

DANVILLE, PA.

Jan. 13—My left eye is causing me trouble, my vision is clouded. No its not a cataract, I've been to the Geisinger Medical Center here in town, and they gave me all kinds of tests, even put blue dye in my veins, and watched that as it went through my system, and they always come up with the same answer; a beams in your eye.

I was told by a friend that I shouldn't settle for their verdict alone for those men at the hospital are paid by the hospital, and when their day is up they can go home. its not like a private practitioner whose honor is at stake. So it was recommended that I go to Harrisburg to see Dr. Morrison. He is such a good doctor, in fact he treated the eye for a daughter of the Queen of the Netherlands, and gave her a functional vision, and the mother was so pleased she gave a Rolls Royce automobile as a free gift.

I thought this sounds logical I'll go see this Dr., and I did, and he gave me all kinds of tests, even put my visuale capacity on a computer, and my one eye is 20-15. and the other something less. But the answer is the same the retina of the left eye has a wrinkle in it, and the retina of the eye does the same thing the film does in a camera. You may have the most expensive kind of camera, but if the film in it is wrinkled your picture will be blurred.

Where do I go from here? He said to the Hershey medical Center. There are two men there who do nothing but look at and repair the retina of the eye; and they are paid hospital employees. He said if you go to a private Dr., he might need some extra money, and would highly reccommend an operation, for it would net him a handsome sum. About \$1500 at a

clip. But he said if you go to a hospital where the doctor is an employee, it makes no difference to him if you submit to surgery or not, he does not get any m ore of it anyways. Dr. Morrison told me these men could make twice the money they are making if they were in a private practice. but a doctor who works at a hospital has fixed income, not mattering what he does.

He reccommended I go to see one of these men who do nothing but repair the retina of the eye; but I am not sure that I want to, he said it could help, and it could make it much wose, there is no guarantee either way. I've decided to live with it. It doesn't bother me all that much for driving, which is my main occupation, and not too bad for reading, that can be done with one eye; but in doing odd jobs like driving nails, or doing a bit of mechanical work, where the distance between the object and the eye is always changing I just have trouble in getting the proper focus.

Anyways, the doctors office is not far from the Penna Farm Show building, and they were having a horse pulling contest that afternoon and I've never seen this before so I stopped in.

I appreciate horses, they are a very galliant creature, even as the Lord said to Job: Hast thou given the horse strength? Hast thou clothed his neck with thunder? The glory of his nostrils is terrible, he paweth the valley and rejoiceth in his strength, he goeth on the meet the armed men...he saith among the trumpets, Ha, ha and he smelleth the battle afar off, the thunder of the captions and the shouting.

Well that is what these horses heard. There were twelve teams of medium weight. Then they put on 5500 pounds, and most of them pulled that the required distance of 27½ feet,

but some could not get co-ordinated or began to see-saw, and it would not move. But when they put on 6500 pounds that was just too much some of them moved it for 10 feet and some less; but they sure tried, and to see them expend all their energy and strain every muscle was admirable. And they were well trained too, for not every team would start a dead weight of about twice their weight unless they really pulled together. Some were very nervous, for there were about 4000 people watching, and the more nervous they were the less the could pull, but the teams which were of a quiet disposition when the order was given by their master to go, they really laid into that collar.

Another thing I've never seen before was a six horse team hitched in a Conestoga wagon. There were three teams, the one in front of the other, and on each there was check lines, hence three pairs of check lines the driver had to hold in his hand, and between each team there was a tounge, to the which the dtuble and single trees were hitched. One of the teams were from Garrett, Pa. in Somerset Co., the other was from Lanc., Co., Pa. Very well groomed and well trained horses. To hear the wagon wheels rumble over the concrete, and hear the clap of the steel horse shoes, was better sounding to me than a symphony.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Jan. 20—Our daughter, Irene works at a nursing home at Selinsgrove. She is a licensed Practical nurse, and as such has the authority to dispense medicines for the patients; which are all elderly folks.

She was in the hallway, and an old lady saw her and began coughing, because she wanted cough medicing. But Irene saw that it was all put on as she did not have to cough, but did it to obtain what she wanted. She told her "you do not have a cough, and I am not giving you any medicine for it", but she insisted she had a cough, but her insistance did not bring the results she wanted so she retired to her room and sulked, and her anger was directed at Irene.

This is not what Irene wanted, and to cool her anger she went to the refrigerator, and took and small medicine cup, and put orange juice in it, and gave it to the patient, saying, "here is something for your cough," this sufficed and her anger abated, and later she was again her usual self, and thanked her for that good cough medicine, saying, "it really worked."

We appreciate the very mild winter we have had so far, and I would not mind it, if it would remain this way. By the time you read this it will be near ground hog day, and by that time winter is about over.

There will soon be an Eastern Mennonite church at Hartleton, Pa. This is the very western tip of Union County, almost in Center Co. The building is under roof and pretty well under way, and they expect to have services in it a few months. They were meeting at the Auditorium at Penns Creek, of the camp ground of a Holiness group, but it is too cold, not for they don't heat is above 65, and it has concrete floors. So for a little time they are meeting in a

rented hall, where it's more comfortable. This group is part of the Danville church, but they were so far wwest, and they decided to have two churches instead of one. Paul Ebersol is the pastor of this group. My friend Oliver Keener gave me the information.

Concerning energy, we are told to conserve it, for much of it does not replace itself. The coal fields have a limited amount there even though it will put the end of them far out in the future, there is no more coal being formed today, no oil, as I understand it.

There is some interest in making alchohol from a bushel of grain that you do cider from a bushel of good apples. And

grain is something that can be replaced it does reproduce itself. Also wood, there is much wood out there for the getting, and it is still growing.

We do not burn wood, for our house is fixed with an oil furnace and we like it, but the oil is getting very expensive. We did get one of those little kerosene heaters that are advertised in the Budget. We got it just in case of an emergency if the electricity would go off we would have no scource of heat. But now we use this heater about every day. It too burns kerosene, but we can keep our house warm with about a gallon a day, which is much less than the oil furnace consumes.

Why does not someone come up with idea of putting steel pipes in this small heater, and put a blower in the bottom of it, blowing air through the pipes, and you would get still more heat, than you do this way. This heater does an excellent job, for it consumes all the oil, there is no residue, no smoke, no fumes that are not burned, you do not smell a thing, if you have it on all day. You have fire without smoke coming out. Now there is smoke for every fire has some gas going from it, but the inside is so constructed that it is all burned.

And if anyone get the notion to try to make an oil heater of total combustion with heat pipes, I wish you would think a little more and come up with another idea.

You know those rebounders that are also advertised in in the Budget? rig up some pump underneath that, or something, so that while we are getting our excercises we are also pumping water or air, so that all that energy is not wasted. It is indeed good excercise to rebound on the thing, but should not that energy be conserved too.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Jan. 27--George Bernard Shaw was an Englishman, he lived almost 100 years, born in 1856 and died in 1950. The reason I mention him is because of the statement he is credited with making. "If Jesus Christ were to come back today, and live among Christians, he would not be accepted of them, they would not want him around." That is interesting, coming from a man who did not profess to be a Christian, but by observing those who did, came up with this conclusion.

Think of it for a moment, if Jesus did come back, where would he attend church? The Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, to name the most popular, protestants, or could you conceive him attending a Catholic church?

We know this is hypothetical, and will not come to pass, but we are human and as such we all think we are right, and if you do not agree with me you are wrong, and in no field is this more pronounced than in the religious field.

To write of current events is almost useless, for I have been reading an article that I wrote back in 1961, and it reads just about like it was written today, wars and rumors of wars, and if I write of today's events they will probably not change much in the next 20 years, barring a Divine intervention.

I want to record an interesting event which began in 1714 in the area of Hesse, Germany. A group of people who were persecuted for their faith, did not send their children to the public schools, and were pacifist in their practices. They soon had a name called the Community of True Inspiration. This had its beginning by an inspired leader Eberhard Ludwig Gruber, and Johann Fredrick Rock. Then during the early 19th century a man arose by the name of Christian Metz, who assumed their leadership, and he claimed by Divine inspiration. They were supposed to go west, to the New World.

This trek began in 1842, and they founded the Ebenezer Community, near Buffalo, N.Y. But because of deteriorating and worldly influences, they moved to the state of Ia., and founded the Amann Colonies in 1855.

Their policy was to do no proselyting, no missionary work, not actively engage in drawing converts to their faith. They only wanted to live together in peace, and quietness & a brotherly way of life. This to them meant the community

of goods type of life, all property was to them meant the community of goods type of life, all property was to them meant the community of goods type of life, all property was held in common, and all decisions were made by the church, in so far as everyone was concerned you did not have your own money account all your needs were provided, and you were free.

By that I mean you did not need to be concerned as to where your living was coming from, the church provided all that. And this lasted until 1932, when they decided to each go their separate way, financially, but they still held together religiously, and still do.

You have undoubtedly heard of the Amana refrigerators, and freezers; if not of them you have heard of Philco. These are the people who began making these things, and they soon had a large complex of industry, but it is just like everything else, you have to grow, larger or smaller, and when it got too large for them they sold out to other men, who were not of their religious persuasion, and they just were employed by them.

You may visit the group today, and see them, but they are not too much different than contemporary society. They

claim they have had no inspired leaders since 1883, when Barbra Landman Heinemann died. She was supposed to be an inspired leader, and by that they meant someone who really had a Divine call to lead them to a full life and be their spiritual leader. After the death of their leaders no one else arose to replace them, and no one dared to stand up and preach to them, because they did not feel inspired, so they just comforted themselves by the reading of writings which were left behind by the former inspired leaders.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Feb. 3--Do you remember the old fashioned tent meetings? Where there was that saw dust trail; where the preacher pleaded for you to make that decision, and with the decision you would receive the promise of everlasting life?

Well; I was to one of them the other day, but it was not quite like the old fashioned tent meetings; it was a tent, and saw dust, and many decisions were made; costly decisions averaging about \$2300 each.

Let me explain. It has to do with one of my former close associates and best friend. His name is Edward R. Ker, I have known him for quite a few years, he is a native of this section of the country, and has decided to cast his religious lot in with the Mennonites. He always said he did not do this because it was easy, but because it was right. In the process of time he was ordained

to the office of deacon; and he takes his calling very seriously, not only the work of a deacon, but he is a well educated man, having been a former school teacher, and is thoroughly acquainted with agriculture, and dairying in particular. Because he is well educated he is much needed in the work of the church, for there is so much the church is involved in these days. Writing their own school text books, and Bible lesson helps etc. It takes men who know what they are doing, men who know language, and science, and technology, and Mr. Ker is such a man, far too well educated to spend his time milking cows for a living; but he enjoyed it too.

His children helped him, but as children do, they get older, and they get married, and leave home. Now the sale is history. This is where the tent meeting comes in at, the sale was held in a tent, that held about 200 people packed full.

Now I had a very strong desire to be at this sale, but my occupation is over the road trucking, and I did not know if I could make it; but I did and that was nothing short of a miracle, things had to fall in place exactly to make it work, and it was so wonderful that I need to report it here.

I took a load of lumber from Bethlehem, Pa. to Charleston, W. Va. on a Tuesday, and the sale was to be on Thursday, as far as I could see there was no way feasible for me to go. The next morning I unloaded at Charleston, at a new building of the Church of the Nazarene, and the type of building did not match with my estimation of the lowly Nazarene, but that is their business. At Ravenswood, W. Va. there were four loads to be shipped east, two that evening, and two the next day; and there were five drivers there, and I being the fifth, so logically that excluded me from getting a load, until much later. So I resigned myself to the fate, what else could I do? But then very unexpectedly, a call came from Parkersburg, asking how soon we could have a truck

there they have pipe going to Selinsgrove, Pa. Nobody else wanted it, so I was glad for the privilege. I hurried in the Selinsgrove and was unloaded by 11 the next day, the day of the sale.

Now what was so great about a dairy herd dispersal? Nothing in and of itself, but there was much sentiment connected with it to me. Because Ed Ker, and I grew up together, in church related life. And what's more there were very many old friends and acquaintances there it was like a reunion, a revival meeting, a tent meeting, a sawdust trail.

These were very high quality cows that were sold, the highest one bringing \$3100 and many bringing \$2000, even a few day old calves brought \$900. This is what you have when you have good stock, and have the records to prove it, of what they did in the past, and who their sires were, and their dams and all that wonderful pedigree. This means something to dairymen.

I spoke to one man 73 years old, who claims he gets up every morning at 3 and milks more than 100 cows, they get 60 cans of milk per day by milking them three times a day, and sell most of it at the farm in two quart containers. He said back in 1940 he would pay five and six hundred dollars for cows. It's

not that the cows have gone up in price so much, it's just that the money is worth so much less.

But then at these kind of farm sales there is very much showmanship, the cows are elevated on a platform, with clean sawdust, and men in the ring asking for bids, and shouting with glee when it is obtained. Much excitement prevails, and men bid higher than they would under normal circumstances. Just like modern revival meetings men are coerced under peer pressure to make decisions, and there is glory in being the highest bidder.

I am afraid when the cows get to their new owners, and all the excitement is over, and unless the new owners take care of the cows like their former owner, they will not produce like they were said to have done, and there will be some dissatisfaction, and disappointment. We wish everyone the highest degree of success.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

March 3--I acknowledge that I have not written for a few weeks and I have my reasons for not doing so, I am a man given to like passions as everyone else is. The days, the weeks, the months roll on, and if we try to stop from going along with time, you are missing.

I've had the final exam done on my one eye that has a blurred vision; and thought you would like to know about it, for you have eyes, that are made after the same fashion.

This was done at the Milton Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, Pa. This makes the third witness, and by the mouth of two or three witness let every word be established. I been examined by a paid eye doctor at the Geisinger Medical Center, at Danville, and by a private practitioner at Harrisburg, and now by another paid practitioner, at Hershey, and he does nothing but work on the retina of the eye.

He showed me how complicated thhuman eye really is. It is not a muscle that gets stronger by use, and weaker by not being used, although the eye itself may be a muscle, the seeing part of it is not, but a part of brain tissue, and when once destroyed it cannot be replaced. You may hurt your skin, and it can be grafted on from other parts of the body, and doctors can do marvelous things; but where life is concerned they must fold their hands, for they have not yet discovered the secret of life. The brain is the control over the whole body, to which the spinal cord is connected, and is a part of, and so is the retina of the eye, made of the same tissue as the brain and the spinal cord is made up of, and it just about as strong as a wet piece of tissue paper, it takes very little to damage it, and when once damaged it cannot heal itself.

When you have a heart attack, the heart will heal itself, and keep on going, but if any part of the brain tissue is damaged, that's it!

This doctor had a piece of ceramic in the shape of a human eye. From this he took a lid, and you could see the internal part of it. The eyeball which you can see is a very small part of the eye. The large part in the back is shaped like a bowl, and is full of fluid that appears like the white of an egg. This bowl which holds this fluid is lined with a very fine film of brain tissue, which is called the retina, the whole of the eye is lined with this, in the back. And when this retina gets damaged in any way, it cannot be repaired; or if parts of it are removed.

What happened in my case, there became a scar tissue on my retina, as as scars do they contract, the skin draws together, and stretches, when this happened to my internal part of the eye, it became wrinkled, that is why the 1st report was I have a wrinkled retina. Sometimes a wrinkle can be corrected; but in my case a scar developed, and by some movement it was torn from the

retina, and now there is a hole there. So not only do I have a wrinkled retina, but a small part of it is not there, hence when I look at things, parts of it are dark. While reading with that eye I can see a part of the word but the other part is not visible.

What caused the scar to develop, and how can a recurrence be avoided. It is not known to man, except it is a part of growing old. As mentioned in an earlier article, we were created, to live forever, the way we were originally designed the eye, the brain was to function forever, along with the rest of the body, for it is self recuperating. But when our representative disobeyed the Divine fiat, death set in and he began to die, and so death passed upon all of his descendants. The moment I came into the world, I began to die, and now that I have been here for more than half a century, I am dying faster, and barring a Divine intervention, such as the calling out of the redeemed; one of these days my brain will cease to function, and eath will have taken complete control of my body, and mortification set in.

This earth which was completed, and made perfect, where man was supposed to dwell forever, is now a flying cemetery, filed with bodies that are no more functioning.

But take heart, a redevelopment is coming, and the Creator will see to it that his purposes will not be set aside permanently.

A great proof of the Divine inspiration of scripture, is the Jew. He has been maligned, destroyed, robbed, and plundered, and has been amalgamated into society, but he still stands out just like a sore thumb, he makes his presence known. Recently, I

have seen four Jewish youth being interviewed on TV. They were teenagers, born in Russia, but were brought to America by their parents, while they were yet children, but had gone to school in Russia. They said they were not allowed to celebrate any Jewish holidays, they had nothing to remind them that they are Jews; in that respect, but when in society they were never allowed to forget that they were hated Jews. While attending school, they got lower grades, because they were Jews, at play they were cheated, and not allowed to win any games, because they were Jews. They were the off-scouring of society, the butt of jokes; and maligned on every hand, and they could not hide the fact that they were Jews; even though they dressed, and lived just as the common run of society, and did nothing different, they were not allowed to practise their religion; but they never were an integral part of that society; because they were Jews, and could do nothing about it.

These were a chosen few that were allowed to come to America and now they can attend synagoge if they choose, they can keep all the Jewish feasts if they so choose. They were asked if there would have been any possibility of their being interviewed on public TV in Russia, but they said no that would not even entered into their fondest dreams.

In conclusion let me answer two questions that you have. No, I do not own a TV set, and very seldom see one, I do not have time to waste. The viewing of the Jews was providential.

The second question; my eyes are not so bad that I have much difficulty, it is something I can live with, my seeing ability is hindered but only in one eye; I am thankful for what I have.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

March 10—Ronald Reagan is plenty old to run for President but then we could stand some mature judgement in Washington.

But he has not proven to me that he is very mature when it comes to controlling a budget. He is planning to spend 13 million dollars just trying to get on the presidential ticket; and due to the laws that have come controlling how campaign money can be obtained due to the water gate scandal, he says he needs more than 13 million, he underestimated. Now the question is, if he cannot make his campaign budget balance, how can he manage the nations economy? If he should be elected?

Truly our nation is in a bad state of affairs, and our rulers are at their wits end trying to keep the thing from developing catastrophic proportions and prophets are really having a hey-day; making dire predictions; indeed I have heard them for the last 40 years. Yes things did get worse and while no one knows the future, those who know the one who holds the future are in a happy state, no ill can touch them.

I was asked to report on a wedding, but thought you would not mind views on the state of the nation. The Wedding was held at Belleville, Pa. my old stamping ground. There is nothing unusual about a wedding, they happen frequently, and I've been to many of them.

It is a very stiff, formal occasion, where mistakes are forbidden, because at such occasions everyone is supposed to hold his best foot forward. The only mistake that I have seen at this one was when the bride and groom came walking in, and the bridegroom almost run into the hanging microphone only a quick ben-

ding over avoided this. Also it is unusual to have the wedding ceremony carried by the Federal Communications Commission, the phone lines were hooked up to Idaho, and Arizona, so friends who could not be present could at least listen.

The man who was married was Chester Goosen from Manitoba, Can. and the woman was Ada Peachey. She is the daughter of Daniel J. Peachey, whom many of the elderly who were in the C.P.S. service will remember, he was stationed at Grottoes, Va., and at Hagerstown, Md. where once the Amish had their own Camp.

As for the man, I have never seen him before, but he is the son of a very important man in the John Holdeman denomination, for he does their printing, and in speaking to him I discovered he can speak very intelligently of the business; he was trying to explain how an electronic computer works. I do not know more than I did, it was about like teaching a three year old the chemistry of life, the capacity to comprehend was absent.

The wedding was held at the new Holdeman Church building where about 350 guests were present. Guests were fed in the basement.

It is interesting to note, that when the Apostle Paul was taken from Jerusalem to Caserea, one night, he was conducted part way by 740 men. We have seen 350 men, men and women and children at this wedding, to witness two people exchange vows, but here were 470 men and 70 horses to conduct one man at government expense.

One interesting event at the wedding was to see 16 small children 8 to 10 years of age, file up to the platform and sing for us.

Another interesting event was to sit across the table from Urie Kanagy, who is so engrossed in the gospel of Christ that he can speak of little else. I wish he had more peers.

The one who preached was Rev. Peters, & in speaking to him afterward he told me how they get married in Africa, for he was formerly a missionary there. A man is wealthy who has daughters to sell. Very young girls are sold by their father in future market, & when they are old enough to have children they must go and live with the one for whom they had been purchased, they have no say in the matter at all. And if time proves that they can bear no children their owner may bring them back and demand his money.

Some men have up to 10 wives; he lives in the central hut, and a hut for each wife is built around his hut. The who was his first wife has the seniority, she tells the others what to do, and where the husband will eat his meal for that day, when he comes home. She serves him while he eats, and cleans him up when he comes, there is no such thing as a family sitting down and eating together.

If and when anyone professes to get saved he must get rid of all his wives except the first one if he wants to be baptised, & he said if many do just that. But the old traditions are so very strong in them that when they get tried very hard, they about always revert back to their old religious ways with doctor for help. If a mans child gets very sick he takes it to the witch doctor, who demands his money first and if the man has no money there will be no rites for the child. He usually comes up with the money by begging & playing on sympathetic friends. The rites consist of mixing dung and chicken entrails together and giving it to the child; if he dies then it was too late, you should have come sooner.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

March 23-Spring has sprung at last; this morning for the first I heard a turtle dove, saying in dutch Du bisht veesht, veesht, veesht. Which interpreted in English means you are ugly; corresponding to the curse of this world, which is subject to vanity, and not being a musician I cannot affirm this, but I am told all the music of the birds are in a minor key, the way funeral dirges are sung with a note of sadness.

This introduces my subject of nervous tension, and improper diet. There has been much sickness in this area, with the so-called flu bug. People have colds, and all the discomforts that are associated with it and they blame it on the flu, or something outside of themselves. If we would be honest we would have to say I have violated a law of nature and I am paying a penalty for that violation.

The human body is made to be self recuperating, and thats why we get over a cold, or some minor sicknesses. But an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; would it not be much better to never get a cold than to have it and get over it once again?

Our bodies are made to resist the diseases that are around us, indeed if we would get sick every time we come in contact with disease the human race would be extinct. I carry in my body potential worm ready to eat me when the conditions are right. For example, I had sunflower seeds in a tight jar in my truck; and had forgotten them, and left them alone for too long, and when I got to them they were wormy. How did the worms get in that tight sealed jar?

The answer is quite simple, they were in the seeds all the time, but they lay dormant until the conditions were just right.

In the same way do potential disease germ live in our bodies, but they do us no harm as long as we treat our bodies fit to keep these germ dormant. When we weaken ourselves, by very many things than these germs take over, and we say we got the flu bug. This is inherant in human nature. This is the answer Adam have to his Creator; the women whom you gave to me caused me to do it. Ever since that time we are all dishonest, and shift the blame on something outside of ourselves.

William McGrath a proficient Budget scribe, spends about all his time promoting good health, traveling across country, telling folks to live naturally, the way the Creator made us to function, this is good.

But if you have the proper diet, the proper bodily care, if you do not have proper control of your reactions to your environment, and get bogged down with nervous tension, you will finally succumb to ill health also. If we could only learn to live by the sermon on the Mount, we would fare so much better.

Stop worrying about things which you may think you see on the horizon. I know our economy is about to collapse, and the threat of war hangs over our heads, and we are so weak and undisciplined we could not fight; but that is future, and one thing Jesus taught us is not to worry about the future, let tomorrow take care of itself. Live in the present; it is only in the present that we are in contact with eternity. For eternity has no past, and it has no future, eternity never had a beginning; I know we cannot think in those terms, it is beyond our capacity to think, but that does not take away those facts.

The past is static, it does not change, there is nothing you can do to change that, you live with knowing those facts, and it is good to keep an eye on the past,

lest we make the same mistakes in the future, but we should not live in constant fear and dread of what may be, this is the real killer. To worry about what may be, but is yet uncertain in the future, is just borrowing from tomorrows troubles, and paying a very high rate of interest on it, this is forbidden in scripture, and if you do it you are violating a law of nature, and you will be penalized. Even if you take all kinds of natural vitamins, and health foods.

The nervous system is the important, part and the control center of ourselves, and when the controls don't work, you may be in ever so good health organically, and yet succumb to illness.

Fifty years ago, before we had all these labor saving devices, before we knew about calories, yes we were in deep economic depression, but there was much less nervous tension; there was much less divorce, and it was safe to walk our city streets. A man had a small farm, and lived from that and hopes to get it paid for during his productive years. He walked behind the plow, mile after mile we would walk; yes we were tired in the eve.,but it was a healthy fatigue, the mind and nervous system was not worn to shreds, and you could go to bed and sleep.

But you knew no more about the future than you do now, but you had physical duties to perform, and you had no time to sit and worry, as the saying goes, as long as the horse is pulling, it cannot kick. The labor saving devices that we think are so essential, are really detrimental if you do not know how to use them to your own advantage.

To live happily; think of the past, with an eye to instruct the future, but do not live in either one, keep your mind on the present, and do not neglect to take your Creator into account; He is first, others are next, and you are last in importance. To a healthy existance!

J. Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

April 1—On the 29th day of this month there is a rally scheduled in our nations capitol, called the Washington For Jesus rally, it is sponsored by the Charismatic segment of our religious society. But they said they do not want just a Charismatic hootenanny, they want everyone there who can possibly attend. They are soliciting the support of the fundamental religious society too.

Perhaps I should explain who the different segments are. The Charismatics are of the more recent development, and the title comes from the Greek word Charis, meaning love, hence they make much of their love for everyone, and the love of God, and they claim that since Jesus is the same today, yesterday and forever, he will heal and work miracles today just as he did when he sojourned here upon earth, and they have great success stories.

Even poverty they say is not in the plan of God for anyone, but it is a result of unbelief, therefore if you do not have all the money you want its signifies a lack of faith.

On the other hand are the fundamentalists, who would comprise about all the major old denominations, but especially those who take the doctrine of salvation seriously, and more pointedly the independant Baptists. Those who claim the miracles known in Biblical times were cancelled when the whole Cannon of scripture was fullfilled. For in the book of Acts, there was no New Testament, therefore God spoke to the church through prophets who had a special revelation etc.

Mennonites and Amish are not classified as Fundamentalists. They did not come down through history as Protestants, protesting the Catholic religion, but they protested the Fundamentalists too.

This Washington for Jesus Rally is planned to be all encompassing, including all those who call Jesus Lord, regardless of your religious affiliation. They expect a million people to be there to show this nation that there still is a segment of society who take the scripture seriously.

As for my own opinion of this movement, I see no scriptural precedent for such activities; for scripture tells us to study to be quiet and to do our own business, and to be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks a reason for our faith, but to go and peddle it is hardly a scriptural action.

We took a personal historical tour last Sunday. We attended the Mennonite church service at Beaver Run. Those congregation began in the early 1950's and the present building was erected in 1955. It was sponsored by the Mellinger's congregation in Lancaster Co. We had attended there formerly until the Eastern Pa. Church began in 1968 closer to where we now live and closer to our interpretation of scripture.

Although time has since questioned the wisdom of our move; nevertheless we attended again after a lapse of about 10 years.

You have probably heard the story of Rip-Van Winkle; our experience at this service was somewhat similar. Those who were mere children then are now grown, and another generation is asking for recognition. About ten families are still there as usual, but the building is about full, now holding 125, and the culture has also changed. A man dressed similar to John The Baptist would now find acceptance there. If you will recall, he did not shave nor cut his hair, and did not wear formal clothes, but had a coat made of rough camels hair, and a leather girdle about his loins, probably his legs were bare, and he did not preach at a large auditorium, but those wanted to hear him had to go out to the wilderness.

You don't need Sunday-go to meetin clothes anymore, denim trousers are good, especially if they are worn, and patched.

What was significant, and co-incidental was they had a baptismal service that morning, and the applicant was a man for whom they had been praying for more than a decade. He was a heavy drinker; his wife attended Beaver Run

faithfully, but he would not darken the door. But persistence won out, and he asked and received admission into that church membership. The whole congregation took the pledge of allegiance to the Lord and that church after the man had given a favorable response to the questions.

The pastor there is now Walter Clemmens, a charter member there and there was a need for a strong leader, when Ben Lapp left, and it was found in Walter; he has few peers. He also administered the rite of baptism, which traditionally only the bishops did, but that has now changed. Also the rite of feet washing at Communion is again coming into more practise than formerly; for it fits very well into the spirit of this age, much love and visible affections. So much so that even men greet the women with a kiss at times; we saw that being done for the first time in a Mennonite church.

The mode of baptism was the traditional mode of pouring in the name of the office of the Trinity. Saying this signifies the infilling or baptism of the Spirit of God, which was poured out. They will however immerse, if the applicant so desires.

My long time friend Henry Foreman and I had planned to attend there on the same day, then have dinner together; and we did, but not as formerly planned, for Reuben Meyers invited all of us to their house and we were well rewarded.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

April 5—I was at church today, the first Saturday of April. Now when you think of church you immediately think of a group of people who have met together in a worship service; but that is not necessarily the correct use of the word.

The word is derived from the Greek Ek. meaning out, and Kalein, meaning to call. For instance you find the use of the word in Acts 19 where a large assembly came out to shout great is Diana of the Ephesians, and the most part knew not why they came out, they just came because they saw a public meeting taking place. This is the kind of church I attended today. Called out by a herald for the discussion of public business.

The place of this assembly, or church was at the Farm Show building at Harrisburg, Pa. Not having any particular statistics I do not know how many were there, but by observation my guess would be about 2000. Most of these assembled were of the Mennonite, or related faith.

This for me holds special interest, for the Mennonites are the cleanest, best cultured folks of which I know. All because they are strict disciplinarians. This is their historical background. Because human nature has had a wrong start, it thinks only evil; and if you do what comes naturally, you will eventually wind up on the human dung heap; refuse, good for nothing.

So to counteract this evil tendency discipline and correction must be rigorously applied. Not only in the rearing of children, but each one of us must discipline our lives.

Like the common complaint is about food; why is everything I like to eat either wrong, or fattening. To avoid what is harmful takes self discipline. And the plain folks are heroes when it comes to discipline; and that is why they are the best, cleanest folks.

The purpose of this assembly was to get money to help the poor. Now isn't that a noble cause, for scripture says he that giveth to the poor, lendeth to the Lord. And who pays better interest than he?

Well its not that simple, for it was a relief sale, and the money was gotten the easy way, the way that is easiest to give, where they do it collectively, in a big way where they all join in and help, give something to sell and give the money for the help of those less fortunate than ourselves.

The most attention was of course the quilts that were sold, and I have no idea how many, but there were very many, and they were always calling for three hundred or more dollars, in that neighborhood.

The relief sale has become bis business. In this year of 1980 there are 20 of them scheduled across the U.S. and Canada. Last year the sales totaled

\$1,635,344.00. This money was channeled through the Mennonite Central Committee, which is a cooperative relief agency for the 17 different Mennonite, and brethren in Christ groups.

MCC was born in 1920, in response to war and famine, by the revolution in Russia. Necessity is the mother of inventions, and this invention was brought about by war, and famine, two great evils of society. Is it not astounding how sin and evil can bring the good into focus. If the human race has not fallen into sin and rebellion, how would anyone know about the grace of God.

Luciffer the highest angel in heaven did not know anything about it, and still doesn't, but is shown the effects of it by the church of the first born, the body of Christ. They will have a higher position than Lucifer ever had, and will be kept by the power of God.

The MCC has 722 people working for it in 46 different countries around the world, in relief, and refugee assistance, and in agriculture, and community, and economic developments. Also technical, health and social services. Did I not say they are the best cultured and disciplined people, all this is a result of discipline. Zucht, is the German word for it, having to do with punishment if not obeyed.

In 1979 they sent over 7 million pounds of material, and 86 percent of that was food. Bolivia, S.A. has the most country of Mennonite workers numbering 51. Bangladesh next with 37 persons, Egypt has 11.

Along with the quilts that were sold today, there were very many small household items and some with big value for they were very old.

That which intrigued me was an old style bath facility. A large china dish, or bowl, and inside of that a large pitcher, to carry the water; for in those days you could not just turn on the spigot, you had to go outside for water. Then you took your bath in the house, where there was some heat, and privacy. Also included was the old time utinsel, which was called the chamber, the forerunner of the modern commode.

I also saw people there, and that is the main thing I went for I enjoy being with people. They are very interesting, and some are even inspirational. You meet folks that you have not seen for years and the normal thing is to inquire after your health, and general welfare, then you broaden out into the employment and economic level.

Those folks in whom I specialize are many of them either retired, or just plain tired, and in places like this your religious affiliation makes very little difference, which adds to the interest.

J. Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

April 13--It has been my good fortune, and privilege, through the providence of God to attend a herbalist seminar, sponsored by the Henry Peight family, in which William McGrath was the speaker. This was held at the Community hall at Belleville, Pa. The community of my boyhood stamping ground, where I received my boot training.

It just so happened that my work was so arranged that I was able to come through that area, on the same evening in which this meeting was scheduled. I parked my truck at my good friend and faithful guide, Nelson Glick, and he also had planned to attend. Can you not see the providential arrangement?

I am very much interested in the sustaining of human life upon the earth, so long as our allotted time lasts. And do it with the least amount of difficulties possible; and I believe

a proper diet is basic, and elementary. Although herbs are not necessarily a total diet, in the sense we think of them, but rather as a supplement. But in a larger sense all vegetation is a herb in the biblical sense.

Mr. McGrath began in the right place, for a healthy existence, he began with God. Although you can live a very good life without the personal knowledge of the Most High, if you abide by the rules, which he has set and fixed; yet you enjoy it in the fuller sense if you know the one who made you, and has established the purpose of your existence. Otherwise you may be healthy, and prosperous, but your life will just be like a tread mill, you keep going but get nowhere, for you have no real purpose and goal in life.

Since mental attitudes play so large a part of a healthy body, it is of utmost importance, that you know how to control your mental attitude, for jealousy, is as cruel as the grave, and envy is the rottenness of the bones, it is important that you avoid these bedfellows, for they can make you sick in spite of your proper diet.

Next in importance is good healthy air to breath, for you need pure oxygen to live. He said it has been discovered, that it is not healthy for you to live in a country where there are many fruit trees. For the modern method of high powered sprayer, which emulsifies the liquid mixed with the poisons to kill the destructive insects, so that it becomes a fog, and lighter than air and floats for a long time in the air you breath constantly, people who live in such an environment are much more likely to die at an early age of cancer.

Next in importance for a healthy existence is pure water, which is not defiled with added chemicals to kill harmful bacteria. It seems by the time man gets through with eradicating his enemies he has killed himself with them. Its like the man said, take your choice, you either die from starvation for lack of food, or you die by the poison used to grow the food. Which do you want?

The third in importance of good life is good food that is grown with lots of sunshine, and that has not been disturbed by mans intervention, such as taking the life from it, then adding dead vitamins.

Now since it is almost impossible to get pure air, and water, and food because of mans long tampering with it to

improve it, and because we are all under the curse of sin, we can get by with less discomfort if we supplement our poor natural diet, with herbs, such as garlic, and cod liver oil, which comes from the sea, and has not been tampered with quite as bad yet. Also kelp, a sea weed. And believe it or not he said nettles are good for a mans health to help alleviate arthritic ailments. Now the dutch probably do not know just what nettels are. But if you get against them you will know they are there, it is better known as (Brenn Easel). Which would be burn mule, in english. If you touch the leaves they stick you with tiny little thorns, that come under the skin, and stay there. He said if you take from these leaves and make tea of them it is helpful to elminiate the toxic poisons from the body, which is what arthritis is, a build up of toxic poisons which your body has not been able to eliminate by the natural process, and it settles in one place, and you say you have arthritis.

William McGrath himself is a very tactful speaker, for he has had public teaching experience; and what more he is so thoroughly convinced himself that what he says is artless, not crafty or deceitful. He gives you the impression he wants to help you along lifes journey. And your welfare is his delight.

He also treads very softly, and does not prescribe anything as a cure, he will even not answer questions that say what is good to help eliminate this or that ailment. Before he will answer your question he insists that you word it properly; you must say what has the known history of having helped this or that in the past. Then he will tell you what he knows. He wants to be a friend and co-worker of the medical profession, and says they are very important in there sphere.

I was glad for the opportunity of being present at this seminar, and would recommend for anyone to attend if the opportunity comes your way, it certainly would do you no harm, and could even be beneficial.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

April 20—Another wedding, a very unexpected one, but most of the wedding stemming from the Church of God in Christ, are unexpected. They are of the Pietistic persuasion, they go by the leading of the spirit, more than the written word; if the spirit moves them they act. They do not practice courtship, in the vernacular sense, just to have a good time. If a young man wants a wife he prays about it, and suddenly asks for her hand in marriage, if the spirit so leads, all this comes from Pietism, read about it in your encyclopedia.

This wedding was also different, in that I was there because of grace; the father of the bride is my best friend; and our friendship is of long standing, more than 25 years. We do not agree theologically; he is Armenian, I am Calvinistic, he is A-Millennial, I am Premillennial. We disagree sharply, but we do not get disagreeable, because we are friends.

Others were there because of the grace of the host; and not only were they present, but they had honorable seat, we and they were ushered up to the second and third row, we had no merit, it was arbitrary grace. Based upon the grace and generosity of the host. These were neighbors, of course, but their religious affiliation made no difference, they were neighbors geographically.

One of the most beautiful and honorable sights I have observed was a very old widow, walking slowly with her cane, came up the isle flanked by her son. He is unmarried, but he was not too proud to walk down the isle in front of everyone, with his widowed mother. The man was Joshua Peachey, the woman was the widow of Sam Peachey, better known as Blacksmith Sam. Incidentally he was the son of a well known preacher Sam Peachey, White Hall Sam, who was a very important figure when there was a church division in the Valley, stemming from the Moses Hartz episode in Lancaster County, early in this century.

The host of the wedding was Kore Beachey, his daughter Martha was given in marriage to James Becker, from Moundridge, Kansas., a goodly young man. He is only 20, and his father is 40.

The highlight of the wedding was the message delivered by Abe Swarey, pastor of the Holdeman denomination at Mifflinburg, Pa. He said first of all that he did not pre-meditate what he was going to say, and this is typical with Pietism.

He spoke of marriage, and how to make it work. He likened it to the Empire State Building in New York City, they dug down 50 feet to get to bed rock. And, he said the building still takes maintainence, you dare not let it decay, it must be kept in shape. If just a hairline crake develops, in that building, it must be dealt with at once, you dare not leave it go until the crack widens.

So it a marriage, it must be diligently maintained, and when a crack develops, which is inevitable, it must be checked; at once, it is not difficult to repair of immediate action is taken, but if it is just left to ride, it will develop in a crack, where the devil can get his crowbar in and pry. He said a wide crack can be repaired but it is very difficult. The old adage is still good; "a stitch in time saves nine".

He also spoke of how the woman is to rejoice in the fact that of all the other choices her

man had, he chose her to be his help. This should humiliate her, for she feels her unworthiness to fill such a place, therefore she depends upon heaven.

Abe spoke as one having experience, and knew whereof he spoke, and he has quite a few coupons to prove that his method works, for he has a sizeable family that are honorable. There is nothing more successful than success, a sign that cannot be spoken against.

One the table napkins were the words, the first day of our lifes journey together, but now I go to the other end of the line, a viewing, the body of Charles Wideman, 68, who died of lymphatic cancer. The first day can be beautiful, and the last day can also be that, and in the case of Mr. Wideman, I took him as a man of God, and scripture says precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. Charles came from the plain folks in southern, Pa. moved to this area, and also raised an honorable family, and asset to any community, may their kind be maintained!

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

April 27--Last week I had mentioned that we were to a viewing, and this week I want to enlarge on that man. Charles W. Widman was the name. He was originally from near Mt. Joy in Lancaster Co. Religiously he was from the Old Order River Brethren, although he himself never became a member. They had a family when they moved into this area in 1953. He was a successful farmer, a dairy farmer, and operated a jug milk place for a time. But it seemed none of his sons took to farming, so when he retired the farm was sold to an Amishman. Charles built for himself and few children a small house and lived there until his death.

About four years ago he developed a running sore on his thumb, which would not heal. So they took the thumb off, and checked it and it proved negative. But about a year ago he began having trouble, which gradually became worse.

He had his own radio broadcast on a local station every Saturday and spoke for 15 minutes, on his version of truth and righteousness according as he understood the scripture.

In the beginning of this year he began to develop trouble with his one eye, he could not have it open any more, the reason was that he lymphatic cancer, and it affected something behind his eye. this affected his reading ability, and he had to cancel his radio broadcast, for if you cannot read well, you accordingly cease to take in more knowledge, and to impart facts to others you must be able to gain those facts for yourself before you can impart them to others. And the best way to gain information is to read what others have written.

His last days were spent the bed the last several months, he

just got weaker and weaker, and finally could not sit by himself, he was just worn out, and the cancer was sapping his strength away.

But he had secured a promise from his wife that she would not take him to the hospital, and there try to sustain his life medically. He was not afraid to die, he rather looked forward to it with fond anticipation.

He did not suffer much pain, and died in his own home around 5 in the morning. He was conscious until about an hour before he died, when he seemed to fall asleep, and just gave up the ghost, is the way the scripture puts it. This the way he wanted it and his wish was granted.

He was not a member of any denomination, for he took a dim view of all religious organizations. He was very free to speak of his affiliation to the Lord Jesus Christ, and the fact that he was a member of his body, but he was not a member of any human organization.

But I never heard of anyone complain that Charles Weidman would take the advantage of another man, financially, his religion included his money, he was honest for honesties sake, not only when it was to his own advantage to be so.

But the proof that his religion was real, is in the coupons he left behind, he had quite a large family, and as far as I know they are all honorable citizens, and an asset to any community, one of his sons is a preacher.

Other news of this area is that Mrs. John Hurst is now fairly

well on the way to recovery. She went to the hospital for a gall bladder operation, and also had a cyst on her pancreas, which fluid they drained into her stomach, then gave her mylox to neutralize the acid to prevent ulcers. And they think this caused a chemical unbalance to prevent ulcers. And they think this caused a chemical unbalance which caused her to go into terrible convulsions, the Dutch have a name for it called (gichtra), and this caused her to fail very rapidly so that they even despaired of saving her life, she was so low. But she recovered physically, but lost her memory, she could not remember anything that happened five minutes ago. This is not slowly coming back to her, so that she remembers longer but it is still not very satisfactory. She was in the hospital for 7 weeks, and at this time is still bedfast, Aaron Bowman, officiating.

She is the wife of John Hurst formerly from Lancaster Co. and from thence moved to southern Ill., & from thence to the Danville Area. They live on a farm but built on it a large store area, and now have a building supply business. You know how big oak trees grow from little acorns.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

May 4--This week I have received clippings from the Lancaster paper. Three different people have sent me the same article. Concerning a certain Mrs. Patty Rhoads at Soudersburg who could not get her flowers to grow in a certain spot. She dug down and found a tombstone. And this is where my part came in, it bore the same name that I have inherited from my parents. Inscribed in it were the words "Elizabeth, wife of David Renno, born March 18, 1802, died Dec. 17, 1825, age 23 years, 8 months, and 29 days. These folk had never heard of the name Renno. And a check through the phone book, there was no name like that in the entire Co. They looked in the Phila. book, which is about like in the Sears Roebuck catalog, and found only one woman by that name. Her husband's great-grandfather was Amish. She, however, gave them clues and they found Erie Renno in Mifflin Co., who told them that four Renno brothers who were Catholic, came from France, but spelled their name Reno. They were French Huguenots, and one of them got over into the Amish culture.

This did not solve the question of how a tombstone came to be in a flower bed at Soudersburg, and my guess it will not be discovered. But the logic is that folks used to bury their dead on their own land. And this tombstone is about 180 years old, a lot of water has gone over the dam since then.

The Washington For Jesus rally took place this week, as planned. The news media reported by midafternoon there were only 200,000 gathered there, but other reports said that by evening they had well over a million people there. Their goal was to impress the

folks that are responsible to run our government that there are still plenty of people who care how things are done, and to make them God conscious.

The whole idea began in the mind of a preacher down at the Rock Church in Virginia. He was concerned of all the prevailing evil that is sweeping the country, and how that one million, four hundred thousand babies were destroyed before birth. He thought this might make an impact for good. Being with the Charismatic movement he had the power to cause his suggestion to grow, with the result that it took place on April 29, 1980.

There were many denominations represented; the Evangelical Brethren, Methodist, Lutheran, and Catholic, to name a few of the most popular. They also thought this would unify the denominations to have a common cause to rally around. No one got paid each paid their own way. I was not there, neither do I get a paper with the information, but just listened to a report given by a Charismatic Radio, of which there are many. It seems these folk have money to do what they want.

Their banner verse was 2 Chronicles 7:14, which says that if my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves, and seek my face and pray, then will I hear from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land. They claim this verse as a promise of God for America.

Many local revivals were spawned by this promise also, in time past. I am willing to give every man that benefit of his opinion; but if you look at this verse closely, the correct interpretation can only apply to the people to whom the promise was given originally, which is the Jew.

An Isaac shall thy seed be called was the Divine promise, now if you do not have the opportunity to trace your family lineage back to Isaac then the promise is not for you directly.

The principle is there, but not the promise. Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people, would have been a much better promise and would apply.

The Va. Beach scribe questioned the virtue of this cause, and he came up with about the same answers that I do, he does not know.

Can you imagine the Apostle Paul calling for support to the churches which he established throughout Asia, and Europe, to have a Rome for Jesus rally, and everyone go to Rome and march before Caesar. Hoping to get that corrupt nation to mend her ways?

Christians are enjoined to pray for kings and all that are in authority not with the idea that they should clean up their morals, although that may be involved, but the idea is that we, the saints may be able to lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. Quiet and peaceable, two verbs that could hardly be associated with the rally in Washington. Furthermore Jesus said if you pray, go into your closet, and when you have shut the door, then pray to your father which seeth in secret, and he will reward you openly. This can hardly be said of the loud prayers that were made at this rally, and it certainly was not done in secret behind closed doors.

Another admonition that comes to mind is that which says to the saints, that we should seek those things which are above, and set our affections on those things not on things of this earth; for you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God; when Christ who is your life shall appear then shall you also appear with him in glory.

These are my personal evaluations, and I hope to be always ready to change if proven wrong.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

May 19--More information has been obtained by an unknown friend, who was kind enough to send me a clipping from the Lancaster paper concerning the mystery tombstone of Elizabeth Renno in the flower bed of a Soudersburg, Pa. home.

In all I have received four clippings of the fact of the finding of the tombstone, which I assumed would lie in obscurity indefinitely. 2 of these letters were signed by the donor and two were not. While it is not in good taste to send unsigned mail, this was permissible due to the nature of the case.

This last piece of mail sent from Mountville, Pa. contained a clipping, which proved very interesting. May I say thank you for the unknown donor's thoughtfulness.

Let me review the incident, for the benefit of those who have not read the earlier report. Near Lancaster, Pa. is a home owned by a Rhoads family, and the lady of the house could not get her flowers to grow. She dug down a little and found a tombstone, with the name Elizabeth Renno, wife of David Renno. Because there are so few Renno's around this unknown tombstone aroused an interest, as to how and why it came to be in this particular yard. Was there a cemetery here unknown?

The mystery has now been resolved, because there are prolific historians in that vicinity who know how to go about digging up facts.

There is a society which was completely unknown to me called the Pequa Bruderschaft Library, with a small collection of historical facts concerning the Lancaster Amish. This is located near Intercourse, Pa. in a small shed.

Researcher found that Elam Smoker had built the house, which is now owned by the Rhoads family, and it was found that he put the stone where it

was and buried it. He did not know what else to do with it. He apparently is a direct descendant of this David and Elizabeth Renno, whose bodies lie buried in the Methodist Episcopal church cemetery of Soudersburg across Route 30 several hundred yards east of the Rhoades home.

The Methodist Episcopal church built of stone in 1802 had been sold to a Pentecostal group in 1900. In 1926 the trustees decided to put the building up for sale. It was sold in 1933 for 600 dollars to Martin Denlinger for use as a private residence. This man having bought a church now had a cemetery on his hands. He did not remove the bodies, just the tombstones. He discovered that Smoker was a descendant of the David

Renno family and loaded the tombstone on a wheel barrow and pushed it down over the hill to the site where it was found. It was buried about three feet deep, at first, but due to excavating etc. it became unearthed and was only shallow so that flowers would not grow on that spot for it was too near the surface.

This explains how the tombstone came to be where it was found.

Elizabeth Givins Renno was not of Amish descent as the name would imply. She married David Renno, who was born and died Amish. But you see 180 years ago there was not the marked difference between the Amish & non-Amish. The means of transportation was the same, the farming methods were the same, everybody lived very simple lives before the era of the many and great new inventions.

Incidentally it is interesting that from the first century A.D. until 1850 things remained as they were, there were no drastic inventions for almost 2000 years, but then it seems the gates that had held this

knowledge from man how to invent things that make life easier, began.

My grandfather was David Renno and probably distantly related to the David Renno of Lancaster, he was a good Amishman, but was very progressive when it came to having new machinery, for it is said he was the first man in the neighborhood to have a manure spreader. Everyone else had to spread their manure by hand, but now a machine was invented which would take the hard work out of spreading manure; look at the labor that was saved. Sometimes you wonder what you are supposed to do with all the time that these new devices save; or whether they save anything until you have them paid for.

This David Renno married Elizabeth Givens which for some unknown reason died at the age of 23 leaving him with three children the youngest son only 11 months old. He married again and from that union there is only one known survivor who is now 80 years old, he is from the third generation, and he buried the tombstone.

Another old resident of the Willow street rest home who is now 84 named Sadie Mast and a great-great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Renno said she knew that Mrs. Renno was buried in the Soudersburg area but did not know where. While the last descendant bearing the Renno name from this family died in 1947, & there are concluded to be many that can trace their lineage to this David Renno, but as is usual with the Renno's they are not known to be very prolific in having sons to carry the name.

David Renno's second wife was Elizabeth Reikenbach, and both are buried in the Byler cemetery. The interesting tombstone has been turned over to this Amish Bruderschaft, which means brotherhood, and they plan to place it next to the other Elizabeth Renno tombstone.

One upright stone is all that remains of the Methodist Episcopal cemetery and Mrs. Penny Young is the owner of it, and she planted flowers in the largely unmarked graveyard. Very interesting and thank you to the unknown friend from Mountville that sent this information to me via the clipping
John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

May 25--Have you ever heard of Oberammergau? There is an interesting story behind it, but it is documented, you can find about it in the Schaff-Hertzog encyclopedia, also a little in the World book.

You have probably heard of the passion play; that is where the idea began in the Ammerthal, in the country of Bavaria, a small valley where the people lived pretty much in seclusion. It was in the year 1633 that a severe plague raged killing many of the neighboring villages. They immediately put up a quarantine to protect themselves from the disease, but a man who lived there and worked away during the summer wanted to get home for a church festival, went home by a secret path, but he was a carrier of the disease and in two days he was a corpse.

In just three weeks, 84 other folks of that small community were also dead. The survivors were terrified, and made a solemn vow to the God of Heaven that if he would stop the spread of this plague they would present the passion play every ten years to everyone who wanted to see it enacted.

They assumed their prayer was heard, for after the vow, not a single person died of the plague, although many had it, they all recovered.

To those who do not know what the passion play is; it is people acting out the part of those who lived in Palestine when Jesus was upon the earth. They have those who take the part of the Scribes and Pharisees, the Twelve Disciples, the Roman soldiers, the people who waved the palm leaves in his path in his entry into Jerusalem, and the children crying, Hosannah to the Son of David.

Someone has to take the part of Jesus himself, and be crucified, but this is not real, for they don't kill a man, because a man by the name of Joseph Maier took that part in 1870, and 1880.

Those who take part in the play have to be citizens of Ammerthal; and it not just enacted once, but many times during the year, for different crowds, who flock in to see it.

Since 1938 German settlers have tried to duplicate this passion play in South Dakota, at Spearfish, in the Black Hills. Also in other places folks have tried to play this for the entertainment, but nothing is so famous as Oberammergau, in Bavaria.

We have been down to see our son and daughter-in-law, near Telford, Pa. recently. They

attend church about 20 miles away from where they live, over at Royersford, but it is about the same distance from our house to either place, about 100 miles. Mrs. Renno is the one who writes to the Budget from Souderton, Pa.

She is the youngest child of the Russel Moyers, and she is needed near home now for the Moyers are getting older, and the time will come as age progresses that they will be decrepit, and need help. Indeed I notice a digression in myself, and I am 15 years younger than Russel.

Joe's have sold their property, where they had lived, and have built several rooms on top of the Moyer's garage, to live in and will use several of their bedrooms. This is very nice and as it should be. Just as great a mission work as going to some foreign country, for does not charity begin at home?

Russel says he does not have me figured out yet, for according to what I write, he thinks I'm not always consistant, for at times I write like an Amishman, and the next time like a Baptist.

He thinks I may be somewhat like a pin, pointing in one direction and headed in the other. Or like a football, you cannot tell which way it will bounce when it hits the ground. Perhaps getting kicked around will make one in the shape of a football, figuratively speaking.

My answer to these charges is that just because I may report an incident, or bring out good, and virtue of some groups does not necessarily mean that I endorse the group as a whole. Furthermore good culture, and ethnicity, is not necessarily good Christianity. There are rules of social conduct laid down in scripture, and anyone who regards those rules gets Biblical results.

Do you remember when gasoline was 50¢ a gallon, and now it is more than twice that, and do you drive any less because of the cost? People drive smaller cars but there are still many traffic jams on the busy highways, and often with one person in a car.

Now my cousin John Swarey of Union Co. thinks he has the solution to the fuel shortage, he says if he had it to do he would put the gas up to \$5.00 per gallon, then demand cars that will run for 100 miles on a gallon of gas. He claims it could be done, and it certainly would help out on air pollution too.

DANVILLE, PA.

June 1--The Demise of Integrity, was a very catching title that I saw in one of the periodicals that come to our house. It was written by Melvin Horst of Columbiana, Ohio and printed in the Christian Contender, of Crockett, Ky.

If it is at all possible for anyone to get a copy of this paper it would be well worth your while to read it. Mr. Horst takes the 31st chapter of Job and relates it to our everyday life.

The word demise means the death of a sovereign, the death of an owner and one who left a will back to his inheritors.

The word integrity means uprightness of character, honesty etc. So the term Demise of Integrity means that honesty for its own sake has died, and now folks just live for themselves, very thoughtlessly. They just live for what they can get out of life, instead of what they can put into it to give it quality. You know that if a farmer takes all the fertility out of his soil, and puts none back in, he will soon not be able to grow anything worthwhile. This article was written in the religious sense, but religion does include all of life; actually its when your religion is put into shoe leather that it is of benefit to your neighbor.

Among my acquaintances is a man whose intellect I admire, for he contributes very much to my own intelligence. He does not have very much of this worlds goods, and he probably never will, for that is not where his chief interests lie. He seems to be related mentally to that great mind, and Greek philosopher, Socrates. This man would rather read than eat or sleep, or provide the necessities of life, he would let his wife and children fend for themselves, while he was engrossed in his studies. But this world is much richer, for the life that he lived.

It was the Greeks that gave us the most nearly perfect language, and it was in Greek that the New Testament was first written. But the man Socrates was despised and rejected of his fellowmen, he received an edict that he is supposed to drink hemlock, and commit suicide, if he does not he will be executed, so he drank the hemlock poison.

This friend of mine is not quite like that, but is akin to it in intellect; and it hard for him to find a church home, for he will soon have the preacher up a tree.

Anyways this man gave me a book to read that is very interesting, and could be entitled the demise of scriptural faith. But it is entitled, The Battle For The Bible, by Harold Lindsell.

In this book Mr. Lindsell describes and traces the trend of churches that dropped their belief in Biblical innerrancy, they lost their faith in the acuracy of scripture, they suggested that some parts of it is true, but other parts are not. They reason that because it was written by imperfect men, their writings most of necessity also be imperfect. They did not believe that scripture is God breathed, or God inspired.

So then the question was, which part of scripture is true, and which part is not true. In the final analysis, it is left to each individual to decide according to his feelings what he wants to believe and what he wants to reject as false. One man said what speaks to me is inspired of God, and what does not speak to me is not inspired by God.

Biblical innerrancy was not a question at all until the last part of the 1900's. For almost 1900 years since the beginning of the Christian era, nobody even thought of questioning the truth of scripture. Most men were unlearned, and they just believed what their superiors told them was true. But when schools of higher learning began, men began to depart from the faith. For not many wise, not many mighty, not many noble are called, but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise.

A case in point is the Unitarian denomination; it was formed in the early part of the last century, 180 years ago. It defected from the Congregational churches of New England. The controversy

was about Jesus Christ, the Unitarians did not believe that Jesus Christ was fully God, but a created being, of less importance than God the Father, for they did not and could not conceive how that Christ could be fully God and fully man. Because they could not understand it, by human reason they stopped believing it, they could not walk by faith but by sight.

This belief led to the denial of other cardinal doctrines. Unitarian means they believe there is only one God, not three in one. In 1961 the Unitarian, Universalist Association was formed. The Universalists believe that everyone will eventually be saved eternally, including the devil and his angels. These two parties joined, together in one, and today they are so far out of line with scripture that they cannot even be a member of the World Council of Churches. They are practical Atheists.

This book has many others proofs in it that shows how the great schools and colleges began, with the strong conviction that the Bible is the undisputed Word of God, but little by little doubt crept in, and today they are not even recognizable as anything like a Christian institution, such as Harvard and Princeton, to name just a few. When once you loose faith in the innerrancy of scripture you are like a sailor at sea without a compass.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

Civilized peoples have always prided themselves, in good sound governments that can enforce and keep law and order. But that is now changing, and the cancer of corruption is eating away at the very fiber of moral principles. Marches and demonstrations to protest the rising tide of anarchy do very little, for those who sponsor the demonstrations are just as corrupt as anyone.

By nature we are all alike; even though some are able to control that nature by a legal system, yet once the conditions get just right lawlessness will break out uncontrollable, as long as there is no fear of God before our eyes; the only thing that can control society.

Inspite of all the evil that is holding sway, there are still many who want the position of being the front man in the country. It is also interesting to note that every 20 years since 1840 the president of America dies in office. And this being 1980 it is time again according to that consistant tradition.

W. H. Harrison was elected in 1840, and the first American to die in office. He was also the oldest man ever to be elected, he was 68, and was only in office for 30 days when he died of a bad cold.

The next man to die in office was Abraham Lincoln, who was elected in 1860, and re-elected in 1864, but lived only about 5 months after that, he was shot on April 14, 1865, and died one day later.

James Garfield was elected for his term in 1880 but was shot in July of 1881, and died in Sept. 19, 1881 shot by a man who held a personal grudge against him Charles Guiteau.

William McKinley was elected the first time in 1896, and re-elected for a second term in 1900; and shot in Sept. 6, 1901. He was shot by a man who said he just had an urge to kill a

great ruler. McKinley asked them to go easy on his assassin, and not hurt him, for they began to jump on him and beat him on the spot. The bullet lodged near his spine, and they did not have good facilities, and could not find it, so it festered, and poisoned him.

Then 20 years later in 1920 Harding was elected to the high office of President, and he was on a trip to Alaska; and while enroute home he received bad news from Washington, which depressed him so, and he said what can you do if you are betrayed by your own friends? He fell very sick, and died shortly on Aug. 2, 1923, but it is supposed he was poisoned by some food that he ate. He died in San Francisco, Calif.

Now the man whom many of us knew of personally, who was elected for his fourth term, because of the war, and they thought it not good to change horses in mid stream, so he ran and was elected for four terms. Elected in 1932, again in 1936, and again in 1940 and for the fourth term in 1944.

The name was Franklin Delano Roosevelt; he is the man who promised a car in every garage, and a chicken in every pot, he took us off the gold standard, and began making paper money, and all that goes with it, and the fiscal fiasco we are beginning to enter now.

He was elected in 1940 for his third term, and he lived through that one & was elected for the fourth term, but died the next April 12, 1945. He was on a vacation in Georgia, and fell over in his chair, saying he has a terrific headache; he died from a cerebral hemorrhage.

Now the last president to die in office, more of us can remember. He was elected in 1960, the name John F. Kennedy. He was in office just about three years, and was shot in Dallas, Texas. I personally believe his death was caused by a hired assassin; hired by men who are actually running the government, and that is the men who control the money, they run the government, and not really the man in office. He is just little more than a figure head, and if he does not obey his behind the scene bosses, he gets clipped off the scene.

Today the consensus of the country is that, that Carter is a very poor business man, he claims to be born again and has an appeal to the southern Bible belt, but he has not the ability to manage government. Indeed I spoke to a former

C.I.A. official, a very brilliant mind, who told me that Nixon was one of the best leaders America ever had, but he had enemies who hated him, and when he made a mistake they blew it up all out of proportion, which forced him to resign. These are just ideas that are floating around, and if you hear one you like you can keep it.

But the power does not come from the east, no the west, no from the south, but God takes down one and sets up another; it is God ultimately who controls this nation and the whole world, and what he has planned will come to pass. Did you notice there is one direction missing, the north is not mentioned, for it is in the sides of the north that Lucifer aspired to ascend to and be like the most high. We may conclude that power does come from there.

Now back to our topic; every 20 years since 1840 the one who is elected with the years ending in 0 dies in office, this seems to have been an unaccountable tradition for America; and it is the year. But from where I sit the consensus is that Reagan will be our next President, and if he will be the oldest elected. He is now 69.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

June 17--We just returned from a trip down south to areas in Tennessee, and Ky., and I want to report.

We went in company of the Nathan Showalter family, of Harrisonburg, Va. We live 250 miles apart, but we have a common denominator, our religious convictions.

Nathans have a van in the which we traveled about 1900 miles, a very convenient way to travel, because its roomy and if you get tired you can lay down and rest enroute.

Our first stop was near the Crossville, Tenn. area at Jamestown. Here is a group of folks, who mostly came from Va. the Dayton area, and felt they could better live out their religious principles if they would segregate to another area. Of course they did not achieve their desired purpose, but they at least had the excitement of adventure, and discovery, mystery is always fascinating.

Mrs. Showalter has two brothers living here, and some nephews. The Bishop of the area is her brother John Witmer, he is not functioning in that capacity, due to conditions beyond his control. The most interesting thing which I observed in the material realm was the sorgum press, and cookery of her nephew Enos Showalter, the son of Nathans brother Samuel.

In this area sorgum seems to do well, and they run it through rollers, which squeeze the juice out, which runs into a tank. They boil it down and get rid of the excess water, and they have sweet syrup. Enos cooks with a steam boiler, which I suppose was the most interesting to me.

This is a 1700 foot plateau, and even though it is far south of us it does not get so hot here, a very pleasant place to live.

The next place we just stopped for dinner at the Altamont area. Had dinner at the house of Marvin Wise formerly of the Berks Co., Pa.

area. They live rather primitively here on top of another mountain, just like hewing a residence out of the wild. They all seem to have large families of ten children or more and they look very well fed and nourished, they certainly don't lack food.

We also visited with Bishop Paul Horst, whom I have wanted to see for a long time. He is connected with the small publication *The Timely Truth*; and I wanted to observe his values and views.

We then went farther south almost to the Miss. line at Finger, Tenn. where Victor Stoll and his gang reside. This is a low country and much warmer, but it just so happened that we chose a week to go when it was unusually cool for June.

This is a nice area, but nothing like the wide open areas of large farms. Many hills and streams and forests cause the farms to be many little patches here and there where you raise a crop.

Victor has been pretty much a nomad much of his life, but he seems to finally have discovered himself and is now much enthused in farming here. And no wonder for he has many children, and they can help gather the harvest. They already have cashed in the crop of strawberries, which yielded about 17000 quarts, at 70¢ a quart, not bad is it, but wait till you hear the rest, they have cantalopes out too, about ready to pick, and then begins the sorgum harvest. He is better equipped for that than any I've seen, for he mounts the press on wheels and puts the stalks through, and does not have to get rid of the fodder. He pulls a bulk milk tank behind, holding 300 gals. and when that full, which does not take long they take it in to dump it. Then cooking begins, which he says him and one helper can do, because of the convenient setup. 300 gallons an acre of syrup is not bad either at \$8.00. And there is no problem getting it sold for he is sold out by the last of the year, those southerners like the syrup but don't want the bother of working to get it.

The principle thing I saw here was his intense interest in the

purple Martins, he claims to have 160 pairs there, and they live on nothing but bugs for their diet, no the mosquitoes were not bad there. And his knowledge of their habits is astounding.

We also stopped a little at Lobelville, Tenn. with a very enlightening conversation with Simon Beachey, formerly of Dover, Del. He too seems to have now found himself. I learned much from him in the hour I was there.

The next stop was Nancy, Ky. with a family we have known, the Kelly Hunt family. Were there over Sunday, had an old fashioned service at his fathers house, so simple, no formality to observe, no offerings no announcements, just singing, prayers and preaching, and good fellowship over the noon meal.

We also visited with Jacob Oberholtzer, whose wife is a bi-weekly scribe for the *Budget*, Jerry Tucker, a convert to the Team Mennonite faith writes the alternate week. They live in seclusion with about 10 other families up the creek, but nice farm land, when once you get there with surrounding mountains, very nice.

We started for home on Monday morning, and visited with a Sage near Liberty, Ky., my good friend Adam Byler. We were not there very long for we had 450 miles to go, but the time was well spent.

I certainly would enjoy spending eternity with men of his calibre.

Now I am preparing to write a detailed account of this trip, as an historical record, for my own observation and if you want to know what was observed on the trip as a whole, the cause and cure for the malady that is going through the plain religious world you may ask for it and it will be sent to you free.

John Renno
Danville, Pa.
R. 6, 17821

DANVILLE, PA.

June 22--The weather is getting just a little dryer than we like to see it in our community; there has been rain to the north but none to speak of here. We did not even mow our lawn this week.

Yesterday I was dressing and keeping the garden.

Our garden is about 100 x 200, and the soil is very loose from the constant humus we plow down, it is almost like the hand dug gardens used to be. Between the rows there were very many small weed gardens used to be. Between the rows there were very many small weeds making their appearance, and Mom said its time to work the garden, but as loose as it was I hated to go over it again with the machine.

I didn't either, I worked it all by hand. It lays on a gentle slope, so I walked to the top and worked my way down each row. The is when I thought of Adam in his garden, Eastward in Eden. And just knowing that it was not the result of the curse of sin that Adam had to work, but just to keep the garden, for good things do not come without conscious effort.

The soil was very loose for it has not rained much for some time but there was just enough crust to give the weeds a start. I really enjoyed my work of dressing and keeping the garden, and not with modern means of a gas engine, but just the tranquil, scraping of the weeder. Thinking in relation to that first garden made it easy.

Also I learned something on my recent trip. Remember those blue weeds that used to grow so tall in the corn? How many hours I spent as a boy pulling weeds out of the corn. Those weeds are called lambs quarter, and they are very good to eat. Only the young and tender are good, they taste much like water cress, or lettuce.

Because we took about 10 days off away from home, and my good wife is gainfully employed in a unique position as baker of pies for the Crest Haven Farm Market, owned and operated by J. Marlin Eshbach. Someone else had to bake the pies that week for customers come and want what they want, when they want it. Some of the neighbors agreed to bake that week for Marlin.

When we came back she was so glad to get back to work, for she would much rather work than go on a trip, and she was just coming home from town, when our neighbors son met her, he was heading out to town to go to work. For some reason he came over on her side of the road, and hit our car head on.

She saw him coming, but could do nothing for the guard rails were beside her, she just had to wait till he hit. And it was

with such force that both cars were demolished. He broke his jaw in 3 places. Salina bent the steering wheel when he hit, and she broke her glasses, but does not know what caused that for her head was not sore, but her abdomen was very sore for a few days so that she could not proceed with her baking for another week.

We do not know why the boy did not stay in his lane, and he was pinned in his car, and his foot was still on the gas pedal, and the floor board wrapped around his foot, he must not have braked at all.

We were very thankful that she was not hurt any worse, for it could have been very serious. But it was nothing more than the loss of the car, and we are hoping his insurance will replace that. The car he was driving was old and dilapidated, with smooth tires.

Usually when we read of an accident we just say thats too bad, and think little of it, but when its you that it happens to it makes a big difference. Well we just do not have the capacity to have the same care for others that we do for ourselves. No matter how pious a front we put on, we just do not love our neighbors as we do ourselves, we are not capable to do that.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

June 29--Dry weather in this section, and true to fashion when the weather is dry, it don't rain, for the heat from the hot earth ascends, and the thunder clouds just go around, and put the rain where it is not so hot and dry. There is much cloudy weather and it looks like rain, but just a few sprinkles is all we get.

We were on our way to Churchtown, Pa. and in driving through Leola I happened to see an old school mate sitting on the porch crocheting (this is one of the English words that is not what it looks like for it is pronounced kroschay and not kro-chet). We turned around and went back, and had a friendly time of remembering.

It is Sadie Peachey, she is a cousin of my wife, Sadie is the daughter of Jake, and my wife the daughter of Dan, both the sons of old Dea. Jake Peachey, from which very much of the Big Valley gets its folks.

Although Sadie and I were not in the same church, when we went to school, for her father choose to go with the division back in 1918 when the meidung was an issue. Those who did not want to practice it and those who did, each made separate paths. Thus when we were school children we each were proud of our parents, and we each thought we were right, and this made the other wrong. Sounds very much like today.

But children usually do not make much of older folks arguments, and I suppose that's why Jesus said, except ye be converted and become as little children...? We were children, back in those days and we acted like children. But now about half a century has rolled around. I just thought Sadie is an unsung hero; she never married, but she certainly does not sit around and brood over what may have been.

If she sees a need that she can fill she does it. Presently she is

engaged in keeping house for an old man, David Burkholder, he is 82. Has been in the automobile business since 1920, he began selling cars, and fixed a lot of buggies too during that transition.

But now he is old and lives alone, and really needed someone to care for him, and keep his house clean. Sadie does this very well. But that is not all, she being a very active Peachey, she helps other folks too, cleaning, and doing chores that need doing.

And while we were there, a heavy thundershower came up, and one of the women living there in town, came over, for she does not like being alone when the elements are so fearful. Sadie is a kind of shelter in the time of storm too.

But back to the reason for our going to Churchtown; the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, of which I am a member has an annual meeting somewhere, to celebrate anniversaries. This year was the 101st year of the Churchtown meeting house. The Mennonites in this area first walked the four to six miles to the Weaverland church. (can you imagine walking that far to church?) Christian Shirk was ordained in 1837 and the brethren obtained the use of a log house near his home for a meeting house, and in 1979 an acre of land was purchased along route 23 east of the town of Churchtown; today they still meet.

Of course true to nature the old folks have passed on and another generation is on the scene. Sanford Shetler was there as the featured speaker. He is an interesting historian, presently editor of Guide Lines for Today, a timely little paper with a Mennonite flavor, pulling a little more to the right. In 1963 he wrote a book entitled Two Centuries of Struggle and Growth, a history of the Allegheny Menn. conference, where he has served as bishop since 1952. He has spent many years in the school room teaching students, mostly Bible oriented. He holds a master of education degree from Cornell

University. Has pursued graduate studies at Willmette University in Oregon, and was a National Research Foundation Fellow in Psychology at the Fla. State University.

I know much of this has little or no meaning to the common layman of which I am also. But common laymen have never had the opportunity to plow as deep as those who spent years in studies. Not everyone is supposed to do the same thing; we all need each other, just as the human body has members and they are all useful, it can function without some, but not as normal. Thus it is good to listen to a man who has had his horizons broadened, and they have a message for common folk.

A great man never thinks himself great, and a small man never thinks of himself as small. We are not what we think, but what we think, we are. Mr. Shetler has a lot of facts stored in that brain of his, and they are a great asset to his fellowmen.

He told how to write history, that there are things that take place that we are all ashamed of, and those should not be recalled, and need to lie forgotten in obscurity. He told how the historian has a great advantage if he wants to be dishonest, and slant history to make it say what he wants it to say. But he recommended honesty and integrity in all actions especially when we write.

We only attended the Sat. eve. session, we had planned to stay for the next day, but we had not figured that all the motels in the area were filled up, we just had no place to sleep, near that area so we just came on home to sleep, and it is too far to make two trips. But I was glad for having been there for one session.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

July 20--We've been to two weddings, but I have not reported either one as yet.

Allen Mast, the son of Fred Mast who hails formerly from the Old Order Amish sect at Arthur, Ill. and Tina Rovenolt, the daughter of a native of the Turbotville area, from a non-Mennonite background were given together here at the Danville Mennonite church recently.

On the very next day there was a wedding near Harrisonburg, Va. Isaac, the son of Nathan Showalter, exchanged vows with Emma Ruth Rodes, the daughter of Joe Rodes, now of Goshen, Ind.

This wedding was different that any other; and in a sense all weddings are different, but this was out of the ordinary, for the Showalters are not affiliated with any religious denomination for they cannot conscientiously endorse the systems that make such organizations function.

Two things that people do in a church is get married and get buried, and if you have no permanent church home it makes it difficult to function in the socially prescribed method.

This is what the Showalters did to overcome this difficulty. Every man has the right legally to give his offspring in marriage, he can get the proper credentials, from a Justice of the Peace. Nathan had all the legal procedures, and I could appreciate the orderly way it was conducted.

There were 227 invited guests there at the Weavers Social Hall near Harrisonburg. And an unordained man gave an address relating to marriage. Following the principle laid down in Genesis, that because the woman was taken out of man and is of his flesh and of his bone, therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they twain shall be one flesh.

You cannot get more closely related to anyone than your own mother by nature, but this

according to Divine Writ is a closer tie, and if any of the parties fail to keep the rule and leave your relative out of the intimate confidence, which is supposed to be between husband and wife, then all kind of trouble springs from it, and many unhappy marriages are the result, and where churches allow for divorce; then this route is taken, but really does not settle the real issue. A happy marriage is something that grows only under careful cultivation, and diligent guarding. The off shoot must be kept out, and strict honesty and integrity be the rule.

Also as the woman was taken out of man, so the church was in Christ before the foundation of the world, but was set apart as a separate entity when Christ became man, and now the woman is to be subject to her husband as the church is to Christ, and likewise the husband is to love his wife to the same extent; to the degree that this rule is ignored just so much unhappiness will develop.

All divorce is sin, and there is never any allowance made for sin. Also divorce spoils the type of Christ and the church, there will never be a divorce between Christ and the church, and just so there should be no separation between husband and wife.

After the address, Nathan asked the couple to stand in the front and he asked them the usual questions as to whether they believe that God has

ordained that there shall be one man and one woman; and whether they are, and will be free from all others from hence forth. Having received a favorable response, he said now you may proceed and make your vows. He did not ask the question as to their vows of fidelity to each other, they made the vows themselves. The man said, I, Isaac Showalter, do take thee Emma Ruth Rodes to be my wedded wife, and then the normal words that follow for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, etc. And she likewise said the same thing, after which Nathan gave their hands together.

After this the congregation remained sitting and he and the bridal party kneeled, she facing her husband and he facing his wife, just like the cherubs faced each other on top of the mercy seat, while Nathan led in an audible prayer.

After the ceremony, it was different too, for the bridal party, and the parents stood at the back, and everyone filed out past them, and went directly to the table for refreshments, then went back to their seat and sat down to eat. Usually everyone waits until the bridal party is seated and eat, before everyone else eats, but here the eating was pretty well commenced before the bridal party sat down to eat, and refresh themselves.

Joseph Rodes the father of the bride, was formerly of the Va. area, but claimed he was a black sheep and found a wife in Wisc. And this too is interesting for she was in the company of those who in years gone by, migrated from the Hagerstown, Md. area, and went to the wild and wooded Wisc. area near Sheldon, and now Hayward. I was there and heard some of the tales that were told relating to that time. That which is now clear farm land was then grown up with virgin timbers.

Mr. Rodes also told me something that few men will admit, he said how he blamed God most of his life because he thought he was not being treated fair; he thought he was denied the privileges that others enjoyed. Until just recently, he found that Job had the same complaints. God asked Job 40 questions, which he could not answer. He did not give Job a reason for doing what he did, but just revealed to him as to who God is, and that he is responsible to nobody, he can do as he pleases, and it is right what soever he does.

I am looking forward to being at the Budget scribes reunion for it was back in 1957 when the last one was held, see you there?

John Renno

DANVILLE, PA.

July 28--If any of you have ordered a report of our recent trip to Tenn., and you did not get it, perhaps you had better order again. There was a mistake made, due to my poor manager ability, I trusted too much to memory, and it failed me. I had the names of those to whom we had sent recorded, but could not find the record, because I put it where I'd know where it was but had forgotten where that place was. And just after I had burned the papers, I found it, and I know for certain that a Mr. Zeurcher had ordered, but I did not send him one, and I do not have his order anymore. Well I'm just an Amish plowman, and would not win any prizes as a business man.

It is reported that Ronald Reagan, the man seeking the office of president of these United States, is a Presbyterian, by denomination, and that he is a man who personally knows God, although he probably will not run on the (born again) ticket like Carter did. Those who voted for him on that basis are sorely dissatisfied in him, for since he was in office he did not appoint one man to his cabinet that claimed to be (born again).

Jerry Fallwell, that great preacher from Lynchburg, Va. is out throwing his weight around, and he weighs pretty heavy, for he claims to be the pastor of a church of 15,000 people, and he is campaigning across the nation, trying to clean up the corruption in it and bring the nation back to God. He is out to get folks registered to vote, in the fall, and hoping they will vote for Reagan. He may do some good, but in real life, it does not do any good to paint the pump, in hopes of cleaning up the water.

According to my frame of reference, the way I was taught; it is impossible for a man of God to be in any kind of politics; and that it is even wrong for us to vote.

In spite of my training, I still think of Joseph down in the Pagan country of Egypt, and he had a very high office, next to the king himself. Then there was Daniel, one who had the Divine testimony that he was greatly beloved of God, he was the President of one of three provinces, of the Medes and the Persians. Isn't that interesting, Persia, is what is today known as Iran. Daniel the man greatly beloved, was in the rulership of Iran.

When I was young and strong yet, then I knew and understood a lot of things which today I have no answer for.

We did not have much rain here, all summer and the weather was above normal in temperature, but we are not really suffering for occasionally

we get a small shower but it soon dries up again.

We are also perhaps slowly making headway from the recession which was supposed to have gripped our nation because they wanted to cool off an overheated economy interest rates have dropped. I don't think we will ever see normal times again. And I am not at all sure that I have ever seen them. Perhaps Ura Byler could tell us what normal is.

John Renno

of the Bible they were trying to get to others.

But the news is not all bad, for I was pleasantly surprised by the news of Ezra Kanagy, in The Budget concerning the demise of Bish. Sam S. Yoder, of the good testimony he had of walking with Jesus, and that he was going to him at 6 o'clock. I remember visiting in his home, several years ago, and I asked him concerning to division they experienced in their group; and he could not speak of it without shedding tears.

Another old man in the area died recently, who was also an Old Order Amish bishop. His name was Roy Nissley. What I remember of him most is the testimony of some of the members of his former church of Dover, Delaware, for Roy was bishop there before moving north of here. Those who spoke concerning him were Mose Kanagy's sons, Henry and David; for their father had moved from Belleville to Dover, while they were growing up, and they grew up in Delaware; and when they were grown, before getting married they moved back to Belleville; and we were good friends we (ran around together) and according to them the youth in Dover did not leave much for the

imagination, in their moral speech together; and Roy Nissley was one of the bishops of the 4 Amish church districts of the Dover area.

Incidentally, his grandson occasionally writes to The Budget, from Fisherville, Va., Stephen Nissley.

Another aged man with whom we visited recently, was Abram Zeigler. He is now 83, and lives with his son Abe, who prepared facilities for his aged parents. This was interesting, for Abe left the Mennonite church 50 years ago. He lived most of his life in the Temenson area, near Phila. He was in the Franconia Conference church when the doctrine of Assurance of salvation, and the Pre-millennial return of Christ became preeminent; some believed it and some did not; even on the ministers' bench, one believed and the other did not; and because the negative side prevailed, the one who did not believe it, had the preeminence, and the other one had to watch what he preached; Abe said it got pretty interesting after the church service was over, and each side could freely speak his mind. In fact the after-service was more enlightening than the formal church service.

This was right after the time when the Sunday School, and the English language had been legally adopted in the Mennonite church in that area, and preachers of other denominations, were invited to the area, to propagate these relatively new doctrines; and members of the Mennonite church went to hear. Some were delighted with what they heard, and it seemed to check out with scripture, and they believed it; and began speaking of it to their friends; others said it is not in accord with what we have always believed, and they rejected it as false; so today they have the Grace Bible church in the Souderton area, which is one of the results, of this kind of preaching 50 years ago.

John Renno