

THE BLOOMSBURG FAIR

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

This is the week of the Bloomsburg Fair, and in north-central Pennsylvania they say "you can see them all--but none of them are as good as the Bloomsburg Fair", and they mean it--and every year they try to prove that the Bloomsburg Fair, which they call "the largest Fair in the east"--is the best fair. I've seen some in my time--I've played some as a kid when I was one of the best carnival barkers in the country--and I tell you, it's not an idle boast! It's probably the biggest small-town fair in the world; considering the combination of agriculture, entertainment and midway; few fairs anywhere can top Bloomsburg! And whether you're in the barns and exhibit areas with their nose-tingling farm smells, or along the midway with the smell of carmel-corn, or watching it from above as I once did from Harry Magee's mansion, Bloomsburg is something to see and to visit this year. If you've never been there, you might be interested in knowing that the fairgrounds--(right in town) cover some 140 acres. There are 50 modern spacious buildings. There are parking facilities for some 12,000 cars. This is not small potatoes, my friend, but a biggie when it comes to fairs. The Bloomsburg Fair has been in existence for a century and it averages 300,000 people during Fair week. You see the best in Pennsylvania industrial and home arts and crafts, horses and cattle, sheep and swine, poultry and pet stock, school exhibits, 4-H and FFA and FHA exhibits. A real fair--the kind that Rodgers and Hammerstein wrote about in their "State Fair". Bloomsburg

brings them out when September busts out all over, not only for agriculture, but for the races--it boasts the finest all weather half-mile track in the east! And the nighttime revues, are the best of Hollywood, Broadway and TV, on the Bloomsburg stage, just across the track. And I'll tell you something else. Bloomsburg is one grandstand where the microphones work--you can hear that show from any place! There are all kinds of big money purses for the races--horse and auto, and the demolition derby--and nightly between now and October 1--such artists as J. C. Riley, Sonny James, Bobby Vinton, Jud Strunk, Freddie Fender, Ron Millsap, Charlie Pride, Statler Brothers, Donna Fargo, the Lettermen, and ten (count 'em), ten members of the Lawrence Welk group. Now that's a Fair--the Bloomsburg Fair--a century of good times rolled into one week in Columbia County, Pennsylvania.

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