

ERIE COUNTY

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

It is said--and rightly so--that the latchstring's always out in Erie County. It is true--and Erie County has so much to offer Pennsylvanians who visit there. Erie County is pleasant; it's fun and it's fascinating. It is Pennsylvania's only playground on the Great Lakes, full of scenic, historical and recreational facilities almost without peer in the East. Presque Isle Peninsula offers a beach which is as long as the famed beach at Atlantic City and without the commercial honky-tonk--one of the prettiest sandy beaches in America--and with soft, rolling Lake Erie fresh water waves to kiss the bather and some of the best sail boating to be found anywhere.

The refreshing breezes from Lake Erie generally temper the climate of the county in the summertime. And the rolling hills and many panoramic views are delightful in springtime when the fruit trees are in bloom; delicate pink and white blossoms lacy against the blue skies. Erie County is at its verdant best in the summertime; breathtaking in autumn when the foliage is a riot of color; reds, golds and bronzes, and the crisp air heady with ripening grapes... Erie is one of the great producers of Concord Grapes in the nation... its vineyards heralded for the fullness of its fruit. Winter offers its own delights, with white-clad hills of the county dazzling in beauty and the offer of good skiing throughout the Erie area.

Erie County is rich in history--this was the stage on which such

figures as Joliet, Louis Phillipe who later became King of France, George Washington, General Mad Anthony Wayne, Captain Daniel Dobbins, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, the Marquis de Lafayette and Horace Greeley--all of them appeared in Erie County and all added to its history in the French and Indian Wars, the Revolution and the War of 1812, Washington reconnoitering the French in the great battle to win the Ohio Valley, and Commodore Perry's victory over the British in the Battle of Lake Erie.

With the exception of its city, the county is mainly agricultural; its streams are well stocked; its woods abound with small game--an excellent area for hunting and fishing...It is good country; with summer serenity from many lakes, with the rustic views and drives along breathtaking rides, and well preserved covered bridges. Erie City itself has its Greek-columned Old Custom House, the Anthony Wayne Blockhouse, the restored Brig "Niagara" and the Perry Memorial House--and the county, so much more--Edinboro's College, Waterford's Washington Hemlock--which the founder of his country climbed--in order to watch the French army here. And there is the Wattsburg Fair--one of the state's best--it goes back to 1885. Have fun in Erie--Remember, the latchstring is always out--and we'll be back.

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