

THE KUTZTOWN FOLK FESTIVAL

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

A friend of mine from New Jersey took my advice four years ago, and brought his family into Pennsylvania to visit the Kutztown Folk Festival. He said it was the most gratifying experience he's ever known. You ought to take my advice, and sometime in your lifetime, go to Kutztown for that event.

It's happening right now, if you're interested! A happy heart, a full stomach, an amazed new insight into the old way of doing things will "linger you there" as the folks say, long after you leave the scene of skilled craftsmen, demonstrators, living folksways, the Amish pageant, and the square dancing. At this famous Festival, eating is a hearty experience! Chow-chow, red beet eggs, "nothing" cake made in the country kitchen; the speciality stands, featuring funnel cakes, cherry fritters, shoo-fly pies, the soft pretzels, just to name a pinch of the food, and the family style meals in the large pavilion with snitch and gnepp, boiled pot pie and dumplings, sauer kraut, potato filling and the rest, will leave you remembering it all until the next Kutztown Festival. The Pennsylvania Folklife Society recreates the customs, and presents the lore of the Pennsylvania Dutch at this annual festival--and the proceeds are used to collect, study and archive the Pennsylvania Dutch folklore, making it available to the public in this country and abroad. As they say, it makes "vunderful fun" for the whole freindschaft. Folks from across the nation gather to "gleich"

the living folkways of the Dutch, maybe see a balloon ascension and participate in the "gude fodder" from bake-oven breads, and join the square dancing. The Pennsylvania Dutch baloney is something different! You can get a soft pretzel so big that three kids can munch on it at the same time--the funnel cake is tasty sweet as are the other sweet-cakes...quilts are made, wool is dyed, sheep are sheared, guns are smithed, wood is turned, eggs are decorated, flax is spun, candles are made, cigars are rolled, oxen are roasted, bands make umppapa music, hex signs are painted, wheat is threshed--don't tell anybody, but shnapps is stilled--(you and I know what that is)--chairs are caned; girls are kissed in hay-wagons, and there are even mock hangings, funerals and weddings in the old style. This is the annual folk-festival that maintains its honesty, and is a real folk-festival--and the dancing will take you back to your own do-si-do days of long ago. Above all--come and enjoy more than anything else, the "koom essa" spirit of the festival--come and eat--eat--eat--like there's no tomorrow! You'll leave with the happiest heart you've ever known--if there is still room above the fullest stomach you've ever had. The Kutztown Folk Festival--all week long. Habt eine gute zeit.

This is Pete Wambach. It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.