



## BETSY McCALL VISITS THE PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH

School closed at noon, and when the twins and I got home there was our station wagon with Mommy and Daddy waiting for us. "Hop in," Daddy said. "We're about to take a trip into history." "He means," Mommy said, "we're going to visit his Pennsylvania Dutch friend in Kutztown." On the way, Daddy told us about the Pennsylvania Dutch: "They've lived in America nearly three centuries, and they're not Dutch but *Deutsch*—meaning German. Some of them are called Plain Dutch, and the Plainest of them all are the Amish." Daddy's friend is Hermann Koch, a farmer with a red beard and an enormous tummy—"from all our good food, our *schnitz un knepp* and shoofly pie and seven sweets and seven sour. Our big festival is now starting and you'll eat and see and do many things." Did we ever! Square dancing and jiggling. Quilting (Mommy loved that); hex-

sign painting (that, too). And that food! I could hardly waddle! I asked Mr. Koch to point out some Amish people. "They are not here," he said. "The Amish don't mingle. They are very religious, very private, and their way of life hasn't changed in hundreds of years. They travel by horse and buggy. They have no telephones, no TV, no radio, no electricity. They farm with mules, and they are the best farmers ever." On our way home, Daddy drove through some of the places where the Amish live. There wasn't an electric pole or a TV antenna *anywhere*. Their farms looked like giant patchwork quilts. The women were in long dresses with bonnets tied under their chins. Boys wore baggy pants and wide straw hats. I waved at a group of children we passed, but only one little girl flickered her hand. I guess I'll think of the Amish long after I've forgotten the festival!



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