

PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH TALK

20
~~Taylor~~
2041

Good day, everyone--it's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.

In Pennsylvania, we're indebted to many peoples for our heritage--but to none more than the Pennsylvania Dutch. And such events as Pennsylvania Dutch Days at Hershey and the ~~fair~~ ^{Folk Festival} at Kutztown remind us of our Dutch heritage annually. There are many serious notes to their culture, but what is amusingly funny about the Dutch is the dialect--a combination of the Deit8ch of the Rheinland and the Swiss or Engli8h ^{"pidgin"} g!'s'n which they have ^{for more than} thrown in 200 years. Listen closely, and you'll discern some laughable, humorous situations--which are entirely logical. Listen to a few samples today, not in dialect (for I ~~am~~ not a dialectician) but in their simple--let 's call it--"ferhoodled" English. "Amo., come from the woodpile in--Mom's on the table and Pop's et himself done already." That means that son Amos i. late for dinner... Food i. ~~an~~ important part of the Dutch ^{life} "What does it gif for dinner, Mom? I hope it's somesing that eats goodln...or this--"Don't eat yourself full ~~already~~--there's cake ~~back~~ yet"... that means that dessert is ~~coming~~. Much of the Pennsylvania Dutch talk revolves around the table. "The pie is all, but the cake is yet"--in case you wanted dessert at the ~~church picnic~~. Think of the Dutch housewife, Minnie, ~~showing~~ her ~~dishes~~--"These dishes are chust for fancy, we don't so much use ~~them~~"--A word about Grandnla's baking--"Grandma's laying over the dough now, she's got to get her baking caught after." ...A boy eats a lot--all bOy8 do--"Hurry up, onct, Bennie--Pop's et himself done already, and

you're still fressing." ...and when the kids all want "coffee soup" for breakfast--that's coffee poured over bread and considered a pretty good breakfast. (I'll bet you've enjoyed that, too.) In the old days when I wanted a piece of bread in the German dialect, maybe I would say, "Gip meir **einmal** ein stick brod." **Which** comes out very much like "Give me once a piece of bread"--only **it** sounds different in Dutch--listen--"Lizzie, **go** to the house and smear **Jakie** allover with **jam**, a piece of bread." Poor **Jakie**--smeared allover with **jam!** No more beans on the table?--"The beans is all already, so many **got** et." And here's another--"The apple butter won't reach"--won't reach where?--around the table--it means the apple butter won't last--and mother says, "My Rufus is so sneaky about his vittals"--it doesn't mean that Rufus **steals** the food--it means he's particular about what he eats...and Mom "let me have some more dippy"--you know what that is in your language--of course. Dippy is **gravy** and **it makes** sense to us old gravy-dippers...and when **it** comes to old-fashioned dunking, don't be in a hurry...remember to "Dunk **your** fasnacht, but don't schook so fast." Schook means **swallow**. About the Pennsylvania Dutch, remember--people who work hard, **eat** hearty--and that's one of the old Dutch axioms--work hard and enjoy your food--and remember, too, as the Dutch say so wisely--You get **too** soon old and too late **schmardt**.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.