

HUNTING IN PENNSYLVANIA

#110

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

Do you know that more people hunt in Pennsylvania than in any other State. S'true. And do you know why? ^(A) Simple economics, that's it. Pennsylvania offers more hunting for the "license dollar" than any other State. And because Pennsylvania provides old Gunner Gus with more first-class hunting for nearly every game species in the East--and additionally, because there is more land open to public hunting than anywhere else. There are 250 hunting tracts in 65 of the 67 counties, covering an even million acres! And there are 2 million other acres of state forest and park lands open to hunters. Beyond that, there is an additional half-million acres of Federal land in the Allegheny Forest, plus another three million acres of private land open to public hunting through signed agreements. Where'd all that land come from? A natural question from a city guy, if you are one. We have 29,000,000 acres of forests, pal--and how's the hunting?--I'll tell you. Every year our guys bag 45,000 white-tailed buck in Pennsylvania. And they get another 40,000 antlerless deer if they haven't got the regulation big fellows.... Bear hunting? You bet your sweet Smoky--and don't forget to read his signs. The average bag of bear in the state is 350 a year, and two out of the last three, they came out of those hills with over 500. And don't forget that Pennsylvania is the land of the wild turkey. They bag more of those plucky big birds in Pennsylvania than anywhere else in the country. Funny thing--

though there are more wild turkey extant than when William Penn arrived in these woods, I know hunters who have never seen one.... And one of the royal targets is our state bird; a real challenge to the hunter is the ruffed grouse, common in every one of our counties. The cornfields are alive with the pheasant; there's a cackle that makes music on opening day. If you've never hunted geese by the way--more than 3500 lucky goose hunters use the blinds every year at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area in Northwestern Pennsylvania. Their bag is about 2,000 honkers every season! Think of it. Six million acres open to public hunting; 100,000 deer harvested annually. That makes hunting great in the Keystone State--the greatest! And if you're an old-fashioned trapper, you can make your pockets jingle, my friend. Those rugged fellows come out of our area with more than \$700,000 in salable fur every year, and that's part of the hunting story, too. When the guy begins chatting about that trip with the boys to the camps of Clearfield, or the Northern Tier or Laurel Highlands or the Tuscarora foothills, and gets that twinkle in his eye, forget it honey. He's heading for the best hunting in the nation--right here in Pennsylvania.

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