HAIL COLUMBIA!

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

Songs have had something to do with Pennsylvania counties----
for example, one of the first ever written by Stephen Foster
was the Tioga Waltz, named for our northern tier Tioga County.
But another county was named _for_ a song...the song title
becoming the name of the county. It is Columbia County,
and as you might guess, the song was "Hail Columbia", which
led the hit parade during the War of 1812 and was written by
Pennsylvania's Joseph Hopkinson. In 1813, while the war was
still in progress, Columbia County was separated from North-
umberland. Danville was selected as its county seat; the
town was located along the western boundary. This created
dissatisfaction, and by a vote of the citizens, Bloomsburg,
in 1845, became the county seat. It is still the only
incorporated "town" in the state--(you can always win a wager,
by the way, with that one--what is the only town in the State?
----Bloomsburg!). Later on, Danville and Montour county became
separate entities. During the Civil War an interesting thing
occurred--in 1864, 1000 Federal troops were sent in seeking
a group of conspirators who were supposed to have erected
an anti-federal fort. They never found one. This however
is still referred to as the "Fishing Creek Confederacy", an
interesting anecdote in Columbia history. One of the Molly
Maguires', the group recently re-acquiring fame through a
motion picture, was tried in Bloomsburg. Columbia county
is one of diversified action--its production of metal and

metal parts and parts for railroads and electric railways
are a leading industry of Berwick. The first all-steel
railroad cars in the United States were manufactured there
and ACF tanks, a contributing force in the winning of World
War II, ran off the assembly lines in Columbia County.
Anthracite is mined in its borders and 2000 farms make
Columbia one of the finest agricultural counties in the
State. Before the Revolution, the British and Indians waged
war here and the name Catawissa commemorates the site where
once stood a large Indian village. Columbia is the site of
Bloomsburg State, one of the fine colleges in the Commonwealth;
Bloomsburg also is the location of one of America's great
carpet mills. For hill or flatland beauty, few counties
compare with Columbia...Profile Rock, near Catawissa, has
watched the mountains beyond for years; Mountour Ridge which
follows the Susquehanna River was for years noted for its
deposits of iron ore. The beautiful Susquehanna River flows
the length of the county--there is much to be seen in
Columbia County along the old Wyoming Indian Trail. And a
hospitality among people, which I have rarely seen excelled
in the Commonwealth. They are warm, wonderful, softspoken,
hard working--providing one of our best labor markets. "Hail
Columbia"--not only a song after which it was named--but a
greeting we can give to one of Pennsylvania's areas of warm
hospitality. Hail Columbia!

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