

HOSTELLING  
INTERNATIONAL

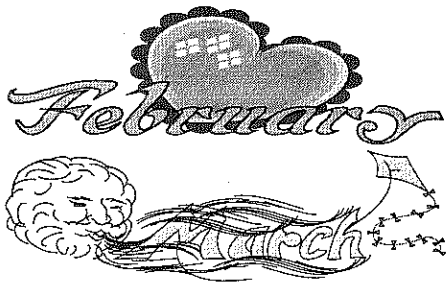
# GOLDEN TRIANGLE

American Youth Hostels, Pittsburgh Council

*Hostelling International, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping all people, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through hostelling.*

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY / MARCH 1997



**Wilderness Lodge Cross Country Skiing Weekend.** Come join us for 2 days of Nansi Janes' warm hospitality at her stone lodge just 20 miles east of Erie. Feb. 15-16. see page 6 for all the details.

The Pittsburgh Council would like to thank all those, who over the past year, have donated generously to the Pittsburgh Hostel Fund. See pages 5 for the latest group of donors.

Were you a participant in the original AYH Bike Race at Schenley Park Oval? Please call or write Patty c/o AYH.

HI-Pgh on the information super highway, point your browser to;  
<http://trfn.clpgh.org/ayh/> for the latest on activities, slide shows & local hostelling or you can email us at [ayh@trfn.clpgh.org](mailto:ayh@trfn.clpgh.org)



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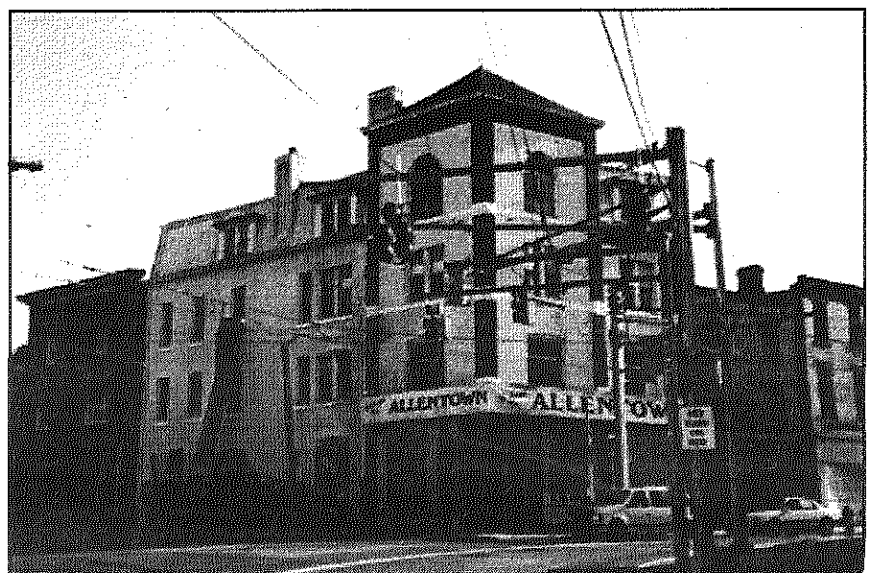
## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PITTSBURGH COUNCIL AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS

1997 is the 50th Anniversary denoting the beginning of the Pittsburgh Council American Youth Hostels. This is a commemoration of 50 years of life and memories; hard work and fun; friendships and fellowships. It is only fitting that it should coincide with the birth of the new Pittsburgh Hostel, extending the Hostelling ideals to the future.

Over the past five decades the Pittsburgh Council has had many faces, many events and many happenings. PLEASE help us build a Time Line of memories from THEN until NOW! We need to show future generations who we were and are, and what we are about. This can only be done with your input.

Information is needed on all the past celebrations and years of events. Please call, write or E-Mail to contribute your memories. Also, volunteers are needed for celebration ideas. Please consider giving some more of your time! WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

E-Mail: [ayh@trfn.clpgh.org](mailto:ayh@trfn.clpgh.org)  
Call: 422-2282 Leave a name and phone number for a return call.  
Write: Patty Edlis Scheuering  
c/o American Youth Hostels  
5604 Solway Street Room 202  
Pittsburgh PA 15217



**Pittsburgh's hostel is nearing completion!**

The expected completion date is Spring of 1997.

See page 4 for more information

## US Hostel Handbook Update

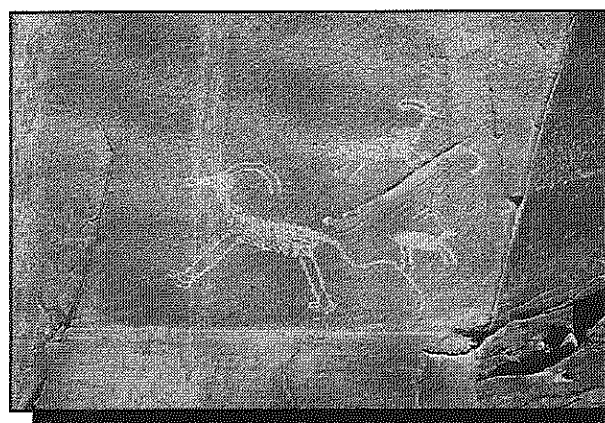
The '97 US Hostel Handbooks are now available and again this year include the hostels in Canada. When you renew, send in the postcard that comes with your membership or pick one up at Headquarters or the Office. Two corrections, however:

The phone number for the HI - Al Lester Hostel in Conway New Hampshire should be 603-447-1001.

The phone number for the HI - Bar-G Ranch Hostel in Estes Park Colorado should be 970-586-3688.

## TRANSLATION HELP WANTED

To help promote the future Pittsburgh International hostel, Joe Hoechner needs to translate information into French, German, Japanese and Spanish. If you Can help with a few paragraphs please call Joe at 242-0781. Thanks!



Anasazi Petroglyphs "Bighorn Sheep". 950-1100 AD. Explorer Canyon - Lake Powell Sea-kayaking trip, Oct 1, 1996. AYH Sea-kayaking photo. See Page 8 for more Sea-kayaking

## HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL

PITTSBURGH COUNCIL-AYH  
5604 SOLWAY STREET #202  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15217-1268

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## HOSTELLING



**Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels, Inc.**  
Serving Western Pennsylvania & West Virginia Panhandle  
Since 1948, Incorporated 1955

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## Oops...

If you find an error, please notify the editor. See the address for the *Golden Triangle* below.

Mail regarding this Newsletter should be addressed to:

**American Youth Hostels**  
**The Golden Triangle**  
5604 Solway ST. #202  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217-1268

Office: (412) 422-2282  
or

HI-Pgh on the information super highway,  
point your browser to;  
<http://trfn.clpgh.org/ayh/>  
or you can email us at  
[ayh@trfn.clpgh.org](mailto:ayh@trfn.clpgh.org)

PITTSBURGH COUNCIL  
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Jim Ritchie .....	828-0210
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Luc Berger .....	683-3131
VACANT .....	###.###
Storekeeper	
Wm Eberle .....	921-1932

The following positions are currently open and we are in need of responsible people to fill them. If you are interested please call Marianne Kasica at 665-9554.

Caving, Volleyball coordinator,  
Ast. Store Keeper, HQ Volunteers

## NOTICE

Please note the deadlines for  
future issues of the  
**GOLDEN TRIANGLE**

## APRIL

All copy, Mar 6  
Binding/Mailing, Mar 27

## MAY

All copy, April 3  
Binding/Mailing, April 24

If your work is on computer,  
Please contact Bill Eberle  
@ 921-1932 or  
[76202.3051@Compuserve.com](mailto:76202.3051@Compuserve.com)

## Moving?

If you move, or have any subscription problems, please notify us right away. Returned mail costs 52 cents for each piece, so we can save money if you let us know about any changes in your address. You can also phone in changes to the office at (412) 422-2282.

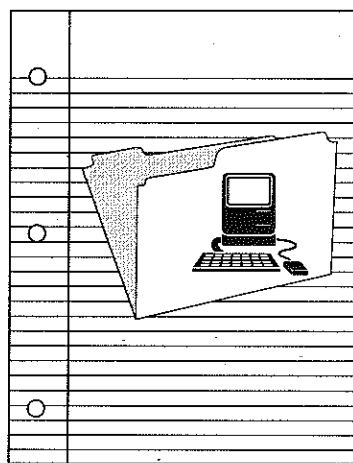
## About AYH

American Youth Hostels is a non-profit organization which promotes international understanding, educational and recreational travel, good citizenship and an appreciation of America. AYH does this by bringing travelers of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities together in hostels and by providing low-cost travel programs. AYH is the US affiliate of Hostelling International (HI), [Formerly named International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF)], which coordinates more than 5,400 hostels worldwide-the largest network of accommodations in the world.

Submissions Policy:  
Golden Triangle

## Classified Adds:

- Classified adds are free to Current members of HI-International
- All requests for classifieds must be made in writing via the Council Office. Request Must include full Name, address, phone number and Membership number of member. Members are not permitted to place adds for non-members.
- Free adds may not be for commercial gain.
- Above rules apply in addition to general rules for submission



## Trips

- All trips must be approved by authorized co-chair
- Trip leader must be a council approved leader
- Trips must be submitted through co-chair, for that activity. Trip leaders, are not to submit trips directly to editor or office, any trips improperly submitted will not be listed.
- Above rules apply in addition to general rules for submission

## Articles

- Members are encouraged to write articles, about travel abroad and in the states, and about activities and outdoor sports in which the council has a program
- All Articles are to be, non-political and non-secular
- Above rules apply in addition to general rules for submission

## General rules for submission

- No handwritten submissions
- Submissions Can be;
  - On computer disk (IBM / MAC), E-mail (Internet/compuserve), Direct Modem, Type written material double spaced, faxed. NO EXCEPTIONS. Call if you have questions.
- Submitted before the deadline of the issue that submission needs to be run in. (See Editors Golden Rule)
- All Submissions are on a first come first serve basis, The GT makes no promises to print material received and all material received becomes the property of the GT.
- Standing Deadline; Deadline for the GT, has always been, and will continue to be the First Thursday of the month, prior to the month of the issue. (See Editors Golden Rule)
- Please always check in advance with office, to confirm schedule.

## Editors Golden Rule

- "Lack of planning on your part, does not constitute an emergency on my part"

**Please note**, the Golden Triangle frequency of publication.

Number 1 issue ->February / March: Number 2 issue ->April: Number 3 issue ->May:  
Number 4 issue ->June: Number 5 issue ->July: Number 6 issue ->Aug.  
Number 7 issue ->Sept: Number 8 issue ->Oct: Number 9 issue ->Nov:  
and Number 10 issue ->Dec. / January

Editor...

## Upcoming Slide Shows

Feb. 6: Laura Curtis (rescheduled), "The Ecology Of Rainforest Canopies". Monkeys and macaws in Ecuador and Nigeria.  
Feb. 13: Glenn Oster, "The Appalachian Trail In Vermont And New Hampshire".  
Feb. 20: Helen Coyne, "World Wander By Bicycle: San Diego To Washington, DC".  
Feb. 27: Joyce Appel, "Canoeing On The Buffalo National River Of Arkansas". One of top 10 scenic rivers in USA. Includes hikes in areas nearby, and scenic train ride through the gorges.  
March 6: Leo Stember, "Peru: Mountains And Machu Picchu". See Cuzco.  
March 13: Joyce Appel, "Lake Powell Of Utah: Canoeing And Kayaking In The Red Rock Canyon Area". Ancient pottery, Anasazi ruins and petroglyphs were found on side-stream hikes.  
March 20: Helen Coyne, "World Wander By Bicycle: London To Athens To Delhi".  
March 27: We show the video "Amazon: Land Of The Flooded Forest".  
April 3: Truman Kohman, "Chasing The Northern Lights". This chase leads by train to Churchill, Manitoba, on the shores of Hudson Bay.  
April 10: Kevin Swenson, "Windjammer Sail Around Grenada And Saint Vincent Islands".

Slide shows start at 8:30 PM, at AYH Headquarters, Shady Avenue at Fifth Avenue. Doors open at 8:00 PM. If you want to give a show, call Luc Berger at 683 3131.

## Pittsburgh Council Hostels

## Ohiopyle AYH Hostel

Ohiopyle State Park  
PO Box 99  
Ohiopyle, PA 15470  
(412) 329-4476

## Living Waters AYH Hostel

RD #1(1 mile west on Route 30)  
Schellsburgh, PA 15559  
(814) 733-4212





## HELP WANTED: 1997 ACTIVITIES PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

by Robert Zavos

Now is the time to start thinking about the 1997 HI-AYH Activities Program. Many activities will hold planning sessions over the next few months and there is much work to do. Pittsburgh Council HI-AYH offers one of the most varied outdoor activities' programs in the Western Pennsylvania area. We have a wide variety of equipment and offer interesting day activities and longer organized trips. Commercial offerings in some activities do not even exist and when they do the prices are usually far higher. If anyone knows where to find a full day of canoeing, kayaking, rafting or sailing for less than \$30 please let me know. Our charges are in the \$10 to \$15 range!

The activity's program has been a great success for many years. But we need your involvement for this to continue. This does not mean signing up for as many trips as you can fit into your busy schedule. We need active participation! This includes trip planners, transportation coordinators, equipment maintenance workers, and most of all, **we need more trip leaders and a few activity chairmen.**

Recent offerings in several activities are down from previous years. Our once popular rafting program has been dormant for two years. Other activities such as canoeing, cycling, hiking, midweek rambles, sailing, sea kayaking, trail maintenance, and Winter Ski Weekends still offer large programs, however some of these depend precariously on a small core group. Without more active participation any of these could disappear suddenly.

Activities' programs take considerable effort for annual planning, budgeting, equipment maintenance, obtaining permits, purchasing supplies etc. Individual trips take far more time than one might guess. For each tripper there can be numerous inquiries, many phone calls, often to answering machines, and considerable waiting. Last minute requests to join a trip, drop a trip, or meet somewhere else are the norm. If a trip leader does not burn out, they can be transferred out due to a school or job change. Without a large core group the activity's future will be limited.

For those people who have enjoyed some of our recent trips I urge you to consider a more active role in your favorite activity. The current demographics of this area do not bode well for increased participation. You do not have to be an Olympic level expert to lead a trip. You just need to be competent, understand safety issues, and be able to organize. If you do not feel up to leading a trip then I suggest you contact the chairperson and see what else needs to be done. I doubt that any activity chair will have much trouble in finding some worthwhile job to help the program.

If you have already led AYH trips then consider being a chairperson or co-chairperson. Some of the activities listed in the Golden Triangle list current vacancies and a few others could become vacant soon. For information on current and future opportunities talk to leaders and current activity chairmen or call Ray Yutzy (341-5682), the new Activities Committee Chairman.

Don't be bashful. We have some great programs and we need lots of help for these to continue.

## AYH Sheet Sleeping Sack.... DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT ONE!



Required in all youth hostels, the sleeping sack serves as your top & bottom sheets, with a built-in pillowcase. Regular sleeping bags are not allowed at hostels due to public health regulations. Our nylon sleep sack is especially light, compact, and dries extremely quickly (handy on trips). The cotton/polyester sleep sack is a little heavier and bulkier, but feels just like your bedsheets.

Order one today! See the order form on the back page for prices.



**KENN HOWARD**  
**MASSAGE THERAPIST**  
**412 242 2424**

*Great for tired and  
sore snow-shoveling  
muscles!*



*Aye, There's the rub.  
—Hamlet*

## Baker Trail / Rachel Carson Trail Trail Maintenance Planning Meeting March 1, 1997

The 1997 Trail Maintenance budget request must be submitted to the Pittsburgh Council HI-AYH Board of Directors for consideration and approval in March. I am asking that all those interested in trail maintenance on the Baker Trail and the Rachel Carson Trail attend our first annual planning meeting, to be held on Saturday, March 1, 1997 at the Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center. The meeting will commence at 10:00 AM. Lunch will be served at 12:30 PM at the Center, with the meeting continuing until approximately 2:00 PM. A short hike is scheduled for 3:00 PM, starting at the Center and will go to our new footbridge along Crooked Creek, a project of Walter Tereskiewicz, Patty Schreuring, Brian Koehler, and Tim Henigin. For those who choose, a short trip will take us to the recently rehabilitated Crooked Creek Shelter, at the top of Cook's Summit, a project of Jon Speck and friends Timothy Harris, Scott Yockey, Steve Williams, and Brad Bowser.

The objectives of the meeting will include the assembly of a maintenance log, detailing all the maintenance projects that need to be addressed along the Baker and Rachel Carson Trails, and to assign priorities to those projects. If the projects require special funding, beyond yellow paint and brushes, that information needs to be known as well. Adopt-a-Trail volunteers should bring this information concerning their part of the Trails with them.

Who should attend: Anyone with an interest in helping maintain AYH trails is welcome to attend. All adopt-a-trail volunteers, who have specific responsibility for maintaining a fixed section of the Trails should also attend. Each adopt-a-trail volunteer should bring a list of problems that need to be addressed on their section, whether or not they can handle it using their own resources, or if AYH should put together a special work crew to handle the work, and whether or not special funding is needed. Also, those people who have not adopted a trail section, but who volunteer for our group maintenance work on the weekends, or for the weekend camp-outs, should come to the meeting with their input: opinions and judgment. All are welcome.

What to do if you cannot attend: If you are not able to attend the meeting, please try to call Jim Ritchie at (412) 828-0210 so you can provide trail maintenance project information to him prior to the meeting. If you are not going to be able to continue your trail maintenance activities (Adopt-a-trail) for 1997, please let Jim know that also. We need to assess how many NEW volunteers will be needed to continue our trail maintenance work.

The Budget: The Budget has been in the neighborhood of \$900-\$1,000 each year for the past several years. The funds have been spent, mostly, to purchase Baker Trail and Rachel Carson Trail T-shirts for maintenance volunteers, yellow paint, brushes, and to pay for tool repairs and purchases. This past year we spent a substantial portion of our funds on building materials so Walter Tereskiewicz could rebuild and repair several bridges in the Crooked Creek area for us.

For 1997, we have been asked to generate revenues to cover part of what we are allocated by the Board for trail maintenance activities. So, we want to discuss the feasibility of conducting one or two large scale, organized, hikes, during the year, open to the public, for a donation from participants. We will also direct revenues exceeding our expenses from the 1997 Rachel Carson Trail Challenge to the trail maintenance fund. Last year's Challenge generated \$200 for the Hostel fund and another \$200 for the Rachel Carson Homestead Association, after covering all our expense.

Directions: To get to Crooked Creek Park, take PA Route 28 to Kittanning, where you will pick up PA Route 66, and going south past Ford City, for approximately 5 miles to SR 2019; there is a small convenience store on the left at that intersection (not the ice cream/restaurant store) and there is a sign for Crooked Creek Lake. At SR 2019, turn left and follow the road for approximately 1 mile where you will see a sign for the Environmental Learning Center on the left side of the road. Turn left and follow the signs to the building.

For More information on the Baker Trail check out our publications price list on the back page of this newsletter. The Trail Guidebook is only \$5.00 plus shipping and local 7% sales tax.

Can't hike out West? Check out our Local Trail Guides available on the last page!!!

## Central Susquehanna Hostellers

### CSH Meetings

Meetings are the third Thursday of each month at 7:15 pm at the Lewisburg Area Community Center at 100 North 5th Street in Lewisburg.

### Bike Rides

In addition to longer weekend rides, there are normally shorter bike rides every Thursday evening. Call Chris Olsen at 717-523-8471.

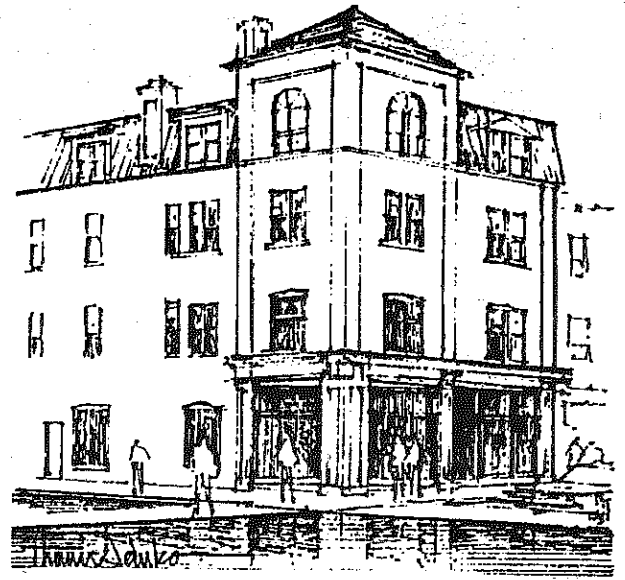
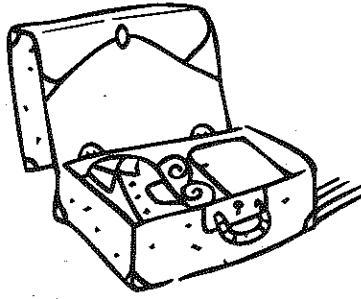
### CSH Information

Call Chris Olsen at 717-523-8471.

### Lewisburg Trips

For information on activities in the Lewisburg area, call Chris Olsen at 717-523-8471.

# OPENING SOON....

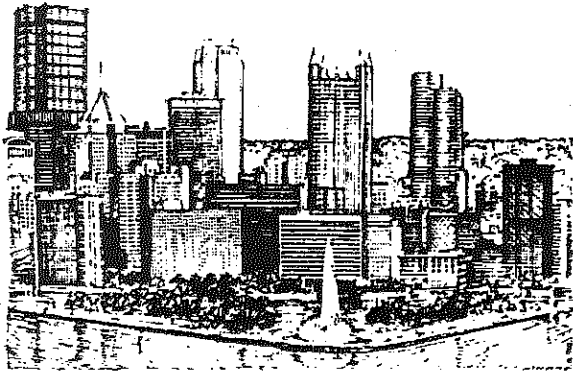


## Hostelling - International Pittsburgh PA



New for Spring 1997:

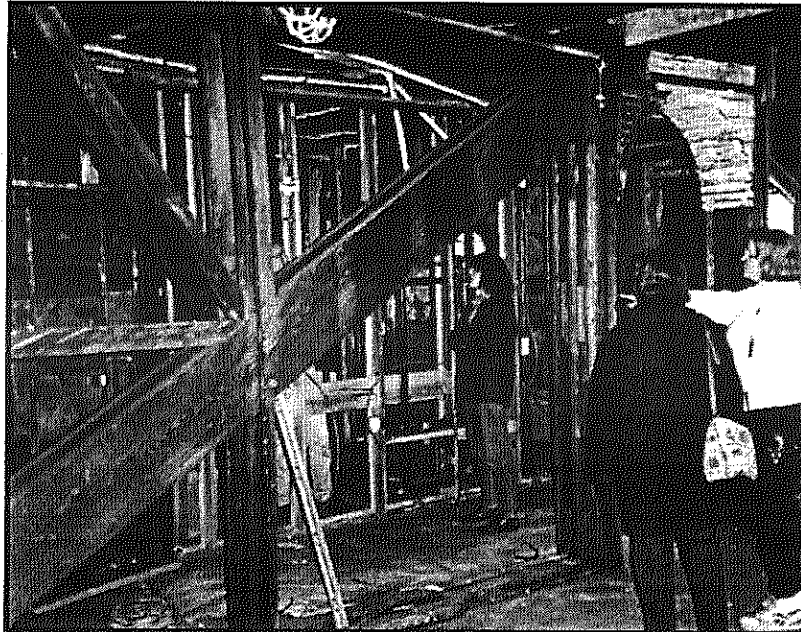
A 60 bed full service hostel in a converted bank building. Free parking, travel store, handicapped accessible!



Be Sure To Visit:

- Andy Warhol Museum
- Station Square
- Nearby Southside
- The Downtown Cultural District
- Riverfront Bike Trails
- Nearby Universities
- The Carnegie Science Center
- The Zoo & National Aviary
- Phipps Conservatory
- Historic Point State Park
- Three Rivers Stadium

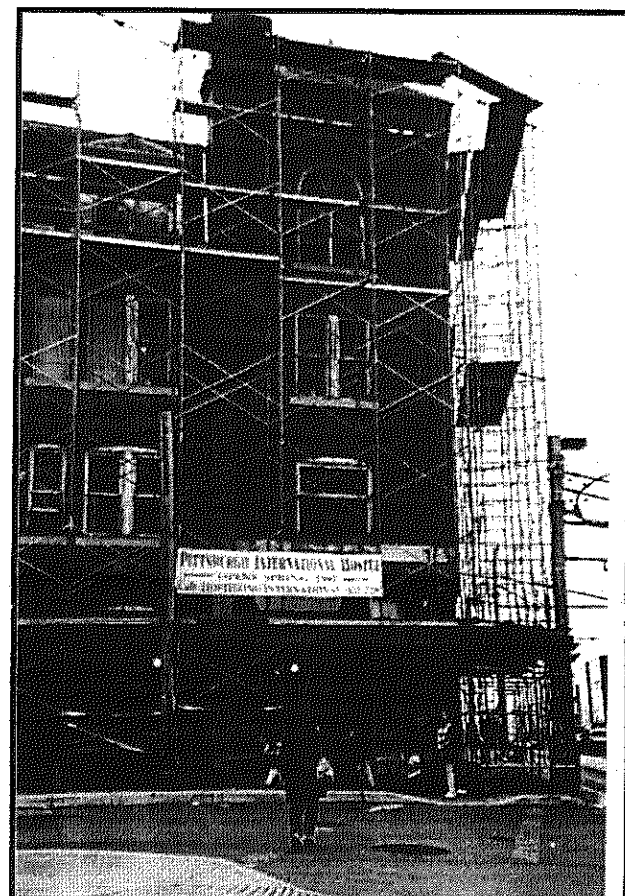
For information, reservations, grand opening date, or rates contact the Pittsburgh Council AYH office at 412-422-2282, fax 412-422-2509 or <http://trfn.clpgh.org/ayh/>



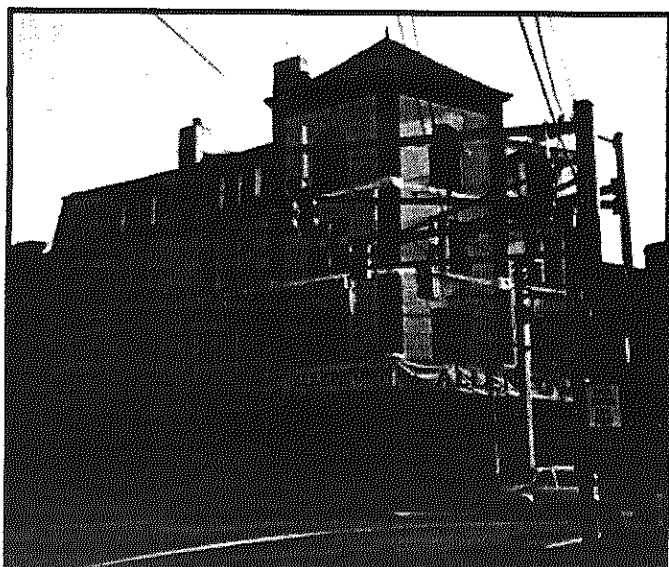
**Our  
President,  
Marianne,  
Checking  
Out  
The  
"Structure  
Maze"**

*Were you one of the 70 members to receive a letter in 1949 announcing the Incorporation of the Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels?  
Please call or write Patty c/o AYH.*

### Board Member Bob Zavos: "It's Real!"



**The Hostel Taking Shape.  
50% Complete!**



**Hostel Site At Start Of Construction Without New Paint.**

## Thanks to our Contributors!

Pittsburgh Council AYH wishes to thank the following people for their generous donations to the council since our last issue.

### Friends of the Hostel

Thelma Baker	Pittsburgh
Gerald D. Blum	Pittsburgh
Raymond Bower	Pittsburgh
Karen Chillcott	Pittsburgh
Shirley B. Clark	Stoneboro
Craig Coleman	Meyersdale
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Alex & Jane Zucosky	Wintersville OH
Quaker Capital Management	Pittsburgh
In memory of Louis Cohn	

### Contributors (\$50 or more)

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Pete Srini	Bridgeville
Robert And Sara Zavos	Pittsburgh
One World Trading Company	Pittsburgh

### Benefactors (\$1,000 or more)

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**KENN HOWARD**  
**MASSAGE THERAPIST**  
**412 242 2424**



*Great for tired and  
sore climbing muscles!*

*Aye, There's the rub.  
—Hamlet*

## President's Corner....

Happy New Year and Happy 50th Anniversary for Pittsburgh Council. This year we will have a new hostel, a special anniversary and some new interest in the activities ...an auspicious set of events.

The hostel is about 60% complete in construction but progress has been hampered a bit due to the extreme cold of January. Roofing was supposed to be done earlier but it slipped a bit and the unfortunate roofers paid the price by having to work on top of the building when the temperatures dropped.

We are currently thinking about the opening which may now be delayed until May. I have interviewed two excellent candidates for the hostel manager position. I think either one of these two would do us very well. Our funds are tight (as they have been from the beginning!) but our capital campaign for furnishings is going well. We have raised about \$19,000 of an estimated \$56,000 needed for start up. Donations of furnishings will serve to offset some of the expense.

Joe Hoechner and I are working on furnishing the hostel. We are seeking donations from many sources but realize that we will need to buy some things. We especially need donation of a bedroom suite (Double bed, dresser and tables) in good condition for the hostel managers apartment, one or two microwave ovens, coffee and end tables and a sofa with chair for the common rooms. We also need an assortment of pots, pans, coffee mugs, drinking glasses and other kitchen equipment. If you have any of these things in good condition please drop a line or call. There is much to do! We can use some help in planning the opening, if you have experience in event planning and time to help please let me know.

There are several other things afoot in the council. Ray Yutzy has agreed to provide coordination of the council activities this year. Ray will be contacting activity chairs soon. It would not hurt to give him a call first, especially before your planning meetings. Check Bob Zavos's column in this issue, if you would like to help out with activities please get in contact with Bob or Ray. Pat Sheuering is trying to get a 50th anniversary committee together. 1997 is the 50th anniversary (of a sort) of the founding of Pittsburgh Council. If you have memories to share and/or some time to work on this committee please read Pat's article in this issue.

I would also like to take this time to welcome Joel Platt as a new member of the board of directors and to congratulate Luc Berger as our council Volunteer of the Year for 1996. If you have a few hours per month to volunteer and an a desire to help the council succeed, please give me a call.

It is also worth mentioning that I have been elected to the HI-AYH Board of Directors for a three year term beginning November of 1996. Larry Laude and I are both currently serving on the national board. This might be a first for the Pittsburgh Council, but if it isn't leave a message at the office. I'm sure Pat will want that story.

## Pittsburgh AYH is accepting pledges and donations for the Pittsburgh Hostel.

Our Fundraising efforts are escalating to foundations and will include corporations as well. If any member is involved or knows of someone involved with these groups we would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to let us know. Having a contact person really helps to get some attention. We need to raise a ton of money for this building and we need all the help that we can get.

Thanks for your interest and help.

Clip out the coupon below and make your donation today.

Yes, I would like to make a Tax - Deductible  
donation of support for the  
Hostel in Pittsburgh in the amount of:

\_\_\_ \$2500  
\_\_\_ \$1000  
\_\_\_ \$500  
\_\_\_ \$250  
\_\_\_ \$100  
\_\_\_ \$50  
\_\_\_ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Donations of goods, furnishings or services are  
also needed! Please drop us a note describing what  
you have available.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

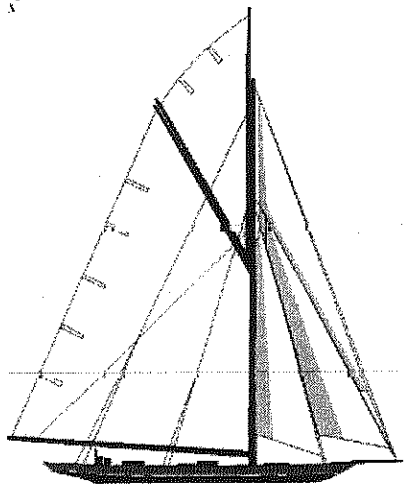
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your Donation to:  
AYH

Pittsburgh Hostel Fund  
5604 Solway St. #202; Pittsburgh, PA 15217-1268  
412-422-2282



**SAILING**

The AYH owns Flying Juniors, Sunfish, and an International 470. Several members also use their own sailboats. Sailing season usually runs from May through October and most activities are on Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park. We offer day sailing trips, sailboat racing with the Moraine Sailing Club, and weekend trips. Some members have also chartered larger boats on places such as the Chesapeake Bay.

Prerequisite for all trips is our Introductory Class or equivalent. Classes are offered each Summer with classroom sessions in Pittsburgh and water sessions at Lake Arthur. Participants for all sailing activities must be in good physical condition and able to pass minimum Red Cross recommendations for swimming competency. Personal Floatation Devices are required on all trips.

**March 9 Sun. 5PM**  
**Bob & Sara Zavos 241-0659**  
**POTLUCK DINNER & PLANNING MEETING.** Anyone interested in the AYH Sailing Program is invited to a potluck dinner and planning meeting at the home of Bob and Sara Zavos, 1007 Savannah Avenue (Regent Square area). We will have slides and pictures of previous sailing excursions. If you would like to enjoy a great dinner and talk about sailing please give us a call to coordinate the dishes..

**Were you one of the visionaries on the AYH canoe trip down the Allegheny River checking out the ridge in 1949? Please call or write to Patty c/o AYH.**

**CANOEING**

**Tuesday February 18**  
**Ellie Stanton 661-5585**  
**Canoe Program Planning Meeting**  
 We will set dates for this year's canoe schools, fleet inspection and repair days, and some canoe trips. Trip leaders, instructors, and others willing to help the canoe program in any way are encouraged to attend. Bring your ideas, planning calendars, and snacks or a covered dish to Ellie's home in Shadyside at 7 pm. Please call for directions and to RSVP.

**Weekends in March**  
**Brian McBane 443-8972**  
 When the temperature is above 60 degrees, and clear skies are in the forecast, call for details on day trips to cure your cabin fever.

**March 28-31**  
**Friday evening to Monday**  
**Joyce Appel 526-5407**  
 Easter Weekend Trip. Call for details.

**HIKING / BACKPACKING / SLACKPACKERS****SLACKPACKERS definition:**

We stay in hostels or car camp, and sometimes even backpack, but we don't miss many opportunities for reasonable comfort and good eating - thus we came to be known as the Slackpackers.

**Saturday Feb 15 Glenn Oster 364-2864**  
 Hike the Northernmost sector of the Allegheny trail. Start at the Mason-Dixon line, high elevation where the view goes on forever. The trail follows back country WV roads from the PA border to I-68, a total of 9 miles. Call for info & a reservation

**Fri eve-Sun Feb 21-23 Glenn Oster 364-2864**  
 Sample WV roads in winter. Backpack a sector of the Allegheny trail South of the hamlet of Albright, a total of 15 miles. Call for info & a reservation.

**March 22 Saturday Jim Ritchie 828-0210**  
 Rachel Carson Trail, Harrison Hills Section. This is the first of four hikes that will cover the Rachel Carson Trail from end-to-end. We will start at the northern terminus high on a bluff overlooking the Allegheny River near Freeport, go through Harrison Hills Park, and go up and down some of the steepest hills you've ever seen. Ends at Bull Creek Road. About 8 miles, definitely strenuous, not recommended for beginning hikers. Meets at 8:00 AM at the Ames Plaza in Harmarville. Call Jim to make a reservation.

**March 23 Sunday Jim Ritchie 828-0210**  
 Rachel Carson Trail, Bluffs of the Allegheny Section. This is the second of four hikes covering the Rachel Carson Trail from end-to-end. Today we start in Springdale, ascend to the top of the bluffs overlooking the Allegheny River, and tackle hills even steeper than those we climbed on Saturday. The hike ends at Bull Creek Road. About 8 miles, definitely strenuous, not recommended for beginning hikers. Meets at 8:00 AM at the Ames Plaza in Harmarville. Call Jim to make a reservation.

**April 12 Saturday Jim Ritchie 828-0210**  
 Rachel Carson Trail, The Roller Coaster. This is the third of four hikes on the Rachel Carson Trail covering all 34 miles of the Trail. We begin in Springdale and tackle the Roller Coaster all the way to Tawney Run Road. But the hills don't quit there. Experience Mile 14, Rich Hill, and the drop into Long Run. Ends in Dorseyville. About 10 miles, definitely strenuous, not recommended for beginning hikers. Meets at 8:00 AM at the Ames Plaza in Harmarville. Call Jim to make a reservation.

**April 13 Sunday Jim Ritchie 828-0210**  
 Rachel Carson Trail, North Hills Section. This is the fourth and last of the four hikes covering the 34-mile Rachel Carson Trail end-to-end. We will start in Dorseyville at Cedar Run Road, go through the Hampton Nature Reserve, the beautiful Crouse Run Valley, and into North Park where the hike ends at the Beaver Shelter. About 8 miles, only moderately strenuous. Be sure you've gone 8 miles before, don't make this the first time. Meets at 8:00 AM at the Ames Plaza in Harmarville. Call Jim to make a reservation.

**Do you remember the AYH hike from Presto Lakes near South Bridgeville to Mt. Lebanon in February of 1948? Please call or write Patty c/o AYH.**

**1997 Cross Country Ski Weekends at Wilderness Lodge**

~~Jan. 24-26~~  
~~Jan. 31-Feb. 2~~  
**Feb. 14-16**

If you like your lodging rustic, and your ski trails tracked and groomed, these weekends in the Erie snow belt are for you. Nansi Janes' Wilderness Lodge is a perennial favorite of AYH crosscountry skiers who enjoy miles of groomed trails. Peek'n Peak is within skiing distance for those who want to ski downhill trails. After skiing come back to the lodge for a warm fire and your favorite beverage. The cost of the weekend includes Friday and Saturday night lodging, a family style dinner Saturday evening. Vegetarian meals are available upon request. Breakfast and lunches are available at the lodge at an additional but reasonable cost. Rooms are mostly hostel style with 3-6 people in a room but there are three double rooms available for each weekend. Cost does not include transportation, we will try to assist with carpooling.

**Cost:** \$55 per person for members and \$65 for nonmembers for the weekend for singles. \$130 per room (two people/double bed) for members and \$150 for nonmembers. There is a trail fee, please be prepared to purchase trail tickets at the lodge. Ski rentals are available on site.

Reserve early for the weekend you want, send a check for the full amount to guarantee your space. Make checks out to Pittsburgh AYH. We will keep a waiting list in case there are cancellations. Please note: there will be no refunds after 21 days before each trip unless we can get a replacement for you. All weekend fees include a non-refundable \$10 per person. Also: Feb. 14-16 is President's Holiday weekend, you may wish to make your OWN arrangements with Nansi to stay Monday.

**Wilderness Lodge Getaway**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ AYH pass #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekend: [ ] Jan 26-28 [ ] Jan 31-Feb 2 [ ] Feb 14-16

Enclosed is a check for: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] I am driving and can take \_\_\_\_\_ passengers.

[ ] I need help finding a ride. (no promises but we'll try to help)

[ ] I will drive and meet the group at Wilderness Lodge.

**Mail to:**  
**Wilderness Lodge Trip, Pittsburgh AYH, 5604 Solway St. #202, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217.**

## LOOK OUT SISTERS THREE HERE WE COME

*This past summer, Glenn Oster led a Pittsburgh Council HI/AYH van trip to Oregon to backpack the Three Sisters Wilderness and to do some sightseeing on the way out and back. This is the last of three installments of an article he has written to share their experiences with us. In this issue of the Golden Triangle, he describes the sight seeing that they enjoyed in Utah and Colorado and the fun they had while driving back to Pittsburgh*

Now started a more serious move in the direction of Pittsburgh. We drove all day east across the desert through Nevada and into Utah. The van got a bit hungry as we came to the village of Baker, Nevada, and we stopped. Its nourishment cost \$1.649 per gallon for, 87 octane gasoline, the highest on our trip, although in Oregon and California, we paid over \$1.50 per gallon regularly for gasoline at only 85 octane. Fortunately, we were getting much better gas mileage than I anticipated, compared with experience from previous such trips. Guess how they identified the ladies room at this service station - "wimmen."

Along the way, Phyllis spotted a coyote - our only wildlife sighting for the day. There wasn't much else of interest, but at one point we could see a large bright white area ahead and were puzzled - all sorts of speculation. As we drew closer, it appeared to be large dry "lakes" of either gypsum or evaporated salt. Who knows, it might have been "Twenty Mule Team Borax" Do any of you remember that TV series so long ago?

Once in Utah, we headed east on I-70. The picture of the desert floor, framed by huge rock masses, almost overwhelmed me. We saw symmetrical buttes and expansive mesas. Water, wind and ice erosion had carved and distorted many of these enormities into intriguing shapes. I thought I had seen everything out there, and in fact I had driven this road before - but going west. My memory may have been playing tricks on me. However, the scenery traveling east seemed so much better that I plan to repeat this section and at the same time of day. I'll take a million or more pictures. Now, let's change to a more personal matter. When we stopped along the way to "rest our areas," the ladies found a reason to leave one of those locations with all due haste. The rest area privy doors warned them to be alert to the possibility of rattlesnakes inside. I'm not sure that they even opened the door, but bowing to their concern, we left promptly. From I-70, we dropped south to the city of Moab, where we camped for the night. Lorraine got the good Samaritan acknowledgment for the day. She helped a French speaking woman understand the intricacies of washing clothes in a coin operated laundry. She was bewildered, and Lorraine came to her rescue. Those things bewilder me, and I can read English - so I identify with that lady's plight. Thank you, Lorraine.

An early start, as most starts were, helped when we reached Arches National Park. It was hot enough before midmorning. The afternoon heat would have fried us like sausage. We got out of the van to look at the formations along "Park Avenue." They are a line of tall, thin rocks that resembled playing cards placed end to end and standing on their longer edges. Also at the same location, looking down at Park Avenue was a stone that looked like an ancient Egyptian pharaoh's head with its typical cape and headdress.

A major get out and walk stop was at Delicate Arch. It is the most publicized rock in Utah. For instance, it's on the sign welcoming travelers to Utah and on the cover of the AAA map of Utah. We simply had to stop there. The approach to it was different from any time I'd been there before. It required a gradual climb of a mile and a quarter up a bare rock surface to get close enough to see it well. Previously, you drove farther in from the main Park road to the trail head but climbed a shorter distance. Unfortunately, you were at best several hundred yards from the arch with a steep sided ravine preventing close viewing. This new approach takes you right up to Delicate Arch on the opposite side of the ravine. The new route to the arch is more difficult, but the experience is so much better. Ahh progress.

As we toured the Park, we saw more arches. At one location were three arches creating a three-sided circle overhead. At other places we saw formations that resembled people if you have a fertile (perhaps "warped" would be a better adjective) imagination. Some formations were of young school boys standing with their hands behind their backs and talking in groups facing each other. At another site, a boy was standing and talking directly into the ear of a small elephant. Still another resembled a dog in a sitting position - had the neatest collar around his neck. The Park refers to the dog's head as "Balanced Rock." My favorite formation, however, is one where the rocks suggest two dueling men standing back to back as though about to take twenty paces, turn and shoot.

After leaving the Park, we returned to Moab and turned north on Utah Route 128. This is a scenic (isn't everything) road that parallels the Colorado River as it flows upstream. They are fellow travelers for many miles alongside a sheer red rock wall several hundred feet high on the opposite side of the river. The road at times is only ten feet from the river and only a few feet higher. Surely looked like the road could flood easily. On the eastern side of the road, the landscape slopes away at a more gentle gradient, except the places where there are buttes. One of them, presumably unnamed, is my all time favorite - a quintessential butte if there ever was one. As we drove along, one of the trippers spotted two deer swimming toward us across the river. I never tire of driving that road. Sadly, it's not the adventure that it was the first few times I drove it. Now it's paved, whereas, formerly, it had a red, hard packed dirt surface. Drivers no longer need to be concerned about storms and being swept away in a "wash" (a depression that became a watercourse where storm water flowed directly across the road). Another erstwhile thrill, no longer doable, was driving across the river over a very narrow one lane wooden suspension bridge. (It's still in place and walkable.) Now, there's a safe, boring concrete span that no one would notice without cause.

The next super spectacular scenery was at Maroon Bells, just west of Aspen, Colorado. We encountered a problem here - we arrived at 4:00 p.m., an hour too early to drive close enough to see it. The parking lot was under construction, and they were not about to have tourists' cars in their way. That made sense, but we had to take an hour and just do nothing. No one wanted to drive to Aspen with only enough time to reach the city and then return immediately in order to arrive at Maroon Bells by 5:00 p.m. Right on schedule, the ranger came and gave us instructions about where we were allowed to drive and park. We had to walk from there. What a bummer! Oh, I forgot; we're supposed to be a hiking group. For those readers unfamiliar with Maroon Bells, they are three pyramidal mountain peaks side by side, almost appearing to overlap. They are composed of red rock, as is so much else in Colorado (from whence the state's name derives - "color".) In the foreground is Maroon Lake that reflects the Bells. It was pretty although not reflecting the Bells much in late afternoon sunlight. This place reminds me of a huge tea cup, with mountains surrounding you on every side. If the sunlight isn't exactly right for pictures in one direction, you only have to look at where the sun is shining, and you'll have a great scene to take. Anywhere you look there's a scene and a memory.

We had dinner in Aspen (once again, sans Jon Wayne. He spent the time scouting the town. It is attractive, with lots of trees, flowers and ample evidence of order, care and maintenance. Aspen was his favorite place on the entire trip.) But, time was limited, and we needed to cover more miles for the day. Sooo, we continued south - and up - over Independence Pass at 12,095 feet elevation. Astonishingly, there was no snow. I've never been over that pass when people weren't having a big time playing in the snow at some improbable time like July. Can't begin to remember where we camped that night, but we had managed to rack up enough miles by bed time. I do, however, remember serenades by the local coyote choirs. That's a thrill each time I hear them, but especially so the first time you experience their eerie sound.

At this point matters were becoming serious - our vacation was almost over. However, we did get a look at Pike's Peak along the way. Our last scenic delight was "The Garden of the Gods" near Colorado Springs. Happily, we arrived in time to photograph it in morning light. We drove all around, back and forth to give everyone a chance to see it well and to take as many pictures as they wanted. (Finishing the trip true to form, Todd never had enough sketching time to do it justice. A week might not be enough time.) We saw impressive formations - some impressive because of shape and some because of sheer mass. One formation reminded me of a Chinese dragon (There goes that imagination again.) And there is a "Balanced Rock" here, just as in Arches. Pictures were duly taken. The immense red rock centerpieces of the area cause the technical climbers to salivate. Also, birds - hundreds of them - make their homes there, nesting in overhangs and crevices. Humans and birds love these monster rocks. How can one state have so much beauty as Colorado? Regrettably, the scenery had to stop somewhere, and this was it.

Now came the long drive back home. We were able to make good time - some states have 75 mph speed limits. The big new Dodge van we were driving was very solid, held the road well and was so powerful that you felt comfortable at any speed. As mentioned earlier, it had air-conditioning vents for the back seats as well as the front, and life wasn't all that bad as we ticked off the miles.

With all the interesting aspects of the trip behind us, I expected the group to be glum and very quiet, but guess again, Oster. They continued in high spirits. They teased Phyllis about how she spoke - she'd unintentionally mangle names or call people by names that seemed to her should apply, such as "Madge" for Blanche. She knew differently, but that's what sometimes popped out when she spoke to or about Blanche. Milyssa became Marissa or Michelle. Yosemite was "Yoze' might," and Ogallala, Nebraska always got too many la, la, las. Milyssa is a strong proponent of women's rights and likes to be called (what else) "Ms," her initials. We nicknamed her our gender mender, but Jon Wayne called her a "feminazi." She took it in good grace and was one of the most enthusiastic of the trippers. We could never talk her into wearing shorts - long pants did fine, thank you. Madge, er, Blanche, that is, got the award for talking the most, especially when she was driving. That was okay. It kept her awake. For a little lady, she could surely handle that big van.

Additional observations or ribbing - they got me on two faux pas. I decided to do a "U" turn on a wide street that I soon discovered to be only one way. I thought I got myself out of that one really well, but got no credit for it. None at all. The second one they got on me was my concern one morning about why they were getting up an hour earlier than we had agreed upon the night before. I was usually the morning whip swinger, getting things moving. It so happened that at a time zone the previous day, I changed the analog setting of my watch. Just fine, but I became distracted and never set the digital (and the alarm works from the digital setting.) They tittered and smirked a bit but weren't too oppressive about my goof up.

Still more observations - Todd became even better at getting lots of sleep. Anita tried, but nevertheless, didn't do much with the material on her thesis, and Lorraine continued to keep the most detailed notes of anyone on the trip. Never did figure out why they kidded Todd about sleeping with a bandanna around his head. Presumably, it had something to do with the following day's hair grooming. I'd do it, too, if I thought there was something that could be done with the fourteen hairs that I have remaining.

As nightfall came on that penultimate day, we found ourselves fresh out of campgrounds. The group opted to try a motel. Well. You should have seen the immensity of the room they negotiated. We all fit in it nicely, most of us using our sleeping bags. Even the fact that there was only one bathroom for eight people didn't seem to cause much trouble. I kept out of the way and showered in the middle of the night when everyone was asleep.

Finally, the last day of the trip was upon us. Things continued to go well. By the time we returned home, we had traveled over 8200 miles and had driven in seventeen states. The cost for each tripper worked out to only \$380 plus meals (and the hostel, bicycles and rafts while Anita and I were backpacking.) The mood was especially upbeat after Blanche agreed to be the host for a get together later to look at each other's pictures and to relive the trip. We enjoyed each other and enjoyed the trip. The thought of a little encore, so to speak, was most appealing.



## SEA-KAYAKING

It always seems a little odd to be planning the next season's sea-kayaking trips smack in the middle of ski season. It's done this way for several reasons. Vacation time has to be scheduled. Good trips take a lot of effort to plan: getting information, reviewing it, and making more requests until you think you've optimized everything and got all your contingencies covered. And finally, by the time we depart, all of these trips will be improved upon by the helpful suggestions of others - some by interested members of the trip and others who simply happen to realize they might know something useful. Either way, the time before paddling season starts is often the best time for reflection, whether its over a phone line taking to someone for the first time, or over dinner with old friends. The accumulative effect of many people's ideas is, I think the greatest assets of a club or organization, and the results of these ideas has produced the largest sea-kayaking program of its kind in the world, surprisingly, right here in Pittsburgh. So call me if you're interested in the sea-kayaking program I'll be glad to hear from you.

And one final note Anyone interested in the house-boat assisted trip on Lake Powell, Utah in late September really must contact me in February. Houseboat availability on Lake Powell is strictly limited and once they're all reserved, we simply cannot bring anyone else on the trip (last year's trip was full by the end of February). By planning way ahead we can create an individually tailored trip ourselves, and offer it much more economically than through any outfitter.

Mark Mistrik  
Chairperson, Sea-Kayaking Program  
361-4923

## AYH SEA-KAYAKING SCHEDULE February &amp; March 1997

**Saturday April 5th, 1997 9:30 AM**

Mark Mistrik 361-2943

Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park, Pa.

Level: Beginner and up.

This is our annual April Fool's Paddle, Picnic and Kite-Flying trip. We'll offer sea-kayak instruction, and provide the grilled picnic lunch, or you can bring your own. Also bring a kite if you have one, or you can see how fast our parafoil kites will pull you through the water. Call for more information or to reserve a kayak

**Saturday April 12th 8:00 am thru Sunday April 13th, 1997**

Mark Mistrik 361-2943

Oil Creek, Oil Creek State Park, Pa.

Level: Aggressive beginner and up.

This is a very enjoyable and scenic run which includes some splashy (but very easy) Class I rapids and lots of fast moving rippling water. We'll spend an overnight in a stone and wood Adirondack shelter with a roaring fire to keep us warm all night, then finish the run Sunday morning. An easy trip, but appropriate clothing is required and some light hiking. Call for more information or to reserve.

**Friday evening May 24th thru May 26th or 27th, 1997**

Mark Mistrik 361-2943

Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryland

Level: Aggressive beginner and up.

This trip signifies the start of our summer paddling season. Three days of exploring undeveloped seashore and wildlife-rich saltwater marshes, learning to surf kayaks on the ocean, sighting porpoises, eating great seafood, an evening visit to Ocean City, seeing one of the East Coast's grandest lighthouses, and camping right on the shore lulled to sleep by the surf. And of course, the island is overrun with the famous, fat and friendly wild ponies. You may return either Monday or Tuesday. Call for more information and to reserve a kayak.

**Thursday evening July 3rd thru July 14th, 1997**

Mark Mistrik 361-2943

Acadia National Park and Downeast Maine

Level: Intermediate.

We're planning a trip that includes hiking, sea-kayaking and sightseeing through some of the most beautiful places on

Earth. This will be a "modular trip" with several components, so that you could come late or leave earlier if we make the necessary arrangements. Details are still being worked out at press time, so call for more information.

**Friday evening August 8th thru Sunday August 17, 1997**

Isle Royale National Park, Michigan

This is the sea-kayaking program's premiere wilderness camping trip this year. We will board passage across Lake Superior to Isle Royale, an archipelago of islands that comprise the most isolated National Park in the lower forty-eight states. This is a rugged land of rock, forest and water, and the island is a World Biosphere Site and home to moose, wolves, and loons. You may sea-kayak the entire time, or join us for a short backpacking trip once we've paddled well into the interior. Sightseeing along Lake Superior in Michigan's Upper Peninsula on the way home. Call for more information.

Mark Mistrik 361-2943

Level: Intermediate, with camping experience.

**Friday evening August 29th thru Tuesday September 2nd, 1997**

Outer Banks, North Carolina

The old Outer Banks is a region rich in folklore and maritime heritage, and the new is a tourist mecca. This trip combines elements of both. We'll stay on Ocracoke relaxing in the quaint village and on the beach and if conditions permit paddle out to Cape Lookout National Seashore for an overnight on one of the barrier islands there. Call for more information.

Mark Mistrik 361-2913

Level: Intermediate.

**Friday evening September 26th thru Monday October 6th, 1997**

Lake Powell, Utah

Explore spectacular redrock canyons of the Colorado River and see some of the most fantastic scenes in the American West, all from a gentle flatwater lake and with the conveniences of a houseboat at hand. Now an annual trip we envisioned this trip several years ago as a way to accommodate inexperienced paddlers and even hikers on a longer, more interesting trip, and the result has been exceeding expectations ever since. The idea is simple: the houseboat does all the work leaving your days free to hike, paddle, explore ancient Indian ruins or relax as you please. Due to limited houseboat availability, you must let us know if you are interested in this trip by the end of February. There will be an organizational meeting at the end of February or early March. Call for more information.

Mark Mistrik 361-2913

Level: Beginner and up.

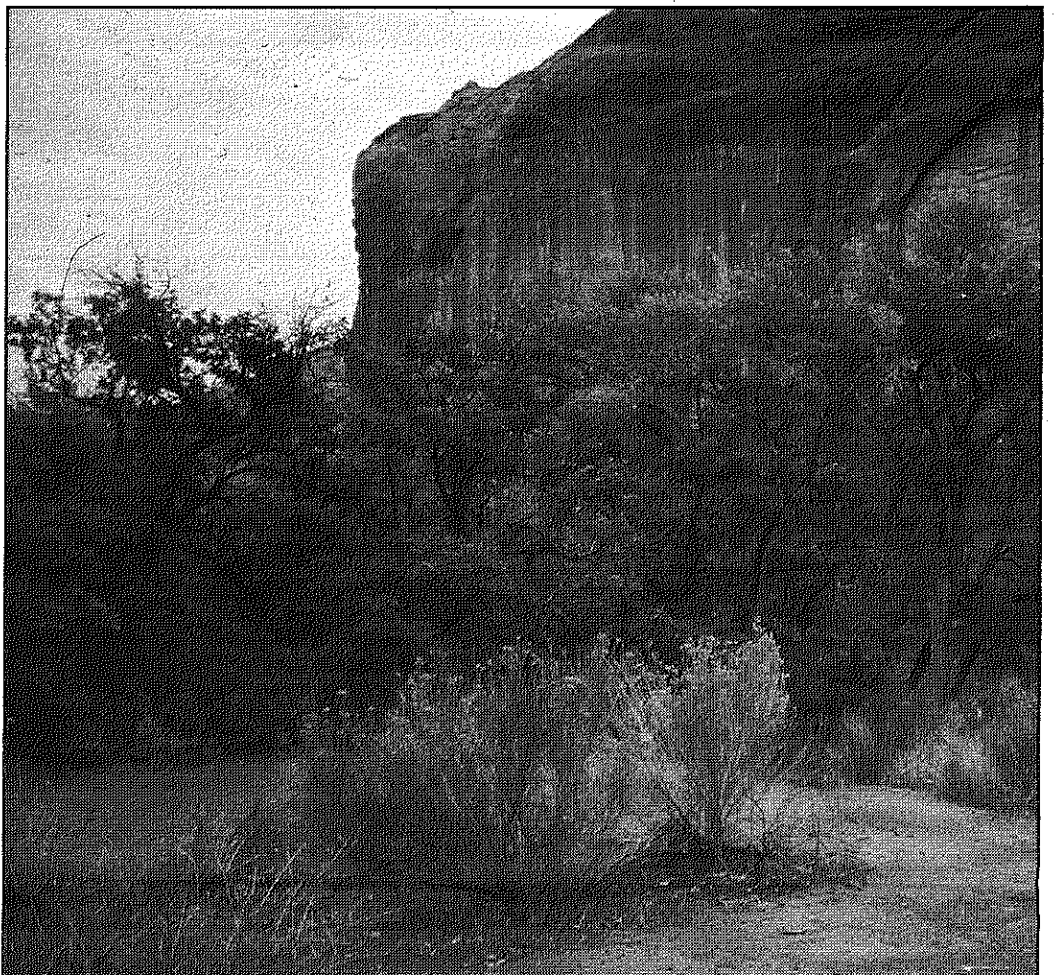
**Wednesday evening November 26th thru Sunday November 30th**

Lowcountry South Carolina

Join us for a warm, Southern-style Thanksgiving! Sea-kayak daypaddling trips on the Edisto river, the longest free flowing blackwater river in the world, on Lowcountry lakes, and along coastal bays. Overnight lodging in a fully equipped cabin built on a pier, right over the water. Limited space. Call for more information or to reserve.

Mark Mistrik 361-2943

Level: Beginner and up.



Davis Canyon "Trailhead Oasis" - Oct 2, 1996. These powdery soft, sandy pathways lead to the historic "Hole In The Rock" Trail. Following this East leads to the top of the mesa above Clear Creek Canyon, or West into Fifty Mile Canyon.  
-A good dayhike away and back-  
AYH Sea-kayaking photo.



## The Lost World of Marco Polo

by Walter G. Vaux

*The following is the first part of several installments of an article that describes the trip that Diane Vaux and Walter took through the Pamir Mountains of Kyrgystan.*

Our helicopter flew over the last of the sun-baked, Central-Asian desert and began an abrupt ascent. The ground quickly lifted into cloud-covered misty hills, then to glacier-covered peaks that disappeared in the dark clouds. Suddenly, our helicopter came much too close to a sharp rock outcropping. I realized that the pilot did not recognize the terrain: we were lost over these steep, remote mountains. I knew that our fuel was almost half gone. Either we would land very soon or return to the heliport in Uzbekistan.

Just then the log bridges over two raging mountain rivers provided a landmark, and moments later the helicopter touched down gently. We threw our gear out onto the flower-covered alpine meadow, crouched, and ran under the whirling blades. The orange helicopter lifted and within seconds was gone. We would not see a road or plane in the next nine days and our only other connection with others would be a few nomad shepherd families that live out the summer in these lost valleys of the Pamirs.

Since the very dawn of time, nomads and adventurers have crossed this high knot of mountains in Central Asia. They lie between the vast Karakum desert of Turkmenistan and the dreaded Takla Makan desert of China.

In the mountainous interior of Asia, great ranges gather from Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, India, and Russia. These are the Himalayas, the Karakorum, the Tien Shan, the Kunlun, and Hindu Kush that join in a tangle of jumbled ranges that the ancient Persians called Bam-i-dunya meaning the "The Roof of the World". Over the millennia, one conqueror after another has dominated the people and left his culture's names on today's map.

Our interest in Central Asia and these remote mountains began innocently in a used-book store in Laughlintown, PA. The title "Caravan to Xanadu" by Edison Marshall caught the fascination of Diane and me. The novel told enough of the beauty and mystery of the mountains crossed by Marco Polo in the late 13th century to lead us to reading account after account and finally to Marco Polo's own original writings. Poring over maps and learning of Central Asia's history finally led us to traverse these mountains ourselves, to walk the same roads trod by Alexander, Genghis Khan, the Golden Horde, and Tamarlane.

The bordering Karakum desert to the west and vast Takla Makan to the east remain as they were. The mountains themselves are unchanged after centuries: no roads invade the valleys; few if any planes are seen. Only a handful of Westerners has walked the narrow, steep, cliffside trails that lead up to the high valleys.

Similarly, the names here evidence the cultures that have changed over the millennia. The common man's name "Iskander" recalls the presence here of Alexander in 329 B.C. when Ptolemy ruled Egypt. River names such as Pandsh (meaning "five", referring to the five source rivers) tell of Persian influence, while others such as the many Karasu and Aksu (black water and white water) rivers are Turkic and give evidence to the powerful influence of the Moslem Tamerlane of the mid-15th century. Of course, such places names as Leninabad and Peak Communism tell of the expansion of the USSR through 1991.

In the months before our trip, Diane and I established two fantasies about our adventure. One was that we would find ourselves alone in a high alpine meadow with rock walls towering above and millions of wildflowers carpeting the gentle slopes nearby. The other was a carryover from a recent trip to the Crimea: that we would find ourselves tenting in an apricot orchard. These fantasies are part of the anticipation and excitement that precede a romantic adventure to a distant land.

Our adventure began in an ordinary manner with a flight to New York and a transfer to Copenhagen. Europe offers an eternal charm and Copenhagen offers a rich portion of this charm in its splendid architecture, old-world character, and inviting promenades. We, as all visitors to Copenhagen must, spent an afternoon and evening at Tivoli Gardens, where we were amazed by the fantasy that draws visitors from all nations. In addition to the thrilling rides, we experienced a bit of the Danish mindset in Tivoli's Tunnel of Love, a float trip through a surrealistic landscape where unexpected and fantastic scenes appear at each turn.

The next morning our journey continued with a short hop to Moscow. In the Copenhagen airport, Diane and I met the first two of our group: Michele, a pleasant financial planner from San Francisco and Rafael, a kindly and blunt school principal from Chicago.

Sheremetyevo airport in Moscow has not changed. The drab, dark interior is still as un-nerving as we found in earlier visits. The absence of information and absence of scheduling remain confusing. After hours of delay, we began the ordeal of carrying our trekking luggage from building to building, up and down concrete stairs and unlit metal stairways outside buildings. Finally we were led to a transporter that took us to a large airplane, an Illyeska.

Aeroflot is a memorable experience for Westerners. There are no instructions, no flight attendant explaining "...and in the event of a water landing, remove your seat cushions..." or cautions, "...please return your tray tables..." Overhead bins opened themselves regularly during the flight and often remained open. Dinner came as a cold tray of hatcheted chicken parts, bread, and cabbage. At 5 AM, after a long night, we touched down in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, our gateway to the romance of Central Asia.

Over a half century of Communism has burdened Central Asia with bureaucracy. We were immediately assaulted by officials demanding passports and trying to herd us to some area for embarkation formalities. Fortunately, our trek leader, Andy Turnage, appeared just then, to smooth the craziness of procedures in this part of the world. Travelers in Asia know that there will be unexplained and obviously unnecessary delays, inspections, questions, and procedures with passports. Viewing all of this with noble patience, good cheer, and knowledge that all will turn out well is essential.

After two hours of delays while officials prepared Uzbekistan's newly issued visas, we boarded one of the ubiquitous, ex-Soviet buses, and stopped briefly at a small, quaint hotel for a shower and chance to store items that would not be needed on the trek. We left the hotel - still in the early morning - and drove through the streets of Tashkent.

Tashkent, although it is in the southern part of Asia, has a moderate climate, with mild summers and cold winters. The city shows the characteristic

stamp of Soviet Communism with its bleak architecture, overabundance of apartment buildings, crumbly construction, weedy streets, and lack of beauty. Another short trip took us to the heliport where we met our Local guide, Farida.

I have been continually impressed by the maturity of the young people of the former Soviet Union. Farida is 23 and a principal guide for the Tien Shan Adventure Travel of Bishkek. Farida served as the intermediary between REI Adventure travel, our U.S. Trekking Agency and the Kyrgyz horsepackers, suppliers, transporters, and agencies that participated. Farida always seemed calm, pleasant, professional and capable in communication in Kyrgyz, Russian, or English. Her heritage evidenced the cultural stirring and mixing of the Communists: her father was Ukrainian, her mother Tatar.

Our guide, Andy, had a strong penchant for the sugary, juicy melons sold everywhere in Central Asia. He carried a large, sharp, Crocodile-Dundee-type knife that seemed to serve only for slicing melons. As we waited at the heliport (a nearly empty expanse of weedy tarmac), Andy began slicing and passing out the melons he had purchased in town. There are a few tastes that remain strong in my memory. I recall the taste of the Himalayan apples in the Kali Gandaki Valley near Annapurna; the remembrance of the rich, perfect flavor of the juicy pale-green-and-orange melons in Central Asia will remain too.

Right on time, at 9:30 AM Tashkent time, our helicopter took off. It was painted a bright orange and had the word UZBEKISTAN written on the side in bold Roman letters. I felt secure with the four pilots squeezed into the cockpit while we seven trekkers, two guides, and a mysterious family of three well-to-do Asian people lifted off. The day was warm and we opened the large circular windows of the helicopter to let the breeze in. There was no putting on of seat belts because there were none. The inside of the helicopter simply furnished with bench seats along both sides and a large, bright yellow fuel tank right in the middle of the cabin. The helicopter would seat about twenty at the most.

We passed over lovely irrigated fields of cotton and tobacco and quickly began the ascent of the dry Kuraminsky Range and Karamazor Peak. Below were huge open pit mines gouged into a bone-dry, yellow-orange landscape where no life was evident. This region is the eastern edge of the vast Kyzylkum (red sand) desert. Even the dry gorges evidenced no trace of green. The crest of the mountain brought our flight into Tajikistan. As the far side of the range spread out into ancient alluvial fans, we crossed the six-mile width of the Kayrakkumsky Reservoir, a section of the Syr Darya River, which serves to irrigate Central Asia's seemingly endless plantings of cotton.

The land on the far side of the Syr Darya rose steadily as we flew. To my right, I could see the distant town of Isfana (EES-fah-nah, not is-FAH-nah), the only town evident from horizon to horizon. The entire desert below looked hot. Suddenly the gentle slope climbed swiftly and ahead were giant, sharp peaks, draped with steep glaciers and shrouded in mists. Dark clouds crossed over the sun and soon rain was falling past the open helicopter windows.

Abruptly, the temperature fell and the entire landscape looked cold and un-welcoming. The helicopter lurched and a rock outcropping shot past the window. From the tentative path of the helicopter, I could tell that the four pilots were uncertain where to land. All of the steep rivers plunging down chained cataracts looked somewhat alike.

Months before I had contacted the U.S. Defense Mapping Agency and had ordered broad-scale maps of the Pamir Range. Later I became aware that detail maps were available, but Defense Mapping Agency refused to sell them to me. The reason was a vague reference to an unwritten agreement with Cold-War Nations not to make their fine-detail topography known. Those who have traveled to the former USSR know that the Soviet maps are not detailed and are not easy to acquire. Such probably hails from ancient times when topography of regions and layouts of towns were kept secret to foil invaders. However, after sending, well-placed letters, I was able to get a black-and-white photocopy of the needed map and assurance of delivery - for \$23 - of a colored photocopy within a few days. The black-and-white map served me well. Two months later as we left the U.S., the colored map still had not arrived.

As I pored over the maps in the helicopter, assessing where we were over the ground, one pilot came back and quickly borrowed my probably-contraband map that showed the land below in embarrassing detail, even locating huts. The needed information must have been there: the helicopter swung decisively to the east and minutes later we were heading up the Aksu Valley.

From on high, I could see three camps, each about a mile apart. We later discovered that one was Russian climbers, another British climbers, the third ours. The helicopter found a flat meadow and dropped swiftly. Just as is done in the movies, we threw our packs out the door, jumped, ran crouching under the powerful downdraft of the whirling blades, and watched as the orange helicopter swiftly rose a few feet, then fell away down the precipitous mountainside, and disappeared in the mists.

Suddenly, the world was almost silent. Only a faint sound of wind was perceptible and the unexpected sound of jumping grasshoppers. I was overcome with a feeling of abandonment. We were on a cold alpine meadow, chilled with a blowing mist. No road came to these lost mountains. Our only link to others had fled moments before and would not return. I did note the bright yellow flowers and familiar wild geraniums that promised exquisite beauty to the meadow when the sun would finally shine.

Just then, a group came running toward us. We met our Russian cook Victor; Uzbek horsepackers Sergei, Satubai, and Marali; and Russian camp chief Sasha. With enthusiastic greetings - none in English - they picked up our duffels and we hiked to our camp just a hundred yards away. Diane and I stowed our belongings in an already pitched tent and the entire group of us walked down to a large tent where we had lunch and tea. Hikers await the magic of tea at the end of a day's journey. There is a mystique in the ceremony and warmth that offers hope and cheer even in downpours and snowstorms.

The overcast and cheerless weather encouraged us to spend much of the afternoon in our tent, unstuffing our belongings from compression in the duffels. Diane and I are methodical in a tent. We lay out our air mattresses that join to form a (seeming) queen-size bed, zip our high-loft sleeping bags together, hang our tiny candle lantern from the top of the tent and put other essentials such as flashlights and a small bottle of emergency bourbon in their places. Those who tent know what an intimate cozy place a tent can be.

Unexpectedly, a clop-clop of hoofs stopped at our tent. I cautiously opened the tent zipper and looked up into the face of a small donkey who was carrying two young boys in business suits. And nearby, three pretty and nicely dressed girls of

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## Rachel Carson Homestead Announces New Winter Hours and Spring Programs

The Rachel Carson Homestead announced that, effective this immediately, the museum would remain open year-round. Previously, the Homestead had been open on a seasonal basis only. "We've had an increasing number of people coming for tours and programs, and we felt that we could better serve our audience by being available year-round," says Mark Tomlinson, executive director. "We'll continue to offer special family programs each month in addition to regular tours."

"Science on Saturdays", with hands-on science activities for the whole family to enjoy, takes place the third Saturday of each month. Designed for children age 9 and above, the "Science on Saturdays" family programs will be from 1 pm to 4 pm on the following dates. Space is limited, please call (412) 274-5459 to reserve a space:

### Saturday, January 18th - Nature Storytelling

Miss Habitat, in full costume, will be spinning her favorite tales, and you'll have a chance to write and share your own nature stories!

### Saturday, February 15th - Rachel's Feathered Friends

Meet some of Rachel's feathered friends up close -- beak to nose!

### Saturday, March 15th - Animal Tracks

Did you know you can tell much more than just what kind of animal made that track? Learn about identifying animal tracks, and how to tell stories with no words, just tracks.

### Saturday, April 19th - Design your Own Butterfly Garden

Master gardener and naturalist Tammy Watychowicz will explain how to design and plant a butterfly garden at home. Learn how to keep the entire lifecycle from caterpillar to beautiful butterfly alive and evolving in your own backyard!

### Saturday, May 17th - Weaving the Web

Learn about biodiversity, species extinction, and the Endangered Species Act. "Weaving the Web", a traveling exhibit co-sponsored by the Pittsburgh Zoo and the Rachel Carson Homestead, will be on display at the Zoo during the spring of 1997.

### Saturday, June 21st - To be announced

**The Rachel Carson Homestead** is the birthplace and childhood home of ecologist and author Rachel Carson (1907-1964), whose 1962 best-seller *Silent Spring* helped launch the modern environmental movement. Born in this five-room farmhouse, Rachel Carson's childhood here in southwestern Pennsylvania nurtured a love and respect for nature and natural things which would guide her the rest of her life. *Silent Spring* warned of the dangers of indiscriminate pesticide use and established Rachel Carson as one of the most important and influential environmental activists in history.

Guided tours of the house and grounds are offered on Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm and Sundays from 1 pm to 5 pm. Regular museum admission is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Senior citizen and group discounts are available. Call (412) 274-5459 for more information.

## Rachel Carson Classes Offered through the Community College of Allegheny County

The Rachel Carson Homestead will expand its educational offerings this spring by offering 2 new classes through the Lifelong Learning Department of the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC). "We've had many requests for adult classes in addition to the children's and family programs that we currently run. We hope that these classes will help us reach new audiences and fill that need," says Mark Tomlinson, executive director of the museum.

The classes are also part of an effort by CCAC to broaden its offerings and make classes more accessible to the community by offering them at schools and other satellite facilities. Most local residents should be receiving the course catalogs in their mailboxes this week. Both classes are 6 weeks in length and will begin the week of February 10, 1997. For more information on these or other classes offered by CCAC or enrollment information, call (412) 325-6780.

### Rachel Carson: Voice for the Earth

Rachel Carson changed the way we think about and treat the natural world with her book *Silent Spring*. Participants will explore the childhood influences that shaped her work, and the impact it has had on the world we live in today. Using selected writings by and about her, as well as her childhood home, this course will provide a window into the personal life of one of the most important writers of this century.

Offered on Tuesdays 7 - 9 pm at the Rachel Carson Homestead in Springdale. Begins 2/11/97. Fee: \$25

### Sense of Wonder: Through Many Eyes

This class will contain activities and discussions that provide a better understanding and awareness of our natural surroundings as seen through the eyes of both children and adults. It will use literature, activities, and other local resources to explore the philosophies Rachel Carson shared in a 1956 magazine essay that was published after her death as *The Sense of Wonder*. This course is a good "primer" for parents, teachers, and other adults who want to share their love for nature with a younger person.

Offered on Mondays 7 - 9 pm at Boyce Campus of CCAC, Monroeville. Begins 2/10/97. Fee: \$27

For more information on the programs listed above or other questions concerning the Rachel Carson trail, or the Rachel Carson Homestead and its programs, please contact Mark Tomlinson at;

Mark Tomlinson, Executive Director  
Rachel Carson Homestead  
613 Marion Avenue  
Springdale PA 15144  
(412) 274-5459  
rachel@envirolink.org  
<http://www.lm.com/~markt/rachel/carson.html>

**Do you remember the AYH one day hike  
in the Blue Ridge Mountains in  
October of 1947? A bus took you to  
Harrisburg and the hike left from there??  
PLEASE CALL or write Patty c/o AYH.**

## "Lost World" Continued from Page 9

about 12, 14, and 15 were smiling and looking over toward our tent. Over the next days, we saw them regularly, nice children from a camp of nomads summering in the next valley, about a mile away.

Our dinner that evening was simple and delicious. We gathered again in the cook tent to be out of the foggy chill of early evening. Our dinner, as with all dinners over the next eight days was a rich Russian soup, mostly fresh vegetables with some tinned meat. It was delicious. We discovered over the days, that Victor hand sliced all of the carrots, beets, cabbage, and other vegetables and took much care in simmering and spicing to make a wonderful, thick soup. I always returned my bowl for seconds. The rest of the meal was rather dull, generally the sour local bread, bland cheese, and commercial cookies for dessert. Our only drink was tea. The local water is completely unsafe to drink everywhere; the tea, having been boiled in preparation, was safe. This day was my 56th birthday. The group sang "Happy Birthday" to my not-too-well-hidden delight.

After dinner, the accumulation of four days' travel and the effect of elevation brought me to complete weariness. Diane and I trudged up the short steep rise to our tent and I fell asleep immediately. During the night, I awoke briefly to the sound of hard rain falling on the tent. When I awoke at first light, it was still raining.

A little later, I pulled on my clothes and unzipped the tent. The rain clouds were breaking apart and the bright sunshine advancing down the side of the mountain promised a beautiful day. I marveled at the magnificent scenery. Fantastic - almost surrealistic - peaks to the south showed a dusting of fresh snow. Just a hundred feet from our tents, the shelf where our tents were pitched began a steep, unbroken ascent to unseen heights above. The entire valley was sprinkled with millions of wildflowers. To the west, Uryam Pass, that we were to cross the next day, was covered with fresh snow. I walked down to the big tent and found hot water for a cup of coffee. The morning was one of the nicest I have ever known.

After a breakfast of oatmeal, bread, cheese, and tea, not elegant, but enough, our group left camp for a day hike to the head of the Aksu Valley. The air was a pleasant 60 degrees, and the intense sun where we were at 7000' warned liberal use of sun block. Bit by bit the trail steepened and the ancient junipers (the only trees in these higher valleys) became smaller and more gnarled until none was left. Then the flowers and grass became fewer and near lunch time only small tufts of hardy grass could be found. The trail became quite steep and rocky. Two of our party felt the enervating effect of the high altitude, and Diane and I stayed with them as we ascended very slowly, breathing the thin air in deeply. At about an hour after noon the trail ended at a stony moraine bounded on one side by the glacier, on the other by impassable walls. It felt so good to sit back with our rucksacks as backrests and enjoy our lunch of bread, cheese, crackers, and tinned apricots. All of us had brought plenty of water and felt the need to drink regularly as deep breathing and dry air dehydrated us.

The trip back was in fine sunshine. I was glad to return into the

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**"Lost World", Continued from Page 10**

meadows of wildflowers and breathe the richer air at the lower elevation.

That evening, the temperature dropped quickly when the sun fell below the high ridge. Ann Marie, a pharmaceutical marketer from Florida, showed an interest in maps: she and I studied the detailed map of our area as the last light faded. A little later, Diane and I strolled a little distance away from our camp. There was no light of houses or cities, and the billions of oversized stars above shone down with a brightness never seen by our home in Pennsylvania. At that moment, the time was just a little past noon at home, and our dog, Scotty, was probably dozing in the shade to escape the hot noontime sun. And we, at that same moment, were standing under the cold stars on a high meadow in the lost mountains of Central Asia. The scene was unchanged from that seen by Nicolo Polo as he too tented in this same area in 1271, taking his son Marco to the romantic kingdom of Genghis Khan.

We awoke on Tuesday morning to a sky bright blue overhead, but our camp still cold and in shadow owing to the high ridges. Just before breakfast the line of sun crossed the Aksu river below us and then brightened our camp. Suddenly the cold vanished, and our tents became little ovens in the warm sunshine. After a breakfast of cold mashed potatoes, vegetable stew, bread, cheese, and tea, we loaded our duffels onto the patient horses and, with only day packs to carry, began the gentle walk across the low ridge dividing the Aksu and Karasu rivers.

Both rivers are raging torrents of icy, foaming water. The water is milky from the flour-like ground rock suspended in the water. The glaciers that supply the water for these plunging rivers grind the bedrock to a microfine powder as their immense weight moves inexorably forward, pushed by billions of tons of ice. This micro-fine rock flour is too fine to settle and gives the water a white color even in the lush, low valleys, many miles down river.

The promotional brochure for this adventure hinted that local herders would invite us into their homes for home-made cheese and yogurt. I had been skeptical. As we walked across the pleasant fields leading to Uryam Pass, our path approached a primitive building made of juniper logs with a sod roof. A dignified elderly man with a splendid fleece jacket, four younger men, a mother, and a half dozen children stood in the pleasant morning sun and waved for us to join them. I was surprised when the mother, who had gone into the hut, emerged with a large aluminum kettle of tea, cheese, and large round loaves of fluffy, white bread. Later she brought out a bowl of yogurt. We lazed there in the bright light and cool mountain air sharing this unexpected meal with Asian nomads.

One of the women in our group, Pam, took Polaroid pictures. The children and adults alike were fascinated to see the images appear like magic. I passed around post cards showing the mountains and cities in America. I purposely did not show pictures of our suburban house: on an earlier trip to remote areas of the Himalayas, the people mistook our house for a government palace and I was embarrassed to underscore the difference in our cultures so blatantly. I have since reflected that these poor people shared an abundant meal with absolute strangers; were a party of Central Asians to come walking along my street in suburban Pittsburgh, no resident would greet them, would not dream of inviting them in to share a meal. It felt very good to be welcomed by these strangers; it would have been upsetting and painful to have been snubbed or rejected by them.

I am normally very scheduled - some call me rigid or inflexible - and would normally have been urging the group to get moving so that we would get over the pass in the early part of the day or so that we could arrive in camp before nightfall. But here we were in the late morning, just a mile from our starting place, with no sense of urgency. I was glad not to be in charge: I savored the moment - Scott Peck would be proud of me - and delighted in the company of these pleasant people, the warm, morning sunshine, and the fragrant tea. Soon enough, however, Andy, our guide, encouraged us to the trail.

The trail was narrow, but well defined, indicating that there has been regular foot and animal traffic over this remote pass. On our left, the un-named creek raged, fed by yesterday's snowfall. I am probably presumptuous calling this an un-named creek; American operatives had developed precise spy-plane-developed maps and had assigned whatever names were known. But I discovered later that little groupings of houses, called settlements on my map, did indeed have names, and I suspect that the un-named creek was known by some name to the local people.

On our right, the mountain rose in steep ramparts far above the timberline. Our trail went ahead of us almost straight up the valley, through tight copses of dwarfed junipers. Soon the trees fell behind, and the meadows, still wet from the night's dew fall, spread out in arrays of marvelous wildflowers. The wild geranium and balsam root of the lower elevations gave way to more delicate flowers including lovely, deep pink alum or ornamental-flowering wild onions. Bit by bit, the flowers gave up the fight for presence as the trail ascended. At our left, the creek foamed in rapids and cataracts as its bed steepened. The sun now bore down hot in the chilly air.

Most mountain or ridge ascents offer a false summit, which I find symbolic. As we passed the high limit of the wildflowers, the trail appeared to crest the ridge at a huge boulder, perhaps a half mile ahead. Some of our group was suffering from the altitude and all of us were moving slowly. Reaching the top of the ridge would allow the relief of a fast easy descent on the other side. When finally we rounded the boulder, I could see that the trail leveled and then continued upward steeply for another mile, which would take more than another hour at our slow trudging pace. A member of our party finally ran out of energy and Marali, one of the horsepackers, gently mounted her on his horse. there was little talk as each put energy into breathing deeply, and moving slowly upward, always short of breath.

**Do you remember the hiking trip in the Big Snow of Thanksgiving 1950 with other members of the AYH. Please call or write Patty c/o AYH.**

**Be sure to read next month's issue of the Golden Triangle, as we will bring you the next installment of "Lost World", by Walter Vaux.**

**MID-WEEK RAMBLES****FEBRUARY - 1997**

- February 5** West Newton ramble with Alex Federowicz (421-5219). Bring bag lunch.
- February 12** Mt. oliver ramble with Justine Carbonell (362-6074)
- February 19** Walk from our gathering place through Chatham College Campus to ramble 'round Murdoch Farms Neighborhood. Ruth and Dick Fischer (421-9215).
- February 26** McKeesport ramble with Waiter Patton (672-0213)

**MARCH - 1997**

- March 5** Homewood Cemetery ramble with Joe Levine (421-9706).
- March 12** Cloverleaf Estate ramble. George Wescott (279-5375).
- March 19** Enjoy the views from the slag heaps. Ilse Conley (461-6566).
- March 26** Montour Trail. Bring bag lunch. Don Hoecker (243-8298).

**Notes for all rambles**

Meet at 10 am in the upper parking lot of Mellon Park at 5th and Shady Ave. We will car pool to save energy and enjoy each other's company. For trips exceeding 10 miles, passengers are requested to pay driver \$2 each.

From time to time we will schedule lunch at a restaurant or suggest that each person to bring a bag lunch. This is optional.

Call the leader for mote information about the trip, or to let them know that you are planning to meet at the trail head. Please do not call after 10 pm.

**CLASSIFIED**

**All trips and products listed here are private and are not sponsored or endorsed by American Youth Hostels. Non-commercial ads are free for members. Contact the Editor for more info on Ads for Members and Non-members.**

**For Sale:** Rhode Gear Eurosport twin rear-mounted bike rack, hardly used, fits most cars. \$75. Glenn, 731-7415.

**WANTED TO BUY:** Tandem Bicycle, John Gayler, 366-4062

**For Sale:** Oakley sweep lens, blue, M frame, new in box, \$75. Canondale shorts, size S, new, \$8. 2 bicycle jerseys, used but clean, size S and M, \$5 each. Call Michael, 412-322-7206.

**For Sale:** NIKON FG SLR. 28 mm 52 mm and 70-210 mm zoom macro lens closeup lens tripod and bag mint condition \$400.00. Call RICHARD GREGO, 412-533-5725

**For sale:** Epoke 205 mm x-country skis, good condition, \$50; Contact ski boots, size 11, hardly used, \$35; free poles. Call 731-7415.

**For Sale:** Northface internal-frame backpack \$150; Northface tadpole tent (1-2 person) \$140; Whisper light stove \$50; First-Need water filter \$40. Call 242-9747(w) or 1-800-917-4763(pager) and leave message.

**For Sale:** Sail board/wind surfer; Mistral-large older model in good condition. Fiberglass mast, hardware, 2 sails (4m&6m) \$250. Perfect for starter. Night 766-3972 or Day 762-7440.

**For Sale:** 2 Dolfino professional silicone dive masks; low volume, fog-free, double edge. Used once and in original box. (older snorkles free) \$35 Eileen 531-9610

**For Sale:** Kneissl (XC) Skate Skis; Size 190; without bindings; Used once! (Too long for me.) \$50.00 Call 372-1068 eve.

**For Sale:** 60" metal desk, 55" wood roll top desk, steno chair Peg Cline @ 372,1782

**Distributing AYH brochures** We are looking for places to distribute hostelling brochures, primarily brochures describing hostelling and how to purchase a Hostelling International membership, but also some specific hostel brochures. If you have some suggestions on where we can display brochures for potential hostellers - such as colleges, travel agencies and travel bookstores, please call the office at 412-422-2282. We will be happy to deliver them.

**Editor, The Golden Triangle**  
5604 Solway ST.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

**REMINDER TO TRIP LEADERS**

All trips and equipment usage must be approved by the appropriate activity chair or co-chair. Trip reports and fees should be turned in by the end of each month at either the AYH Activities Building or AYH Office or mailed to Pittsburgh Council, 5604 Solway St., Pittsburgh PA 15217

The Pittsburgh Council Travel Store is open Mon. 9 to 3, Wed. 11 to 6 and Fri. from 9 to 3. Hours are subject to change, so it's a good idea to call the office at 412-422-2282 before coming in. We're in Room 202 of the Wightman School Building at 5604 Solway Street in Squirrel Hill, near the intersection of Wilkins and South Negley. All passes, ID cards, rail passes, and books are available.