

THE HIGH MOUNTAIN TOUR

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

With a little drive you can go places in Pennsylvania-- and on a clear day, as the song goes, you can see forever. Here's today's jaunt, covering the mid-state area, east of the Laurel Ridge, a suggested drive through an old area, the site of the Johnstown Flood and a ride on a fun railroad. We're coming east from Pittsburgh to the Donegal Exit. First, down Route 711 (that's a lucky numbered route) we'll visit famed Seven Springs Resort, and Camp Soles, another large resort. You'll hit Route 53 at New Lexington and head to Listonburg. Shortly, you are at the top of the flat mountain called Mount Davis. This is the highest point above sea level in Pennsylvania. It presents an exhilarating view. Continue to West Salisbury, where you'll find the famous Somerset County maple groves, the finest, purest, maple syrup in North America. New maple syrup is served with your hot-cakes and sausage. The sausage in this area, by the way, is excellent--Pennsylvania is famous for it--and this is a Pennsylvania Dutch kind, just a little spicier. Cross the state line into Maryland for a moment; stop at Yoder's Locker Plant. The girls are dressed in Mennonite caps. And at nearby Grantsville, Maryland, you'll find Mennonites teaching the mountain folks their ancient crafts. Drive north on 219 to Pennsylvania and continue to Meyersdale. This is the town where the famous Maple Sugar Festival is held in the early spring. Continue up 219 to the Roof Garden of Pennsylvania--

that's the pretty town of Somerset--with a lovely courthouse--
the highest one in the state at 2250 feet. Lake Somerset, high
in these hills is often dotted with small sailing craft. North
on 219 into Jennerstown, with its Mountain Playhouse, a summer
theatre, and a picturesque old grist mill. Then here's Johns-
town ahead of you--the scene of the great flood of 1889 which
took 2200 lives. Your highway will take you close to the base
of the incline Plane and to ride to its top for another spect-
acular view. Note the concrete channel built by the U. S.
Engineers to prevent a repetition of the great flood. Back
of you here are Westmont and the Grandview Cemetery where some
777 flood victims were buried. North on Route 56 out of Johns-
town you come through the Conemaugh Gap, still another scenic
delight. Turn west on Route 22 and you'll find Blairsville
and the depot of the Penn View Mountain Railroad. It has 2½
miles of track--you get a 4½ mile round-trip behind a steam
locomotive. You're on your way to the west where you began,
and where America's West began, and Route 22 will take you
into Pittsburgh. This has been a scenic view, beautiful food
trip--total mileage 321--long and exceedingly pleasant Pennsy-
lvania miles. I'd recommend two days--it's lovely there!

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