

## DANVILLE, PA.

July 5—My nephew, Ezra Renno, was in the area over last weekend, the one who was in the state hospital in Massillon, Ohio, for some time. There are some who have wondered how he is getting along. He claims he is out to stay out, and try to go it on his own. He lives alone in an apartment in Hartville, and says the women are kind to him and do a lot of things for him. He is a member of the Mennonite church at Marlboro, where Dick Landis is the Pastor. A conservative Conference church, Jerry Miller is bishop.

Ezra has his own automobile again, and this seems to alleviate some of his problems, for he likes to go places, and was having difficulty getting chauffeurs. He seems like he is some older now and is more careful how he drives. He also works for a carpenter, and hauls him to work.

The ninth annual bible conference at Numidia, Pa. is again history. It was the bi-centennial year, and the crowds were some larger than last year, for every year there are more people, and many that were there this time were not even born when it started.

A question came up in the discussion period how many people are there that were living in 1902? We all looked around and expected to see a few hands but there was only one man, and that was my friend Sim Stoltzfus. It is astounding how time flies.

I did attend the Saturday morning session, for I wanted to hear Jessie Neunschwander speaking on the subject of moderation in Material Expansion.

He said the earth was made to satisfy all the needs of mankind, and there is no good reason why everyone could not have enough; although God never

intended that everyone should have the same amount, as Socialism would cause us to believe. He claimed if our fathers would rise from their graves and come back and see how affluent we live, just like kings and monarchs did a few decades ago, they could not believe that yesterday's luxuries are today's necessities.

He claimed it is impossible today for a man to have a few acres of land, and a few cows, and chickens etc. and make a living, and get his farm paid for. Expansion is a must if we would survive, and not become dependant upon the aid of others.

We should be diligent and productive, and produce much more than we can consume ourselves, but not so much more that we do not have time to live and enjoy life. If you are so busy making a living that you have no time to live, then you are too busy, and materialism has taken over.

But if we are prosperous, our prosperity should not be the envy of the neighborhood, we should try to keep about even with the balance of the rest of society, should not live above or below normal.

Harry Hertzler was there just back from Guatemala, and during the discussion period he could keep his seat no longer, and got up to the pulpit and claimed he is going through, the shock of materialism, for those people down south live so far below our standards, they can barely survive and here we are speaking of moderation in expansion. He had questions.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

July 1976—It is nice to have casual visitors for Sunday dinner. Such was our lot recently when Frank Reeds came to our church service to visit. He said he had no plans made after 12 o'clock, which was when the services were ended. Consequently they were at our house for dinner.

They are not Mennonites but members of the Church of the Brethren, of the more plainer type, their meeting house is at White Oak, in Lancaster Co. They live just down over a few hills from our place, near Gratz, Pa. where they recently purchased a farm. Frank is a truck driver at heart, but he does not like the demands this makes on his family life, so he settled for farming, after having driven for several years. His place of employment was for the Meyer Gas company at Manheim. This man Richard Meyer the owner of this firm, is also a member of the same church group. The business has grown quite prosperous in his hands.

Frank's wife is the daughter of our pastor, Walter Newswanger, and there really is not much difference in his church affiliation and ours.

The interesting thing about the family is they have a daughter that was born without sensory nerve in her bowels. Frank, through this experience, is pretty well versed in the functions of the nervous system. Nerves are made up of cells just like other parts of the body but they are of such a nature that doctors cannot take nerve cells and graft them in where there are none. They can with many other things such as bone grafting, skin grafting, and even can transplant kidneys and hearts, but nerve cells they cannot make them work, if nature did not provide them in the first place.

Aaron Shank, our bishop was up today to preach to us about the grace of God. And he reiterated what this grace does for us. He said a man is counted wealthy according to the things of value he possesses. If he has a farm that is paid for and would bring two hundred thousand, we say that is how much he is worth. But he asked how much would you take for your eyesight, how much is that

worth to you, would you take a million dollars, for the lack of the privilege of using your eyes. Or the hearing, or the use of your voice. It is of inestimable value to us in this life to have the normal use of our faculties.

Do we take it all for granted, that God owed these things to us, and use them for our own benefits through life? He said it is the grace of God that gives us the use of these faculties. I personally would differ in terms and would call it the mercy of God that provides these things, for there is a difference in mercy and grace.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

July 19--It is interesting to see how quickly things can change. Four years ago on the political front the Democrats were sharply divided and seemed had no head in which to unify. Now a man has risen out of obscurity, and became the head, and they are quite unified on their choice of a national leader. He had no trouble at all in getting nominated; and seems to be behaving himself wisely, and has with deliberation chosen a running mate. His name is Jimmy Carter, and he is a religious man, and right after getting home from the Democratic convention in New York he went to his home church, being a baptist by religious persuasion, and taught the Sunday school class. It was rather a crowded condition, with all the secret service men to protect his body, and all the newsmen, who were constantly trying to get his pictures, Jimmy was slightly annoyed at all the commotion, and suggested that they issue passes for people to attend church when he is there, for he is getting too popular. When tourists hear that he is in the area, and they are close by they will want to go to church where such a celebrity attends.

By the looks of things now, he stands better than a 50 percent chance of winning the race for President, he has so many things going in his favor.

I have not heard him with the usual mud slinging, at his oponents. The man who slings mud must get it at his feet, and in doing so will only be digging himself in deeper. He also has risen out of obscurity, and was here to for not know by the public. He is not tainted with the Washington image, where so much evil has been going on for the last several years, even to the ousting of a President, and Vice President, for being guiltless in corruption.

What is more, he is a very religious man, and has religious principles. America is a very religious nation, although there are many Godless people in it, the religious element still holds sway. And Jimmy Carter should by all indications be right in line for nomination.

Unlike four years ago the

Republican party is now sharply divided, as to who they want for their leader. They now have two heads, and each one about as popular as the other, and both have almost enough votes to get nominated at the convention. It was suggested that they join forces and one be President, and the other Vice President, but that does not appeal, for they both want to be the chief.

Ford is blamed for being a vassel and just doing what his superiors tell him to do. And he is not President by being elected by the popular vote of the people, but just elected by his predecessor, and this gives rise to suspicion that it was all preplanned, what has taken place.

Peter Beter is a lawyer in Washington, and has an audio-tape that he sends out to his consituents, who request it, and are willing to pay for it.

As for me I listen to some such things at times but do not take too much stock in it; but it is not beyond the realm of possibility, but I also know that power does not come from the east, or the west, or the south, but God setup one and takes down another. It is he that breaks the bow and cutteth the spear insunder.

There are many different parties at work who are trying to save America. They want to get good sound government in Washington, and return the rule to the people, and take away the big powers of the Federal Government, which I admit is too large; but I do not offer any help in their quest, for I know that one man is not better than another, for if some of these freedom fighters were in full power and authority, they would soon corrupt themselves too. For it is not in man to direct his steps, for the way of man is not in himself, he is controlled by a power higher than himself. Power corrupts, and total power corrupts totally. It does not matter what man he is and whether that power is religious or secular, the effects of it on a mans constitution are the same.

We will just wait and see what happens and take whatever comes our way with thankful hearts knowing that all things are of God.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

July -Minnesota, the land of ten thousand lakes. I suppose Ben Fisher will be green with envy; but we took another trip, all the way to the state of Minnesota. What did we want? You may recall that one of my good friends moved out there to make that his future home. It's just about a year now that Noah I. Yoder made about the fourth major geographical move in his life time. Born in Somerset Co. Reared in Delaware, moved to Catlett, Va. then to Union Co., Pa., now at the age of 59 he moved to Minnesota, to get away from all the congestion we easterners are exposed to. I dare say he made a good move, for I like it out west. If I would not be so old...just maybe.

To start at the beginning, we drove to Harrisburg, Pa. to the National airport, scheduled to leave at 9:30. We went to the municipal airport first and just about missed our plane, but we just made it, and took off. It takes about 30 minutes to get to Pittsburgh where we landed, the first time, then on to Chicago, where we had to change planes.

Flying on the big ones was a new experience for us, but was enjoyable. Flying at 20,000 feet, and traveling at 550 miles per hour, but the big bird was so quiet inside, that having a glass of water setting on your tray, there were very little ripples on the water.

It was raining when we left Harrisburg, but at Pittsburgh it began to clear, and was nice the rest of the way. They had to change altitude and make some curves at times to steer clear of thundershowers, but that makes it very interesting. Those big thunder clouds look far bigger up there, when you can see how high they are, I would suppose about two miles thick, and they are gorgeously arrayed when viewed with the sun shining on them.

Traveling is a wonderful experience, and when you do not want to spend much time on the road, you take to the air. It takes about 3 hours flying time to get to Rochester, Minn. from Harrisburg, Pa. There we rented a car, and drove out to see the John Rissler family, the prolific Budget scribe, from

near Elkton, Minn. Mrs. Ressler was quiet, for she was sleeping, for she works at the hospital at night. The old man & John Ray, were unloading a load of straw they had bought. No, it was not hard to get them away from their work, it was very warm, and they needed a break.

It was about 3 in the afternoon and too early to stay at one place so long, and we wanted to see the Yutzi's near Leroy about 7 miles away. They were not home and we knew it, for they had come east, but the boys were there. We also saw the Sam Martin's who had moved out in the spring from Lancaster Co. and decided to try their hand at farming. It is well they did it now for their children are just at the age when they will yet go with them, not having formed any lasting relationships yet at home, and they soon make new friends. We also stopped at the Shultz's he is the preachers for them, Mennonites, but he was not at home.

Back to the Ressler's for supper, and overnight and a long talk. They are the kind of people that make you feel at home, for they are not fancy, if you don't have your hair combed just right they won't mind. No elaborate food either, but very sufficient.

They have three children, John Ray, the oldest is the tiller of the soil, the daughter, Mary Ellen, is not yet 20 and does the milking and taking care of the money end of 100 cows, her younger brother Timothy helping her. That leaves daddy Ressler to do the managing, and the resting, which he needs quite a bit, at his age. They have two sections of land, 1280 acres, and raise corn and beans, and some hay. Having a million dollar operation, it takes management, and for thought.

We did not get to bed until about 11, for we had many things to discuss, but we were very tired after traveling a thousand miles that day. After getting to bed we were soon oblivious to our surroundings, and having no clock we did not get up until 9 the next morning. After a good bowl of oatmeal, and coffee, and more discussion we left.

They are hoping for some more conservative minded Mennonites to move there, for at this time they have no church fellowship. The other Mennonites in the area, are trying to eliminate some of the things the Ressler's still hold dear.

We then flew on up to Minneapolis, and rented another car, and drove 100 miles overland to my friend Noah Yoder. They have a very nice place, and almost new house, and he being a man of industry, builded himself a workshop. Having over a hundred acres to farm. He has had several heart attacks, and he has to take it easy, but he is not a man to give up. He also is the only preacher at the church there, where about 50 people come together, to listen to his religious instructions.

Now concerning the land and the weather. At this time it is very dry, and the natives claim very unusual, having had a dry spring too. The crops look hurt, but they will still pull through, if they get enough rain. They are having a few thundershowers, but there is a lake just west of them at Long Parairee, and it is just large enough to cause heat from the sun, which creates an updraft, and causes the thundershowers to pass by to the side, or divide in the middle and go around. But if you like sunshine and lots of it go to Minnesota. The skies are very clear, bright blue, very little air



pollution, and very few people to pollute it. The air is dry, and you don't mind the heat or the cold that way. It is when the air has much moisture that the heat and cold seem more intense. The land is mostly flat, and ideal for farming. In southern Minnesota, the farms are larger, coming in sections, but in the Long Prairie area the farms are smaller, and there is more woodland.

Although the land may be not quite as productive, it is much better suited for the small family sized farm. The church there has all farmers. They say the winters do not bother them either, for the roads are wide, with ditches on each side, and the snow mostly just blows off, and what does fall lays all winter. Not so much thawing and melting which makes for slippery conditions.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

August '76--While in Minnesota recently, Noah Yoders took us north of them about 40 miles to see Fred Stoltzfus's, the son of Mast Stoltzfus here in Union Co. They had planned to move to British Columbia, but could not get leave to cross the Canadian Border, so they settled for Minnesota. He works carpenter work, but they live on a farm, which they purchased. 160 acres for 26,000; how does that sound for the price of land. But he said the best building on it, is that new out house, which doesn't get used very much anymore, they have more modern facilities.

There is a small Mennonite church there, but it's going to get smaller yet for there will be only two families left, when all the planned moving takes place. Roman Miller is the preacher there, he is the son of Adam Miller of Stuarts Draft, Va. and is married to Dan J. B. Byler's daughter of Seymour, Mo. and are embracing that type Mennonitism.

The next Monday morning we drove 125 miles east to Cumberland, Wisconsin. Simon Benders being the chief ones there we wanted to see, but they had planned a trip east at this time, and were not home, but the children were there, and we had supper there with them; the married sons were there too. We also stopped in at Crist Swareys, who recently, moved in from Burns, Kansas. Having rented Harvey Lehman's farm.

Crist is a nephew to my wife, his mother being her sister, the daughters of the late Dan Y. Peachey. Also stopped at Sam Peachey's, the son of Abie Z. of Belleville. All of these we saw are of the Holdeman faith, having moved up there from the Big Valley area. They like it in Wisconsin, and I don't blame them for if you are young, and full of ambition, and like to milk cows that is a good place to do it. They put in the first cutting hay for hayledge, and bale what is left over, and feed that all summer. Then in the fall they fill the empty silo with corn, and another one with high moisture corn, so they do not have to grind feed, just feed the corn out of the silo and some pelletized concentrate, and hayledge, and corn silage.

It seems to be a very easy way to live, no need to dash. Sam Peachey explained to us how to go ice fishing between milkings in the winter. For there are many lakes there, with large fish in them. The ice gets 3 feet thick and they drive right out with the cars, and have an auger to drill a hole in the ice, then set up a tri-pod affair, with a reel, over top of the hole. And have a three pronged hook, on to which they hook a live minnow thru his back, and let him down just under the ice, he looks to be swimming, and the big fish sees it, they will grab for it, by the tail and swim away, this pulls out the line on the reel, and a flag goes up.

One man is allowed three of these tri-pods, and he can sit where its warm while waiting, and when the fish gets the minnow, they will not swallow it tail first, but always catch it and swim away, then let it go and swallow it head first. The three pronged hook then is swallowed along with the minnow, or at least the fish is hooked; and many of the fish are large, the largest about 8 pounds, and these you dare not pull out right away, for when they come over to the hole and see light they get terrified, and put up a terrible struggle, and sometimes get under the sharp edge of the ice and the line is cut, if you are not careful. You must first give the fish lots of leeway, and pull it in and let it go back, thus wearing it down, until it gets weak from the fight. Sam's says this is the fifth generation removed from the American Indian, his grandfather Sam Peight, whose great grandfather was an Indian. This gives Sam some of that ingenuity to hunt and fish, of which Indians were fond.

We were at Menno Yoders, the son of Isaac Yoder overnight, he recently having sold his home farm in Belleville, Pa. and bought up in Wisconsin,



says he is not sorry, and likes it real well, but he could get homesick for his homeland & people, for he has many good friends back home.

I knew his grandfather, and his father since he was single yet, and used to work for Isaac when a boy, he lived on my uncle Mose Peachey place. It is astounding how old I really am, and time flies so rapidly.

We also stopped at Gilbert Lannons, who embraced the Holdeman faith at Belleville, and also moved up north, and like it real well. Also Barry Copp's who moved up from Tennessee. They also with Levi Mast's, had thought of moving to Paraguay, but Barty decided he wants to reunite with the church, as it was only the pride of his heart that was detaining him, but Levi joined with the Victor Stoll group, who claimed to have revived the real true church. Thus they parted ways. But Barry seems happy.

Then it was time to head back to Minneapolis, where we wanted to meet Simon Benders at the airport, they arrived at 2, and our plane did not leave until 5, so that gave us time to visit, their daughter then coming to get them. They flew in on a big D-C 10, and immense machine, twice as wide as a Greyhound bus, 8 seats across. Simon said he was just a bit worried, and wondered if he had his will sufficiently made out, and all his religious obligations taken care of, for he did not trust this big Leviathan, said he felt much better on the D-C 9 which is also large, but only three seats in one isle, and two in the other.

We had a wonderful nice trip, covering several thousand miles, and seen many people, spending only 12 hours enroute.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

Aug. 1976--A strange phenomena has happened lately in Phila., Pa. The American Legion held a convention, and 27 of those who attended have died, and 152 were sick and hospitalized. Yet there is no apparent reason for it. Because if affected only those who ate at that convention we would think it must have been food poisoning; but checks have been made and no trace of anything can be found. No organic disease. They died and were sick for no reason at all that the best of the medical profession can determine; yet the facts remain. It is something to think about. There is always just a step between us and death, but when death comes to people for no apparent reason, we wonder who will be next?

My friend Noah I. Yoder told me in our recent visit to Minnesota that he does not believe that man has ever been on the moon, he thinks they are just playing tricks on us and taking pictures of something just to make us believe how smart they are, and its all a grand deception. There are some that agree with him.

On the local scene, Amos Brubakers were back recently visiting their relatives and friends. They have moved from here out to Illinois this past spring, to make that their future home. They live in the vicinity of Orchardville, Ill. and they live pretty scattered, and the plans are to have two congregations when conditions are favorable. As of yet they all go to one place to worship, and have about 50 in the services.

This is one place that I have not visited yet, but its in the plans. However my plans do not always come to fruition, but

hopefully it can be arranged, we just don't know.

Amos's did not stay very long, just coming on a Thursday, and leaving the next Monday, they could not see nearly all their friends.

The annual Teachers Training Institute is in progress at the time of this writing. It is for those who are teaching and those who want to know more about it. This also gives opportunity for those who would care to teach, but have as yet no positive plans.

Our school here plans to have three teachers this year. It is a long way from what it used to be, and the curriculum much more demanding, for we have not many more pupils than what used to be in the one room school house. But they have to go until they are 16 years old and they get through the eighth grade, and must be given advanced studies, so we give them high school too. We want them to be educated.

Our daughter plans to teach over in Union County, in a more old fashioned setting, and a one room school house, just like it used to be. She will teach for what is called the Joe Wenger Mennonites.

They are more old fashioned, and do not have so much up-to-date material, they figure just so they can get through life successfully and earn a decent living is all that is necessary. They also do not have Bible classes, but try to keep the church and state separate. There were also an embassy here at the teachers institute from Old Mexico. Four men were here again; three teachers and one elderly man, a school board member. They are from the Kleine-Gemeinde from campo 180 in the state of Chihuahua.

These men were at our church services and we invited them along home for dinner. It seems they do not eat like we do here in America. It took very little food to satisfy them. The four of

them hardly ate as much as two of us would normally. And needless to say, none of them have any problem with overweight.

Where they live they must keep all their own roads, their own electricity, and telephones, everything. But then I suppose the taxes are much less than what we are accustomed to, for taxes are those things which are used to give us that which we think is free.

#### DANVILLE, PA.

The continent wide Biblical Discipleship, and fellowship meetings were held this year at the Roxbury Brethren in Christ camp ground. Sponosred by the local fellowship churches in the area.

The term Fellowship, may need some explanation. It all began about 17 years ago among the constituents of the Mennonite church. The rule book was not being followed any more, some thought it was not necessary, and some insisted that it was of utmost importance to keep the adopted discipline, for how else were you going to keep sin out of the church, and rules are made to keep, not to break.

The meetings were planned to be a help to all who are interested in, earnestly contending, and maintaining the faith once delivered to the saints, and for fellowship with those of like precious faith.

There are many cabins there for people to sleep in and even some where you can do your own cooking. But it was not just to provide an occassion for vacationing, and pleasure seeking, to which many contemporary camp meetings have become. There were campers there, and you can hardly divorce pleasure from the situation. It is very inexpensive, indeed if you were so minded you could eat and sleep there without any cost, for it is all operated on free will offerings. And they are not constantly pleading for money either.

The owners of the camp-ground have to be paid for the use of the facilities, and it takes a lot of food to feed over a thousand people three times a day. And they also wanted to remunerate the speakers who should have spent a lot of time in study in preparation for the messages they were supposed to deliver. On Sunday evening it was announced that the offering on Saturday was just about enough, but they might run a little short so another one was lifted on Sunday evening.

My friend David Hostetler, and his wife Edna live there on the grounds, and she could be seen with her little electric buggy running hither and yon seeing that things were in order. We were at there house for a visit, and some watermelon after the services.

There was no speaker that had the pre-eminence for none spoke more than once; and they were there from all over the nation, and from Canada. Also from Paraguay and Central America. Meetings of this nature do afford a great opportunity for socializing, visiting with friends, and acquaintances, discussing various issues, and a few answers.

Most present day Mennonites are of the Armenian persuasion, theologically and about half of them are of the Non-Millennial persuaion prophetically. In conference like this you must stay with the agreed to subjects, for there are still many of those, then each one is free to form his own opinion, and do that which he thinks is right is about what it boils down to.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

Aug.--This year has been ideal, in this part of the country, weatherwise. A good hay crop, and good weather to put it up. The corn looks very good. We had just enough rain to make it very fruitful. It is not so in other parts of the country. In northern New York state, in the Lyndonville area near the lake, just north of Buffalo, it has been much too wet. Some of the corn looks very bad, just real small, not tall enough to amount to anything in spots. Further down south from there things look much better.

Politically, we could say, we will be bored with Ford, but we will be smarter with Carter. For Carter is supposed to be a liberal man, unscruplous as to how he spends our tax money; we'll see.

Karl Marx, the man who is credited with having written the Communist manifesto, or the constitution of Communism, if there is such a thing. This man said Religion is the opiate of the people. Now opiate is a drug which if taken will make you dull, and listless, not realizing what is going on, and escape from reality. This is a true saying. If anyone has just religion that is not based on the truth it is an opiate to him, just an idol to worship to put him at ease consciously.

Having just been to Roxbury to the general conference, of those who are opposed to having any conference to rule over them denominationally, yet a general conference is alright, for it is so general it aims at everything, and hits nothing hard enough to matter.

One would have difficulty counting all the various different opinions of religious thought that were gathered there; thus saying I mean the Mennonite religion in particular. Just 16 years ago about all of these were under one general title, called Mennonites, now there are about one for every year since they seperated. I am not saying this is good or bad, but it is something to think about.

We would all agree that God has spoken, and we would pretty much agree on what he has said, but the difference of opinion comes when we try to interpret what he has spoken, what did he mean?

In the beginning of what is known as the dark ages, there were likewise many schools of thought, so the church decided she would interpret the scripture, and thus it would stand, and anyone who would dare to differ with what the church fathers have decided is truth, would be severely censored, and later even put to death. This led to great corruption, and finally Martin Luther saw the fallacy of it all, and wrote down 96 different areas where the church is wrong. He did not intend to start another denomination, just straighten out the old. This action by Luther greatly angered the church fathers, and they would have put him to death, but he had too many friends.

But there were some who later thought Luther did not go far enough there was still too much error that he did not eliminate, they tried to correct this and start their own denomination, which is now the Mennonite church. The Amish and the Mennonites having divided about 1683, they are all a part of this movement, but still a very small minority compared to the larger denominations.

In Belleville, Pa. there were only Amish that moved into that area, about the middle of the 19th century. Today from those Amish there are now 10 different denominations; three of these later joined up with the Mennonite conference, but they were all Amish about 100 years ago. They were all what we call plain, the men wore their hair about to the shoulders, broad fall pants, and broad brimmed hats. The women wore skirts about to the ankles. That was

called plain, and it is still called such, this is the criteria from which we begin when we want to judge whether something is plain, or worldly. What some people today now call plain or modest, would have been very immodest just 50 years ago. Yet the truth is absolute. What was wrong then is still wrong today. The church never did have scriptural authority, if it can vascillate so much in half a century.

It is because scripture is not interpreted, dispensationally, and contextually, that we come up with so many different answers. There is only one God, one church, one baptism, how

do we come up with so many? There are many who have decided out of their own emotions that they are the true church, and looked askance at all others. Then there are others who say it is like the spokes of a wheel, they all lead into the hub, in the final analysis. But this is not true either.

At Roxbury there was one preacher who spoke about the Charismatic movement today. He was right on dead center, for he rightly divided the Word, did not take a scripture that was given for the Kingdom age and give it to the age of grace. It was uplifting to hear his treatise.

Another one spoke later on non-resistance, who did not rightly divide did not know how or did not care, this just beclouds the real issue, is an opiate to the listeners, who do not know better, nor care to think for themselves, they assume this is what the preachers are for.

Because scripture is not rightly divided is the cause of all the different denominations. To do this takes many hours of deep study and ability to concentrate, this is hard work so is neglected.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

The Hudson river in New York state is 306 miles long, having its beginning in a lake in the Adirondak Mts. 4322 ft. above sea level, called tear cloud lake. It empties out into the Atlantic ocean at New York city which is sea level; so it has many rapids with such a fast descent, but they are mostly up in the mountains. The river is navigable up to Albany about 100 miles for large boats.

It has an interesting history. It was discovered by Giovanni da Verrazanno an Italian, in the year 1524. This man was a pirate, and was supposedly hung for his crimes against society, but the longest suspension bridge in the world connecting New Jersey, to Staten Island was named in his honor, now that he is dead.

Henry Hudson after whom the river is named, was looking for a shorter route to the far east, and sailed up the river, and out to the Hudson Bay, in 1609; working for the Dutch East India Co. but he did not find a shorter route. His last voyage



was in 1611 when his men mutinied and rebelled against his orders, and he ended up being put adrift in a small boat, along with 7 of his faithful men, and a boy, and were never heard from again.

Robert Fulton also made history when he sailed up the river for the first time, with a motor powered boat; a steam boat in 1807.

By now it is used by many boats, and barges, it is an important waterway. Many sail boats are on it too, pleasure boats.

I wanted to leave my children a legacy they will not forget, and spend some time with my wife too, where there is nothing else to do but just sit and watch, and talk and eat, for a whole day.

There is a passenger boat about the size of Noah's Ark, although not quite as long, that goes up this river every day, going up as far as Poughkeepsie, N.Y. about 75 miles, then turns around and gets back to New York in 9 hours. Leaving ten in the morning, and returning at 7. It makes two stops enroute, at Bear Mt. and at West Point, the famed Military Academy, leaving passengers off, then picking them up again in the afternoon.

We along with many others just stayed on the boat all day, I would judge there were about 300 people altogether. It is a very scenic route, the river winding in between the mountains, on each side, and the small towns nestled in among the hills, with a road, and a railroad track along each side of the river, it is busy too.

There are many passenger trains running back and forth, you see one going every few minutes, carrying people back and forth to work in the city. If these operate at a loss it is because of poor management.

The boat leaves the dock at the 43rd street pier, an easy place to get to, just cross the George Washington bridge, and get off at the first exit, going south on the West side Expressway, and you can park your car right on the pier until you get back. This pier is also just across the street from the Greyhound bus station.

The cost is \$7.00 per person for the boat, and it is well worth it. In the morning it was rather cool, being 50 when we started, but it soon warmed up for it was one of the most beautiful days you could ask for. Going up river the wind was rather strong, for we traveled about 18 miles per hour and the wind was coming toward us about that fast, and up on the top deck was almost more than you could take.

But the boat is enclosed the lower two stories, with windows all around, and you could look out while being away from the wind.

On the return trip, the wind was with us, and it was very balmy the sun shinning brightly, and the air seemed clean and pure, we could sit up on the top deck with no roof, and nothing to obstruct the view.

This was creation shewing us God's handiwork, for man cannot make a river, nor can he stop it from flowing, neither can he make trees or anything else to grow, he can build houses, and great buildings, but they mar the scenery rather than enhance it, although they are important for man's well being.

The Palasides on the west side of the river, looks like a great high stone wall, solid stone, with straight sides along the river, it is awesome, to behold, one wonders how they were fashioned, or were they thus from the beginning.

Before motor power, which is not very old yet, men dug canals, with roads on each side, and they had mules to pull the boats along, thus being able to move very heavy loads with a minimum of power, and the passenger boats gave one a very smooth ride, and men said this is perfection, we will never get anything better, but then the railroads came along, and the steam powered boats, and now the deisel powered boats, and the miles of concrete ribbons, with trucks running on them changed traveling methods very fast. And the smoothest, and fastest way is to travel by airships. Have money, will travel.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Sept.--Lest you entertain the thought that we do little else besides going away on some trip, let me inform you that necessity is the mother of invention, and it was needful that we go again to fulfill our social obligations. Our niece was married at Belleville.

Because I was born and reared in an Old Order Amish setting, this is what I have for a frame of reference, for we are products of environment. This wedding which was held on a Sunday evening, gave us an excuse to attend an Amish church service.

I enjoy hearing the German preaching, not that it's of necessity any better, but because of my predecessors. But I suppose the duration of this type of preaching in German is very limited, for the next generation does not understand it very well, and are much better versed in English, and they already like to sing in English. Although because of our ethnicity and culture, the German seems more godlike; and Divine.

They had baptismal services and it was just about according to the form and ritual of which I was used to, except perhaps it was a little shorter. The bishop must preach, and go through the book of Acts, chapter by chapter, and depending on what he deems of importance is what determines the length of time to do it.

Jesus said the words that he speaks are spirit and they are life, and this is true today, regardless of the language, and I can testify that the scripture was correctly interpreted and applied, which will then result in life; eternal life.

We visited two old widows in the afternoon, one was my aunt, and the other was my wife's aunt. Annie Zook the widow of Henry Zook, was a half sister to my mother, she is in her eighties, and still going good, lives by herself and able to do her own housekeeping.

The other was Mary Zook, the widow of Steve Zook, she was a sister to my wife's father, Dan Peachey, the son of Deacon Jake Peachey of whom their sprang very many of the inhabitants of the Amish in the Valley. A direct descendant of Peter Bitchie, from which come all the plain folk of the Beachey, and Peachey name.

Sylvan Yoder, the grandson of the venerable Abe Yoder, now deceased, preached the wedding sermon, it was a conventional Holdeman message. They were announced man and wife by my brother Eli, who is pastor of the Holeman church there at Belleville. Incidentally they also are presently engaged in erecting a large modern facility for meetings.

This weekend suited me, for the annual Hymn Writers conference was held at the same time, at Landisville, Pa. sponsored by John Overholt, and his colleagues.

We did take in several of the sessions on Monday, of the Historical Ana-Baptist conference which they plan to hold somewhere every year.

These meetings are free, in that they are not sponsored by any one denominational organization, and much like a funeral where all differences are laid in the background, and those who attend have one thing in mind; the past. If you are inclined to take an interest in history this is where you go to find those of like interests.

The next day was supposed to be an Ana-Baptist prophecy conference but mundane duties demanded my attention.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Sept. 14--Another great man of the earth has succumbed to the promise of the Creator made to the first man upon the earth; the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die. Man was made to live forever, but he forfeited this opportunity, for that which supposedly met the needs of the hour, and we all feel as though we will live forever, even though every 5 minutes someone gets killed, it is always someone else, it never has been any of us. So according to past history it cannot happen.

Mao Tse Tung was born in China in 1893, and lived to the age of 82. On Oct. 1, 1949 he became the communist dictator of China, and has long been the chairman of the Communist party, but even though in spite of his great power and prestige, his days were numbered, and he succumbed.

China is the third largest country of the world, and has more people than any other nation. Nearly a fourth of all the people of the world live in China. The official name of China is Chung-Hua- Jen-Min Kung-Ho Kuo, this means the middle country; so named because the early Chinese believed they were the center of the earth.

Historians believe China to be one of the four cradles of civilization. The other three are the Middle East, the area of Israel, and Egypt and Pakistan. But China was not the middle of the earth as they thought, for Jerusalem is in the middle, and all other nations are called after the direction away from Jerusalem, and the Middle East, so called because it is the middle of the earth. Who has the right to decide where the middle is? Who else but the Creator. He has chosen to put his name at Jerusalem, and even though it is not there now, it will be there in the future.

Even though the country is so popoulous there was no Christianity there until the first known missionaries entered in 505 A.D., the Nestorians. Although they worked and labored among the Chinese, there is not a single writing of their literature left. The only relic is a stone tablet dated 781, and is supposedly still standing, if not removed by the many wars.

The Nestorians were a religious group of people from Persia, where Christianity had been carried there by the bishop of Selucia, which place we can read of in scripture.

But the early mission work in China died out like the church at Sardis. The next missionary sent there was John de Monte Corvino who reached Peking in 1292. Clement the 5th made him Arch bishop and sent him assistants, and these translated the Psalms and the New Testament. They are supposed to have converted more than thirty thousand infidels to the Catholic faith, but by 1328 there was nothing left of the numerous churches or their bishops. The seed fell on stony ground.

Today the Government of China forbids any religious teaching in churches homes or schools. Formal teaching, that is. The people still have their religions of which there are three major ones, Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. Confucius was born in 551 B.C. and has a very good philosophy of life. He taught family loyalty, and obedience to the laws of society. This is good and in accordance with the laws of God, but Confucius, although he did admit there might be a higher power, and that there might be a heaven, did not teach these things, but that which pertained to time. He did not concern himself about why and how things came to be. He discouraged such thoughts from anyone, saying these are things too high for us. We should engage ourselves with things which we can master.

Now back to the present of 1976, I did get to go to the weekly auction at Dewart yesterday, and things are about normal. I did not want to buy anything, but occasionally I do run out of my own business to mind so have to go look see if someone else needs any help in minding his.

I did find a few. There was this Oberholtzer there, from Union Co., who said he had for a long time wanted to see the author of those Danville articles. He, along with his friend and mine, Eli Zimmerman, were there to see if they could obtain some feeder cattle. They were just like we all are--the buying price too high and the selling price too low.

My daughter teaches school up there in Union Co. for these "Team Mennonites" so called because when the auto came into prominence their leader Joe Wenger and his colleagues decided they were too worldly, and to this day they do not own or drive autos.

She has 26 pupils, in all 8 grades, to take care of, and will be kept busy. This Oberholtzer told her if she becomes incapacitated for one reason or another and wants to take a day off, he will substitute. I asked him why he did not assume the responsibility for full time, but he has other occupations that demand his attention. Says he is going through the motions of farming. But he seems like he could entertain them with words.

To be able to teach others effectually is a very valuable gift, for you not only teach them the mechanics, but your attitudes will be carried over and diffused through your pupils. If you have that gift then make good use of it, and virtue is its own reward.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Sept. 19--Where we live there was an old garage that was built back in 1931. This would not be so very old for a building, but when it was built it was old, for it was made of another old building. And autos in those days were not so large as they are in this day, so they built accordingly.

This garage was not what we wanted, in appearance and in convenience, so we tore it down. We did not salvage much of the material for it was so full of nails that it would have ben very difficult to work with.

It was just setting on top of the ground, fastened to pillars. Very old chestnut boards, and over the boards was a layer of very thin tin siding. On top of this was a layer of asbestos siding. This was not consumable by fire, and difficult to work with. Just about all the old boards, we burned, even though some were about 18 inches wide, and looked pretty good while yet intact, but once off their position there were so many nails all over, that the labor involved in making them usable, it would hardly have been worth it, for when they were installed back in 1931 they were already used boards.

It was hard work, and much harder than I am used to engage myself in. But we did find a few old trinkets that made it an interesting venture. An old radiator cap, with the temperature gauge on top like the real old time auto's used to have. Also quite a few license plates, the oldest one dating back in 1930, the year I started to school.

We plan to build again right where the old one was, but this one shall be larger. I do not plan to have much to do with the new building insofar as the erection is concerned, I just told Marlin Eshbach what I had in mind, and he made a drawing, so the new one is on paper. I also told him he could tear the old one



down, but he did not really cherish the idea, he would rather build than tear down. He is by trade a cabinet maker, and can come up with some very fine pieces of furniture. He also has a fruit orchard, and a roadside stand to sell his wares, and does some truck farming, but this is just seasonal.

Marlin is the son of Benjamin Eshbach, who is Bishop of the Sesquehanna district, of the Eastern Pennsylvania Mennonite church. His home congregation being that which is called Blue Rock, formerly know as Sheep Lane. While yet in Conference he was in the Millersville district. Marlin came to this area during the Peacetime Conscription, and worked at the Geisinger Hospital here.

Our new church building is under roof, but the work is progressing very slowly, for it is much easier to sit in a meeting and plan to build it with voluntary labor, than it is to abandon your work you have to do at home and go work at putting up a building which is not yours after you are finished. And a building this size, and with these commodities takes much planning and foresight, and much hand labor. And since there are only 24 hours in one day, and most of those hours are on a tight schedule for everyone, it is hard to find time to help on a voluntary project. As for money the supply of that is unlimited, if you have your heart set on making much money you can do it, and we never had it so good financially, those who are willing to work, and can manage properly. In my estimation it would be more feasible to hire those who make a business of building for they have the time.

The study of church offerings is very interesting; time was when a tax was levied upon each family for the support of the church building. The Sunday school at the Locust Grove church began in 1900, at Belleville, Pa. But because his

health failed, it was again discontinued, until 1911 and the first voluntary offering was lifted on August 20, 1911. There were 150 people present, and the offering was \$1.55.

We just had our annual business meeting here at the Rush church, and the total budget for the fiscal year was \$57,341.69. This is quite a jump, but you must remember this includes the school operating expense and the building fund, everything, but it is all on a voluntary offering basis, no one is taxed, if you don't want to give anything you do not have to, even if you send children to our school nobody looks to see if you contribute anything, we let that up to the individual.

Furthermore these offerings also include brotherhood assistance, for the Eastern Church carries her own insurance policy, to you don't have to go outside of the church for protection. Fire, hospitalization, or auto accidents, you just give the deacon the amount of your expense, do not always pay the whole amount, and most people would not ask it either, but the church endeavors to care for every need whether it be spiritual, or physical, or financial.

Now to clarify some rumors that have been circulated, as of July 25, 1976 my membership at the Eastern church, in general, and the Rush church in particular has been terminated, because of doctrinal differences. Nothing has changed, I still attend the same as always, all it is my name has been stricken from the list of members. If any must know what these differences consist of you write to me personally, I will send a list of the questions that were asked, which answers did it.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

Sept. 26--On September 25, 1926 Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Y. Peachey had a baby girl, they named her Salina. She was given in marriage just 20 years later, on Nov. 29, 1945 to the writer of this article. I can speak from experience this girl who is now going for a woman past middle age, has a very strong constitution, is a hard worker. On this her 50th birthday anniversary she received a birthday gift, which she will not soon forget.

I am not very sentimental when it comes to remembering things like birthday anniversaries, and forgot all about this fact, but her gift brought it to my attention. Now who was the giver of such a gift? She was convinced that she had no need of such a gift at all; but what do you give to a person that has everything? to her was given a severe earache, so that she slept only about an hour and a half the night of the anniversary.

Now the scripture, in speaking to saints says, in everything give thanks, this would include ear infections, and sleepless nights, for if you never get sick you do not appreciate good health, without aches and pains.

She claimed she would rather work very hard all day long, than to lay around all day with an earache, she loves to work, and has not much patience with those who are less enamored by it. We have received much good in our life from the hand of the Lord; shall we not also receive evil and give thanks to his name?

Another friend and relation of mine had a very close call in an accident. He also has been very active all his life, and seems to love to surround himself with all he can do, and perhaps a little bit more. His mother was my cousin, the daughter of the late John M. Peachey, his father's name was John Swarey, whose mother was the daughter of Crist Renno, my great uncle.

Now this man of whom I am writing also was named like his father, John, he now lives in Union County, is the grandfather of four children. He also has a tendency to forget the limitations which the aging process brings with it, but he

likes to work, farms tomatoes, works at the Dewart Livestock Market on Mondays, and every morning gets up early and runs a garbage disposal truck. In spite of all his business he enjoys to sit down and discuss scripture with anyone.

The accident in which he was involved includes the garbage truck, coming down over a hill at the bottom of which was a railroad crossing, and the train going down the track, he was supposed to handle this type of vehicle. What decision can man make in 20 seconds.

He had just made a pickup on top of this hill in the town of Milton, and had brakes to stop there, and started out not knowing that he had lost his brakes; for with hydraulic brakes, if a line springs a leak, and the fluid runs out, you have nothing to work the brakes; so when he went down this hill and went to apply the brakes the vehicle did not respond favorably, he geared it down as far as possible, and took the consequences. The result was that his right foot, and his companion's left foot were caught, and broken in the middle of the truck where the impact was. They were pinned in this truck for about 45 minutes.

John had his ligaments torn in the heel of his foot, and some bones broken, he also broke off the steering wheel with his abdomen, but he is of a hale and hearty disposition, and does not let a little thing like a train bother him very much, he is already up and around with crutches. Was out on the wagon picking husks off back of the picker recently. He was to the Divine Providence hospital in Williamsport a little over a week, and was fed only in intravenous, for they feared some of his digestive tract may have been injured or severed by the impact, but it seemed to be in

good shape yet. Now to get the foot healed and he'll be back at it again. You can't keep a good man down!

We had protracted meetings at our church this week, with Lloyd Hartzler from the Bank Church in Va. bringing the messages; he is an expert Mennonite bible expositor, excelled by only a few. His son Jon was along leading the singing, and Elvin Rohrer from Hanover, formerly a V.S. boy here was the moderator, and teaching the Sunday School class in the morning.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

We have had very much wet weather for the past few weeks, culminating in the week of the Bloomsburg fair. This fair is always held in the last week of September and just about always is wet at that time. Last year they had very much rain up river, and flooded the area so that they had to leave before the time was up. We have had no frost yet to speak of so that the tomato farmers had a good season. But the leaves are coloring anyways and makes for very beautiful scenery. I have not seen any of those wooly worms, so don't know just what kind of a winter we will have. But reports are there are some walnuts and acorns around, which indicates that if feed is provided for the squirrels and deer by nature, then probably we will have the ground snow covered at least.

Our weekend meetings with Lloyd Hartzler as speaker were well attended, and this past weekend he was at Rhersburg, the church where our bishop has for his home base, and many of our people went there, which made for very sparsely filled

church house on Sunday morning. Many people were late and when the singing began there were very few present.

Lloyd is a very good speaker, and well versed in the scripture, so much so that he is almost without peers, as far as Mennonite oriented speakers go.

David Martin's from here went up to Tioga County over Sunday, to the West Union Mennonite Church. He reports that there things are very un-Mennonite as far as clothes are concerned. Anything goes, you don't have to dress up at all, just come in your work clothes, just so you love the Lord, and even if any don't, they would try to help you get acquainted.

We are all of us influenced by our predecessors, and have the frame of reference which they gave us. We of course can improve on this, or degrade it, and thus we are moral agents, and fully responsible for the decisions we make in life, but we are not free, in the absolute sense of the word. Remember how we used to load hay by hand? Heap it and pitch it up on the man on the wagon? Most of those who read this do not know about that anymore. But then you had a standard, or some called it the upright in the middle of the wagon, and you had to build your load according to that standard. If you didn't you would get it lopsided and if that went far enough to one side it would slide off again. Even so the standard was set by our forbears for us, and we build according to that.

We visited with Ben Lapp, the present pastor at the Beaver Run Mennonite church, where we used to attend, when we lived at Stillwater. H has decided to lay down his pastoral charge for this time, and let that in the hands of someone else. He does not intend to quit preaching whenever called upon, but he wants to leave the pastoral responsibilities to other hands. He said it was a hard decision to make, for he was ordained for that church back in 1957, and to just lay it down is not anything easy.



He has no other plans at this time, he is beautifully situated, and is in the chicken business, and has some cattle, but does not do the farming where he lives. He plans to stay there for this time. There are many of the Old Order Amish moving into the area, and there is quite a sizeable church group there by now.

I was amused, sorry or disappointed, or all three when I read in the Budget that J. H. Miller from the Norfolk, Va. area, whose articles I usually read; he said his destination is the dog house, due to internal disagreements. There is one comforting thought, I see trucks on the road at times which say "Dads Dog Food" I wonder if that may not have been invented by a man who knew what it was to live with Rover. Perhaps we ought to announce a shower and send him some Dads Dog Food.

I was disappointed the way events turned out. I supposed he was king at least in his own home at his age. King Ahasuerus did not go to the dog house when his Queen refused to obey; I would suggest they have that book of Esther for devotions in the near future.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Oct. 11--Very wet weather at present, very much rain, and an exceedingly heavy rain last Saturday. I had planned to go to Turbotville, and got as far as Washingtonville, and got into water. Other cars were going through, and I followed, but the water got too deep for them, we all had to back up, the water was coming up over the floor. And to back down the road and not able to see anything except a strong current of water, made you feel like you were going sideways. You could not see the road at all, but had to go by the telephone poles, and just hope you would not end up in the ditch.

Where we live is always much water even in dry weather there is a never failing spring about 15 feet from the house, and when its wet then the water seems to spring up in many places. If it's true that we only get a certain amount of rainfall annually, then we should not have too much snow the coming winter. But I have seen where the 100 year Almanac predicts a hard winter for the east coast.

While the immediate news that can be profitably reported is not too abundant, I ran across a very interesting word that should be elaborated on. The word is Chiliasm, it comes from the Greek word Chiliad, which means thousand. We perhaps are better acquainted with the Latin word for thousand, that of Mill, and Annum added to the end of it we get the term Millenium, which is the same as Chiliasm, except one is Greek and the other is Latin.

Of the 40 known church fathers, not counting those who were schismatics, there were eight of them that believed in the literal thousand year reign. It began very early in church life even in the 2nd century of the church. Papias quoted from Baruch, which is a book of the Apocrophy, of fruitful earth during this reign of Christ. Justin Martyr, and Irenaeus, Tertullian, Commodianus, Victorinus, and Lactantius, were the other early church fathers who believed in

Chiliasm, and taught it to be literal.

But by the 4th century the view was almost dead, and remained so for a thousand years, hence all the reformers, which were in the 15th century, rejected the idea. All our Ana-Baptist forefathers were opposed to the teaching. Menno Simmons explicitly rejected the idea, saying that anyone who believes in the literal reign of Christ is not a Mennonite.

Now Melchior Hoffmann was an exception to the rule, for he believed and taught it although he was a leading Ana-Baptist figure. There were also some who went to extremes with it, for instance the Munsterites were following a leader who claimed he was called to sit upon the throne of David and begin the reign, not at Jerusalem, but in Munster, Germany. They invaded the city and took it by force, but it did not last long. Most of those who were in the uprising, were killed, and Menno Simmons brother was one of them, this is what helped to turn him from the doctrine.

Even in our century, it has never been an officially accepted doctrine of the Mennonite church. The Mennonite Brethren, of which there are many in the west, have officially accepted the doctrine as scriptural.

But here in the east it was strongly opposed, and it was a test of membership in many of the more stricter sects.

In the 1890's a number of young Mennonite men studied at the Moody school of the bible in Chicago, which then became teachers in their own church, and taught Chiliasm. Among them were A. D. Wenger (1867 - 1935) and Aaron Loucks (1864 - 1945), E. J. Berky (1874 - 1954), S. F. Coffman born 1872 and A. I. Yoder (1866 - 1932).

A. D. Wenger was a pioneer in introducing the subject unofficially into the Main Mennonite Church for in Dec. 27, 1897 to Jan. 7, 1898 he held a bible conference at Johnstown, Pa. and spoke on unfulfilled prophecies. Although S. F. Coffman reporting about it later said he did it with restraint and charity, which is a trait that is sadly lacking in myself.

JRR.



## DANVILLE, PA.

Oct. 17--Another of my acquaintances has now gone the way of all flesh. A venerable man, older than my father, a living tie that I had with history past. John K. Yoder, a farmer, and store keeper, in the past. He was just a young boy back in 1898 when the Locust Grove church had its beginning. I am of course now speaking of Belleville history. He taught Sunday School at the Locust Grove church for a long time; He taught the elderly. Needless to say he was well versed in the scripture, having studied and exposed it for many years.

His father was Pete Yoder, and Pete was an uncle of Professor Joseph W. Yoder, whose name is quite well known because he wrote four books concerning the Amish in Belleville. Rosanna of the Amish being the first one and the most popular. My father often told stories of those boys for he went to school with them there at the Mechanics school house. Brown Nale was the teacher. They used to carry water to the school to drink, and the boys thought it a privilege to go for water. But they had to use the right english before they were allowed to go. They could not say "can I go for water, but may I go". one of them got mixed up, and said "can I and may go for water".

I well remember when John Yoder had a little store, the one top of the Belleville hill, when I was only very small. I remember we butchered hogs one day, and dad took the meat down to Yoder's store in the evening after dark, and I was allowed to go along, which was quite an adventure for me. I must not have been more than 4 years old, for I remember I was very little at the time.

John told me during the depression in the early thirties, the people were very poor, they just had no money, to buy even the necessities of life. He did what he could, gave them credit for what they needed, but he had to pay for the things he got. His money got all so he had to buy on credit too, but hard times did not let up soon enough, for John had to sell out

to get money to pay his debtors. Then as time went on things got better again, but some of those whom he helped during the time of need forgot to pay back their old bills, and it had gone too long past due, I suppose they were ashamed to mention it again and it never got paid, but John had not forgotten.

John's funeral is to be held today at the Belleville Mennonite church. After his first wife died, John remarried to a Hartzler girl and transferred his membership.

There is something remarkable, or was it coincidental, the day of John K. Yoder's funeral his brother Sam M. Yoder died too. I knew Sam very well too for he had the White Hall store during most of my boyhood days, and many a trip did I make to the store by foot.

There is a similarity in the death of these two brothers, how one died on the day of his brother's funeral, for that happened just 39 years ago with their father and uncle.

Jonas D. Miller was a famous preacher in the Locust Grove church. Now I never knew him personally, but it has been told me by those who did that he was a powerful persuader in the pulpit. He was born in 1864, and ordained to the ministry at Locust Grove in 1904, and was stricken while preaching in 1937. He called for air, and they carried him outside where he soon died, on Feb. 21, 1937. This Jonas Yoder was a brother to Pete Yoder, who was John K. Yoder's father, and Pete like wise died on the day of his brothers Jonas' funeral.

A brother to these two men John and Sam died just recently, but he was the younger of the two, his name was Elmer, he likewise had the store at White Hall at one time.

They were all about the same type of men, they spoke alike, and had very much the same characteristics. And they all died very close together. There are still two of their sisters alive at this time. The one is the widow of John Zook, and the other the widow of Cletus King.

Death is a strange thing which none of us have ever experienced, and because of our peculiar creation none of us are

planning to die. Only with our conscious mind are we planning on it, because we know others are doing it, and scripture says it, but subconsciously we are not planning on it, that's why scripture says men of this world have the inward thought that they shall live forever. Because in man's original creation he was made to live upon this earth perpetually.

And we grow old so fast, for seems like a few years ago when I went to school I had the idea that teachers were some great thing, the fact of life was just beyond the power of my imagination. Now I am the father of a school teacher, she teaches in an old fashioned one room school house, for the Old Order Mennonites.

She has 26 pupils, and they have very human tendencies, that is they have a serious case of inertia. This means they will not move or do anything unless caused to do it by some overpowering force. She had the trouble with the fact of uninterest, some of them could study, and improve their grades but they would not, and she said nagging wears out and becomes meaningless, for too many threats that are not carried out, are so many untruths, and people who have the habit of telling lies are seldom believed even if they do tell the truth.

She developed the idea of some kind of a card up front where all could observe, as to how their efforts were being rated, and too many black marks resulted in punishment.

It is interesting and a bit nostalgic to have her come home and relate incidents that take place at school, for I also went to school one day, and to think that my teacher who was just a young girl too went home to her father and told him all about it. Conditions do not change that much, just our attitudes and reactions change.

JRR.

## DANVILLE, PA.

Oct. 25--The wet weather is still with us, and we may as well like it, this makes it easier to endure.

I spoke to my friend Noah I. Yoder who moved from Union Co. here up to Minnesota, and he says they have had hardly any rain since we were there to visit them in the latter part of July. We would gladly share some with them, if we could, for I think we could do with the half of what we now have. But then why bother yourself about the world's unpounderables?

But Noah says in spite of the dry weather he has been out plowing and I know if it did not rain here more than 3½ inches all summer we would not be plowing. The soil is different there, and drought does not interfere so much with success. He still claims to have had 75 bushels of shelled corn to the acre. And I well remember when such a crop was almost unknown even in normal weather. 100 bushels of ears was usually called good. But that was open pollinated corn, and that has the trace minerals in it, and you don't need to feed as much to get good results, you will not get the production, in quantity, but the quality will be higher, and you will live longer.

Noah claims he still has trouble with his heart at times, but he knows what he does wrong, and tries to prevent doing that which harms him, but he has trouble to abide with what he knows he can do. For when he feels good, his sub-conscience mind forgets that he has serious limitations, and he tears into it; then at those times he has to suffer for it. I am afraid one of these times, will be one too many.

He says he feels so good at times he thinks he could wrestle.

His Bishop Noah Miller is now planning to move out there, from here perhaps that will help to keep him within the confines of his ability.

This moving of a bishop away from his local parish will necessitate the ordaining of one to take his place here in Union Co. Plans were in the making to ordain a deacon for here first.

Both men moved into this area from Catlett, Va. They are formerly from the Dover, Delaware area. And Noah Yoder was raised in the Somerset, Pa. area. His brother Iddo is still here, but has sold his restaurant business, and is setting himself on the shelf. Age demands retirement.

I was looking for some signs of Mennonites along route 12 on a recent trip to New York, but did not see any, and I was in a hurry to get down to Utica, before dark, as I don't care to drive on strange roads after dark, when it is rainy and dreary. My reflexes are not so swift as they one time were.

I stopped at a small livestock auction at Governour, and sat in among the farmers for a little while, watching them buying cows. I was reminded how I used to be one of those farmers going to the auction to look for cows that were not too expensive. It seemed the cows did not bring very much more than they did 30 years ago, but the money is much easier to come by then it was back there for there is more of it.

For the Government just keeps printing more and more, and that is what causes inflation.

They sold a few dairy cows for from 2 and 300 dollars, and the milk brings twice the money it did 30 years ago. Now these cows were not anything fancy, but I believe they would have produced some milk, of course not anything like 80 lbs. per day, and one of my friends get rid of his cows if they do not average around 50 lbs. per day per lactation. I was thinking in terms of the days when I was farming, when a 30 pound herd average was good enough.

Things have not changed much in 30 years, the sellers still smoke their cigars, and swing their canes, and cry out that they are not getting enough for what they are offering; calling attention to the special virtues of the cows they are offering, and the farmers looking them over carefully, not trusting the word of the dealers at all.

On the way home, I had 19 tons of glass jars on the trailer. They were stacked on a pallet tier upon tier, and cardboard between each tier. On each pallet there were over 12,000 glass jars, which Baker-Beechnut uses to put in baby food for the consumer. There were 18 pallets, and stacked over six feet high.

I thought at times the trailer was pulling a little hard, but could not determine the cause of it, assumed perhaps there is poor fuel going through the motor, which reduces power. It was very rainy, and I could not see back clearly, so I did not detect what was going on behind.

A man in a pick-up truck passed me and stopped and said there is something seriously wrong back here, for there is fire burning. The back wheel bearing was burned completely out, and the axle, and brake drum were extremely hot and the grease was burning. There was water around to cool it down, so we got it out, but had to reload all those jars on an other trailer, which we did the next day. This is time consuming, but very interesting, patience is a beautiful virtue, possess it if you can.

John Renno

## DANVILLE, PA.

Oct. 31--Here it is the last day of October already and we have not had any of October's bright blue weather to speak of, it was mostly clouds wind and rain. The coldest was down to 17. And now normally Indian summer is next in line. Hopefully it will be late getting wintered up and spring will again be here without difficulty.

Politics is a very notable issue at present, and by the time you read this you will probably know who the next president will be. It is interesting to watch the procedures. They had a very embarrassing situation in Philadelphia, Pa. recently, while Carter was still on the campaign trail, there was supposed to be a dinner in his honor. Now the Mayor is also a Democrat, and logically all Democrats should agree, being on the same party, but politics is like religion, a very personal thing, and if you don't agree with me, you are wrong, for I am right.

The way it was with this dinner, Rizzo the mayor did not plan to attend because some very liberal Democrats were going to be there, and he did not want to be identified with men of such calibre. He did agree to meet Carter at the airport, but that was all. Some of Rizzo colleagues, are claimed to have said Carter and his associates are just a group of snot nosed boys from Atlanta. The German rendering of that fits much better, which would be rotz naase.

It is also interesting that there were ten men running on the Presidential ticket, and I would suppose regardless of who gets elected, it will just go according to the Divine decrees.

The ultra Conservative group with Miller on the ticket for president says this is the time, we must get our man in this year or it will be too late, we will be sold down the drain to Communism. I am not so sure but what we have been there for some time. Do we not have tax-

ation without representation? Our taxes are very high and on a one way street. What we have and can call our own is what we can raise in our gardens and eat it.

But if we have enough to eat, and clothes to wear, and a place to stay we should be satisfied for the wealthy man with multi-millions, can not do anything more with his wealth, he can not eat more than so much, and even if he has fine clothes and things, can they produce happiness?

Many people seem to express concern lest Communism take over America. Communism is a very interesting study. The community of goods was practiced in biblical times and before, and is still practiced in some areas, and there is nothing wrong with that.

But Communism as a political ruling party, was begun about 150 years ago, so as to eliminate anyone from having too much while another seemingly does not have enough. It was very ruthless in its beginning, and much blood was shed.

The Communist ideal may be good enough, but how to achieve that goal is absurd. Their slogan is world peace by world law; and this is not only a Russian slogan but is quite popular everywhere. On our dollar bills is printed the inscription. Epluribus Unum, which is the Latin word meaning, one of many. To some this meant one government, of the first 13 colonies of America, but it has now a far greater significance, since the shrinking of our world by modern means of travel. It means that if there is only one world government, one economic system, and one religion, then there will be no war, for there will be no one to cause any more variance. But during this present age of nearly 2000 years which some would call the peaceful kingdom of Christ, and when men have beat their swords into plowshares, there has been only about 8 years that there was no war some place on the earth.

But war has been greatly used of God to spread the gospel, it keeps men from huddling together and keeping it to themselves. It is like the eagle when her young do not want to try their wings, the mother tears the nest apart, and pushes the eaglets over the precipice, and makes them fly. So trumouls and strife, makes men go their way, and gives them no certain dwelling place, and they proclaim their gospel. Wars and persecutions is what it takes to spread the truth of God, much more than mission conferences. Where no persecution exists there is very little truth.

I stopped by my friend Sim Stoltzfus one day in my travels, and he was sitting in his office holding on to his Chihuahua dog. His wife has asthma, and the presence of a Chihuahua breed of dogs is supposed to alleviate the sufferings of asthma patients. Sim says this may be a bit superstitious, but it works, and when you want relief, its when you get it that you are satisfied, and ask few questions. The dog hair and the odor it puts out is good to clear the breathing passages.

Sim is also a great student of prophecy, and he gave me a phamplet, that claimed the buzzards are greatly increasing in the land of Israel. It is claimed that they usually just lay one egg to reproduce their kind, they now lay four eggs. The reason for this is supposed to get ready for the invasion of Russia on the land of Palestine, predicted in the bible for the latter days; when their armies will be consumed by the vultures.

John Renno



**DANVILLE, PA.**

Nov. 7--The hard fought election is finally over, and the man who has risen out of obscurity has been chosen, but only by a very narrow margin. I saw the news conference he had with many newsmen who asked him questions, and winning the election has worked on Mr. Carter, for he is not near as sure of himself, that he can handle the situation, as he was when him and Ford had those debates. Then he seemed to have all the answers, but now he is not so sure, and he seems to be saying, we will play it by ear, we will cross those bridges when we get there.

Now I have been accused by one of my readers, to have favored Jimmy Carter's election, and he even understood me to be in favor of voting. But he was just reading his own understanding into what I wrote.

Personally I was hoping Ford would win the election, and thought he would because he came up tremendously in public esteem in the last few months. Also I felt that even though Ford did not do very much, but argued with Congress, at least he did not make any tragic mistakes.

The ministers few days of instruction that is held annually at Numidia, was again just held this past week. I was able to partake part of a day, and heard five messages. It was much better attended than when it was first held. The very first such meeting was only sparsely attended because then, 10 years ago there were not near as many of this persuasion as there are now. Many preachers are ordained now that were just teenagers back then. This accounts for the better attendances.

I still feel out of place at such a place, being surrounded on every side by preachers, but the invitation is for all those who care to come and hear, and I cared to come. The instructions are not leveled at the public, but at the minister, how to preach,

how to conduct himself in the pulpit, and how to deliver his message etc. There are many things you can apply to your self and gain an advantage if you listen and are looking for improvement in your own conduct. And to find the nich in life that was prepared for you.

I even had the privilege of sitting at a dinner table for four people along with some of the preachers, and they were both readers of the Budget. This is where the misunderstanding came out about my attitude of Carter.

Although I may fail in my objective at times, I cannot truthfully be accused of treason. And very often just because I may report some news, or philosophy I am thought to be in harmony with the idea.

We are very slowly getting our new garage under way, the weather not being conducive to working outside at times.

On last Monday I stayed at home and helped carry block and mix mud. I became very tired, and when Timothy my youngest son came home from school I gave him the shovel, and I went in to rest. I was just coming out the door when I saw what could have been a very serious accident.

We had two scaffold jacks, and the planks were not quite long enough to reach the other jack. They did reach each other, and I assumed this to be dangerous if someone accidentally stepped in the middle, but Marlin Rasbach, said we will put a ballast at the end this will keep the middle from going down.

This is what we did and everything was well, until Marlin got to the last few blocks on that side, he unthinkingly took the blocks we had laid there for the ballast to hold the end down. All was still well until he was finished and began walking over to the middle, just as he had been doing so often before, but now the ballast was gone, and guess what happened.

This would not have been so bad for Marlin just went down about five feet and landed on his feet. But Timothy was standing over one the end, where Marlin's weight had the leverage. It tossed Timothy up in the air, and threw his feet out from under him, and he went head first toward the ground; it just looked like a diver going for a dive into the water. But he landed on his shoulder, and by the time I got out he was up on his feet again. It could have been bad but it wasn't.

John Renno

**DANVILLE, PA.**

Nov. 14--I have about given up on fair weather for this year any more. October's bright blue weather did not come, instead it was cloudy, windy, rainy and cold. About the coldest fall on record, and we might as well forget about Indian summer too, for according to what I can gather we may as well buckle down for a long, hard, cold winter. Possibly there will not be an over abundance of snow, for we got that as rain in the fall. The warm air from the gulf is not coming our way this year, that is why we should look for a cold winter.

Our pastor, Walter Newswanger had the enviable, obligation of living in Florida on duty. The regular pastor there, Herbert Ebersol, at Pensetola, has gone to Guatemala, for a short term of mission service, and relieve some of the workers there so they can come home, and recuperate. Walter was asked to go there and stay for six months. I understand, but he declined for reasons known to himself. He has only planned to stay for one month. This leaves us with only two home preachers. Oliver Keener formerly from Virginia, and he is getting old, and does not take on more than he thinks he can do. And Ed Ker our deacon, but he does not preach, at this time. Usually he preaches every fifth Sunday.

Today Aaron Shank our bishop was up and spoke to us.

There are very many young people in our assembly, they go to the basement on Sunday mornings and have their classes there, and they must needs walk up front, for our basement can only be entered by a trap door up front beside the pulpit, unless you go outside. For the building was erected by the Presbyterians in 1858, and at that time there were not near as many people, and they did not use basements for Sunday school classes. Modern church have modern facilities too accomodate modern man.

But the amount of young people we have certainly means that if no unforeseen development takes place we will certainly have very many people in the next decade.

We are in the process of erecting a new building, but it is not much larger than our present building, only more commodious.

There are two marriages in the offing here too. Kenneth Mast, the son of Fred Masts who moved in here from Illinois is to be married before you even read this, and reports are that James Mack, the son of Andrew Mack, who moved here from the Perkiomen area, will get married too.

This Mack is related to the

originator of the Mack trucks.

Kenneth Mast is leaving the area, has left it, for he works with Ira Mast, the son of Levi from here, in the overhead door business; so that will take care of some over population in this area. Incidentally this Kenneth Mast is the maternal grandson of the venerable Amish preacher from Arthur, Illinois, Obed Deiner. Mrs. Deiner had a stroke some time ago, and has been in a comma ever since, she is kept alive by a tube down her throat. Since this, three of her grandson have married.

David Martins are on an extended trip out through the west, she has a sister living in Mississippi, and while they lived at Venna, Ill. he worked for a certain man to whom he has gotten attached emotionally, and this man now lives in Phoenix, Ariz. Daves intend to spend some time renewing acquaintances, and if I know Dave there will be some new ones made during this trip too. They should be home by the time you see this.

Eddie Gehmans were at our house for dinner last Saturday. He was born in 1901, and 75 years old, yet a very energetic man, with a good memory and good health, can eat as much as he wants to, and does not weigh more than he did when he got married. His wife claims there is some unfairness about the situation.

Visiting with the elderly is a good paying occupation, especially if they are those of like precious faith. Eddie seems to have his affection set on things above.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

Nov. 20-For a change of pace we attended a religious service of the Old Order Mennonites, better known as the Wenger Mennonites. Named after Joe Wenger since 1926 when they withdrew from the Jonas Martin People, now better known as the Horning Mennonites, so named after Moses Horning; the separation induced by the automobile.

Our daughter teaches at one of their schools (they have 5 in Union Co.), and she boards at Paul Martins, a very young couple, and they attend at these plain Mennonites, hence we got our foot in the door, for we were there by invitation and dinner at their house.

As I was reared Old Order Amish, and had much to compare, as to the order of the service. These of course have a church house. This building is almost square, 56 x 60, the back end of the building is elevated, and the benches across the building with an isle in the middle half way to the front, then the seats are lengthwise with the building, the men on one side, and the women on the other. And they have the singers table in the middle, where the promenant men of the church sit on a backless bench on each side of the table, and lead out in the singing.

The preachers go to the anti-room before the service begins, instead of after it starts as the Amish do. The singers then announce the first song, and sing it, then the preachers sit up front, and one of them announces a song, and reads one phrase at a time, then the congregations sing it. All the singing after the first song all are read by one of the preachers, then the congregation sings that phrase, until the song is sung. They do not necessarily sing the Lobe-Song every Sunday.

The preachers table is smaller and set cross wise from the singers table, at the end thereof. No pulpit is used at this building.

The message the preacher brings is just the same that I

have always heard from my childhood. He greets them and wishes them blessings, and expresses his thankfulness to God for personal and congregational blessings. And warns them that we all have a living soul that can never more be brought to extinction, we must always be somewhere forever, and there is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun. And heaven being the place where he wishes to be, and directs them on how to prepare for to arrive. First of all we can do no good of ourselves, we must first take Jesus, then live a righteous life as good as we can, being separated from the rest of the world, by dress and conduct, and denounce our own fleshly desires, and keep up the good works lest they all be forgotten, and hope for the grace until a faithful end. There is some difference in their costume of preaching, when they are finished they say so and quit, they do not have a long treatise of being remembered in prayer, being likewise minded etc. Nothing is said of that, not even when they give their testimony after the message.

We stopped in to see my cousin John Swarey who has had that accident with his truck hitting a train. He has had skin grafted on the back of the top of his ankle, where there is no flesh, for skin will not heal on over the tendon for that is always moving, so they had to cut a piece off his leg and graft it in. John is well and in good health, so much so that he finds it very difficult to submit to a life of ease, for he claims the work will not get done unless he does it.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

Nov. 28--We have planned a planned revival service at the Rush church, and by the time you see this it will be history mostly. The speaker is supposed to be Harry Erb, from Lebanon, Pa. Harry is an assistant pastor at the Elm Street congregation at Elm Street, in Lebanon, Pa. He was born in 1946, and ordained in 1971.

Now expressly speaking the term revival, or Erweckung, in German and Reveil in French is relatively a new thing in Christendom. And really belongs in the old dispensation, to a people who are under a covenant relation to God. But since we have been taught by the church ever since we knew anything, and long before, we were initiated into the church organization by making a vow and upon that confession were baptised. In those churches where they baptise infants, the children had god parents, who vouched and answered for the children and this supposedly put them under a covenant relation. They promised to deny themselves, and obey God as long as they lived. Of course in such a relation as long as both parties keep their end of the bargain all is well, but if one party forgets, then the covenant is void, and the other party excused to keep their part. We may be sure God will always keep his part, but if we fail, then we loose his keeping covenant over us; if it is by covenant that we are saved.

Hence we need a revival all of us who are under covenant relation. If we are saved because of our vows, and what we do, have done or will do, then a revival is quite necessary, to take inventory, or check up and see if we are keeping our part of the covenant, if not or we find ourselves slipping then its time to make another commitment.

If we are saved by grace alone, then there is within us a well of water springing up unto eternal life, and it impossible to stop up a source of water, in the natural, even so in the spiritual.

Revivals began in the 18th century and continued into the 20th. In the early part of America there were only a handful of the people that were affiliated to any church. As late as 1760 only 8 to 10 per cent belonged to church, and in the

Middle Atlantic states that figure was down to 5 or 6 percent. Thus only a powerful emotional personal religion had any chance to convert America.

The Methodists and Baptists were the first beneficiaries of this early revival movement. The Mennonites were averse to it and it was counted as emotional, and disturbing, and it was even as stated, for many Mennonites went to these meetings and had to leave their church for it caused a social infraction.

The first great awakening began in 1720 with Theodore Frelinghuysen; in New Jersey, a Pietistic reformed immigrant preacher, later followed up by Presbyterians in the same area. But it was in 1734 to 36 when the revival broke out in full bloom when the Calvinistic preacher Jonathan Edwards preached at Northampton, Mass., when 60,000 members were swept into the existing churches. George Whitfield, another Calvinistic preacher, made several trips to America from England, and introduced English Methodism, thus unifying many churches.

The Moravian brethren in 1738 brought revival to those of German descent, called the religion of the common man.

The Mennonites resisted and rejected all these movements until late in the 19th century. In 1800 a man by the name of Otterbein, and Martin Boehm, who was formerly a Mennonite bishop got the spirit of revival who along with Jacob Albright introduced it into eastern Pa. And many Mennonites joined up, but officially it was taboo. Martin Boehm was excommunicated, but that did not stop his work.

The Church of God, of the Winebrenner persuasionas begun in Harrisburg, Pa. in 1836, and many Mennonites joined this group.



John Funk, who lived from 1835 to 1930 was instrumental in introducing the value of revival into the Mennonite church, for he was one. He got into close contact with D. L. Moody in 1860 in the Chicago mission work. And the first Mennonite revival meeting ever held was in 1872, by Funk, and Daniel Brenneman. J. S. Coffman was a great promoter of it too and by 1900 the Mennonite church was pretty well won over to the idea. In Canada, Daniel Brenneman and Solomon Eby adopted this emotional way, and thus began the Mennonite Brethren in Christ up there.

Thus the system was first introduced into the Mennonite church from those outside that circle, but imposed upon, and until finally they decided, if you will pardon the vernacular (if you can't lick 'em join 'em). And now it is quite customary for every church to have a series of revival efforts at least once a year. It has become a status symbol, and anyone who is opposed to revival efforts, his religious experience is open to question. Those who really want to be spiritual have it twice a year, in the spring and fall. The Holdeman people have it only once a year, when they have communion services. They have it first to get the people cleaned up, and get ready to commune. Now the Mennonites use the method to gain converts into the fold. It is quite acceptable, and many do not know that it is something new in Christendom.

J.R.R.

#### DANVILLE, PA.

Dec. 19--Our scheduled revival meetings have been a success, in that the desired results have been achieved. Six young people have stood and made public their desire to have their sins forgiven and to be baptised into the body of the Eastern church.

They were Rodger Mast, age 12, the son of Fred Masts who moved in here from Illinois. Daniel and Regina Freed, age 13 and 11 respectively, they are the children of Leroy Freeds who moved in here from the Souderton, Pa. area. David Lehman age 14, the son of David Lehman, who moved into this area from Union Co. but they formerly were from Lancaster Co. Ruth Mack age 14, the daughter of Andrew Macks, who came here from the Royersford area. And Donald Rovenolt age 13, the son of Don Rovenolts, they can almost be counted as native people although they come 20 miles to church, from the north end of Northumberland Co.

Our church is located in Northumberland Co. but it is about 50 miles long, and Montour Co. has been taken out of it, according to looks. As stated last week I had an infected part of my body, and the doctor had given me orders to stay in bed, and I did the first few days, but I felt better, and so went to the Tractor Parts store at Jersytown, a little each day, I could relax there too, when I got tired, and the customers were not too plentiful.

I had previously promised to be there this past week because the owners and originators of it. Harold Hurst and David Martin had gone out to headquarters at Des Moines, Iowa, which they do every year to get brushed up on their operations and to air grievances if any. (Incidentally I heard by way of the grape vine that the company received less complaints from this store than any others).

There were three owners at the beginning of it, but one bowed out and is going in business for himself, having bought a building near Milton, Pa. that was erected by an elderly man, who never got it finished completely, and is designed for a parts store and a restaurant, which is the intention of this man. Don Rovenolt is the name, he is taking his twin brother Ronald into partnership with him, and they have an American Parts frenchise. This company bought Harrisburg Auto Parts previously, and have franchise store in parts of this country, they major in parts for automobiles; so they business will not compete with the tractor parts store very much.

It was back in 1935 when Jack Brody a Jew who was poverty stricken bought an old used tractor, and took it all apart, and saved the parts of it that were yet useful. He sold these parts to others who could make use of them, and with the money bought more used tractors, and did the same thing. By now there are many disassembled farm tractors owned by Central Tractor, in more than one place in the country, and if your farm tractor breaks a housing or some other large component, that would be very expensive to buy new the chances are very good, if you go to a Central Tractor store you can buy the part used. They may not have it on hand, for they do not stock many large parts, but if its in Des-Moines, Iowa it does not take long to get it, for their trucks make deliveries every week, here in the east. For by now just 40 years later the business has mushroomed in a multi-million dollar business annually. They have stores in many parts of the nation.

They do not only sell used parts but new parts also, and many other things that farmers need, as they cater mostly to the farmer. And you can save money by buying at such stores for they buy in enormus quantities, to get lowest prices, just like Sears Roebuck, and Montgomery Wards do, but Central concentrates on farm commodities.

When the boys came back from their trip they were a bit perturbed; for they have a franchise with Central Tractor which they had to pay for, and it is a guarantee, that Central will not sell a franchise to anyone else within 30 miles of any of an existing franchise.

But sometimes it is unprofitable to go by a previous contract and so what is the most profitable takes the precedence.

There is a large store building about 20 miles from the Jersytown store, where the W.T. Grant had their business at Shamokin Dam. And this company went under, so that leaves the building empty, and

the realtor who had the charge of the rentals gave them such a good price that to turn it down would have been unprofitable for Central.

Furthermore the business is here, and their stores are popular, so they have decided to disregard their contract about distance, and put in a company operated store at Shamokin Dam, Pa. This is about halfway between Wayne Kauffmans store at Mt. Pleasant Mills, and the Jersytown store. This will indeed put the franchise stores on their toes to get business and remain profitable. For a company store has cut out the profit of the middle man, hence can sell at a still lower cost.

But a company store cannot give the personal service that a franchise can, for a man who is paid to do a job will not take the business to heart like the owner will, and the personal service will be impaired.

John Renno

#### DANVILLE, PA.

Dec. 26—There seems to be an overabundance of sickness around. Yet we have not had much cold and damp weather; it was very cold, but not too damp, which is a harbinger of sickness, why then is there so much sickness. Surely most of us have drank of McWrath's tea.

We say we are not under law, but under grace, which is true in one sense, but we had better take a close look at the laws that were given to Israel concerning their diet, for our bodies are so constructed to take care of themselves. Did you ever see a man made machine that never needs to be cleaned on the inside. It is possible for a man to live for 80 years, and never stop for an overhaul, or a cleansing internally.

But when we get sick, unless we have an outside interference, such as a wound etc. we have violated the laws of physical science. These laws are for our physical well being, but we cannot observe them unless we know them, and we cannot know them unless we study.

All of life upon the earth is derived from the sun. Plant life takes in this energy, and we eat it and it becomes a part of our life. In the case of meat, the cattle eat the vegetation and we eat their meat so get our energy second handed. Now if we get the proper amount of the five basic components, and take reasonable care of our body we will not get sick.

There are five things we are made up of, they are carbohydrates, fats, protein, vitamins and minerals. We must get these in their proper proportion to each other and every cook ought to know just what meals to prepare, if she wants a healthy household.

Now Israel was commanded not to eat of any animal that divides the hoof but does not chew the cud. Therefore they do not eat pork, & science tells us that it is not good for us, for it is too potent. Pork digests in about three hours, and gives us lots of energy, but this is too fast

for our systems, its like putting aviation gasoline into an old model T Ford, its too high powered, sure it runs good, and has lots of power, but will soon burn itself out. Beef does not digest nearly as fast, therefore gives us the energy on a slower basis.

There are those who, like to take tobacco into their mouth, and set fire to the one end and draw the smoke to themselves. Some claim it is morally wrong to do this, which I do not know, scripture does not say. But the smoke does destroy many of the vitamins which the body needs.

I am not a licensed practitioner and cannot speak with authority. But have found out a few things by trial and error. The one thing is that if you get sufficient fiber in your diet, and drink enough water which is one ounce for every two pounds of body weight. You do not have to worry too much about the other basic elements. The body is able to overcome a lot of malpractices which you engage in if you get your system to move fast enough. The fiber makes the food more bulky and the water keeps it flushed out. When you eat apples, do not peel them, eat the peelings and the core and everything, those seeds are the real life of the apple, and you eat to live therefore be sure you eat life.

You can even chew up the stem and eat it, and all the huskes around the seeds, they do not digest and are all fiber. Contrary to what we have been told, that you are liable to block your appendix with too much seed etc. It works the opposite way, if you do not get enough fiber your bowels get sluggish, and they stay around too long they begin to decompose, this is what causes appendicitis.

When you eat oranges chew up those seeds too and swallow them, they are life and fiber. Fruit that has a natural division between the peeling and the meat these peelings you need not eat, but such as you must take a knife to as apples and potatoes, the peelings should never be thrown out.

If you must eat so many deserts, and custards, and ice-cream, just see that you get enough fiber to get it out of your system, and it will not harm you near as much. But it would be much better not to eat such things, and if you do, do it with moderation.

Boiling water is death to most organic life, therefore you should eat as many things raw as you can. There is waterless cookware on the market and while the salesmen are having a real heyday, and not all their claims are true, yet to just heat the foods you do not eat raw is much better than cooking them. Most of the meat we eat is cooked therefore it has little value. Roast meat is of better quality.

When you are young and lots of extra energy, you can do about what you please concerning your diet, but when you get older, and your system begins to break down, then you wonder whats wrong, its just a long overdrawn bank account that says, pay up or sell out. And many are forced to sell out and go to their graves long before they would normally have to. If you have a cold you can't get rid of, you are doing something wrong, and is a sign that your interest is overdue.

John Renno