

THE STRASBURG RAILROAD

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

"Welcome aboard"---you won't hear that shout too much longer it seems--it's the conductor's cry along America's oldest Shortline Railroad--the Strasburg Railroad in Lancaster County--which is authentically billed as the road to Paradise--Paradise, Pennsylvania, that is. And even in this latter part of the vacation and touring season, the Strasburg Railroad operates--weekdays and Sunday during November, Saturdays and Sunday in December--on the 7th and 14th. And a round-trip journey on the historic railroad carries you through some of the oldest and most beautiful farm country in America--the indescribable Pequea Valley. Here is the very heart of the fabulous Old Order Amish area of renowned Pennsylvania Dutch Lancaster County. As you travel in authentic, full-size old wooden coaches along the Strasburg Railroad's 137-year-old right of way, you see Amish families working the adjoining fields with their mules and horses. Imaculate farm houses, sturdily built Dutch barns, towering white silos and picturesque windmills dot the countryside; owned by the same families for three centuries. And the farming methods have changed little since the first families came to the valley in 1710. The Strasburg Railroad is not a narrow-gauge or an amusement park reproduction. It is the oldest regularly scheduled standard gauge steam passenger train operating in the nation. It hauls freight the year round between Paradise and Strasburg. So here for you then is an educational, historic and thrilling experience--for every member of the family--especially the children. On the

Strasburg, you can ride amid Victorian splendor in a coach built almost 100 years ago. You can relive a Golden Age aboard the 56-year-old "Willow Brook", used in the MGM film "Raintree Country". Or thrill to a ride aboard the beautiful observation car recently featured in Barbara Streisand's film, "Hello, Dolly". By the way, bring the camera--an old time scenic-view car is provided especially for camera fans. For the one reason alone---that you'll get authentic shots of Amish folk along the right of way. A common sight is an Amish lad or two in their courting buggies, awaiting at crossings for the train to pass. And by the way, many Amish neighbors visit the Strasburg Railroad and those Amish lads often offer rides in their buggies to the passengers. It's a wonderful old way of life--riding the Strasburg Railroad, and in 1969, you have a month or so of it left. You'll certainly enjoy it--the Strasburg Railroad in Lancaster County---riding along the road to Paradise--in scenic Pennsylvania.

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