

Mennonite Soil and Health Association archives: 2 units

Notes typed April 25, 2010, by Greg Bowman from a 3-ring cloth binder.

On front is written: M.S. & H. Assn.

Binder and a **large 11x17 envelope of loose materials** given to Greg Bowman by Joe Landis about 1998-1999, when Bowman was operating Indian Creek Community Farm as a program of the Indian Creek Foundation at the Indian Creek Farm property owned by Franconia Mennonite Conference, property located on Indian Creek Road.

Landis was the former director of Indian Creek Foundation, and had come into possession of the materials during his tenure. He had established the agency on the Indian Creek Farm many years earlier, in a large motel-like residence which served as the first group home of what became Indian Creek Foundation.

Envelope contains files labeled: Association; Miscellaneous; Board Meeting; Food Resources; 3. Scavenging; 1. Merchandising; Health

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[mimeograph 1/3 sheet dblside]

Annual Farmers' Meeting

Mennonite Soil & Health Association

Feb. 15, 1960

7:30pm Devotions – Claude B. Meyers

Agricultural Chemicals: Number one problem for farmers

Robert Rodale, editor: Organic Gardening and Farming

Ballot: Mahlon M. Frederick, Floyd G. Kulp, Lawrence M. Nyce

[mimeographed press release: full sheet, Martin Quarries stationery: Henry M. Martin, Prop. Bechtelsville Penna.]

The subject for the annual meeting of a local Soil Conservation Society, to be held at Souderton, Feb. 15, is:

Agricultural Chemicals: Number One Problem for Farmers

Farmers everywhere are concerned about what happened to the cranberry industry, and want to prevent that kind of trouble for themselves. DAIRYMEN, POULTRYMEN and VEGETABLE GROWERS are particularly susceptible the CHEMICAL troubles. Mr. Robert Rodale will tell farmers and gardeners what they can do to avoid the use of dangerous chemicals – and how to reduce the danger of using regular farm chemicals.

Mennonite Soil and Health Association meeting...all are invited whether or not they are of the Mennonite faith. Henry M. Martin, association secretary, reports that Henry Guntz, chairman of the association, will preside at the meeting.

[mimeograph 1/3 sheet dblside]

Annual Farmers Meeting

Mennonite Soil & Health Association

April 20, 1959

7:45 pm devotion – Erwin K. Nace, Dublin, Pa.

"My Experience as an Organic Farmer" by Samuel S. Sweigert, Elverson, Pa.

Ballot: Wilmer D. Hackman, Irwin G. Kolb, Ervin J. Moyer

[mimeographed press release: full sheet, stationery of Jacob S. Gotwals, 238 West Broad St., Souderton PA]

...The speaker will be Samuel S. Sweigert of Lancaster County who farms 140 acres by the organic method, he having begun this method of farming in his garden six years ago and extending to his entire farm, on which he keeps steers and chickens. He asks that everyone bring along their questions as he intends to use the open discussion method rather than just give a speech.

[clipping, North Penn Reporter, Lansdale, 3/13/1958]

The Mennonite Soil & Health Association will hear Clayton M. Hoff, a natural resources conservation consultant and executive vice president of the Brandywin Valley Association of Wilmington, Del., and West Chester, at its meeting next Monday at 7:45pm in the Franconia Mennonite School.

[newspaper clipping – ad]

5th (crossed out in pencil, to say 4th) annual Farmers' Meeting
At Elmer B. Moyer's Building
Speaker: Edward Hanten – "Health from the Soil"

[clipping – newspaper story]

...Mr. Hanten, a member of the Society of Friends is a graduate of Earlham College in Indiana with post graduate work at Penn State and four years' farming experience.

Mahlon Frederick... will preside

[typed 1/3 sheet square with handwritten notes]

Mennonite Soil & Health Association

September 13, 1954

..speaker is James Ansell, a farmer from Somerset County, recommended by one of our members as conscientious and sincere. His specialty is rock fertilizers. His subject will be "Has Man Forgotten Nature?"

Written: RD3 Rockwood, Pa...Field rep and dist mrg Four Leaf Phosphate Co...Latter Day Saint

[mimeographed full sheet – stationery Mennonite Soil and Health Assn, report]

June 5, 1953

...another meeting with Mr. H.C. Webber ...has done experimental work with measuring body and nutritional inter-relationships by means of delicate electrical measuring instruments. Some of his conclusions on food combinations seem startling.

[clipping – news item]

Mr. H.C. Webber (Brabon Farm., Telford RD1)...is a biological chemist. He has done research work in body electricity and nutritional mineralology with special emphasis on the inter-relationships of soils, plants and animal nutrition. Mr. Webber's farm and laboratory is located nearby by he travels much of his time lecturing to groups of doctors about his findings.

[clipping]

Farmers to meet Mon. at Souderton

Invited to hear John Moyer of Bally, an organic farmer for the past eight years. Henry Martin, a producer of granite dust, is to speak on rock fertilizers

...The secretary of the association explained that the Mennonite Soil & Health Association is dedicated to the promotion of good health. We believe that God created all things good (Genesis 1:31) but than man often misuses things. One of the things man sadly misuses is the topsoil from

which we get all our food. The soil is usually treated with applications of artificial fertilizers and the residues of poison sprays. Also manure often fails to return to the field in sufficient quantity and quality to maintain fertility.

We believe that a very good answer to this situation is a concept of farming and gardening known as "organic husbandry." This association defines "organic husbandry" as consisting of finding the best means of co-operating with God and the wonders of nature which He created. Most believers in "organic husbandry" try to work with nature while many others assume that man has attained a stature whereby he can do as he pleases with nature by artificial means without suffering evil consequences.

This association desires to engage in the selection, testing, and sale of foods "organically" grown with the ultimate aim of conserving health. Our field is not in trying to cure the sick but in helping to maintain health in plants, animals and humans through the sale of good food grown on fertile soil under good management.

[clipping – newspaper- Feb. 18, 1951]

60 persons attend farmers meeting

...The main speaker was John Moyer, a practical organic farmer of Bally, Pa., who showed slides of his crops and tillage methods. He has 80 acres of land with no livestock except enough chickens to manure his land once every five years.

His cash crop is potatoes which has succeeded in raising profitably without the use of artificial fertilizer or poison sprays. Instead of plowing he uses an offset disc to turn under green manure crops of sweet clover and soy beans.

He uses a 3-year rotation starting with grain for his poultry followed by sweet clover which is disced in the second year. The third year the fields are planted to potatoes or corn, in this manner increasing the fertility of his fields without livestock or artificial fertilizers....The pictures ended with his views on his children which were his most highly prized crop. Following his presentation so much time was spent in answering questions that the talk on rock fertilizers had to be postponed...

