coming back into them again.

He said he felt himself slipping back physically for some time past, and he had made plans to quit farming and obey his physician and had advertised his machinery, but by the time people responded to his ad he was already incapacitated. His speech is affected somewhat, he cannot handle his words so fluently but he can still communicate which is of great value. He now has a long rest ahead of him, and I am assuming his work is done.

But he is already 61, and his family is mostly grown and married off, and are successful in life as far as I know. His youngest daughter is about 14. He only has one son living and he is now on the home farm, and is pushing things to the hilt just like his dad taught him. Another son died a few years ago, a polio victim.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

March 14-We have a guest at our house this past week, being victims of circumstances. My brother Crist has an elder son who is just a few bricks shy of a load, but he does not know it. He left home a few years ago, not wanting the religion of his fathers anymore, thus severing his filial relations. His name is Ezra Renno. He has been in the Hartville, Ohio area for a number of years now, and being in and out of the State Hospital at Massillon. He attends the Marlboro Mennonite church and is very proud of his religious affiliations. He works if he is able and if he can find employment, at masonry work, as a mud mixer and attendant. He has to be on drugs all the time to keep himself from getting high, thus making him unfit to maintain his social equilibrium, and this of course makes it very hard for him to be mentally alert, making him dull and listless all the time. This is

what the drugs are supposed to do, but eventually it wears him out. He does not like to read or write; about his only recreation is watching television, and since we do not have that he is about at a loss to find means of occupation.

The reason he is at our house is because he was helping to put roofing on a house, and it had snowed very lightly the night before, melting some and freezing somewhat, and snowing some more to cover the ice. He was engaged in sweeping the roof to apply the shingles when he stepped on some ice and slid to the ground, dropping about twelve feet, and broke his right leg. A very bad fracture, it was smashed and splintered, the doctor having a difficult time to put it together. His leg is in a cast to above the knee, with a steel pin through the ankle extending out on each side of the cast, and every once in a while he gets this pin bumped, which causes him much pain, and he lets everyone know that it hurts.

He has been at William Gingerich's at Hartville, O. for the last six weeks, for the doctor forbids him to stay alone in his apartment, which is where he stays when he is well. But he has to have the cast on his leg and walk with crutches for eight weeks more because of the seriousness of the break. Hence he is visiting his uncles and aunts during his convalescence. Being used to living alone, and not responsible to anyone made him independent, and in living with others he has to readjust himself and learn that other people have rights too. He needed a few severe reprimands but he has to be docile, if he wants a place to stay.

Employment for myself is a bit on the scarce side, because of conditions beyond my control, and also because the economy has gone into a recession. But you can always find work if you are not careful about the revenue.

The Central Tractor Parts store that is being opened in this area by two of my friends has gained a lot of my attention for the past two weeks. I do not care

to work outside in the cold and damp weather, and this is inside where the temperature is comfortable, and the work is not much physical labor that taxes your strength, neither does it demand good eyesight, so it suits me well to work there. Although the pay so far has been nil, the pleasant surroundings and the idea that it is helping to construct the business of my friends, and will be an asset to the community makes the thought of working without pay seem to be secondary. Furthermore, there is no such thing as a free dinner, neither is there such a thing as working for nothing. You will always be recompensed in one way or another. And it does not cost me anything to work for them. On Fridays and Saturdays my good wife sells baked goods here at the house, and I have been helping do that on weekends. If we would not have electricity, telephone, and oil bills to pay we could live very inexpensively.

Setting up a store is a new venture for me, as well as for everyone concerned. I have been in many stores in my life time, but I never gave it a thought that such a venture takes very much hidden labor which others know nothing about. Shelves have to be constructed, and the merchandise brought in, and it has to be unpacked, and the wrappings done away with. Remember when we were children at Christmas time long ago, when there were some wrappings to be disposed of? That may give you a small illustration. It is very interesting, for everyone is intrigued with new things, and opening boxes, and wondering what is in it. And assembling lawn mowers and garden tractors, and air compressors, and all the other trinkets that

are to be sold, makes much work. And to know where everything is to go on the shelves, and to keep account of everything is beyond the imagination of anyone who does not have the experience. All the items have a number on them, when they are shipped, then they are unpacked and placed, then with these comes a big booklike affair with a corresponding number, and the price marked on it. One person has to read off the number of the item, and the number of items of each kind, and the other one has to look on this book and find the right number with the price. Every shortage, or overage, has to be accounted for, and with several thousand items, it is somewhat like a funny farm.

The store is not open for business, but people go by and see that someone is there so they stop in and look around, and much is sold before it is accounted for. Sometimes little is done by the owners but waiting on customers. It makes for conglomeration.

JRR.

DANVILLE, PA.

March 20—We visited at the Donald Herr home recently and some interesting observations were made. Donald is a direct descendant of Hans Herr who at the age of 72 crossed the ocean to escape the oppression in Europe, in 1710. He settled near Lancaster at Willow Street.

Donald has an old German Bible that he values very highly, although he cannot read german nor understand it. This is an old Lutheran translation that was printed in 1549, and he recalls how he used to sit on his grandfathers lap and listen to him reading from the German

Bible. This is what makes this old Bible so valuable to him; it is also valuable because of its age. But this is not the only old thing he has; in looking around his house there are many old collectors items around, one is an old record player where the sound comes out of a large horn at the bottom, and the record is a cylinder affair about four inches long, by two in diameter. He also owns an old Hudson Automobile, made in 1929.

In speaking of old things, Amos Hoover, of Denver, Pa. is finishing up his reprinting of the old Froschauer German Bibles, he has had 200 copies reprinted, and will sell them for \$16.00 per copy if the order is received immediately. It is bound in black cloth binding, and measures 8 1/2 by 11 inches and two inches thick, so it will be a convenient size to use. And if anybody wants to order a copy do not write to me, I do not have them for sale, send your check or money order to Amos Hoover, W. Muddy Creek Road, R.D. 3, Denver, Pa. 17517. His phone number is 215-484-4849.

I have had a report about this venture in the past, and have received some orders, but this is the wrong thing to do, for it only delays the process. I have nothing to do with this printing. Yes, I am in favor of it and have sent my order to him, for I have long wanted a German Froschauer version. I have a new Lutheran translation which was reproduced in 1931, but I do not much care for the rendering of this version, for it does not read like the old versions.

Now this Froschauer version is not something new, it is very old, and was used extensively by the Anabaptists for three centuries, before this last century when the Lutheran translation came into more prominence. This Bible was

first printed by Christopher Froschauer, an independent thinker of the Reformed faith, in Zurich, Switzerland, in the year 1524.

After Froschauer went out of business the Reformed theologians of Zurich took up the task of reproducing and perfecting this translation. Zurich is where Ulrich Zwingli was the famous preacher, and those who were responsible for starting the Mennonite church were members of his.

I noticed that Eve Ann Strickland, of Oakdale, Conn. has trouble in getting her goat to respond, and since I have goats and like them I have a bit of advice that may be useful. Goats are very much like human beings, they almost seem to have emotions, but they cannot talk so we have trouble communicating with them. Once the goat knows and understands what is required of it they are usually obedient. They use the trial and error method, just like we do too; they will try something that seems right and if the penalty for doing it is greater than the supposed benefit they will change.

In starting to milk them, some goats are very ticklish around their udders, and if they can do nothing else they will lay down to get rid of that feeling. But they have to be milked, and they must learn to get used to it. Just use patience and if they do respond properly then reward them with petting and speaking kindly, if they do not you may use your hand and slap them, just so they know what you want of them, but you must always be kind, loving & consistent. It may take time, but patience and persistence will win out.

JRR.

DANVILLE, PA.

March 28—Daniel Valentine Peachey, the son of Joseph I. Peachey, the oldest brother of my wife, was drafted into the service of our country when the draft was still in effect, and he wound up at Hill Crest in Arkansas. While there he got acquainted with Leona, the daughter of Jake Millers. We were invited to attend the wedding of the party recently.

Jakes are members of the Weavertown church, better known as the John A. church in Lancaster County.

David Lapp, had the opening, which is called "The Anfang", and we call it the devotional. David is a deacon in the Eastern group, of which we also are, and goes to Simmertown to church. He is also an uncle to Leona, for he was a brother to her mother, which is now deceased. Bishop, Elam Kauffman then performed the ceremony.

The reception was held at a farm house turned commercial restaurant. Its called The Harvest Drive Restaurant; located near Intercourse, Pa.

We stayed in Lancaster County over Sunday, and there would be much to report, but space will not permit. Other than to say we visited with Aaron Esh, near Monterey, he is 87 years old, and quite well yet. He was a good friend of my father, and was often at our place when I was growing up, and I have heard him preach quite a few sermons, he is now the oldest Amish man, or was in the ministry the longest, since 1924, among the Amish.

He says land is getting so high priced in that area, that the Amish cannot buy it any more, it is financially impossible to pay that much and get it paid back, so now they are loosing some church places, and there

is no more room to expand. Where he lives there are now four generations living in one farm. His son Crist has a very busy harness shop, and his son-in-law does the farming. I did notice some tobacco stems there, Aaron at one time said its better to raise food than pleasure, so he raised potatoes, but I supposed the younger one had to meet expenses.

We also stopped in at Leola where my wife's uncle Jake Peachey lives. He had dropsy for quite a long time. He is beyond the rational stage, and does not know when anyone is there, although at times he comes back for a little while. His wife Sadie walks with a cane, but his only daughter which is also called Sadie, is a big help, and they care for him as best they can. His needs are few and at times he does not eat, for a while, then at times he gets some better. It is good for one who is in good health to visit the sick and infirm. It helps you to remember that you are not the master of circumstances, and that your life is in His hands.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

April 4—Clarence Zeager, the man who would not quit till the work was done, is making a fast comeback. I saw him when he could only wiggle the fingers on his right hand, his whole side being paralyzed. I thought surely this is it, his work is done, but the other day I saw him again and he now can raise his arm and move his leg, and even walk if assisted by his wife. He even was able to stand alone for a little bit. Seems you just can't keep a good man down. He said when he was laying in the hospital unable to move, and even could hardly speak, he could not keep the tears from coming, while thinking of what the future might hold, but he had a good nurse who saw him in his sorrow, and she chided him, saying that will do no good, he must brace up, and get well, she knows he's going to make it; and her speech was very encouraging, which he appreciated. He thanked me for the posies I sent to him through the Budget, although he does not get it himself, he got word of what was in from three different people, who sent him clippings. His one daughter lives in Ohio, and even she took notice of it. But he is now liquidating his assets and going to try to take life a little easier.

We have three livestock auctions within a 30-mile radius. Two are held on Mondays and one on Tuesdays. Seeing all the farmers that are going out of business, its hard to determine just where all the cattle is coming from, but they are in abundance some weeks. The prices are advancing slightly now, although very little compared to manufactured products in which labor makes the finished product high. But farmers seem to plug away for very little compared to their city neighbors. Many of them have been holding down other jobs too and do their farming in the evenings and weekends, many even on Sun.

Feeder pigs have always been bringing good prices according to fat hogs; they were down some last week, but not too much; small thrifty pigs bring

around a dollar a pound. They don't sell by weight, but you can guess about what they will weigh. Those that are not so thrifty, bring much less. Last week some looked as though they have not had a good meal for a long time. You could almost see their backbone.

There was an auction at Middleburg where it seemed everything was very sluggish. They did not have much to sell, and did not start selling until half afternoon. The owner was getting old, and he decided to sell, so Don Keister bought it; he is a cattle dealer and buyer, and well known, and trusted; and the auction just changed overnight. Cattle started pouring in, so much so that they had trouble finding room for them all. They also sell chickens and ducks, pigeons and all kinds of fowl, and produce in season, and many other commodities that farmers like to bring to sell. Now the parking lot is so full it's hard to find a place to park your vehicle. One would not have believed that a change of ownership would make that much difference. Thus proving the proverb, a good boss is half the work done.

Levi Burkholder was around again this year showing the pictures he took of his trip to Paraguay. This time they flew down on a commercial plane, and stayed two weeks. There were sixteen of them in the party, and they had a Mennonite woman along who could speak Spanish thus making it easier to communicate with those customs officers at the port of entries; they also had a Menno travel service man at Customs, and he had it prearranged that the party was coming, and going through customs was very easy, for they did not even stop them to check; except one package that Levi had, with the steering column of a tractor, and it looked kind of like a gun barrel, so when their baggage came through, it raised some questions, but when he explained through the interpreter that his friend's tractor was broke down and he

wants to go fix it ~~they wanted~~ him on.

They visited three different colonies, the one where Paul Hollingshead is, which is with the Non-Conference group, or that is what they used to call themselves. Stephen Stoltzfus and Aquilla Rheil are also preachers there, and they have a fairly large sized congregation there by now. I would have so liked to have seen Paul on one of the pictures, but there was nothing on any of them, although Stephen and Aquilla and their families both posed for pictures. Paul does not believe in it, I am assuming, and there are many other religious groups that don't believe it is right to take or have pictures of people, because of the Second Commandment that says thou shalt have not make to thyself any graven image or likeness of anything. Thou shalt not bow down nor worship them.

Perhaps you noticed last week I was opposed to taking pictures at weddings, and now this week I am in favor of it when I can be the recipient of them, that is a little hard to explain and be consistant. Pictures in themselves are not wrong, but I don't like the act of those flashbulbs at a religious service.

The other colony in Paraguay is where Uri Shetler is Bishop and where Paul Eichorn lives whose wife writes in the Budget I have seen them on these slides too, saw where they live, & the country around them. It looks like very lush growing weather, where no fertilizer is needed, and things just grow very readily, and they can raise two crops a year.

The third place they visited is where a group bought 3700 acres, out in the open country, and are planning to start another colony. Mervin Good is already near there trying to build himself a house, and get started farming, and there is also other interest of people that are pioneers and want to move away from the American rat race, where they can do things the hard way, and drive horse and buggy, where there is no hard road, and where you cannot get lost, for there is only one road there. Of course, the most popular way of travel is

yet to go on foot, but if you want to take a short cut you must take your machette and cut yourself a path through the jungle growth; Pictures show this as very thick, and green, and vines hanging every which way.

The houses they live in until they can build a bigger are very small and looked about like what we used to start our baby chicks in. It takes less to live there too, for it does not get very cold. At times they may have a frost, but never any snow. The native members are satisfied with much less than the Americans, for they are content to live in one room, and sleep there altogether, until the church decided for modesty's sake they should build another room, and keep the grown children apart from the parents, so they helped them to build another room.

It was a very interesting trip and perhaps we can go along in person next year. It only cost around four hundred dollars a peice, if you provide for your own expenses while you are there, and live in with your friends. But who know what will be til next year?

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

April 10-I never thought that I would ever be a clerk at a store, but that is about what it amounts to. I have learned that it never pays to resist circumstances, for then you will always be at war with yourself, but not knowing what is wrong you blame others for your ill fate. The only man that is a complete failure is not the one who fails and accepts full responsibility for his failure, but the man who fails and places the blame on others; such an one has been resisting circumstances.

From my youth up I was always impressed with big trucks, or mechanical machinery, like steam engines etc. this was in my dreams, but circumstances determined that I should farm which I did, for a little more than 15 years. This was a good experience, and taught me many things that I needed to know but would not have learned otherwise. Finally circumstances turned and I bought my first truck; now I had what I wanted, this occupation I enjoyed for it was a natural aptitude; and if you do not follow what you have been cut out to do, you are never quite at home with your occupation, and never can do your best.

But now I am getting at the place where in my mind I can think what I will do, but my body fails to provide the means to carry out those plans. Yes I can still drive a big truck and like it well, but my reflexes are getting slower, and I tire more easily, and know that when I get too tired I have to stop whether I want to or not, or serious consequences will follow; for there is a penalty for every violation of natural law.

Now this winter, the warehouse burned down from whence I received the material to haul, namely fibre glass

insulation, so there has been very little to do all winter, along this line, sure I could go and haul other commodities, if I would get bigger equipment, but deceptit natural forces would not allow for such a venture or I would be resisting circumstances. So what was I to do? The plans I had did not materialize, and although I have much writing to do, and like it well, my body rebels to sitting at a typewriter for a long time, three hours a day is about all I can take of that.

Two of my young friends, and members of the same church, started a project of setting up a Tractor Parts store, and their finances were very limited, & they could not afford to pay labor, and I had nothing more valuable to do, and circumstances lent themselves this way so I helped them out, although I am not planning that this should be a free gratis venture, yet I am doing what I can, and it is providing a very valuable experience, for I always liked to be dealing with the public.

In this particular community there are many old model tractors, 30 years and even older; and one man wanted plow shares for an old Oliver 83 plow, and would you believe it we got them for him! Harold Hurst, who seems to be the main manager of the business, has had prior experience in business and in repairing machinery and generally knows whereof he speaks, and what piece goes where, which is a valuable asset.

John Renno

4-24

DANVILLE, PA.

This spring is reportedly the coldest April on record. There are a few nice days interspersed in between the cold, and rain, so that one day on the 11th of April to be exact, I borrowed my friends tractor and plow and plowed the garden, about one fourth acre, and worked it down with a small power tiler, and planted four rows of potatoes, and by evening my good wife planted four rows of peas; she did not trust me with the pea business because of my inexperience. Now this morning it was down to 20 degrees again, and I am concerned lest the seed freezes in the ground.

My wife also has a small baking business which affords her much opportunity to meet passers-by as they stop to buy her wares. One couple stopped out of curiosity, who had just moved into the area, from Costa Rica, they were formerly from out west, but now decided to make this locality their home. They did not know what shoe-fly pie was, having never heard of it, this is one of her specialties, she can make it real yummy, and good, with lots of goo in the bottom, I am anxious to hear the results of their new experience. Then there was the man who wanted a fly-shoe pie, so we sold him a shoe-fly.

One of our young goats died suddenly overnight, she is just a year old having given birth to two good healthy kids, I have changed the feed ration to what I thought was better, having just fed them corn and oats, so I bought dairy feed, and just learned too late that urea is death to goats. Our son who was very fond of her, calling it his very own, is having a burial service for it this afternoon. We have seven kids altogether born this year, we want to sell them all but one.

It is only a little over a hundred years ago that the great awakening was brought to pass in the Mennonite church, and it was at this same time that the great awakening in agriculture came into being, and this change greatly affected the church. Grass seeds were sown by hand until about 1872, and the scythe was used to cut it, for there were no mowing machines, which is hard for us to imagine living in an age when there was none of this. An Acme mowing machine was introduced in Somerset as early as 1858, and reapers were not used much until after the Civil War, although several were used earlier. A grain binder was purchased from the Swank Hardware Co. in Johnstown, Pa. in 1880, this was a twine tying machine, and remained in successful use for 30 years. In 1885 Abraham Stutzman introduced a wire tie Grain binder, but this was not too practical because of the danger of cattle consuming broken wire. In 1865 a crude hay fork was invented to unload hay with a rope and pulley. And about the same time a deacon improvised a hand dump rake without wheels.

The first grain drill was introduced around 1877 when a fertilizer Co. introduced the use of artificial fertilizer. The drill

was owned by the company and loaned to farmers so they would sow their fertilizer.

By 1920 the side delivery rake, and hay loader were thought indispensable, as well as the potatoe planter, and the check row corn planter.

In the dairy business farmers used to seperate their milk from the cream for 50 years, but then cement stable and milking barns with stauchions, came into being and milk was sold-direct. At the same time balanced rations were brought into being, and cows were being tested for T.B. and brocellosis.

All the time saving devises were used to make life easier on the farm and give the farmer more leisure time, but the farmer had a harder time existing than before, because now he had to much so much more to pay off. It has now gotten to the place that it is hard for a young man to start into farming without good financial backing, to pay as you go, and if you can't pay don't go theory is about useless, it now takes money to make money, you must first have it before you can make it, so borrowing came into wide use, and a hundred thousand dollars, which used to be a lot of money, is about where ten thousand used to be.

Now when we want to go somewhere we drive or hire cars driven to take us and think very little of it, but just one hundred and five years ago a certain man took his lady friend to Johnstown, Pa. in a new top buggy & the whole town came out to see this new invention, before this they rode horse back or went in heavy wagons or carts.

Before this and during this time the chief means of spreading the faith was by showing it lived out in day to day contacts, and preachers had very little formal education, and yet some of them were very affluent in speech.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

April 22—We read so much of storms and cold weather in different parts of the west, it makes interesting reading, but would not be pleasant to be connected with it. In this section of the country there was very little snow, and no real cold weather all winter. The ground was not even frozen very deep; when it was cold there was always a light cover of snow, and the cold did not last like it sometimes does.

My wife's uncle Jake Peachey died, the last time we saw him was only a few weeks ago and he was all but gone then, he did not eat very much anymore, and his mind was not functioning normally, and it seemed the only thing that kept him alive was a strong heart, but that now ceased to operate, and he passed on.

He was a son of Jacob Peachey, a notable Deacon in the Peachey church, who remained with the Bishop David C. Peachey when the major division occurred in 1918. My maternal grandfather was a brother to old Jake Peachey.

This Jake had many children, and most of them stayed with the group where he chose to be with. Although his son Jake that just died joined himself with the seceding group, for he was interested in one of Mose Zook's daughters. Now there are many who claim the Zook group did not secede from the Peachey group for they keep the (midung) just like it was always kept. But I was born and raised in the Peachey church, and was always taught that we were the original group. But it is of little concern as to who was right, what is right is of much more importance.

That Peachey family is now the major part of the people living at Belleville, if all of Old Deacon Jakes posterity would leave, there would not be very much left, and if all his brother's and sister's offspring would leave too that would just about clean it up. Old Abraham Peachey, the originator of the Peachey church in 1861, has a few off-spring there but not near as many as Jake had.

This Jake that died lived neighbor to where I was born and raised, and it was always a source of real pleasure when we would go visiting together, like people used to do at that time. We had lots of time to live then, and could enjoy life. Jake had only three children, Jesse, and Sadie and David. I went to school where they did; when I started Jesse was one of the big boys, along with my brother David, and Mose Hostetler. We little ones tried to be well behaved in their presence for we did not want to be charged with folly.

Today Jesse lives in Guthrie, Kentucky and David is in Honduras, the one that writes in the Budget occassionally, and Sadie is unmarried, and at home with her parents, she proved a real blessing to them in their old days.

The last word in Missionary activity, is the Missionary Sweepstakes; we received five tickets in the mail, along with pictures of starving children, and saying that if we would send in those cards we would have a chance to win a new \$4000.00 automobile. You did not even have to contribute to win, just send in your name. Now the idea was to appeal to the peoples emotions, by the pictures of the starving children, and they would feel very selfish not to send them money. And they called it a dramatic way to help the starving unfortunate people, saying it really works. They give much money away in prizes, to the people with the lucky numbers, but much more are there who are not so lucky, and with this money that's left over, they claim to help the starving children.

There are medical doctors, Pediatricians and obstetrician, and Gynecologist, two of them are Catholic and one a Presbyterian. A real sense of Ecumenism, and getting something for nothing really appeals to the masses, they should get lots of money, for the state lottery system seems to work, for more money for education. But it is not right.

Next Sunday, April 27 we plan to have baptismal services and Communion all on the same day, and it will be over by noon. Lloyd Garmon and his wife will be received on their confession of faith, they are already members at another group which we recognized as valid, and they moved into this area, several years ago, and now want to be united with us.

Our youngest son is one to be baptised, and one of Leroy Freed's sons and one of Donald Herr's sons, and several girls, one is the daughter of Joe Martin, who lives in Richfield, has a hardware store there. He lives about 30 miles from our church, and his daughter likes it here so she plans to be baptised. Also Donald Herr's live about 40 miles away, over in Center County, they moved up from the congestion in Lancaster County and bought a farm. He was formerly a truck driver, but thought it would be so nice to be

home with the family, and make your living off the land.

They have far to go to the church of their choice, but then it does not take them as long as it sometimes took us to go 12 miles to church, when it was in the lower end of the valley, we would hitch old Logan to the carriage and clop down the road. This was a plow horse, and his gait was six miles per hour, but it was better than walking, and we got there and back, and the amazing thing is we survived, and enjoyed it.

Donald Herr is a direct descendant of the first Herr family that moved over from St. Gall, Switzerland, having lived in the Palatinate first. Hans Herr died in 1725, had a family of six sons and a daughter, and over 13,000 descendants. They settled first in Lampeter Twp., Lanc. Co.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

April 29—We had 162 people out to our church service last Sunday, that is about 28 people less than the maximum for our building. It is an old building, built by the Presbyterians in 1856. They discontinued services there in 1967. They had enough money yet to pay their pastor, but the people were so few that no man wanted to preach for so small a congregation, so they closed the building. It was very reluctant on the part of the community people, but the overseers in Williamsport, decided it was unprofitable to keep on operating it that way.

Now this service last Sunday was a double service, and we had many visitors. We have about 80 members, plus many children, of course we take in children as members too, the youngest applicant was 122.

When I was young and growing up, baptism and communion service took two full days, but we did it all in two and a half hours, and the end result was the same.

One of the baptismal applicants was the son of a very prominent family, that adhered very closely to each other, and because of him being in the line this brought many visitors to see this being done. Marlin, the son of Leroy Freed was baptised. Leroy is married to Elsie, the daughter of Russel Moyer, from near Soudertown, Pa. So they were up, and Leroy's father, John Freed, and his wife were up too, and our second son, Joe is married to the youngest daughter of Russel Moyer, and they are good friends of the Freed's so they were up too, and Joe does a bit of chauffering for the old folks, for Russel is not too well having had a bad heart attack several years ago, and John Freed is minding his age too. John Freed said he has to get home to take care of his daughters. He has heifers that he raises, and is very attached to them.

Now Marlin Freed is the oldest son of Leroy Freed's, and our youngest son Timothy was also in the row to be baptised.

Our son is only going on 14, and according to what I was taught, is too young to be a member of the visible church.

It is highly desirable to have all of your offspring initiated into the same church in which you find yourself a member, but when the time comes that your youngest son is made responsible for his own actions, this makes you an old man, for after him there is no other, that's all. I just cannot get used to getting old, I want to be young all the

time. I am told that you are not old until you think so, but there is no use to bury your head in the sand and say its not true, when you know it is.

Man was created in the beginning to live forever, but because of events this has been changed, man cannot live forever, in this state, for he is evil, but he still wants to live forever, this is the carnal desire of everyone, its inherent in our very nature, and when you admit that you are old, you are saying, the next great event for me is death. Lets face it!

Aaron Shank, a native from Virginia is our bishop, for we are in the Lebanon District of the Eastern Church, and he performed the baptismal rites. It is interesting where the word bishop comes from, it is from the Greek root word episcopos. The prefix Epi in the Greek means over, or on, and scopos, is where we get the English word scope, or an instrument to view from, or see from; thus the word Episcopos, from which the word Episcopal comes from means, over seer.

I have received my copy of the Froschauer Bible, and it meets my every expectation. It is a good work, and done on nice white paper, and makes for easy reading. It does not have the scripture divided into verses, like most bibles do, and it is in the Swiss German language, but is not hard to read

if you know any German. The words seem to be shorter and more to the point, yet it is the same message. I would recommend it very highly to anyone who wants to increase his understanding to Divine Writ. It is about as close to reading it in the original language as you can get. This is not to belittle the King James, which was also taken from the original, but in translating there are words which have no equivalent in the other language, so you must use the closest thing to it, and if you are able to read two languages, it becomes clearer to you.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

May 7-On May the 3rd there was an historical tour given of Brecknock Township in Lancaster County, this was in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the church at Bowmansville, Pa.

I really had no business of going along, for I have no relatives there, but my friend Amos Hoover told me about it, and he spent much time and labor getting the thing organized, and because I am very curious by nature, I availed myself of the opportunity. There were three school busses to take the group around the various places, leaving at half hour intervals, because there were too many people to all be at the same place at one time, except at the church building.

We started at the present Bowmansville church building, which was erected in 1921. But 234 years ago, the first settlers, Jacob Good, and his brother Christian emigrated from the Palatinate and joined the old settlement at Pequa in 1732, and six years later they came to Bowmansville. It was around the year 1757 that Christian Good, (which was spelled Gut) which word means good in German, built a feed mill, along

the stream. He was later a preacher, and to show the conservative attitude he had then, he discouraged the use of buggies to drive around in, they were too worldly, and were just for pleasure, people were supposed to walk or, ride horses, for means of transportation. He even though the spreading of lime on the land was a worldly practice, and should not be done.

But he did build a feed mill, and a dwelling place combined, they also had worship services at his house for some time.

The present building that rests on the site was built by Adam Von Neida, and a large structure four stories high. Everything was run by water power, and they pulled the grain up on the fourth floor, where each farmer had his own bin, and because grinding was a slow process, with mill stones, they ground all night too, to get the work done. Therefore the farmer did not have to wait his turn, the deed was ready when he came. This was also an important social function, for the office on the second floor was used for the farmers room to visit together on rainy days, since there were no newspapers, and any other means of communication except word of mouth, or writing they would frequent the place to visit.

A huge water wheel turned a cog wheel, which turned a small pinion gear, that was fastened to an upright shaft, that would turn the mill stones and the line shafts etc. One of the sons was killed in that mill when he got fastened onto the upright shaft, and it took him around.

Plans are made to restore the mill to its original status, and make a museum of it, which will be interesting to watch. A historical meeting is somewhat like a funeral, where everyone that has an interest in it, gets together, the rich and poor, the high and low, all the various shades of differing religious persuasion forgotten for a day, and barriers down, we have one common denominator, the past.

I was on the first bus, and Leroy Newswanger was the driver, and we all embarked and were ready to go, and the thing wouldn't start; big Amos Martin suggested we can get off and push it, for there were about 50 people on it, but Leroy had a better idea, and he got the current to the right place, and we went. There were many things of interest, and to write them all would make a small

booklet. We visited different graveyards where important people are buried, and even saw a site where a supposed graveyard is, but there are no markers.

We stopped and had a little service at the present Alleghany meeting house, which is no longer used for services, for it is only small, and Phares Hurst explained to us the order of the Old Order Mennonite meeting. Much is the same the Amish do, and he did not say much that I did not already know, one thing that I noticed was that the text for the message for that day is not chosen, by the main sermon preacher, until during the first speakers talk, and even not until sometimes when we gets up to speak he does not know what he has to say, he will just open the New Testament at random, and where ever it happens to open, he gives it to the Deacon and he reads it, and from that he speaks, this is supposed to be the Spirit speaking through him.

At the graveyard of the Alleghany meeting house is buried Benjamin Horning, 1903, it is said he was a very gifted speaker, and was accused of having a Methodist spirit, for he preached too much like the Methodists did, had too much life to suit some Peitists.

They had difficulties at the Bowmansville church, when the government began the public school system, called the free schools; before this the church always sponsored the schools but now some though it would be

so nice and much cheaper to just let the state do it. But not all felt that way about it, and most of the influential members at Bowmansville found themselves outside of the fellowship, so John Oberholtzer came to their aid; he had earlier withdrawn from the Old Mennonite church, and formed the Eastern Pa. Mennonite church, which today is the general Conference group. Thus started the Pine Grove Mennonite church in 1854.

On the bus one of the passengers in front of me turned around and asked who I was; big Amos sitting beside me said, "Why this is John Renno, the one who writes in the Budget", have you not read his articles? He seemed to gasp a bit and said yet, always, but had not thought to meet him so unexpectedly.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

There has been a great influx of plain people from other counties, moving into Montour County, mostly from Lancaster County, but a few from Lawrence Co. from near Enon Valley, where the strip mining erupted good farm ground, in search of coal. This is a good place to live, and the county seat, Danville, is a modern town, yet not so big that it does not recognize the small business man, it does not compare with large cities. This is also near a major highway, which is now completed from the George Washington, bridge in New York, to the Golden Gate bridge, in San Fransisco. Interstate Route 80 runs right through Montour Co.

But there is now one serious drawback to living here. The Penna. Power and Light Company has already a large electrical generating plant in operation, and they bought much land to make a lake, and all the necessary requirements, and they get the electricity here and send it to the big cities in the east and south, there are big power lines leaving here.

Now there is rumors going on that they are contemplating the buying up of all the townships in the area, covering a radius of 60 miles, and putting in it five electric generating plants, and some of them will be nuclear operations, thus necessitating the removal of all the inhabitants of the area. This will include several towns like Washingtonville, Exchange, and White Hall, and all the farms that the plain people have recently purchased, and settled down in. Not only plain people have come, but in the work at the store I have noticed a number of folks that moved in from New Jersey, and the thickly populated eastern Seaboard.

The President of P. and L. denied that they were making such calculations, but soon after that there was an article in the Sunbury paper, showing a map of the proposed area which this power project will cover. But there are counter measures being taken too, and committees being formed to ward off this project, for very few wish to sell their valuable land, which they have so recently acquired, and relocated elsewhere. It remains to be seen just what will develop.

Oliver Keener is a wise man, also a preacher in our church. He was born in 1910, and knows what hard times are and what it is to eek out a living from the hills of West Virginia. Because he was reared and lived in the furnace of affliction, he has not adapted this (come easy go easy) way of making a living.

I was complaining to him the other day of pain in my hips when I walk. There was a burning sensations where the upper leg joints on to the pelvis bone, and he immediatly said, "you are developing prostrate trouble." And he gave me a book that spoke widely on the subject.

He said it so much cheaper to take care of trouble before it develops into a serious problem.

Oliver is minded to go out to nature and get for yourself what your body needs to keep healthy. Cooking destroys much of the bacteria that was put into the food for the benefit of the body. But Oliver is not a fanatic, he does not make a religion of proper food, but quietly goes about his business, and if you ask advice he is well qualified to give it soundly.

I am observing with interest the article of J. H. Miller on proper diet, and to know him you should visit his home, that is very rewarding.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

May 18—Very cool weather yet so far and according to prognosticators we will have an unusually cool summer. But the grass fields look nice, and the wheat is growing fast, and the rains are just about right when we need them, neither too wet nor too dry. I was out through the state of Ohio, to Lima this past week and it looks the same out there. Three times in the past week I crossed the state of Pa. and when viewing all the hills and valleys and mountains over which you go with so little effort and compare it with the way our forebearers crossed the state, there is much difference, in the method of travel, I cannot say that the people are any better off, in fact I question that.

I do not spend much time reading the current events anymore, for most of what I see there makes me feel bad, and I like better to feel good. Furthermore, so much of it is slanted to get you to believe what the press wants you to know, and not according to facts as they are. That war that we fought in Viet Nam which cost so much seems to have turned out what I imagined all along, just a political scheme, and

when the desired goal was achieved they just pulled out and quit. The goal was to get the people tired of war so that they would settle for very little armaments, and make easy prey for the one world rulership to begin.

There was much work at the store during the month of April for me but then when they got themselves oriented, they left me go about my business and the trucking business is flourishing again here. The Certain-Teed plant here whose warehouse burned down, has now rebuilt & are in operation again, making much hauling available, but I just run when I want to, and about where I want to.

There were only 107 at church this last Sunday with many absentees. Last Sunday there were 142, and were about all there. We come from all over, having congregated here, and sometimes several want to go to their home communities over Sunday, and this makes for a smaller group.

We did have a newly married couple attend our services, they were just married the day before, a Rudolph boy from the Hagerstown area, married the daughter of Amos Hostetter from there, and they were on their wedding trip, having Niaagra Falls on their itinerary. He was transporting his brand new bride around in a brand new car.

Eli Burkholder's did not go to Blue Rock to church as they had tentatively planned, for Eli is a big bulldozer operator, and farms on the side, and he was just too busy to get himself home in time on Saturday evening to get up so early to go so far to church, so they just attended their home church.

Eli is one of the best missionaries in our church, and he is self supporting too. He works for home builders, and since the interest rate went

down, the building trade went up.

The missionary part comes in when he abides by Christian principles, and not by popular opinion, which in our day and age makes any man stand out from all the rest. For most people are only working for their pay check, but Eli works for the good of man. He is just as honest as the day is long, which is another unusual feature.

One day it was very wet, & he thought this day he would change oil and grease his machine, and get it ready for work, but the big boss had other plans; he said go up to Milton and push in the wall around that house, and level it off, for we are behind in our work, and must get that done. But Eli insisted it was too wet, and would do more harm than good, and the boss may not always be right, but he is always the boss; and his word carried the most weight, so Eli went as he was told, knowing full well it would not work, but it had to be proven. Well the big machine was heavy, and sank into the mud up to the belly, but he got the foundation around the house backfilled, and was clearing some plywood out of the way, and his boss being right there, heard this rumbling and groaning and funny noises, and wondered what was going on, so going to the basement saw that the new wall just could not take all that pressure, and it gave way.

It did not come down all the way but just a big bulge, to give that heavy mud more room. You see they had to get it done that day, for they were on behind with their work, but now they must get a backhoe up there and dig it out again, and push the wall back into place, and brace it so it will hold. They did have the wall braced before backfilling it so it would not buckle, but the pressure was too great with all that heavy mud, the braces gave way.

We had our last day of school for this year, and it turns out to be quite an event, when all the patrons and all their children come together to celebrate.

There is much food consumed, and special, when it would almost seem like a contest between the women as to who could bring the most fancy dish. We have quite a sizeable congregation and there are many children, at least it seems like many when we are all together. This Mennonite community is less than ten years old, and it will soon be time to think of providing for more facilities. Although Elvin Doutrichs are now planning to move to near Pheonixville, Pa.

John Renno

Franconia Conference, which is the oldest conference in America, started in 1683, stemming from the Germantown, Pa. settlement.

Oberholtzer's views may have been valid, but he went about his reform operations in the wrong way, for he did not show the same spirit of co-operation that he expected others to show to him, this then resulted in the split. But now this year, 128 years later, the Eastern District conference, part of the General Conference, which Oberholtzer started, and

the Old Franconia conference had a joint meeting, at the Christopher Dock high school, and at the Indian Valley Mennonite church of Harleysville, where the schism that took place now is healed again.

Richard Detwiler of Souderton, was the moderator of the Franconia part, and Paul Goosen is the president of the Eastern division, they both spoke from the same platform, are now again pooling their resources, and trying to work in harmony instead of competitively.

We are supposed to be in a financial recession and many people are out of work, and say they are unable to find employment, and are short in finances, yet there is much money to spend. Stop at the resturants along the way and they are drawing large crowds. Seems to me if money were scarce, the first place to cut down on is going out to eat, which is not of any vital necessity for most people have houses at home to eat at. There are four major motor hotels in this area, near Interstate 80, at the Danville exit, and going by there in the early morning, and seeing all the cars parked outside business must be booming. I don't know where all the people are coming from, or where they are going but they are there. If we were in an economic boom now I wonder what it would be like.

DANVILLE, PA.

May 24--Now Aden Gingerich of Farmington, N.M. says Budget writer's have no vacation, they must write every week. May I ask, what makes them do it? It all makes for interesting reading, but there are those who scoff at The Budget as the gossip paper, or the Amish Wall Street, still it keeps on going, now twice as large as a few years ago, and the editor claims it is again too small to place all the news letters, they must wait their turn. But then the number of the population has increased rapidly, and many more people are alive today.

Then William McWrath writes from Hartville, Ohio where a few years ago Costa Rica, was the place to live. What happened to Costa Rica?

Back in 1847 there was a schism in the Old Mennonite church, when J. H. Oberholtzer, a Mennonite minister from the Swamp congregation felt that the church had fallen away from its former aggressive spirit, and was now tied to dead forms and rituals, which stood in the way of spiritual progress, he set about to try and transform it to its former zest. This took place in what is now the

I also spoke to Barry Copp and Levi Mast, who along with their wives and young children are seriously contemplating moving to Paraguay, to make this their future home. They would like to get away from all the hustle and bustle of modern society, and go someplace where its quiet. Can't say that I blame them in this respect, but to take ones family along on the first trip, and going to stay, never having seen the place yet, would be an undertaking of major proportions to me. Levi says perhaps there will be an old house available somewhere where they can pack in until they get organized.

The last four days in this area were very hot and humid, and I was not of too much account when it came to working in the sun, how would it be to go into a strange place and hack out a living from the jungles?

I will leave this venture for stronger men than myself, and men with more vision, and indomitability of spirit.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

June 2--The Lancaster Mennonite School was established in 1942. It was formerly the Yeates school for boys, before being put to use by the Lancaster Mennonite Conference. When the public school system began to establish stringent rules, aimed mostly at children of the city, to get them off the street, the law was impartial and made everyone to be subject. The Mennonite were the first to take issue, and form their own schools. They reasoned that if children have to go to school until they are 15 then it should be a church oriented school. L.M.S. was one of these. When children were through the eighth grade, before 15 years old they would then go to this church school and finish their education with four years of high school, or those who did not want that would sometimes take intensive bible study.

There are very many Mennonites today that are now in the more conservative circles that had gone to L.M.S. They would not go there today neither send their children there, because of the progressive attitude which the school adheres to. It is today an immense establishment, many massive buildings, with a large lawn, and beautiful grove of trees, and a stream running through the property, and you can look out the window of the girls dormitory and see cattle grazing below. I have often gone by there but never had any occasion to stop in until yesterday.

Because this year it is 450 years since the meeting of Conrad Grebel, Felix Manse, and George Blaurock. They were all three members of the Grosmunster church, where Ulrich Zwingli started expository bible preaching. This type of preaching was something unheard of, where a preacher would take a certain portion of scripture, and just stay with the text, and expose the meaning of it to the listeners, taking other related scriptures to establish his subject. The three above named

men were all ardent listeners, and believed what was spoken, and soon they began to question the sincerity of a man who preaches the Word thus, but not live it out in daily life and practice.

They had a meeting one evening, not with the idea of starting another church, but to discuss their mutual problem. Ulrich preached believer's baptism, and they were all baptised as infants. Before they left that night they had baptised each other upon their confession of faith. And these three men each went their way, and preached to whosoever they met, of the faith of the scriptures, for everyone was in a turmoil because of what Martin Luther had done, in starting what is known as the Reformation, and they had ready listeners everywhere, and soon the authorities were on their trail, and these three men did not get old, for their voice was soon silenced by death.

What they began could not be stopped, for it spread like wild fire, and even though the adherents to the faith were killed by the scores, by both the Catholics, and the Reformers, when one was killed there seemed to be two to take his place. Even Martin Luther was much alarmed, and claimed the Ana-Baptists were a greater threat to the truth than the Catholics, from which he defected, and started to preach salvation by faith, where the just shall live by faith, not by what he does.

Because 1975, is 450 years from 1525, those who are interested in history had what was called an Inter- Mennonite Reunion, at the Campus of Lancaster Mennonite School. It was not like a usual reunion, for they had classes, and different people gave talks about different subjects, at the same time, and you had to decide what you wanted to hear, or see.

John L. Ruth had a film which he spent many months, and dollars in the making of the Amish, a People of Preservation. This was shown about every hour in the afternoon, in the main auditorium to accommodate all the people.

It was not like the usual film stories are. There were no actors. It was not a play, with imaginary characters, neither did the Amish shown on the pictures know that they were being put on pictures. He had a candid camera, and took picture unawares, for he respected their refusal to pose for pictures. He himself was mostly the narrator, and explained what the pictures meant. He did not show any church service,

although he had singing of the slow tunes, which he could get with a hidden recorder, but a movie projector could not be hidden in a public meeting. He also had a little preaching on from a funeral, but no pictures except the procession going to the cemetery, and anything he could get without those being shown knowing about it. He explained why the Amish do as they do, not only to be different, but to preserve their culture, and their offspring, from the inroads made by modern ways of living. He said the true Amish do not wish to be exposed, they just ask to be left alone, and go about their business.

They cannot totally escape modern farming methods, for they use balers, and corn pickers and milking machines, and mechanical cooling of milk. These are modern things they have to have to make a living, plus many modern tools in the shops that are run by compressed air etc. I myself know Amish thoughts having been one for over 20 years.

Historical meetings are much like funerals, where people of all grades of religion can get along together for a day, for they have one common denominator; the past. Although I did not see any of my Old Order Mennonite friends there, except Amos Hoover. John A. Hostetler was there giving talks, and showing slides of historical interest.

There have been a rash of very unusual accidents in this area recently. Clyde Beidler, a man recently ordained at the Bethel Church in Snyder Co. had the misfortune of driving over his child with some piece of equipment, but it was not mortally wounded, just hospitalized for a few days.

Our youngest son works for Harold Seigrist on Saturdays, for he sells produce at the markethouse in Sunbury. In the afternoon he was helping to get things in order at the Seigrist home, and was having a trailer hitched to a small farm tractor, backing it to put it away, & Harold's youngest daughter, was on the trailer. He was looking around the one side to see where he was going, and she suddenly decided to get off the trailer from the side where he was not looking, and she fell under the rear tractor wheel, which went over her head and shoulder.

It was a small tractor, and did not do very much damage, no bones were broken, and she had internal bleeding, and the gravel on the under side of her face was forced into the cheeks, making very unsanitary bruises. It is too early at this time to tell what the final outcome will be, but hopefully she is on the way to recovery.

Ivan Burkholder, the brother of Eli, of whom we write occasionally, lives north of here at Washingtonville; he was getting ready to go out and finish sowing soybeans one morning after breakfast; he thought the children were all away, but when he was not looking his youngest son, a little over a year old, ran behind the truck he was backing out, and fell with his head under the rear wheel, which was crushed. The Burkholders have our sympathy, although we don't know what they are going through, having never experienced this. It is only several years since their oldest son, at the age of 13 was killed when a tractor upset and crushed him.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

June 7--We had a rash of very strong thundershowers, recently, with heavy rains. Many have mowed hay during the nice warm, and hot weather and much good hay was put up, but now there has been much rain.

This spring was different from the normal, when it gradually warms up. This time it was cool for a long time, and when warm weather came it was very warm for over a week, then this thundershower activity, and they even had tornado warnings out, for it was ideal weather for that. But now it has again cooled off after the rains, making sleeping just wonderful.

Clayton Nolt's were at church today. I always thought he was older than I but discovered he was almost a year younger. He is a bit unusual and maybe a wee bit queer, for he does not go along with all the modern activities that most churches think a must for success, and I must confess that I am also of that stripe, for we are too Mennonite to be Amish and too Amish to be Mennonite, but we get along.

Clayt's have two married daughters here in our community, both of John Hurst's sons are married to their daughters. And Harold's son had a birth defect, having a cleft palate, and a hare lip, and also his ear tract is less than normal, making it necessary for him to have plastic tubes in his head to aid his hearing. He also was tongue tied, and is at the hospital at present, to get things fixed up back to normal, as far as modern science can do it, and that is one reason why Clayt's were up today.

Harold Seigrist's daughter Joy, was at church today, and seemed quite well, for it was just a week ago Saturday that she was run over with a tractor. She has very bad marks on the side of her face where it was pushed down into the gravel; but Harold now thinks the wheel did not go over her head. The tractor is a Farmall - A cultivision type with the motor set to one side so you can see to cultivate with, and the side on which the motor is, is the wheel which went over her body; moreover the tire has liquid in it for more weight, plus wheel

weights, and Harold thinks it's a marvel that she was not crushed lifeless. He does not know how else it could have been but she is quite well. Harold was near by when our son Timothy was backing it up, and saw his daughter on the back and all at once she disappeared, for he was in front of the tractor. He then suspicioned something could have happened, and ran to the other side where she should have been and sure enough the wheel had just passed over her body.

He then loudly called to Timothy to stop, as one would at such a time and his tone of voice kind of scared him, and he froze to attention, and by the time he got stopped the front wheel was on top of her body. Nobody saw just now it was but he thinks according to the looks of things it must have passed over her neck, thus pushing her face into the gravel, and over her shoulder, and back, for he says that wheel is too heavy to have gone over her head without crushing it, but she is alive and well, and he is a thankful parent; but then he is always thankful for that is a part of his second nature. The daughter is about six.

Now this letter should be published in plenty of time for those of you who care to, to come east, and attend the eighth annual Bible Conference at Numidia. It starts on Thursday, July 3rd at 9:30 and lasts through Sunday, July 6th. There are plenty of facilities there, to eat and sleep, or if you have friends to which you want to retire to at night you may. Also many bring their campers or trailers, or some makeshift compliance to live in through the night, and there is food provided, three times a day. There is no charge whatsoever, but there is a free will offering taken several times, but money is not asked for at all, although it takes that to operate, and few people are so stingy that they

want to live off of the means someone else has provided. But there are no fixed charges.

The food is not abundant, for we know it does not take much to keep the human body functioning normally during very little physical activity. But it is quite sufficient for most needs. There are no physical sensations provided; just sit and listen to preachers all day long; from 9:30 in the morning to 11:45, and then at 1:30 p.m. to 3:30, and again from 7:15 in the evening to 9:00. This makes about six hours of service time, in the which singing and the usual routine is followed, but we have no special singing, just congregational. We do not believe in competing with the world and entertain anyone. If you want entertainment you must go where that is to be done. But from 9 in the morning till nine at night means 12 hours of time, and six of those are spent listening and six spent in visiting and fellowshipping, plus however long you stay after the last service which sometimes gets till 10:30 till they all leave that do not stay overnight.

But there are rules to keep if you want to stay in the dormitory. You must be quiet at 10:30, and no noise made or any electric razors going before six. You have to respect the rights of others. It does provide a wholesome atmosphere, and if you like good Bible teaching, you are as apt to get it here as anywhere. Numidia is close to Bloomsburg, Pa.

J. R. R.

6-25

DANVILLE, PA.

A good and great man has passed from the scenes of life. A man in whom I had the confidence that he will do what is right. This confidence was based on the fact that he knew the scriptures, and tried to live by them as he understood them.

He is one of the first Mennonite men which I became acquainted with. When I worked for I. Y. Hostetler on the sawmill, for 50c a day he and his brother were enlarging their barn and brought logs to be sawed. That was before the days when tractors were so prominent, for they used horses.

I also remember his father John S. Peachey going down the road in a spring wagon with two horses hitched to it. He also was well versed in the scriptures, and his whole family had this reputation.

Urie S. Peachey died suddenly of a heart attack at 62, while still busily employed serving his fellow men, and his God. His brother Emanuel, who was my bishop for a short time, died the same way, at a wedding reception; he was 54. Likewise the father died sitting at home in the rocking chair, and fell asleep in it and never woke up. He also was yet in his 50's. Now there are only two sons left in that family, besides the girls, with which I was not so well acquainted, Aaron of Ritman, O., and Elam, a gifted speaker and preacher belonging to the Woodland church. Also a great figure at the Rosedale Bible School near Plain City, Ohio.

When men whom you trust, and speak to every opportunity, when their voice is silenced by death, it leaves an indelible impression on you. The funeral was Saturday, June 14, and very well attended. Urie was one of the chief men at the Allensville Planning mill; and I suppose the Chaplain, for they had scripture reading and prayer daily, but at all times Urie would have a word from scripture as it will relate to every incident in daily life if one knows it well enough.

Erie Renno preached from the first chapter of Revelation which was a favorite with Urie.

Recently I was present at the quarterly book auction at the Mennonite Historical Society building, near Lancaster City. People who own books which they no longer need, may take them there and they will be sold on commission. The one book I was long looking for was at this sale, for it is out of print, and is a collector's item. I wanted it to read and find out the thoughts of John F. Funk for he was the author of the book, *The Mennonite Church and Her Accusers*. At the last sale this book brought \$70.00 but Amos Hoover thought someone was not looking, and it sold for less than half that.

Old magazines with historical value bring good prices too, and old books, or even newer ones if they have value that someone cares for they will bring a good price, but if nobody cares for what is there they go real cheap; like there were four volumes in almost new condition and went for a dollar.

Amos Hoover topped the price when he paid \$150.00 for a small book in German, it was about four inches tall, and two inches wide, and half an inch thick, entitled *Die Ernshaft Christenpflicht*, an old prayer book, he said it is ten years older than the oldest one found yet, and it was not in very good

condition. It is so old that even Harold Bender did not include it in his bibliography; he probably did not know about it.

But you do not need to be present to buy, if you send them your name at the Lancaster Historical Society, Rt. 30, East Lancaster, Pa. for \$1.00 they will send you a list of what they have and you can send your bid in by mail, there are many sold this way.

I am not very fond of correcting mistakes but I made a very bad one recently; saying that Levi Mast is thinking about moving to Paraguay. This was a true statement, but it was not my neighbor Levi Mast, it was the one who now lives in Tennessee. My neighbor said he received mail and phone calls etc. and verbal questions as to what is going on, if he was not satisfied with where he is living now he sure is good at putting on a front, for no one knew that he was thinking about moving out. Well he did not think about it, until he was reminded of it, for there are quite a few Levi Mast's, and be sure you get the right one before you decide any verdict.

We have had a few very warm days, but it has cooled off and there is much moisture. Farmers who get there hay mowed at just the right day get a good crop, but that day is hard to find, and the hay is getting old and hard. Wheat and barley that was heavy has lodged very bad, it will probably not be of very good quality if you can get it.

J.R.R.