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Letter From Esther Moser to Alfred L. Shoemaker, March 23, 1953

Esther Moser

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Bally, Penna.

March 23, 1953.

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Dear Friend;

I heard your March 14th radio program, and you mentioned about the fresch calling this time of the year. My Grandparents and my papa always said if they called before Gregory Day in the calendar. They would have to go back to there shelter again as many days they called before Gregory Day that many after Gregory Day. I know it holds out some years. Gregory Day is known as Yurich's Dawg in Pa. Dutch and this year it was the 12th of March.

I was eagerly listening to hear you say something about the robin

that evening, but nothing was said. We had a huckster coming to our place for eggs every week on the farm when I was a small girl, and he always asked me. Did you see a robin already? If I said yes. He asked me. Was he sitting or flying? If he was sitting you will be lazy all summer, and if he was flying you will be all right in working.

Then there is another saying about the Whizzer-Will bird. When you hear him singing for the first time, you get out your money bag or purse and give it a shaking, then it want get empty this year.

I also have a Dastnaucht saying which you haven't mentioned yet, and the huckster also teased me

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about it. If you don't bake any
Dastraucht's today, the little chicks
want come out. It meant if I didn't
bake doughnuts or crullers on Dast-
naucht day the little chicks wouldn't
come out. It is just one of these old
Wirwar glawva which don't hold
out anyhow.

You wrote to my pap and asked
for some lore on the Gnocha-Yockel
on Grabbe-Barrick. We can't give
you any we don't know anything,
and people we asked don't either.

You also asked about the Schyeck
Schnecker? We can't give you a
receipe either so far, but I have tried
once, and will try some more, but

how soon I get there is unknown. I'll tell you what it is, and why it is called so. You take the very schyucky pieces of Ham and fry them the second time in a pan and then pour some kind of a dough or kneep on top of it and bake it on top of the stove. The dough or kneep which ever it is should be about 2 or 2 1/2 inches high. Now I don't know how to make the dough, and neither does papa. So we first have to try it out. It is called Schyuck Schneker because the most Schyucky piece of Ham were left lay on the plaid when ham was fried for a meal, and so when grandmother had enough of those pieces to fill a pan she then fried it again, and that made it ~~crisper~~ harder and

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better and the dough on top also gave another taste to it, and then it was eaten.

The Pa. Dutch names for nitmege and Baking Soda were right what you got. I was beeking papa to write and tell you about the Schyeck Schnecker, and Gnocha yockel, but he said I don't know anything about it, or how to make it and that was the end, and so I did some writing but I haven't told him. So I guess this is all for this time.

Yours Truly,
Esther Moser

Box 91. Bally, Pa.