

SULLIVAN COUNTY

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

And you can bet it's a beautiful day in Sullivan County. Would you believe that the original land in Sullivan vacation paradise sold for 6 2/3 cents an acre? Ah, how times change. In those pioneering days of Sullivan, one man was known to have killed 36 black bears in one season, and a George Bird was paid bounty on 17 wolves. Even in recent years, I have seen a flock of wild turkey, garumping across a road near World's End, cooly-almost-peacocking along, as if they knew they were out of season. Ah, the temptation. But we digress--which is easy to do in Sullivan, where the vacationer can enjoy memorable experiences along untrammelled byways through the picturesque county they call the gem of the Endless Mountains. Sunshine and clear mountain air make Sullivan a rare experience. This is an ideal locale for the vacationer. The state owns some 100,000 acres of forest and game lands with plenty of clearwater lakes, streams and waterfalls. The altitude rises from 800 to about 2400 feet on the mountain ridges--hits 2600 feet at the North Mountain Fire Tower. Yet those 277,000 acres of the mountain are inhabited by only 6500 people. You could get lonely in Sullivan hunting ground, my friend, and that's the object of a Sullivan vacation. The covered bridges in the county are well kept and still in use. Eagles Mere is one of the classic resorts of the east--the clear sand there reminding one of early 19th century glass making, which was an industry here. At the LaPorte Courthouse you can get a copy of the old deed for "Celesta" where Peter Armstrong deeded 600 acres to

Almighty God, an unusual happening. And there are such scenic wonders! Picturesque Loyalsock Canyon Vista and High Knob--you ought to see that view--it extends over seven counties--the most breathtaking view in the entire Eastern United States. World's End State Park is one of our loveliest and lonliest; fine swimming, camping--all this off the beaten path. In Sullivan you can stay in a fantastic resort such as Eagles Mere, or in a rustic cabin or under a lean-to next to a rushing creek. Somewhere, in the town of Lopez, I believe, I remember the spires of a high Russian church impressing me as I came through a mountain pass. If you're a bow hunter, Sullivan County is the home of the Pennsylvania Bow Hunter's Festival--the world's largest archery event--and where you can see Ticklish Rock--which teeters on smaller rocks--and actually sways when it's pushed. Sullivan, with its forested hill, fine dairy country--buckwheat--Ah, Sullivan produces more buckwheat than any other place in the world--I can taste those breakfasts now--in the gem of the Endless Mountains--Sullivan County.

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