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Amish hog farm as the climax of a two-day sociology conference held at Mattoon's Lake Land College and at Eastern Illinois University.

Our hosts, whose names have been held by request, were very gracious and open about their lifestyles. They helped plan this tour because they understood, they said, that few people outside their culture know much about them because they are such a private group.

Myth of Pem ghost based on live coed

by Karen Knupp

It didn't take the skills of a psychic or a ghost hunter to solve the mystery of the origin of the Pemberton Hall ghost stories.

Instead a Charleston resident supplied a possible answer.

After reading the feature about the ghosts of Pemberton that was printed in the Oct. 15 issue of "On the Verge," Stella Tremble contacted the Eastern News with her version of how the ghost stories got started.

Those myths have no origin in dead dorm counselors or murdered coeds either, Temple, a 1921 Pem resident, said.

Temple - then Stella Craft, an English major living in Eastern's only dormitory - remembers an older Pem resident whose favorite passtime was scaring the other girls.

Her name was Uterpa Sharps, a coed about 30-years-old who was studying psychology and was very interested in hypnotisem Temple said.

"The other girls were scared of her," she said, adding that the older girl would hide in the janitor's closet next to the restroom and jump out at the girls as they walked by.

"After a while none of the girls would walk the halls by themselves," Temple said. "They'd go to the bathroom in threes and fours."

Temple said that Sharps was not really very strange, but that "she just had different interests than the rest of us" and that "her eyes were crazy."

"No one would tell Miss Hawkins (the dorm counselor at the time)," she added.

"She wouldn't have any monkey business like that. She was English and very strict."

Temple also said that, as far as she knew, no Pem residents had ever been murdered in the dorm, but that the legend of ghosts were really based on Sharps' frightening prowls through the halls.

So it might be the case that the legendary ghosts of Pem Hall exist only in the stories that are now a tradition among the residents.

But then again, maybe the ghost of Uterpa Sharps has returned to her favorite haunting grounds.

In a word, the code of dress for Amish can be described as "simple."

No jewelry, makeup, perfume or fancy patches, buttons or the like adorn their clothing, which stems from their displeasure with the worldly goods of life.

Women, as our hostess explained, pull their hair up in a bun and cover it with small white prayer caps. These caps, which are covered in the winter months by dark black scarves and/or bonnets are supposedly representative of the females' everlasting submissiveness to their husbands.

Dresses and skirts for the Amish women must be worn no shorter than 8 inches above the ground, and usually, dark stockings are worn with plain, dark shoes. Blouses are usually pinned shut. Pants and shorts are never worn by Amish women.

Married men of this culture sport topknots, the neck length hair, long beards, mustaches and wide brimmed hats, but no larger than about 3 inches.

Suspenders, if necessary hold up their trousers, and belts are never used.

One of our hosts and his wife have three children, one who has finished school, and two that still go every day.

The children of their community go to church-owned, parochial school, and either drive themselves or are driven in a black horse and buggy outfit, or walk.

School for the Amish children, our host explained, is usually held only in the winter time, because the children are needed help on the farms during the warm months.

An Amish girl, who herself usually works no farther than the 8th grade, teaches



The lives of the Amish people are riddled with break-downs and car advertisements.



HOLLA' EDWIN WEAVER

*A proper man, as one shall see in a
summer's day.*



EUTERPE SHARP

It is better to wear out than to rust out.



KATHERINE CECILIA MANLEY

*She thought life is not so short
But there is always time for courtesy.*



JENNIE MAE PATTON

With grace to win, with heart to hold.