

THE ENDLESS MOUNTAINS

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

Come to Pennsylvania's land of the Endless Mountains; a land where the view changes in every turn of the road. The Endless Mountains; sacred to the Indians who first gave the area that name...the Susquehannocks, the Mohawks, the Tuscaroras, the Oneidas, Onondatas, Senecas and Delawares. Their tribal names apply to streams and mountains here; to townships, counties and towns. The mountains were so named because they seemed to roll away in the distance, one range fading into another until the last lay dim and blue-tipped on the horizon. The Endless ranges are bathed in spring blossom, the finest green in summer, brilliant in the fall, and mantled in endless snow in the winter. This was the land of Galusha Grow, a Speaker of the federal House who authored the Homestead Act; Stephen Foster lived in the area when he wrote "Camptown Races" and "The Tioga Waltz"; David Wilmot, author of the Wilmot Proviso, first legislation against slavery, was born and lived here. It was in this area in 1793 that a band of French Refugees established the village called Asylum, hoping that it would be a refuge for Marie Antoinette. The site still overlooks the Susquehanna, seemingly looking for the guillotined queen who never came. Here, too, Joseph Smith is said to have interpreted the Golden Tablets which led to the founding of the Mormon religion and the hard trek to Utah. Far from the madding crowd, the Endless Mountains thus contain as much history as does any other part of Pennsylvania, but more than that--the rural and

forest region which is often called the most primitive natural area east of the Rocky Mountains. And it has its wonders and wonderful places. There is Ricketts Glen State Park, an area of six-mile scenic hiking in which the wanderer can walk beside 28 waterfalls under a canopy of virgin timber. Of all the parks in the state, this is my own favorite...imagine grilling a steak in a pit along such a trail and in that setting of waterfalls. And you can visit Wyalusing Rocks, the famous Indian lookout; High Knob, scenic view along Loyalsock Creek; Eagles Mere, the beautiful lake of the Eagles, Sullivan County's fabled resort; the famous Pennsylvania blue-stone, found only the the Endless Mountain quarries; one of the original seven wonders of the world railroad bridges, Tunkhannock Viaduct frames the sky at Nicholson; Pennsylvania's oldest stone railroad bridge, Starrucca Viaduct is near Susquehanna; Stephen Foster's Tioga Point and the Forksville Covered Bridge are only a few of the vistas that are unrivalled in the East. Off on a byway, the Endless Mountains are a visiting must to the traveler who has seen everything. As Jolson sang--"you ain't seen nothing yet" until you reach the Endless Mountains--in Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties--only a few hours from where you are, but as close to heaven as you can get.

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