

YOU TAKE THE HIGHLANDS

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

The Scotch sing--"You take the high road, and I'll take the low road"-- and they should have added--"The high road of Pennsylvania"--and if ever you're going to take the high road--this time of year into the end of October is certainly the time to do so--especially in the southern highlands of the Commonwealth where the Scotch will be doing the "highland fling" this weekend--under a "braw-briecht moon-licht nicht". 'Tis the weekend of the Ligonier Highland Games, and I have told numerous of my Scotch friends, the Laws and the Grahams about it. At Idlewild Park in Ligonier, on U.S. 30 some 50 miles east of Pittsburgh, the Scotsmen from all the clans throughout the Eastern United States will revel in the manner of their ancient and craggy forefathers, many of whom settled Western Pennsylvania. They will be on hand for the competitions and the colorful pageantry this Saturday. The games will end at five peeyem, Saturday, when the bands mass in a final appearance to see the awards presented to the winners of the day. Only after the tossing of the Caber--(a telephone-pole size log) and tossing of the Sheaf get underway, does the competition narrow to brawny young and older men. Their strength would amaze you. And I am certain that there will be Scotch foods a'plenty, haggis and the like, and good

finnan-haddie, of course, many a tankard here and there, too. That's only one festival, however, in the Southern Highlands this Saturday. The annual Flax Scutching Festival is on at Stahlstown, just off the Donegal exit of the Turnpike. The complete process of scutching flax is demonstrated here every year--the turning of the flax plant into linen cloth. It's about the only place in the East you can see that done. And they serve old-fashioned buck wheat cakes at Stahlstown, with hog home-made sausage. A realistic battle between Indians and settlers is part of the fun at Stahlstown on Saturday--antique rifles, Stagecoach and Conestoga rides, too. Nearby, at Somerset, Mountain Craft Days is another September weekend highland feature. Authentic representations of famous Appalachia crafts, practised by pioneer mountain ancestors. Shingle-making, spinning, chair caning, cider pressing, yarn dyeing, weaving, and that authentic Appalachia mountain music. You'll come across herbal teas and old-home recipes during Mountain Craft Days. That's some weekend--three fine events close by one another--The Ligonier Highland Games, the Flax Scutching Festival and Mountain Craft Days--this weekend in the Southern Highlands of Pennsylvania. You take the high road.

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