

# Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival Is A Folklife Celebration Filled With Fun

**KUTZTOWN (Berks Co.)** — For 52 consecutive years, the annual folklife festival in Kutztown has been a tradition. This year the festival runs from June 30 to July 8 at the Kutztown Fairgrounds. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Admission is \$9 adults, \$8 seniors, children 12 and under free. Parking is free.

This community celebration in "Pennsylvania Dutch Country" is filled with pageantry, folk art, crafts, quilts, living history, antiques and collectibles, entertainment, kids' activities and, of course, lots of mouth-watering Pennsylvania Dutch food.

Every day during the Festival, there are demonstrations of tradi-

tional crafts by 200 of America's most respected folk artists and craftsmen. Again this year, three pieces of four original, signed, dated and numbered, limited edition folk art treasures will be auctioned off on the first day of the event. They include a framed, hand-painted theorem on velvet by Linda Brubaker, a hand-crafted pewter hurricane lamp by Stuart Helble, a hand-woven coverlet by William Leinbach, and a hand-fashioned redware plate by Gerald Yoder.

With great attention to detail, world-renowned redware artists Ned Foltz, Lester Breininger, and Gerald Yoder share with visitors the techniques and mastery of their Pennsylvania German redware. Ivan Hoyt, Johnny and Eric Claypoole, and Bill Schuster — America's last remaining hex sign painters demonstrate the art form that is seen on countless barns in the Kutztown area. Johnny Claypoole was featured in Charles Kuralt's famous "On The Road" book and television series.

Folk art and crafts demonstrations range from pottery making, metal, and wood carving to fine furniture, dower chests and Bible boxes. The myriad of Pennsylvania Dutch and Early American crafts includes clothing, weavings, brooms, scherenschnitte (cut paper art), fraktur, folk instruments, hex signs, sundials, beeswax candles and figures and much more.

**A Thousand Beautiful Quilts**  
Visitors return again and again to the Festival quilt barn to take in the visual excitement of more than 1,000 beautiful, locally handmade quilts and wall hangings, all of which are for sale. Each of these colorful creations represents the very best in traditional Pennsylvania Dutch quilting craft, and many hours of devoted work of people in the region. The opening day auction of 24 quilts judged best of the show attracts legions of bidders from the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond. Prize-winning quilts remain on display all week.

The daily Country Auction offers visitors the opportunity to

bid on antiques and collectibles. Lucky bidders tote away boxes and armloads of bottles, crocks, tinware and almost every other imaginable item for 50 cents and up.

### "Country Fun" For Everyone

Five stages of entertainment run continuously, a strolling Pennsylvania Dutch band entertains throughout the fairgrounds, and Lester Miller and The Country Folks fill the air with fiddling, foot-stomping music and jigging and hoe-down dancing. Miller also leads a "square dancing free-for-all" Wednesday and Friday evenings, inviting visitors to join in. The sweeter sounds of an a cappella choir, modeled from the Ephrata Cloister, performs centuries-old music of Mennonite community.

Kids love the story times and puppet animals in the Children's Farmyard Theatre. For a real feel of country life, there are pony rides, "mule-powered" flying swings from the 1800s (the only ride of its kind left in America), a hay maze, magic acts, and cake walks. Noah's Ark farm family zoo gives everyone a chance to pet piglets, calves, lambs, bunnies and other friendly critters. Since children ages 12 and under are admitted free with an adult, a family can share a full day of entertainment for less than the cost of a family outing at a movie.

Story telling and living history events help to make this a true folklife festival. Traditional meal preparation, clothing, folk medicine, quilting history, and Mennonite meeting house services are presented daily. Cow milking, sheep shearing, wool carding, spinning, weaving and dyeing, soap making, candle making, blacksmithing, and furniture making are featured. An old-fashion four-square kitchen and medicinal herb garden, and exhibits of antique farming equipment bring the region's fascinating farm heritage to life. Informal seminars depict the traditional "Mountain Mary" who shares stories about folk medicines and healing. The clang of a school bell calls children and adults to

"classes" in the 19th century-style one-room schoolhouse.

### Plenty of Pennsylvania Dutch Food

A true Pennsylvania Dutch celebration festival boasts bountiful food. Festival-goers feast on all-you-can eat, home-style meals prepared and served by local churches, savor traditional ox roast or chicken dinners, and enjoy delicacies such as homemade corn pie and the unique Kutztown Dutch fries. Funnel cakes, strawberry shortcake, shoofly pie, hot waffles, and ice cream sundaes round out what can be an almost-nonstop eating event. Again in 2001, the preparation of a complete Pennsylvania Dutch meal by local cooks will be demonstrated daily. The meal is served country style to a Pennsylvania Dutch "family" of Festival participants attired in period costume.

Goodies to go are available in the Farmers' Market, with jellies, preserves, relishes, homemade breads and desserts, smoked meats and cheeses and farm fresh produce in abundance and ready to take home.

A distinctive Neighborhood House is the setting for a collection of authentic late 19th-early 20th century farm and town spoke-wheel wagons. Nearby, volunteers from local Pennsylvania German heritage groups provide information and answer questions on "Dutch" customs and traditions. Interested persons are invited to carry on a conversation in the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect.

Produced by the Kutztown University Foundation, Inc. and the Kutztown Fair Association, Inc., in cooperation with two dozen community organizations and more than 500 volunteers, the Festival is fun for the whole family. The well-manicured Kutztown Fairgrounds has paved walkways, indoor and outdoor exhibit areas, and plenty of free parking for personal and recreational vehicles and motor coaches. Kutztown is easily accessible from PA Route 222, midway between Reading and Allentown.

## You Ask

(Continued from Page B16)

Casey Jones was the bogger's name,  
On a big eight-wheeler, boys,  
he won his fame.  
Caller called Casey at half-past four,  
He kissed his wife at the station door,  
Mounted to the cabin with orders in his hand,  
And took his farewell trip to the promised land.  
Casey Jones, he mounted to the cabin,  
Casey Jones, with his orders in his hand!  
Casey Jones, he mounted to the cabin,  
Took his farewell trip to the promised land.  
'Put in your water and shovel in your coal,  
Put your head out the window, watch the drivers roll,  
I'll run her till she leaves the rail,  
'Cause we're eight hours late with the western mail!  
He looked at his watch and his watch was slow;  
Looked at the water and the water was low,  
Turned to his fireboy and said,  
'We'll get to 'Frisco, but we'll all be dead!'  
Casey Jones, he mounted to the cabin,  
Casey Jones, with his orders in his hand!  
Casey Jones, he mounted to the

cabin,  
Took his farewell trip to the promised land.  
Casey pulled up Reno Hill,  
Tooted for the crossing with an awful shrill,  
Snakes all knew by the engine's moans  
That the bogger at the throttle was Casey Jones.  
He pulled up short two miles from the place,  
Number Four stared him right in the face,  
Turned to his fireboy, said,  
'You'd better jump,  
'Cause there's two locomotives that's going to bump.'  
Casey Jones, he mounted to the cabin,  
Casey Jones, with his orders in his hand!  
Casey Jones, he mounted to the cabin,  
Took his farewell trip to the promised land.

**ANSWER** — A reader wanted to know where to find "Country and Western Gospel Hymnal," a singspiration songbook, copyright 1972, and a "Living Praise" hymnal, compiled by John Peterson and printed by Singspiration Music of Grand Rapids, MI. Thanks to Lindy Conrad, Annville, for writing that she has one that she will drop off or mail if you call her at (717) 865-6765.

## Lebanon Area Fair Queen Contest

**LEBANON (Lebanon Co.)** — Entries are now being accepted for the Lebanon Area Fair Queen Contest.

The contest is open to residents of Lebanon County who are at least 16 years of age and not 20 years of age by June 1. Contestants must be single, never mar-

ried, have no children, and must not marry during the reign. Former winners may not compete again, and all contestants must have a parent or guardian's consent to compete.

The competition consists of 300-word written essay on "What

interview.

The winner must be available to represent the Fair whenever needed during the entire week of the Fair and in parades, promotions, etcetera, throughout the year.

The 2001 Lebanon Area Fair runs from July 28 to Aug. 4 at the Lebanon Area Fairgrounds and Expo Center.

Gifts will be given to all who enter and the winner receives an assortment of prizes provided by local businesses. The Lebanon Area Fair Queen will be eligible to enter the Pennsylvania State Fair Queen Contest where the winner receives a \$1,000 scholarship.

Entry deadline is July 14. For more information, contact the Fair Office at (717) 273-3795 or Linda Boyer at (717) 273-1106.

My Fair Means To Me," as well as a three to five minute speech titled, "Why You Should Come To My Fair." Entrants will be judged on poise, essay, speech, and



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PARADE - SATURDAY, JULY 7th - 10:00 A.M.

**For Fun** Antique Garden Tractor (Stock 1975 & Older) Pull  
Fri., July 6th at 6 00 p m

**For Fun** Antique Farm Stock (1960 & Older) Tractor Pull  
Sun., July 8th, 11 00 a m  
(Tractors must be registered and displayed by 2 00 p m Saturday, July 7th to be eligible for Antique Tractor Pull on Sunday July 8th at 11 00 a m)

**2nd Annual Fall Gas Engine and Garden Tractor Show and Swap Meet**  
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Saturday Night  
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Sunday Afternoon  
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**GENERAL INFORMATION CONTACT**  
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