

A quarterly publication for the friends of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown University.

# Heritage Center News

Number 8, Fall '95



**A Heemet Fescht Sampler** - Scenes from Heemet Fescht '95: The recipe for an extraordinary weekend was a lively blend of authentic crafts, farming demonstrations, historical reenactments, story telling, children's activities, and good music and food. Picture-perfect weather added to the enjoyment for everyone.

## Thousands Enjoy an Autumn Heemet Fescht

There was another record-setting attendance at Heemet Fescht this year.

In fact, about 17,000 visitors came to the farm site of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center for the third Heemet Fescht ("home festival") weekend, September 23-24.

Selecting a late September rather than a mid-August time period for the event proved to be a wise choice. Picture-perfect weather which included the first cool, crisp sunny days of autumn made the farm setting particularly inviting. Heemet Fescht was first presented in August, 1993 and attracted 10,000 visitors. In 1994 the number jumped to 15,000.

The celebration of Pennsylvania German life attracted visitors from a wide area. An informal survey shows that states as distant as Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina, as well as Ontario, Canada were represented among the persons attending the festival.

Whether walking through the 4-square garden, attending a one-room school house program, listening to some fine music, enjoying the Plowboys' tractor parade, browsing in the crafts tents, or taking in any of the dozens of other activities, attendees were impressed with what they saw.

"From what we heard, visitors, craftspersons, entertainers and vendors feel that this was our best Heemet Fescht. There was more to see and do this year. And because this was our third festival, it was easily the best organized. Everyone attending or participating had fun," stated Dr. David Valuska, Center director and founder of the weekend festival.

One of Heemet Fescht's strong points is its emphasis on authentic portrayals of Pennsylvania German and Early American life. Many visitors contrasted the high quality and traditional style of crafts displayed and sold at Heemet Fescht to those at other festivals which tend to be more commercial.

*Please see Heemet Fescht '95, page 3*

Photos by Jeff Unger



Inside: Second Annual German Heritage Tour

## '96 Heritage Tour Set For May 29 to June 7

Alphorn Tours, Inc. of Lahaska, PA is sponsoring the second annual German Heritage Tour which will take travelers to the Pfalz region and other areas where immigrants who were the first Pennsylvania Germans left to come to America.

The dates are May 29 to June 7, 1996, and the tour will be personally escorted by Dr. David Valuska, director of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center, and Dr. Don Yoder, professor emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania, and author of books and articles on the Pennsylvania Germans.

"Last year's tour was very well received and this year's will be even better," Dr. Valuska said. He noted that some changes in the 1996 program were based on the comments and suggestions of last year's travelers.

The main focus is on visiting those parts of Germany which had been home to immigrants who came to Pennsylvania in the 18th and the first part of the 19th centuries. Roland Paul, assistant director of the Immigration History Institute in Kaiserslautern, Germany, will conduct part of the tour. He is an expert on the history and genealogy of immigrant families.

"For those persons who want to know more about their ancestry and the villages and towns where their forebears lived, this trip is a must," Dr. Valuska continued. "In addition we will see other historic and picturesque areas of Germany, visit two magnificent cities in Austria, and stop at the Rheinfall waterfalls, just over the German border into Switzerland," he said.

The itinerary includes:

- ♥ Round trip bus transportation from the Kutztown University campus to Philadelphia International Airport, and round trip air between Philadelphia and Frankfurt, Germany.
- ♥ Two days in Boppard, a picturesque village on the Rhein. There will be a visit to the local museum and the Roman ruins, a cruise on the Rhein River including a view of the famous Lorelei, and a unique wine tasting party.
- ♥ Two days in Kaiserslautern, in the heart of the area of German immigration, with an emphasis on genealogy, and bus trips to the countryside. The second day will include an evening feast in Enkenbach/Alsenborn with



Photo by Sally Morrison

**A cruise on the Rhein River from Boppard to the fabled Lorelei rock is a feature of the German Heritage Tour. The riverfront is dotted with picturesque villages such as this one.**

the mayor and officials of this town as hosts.

- ♥ One day in Heidelberg, the famous university town, and an overnight stay in Freiburg.
- ♥ Travel to the majestic Rheinfall just inside Switzerland, then crossing the Bodensee (Lake Constance) and stopping overnight at a castle near Meersburg.
- ♥ Two days in Innsbruck in the heart of the Alps, including a *Tyroler Abend*, an evening of folk music, dancing, and refreshments. On the second day there will be a bus trip to Salzburg, the home of Mozart and setting for the movie, "Sound of Music."
- ♥ One day in Schwangau and the historic village of Illerbeuren, and then on to Munich for an evening tour and overnight stay.

To make reservations, or for more information, contact Alphorn Tours at (215) 794-5653.

## Center New Home To 200-Year-Old Cabin

by John Delaney

Twelve members of the Alpha Chi Rho fraternity at Kutztown University made an unusual contribution to the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center recently by dismantling a 200-year-old log cabin and transporting the timbers from Pricetown to the center grounds in Kutztown.

"Some of the logs were about 25 feet in length," said Ryan McNicholas, a KU senior and Alpha Chi Rho member. "We worked from 9 in the morning until 2 p.m. and the entire job took two trips."

Once completed, the new addition will fit in nicely with the mission to preserve local culture and tra-



Photo by John Delaney

ditions. Reconstruction of the cabin will begin soon.

The two-story log cabin, originally located in Macungie, was built with hand-hewn timbers in the 1790s, according to research by John R. Moll, one of the structure's owners.

Recently, the cabin was purchased from the Moll family by, strangely enough, the Noll family. The Nolls planned to expand their own house in Pricetown by attaching the cabin to their living room, but the high expense spoiled their intentions.

Kutztown University Vice President for Advancement William Sutton learned that the cabin was for sale and passed the word along to Dr. David Valuska, who immediately recognized the cabin's historical importance. Dr. Valuska negotiated the purchase of the cabin with members of the Noll family.

When Ted West, an Alpha Chi Rho alumnus, learned of the center's new acquisition, he offered the help of his fraternity in moving the antique building to its new home. With the aid of a large flatbed truck, 27 Alpha Chi Rho brothers moved the enormous logs a distance of 10 miles to the center.

"I think it's fantastic. These guys got up on Saturday morning to offer their services to the center and the community," Dr. Valuska said.

## Help Keep the Heritage Center Alive - Join the Members Association!

If you receive our newsletter and wonder what you can do to help keep the culture alive and lively, we have the answer. There is no better way to actively support the important work of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center than by joining our members association. When you do, you join with hundreds of other persons who are dedicated to the preservation of our unique traditions.

As a member you will receive the Center's quarterly newsletter, advance notice of upcoming programs, an invitation to our annual dinner meeting, and other benefits.

There are eight membership categories: Leweszeit Glieder (lifetime membership), Hoch Gewwe Glieder, Bresident Glieder, Gross Helfer, Hunnert Daaler Helfer, Gut Helfer, Raus Helfer, and Yunger Helfer. All donors of \$25 or more receive subscriptions to the Heritage Center News, and there are other benefits, depending on the giving category. Members who donate at least \$1,000 receive signed and numbered copies of a limited edition print of the Freyberger School.

Tax-deductible membership contributions support the Center's educational programs, special programs for school children, seasonal festivals, and the development of the center for our extensive collection of Pennsylvania German artifacts, and for research into Pennsylvania German life and history. Most of all, membership contributions help to keep the culture and traditions alive and lively for our generation and the next!

Please call the Center at (610) 683-1330 for a membership application and more information.

## Heemet Fescht '95, from page 1

Another quality that set off Heemet Fescht from other festivals were historic reenactments such as the drills of the Pennsylvania 96th volunteer infantry, and the variety and quality of music. The Sisters of Saron and the Liederkrantz Choir were outstanding. Among other distinctive parts of the festival were a turn-of-the-century Sunday church service in the Pennsylvania German dialect, and the crafts demonstrations. The Pennsylvania Dutch humor and music was always entertaining but seldom hokey. Visitors enjoyed (whether or not they understood) the programs in the Pennsylvania German dialect. There was plenty of good food, too - Pennsylvania Dutch chicken pot pie, sausage, funnel cakes, shoo-fly pies and other delectables. By the close of the day Saturday, some vendors said they had

## Sing, Schpiel, unn Danz

I hope you made it to Heemet Fescht. If you didn't, you missed a good time and lots of fun - kind of like this song. It's a question and answer song, of which there are several in Pennsylvania German music. In this case, the mother is doing the questioning, and her daughter is doing the answering.

Specifically, the mother is trying to bribe her daughter to do some spinning. Her daughter always puts a condition on the offer, but even so declines to spin, saying her finger hurts. When she finally offers her a man, though, her finger doesn't hurt anymore! Obviously, this was at the top of her list.

As with many folk songs, there are a few other verses which people have used, made up, or added from time to time. There also are variations in the words and melody of the chorus. If you have any questions or comments, please let me know. *Sei schpasslich!*

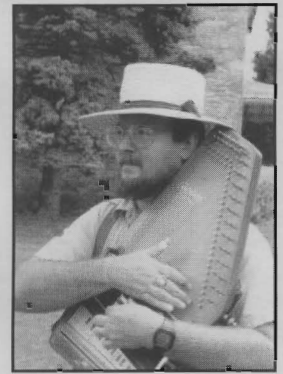


Photo by Jeff Unger

Der Gutzeit Mann  
Keith Brintzenhoff

### Schpinn, Schpinn (meine liewe dochter)

Schpinn, schpinn, meine liewe Dochder,  
No Kaaf ich dir en Frack,  
Ja, ja, meine liewi Mammi,  
Unn den mit me Sack.

(chorus)

Ich kann nimmie schpinne,  
Mei Finger schwellt immer,  
Un O, du liewi Mammi, er dutt  
mir so weh!

... dir en Schazz

... un den net zu kazz.

(chorus)

... dir Schuh,  
... mit Bendel dezu.

(chorus)

...dir en Kuh,  
...mit me kelwi dezu,

(chorus)

... dir en Gaul,  
... mit Hawwer in Maul.

(chorus)

... dir en Mann,  
... den brauch ich schunn lang!

(chorus)

Ich kann widder schpinne,  
Mei Finger schwellt nimmie,  
Un, O, du liew Mammi, er dutt  
mir nimmie weh!

### Spin, Spin (my darling daughter)

Spin, spin, my dear daughter,  
Then I'll buy you a dress,  
Yes, yes my dear Mommy,  
and with a pocket

(chorus)

I can't spin anymore,  
My finger always swells,  
and, oh, dear Mommy, it hurts  
me so much!

... an apron,

... and not too short.

(chorus)

... a pair of shoes,  
... with buckles.

(chorus)

...a cow,  
...with a calf.

(chorus)

... a horse,  
... with oats in his mouth.

(chorus)

... a man  
... this I needed for a long time!

(chorus)

I can spin again,  
my finger swells no more,  
and, oh, dear Mommy,  
it doesn't hurt any more!

sold almost as much as during the entire weekend in 1994.

From its beginning, Heemet Fescht has also been a major community event. Volunteers from more than a dozen community groups assisted in this year's festival. "I cannot say enough about the cooperation and friendly spirit of all of our volunteers. They were key players in the success of the weekend," Dr. Valuska said.

In name, Heemet Fescht no longer exists after this year. In spirit, it continues as an important component of a much larger event - the Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival, an annual 9-day show which will

begin next summer.

"We have come full circle and are now getting ready to launch a multi-faceted Pennsylvania German festival which will draw a national audience. What we have developed at Heemet Fescht will continue in the new festival, along with more wholesome programming and entertainment than before," Dr. Valuska continued.

Dates for the new festival are June 29 to July 7, 1996. The show will be held at the Kutztown Fairground, as well as on the farm site which has been home to Heemet Fescht, and other parts of the University campus.

# From the Director

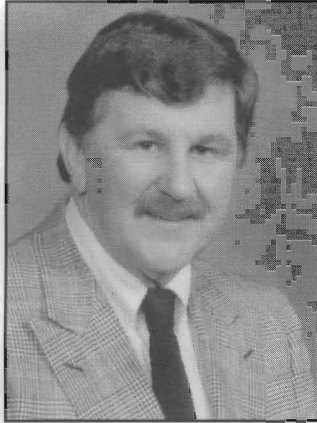
Wie bish! The Center continues to grow at a rapid pace. In this column in the newsletter, I would like to provide some examples.

Construction on the farmhouse, barn and other buildings at the Center is well under way. The summer house will soon have a new roof. The barn will undergo massive roof reconstruction, interior work, and siding. Electrical lines have already been put in, and work on the sewer lines is ready to begin. The rest room facilities, scheduled to be built this fall, have been delayed until early spring. They should be completed in time for the 1996 Pennsylvania German Festival.

Construction at the Center may seem to be taking a long time. In some respects it is, since we depend upon funding to complete each step in the process. Let me assure all of our friends, however, that we are firmly committed to the restoration of these fine, old buildings. Let me also thank the many persons who share this commitment and who are working with us to make this happen.

If you had the pleasure of attending Heemet Fescht earlier this fall, you were able to see more signs of growth. This year's Fescht was an unqualified success with nearly 40 artisans and a significant number of demonstrators participating. It is a great indication of things to come for the 1996 Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival.

As you know, plans for the new festival are well under way. A host of traditional pageants, skits, songs, dances



**Dr. Valuska**

and academic lectures are scheduled for next year. Nearly 200 juried artisans will be in attendance. There will be an area established just for children, emphasizing children's games and activities. A wide variety of churches and local business persons will provide traditional Pennsylvania German food for our visitors. I wish to remind you that the new festival will take place June 29 to July 7 on the Kutztown Fairground as well as at Kutztown University's Pennsylvania German Center.

In addition to traditional food, games and entertainment, the Old Time Plowboys will be farming and running tractors. We will also have the Antique Engine, Tractor and Toy Club. It is our desire to develop a festival that harkens to an early time and to the preservation of Pennsylvania Dutch culture. Please come out and support us next year. We are also looking for volunteers to assist in our efforts.

Last May members of the Cultural Heritage Center Association and other friends participated in a trip to Germany sponsored by Alphorn Tours. Forty people were able to go back to the Pfalz (Palatinate) and to other areas of German emigration. It was a great success. Next year we are planning a similar trip conducted by myself and Dr. Donald Yoder, professor emeritus of the University of Pennsylvania. The trip is half-filled. If you are interested in participating, please call (610) 683-1330 for more information. Remember, this is on a first-come, first-served basis.

As you can see, there has been quite a bit of activity at the Center. We hope that you will stop by to look at the construction, and attend the activities at the Center. If you have not renewed your Center membership (or are not now a member), I urge you to do so, as your financial support is essential to all that we do. For all that you have done in support of the Center, and will continue to do, I extend my warmest thanks.

Mach's Gut!

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

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