

ECHOES OF THE PAST

(Ed. Note: This marks our first attempt to launch an historical column about Lancaster County and its people. The Amish Society has long held a prominent position in the county, so perhaps J. David Lapp's study of the Amish way of life is an appropriate place to begin. We are publishing the introduction to his paper this week, and hope in future weeks to bring you the complete study in installments. We'd be very interested to hear your reactions to this sort of a column, and to have you contribute to it with any item that you feel has a bearing on the history of any part of Lancaster County.)

This thesis is a "Participant Observation" of the Old Order Amish of Lancaster County. Being born and reared in an all Amish neighborhood, I feel as though there has been much distortion of the subject by a few "outsiders" with good intentions but few facts. Hopeful that I won't over-identify myself, I would like to present their Biblical values and sociological principles

basic to their own way of life. The enormous vitality with which the Old Order Amish Folk retain their semi-Anachronistic way of life amid the stresses of the modern American society is quite astounding. No other major in-group in America has so effectively resisted the homogenizing effects of the present technological and mass-media era.

The Amish, who first settled in the New World in the early 1700's did not evolve socially and economically along the same lines followed by the rest of the American society. Theirs was an individualist group following an individualist religion. The very persecutions they had suffered in Europe, as graphically described in Martyr's Mirror, had rendered them understandably distrustful of anything taking place in the society around them and exceedingly reluctant to follow or to conform. They withdrew into a semi-monastic social structure closely patterned after the Roman Catholic of the 17th century in Europe. Essentially, they

SUSPENSION OF A PROVISION IN DELAWARE VALLEY MILK ORDER

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is considering suspension of a provision in the Delaware Valley Federal milk marketing order, which covers part of Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Views are invited on the proposed action.

Agricultural Marketing Service officials said the proposed suspension would delete the part of the supply-demand adjuster in the pricing formula which otherwise during January-March would increase the bottling milk (Class I) price 20 cents above the current level.

The suspension was requested by cooperative associations representing a substantial number of the dairy farmers serving the market. They stated that the higher bottling milk (Class I) price would be contraseasonal, and could seriously jeopardize markets for local dairy farmers, because of price disparities between the Delaware Valley and adjacent Federal order markets. They also said that because of changes in the market structure it is questionable whether the present standards to which the supply-demand adjustment mechanism is geared are appropriate and that suspension action is necessary pending review of the provision at a hearing, request

were Anabaptists and opposed infant baptism. They stemmed from the Mennonite orders. Their sole objectives in life are "humility and holiness."

made. The announcement of the bottling milk (Class I) price for January-March will not be made until a decision is reached on the proposed suspension action. Notice of the proposed suspension will be published in the Federal Register on De-

sons will have three days for that date to submit ten views and comments to the Clerk, Room 112-A, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. The hearing clerk will make all missions available for inspection.

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