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Letter From Evelyn A. Benson to Alfred L. Shoemaker, January 14, 1959

Evelyn Benson

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~~HOTEL
TIMES SQUARE~~

FORTY THIRD STREET
WEST OF BROADWAY
NEW YORK CITY



DR. A.L. SHOEMAKER
218 W. MAIN STREET
KUTZTOWN, PA.

PENNSYLVANIA FOLKLIFE SOCIETY



FIGHT
INFANTILE PARALYSIS
JOIN MARCH OF DIMES



~~21~~
62-6

127 E. Orange St.
Lancaster, Pa.
Jan. 14, 1959

Dear Dr. Shoemaker:

The subjects of this letter are listed below in topical form for easy perusal to save you time in reading:

1. The Dutchman you promised me is the Summer-Fall 1957 one.
2. Christmas in Pennsylvania .. a copy also promised.
3. Enclosed is a snapshot of a Belsnickle taken at Halifax, Pa. Jan. 1, 191D. Notice the big bag on his head and the hat way up on top of it. Mrs. Clemson tells me that the Belsnickles were plentiful in her childhood at Halifax and Carlisle. There was always a New Year's mummers parade but the mummers were referred to as Belsnickles and this is one they happened to take a snapshot of. Is this the only known snapshot of a Belsnickle?

4. Christmas Holidays: or a Visit at Home Written for the American Sunday School Union. Philadelphia, 148 Chestnut Street. n.d. Did I show you this book? I came upon it when putting away my Christmas things. It is a little book and has a nice woodcut of a stage coach by Gilbert. It describes Xmas in a very well-to-do Philadelphia Puritan family. No mention whatsoever of Xmas tree, Belsnickle, Santa Claus, stockings or any traditional gadget.

5. Please send me the reference to Gilbert you found at the Library Company..date and page only..maybe sometime this year I might get down and copy it and we could get up another article on him.

6. It was awfully nice chatting with you and I hope you drop in again.

Sincerely,

Evelyn A. Benson

P.S. I have distributed quite a few of the yellow pages you left but probably do not need such quantities as I had asked for at first. However I could probably hand out a few more than what I have.

The woman's hat in the snap shot is good for verifying the date. Hats of this type in style 1908-1911 or 1912

