

## DANVILLE, PA.

July 1975--The book by Dallas Witmer is now off the press, and my copy has been attained, and mostly read and appreciated. It is a valuable document of the history of the beginning of the mission work in Guatemala; it is entitled, The Guatamalean Cry. The work there is not so old yet, and many of the workers you read about are still around; and some of them there now write in the Budget.

I know of no other book like it, and due to the youth of the work I personally know many of the people mentioned therein. This makes it very interesting reading. And it will be valuable in the future, as an historical document, for the dates when things took place are down in black and white, and many interesting trials and temptations that some of the workers were called upon to endure are likewise listed. I would not trade my copy of that book for any kind of money, for money is change when it comes to things with lasting value.

Another book that will soon be off the press is the history of the Amish church in the Kishacoquillas Valley. This is three times larger than the first writing, for I never got that printed, for I was not satisfied with it, and neither were some of my peers. I have now included all the churches in the Valley of Belleville, Pa., but mostly about the group with which I was associated. The Mennonite churches there now all have documents pertaining to themselves, and are available to those who are interested, but the Old Order Amish have no permanent records to my knowledge. Samuel W. Peachey wrote a book with something in about them but that was written back in 1930 and many things have happened since then, and I personally remember many things that took place from then on.

This does not have value to many people like Dallas Witmer's book does for its scope is very small, and it was not written with the idea of interesting many people, just

those in that area. There are many young people in the Valley that know very little of what took place, and how their particular group relates to them all, for it is now the third and fourth generation that has arisen and only a very few left that remember back to the beginning of the century.

There are no pictures in this book, but I did try to draw a chart showing all the churches there now, and how they relate to each other.

Those small jar lids that are used for home canning are still very scarce, or so they appear, but it is not known why they should be, for the companies claim to be making them very fast. But then you remember sugar sold for \$70.00 per CWT some time ago, not because it was scarce but because the price was manipulated; and so with many things, people are very gullible and believe most of what they see in print, and all you have to do to make a lot of money, is to spread it all across the nation that there will be a great shortage then people will make a stampede to get it if they can, even if they never will need it.

Many dealers were caught with baler twine, they bought when they thought it will not come down, and bought on a large scale, then the price dropped.

Astronomers have for some time noticed that there are black spots in the Milky Way, that galaxy of millions of stars, and now they think they know what they are. They have discovered it is black fire; all the fire we know of on earth is bright, and makes light, for it originally comes from the sun, which is the source of all our energy; but this fire they have now discovered in the stars is black probably what is known in scripture as outer darkness.

Some of the stars are calculated to be so heavy, or dense that if the earth on which we live would be like them it would be compressed together so tight as to make it only a few miles in diameter, and the four billion people that live on the earth now would only make a drop of water in size. That

means if we would remain constructed as we are now and enter into a dense atmosphere like some of those stars are it would reduce the size to almost nothing. Gold is much heavier than some other minerals because it is more dense, and density determines the weight of an object.

It is estimated at the present rate of our money system, by the year 2000 just 25 years away from today, a loaf of bread will cost \$20.00 That is if they get the debt ceiling lifted, and allow themselves to just print more money to boost the economic prosperity. Much can take place between now and then. We know not what a day may bring forth.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

July 1975--I noticed in the Budget how many people took to the hills and the mountains, for a little private seclusion. Also how many picnics, and other doings people had just to get away from the ordinary. I am not criticizing it, but do wonder where it all started, and where it will end up at. Why is the status quo not enough that we need all these special attractions to make us happy. How many of us can be at home all day alone, with nothing extra to do and enjoy it? When I was young it was normal to stay at home on the Sunday when we had no church services. That was in the days when picnics and reunions were strictly forbidden, and considered an evil practice.

I am on wheels about all the time now, going about to and from, but want someone to pay my way, so I haul things people want transported. I unloaded at Rootstown, Ohio one day and thought this is not far from Hartville, I will just go over and see my friend David Detwiler. We got acquainted with each other two years ago, at Roxbury, during the first Hymn Writers Conference there. David is married to John

Overholt's sister. One thing he emphasized there was that he is 71 years old now and old enough to know what's right, and he is inclined to follow that. David has to stay at home now about all the time, for he is not too well. He said if he had not taken swift action he might even not be here anymore. He went to the doctor, because he did not feel that everything was functioning normally, and the doctor said much of the blood he has is not doing him any good, he must have a blood transfusion and that right away. So they got people together to give blood, but his is such a rare type that they could find nobody with the same blood. And the hospitals did not have it either; except at Massillon they had one pint, and they needed two, but they had record of who has his type, so they called him in and took a pint from him. David was about to expire if he did not get blood. He further inquired as to who the man might be that they had of his blood in storage, and it was a man from Arizona, an Indian by race.

David was so glad to see someone come in, and take time off just to sit down and visit for a few minutes. We ought to do more of this. Our activities are so programmed that we have to do things according to schedule and usually that does not allow to make an unexpected visit, but it means so much to the recipient, so much more than it could ever cost us. We go out to the streets and by ways to pass out tracts, and have street meetings because that can be scheduled, but why not make more efforts to visit those who have to stay at home all the time.

David Detwiler Jr. was at the time in Washington, D.C. for he owns an old Greyhound Bus, and does much hauling of passengers to where they want to go. At that time he had a load of plain people from the Hartville area to Washington to attend the Basic Youth Conflict meeting, that has been held at many places by a man called Bill Gothard. His father, David, would have been so glad to go along but was not able, and he

entertained the thought that perhaps he can go later when the meetings are held closer to his home. He expects to get well again, but it just takes time.

I myself have heard much about the Bill Gothard meetings, and many are the Budget readers that have attended, for it seems he caters very much to the plain people, or those who have more Christian principles than ordinary. But I never attended myself, and do not plan to at this time. Solomon says that much preaching makes the body tired, and making many books has no end in sight; that's about the way it is with so many meetings. It can be detrimental to one's health if you make going away an end in itself, so that you are never quite satisfied unless there is something going on somewhere. A great need for this day is for people who can think, and thinking is an art that is not learned by much activity. You have to be still to know who is God, and the same method must be employed to take on the character of God.

John Wycliff was born about 1302 and died in 1384; is often called the Morning Star of the Reformation. He was born in Yorkshire, and trained at Balliol college at Oxford, and started to teach there at that

college in 1361, and saw many of the things which his church did that was not according to truth, and gave lectures on civil Lordship, saying that man does in reality not own anything, but God is supreme owner. This enraged the bishop of London who called him on the carpet, but the English government stood by him and he was able to resist arrest, and five bulls of from Pope Gregory XI. He insisted that the church consists of all of God's elect, and because of that they should all be privileged to read God's word, in their own language. And that Christ was the head of the church, not the Pope, and that the Pope may not necessarily be of the elect of God. He began training poor preachers who went about the country preaching to the peasants who were later called Lollards because it was claimed they were always singing or lolling something. This was a successful venture. Many were converted. Wycliff translated all of the New Testament, and most of the Old. He was buried in 1384, and in 1428 his body was dug up and burned and the ashes scattered on the river. I see where the translators that bear his name and United World missions are sponsoring a barbecue supper near Hartville, Ohio.

J.R.R.

## DANVILLE, PA.

July 1975--Agriculture is still a major business in this country, according to the U.S. News and World Report; there are still over 4 million people working on farms, and another 13 million people working on related products, making machinery, and transporting goods from the farm to the city.

In the overall picture, farming employs five times as many workers as do the auto and truck manufacturers, and nine times as many as steel makers. This is a little hard for me to believe, living here in the east where a large portion of our land is not practical for farming; it is just mountains, hills and rocks, and overgrown with trees and brush.

Driving around through the country in a farming area, this does not seem true, but in flying in through Pennsylvania, towards Williamsport it seemed like it was hard to find any area that was cleared, small spots dotted here and there were patches of farm land, but the large part was uninhabited. And in driving from here to the New England States, there is very little farm land that you pass through.

Ohio and Indiana, and Illinois, is about as far as I get, and there you see large area of cleared land, that is under cultivation, and the crops look abundant. Barring any bad weather this years crops look excellent.

According to the new item, consumers spent \$276 billion for farm products last year, there were four items listed, and two of these were beverages and tobacco. I don't know what is included in beverages, but I would suppose most of it is things that are not vital to life, but just act as pacifiers for nervous people.

And farmers sold twice as many dollars-worth of products as did the auto industry, and the net income per farm, that is

after all expenses were paid, the farmer still had almost 10,000 dollars to keep for himself. I would suppose some of you farmers wonder who got your share. But farming does cost a lot to operate, it is estimated that it takes 100,000 dollars for every farm worker, invested in machinery to operate. This compares with 40,000 for factory workers.

There was a farm house burned to the ground near here; the men were out making hay, and were too busy to come into the house to eat, so the woman of the house got a meal ready and took it out to them, in the field. This was alright, but she had made french fried potatoes, and forgot to turn to stove off when she went out, and this grease started to get hotter and hotter, and finally run over the sides onto the burner, and the result was they lost everything they had in the house.

We received a phone call the other evening about nine o'clock when I was just in bed. It was from a Budget reader, and he liked to meet those whose articles he reads; he wondered where we live and how to get here. So I told him and he was here for a little while. He was an acquaintance of my neighbor, Levi Mast formerly from Arthur, Ill. and went to his house overnight. The man's name was Eli Otto, he and his chauffeur were on a tour. I did not find out just what their mission was but

had a sign on my door that I use Shaklee vitamin products, and he did not like that word at all, he thinks Hilcoa sounds much better. We enjoyed his visit, and surprise visits like that are often more meaningful and beneficial to both parties than an appointed visit is, where you have to have a meal together, and all the formalities.

We have been to the Valley Amish church near Belleville lately, held in a barn on the Deacon Jonas Peachey farm; it has been a long time since there was a deacon with this name but has now occurred, the last one died right around the time when I came on the scene.

I like to hear a sermon preached in German once in a while, and in order to get this I have to go out of this immediate area, there are Amish 20 miles to the north of us, but they are mostly strangers to me and it's good to go back where you spent your youth, and see the conditions there, but it's not like it used to be, for I find myself one of the older men and feel very incompetent for such a position. I can't explain just how it happened, it took place so rapidly that I was hardly aware of it.

These Valley Amish are a group that seceded from the main stream of the old Peachey church that was formed in 1861. Although that is debatable too for it all depends on which side of the fence you find yourself as to which is the main stream, I could not help where I was born so always thought the group where I was to be the right one.

They are not all from the Peachey group either, for about half of them come from the Old church, better known as the Byler group, which claims to be the old Original Amish church in the valley, that began around 1790. To get all the different groups correct in your thinking you need the book that was just written, it has a chart in it that explains.

But regardless of the religious affiliation, people are all basically the same, and there are still just two kinds of people in the world, he that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son hath not life.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Aug. 5--When the outside temperature gets up to 96 in the shade, then it is only two degrees above that which our bodies are normally, and since we produce heat all the time, this heat must escape or we get very uncomfortable, and if the air around us is not much cooler than inside of us we get bogged down, and it seems the older you get the more you mind.

We had one week of very warm weather, it was not so humid but hot, and had no rain that week so the ground dried up in a hurry too, and the corn is now producing ears and needs much water to bring forth corn. Some spots the corn is suffering, and others there was more rain.

Transportation is as old as man, the first method was carry things; or hitch horses, or asses to sledges, until the wheel was invented, then it was underway. Men used to drive teams across the land loaded with cargo, and were gone from home for months, for the roads were rough, and steep, and there were no bridges, but material had to be transported. Those who drove teams were called teamsters; now today, we still have men that are called teamsters, but they drive iron horses, and have good roads, and much speed, but they still call them teamsters.

In 1899 a union was formed, where the teamsters banded together, and made a ruler over them, to speak with the companies they worked for against unfair labor practises. Now today the teamsters union is the largest in the nation, extending to Canada, and Porto-Rico, and the head of this union was James Hoffa; and as big things do they get corrupt, for power corrupts, and total power corrupts totally, and Hoffa was accused of misusing his power, and convicted, and was in the Federal Penitentiary, here in Lewisburg for a few years, and Frank Fitzsimmons was acting president of the Teamsters Union. President Nixon then gave Hoffa, an early release

from prison, but it was stipulated that he could not be teamsters president again, until 1980.

I know most of you don't know Jimmy Hoffa, nor anything about him, but the principle remains, this is an age of violence, and its getting increasingly worse.

The reason violence is so rampant, is because it is not suppressed enough; since they have done away with the death penalty, men can be as evil as they want to and need not fear being put to death for their crimes, all they will get is imprisonment, and that can be escaped from.

God has set the principle back when Noah came out of the ark, that who sheddeth man's blood,

by man shall his blood be shed; and since this law is being neglected in America, at present, it will have to be carried out at some future time. God will have to clean house, and you know how it is around home when the women clean house, things are not normal. And when God starts to clean up America for all the blood that was shed and not avenged by man, things will again be out of normal.

You remember in 70 A.D. when Titus Vespasian, the Roman army general cleaned up Jerusalem, that was a terrible time, but those people were paying for all the innocent blood that was shed from Abel, whom Cain slew to Zachariah, plus all the other things that had not been made right. We would think its wrong to punish people for what happened 4000 years before, but God does not reason as man does.

Now there is no need to worry, and let that sap the strength you have, but it is time to trust in the

Lord, and do good so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. And we need to be careful not to give hoodlums an occasion to practice violence.

Of course when all law and order breaks down completely, then it's each man for himself.

One shot makes much more noise than a thousand prayers, and criminals want their deeds publicised, to terrorise the people and make them easy prey, but there are many good people around yet, of whose deeds you don't hear. We need to keep an eye on the doings of evil men, and stay out of their way, but never let up the fight to do good and to communicate for which such sacrifices, God is well pleased.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Aug. 12--Friends are much easier to loose than to gain, it takes a long time, and various associations to gain a friend, but time and space has a way of seperating them again. Noah I. Yoder is such a man to me. By the time this gets into print he will be living more than a thousand miles away from here, if plans hold out.

He is of Old Order Amish descent like I am; he was born and reared in Somerset County, Pa. then with his family moved to Dover, Del. was a member of the Amish church there, but he did not appreciate the (strengmeidung) as it is called, so he with his family moved to Catlett, Va.

He was employed in service to others mostly by woodworking, and was also a blacksmith. He said he lived mostly from hand to mouth, until in 1957 he bought a farm in Union County, near here, and started farming. He bought it just at the right time, for things were very greatly on the upward swing, and he was a successful farmer too. He was ordained to the ministry at the Beachey Amish church there in Union Co. in 1968.

He likes to travel, and has been across the country several times, and found places that he thinks would suit his fancy better than Penna. The air is heavy and damp here, and it is getting very congested, with people moving in from the heavily populated east coast, and he had his heart set on the west, where land is cheaper, and there is much more room. Furthermore there was a small group of people moved out there from here that are of the same religious persuasion that he is, so this will be good news for them, for they have no ordained minister at this point.

He is planning to have sale here on Aug. 20, and move to Long Prairie, Minnesota. He bought a farm there, but he is getting too old to farm, is already 59, but with modern equipment, it should not be hard to raise crops and sell them. He also expects to build a little workshop, and spend the cold winter days in that.

He and I are not of the same religious persuasion now, but we read the same scripture, and that is what we mostly talk about when we are together. It has been said two men can get along real well together and become good friends, as long as they just discuss scripture, but put them both in the same church, and they will start to disagree.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder, but familiarity breeds contempt.

Noah said it was always difficult for him to learn in school, and when he was ordained, one of his former associates remarked, that the Lord could make the dumb speak, and he guessed he could make Noah speak too.

Now concerning the matter of religion, I have received a letter some time ago from a party that thinks I do not belong to the right church. This person claims if your church carries a name after some man, it cannot be after Divine fashion. And if your church does not gather together the first day of the week to break bread, you are likewise gathering off scriptural ground; thirdly if you have not been baptised by immersion, you are living in disobedience, for you have never been baptised.

I must admit that I fail in all three counts, and I will explain.

The breaking of bread together is to remember the Lord's death for the saints, and it is not specifically stated how often this shall be done, some do it once a year, some twice, some once a quarter, and some every Sunday morning. There is no command given as to how often, only that as often as ye do it you are by this remembering the Lord's death.

As for a name for your particular denomination, that is only for identification, just like I have three names but they do not make me good or evil, they are just to identify me from among the thousands of other individuals. And I am glad for different denominations, it's much better this way than one super church, for the larger any man made organization becomes the less efficient it is, to meet the needs it was designed to do.

Furthermore the real spiritual body of Christ is not visible, if it were, then it would only be for time, for visible things are temporal, and the invisible things are eternal. Its only those who are the called according to God's purpose, that belong to the body anyways, the rest can go through all the ritual they choose, but it will avail them nothing.

As for Baptism by immersion, this argument is as old as the church. We hold that baptism typifies the adding to the Body of Christ by the baptism of the Spirit, and not the death and burial of the old Man. And the Spirit is always poured, and we are not immersed into him.

Israel was baptised unto Moses, in the cloud and in the sea, yet it says they went through the midst of the sea on dry ground; which Pharaoh also assayed to do but he was immersed.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

August 17—My friend Noah I. Yoder of whom was spoken last week, who has made plans to move to Minnesota, had to make a few changes according to circumstances. When I last spoke to him, he complained of chest pains, and I suggested he get it checked out, it could be his heart. For I am not a total stranger to warning from the heart, that it is being pushed beyond the endurance level. This was on a Monday that I spoke to him, and by that next Friday morning, he did not feel well, and stayed in bed for a while, but then decided to get up and go see a doctor, which he did, and the doctor told him he ought to go to the hospital where they have better facilities, and can do a more thorough job.

He then went home and packed his clothes, planning to stay at the hospital if necessary, and his wife went with him, and offered to carry his suitcase, but he said he will carry it, but he soon gave it to her saying its too much he cannot take it anymore. They checked him out at the hospital at Lewisburg and found some trouble, and put him to bed there, to keep a closer check. That night, he felt trouble coming, and rang the buzzer, and they had him right there, when he had a severe coronary, which is one of the main arteries in the heart being hindered from distributing normal blood flow, and that's what is known as a heart attack.

The sale for some of his chattels is scheduled for Aug. 20, but he cannot be there, he will probably be in the hospital for sometime, and neither will he move as per schedule, but will have to wait until he is able.

I often think of that German song which I still often sing; Es kan for nacht leicht anders verden, als ess am freeien moryen var; Den veil ich leb auf deiser erden, leb ich in steter todts gefahr. The idea expressed is that, till night time comes, things can drastically change from plans made in the morning, and as long as I live on this earth, I am always living in danger of death.

I myself am quite favorably impressed with the western part of the country, having been to the western part of the state

of Michigan this past week, up near Holland. The vastness of it is beyond description to people having never been there. What they call towns there we would only class as building developments, for the houses are far apart, and many trees and bushes around, you would hardly know you are in town.

People there are also different, for there not being so many of them they are glad to exchange views with strangers; they are more trusting too, not having been taken advantage of so often, for they paid very little attention to how much material I unloaded, just took my word for it never checking it out.

There are very few people moving east, and I have trouble, believing that those who do are really content, if they have known the freedom of the west. But of course, the churches are more conservative here in the east.

On my way home from the west I stopped at Salem, O. and picked up a load of bathtubs for Phila., Pa. and passing through Port Matilda, I saw the sign of a mobile home dealer, M.E. Foltz, having known this man long ago he being a lay preacher, and an ardent soul winner, being a member of the Brethren-in-Christ church, I stopped and conversed a while.

He is now at the point of selling out, and doing all his business in Florida, for he is the director of a large mobile home court there at Brooksville, Fla. He is now a member and lay preacher of the Wesleyan church, almost the same as the B.C., and as there was more need for his services in that denomination, they had asked Mr. Foltz to take permanent charge of a church, but he declined, saying he has too many other things to do.

This place in Brooksville, Fla. is called the John Wesley Manor, and is a place for elderly folks, who want to spend the declining years of their life in quietness and solitude, in a religious atmosphere. There are no dogs or cats allowed on the place, and Mr. Foltz said about the most noise you hear is a prayer, now and then. And he gave me a form they have to fill out promising to abide by the laws and rules of the Manor.

The first personal requirement is that you experience the New Birth. And that you believe the doctrine of entire sanctification, for the cleansing of the heart from all sin, and love God with the whole heart and your neighbor as yourself. And if you have not this experience, or have had it and lost it, that you will again seek it diligently until you obtain it.

No alcoholic beverages, or drugs are to be used, except for medicinal purposes, and no smoking is allowed, and residents are to be decently dressed, the men with pants and the women with skirts.

No dancing or any such things is tolerated, no profanity. No motor scooters for sports, or anything of that nature that creates a lot of noise.

The minimum age of the residents is 50 years, and you are required to attend the Wesleyan church, and not speak any doctrine that is not accord with what they hold to be true.

Mr. Foltz explained that you have to have stringent rules for a place like this and have them enforced or you will soon have general bedlam, and no pleasant surroundings.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

Aug. 26--My friend Noah Yoder is still in the Lewisburg Hospital, at this writing; he had a rather severe heart attack. The serious part took place at an instant, but he has had warnings before which he did not take enough heed to, he thought he was having severe heart burns, and gas on the stomach, and was taking antacid tablets, but that finally did not help any more. He did also have an electric-heart-O-gram shortly before this, and the doctor wanted to hospitalize him then, but the gram revealed nothing out of order, and Noah was busy getting ready for his sale and said he does not have time to lay in the hospital. But he finally took time, and was so weak the last I saw him that he said he cannot even stand on his feet, they just buckled under him.

His family and chattels have now left for their future home in Long Prairie, Minn., but his wife and one daughter will stay at a friends house until he is well enough to make the trip himself. They have sold their farm here and had to vacate it to give possession to the new owner.

We were to Donald Herr's house on Sunday for dinner, he is of the original Herr stock that migrated to America in the last century; but has chosen to buy a farm in Centre County, and drives 40 miles to church, coming to our place of meeting. We did have dinner there which I enjoyed, but what took place after dinner was more intriguing. He has an old 1929 Hudson automobile, in which we went for a little drive, to remind us of how things used to be, shortly after the horse and buggy days; and up in the barn he has an old threshing machine over a hundred years old; a very small machine, with no wheels to move it overland, it has to be borne, or hauled. It is of a light structure, and the cylinder and the concaves which are the heaviest, come apart from the shaker part, so you can take it in two pieces, of course, there is no straw blower, or stacker, the straw just drops out on the floor in the back. This probably was a great improvement over flailing out the grain on the barn floor in the winter time.

Down in the wagon shed he has a very old three horse power gasoline engine that was used to power this machine, but he cannot get it to run anymore, and because of its great age it would be difficult to find spare parts, they probably could be machined if a person were so inclined but Donald is a farmer and does not now have the time to tinker.

Also behind this engine sets an old grain reaper that cut the grain and put it out on the side in bundles, where people would follow and make ties with straw and bind up the sheaves, then shock it up to dry.

Inside his house there are many more old things, such as old time bath facilities, composed of a very large china bowl, with a pitcher to carry water to bathe yourself if you needed it, plus trinkets of different assortments, and old record players which you wind up to make them run. It is not so very long ago that they came into being, but it was a little before my time, and I myself am sliding over on the antique side of the shelf, and its interesting to stop and consider how people used to live and get along.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

Sept. 3-Levi Burkholder has plans to visit the plain Mennonite colonies in Paraguay this winter again, and if anyone is interested you may go along, if you would rather have the trip than \$7705.00. This is the same as a tour, but because you find your own lodging down there, and your own bus fares you get \$168.00 back before you go. If you want to go you must send in the full amount for the tour, then you get some back. Of course, nobody wants to sponge off of the plain people so you may want to help them along with that amount you get back.

It is planned to leave the latter part of January, or early February 1976, although that can be changed if an important enough figure wants to go at another time. If anyone wants to go its time to get your passport; and to do that you must have a birth certificate, and if you don't have that you write to the Bureau of Vital Statistics, in your state capitol, and they will send you a birth certificate. Then you go to the county seat to the court house and ask for an application form to get a passport. You fill that out, and get a snapshot of your face which must be on the passport. I don't know how if anyone is a conscientious objector to having your picture taken, because your picture must be on your passport.

It is planned to be away for 21 days, and visit all three places where the plain people dwell. Where Paul Hollingshead, and his group are, and Uri Shetler and his group and Mervin Good, and his group. These are several hundred miles apart, and the party will not all go at the same time, if there are very many, but some will stop off on the way down, then change around, as there are busses going from each place, and lodging will be prepared for

everyone, at the individual homes.

If anyone is interested and wants more information, do not write to me write to Levi Burkholder, R.D. 3 Meyersburg, Pa. 17067. His telephone number is 717-933-4687. It should be an enjoyable trip and well worth the money.

Elizabeth Taylor the famous actress on the moving picture shows has changed her religion from Christianity to Judaism, she had just remarried Richard Burton again after they were divorced 14 months, and she was at Jerusalem the same time Henry Kissinger was, and both had newsmen at their heels, to get the latest stories for their newspapers.

It came to pass that the Taylor woman decided to go to the wailing wall, which is near the original temple site, which was only made available to the Jews in the 1967 war; she wanted to go there, to mourn and weep for all the calamities that had befallen the Jews, and also for the long awaited Messiah. There were too many newsmen at one place all wanting to get next to her, and they could not all get there so they resorted to blows; imagine you praying someplace, and men using their fists to get the closer to you.

Another man that changed his religion is Johnny Cash, a very popular singer, has made a decision for Christ, but he apparently did not loose his popularity, for now he is using the same talent to sing about Jesus. This type of Christianity is hardly comparable to the meek and lowly Nazarene, who was despised and rejected of men, a man of suffering and acquainted with grief, a man from whom people hid their face.

Another who made the greatest change of all was Haile Selassie, the Emperor of Ethiopia. He died in his sleep at the age of 83. He claimed to be the Lion of the tribe of Judah, for he claimed his ancestors could be traced back to King Solomon, and the Queen of Sheba, who came from Ethiopia to see the wisdom of Solomon, and tradition has it that she had a child of whom Solomon was the father, and Haile Selassie, whose real name was Ras Taffari, but he was crowned Emperor in 1930, and that required a change of name, and he had it changed to Haile Selassie, which means hail to the Prince.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Aug. 7--This is that time of the year; the weather is getting cooler, and its time to raise the potatoes, and get things in storage for the winter which will soon be upon us. We had another abundant crop in this area; no need to water the garden, for we had plenty of rain, and our soil has an abundance of humus, and is very loose, so that after you work it with the roto-tiller, its most too soft to walk on it.

Scripture says he gave us rain and fruitful seasons, filling our mouth with food and gladness.

We have just passed a major Jewish Holiday, Rosh Hashannah, which is the Jewish new year; it is the year 5735 for the Jews, since the creation of the world. They have their own calendar, but do their business according to the Gregorian Calendar which is what we now use, and say it is 1975. This calendar was worked out in 1580, by Pope Gregory XIII. But religiously the Jews still maintain their own calendar which is based on the moon, and normally consists of 12 months, alternately 30 & 29 days long, and every 19 years they have an extra month, between Adar and Nisan. The names of their months are Tishri, Heshvan, Kislev, Tibet, Shebat, Adar,

Nisan, Iyar, Sivan, Tammuz, Ab, and Elul, and the extra month every 19 years is called Veadar.

Rosh Hashanah is an holy day for the Jews, a solemn festival, when they pray for forgiveness and long life, and begins the ten days of penitence which then ends in Yom Kippur, the day of atonement. Tradition has it that the first day of the year, Rosh Hashanah is a day of judgement, when the fate of each person is inscribed in the book of life, but prayer and penitence can change the verdict, before it is inscribed and sealed for another year. On the first day of the festival many orthodox Jews take part of a ceremony called tashlik, when they symbolically cast their sins into the river.

Calendar making is difficult, for the days of the year are 365, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  day, which is why we have leap year every four years to make up for the over length; if we wouldn't we would soon be off schedule with the sun. The Jewish calendar has only 360 days in it so they have to have an extra month every 19 years. But every 128 years we have to skip leap year because our days are not quite as long as the calendar says, and we have to deduct an extra day to keep right with the sun.

Now Sim Stoltzfus, who is quite prolific when it come to prophecy, figured out how many lunar years there are since the time Christ was here upon the earth, and he says next year, in 1976 it will be two thousand lunar years. That is 12 moon changes for a year; in other words the moon changed 24,000 times since Christ was here.

We had the annual reorganization, and business meeting for our little church, which is now 7 years old at this place, and we have 77 members and about 48 children which are not members as yet. We also had 77 members last year, and we took in some members by baptism, and church letter, but we also lost some, so we are just the same in numbers.

Seth Lapp who moved into this area 4 years ago, has now sold his farm to Lloyd Garmons, and he expects to move back to Lebanon County, and quit farming, he was just a little old when he started at 59, but I find myself getting young ideas sometimes, which I cannot carry out. Lloyd Garmons now live over in Montour Co. on Homer Bomberger's farm and have rented that for a few years, but decided it's time to own their own place, so they bought from Seth Lapp.

Deacon John Sensenig's son who married Deacon Paul Landis's daughter from Montour County, now expect to move on the farm that will be vacated by the Garmon's. John Sensenig is deacon at White Oak church, in Lebanon Co., and belongs to the Eastern group, and Paul Landis is deacon at Beaver Run, where we used to attend, and is part of the Lancaster Conference.

The Penna. Eastern church, reviews their discipline every three years, for we are fallible people, and subject to mistakes, therefore the discipline is reviewed to see that it is still current with the times we are living in. Two years ago it was decided that the radio is a useless, and dangerous influence for our people, and it was recommended that the radio is eliminated in two years, and that time is now up so from now on, so from here on we don't listen to the radio anymore. But that is small change for we at our house were not listening anyways. We used to listen to the weather report when we were farming, but my father used to be about as good or better at predicting the weather as any meteorologist, and I learned a lot from him. Of course, now since they can take pictures from an earth satellite and can tell far ahead where a storm is shaping up, but it is never quite certain just what course it will take. So we get along real well without a daily newspaper or a radio.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Sept. 16--The economic forecasters now say the state of the national economy looks very good, and we should have financial prosperity for some time to come, at least until after the 1976 elections, is usually the case especially if the existing president wants to be re-elected. But he had best be careful for President Ford was already threatened to be shot by a young girl, whose act ill befits her name. She is a former associate of Charles Manson, who is now in prison for murder, he still has many followers on the loose, and she is one of them. Her name is Fromme, which in the German language, means righteous.

The U.S. Food and Drug Association now affirms that many of the hyperactive children that seemingly cannot be controlled in their behavior pattern is caused by food additives, that are bought in our grocery stores; these are added to the food to give it more color, and longer shelf life, but it is having an evil effect on the children.

They have discovered by trial that many of these unruly children calm down and are manageable if they are fed natural foods without the additives. They have successfully treated hundreds of children this way.

\* This hyperactivity has reached epidemic proportions. It is a known fact that we are what we eat, and the food consumed effects our brain, which is the control center of the whole body.

We had a very pleasant surprise on Sunday evening the 14th, when a bus load of visitors stopped at our house for supper. Now what would you do if at noon you would receive a phone call that there would be a bus load of people at your house for supper?

John and Joe Overholt, twin brothers are much concerned about the lost people on their way to hell that are gathered in New York City. Once a month they get a bus load together and go down into Manhattan and

sing and speak and pass out gospel tracts to the masses that accumulate at that place.

The bus is owned and operated by David Detweiler, of Hartville, Ohio. And most of the people that go to New York are from that area, although some are picked up enroute. My nephew, Ezra Renno, the son of my next older brother Crist of Belleville, is residing at Hartville, and was with this group, and he decided he had a friend that would accommodate them, on their homeward journey. We live about half way between Hartville, and New York, and it makes a handy stopping off place. So he called at noon and told us they would stop off here in the evening, which they did. There were 25 in all, and most of them gave me their names, but I did not record them and so will not mention more than I have already. One of them was a Budget scribe and another said his mother writes too. And the Budget will be more interesting to them now after having been in our home, and hopefully the scribe that was along will give a full and concise report of their trip to the city.

I enjoy very much to meet people, and like to associate with them and the scripture enjoins that we be not forgetful to entertain strangers, and that we be hospitable, which is a greatly neglected art in our society, because of our modern way of living. It did not really cost much to feed these people, for they did not get a full fledged meal, just Chili soup, and applesauce and tomatoes, and things that we grow in our garden, and can prepare ourselves, and we happened to have lots of pies on hand, for my wife bakes to sell retail, and there were some left. But the association was worth more than all the work that was involved.

I did not even complain after they left that I had to help with the dishes. Now the modern way would be to just get paper plates, and throw them away after use, but that goes against my frugal ideas, think of all the waste that is done by making this paper from wood, and assembling it at the factories, and then only using it once in its short life then casting it to the fire because you don't want to be bothered with the work of

cleaning up, to destroy all this good paper, is a violation of the laws of nature, and every violation demands a just recompence at some time, from me or my posterity.

John Overholt is the compiler of the Christian Hymnary that was recently published, and we use it at our church, it is the best hymn book that I have seen so far, with many old songs in that have been forgotten by the now generation, and to have him at our house as a guest was an honor, and I spoke to my friend Raymond Yoder who lives near Susbury and he said he would be glad to give them a meal the next time they come through.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Sept. 23--We attended church last Sunday in a building erected by the Presbyterians. The third building is now there built in 1846, but the first one was built in 1775, and supposedly it wasn't too durable material, for it was replaced in less than a hundred years, and the present building is in a good state of repair, although it looks like the roof may be leaking. It is used by the new order Beachy Amish, although they are neither Beachy or Amish, but try to take the things of value from each and make them workable. It is the group that separated from the Old Order Beachy here in Union County about 15 years ago; Rudy and Alvin Byler were the first preachers, but none are there anymore. David King is now the pastor of the group, and Leroy Peachy is deacon.

It just so happened that Dan King from Belleville was there on this particular day, and I was glad for the privilege of hearing someone from my old stamping ground. The last time I heard him preach was at my uncle David's funeral. At that time he

preached without using the bible, and read his prayers from the book, but now he preaches right from the scripture, reading a bit and explaining it, and his prayers are not read from the book of common prayers. The service is all in english, and to hear Dan speak you would think he preaches in english all the time, but at home he still preaches in the German; he has a unique opportunity for you have a much wider understanding of the scripture, if you are fluent in more than one language.

Back again to the building itself; they had tried to negotiate with the Presbyterians, to buy the building, and were going to remodel it and make it suitable for themselves, but some of the more historical people found it out, and they bought it for an historical landmark. The Presbyterians discontinued having it for church services back in 1919. It has very high ceilings, I would judge about 20 feet, and the seating arrangement is very old fashioned, having an aisle on each side about 8 feet from the walls, and in the middle there is no aisle, but they apparently practised segregated seating, for there is a board up through the middle row of seats, as high as the backs of the benches, and tight down on the floor, so there can be no hankey pank, during services, between the men and women. This is supposedly the first building in the area that the Presbyterians had, and I am glad they will preserve it for its historicity, which to some is only sentimental, and to others only vanity, but those who are not interested in history will probably have no history worth repeating; it has value lessons. This building is beautifully situated in a grove of oak trees, with many grey squirrels scampering around, for the owner of the grounds feeds them, and will not let anyone shoot them; a very cool secluded spot along a stream of water; if natural surroundings are an aid to worship, this should do it; but why did the original owners stop using it for worship over 50 years ago?

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

Sept. 30-In just three years Danville had the second most serious flood since records were kept. In 1936, of which I well remember, was a bad flood and after that the city of Sunbury built a wall by the river to keep the water out in case it ever rises again, they thought they would never get a worse flood, but in 1972 the walls were too low. Danville is hard to keep from flooding for it has two creeks flowing into the rivers even if they could build a wall to keep out the river the creeks would back up and they would need a wall too. But its over now and people get settled again and try to forget and hope the rains don't come at once. Route 11, the sesquehauna trail runs right along the river from Harrisburg to Wilkes Barre, and it was closed in several places due to high water. Both bridges going into Sunbury were closed, for the road is much lower than the wall, so when floods threaten, they pile sand bags across the roads to keep out the water.

The bridge at Danville is higher and they had thought of closing that too but the waters did not get so high. I myself missed most of the rain for I left for Ohio, and did not get back till the rain was over. We live 4 miles from Danville back in the hills so there is no flooding, and very little water in our basement, its gets a little over in the one corner when it rains without ceasing.

Clarence Good from CroGan, New York preached at our church last Sunday. He is formerly from Lancaster Co., where most of the Good's landed, they were called goat in German. Clarence was ordained a deacon at the Valley View congregation, but when, some families at CroGan New York seceded from the old Mennonite Conference, they called for help to the Eastern Penna. churches, and they appointed Clarence to watch over them, he later moved up and then was ordained to the ministry. If you want to know

how Clarence looks just look in your history book and see Benjamin Franklins, photograph, although Clarence does not have long hair like Franklin did, yet he resembles him very much.

Ednor Linedacker was with him, he is a native of northern New York State. He said his great-grandmother came from Germany, and married a Linedacker here in America, her husband was a General in the German Army, and did not come over, so she left him and came over here and remarried. They had formerly settled west of Penna. but some of his forebears moved to CroGan, N.Y.

David Martin, the son of the sage, and Preacher Edwin Martin, near Denver, Pa., chose

to make this area his home. He along with, Harold Hurst, and Donald Rovenolt pooled their resources and opened a central tractor parts store in Jersytown, about 10 miles north of Danville. David is a big man and tall and was some over weight. It came to pass that he was in town one day and there was a set up there for a free physical examination. He guessed he was alright but since it was free he took the benefit of it. Co-incidentally he lives neighbor to a lady who is a nurse, and she perchance gazed on the records of his examination, and saw he had sugar diabetes, and a dangerous colesterol count, and was over weight, yet only a young man. She made her way over to his house & told him he would better change his way of life, and that right soon if he expects to live up to this time he took no thought for the morrow and ate what he liked, and liked what he ate. This nurse did kind of shake him up, so he went to a doctor, who put him on a 1000 calorie diet, this of course is not pleasant and when one is constantly hungry he gets irritable and nervous. But persistance won the day and now he again wears his wedding suit, which he had to stop wearing two weeks after he was married. He also looks much better. Now when he carries 60 lb. bag of calf feed he remembers how he used to carry this much extra weight constantly.

There was a misprint in my article about the trip to Paraguay next winter, the full price was quoted as \$7000.00 this was not true it should have read \$700.00 (seven hundred dollars), not seven thousand. I discovered there were some who believed the report, and decided this is too far off as turly it would be.

John Reno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

The town of Bloomsburg here in Columbia Co. is the only incorporated town in the state. All the others which are not cities, are called boroughs having their own council and police etc. and I don't know what the difference is, but the laws governing the boroughs does not include the incorporated town, as their is only such one in the state.

The town has a real water problem, for with all the paved streets, and the many roof tops prevent the rain water from soaking into the ground like it is intended to do, and when it rains, the small stream that are supposed to carry off the run off water cannot handle it all and often there is flooding. So the town council and the engineers had a meeting and decided to put a six foot pipe down through the middle of town, from the State Teachers College to the lower end into the creek. The merchants were opposed to this idea, for that means the main streets where most of the business places are will be closed off. But they are going ahead with it, and it takes a tremendous amount of work, for the soil is sandy, being close to the river, and the pipe has to be buried about six feet, and since it is six feet in diameter, it takes a hugh ditch to bury it, and the sides just want to cave in so they have to shore it all up to keep the sides from falling in while they dig and lay the pipe. This project will take a long time to complete, and it is feared the contractor who bid the job will run out of money long before he is done, because of the many unexpected happenings, he may have to file bankruptcy, and the bonding company may have to finish it. Every big contractor has to be bonded, by some big company who guarantees to stand back of him and get the job done if he fails.

It just about always rains during fair week too, for the Bloomsburg fair is widely known as an agricultural attraction, and before they had the I-80 finished the traffic through town used to be back up for a long way. The traffic problem is now much better,

problem is now much better, but this fair was held the week of the latest flood, and the fair grounds are down by the river, and the whole area was under water, destroying much of the property which they did not get out in time, although many huckesters got their things out before the water rose.

The town of Danville also has its problems, for it lies right in the path of the new connecting link that is contemplated, between I-80 and I-81. They built a new road from 80 to Danville, a four lane highway over to almost the river, and there it stops and put you off on a narrow street, which is confusing to big trucks for they can hardly make the turn around the corners.

The road has to cross the river, and there are people living on both sides, and their houses are right in the proposed path, and they raise an awful fuss, trying to prevent the road from going this way, if they go down stream farther there are others who object. So at this point it is undecided just where to lay the road. But a road is badly needed, and it would make traveling to Lancaster Co. so easy from here. 81 takes us over the mountains between here and there with ease, but to get to 81 a distance of about 30 miles is crooked and hilly. But more than pleasure driving, Danville needs the business.

I do a lot of traveling myself, and am glad for good roads, but going through an old established community causes much discomfort. And there are a great number of people traveling, for you stop in at any restaurant along a main route and many are there eating any time of the day or night. It used to be that the truck stops were the best places to eat, but they have gotten so big, and their over head is so large that it is better to find a small out of the way restaurant and you get better service for less money. The best place to stop is at a western steak house, where the food is served cafeteria style they do not need to employ so many waitresses, and so pass

the savings on to the costumers. But eating out all the time gets expensive, and the best way is to take food along on your trip, but fresh fruit soon spoils, in the summer and freezes in the winter if you stay overnite. So the best way to do is to dry it. This takes no sugar, and yet it remains sweet, and it does not wilt from heat, nor freeze from cold.

I stopped at Lee Kanagy's Dutch Kettel restaurant last week one day. He seems to be doing a good business there along the road near Fairfax, Va. plus he also has cottages that he rents out to people, and this always has it penalties when people refuse to pay their rent. Lee says they are remaining solvent financially, but he is too busy with not enough time for more important things which a man his age should do, like writing and meditating. He does not have too much time to sleep either. He says he is just where young people normally are just starting out in business for himself, and he is almost 60 years old; but he is very thankful for his good health, and the ability he yet has to go about his business. He looks ten years younger than 60. With the experience he has accumulated through the years, it would be good if he could put the knowledge on paper for future generations to read.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

Oct. 14--President Ford was scheduled to go to Louisville, Ky. to speak at a political fund raising dinner, but then later canceled the appointment, on the grounds that it was unsafe to go there, for fear of being assassinated, or otherwise harmed. But it is thought that the real reason he did not go was not for fear of bodily harm, but political embarrassment, because in the south which is known as the Bible belt, or hard shell Baptists, they are strongly opposed to integration and especially opposed to hauling school children from one area to another so as to create a racial balance; if there are too many white children in one area, and not enough colored, then they haul them to where there are more colored, and thus mix them together. This causes children to go to strange schools out of their own area, and at the same time they speak of how we ought to conserve our energy, and cut down on unnecessary spending. Lyndon Johnson signed into law that all the races shall mix, and associate together; but this is in opposition to nature and it never will, or never did work; what God has separated, let not man force to join together, to do so is to violate natural law.

The Railway Express Agency (REA) is also about in the same fix, they have declared bankruptcy, but will continue on in operations. At least they have been sending notices out to their debtors to that effect.

Many trucking firms are changing hands, the Associated Transport have sold out to Eastern Expressways; and Pacific Inter-mountain Express (P.I.E.) has sold out also. It will be worked around that there will only be a few large firms left in the country, then there will be less competition. But the large firms have trouble staying solvent too, for Roadway Express is said to be in deep financial straits too, although they have netted 33 million last year.

Those union drivers are getting paid very high wages, yet they do nothing but drive the truck, don't even check the engine oil. If they break down enroute, their mileage rate stops and they go on hourly rate, until the truck is fixed, and it takes a long time to get to a phone, and then until a repairman can come out to assist, or tow the truck off the highway. All this extra expense has to be paid by the consumer eventually. This makes for a continual spiral of inflation.

I was coming up over the Pocono Mountains when I saw the road was wet on one lane, and wondered what could have caused this, since it was not raining. A little farther on there was a large tanker setting along the road, that was bent down in the middle and whatever he had on was running out the bottom, where the trailer broke. The road conditions on I-80 are very rough at places, for it is getting older now and the heavy loads going over it makes it sink down in places, or the pavement breaks up, faster than they can get it repaired; and what's worse many states are out of money to repair the roads. It remains to be seen just what will happen when a state goes bankrupt.

In Toledo Ohio there was a truck stolen with a load of whiskey. It was one of those containerised trailers, where they load the trailer overseas, and send the whole thing over the waters, then set it on a set of wheels again and haul it over land. This one was stolen, the tractor and all just seemed to disappear. The load of whiskey

## DANVILLE, PA.

Oct. 28--Les Troyer had a beautiful description of the creeping age that takes us all in it wake. He struck a responsive chord with me, for this has been one of my deepest regards. How to grow old gracefully with out so many regrets.

Now there is a formula in scripture that is fail proof, but it takes us so long to get around to applying the remedy, for who goes to the physician that is not sick? And once old age gets you it is too late to apply the remedy, all you can do is salvage what is yet left. The remedy is to remember thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, and you will say I have no pleasure in them. But who in his youth has the time to remember his creator? The reasoning is, there is plenty of time for that when there is little else to do. But then its too late, the evil days spoken of are upon us. The general idea is the youth is vanity and old age, a mistake; and this is true if you forget to apply the remedy when you seemingly don't need it.

Scripture does say - Behold! Thou hast made my days as an hand bread th; and mine age is as nothing before thee; verily every man in his best state is altogether vanity. Every man walketh in a vain shew, ... he heapeth up riches and knoweth not who shall gather them.

Amos Brubaker has been in our area, ever since he was here to put in his 1-W career. He then married Walter Ramer's daughter and presently lives in Snyder County on the farm vacated by Harold Kratzer, when he moved to Belize, C.A. Amos is the son of John Brubaker, a Mennonite preacher in York County in Richard Danner's church district.

Amos is a prosperous farmer, and is now of that age where you must get yourself established. He tried hard to buy a farm in this area, and get settled here, but it just seemed all efforts failed.

Now there is a young Mennonite congregation getting established in Central Illinois, two of them in fact.

Seeing that Lancaster and Lebanon County are so thickly populated, and the commercial price of land, he refuses to move unless moved by uncontrollable circumstances. A group of far seeing men banded together and scouted the country, and found this place in Illinois near Orchardville, and they bought quite a few farms in two different localities, about 30 miles apart, they bought all at about the same time and one did not bid against the other. Now if any young man wants to farm, and knows the owner of the land he can get himself established beautifully and can rent a farm, from a brother in the church.

It came to pass that Harold Kratzer's son came into Snyder County to pick fruit and vegetables, and boarded at Amos Brubaker's. While he was there, they took a trip to Illinois, and visited Tom Sharp, he who operated Good's store in Snyder Co. formerly, also moved to the new settlement in Illinois, while in that vicinity, Amos and his wife had their eyes open just in case, and sure enough by staying two days longer they met the right party, and rented a farm. None too soon for there were already two on the waiting list, should he decide against it.

Now, come spring, we are tentatively planning to loose, two church member's, but we are glad for the turn of events, in

their favor. The more I reavel the midwest and see all the accomdating people, and the much room to stretch out in, if I was 15 years younger there probably would be another Renno family going west. My great-uncle Jonas moved west before my time, but he had no sons, only daughters that bore any posterity, so the name died out, since women cannot reproduce themselves.

It is true we are living in very unsettled times, politically, economically and religiously and the way things look we may not enjoy the freedom, as we now know it, very long anymore, but this is no time to fold the hands & give up and say, what's the use of trying, we are working against impossible odds and cannot win out.

Now if we forget God, our righteousness, then we are defeated. But if He is our righteousness, then we cannot loose, for the scripture written by an old man, David, said he has never seen the righteous forsaken, or that he has to take the next year's seeding to make his bread for this year.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

It was early in the year of 1932 when Franklin Delano Roosevelt, began campaigning to be elected the President of the United States. The nation was in a bad state of affairs, the great depression was in full effect and Roosevelt had a pleasing way of speaking and his speech was convincing, and when elected he had 472 electoral votes compared to Herbert Hoover's 59, his Republican opponent.

Just a little before he took office people began to panic, they were afraid they would lose their money they had in the bank, so we had what is called a run on the banks. They money that we deposit in the bank in a checking account, they can lead out for interest, and this proved to be a very profitable enterprise, until everyone wanted his money out of the bank at the same time, they could not retract the money they had lent out so soon, and this caused 5000 banks to close the day before his inauguration, they could not meet their debt. Roosevelt was inaugurated on March 4, 1933, and on March 6 he closed all the banks, so that no one could do any banking business. This he said was done so the Treasury department could examine the books.

History claims no other president since Abe Lincoln was so deeply hated on one hand and so deeply loved on the other. In fact when he died some decided to commit suicide, figuring there was no using in going on living since their hero was dead.

Roosevelt wanted bigger government, and more controls, to control the economy, so that a great depression could not happen again, when one out of four laborers were out of work. At his request congress appropriated \$500,000,000 for relief; of course not this much money came in as taxes so Roosevelt took us off the gold standard, and started to print money. To do this was just as illegal, as if you or I would start to print counterfeit money, but the government did it, so that made it right. It was just like a big dose of aspirin, when you have a bad cold and fever, you

take this drug and you feel much better. Actually the drug does not effect a cure, it just deadens your senses, and you don't feel the ailment anymore. This is what Roosevelt did on a national scale; but now some 40 years later, the aspirin effect is wearing off and we are getting sick again, and I doubt that any aspirins are made that would cure us of our national ills any more, we must soon face reality. It is not he who decides policy that seems to work for the time being that is successful, and his wisdom magnified, but it is history that decides whether the right thing was done or not. Facts may be hidden under a clever camouflage and truth crushed to earth, but facts still remain the same, and they will demand reckoning at some time, natural law demands it.

New York, that great city is about to go into default financially, if someone does not bail her out, and President Ford says he will not do it. He claimed they lived too high & let them reduce their cost and try to do what they can, but at the same time he said nothing that unless the federal government raises its debt ceiling, it will also be in default; which means that they will not be able to meet their financial obligations. Unless somebody comes up with a lot of money to loan the bankrupt city, they will not be able to pay wages which the workers have earned. Being in New York recently, I ate in a fancy restaurant, and saw an elderly gentlemen, who looked so friendly and asked him just what happens. He said its just the same as happens when an individual cannot pay his bills.

He well remembered the days of Roosevelt, and said he worked for nothing many a time, when he drove the milk man's horse across town. Then the garbage collectors were private individuals, and many other things which the city took over were operated by private men who made it pay for what they did, but when a government takes over private enterprise they do not care if it does not pay, they will just devalue the dollar, and print more money. A city cannot print money but they lay on more taxes, which is taxation without representation.

Their is in Pelgram, a superb of New York, the ambassador of a small country of Barbados, and ambassador's from other countries are not subject to the local laws that govern the country where they live.

This Ambassador has a German Shepherd Police dog, that has a bad habit he likes to roam around loose, and bite people, and this man claims his dog has diplomatic privileges, and also does not have to obey the laws of the country where he lives, and if he feels like biting people there is not law that says he may not. Now the Mayor of Pelgram, said if he does not control his dog he will be shot, for biting people is painful to the victim, and its not good practice. But the Ambassador claimed if his dog is shot there will be serious international consequences.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Nov. 17--We took an interesting trip to an early German settlement recently. Our second son, Joe married one of Russel Moyer's daughter's and lives down near Telford, on Cowpath Road. They attend the Royersford, Mennonite church, which is one of the churches included in the Eastern, Penna. Church constituency. Now Royersford is about 20 miles from, where the most of the people live who attend there. You see they come from the Railroad Avenue congregation, formerly, which congregation, comes from the large Franconia Mennonite church. Let me explain.

The origin of the Franconia Mennonite Conference is connected with one of the earliest Mennonite settlements in this nation. The Mennonites settled in Germantown near Philadelphia, in 1683. The first Mennonite minister was William Rittenhouse, and the first bishop Jacob Godshalk.

This Franconia Mennonite church is located in Franconia Township so named in honor of Francis Daniel Pastorius, from Franconia, Germany.

The first log building was erected for church services in 1748, and has grown in size by being replaced with several new buildings in the past, and presently can seat a thousand people. The outstanding leaders coming from this church are Henry Funk who died in 1760, and his son Christian Funk who died in 1811. The first minister to preach in English was Menno Souder who was ordained in 1914. The Sunday school was at the first started to teach the German language to the younger children, in 1872, on and was founded by Henry Nice. Then they only had services every two weeks on Sunday mornings, and held the Sunday school in the afternoon, and not until 1938 did they have Sunday evening services, once a month.

It was in the year about 1956 when serious dissension arose in this church, which eventually ended up in municipal court, and from this there are different churches today. The Railroad avenue church began around this time, and they desired to keep the old orthodox

position, of having the church only for regular services, and they were opposed to revival meetings and Bible schools, and all the extra Biblical meetings of which modern Mennonites like to engage in. They had a congregational form of church government, of the non-conference type, which seems to be good as far as it goes, but when serious misunderstandings develop within then there is no higher authority to turn to, and this makes it difficult.

Because of the desire of some to refrain from modern Evangelical practises, and some thinking it must be so, they decided to each go their separate way, and each group did what they deemed to be right.

Now the present Royersford church, at the first met together, in some hall nearby, but were looking for a convenient place to meet.

They finally found this church building right in the town of Royersford it seemed to be in good condition yet, and serves them well. Paul Freed was ordained for their pastor, and John Wiles as deacon, and later Donald Moyer as an assistant pastor. This Donald is a brother to my sons wife. They have about 65 people in attendance there at present. The afore mentioned Railroad ave. church, and this one are now both under the same bishop district, called the Susquehanna district, where Ben Eshbach is bishop and David Wadel has assistant.

It has been a little over two years that we visited at this place, and decided it was about time again, and it was rewarding and revealing.

Lloyd Derstein is a very prominent figure there, and an ardent Budget reader, he claimed I should not put so much world news in the Budget, for he can get all that in the

local newspaper. That does seem logical, but I was also approached earlier by a reader who wrote saying he enjoys the articles containing world news for that is about the only way he has of finding it, through the Budget.

The Franconia area is very interesting, and gives a historian nostalgia; a beautiful country, but so built up with housing developments, now that takes the scenic beauty away. There are many farms there yet, but Joe said a 75 acre farm there would cost around 250,000, and even an acre of ground which he would like to build for himself a house, he claimed would cost 15,000. He is a carpenter by trade.

The farms still in existence look good, and many barns are of the old German style, built of stone. The houses likewise, we stopped at Paul Freed's before coming home, he lives on the farm where he was born and raised, the house is now very old, with the thick stone walls, and an old summer kitchen built on to the corner of the house, and built a step lower than the house, so that you have to step down, and if you are not aware you might take a tumble.

This is one of the old settlements, but largely has now turned modern and it seems too bad that it cannot be kept the way it was, but that is one of the penalties of progress.

This is also where my good friend Henry Foremen was born and reared. He was raised in the Mennonite church, his father having come from Czechoslovakia, and being a convert to the Mennonite church there. Henry however claims to have received new light and is now united with a Baptist church. He is the one with whom I took a trip through the west in February 1973.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Nov. 24—Crogan Ney York is a small town located in the northeastern part of the state, about 50 miles east of the mouth of the St. Lawrence river, in the western foothills of the Adirondack mountains.

It was in the year 1833 when the first Amish and Mennonite settlers arrived in this community. Then in 1849 a major upheaval arose and most of the members left to form a new church fellowship changing their name to the Evangelical Baptist. This left the Amish Mennonite church rather small, but as time goes on assemblies will grow in number, and they remained together until 1941 when again 68 members withdrew to form what is now called the New Bremen First Mennonite church, and they were independent of any Conference at that time when they first began.

At the last time of upheaval when the trend of change began in earnest in the whole of America, not only in the Mennonite church, but all of combined Christendom, for that matter; at about the time when a theologian publicly declared that God is dead, that he has ceased to exist in this generation. The natural sequence of that theory is if God is out of existence then we may do as we please, for there is then of necessity no judgement either.

It was in 1968 that the Eastern Penna. Mennonite church was officially started, and around that time when in the Crogan area that a small segment withdrew from the Bremen Mennonite church there. And in 1973 Timothy Burkholder was ordained deacon. This man was on his way to the minister's meeting at Numidia, with his wife and a few children, when he felt himself getting sick, with pains and discomforts around the chest. They were on interstate 81 near Cortland, N.Y. and he was the driver of the car, but he was too sick to go on any further, and also too sick to turn around and go back home, for he was already over 100 miles from home. Now what would you do in similar circumstances; you get into situations when you don't know what to do. They stopped off at some small medical center, and

from there they took him to a hospital, and there found out that he did not have a heart attack, but just inflammation around the heart. Their intended trip to the ministers meeting was no out of the picture; they had some friends from back home come and get their daughter, and his wife stayed with him at the hospital at Courtland. Three days later he was removed to another hospital in Syracuse. In all he was in the hospital 8 days, but is now home again, and seemingly getting better. He does have a chronic ailment with his lungs, which keeps him from perfect health.

We have a very important hospital here in Danville, and this requires many professional men. Some are interns at the hospital, and some come and stay but a few years, in their study of medicine.

A certain doctor from here wanted to take a trip, and he has two half grown boys which he did not want to take along, and take them out of school, so he looked around for someone to stay with them at night while they were gone. Now the Mennonites are relatively new in this area, having only lived here since 1968, & as yet all have a good name among the public. This doctor comes to Oliver Keener, who is now an aged man, but just in the prime of life as pertaining to judgement. From the ages of 60 to 70 is when man is commonly at the zenith of his mental capacity. After 70 the brain loses some of its reasoning faculties, and we say they get childish, and this is true, its just the way we are made.

This certain doctor asked Oliver and his wife if they would come and live at their house, especially be there at night, and keep house for the boys until they come back. This was a new experience for Oliver and his wife, but a very valuable one. He says the boys are very well mannered; very respectable, they are easy to be with, but just as boys are, when they come home they cannot find closets to

put there clothes, they just let them drop to the floor, and to have a decent house you must follow them and pick up. This is just one area where they were not taught to keep house, and basically it is the women's part to keep a tidy house, but men can make it easier if they use a little thought.

There is a vast difference in the way different people of different cultures live, and where they place their values. Mennonites and Amish which were at one time all one and the same; do not place much emphasis on having an abundance of shoes and clothes. When I was a boy and times were hard, I owned one pair of shoes, and until they were worn out that was all I had, for Sunday and everyday. In the summer I wore very few shoes at all. Now each member of the family usually have two pairs of shoes, & Sunday-go-to-meeting-pair and a pair for every day. I also only have one good suit of clothes. I can only wear one at a time, so there is no need to have so many clothes. The women of course have to have different dresses, but still it is a far cry from modern life. We don't go to many parties, so work clothes are about the order of the day for us. Modern day life demands that you have many different clothes for different occasions, and many pairs of shoes, it would cost much more to live that way.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Dec. 1—Another Thanksgiving day has come and gone, and you can hear much ado made about the faithful Pilgrim Father's who came to the shores of Mass. in the Fall, & half of them died that winter etc., and how they came to America to escape religious persecution, and the freedom to worship God according to the way they felt was right. But history reveals that religious freedom did not mean to them that everybody was free to worship God or not worship. To them religious freedom meant being in accord with what they taught, and they were not here very long until they banished a man for being in disagreement with their theology. These Pilgrim Father's were very strict Calvinist's, and the sacerdotal religious system was taught them from their youth.

Many of our Eastern churches have religious services on this day; and the closest one for us was at Godwill, in Juniata County.

David Wadel was one of the speakers, he is the junior bishop of the Susquehanna district. He claimed to be thankful for the privilege of being present, for on that Monday he had a fever of 104. He still felt a little of the after-effects but was reasonably well again. He claimed the world now has only a four-week supply of food ahead, which means we are only four weeks away from a famine; this is much closer than it was just a few years ago, for the world farmers are not keeping up with the growing population.

He spoke of the wonders of creation; for instance the warmest water is always on the top, which means the cold is always on the bottom, but when water gets to around the freezing point then it gets lighter than the cool water at the bottom, if ice (or frozen water) were heavier than the unfrozen, then ice would sink, and all of marine life would perish. Furthermore, water is 800 times heavier than air, and yet it is drawn out of the sea and floats overhead, and comes from the clouds as rain, and yet

it does not all come at once, but in tiny droplets. And even if there is much rain and flood water, it flows into the sea, but there is not noticeable difference in the level off the sea.

He left us with the thought, do we thank God for the place where we were born? If we complain, we are saying that God is less than good.

Samuel Swigert, an old deacon from the Honey Brook church, was moderator and said that sea water has all the elements in it that human blood has and possibly the time will come when they can use that to give blood transfusions. He also spoke of the time when he was a servant, and worked for a man on the farm, but the man broke his leg and was laid up, so the servant became a steward; and this he used to get us ready for Jesse Neunschwander's message which was the stewardship of the gospel.

Jesse claimed the freedom of religion that we now have lays a great responsibility upon us, for the gospel is not ours to do what we want to with it, we are only stewards of it, and woe is us if we preach not the gospel. Not all are called to preach, but all the saints are called upon to

manifest it to everyone. And he related how there is much advantage in being a Jew, and much profit in circumcision, because to them were committed the oracles of God, and they copied them and preserved them very meticulously for us to see that not one jot or title was out of place and yet when the Messiah came, of whom they wrote, the most of them rejected him, for they only believed the letter of the scripture's.

Jesse said Formalism and Liberalism both lead into apostasy, both are deadly. The one is having the form and sticking to that as an end in itself, and thinking if we have the right form we must be right. The other is to throw all form away and nothing to do with them, calling them old human traditions; then you become like a ship without rudders. Before any group goes into apostasy, the individuals go first.

He spoke of many more very good and noble thoughts, for he is a wise man, and to relate them all here, the time would be too short, and the space too small. By the time this gets into print the protracted meetings which Jesse plans to have at our church will be about over. Officially they are called revival meetings, but I prefer the more realistic title of an extended Bible conference, for revival has the connotation of bringing back from the dead, or bringing back into reality one that is almost gone, such as when a drowning man is revived, and it certainly not the normal for a man who is under the reign of the Grace of God to pass out of that state very year, and needs to be revived. For grace teaches us to deny ungodliness etc. and if we do that we will not pass out, and if it does not teach us to do this, then we are not under the reign of grace; hence revivals belong under law, and are normal for its constituents; but those alive unto God need to feed on the Word.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Dec. 75--There are four horsemen riding around Washington these days. They go by the names of assassination, Indictment, Investigation, and Contempt, and much of the public is disillusioned, and the belief in national politics is about to phase out, it matters not much who or what party is in power things just get worse and worse. The Central Intelligence Agency is being questioned and found guilty of so much evil, of conspiring to murder foreign leaders, and meddling into people's private affairs that does not even concern them at all.

And the resigning of President Nixon sure did not help matters much for they are finding politicians involved in all kinds of illegal affairs. Marvin Mandel, the governor of Maryland has been indicted; although he claims being innocent of any charge, like most of them do, but upon further investigation they usually are found guilty, of taking bribes and getting illegal money from contractors, who want jobs etc.

Many important people have died by assassination in the last few yrs; & even though the Warren commission has claimed to have investigated the killing of President Kennedy, now many tricks are being uncovered that it is being suspicioned that perhaps much of the doings are the result of big men hiring small people to do their dirty work.

James Schlesinger was fired from his position as secretary of defense, because he was at variance of the way things are being operated. He was in favor of a strong military arsenal, for a strong country usually is not so liable to be attacked. But situations change faster than policies can change, and Detente with Russia is supposed to cool off the differences between the western power's and Russia, but no trust is put in those policies, by the common man.

Henry Kissinger is always treading on hot coals too, and has many opponents, even had a serious quarrel just before he left with Ford to go to China. I would not be at all surprised to hear that he resigned.

Wallace, the governor of Alabama, claims he will be better than what is being done now, and is aspiring to run for the presidency; what can he do?

Looking at political situations the world over and looking at the image that Daniel had a dream about, and the toes of that image were part iron and part clay, and just as there is no cohesion between iron and clay so there is none between nations at this time, there seems to be a great need for a man to rise up and take the reins in hand and promise peace to the whole world, and bring order out of chaos.

Now would it not be wonderful to have a man rise up that had the wisdom, and the power to heal the world of all its ills, political, religious, and economical? Such a personality is promised, and the time for his appearance seems to be getting closer, that is why we watch world conditions, they tell us what time it is. This personality will not be Divinely inspired, but will bring peace and safety for several years, until he takes too much upon himself and sets in the temple of God and declares to be God, this will not appeal to the Jews for they only worship Jehovah. This action also calls for a temple, and as yet there is none.

On the local scene, some days are worse than others; our bishop, Aaron Shank, and our preacher, Walter Newswanger were on a trip to Guatemala together. They purchased an Econoline Ford truck, with a house built on it, and they took this to travel in. They of course were there in the interest of the missionaries sent there by the eastern church. This is normal procedure for someone goes down twice a year to help with communion, and baptise any converts etc.

They wanted to go shopping one day, and parked the camper along the street, at a parking meter, and put enough money in for two hours. They had most of their belongings in the truck, the extra clothes etc. and it was locked, and they were not gone quite two hours, but when they came back, someone had apparently thought this was too good a chance to miss getting something from these wealthy Americans. A locked car or truck door is not hard to open if you know how; I am told all you need is a flat piece of metal, that's thin enough to slide down between the glass and the door, and that will open the lock. In this case they were successful in getting inside the camper, and apparently must have been in a great hurry, for they spent little time looking around, just seem to have made a sweep into the clothes closet, where the women had their dresses hanging. They took 20 dresses, and got away. Since the natives of Guatemala are much smaller than we are they would probably have a hard time to make the dresses fit, and furthermore they were all regulation dresses required by the church; modest apparel; and what anyone else would want with them is questionable, but then thieves don't spend much time reasoning. This left the women in the party with quite a small wardrobe for all they had to wear the entire trip was just what they had on to go shopping. But they survived, and they came back safe and sound.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

December 75--It looks like we will not experience a very hard winter this year; although winter has not officially begun until the 21st, there are signs along the way that would indicate mildness for this area. The wooly worms in the fall were mostly of light color, which I take as a trustworthy sign, and I am not superstitious, but the Creator has made nature to function precisely, and according to laws, and another sign is that, (I was told) there are very few acorns in this area, thus those beasts who depend on acorns for preservation thru the winter, can find other means of sustenance. This sign I learned from an old friend long deceased, I.Y. Hostetler. I was always glad to see him come walking up over the hill in the evening as we sat on the porch. That was in the days before the many labor saving devices, and we had lots of time to live. One of his sons is also a Budget scribe, Crist Hostetler, Path Valley, Pa.

Another old acquaintance has recently been incarcerated in the nearby Geisinger Medical Center. Michael Spicker, from McLure, Pa., Snyder Co. He has long been troubled with asthma, and because of domestic difficulties, which were too great for him he succumbed, and could not get his breath, so they sent him down by ambulance; but the ambulance had oxygen and this alleviated his discomfiture. The domestic trouble was, that his wife has had a stroke, and he told me they lived together for 50 years, and he loved his wife, and wanted to care for her by himself. And she is a heavy woman, and it was too much for him but he has an indomitable will, and insisted he is well able; but time proved otherwise. He just overdone it, and has lost 30 pounds which he could ill spare, for he is not normally a big man. His children finally persuaded him to let them care for her, at their house, which he very reluctantly consented, because he had too. His son then advised him to let one of the grandsons sleep with him in the same house at night, for they feared he might need help sometime; but Michael is now at the age

when he can get no older, in his mind, he will not willingly submit to any aid, and he refused to accept night company, until things got bad and he had to do that too, which was fortunate, for it was toward early morning when he had an attack, and he sent the boy for help, and was at the hospital, where I visited him. Personally I think it could have been avoided if he would have calmly submitted to circumstances which he could not alter. But as men are at his age, he did not give in when it was foolish to resist, so the natural sequence is nerve trouble; a harbinger of more trouble. He seemed very well physically, you could not detect any malfunction. He was his spry usual self, and it is a real pleasure for me to visit him for he prolific in his knowledge of history, and wanted to speak to me of people who had died before I was born, and thought it ill that I could not remember them. He said the doctor's (and there were four of them) all agreed that he had heart trouble, and they wanted him to agree that he had chest pains, and they extended down his arm, but he said that is not true, I know where it hurts, I do not have heart trouble, what I have is nervous indigestion; but he said they all with one consent said they had never heard of anything like that. In all due respect to their profession I agreed that his trouble all stemmed from nerves, caused by insubordination to facts he could not change, but was forced to submit to.

Let all of us resolve, to try to learn to live with ourselves, and when this body gets old and decrepit, to learn to live with that too.

Now on church news, the Kleine Gemeinde (little church) located in Old Mexico, has sometime ago discovered about a group of plain Mennonites in

America, and sent a delegation up to investigate. This was about a year ago, and I had the privilege of taking them to New York city, a place of which they had often heard, and wanted the honor of having been there. They were at the Numidia Bible school at special meetings, and I got acquainted. They requested official church sponsored help in Mexico, and at long last action has been taken, and a group from the unaffiliated churches, better known as Non-conference church, has held a meeting at Amelia, Va., and have tentatively planned to send three families to Mexico to help them as soon as plans can be brought to fruition, & also send religious German literature along. The three men that were appointed to the steering committee, were Paul M. Landis, of West Liberty, Ky. (he is an avid supporter of the publishing house at Crockett, Ky.) And another one from there, James Boll, whose address is Crockett, and Harvey Mast of Amelia, Va.

Paul Landis is Bishop at the church at Crockett, ordained about four years ago, and James Boll was first ordained deacon, but is now a minister, and an Amstutz is now deacon at that church. And Harvey Mast is bishop at the church at Amelia, Va.

I was hoping the Eastern church would help these Mexicans but they found themselves too busy, with other interests, but now a committee is formed, and action has been taken, which is the important part, and it looks as though help may be underway. But their church services are all in high German, and it will take some language study, may it prosper!

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

December 75--For a change of pace I was again working at the Farm store this past week, for the two owner's were gone to a seminar to learn more of their profession. In the religious field we find it helpful to go to church every week to keep us abreast of the religious profession, even so if you are in a secular field it is important that you take time out to get polished up. The one owner had to stay at home and run the business and I was just there in case he needed help. Keeping store is very taxing; not the selling part that is the easiest, but to get things on the shelf, and order the things that get low, and watch that you do not order too much, or keep that on the shelf which does not sell. Then you have to be prepared to meet the public every day. It does not matter how you feel that does not enter the picture, you must be calm and composed & able to possess your whole being in fortitude. If you don't you fail!

And to you who are customers at stores, of which all are at times; never argue with the store keeper, or say that his prices are too high. For he is keenly conscious of his competition, and realises that he is a servant of the public, and they can make or break him. If you think his price is unfair, and you can do better somewhere else then go there, and say nothing. And a store keeper can soon tell who loves his money, you need not make a loud profession as to who you worship, he knows that. And remember, a kind word, and a note of appreciation, are valuable treasures.

Walter Newswanger, who recently made a trip to Guatemala, in church work has returned, and has given a concise report of his trip to the church one evening at our regular prayer meeting session. It was interesting, revealing, and illuminating, but space will not permit elaboration.

I recently took in another book auction at the Lancaster archives. This is held every two months, and those having books to sell can put them there on consignment. For men with valuable libraries are always passing on into eternity, and their widows or heirs, do not treasure his library as much as they would the money it would

bring in, so this is one place to change the books into something you would rather have. For instance: the book, The Annals Of The Conestoga Valley in Lancaster, Berks, and Chester counties...two hundred years of local history of an American Earthly Paradise. Composed by C.Z. Mast, with 689 pages was sold, and because of its age and the sentimentality that goes with such books it was sold for \$210. The buyer was of the Dunkard faith of near Lititz.

Another noteworthy book entitled Biblia, das ist: Die Ganze Gottliche Heilige Schrift, Alten und Neuen Testaments ... Martin Luther, Germantown Christopher Saur 1776, 1269 pages, was sold for \$295.00, and was sold to a mail bid, so possibly it would have brought more had someone bid any higher. For they will send you the list of books on the sale if you request it, and if you see a book you want you just send in the bid that you are willing to pay for it, and they will auction it off, and if your bid is higher than anyone there was willing to bid, the book is yours.

This auction is a good place to find historians, and book lovers, for many books are sold from 6 in the evening until 9, and there you meet men of like interests very few women are present, but there are some.

I recently bought another interesting book, entitled, God Uses Ink, by John A. Hostetler, the history of the Mennonite publishing interests, and many things are found therein about the father of the great awakening John F. Funk, & of the beginning of the Mennonite Publishing House at Scottdale, and how that site was chosen, it very interesting if you like people and what they did, and why they did it.

The Eastern Penna. Mennonite church has had a paper printed called the Eastern Testimony since 1969, and the first five years of this work

have been bound in a volume, and are being sold to our constituents, this will also be a valuable book in a few years, for there are only a very few. Also the Eastern church is transferred. Also the Eastern church is interested in making new books and have timely articles printed in our papers, for periodically they sponsor a meeting called the Christian Writers Conference, and everyone interested in learning more of the ins and outs of writing, and how to do it, and how not to do it are welcome to attend.

Such a meeting was again held recently at the Blue Rock meeting house on Dec. 20 and was attended by about 100 people, and I assume they were all interested in writing, and it goes beyond question that everyone who is interested in writing is also more interested in reading, for one must read and think, many more words than he can write.

Does anyone know why there are almost no books of any value, that have stood the test of time, books that have been reprinted many times over because of the great demand, and books that have stood on their own merits, and not on sentimental emotions; why is it that among the authors of these books, none belonged to the Mennonite church? One man suggested when asked this question, that Mennonites were too busy making money, preparing to live upon this earth, and they did not time to study. Let us not make the same mistakes!

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

December 75--Hope springs forever in the human breast. Youth is full of hope. Youth lives on, and cherishes dreams of the future, if things fail to materialize as planned those plans can be changed, the dreams altered; but when a man gets to live for 50 or more years his hope, and dreams get less and less, and they get replaced by facts, and facts are unalterable, regardless of how much you wish to change them, and can even dream that they have been changed but when they awake the facts still remain.

I am watching with interest the saying of the Sage from Chesapeake, Va., J.H. Miller, on his pure food plan, and I have personally tried to change my diet, and the results are unbelievable, you never know just what it is to feel good, until you take nature's way. Now I do not go overboard on this, but just getting more fibers in your system is a great achievement. I finally have gotten my good wife persuaded to let the peelings on the mashed potatoes, & it is amazing how much better the flavor is, more fiber!

David Martin of whom I spoke lately, whose sugar level was up to the danger point, and he had much trouble with hemorrhoids, has gone to a more natural diet, and his weight dropped, his hemorrhoids have cleared up, no more do you see him hanging on to a pop bottle, and eating cookies and candy; yes he may enjoy one occasionally but its the exception not the rule.

A good acquaintance of mine has passed off these earthly scenes, Jesse Swarey, a few years younger than I. I lived with them back along the mountain for a few weeks when he first started to school, for he was the only one back there, and it was far to walk. I did not know of his funeral in time to attend, and had I not happened to be in Belleville that day I would not know about it yet, for no one told me.

He came to Danville at the Geisinger Hospital, for a check up, for he did not think they

were telling him the truth at Huntingdon. The doctor examined him, and said "are you a Christian?", and Jesse answered in the affirmative, and the doctor said "Its good you are, for I do not meet up with too many Amish that know that", and he furthermore stated, you have a fast growing kind of cancer, and only a few more weeks to live, we can do nothing for you here. Jesse said that was good news for him, he was happy to hear it, he went home, set his house in order, and died.

This is the third community in the which I have lived, and I am constantly hearing of deaths from each place, of people who I knew well, & it seems they are dying very fast, but had I never gotten away from my home place, my horizon would seem much smaller, and I would never have known many of my present acquaintances.

Now Oliver Keener one of the preachers in this parish, delivered one of his major masterpieces today; he said he was going to speak on some of the most neglected scriptures of the bible, the genealogies, he called the line of God's elect. He began with Adam and showed how God preserved his people down through the ages. And the first born son was never the one whom God chose.

In Matthew we can follow the Godly line down to Jesus Christ, and in Luke 4 the line goes clear back to Adam, who was the son of God.

But now after the birth of Jesus, the record of the elect of God is no more kept on the earth, and preserved by word of

mouth, or paper and ink. The elect of God are now written down in heaven, in the book called the Book of Life, and no genealogy is kept of them on the earth as it was.

God wiped the earth clean, and washed in with water in 1652, and all those whose names were written on the earth perished, in judgement. Likewise at the end of this present earth he will clean it with fire, then it will be new and remain that way forever, for God will dwell with men.

JRR.