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### Letter From Esther Moser to Alfred L. Shoemaker, September 14, 1953

Esther Moser

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Bally, Penna.

September 14, 1953.

Dear Sir;

Here is some more material for your Folklore Center. I don't know if you already know and have some, but I'll sent you what we know.

First I'll start with a Rhym which I had sent once before. It was the time the Pennsylvania Dutchman had stopp'd coming and you got such terrible letters about it, and I feel you mislaid it through that. I never heard you mention it or have it in the paper.

Rolly roly raw

Ich wod ich het en frau

no kent ich by dar mommy schlofa

Grawd we dar dawdi aw.

now the English people have tongue and thought twisters, and so do we Penna. Dutch and first I'll give you one that we always said: drei mol recht starrick, and the second one is to be said once whether you can say it after the other person said it.

1. Grummy, grawdy, shepssy sypsa-schissel.
2. So fiel dawg in dem yohr, os dar fux um schwontz hut hoar.

The last time that I heard you mention about the different ways in saying: "your slip is showing", you had eight different ways. now last week we happened too hear two more ways. Here they

are if they are knew again.

1. Du denkscht ma <sup>juden</sup> fun diam dawdi/os we fun die mommy. 4/9/54

✓ 2. Dei mon is um wotthouse dehamer.

You mentioned the turkey bussert in your sayings on Sunday, and we call it the (Ludder foggel) instead of the names you mentioned. We also have some more (alda sawga) I think you called them so Sunday, to add to your list. They are as follows:

1. When people are finished eating, and someone drops in who hasn't eaten we say:

Was net kumt tsu dar rechta tsweit mus nemma was ioverich bleibt.

2. When a person is poor and just about has nothing we say: So orn os en karrick mous.

3. When a person speaks about someone and the someone drops in right then, we say:

Mon mer dar essel nemmt kumt er garrent.

4. When a young woman is painted and dolled up quiet unusual we think it might not be so underneath we say: Oova hooya un unna fooya.

5. When a child doesn't listen by words and must be spanked we say: Wawr net heera will mus feela.

6. When men have eaten their meal, and sit down to retire or go back to work ~~we say~~: they always take a chew tobacco who have that haysit then we say: noch dem essa en hauderpoek, doss rechtaid in de

7. When a person does something or is doing something and another person comes along he is surprised (biwiel)

to see him <sup>doing it</sup>, and thought he couldn't, we say:  
Ich bin net so dumme doppich, un aw net so  
dreickich wie sloppich.

8. When a person asks what he shall do we often say  
just to tease him:

~~Da~~ dei hem- ousebotsola un druf rum du.

When you were a little boy and you left a fork, knife,  
or spoon fall at the table what did your mother say  
that would happen that day. [When I was a little  
girl I was told: Won en messer falt kumt noch en  
weibemensch heit. Won en goffel falt kumt noch  
en monskal heit. Won en leffel falt kumt noch  
en braidmoul heit. Then when the dishes were done  
and the dish rag or (speellumba) fell down for you  
I was told: es archt os kumt heit is en schloyp,  
un mon remont kumt bischt du se selwert.]  
now how many different ways are there of saying  
that in the Counties.

now I want to ask you another thing. you have  
talked with so many old people in different Counties.  
Have any ever said anything about snow blooming  
a certain time in the year? I have heard it once  
but I haven't heard it since. It is supposed to be  
in August and September. What do you know about  
it, if you <sup>know</sup> anything. lets hear it over the air some  
Sunday dinner.

Helen has mentioned in her last letter to you, that  
you could get alot of Penna. Dutch Lore from Mr.

John Yerger from Bechtelville P. D. I don't want you to forget that. I don't know how well you are acquainted in that region. If you know where the Washington House is on the Schultzville Road it will be fine. When you are coming in from Boyertown and passing it, it is the first black road that's on your right sight, and the first place on the right. It is a very small farm only a few acres where he lives.

I think I will come to a close. I told you a number of things which were in my mind. Now I must do some listing again for more. So long.

Respectfully,

Esther Moser

Box 91

Bally, Penna.