

Amish school sale

It is 5:30 am. We all head for the barn to finish the morning chores before we leave for the farm where this year's School Sale is held. The Sale's profit will go to maintenance of the Amish schools in the area, as well as teacher salary. This year's sale is not far from our farm: it takes approximately fifteen minutes to get there. We arrive at 8:00 am and my Amish "family" gave me the opportunity to walk around so that I can see what the Sale is all about. I see Amish men who arrange fences for the horses that will be sold here today. Several Amish women gather inside the main house preparing to make doughnuts to be sold. Some head for the large shed that will be the area where all auctions are organised and numbers are handed out. It occurs to me that I am the only non-Amish present. I hurry back to "my" family, and I help them prepare to sell hot-dogs and hamburgers. More non-Amish arrive. Large trucks with farm equipment, horses and carpentry, pull up the lane. Soon the field is crowded with people. Old Order Mennonite, Amish, Carter's and members of other groups all seem to gather here today. The scenery is an ocean of colours as a result of the different group's clothing. The men's straw hats are everywhere, as well as the women's bonnets. And we sell our first hot-dog.