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Letter From Daisie Wagner to Alfred L. Shoemaker, March 11, 1949

Daisie Wagner

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Recommended Citation

Wagner, Daisie, "Letter From Daisie Wagner to Alfred L. Shoemaker, March 11, 1949" (1949). *Alfred L. Shoemaker Folk Cultural Documents*. 38.
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Mr. Alfred L. Shoemaker,

Dear Mr. Shoemaker, On a recent visit to relatives the almanac was consulted concerning something or other, a reminder of the symbolic figure of a man surrounded by the twelve signs of the zodiac. In the days before I could comprehend anything of symbolism this illustration was an interesting mystery with its varied assortment of bug, beast and man. Sometimes mother made the mystery deeper by describing the figures in ^{Panama} rhyme. It is more than likely that you are familiar with this but as there are variations, I am sending one version. I could never comprehend the spoken words, that is, all of them so couldn't write them so my Cousin Clyde Steinmetz wrote them down and I made some changes in spelling. Clyde's wife, mother and mother-in-law, none of whom remembered all of it, finally recalled ^{together} the jingle as it was known years ago in the Ephrata area. Everyone I ever heard ^{reciting} ~~singing over~~ this started at the beginning and rapidly spoke all the sentences in unbroken, rhythmic, sing song manner.

Die Witter geht case Die Tzwilling sin Lase Die Lape de
billed Die Woke de gilled Die Scheitmon sheest
Die Wasserman geest Die Fish de schwimmed Die
Gaese lueh schpringed Die Schturberschicht Die
~~Fruchtbaum~~ Yung frau schpricht Die Trepps de
glenmed Die Schteer de renned.

A lot of older folks I know were entertained and amused by anyone able to deliver these lines in just the right way.

Last night I was very delighted by the "jug story" on the Armstrong Time program.

With Best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Daisie Wagner,
(Mrs. Charles L.)