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Gene Mellinger, Eric Wolgemuth motorcycle west to harvest wheat on large scale; see California also

Gene Mellinger and his second cousin, Eric Wolgemuth, both of RD1 Mount Joy, rode their motorcycles last May to Thomas, Oklahoma, where they joined a harvest crew that would work its way from the wheat fields of Texas to those of Nebraska, combining wheaţ for farmers.
Their first work was in Texas, where they stayed two weeks. It rained most of the time they were there; consequently, they had to sit around and wait for the rain to stop. When it did stop, they harvested 700 acres in four days. Obviously, they worked long days, 17 hours each day.

Then they returned to Oklahoma, following the weather north as the wheat ripened. Next they took off for Nebraska.
The harvest crew moved from one place to another in a caravan, consisting of a Chevy Tandem truck 10wheeler with a hauling capacity of 650 bushels of wheat, a Chevy single axle truck with a capacity of 400 bushels, two trailers, one for
each Massey Ferguson combine, a 516 and a 750 , with 20 -foot and 24 -foot headers respectively, a service wagon with tools and fuel tanks and portable workshop, a house trailer with kitchen and bathrooms, and a pick-up truck which towed a bunkhouse.
The boss of the crew was Ernest Switzer. His wife, daughter, and son, plus Gene and Eric were the personnel of the crew. Mrs. Switzer and her daughter did the cooking, bringing hot meals to the fields. After work they had a midnight snack, in addition to the three squares. The food was excellent.
Gene drove his Suzuki 750 and Eric his Honda 750 out to Oklahoma. It took them two and a half days to get there. After the harvesting was finished they went to Los Angeles and then to San Francisco. In the latter city hey visited a mission city they visited a mission of the Brethren in Christ where Gene has previously worked.
They were anxious to get home, and on the last leg of their return trip covered
over 1000 miles in 22 continuous hours.
Gene said the experience was "challenging." He learned how the farmers operate in the Midwest. "They are really super people, very hospitable. They work with you and help you."

Gene observed that there is less manual work on the farms in the west than here. Tractors have 4-wheel drive, A 50 -foot rod weeder is not uncommon.
But Gene was most impressed by the farmers' sociability. They usually get together early in the morning before starting their work, in coffeehouses. "They cling together," he said.
(Unfortunately, Eric did not have time in his busy schedule to give the Times his impressions of the trip. The Times did, however, get a picture of him on his Honda.)

Gene is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold H. Mellinger, RD1 Mount Joy. Eric is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Earl Wolgemuth, RD1, Mount Joy.


## Chester's chestnuts

Some words of wisdom from Chester Wittel.

A wooden nickel used to be A zany possibility
But no one need be apprehensive; Lumber now is too expensive.

Some folks burn candles at both ends-
A practice I deplore.
A practice I deplore.
I break my candlesticks in I break
halves
And burn them at all four.

There's no such thing as income tax,
As surely you must know.
No matter how or what they're called
All taxes are out-go.


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