

THE CAVES OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

There is an invitation on my desk--and probably on yours--to visit with the Cavemen of Pennsylvania. They're not some sort of group like Major Hoople's Owls--rather, the men who operate the caves. The caves were formed centuries ago when underground streams, coursing through limestone beds, hollowed out their rock-walled rooms and passages. Rain water or moisture picks up mineral content as it seeps down through the earth, and dripping slowly and regularly from the ceiling of the caves, has created pendants of sorts, varying in size from that of a fragile twig up to many of awe-inspiring massiveness. Each cave has something different to offer--something new; something magical. Crystal Cave, the oldest--between Allentown and Reading--has been a haven for college geology classes, studying its natural formations....Indian Caverns, near Spruce Creek, contains authentic Indian history and background, and massive rock formations. It is Pennsylvania's largest....Coral Caverns near Shawnee State Park is unsurpassed by any nationally known cavern in beauty, color and conformation.... Indian Echo Caverns, near Harrisburg, is an underland wonderland, memorable for its thousands of stalactites, stalagmites and columns, with crystal clear pools and a fairyland of forms....
AND EVEN A GHOST!
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Lost River Caverns, beyond the formations, is actually an underground lost river, near Bethlehem, and contains a mineral museum which itself is a gem....And there is Onyx Cave near Hamburg and Reading. There are indescribable wonders of nature,

brilliantly illuminated....There are the five large rooms of Woodward Cave in Centre County containing simply amazing formations. The mysterious world of color can be found at Lincoln Caverns, along Route 22 near Huntingdon. It is loaded with crystal formation and makes one of the most memorable and popular tours....And there are the Laurel Caverns near Uniontown, in the heart of the Highlands of Laurel. Its piece de resistance is the Rainbow Pillar, a breathtaking sight underground....Finally, I recommend America's only All-Water Cavern which has been a tourist favorite since 1885--Penn's Cave near Centre Hall. The mile trip through the cave, lasting forty-five minutes, is taken on large flat-bottom motor boats which glide through a heaven of underground beauty into Lake Nittansee. There are no sights above ground like those in the caves--attesting to the claim of the Cavemen of Pennsylvania that all beauty is not simply on the surface of the earth. Indeed, much is to be found in the caves of Pennsylvania.

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