

SIDE B

MENNONITE BELIEFS

--we come out and explain everything to them, when they're going to join our denomination. We give them at least three or four months--maybe two months on Bible study. Give them a course to study before we go in and baptize them. That way they know what to expect, and what is expected of them. And about the church. But in the other churches I know of, they just go in and baptize them without giving them any kind of instruction. (So it takes more training to be a member of the Mennonite church?)

Yes. That way they know what is expected of them by the Mennonite movement. That way they can understand the Bible a little more, and a little more thoroughly. If you don't, they just baptize you and then maybe in two or three years they forget about it. They don't know what they're going to church for. But I think the Mennonite movement's got the best way of teaching their converts before they baptize them, by giving them courses of Bible study. So that's the best way of teaching new converts how to join the church. But in the other churches they just go ahead and baptize them without giving them any kind of instructions. Another thing we don't practice in the Mennonite movement is baptizing of children under twelve years of age. Because we believe that a child that's under the age of knowing what's right from what's wrong. And when they get a little older they do not think back where they confess to be a church member of a certain movement. They forget about that. When they get a little older. That's one thing we don't believe in--baptizing children under twelve years of age.

ARTHUR'S WORK AS INTERPRETER IN MENNONITE SERVICES

(Let me clear up this--you said when you were attending Cantonment school you used to attend the Mennonite services that they had. I think you said, though, it was later that you really became interested in the church movement. When was it that you really felt like that the church movement meant something to you?)