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Letter From Lee A. Waerner to Alfred L. Shoemaker, February 26, 1948

Lee A. Waerner

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Dr. J. Chaemaker

Pa.
2/26/48

Dr. J. Chaemaker;

I am an ardent reader of your column appearing in the Reading Eagle.

I'll introduce myself first. My name is Ed Warner age-19, and I am a nephew of the George Hartman you mentioned in today's column (2-25)

As a child, my Mother and Uncle taught me some rhymes which I still remember, and in which I think you might be interested. I will try to write them in "Dutch" to the best of my ability, as I have never attempted it before.

(over)

This is a lullaby.

"I schlafe lullie schlafe,

Die mummie heid die schafe

Der claudie heid die rahda kie

Uoa kumpt net hame lois

marya frie."

Another one I remember well is a rhyme designed, I suppose, to teach the signs of the Zodiac as they were depicted in the old Almanacs:

Die kinner ~~sim~~ base,

Der weider der shtayed,

Der ox der rendt,

Der grebbs der grendt.

Die yung frau shtpricht

Der scorpion shticht

Der shtarback shtpringt

Der fish der shtwendt

Der wasser man geesed

Der shty der shtrest

Die woog die galed

Der labe der bilbech:

I know of a few more rhymes myself and might be able to pick up some more from older acquaintances of mine.

The same goes for "Nexerie" stories. I will only enclose these two this time because of my very inferior Dutch grammar and spelling,

If you would care to have me submit some more rhymes and other folklore please let me know and I will supply all I can to the best of my ability.

I am deeply interested in your aim and think you have a cause that should be supported by every full-blooded "Dutch-man"

If there is anything I can do for you just let me know

I am yours

"so dutch as everbrant"

Lee A. Warner
Shoemakerville
Penn.