

HISTORIC CARLISLE

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

There is a sort of an airy density to Carlisle; in the Cumberland Valley, in which time seems to stand still. You've felt that feeling on the high-noon of a lovely day; you feel it often in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Small town, Carlisle, but major crossroads of American history, it is. With the influence of that history still evident in town and countryside, the Carlisle area is a wonderland of fertile valleys and beautiful lakes and streams--green-purple hills, and ranges of the Cumberland Mountains surround it. When the first white man came in 1720, Carlisle became prominently identified with people and events that signaled turning points in American history. And they are all there with earth immortal still. Carlisle first served as a frontier defense against the French and the Indians, and became the scene of significant incidents in the Revolutionary War. In Carlisle, preludes to the Declaration of Independence took place. Carlisle was the home of Molly Pitcher, the famed heroine of the Battle of Monmouth. Here munitions works were established for Washington's Army, long before much of Pennsylvania was ever pioneered or inhabited. A century later, Carlisle became the farthest north penetration of the Confederate forces, and its courthouse today has shell marks left from that awful encounter. As the crossroads for war and commerce, for pioneer and Jesuit, is it any wonder that when the Pennsylvania Turnpike was built, it was built first from Carlisle. And what are today's points of interest

in this still, quiet, Colonial village. Carlisle gave us America's greatest athlete, Jim Thorpe, and today young men of Carlisle are fighting to regain Thorpe's Olympic medals and have them returned to America....Carlisle is Dickinson College, one of the oldest in America; Old Presbyterian Church; the Old and New Courthouses; Boiling Springs on the Yellow Beeches and the Allenberry Playhouse. It is unexcelled fishing in spring and skiing in winter. It becomes the summer training camp for the Washington Redskins. There is a welcome and a spirit of hospitality; one feels it in the town, and one feels the time-stilled vibrancy... it is a community much like the Bedfords and Wellsboro and Montrose, but with much commerce and motion. Its Colonialism is just about the most authentic in the nation; its restorations continue to bring visitors world-wide to see America as it still is, but as it was, as well. You can't come to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, without feeling good, without somehow feeling rested, and without feeling clean. It's that kind of a town; alive with students and learning; scented with clover; bustling with central small-town commerce; spired with churches. And to Carlisle come officers of America's Army to study at the War College, reminding us that Carlisle's peace has to be preserved and there are those who are willing to preserve it...in the tradition of America and in the spirit which exists at Carlisle.

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