

GOLF

Good day, everyone--it's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.

One day at Shawnee on the Delaware, Jackie Gleason and his manager were playing golf. The manager sliced a ball almost into the Delaware River. "Look at that shot," he shouted in disgust, to which Gleason replied--"Count your blessings, Bullets--you might've landed in Newark" and added, "you're at one of the great golf courses in the world." Gleason was right! He was there, learning the game from Harrisburg's South Ninth Street boy, Johnny Chimenti, who was an assistant pro at Shawnee.

Golf in Pennsylvania? Did you know that ten of the private courses in Pennsylvania rank among the 200 most difficult courses in the nation? From May until September in any year you can attend at least 21 major golf tournaments in Pennsylvania. The National PGA tournament has been played at Aronimink, near Philadelphia, and at the Hershey Country Club. Oakmont near Pittsburgh has hosted the U. S. Amateur and the National Intercollegiate three times each, the PGA twice and a U. S. Open. Merion, near Philadelphia, has had several U. S. Opens, U. S. Amateurs and one Eisenhower Trophy World Amateur Tourney. The public golf courses in Hershey and Pittsburgh have hosted the National Public Links tournament.

Pennsylvania, you see, has more golf courses than any other state-- 300 public courses, 240 private country club courses and 35 resort courses. Arnie Palmer, our Pennsylvania ambassador, could hardly have helped being a great golfer, helping his dad work a course at Latrobe. Ben Hogan, the mitey mite and Mr. Golf in his day,

was pro at Hershey. Tournament players like Art Wall of the present or Denny Shute of the past were Pennsylvanians. And great golfers--because Pennsylvania offered the opportunity for some of the finest golfing in the world.

Taking a golfing vacation in Pennsylvania is an idea which has sparked many a traveler to come to Pennsylvania--the rolling hills and mountains of the Commonwealth provide not only the perfect settings for magnificent courses, but some of the finest golfing scenery in the world. And the location for the American Golf Hall of Fame, which is located at Foxburg! Why's that? Well, the oldest golf course in continuous use in the United States is the Foxburg Golf Course. In 1887 land was made available for a five-hole course donated by Joseph Fox, and it was extended to nine holes in the following year. You might enjoy a visit to the Golf Hall of Fame--there's a copper street lamp from famous St. Andrews in Scotland, the gutta-percha balls, and their predecessors, the feater balls, the rubber-cored ball of 1902...and there are many famous and ancient golf clubs including cleeks, which are some three hundred years old. There's a lot of seeing to be done--and a lot of golfing to be done in Pennsylvania--as Arnie Palmer puts it--"I have played golf in all parts of the world"--he says--"but the real pleasure comes when you return to Pennsylvania, which has so many beautiful golf courses." To which we add Amen--or is it Fore.

This is Pete Wambach. It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.