The Folklore Center

The Pennsylvania Dutch Folklore Center of Franklin and Marshall College, the sponsor of the Folk Festival, was established in the Spring of 1949—six years ago—with a three-fold purpose: 1) to collect the folklore of the Dutch Country; 2) to study and catalog the materials collected in the field; and 3) to make these materials available to the general public. The founders were Drs. Alfred L. Shoemaker, J. William Frey and Don Yoder. What has the Folklore Center accomplished along these three lines in the past six years?

I

Collecting. On his daily wanderings through the hills and valleys of the Dutch country, the Center's director, Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker, has collected a vast amount of material in the following categories: popular oral literature—folktales and folksongs, rhymes and jingles, proverbs, riddles and place names; folk-beliefs (or superstitions) touching on every aspect of human life: folk medicine—non-magic and magic (powwowing); witchcraft; customs of the year; and sports and pastimes. The Center has had the generous assistance of several faithful contributors whose collections are on file in the Center's archives, chief among whom are Victor C. Diefenbach (the only one who has received any remuneration); John B. Brendel of Reinholds; Wayne H. Gruber of Reading; George F. Moore of Lawn; William P. Shoemaker of Maple Grove; Norman A. Smith of Lenhartsville; Esther and Helen Moser of Rally; and a Berks Countian who wishes to remain unnamed. To date 682 men and women from the Dutch Country have submitted manuscript material to the Center's archives. All of this material has been indexed on 4 x 6 index cards.

II

Cataloging. The Folklore Center has been eminently successful in this phase of its work. With the help of two secretaries, the Center has indexed on tens of thousands of 4 x 6 cards every single item that has ever been published on Pennsylvania Dutch folklore.

With the help of the late Dr. Wilbur H. Oda, in his lifetime the leading bibliographer of German-language imprints in America, the Center indexed the thousands of Pennsylvania imprints in the Unger-Bassler collection at the College. Each imprint was indexed four ways: alphabetically, by date, place, and printer.

In the past four years the Center has indexed, also on 4 x 6 cards, every single personal name (there are approximately 200,000 as of this moment) that appears in the Pennsylvania German Magazine, in the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society Volumes, in Dr. Preston A. Barba's Deitsch Eck, in Dr. Arthur D. Graeff's Schollia; in the Dutchman and in another two to three months the indexing of the Proceedings of the Pennsylvania German Society will be completed.

During the past six years the Center has spent well over $15,000 on this indexing job alone.
Co-founders of the Folklore Center: Frey, Yoder, Shoemaker

III
Dissemination. The major effort during the past six years at the Center has been to get the folk-culture of the Pennsylvania Dutch Country before the public. This has been done through the Center’s organ, The Dutchman, and through the books and pamphlets the Center has published; through the director’s weekly radio and TV programs over WEEU in Reading; through the annual Seminars of the Folk-Culture of the Pennsylvania Dutch Country; and lastly through the annual Folk Festival at Kutztown.

The Dutchman
The Dutchman has gone to slightly over 3,000 subscribers—first as a weekly and more recently, for the past year, as a quarterly. The Center considers its three thousand subscribers as members of the Folklore Center’s family.

Pamphlets
In addition to publishing The Dutchman, the Folklore Center has published two books, a folksong anthology (Songs along the Mahantongo) and The Pennsylvania Barn just off the press, and sixteen different pamphlets. Speaking numerically: some 150,000 pamphlets in the past six years:

1949:
1) Schmitz QUICKIE chart. (Out of print)

1950:
1) Pennsylvania Dutch Grammar by Dr. J. William Frey. (Out of print.)
2) Pennsylvania Dutch Hex Marks by Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker. (Out of print.)

1951:
1) Songs Along the Mahantongo by Drs. Walter E. Bouer, Albert F. Buffington, and Don Yoder. $3.75.
2) A pinch of this and a Handful of that by Edna Eby Heller. (Out of print.)
3) *Coloring and Design Book for Children of All Ages* by Olive G. Zehner and R. D. Dunkelberger. (First printing.)

4) *Conestoga Wagon Lore* by H. C. Frey. $50.

5) *That Amazing Pennsylvania Dutch Language* by Dr. J. William Frey. (Out of print.)

6) *Traditional Rhymes and Jingles* by Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker. $50.

   (In conjunction with the Lancaster County Fesambling.)

8) *3 Myths about the Pennsylvania Dutch Country* by Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker. $50.

1952:

1) *A Pinch of this and a Handful of that* Vol. II by Edna Eby Heller. $50. (Out of print.)

2) *Check List of Pennsylvania Dutch Printed Tauscheins* by Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker. $1.00.

3) *Pennsylvania Dutch Dialect Stories* by Dr. Alvin F. Kemp. $50.

4) *A Pinch of this and a Handful of that* by Edna Eby Heller. $50. (Second printing—out of print.)

5) Facsimile reprint of E. H. Rauch’s 1873 *The Pennsylvania Dutchman* Vol. I, Nos. 1, 2, and 3. $3.00.

1953:

1) *In the Dutch Country*. $1.00
   (Out of print.)

2) *My Off is All* by Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker. $50. (Anthology of Pa. Dutch humor—two printings.)

3) *Shoo-fly Cookery* by Edna Eby Heller. $1.00 (Two printings—out of print.)

4) *Coloring and Design Book for Children of All Ages* by Olive G. Zehner and R. D. Dunkelberger. $50. (Second printing.)

5) Facsimile reprint of E. H. Rauch’s 1848 *De Campain Breeja*. $1.00. (In conjunction with the Lancaster County Fesambling.)

6) *Hex, Noy!* by Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker. $50. (Two printings.)

7) *Schnitzelbahn chart*. $50. (Second printing.)

1954:


2) *A Peck at the Amish* by Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker. $1.00.

3) *The Pennsylvania Dutch Country* by Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker. $1.00.

4) *The Dutch Cookbook* by Edna Eby Heller. $50. (Two printings.)

5) *My Off is All* by Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker. $50. (One printing.)

6) *Hex, Noy!* by Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker $50 (one printing.)

1955:

1) *The Pennsylvania Barn*. $2.00.


3) *The Dutch Cookbook* by Edna Eby Heller. $50. (Two printings.)

4) *Coloring and Design Book for Children of All Ages* by Olive G. Zehner and R. D. Dunkelberger. $50. (Third printing.)

Folk Festival

Since 1950 the Folklore Center has held an annual 4 or 5-day Pennsylvania Dutch Festival at Kutztown, where the folk-culture of the area is put on parade for all the world to see. And much of the world has come to learn of the Dutch Country—last year from every State in the Union and from a dozen
foreign countries. In all approximately 250,000 people, mostly out-of-area residents, came in touch with the Dutch folk-culture through the Festival.

It has been the Folk Festival, and it alone, that has made possible, financially, the work the Center has done in the past six years.

Radio and TV

For six years the Center’s director, Dr. Shoemaker, has had a weekly radio dialect program on station WEEU in Reading and for almost a year, over WEEU-TV, the Center put on a weekly half-hour dialect television show. Mrs. Herbert F. Miller of Kutztown Route 2 and John B. Brendel of Reinholds generously assisted in this effort.

Seminars

Four years ago the Folklore Center established the annual Seminars on the Folk-Culture of the Pennsylvania Dutch Country. The approach here, in contrast to most of the other activities of the Center, has been a purely academic one. This year—as the last three years—the Seminars are being held in conjunction with the Folk Festival. See another section of this program for details on the Seminars.

Summary

In six years’ time the Folk Festival at Kutztown has grown into the largest event of its type in the country. The Folklore Center has pioneered in many fields. It has accomplished most in the field of cataloging and disseminating. With a growing Folk Festival each year, more funds are becoming available to devote to the most important of the three jobs the Center has undertaken, collecting.
Staff of the Folklore Center

Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker

Dr. Shoemaker, known to thousands of radio listeners in the Dutch Country as *Der Rote Gußbart Schuammacher*—“Red Goatfoot Shoemaker”—is a native of the Dutcheast part of Lehigh County, Saegeville, in Heidelberg Township.

Dutch was his native tongue, the Dutch Country his first love. At Muhlenberg College in his native county he studied under two of the pioneers in the present renaissance of Pennsylvania Dutch studies—Preston A. Barba and Harry Hess Reichard. He spent an undergraduate year at the University of Munich and a graduate year at the University of Heidelberg in Germany. New educational outlooks were gained at Crozer and Mt. Airy Seminaries, Cornell University, the Sorbonne in Paris, and finally at the University of Illinois, where the young scholar spent weekends and two summers visiting the Amish settlement of Arthur, Illinois, to gather the materials for his dissertation on the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect of the Arthur Amish which won him his doctorate in 1940.

With his years of teaching at Lafayette, Muhlenberg and Franklin and Marshall Colleges, his Directorship of the Historical Society of Berks County, and his five years in the intelligence service of the U. S. Army in Europe, Dr. Shoemaker brings a wide and varied experience to the work of the Folklore Center.

Since returning from the war, Alfred Shoemaker has been a man of one purpose, a man with a single eye to his goal, which is the creation of a research center and a living museum for All Pennsylvania. Influenced by the tried and tested Scandinavian and Irish folk-life programs, Dr. Shoemaker, with his two colleagues, Drs. Frey and Yoder, created the Pennsylvania Dutch Folklore Center (1949). The Center, the first facet of his goal for Pennsylvania, is a research institute, a clearing house for all information on all phases of Pennsylvania’s endlessly rich folk-life. As Director of the Folk Festival he is moving nearer to the second purpose of his life—the creation of a living museum, a folk-village, which will illustrate to the world the meaning of Pennsylvania from Penn’s “Holy Experiment” to contemporary trends.

To aid in accomplishing his purpose, Dr. Shoemaker has made wide use of all the modern media of communication. His radio programs in the dialect from Sunbury and Reading have had a wide following. His pioneer TV efforts, over the Reading station, brought many colorful Dutch personalities to the screen. His popular folklore columns in the Reading and Lancaster papers created another audience for the work of the Center.

Dr. Shoemaker’s formal contribution to bibliography—his scholarly check lists of German imprints of Northampton and Lehigh Counties, Pennsylvania, and his surveys of the German newspapers of Pennsylvania, have won for him the much-coveted membership in the American Antiquarian Society.

But he also believes that scholarship deserves a popular treatment. Among his popular studies have been pamph-
leth on many subjects, from A Peep At the Amish to My Off is All, the latter the first collection of jokes and jests by and about the Dutch people. His constant, almost phenomenal production of articles for the Dutchman in the seven years of its existence thus far has likewise been on many subjects, with emphasis on Hexerei, the folklore, and customs of the year.

When Dr. Shoemaker was Professor of American Folklore at Franklin and Marshall College he succeeded in the difficult task of teaching a generation of students the meaning of research. When they registered for his courses, those college students (and they are not few in number) who would define research as a pastiche of ideas borrowed from books, got the shock of their lives. The professor sent them out among the people—for the first time in their lives—armed with a questionnaire, to gather folk-beliefs. They met people, they talked with them, they learned to know something of their approach to life.

This is typical of Alfred Shoemaker's approach to every question. He is interested in an understanding of people, not of things. Because he is interested in the outlook of people on every subject, in what we call the soul or the spirit of man, his interests carry him into all fields of folk-belief, even the elusive (and once taboo) subject of Hexerei (witchcraft).

And Dr. Shoemaker's definition of research—a process that leads toward a better understanding of people and the way they think and react to life—goes a long way in explaining the total approach of the Folklore Center.

Dr. Don Yoder

A native of Central Pennsylvania and the youngest of the triumvirate of founders of the Folklore Center. Don Yoder brings to the work his genealogical enthusiasm (like his novelist, he has 10,000 cousins in most of the Dutch counties of the state), his formal training in religion (Ph.D., The University of Chicago, 1947), his wide teaching experience (at Muhlenberg College, Franklin and Marshall College, and Union Theological Seminary in New York City), and his elemental experience with European culture both historical and contemporary.

For five years a member of the History Committee of the World Council of Churches, he joined with a board of internationally-known authors to produce the recently published History of the Ecumenical Movement, which appeared in simultaneous editions in London and Philadelphia in the Spring of 1954. For this work, which is at present being translated into French and German, Dr. Yoder wrote the chapter on church union efforts in the United States.

Regaled, in his boyhood, with pioneer tales by an indulgent, cigar-smoking Centre County grandfather, with summer vacations in the lore-rich Hegins Valley, his other grandparents' home on the northern edge of the Dutch Country, Don Yoder was a natural to join Alfred Shoemaker and Bill Frey in the creation in 1949, of the Folklore Center and the launching of the new periodical, The Pennsylvania Dutchman.

As an editor of the Dutchman he has had charge of the historical and genealogical—and, more important, the spiritual—phases of the program. His
emphasis has been on source materials—the raw materials of history. His many articles (in Dr. Barba’s *Eck*, the *American-German Review*, the *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine* as well as the *Dutchman*) have made available manuscript and printed source materials which reveal Dutch Country life in all its richness. With a bibliographer’s conscience (he never could resist a secondhand bookstore) and the approach of a social historian, he has lightened many hitherto dark research paths in Pennsylvania lore.

Like his colleagues, Dr. Yoder believes in the overlapping of research fields. His own field of religion he treats not as a separate category of life, but as a part of the life of a people, something that merges into folk-belief, something that affects every moment of our waking life. Especially has he been concerned to show the cultural interaction between religious traditions here in the Dutch Country. In sharp focus in all of his researches has been that mingling of Continental European and British-American religious patterns which has created for American religion something new, something native, something vital and rooted in our spiritual soil.

In 1951 Dr. Yoder joined forces with Dr. Walter E. Boyer and Dr. Albert F. Ruffington, both now of the faculty of Pennsylvania State University, to edit and publish the first complete volume of Pennsylvania Dutch folksongs, the attractive *Songs along the Mahantongo*. Dr. Yoder’s volume on the Pennsylvania Dutch Spiritual, the long-awaited *Rush-Meeting Songster*, will appear this year (1955). And after that will come *Plain Pennsylvanians*, a definitive study of the sectarian tradition in Pennsylvania and its contribution to American freedom.

If Pennsylvania is one pole of Don Yoder’s interest, Europe is the other. An inveterate traveler, he is as likely to turn up in Stockholm as at Kutztown, in Rome as in Reading. In 1951 he began a popular phase of the Center’s program, the “Pennsylvania Dutch Tours of Europe,” which have featured introducing groups of Pennsylvanians to European life. In the Palatinate, where “Dutch” can still be understood, his groups have been officially entertained in the homes of the people and at the local folk festivals. If international understanding is increased and horizons are broadened through these unusual tours—and that has happened in every case—the purpose of the Folklore Center will again have been furthered.

**Dr. J. William Frey**

Maynard Owen Williams, in his article on the Folk Festival in the *National Geographic Magazine* (October, 1952) called Bill Frey the “troubadour of the movement.” He is also its lexicographer and lecturer, in fact its most popular lecturer.

J. William Frey was born at Wilkes-Barre in 1916, son of a peripatetic school teacher with roots in the Dutch parts of York County. Summers on his grandfather’s farm, the encouragements of a father who is himself a national authority on the Conestoga Wagon, and a natural born musical talent and an ear for the folksong, led to Bill’s early interest in things Dutch. As early as 1936 he joined a group of
“Conestoga Wagoners” in singing the songs of the Pennsylvania road at the Pennsylvania Folk Festival at Bucknell University.

Dickinson College at Carlisle stirred up Bill’s inherent linguistic talents (he now speaks seven languages, including Russian) and he decided to major in Germanics at the University of Illinois. There he met Alfred Shoemaker, who was also working on his doctorate, and many years of cooperation in research were planned and initiated. Bill received his Ph.D. in 1941, with a dissertation on “The German Dialect of Eastern York County.” After renewed studies at the University of Giessen in Germany, the young Dr. Frey taught German at Presbyterian College, Clinton, South Carolina; at Lehigh University in Bethlehem; and at Franklin and Marshall College.

While he was still in South Carolina in exile from the Dutch Country, he published the first popular grammar of the Dutch dialect, A Simple Grammar of Pennsylvania Dutch (Clinton, S.C., 1942). While at Lehigh he edited and published (after painstakingly typing it all out on his versatile Vari-typer) the shortlived but widely acclaimed popular dialect periodical, Der Pennsylvaniaisch Deitsch Eileichpiggel. Usually referred to as “Eili”, this engaging journalistic effort really “got around,” and created some of the taste for Dutch things which made the Pennsylvania Dutchman possible.

To the Dutchman, which he helped to found in 1949 along with Drs. Shoemaker and Yoder, Dr. Frey has contributed articles on folksongs and linguistics. His researches into “Amish Triple-Talk” and “Amish Slow-Tunes”, which led to articles in American Speech and elsewhere, have filled definite research gaps.

Music is one of Dr. Frey’s compelling interests. In addition to organizing and participating in several chamber music groups in Lancaster and Baltimore, Bill Frey is the best professional folksinger of the Dutch Country, the Burl Ives of Pennsylvania. His responsive guitar and his winsome interpretation of Dutch song, added to his racy lectures, have brought him much into demand as a lecturer on things Dutch. He has also arranged Dutch folksongs which have been published by Fred Waring, and in 1951 gathered together and published the first record-album of Pennsylvania Dutch Folksongs.

Dr. Frey is at present Head of the Department of German at Franklin and Marshall College. His wife is the former Jenn Kratz of Baltimore, and the picture is not complete without mentioning their three attractive “small Frey”—Allan, Christina, and Maria.

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**Album of Pennsylvania Dutch Folksongs**

*Interpreted By*

**J. WILLIAM FREY**

*$4.50*
The Center’s
Genealogical Program

Because genealogy is the key to much of Pennsylvania’s social history, because it opens doors of research that would otherwise remain closed, the Folklore Center has from the very beginning operated a Department of Genealogy, under the direction of Dr. Don Yoder.

The needs of the Pennsylvania genealogist are manifold. Some of his problems are shared by genealogists of other areas—the confusing maze of national and state and county records dealing with our families, the general lack of indexes of genealogical materials, and the lack of proper publishing outlets for genealogical articles and source materials. Other problems are more specifically Pennsylvanian—the preponderance of German-language records which are closed books to most people today, as well as the problem of how to get at the wealth of materials available (and little known here) on the 18th century emigration from Germany and Switzerland.

To remedy this situation, the Folklore Center in 1949 set up its genealogical program which has shown steady growth through the years. This work has four objectives:

1. A genealogical library. In accordance with the wide collecting policy of the Folklore Center, a genealogical research library has been established in connection with the Center, to include both printed genealogies and manuscript source materials, church registers, and other raw materials for the genealogist. Far from being a static "collection" of books, this library is a clearing house for genealogical information of all sorts. It is a growing affair, and its unique indexing program (§ 2, below) will make it eventually the most visited genealogical library in the state.

2. An indexing program. For six years the Center has been indexing Pennsylvania publications which contain genealogical materials. Thus far indexes have been completed for every personal name mentioned in the Pennsylvania German Magazine (1900-1914), Dr. Barba’s ‘S Pennsylvaniaisch Deitsch Eck (1935-1955), the Yearbooks of the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society (1936-1955), Dr. Graeff’s Scholla columns in the Reading Times (1936-1955) and our own Pennsylvania Dutchman. The indexing of the Proceedings of the Pennsylvania German Society is nearing completion. This unique indexing program of genealogical materials—a primary tool for all Pennsylvania genealogists—already forms a card catalogue of almost 200,000 cards.

3. A publishing outlet. Beginning with its first issue the Pennsylvania Dutchman carried genealogical materials. The emphasis in subject matter has been on immigrant lists, naturalization papers, genealogical sketches of individual families, queries on individual names, check lists of church registers, marriage records, taufschein and Bible records, family reunion news, articles on the meaning of family names, and specialized lists of genealogies, as for instance, that on Amish genealogies.

4. European contacts. Realizing that the basis of genealogical work in Penn-
sylvania is the tracing of our families to a European source, the Folklore Center has gathered a great many records concerning the 18th century emigration. Through the help of a large corps of European scholars such as Dr. Fritz Braun of the Heimatstelle Pfalz at Kaiserslautern and Dr. Friedrich Krebs of the Palatine State Archives at Speyer, in Germany, we have been able to publish a great many new lists of 18th century emigrants from Germany. The exchange of genealogical periodicals with Germany and Switzerland is an integral part of the Center's genealogical work. The Pennsylvania Dutch Tours of Europe have also strengthened our genealogical contacts with Germany and Switzerland.

The new Pennsylvania Life will expand the Dutchman's genealogical department. Queries on individual families will be welcomed, as well as articles on research problems encountered along the genealogist's way. Major emphasis will be upon publication of genealogical source materials—especially those source materials which shed light also on Pennsylvania social history.

The Department of Genealogy no longer limits itself to materials on the genealogy of the Pennsylvania Dutch. We welcome genealogical cooperation from all of Pennsylvania's groups. The Scotch-Irish, the Quaker, and others will receive equal consideration with the Pennsylvania Dutchman. Western and Central Pennsylvania will be given space along with the older settled Eastern Pennsylvania. For all of us, with our own mixed family backgrounds, genealogy can make a genuine contribution to inter-group understanding.
The Dutchman

Now in its seventh year, the Dutchman (formerly the Pennsylvania Dutchman and soon to be rechristened Pennsylvania Life) was begun by Drs. Shoemaker, Yoder, and Frey in 1949 as the organ of the Folklore Center. It was begun as a weekly, tabloid-size, of eight pages. It was slanted toward the popular, with scholarly underpinnings. Its aim was to reach every Dutch speaking home in Pennsylvania, to serve as a medium of exchange of information on everything Dutch, in the hope that readers would initiate correspondence with the staff and send the Center information from the field.

It was met with a varied reception. Scholars predicted that the editors would “run out of material” in six months. Businessmen consulted on the matter said it could not be published without a reserve fund of $35,000. The editors began with an initial grant of $2,500 from Franklin and Marshall College, but with unbounded enthusiasm and an indefatigable weekly production of articles. While the preliminary subscription list was in the neighborhood of 3,000, the weekly appearance of the paper proved far too costly, and the Dutchman became first a semi-monthly, and more recently, a quarterly. As for running out of material, the Dutchman has been appearing for six years, and each year its sources of information and breadth of treatment have been widened.

The subject matter of the original Dutchman was divided between the three editors. Dr. Shoemaker had charge of Folklore, Arts, and Crafts; Dr. Yoder, History, Religion, and Genealogy; Dr. Frey, Dialect, Literature, Music. An able staff of writers joined the editors in producing articles which have had recognized impact on folkloristic studies in the United States. Among the corps of early writers have been Olive Zehner, Edna Eby Heller, Willard H. Oda, Victor Dieffenbach, Florence Bayer and others.

While the editors found in the first years that it was not the native “Dutch” who subscribed but rather the outsiders, mostly cityfolk, and the paper could not therefore serve its intended purpose of lodestone for rural folklore—the paper was “folksy.” And it did win many friends in the rural areas of Pennsylvania, who liked its frequent and earthy dialect stories (other subscribers, the outsiders, complained that they couldn’t understand them). A few subscribers canceled their subscriptions on religious grounds when beer advertising was added, others objected to other editorial policies. But genealogists enjoyed its fully packed genealogical pages, and lovers of Dutch lore, music, folk art, and other facets of Pennsylvania’s rich folk-culture, found it to their taste. People liked its “chatty” articles and compared it, favorably, to Williamsport’s ubiquitous “Grit.” It did serve the Folklore Center’s purpose of disseminating information on things “Dutch.”

When it came time, in 1954, to change the format into the present slick-paper, color-cover, elegant new Dutchman (dropping the prefix “Pennsylvania” since everyone had come to call it the “Dutchman” anyway), there
were some regrets that the "folksy" character of the earlier numbers was missing. But most of our subscribers—and it now reaches a wide sampling of America—welcomed the new professional touch.

As a publishing outlet it has no rival in the Pennsylvania field. It does not conflict with or overlap on the already existing publications of the local or state historical societies, nor with the series of yearbooks of the Pennsylvania German Society and the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society. As a popular quarterly, profusely and professionally illustrated, it takes its place alongside American Heritage and the finest folklore periodicals of the country. And as a matter of fact, its subscription list is today (1955) larger than that of all the folklore periodicals in the country lumped together.

In 1955, as the Folklore Center expands its program to study all of Pennsylvania—the Dutchman will become Pennsylvania Life.

Amish Figurines By The Kurtzes

Pennsylvania Tour
of Europe...1956

The roots of Pennsylvania's folk-culture are in Europe. As the peoples of the British Isles and the continent of Europe—the Quaker and the Scotch-Irishman and the Dutchman—met and mingled in Penn's Woods, they traded what they brought from home. They created here something new and American, but the gifts that each people offered to the common culture can be traced to the old home-lands across the sea.

With this purpose in mind—to seek the roots of Pennsylvania in the cultures of Europe—the European Tour Department of the Folklore Center was organized by Dr. Yoder in 1951. In the summer of that year his first group of Traveling Pennsylvanians embarked on a "Pennsylvania Dutch Tour of Europe." Successful tours followed, with as many as 26 persons to a party.