

SENECA WONDERLAND

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

I am always concerned when I do an introductory story on one of Pennsylvania's counties that my short three-minutes is not enough for such introduction, and in the case of McKean County I am certain of it. But we will come back often to this wild, wonderful area of Pennsylvanians, so you Bucktrailers up there needn't be concerned. McKean has been called the "Governor's County" because early Governor Thomas McKean was so interested in it. It was one of the last frontier counties of Pennsylvania--a complete wilderness in 1804 when it was founded. It had been part of the "Seneca Land", or hunting grounds of the Iroquois, and is still one of the great hunting regions of Pennsylvania. This was also travelling-west country in those days; the famous portage of Canoe Place connected the Allegheny regions with the Susquehanna through Sinnemahoning Creek--an historic route of the Indians. McKean's regional history is full of the military ardor of the Bucktail Regiment, which under the command of General Thomas L. Kane, became one of the best known regiments of the Civil War and won distinction on numerous battlefields. It was probably Pennsylvania's best known fighting group in that war. But the boom for McKean waited until after the war between the states was over. The county shortly became a leader of the oil industry, and incidently today is the largest single producer of the world renowned Pennsylvania Crude Oil--still considered the best lubricant in the world. It is also a leader in the production

of natural gas. Lumbering was a great industry in the area-- but like others ruthlessly cut. But modern conservation methods have restored McKean's forests to their once greatness and one of the largest single forest acreages of any county is there, amounting to over 500,000 acres--much of it comprising part of the Allegheny National Forest. In this day of air pollution studies--the get-away place for many is the fresh-air climate of McKean--they claim it's the purest pollen-free air in all of Pennsylvania. These are the Seneca Highlands--land of the forest wonderland, with oil, forests, mountains, hunting, fishing, history, recreation, industry, cool summer nights, flaming foliage, winter sports, fine water, excellent highways and pure fresh air. You'll see Lobo Wolves at Kane, the Kinzua Bridge at Mt. Jewett, Leonard Johnson's Christmas Displays at Smethport; the center of great hospitality in the city of Bradford; geese, bear, fish, deer, quail and wild turkey like you've never seen. McKean County offers a vertiable paradise for tourists; a blanket of techni-color in every season of the year. All of it in the Seneca Highlands, bordered by New York State on the north and the rest of the beautiful Pennsylvania on every other side. We'll return to McKean County in other studies and for other reasons, but let this introductory suffice to tell you that is one of nature's bountiful wonderlands in Pennsylvania.

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