

KUNSTFEST UND ERNTEFEST

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

Beaver County's Old Economy Village is one of the most beautifully restored villages in the Nation; almost rivalling in restoration famous Williamsburg. It is a museum, heartily and actively alive, in Ambridge. This year, Old Economy in its aliveness will continue to function as a living restoration of the past when the Kunstfest is held this weekend. The Kunstfest is a craft presentation of the early nineteenth century; and includes spinning, weaving, cabinet making, candle making, cooking, doughnut baking, shoemaking, sewing, lace making and over twenty-five other crafts, done in the old ways. (From its beginnings, Old Economy was a beehive of activity among activists. It was founded by a Pietist group, another of the kind who made history at Pennsylvania's Ephrata Cloisters). Harmony, the original Old Economy had been established in Butler County by some 500 Wurtenberg followers of George Rapp, who had sought religious freedom and found it in William Penn's always-tolerant Commonwealth. They made the forests produce, building homes, churches, grist mills and shops, breweries, a hotel, distilleries and other structures. And they prospered. The Harmonists then migrated to Indiana, founded New Harmony along the Wabash, but malaria and hostile neighbors caused them to flee Indiana and return to Pennsylvania. Here they found the location along the Ohio River; they were fine marketeers and knew that the river could transport their goods to the markets. They built in extremely good taste, put 3000 acres under plow and the present village, with Colonial and Old German architecture, emerged. The homes were, and still are lovely. They founded the city of Beaver Falls, and Geneva College. But only two members remained in the group and in 1916, the Harmony Society was dissolved. The Village became the property of the State, and through public and private funds it is now maintained as an example of the good life enjoyed by Pennsylvanians more than a century ago. Old Economy is very much alive, and one can see how good people can live and prosper and enjoy life while practicing

those talents in which they believe. In the Kunstfest this weekend, you will be able to feel and sense such a community, and it is well worth visiting. Later, in September, the Erntefest will be a similar attraction, designed to show fall crafts and the benefits of harvest; the making of apple butter, catsup, breaking flax, and casking cider and wine. Old Economy Village, a gem in the Pennsylvania Parade of History is well worth visiting when you want to return to those memories of peace; to a pace and a life which this century and this time envies. You can visit anytime of the year - this weekend, the Kunstfest, and in the fall, Erntefest - for Pennsylvania "History-Is-Alive" in 1980 Excitement, at Old Economy Village in Ambridge.

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