

The Menno Beacon

November 2015

Volume 60 Number 1

Mennonite Relief Sale a Success

By Julie Kagele

Despite a forecast for strong winds, the 38th annual Mennonite Country Auction and Relief Sale was a resounding success. In fact, this year was one of the most successful sale days to date, with gross sales totaling over \$120,000 for the Mennonite Central Committee.

The auction itself took place inside the tent this year in anticipation of strong winds. The winds were not as bad as forecasted, but having the auction inside the tent was a great change of pace! There were nine winners of the bid for the opening item – the symbolic loaf of bread, which raised a total of \$3,750. Twenty-

two people won the bid for “Absolutely Nothing” bringing in a total of \$3,325.

The three highest selling quilts sold for \$2,100, \$2,000, and \$1,700. Other items at the auction included an African dinner for six, Seahawk tickets, Cougar – Husky tickets, an antique roll-top desk and much more; 108 items total. Proceeds from the auction alone amounted to \$52,300.

Around the grounds, there was plenty to see for everyone. Foods included green bean soup, a rib plate, Caesar salad, New Year’s cookies, hamburgers, sausage sandwiches, pie, ice cream, fresh pressed apple cider,

apple butter, and making a return to the event were kraut runza’s. There was also Amish cheese from Ohio, which sold out within 45 minutes! Just as popular were bulk sausage, ham, and bacon from Montana.

Other booths included the Etcetera Shop, Ten Thousand Villages, crafts, the Country Store, the Quilter’s Corner Plus, and new to the event was the Recycled Spoon (custom-made silver-plate and sterling spoon and fork jewelry). The kids who came thoroughly enjoyed the bouncy house!

Special thanks to all who made this a successful event in what turned out to be a beautiful day.

Menno Church has a New Website

By Bill Dyck

If you tried to access the Mennonite Country Auction (MCA) this August, you probably saw only 2014 stuff. If you haven’t heard, Menno Church and MCA have a new, combined website. The new site is: www.mennomennonite.org. The old websites for Menno Church and MCA are not up-to-date and will soon be taken down. Why the change? Mennonite.net (Mnet) has changed their software and some of the ways they do things for the websites, so it was easier to start a new website than redo the old, plus I wanted an easier website domain name to remember.

With problems on both Mnet and me, we got a late start in mid-August. In a period of a few days, I started learning a new way of building the new website. Mnet did a lot of the basics of setting up the new website, which is the hardest part to do.

One of the page tabs at the top is for the Mennonite Country Auction. Up until sale day, this page was the one I concentrated on. Once things slow down for me, the other pages will get updated with information and/or pictures. I hope to have a picture gallery of the progress of the new building project at Menno Church in the next few weeks. If you have suggestions or ideas for the website, feel free to contact me at billdyck70@yahoo.com.



By Matthew Yoder

93 days, over six thousand miles, 15 states, three kids and a dog. That was our family's summer in a nutshell. The Menno Mennonite Church congregation granted me a sabbatical leave for three months in the summer of 2015 for the purpose of personal rejuvenation and professional development. My family and I saw a lot of country and a lot of friends and family. We did some camping and celebrated two birthdays (Orin, 4 and Wren, 1). I learned about spiritual direction and gained a few spiritual insights of my own through the OASIS program at Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Virginia. I witnessed our church struggling mightily with the issues of the day at the Mennonite Church USA convention in Kansas City. My Yoder grandparents celebrated their 65th anniversary and my grandpa, Aden's, 90th birthday this summer. Being able

to attend that celebration with uncles, aunts and cousins was one of the highlights of my summer. Thanks to the generosity and care of this wonderful congregation I returned to Menno on August 16th invigorated and prepared for a new season of ministry here.

And it's a good thing, too, since our fall programming had us off and running! We kicked off our Sunday school year in traditional fashion with a Sunday school picnic on September 13th. With the start of Sunday school comes the beginning of a new faith exploration class in which I've been meeting with four of our junior youth. Three weeks after Sunday school picnic we held our 38th annual MCA sale – our highest grossing sale yet. By the time this edition of the Menno Beacon goes to press, we will be celebrating our annual Harvest Festival with guest speaker Jeff Koller, MDS Coordinator for Regions 3 and 4. This fall has been a season of committee and board meetings as well as many wonderful pastoral visits as I reconnect with church members and coordinate our fall and winter programming.

This fall has also been a time to say goodbye. Minnie Franz, with whom

I spent many delightful visits over the past five and a half years, passed quietly on the afternoon of September 12 just shy of her 100th birthday by two months to the day. Her service will be held at Menno Mennonite Church on her birthday, November 12, 2015. As I write this article, reflecting on Minnie's life and my first five years of ministry here at Menno, the leaves fall from the trees outside my window and the days grow short. Even so there is much activity at the other end of the building as workers work to erect our new fellowship wing complete with updated bathrooms and a bigger, better kitchen. As we celebrate our Harvest Festival and bid farewell to one of our matriarchs, as the chill and dark of winter settles in even as we wait with anticipation for the completion of our new building addition, I wonder what kinds of new life God has in store for us and what familiar and comfortable things we may have to lay to rest in order to welcome the new.

May this season find you comforted and blessed in the arms of our Maker in whose image we are made. Amen.

In October 2014, Roberta Hodgson participated in the Bethel College Board meetings. The Board adopted revised Mission and Values Statements. The new Mission statement allows the College to adapt to changes in education--for example, fifth year requirements of some disciplines. As one looks at the mission of the college, one should look at all three statements--Mission, Values and Vision--which you can read on the Bethel College website www.bethelks.edu. Other items on the agenda included meeting the new Admissions Director, Jeffrey Baylor. Bethel's enrollment remained steady for the 2014-15 school year, but Mr. Baylor has been tasked with increasing enrollment and needs student leads.

Menno's Mission statement:

Menno Mennonite Church, a Christian Anabaptist Community, equips believers through Worship and Study, and expresses God's love to others through Stewardship and Service.

News and Notes

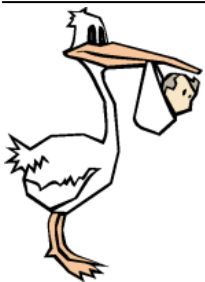
- Stan and Sharon Meyer attended MCUSA Kansas City 2015 convention in July, connecting with many friends and making new ones! Worship services proved the highlight of our time there, whereas delegate sessions required much discernment.

We were privileged to bring two grandchildren with us to Washington on our three-day long return trip! Hannah Froese (age 11) and Devin Penner (age 8) were anxious and excited to stop at numerous sites to learn about traveling on the Oregon Trail and Pony Express communication in the late 1800s. Standing in the wagon train ruts was impressive; comparing the speed of communication today with that of 100+ years ago was astounding! Though we had much to see and do to occupy our three days of travel, we wondered what children on wagon trains did for the many days it took them to travel about the same distance we traveled!

As our daughters and the remainder of their families arrived here, we made our way to Ocean Shores, WA, where we spent several delightful days enjoying the ocean beaches, searching for sea treasures, and admiring the sunsets over the water.

It was a special treat to have Caleb Froese (age 14) spend two weeks with us after his family left to travel back to Kansas. We utilized his youthful energies to accomplish some yard work that required more help and affirmed the good driving habits he is learning! Caleb and Stan flew to Kansas in time for school to start in August.

- In November 2014, Minnie Franz celebrated her 99th birthday. She enjoyed a party at the Riverview Care Center on the 12th and as family arrived for the weekend celebrated again at a dinner at J.C. and Roberta Hodgson's home with all her children (Jay, Del, Roberta, and Carma) and one of her granddaughter's family, Laura, Bryan and Geneva Munro. It was Minnie's first opportunity to meet her first great-granddaughter Geneva, who was born in August 2014.
- In August 2014, Del Franz and his daughter Melina Franz-Falango visited in Spokane, making the trip from New Jersey.



Welcome New Arrivals!

Geneva Noelle Munro was born August 4, 2014 to Laura and Bryan Munro in Seattle, WA. She is the granddaughter of J.C. and Roberta Hodgson and the great-granddaughter of Minnie Franz.

Thank you to all who helped to make the MCC School Kit Drive a success this past summer! School kit bags were sewn, items were collected, and monetary donations were given for this worthy project to encourage children throughout the world to enjoy school. These supplies were sent to the MCC collection site near Hubbard, OR, following our Relief Sale. The assistance of everyone is very much appreciated.

~ Menno Women in Mission

We are thrilled to have a Bi-national Mennonite Disaster Service project in Pateros, WA this fall and winter rebuilding houses that were lost last year in the Carlton Complex fires. Here is your chance to serve at a bi-national very close to home. Volunteers are needed for the last half of November and first two weeks in December. The Washington unit has reserved two weeks in January if you want to go with them. For more info call Kevin Froese (360-460-0406) or Gene Claassen (509-750-7918).

Camp Camrec Update, October 24, 2015

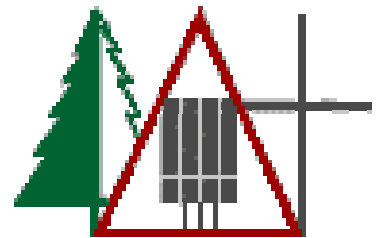
Camrec Board meetings were held at Camp Camrec October 24, 2015. After a marathon session, on Saturday, these are the highlights coming from that meeting.

- 1) Chairman Dennis Swinger, Jr. told the group he will be stepping down as chairman, due to increasing commitments with farm and family. If you know of someone that would be willing to do this job, talk to a Camrec board member or to JR himself.
- 2) Maurice and Joyce Briggs announced that Maurice will be retiring in late May, 2016. A search committee has been setup to look for a maintenance person replacement. If you know of someone, talk to a Camrec board member.
- 3) David and Saralyn Jantzi are contagious! Their excitement for possibilities at Camp Camrec are many, including; more storage space, more challenge courses, more activities during the camping season, and a climbing wall for starters.
- 4) New mattresses for all the cabin beds, to be installed soon.
- 5) There will be more thinning of the underbrush, with the help of cost sharing from DNR.

Other items of interest are the dates for **Women's Retreat** for 2016 will be April 8-10, 2016. **Menno Retreat** will be May 13-15, 2015. Next Camrec board meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2016.

Please consider your year- end donations and give to Camp Camrec. There are several projects coming up that will need financial assistance. Any questions on any of the above items, feel free to contact Camp Camrec or a Camrec board member.

Bill Dyck, Menno Church's only Camp Camrec board member



Greetings from Camp Camrec! We wanted to take the chance to introduce ourselves.

Both Saralyn and David have backgrounds rooted in the Mennonite Church. Saralyn is from Ephrata, Pennsylvania. She attended Hesston College, getting her associates degree in Disaster Management before transferring to Eastern Mennonite University and completing a major in Psychology and a minor in Outdoor Ministry and Adventure Leadership. David grew up overseas most of his life, the product of parents who work with Mennonite

Central Committee. He attended Eastern Mennonite University for nursing. Saralyn and David met at the EMU rock climbing wall where Saralyn pretended to not notice him. Obviously that did not work out too well.

Together we have a strong background in outdoor leadership with a passion to connect with young people. We enjoy backpacking, biking, climbing, caving, running, surfing, and just about any other adventure sport you can think of. We are excited to be working here at Camrec to combine our interests and pas-

sions in an effort to reach an ultimate goal, sharing the love of Christ to those we interact with.

We are loving the setting Camp Camrec provides and look forward to taking advantage of everything this area has to offer. In our time here so far we have been excited to make lots of connections through the Washing Mennonite Fellowship events. We can't wait to make more! Please join us as we continue to make Camrec a special place for so many.

Washington Mennonite Fellowship Women's Retreat

By Sharla Dyck

October 16-18, was Washington Mennonite Fellowship Women's Retreat hosted by Spring Valley (Newport) Mennonite Women at Camp Camrec. The theme was "*Leave Your Baggage at the Door.*" Kristina Stepper of Wenatchee was the guest speaker who shared "*Scars and Baggage*" on Saturday morning. Spring Valley women planned the Sunday morning worship service "*Throw Your Baggage Overboard*" with hymn singing and sharing a report from all the churches represented.

The crafting activity of decorating glassware with lace and spray paint was organized by the Warden Mennonite Women. Other activities included hiking, book exchange, silent auction, fellowship, and white elephant gift exchange.

The Spring Valley women planned the meals with Menno Mennonite ladies providing some of the food and help. Sharla Dyck decorated the tables with fall colors for Sat. night's meal. Bill Dyck, Maurice Briggs and David Jantzi did the kitchen clean-up work so the ladies could participate in the activities.

The next WMF Women's Retreat has been moved back to the spring and is scheduled for April 8-10, 2016 and will be organized by the Menno Mennonite Women.

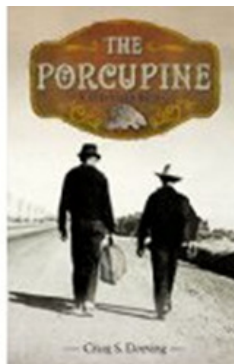
Book Review: The Porcupine

By Bill Dyck

Do you like to read? Read to your children or grandkids? Here's a book for you. *The Porcupine* by Craig S Dorsing. Yep, Craig has written a children's book in his retirement! *The Porcupine* is about two brothers, Gulp and Bugs, who decide to run away from home and join the circus that is nearby. Their journey takes them to the circus, engaging with several people on the way and at the circus. I found the names of the characters interesting. They find out ____, I'm not giving it away; you will have to read for yourself.

I found *The Porcupine* on Amazon kindle for \$2.99, but you can buy the book from Craig. Several weeks ago, Craig told me that his second book will be out in November and will be more adventures of Gulp and Bugs. Help support a new author and buy Craig's book.

Craig can be reached at 4120 W Lakeshore Dr, Moses Lake, WA 98837-3008, email at ccdorsing@nctv.com, or phone 509-765-1519. *The Porcupine* copyrighted March 2015 and released in June, 2015 from Concrete Publishing. This book is an easy read for both kids and adults. I would highly recommend reading *The Porcupine*.



A note from the editor...

Recently, I attended the showing of the documentary *Laughing in the Dark*, which chronicles comedienne Chonda Pierce's life, struggles, and faith. In the movie, Chonda openly discusses the toll that she (and her family) have paid as she has followed Jesus and pursued a career witnessing through comedy. Her struggles aren't too dissimilar from many working parents, including me. Two years ago, when I returned to "full time outside the home" work, I thought I could continue to balance work and family life; however, I was wrong. Thus, the *Menno Beacon* has been reduced to a once-a-year publication. With both work and family demands increasing instead of decreasing, something has to give, and in my case, that something is acting as *Menno Beacon* editor. Special thanks to all who read, contribute to, and support the *Menno Beacon*—it is greatly appreciated! If you are interested in serving as editor, please contact Pastor Matthew.

Menno Remembers...

Minnie C. (Lund) Franz

Minnie Christine (Lund) Franz, schoolteacher, homemaker and 72-year resident of Eastern Washington, died in Spokane on Sept. 12, two months short of her 100th birthday.

Minnie was born Nov. 12, 1915, near Bonetraill, North Dakota, the third of six children of Jens and Bena Lund, immigrants from Denmark. In 1920, the Lunds purchased a dairy farm near Grenora, ND. When Minnie began school in Grenora, she spoke only Danish, but when she graduated from high school in 1933, she was salutatorian. Minnie attended Minot (ND) State Teachers College for two years, receiving teaching certification in 1935.

Minnie's nine-year elementary school teaching career began in a one-room country school near Alkabo, ND, and included four other towns in North Dakota and Montana. In 1943, Minnie moved to Lind, WA, where she taught sixth grade for one year and met Robert Franz, whom she married on May 28, 1944.

They raised four children and operated the family farm west of Lind, near Schrag, where they grew mostly wheat. In 2000, the couple moved to Spokane, and in 2004, Robert and Minnie celebrated 60 years of marriage.

Minnie joined Menno Mennonite Church, near Ritzville, WA, where she served as a Sunday

school superintendent and teacher. She was secretary of the Pacific District of the Mennonite Church USA and edited the district newsletter. She was known for performing "readings" -- short stories which she memorized and presented as dramatic readings at church and school events. Minnie also served as an Adams County election official for the Schrag precinct for many years.

Minnie enjoyed entertaining, often inviting friends and family to her home for dinners, parties, and family reunions. Holiday dinners in her home sometimes included more than 50 people. She loved throwing a good party -- from card parties to her legendary April Fool's parties.

Minnie and Robert also enjoyed traveling, visiting all 50 states, most of the Canadian provinces, Mexico and all the continents except Antarctica.

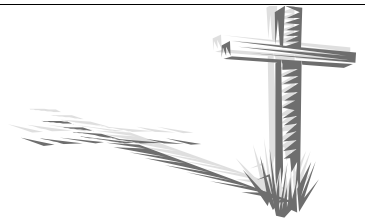
Minnie was a lifelong sports fan, especially of the Washington State Cougars, the Seattle Mariners and the Lind Bulldogs. Her favorite sport was basketball, which she played at Minot State. As a teacher, she coached basketball and other sports. Minnie was also an avid bowler.

Surviving are two sons, Jay Franz of Spokane and Delwin Franz and partner Mark Falango of Titusville, NJ; two daughters, Roberta and J.C. Hodgson and Carma

Franz, of Spokane; three granddaughters, Alyssa and Doug Branca, Laura and Bryan Munro, and Melina Franz-Falango; and one great-granddaughter, Geneva Munro. Minnie was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, in 2005; a sister, Eleanor Arnson Butterfield, and four brothers, Harry, Albert, Elmer and Alvin Lund.

A celebration of Minnie's life will be held on what would have been her 100th birthday -- Nov. 12 -- at 3:30 p.m. at Menno Mennonite Church with a dinner to follow. Inurnment will be in the Menno church cemetery in a private service. Danekas Funeral Home and Crematory, Ritzville, is in charge of arrangements.

The family suggests memorial contributions may be made to Bethel College, North Newton, KS; Menno Mennonite Church for furnishings or equipment for its new addition; or the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library. Contributions may be sent in care of Menno Mennonite Church, 1378 N. Damon Road, Ritzville, WA 99169, for distribution to the designated organization.



My Cuban Report

By Earl Franz

In January 2015, I flew to Havana, Cuba via British Cayman Isles, to join a group of 34 Americans and Canadians who were signed up with TourMagination, out of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, for a 10-day adventure. The group was able to go into Cuba and see the country through our tour group leaders, John & Irene Suderman, who work for the Canadian Mennonite Church and their connection with the Cuban Council of Churches, which includes over 60 denominations!

One Sunday we worshiped in a Baptist Independent Church, which embraces Mennonite principles of Christianity, "Walking the Walk." Our itinerary included a visit to the office of the Cuban Council of Churches and a Cuban Seminary. In regard to the two million church attenders, out of a population of 13 million, they seem to practice more of an inclusive and caring outreach attitude toward their fellow poor, elderly, disabled, and disadvantaged, and less of the "Praise The Lord" personal "Just God and Me" attitude. We were told that Fidel Castro has moved from an "Atheist" position, to accepting the churches and their outreach, as long as it isn't a challenge to his socialism authority and position.

Another place of interest was a fast 15 minute boat ride up a shallow river to an alligator farm. Two special features of entertainment were a musical at the famous "Tropicana" and an impersonational musical of Michael Jackson. One day TourMagination hired eight old, open air

taxi cars, of before 1961 vintage, to drive us around Havana for 45 minutes. These old, pre-embargo American cars are well-serviced with parts sent from relatives in Florida and a lot of their ingenuity. Some newer cars are seen from other countries. Old Russian busses looked quite decrepit. Older Russian apartment buildings looked very boxy architecturally and unattractive.

We walked a lot at times to see the stores of various levels of upkeep. Many buildings are in need of paint and repair. The socialist government under the Castro brothers owns almost everything, including the nice tourist hotels. Many Canadians and tourists from other countries come to Cuba to enjoy the warm beaches next to the hotels, which is a boon to the Cuban survival.

A possible change in U.S./Cuban relations has the Cuban people optimistic about a better standard of living. Some of the farms raise beef which has to be given back to the government to feed the tourists. Other produce and livestock can be marketed or consumed. Large, well planned farms were seen. I saw very few obese people, other than some tourists. The high educational level for all is impressive with various levels of English spoken. And the health care system is very well developed.

The good food we ate was "Cuban" produced. Electric power is from generators using their gas and oil, and some imported from Venezuela. We saw an oil refinery. They plan on more offshore drilling. Water in cities is rationed to certain days of week, so medium size stor-

age tanks were seen on top of buildings. Most main roads are in good condition.

Our tour bus took us past author/writer Hemmingway's residence. Military presence was nonexistent, and very few police were seen during our time in Cuba. The group toured Che Guevara's Memorial, where he is honored for his participation with Fidel Castro in their revolution to oust Dictator Batista. Castro says the Revolution is "still ongoing" to give justice and equality to all. Signs are everywhere in this regard, with some signs intended as propaganda against the U.S. for our embargo and their belief that the U.S. is trying to depose Fidel.

The "Bay of Pigs" misadventure area, secretly supported and funded by the U.S. CIA, but not supported by President Kennedy, was on our tour schedule. We were also allowed to go through the underground sites where the Russians were planning to put missiles pointed toward the U.S. This plan was aborted when President Kennedy stopped the Russian ships carrying the missiles from reaching Cuba. One day, the Tour took us south across a more rugged mountainous area. We viewed abandoned sugar beet farms, which existed until the U.S. embargo and other markets dried up.

My feeling is that the Cuban people need and want a higher standard of living somehow, someday, someday, beyond their subsistent lifestyle. Their humanness and friendliness warrants a better relationship with the U.S. and our technology. I didn't feel any animosity toward those of us in the tour group that were Americans.

Menno Mennonite Church
1378 N. Damon Rd.
Ritzville, WA 99169

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Calendar of Events

November

1		Harvest Festival
3	Noon	Moses Lake Ministerial Association meets
4	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study at Monroe House
5	7pm	Church Board meets at Menno
10	10am	Ritzville Ministerial Association meets
10	9-2	Menno Women in Mission
11	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study at Monroe House
12	3:30pm	Minnie Franz's memorial service
18	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study at Monroe House
23	1:30 pm	Worship Committee meeting
29	11-12	Young adult Sunday school put up tree and decorate

December

1	Noon	Moses Lake Ministerial Association meets
2	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study at Monroe House
8	10am	Ritzville Ministerial Association meets
9	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study at Monroe House
10	9-2	Menno Women in Mission