

# —EDITORIAL—

## THEY READ THE REPORTS

Nostalgia can get you into conflict!

For instance, thinking back only a very few years, the days of personal reports were stuff with which Mount Joy Borough Council was glued together.

There was the report of the chief of police, who read off the number of arrests for various law infractions, the number of parking meter violations, the miles traveled by the police car, etc.

The borough supervisor told council and all the citizens who happened to be present, about the work he and his crew had been doing during the past month - how many trips had been made to the refuse dump, number of man hours worked, etc.

Friendship Fire company (and a little later Florin company, on occasion) enumerated the fire calls, complete with number of men responding, miles traveled, etc.

The mayor told how much money he had collected for issuance of peddlers' licenses, to who and where permits for breaking open the streets were given, building permits were detailed, along with other bits of statistical material.

But, all of that, in the name of streamlining, is now changed.

Some of the reports were boring and full of numbers which in themselves meant little.

But, they were part of a system which was highly democratic.

For instance, all borough bills were read, including amounts and to whom payable. That just isn't done any more.

Everyone - councilmen and citizens - knew exactly what was going on. It gave the feeling of a down East town meeting, with everyone involved.

Mount Joy's Borough Council is not like that anymore. Now, even the minutes of the previous meeting are never read.

What happened last month is dissolved in the paper mill, reduced to writing and handed out to the councilmen for their private inspection, when and if they are concerned.

Yep, nostalgia can carry you back to the days of borough reports. But among those boring statistics, read to the wide-open spaces of Friendship Fire Hall assembly room, where Council met for many years, there was a feeling of democracy, lost, or at least, clouded, when things were streamlined.

### Blacktown Phone Firm Joins United

Affiliation of the Blacktown Telephone Company of Blacktown, Pa., with the United Telephone System has been announced by Paul H. Henson, chairman of United Telecommunications, Inc., and J.G. Armstrong, president of Blacktown Telephone.

The transaction involves the exchange of 28,365 shares of United Telecom common stock for all the capital stock of Blacktown Telephone.

Blacktown Telephone will become a subsidiary of United Telecom and be operated in conjunction with the United Telephone Company of Pennsylvania, headquartered in Carlisle, Pa.

Blacktown Telephone Serves about 1,500 telephones in an area ad-

acent to that served by United of Pennsylvania. United of Pennsylvania serves nearly 300,000 telephones in 89 exchanges.

### The Mount Joy BULLETIN

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## the Wonder of BOOKS

By Martha Epler

JONATHAN  
By Dan Neidermyer  
Published by Herald Press, 1973

With the current "nostalgia" rage taking us backward in time, we feel it especially fitting to review a book about a people for whom time has stopped — the Amish. "Jonathan," a recent publication, is authored by Dan Neidermyer, a personality well-known by many Lancaster countians.

Recently, we had a personal encounter with Mr. Neidermyer in a Sunday morning church setting. He is obviously quite knowledgeable of the Bible — a graduate of the Philadelphia College of the Bible. In addition to having authored "Jonathan," he produces and directs original dramas for various groups.

The author himself is not of the Amish sect, but has been closely associated with them all of his life. In effect, "Jonathan," is an in-depth study of these quaint people. Generally, we learn that their philosophy centers around a closeness to God and a closeness to God's earth. Specifically, we learn little-known facts about the Amish; how many of us know that the "Ausbund," the Amish hymnal, is thought to be the oldest existing Protestant hymnal?

The book is well-salted with the scripture verses upon which the Amish base their lifestyle. "Be ye not conformed to this world." "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." In effect, we realize that most Amish folk have had little or no exposure to literature other than the Bible.

In addition, we learn that the majority of Amish young people never go beyond eight years of schooling. This factor undoubtedly aids the Amish in maintaining their isolation from "secular" society. Perhaps this factor, more than any other influences the character of Jonathan King, the book's central figure.

Jonathan, the thoughtful, sensitive son of an Amish farmer-minister, begins to question the Amish way of life. Through Jonathan's questioning, we are drawn into an analysis and probing of the Amish philosophy. However, we realize that for the Amish, such activity is severely criticized. For the Amish, questioning is wrong. But Jonathan's searching continues...in his own words, "I want that chance to think. Oh God, with all my heart and mind, I want that chance to think."

The book offers some interesting contrasts. There is the obvious contrast; the sweet simplicity of old-

fashioned living versus the tensions and hypocrisy of fast-paced modern-day living. Also, Jonathan's open, honest manner of doubting is contrasted with other Amish boys' sly and devious experimentation with worldly temptations.

"Jonathan" raises the issue concerning invasion of Amish privacy. Undoubtedly, there is much tourist exploitation of these simple, but picturesque people. Some compare Lancaster county to a "zoo." The author mentions the fact that in the 1500's, the Amish faced severe religious persecution. Today there is also persecution, but of a different nature — snooping, spying, and prying. One of the book's characters states it thusly: "Isn't it a sad state when millions of people come to stare at people? What is all this? What are we all, a circus sideshow of religious freaks?"

Dan Neidermyer presents the Amish as he sees them — a plain hardworking people, but also human, sensitive, and many times light-hearted and fun-loving. However, through the book there runs a thread of pessimism concerning the future of Amish life.

Will the Amish survive or will the tourist industry destroy the very phenomena that it is built upon?

### DEATH

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was a one-time president of the Central Pennsylvania Shoe and Leather Association.

Following his retirement, one of his chief pastimes was driving through the Lancaster county countryside. He was able to take one of these trips on Wednesday afternoon prior to his death.

Gerberich was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Mount Joy, and a former secretary of the Mount Joy Water Authority.

He was also a member of Prince Edwin Lodge, Middletown; Harrisburg Lodge of Perfection; and the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Harrisburg.

He also held membership in the Lancaster Country Club, and Cardiacs Anonymous and was a former member of the Rotary Club of Mount Joy.

Survivors in addition to his widow, include a son, J. Richard Gerberich, Mount Joy; and a brother, Clyde E. Gerberich, Mount Joy. Two grandsons also survive.

Services were held Saturday morning, Feb. 16, from the Groff funeral home,

Lancaster, and burial was made in Middletown cemetery.

### CLARENCE S. GREIDER

Clarence S. Greider, who owned and operated the Red Rose Dairy at Mount Joy R1 for 28 years, died unexpectedly at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 18, at his home of an apparent heart attack.

He was 75 and lived at Mount Joy R1. He was married to Viola L. Kreider Greider.

A former farmer and dairyman, Greider owned and operated dairy, serving Mount Joy and the surrounding community, from 1935 until his retirement in 1963.

Greider took an active interest in Scouting. He served as a committee member of Mount Joy Troop 39 and had donated the building being used as the meeting place for the Mount Joy Boy Scouts.

A member of Mount Joy Mennonite Church, he also belonged to Mount Joy Rotary Club and Mount Joy Florin Coin Club. He was a life member of Florin Fire Co. and also was a former director of Manor Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

Born in Lancaster Junction, East Hempfield Twp., he was a son of the late B. Frank and Minnie B. Seachrist Greider.

Besides his widow, he is survived by one son, Jay Clarence Greider, Mount Joy R1; three grandchildren, and one sister, Elizabeth, wife of Huber Harnish, Conestoga.

Services were held Wednesday morning, Feb. 20, from the Mount Joy Mennonite church and burial was made in the Kraybill's cemetery.

### ANNE P. STEHMAN

Mrs. Anne P. Stehman, 80, Center Drive, Apt. 25D, Lancaster, wife of Paul K. Stehman, died Sunday morning, Feb. 17, after a lengthy illness.

Born in Conestoga, she was a daughter of the late William T. and Kate Agon Pugh. She resided in the Mount Joy area for the past 32 years.

She was a member of St. Luke Episcopal Church, of Mount Joy and the Altar Guild. She was a Past Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star, chapter 407, of Elizabethtown.

She served two terms as president of the Lancaster General Hospital Auxiliary and was active in the Mount Joy chapter of the Needlework Guild.

Besides her husband, she is survived by a daughter and two sons; Mrs. Jeanette S. Metzger of Lancaster, and Paul K. Jr., Mount Joy, and James P., Norristown.

Also surviving are 12 grand-children and 14 great-grand-children, two brothers and three sisters: Miles A. Pugh, Manheim; William T. Pugh, of Summit, N.J., Mrs. Lydia Israel, Orlando, Fla., Mrs. Mabel Pennock, Beverly Hills, Calif., and

Miss Rose Ella Pugh, Manheim.

Services will be held from the Heilig funeral home Thursday morning, Feb. 21, and burial will be made in the Mount Joy cemetery.

### HARRY KULP HINKLE

Harry Kulp Hinkle, 85, of the Lutheran Church Home, Camp Hill, formerly of Mount Joy, died at the home at 3 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, after a lengthy illness.

Born in Mount Joy, he was a son of the late Harry K. and Matilda Kulp Hinkle.

He was the husband of the late Bessie Shire Hinkle and Miriam U. Bailey Hinkle.

He resided the past 10 years in Camp Hill and prior to that he lived his entire life in Mount Joy.

He was retired from the Geberich-Payne Shoe Co., Mount Joy. He was also a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Mount Joy.

Surviving are two daughters: Anna H., wife of Samuel F. Jerley and Clara H., wife of Harold S. Overdeer, both of Middletown.

Two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren also survive along with two sisters: Mrs. Ruth H. Stauffer and Mae, wife of Clinton Walters, both of Mount Joy.

Services were held Saturday afternoon, Feb. 16, from the Heilig funeral home and burial was made in the Mount Joy cemetery.

### HARRY S. GEBHART

Harry S. Gebhart, 73, of 246 Plum St., Mount Joy, died at 11:12 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, at the Duke Convalescent Residence, Lancaster, after a lengthy illness.

Born in Rapho Twp., he was a son of the late John H. and Annie E. Snyder Gebhart.

He was the husband of Esther Vogel Gebhart.

He had been a lifelong resident of the Mount Joy area and lived in Mount Joy for the past 50 years. In 1963 he retired after working for 35 years for the Gerberich-Payne Shoe Co., Mount Joy.

Gebhart was a member of the Glossbrenner United Methodist Church, Mount Joy.

Besides his wife, at home, he is survived by five sons and one daughter: Howard V., Staten Island, N.Y.; Robert V. and Harry R., both of Mount Joy; Charles K., Elizabethtown; John W., at home; and Mildred A., wife of Robert E. Balmer, Brigham City, Utah.

Sixteen grandchildren also survive along with two sisters: Mrs. Emma Troup, Mount Joy R2 and Mrs. Fannie Senft, Lancaster.

Services were arranged for Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Heilig funeral home with burial in the Camp Hill cemetery.

It's amazing how excited some people can get over little things.