

THE CHESTER FERRY

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

How about a ferryboat ride--before there are no more ferryboats? ...The Chester Ferry is in operation twenty-four hours a day--so that at whatever time of day or night you might want to make the crossing from Chester to Bridgeport, New Jersey (or back again) or just make the round trip as a half-hour break-up of your trip somewhere else--the Chester Ferry trip, at 60 cents, is a wonderful change of pace. Route 322, as many Pennsylvanians know, is the Lakes-to-Sea highway that cuts Pennsylvania diagonally, and on the southeast end--there's the Chester Ferry. Without it, Route 322 would end right in the Delaware River. Even in the height of the tourism and travel season you'll have no more than a 20-minute wait at most--for there are three ferries in operation across the Delaware River. Once you reach the foot of Flower Street in Chester, the kids'll get their first thrill in seeing the wide Delaware River--and while you're waiting to board (or when you're aboard) and still in the dock, the kids will get their big thrills as they see the great ocean-going oilers and perhaps even some ocean liners going by. And some of the ships of the United States Navy and Coast Guard--large and small--which ply the channel of the Delaware. Remember Walt Disney's tugboat "Little Toot"--well, your youngsters can get a glimpse of some of them in the middle of the Delaware, turning around the huge ships on a dime as if they were on a turntable.

Once the Chester Ferry is enroute, there is so much to see like

that...the Delaware is one of the world's busiest rivers, you know--and that's what makes the ferry trip interesting--and sometimes rather challenging, while the Chester Ferry--as bravely as "Little Toot" the tugboat--winds itself across all this traffic. But the Chester Ferry does provide a gentle ride across, with Delaware breezes cooling one off on a summer day. And you watch the flotsam and jetsam of the big river and wonder what parts of the world it all came from. The children can stand right at the window of the Captain's bridge up there on the second deck and imagine that they're piloting, too. It's a great thrill for the adults, too. No better fun for the youngsters--on a trip you'll be taking during the spring, summer or fall, this year or next--in Pennsylvania--than a ride on the Chester Ferry. Not only for the youngsters but for yourselves. The last time I rode the ferry last summer--I hadn't taken a ferry ride for forty years--and I just can't tell you the thrill of it. The same enjoyment I had as a kid. And one of the few delights you'll find off the expressways and the turnpikes that is a little different, that brings back a little nostalgia. One of the best rides for the price you'll ever get! Where Route 322 hits the Delaware River along the Lakes-to-Sea highway. Like that fountain in Rome, once you buy sixty cents' worth, you'll come back for another ride on the Chester Ferry.

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