

DANVILLE, PA.

Jan. 2--According to the Gregorian Calendar we now begin another year. But there are many other calendars too. The Jewish New Year begins in the fall of the year. And Judaism and Christianity are the only two religions that were ever begun by the approval of Divinity. The moon changes every $29\frac{1}{2}$ days, and twelve such months would make 354 days in a year, almost 11 days shorter than the solar year. Even our present calendar if we did not have an extra day every four years we would finally have warm winters and cold summers, for the solar year is $\frac{1}{4}$ day longer, to be exact it is 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds longer than 365 days, which is almost $\frac{1}{4}$ of a day, but not quite.

So leap year does not take care of all the discrepancy, thus in every century that cannot be divided by 4 the leap year must be dropped. This is only speaking of the Gregorian calendar, which was begun 50 years later than Ana-Baptism theology began. In 1582 a catholic Pope named Gregory the 13th decided to correct the calendar so that it more nearly co-incides with the sun, and he it was who made leap year.

The Julian calendar began in 46 B.C. by Julius Caesar, but this did not properly work with the sun, so it was abandoned in time. Our calendar is not perfect either for we have 26.3 seconds left over every year. Great Britain did not change to the Gregorian calendar until 1752. Russia changed over in 1918, and Turkey did not change until 1928.

Islam also has a calendar that began with Mohammed's flight from Mecca to Medina. This Mohammed was a poor man born in the year 570, a man who could not read but married a rich widow 15 years older than himself. She bore him six children, but they all died in infancy except one which he called Fatima. He had an adopted son whom he called Ali. In his 40th year he received what he called a vision from the

angel Gabriel who announced him a prophet of God. Hence when he publicly announced himself as a prophet of the God of heaven, and attacked idolatry, he was hated and had to flee for his life. He was born at Mecca, and fled to Medina, and from this beginning, the religion of Islam begins its calendar. This calendar begins according to our calendar in the year of 632 A.D. But this calendar has only 354 days and as a result moves backward, and in $32\frac{1}{2}$ years it makes a complete revolution. For it does not stay with the sun.

The Babylonians had a calendar which was a compromise between the lunar and solar year, and at times would have an extra month to stay even with the sun.

But the Egyptians were the first people to have a predominately solar calendar. This began in the year 4236 B.C. They arrived at their conclusions according to the stars, and the rising and overflowing of the Nile river which it did annually, and watered the whole land, making a very good land for agriculture. This is why when there was a famine in other lands the inhabitants went down to Egypt. For even if they had a dry year, the river was not far away. So we say we began a new year but it is only according to what the Catholic Pope with his aids decided, hence we call it the Gregorian Calendar and I suppose its as good as any, although not perfect for we have 26.3 seconds left over every year.

Something has been brought to my attention that I'm doing wrong in my articles. I have made mention of the fact that I am not a member any more at the Rush Mennonite church, but assumed it was just a technicality, as we still attend services regularly, and I truly am identified with this congregation physically, therefore make announcements accordingly in the Budget. And I do not want to constantly remind my readers of the fact of a technical diversion. Furthermore I never had a legal document to prove anything and

any church service is a public service, everyone is invited. I love religious freedom, and think everyone should be able to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience.

Aden Gingerich is presently over at the Numidia Bible school holding revival services. Aden is a Budget scribe from Farmington, N.M. This bible school began in 1967 so this is the tenth year of continuous operation. But there are so many new faces, for when it first began those who now attend were only children.

They have facilities for about 100 students, plus the staff; and are almost filled. They have added more space to it this year. More class room and a little more dormitory space. It seems to be going real well according to what you can see by observation.

There were four Catholic girls in attendance for a week, they were curious as to just what was doing on. Anyone can attend that wants to, but they must meet the dress standard.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Jan. 9--Birthday greetings to my brother David, living in Juniata Co. Its not very long at all since we were boys at home, and then you married that Lancaster Co. girl and moved on the neighboring farm. Good were the bye gone days, but these in which we live are good too if one can learn to live with himself, for what he is.

Another neighbor and friend has crossed the great Divide, we went to his viewing last Sunday night. There are very

few who read this that knew the man; and he was not of any great account, but I will miss him because he was often out along the road as I went by and we would chat, and now this has to cease. I have wonderful neighbors, all of them they are not of the same religion as I am, neither do I insist that they accept my view, but we discuss the things we have in common.

Incidentally I learned the difference between religion and philosophy recently; now all religions are philosophical, if embraced by such minded people. A philosophy is that which you are willing to look at the other persons viewpoint, and allow for differences of opinion, you can disagree without being disagreeable. But religion insists that it is right, and if you differ with a religious person he will immediately regard you as a heretic. Now the term religion embraces more than just Divine things, for atheism is a religion too, and many who hold certain professions have it for their religion.

I am at times asked why I do not wear a full beard; and I must say it is because of cultural and social reasons.

The Egyptians shaved their faces, except in times of mourning, and the Greek philosophers wore long beards because they thought it gave them more dignity. Alexander the great ordered his soldiers to shave, for it was too easy for the enemy to grab for you by the beard and render you impotent. Saxons shaved their chin and cheeks but allowed their mustache to grow, this gives a man a more fierce look. The Japanese shaved clean for centuries.

At the beginning of the Swiss Brethren movement in 1525, and for several decades later the wearing of the beard was common practice except among the Catholic clergy. Letting the beard grow was a distinguished sign among the Ana-Baptists, according to M. Goebel, in his treatise entitled; *Geschichte des*

Christilichi Lebens, ini der Rheinisch-Westphalischen Evangelischen Kirche. Although he gives no proof for this he does quote Thomas Munster, that left field Ana-Baptist as requiring it of his followers, as an outward sign of Christian simplicity.

In a Swiss Brethren Conf. at Strasbourg in 1568, and reconfirmed at Stienselz in 1752, and again at Essingen in 1755, it was forbidden to trim the hair or beard according to worldly fashions, and the Old Order Amish of today literally follow these rules. The Church of God in Christ (Holdeman) requires the beards of all males as soon as they are members. The Russian Mennonite did not formerly wear the beard, but were later required to conform to the Hutterites, these were called Bart Mennoniten. The Swiss Amish of the Grönnigen were called Bartmennen in contradistinction to the Frisian Mennonites among whom they settled.

Napolean wanted his soldiers to wear the mustache without the beard to intensify a fierce look, and apparently at that time the Swiss Brethren began shaving their upper lip.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Jan. 24--Something different in the form of church service was our lot to observe recently. It was similar to what I've had in my youth yet it was different. Down close to the Sesquehanna River in Lancaster Co. They are now called the Old Order River Brethren. Plain people, is what they would be called, because of their dress standards. The men wear their hair down to the bottom of the ears, but have no bangs in front, they comb it all over the back of the head. They wear a full beard, and (Mutze) or better known as Frock coat, with split tails. Their overcoats have a large cape on around the shoulders, just like I used to wear.

The women likewise wear long dresses, and large head coverings, having them tied tight under the chin. They are actually dressed plainer according to what we call plain, than the Old Order Amish are.

There are four of these groups, each separate and no fellowship between them on a denominational level, except that recently two of them have again decided to merge. The one faction still drives horse and buggies.

The group we visited is called the Musser group. Did you ever hear of Musser's potatoe chips. It was a family in this group that made potato chips in an iron kettle, and peddled them on the streets, and today there is a large plant, and the last I heard they use 100 tons of potatoes per day, making about 25 ton of chips. The Musser that started it is still living, in fact the church was held at his house. For none of these have church houses, but meet in the homes of the members. The modern houses they live in have full basements, and that is where they have their services. The oldest man there was 98 a former bishop. This group just allowed automobile for their members in 1951.

Irrespective of their plain dress, that's where their plainness stops, for they have all the modern conveniences, beautiful homes etc.

A conversation was overheard by two of the members; the one claimed we have to have guidelines to go by to have order in the church, he claimed we need a fence to live by. The other one did not think so, and asked where you read about a church fence in the scripture. Christ is the fence, the way, and the life, in him we are secure, and outside of him we are not secure, regardless of how much fence we have. Everything mechanical from pocket knives to combines, will all perish with the using, and we will leave them all here when we go.

The service itself was a bit different. It began at 9 o'clock, and the bishop stood up and made a few remarks, and read a few lines of a song and the congregation sang it, then we all kneeled while he addressed the Lord in prayer. Then for about 50 minutes they had testimony meeting. They do not have Sunday school, but testimony meeting each one who wants to selects a certain song that means much to them, or expresses their emotions at the time, they read a line or two, then the whole congregation responds and sing the first verse. The individual then goes to say how they were saved from sin, and want to follow the Lord from here on, but they find themselves very weak and inefficient, and request prayer for the brethren.

When the time is up the bishop again stands up, or the preacher who make the first sermon, and speaks for exactly one half hour. He then takes the other preachers chair and that one get up and speaks until 11 o'clock. This is their short form of service. Alternately they

have a longer service which the preacher speaks until 11:30, then they will serve a meal for the congregation. There were about 45 people present.

The preachers sit along the wall of the basement, and directly in front of them, the old women sit facing the preachers, and the next row the toinger women and the girls farther back. While the men are on the side lines facing the women and the preachers. Again the older ones sit up front and the younger ones in the back. It was an interesting service to observe.

There were five students there from the Franklin Marshall College in Lancaster, who are taking a study of the various religions. They gave lunch for them, even though they do not normally do so at the short service. We however were at Sam Shirks place; I have known him for some time, and we have a kindred spirit. Sam is also the preacher there. They have a bishop, minister and deacon. These are the old stock of what the present Brethren-In-Christ used to be. In 1750 30 families of these from the Canton of Basil Switzerland tried to escape persecution, and went to England, and 1751 they set sail for America. The one ship sank enroute, and they lost much of what little possessions they had and arrived here destitute. They settled near the Sesquehanna in western Lancaster Co., early in 1752.

A notable revival took place there in 1770 conducted by Otterbein, Martin Boehm and Engels, each representing a different party, but soon after that differences arose, concerning the method of baptism, and the modernization of society in general and a large number of them what is now the Brethren in Christ seceded from these who wanted to remain the same. So that is why we have the Old Order River Brethren.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Jan. 31--This is being written on the last day of January, and I suppose it is the coldest January of my existence, I often think of the scripture verse which says, "Is thy mercy clean gone forever?" This was spoken with cold weather in mind, but of Judahism. But we still have it very comfortable, for we have a warm place to stay, and one thing about cold weather it is much easier to get away from cold than it is from heat.

My occupation being an over the road truck driver, I am

mostly encased in a cab, but during such extreme cold spells, and driving through the air at 50 miles per hour, it makes the chill factor very far below zero, and it's not comfortably warm inside the cab. But as soon as the sun comes out and you can use solar heat it makes a big difference.

The state of Pa. has now been declared a disaster area, and as such people who have legitimate reasons can get money from the government for almost nothing, to reimburse them of any loss they think they have gotten due to the extreme cold. I do not have it figured out just of what value money will be if you cannot even buy fuel for keeping warm. We in the urban areas can if need be go to the woods and get heating fuel, but in the cities that is almost impossible. It is reported that the heating gas is very low in quantity, and with the barges and ships running around, and spilling all the heating oil it causes one to wonder.

In Williamsport near by, a gas main was leaking, and the gas fumes came up through a sewer, and when the condition was just right something ignited those fumes, and a house almost disintegrated, and burned, and while firemen were there

fighting the blaze another house blew up from more fumes, two people were killed, and many injured. The gas main was broken because of deep frost heaving the ground.

There is not very much snow where we live so far away from Lake Erie, where the cold air meets warmer air, and it becomes snow, and about every day sometime it snows on the mountains, making the roads very slick. The salt supply of the highways is exhausted some places, and it's hard to keep ahead of the situation, and as I travel Interstate 80 several times each week, I see many trucks that did not make it. They probably hoped to, the same as I do but they did not, and they were strewn all around. Some in the medial strip, some in ditches, some on their sides, it looks like a big junk yard, and makes you feel bad for your turn could be next. One man said if the good Lord decides your turn is up you get it.

This man was coming down I-79 from Erie, when he hit an icy bridge, when there was a high wind, and it blew his truck across the road, and caused it to jackknife, and the tractor hit the bridge abutment. Personally I do not believe in such blind fate, for this universe is controlled by laws, and if you abide by those laws you will get by much easier. As for the wind blowing, you can't do much about that but you can stop if it gets too windy.

This is what I had to do on Friday the 29th, I was heading west for Mogadore, Ohio and here in the east we had a beautiful morning, then sun was shining brightly, but the farther west I got the worse it got. The temperature was about 28 in the morning where I was, but it

began to get windy and the snow started to blow, and the road soon became covered over, and it got dark. And seeing all the trucks along the road and cars in the ditch or wherever, I decided, this is enough, I pulled into the truck stop at Youngstown, and parked, and got myself a motel room, and went in out of it. After I was off the road it really got bad, it was almost as dark as twilight, and the snow came down thick, with a very strong wind.

West from where I was there were two trucks that jackknifed, and because the vision was so limited there were three other trucks coming upon them, and all five piled up, and burned; two men died.

Perhaps the worst is over now, but according to the Almanac, reports there are two more winters just like this one following.

There were no services at the Rush church on Sunday, there was, however, an annual affair going on at Numidia Bible school, which began when there was peacetime conscription, and Non-Resistance orientation program, beginning Saturday evening and all day Sunday, and those who chose to do so, and brave the weather, could do so, but we did not venture out of doors.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Feb. 5--In Punxsutawney, Pa. the official groundhog center, they went out to look, and sure enough the woodchuck came up and cast a long glance around, and went back down for six more weeks of hibernation. They even had him on a television camera. But if his prognostication does not work better than the wooly worms did last fall there is not much sense in being alarmed about the weather and there isn't anyways, for all you can do is talk, or write.

The Bishop did not show up this morning at Rush church. He was scheduled to preach this morning, but after beginning on his northbound journey, which is only about 60 miles, he got to some closed roads and turned around and went home. They did not even have any services at his home congregation, at Rehersburg, because of blocked roads. They had more wind down there to blow the snow than we did.

A bishop was ordained today at the Richland congregation. This was formerly under Isaac Sensenig's jurisdiction, but they then ordained Earl Horst, but he wanted help, for the work does get nerve racking.

Votes were taken for bishop from the ministers of the six congregations in the Richland district, eight ministers in all, which also includes the Crystal Light congregation at New Bremen, N.Y. which is up north very far, above Watertown, where Clarence Good is the minister. But of the eight only two were voted for, which is a good thing that from 500 members, which is what the Richland district consists of, they were that well unified in purpose that only two were chosen.

Both these men were from the Bernville congregation with a membership of 45. They were Henry Weaver, and Carl Sensenig. Carl then drew the book with the lot in it and was ordained. Carl was born in 1947, and ordained to the ministry in 1974, and now bishop in 1977.

But in the Mennonite church all the members do not vote, only those who feel they want to and have a man whom they feel constrained to vote for. In the Old Order Amish church, the membership is automatically required to vote, none excluded, and my father told me the elderly folk are about unified in who they vote for, but when the youth votes come through is when they get a larger variety of names.

The following story happened about 24 years ago, but I doubt it was ever told in the news media. It was when electricity was really coming into very popular use, that Edwin Martins decided to pump their water with it rather than the old manpower method.

Their son David was only two years old at the time, and he related the story to me. He remembers that he was fascinated with the switch inside the pump house, and was told that this was now going to pump their water, and was a big thing for a small boy of two. He started talking very early in life, and has said much since. His grandfather came to visit and Davey proceeded to tell him of how they were going to pump water with a new invention, and being very proud of it, he took his grandfather to the pump house, where the men were installing it.

Now, one of the men had gone to the truck to get some supplies, and the other man was down in the well. It was a hand-dug well and he was bracing himself with his feet on one side, and his back against the other side. This man in the well just thought, now the other man is gone out to the truck. Suppose one of the children should fall down in here, and with a sixth sense he quickly laid his wrench down, and when he did the hole above him got dark, & Davey came tumbling down and he caught him.

To the grandfather it was another story, for this little boy was walking ahead of him into the pump house, & suddenly just disappeared into the well. It shocked him so hard he became incoherent. He was scared speechless. The man down in the well soon hoisted the boy out again, and he went in to tell his mom, but his brother who saw it happen also told his mother, that Davey fell into the well. She, of course, did not believe him, and said this is not so, for he is right here, but he insisted it was even so. And when she saw the old man, her father

sitting out there with the sweat pouring off of him, and as pale as a sheet, and unable to even talk, she knew that something was radically wrong.

The old man went home, and tried to tell his wife what he had just seen, but even she could not determine what had happened, for she could not understand him, he was too much shook up. She got as much that Davey fell into the well, but that was about all. So she called over to the Martin residence and got the story straight.

The old man could not sleep a wink the next night, for as soon as he would close his eyes, he would just see his grandson disappearing down into that well. It could have been fatal, but he was unhurt.

JRR.

DANVILLE, PA.

Feb. 13--The greatest fact of life in the whole world is love. It is first of all the essential nature of the Creator of all things. The greatest commandment of all is the one to love God, first and foremost and the second is like unto it, to love your fellowman. You see when love is in operation, it seeks only the welfare of its objects, therefore the Bible says love is the fulfilling of the law. Hence if a man or person has perfect love in operation he needs no law to keep him straight, for he will do right because it is his nature.

It is also a fact of reality that man did not abide in his original faculty in which he was created, consequently he kept all the attributes with which he was created, but they became corrupt and self centered, instead of reaching out in benevolence to others, self is now on the throne of every natural man, & he uses others only if they can be beneficial to himself.

No, do not get alarmed, I'm not about to write a sermon, but said what I did as a basis of my subject, that of love, and what we now know as St. Valentine's day. You know that if you took the word and act of love from the world you would have nothing left. Just about all the popular songs written today are about love, or unfaithfulness of the object of a former love partner. And most of the gospel songs and hymns speak of love. It is the sum and substance that makes life worth living.

Greeting cards that are sent out of all kinds and occasions are done to show appreciation to others.

The first greeting card to have been made, as such was made in London in 1840 by Joseph Calcutt Horsley, a Royal Academy artist. He made it and sent it to his friend Henry Cole, who appreciated this act of devotion so much that he had 100 copies reproduced

and sent out to his friends, and this is supposedly how we got into the act of sending out greeting cards on special occasions. Love was the cause.

The sending out of Valentines is of much older origin, and for a more base reason. It is celebrated on Feb. 14, as a festival of romance and affection. The practice stems from ancient Greece who had an annual pagan practise celebrating love and marriage. The Romans too propagated this practise, where much vice was condoned, in the name of a good cause.

The Romans called it the feast of Lupercalia where young people picked names out of a box by chance, for the different partners, not knowing who they were getting, but whoever they happened to pick was their partner during the feast.

After the spread of Christianity, the men of renown in the church, tried to give the day a religious significance, and called it St. Valentines Day. This man was beheaded about 270 A.D. for showing love and respect to Christians. He was beheaded on February 14, which is why the church has chosen this day as St. Valentines day, the usual feast of Lupercalia was held on February 15. As religious men are wont to do he was martyred for doing deeds of kindness, but 100 years after he was dead, he was canonized as a Saint of God, by the church, and a basilica built in his honor about A.D. 350, and a catacomb is found in this location where his body lies buried.

The Practice of exchanging cards on this day is an English practice, by the Poet Goeffrey Chaucer who noticed that the birds began to pair off for mates about Feb. 14. So the whole idea of Valentines day is built around Pagan practices, and religious superstition, and that of securing a life mate.

This day was not practiced much in America until the Civil War. Many Valentines were hand painted which usually showed a fat little man who was known as cupid, which was the son of a Greek god, who shot darts at the hearts of young people, which resulted in falling in love, as it's called.

Our daughter teaches in a one room school for the Old Order Mennonites and she was not

inclined to celebrate this St. Valentines day, but she discovered she would be breaking an old tradition, if she did not co-operate, for the children were all enthused about it, and to stand in their way, and break a favored tradition would have done damage, at least sociologically, if not otherwise. For someone to come in from outside the accepted circle, and change ways that were always done this way, because she may have a conscience against it, while the others do not, may create needless animosity.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Feb. 20--We had a nice surprise this morning upon awakening, it would have been a delight for a Christmas morning. About 8 inches of beautiful white snow, hanging on the trees in gorgeous array. It was the first real old fashioned snow we have had for several years; where it started snowing and put it all down in a matter of hours, that much of it. And it was a tolerable temperature. Needless to say there was no service at Rush, and none at the Holdeman church at Belleville and none at the Buffalo Mennonite in Union Co.

Our son Joe who lives on Cow Path Road at Telford, whose wife occasionally writes for the Budget if she can find the where with to do it; reported they had services as usual, and only a few inches of snow.

The time of the year is about here to read the springtime scriptures in the Old Order Amish churches. And when they do that song is usually sung *Der Vinter Kalt, rauh ungestalt, Hat sich gevendt, Komt an ein end, Das bringt de menchen Vonne.* A very beautiful song, that says the winter cold raw ill-favored, has spent itself, comes to an end; this brings man rejoicing. I hope whoever sings it does so with a very high pitch, and really makes it ring out across the land.

The second verse says the winter time is like unto the law, where all there in was frozen so hard, the fruit of Godly grace. Cold, raw, froze the wrath of God, was the son of man in guilt and shame. No fruit did he bring until the beautiful summertime, which was promised.

Last week one day I ran across Earl Eash who attends church at the Boyer Mennonite church, in Snyder Co. Earl is an auctioneer, and is a native of Johnstown. He told me today Feb. 20th was supposed to be an all day service at Boyer, and undoubtedly several strangers would have been there. For they

were going to provide the noon meal, and in the afternoon have a service to license a minister, and send him to Guatemala. He is the son of Jacob Brubaker, and the grandson of Menno Brubaker. Has had experience in Guatemala, and can speak Spanish, was there after the earthquake, and would be quite useful language wise.

We had very interesting visitors here for supper on Saturday evening! Martin Beachy called in the day. We invited them down for the evening meal. Martin at first thought he was not much older than I was, but according to his birth date he was 11 the year I was born.

Martin is a native of Arthur, Illinois, but they then moved to Dover, Delaware, and he lives there among the Amish. He now lives in nearby Snyder Co., and is a minister there is the Beachy Amish group. This particular group began, back in the 40's when Jake Peachey and some of those minded like him moved from the valley to Snyder Co.

For more particulars I guess you'll have to write me and I'll send you the book I have written about the Amish of Belleville. Jonathan Peachey was then the leader of this group, and Jesse Spicker of Belleville still has the bishop oversight, but Yonie Peachey is now gone to the eternal state, and Crist Yoder has the oversight, he is formerly of the Belleville area.

There was a deacon ordination yesterday for the Eastern congregation at Tower city. Lester Miller, formerly of Hagerstown, was in the lot with Stanley Champ, the latter pulled the lot. Stanley is from the old Virginia mission area. The book entitled Allegheny Trails is written about his maternal grandfather. Interesting reading but emotional.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Feb. 27--The wild geese are already heading north, and if their instinct moves them to that in the latter part of Feb. spring cannot be too far off. They apparently don't agree with the groundhog.

We did not have Indian Summer, nor a January thaw, so it's very nice to think of a moderating trend, after such an unforgettable winter.

The officials were really concerned about another major flood, too, with such a heavy coat of ice on the river, and they made plans how they were going to get ready for flooding, but that also passed by, and the ice went about as silently as it came, and very much sooner. It was just right to get rid of it slowly, to avert the flood.

I had a very pleasant surprise this afternoon, although it did change my plans a bit. We were at our eldest son's house for dinner, and the phone rang, and it was Eli Zimmerman, one of my friends, out at the Geisinger Medical Center, at Danville. He looked in the phone book for my name, and thought he dialed my number, but it was my son's number. Had he dialed my number he would have received no answer. He asked me to provide the transportation to get him and his wife to their residence. She had had some problems that morning, and they took her to the Lewisburg Hospital and when they heard that she had been doctoring with a Danville physician, they called him and he sent her to Danville, by ambulance. When they were ready to go home Eli called me, by mistake. I then took them home again, and they made an appointment to go to Geisinger at a later date, for they are very busy there, and like for people to tell them ahead of time, so they can make appointments.

Another friend of mine, was trying to get a heifer in her place in his barn, and he fell on the concrete, and broke his knee cap. He went to the Geisinger Hospital, but they said they are

too busy now to take care of that if it is not a critical emergency, and just wrapped his leg and sent him home telling him to come up when they can have an appointment for him. When his time came up he had his knee operated on, and they took a piece of the bone out, and kept him there for a week. He is still at home recuperating and unable to do his chores. Fortunately, his brother-in-law is free this winter to help out.

I'm speaking of Frank Reed, who lives south of here near Gratz, Pa. He is married to Pastor Walter Newswanger's daughter. Her brother James is doing their chores. Frank is planning to sell his farm to Leroy Fisher, Andrew Mack's son-in-law, and move to this area, I hope.

There were two special meetings this past week where I attended. My truck being in the shop for a set of new internal mechanics. I was on vacation.

The first meeting was interesting, and I had my tablet with me and was getting some facts together for I was planning to fill this whole column with that data. It was interesting, but it was too interesting for you to see, for after the meeting the speaker came around, and bid the time of day and said "Are you getting some Budget material ready?" I said that I was, and he said "No" this dare not be put in print what I have been speaking tonight. So rather than just leaving an empty space I'll try to gather something else. In case you wonder what it was that was so secret see Paul Ebersol of Annville, Pa.

The other meeting was our semi-annual Parent-Teachers meeting. It costs us over a thousand dollars a month to operate our schools, but we have quality education, and

good academics, Harold Seigrist being the teacher of the upper grades. Cindy Martin (but I don't really know who she is) teaches the middle grades, and is showing nice progress, and Grace Ker, the daughter of the Deacon at Rush church, is teaching the lower grades.

Now Grace has few peers. Her room looks like a Fair, with all the works of art on the walls and the perfect writing on the blackboards. As she told us she is trying to get it drilled into their little minds the number facts, for she knows facts will never change, and when you get them into your mind you will never have to change it. To get started she tells them 4 plus 4 equals 8, therefore 4 plus 5 would be one more, and 4 plus 3 one less, etc.

I went to a reunion, too, last week; well it was not that as such, but it was a place where I was wanting to go in the past and saw many of the people I was acquainted with. The weekly auction at Belleville. One thing I could hardly comprehend is how people get so old so fast. After having been away from there for 22 years things change.

I also learned an interesting thing, that the Church of God in Christ is having a renewal program sweeping across their church. Robert Toews, a prominent preacher of that sect., has been to Haiti, and has met up with many evil spirits while there. And now claims to have the biblical gift of discerning spirits in people here, and is now in a position to tell whether people are in full harmony with the church. This is very important for the success of any group to weed out those who are dragging their feet. Just today this has taken place at the Rush church. She has lost 10 members.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

March 14--There has been some very bad news, and it looks as though the days of Noah before the flood are fast approaching, for violence seems to be the order of the day.

Now among the sons of men there always were those who were violent and resorted to all manner of homicide, and inhuman wickedness.

But this past week there were 130 people taken as hostages by several men, who forced the occupants of certain buildings at gun point to obey them, and they did it in three separate buildings so that the police could not get to the one without endangering the others.

The outcome was that only one man was killed in the overthrow, and 11 others wounded, but all the hostages were released unharmed.

But the really bad news is that the ring leader of the sect was released free without bail, for they said it was a case of human rights he was contending for.

It seems the criminals are more safe than the decent of society.

One dare not dwell on the evil that is taking place, lest you develop a negative mental attitude, which induces fits of melancholy. There is no use to close your eyes to the evil, but to enlarge on that and never see the good things that do transpire, is not good for you nor your fellowman. A positive mental attitude, that takes God into account as the cause of all things ultimately, for the good of his own, is imperative in these last days. Without this life is a burden; with it life is a joy regardless of the gloomy outlook.

While we were enjoying nice balmy weather here in the east with 70 degree temperatures, reports were of the raging storms in the midwest. And I80 which passes nearby, was reportedly closed in Nebraska.

But it is an ill wind that does not blow someone some good, for the 18 month drought that was holding sway in Minnesota, is said to have ended at least temporarily. I was thinking of my friend Noah I. Yoder who lives about 100 miles north of Minneapolis. I don't know just how reliable the news media is, but there is never a smoke without a fire, or at least enough friction to cause one.

I do occasionally make a long distance phone call and speak to Noah, it does not cost very much on Sunday, and cause no one to do any extra work, for I can dial his home direct from my house. He much prefers me to call him, for he is of the opinion that if he did the calling he would have to foot the phone bill. He makes himself believe that I have more money to spare on such matters than he does.

To be a news reporter does have it penalties, and undesirable consequences, for people do not trust you, to tell you things that took place for fear you will air it to the public. And they can never be quite sure just how you will word it, which does make a big difference.

For instance my daughter teaches school for the plain Mennonites in Union County, and occasionally brings some of her friends, which she has learned to know, along home on weekends. Some of these girls were warned by their friends to be very careful of their conduct when they come to my house for I just might put their name in the Budget.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

March 20--Beautiful springtime, after an unprecedented hard winter. How do the Swallows know when their time comes to make their 6000 mile flight from Argentina, and who keeps their calendar for them? I even saw a honey bee the other day, and the robins are singing.

Having a little extra time on my schedule one day, and coming up from Bridgeton, N.J. through Lancaster, Pa. Route 41 goes almost by my friend M. S. Stoltzfus's house. Sim is getting older and I won't have an unlimited amount of time to converse with men of his generation, for I will soon be there to replace them. Sim has a good memory & is interesting to listen to, and this day he had the old settlement in Union Co., Pa. in mind, his relation stem from there, and he himself tried so hard to re-establish a Mennonite church there again, but that lot fell to another man.

He was telling me of a letter which a damsel wrote in disguise, and addressed it to herself, and when she received it, blamed a boy in the local church to have done it. Now this boy was full of pranks, and would not have been beneath his dignity to do so, yet he was innocent, and knew it, but it was hard for him to convince others of his innocence. They finally got twelve boys who were possible suspects of such a prank, to write essays and had these 12 letters taken to a handwriting expert, who claimed that none of these had written the letter in question. This should have settled the argument, but it did not for the fire of unrest had started to consume, and before it was all over everyone had moved out of the community. Sim said they became hysterical, and some got on the train not knowing for sure just where they were bound, but they knew one thing, they wanted to get far away from Union Co.

Years later Sim said, when he was yet a small boy, too young to know then what was going on, but he remembers they were at a meeting where there was much weeping, for the girl who was then an aged woman,

confessed to the boy who was now an elderly man, that she was the one who had written that letter, and blamed him for it. Would he forgive her? Certainly he would.

My youngest sister and her husband are now getting older, and they had a public vendue, or outcry, to sell their personal property to the highest bidder. This is not an easy task for anyone, who does not make it a practice, for it signifies that you are on a one way street, and are not coming back to your point of beginning. Their offspring now taking over the farming operation there at the homestead. The place has a history to it which figure in my life for I was once a youngster too, and went to the singings there, and now there is an entirely new generation of youngsters, whom I do not even know, except many of them just look very much like their fathers did. There are now very many young people, many more than there were 30 years ago, and where are they all going to find employment, and lodging in the next few years; the price of land there being out of reach except to a privileged few.

But there are some who are taking the initiative, and two young families are planning to move far away from there, in a northern area, where there are no Amish living, and never were to my knowledge. Up in the state of Vermont, a large tract of land has been purchased. These two young men who are married to sisters are planning to move very shortly.

My brother Crist was along up on one trip and he approves of the move for it looks like it may be a financially feasible thing to do, plus providing many other mundane advantages. Now Crist is a prosperous farmer himself, having been well trained and programmed by our uncle Ezra Renno, for Ezra raised Crist from a young boy of six, and gave him a definite advantage over many of his peers. For Ezra had no sons, but only one daughter, and he was a successful man, in religion as well as money.

So if wise men and good men, and men who have proved themselves in life are in favor of such a venture it should meet with success. And if someone of my brother's caliber and age would find the grace to unloose himself from his comfortable surroundings, and go along with these young people they would be highly favored. The generation gap of which we have heard so much in latter years simply does not exist, if the elders are willing to take their bounden responsibility.

I myself have never seen Vermont yet, but the bordering states very much resemble a real rock garden; Vermont must be better.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

March 27--The great Eastern Pennsylvania Mennonite Relief sale has been held at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Building, sponsored by the Mennonite Central Committee, the first such that I have ever attended.

Now when the Farm Show is in session the building looks almost too small for the large crowds, and there is not enough room, and the parking lots do not hold all the cars. But at this sale it looked very large and the parking lot was not even half filled, but there were many people there, although compared with the Farm Show there was only a handful.

The sale was held in the main exhibition building, they had a flat truck trailer setting there for the auctioneer to stand on, and where a large leaning table was where they spread on the quilts, and turned it to show the people what they were offering. For quilts are the main items of this sale. Many quilts of all sizes, and many different designs; the name of the donor was given, which sometimes was an individual, and many times it was given by a certain Sunday School class of a church. One quilt was made by

a small 9 year old girl, who proudly stood beside it while it was auctioned off, her pig tails dangling under the lights. Her quilt brought \$165.00. This I would say was about the average price of the quilts. Only a few small ones brought less than \$100.00, and the highest one I know of was \$700, although I did not see near all of them sell, for I was only there for a few hours.

There was also another stand where another auctioneer was selling some odds and ends that people brought in, but I had very little interest in that, for that crowd was only about 25 people.

There were many tables in the building, where the various Mennonite churches were selling food, and as always people were eating. It looked a little uncalled for to see fat people eating rich creamy pies, then wondering why their health will not hold up. But that is the American way. Other tables had quilts to sell privately, and the MCC had a table there called a self help program, which consisted of many hand made things from the poor people of Haiti.

I spoke to Ronald Peachey, the son of the former Bishop of Allensville church. Raymond Peachey; Ronald was somewhat of a co-ordinator of the sale. He was waiting on a table where they sold Coca-Cola. He claimed it will take \$2000 worth of Coca-Cola for that one day to meet the demands. He said last year they had \$91,000 left to give aid to the poor ignorant heathen where the relief money will eventually end up at. There is much expense connected with such a feat.

The next day there was a wedding at Belleville, at the Holdeman Church. In a brand new Edifice, just recently constructed, where Elmina, the daughter of Daniel J. Peachey, became the bride of Jonathan, the son of Abraham Swareys. This was held on Sunday morning, instead of the regular church service. After the sermon and ceremony, they had a small program, where the young people entertained us

with their singing, quartets, quintets, and trio's of boys and girls, but the girls sang the most, seems they are generally better equipped to make nice music than boys; perhaps this is a matter of opinion.

After the noon meal, which consisted of Barbeque sandwiches, potatoe salad, jello salad, and cake and ice-cream, there was much time to visit, which is an integral part of any wedding. This was different than most weddings which are held in the afternoon, when its soon time to go home, or even some are held in the evening, and there is not much time left for the social part, which to me

is more enjoyable then the formality.

Mrs. Dan Peachey was the daughter of Jake Kanagy, and almost all of her brothers were there that are yet living, except Ezra, who is also a Budget scribe. The report was he had council meeting in his church and could not come. Joe was there from Stuarts Draft, Va. and Lee, the Budget scribe from near Washington, D.C. Sam Yoders, who is Mattie, the sister of Naomi, they are also from Stuarts Draft. Sam is a venerable old gentlemen, the son of Abe Yoder of Belleville, who was very widely known. Mattie also writes for the Budget occasionally.

Then there was John from Blacksville, S.C. he belongs to the fellowship group of the Beachey Amish. He also writes to The Budget from his corner of the country. Then there was Alvin the youngest, who is a Mennonite preacher also from Va. and not to forget Urie from Hartville, Ohio. He lost quite a bit of weight so that I was not sure who that man was, but I was sure he was a descendant of old Jake Kanagy, for none of these boys can hide their identity.

And I almost forgot to mention Jonas also from Stuarts Draft, Va. the great Mennonite Disaster service co-ordinator, he even attended a

prayer breakfast in the presence of President Ford while he was still in office.

Being present there brought back fond memories of my childhood days when Jake Kanagy would sit on the back bench in church, and lead out in singing the old tunes. And Jonas is almost the perfect image of his father.

In the afternoon we went to visit my aunt Annie Zook, who recently suffered a stroke but is coming along very well, and thinks about going to her home again, she now stays with the children. Also saw my aunt Jemima Renno. She is 84 and lives with her two daughters.

Jrr.

DANVILLE, PA.

April 4--Most of you know that there was a serious accident several weeks ago when two airliners crashed, on the ground, at an airport in the Canary Islands. For most people have access to the news media, in one way or another. This event was very unusual. Two huge planes, an American and a Dutch, both were on charter flights, loaded with tourists. There was some misunderstanding and the Dutch KLM plane was starting up to take off, on the same runway on which the Pan American plane was coming in on. It was foggy and vision was limited, but with modern communications it should not have happened. The pilot of the American plane saw him coming, and shouted into the mike "The man is crazy, he will kill us all", he veered his craft

off the pavement to get out of his way, but the other plane was travelling at 180 miles per hour, and he could not get out of his way. He hit him about the middle, coming in on a slant, and 577 people died in the burning wreckage. For those wings are loaded with fuel, and the engines are hot, and upon such an impact the fuel would fly all over, and ignite.

A few escaped that were in the front of the American plane, but very few, for the fire got so many of them that might have escaped otherwise.

I was reminded of a fact of history when a tower fell and killed 18 people, and Jesus asked the question if these who died were worse sinners because this event happened. But he said, this is not so, but unless people repent they will all likewise perish. Could we ask the same question about this unusual accident? Was it so decreed by Divine Providence, or was it merely a human mistake?

Personally I am a firm believer in a cause for every effect. For if the Lord takes note of every sparrow that falls and men are worth more than many sparrows, does he not take note if over 500 men die? What I mean is; was it by Divine decree that this took place? Or was it happenstance? We know that this earth upon which we are so securely settled, is travelling through space, much faster than those aircrafts were traveling; it is like the rim of a wheel 186 million miles in diameter, and it is so precisely controlled that it comes around on the exact second when it is due, and we set our clocks by it, and it has been doing this for over six thousand years. It stopped twice during this time, with no evil effects. This goes to show that it is under strict control, and are not men under the same control? And the machines which they manage? One statement from Divine Writ would clarify this, which says He upholds all things by the word of His Power, and by Him all things consist. Does this include airplanes, and all the works of men? Or just inanimate things?

Our year old granddaughter, has had a case of spinal Meningitis. She is the only child of our son William, and his wife Sharon Brunk, the daughter of Norman Brunk of Carbon Hill, Ohio.

She has had much ear infection this winter, vascillating between better and worse, and because her natural resistance was weakened, this infection spread to her Meninges. Each person has three of these very thin and delicate tissues to keep the brain from damage, and keep it functioning. The first such tissue is between the others and the skull, or cranium. The second is between the two, and has fluid in it, to give the brain a soft easy ride, this is the same fluid that is in the spine, and very vital to life. The third Meninges is on top of the brain.

Now when the normal body resistance gets weak, for no one gets sick because he has contacted some disease, for if that were true the whole human race would be extinct. We get sick when our metabolism has not enough antibodies to ward off the disease. In other words when the natural police force gets weak, then the robbers take over and start their dirty work.

Meningitis is when very small micro-organisms get into the spine, and because the spine and brain are in close contact, it begins to effect the brain. And if not checked in time it is fatal.

This little girl had a high fever, and they noticed that she did not cry normal anymore, and it had effected her optic nerve for she got cross-eyed. They took her to the hospital about midnight, and they did not know what was really happening, and just tried to reduce the fever. The next morning they took her to Elam Stoltzfus, the son of my friend Mast Stoltzfus, this Elam, is a special children doctor, and he examined the baby, and not being satisfied he took a needle between her vertebrae and

drew some fluid out of the spine, and it confirmed his suspicion, she had spinal meningitis. His office is adjacent to the hospital, and he carried her over at a real swift pace so that her mother could hardly keep up. And it did not take him long to draw the attention of the staff of nurses for Willie said they were there immediately. Elam issuing the commands and they jumping to attention.

Because her natural resistance had lost the battle, they had to inject foreign antibodies, to kill these enemy organisms. And to do it through the digestive tract by giving her medicine was much too slow, they gave it direct into her blood stream. At this point she seems to be getting better, by Divine decrees, through the means of modern medicine.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

April 11--I saw an unusual incident which merits publication.

I was at the Vince Lombardi service area, at the north entrance of the New Jersey Turnpike, when a man with his wife and 8 children walked into the restaurant. They ranged in age from about 16 to 4 years old, both boys and girls. The thing that was so unusual was their deportment. The children all sat, each on a stool, at the bar, none spoke a word. The father stood behind them and ordered food for each one. They said nothing.

They ate and drank in an orderly fashion. Very well mannered for this day and age. You could see by looking at the children that they were not behaving out of fear, but out of reverence. They did not have to behave, but they wanted to, because they revered their father. A look into their countenance revealed a peaceful, serene outlook in life. All seemed well with their world, for they knew that father had everything in good control.

I approached him later and told him that he was different from the common run of society, for with that many children at such a young age there is usually some misunderstanding, and dissatisfaction expressed. But not in this case. They were better behaved than many a Sunday School class. But he claimed in his home he believes in law and order, and that in his philosophy of life.

He will be well rewarded for his efforts; for many children are just left to grow up and make it the best they can. And

those ignorant parents feel to put restriction on their children will deprive them of their enjoyment of life. But just the opposite is true. The well disciplined child is the happy, contented child, but a child left to himself will bring his parents shame and disgrace. It is not youthful delinquents that plague our present age. It's delinquent parents, who fail to take their God-given responsibility.

Discipline is one of the basic laws of nature in this world; to violate this law brings its penalty with it. The business man who would be successful must discipline himself, and deny his passions or they will bring him to poverty. He dare not speak roughly to his customers, or they will cease to patronize him. He may vent his spleen, but he will pay for it in the final analysis. Even Jesus Christ, the God-man, learned obedience through the things which he suffered.

If we would be healthy we must discipline ourselves, and eat that which will agree with our type of body chemistry. It may take some time to learn what works and what does not, but if you stop, look, and listen you will finally get the message. Among the many millions of people on this earth. There are no two of us exactly alike, in our make-up, or body chemistry, and what will work for one person may not work for his neighbor.

M. S. Stoltzfus was at the Rush church tonight, and preached about the topic of the Sin of Doing Nothing. Said in his time there was a watch manufacturing works, and one of the men got fired, and he weepingly went to the boss and said he cannot understand this, that he never did anything. The boss said, "And that is just the reason why you are fired".

He also said some people are like wheelbarrows, they are useless unless they are pushed. And he claimed he belonged to several different churches in his lifetime, but he has never found

where there was not a greater need for good workers than there was available material.

He claimed perhaps the reason why we don't have better preachers in the Mennonite church, is because we take our preaching material from the laity, and if the laity were better versed, the future preachers would be better likewise. He suggested we study more.

His name is Menno Simons Stoltzfus, and claims he's not quite 80 yet, but I would venture to guess he will be before too long.

He also complained a bit about how people are forgotten so soon. Said he was to Belleville, the land of his nativity, and asked around for anyone who remembers his grandfather, for he was a notable man, but he found only one person that even remembered him.

I noticed by the Valley Observer that old Milt Russler died too, and he was four years older than my father who died in 1969. Milt used to be the Rural mail carrier from the time I was a small boy until I was grown.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

April 17--I have just spoken to my friend Noah I. Yoder from Long Prairie, Minn. He claims to have reached the 61st anniversary of his birth, and is in good health and if he does not engage in any strenuous activity he feels like a clot. He has sowed his oats, and one day plowed all day, and felt a little under the weather about working too long hours. He still has his heart condition and I suppose will have from here on out.

His Bishop Noah Miller was in here in Union Co. holding communion services for his

former flock of people. He also went to Canada.

Roman Miller, the son of Deacon Adam Miller of Stuarts Draft, Va. who is married to the daughter of Dan J. B. Byler of Seymour, Mo. has left that part of Minnesota and gone on to Canada, to help some struggling flock up there. His plans were to go for a year. Fred Stoltzfus, and the Headings family are there. Headings has had plans to move away and though his farm sold but then the money did not come through, so he is still in Minn. at this time. Fred is again seriously thinking of also migrating into Canada.

Mrs. Rufus Peachey from Long Prairie, Minn. does not write very faithfully, but with her husband working for a very wealthy man, and running his milk bottling machine, and supposedly conditions are like here, nothing happens to cause enough attention to publish it.

If nothing else, one could write about ants. Its that time of the year again when they like to come into your house and pay you a visit. My good wife was baking half moon pies one Saturday evening, and she takes her little (Boy Reddy) pie wheel, and makes them funny little marks on the one side of them, she said she does not know why she does it but it is just the way she always did.

It also leaves holes in the dough for the steam to come out when it is baking. She put these freshly baked pies out in the cool room to cool overnight, and the next day we were going to have bean soup and half moon pies for dinner.

The next morning she viewed her work, and saw an ant sticking its head out of one of the steam holes. A wonderful place for an ant to live all the food you need for a long time, and a good shelter overhead, a little realizing that she was an intruder of private property.

She brought those pies out and set them on the kitchen table and the ants sought other shelter. They do not want to be too conspicuous. If they did not all get away in time a little mince meat would not hurt either.

It has been reported the Amish are now buying farms down in the Heggins Valley, in the vicinity of Grantz, and Elizabethtown. Frank Reeds sold their farm to an Amish family, but they will remain on it for another year, for they do not want to take possession until the spring of '78.

Leroy Fishers also purchased a farm in that area, at Pillow, Pa. Leroy is an ex-Amishman, married to Andrew Mack's daughter Mary. Andrew is a member at the Rush church. I suppose Leroy's will then attend church at Tower City.

David Martins are supposed to vacate the house they are presently renting from Walter Newswanger, and move into a house trailer, to make room for a Hawshmer family, who started attending services at Rush. They are formerly from Williamsport, Pa. He does refinishing work on old furniture, and wants to leave where he now lives because of the high rent. They presently plan to move where Davids now live. So Daves have to live in this mobile home only until the latter part of June, and by that time they hope to have the new house they are planning to build, on a lot of land they purchased from the Newswangers.

Wayne Martin from what we call down country, is engaged to Rosa Mast, the daughter of Levi Masts, who moved in here from Illinois, and they plan to be married in June, and live in this mobile home which Dave's have to vacate. Wayne is an airplane pilot, for a hobby, and plans to operate a bulldozer.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

May 7--I have made a change in my choice of denomination this past week. That to which I had formerly belonged to had too many stringent rules that to me were useless, and a good many of them did not make sense.

Now each denomination has its own by-laws, and rules of induction, and this one was no exception. But instead of a once a week instruction class, it was a two day class. Even though I had belonged to this denomination in the past for six years, the rules are if you leave, then later want to come back, you must go to school for two days, just like anyone else, and there are no exceptions. For if you once make exceptions to the rules, then what you end up with is all exceptions rather than rules.

Now I am not speaking of any religious denomination, for I am quite well satisfied with what I now have. But a denomination that is in business for one purpose: to make money. I changed from National Freight Co. to George Transfer and Rigging Co. The first is a large company with about 4000 trucks on the road, or in service, the latter is only small by comparison, with only about 500 trucks. The large organizations are much harder to manage, hence must have more stringent rules; but then the trend is to ignore as many as you can get by with.

To most of you, it couldn't matter less to what organization I pledge my allegiance to, it all the same to you.

Let me explain somewhat. Our country is now very large and complex. And it would be against the law for me to haul anything for you, that you have manufactured, unless I had the rights to haul it. Now farm products, such as hay and grain, before it has gone through a process anyone can haul it, it is free to everyone, the

same with produce, such as apples, or celery, or cabbage. Live animals, anyone can haul them, but once they are killed, then you must have rights to haul the meat.

Before there were any trucks to have commodities, people used horses, to pull wagons, after the wheel was invented. There was this man in Baltimore, Md. who made a living hauling things for people in town, so when trucks came on the scene, and everyone wanted a job they began to cut prices to get the business, and there began to be quarrels as to who could haul what, so the Public Utility Commission was formed, and began to issue licenses to individuals, to haul certain stipulated commodities, and only to certain places, and these were called rights.

This man finally sold his rights to two brothers, and these formed a company and called it George Transfer. As time went on they obtained more rights, and finally they just used their rights, and left others do the hauling. That is where I come in. I own the power unit, and lease a trailer from them, and they tell me where the materials are to haul and where it goes. It is legal for me to haul it as long as I have my equipment leased to them; and haul under their rights. Without it I would be violating a law, and there are men out on the highways all the time looking for what is known as (Gypsies) those who haul commodities without any legal rights to do so. For anyone to have rights costs much money to obtain, and when you find a nice patch of huckleberries, you don't want anyone else to come and tramp it all down, you obtained it and want it for your self, so are the rights to haul commodities.

There are many companies that are willing to lease equipment, and some are larger than others, and have different rules to control their men. Because National Freight was fined for almost \$200,000 for violations, and they became particular, for if they are not careful, the Interstate Commerce Commission could step in and take away all their rights, then they could not legally haul anything.

Two of my friends have had accidents in the recent past.

Bishop Isaac Sensenig was attacked by a bull, and reports are the bull had him down and could easily have trampled him to death, but Isaac prayed like he never did before, and the bull, suddenly left him alone and walked away. He was sore and I would suggest has a lot more respect for the male cow in the future, for none are to be trusted.

The other was Tom Grassel, who had just made a dug out for to place a house trailer, or mobile home, and a plank was laid across the pit, and Tom as told to walk across to the other side, but he was afraid, and Tom does not like to be the butt end of a joke, he accepted the challenge and started across but the end of the plank suddenly left go and dropped down about 8 feet. He says it was alright as far as the travel was concerned, but it was the sudden stop that hurt; he broke several bones in his one foot, and was laid up for a week, but when the swelling had gone down enough they put it in a cast, and now he can hobble around on crutches. He can also drive his car again, and might be able to do some visiting which he had planned on but never had the time, as long as he was normal.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

May 15--We were at our son Daniel's house this afternoon, and it was our good fortune to get to see Levi Burkholder, the father of the maternal side of Dannie's house. Clarence Burkholder, was there too, the owner of the Large Dutchway Farm Market, at Meyerstown, he is also married to one of Levi's daughters.

Levi takes a trip, or is the master of the annual tour to Paraguay, which I myself would have enjoyed participating, but so far it has not developed into more than wishful thinking. Levi did not have his pictures along, but is going to show them to the public at Snyder Co. at Bob Schrei's house.

Things are about normal there according to Levi, he had no unusual incident to report, other than the death of Paul Souder, who moved down there in the recent past from the Honeybrook, Pa. area. It had been reported in the Budget that he had died, but Levi was able to give us some of the particulars. Now it did not take place while Levi was there, but because he is well known there the phone call came to him.

Paul's had gone to Mervin Good's place for a short while, a distance of about 80 miles, but in that section of the country you never make anything too definite insofar as future plans go, for it is not like America, with all the modern conveniences, or going to the phone and calling up a friend 1000 miles away. While Paul's were at Merv Good's overnite, the next morning he fell over dead. They just did what they could, made a box to put the remains in and hauled that back home on a pick-up truck, and the next day he was buried.

This took place on a Thursday, and the next Monday at 10 p.m. Levi received a phone call, with a French operator on the line, which he could just barely understand, but he did understand that the call was coming from Paraguay, and that he was to hold on to the line.

In phoning from Paraguay, you first have to travel to Ascunsian, distance of 250 miles. Then there is not direct communication from there to America, but it goes by short wave up to a space satellite then beams off there into some part of America. But you cannot call immediately, for the satellite may be busy, so you have to hold the line till they can get a clear channel, then the speaking can begin. But when everything was clear, then he could hear John Fisher speak as clear as if he were in the same house.

Mervin Goods are planning to come back up home in the near future, for he was sent down there by the church, to help in the clerical work. Merv also has been having trouble with his heart.

But according to Levi, the one farmer had 60 acres of stump free land and raised it all soybeans, and had a good crop, the total sale amounted to \$10,000.00, and in Paraguay it takes only \$2,000.00 to live for a year, for an entire family. Soy Beans and hogs seem to be the principle crops with the plain Mennonites. During the dry season, the road is good, for it gets very hard, but when the rainy season comes, you just stay put, for the road is not paved and will not handle traffic if wet.

Clarence Burkholder also had his two cents worth of a story, much closer to his home, a true story however fictitious it may sound. A man whom he well knew was having some domestic problems, and apparently decided, a good walk would help settle his mind. Now a walk is a very good remedy

for an unsettled mind, I knew that by experience, but this walk was taken at the wrong time, for it was a Sunday morning, and he forgot to tell his wife of his intention, she knowing nothing of his whereabouts, and it was time to go to church, but he was not around anywhere. What could, or should she do? It came to her mind that he was behaving somewhat strangely recently, so that she had reservations concerning his sanity, and he just may have jumped into the pond. This was a horrible thought; and there was one way to make sure. So men were summoned, and they proceeded to drag the pond, and while they were in this engagement, the man in question comes home from his walk....Clarence did not say what shade of red their faces all showed.

The Rush church here seems to be making real progress numerically. While it is true that we are not associated with it physically, we have not abandoned the best wishes for its welfare. We are very much interested, and since there is no one from there to report her activities to the interested public, we must see that we report what we are able. Friendships that have grown over the years, cannot be abandoned at the drop of a hat.

For sometime there has been interest shown of having services Union Co. for Donald Herr's come all the way from Center Co. and there are others that would attend if they could. Now since Ivan Martins have transferred their membership from the Wenger People to Rush, and they live in Union Co. Services have been held in their home. Not weekly services, but plans are for several midweek services each month. The prospects are good for having a Conservative element of the Mennonite church in that area in the foreseeable future.

J. R. R.

DANVILLE, PA.

May 22--I had an unusual impression this past week. I picked up a load of steel bars, those kind you put into concrete to make it more stable. Also some steel mesh for the same purpose. I picked these up at Lancaster, N.Y. and took them to the Milner Construction Co. with the home office at Portland, Ore., but a local shanty set up at the construction site, which was at the Calvary Hill cemetery, on Calvary Lane, at Steubenville, Ohio. An ideal place for a cemetery, and there many tombstones there too, for it covers many acres. I wondered at the address, what would they be constructing at a cemetery, and especially since the construction Co. was from Portland, Oregon.

I found the place up on top of a steep hill, south of the city, and what looked like a million dollar construction job. They have been at it since last November, and will probably take them all of this year.

They were building a Mausoleum, a large complex building of concrete, just full of large pigeon holes along the walls, large enough to set a casket in, and these vaults had tight rubber sealed doors, to keep it tight after the body was entombed. And this building which will have a chapel in the midst to hold funeral services, will be air-conditioned and heated according to the weather outside, and we are supposed to be in the midst of an energy crisis... Some things just don't make sense. I just hope they understand what they are doing, I don't.

Getting back more to nature again, it was sheep shearing time again at our place. This is a very old occupation, and we had an old man engaged in it. Abe Blosser has shorn many sheep in his day. The state of Virginia is the land of his nativity, in which he still owns property, but he chooses to live in this area, and pay rent, close to the church of his choice, the Holdeman persuasion. Old Abe sure knows how to go at it, and it looks very easy; he just sets the sheep back on its rear, so its

feet can't get hold of anything if it should struggle; he first takes the wool off the belly, then lays it over on its side then rolls it over on the other side, and in minutes it has shed its coat. Mom asked me what I would do if it were not for Abe Blosser; and of course I don't have to think that one through for Abe does exist, and he does shear sheep yet.

Now Abe had an apprentice last year. Carl Zimmerman, a nice young man who moved into Union Co., from St. Marys Co., Maryland, and I was hoping he would take after Abe and take over the business, because I like to have someone to shear my sheep, and at my age its too late to learn, for my git-up-and-gone-got-up-and-left. Carl is just the right age, but he was not along this year. Abe says he is engaged in constructing ocean walls; driving piling etc. to make the sea stay within its bounds. Like Divine Writ says, fill the earth and subdue it.

Now man was never commanded to shear sheep, but was commanded to subdue the earth, and Carl was doing some of this while living down south. At this point it looks as though Abe will have to keep on looking for a successor. There are not very many sheep in this area, for they are not a profitable enterprise, but very interesting as a hobby.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

May 30--I was on one of those historical tours through Lancaster Co. recently, where the church of the Brethren was in view, formerly known as the German Baptist Brethren. This particular denomination began in Schwarzenau, Germany in 1708, but because of persecution they came to America in 1719 in the Germantown, Pa. area.

By 1723 on Christmas day 6 persons were baptized in the Wissahicken Creek, by immersion, by Peter Becker.

On Thursday, November 12, 1724, another meeting was held at the home of Henrich Hohns, who lived on the farm that is now owned by Melvin Eby. At this meeting 7 more people applied for baptism, among whom was Conrad Beissel, who became their first minister. He lasted only 4 years in this capacity for he soon entertained ideas that were not in harmony with the general accepted practice, for he was a legalist, and decided that the 7th day was the day to observe worship services. This caused a stir of discontent, and 10 years later it came to a head in a barn now standing at the intersection of Middle Creek, and Rothsville Road.

Micheal Frantz was of the opposing party, and he laid out a rail, and said all those who want to align themselves with Beissel step on one side of the rail, and all those who want to remain as they were, on the other side. Now Beissel had only a small handful, but he was a powerful influence, and he and those who clave to him, began what is now known as the Ephrata Cloisters. Beissel also said that it was wrong to marry, and that the life of a hermit was much more to the Divine intention, so they all lived together communal fashion there what is now the Ephrata Cloisters.

He of course did not use good common sense, for when he died, and the people died who supported him, they left no offspring, and the thing was a fizzle. Now the state has it for an historical site.

But from the original Brethren group known as the Conestoga Brethren nearly all the Brethren congregations sprang up. There are today many different factions of this first endeavor, such as the Dunkard Brethren, and the Grace Brethren, and many more, that did not die out for they at least believed in reproducing themselves.

We visited many different sites where there were and are churches to this day that spring from these. Interesting to me was the large Amish graveyard on the north side of Eby Road where there was a barn which was formerly used for the Love Feasts, on which this Meyer Cemetary is now located, and was formerly used as a family burial plot, but today it is used by the Old Order Amish to bury their dead, and it is large and very many small white flag stones marking where the remains lie.

You meet many interesting people on such excursions as these, people from all walks of life, and all kinds of occupations, and about all ages. One interesting contact was made with Dr. Clarence Weaver, who is about 75 years old, and has many interesting experiences to relate.

We all ate supper together at the New Holland Fire Hall, after which the buses whereon we rode took us back to the Lancaster Mennonite School where our tour originated from. There were two buses, and if anyone wants to take advantage of such tours you must send in your reservations far out ahead, for there is a limit as to how many may go.

I also saw my friend Lloyd Eby at the information center who claims he read my articles with great interest, but he has some concerns, for he read that I am not officially aligned with any denomination at this time, and he wonders about it.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

June 6--The weather warm and dry, a few thunder showers here and there; the pastures and lawns are turning brown, the hay crop has been short but of good quality. One cold snap in June put the temperatures down to 29 in the higher elevations.

The economy is booming, inflation gaining ground, so that to cool it a little the prime interest rate went up a little. The industrial stock average stays around 900, dropping below a few times. Two new houses went up this spring in our community, and a mobile home.

The Rush Mennonite Church is now history, the building stands forsaken and empty. They had the first services in the new building on June 5, 1977. It is now called the Danville Mennonite Church.

Here and now I must do some explaining, many rumors have been told and some are rather spurious. I would rather not mention some things but to set the record straight I must. For I personally am not physically connected with the Mennonite Church and many of you want to know why. I suppose you have a right to, but there are many things one cannot not publish in a public newspaper, for they would not be rightly understood. If any of you must know for more than casual reasons, my telephone number is 717-275-1430, long distance calling is very inexpensive on Saturdays and Sundays. This is about the only time I can be contacted at home.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

June 25--We do a little more than attend reunions this summer, and historical tours, but those seem to be the important things in the news. I was to my friend, Amos Hoover's place at Denver, Pa. and he showed me his kingdom and glory, but told me this cannot be published in the Budget, so that's out.

It seems historians are born, not made. If you are not by nature interested in what took place in the past generations, there is little you can do to give you this impetus, but if you have it, you take to it just like a fish takes to water. And historical meetings have much in common with funerals; you lay down all your denominational preferences, and have one common denominator, the past. The Lancaster Conference has done some good in that it sponsored an historical society.

I was especially interested in the focus this year, because it had to do with the Old Order Amish. Although I am not now affiliated with these people physically, yet I was raised this way, and will always consider them my people, a people who have given me this rich and good heritage, all under the Sovereign hand of God.

The meeting this year was held at the Millwood meeting house in the (Unner-Bechvey) the lower Pequa. This is the way this fellowship came into being. Jacob Mast was born in Switzerland in 1738, and emigrated to America when but a small boy and became the first known Bishop in the Conestoga church. Millwood being today a part of this. This Jacob Mast was ordained in 1788 at the age of 50 years and remained in this capacity for 20 years, and died in the year 1808. It is believed he had bishop oversight of the Pequa churches also.

Now did you ever wonder where all these Stoltzfuses come from? A man named Nickolas Stoltzfus (he must have walked with a proud gait, for Stoltzfus means proud foot) emigrated from Germany in 1766 and settled near Reading, Pa. and in 1800 his son Christian came to the Mill Creek, and had

charge of the Pequa, and Mill Creek Old Order Churches. Christian's son John was ordained bishop in 1808. Also David Beiler figures in here. I am supposing this is the same man who wrote the David Beiler booklet of religious instruction. He was ordained 1822.

A few of the people whom I knew are associated with the Millwood church, remembering now this was not a Mennonite church back there, but genuine Old Order Amish. Moses Hartz is one man around whose life lies a lot of history, and a man who figures large in the Amish churches in the Big Valley, of Pa. This man Moses was ordained while the Millwood church was still Amish, and apparently remained with the House Amish when it was divided. For Moses was ordained in 1855, and the Millwood church as a separate group began just 100 years ago, in 1877. When his son became a millwright and left the House Amish, and the meidung was put to a test, this is what started the whole meidung affair going. Some thought he was worthy of the ban, others did not, and this is what divided the church in the valley.

There are two reasons given why the Millwood church divided from the House Amish. The first is they wanted to have a building in which to meet for corporate worship; and the second reason is that Gideon Stoltzfus, who was ordained in 1868 and was the son of Tennessee John, had his father back for a visit, and allowed him to preach, and the other Amish thought him unworthy or unfit to teach the people, because he was not in the same doctrinal position. This also added to the separation which took place in 1877, and Gideon took about two-thirds of the membership with him, about 75 people, John Umble and David F. Stoltzfus being of the opposing party. It is said this was

a very peaceful separation, although some who know of the undercurrent do not agree, for feelings always come to the fore in such times.

Another man whom I consider one of my friends is Sim Stoltzfus, or his official title is Menno Simons Stoltzfus, who is not an old man and attends at the Simmontown church, but was ordained at Millwood in 1933, and was later released to minister in mission work in Union Co. in 1947, but somehow this plan never materialized, much to the disappointment of Sim. He was later released to the Bart Chapel in 1953. He preached there until the Eastern Penna. Mennonite church group formed, then the Simmontown group met in a home and in a small school house until they acquired the present location near Gap, Pa.

The Division between the Millwood and the House Amish had one stipulation. It was supposed to be a meidung-free church. They wanted hard feelings and hostility; but, of course their plans did not all materialize. They are today connected with the Lancaster Conference.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

July 4--The great bi-Centennial year of our great country has come and gone for a year now, and all the prophets of doom which said America will be overrun and overthrown by that time because it was so planned by those who would be her foes, has not yet come to pass. According to the prognosticators the economy looks good at this time, and the unemployment rate is expected to decline.

Personally I have ceased to concern myself about what is predicted to take place nationally, for I have more important things to mind. I do not close my eyes and refuse to consider, but trust in the living God who giveth us all things richly to enjoy. This puts your mind at ease, and is an inducement to better health.

One comment concerning some Budget News that disturbed me a little was the fact that Melvin L. Yoder that prolific writer from Mt. View, Mo. is moving back to Ohio. It is most certainly none of my business what procedure Mr. Yoder takes, but I remember when I visited his home down there that he was vaccinating young pigs, and cutting their tusks off as an aid in their well being. And he had quite an operation, going, seemingly all was well. And I always hate to see prosperity taking a sudden halt, in such unexpected ways, for I had no premonitions that this was in his plans, and I enjoyed the country of Missouri, and if I had the opportunity and the calling I would enjoy living out farther west. But I was born here in the east, and I like it here too, and as things look at this vantage point I will probably end my earthly career at the same place. The west not being in the foreseeable future for me.

Another reunion was our lot, this makes two in a row. Something that never took place before, the King School Reunion. It was a secular affair with little religious significance, and just like historical affairs each one had his own religion, but that was secondary.

The land for this school was purchased in 1869 from Joseph King, thus it derived the name, King School, and it is located near the King Hollow, right back of the King Hill. Joseph King's picture was there for observation, and I understand that he was the maternal father of the Mr. Hooker family, from which land the school ground was purchased. The Hooker farm is still there, and goes by that name.

I personally did not attend this school, but my wife did, and never went anywhere else to school, so I had the priveledge of going along for the ride.

This school closed in 1947, as there were only 17 pupils there anymore Mrs. David Morris, the daughter of the well known Watkins salesman Albert Leasa, her name being Lucille, she was there and spoke of the past glories, such as is common to man. She now lives in Virginia, and took teaching school there as a yearly basis, not knowing whether she will continue, but so far has been teaching ever since.

There were a number of teachers there, all giving some report of the things they remembered. Paul Roth being one of them, and he now being a preacher himself, he was interested in how many preachers of those of his former pupils there are in this present reunion, and he found that he taught five preachers. Of course the denominations varied, even as they did when the school was in progress.

Chester Yoder taught there for a long time, and during World War One was drafted, & at the end of his tenure of service came back and asked for his position back at the King School and got it. His talk was interesting, for he had all the families listed that he could remember, not having a record, in black and white, they got lost in the shuffle, during all this time.

Mrs. Faye Laub taught before Chester Yoder but when she got married she had to quit for they did not hire married women to teach at that time. But when the war came on and teachers were drafted then she was asked to come and finish the term. She received the phone call one night after she was in bed, and decided to go through with it, while Chester was in the service, it was she who was still teaching when Mr. Yoder came back from the service of his country that she lost her position when he wanted it back. She was the daughter of the well known Dr. Miller of Belleville the family physician, who I would suppose delivered about all the Amish and Mennonite babies in that area during those years. I think when I was born the price was \$10.00 how does that compare with today?

The oldest student of the King School present was in her early eighties, and next to her was Mrs. Sammy K. Yoder, her son David also receiving his formal education at the same place, and he also being the chairman of the meeting.

Ed Kanagy, was the historian, giving us the historical statistics, his name is well known in Budget land. It was very interesting to be present, meeting people you have not seen for many ears.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

July 10-The new Danville Mennonite church building is now completed, and being occupied for its intended use. A dedication service is planned for the latter part of the month. Although it is not being called a dedication service, for some don't like that term, the end result is the same.

It's only a decade that Mennonites came into the area, and were practically unknown, but now there is a fairly large church.

The old Rush church building, is once again standing alone and forsaken, a reminder of past glories, for it was built in 1859. Those who built that probably would not have believed that this could happen to their cherished prize in just 120 years. Can it possibly happen to churches that are built today? To mention it would be absurd.

The weather is just wonderful, and we have had sufficient rainfall to keep things growing nicely, in this part, but it came as thundershowers, therefore some areas are less moist than others. But the hay crop was short, and there is not an abundance of foliage, for it cannot be called a wet year. The timothy will not make second cutting.

I was to the state of Virginia this past week, and it is really dry there, in the Staunton and Shenandoah Valley area, they only having had less than 7 inches of rainfall all year. There normally is not as much rainfall there as here, but this is much less than normal. It is declared a Federal disaster area, and as such is subject to cheap Government loans. The governor went to see President Jimmy Carter about it.

In driving throughout the east I notice there are very many cattle on the hills and valleys, and even saw some buffaloes, and llamas that seem to have been domesticated.

Through New York state, there are yet very small family size dairy farms, although there are more cows per family, than formerly, yet there still are many in existence.

Also very much land lying idle, and growing up in brush again. Where the pioneer settlers thought they wrought a great achievement to get the land cleared for farming, it is now unappreciated, the people finding easier employment in the cities. In spite of this there is still some land being cleared for farming, where farms exist, and the owners needing more land clear what they have, instead of buying what is already cleared.

In the Appalachian Mountain area here in the east it is very hilly, compared to the west, and the inhabitants cling tenaciously to their homeland despite the hills, and stones, and all the difficulties that are caused by unwanted rocks. People and their habits are very interesting to observe.

There is a snake farm nearby that we've seen advertised many times, but never have taken the time to visit until this last 4th of July.

I did not know there are so many interesting things about snakes. The man who spoke to the crowd there, which consisted of about 30 people, was a very young man of about 20 years, and really seemed to know his snakes. There are many different kinds, and the first he got out and handled was a small garter snake, then on up larger pythons.

He said you should not kill a snake for it is one of man's friends for they live on rats and mice, that do much more damage to society than snakes do. And snakes do not bite you just for the sake of getting rid of you, but only when they are afraid for their safety and you suddenly appear to them, a large specimen standing six feet tall looming upon them and they lying outstretched on the ground. They are more scared of you than you are of them. And more people die every year from lightning than die of snake poison, even bee stings kill more people than snakes do.

And the injection of venom by the snake is not exactly voluntary, at the will of the snake, for venom is controlled by muscular activity, and often when they do bite the venom is not infused at the same time, so no harm is done.

The reason snakes bite is not for self defense but for the killing of their prey. When they see a rat, they strike it, and the venom is infused into the blood stream, and immediately breaks down the the nervous

system, so the snakes digestive system can handle it, the rat dies from the inside, and by the time it gets swallowed it can be digested, for snakes do not chew their food, their teeth are not for chewing.

He said they had two snakes together of the same size, a male and female even of the same specie and the one picked up a mouse and began to swallow it, the other snake picked up the other end of the mouse and began swallowing it, but they did not stop swallowing, when they got to each other, the male being a little larger just kept on going, and swallowed its counterpart too. So they cannot keep two snakes together if they are of the same size of that species, but they can keep small snakes in with larger ones whose habits are different.

He said a snake can die of its own venom if while striking, and the lower jaw teeth swing out, if it closes its mouth too quickly the teeth will go into the upper lip, and inject the venom into the blood stream. The digestive tract can handle the venom but not the blood stream. Snakes also have no ears, they use their tongue to get vibrations, and they also have no eyelids to close when sleeping.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

July 17--The coldest winter on record, and now the hottest summer. If any human organization would be controlling the weather they would sure be in for a lot of trouble, from dissatisfied customers.

For a change of pace and a reunion of old memories, we went to the Beaver Run Mennonite church the other evening. We had attended there for a number of years, but now it has been a number of years that we have absented ourselves, its nice to be a free moral agent, although I know I am not, yet that's what I am told.

The Nickels Family Gospel Singers were there. They are from Springfield, Missouri, and have been going around as a family for many years. They give entire programs at the church. They had a large family, and when the children were yet growing up, and they could have them all with them, it made quite a bit of noise, but now the children are about all married, and only two with them any more; the one a single daughter the other a married son and his wife, and their two children.

The Beaver Run church is not what it used to be, for Ben Lapp is not the pastor anymore, indeed they have no regular pastor, they have a church board and these men on the board are delegated to see that the speakers are provided for the duration of the crisis. Hershey Groff & his wife were there, about as usual, but during the last 10 years many changes have taken place.

We were to visit our old friends Harold Seigrists last Sunday p.m. Harold has been raised in a truck patch, and taught from his youth the art of selling produce, and is very well adapted to it. They have a small farm, but it is nestled in among the hills, where there seem to be an abundance of deer and these deer liked the well groomed crops which the Seigrists planted for them. This of course is discouraging for humans to

see their efforts consumed without monetary returns, and what could they do? Yes they received permission, to go and shoot deer after dark, which they did some, but that did not work too good, for they have near neighbors, and they would be scared at the explosion of the

high powered rifle. They most certainly did not want to get on the wrong side of good neighbors. So they tried something else. He bought fence posts made of fibre glass, which do not carry electricity, and put a four strand barn wire fence up, and electrified the three upper strands, and that seemed to solve the deer problem. They do not have it around the whole farm yet but it seems to work. But the deer come out in broad daylight on the unfenced land.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

July 31--This could go as an historical document, and of interest only to those with whom it immediately concerns; but the sphere of interest broadens as the age progresses. It is the history of the Rush Mennonite church.

The Rush Mennonite church of Northumberland Co. the state of Pa. has officially gone into oblivion, but the successor lives on. It is now called the Danville Mennonite Church. The building where the Rush Church was held is now idle, belongs to the Presbyterians.

The dedication service of the Danville Mennonite Church was held this day. Since we are not officially connected with this denomination anymore, we did not attend the whole of the services, only that part which pertains to the historically thereof.

Edward R. Ker was ordained deacon of this church in 1970, and it was appropriate that he should give forth its history.

I, myself, also figured in largely with the beginnings of it, so my name was used frequently in his expose'.

On Dec. 11, 1966 was the date of the communion service held at Beaver Run Mennonite church, to which both Ed and I were members, but we could not conscientiously go along with the program as it was officially sponsored so we refrained, but met together at Ed's house. In the afternoon Ed, being a native of the community of this part of the country, and Beaver Run being 20 miles away in Montour Co. suggested that we drive over a few hills, where he knew of a Presbyterian church building that was just recently closed, it was called the Rush Presbyterian.

We went, we looked and envisioned things that may happen, and we did not have long to wait for just 6 days later, Ed received visitors; Homer Bomberger, and David Wadel. Homer was a pioneer in the beginning of the Mennonite Messianic Mission, the

outgrowth of the Defenders of The Faith, which is now sponsoring the Eastern Pa. Mennonite Church. I mean the Eastern Church is sponsored by the Mission.

David Wadel came along with Homer to look for a possible location. Homer came in the interest of having a suitable place for I-W boys.

On April 3, 1967 3 members of the Messianic Mission made an official visit to see Ed and were looking for a place to begin a Bible school. Ed, got in contact with the Southern area High School board, and they said they have no building, but they just sold one to the Lutheran Church at Numidia. They did not want this building, but bought it, lest some buy it and make it into an industrial operation. The result was the Messianic Mission leased this building, and remodeled it, and finally bought it, and now it is a great center of attraction for the Eastern Church.

The tenth annual meeting over the 4th of July was just recently held and in the fall they have a week of instructions for ministers and for 12 weeks they have Bible school annually, also a few weeks of a school teachers institute is held annually before the opening of a new school year. This is due this week.

This building at first housed the new members of the I-W unit, for on May 1, 1967 contact was made with the Geisinger Medical Center at Danville, to give work to the boys who took alternative service in lieu of military service, the agreement was made and this began in the fall of 1967.

The first service of what is now the Danville Church was held at this building at Numidia. It was held up on the platform, with 19 people present. M. S. Stoltzfus preached to us. And he continued to preach for us at Rush after we moved over there every first Sunday, and Sam Miller came all the way down from near Canton, Pa. and

preached to us the third Sunday of the month. Sam Miller later then left when Homer Bomberger also decided he could do better with his own set up.

Walter Newswanger, the present pastor at Rush, bought the Bouden Farm on which was a large mansion, which was later converted into the Unit house for the I-W boys. This is also how Oliver Keener came, from Va. asked by the mission board for one year, and he stayed ever since.

On July 14, 1968 we held our first service at the Rush Presbyterian church building, Paul Witmer preached the first sermon there for us.

The first instruction meeting was held for baptismal applicants on Jan. 15, 1969, this was held at our house. That fall we had the first revival meeting with Henry Weaver as Evangelist.

A private school was soon in the offing, and Walter Newswanger gave us the ground with the idea of some day having the church and school and cemetery all on that plot, which is now true today. But we did not know we would need a cemetery so soon, we had only given it a passing thought, but on March 13, 1970, as Walter Newswanger and his wife were coming home from a meeting, a car hit them head on, and his wife Edith was killed.

A peach tree was uprooted to begin a new cemetery. In Jan 7. 1976 a committee was formed to begin operations for the new Danville Mennonite Church and the dedication service held this day July 31, 1977.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Aug. 7--What a blessed time of the year to be alive, insofar as eating is concerned. With new potatoes, sweet corn on the cob, lima beans, sliced tomatoes and apple sauce...what more could a king ask for?

Perhaps its mostly my head, but I think it increases the flavor many fold, just to know these are things that have grown right in your own garden, the fruit of your own labors. And being fresh out of the soil, and not laying around in the grocery stores, nor hauled a thousand miles enroute, where much of the nutrition is lost.

And the crops look so good, the corn is chust vonderful, with all the rains we have had lately, there should be an abundant crop, and much too abundant, for the price is way down there below what it costs to raise it, and it is predicted that many farmers will have to quit.

Nevertheless many of the Amish coming from Lancaster Co. are moving into Montour, and Northumberland Counties, and buying farms; every year brings a new influx. Hope springs forever in the human breast. A man who operates a feed mill told me that despite all the crying the farmers are doing, he believes they are still solvent, for as long as they cry they are making money; its when they are quiet and don't say anything about finances that they are bad off.

Now I myself enjoy pleasure, but too much pleasure brings its penalty with it. I am speaking of eating. I enjoy eating, it affords me pleasure, and to deny myself more food when I would enjoy just a little more seems like an uncalled for sacrifice.

Now when you are yet young and can work off the excess there may not be any penalty involved, but when you get past fifty, and don't win in the battle of the bulge, that is when your weight seems to be getting more all the time, and your stomach seems to be calling for more room, your trousers need to get larger, then you are headed for trouble.

I was told you are not really hungry, if you are overweight, you are just suffering from withdrawal pains. Just like the man who drinks, if he does not have a certain amount of alchohol in his system, he gets a craving, and he goes to seek some more to satisfy his craving. Or the man who smokes, we think its a nasty habit which will shorten your life, and who could enjoy that hot tarry taste in your mouth. But if your body has nicotine in it, and the supply gets low, your system sends out distress signals, for more, so even if the man does not especially care for it he will yet go for more.

The one who made the human body, also gave an operators manuel with it. Its called the Bible, and if this is understood and obeyed, it will result in a healthier body, and better existance upon earth. I know by experience. I would get very hungry, but thought I don't really need that much to eat, for all the more activity I do, but reasoned that if the body requires it I suppose to eat till you feel satisfied would not hurt. But it did hurt. The pleasure that was afforded eating was not enough to compensate for the ill feeling all the time. When you are much too tired, and listless, your wind is short, you can't do much, and you just feel like a deadbeat.

Fortunately for me my system is so constructed with a built in warning devise, that when toxic poisoning builds up I get sick.

The poisoning builds up very slowly, but the let down comes when your system will not take it any more, you get a fever, and are weak and can do little more than lay in bed. And your common sense tells you that you have been indulging in your pleasures and now the time has come to pay the penalty. That

hunger I thought I had was in reality just a withdrawal pain, the system was requiring more food, and I had to eat till it would not go down any more before I felt satisfied.

Going by your feelings is always risky business for they are not a safe guide, spiritually, or physically don't do it. Get the facts and go by them, your feelings will get stablized when you get the facts straight.

So I lost 15 pounds, just by sheer determination, and by not eating all that I thought was good. And very important is to stop all the snacks in between meals, not even one little peanut, don't do it. Now I don't get near as hundry anymore, for when once the withdrawal is conquered, the craving levels off.

It is very important that you get enough fibers in your system to keep it working smoothly, but if everything works so good, you are very apt to gain weight, and that is what you don't want to do. Fifteen pounds makes a very big difference, and motivation is so much easier for it takes less energy to move you around, and you don't get winded so easily. Try it, it works.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Aug. 21--This social community was quite shocked by the sudden unexpected death of a very notable man, Pastor of Danville Mennonite Church, and secretary of the Mennonite Messianic Mission, and how many other things he was on I am not able to tell, but he was widely used.

Walter Newswanger moved into this area about ten years ago, when as yet it was a newly developing Mennonite Community. He purchased a large farm, and proceeded to make employment for his three sons. He purchased a neighbor farm, and divided the home farm so made room for them in this way.

He had envisioned a Mennonite Church center where there was then a peach orchard, a place for a school, church and cemetery. This is now realized. They decided we needed a school first, but before plans for this were fully materilized, his wife was killed in an auto accident, & they had to begin a cemetery out in the peach orchard.

Now just after the full realization of his vision, with the new church built and being used, the first funeral held in it, was his own. The first grave that of his wife and the second that of his granddaughter. The third his own. He was only 58. He was a heart patient for some time, having what is called Angina Pectorus, or strangling breast, a lack of oxygen.

He had just finished helping with the milking, at his elder son's barn.

He has just finished helping with the milking, at his elder sons place and went out to proceed with the digging, for an addition to the barn. He was found soon afterward lying in the ditch, life had gone.

In fact this was the first funeral ever held in this community for anyone of the Mennonite faith. His wife's

funeral being held in Lebanon Co. And it was the second of its kind that I have ever attended, when a man so much in use and seemingly so sorely needed was taken by death. The first was that of my cousin Pius Renno held about 30 years ago at the Locust Grover Church. He also was much used in various positions and was much needed, but death claimed him nevertheless.

There were about 500 people at Walter's funeral, the auditorium, and the basement both being filled. About 300 stayed for lunch afterward.

His passing was very hard to take, and it was hard to make yourself believe that he was gone, and you would never speak to him again in this terrestrial world.

He was the pastor of the Canville Church, but he was not a fluent speaker nor had he much, studying and maintaining capacity, but he was an excellent buffer, and liaison member, a very good help in government. Just as cartledge is very useful, and vitally needed between the vertebra bones of the back. When anyone of these disks are injured, or out of place, the result will be a very painful experience.

So Walter was able to take the shocks of others and absorb them and release them with much of the shock removed. But all this was wearing him down, for he was an introvert by nature, and would not explode and give vent to his deepest emotions, but just kept them pent up inside. Thus was able to take insults and rebukes patiently, at least on the surface. Suddenly he is gone, who will replace him?

How quickly everyones plans can change, when there is a funeral of a very notable man, the thing you had fully planned to do are left undone, or done some other time, this takes precedence over most everything else. But such is life full of unexpected events, and if we can somehow expect the unexpected, we are much better able to cope with it.

At the funeral Sidney Gingerich mentioned this fact, how that a cloud hangs over most of our life, for we do not know who our life companion will be, neither do we know just

how long we will live with that companion, there is really very little that we really do know. But he said Walter had made the choice where he will be in the after life, and now has made that change. He said just a week ago he was at a meeting where Walter had his usual place, and eyes were on him and asking questions of what his advice would be; but now no more.

Jesse Neuenschwander had the funeral sermon, and said a champion for the cause of Christ has no left us but God's purposes are not defeated just by the passing of a mere man. And our words we now can add are but a feeble testimony to the actions that transpired when Walter was alive.

Walter never expressed a desire for earthly fame or glory, but his chief concern was for the welfare of the church.

The world will not stop by the passing of one man, but it does make more of a dent in our emotions if he is an important man; that is important to many more than just his immediate family.

John Renno