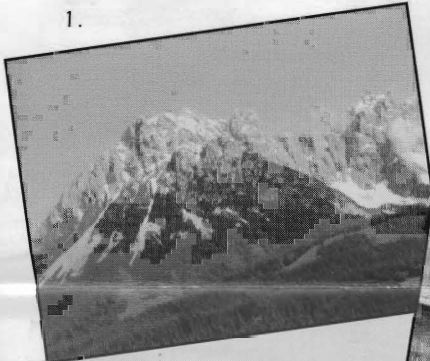


# Heritage Center News

Number 7, Summer '95



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## A Trip to the Old Country

A Travelogue by Paul Kunkel

On a beautiful sunny day, May 31, 1995, 42 people, including Heritage Center members and Kutztown University staff, embarked on the much anticipated German Heritage Adventure tour. Despite the rainy weather during much of the trip, it was still a great vacation. We were moved not only by the scenic beauty of the locations we visited, but also by the warm hospitality we enjoyed throughout the trip. It was an experience of a lifetime, and I'm certain that everyone in our entourage enjoyed the trip thoroughly.

After landing in Frankfurt, we soon found ourselves on the Autobahn; we were impressed with the roadside cleanliness and absence of billboards. Our first stop at Boppard, a quaint old town, included a view of the famous Lorelei statue from a tour boat on the Rhein river. This set the tempo for the rest of the trip.

The magnificent castles of southern Germany were everywhere to be seen. We marveled at Heidelberg Castle and its surrounding gardens, realizing the amount of labor and effort it must have taken to construct it. Lichtenberg Castle was situated on the top of a hill where the views of the countryside were fabulous. These places were accompanied by historical comments as well, courtesy of Dr. Valuska and our good German friend, Herr Roland Paul of the Volk Museum in Kaiserslautern.

Other interesting sights—ancient Roman fortifications, museums, the Rheinfalls and Mozart's birthplace in Salzburg, Austria—kept our cameras clicking. And the bus trips between destinations were treats in themselves, from the grandeur of the snow-capped Alps to the charm of old-fashioned cobblestone streets.

Of course, the food and drink during the trip are also worthy of mention. Ample servings of chicken and pork, German potato salad, sausage, pretzels and other regional specialties were often washed down with beer from local breweries. Dr. Valuska even made arrangements for a wine-tasting party at a shop across from St. Severus Church in Boppard. It was a pleasant experience, and some of our group made their way back to that place later that day.

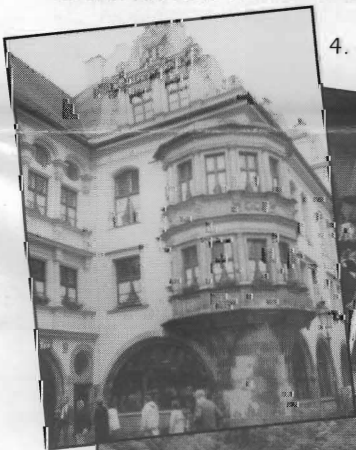
A personal highlight of the tour, both for myself and others in our group, was the common bond of language which we still share with our cousins in southern Germany, even after centuries of separation. During lunch in the town of Oberalben as guests of the town mayor Herr Eckhard Werner, I had the opportunity to speak with the mayor's wife. She was very surprised, as were we, that our Pennsylvania German dialect was so similar to their own.

On the same day we were invited to dinner by the Village Mayor of Enkenbach-Alsenborn, Herr Burgermeister Hans Buch. After a hearty feast, "Daddy" Valuska convinced one of the "Gold Schtaab Zwilling" (Gold Dust Twins) to demonstrate our dialect through storytelling. Ernie Miller and I told at least eight stories which our German hosts both understood and enjoyed.

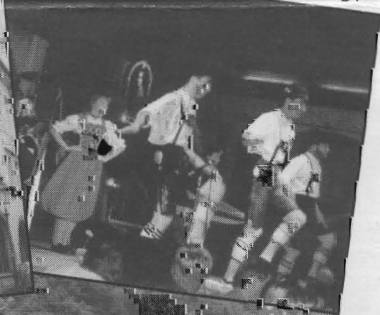
1. The Alps; 2. The Glockenspiel chiming at noon; 3. The Neuschwanstein Castle; 4. & 5. Entertainment at the famous Hofbrauhaus; 6. The Rhein River.

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Photos 1, 2 & 4 Sandra Cadwallader  
Photos 3, 5 & 6 Nancy Rabenold



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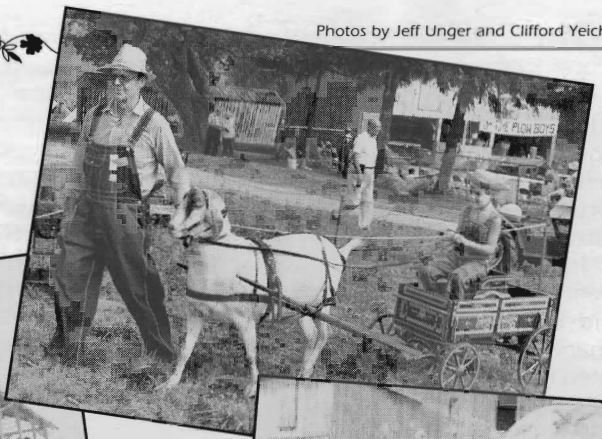


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Inside: The Berks Genealogical Society

# Heemet Fescht '95 to be held September 23-24



Our third annual Heemet Fescht, now in the final stages of preparation, will once again offer its visitors a chance to reenter the past.

Unlike the two previous festivals, both held in late August, this year's Heemet Fescht is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, September 23-24. This date change places Heemet Fescht into the Fall, a time of harvest so central to Pennsylvania German culture. The hot weather during last year's festival was another consideration for a September Heemet Fescht.

Heemet Fescht '95 will feature the same sights, sounds and tastes which made our first two festivals such a success. The traditional methods and practices of Pennsylvania German farm life will provide the backdrop for the festival in a variety of ways. In addition to both horse-drawn and mechanized field tilling demonstrations at the Cultural Heritage Center site, exhibits of antique farming equipment and historical lectures on agriculture will occur on both days of Heemet Fescht at the Kutztown Fairgrounds.

The skills of the local artisans will exhibit the distinctive crafts of the Pennsylvania Germans. Visitors are invited to observe craftsmen using century-old techniques as they produce finished products such as quilts, clothing and pottery from raw materials.

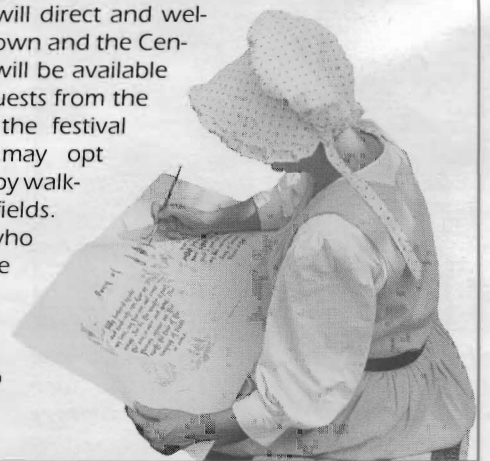
The sounds of tradition will complement the sights of Heemet Fescht as concerts, wandering musicians and storytelling in the dialect fill the air with music and folklore. Visitors may also fill themselves with the many types of wonderful Pennsylvania German food available at the festival's stands.

Re-enactments by the 96th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, complete with marching drills and drum and fife accompaniment, will offer glimpses of an even earlier era, depicting the contributions of the Pennsylvania Germans during the Civil War.

And finally, a traditional church service, given in "Pennsilfaanisch Deitsch," will be held on Sunday afternoon—no Heemet Fescht would be complete without representing the piety which forms the backbone of Pennsylvania German life.

In the interest of preserving our local traditions, many contributors to last year's festival will return to Heemet Fescht '95. The Pennsylvania German Society and the Berks County Genealogical Society, now affiliates of the Cultural Heritage Center, will present informational displays, and volunteers from the Kutztown Area Chamber of Commerce, the Kutztown Historical Society, and Huguenot Lodge No. 337 will assist at the festival.

Ample signage will direct and welcome you to Kutztown and the Center grounds. Van will be available to transport our guests from the parking areas to the festival site, although some may opt for a rural preview by walking through the fields. For those visitors who enjoy novelty, the Plowboys will provide tractor-drawn wagon rides from the parking lots to the Center.



## Berks County Genealogical Society Now in Kutztown

The Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center now benefits from its relationship with the Berks County Genealogical Society, an organization now located at Kutztown University.

"The Genealogical Society sees itself as a great complement to the Heritage Center," said Dr. Jason Dreibelbis, the Society's Finance Committee Chairman and a dedicated member of the organization.

Founded in 1980, the Society collects and disseminates information on the genealogy and history of Berks County. What started out as a modest operation with three plywood cabinets of genealogical material is now a full-fledged research facility with extensive records of public, church and family history. In addition to books in the library, the Society also stores information on microfilm, microfiche and material on specific families—greatly increasing the amount of research material.

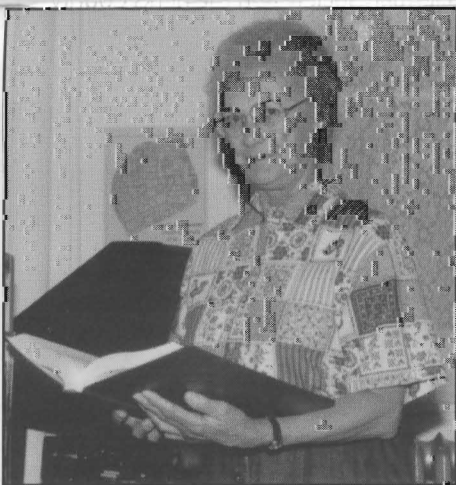
Despite the excellent resources in the Society's offices in Rooms 102 and 106 of Old Main, Dreibelbis insists that the organization is more than a library.

"We are a reference bureau of genealogical services," said Dreibelbis, stating that the Society can direct individuals to researchers within or through the organization.

Florence Heydt, another active member, pointed out that genealogy has many areas of concentration.

"Some of the researchers specialize in certain counties," stated Heydt. "There is one person who specializes in Catholic research."

Like Heydt and Dreibelbis, many of the Society's members are avid researchers and have traced their family histories back for centuries. Through the efforts of a Swiss relation and genealogist, Dreibelbis traced



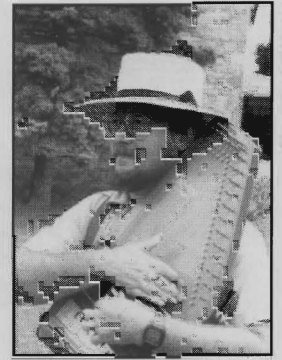
**Florence Heydt, an active member of the Berks County Genealogical Society, has traced her family's history several generations.** Photo by John Delaney

## Sing, Schpiel, unn Danz

Probably the largest category of Pennsylvania German songs are those which were sung just for fun. They were always funny, many times silly, and sometimes "earthy." Although many were made up here, this one was brought over from Germany. It's one of the oldest folk songs still sung, although sometimes with new verses.

The song is based on a real person who lived in south central Germany a few hundred years ago. He was a wandering tramp or hobo who, for some reason, became very well known. In the song it sounds as though he was married, but I doubt it. On the other hand, according to verse three, maybe that's how he got started!

As with many folk songs, there are more verses than this. I've only seen or heard a few. If you know any, or have any questions, comments or suggestions, please let me know. And if any of these verses remind you of your own life, don't worry. You're just upholding a tradition!



Der Gutzeit Mann  
Keith Brintzenhoff

Photo by Jeff Unger

### O, du lieber August

Ch/ O, du lieber August,  
Du August, du August,  
Unn O, du lieber August,  
Was iss mer's verlead.

1/ Wann ich Geld hab, kaaf ich  
'n neier Hut; Wann ich kens  
hab, iss der alt noch gut !

(Chorus)

2/ Wann ich Geld hab, bin ich  
luschdich, Wann ich kens hab,  
bin ich daschdich !

(Chorus)

3/ Mei geld iss versoffe, Mei  
Fraa iss verloffte !

(Chorus)

4/ Die alt Windmehl geht die  
Schtrooss naus, Holt die Kieh  
heem, dutt die Schoff naus !

(Chorus)

5/ Am Wattshaus kummt en Meedel  
raus, Schteckt die Bee raus,  
gloppt die Peif aus !

(Chorus)

### Oh, You Dear August

Ch/ Oh, you dear August, you  
August, you August,  
and Oh, you dear August,  
what makes me discouraged.

1/ When I have money, I buy a  
new hat; when I have none, the  
old one is good !

(Chorus)

2/ When I have money, I'm  
lusty, when I have none, I'm  
thirsty !

(Chorus)

3/ My money is all drunk up, my  
wife left me.

(Chorus)

4/ The old windmill goes out  
the street, brings the cows  
home, puts the sheep out !

(Chorus)

5/ At the hotel a girl comes  
out, sticks her leg out, knocks  
the pipe out !

(Chorus)

his ancestry back nine generations before they immigrated to America. On a recent trip to Switzerland, Dreibelbis, along with his wife, visited a church in Schinznachdorf where his ancestor was baptized in 1455.

"My personal involvement with Kutztown University started as kind of a personal fantasy," explained Dreibelbis. The Society was initially located at Albright College when Dreibelbis became aware of the expansion of Kutztown's Rohrbach Library. Eager to find larger facilities for the growing organization, he started informal discussions with KU administrators to find a new location.

A temporary space on the University campus was procured just as Albright College had abruptly asked the organization to leave. Dreibelbis cites Dr. David Valuska as a major force in making the Society a resource for Kutztown.

"Much to his credit," concluded Dreibelbis, "he found a place for us where none could be found before."

Membership in the Society is open to anyone with an interest in genealogy, and workshops, seminars and trips are just some of the activities in which people can be involved. For more information, please call (610) 683-9420.

# From the Director

Forty-two members and friends of the Center just completed a memorable 10-day trip to Germany, France, Switzerland and Austria. We had the pleasure of teaming up with Roland Paul, assistant director of the Volk Museum in Kaiserslautern. Herr Paul gave us a guided tour of the Palatine and then arranged a memorable evening in the lovely town of Enkenbach-Alsenborn. The Mayor of Enkenbach-Alsenborn greeted us, and all members received a certificate of welcome from the town officials and then attended

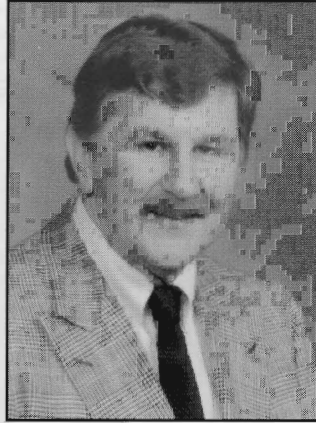


Photo by Jeff Unger

**Dr. Valuska**

a lovely feast. After the meal, our own "Snooks and Tutti" (Paul Kunkel and Ernie Miller) performed in the Pennsylvania German dialect and English for the assembled audience — it was a smashing success! The one thing that clearly emerged is the closeness of the Pennsylvania German dialect and the dialect of the German Pfalz (Palatinate). We are in the process of attempting to establish closer relations with the beautiful town of Enkenbach-Alsenborn. Next year's trip is already nearly filled, so if you are interested, please give your name to Mary Henry at

683-1330. Remember, preference is given to members of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center, and it is on a first-come, first-served basis.

It is time to renew your membership and I appeal to you to please give us a helping hand. Our programs have grown immensely in the past two years, and it is your support that makes this all possible.

Heemet Fescht will be held on September 23 and 24 of this year. We moved from the August date in an attempt to have cooler weather. This year's fescht should prove to be another outstanding celebration of the culture. We will have a church service once again on Sunday. So mark those dates on your calendar and come out and try some food, buy some fine crafts and help celebrate the traditions of the early German settlers who peopled this region.

The BIG news is the involvement of the PGCHC with next year's Kutztown Folk Festival, renamed the Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival. The festival will be held on the Kutztown Fairgrounds as well as the Center site. It is our goal to return the festival to a purer celebration of the culture. We have a fantastic lineup of lectures, skits, entertainment and demonstrations already contracted. One of our main goals is to include the regional community in our plans, and we are attempting to contact many civic, social and church groups to solicit their support. If you would like to be involved in this festival please contact my office.

Time to close — I hope you have an enjoyable summer and I will see you at Heemet Fescht September 23-24, 1995.

**David L. Valuska, Director**  
**Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center**

## 4-Square



## Garden

The four-square garden may not look quite as tidy this year, as we are keeping up with the farm family tradition of adding to the work force—by having a new baby! However, by September you should be able to, once again, view a sampling of traditional herbs, flowers and heirloom vegetables.

We hope to have the fence completed by Heemet Fescht, and we have been hard at work putting in boards that surround the raised beds, as was often done in the 1800s. Once again, we are always grateful for any volunteer help.

For those of you interested in a bit of old-fashioned plant lore, I'll try to include a few facts in future articles. Did you know that

catnip and fennel tea were supposed to soothe colicky babies—I hope we don't have to try this one! And tansy strewn about kept ants away—I've had to try this one, and it really does work—but you do have to replace the tansy every few days.

Hope to see many of you at Heemet Fescht. In addition to viewing the garden, we will also have a tent with several new exhibits: beekeeping, heirloom seeds for sale, and herbal vinegars and teas will also be available. So come and enjoy looking, learning and sampling the garden produce.

For more information, contact: Karlene Brintzenhoff, 159 W. Walnut Street, Kutztown, PA 19530, (610) 683-8720.

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Kutztown University  
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