

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

Heritage Center News

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Tradition and Fun will Prevail at Upcoming Kutztown Festival

If you haven't marked your calendar yet, now is the time! June 29 to July 7, 1996 are the dates for the new Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival, a not-to-be-missed event for everyone interested in Pennsylvania German culture and traditions. In addition, the festival will be just plain fun for everyone.

The Kutztown University Foundation, Inc. and the Kutztown Fairgrounds, Inc. have teamed up to present a unique program that already has received national attention and international recognition. In fact, the American Bus Association recently designated this event as one of the top 100 festivals this year in the entire United States and Canada. Only one other Pennsylvania event - the Philadelphia Flower Show - received this distinctive honor.

More good news. Part of the proceeds from the festival will benefit the development of our Cultural Heritage Center. Indeed, the Center is one of the two major sites for the festival (the Kutztown Fairgrounds is the other major site) and visitors will notice a number of similarities to our Heemet Fescht programs of the past three years. "The major emphasis of festival activities at the Center will be on our cultural traditions. We are expanding on the kind of program presented earlier at Heemet Fescht. There will be much more to see and do there, and of course, there will be a whole array of additional activities at the fairground location," Heritage Center and Festival Director David Valuska said.

Please see Tradition and Fun at Festival, page 2



Keeping the traditions alive, the 1996 Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival promises to be culturally rewarding as well as great entertainment for young and old.



Festival Volunteers

Volunteers will play an important role in helping to make the 1996 Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival a success. They are needed for the quilt show area, as parking attendants, as greeters, for information booth duty, and for assistance with set-up and tear down of festival facilities. The festival needs volunteers to work at least one 3 hour and 15 minute shift during the nine-day festival. Volunteers working two or more shifts will receive unlimited access to the festival all nine days.

If you would like to volunteer or receive a brochure with all of the volunteer details, please call the festival office at 683-1597, 683-1537 or 683-1533; or drop a note with your name, address and phone number to: Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival, P.O. Box 306, Kutztown, PA 19530.



Photos by Jeff Unger



Photo by Clifford Yeich

Inside: Recollections of Yesteryear



Tradition and Fun at Festival, from page 1

For example, while Heemet Fescht had 30 to 40 fine craftspersons and demonstrators, the Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival will offer 200, carefully chosen through juried selection. "There are important criteria in choosing artisans. They must meet our standards of producing crafts which truly reflect Pennsylvania German or early American styles," Dr. Valuska noted.

The one-room Freyberger School will be an activity area. So, too, will be the familiar four-square garden, the farmers' fields, and the busy summer kitchen. The popular antique tractor pull will feature vintage machines competing with each other. A Civil War military reenactment unit will encamp and drill on the grounds. Faithful to early traditions, there will be an old-time church service in the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect.

A Fourth of July parade begins at the Center and proceeds to and through the Kutztown Fairgrounds. There, on any day during the Festival, visitors can enjoy a vast array of music, dancing, stage shows, seminars, children's activities and more. Both fun and serious sides come to life through folk music, hoedowning and jigging, Pennsylvania German vaudeville featuring "Schnutz and Tuddi", the original choral music of the "Sisters of Saron," a program on Pennsylvania's Mennonites, a union church service, a seminar on Pennsylvania Dutch handcrafts, and many more events and activities. And, yes, come with a good appetite. Taste-tempting food and beverages will be available throughout the Festival areas.

The quilt show is really a festival within a festival and will include over 1,000 quilts, an Amish Quilt Challenge juried show with prizes donated by Quilters' Newsletter magazine, quilt sale, and even quilting classes.



Photo by Clifford Veich

Economical family passes (\$20 for four persons) and multi-day passes (\$10 unlimited admission) for one person as well as individual tickets at \$7 will be available.

Finally, the Festival this year introduces a Pennsylvania Dutch dinner-theatre package featuring the popular

play, "Plain and Fancy", for seven evenings. Dinner-theatre tickets will cost \$17.

Recollections of Yesteryear

(Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles on life in rural eastern Pennsylvania as remembered by David Semmel, a member of the Advisory Board of the Cultural Heritage Center.)

From 1920 to 1938 my father operated a blacksmith shop and small farm in rural Lehigh County. Those were also the years of my childhood, so I spent many hours in his shop where all kinds of repairs were done, in addition to the horseshoeing that was traditionally done by the blacksmith. Due to the declining numbers of horses in the years when tractors were becoming commonplace, my father closed his shop and went into full-time farming.

In 1907 my grandfather purchased the 90-acre farm where I presently reside. He had a small thresher, while his cousin had a steam engine, and together they did the neighborhood threshing. Around 1914, my grandfather purchased an IHC one-cylinder Mogul tractor, which was then used to power the thresher with my father and his brother running the outfit. In 1920 when my father set up the blacksmith shop, his brother took over the farm with a change being made in tractors from the one-cylinder Mogul to a 10-20 two-cylinder Titan. The thresher was a Messinger, made in Tatamy, PA, which I remember well from spending time on my uncle's farm in the summer.

With the blacksmith shop, my father had 30 acres of land with two horses for the workforce. During those years, my father would attend public sales where blacksmith's tools were sold, and he always came home with a pile of tools for which he paid a few dollars. My brother and I still have these tools and could set up a complete shop today.

During those years when we had a threshing outfit, I got to perform all those tasks necessary to complete a successful harvest. Nearly all the threshing in our area was done inside the barns, so there was a lot of dust. With very few farms having running water, there definitely were no showers at half-time!

I recall the entire crew getting sick or "threshing out" from a few acres of oats hauled in the barn when the straw was not fully dry and had become moldy. One Saturday, the "city" boyfriend of a neighboring farmer's daughter insisted on helping to thresh and, needless to say, by evening he complained of alternate chills and fever, the symptoms of "threshing fever." I wonder what OSHA would say about some of those conditions we used to work in years ago.

Meet Our Heritage Center Partner: The Berks County Genealogical Society

The Berks County Genealogical Society (BCGS) has been busy reshaping the basement of the Wiesenberger Alumni Center into a library housing extensive records which focus on 18th and 19th century Berks and surrounding counties.

The Society, chartered in 1981, has an impressive array of books, film, documents and family histories. Included in the collection are church, cemetery, clergy, military, civil and public records. In addition, there are many methodology or "how to" guides to assist the beginner or casual researcher.

The library is open year-round, several days each week, to accommodate member and visiting researchers interested in learning more about their family heritage. Both experienced and novice researchers especially appreciate the hands-on access to most library materials, and find that browsing the collection often reveals information about their families in unexpected sources. Few genealogical-historical libraries offer this distinctively-user friendly approach. Volunteer library attendants are also available for limited assistance and guidance.

Recently, the Society's board of directors approved an appropriation to acquire more computer equipment to begin a program to improve preservation and access to existing data and to take advantage of the rapidly-growing body of genealogy-related information now becoming available on CD-ROM, networks and other computer-based sources. The Society is finding that members and the public at large are becoming more willing, able and indeed expecting access to these evolving research tools. BCGS plans the same hands-on approach for researcher use of its computer facilities, again with assistance, when desired.

The library is a willing repository for books and documents related to your family, community, county, or church heritage. BCGS welcomes materials that you wish to preserve for future generations, either donated directly to the Society or as custodian for genealogical materials donated to the Heritage Center.

For more information, write to The Berks County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 305, Kutztown, PA. For library hours, call 610-683-9420.

Our Heritage Center Pride

When we acquire something which has value and which we cherish, it is easy to tell others about it.

During the past two years, it has been my privilege to be a part of Heemet Fescht at the Cultural Heritage Center and to serve on the Center's Advisory Board. There was an honest feeling of pride as those Heemet Fescht weekends drew people to the Center to witness the customs, artistic abilities, and trades of our forefathers in a location which enhanced the exhibits. We told others, "you should have been there!" With our festival experience, a neighboring facility, and a desire to continue to exhibit our Pennsylvania German heritage, we have an opportunity to be pursued with enthusiasm in a new festival.

Progress is being made in the restoration of the various farm buildings and, when completed, our efforts will reflect what our forefathers would want. Such progress is attainable only with the help of those with similar interests. Our challenge is to spread the opportunities among our many friends, encouraging them to join with us as "glieder" (members) of our Heritage Center Association, and to assist as volunteers so that there is no undue burden upon any specific group in meeting our obligations. Isn't this the way our parents and grandparents were able to develop and prosper?

It is the pride of accomplishment that I hope will continue to spur us toward development of our Heritage Center so that those who follow will be respectful of what we have passed along to them.

Mir bedede as der Gott uns segent uff unser Weg.

**Paul F. Kunkel, President
Heritage Center Advisory Board**

Glieder Fescht on March 21

Sterling Zimmerman, known as "Mr. Pennsylvania Dutch", will be honored at a roast during the second annual Glieder Fescht on Thursday, March 21, in the Student Union Building, Kutztown University.

Glieder Fescht is the annual dinner meeting for members of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center. Invitations have been sent to association members. The cost is \$12 per member, which includes dinner, skits and musical entertainment. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Advisory Board President Paul Kunkel will be master of ceremonies for the evening, and Center Director David Valuska will give the annual report for the Center. For more information, please call the Center office at 683-1330.

Sterling Zimmerman has been an integral part of the Pennsylvania German community since 1950 and has remained active in many organizations over the years. He or-

Sing, Schpiel, unn Danz

Unn doh henn mir noch en scheener Winder, mit genunk Schnee fer alle ebber. Was saagt der Grundsow - noch sechs woche! So, to chase away those winter blues, here's a humorous song about marriage. The father asks his daughter if she wants to get married, and since this is a very old song, she didn't even have to think about it. Her question, however, was what type of man she would choose. Her priorities were to bypass wealth and importance, and go with fun and laughter.

Karlene and I get many requests for this song, since we can do the question and answer part appropriately. However, whenever we've done it in Germany or Switzerland, we've had to explain the word "gleich", a "dutchified English" word similar to the word "like." There is no such word in German. Instead, they would say "mag." We taught this song to a well-known family of Palatinate folk singers, the Jaeger family. In return, we got verse number seven from them. Yes, there are elfedritzels in Germany, but only in the Palatinate. They hunt them the same way, but they look a little different. Maybe we'll have an elfedritzel hunt during the Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival. If you have any pictures or good hunting spots, please let me know! Schreib alsemoll!



Photo by Jeff Unger

Der Gutzeit Mann
Keith Brintzenhoff

Meedli, witt du heire?

1/ Meedli witt du heiere?
Ya, Vadder ya!
Meedli wann du heiesre witt,
heierscht du en Bauer?

Nee, en Bauer will ich nett,
Kiehschtall mische gleich ich nett;
Nee, Vadder, nee

2/ ... en Doktor?
Nee enn Doktor ... Leit
vergifte gleich ich nett, ...

3/ ... en Schreiner?
Nee en Schreiner ..., Neggel
schlagge gleich ich nett, ...

4/ ... en Schulmeschder?
Nee en Schulmeschder ..., Kinner
dresche gleich ich nett, ...

5/ ... en Parrer?
Nee en Parrer ... Windle wesche
gleich ich nett, ...

6/ ... en Loiyer?
Nee en Loiyer ..., Leit bedriege
gleich ich nett, ...

7/ ... en Yeeger?
Nee en Yeeger ..., Elfedritzel fange
gleich ich nett, ...

8/ en Geiger?
Ya en Geiger will ich yo,
Singe unn danze gleich ich so,
Ya, Vadder ya; ya, Vadder, ya!

Young Girl, Will You Marry?

1/ Young Girl, will you marry?
Yes, Father, yes
Young girl, if you'll marry
will you marry a farmer?

No, I don't want a farmer,
I don't like cleaning manure
from cow stalls, no, father, no.

2/ a doctor?
No, a doctor ... Poisoning
people I don't like ...

3/ ... a carpenter?
No, a carpenter ... Hitting
nails I don't like ...

4/ a school teacher?
No, a school teacher ...,
Beating children I don't like ...

5/ ... a minister?
No, a minister ... washing
diapers I don't like ...

6/ ... a lawyer?
No, a lawyer ... cheating people
I don't like ...

7/ a hunter?
No, a hunter ... catching elfedritzels
I don't like ...

8/ ... a fiddler?
Yes, a fiddler I will have,
Singing and dancing I like a lot,
yes, father, yes, father, yes!

ganized the Lecher Dahl Grundsow Lodge Fersommling in 1965, as well as the Kutztown Grundsow Lodge #15 where he served as president from 1965 to 1990. Through his efforts, the Fereincht Dutch Choir and the Fereincht Pennsylvaanish

Deitsch Fulk were formed in the 1960s. He started the Antique Engine Tractor and Toy Club in 1985 and is a life member of the group. Through his many efforts, the Pennsylvania German heritage remains an important part of our history.

From the Director

Wie bischt? It is hard to believe that in a few months the Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival will take place. As you know, our Cultural Heritage Center is playing a key role in the new festival. We have some fantastic music, dialect skits, church services, educational seminars, traditional farming and tractor pulls - all in a good, old fashioned gathering. One of the highlights will be a quilt challenge and school. So far, we have had inquiries from as far away as Germany, England and Belgium. See you at the Fescht!

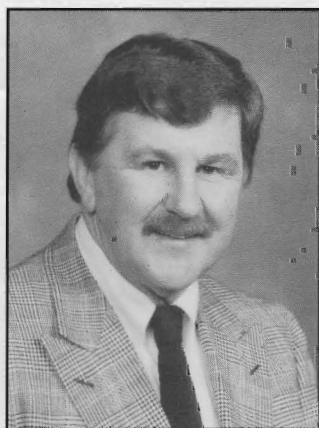


Photo by Jeff Unger

Dr. David Valuska

Last year, the Center sponsored its first Glieder Fescht, with music, talks in the dialect, great entertainment and wonderful food. As you will read in the article in this issue of the newsletter, this year an even more enjoyable program is being planned. Soon, you will receive an invitation to this year's Fescht in the mail. Do join us for an evening that you will remember for a long time. I do want to take this opportunity to thank Heritage Center Advisory Board President Paul Kunkel, who is in charge of arrangements for the program. Remember, the date is March 21, 1996.

This year's Heritage Adventure trip to Germany is sold out. Alphorn Tours, sponsor of the trip, truly has a remarkable

itinerary planned, based on the success of last year's trip and with some new features. We will journey on the Rhine, do research in the Palatinate, travel to fascinating castles, and visit historic farm museums. We will walk through the fabled town, Rothenberg ob der Talbe, drive to the Alps in Innsbruck, and pay homage at Mozart's birthplace in Salzburg. More than a trip to Germany, the Heritage Adventure is a return to the roots of Pennsylvania Germans where colorful legends, fascinating history and the breathtaking beauty of the lands we will visit, provide a truly distinctive experience. Along with my wife, Charlotte and myself, Prof. Don Yoder, the noted Pennsylvania German historian and genealogist, will accompany us on the trip. If you are interested in participating in next year's Heritage Adventure, please call Donna Trabosh at the Cultural Heritage Center, (610) 683-1330 to have your name placed on the waiting list for 1997.

Construction and renovation at the Heritage Center site continue at full speed. Truman Brandt, project coordinator for much of the Center construction, has done yeoman work in helping us to advance our programs. A big thanks goes, again, to Paul Kunkel for his great assistance.

As you can see, the many facets of activity at the Center merge into an extensive program that truly reflects our commitment to the preservation of our Pennsylvania German cultural heritage. This is why your continued support is so important. Now is the time to join our Heritage Center Members Association, or to renew your membership. Every dollar we receive in membership dues goes to the preservation of the culture through our programs.

Mach gut!

David L. Valuska, Director
Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center

Heritage Center Board Elects Officers

Paul Kunkel of Emmaus has been elected president of the advisory board of the Kutztown University Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center. Ernest Miller of Hamburg is the new vice president, and Carl Snyder of New Tripoli is secretary.

Kunkel is "haaptman" (leader) of the Pennsylvania German groundsau lodge in Emmaus, and Snyder is haaptman of the groundsau lodge in Northampton and of the "grossdaddi"

lodge, a regional group that includes the officers of all groundsau lodges in the Lehigh Valley and Berks County. Miller is the former chairman of the Berks County Board of Commissioners.

The advisory board meets quarterly to review Cultural Heritage Center policy and operations and to assist in the development of the Center and its programs.



Paul Kunkel

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