

The Golden Triangle

Pittsburgh Council

Volume 41 Number 8

American Youth Hostels

August 1990

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World Traveler - African Adventures

by Jerry Slagle

Part II

I remember somewhere in this stretch of desert helping the mechanic by taking apart a chicken wire fence. He used the wire to wrap it around the motor to the frame, so the motor would not fall out. It was held in by one bolt only. The old mechanic didn't care to tighten the bolts frequently, so they would loosen and eventually fall out. Unfortunately, when we checked the abandoned vehicles in the desert, they were stripped of bolts. The next thing that broke was the muffler which fell off, so we just carried it with us until we found new bolts. Everyone sitting in the back of the truck had a generous supply of fumes to breath for a few weeks.

At this time, in the no-man's land between Niger and Algeria, we met a Japanese student on his beat up bicycle. I thought we were a little crazy, but this guy! Out there alone pushing his bike across the desert. He said people would stop and try to "rescue" him by grabbing his bike and dragging it and him into their vehicles. He had difficulty making them understand he wanted to travel alone with his bike across the desert. All he carried with him was a small sack of clothes, a tent and a plastic water jug. We ran into him two other times in Africa. He was traveling as fast as our truck (imagine that). Later he told me he began his journey by flying from Tokyo to Anchorage, Alaska, and then riding his bicycle from there, all the way down to Argentina. From there he flew to Europe and crossed over to Algeria where he started riding south through the continent. His only problems were with children throwing things at him when he rode through their villages.

Near the border area, we saw caravans with camels carrying bags of goods north towards Algeria. I was surprised to see both camel caravans and truck convoys in the

desert. Most trade goods are carried in semi-type trucks with orange color flashing lights on the top of the cabs. The desert contains a blend of the old and the new.

Once we crossed over the border into Niger, we were in "Black Africa", not "Arab Africa." The prevailing religion was still Islam, but the culture and customs were definitely different. We heard loud cheerful music, we could buy alcoholic drinks and the females were not completely covered with clothes like the female members of specific tribe in middle Algeria. There, the women were all covered except for one eye. We called them the Cyclop women. It was strange to see them walking towards you on the sidewalk with only one eye peeking out. Also, women were socializing in the cafes and bars in Niger unlike many places in Arab North Africa, where it was socially acceptable for only men to frequent the bars and cafes.

As the terrain changed to more shrubs and trees, we started to see more people and animals. The architecture of the buildings and huts was different with some being made out of mud. We were now in the Sahel region, which borders the Sahara desert on the south.

It was getting hotter the further south we went. By the time we got to Niamey, the capital of Niger, the mid-day temperatures were in the 120's. We were all run down and ill, so it was good to stop at a place where fresh food could be bought and we could rest for awhile. The wife of the American ambassador let me use the residents' swimming pool during certain times of the day. It was great to cool off at the pool and to meet other Americans.

After Niger, we traveled through Bukino Fasso (Upper Volta) and originally we had continued on page 10. . .

Slide Programs for August

August 2
My trip to Europe
with Steve Poprocky

August 9
Preview of upper Yough river
with Linda Smithyman
and Rodney Horner

August 16
TBA

August 23
Normandy France
with Pat Rossi

August 30
Return to Venezuela
with Marilyn and Cliff Ham

Slide shows begin at 8:15 pm
Headquarters opens at 8:00 pm

We need shows. To volunteer call
Rodney Horner (339-0944)



COUNCIL NEWS

NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL CELEBRATION DON'T MISS IT!

You're invited. Actually, invitations have been sent to Governor Casey and Pennsylvania State senators and representatives, heads of local governments, the universities, hiking organizations and all those interested in the out of doors. Join in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the North Country National Scenic Trail, the NCT, at Cook forest on Sunday, September 2.

We of the Pittsburgh Council of AYH are responsible for the Cook forest site of the celebration. Simultaneously, there will be 30 - 40 such sites along the trail's 3200 miles. We at AYH are proud that this important multiple use (non-motorized) trail travels a 30-some mile segment of our own Baker Trail including some of its most beautiful woodlands. For that matter, Cook forest is best known for its marvelous stand of sky-high hemlocks and hardwoods.

So, come to Cook Forest and hike a part of the NCT. Guide sheets and maps will be provided so that you can hike a loop as short as 1 1/2 miles, a three mile loop or a ten mile loop (longer, if you're really in the mood).

There's no registration fee, but you'll be able to buy patches and pins there and to order T shirts commemorating the event (and supporting the further development of the trail). Get together a group. Have a picnic at this beautiful park or arrive early and camp for the Labor Day week-end. But, whatever, it'll be fun. Come join us and hike a bit of the trail.

No advance registration is required. Simply meet at the visitors center at the picnic grounds along the Cooksburg/Vowinkel road about one half mile north of the Clarion River Bridge (toward Vowinkel) anytime between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm on September 2. You'll register and be able to discuss which trails to walk and will receive a trail guide and a map of Cook Forest.

For more information, call any of us after August 19 (we'll be backpack/hiking in Montana 8/3 - 8/18). Glenn Oster, 234-3967 (weekdays); Pat Tieman, 561-3286; Helen Coyne,



SOME THOUGHTS FROM ISABELLE SMITH

Increasingly we feel that we are one big family. Being a family, I feel free to give you a little motherly advice. You are all planning now for your summer holidays. Let me suggest a few things it would be well to pack up and take with you. Be sure to take a big appreciation of simple things - plenty of joy in the out-of-doors - an ample supply of joking (the kind that never hurts) - quantities of patience and tolerance to be shared by all, even if some of us don't deserve it, and lastly, joy in your own deft fingers. If you take these with you, you'll discover what fun it is to belong to a big family, the jolly family of youth hostellers.

(Isabelle and her husband Monroe were founders of American Youth Hostels in 1934. This article first appeared in Knapsack in Spring 1937 and was reprinted in Summer 1985.)

VOLUNTEERS

The Nominations Committee will soon be searching for volunteers to assist us in many areas such as Special Events, Council Store, and helping out with current programs. If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer please call Larry Laude at 665-9554 or Linda Smithyman at 531-1868. You probably don't realize how much we really need your help.

Other volunteers are needed to help out with such things as the front desk on Thursday nights, binding and mailing the newsletter one Thursday evening per month, the Mon-Valley Century bike ride on August 19th, or any one time event. If you can donate a little time we would be grateful for a call.

**AYH HOT LINE
(412) 362-8181**

AMERICAN TO SERVE ON IYHF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Last month at the 38th International Youth Hostel federation Conference in Muikamachi, Japan, E. J. Horton was elected to the IYHG Executive Committee for a two year term. Congratulations to E. J., a former AYH National Board president, who has worked hard for many years with AYH and with the international organization and has gained the respect of all his colleagues. E. J. is the first American to serve on the committee. We look forward to our increased contact with the international organization.

THE PITTSBURGH HOSTEL STORY

by Linda Smithyman

The committee is continually making progress toward finding a hostel site for the city of Pittsburgh. We will be meeting on Monday, August 13th at Linda Smithyman's home at 7:30 pm. Call Linda for more information at 531-1868.

Congratulations

To **Pat Tieman**, who was elected to the Board of Directors of the North Country Trails Association!

Activities Board Meeting ...

The date for the annual picnic was set for August 5th at North Park. Membership in North Country Trail and the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation were approved. The repairs to the roof at Headquarters still remain completed despite the valiant efforts of a few dedicated volunteers.

August Meeting: The August meeting will be held at Linda Smithyman's house in the South Hills. Check the minutes from the July meeting for directions or call Linda at 531-1868 (H).

Deadlines for the September Issue

Copy
August 2

Binding and Mailing
August 23

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It hardly seems possible, but it's almost time for elections and new officers for the coming year. Here's how it will be working — At its August meeting, the Activities Board will be approving the standing committees for 1991 and a nominating committee will be formed to recommend candidates to the membership. The candidates will be listed in the October Triangle and, if possible, in the September newsletter. Elections will be held at the annual Council meeting in October. The date hasn't been set yet but will probably be on the third weekend of October. Those being elected will be the chairs of the standing committees, the Council officers, and approximately one third of the Board of Directors. Those persons interested in running for any of the available offices and chairs should contact me or Linda Smithyman. Three positions that we especially need to fill are Special Events Coordinator, Storekeeper, and Hostel Operations Chair, which at this point consists primarily of overseeing operations at the Ohiopyle AYH-Hostel.

It is also important to have a good base of volunteers to support the operations of the Council. If you are willing to commit time to a particular part of the Council's work, whether it's the activities program, hostel operations, hostel development, membership services, special events or general administrative support, please contact me about your interests.

Also, we will be presenting an annual report at the annual meeting. I will be needing contributions from all officers and committee chairs by the middle of September. I'll be contacting you later with details, but for now I'd like you to be thinking about the past year and about plans for the coming year. Larry Laude 412-665-9554

AYH ANNUAL PICNIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5TH is the date for the picnic this year. We have reserved the ERIE shelter on Lake Shore Drive in North Park for the whole day. Bring your own food and beverages (leave glass containers at home please) and maybe something to share too. To get there: Turn into Lake Shore Drive from Kummer Road and stay right at the fork in the road. Parking is available on the side of the street that is not the bike trail and at a small parking area on the right. Hopefully we will have an orange AYH triangle for you to easily recognize us. North Park has a bike trail with bicycles to rent and the Rachel Carson Trail for some hiking as well. Or just take a walk around the lake, isn't it 5 miles? I managed to bike it all the way up that big hill once! We hope to have the volleyball net up and sea-kayaks for fun on the lake. If anyone can help with transporting the sea-kayaks I would appreciate a call. Bring your frisbees and whatever and plan to have a good time. Officially we'll kick off at 1:00 pm but feel free to arrive at any time. We would appreciate a small donation of .25 per person to help defray the cost of the permit. Hope to see ya'll there.

Trips in August

BICYCLING

General Information: It is best to call the trip leader before the ride to tell him or her that you are coming and to see if there are any changes. Make sure that your bike works properly and bring a spare inner tube, at least one water bottle, and if the weather looks threatening, a rain jacket or rain suit. AYH bicycle rentals must be arranged with the trip leader one week in advance. Bicycle helmets (ANSI or Snell approved) are required on all AYH cycling trips.

8/3-5 Fri-Sun C Ober Rooney 364-3956(H)

Niagara Falls, 30 miles Stay at the Niagara Falls International Hostel in Ontario. Riding includes the Niagara Parkway and probably part of the Welland Canal. The number of trippers is limited so contact Ober as soon as you read this if you are interested in going.

8/4 Sat C Jeff Marsh 384-7827(H)

30 miles, An easy paced ride. Contact Jeff for more details.

8/11 Sat B- Dino Angelici 931-6651(H)

30 miles, Join Dino on a ride somewhere North or West of the city. Call for more details.

8/18 Sat C Ober Rooney 364-3956(H)

9:00 at Sewickley. Sewickley to Ingomar, 26 miles, Trip starts from the Sewickley train station. A pleasant ride on quiet scenic roads. While the terrain is not flat, the hills that you get are not too tough.

8/19 Sun A-C Chuck Ejzak 466-6196(H)

Elizabeth, PA. 100-35 miles, The Mon Valley Century Bicycle Tour; This is it! In case you haven't heard about it, the MVC is Pgh Council's premier bicycle event. Registration includes snack stops, lunch, and MVC T-shirt. Rides choices are: flat 35 and 65 mile rides and more challenging 100 mile ride. Early registration deadline is Aug 5. Alternatively, you may register on the day of the ride. Registration forms were in July Triangle and at HQ or call Chuck.

8/26 Sun C Lou Conley 681-8321(H)

11th Annual Duquesne Incline Bike Ride Join Lou and friends on their annual late August tour of Pittsburgh. The tour is about 25 to 30 miles but is done at a very leisurely pace and has frequent sightseeing stops. We will have lunch at our favorite deli near the top of the incline. Be sure to bring lunch money, \$1.50 for the incline ride, and lots of enthusiasm. Call Lou for information and reservations.

9/1-3 Fri-Mon All Bill Eberle 833-9732(H)

PA Wine Country. Camping near Northeast PA (about 15 miles from Erie). A variety of riding is available ranging from flat riding along Lake Erie to the hills near Lake Chataqua. This trip may also be attractive to noncyclists as well with swimming and sight seeing. End your summer with a great Labor Day. Drivers needed with bike racks. Call to reserve space by August 16.

Pittsburgh Council Activity Chairs

Bicycling

Chuck Ejzak	466-6196
Dino Angelici	931-6651

Canoeing

Clare Bunker	244-9788
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Caving

Dan Martt	921-4638
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Climbing

Eric Bauer	687-0766
Rich Rosenberger	355-4058

Family Activities

Barbara Hanusa	441-7205
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Hiking & Backpacking

Ben Brugmans	736-2751
Pat Tieman	561-3286

Kayaking

Ray Yutzy	341-5682
John Gayler	421-1307

Mid-Week Trips

Cliff Ham	687-4520
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Rafting

Jon Maiman	441-2306
Linda Smithyman	531-1868

Sailing

Rick Tomlinson	963-8910
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Sea Kayaking

Mark Mistrik	441-8293
Ted Self	795-6286

Volleyball

Joel Platt	521-5244
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X-C Skiing

Fred Parker	856-4713
Rick Ulaky	422-0849

Volunteers Needed for MVC

We are looking for volunteers to help with the MVC. Volunteering is fun and educational. Some of the jobs are: registration, parking attendant, sag driver, food stop, corner ride marshal, and route painter. Contact Rodney Homer (339-0944) to volunteer.

Mon Valley Century Bicycle Tour

Place: Bingo Hall in Elizabeth, PA. This is Pgh AYH's invitational Tour. If you like to bicycle, you won't want to miss it. Last year's ride had more than 300 riders and we expect even more this year. The rides follow along the Mon River Valley and northeastern Washington County. Snack stops, lunch, and MVC T-shirt are included. Application forms are available in the July Triangle, at HQ, or by calling Chuck Ejzak (466-6196).

VOLLEYBALL

ATTENTION VOLLEYBALLERS!

We will be playing every **MONDAY**, starting at 6:00 pm in Mellon Park, top of the hill. Call Joel Platt at 521-5244(H) or 421-4446(W).



Trips in August

CANOEING

General Information: Bring these items on most trips: Lunch, water, change of clothes, sun hat, knee pads, suntan lotion, waterproof bag, strap for glasses, raincoat. Wear old sneakers and clothes that dry quickly or retain body heat when wet - wool or polypropylene clothes when it's cold, synthetics when it's warm. The stream we choose for a trip depends on the water level, which varies widely from week to week. We usually decide where to go a day before the trip - sometimes on the same day of the trip, so we don't publish an itinerary in advance. We often stop for dinner on the way back to HQ.

Unless otherwise stated, meet at HQ at 8:00 am to load boats and gear.

8/4-5 Sat/Sun TRPC Ray Yutzy 341-5682(H)

Three Rivers Paddling Club "Turkey Bash" weekend-clinic, picnic and trips at Ohiopyle. Reservations are required. An excellent weekend for all skill levels, not to be missed! (Note: This is not an AYH event)

8/11 Sat WW I-II Janet Supowitz 247-4016(H)

8/18 Sat WW I Karen Lukas 661-4835(H)

8/26 Sun WW I-II Don Hoecker 243-8298(H)
256-1307(W)

CLIMBING

The Seneca prep trips are designed to teach climbers the skills needed to be a "second" on a multi-pitch climbing trip to Seneca Rocks. You must attend a Seneca Prep trip to be eligible to go on the Seneca Rocks. **Beginner trips** are geared toward teaching basic rock climbing skills to people who have never climbed before. All you need to bring are tennis shoes and lunch. AYH supplies the rope and hardware. We usually go swimming if it's warm and then stop for dinner on the way back to Pittsburgh. **All trips meet at 8 am at Headquarters.**

8/5 Sun B Rich Rosenberger 335-4058(H)

Beginner Trip to Coopers Rock

8/18 Sat B Eric Bauer 687-0766(H)

Beginner Trip to Coopers Rock

8/18 Sat A Eric Bauer 687-0766(H)

Seneca Prep II - High Rocks.

8/26 Sun B Rich Rosenberger 335-4058(H)

Beginner Trip to Coopers Rock.

Trips in August

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

8/4 Sat Fam Cindy Walter 834-6264(H)

Hike, picnic, swim. Jennings Nature Reserve

9/1-3 Sat-Mon Fam Isobel Storch 362-1550(H)

Overnight Cabin Camping (Labor Day Weekend). Laurel Hill State Park.
Contact Isobel by August 26.

HIKING/BACKPACKING

8/4 Sat Int Tom Kaveney 276-8044(H)

An intermediate (not fast) hike at Ohiopyle. Meet at Headquarters at 8:30 am

8/11 Sat Beg Pat Rossi 335-5067(H)

An easy walk around Hartwood Acres. Meet at the Mansion at 9 am. Please call Pat for information.

8/12 Sun Beg/Int Bruce Sundquist 327-8737(H)

Annual intertube - hike on the Youghiogheny River - Mt Carmel. Call Bruce to reserve.

8/19 Sun Int Carl Gundolph 828-3518(H)

An intermediate hike; destination to be announced.

8/25 Sat All Peter Srini 921-1238(H)

Maintenance hike on the Baker Trail (no fees charged)

8/26 Sun All Cliff Ham 687-4520(H)

Cliff will decide on the destination as the time approaches. If the weather is hot, bring your bathing suit.

WARRIOR TRAIL

Many are intrigued by such a unique name as Warrior Trail Association Inc of Greene County PA. It appears on the overpass of I-79 below Kirby facing north and the Catawba Trail facing south.

Formed in 1965, the Warrior Trail Association has followed and marked a path used for 5,000 years by Indians from the East going to Flint Ridge Ohio to obtain material for their everyday use.

The Trail across Greene County is generally east and west six miles north of and parallel to the Mason-Dixon Line. In the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, it averages 1,400 feet above sea level, following one ridge between the watersheds of Dunkard and Whiteley Creeks for 45 miles in Pennsylvania. It then stays on the divide between Fish and Wheeling Creeks for 22 miles across Marshall County, West Virginia to Cresap on the Ohio River.

Hikers on the trail should carry water and be respectful of private property. Local owners are helpful to strangers, require no advance notice and their four Adirondack shelters may be used on a first-come basis. Rather than intrude on private property, each adjoining country road is readily available.

Hikers are welcome as so many others have been to see the rolling hills and beautiful scenery from the best vantage spots. You will be 'on your own' unless you wish to join the Warrior Trail Association on the third Thursday of each month for an eating business meeting or hiking on the second and fourth Sunday afternoons of each month. The Association's efforts through Chapter 19 of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology have recorded 87 known Indian occupation sites.

Membership for the calendar year is currently \$5 per person and \$10 per Family. Patches are available for \$1.50 and map books for \$5 from M. James Hennen, 17 South Washington Street, Waynesburg PA 15370. (From a Warrior Trail Association brochure. Pittsburgh Council has a copy of the map book available for reference at the Membership Desk.)

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Trips in August

MID-WEEK RAMBLES

Every Wednesday. Meet at 10:00 am in the upper parking lot at Fifth and Shady Avenues. We generally take a 3 to 4 mile "ramble" at a slow pace. Call for more information on current activities or to make arrangements to meet the group.

8/1	Wed	All	John Hartman	241-5031(H)
8/8	Wed	All	George Westcott	279-5375(H)
8/15	Wed	All	Ruth or Dick Fischer	421-9215(H)
8/22	Wed	All	Cliff or Marilyn Ham	687-4520(H)
8/29	Wed	All	Cliff or Marilyn Ham	687-4520(H)

RAFTING

General Information: What to Bring: Suggested attire for raft trips includes old sneakers, bathing suits, T-shirt (optional), sunscreen, bandana, glasses strap and a towel. You'll need a full set of dry clothes to change into after the trip. Wool clothing and/or rain gear are needed for cool or rainy days. Bring your own bag lunch to eat on the river. Most trips take a full day and a stop for ice cream or dinner on the way back. **Impromptu Trips:** When river water levels cooperate, we frequently organize impromptu trips, usually on rivers other than the Lower Yough. They're announced at the Thursday evening open houses.

8/4 Sat Beg Linda Smithyman 531-1868(H)

8:45 am at HQ. Lower Youghiogheny River trip. Everyone is welcome including first time rafters. Approximate cost of this trip is \$16-\$18 for AYH members.

8/11 Sat Beg Joe Hoechner 422-0849(H)

TBA at HQ. Lower Youghiogheny River trip. Everyone is welcome including first time rafters. Approximate cost of this trip is \$16-\$18 for AYH members.

8/18 Sat Beg Jon Maiman 441-2306(H)

8:15 am at HQ. Lower Yough River trip. Everyone is welcome including first time rafters. Approximate cost of this trip \$16-\$18 for AYH members. We'll probably stop for dinner on the way back.

8/25 Sun Beg Kevin Craig 487-1538(H)

7:45 am at HQ. Lower Youghiogheny River trip. Everyone is welcome including first time rafters. Approximate cost of this trip is \$16-\$18 for AYH members.

9/3 Mon Beg Linda Smithyman 531-1868(H)

7:15 am at HQ. Lower Youghiogheny River trip. Everyone is welcome including first time rafters. Approximate cost of this trip is \$16-\$18 for AYH members.

THE EDITOR'S FANCY

We don't paddle in the deep wilderness. We barely get out of the trash range. The further away from the bridge you get, the less trash you see (most people aren't going to walk far). We are never too far from an interstate highway. But I have a Bear Story. You've heard a fish story. The yea-long one that got away. And the buck story, all those points and it was just out of range.

I have some animal stories of a different sort and my bear story. No, I've never been prepared in advance to have a camera with me or have it convenient to use on short notice. So I have never gotten a picture.

When paddling we quite often see ground hogs (wood chucks) scooting out of sight. Heron will lead us down the river for miles making several heavy, wide wing lift offs just yards ahead of us. While riding bikes along Oil Creek and picking raspberries, recently, we watched four herons a little way up stream just standing on rocks and wading about feeding.

This spring, before the trees had leafed out, on Crooked Creek a large red wing hawk sat by his nest high in a tree and fussed at us and we really did see a beaver on Little Beaver creek (Ohio). We are sure we have sighted several ospreys also.

We took a WW school to Mahoning Creek where we saw a fawn, all spotted, curled up in the tall weeds right at the water's edge. The mother must have taken off when she saw the on-coming canoes.

Just a few weeks ago on the Slippery Rock, lying very flat and still on a big rock, were two small raccoons and four little eyes watching us. Little ones aren't likely to move away, but we keep our distance anyway. The mother is probably near by watching. In any case if a wild animal doesn't appear frightened of people, something is wrong. Since that is not the natural reaction, it might be sick or have rabies.

After all the rain we had lately, we paddled a small seldom run-able stream just north of Pittsburgh that runs through state game lands, into another small stream and then into the Allegheny River. About four miles into the trip the lead boat started signaling that something of interest was up ahead. I looked up expecting to see only a couple of deer amble across the creek as we so often do. It took fully 15 seconds for what I saw to register. Those three black silhouettes sure looked for all the world like bears! The lead boat decided she was getting too close to a mother bear and her two cubs and was making a prudent U-turn when the bear looked up, saw us and did a U-turn of her own with the two tiny cubs hot on her heels. The first three boats got a look at the bears, the others only heard the crashing through the under brush.

Yeah, that's what makes it worth cold wet feet, dragging your boat over log jams and standing in the rain waiting for the shuttle cars to return. But I still don't have to do it quietly!

Grand Canyon hostel will close

After September 30, 1990, there will no longer be an AYH Hostel at the Grand Canyon, according to a recent report in the Sunland Hosteler, newsletter of the Arizona-Southern Nevada Council of the American Youth Hostels. the National Park Service concessioner's permit for the Hostel expires then, and the the Grand Canyon National Park chose not to renew the permit, citing the overuse and overcrowding in such a small building."

The 20 bed hostel, located in the first ranger dorm in the park, had a 98% occupancy rate, visited by hostellers from around the world. The facility has operated since 1982.

"The loss of the hostel is a blow to the council," says Donald Cloud, executive director. The Council officers are located at 1026 N. 9th Street, Phoenix AZ 85006.

NOTE: Grand Canyon backpacking permit reservations are accepted three months in advanced of the month requested. reservations for any day in July will be accepted on or after April 1. For reservation forms write or call: Backcountry Reservations office, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023. For more information call (602)638-2474, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm (local time), Monday - Friday. Reservations are not accepted by phone. No permits are required for day hikes. (Arizona Great Outdoors, sent in by Raymond Pobiak)



HOOKED ON PLASTICS?

In the past, the three R's "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" served as a statement to guide logical and sensitive use of our resources. In consideration of plastics, let us extend that definition to include two additional R's so that it may read: "Request, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." Then we may move into the 90's with clear understanding of how to be part of a real solution to the solid waste dilemma.

To obtain the name of your regional Resource recovery and planning coordinator or to locate the collection facility nearest you which will accommodate plastics, call or write the Department of Environmental Resources Recycling hotline at P.O. Box 88, Media, PA 19063-0088, (800)346-4242. (McKeever Globe)

Trips in August

SEA-KAYAKING

General Information: On most day trips bring lunch, water, sun lotion, sunglasses, hat and a change of clothes doubled-wrapped in water proof plastic bags, and an old pair of shoes to wear while kayaking. For cooler weather also bring layered clothing and a water-resistant paddling jacket. For longer trips contact the trip leader. Don't forget your rain gear.

8/4-5 Sat-Sun Dyanne Garvin 322-4004(H)

7:00 am at HQ. Sea-Kayaking camping weekend at Pymatuning. Primitive camping overnight. Contact trip leader for more information and reservations

8/7 Tue Beg Mark Mistrik 441-8293(H)

6:00 pm at HQ (flexible). Introductory level Sea-Kayaking at North Park or Glade Run Lake. Beginner instruction on a calm, flatwater lake and/or intermediate rescue instruction, or come out if you enjoy evening paddling. Probable food stop afterwards. This is a good way to become acquainted with Sea-kayaking if you're interested in one of the longer trips. Call to reserve a space.

8/10-18 Fri-Sat Mark Mistrik 441-8293(H)

6:30 pm at HQ. Intermediate level sea-kayaking road trip to Michigan's Upper Peninsula. See some of the Great Lakes most spectacular scenery while paddling at Pictured Rocks and Isle Royal. Also hiking, camping, hostelling, and general sightseeing. Call for details.

Terry Bicycles - fit for a woman

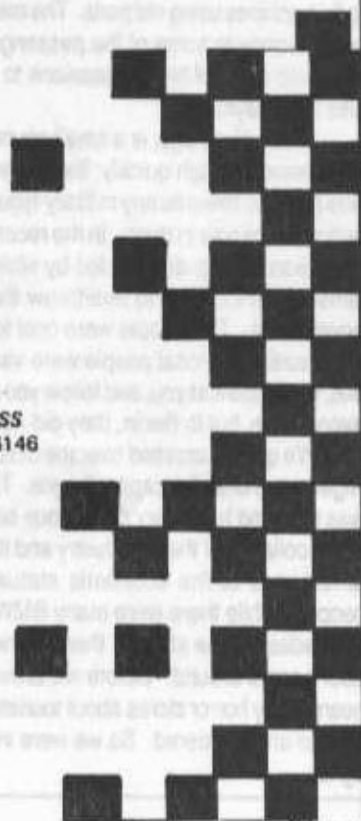
Tires, tubes and sprockets aren't the only things that make up a bicycle; fit can mean the difference between a pleasant ride and a torture rack. Terry Precision Bicycles for Women are designed to provide comfort with features for the novice rider as well as the sophisticated tourer or racer. Based on the unique proportions of women, the entire bicycle has been sized to meet the needs of the female cyclist. See your local dealer for a test ride.

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continued from page 1

been scheduled to visit Timbuktu in Mali. Our truck was on its last legs, so we had to skip Timbuktu. We were tired of the hot areas and wanted to head for the Atlantic Ocean. However, on my next visit to Africa, I would like to visit Timbuktu and far West Africa.

While traveling south through Togo, the terrain changed again to a more tropical one. We could smell the ocean by now, as it was close by. The humidity rose and it was great to be out all that dried heat and dust at last.

Central Togo was first where we saw elephants and monkeys in the wild. The area has a mixture of jungle and open plains. It wasn't until we arrived in East Africa when we saw elephants again.

Lome, the capital of Togo, is on the Atlantic Ocean and we camped on a beach outside of town. Here is where we lost our second mechanic when one of the passengers beat him up. This passenger had a twin brother whose girlfriend and the mechanic and the mechanic were flirting. Yes, we had love triangles, just like in soap operas. I thought he was a good "bush" mechanic when he put his mind to it. He served in the Rhodesian army for five years and learned how to fix machines using old parts. The mechanic owed money to some of the passengers, so they sold most of his possessions to the locals for repayment.

Benin, like Togo, is a small country that we passed through quickly; the government was nervous towards any military-type trucks with white people in them. In the recent past, there was a coup-de 'etat led by white mercenaries which tried to overthrow the local government. The people were cool towards us. Usually, the local people were very curious, would stare at you, and follow you around everywhere, but in Benin, they did not.

We quickly crossed over the border into Nigeria and onto the capital, Lagos. This city was reported to be very dangerous because of the collapse of the oil industry and the vast differences of the economic status of its people. While there were many BMW's and Mercedes on the streets, there were many poor people around. Before we arrived, we heard many horror stories about tourists being robbed and murdered. So we were very uptight.

We were originally going to travel east of Nigeria through Chad. Because of the civil war there, Chad closed its borders but Nigeria opened its border to travelers and traders. Also Nigeria had a Bedford truck dealership in Lagos, so our truck was overhauled and spare parts were acquired.

After the truck was overhauled and some passengers left our group, we drove towards the southeast part of the Nigeria, which was once called Biafra, where a bloody civil war had taken place. While driving along the road, a witch doctor jumped out in front of our truck. We stopped and took pictures. He was soliciting money from passing vehicles, and he invited us to stay overnight in his village. This was a rewarding experience for us as we met the chief and learned about the culture of his people. The next day we attended mass at a nearby church. The Irish priest never showed up, but the service was held anyway. The villagers made the most interesting church music. They had a hollowed out tree trunk as a drum and other unique instruments. The people sang along in their dialect.

While sleeping at night at campsites in Africa, I occasionally would wake up and hear drums being beat in the distance. It sounded like faint celebrations which would go on 'until dawn.

We left Nigeria and crossed over an old bridge to the border post of Cameroon. Here is where two of us (Americans) had a major problem with visas. We had none!! Even though our passports contained Cameroon stamps, they were not complete visa stamps. In Paris, it seemed the Cameroon embassy clerk decided to play games with our group by pulling from the stack of passports the two American passports. He told us to obtain a letter from the US embassy which stated that we were upstanding citizens. We did this, and the clerk said we could get our visas the next week. When we returned to the embassy, we found that he wanted us to go to Washington DC, and apply there. What a disappointment. However, our driver reassured us that we could get transit visas at the Cameroon border.

So we arrived at the border and the officials didn't want to give us transit visas. They

threatened to tie us up, transport us across the river by canoe later that night and then toss us on the Nigerian side. After screaming, yelling and then calmly discussing the situation with numerous officials and listened to the "Yankee imperialist" speech given by the comrade sergeant. We were then allowed a seven day transit visa. Ten days later we left Cameroon with no problems with overstaying our seven day transit visas.

Some passengers complained about the Americans holding up the group and that they shouldn't have to wait for us. These people were full time complainers and I did not want to be around them since they were always perturbed about something. This is a major problem when traveling with a large group as the complainers make it unpleasant for the others.

Our next country was the Central African Republic. The French have a large military base there, and the locals resent the French present in their country. At one market stop, kids threw stones at our truck. The grown-ups would just watch the children do this without interfering.

All through Africa, children would come up to us and ask for gifts. We had to watch our belongings, because the children would want anything. Two times in different places, the teenagers wanted my eyeglasses. I cannot see without them, but they still wanted them. They said I could buy new ones when I returned to the United States. What am I going to do in the meantime?

Usually the kids would yell out to us "cadeau", the French word for gift. Sometimes they would come up to you and say in English, "Give me my Bic." They wanted a ball-point pen, but did not learn how to ask politely. Whoever started this custom of tourists giving children pens or money has turned these children into little troublemakers. If we did not give them something, they would throw stones at us or scream insults. Of course, we could trade a pen for some small souvenir. This was more acceptable for both parties.

to be continued

Pittsburgh Council Hostels

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

Charleroi Youth Hostel (S.A.)
Rego's Hotel & Restaurant
601 McKean Ave.
Charleroi, PA 15022
(412) 483-6200

Living Waters AYH-Hostel
RD# 1 (1 mile west on Route 30)
Schellsburg, PA 15559
(814) 733-7607

Point Park College Youth Hostel (S.A.)
201 Wood Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 392-3824
(after 4 pm: (412) 391-4100)
(summer only)

FORT NECESSITY NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD'S 1990 SUMMER SCHEDULE

Fort Necessity National Battlefield has begun summer interpretive activities that will last through August 25th. Ranger talks and tours will be presented at various times each day at Fort Necessity and the Mount Washington Tavern, and on the weekends at Braddock's Grave and Jumonville Glen.

The Visitor Center is now open extended hours, from 9:00 to 5:30. Ranger guided walks start from the Visitor Center throughout the day and every 15 minutes the slide show on the Battle of Fort Necessity is presented.

From the Visitor Center it is a short walk down to the fort, where this summer we again have soldiers demonstrating the black powder muskets. Park rangers dressed in French and Indian War style uniforms talk about the soldier's life, then demonstrate the musket drill and fire the weapon. The firings are scheduled for 10:30, 12:00, 2:30, and 4:30; with extra firings when the staff is available.

The Mount Washington Tavern is also open from 9:00 to 5:30. Tours and talks about the tavern and the National Road are given throughout the day.

On Saturdays and Sundays there is a ranger at Jumonville Glen from 1:00 to 5:00 and a ranger at Braddock's Grave from 1:00 to 5:00. They talk about these unique sites and the history behind them.

Again this summer there will be variety of special activities and events. For more information telephone the park at (412) 329-5512 or stop in at the Visitor Center.

All activities are subject to the general park entrance fee of \$1. per person, with maximum of \$3. per family. Children, 16 and under are free and senior citizens 62 and over are free. The fee is payable at the Visitor Center. Fort Necessity National Battlefield is located 11 miles east of Uniontown, PA on U.S. Rt 40.

CLOGGING & MUSIC PARTY

On the first Sundays of the summer months, Dolores Heagy will be at the Penn Cafe at 7 pm to teach an hour of Clogging Variations, for folks who already know the basics of clogging.

This free class is followed by the old-time music jam, a regular Penn Cafe attraction on the first, second, and fourth Sunday evenings of every month. Bring your instruments and your dancing feet to the Penn Cafe, 4104 Penn Ave, 621-9449. *

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The Golden Triangle

Vol.1 No. 1 PUBLISHED BY PGH., PA COUNCIL A.Y.H.

HISTORY OF AYH

It is a long way from Westphalia, Germany to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and a long time from 1910 to 1950, but this is how far hosteling has traveled and how long the IDEA has endured. Indeed, that is precisely what hosteling is—the idea that, given the opportunity to travel inexpensively and adventurously, the youth of the world would find health, happiness, and international understanding. With the tramp of a heavy boot on a mountain trail or the rush of fresh air against the cyclist's face, intolerance sinks to nothing, and impatience with one's fellow man disappears. Hosteling transcends the artificial boundaries of race, religion, and nationality and establishes that while there are differences between various groups, it does not follow that one is inferior to another.

Somewhere in the deep conscience of the Westphalia school teacher, Richard Schirmann, these thoughts must have moved when he initiated the first youth hostels in country schools empty for the summer months. They surged irrepressibly through Western Europe so that hosteling was firmly rooted by 1933 when Isabel and Monroe Smith, of Northfield, Massachusetts, voyaged abroad to find and feel the import of this spirit new to the United States but not necessarily alien. Upon their return, they established the first American Youth hostel in their home, then, with a burning ambition to make hosteling a household word they began their expansion. New England, ideally suited because of natural beauty, small towns, and numerous academic centers, became the first hostelized area. It remains today the bulwark of the movement. But in due time, other national areas accepted the IDEA—The Great Lakes, the Pacific Northwest, the Great Smokies, and others. By the time the United States entered the recent war, hostels numbered 250 and passholders nearly 20,000. It was not a movement to be regarded lightly.

Hosteling swept Pennsylvania like a flood in the late 30's and mushrooming almost overnight was a chain of hostels along the Horse-shoe trail from Harrisburg to Philadelphia and along the Appalachian trail from the Susquehanna to Delaware Water Gap. A State Council was established in Philadelphia, as well as a local council in the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre area. Pittsburgh, too, felt the impact of AYH and, under the leadership of Horace F. Baker, eminent attorney, established a council in 1941, followed shortly thereafter by a model hostel in South Park.

Unfortunately, great forces of evil were afoot in the world, and the thing hosteling opposed most—WAR—came to pass. Whole peoples relegated their pleasure and ideals to the back of their minds and united in an even greater effort. The United States was no exception. Amid the rubble of foreign communities lay ruined hostels. In this country, no physical destruction occurred but AYH membership and participation dropped markedly as did the number of hos-

tels. Councils floundered and fell disorganized, and the newest groups, such as this one in Pittsburgh, were the first to go. In the aftermath, while foreign nations counted their broken buildings, American hosteling surveyed a terrible loss in everything but reputation, and while not returned to its beginnings of 1933, faced a reconstruction problem of prime magnitude.

Six long years after the demise of the original Pittsburgh Council; a fledgling local group began anew on Washington's Birthday, 1942, to hold hikes intended eventually to expand to a full blown youth hostel movement. Simultaneously, Mr. Horace F. Baker invited a number of civic-minded citizens to a dinner at the Harvard-Princeton Club in an effort at reorganization. This group, guided by the professional AYH workers from New York, Philadelphia, and Northfield, constituted itself a steering committee to formulate a new organization. It resolved to emphasize hostellers and hosteling rather than hostels in its initial phases, and this sound policy paid the dividends we are all happily reaping today.

Elsewhere in this annual report will be found detailed summaries of progress in 1949, a banner year for AYH in Pittsburgh. It was made possible through the selfless, unflinching devotion of many fine people to an IDEA. It has borne fruit because of active participation of all of you in activities which we firmly believe constitute a firm foundation, not only for priceless companionship at a local level, but for elimination of animosity in a far greater sphere. With your continued support and enthusiasm, hosteling in Pittsburgh will inevitably reach the high stature it proudly enjoys in the great cities of the East. The community will come to look on hosteling as an integral and valued part of the culture of mankind.

Editor's note: This was lifted (unedited) from the March 1950 Golden Triangle newsletter. Author unknown. Officers elected for that year were:

Chairman	Tony Pranses
Treasurer	Betty Bierer
Secretary	M. L. O'Callaghan
Hostels	Bruce Merritt
Trips and Trails	Jack Stein
Speakers Bureau	June Redman
Program	Betty Saffer
Membership	George Cohen
Public Relations	Wes Bunnelle

Copies of the entire year (1950) will be at the membership desk at headquarters for your viewing.

Triangle Staff

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The Golden Triangle is published monthly by the Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels. Contents are at the discretion of the editor. Mail regarding this newsletter should be addressed to: The Golden Triangle, Pittsburgh AYH, 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232, phone (412)362-8181.

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GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

All articles of interest to our members are welcomed - subjects relating to our trips and activities, the environment, the outdoors, etc. Articles to be submitted should be:

- Neatly typed and double spaced (at least a 12 point font so we can digitize the copy using a scanner. Dot matrix output does not scan well).
- On a 3.5" IBM or Macintosh disk with files formatted as text. The disk will be returned to you.

- Sent to the editor via modem when prior arrangements are made.

Sorry I cannot accept more than one or two short paragraphs of hand-written copy. The use of material will be limited to available space. Place articles in the Editor's box at AYH Headquarters or mail to The Golden Triangle, 6300 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15232. Jan Bugby, Editor

American Youth Hostels is a nonprofit 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 and National Office. AYH is the U.S. affiliate of the International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF) which coordinates more than 5,400 hostels worldwide - the largest network of



travel programs through its councils. The Golden Triangle, Pittsburgh Council's newsletter, provides more than 5,400 hostels accommodations in the world.



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PITTSBURGH, PA 15232



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- \$25.00 Adult Membership (age 18 to 54, with renewals available at only \$15)
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- \$50.00 Supporting Membership
- \$100.00 Sustaining Membership
- \$250.00 Life Membership (individual lifetime membership)
- \$18.00 Foreign nationals, including Canadians
- \$10.00 Vol. I, International Hostel Handbook (Europe & Mediterranean)
- \$10.00 Vol. II, International Hostel Handbook (Africa, Americas, Asia & Australia)
- \$14.00 Cotton sleep sack, required at all international hostels
- Donation for Hostel Development Fund (tax deductible to extent permitted by law)
- Total - make all checks payable to: PITTSBURGH AYH**

MEMBERSHIPS ARE VALID FOR 12 MONTHS FROM MONTH OF ISSUE

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(last)

(first)

(middle)

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Day

Year

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Were you a member of AYH last year? No

Yes

Pass #

I would like to volunteer, please contact me: Yes No

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AYH MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- International Hostel membership card plus Pittsburgh Council ID, card good for discounts at local bike shops and outfitters.
- USA Hostel Handbook, listing over 250 Hostels in the United States.
- The Knapstock, National AYH travel newsletter.
- The Golden Triangle, Pittsburgh Council's newsletter of trips and activities.
- Open house Thursday nights at Council headquarters.
- Access to National travel programs and Leadership Training courses.

The Golden Triangle

Pittsburgh Council

American Youth Hostels

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