

"Country Picnic Day" set at Farm Museum

LANCASTER — The Landis Valley Associates and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission will co-host "Country Picnic Day" at the Pennsylvania Farm Museum on Sunday, Aug. 4 from noon to 5 p.m.

Designed in the tradition of a typical Sunday afternoon community picnic of the turn of the

century, "Country Picnic Day" has been established as a fund-raising event for the benefit of the Landis Valley Associates of the Pennsylvania Farm Museum while simultaneously providing an educational and recreational service to both the Lancaster County community and outside visitors to the area.

Distinctly different from Craft Days and Harvest Days, Country Picnic Day will not emphasize demonstrations of crafts or harvest-time activities but rather provide an event which promotes food, fun and entertainment within a traditional context.

Visitors may bring their own picnic lunches or buy picnic food

on the museum grounds. The Landis Valley House Hotel will offer typical picnic fare such as corn on the cob, hot dogs, fried chicken, potato salad, bologna, cheese, fruit, pretzels, chips, desserts and drinks. Or in the tradition of a true Sunday afternoon picnic, visitors may bid on a specially prepared picnic lunch for two donated by leading Lancaster County eating establishments. The special lunches will be on exhibit in the Landis Valley House Hotel from noon until the time of the auction at 1 p.m.

Picnic tables will be set up; however, visitors may bring lawn chairs and blankets if they choose. New in the food line this year will be a demonstration of making turtle soup with samples to go round.

Other food-related activities include a pie-eating contest, a decorated cake contest and auction, and cake walks.

A decorated cake contest will take place in the Landis Valley House Hotel.

Not all of the games and contests include food, however. Regularly scheduled heats of wheelbarrow races, three-legged races, foot races, and peanut/penny scrambles will be held in the "millstone grove." Next to the Visitor Center activities such as badminton, horseshoes, quoits and croquet will be coordinated. It will be necessary to sign up for the races but not for the latter games.

For the "farmer at heart," a hay-bale-throwing contest will be held throughout the afternoon in the Settler's Farm pasture; while "scholarly" children and adults will enjoy the old-fashioned spelling bees held on the Hotel porch. Adults will compete at 2:30 and children at 3:30.

Prizes, furnished by the Landis Valley Associates, will be awarded for the games and contests.

New entertainment this year will feature the "Wheelman," a group of high-wheeled cyclists who will demonstrate "wheelmanship" all afternoon and give formation presentations at 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.

Entertainment under the tent in the "walnut grove" will feature the Bainbridge Band which will present a concert from 2 to 4 p.m. Apple bobbing and horse-drawn wagon rides will be held throughout the afternoon while a clown will add a festive touch as he circulates around the Museum grounds dispensing balloons.

Adjacent to the "grove" in the Settler's Farm pasture, there will be a greased pig chase demonstration at 2:45 p.m.

Throughout the afternoon the new Museum orientation slide show, "A Magnificent Dream" will be shown in the auditorium of the Visitor Center.

New fund-raising events will be added this year with the auctioning at 1:30 p.m. from the Hotel porch of a half-dozen "bed and breakfast" accommodations for two at choice Lancaster County inns. At the same time the use of the Museum Gallery and its facilities for a gala will be auctioned, followed at 2 p.m. with the auctioning of select hand-crafted traditional items designed and executed by Museum craftspeople and volunteers.

Finally a major feature of the fund-raising event, a quilt raffle, will take place at 4 p.m. on the porch of the Landis Valley House Hotel. Quilted exclusively for "Country Picnic Day" by the Black Rock Retreat Auxiliary, the quilt exhibits a design called "Eight Point Star" done in shades of blue and red on a white background. Raffle tickets will be sold on the Museum grounds until the time of the drawing.

If all of these activities don't fill up the afternoon for visitors, the Farm Museum's exhibit buildings will be open for tours also. Admission to "Country Picnic Day" is \$4 for adults; \$3 for senior citizens; \$2 for youth (6-17); and children 5 and under free. The price of admission includes all activities except food and the quilt raffle. The event will be held rain or shine. The Pennsylvania Farm Museum is located four miles north of Lancaster on route 272.

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