



1950

Amish Notes From the Kishacoquillas Valley

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"Their aversion to mechanisms of all sorts is well illustrated by the experience of their number. The Amish children are trained to flee at the sight of a camera. The author, therefore, decided upon the strategy of making a courteous, earnest request of some Amish parent to take a child's picture. Accordingly, when he chanced upon a particularly appealing three-year-old girl at the corner of the general store in Belleville, he asked this favor. The young mother smiled, but hesitated. The rotund, ruddy grandmother, one of those rare souls, apparently, who increase in breadth of mind with their breadth of beam - gave a friendly nudge of the elbow "You just go ahead," she said. At that moment the father joined the group. The photographer's heart quailed before his imposing long red beard and deacon-like garb, but rose again as he saw parental pride softening the very youthful face. He took this occasion to dart out of the door to get his camera.

Returning in less than 2 minutes he found to his dismay that the scene had changed. A stern, gruff old grandfather, militant custodian of the status quo, had loomed up out of nowhere, and hoisting his imperiled granddaughter to his shoulder he was on his way toward the family buggy, muttering imprecations. Repentant, his wayward family trooped at his heels - 234

The Keshacoquilla Valley

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