

Levi Pennington

People

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Levi Pennington Writing to Noel and Elen Bowman, October 4, 1946

Levi T. Pennington

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October 4, 1946.

Dear Friends:--

It was good indeed to get your letter of September 29, and to learn more than we knew of how things are going with you there. Now we'd like to see all of you, including Jean, and certainly including Sammie. What a lovely thing it is when children are blessed and loved into the world. Some, it must be confessed, are almost cursed into the world, children of sin and shame, born of parents who are in no way except the physical fit for parenthood. One can congratulate Jean and Sammie with a clear conscience and a glad heart.

It is not hard to see that both you parents have been busy, with no prospects of having life get dull because you have nothing to do. Hope all goes well during the current year, and that we have the privilege of seeing you in Oregon again next year.

The most outstanding thing in the work of the church here, as I see it, that has occurred in recent weeks was the raising last Sunday of more than \$1,000.00 in the morning service for the relief of the suffering peoples across the seas. Gifts of members since have put the total nearly or quite to \$1,200.00. This is in addition to the \$2,116.32 sent by this church during the year from September 1, 1945 to September 1, 1946. And we have also sent during that period about a ton of used clothing.

Carl Byrd, our new pastor, seems to be getting a good start in his work here. His wife was ill at the time we planned a reception for them shortly after they came. She is all right again, and tonight comes the reception for them, and also for the students and faculty of the college. The enrollment is over 150 I suppose by now.

I guess the work is completed on the repair of the old college building and the creation of three -- I mean five -- rooms on the third floor of the house across the street from Mrs. Woodward's, which is being used as a supplementary dormitory for girls. The housing shortage is the big one, here as elsewhere.

And it affects the pastor, as well as other folks. We cannot get a permit to build a parsonage -- they tell us that we could if we would select a GI as pastor. And President Gulley is facing the housing shortage personally, for he has sold his place on Chehalem, and must give possession in a very short time now -- it was to be in a month when he sold it, and that must be two weeks ago. He may live in the home of Gervas and Amy Carey during their visit to Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, while he buys some other place, perhaps that of Mrs. Hattie Hinshaw.

Rebecca and I expected to spend a good share of the summer at El TeePee, our place at Woods, but we have not got over there yet. Rebecca has not been well enough to make the trip. She is better now, I am glad to say, and we may get away some time late next week. They are catching some nice salmon

over there these days, and I'd like to get over before the season is over. But Rebecca's improvement in health is so much more important to me than all the fish in the sea that I am not worrying about whether the salmon see me or not.

I suspect that your mother tells you most of the things that you'd want to know about the folks here. I told you that the Careys are going back to visit relatives in the middle west, and to attend a family reunion somewhere in Ohio while they are gone. Our daughter Mary and her husband and younger daughter brought the older one to Earlham College at Richmond, where she is a Junior this year, and they are visiting relatives in Indiana and Michigan. Harold Weesner, Prof. Oliver Weesner's son, is having some mental difficulty these days, probably stirred up by High School hazing (called initiation), which has apparently got quite out of bounds, not only here but in other places. The High School Freshman girls were required to walk on their knees from the High School to First street, and there are many lame knees and blisters in consequence, and I have been told that one boy is in the hospital because of injuries received in this "initiation." The college faculty is not so harmonious as it was in the days when I was there, as there is some striving for place, "I should have been named to head the department, not the man you have jumped over my head", and that sort of thing. Evidently somebody might read with profit a certain chapter in the New Testament which says "love seeketh not its own," and a number of other worth-while things. But if I wrote on and on for another page or two, I might tell you only the things you already knew or the things you'd rather not know. And anyhow, I have some more writing that I ought to do, for Uncle Sam's man was generous with us this morning, and besides I have to write the missionary letter this month -- how I wish we could know just what the missionaries themselves think of this custom of our monthly meeting.

With kindest regards and best wishes, from both of us to all of you, including Sammie and Jean, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Noel and Ellen Bowman, and Family,
2028 College Avenue,
Huntington, Indiana.