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1949

### Letter From Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Rothenberger to Alfred L. Shoemaker

Harvey Rothenberger

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## Old Sayings & Superstitions.

(31)

Here are a few of the familiar old sayings & superstitions, that are still used & believed by the old people of Berks.

1. Do not pick up a toad or you will get warts.
2. If it rains in a new grave then there will soon be another grave for one of the family.
3. If it rains on ones wedding day, it is said, their life will be gloomy.
4. When chickens do not go inside out of rain, it is said rain will continue awhile.
5. It is believed that, if old shoes are burned outside it will keep away snakes.
6. Young mothers should not iron babies undershirts as it is believed they will then have strong backs.
7. Never iron a mans shirt too much over the back. This is supposed to make him cranky.
8. When one drops something to eat from their hands, it is said, someone begrudged it to them.



9. Never use a scissor on Sun.  
or one is supposed to have a hectic week.  
10. It is said when one drops a  
knife a lady is coming  
a fork " man " "  
a spoon " baby " "

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11. Never sew on Ascension Day as  
lightening is supposed to strike the  
sewn object.

12. Always sit the salt cellar down when  
passing it to someone else, do not give  
it into another's hands as it is  
supposed to cause a fight.

13. When spilling salt, always throw  
some over your left shoulder, so as not  
to cause a fight.

14. Another way to avoid a fight when  
spilling salt is to throw some on the  
stove & burn it.

15. When one stumbles up the steps  
it is considered bad luck.

16. Disappointment is supposed to  
follow the falling of a comb.

17. When one has been a bridesmaid  
thrice, it is said, they will never be a bride.

18. When one has a very gay time on a Fri.  
it is said they will soon have cause to be  
sad.

19. When a rooster keeps crowing toward  
the house, company is supposed to  
be coming.

20. Never throw away fallen hair after  
combing, if the birds get them it  
is supposed to give you a headache.

21. Never sew clothing that is on the  
body, it is said, one will soon be  
sewn up by a surgeon.

22. When it rains at nite, it is  
supposed to be a poor man's rain.

23. Give a beggar a horse & he will  
ride to the devil.

24. One can lead a mule to water but  
cannot make him drink.

25. When it rains before seven it  
is supposed to clear before eleven.

26. The constant crying of a dog for no  
obvious reason is supposed to mean  
a death of someone close.

27. It was believed when an adult  
slept in the same bed with a  
child, the adult took (over)



away the child's strength.

28. It was believed if a colored man kissed a child (white) the child would not contract whooping cough.

29. One is not supposed to cut a child's fingernails before child is a yr. old or it is said they will grow up to be a very bad person.

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P.S. I guess if one really believed  
all these old superstitions, one might  
be called a "crepe hanger".  
You here is one thing mate you or  
someone else can clarify for me.  
Why was the common ant. called  
the "anty myer" by the folks of Old  
Berks?

I also am interested in your new  
Pa. Dutch Weekly & would appreciate  
knowing how to obtain or  
subscribe for it.

Sincerely

Mr. & Mrs. Harvey P. Othenberger  
Gibraltar,  
Pa.

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