

Mustard Seed

December 1980

Faith Mennonite High School

Vol. 3, No. 4

Building Countdown Nears Finale

Safety requirements in the new building were ready in time for the concert to be held in the auditorium. Needed were

basic safety features including fire alarms, fire extinguishers, lighted exit signs, and other related items.



Leveling up cabinets in the new science room.

Pain - Pills - Patience

After a restless night, I awoke on the morning of November 18 with the same gnawing pain in my hip and leg that I had been experiencing since raking yard the beginning of November. Although I had been with the doctor, I saw no improvement. He decided I had better have more thorough tests done to determine what was wrong.

My stay at the General Hospital seemed necessary to break the cycle of pain and irritation. Medication, traction, and therapy helped the muscles to relax gradually. A milogram showed no discs out of place. However, the problem, instability of the joints in the hip, was still with me. The nerves were pinched whenever I got on my feet.

A combination of

treatment from several doctors has given me some relief, so that I am able to be back in the classroom. I will need to be careful until the muscles become stronger and keep my joints in place.

During this time, I felt the love and prayers of staff, students, family and friends. And underneath I felt God's presence. I was kept alert with many visitors who so graciously brought flowers, plants, and other gifts. I was assured of their support. I am grateful for the healing that has begun and I trust will continue to become complete. Thanks to all of you for your concern. I really appreciated it. It is so good to be back in the classroom!

—Miss Witmer

Sh... It's a Surprise

It took some swift planning to get everything arranged for the surprise. Little slips were handed out to all the students notifying everyone about the grocery shower for Mr. Gochbauer's birthday which had been the previous day. The next morning before chapel we raced back to Mustard Seed room to smuggle the food. There, guys (ornery seniors) were busily taking the labels off cans and switching them. Apples, oranges, grapefruits, potatoes, onions and cans of great variety were packed in boxes and bags. After chapel a student council announcement turned out to be a grocery shower!!

—Joy Kreider



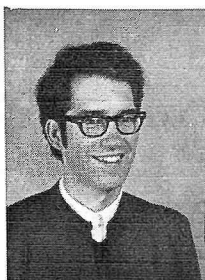
A cleaning day and a moving day are scheduled for Christmas vacation. Students are expected to pack up the contents of the Christiana building on December 22, 1980. Moving day will follow, possibly on January 2 or 5, 1981, at the end of Christmas vacation.

Dedication is scheduled for January 24, 1981 at 1:30 p.m.



Gospel Team No.3 Practicing

See article on page 3



Principal's Corner

Mr James E. Gochnauer

The following is a digest of a brochure entitled "The Wondrous Relationship Between Christmas and Education" published by Dr. Roy W. Lowrie, Jr. Copies of the complete article are available upon request from the school office. Multiple copies can be requested from **Christian Schools Today**, P.O. Box 311, Newtown Square, Pa. 19073.

While many schools do not even acknowledge Christmas, it is a happy time in the Christian school.

But the impact of Christmas upon Christian education is more than the special events held in December to commemorate our Christ's birth.

Christmas is a clear statement of God's communicating with man through the incarnation of His Son. Jesus is called "The Word," that is, the Communicator of God to man. God has not left us to our own reasoning, but has sent the living Word to tell us what we should know.

Christmas is a clear statement that we are sinners. When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary he said that Jesus would save His people from their sins. Christian education understands that students and teachers have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

Christmas is a clear statement that God loves us. In the impersonal age in which we live, Christmas declares that God so loved the world that He sent His only Son to us and for us.

Christmas is a clear statement that the scriptures are the Word of God. Through the incarnation, each Old Testament prophecy was carefully fulfilled. Christian schools use the scriptures daily as the basis for their philosophy of life. They do so with confidence, for Christ has endorsed them.

Christmas is a clear statement of salvation. How can the Holy God accept a sinful man? By sending His sinless Son to die on the cross as the substitute for the sins of man.

Christmas is a clear statement that life has purpose. Jesus said that He came into the world to do the will of the Father. This remarkable statement shows that God has a will for our lives.

Here again, is reason to thank God for the Christian school, for its teachers understand the most wondrous relationship between Christmas and education. These teachers are worthy of our appreciation, our respect for their ministry, our intercessory prayers, and our love.

Letters... Letters... Letters

Dear Editor:

Recently I had the opportunity to read in the October, 1980 issue of the Mustard Seed the article "And The Survey Shows."

I was greatly surprised by the comment that the draft should be reenacted. I was equally surprised by the reason given, "...it should be reenacted so that young people would have the opportunity to enter alternative service."

I have the following questions: 1) How can a non-resistant Christian consistently desire a return to military conscription of our youth by our government? As a part of this question I ask; Does one welcome the drafting of young men because he is confident our Mennonite youth will be able to go into alternate service, and if so, how can that be consistent for a non-resistant Christian? Are you desirous of encouraging our preparing government to go to war? Do you feel that as Christians we should be encouraging our government by our attitudes to prepare for war? 2) Why should a teacher be implying that we need the draft to encourage our young people to service? As part of this question I further ask: Should we rely on the actions of our

Editor's Note:

Statement number one in last month's "Principal's Corner" should have read:

(1) Do not attach yourself to your child's grades. Your child is not you, and you should not expect to fulfill your wishes through him.

government to motivate our youth to enter Christian service? Should not our motivation for Christian service be from a higher motivation, - i.e. the call of Christ? Should not Christians live a life of service regardless of the government's programs? Aren't there enough opportunities for our youth to currently serve in such as VS and various church programs?

Frankly the response indicated in the article really surprised me.

Please accept this letter as from a Christian Mennonite brother. I would like to understand if I misread the article.

Luke G. Stoltzfus
Bishop - Delaware Valley
District.

Dear Editor:

While recognizing that none of us is perfect, I would like to respond to a situation that even Max, our intrepid observer of all that passes, had mixed up.

I arrived at school at approximately 7:45 a.m. on November 18, 1980, only to discover that the heat was off. We were out of oil.

At 8:05 the teachers began arriving. As we discussed the situation, it became apparent that it would be best to close school, a decision which was then cleared with our board chairman.

Unfortunately, by 8:15, all of the students were already enroute to school, enabling us to count it a school day.

-James E. Gochnauer, Principal

Test Results – Fruit Of Our Labours

Achievement Test Scores this year followed trends previously set the latest score reports show.

The tests, administered in October each year, show the background preparation a student brings to his grade.

This year's reports show that, taken as a class, incoming freshmen rise from the 77th percentile to the 87th percentile by their senior year. A percentile rank of 87 indicates that on a national scale, 87% of all classes tested scored poorer than FMH students. Only 13% scored better.

Most dramatic were the differences between incoming and returning

sophomores. Taken as a class, the incoming sophomores ranked in the 44th percentile, while returning sophomores ranked in the 85th percentile. This would appear to indicate that sophomores who spent their freshman year at FMH would be much better prepared to face their sophomore year.

By graduation, these inequities are largely overcome as the seniors who entered as freshmen and those who entered as sophomores rise to the 95th and 87th percentile respectively, when taken as a group.

Parents reviewing the score reports should note that there is no relationship between individual

percentile rank of a class or class-group taken as a whole. Individual reports also do not indicate a student's degree of rest, state of health, or emotional state, each of which can drastically affect test scores.

A home in the country at a reasonable rent is still needed for Mr. Harrison, the new science/math teacher. Call the school if you know of anything available in your community.

Mr. Harrison has three children in addition to himself and his wife.

Cheer Committee Formed

Student Council has found that, "Happiness is ... Cheering others." This year Student Council has been kept busy sending bouquets or fruit baskets to ones absent for a long period of time, or hospitalized, or to those who experienced a death in the family. In order that the whole student Council wouldn't have to meet on short notice, just to decide to send a bouquet or fruit basket, or various other things, a "Cheer Committee" of Frieda Stoltzfus and Julie Weaver was formed from the council.

school at 7:30 and head for Baltimore in two chartered buses. The day will be spent caroling in shopping centers and nursing homes. Over lunch hour they will be in the inner Harbor, caroling in a new shopping center named "The Harbor Place."

The students will be expected to pack a sack lunch and will be given opportunity to buy their supper.

The Baltimore Menno-nite Mission will be hosting them with the pastor's wife, Mrs. Harold Burkholder coordinating the stops. Also, Personnel from the mission will be going along to pass out tracts while the students sing.

We hope to be arriving back at school by 11:00, at the latest. —Dolores Brenneman

Carols "Season" Baltimore Shoppers

On December 23, the students will leave the

Work And Fun Bond (Gospel) Teams

What is a gospel team? How do they function? Do they have any goals?

Have these questions run through your mind? If so, I will endeavor to answer them.

A gospel team is a handful of dedicated people that go to various churches to present the gospel in their unique way. Their goal is to present Christ in a way that isn't easy to forget.

At Faith this year there are three such gospel teams. Each team of 10-12 teens has one period a week in which to practice the songs, skits, and testimonies they will use.

They each plan to give two or three programs this spring.

If you would listen to a team during this practice time you may hear statements like this. "Let's do that song again," or "Put more emphasis on that word," and occasionally "Wow, that sounded great!" When they get everything sounding great they are prepared to give their presentation in local churches.

Program committees can schedule programs by calling the school during normal working hours.

—Twila Howe



Alumni News

Miss Cynthia J. Brenneman

Eugene Deiter ('80) is all enthused about his job working at G. R. Mitchell Inc. His job is to deliver lumber and drywall to customers and also helping the customers right there at the lumber yard. A lot of his time is spent carrying drywall. Currently he's using his singing talent in the Lancaster District Chorus and is songleader at his church. Recently he went with his family to New York to visit the area where they used to live.

Even though it is difficult for Eugene to take off from work, he is planning to take a trip to Oregon next June.

Loretta Sensenig ('80) is teaching 8 students in the first grade

at the Lebanon Valley Christian Day School. She teaches reading, math, and Bible using the Christian Light Publications. Even though she doesn't have much free time, she enjoys her teaching duty to the fullest. She is also teaching the Kindergarten class at her home church. During Christmas season she sings in the church chorus and also attends the regular youth group activities.

Along with her family she took a trip to Canada. About a month ago she was in Mississippi for a week to attend a wedding. She loved to hear the southerners talk!

"Have a Merry Christmas, ya all!"

Seniors Assist In MCC Projects

On December 9, we, the seniors, did not report to school. Instead we went to the MCC building in Ephrata where we put in a day of service as our Christmas project. We arrived at 9:30 and were assigned many different jobs. Ken Gehman and Dave Geib were picked out to do the dirty work of scraping lard out of packing barrels while the other fellows packed barrels, baled cardboard and clothing and loaded a tractor-trailer with sup-

plies.

The girls were busy checking through health kits and layette bundles to make sure everything was included. They also went through piles of clothes, quilts and blankets looking for blemishes and sorted them according to size.

The morning passed quickly and we stopped for lunch at 11:30. After lunch we were invited to browse through the self-help shop which sells things made in poor coun-

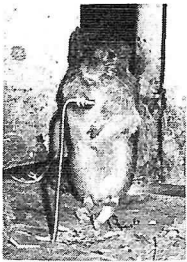


tries to help those people support themselves. A few of us found this to be a good opportunity to catch up on our Christmas shopping.

The afternoon went just as quickly as the morning and it was soon 3:00 and time to go home. Those of us who packed and handled barrels went home with dirty clothes and although most of us were tired we were all glad to help out with the work of MCC. We also were made more aware of the work that MCC is involved in and is doing for many people. A

special thanks goes to the class officers for planning a day like this for us.

—Dwilyn Beiler



Max the Mouse

by Maximillian van Musculus

Hullo everyone,

When Ken read my letter last month he repented of his haughty ways and stopped by to pay me a visit. In the course of the conversation he mentioned he would be glad to have me write an article every month, that is, if I can bridle my tongue. He even offered to take me along to the new school on moving day! It sounded like a prestigious assignment, so I agreed.

Just the other day I was running around when I heard strange noises coming from the large caverns under the building. I followed my ears, and what did I find? Four senior guys sitting on the grimy concrete floor watching movies! They were previewing them for their homeroom and they probably had a lot of fun doing it.

The day after Thanksgiving vacation, school was really boring for the gals. So many guys had gone to the mountains in search of that magical buck. I heard that Dale Hess got a beauty - an 8 point! Wilmer Bowman shot a 5 point, so there were some pretty good stories floating around.

It was so amusing to observe the students reactions when they got their pictures on Thursday. Some people were horrified and hated their pictures but others actually liked what they saw. When somebody said that Steve Beachy's pictures looked just like him he responded with "That's the problem."

The Christmas spirit has found its way into this school. I was scurrying through the hall when I suddenly noticed it was decorated with tinsel and bells. Everyone is singing Christmas carols, and longing for vacation.

Well, to all you people who faithfully read this article I wish you a Cherry Mistmas and a Nappy Yew Hear!

Datebook

- Dec 21 - Chorale at Kauffman's Mennonite
- Dec 23 - Christmas Caroling in Baltimore
- Dec 23 - Christmas vacation begins
- Jan 4 - Chorale at Andrews Bridge Mennonite
- Jan 5 - Christmas vacation ends
- Jan 12 - Farm Show - No School
- Jan 18 - Chorale at Rawlinsville Mennonite
- Jan 19 - PTF - CANCELLED
- Jan 20 - Business men's banquet (by invitation)
- Jan 23 - Last day of first semester
- Jan 24 - Dedication at 1:30 p.m.

Coming Next Month

New Building Issue

**Pictures

**Student reactions

**"Max gets a new Home"

**Guest editorial -- Building Committee chairman

**Moving Day

**Dedication Program

Faith Mennonite High School

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17535