

DANVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Jan. 13--The house we live in is very old. It has hewn logs in it. They are morticed together, built like a barn. Things deteriorate with age, and the inside walls were bad, so we are doing remodeling. Allan Ulmer is doing the work, just a young man not married, and he lives in with us; he does not have to go to work in the morning; he is surrounded by it when he gets up.

Our sheep are having problems this year. One died, and we burned that, then another one got helpless, and we called the veterinarian. As you know the vet charges as much for one trip as the sheep is worth, but I wanted to know what is causing this weakness. They just lost their

strength, their legs gave out, and in several days they had expired.

The verdict was that our sheep have ketosis, a disease that affects sheep that are too thin, or too fat. Last year we fed the sheep during pregnancy, and they had trouble having lambs, they were too fat. So this year we fed them nothing but grass and hay, and now this.

We have had mineral salt before the sheep but that was not enough and we got some corn and oats chop by now, with mineral content added, hoping to avoid any more loss. To dispose of a dead sheep can be a problem in the winter when the ground is frozen, and the rendering truck won't come around for just a sheep, and I understand they even charge for picking up dead cows now also.

John Renno

February 13

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It was my privilege to attend the worship service at Bedford, PA recently. This is where Rebecca Kauffman dwells. I went to visit her the day before. She is an elderly lady by now but her mental faculties work very well. She is an interesting conversationalist, and can give you many historical facts.

The church she attends originally stems for the division among the Amish in Lancaster Co. back in 1966. There are only a few there who were involved in that episode, but there is where it germinated.

Abner Kauffman, is the principal pastor. He is the son of Samuel Kauffman, now deceased. He was originally from Lebanon County. Amish Joseph Tyndale is the deacon, who also preaches. The other preacher is John Lapp, who is one of those who as a boy was in the original division. He was later ordained at Lyons, PA near Fleetwood, but that small church did not survive, so many joined with the Holdemans.

The service at Bedford was conventional, except that they still have a few Amish traditions. The preachers still go to the (Abrote). That is, before the preaching, while the congregation is engaged in singing, the preachers

go to another room, and have prayers and discuss any other things that may have come up recently, and decide who will do the preaching for that day.

Joe Tyndale had the anfang, or devotions, in the modern term, and the main sermon by John Lapp.

The teaching and preaching at the service was excellent, I was impressed by the abundance of scriptural buttressing used. They are under good management at this time.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

April 14--I traveled to High Point, NC to deliver a load of steel to the Thomas Bus Body Co. where they turn out 19 schoolbuses every day. Enroute I stopped at Harrisonburg, VA to see my friend, the Nathan Showalters.

At that time I learned of his burial plots which he had made. There has been a cemetery on his farm for a long time; the church had it, and just recently bought more land from him, and this caused a three corner piece of land, where the old road used to be. Nathan put his ingenuity to work, and decided this would make a good burial plot for his immediate family. It is very close to the Harrisonburg water line, and on a hard road bed, which was filled in somewhat. They dug it out and made a place for 9 graves, built forms and made concrete vaults, three side by side, and three lengthwise also (9 vaults in all) and to be practical, the graves are deep, so he put a ledge about three feet from the bottom, and made lids to put on this, then you can set 9 more coffins on top of the 9 lower ones. This makes room for 18 burial plots.

For now it will all be covered over; when the need arises, all he needs to do is remove 18 inches of dirt, and he has a concrete vault all ready for occupancy.

On my way back up, I stopped at Uncle Joe Kanagy's house. They are not getting any younger, and Joe has had some problems, and cannot drive his car anymore.

John Renno

May 29

DANVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

We recently visited in Stuarts Draft, VA. An uncle of ours, Joe Kanagy, lives there. He is married to one of the late Dea. Jake Peachey's daughters, the youngest, Leah. My wife is the daughter of the late Dan Peachey. Joes lived at Allensville until about 1950 then joined the exodus that moved to Stuarts Draft about that time.

They are now very near 80 years. She is good yet except her knees are giving her trouble. Joe had some kind of a stroke, that hinders his physical coordination.

Joe likes to travel, and this has

greatly restricted his mobility. The day we went to see him, his son from KY was there and Ambrose Yoder, his neighbor, and his brother Jonas, the M.D.S. buff, decided they would take Joe out for a drive, so we didn't get to see him.

We visited Ben Swarey, who was reared in the same church district that I was, and he is married to one of the late Seth Yoder's daughters, Mary by name; her mother was the sister of my father-in-law. Ben is a victim of leukemia, a lack of white blood cells.

Earlier this year he noticed that he was getting very tired so easily, then he punctured his thumb, which refused to heal, and became very sore. The doctor took his blood test and told him to go to the hospital immediately. He helped do the chores the morning before he left and was in the hospital 36 days; took treatments and is at home now but still weak. He is 58.

John Renno

DANVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

October -We took a little trip over the weekend, went down to see our son and dau.-in-law, at Souderton, Pa. She is Darlene Renno, and occasionally writes in the Budget.

She is the dau. of Russel Moyer, and we also wanted to see him, for his wife died several years ago, and he just has a hard time to go on living without her. He was married during the great depression and began housekeeping during that time. He worked for a huckster who took produce to Philadelphia, and sold it on the market. He did a good job, and got paid \$60.00 per week, plus his milk and eggs, and house. At that time this was pretty good wages.

We attended Sun. school in the church building adjacent to the Big Franconia church. This smaller church was built by Elwood Derstine, not by himself, but to me it's the church that Pappy Derstine built. It is now operated by the Eastern Pa. Mennonite church, who have it about three fourths filled.

We then attended the Brethren in Christ Church at Silverdale near Telford. Omar King is the pastor here. He is the son of Dan King the preacher in what used to be the Valley View Amish church. Omar is married to the dau. of Jake Kanagy, the granddau. of old Jake Kanagy, who is also the father of Ezra Kanagy, the prolific Budget scribe of Belleville, Pa.

They both have Old Order background, and we had much in common, having been reared in the same general area.

Omar now has this church at Silverdale, and has been there for 10 years, and seems to be making good progress.

John Renno

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On Nov. 29, 1945, at the Isaac P. Yoder home Salina, the dau. of Daniel Y. Peachey became the wedded wife of John Renno. So there was an anniversary recently, and we had open house all day but nobody came.

It was not until a day later, that our youngest son said we are coming over for supper tonight. That was nothing unusual, for he helps me keep my truck in shape, being much more nimble than I. We had just finished eating our evening meal, when in walked our oldest son and his family. Then came our dau. and her family; then our son Joe and his family. They came 100 miles; then our third son William and his family. Twenty-three people graced our home, and of course no party is complete without cake and ice cream.

On Thanksgiving Day we went over to my friend Kore Peachey's home. His son-in-law was there also, namely Dennis Unruh, formerly from the plains of Ks., but now living in the east doing carpenter work.

While we were there we had an Amish wedding scene from our window. They live neighbors to Becky Swarey, the widow of David Swarey, who was killed by unruly horses in the past. Their dau. was married that day to a man from Lawrence Co. In the field nearby were carriages, both yellow tops, and black tops. In all, there were 90 buggies. That would make 90 horses to house for the day, and if you allow 4 people per buggy, you have 360 people in a house for the day.

John Renno

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December 1985 Faith and Farming was the theme of the seminar held at the Laurelville Conference Center, in the interest of the financially depressed farmers.

The Laurelville Conference Center is near Mt. Pleasant, Pa. just off Route 31, between New Stanton and Somerset, Pa. They have good facilities to house and feed 300 people, and it's inexpensive.

This conference was held Dec. 4 to 6. Each morning session here was a 30-minute biblical message by James Myer from the White Oak Church of the Brethren.

A financial bind is very stressful, and you must learn how to cope and that is what this conference was all about. It was not to offer financial assistance or supervision. But moral and spiritual supervision; to show that you are not alone in these things, and it is always encouraging to know that your case is not unique.

Back in the 70s land prices went up, and it was assumed that land prices would always stay up and inflation gave the farmers his assets. It looked at that time that hard times were gone forever. But now land prices are down again, and there is a super abundance of grain, and what's more the countries we exported grain to are now feeding much of what they raise themselves. Even China is now exporting grain; thus causing a very depressed market, so that the cost of raising the grain almost equals the market value.

The U.S. dollar is high so that other countries cannot profitably deal with us. It takes too much of their low value money. The situation was described as the waves of the sea, when you ride the crest you go up, then way down. Things have come down and it is assumed the bottom is not yet.

Farmers who have resisted the temptation to expand, are now in a more stable situation. The way of the Amish has been considered. Just small family sized operations are much easier to handle, and if there is a loss due to poor management it is not so great.

One man suggests you should be more concerned about the preservation of the land, than you are about making money. Virtue is its own reward, in the long run.

Another said that for every bushel corn that is harvested, two bushels of top soil are lost by erosion, therefore it is important that you keep your land covered with grass, to preserve it. Be more concerned about the future of the soil than the immediate. You may not live to see the benefits, but no good goes unrewarded.

John Renno