



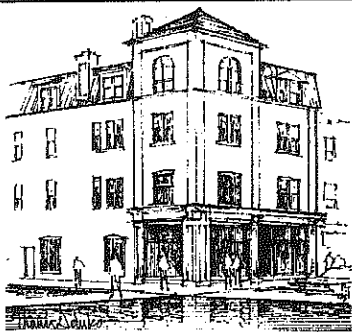
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

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 10

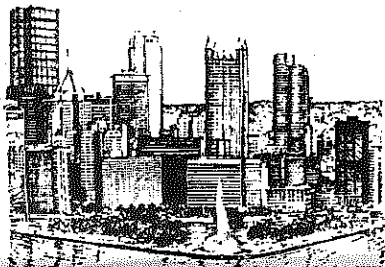
DECEMBER / JANUARY 1997-98



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- Phipps Conservatory
- Historic Point State Park
- Three Rivers Stadium

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

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.....And MORE!!!

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY... PITTSBURGH COUNCIL...

IN THE BEGINNING

The following are excerpts from Tony Pranses' letter in recognition of the 50th year celebration... "the fact that I'm still around and able to write this letter is a positive thing — as is the fact that the Pittsburgh Council is still around and thriving. Many, many local councils have come and gone during that 50 year period."

"How did the Pittsburgh Council get started in 1947? There had been a Council in Pittsburgh prior to WWII, and Horace Forbes Baker had been its President. It never did much, and, like many other local councils, folded during the War. In July of 1947, I made a solo, two-week bicycle tour of the hostels of New England, beginning and ending at Northfield MA, the birthplace of AYH, its original youth hostel and the home of its founders, Monroe and Isabel Smith. I had been an AYH member since 1936, but I was not interested in the organizational side. All I wanted to do was hike, ride my bike and use hostels — in the USA and abroad. As I overnights at the Northfield Hostel at the beginning of my trip, Isabel Smith drew me aside and said something like: "You're from Pittsburgh, aren't you?" I nodded. Then: "You know that there used to be a Council in Pittsburgh before the War?" I shook my head. She continued: "Darned shame that there isn't a council there now." I agreed, wanting very much to get out of there and ending this one-way conversation — but Isabel was very persuasive. Before we ended our chat, I had agreed to "look into what could be done to organize a new council in Pittsburgh". Actually, I did not intend to do anything. I thought that the whole matter would die a natural death as soon as

I left Northfield. But it did not die. I had no sooner returned home (I was single then) that I received a letter from Isabel, reminding me of my "promise" and enclosing a list of about 50 names of everyone in the Pittsburgh area who had ever held an AYH pass. Reluctantly, I prepared a form letter and mailed it to everyone on that list. What I proposed was that we have weekend trip on the Appalachian Trail, starting at the Susquehanna Gap on a date in October. If interested the person should telephone me then we would meet early Saturday morning at the Greyhound Bus station, bus to Dauphin PA hike the trail all afternoon, camp out, hike back then return to Pittsburgh late Sunday. About a third of the letters were returned to me. The addressees had moved. I received perhaps 10 phone calls. At the Greyhound station, 6 people came — 5 females and one male. The only one I absolutely remember is Betty Bierer. Our outing went extremely well — and I thought that would be that for AYH in Pittsburgh — at least until next summer.

Once again, I was wrong. At the time, there was only one AYH council in Pennsylvania which called itself the Pennsylvania State Council and was located in Philadelphia. They had a full-time professional worker named Virginia Towle. She telephoned me, told me that Isabel had contacted her, and she wanted to meet with me to pursue the Pittsburgh Council idea further. She came to my house, said that she would personally contact all prior AYH Members she could find, then try to set up an "organizational" meeting. She did at good job! She persuaded Horace Baker to host (and pay for) a dinner meeting at the

Continued on Page 4

50TH CELEBRATION UPDATE

Planning Meeting

1/15/98

Banquet/Reunion

Mid March

Slumber party

Mid May

Activities Expo

Late Spring

Activities Weekend

Late Spring

Slide Shows

See Schedule/Sign up soon!

Letters

Most Memorable Trip/Send yours

Please make plans to join us at all the above events. More specific dates will be in the next issue.

The next Celebration Planning Meeting is to be held 1/15/98 at the THURSDAY NIGHT'S MEETING PLACE IN SHADYSIDE AT 7:30PM prior to the evening's slide presentation. Please come and help plan!! No prerequisites necessary.



UNITED WAY

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PITTSBURGH COUNCIL-AYH
830 E. WARRINGTON AVE
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Since 1948, Incorporated 1955

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NOTICE

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

FEB/MARCH
All copy, Jan 8
Binding/Mailing, Jan 29

APRIL
All copy, Mar 5
Binding/Mailing, Mar 26

If your work is on computer,
Please contact Bill Eberle
on the "NET" at,
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) 431-1267.

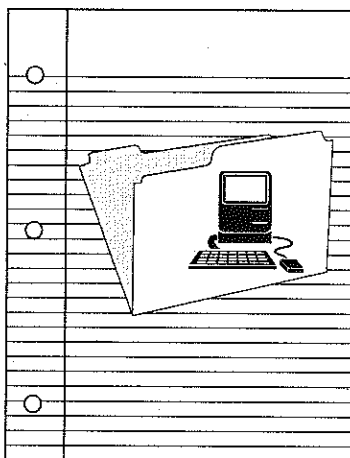
About AYH

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

December 4: We show the 16mm film "America's Wonderlands:The National Parks". A National Geographic Society production.

December 11: Gail Gregory, "French Polynesia". Includes Tahiti, Bora Bora.

December 18: Christmas party, from 8 to 10 PM. This year, it will be at the new hostel at 830 East Warrington Avenue in Allentown, above the Southside. A car pool to the hostel will leave HQ in Shadyside AT 7:45 PM, organized by Joe Hoeckner, 242 0781.

December 25: Christmas holidays; no show.

JANUARY 1998 SLIDE SHOWS CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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.

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
830 Warrington Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Office: (412) 431-4910
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



Pittsburgh Council Hostels

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

HI-Pittsburgh Hostel
830 E. Warrington Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15210
(412) 431-1267

Living Waters AYH Hostel
RD #1(1 mile west on Route 30)
Schellsburg, PA 15559
(814) 733-4212



Hostel Happenings Hostel Happenings Hostel Happenings Hostel Happenings Hostel Happenings

ALLENTOWN...

HOSTEL HOLIDAY PARTY AND TREE-TRIMMING

We have received the offer of a 15-foot tree for the Thursday, December 18 "Deck the Hostel" party. I'd like to thank James Kent for the offer of a tree and offering to deliver it prior to the party in his van. It might be a tight squeeze, however, so if anyone lives in the Washington area and has a truck, James may need your help. Call the hostel if you can help.

For the party itself now all we need is you! Instead of the regular Thursday night open house on December 18 at the AYH Activities Headquarters in Shadyside, please come to the hostel for the:

FIRST ANNUAL "DECK THE HOSTEL" PARTY

Thursday, December 18, 8 - 10 pm.. Pittsburgh International Hostel 830 East Warrington Ave. (Corner of Arlington) in Allentown - above the Southside near Mt. Oliver. Bring a Christmas tree decoration or one for the lobby, preferably handmade or with an international flavor, with your name and the year on it. We'll use these in future years.

FESTIVE ATTIRE ENCOURAGED

CAROLLERS WELCOME.

BRING THE KIDS!

Hot drinks and refreshments will be served.

For more information about the event call the hostel at 431-1267. For carpool information from AYH Activities HQ to the hostel, call Joe Hoechner at 242-0781.

This is the last open house-type activity planned at the hostel for 1997. If you haven't had a chance to see our fantastic new building, now's your chance. Come in out of the cold for some holiday cheer.

FULL HOUSE AT YOUR PLACE THIS SEASON?

Visiting family members during the holiday season? You or someone you know coming into town for holiday festivities or another event? A little cramped at your place this season? Stay at the hostel!

Although we will be closed on December 24 and December 25, (the only 2 days a year that we aren't open), we have plenty of beds available this season for you and yours.

HI/AYH members pay \$17.00/person/night for dormitory beds. Non-members may stay for an additional \$3.00/night.

PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL HOSTEL RESERVATION FORM

(please print legibly and provide complete information)

Reservation Name: _____

Date of Arrival _____

Morning of Departure _____ #Nights _____

Female Beds _____

Male Beds _____

Your Telephone No. () _____

VI/MC/Discover Card # _____

Exp. Date. _____
(for advanced deposit of first night's charges)

Signature _____

Today's Date _____

We have a 24-hour cancellation policy. You must cancel no later than 10 p.m. the night before your intended arrival date or your credit card will be billed for the first night's deposit. Government-issued photo ID required to check-in. Don't forget to bring your membership card.

For information about the hostel, reservations, prices and policies for children, family room availability (surcharge applies), or day use of the hostel, please call the hostel at 431-1267. You can fax the information above to: 431-2625 or email to ayh@trfn.clpgh.org

HOSTEL HOURS TO CHANGE JANUARY 1ST

Effective January 1, 1998 we will be changing our morning hours as follows: Instead of being open from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. we will be open from 8 - 10 a.m. Evening hours will remain the same for 1998: 5 - 10 p.m. Some of you have stopped by during the day wanting to see the hostel. Please remember that the hostel is closed during the day. Changes have already been made to the hostel handbook due from the printer in Washington, D.C. in approximately late December. For copies of the 1998 handbook when they arrive, call the council office at 431-4910.

UPDATE ON ALLENTOWN

STREETSCAPE PROGRAM

The Allentown Business Association (ABA), of which the Pittsburgh International Hostel is a member, is continuing its fund raising efforts for the Streetscape Program and public space improvements in Allentown. The Pittsburgh Hostel has tremendous potential to provide a beneficial economic impact to Allentown. Next summer is looking good for advanced bookings at the hostel already. Having the Streetscape improvements underway by spring, and hopefully completed in time for a busy summer travel season is the goal. Obviously, funding needs to be assured before work can begin. By making the business district more inviting to hostellers it is hoped that they'll stay in the neighborhood to shop. The hostel had support from the business community during its planning phase. We'd like to now support the business community with its efforts to make the Streetscape Program a reality.

AYH members are asked to send donations in any amount to:

Allentown Business Association
Attn: STREETSCAPE
732 Warrington Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!

Since this is a two-month combined issue of the Golden Triangle, the next "Hostel Happenings" column won't appear until 1998. Have a safe and happy holiday season. See you in the New Year.

Holly Ridenour, Hostel Manager

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
830 E Warrington Ave; Pittsburgh, PA 15210
412-431-4910

Cross-Country Skiing Weekends at Wilderness Lodge

January 23 - January 23
January 30 - February 1
February 13 - February 15

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 and a family style dinner Saturday evening. Vegetarian meals are available upon request. Breakfast and lunches are available at the Lodge at an additional but very reasonable cost. Rooms are mostly hostel style with 3 to 6 people in a room but there are at least 3 double rooms available for each weekend. Cost does not include transportation, but we will try to assist with carpooling; riders normally pay \$10 to their drivers.

Trail fees and ski rentals are also not included.

Cost: \$58 per person for dorm beds (\$66 for non-members)
\$68 per person for double rooms
(\$76 per person for non-members)

Call or e-mail early to reserve for the weekend you want, and then send a check for the full amount to guarantee your space. (Charge cards are also accepted.) We will keep a waiting list in case there are cancellations. Please note: there can be no refunds after 14 days before each trip unless we get a replacement for you, and all fees include a non-refundable \$10 per person. Since we do have separate dorm rooms for men and women, we reserve the right to restrict replacements to persons of the same gender.

A map and additional information will be mailed out upon receipt of payment.

Wilderness Lodge Getaway

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/St/Zip: _____
Phone: _____ ☐ male ☐ female
☐ AYH member; pass# _____

Weekend: ☐ Jan 23-25 ☐ Jan 30 - Feb 1 ☐ Feb 13-15

- ☐ 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.

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ made out to:
"Pittsburgh AYH".

Non-members can pay the lower member rates by sending in a membership application and fee with this form. See the back page for details.

Mail to:
Wilderness Lodge / Pittsburgh AYH
830 E Warrington Ave / Pittsburgh PA 15210.

Please give us a name and address for each person, and each person must sign the following Liability Waiver:

Liability Waiver

In consideration of your acceptance of my application for participation in the Cycling Weekend at Wilderness Lodge, I, the undersigned, for myself and my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, waive and release any and all claims for damages for death, personal injury or loss of property I may have or which may accrue to me as a result of my participation. I, the undersigned, discharge and release the Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels Inc, Wilderness Lodge, their activity leaders, and their respective agents, boards, commissions, and any other involved employees, representatives, and volunteers from all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my participation, whether or not caused by the negligence of any of the above parties.

I acknowledge that there are inherent risks and dangers which may arise at any time during the Weekend. My participation is voluntary and is done at my own risk. I voluntarily assume all risks of loss, damage, or injury that may be sustained while participating. I attest that I am physically fit and sufficiently trained for participation in this event. I understand and agree that medical or other services rendered to me by or at the insistence of any of the above parties is not an admission of liability to provide or to continue to provide any such services and is not a waiver of any of the said parties of any right hereunder.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Continued from Cover...

Harvard-Yale-Princeton Club to be attended by about 15 past and present local AYH members, representatives of the press and radio, various civic leaders and Bill Nelson who would be the after-dinner speaker, tell us what hosteling was all about and try to convince us that there were hundreds of thousands of Pittsburghers straining at the bit to join. The meeting took place in early February and was a huge success. As it drew to a close, someone moved that all those present constitute themselves a "steering committee" with the purpose of establishing a new AYH Council in Pittsburgh. Motion carried. Someone else moved that Horace Forbes Baker, in view of his pre-war AYH experience and prominence in the community be named Chairman of this committee. Mr. Baker got up and declared that he would be the "worst possible choice: to head such a committee. The reason that the pre-war council had failed is because all its officers were people like himself — prominent, successful, generally affluent — but in no way capable or inclined to really run a hosteling program. He then nominated me to head the committee on the grounds that I was an "experienced" and "hands-on" AYH guy. I was unanimously elected. Before we adjourned, a small group of us got together and laid out a hiking program for the rest of the winter. I don't remember too many of the events, but I do remember that the first one was a hike from Mt. Lebanon to Presto Lakes (near Bridgeville) and back in late February. There were about 20 people on it. I remember Betty Bierer, Stan Rosecrans and my soon-to-be wife Louise were among them. Later hikes were even more successful. We were growing. By early summer 1948, we had reached the point where we felt strong enough to become a local council. We applied for a charter, and it was granted. In the meantime, one of our well-placed "advisors" had succeeded in securing the "outhouse" of the Arts and Crafts center for our headquarters and, subsequently, a small third floor room in the main building for an office. In the summer of 1949, we ran our first "extended" trip — two weeks in New England which I led.

The rest — as they say — is history.

Next Edition — What really happened at Raccoon State Park in the winter of 1949.

North Country Trail Association

On December 7 th from 2-4 PM there will be a reception at the Old Stone House on RT 8 and RT 528 north of Butler for the North Country Trail Association. Visit the Stone House and meet the new Penna. State Coordinator, see the new NCTA Penna. newsletter and logo. Talk with the President of the new Butler County Chapter of NCTA. View a video and see maps of the trail in Penna. See the Stone House decorated for the Holidays. Learn about future plans for the trail in Penna. You can be part of building and maintaining the trail. Join the NCTA 49 Monroe Center NW, suite 200B, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and help make this dream come true. For more information contact Bob Tait 287-3382 or Bob_Tait@nauticom.net

Bicycling in the Southern Allegheny Mountains

by, Judy Menosky

This past August, I organized a weekend bicycling trip to the Bedford area. Bedford encompasses a modern turnpike stop as well as a quaint historical town with many preserved buildings that have housed travelers since the 1700's. It is also an area with numerous covered bridges, accessible by car or bike. Naturally, there are many scenic mountain vistas.

Bicycling here is not as intimidating as you might think. Some of the climbs are quite gradual and there many lengthy stretches of valley to ride in. Route information was provided by "Shiftin' Gears," a bicycling concession in Shawnee State Park dedicated to promoting tourism in the area. My crew of four chose to tackle the longest ride, a 41 miler that began in Breezewood and meandered through the countryside, passing through some very small towns including Jackson Mills, Mattie, and Purcell. It was marked "very difficult" and it probably would be for the general public, but it was actually a solid class B ride that was very well laid out, parallel to the mountain ridges. It began with six or seven miles of climbing and rolling hills, then several miles of riding along the mountain ridge, then a descent with at least seven miles of valley riding. As we completed our loop, we did some climbing again, but much of it was steady as opposed to short and steep. The scenery was beautiful and traffic was almost nonexistent except near Breezewood. I felt that the main challenge of the ride was that there was no place to get additional water or food along the route unless you were willing to knock on someone's door. Luckily the temperature was moderate and the humidity was fairly low. Many accommodations were available including Shawnee State Park, private campgrounds and the HI - Living Waters youth hostel in Schellsburg off route 30. My companions opted not to ride the second day, so I took a short ride in the morning and a dip in the lake at Shawnee before heading home.

This would be a good getaway to bring non-cycling family and friends on as well, since there is plenty to do in the area. It could also be great for early autumn riding. Feel free to contact me if you want more information on the area.

ALASKA... THE ETERNAL

This is the second of a series in which Glenn Oster narrates an HI/AYH trip that he led last summer to Alaska. In this installment, Glenn discusses the portion of their trip through Victoria Island, British Columbia, Prince Rupert on Canada Day, their experiences on the ferries of the Inland Passage and their adventures in Ketchikan and Juneau, Alaska.

Pointing toward Alaska
It's about time

We stuffed our dampness into the van and drove down to Port Angeles. After a good breakfast, we boarded the ferry to Vancouver Island, finally heading in the direction of Alaska. Our next destination was the famed Butchart Gardens. It's a magnificent place - even in the rain. They provide complimentary umbrellas for days like that one. Other than for Mossyrock Dam, this was to be the first place on the trip that I had never seen before, let alone many times. I was disappointed because of the weather and didn't even carry my camera. However, my disappointment was short lived for the rain tapered off, and the flowers and marvelous landscaping were beautiful despite the overcast. Considering the rain, I expected the place to be empty. Think again. Dozens of busloads of visitors came in a never ending stream. Japanese everywhere - taking pictures of Japanese, what else. I was glad we did our tour in the morning. I can only imagine in horror what a Sunday afternoon would be like in good weather.

Off we went to another ferry and a ride to the mainland south of Vancouver, BC. Our route took us east first and then north up the Fraser River Gorge to the city of Prince George. I had never even heard of the Fraser River, but it is a major river that flows from the innards of British Columbia, raging its way to the Strait of Georgia and, eventually, the Pacific Ocean. The river is wild and should be described as a white water stream, if one can forget its ugly dark grey glacial silt color. Just before reaching Prince George, we saw fields of some form of crop, all covered over by plastic or netting - not certain as to what. We subsequently learned that they were growing ginseng. I had thought that the only way it was found was by Appalachian Mountain men who scoured the forests and kept locations of successful finds a serious secret. Travel is educational, although I'm not certain that it was something critical for me to know.

From Prince George, we made our way north and west along various rivers and through scenic canyons with snow-covered mountains on both sides. I had expected the drive through this part of British Columbia to be a big yawn, but the scenery was great, and we all enjoyed the route. Our new destination was Prince Rupert, from whence we would take the Alaska Marine Highway ferry up the Inland Passage. Our progress continued to be good, so good that we arrived ten hours ahead of the time when we needed to put the van on the ferry. Wayne found a trail to hike, and Phylis and I kicked around in Prince Rupert. We hadn't thought about the fact that we were arriving on Canada Day. The locals go all out (to the extent a small city can) to celebrate, but we only caught the finale, a group of Native Americans singing. Just the same, we were there as the festivities wound down, and the aficionados asked if there were any visitors from a foreign nation in the crowd. I asked if Pgh, Pa counted; it did. They gave us each a good quality white T shirt with a large red maple leaf and the word "Canada" in prominent red letters. I brought it home to my wife, half hoping that she wouldn't care for it. She does.

Now came an aspect of the trip that was real fun - the ferry-ride up the Inland Passage. The name of the game is to be first to the upper deck and the solarium. That's where the deck chairs were on which we would be sleeping, that is, if we managed to get one not already occupied. So, as soon as I had the van in place on the ferry, I carried my gear up and up and up. They have an elevator, but I didn't want to wait and maybe lose out on nailing down a deck chair. Wayne made it okay and selected his chair. I claimed one each for Phylis and me, but where was Phylis? Inside I hustled searching for her. I wasn't having much success, but then I heard a voice calling my name. There was Phylis standing in the dark. She saw me before I saw her. All's well that ends well. Wayne, Phylis and I got situated and ready for sleep. The deck chairs lay down flat; you only have to add your air mattress and sleeping bag, and you're all set for the night. However, Phylis could not find a comfortable spot on the deck chair; there was a lump. Its cause was eventually discovered; her orange (and a large one at that) found its way into her sleeping bag. She had a good laugh at herself. Wayne and I just sniggered. It was a great experience sleeping out of doors like that, listening to the deep throated pulsations of the ship's engines and the sound of the water in the ship's wake. Some of the travelers set up tents on the deck. That gave them privacy, of course, but they missed much of what made the boat ride fun. Morning brought us Ketchikan, Alaska.

Ketchikan - Alaska at Last
Bring on the eagles and the totem poles

It was easy to find the HI/AYH Hostel there. The house parents welcomed us and let us bring in our bedding and suitcases, but we were too early to settle in. The first order of business was to get our reservations for a boat tour of Misty Fjords. AYHer, Tom Kaveney, had been here earlier and put this on the "must" list. Oh groan - no reservations to be had during our stay in Ketchikan. Someone mentioned chartering a boat and suggested a boat owner who might take us there. Success. Don Westlund and his boat, The Silver King, were available two days later. We had a thirty second conference and nailed down that reservation "rhat now," post haste, quickly, that is.

We still had most of the day available for sightseeing, and set out to seek new adventures. We elected to see first what the southern half of the Island looked like. This wasn't exactly an all-day's journey. The length of the entire highway north and south is only thirty-four miles. Along the way, a beautiful waterfall was sparkling in the morning sunlight, and, as far as we could learn, it has no name. It surely deserves one, a descriptive one like Falling Sparkles Falls. Maybe I should submit that to the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce. Farther along the way, we came to a trail up to Silvis Lake. Wayne had hiked recently, but Phylis and I had been sitting in the van, forever it seemed, and we needed some exercise. Why not? Up we three went in tennis shoes - our hiking boots were relaxing back at the hostel. Up and up we climbed. In ten minutes I took off my long sleeve shirt and long pants and left them on a rock to retrieve on our return (no, I didn't disgrace Phylis and Wayne - I wore hiking shorts and a T shirt underneath in the event of warmer temperatures during the day.) In this part of the world, hiking means climbing, and

we seemed to do this forever that day. We eventually did get to see Silvis Lake with its snow streaked mountain backdrop. We were nowhere near the top of the mountain, and there was lots more climbing that we could have done. True, the hike only covered six miles, but, it was enough for a tune up. Going back down was a snap. I even remembered to gather up my clothing along the way.

Well, that was a good start for the day. What new scenes and experiences awaited us? The colorful world of totem poles, that's what. Sounds rather dull, but there were two major totem pole displays at Saxman Totem Heritage Center and at Totem Bight, both really worth visiting to learn a bit about the culture of the Tlingit (pronounced Kling-it) Indians. Each totem pole is unique; each tells a different story. Here's one area where I'd prefer to let my camera's slides describe them - the poles were so diverse. You'll just have to come to the HI/AYH open house the night I show them. Watch the Golden Triangle early in 1998.

The next day's activity required a 5:30 A.M. rise and shine in order to reach the charter office on time. Don's wife, Jolene, had a free day from her employment and joined us. She was completely familiar with our route, and in time we found that she made our day even better than expected. Everything went smoothly, and we were in The Silver King in no time. Our boat looked like a minnow beside a whale when we motored past the enormous cruise ships in the harbor. I believe it was one of the beauties of the Princess Line that was docked at that moment. Various cruise ship lines were constantly coming and going at all the Inland Passage ports of call. Some, like that one, were very modern, others were huge, but obviously older in style. Nevertheless, they all offered luxury of a type we weren't seeking - no, not sour grapes. When they docked, the huge liners disgorged hundreds of sightseers, many, if not most of whom, headed directly to the gift shops. Their opportunities for sightseeing were nowhere near as broad and flexible as ours. I have to admit that we felt a bit smug as we sailed out on our private mission.

The morning was clear and bright. For a couple miles, we traveled at ten to fifteen knots, but when we were sufficiently out of the harbor Don opened up his twin 250 horsepower engines, and we moved, leaving a blue and frothy white wake pattern - exhilarating. Wayne faced into the wind and drank in the experience with a calm countenance. Phylis has been exposed to boats all her life and loves them - not certain, but she may have been weaned on one. Anyhow, I thought I could hear her purring over the noise of the engines. The boat skimmed the water at full throttle for twenty-two miles to reach the inlet to Misty Fjords. As you probably know, fjords are virtually bottomless saltwater arms of the sea flanked by rock walls, some 3,000 feet high in Misty Fjords. With an average rainfall of 150 inches a year, this trip is usually done in rain, hence its name. We were happy to have seen it on a sunny day. Don took us far into the fjords, past an imposing volcanic core, called Eddystone Rock.

As we progressed, we explored arm after arm. He would take us into places where he often saw bears and other wildlife. Then he would cut the engines. As much as anything, he did this to let us experience the unbelievable silence. Even the water was smooth and noiseless. It was truly quiet - almost a religious sensation. In contrast, farther into the fjords we saw float planes landing and taking off, filling the air with engine roar. There was something intriguing about watching them; they didn't bother me esthetically to the extent that I would have assumed. Also, in the same area as the float planes were doing their thing, along came the cruise boat for which we couldn't get a reservation. Although they had luncheon provided, and the cost per person was about \$20 less than our trip, we weren't a bit envious.

We didn't see wildlife on shore, but did see seals floating idly along. One unexpected thing we did see at one of the inlets was a camp of six tents and families with small children. They had been taken there by boat to kayak the friendly waters and enjoy the solitude. HI/AYH sea kayakers, are you listening? Perhaps the highlight of the day was the bald eagles. Don knew of a nest where they responded to fish throws. He would whistle in a way they recognized, wave his arms back and forth, and, surely enough, one could soon be seen circling overhead. He would then inflate a dead bait fish with a big hypodermic-type device and toss it in the water about fifteen feet behind the boat. The eagle would hover fifty feet above and then dive almost straight down, talons outstretched, snatch the fish and fly away in a heartbeat. Don must have performed that feat at least seven times. The eagle dropped so fast that I moved my camera each time and have blurred images of his approaches to the fish. Not sure if it was the same eagle each time, but if it was, he surely took a lot of food back to his nest for the rest of his family. The folks who took the other boat tour didn't get this thrill. At the end of the trip, we again worked our way into the harbor past another monstrously large cruise liner, slipped in alongside the dock and tied up. We had been on the boat for ten hours and traveled 150 miles. Don surely gave us our money's worth. The trip wound up with picture taking and warm goodbyes. What a memorable day!

The following day was another beauty. I was concerned about the amount of time I had spent in the van and on boats and seized the opportunity to climb Deer Mountain - with a fully loaded backpack. Wayne had the same idea and was on his way up the mountain much ahead of me. In fact, I met him coming down as I was only half way up. This was a three thousand-foot climb, throughout a distance of three miles. It offered many expansive views of Ketchikan below, as well as the waterways and the snow studded mountains north and east. From this vantage point, it was now the cruise ships that looked like minnows. At times, the trail went through snow fields, adding interest to the hike. The crest was tree-covered, but you could see a full 360 degrees if you were willing to take all the side trails. Including the distance from the hostel to and from the trail, the hike covered eight miles - not all that far - but this out of shape hiker was bushed.

After a warm shower and dinner, I was revived and ready to take the ferry over to Gravina Island. The airport is located there - no place to put it in Ketchikan. Until I actually saw these places, I found it difficult to perceive how tiny and confined these port cities are, nestled between an arm of the sea facing them and steep mountains behind. I could not get my wife to believe that there are no roads into and out of cities like Ketchikan and Juneau. "Indeed, that's not possible." It is. My mission in going to the airport was to pick up Geri and Tom. They arrived with big smiles, Geri, with her big blue eyes sparkling, and Tom with his engine running at

Continued on Page 7

SLIDES, SLIDES AND MORE GOOD SLIDES

We have had some fantastic slide shows in conjunction with our 50th Celebration about adventures over the years. Jim Ritchie gave us a history of the Baker Trail; Gloria Monk showed some of the early fifties; Joan Roolf showed us some of the late fifties and early sixties, and there is more to come! We have seen mountains, rivers and forests; people of yesteryear and people of today. If nothing else, we should know how to change a flat tire! (There was always a group picture when that happened!) IT HAS BEEN GREAT! The camaraderie while watching the slide shows has been wonderful; everyone remembering their adventures and its participants while other viewers want to know who and when.

WE WANT MORE!! In the next year we hope to feature these medleys of trips at least once a month. Bookings are going fast! Please, any and all time periods! Call a friend, pool your slides. Call Luc to schedule.

We are also looking for **SHORT** articles on your most memorable trips. Please date and send them to:

Pittsburgh Council-AYH
830 E Warrington Avenue
Pittsburgh PA 15210
ATTN: 50th Celebration
or E-Mail them to: ayh@trfn.clpgh.org

Continued from Page 2

- January 1:** New Year holidays; no show.
January 8: Joyce Appel, "Galapagos". Animals galore, not seen anywhere else. Unbelievable snorkeling.
January 15: Gail Gregory, "Hawaii National Volcano Park". Also Kauai and Maui.
January 22: Bruce Merritt narrates his own 16mm movie of an AYH trip to new England in 1952. Part of Pittsburgh AYH 50-year celebration.
January 29: We show the 16mm film "Bighorn With John Denver". John Denver and mountaineer Tommy Tomkins walk through the northern Rockies from spring to winter, searching for sheep.
February 5: Joyce Appel, "Inca Trail". Learn about this ancient civilization from ruins and from the native guide. See Uros people living on floating reed islands on Lake Titicaca.

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.

RAMBLES

- December 3** CMU new student center and other points of interest. Luc Berger 683-3131. Walk from our usual Art Center meeting place to CMU. Optional lunch in Student Center food court
December 10 Morningside. Marilyn Ham 687-4520
December 17 Shadyside. Dave & Kathy Sadler 361-3707. Bag lunch
December 24 No Ramble. Christmas Eve. Happy Holidays!!
December 31 No Ramble. New Years Eve. Happy Holidays!!
January 14 The Allentown area on Mt. Washington. The Hostel will be open to us for lunch. A bowl of hot homemade soup will be provided to accompany your bag lunch. Come see our beautiful hostel and the surrounding territory. We will walk rain, sun or snow. Call Joan Roolf 795-8345

NOTES FOR RAMBLES!

10:00 AM is the starting time for all Fall rambles. Meet in Mellon Park upper parking lot at Fifth and Shady Avenues. Carpooling is encouraged. For trips over 10 miles, please pay driver \$2.00.

Call trip leader for more information, especially if you plan to meet us at the trail head.

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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.

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Lewisburg Trips

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.

Discount Ski Trips to Seven Springs

Two Sundays, Jan. 11 and Feb 1

You and your friends are welcome to sign up for one or all of the trips planned. You must prepay for your lift ticket by the designated date to get the discounted group rate. We must get a minimum of 30 people to sign up in order to get the discount so call Wednesday night before your trip date to ensure that the trip is on. If the trip does not go, your check will be returned if you have sent a SASE or torn up if you have not.

When entering Seven Springs, tell the staff in the booth that you are meeting "Mary's Group" (parking should be free). If you have any questions, call Mary at 781-4442. Send the following information to:

Ski Trip, 3968 Beechwood Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pa 15217.

Date: _____ Jan. 11 or _____ Feb. 1

Name: _____

Phone: _____

No. of Lift tickets @ \$21: _____

Rentals @ \$10: _____

Ski Lessons @ \$6: _____

Snow board rental @ \$2: _____

Snow board lessons @ \$10: _____

Total amt. enclosed: _____

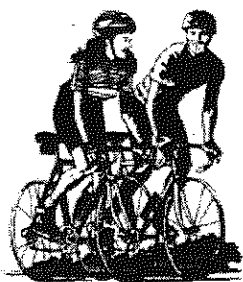
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5...

6000 rpms. It was a joy to see them so excited. We had a good many tales to tell them about all that we had already seen and done, and the Alaska part of the trip was just getting started.

Next morning, we drove all thirty-four miles from one end to the other in Ketchikan and showed them as much as could be done without hiking or going out on the water. I never thought I could enjoy seeing totem poles more than once, but I did. Then came lunch and getting the van in a cue to drive onto the ferry for Juneau. This time we were seasoned ferry travelers and managed the deck chair regimen like pros. By that time, the sky was heavily overcast. I took too many pictures of the snowy mountains that we saw on both sides as we sailed north - all predictably dull from lack of sunshine. I was surprised to note as I was taking one of my pictures that it was 11:00 P.M. (At Fairbanks, farther north on the trip, it never really got dark all night long.) On the ferry rides, National Park Service rangers put on programs, one about Alaska fiction writer Jack London, one on the Chilkoot Trail and others to help us learn more about Alaska. They were really worth attending and gave us insight into its native culture, glaciers, and vegetation, as well as its critters. Later, that night, we were to have a new experience - rain. No problem, we thought, under the solarium roof as we were. Moreover, for our comfort, there were infrared heaters in the ceiling to keep us toasty. However, we became soggy toast - the roof leaked, almost everywhere. Admittedly, we could have gone inside and spread our sleeping bags out on a nice dry floor, but we elected to tough it out. We kept experimenting with different locations where it wasn't dripping and with some success here and there. I felt that I found a good spot and drifted off to sleep, happy to be warm and dry. Think again. I had opened my sleeping bag and thrown it over me like a blanket. I didn't realize that the bag was touching the floor. Capillary action did its thing, and my sleeping bag got wet from that soaked indoor-outdoor carpeting. So much for my ability to find a dry spot.

Juneau, Alaska's State Capitol
and my fall from grace

Our destination was Juneau; we arrived at 10:30 a.m. to a typical rainy greeting and too late to check in at the hostel. We lost no time in making our way to our greatest interest in Juneau, the Mendenhall Glacier. That we saw in, what else, rain - rather somber to put it conservatively. I took a picture of our crew with the glacier as a backdrop. All were wearing raingear, and a wetter group I have never photographed. Later, we drove into the city and visited the Alaska State Museum, a well executed display of Alaska, then and now. I remember some marvelous black and white prints of glaciers and mountains, some close ups obviously taken on bitter cold climbs. Museums aren't my special interest, but this one is worth visiting. Give yourself enough time.

By that time, we could check in at the hostel and shower for the evening's activity. I had read in a book entitled Alaska Travel Survival Kit about two "famous" salmon bakes. One, The Gold Creek Salmon Bake, provided all the salmon you could eat plus entertainment for the evening for \$20. Another, The Thane Ore House Salmon Bake, also offered endless salmon, ribs and halibut for \$16. Entertainment could be had in an adjacent auditorium at extra cost. Taking in a salmon bake in Juneau had been part of the trip plan from its inception. Well, as often happens with groups, I couldn't get them to make a decision about either or none. So I made an "executive decision" in favor of the less expensive one, and out into the dreary evening we drove. Well, we should have responded to our first impression and turned back. It was, indeed, an old ore house, an unpainted one-story, rambling wood structure. In the mist it looked spooky and as aged and unkempt as one would expect from that page of history. Moreover, we couldn't figure out where the door was - no signs - until a man exited through an unlikely location. We screwed up our courage and entered. As Wayne put it, he never felt comfortable paying for a meal before he got it. This is the standard approach for places like this; so, it didn't serve to dissuade the rest of us. Let's face it. By this time of evening, we would have eaten anything, anywhere. We were hungry, and the thought of going elsewhere was not a happy contemplation, especially since we had driven all that way out on narrow, rough, pot-holed roads in the rain and mist. We selected a table and showed restraint as we headed toward the food. Now, for the meal itself. First, came a very good salad bar. Things were looking up. Next, came the trip to the serving line. There were all these promised entrees in abundance. Most of us took some of each. The halibut was good. However, from there things went downhill. The salmon had been laced with a sauce that made it almost inedible. I even tried a second piece to see if the first just wasn't prepared well. No better. The ribs? Again drawing from a comment by Wayne, "I think someone ate all the meat from them, and the cook put the bare bones in barbeque sauce." This evening became the nadir of the trip - and I had to bear the blame - poor, unloved leader that I was.

Juneau was brighter the next morning - actually in sunshine. We returned to see Mendenhall Glacier in better light. What an impressive sight! Massive, it covers thirty-five square miles. There were numerous icebergs floating in the river that had recently calved, but none broke loose either day while we were watching. Guess you can't have everything. Geri discovered a hiking trail within the park, and we enjoyed an hour of sunshine and exercise. Then came another ferry ride to Skagway, but this was a shorter trip and no rain. By this time, we were real veterans at ferry riding. We knew where the lounges, the rest rooms and the galley were. Food prices on the ferry were not as expensive as I had expected. We reached Skagway at about 11:00 P.M. and drove directly to the hostel. This one was a home hostel, not an HI/AYH hostel, and I was especially glad that I had made reservations, because fifteen people showed up seeking a place to lay their heads for the night. I'm not sure of what happened to some of them, because there was "no room at the inn." I didn't have much of a problem with the hostel. However, Geri and Phyllis were anxious to find other less crowded accommodations and moved to a local campground first thing in the morning.

Geri and Phyllis used the van while the men backpacked. They had their own brand of adventures, including a thrilling train ride over the rugged mountains between Skagway and Whitehorse. They had no trouble in finding interesting things to do.

In the next installment, Glenn will discuss the beauty and challenge of backpacking the historical Chilkoot Trail used in the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-98

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