



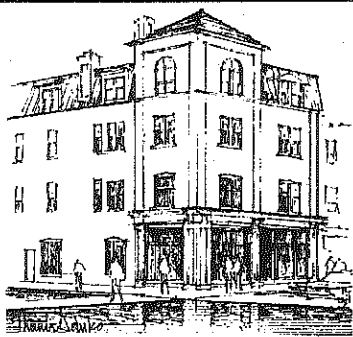
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

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 9

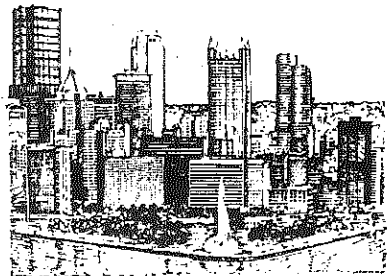
NOVEMBER 1997



Hostelling - International Pittsburgh PA

NOW OPEN

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



Be Sure To Visit:

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

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!!!

PITTSBURGH COUNCIL CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY...

The AYH-Pittsburgh Council BEGINS its 50th year celebration in the most appropriate way! A PARTY will be held December 18, 1997 from 8:00PM - 10:00PM at the new Pittsburgh Hostel. Slide shows have already commenced at the Thursday night meetings and will continue in the ensuing months. "Do you remember who and when" is the topic of these slide shows. They have already been quite successful! If you have some slides to show, call Luc Berger 683-3131. It does not need to be all one trip, but snippets of years of celebrating life!

The planning of the TOTAL celebration has only just begun and we need EVERYONE'S HELP! There will be a meeting November 5th at 7:00PM again, in the new Hostel Conference Room to plan 50 years worth of celebrating. We are asking everyone to attend. The planning of an ACTIVITIES EXPO will also require at least two representatives from each activity. This will enable the activity to be appropriately depicted at the Expo.

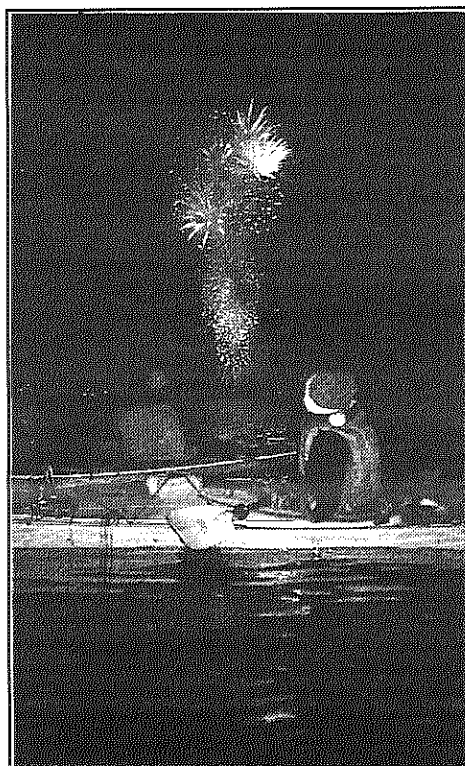
Again, we have some ideas, but this council of AYH, with its many facets, should make decisions and future plans as one group. We as a council pride ourselves in who we are as an organization - together as one Council - and not a fragmented group. Therefore, all the various activity groups should ALL come together and help plan a celebration befitting the years it denotes.

1998 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.

Continued on page 4



Light-Up Night!
Fireworks explode over the
Point on our annual sea-
kayaking trip.
(Credit: Mark Mistrik, AYH
Sea-kayaking
Program)
More on Page 5...



UNITED WAY

*Pittsburgh Council,
AYH is a United Way
Donor Option. Our
number id #436.*

HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL

PITTSBURGH COUNCIL-AYH
830 E. WARRINGTON AVE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15210

Dated material --please deliver promptly
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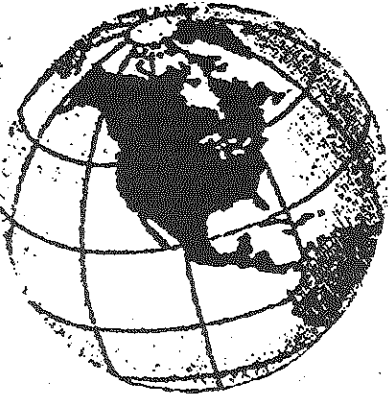
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HOSTELLING



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

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Holly Ridenour

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

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

NOTICE

Please note the deadlines for
future issues of the
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

DEC/JAN
All copy, Nov 6
Binding/Mailing, Nov 20

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

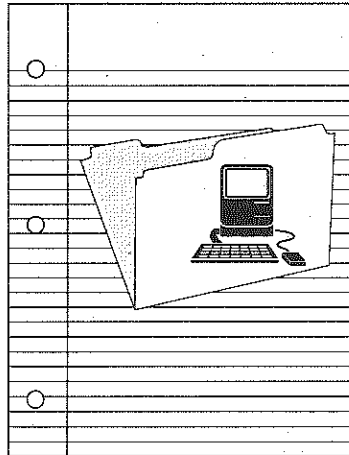
If your work is on computer,
Please contact **Bill Eberle**
@ 921-1932 or
76202.3051@Compuserve.com

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

November 6: Gloria Monk, "AYH Mountain Climbing In Tetons And Baker Trail Hiking In 1951-55". Part of Pittsburgh AYH 50-year celebration.

November 13: Glenn Oster, "The Majesty Of Alaska".

November 20: Joyce Appel, "Hiking And Canoeing In The Rain Forest Of The Amazon". There is a lot to learn from a native guide about forest, animals, insects, birds.

November 27: Thanksgiving Holidays. No show.

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 and Bora Bora.

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

OUR HOSTEL CALLED "ONE OF THE TOP THREE HOSTELS IN THE COUNTRY"

This is what we heard during the HI/AYH Eastern Regional Meeting held at the hostel on the last weekend in September, along with "Wow" and "Incredible" from some of the approximately 30 HI/AYH staff who attended. The word is getting out about our fantastic hostel. In fact, the National Office has agreed to help us out with professional quality photographs which will be used to: feature the Pittsburgh hostel on the HI/AYH website; to help provide a "vision" for potential major donors in other cities; to use as an example of an exciting hostel in the World Travel 101 slide presentations now being presented nationally; show technical examples of hostel design excellence at a seminar to be held in St. Louis at the National Council Meeting in November.

AYH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ALLENTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP

Come and tell people about AYH while helping clean up the Allentown community! I'd like to thank everyone who gave us a Saturday morning of their time since summer to get the hostel looking great. We're trying something new for the last in the series of 1997 volunteer work parties by focusing our attention on the neighborhood. In conjunction with the Allentown Business Association, which has met twice at the hostel, and Mark Heikkila, who put together the first phenomenally successful cleanup, the hostel will be the meeting point for the second Allentown Neighborhood Cleanup.

Originally, the last hostel work party was scheduled for November 15 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon. The scheduled date is still November 15, but the meeting time is now 12 NOON at the hostel. Turn out last time was about 40 people, but without anyone from AYH. We're getting the grill out to tempt you with a barbeque, chips and drinks. So we'll know how many people will want food, pre-register by calling the hostel by November 12. Come on by and meet the friendly folks in Allentown and bring a BROOM.

URA PROMISES FUNDS FOR ALLENTOWN STREET SCAPE PROGRAM

The Urban Redevelopment Authority has promised \$50,000 for public space improvements in Allentown to include 21 meter poles on which banners and ornamental baskets can be hung, 33 new street trees, repairing abandoned tree pits, and a new planting area across the street from the hostel. The South Pittsburgh Reporter stated in its August 19, 1997 edition that:

"The program was designed to give the Warrington business district a 'European feel' in keeping with the establishment of an international hostel in a historic former bank building at the corner of Warrington and Arlington."

The total projected cost of the Street Scape project is \$73,000. Allentown merchants, of which the Pittsburgh International Hostel is one, are expected to raise the additional \$23,000 before the URA will release the promised funds. To-date about \$6,000 has been raised. AYH members are asked to send donations in any amount to:

Allentown Business Association
Attention: STREET SCAPE
732 Warrington Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

THE BEGINNING OF A HOLIDAY TRADITION AT THE HOSTEL

Since this is the first holiday season that the hostel will be open for business, we'd like it to be the focus of a holiday event which incorporates hostel guests, AYH members, Allentown residents, and other members of the public.

In the past the Pittsburgh Council of American Youth Hostels has met at its Activities Center for caroling in Shadyside. The weather has not always been cooperative and this year we'd like you to invite you to come in from the cold and into our wonderful hostel for some holiday cheer.

INSTEAD OF THE REGULAR THURSDAY NIGHT OPEN HOUSE IN SHADYSIDE ON THURSDAY, DEC. 18, 1997, PLEASE COME TO THE HOSTEL. Bring a Christmas tree or other decoration, preferably handmade or one with an international flavor with your name and the year on it, which can be used in future years. Beginning at 8 p.m. we will gather to trim a Christmas tree in the lobby. From there we'll wander along a short route in Allentown to wish everyone happy holidays and return to the hostel for hot beverages and will finish up when the hostel closes at 10 p.m. Festive attire is encouraged. Bring the kids!

NOVEMBER'S WISH LIST

We have received the promise of a VCR. All other items from October's wish list are still needed, but will not be reproduced in this month's rather long column. If you'd like a current copy for holiday giving or year-end tax deduction purposes, please let me know. We have added a few additional items to the wish list, however. In preparation for upcoming winter weather we'll be needing: 2 snow shovels and rock salt. The property line of the hostel is a corner and therefore long. We also own a parking lot up the street from the hostel which will need to be shoveled. That's a lot of shoveling! May I remind you that I'm a "weather wimp from California" about to cope with my first winter in the 'Burgh. Won't you help us out with the necessary tools and supplies? If you want to come shovel snow this winter, we'll supply the hot drinks!

And finally, we haven't made arrangements for a tree for the holidays yet, so if you know someone who would be willing to donate a large tree or if you'd like to send a donation to offset the purchase of one, please let me know by calling the hostel at 431-1267.

Lot's of upcoming events at the hostel. We look forward to seeing you here.

... Holly Ridenour, Hostel Manager

President's Corner...

The Pittsburgh Council Annual meeting was held on October 16. the following are the results of the election.

Marianne Kasica, President
Maribeth Hook, Vice President
Larry Laude, Secretary
Roy Weil, Treasurer

Mark Reisman, Board 3 year term
Joe Hoechner, Board 3 year term
George Schmidt, Board 3 year term
Kevin Swenson, Board 3 year term
William Eberle, Board 2 year term

I would like to welcome George Schmidt and Kevin Swenson to the board as new members and thank the others for continuing to serve.

At the meeting Joe Hoechner was awarded the "Volunteer of the Year" award. Joe has been working toward developing the Pittsburgh Hostel for some 20 years, I'm glad it finally got built. Joe has also been filling in as a volunteer in the council office while we are between staff. What he REALLY got the award for is for painting the stripes in the hostel parking lot. Good job -really.

Note please that this year we will have the Holiday Party on December 18 at the hostel. It will be a tree trimming party as well as a holiday party. Bring a ornament for the hostel Christmas tree or some treats to share and we'll provide the drinks.

Ohipyle Hostel News. Our longtime hostel manager, Bob Utz is off getting a new life in Cleveland and resigned as manager at the end of October. We are seeking a new manager and have identified an excellent candidate. We will announce the new manager next time. We are looking for someone to lead some "fall and spring clean up" work parties at the hostel. If you can spare some time let me know.

And finally, my thanks to all of you who have helped this year with your time and your talents. Board members, trip leaders, activity chairs, hostel volunteers: Pittsburgh Council has really taken a step forward due to our combined efforts.

Marianne Kasica, President

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

North Country Trail Association

On December 7th 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

WANTED...

Pittsburgh Council Travel Center Staff. This is a part-time position for 20 to 30 hours a week, depending on the season and the ability of the applicant to assume additional responsibilities. The staff person is responsible for handling telephone and mail inquiries; selling memberships, books, and rail passes; filling wholesale book orders; and computer data entry. Requires communication skills, basic typing and computer skills, and attention to detail. Send resumes to Pittsburgh AYH / 830 E Warrington Ave / Pittsburgh PA 15210, fax to 412-431-2625, or e-mail to ayh@trfn.clpgh.org, or call 412-431-4910 for an application.

CONTINUED FROM COVER

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: _____

ALASKA... THE ETERNAL MAGNET

by Glenn Oster

Glenn Oster, long time member of the Pittsburgh Council of HI/AYH, lead a Council sponsored trip to Alaska this past summer. He has prepared an account of the trip for the trippers and is sharing it with those of us who like to read about trips and live them vicariously. In this installment, Glenn describes their experiences driving the northern tier of the "lower 48"

Have you ever felt a force compelling you, attracting you, drawing you, an itch that had to be scratched? Alaska has been such a force for me, and now that itch has been scratched. I've been to Alaska. Hoards of outdoors people interested in scenery and wildlife must sense that same magnetism - they are Alaska-bound in droves. Try getting a flight out of Anchorage on a Sunday evening in July. Good luck, Charlie! More people have traveled to Alaska than can get out, or, so it seems. Following is a narrative of a trip I took there this summer. The music of its memory resonates in my mind.

Journalism, I'm told, calls for covering the "who," "what," "when," "where," "why" and "how" of an article. (Have I forgotten any of these musts?) If I don't get tangled up in my own rhetoric, I hope to cover all those musts before this story concludes. Keep tabs on whether I make it, and I'll try to do the same.

What (See, I've already altered the sequence of the musts.) This was a Pittsburgh Council, Hostelling International / American Youth Hostels trip that I led from June 21 to July 27, 1997. (Wasn't that sly, getting in the "when" that way?) The trip was more broadly focused than most of the previous trips that I've related to you. It was a sightseeing, hiking, backpacking, boating and anything else that came along type of trip. Somehow, I lost the focus - and loved it!

Who Joining me for the entire trip was long time (not to be read as "old") AYH member, Phylis Pietrusza. Next to become part of the group was Wayne Shelton, who elected to meet us at the HI/AYH Hostel in Seattle. You remember Wayne. He's the fellow with a big smile who always brings a pretty woman to our AYH Thursday night open houses. (How many of you guys are saying "That fits me, but my name's not Wayne.") A special couple appeared at the airport in Ketchikan, none other than new HI/AYHers, Tom Eichenlaub and Geri Henry (Where before have I heard of Tom and Geri?) They are extra special because they had been students in the backpacking course that I taught at Allegheny County Community College, a peach of a pair (C'mon, Glenn). The final person to round out our group was good-natured Greg Nestor from Idaho Falls, Idaho. Greg was a friend of Tom and Geri initially, but by the end of the stay in Alaska was known and loved by all. (You never could let down your guard. Greg would get you with a good-natured trick or a verbal zinger.) And that's the "Who" of the trip.

Why (I've messed up the sequence again, but keep tabs on me, and let me know if I missed any of the "musts.") Can I explain why we made this extensive trip? Sure can. Alaska's magnetism, that's why. My wife's usual comment is, "You've seen pictures of it; why bother?" In giving talks about backpacking, I often answer the question of "why" with "If I have to explain why, you probably won't understand the answer." Hopefully, you'll find that the "why" of the trip evolves as I develop the experiences we sought and realized at the many exciting places we visited.

Where and how If I don't bungle it, you can perceive the "how" of the trip as I relate the "where" - they sort of weave in and out as I ramble on. Getting Underway - The Lower Forty-eight and you thought I'd never get on with it

We rented a mini-van, loaded on our little tents and, ready for bear, Phylis and I headed west and north to Michigan's Upper Peninsula. On the way, Big Mac greeted us with dense fog, but by the time we reached Tahquamenon Falls, it was a warm, sunny morning - a great day to be alive.

Both Lower and Upper Tahquamenon Falls require walking several hundred yards through woodland to reach the cliff that overlooks the river. We first visited the lower falls. I estimate that the waterfall is some 200 yards wide and drops about twenty feet. The river flows in from the left and is flanked by woodland on both sides. The water radiated as it plunged in the bright morning sunlight. However, while we were devouring the scenery, Michigan's hungry mosquitos were devouring us in our shorts and T shirts. That has a way of shortening one's stay. We drove, then, to the upper falls, but this time we were prepared. Phylis took a bath in mosquito repellent, and I donned my new bug suit. The bug suit is made of a thick green mesh that covers me from head to foot. In it, I was a bit warm, but I saw the upper falls in peace. Bus loads of people were there in nice stylish clothes with lots of exposed flesh. In contrast, I had to look like someone from the swamps of Brazil. However, in passing, we could hear people say (while pointlessly trying to chase away mosquitos), "That man's got the right idea." We saw the upper falls last because it is by far the more spectacular. Here, I estimate its width as 250 yards and its drop as seventy-five feet. The Tahquamenon River drains a broad wetland, making it amber colored from the tannic acid that leaches into the water. In the sunlight, the amber water literally glowed as it fell. Its sheen and color would be a great combination for a woman's tresses. Although there are many higher falls in North America, Tahquamenon Falls is second only to Niagara Falls in the volume of water which courses over it.

Our other stop in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan was at Munising. There we visited nearby Munising Falls and hiked in to see Minors Falls, well worth the effort, even though hiding in the afternoon shadows. The highlight of the afternoon was seeing Minors Castle. It's a large headland type rock formation that juts into Lake Superior and shows the ravages of wind and waves from earlier seas. We saw it from many vantage points. The best was one that showed it in bright sunlight with a backdrop of deep blue sky with puffy white clouds loafing along here and there. In the foreground of emerald green water was a white boat conveniently moored in just the right place for a super picture. We also got a good look at the colorful beige and soft maroon cliffs of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. We even did a little hiking in the area.

Traveling across the Midwest was generally uneventful. We were prepared for the biting hoards of the Upper Peninsula, but hadn't anticipated that problem in Minnesota - its mosquitos were every bit as fierce and hungry as Michigan's. And that's saying a lot. Phylis commented that, in addition to feeding me, she served breakfast, lunch and dinner to the mosquitos. As we worked our way across the prairie, we did make a stop in North Dakota at the visitor center at Theodore Roosevelt National Park and gazed out at the southern sector of its colorful

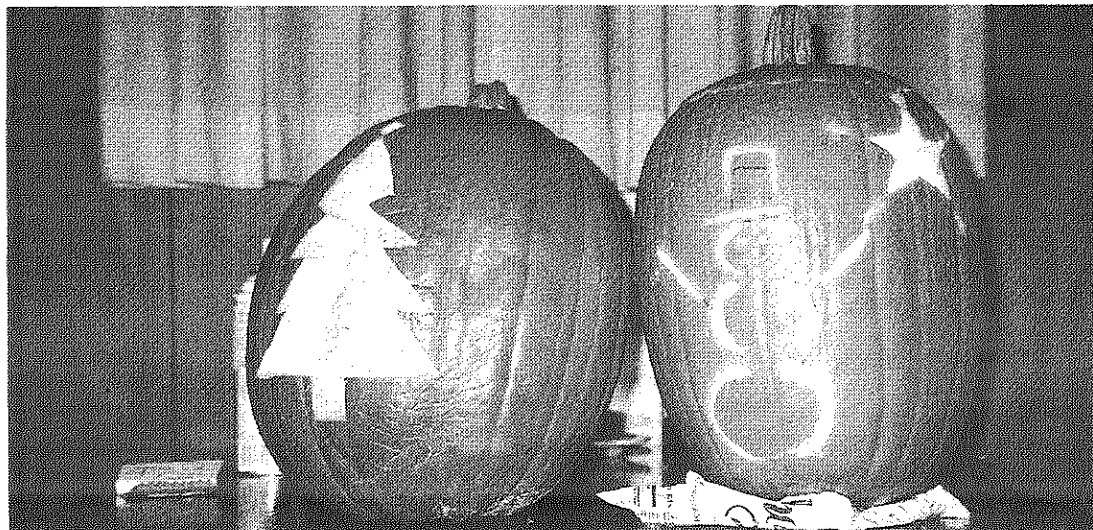
Continued on page 7

SEA-KAYAKING

November finishes up our 1997 paddling season with festive trips to Downtown Pittsburgh for Light-Up Night and a Thanksgiving holiday trip down to warm & sunny South Carolina. Christmas sightseeing and Walking Tours conclude our list of trips in December. These trips are open to everyone, so if you are interested in one of them, give us a call. We'll be happy to tell you more about them.

The sea-kayaking trips will resume next April, but that doesn't end activity over the cold winter months. Next years trips have already generated lots of enthusiasm, and we'll be perfecting some trips and planning new ones. Slide shows will be put together and reviewed, kayaks maintained and repaired, new equipment assessed and a budget prepared for next year, and always, teaching new paddlers everything needed for safe and enjoyable sea-kayaking and camping trips. Join us at our monthly sea-kayakers dinners or give us a call to find out more.

And finally, some of us will be cross-country skiing once the snow falls. Call if you would like to join us.



Christmas Pumpkins found while sea-kayaking the Edisto River and carved in a cabin in Givhan's Ferry State Park, South Carolina. Thanksgiving 1996 Sea-kayaking trip (Credit: AYH Sea-Kayaking Program)

"Sea-Kayaking Taught from Scratch"

Sea-Kayaking Equipment is available from the Pittsburgh AYH; Call (412) 361-2943 & leave a message for information on all events. Complete sea-kayaking schedule w/descriptions available for a double-stamped self-addressed envelope. Send to:

Mark Mistrik 5055 Cashlie Court Gibsonia, PA. 15044

Friday evening October 31st thru Sun. November 2nd, 1997

Virginia's Eastern Shore, Urbanna, Virginia

Trip begins: Carpools arranged Friday afternoon & evening

Take advantage of warmer Southern autumn temperatures for our late season Chesapeake Bay sea-kayaking trip. Two overnights in a resort-quality condo and gourmet breakfasts made fresh each morning, provided on the trip. Paddling daytrips through Virginia's most scenic tidewater region both days and an evening paddling trip after dinner (if you not worn out already) to see the saltwater's bioluminescence, water that actually sparkles with light, naturally. You may choose to join us for a group-effort dinner at the Condo Saturday evening or choose among several good restaurants. Pack a lunch for Saturday. Sea-kayaks and equipment available from the AYH if needed. Call for more information and to reserve.

Mark Mistrik 361-2943

Level: Aggressive beginner & up.

Returns: Pgh at 8:30 PM

Monday evening November 17th, 1997

Monthly Paddlers Dinner

Dinner begins: Anytime after 6:30 PM

Kaya's Restaurant (American & Caribbean cuisine), also in the Strip District. Please leave a message for Jill if you're coming, so we can make reservations.

Jill Sameth 361-2943

Everyone Welcome!

Ends: About 9:00 PM.

Friday evening November 21st, 1997

Light Up Night 1997, Downtown Pittsburgh

Trip begins: Southside Put-in at 6:00 PM

Mark Mistrik 361-2943

Level: Aggressive beginner & up.

Returns: 10:00 PM for home

Wednesday evening November 26th thru Nov 30th, 1997

Charleston & Surrounding Lowcountry Region, South Carolina

Trip begins: Carpools arranged Wednesday afternoon & evening

Our second South Carolina Lowcountry paddling trip. Come spend a Southern style Thanksgiving with us in sunny & warm Santee, South Carolina. Sightseeing in historic Charleston, beach walks, palm trees, plenty of wildlife, and maybe porpoises if we're lucky. This trip will be a collection of daytrips and include saltwater and freshwater paddling, and a blackwater river. All overnights in a modern condo built on stilts on a pier, over a lake. Space is very limited. Sea-kayaks and equipment available from the AYH if needed. Call for more information and to reserve.

Mark Mistrik 361-2943

Level: Intermediate & up.

Returns: Pgh 8:00 PM Sunday

Friday evening December 5th, 1997

Christmas Dinner and Walking Tour of Downtown Pittsburgh

Trip begins: 6:00-7:00 PM at Station Square

Annual Christmas dinner and walking tour of downtown Pittsburgh. Each December we pick a restaurant at Station Square for dinner then cross the Smithfield Street Bridge into Downtown Pittsburgh to search for all the Christmas lights, windows and holiday decorum that we can find. Walking tour survivors finish off the evening back at Station Square with Chocolate Fondues. Call to find out which restaurant and so that we can make the appropriate number of reservations.

Jill Sameth 361-2943

Everyone welcome!

Ends: anytime

Saturday December 13th, 1997

Old Bedford Village, Bedford, Pa.

Trip begins: 2:30 Lunch or 5:00 PM at the Village

Traditional annual visit to historic Old Bedford Village's Candlelight Walking Tour. You may join us for a late lunch at the Jean Bonnet Tavern, an historic Colonial Inn with a huge open hearth fireplace, or meet us afterwards at the Candlelight Festival. Call for more information and to reserve.

Mark Mistrik 361-2943

Easy Walking Tour

Returns: Pgh 10:00 PM

Friday evening December 26th thru Tuesday December 30th, 1997

New York City

Trip begins: Thursday evening TBA

Sightseeing and Urban hiking through New York City to see the Christmas festivities and decorum. Return in time for New Year's Festivities with family & friends. Call for more information and to reserve.

Call: 361-2943

(Not a sea-kayaking trip)

Returns: Mon. evening TBA

Easter Holiday Weekend 1998

South Carolina Spring Weekend.

Call: 361-2943

Level: Aggressive beginners & up.

Memorial Day Weekend 1998

Assateague Island National Seashore & Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland and Virginia.

Call: 361-2943

Level: Aggressive beginners & up.

Mid July 1998

New England, DownEast Maine

& the East Coast Sea-Kayaking Symposium

Call: 361-2943

Level: Intermediate & up.

Labor Day Weekend 1998

Chesapeake Bay & Tangier Island Eastern Shore Weekend

Call: 361-2943

Level: Intermediate & up.

Early October 1998

Lake Powell, Utah Houseboat & Kayak tour

We will be putting the finishing touches on next year's Lake Powell Adventure by Christmas. You must sign up for this trip by March 1998 to get on this trip. References available. Call for more information.

Call: 361-2943

Level: Beginners & up.

See Ya On The Water...

Rachel Carson Homestead Receiving a Fresh Coat of Paint...

The Rachel Carson Homestead Association announces that it has undertaken a repainting project to improve the appearance of the historic building and to protect it from weather-related decay. "This is an interim step towards our goal of performing a complete restoration of the site," says Mark Tomlinson, museum director, "the building was last painted in April of 1990, so it's a much-needed coat of paint." The building is on the National Register of Historic Places and is recognized as a Historic Landmark by the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation. Planning and fundraising continues for a complete restoration that would restore the building to its appearance when Rachel Carson lived at the site between 1907 and 1929.

The repainting project is expected to cost in excess of \$4,000 and will take several weeks to complete. PPG Industries, Springdale Plant, is the primary backer of the project, however the public is asked to consider making a donation to support the work. "The Rachel Carson Homestead is a unique treasure that local residents should be proud of - an important piece of history happened here, and we attract thousands of visitors from around the world each year to visit the site," says Tomlinson. Donations can be sent to: Restoration Fund, Rachel Carson Homestead, 613 Marion Avenue, Springdale, PA, 15144.

As part of the spruce-up new directional signs are being placed on Pittsburgh and Colfax Streets to help residents and visitors locate the museum. A violent windstorm this past Spring caused significant damage to the chimneys, roof, and gutters, and to a Springhouse and split rail fence on the site, and repair of these areas is underway also.

The painting contractor for the project is Verner's Paint Center of Tarentum.

The Rachel Carson Homestead is the birthplace and childhood home of ecologist and nature writer Rachel Carson, whose 1962 best-seller *Silent Spring* launched the modern environmental movement. *Silent Spring* warned of the dangers of indiscriminate pesticide use and established Rachel Carson as one of the most important and influential environmental activists in history.

Guided tours of the house and grounds are offered year-round on Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm and Sundays from 1 pm to 5 pm. Regular museum admission is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Senior citizen and group discounts are available.

Thirty-five years after the publication of *Silent Spring*, Pittsburgh native Linda Lear has written *Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature*, the long-awaited biography of her life. The book is available from our on-site bookstore.

For more information call (412) 274-5459, or visit our World Wide Web site at www.rachelcarson.org.

RAMBLES

November 5 South Park. Bonnie Trelease 882-0949. Bag lunch
November 12 Southside Heritage Trail. Ruth & Dick Fischer 421-9215.
 Optional lunch at Station Square
November 19 Downtown walk. Joan Roof 795-8345. Lunch in a Strip District restaurant
November 26 No Ramble. Happy Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

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!!

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.

RACHEL CARSON: WITNESS FOR NATURE

by Linda Lear

*Never silent herself in the face of destructive trends,
 Rachel Carson fed a spring of awareness
 across America and beyond...*

- Presidential Medal of Freedom, President Jimmy Carter

*"A sweeping, analytic, first-class biography of Rachel Carson.
 Call this biography definitive."*
 - Kirkus Reviews

"The splendid, definitive biography we have been waiting for."
 - Stewart L. Udall, former Secretary of the Interior

"Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature" (Henry Holt and Company/\$35.00/ September 26, 1997), the long-awaited biography by Linda Lear, richly details Carson's life as a dedicated ecologist, writer, and activist. Lear uncovers Carson's spirituality and how it was closely linked to the natural environment. Born in the Pittsburgh suburb of Springdale during the peak of the industrial revolution, Rachel Carson witnessed the decline of the natural world from her own backyard. Using resources previously unavailable, "Witness for Nature" delves into Carson's influential childhood in Western Pennsylvania.

Carson cultivated and deepened her relationship with the natural world through her work as an ecologist and writer. As a female scientist, Carson struggled to overcome the social barriers of her time. She achieved international fame with her biography of the sea told first in "Under the Sea-Wind", the international best-seller "The Sea Around Us", and finally "The Edge of the Sea". Carson's 1962 book "Silent Spring" launched the modern environmental movement and made Carson a prophetic voice in the fight against the misuse of pesticides.

"Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature" is the definitive biography of the poet-scientist. Lear conducted over 100 interviews with friends, colleagues, and environmental leaders who encouraged and supported Carson throughout her career. One of the most important sources is Ruth Scott, a premier naturalist, fellow Western Pennsylvanian, and friend of Carson's. In addition to being one of the founders of the Rachel Carson Homestead Association, Scott has been a guiding force behind the Carnegie Museum's Powdermill Nature Reserve and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Linda Lear is a native of Glenshaw, Pennsylvania and grew up not far from Rachel Carson's childhood homestead. Lear is currently Research Professor of Environmental History at George Washington University and a research collaborator in the Office of Smithsonian Institution Archives. Lear served as a historical consultant for the PBS documentary "Rachel Carson's Silent Spring."

The Rachel Carson Homestead is Rachel Carson's birthplace and childhood home. Rachel Carson's childhood here nurtured a love and respect for nature that would guide her for the rest of her life. The Rachel Carson Homestead Association preserves, restores, and interprets her Springdale birthplace; offers education programs which advance her environmental ethic; and serves as an international resource for information about her life and work.

Guided tours of the house and grounds are offered year-round on Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm and Sunday from 1 pm - 5 pm. Regular museum admission is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Senior citizen or group discounts are available. Free "Science on Saturdays" family programs are offered the third Saturday of each month. For more information, call (412) 274-5459 or visit www.rachelcarson.org on the World Wide Web.

"Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature" is available directly from the Rachel Carson Homestead Association. All proceeds will be used to support our preservation efforts and education programs.

For more information on ordering "Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature" or arranging author appearances or interviews in Western Pennsylvania please contact Mark Tomlinson at (412) 274-5459 or Joanna Hudacko at (412) 421-2512.

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



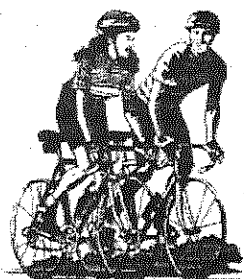
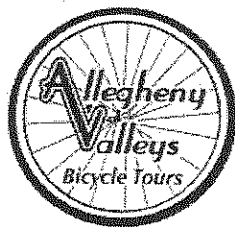
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4...

badlands. We even took pictures of bison grazing. What a tough life they lead. We overnights at Grand Coulee Dam in Washington. Built to generate electricity, it is 550 feet high, nearly a mile wide and backs up the Columbia River for 151 miles - one enormous structure. At night, we enjoyed seeing a laser light show flashing across the frothy white water outflow - a pleasant, unexpected bonus. Another unexpected bonus was seeing the Geckke Windmill Garden - dozens of homemade windmills on posts and all of them spinning off their blades in the brisk morning breeze. Phylis had seen this display written up in National Geographic Magazine and was fascinated to see it in the (metallic) flesh.

On we charged, westward ho. In time, our route took us to the little town of Winthrop, Washington. I've written about this quaint hamlet in previous articles about trips to the north west. It fascinates me. As much as possible, everything in town has been preserved as it was in early to mid-nineteenth century days. It looks like it should be the setting for a wild west movie with false front buildings, washed out painted signs on the exterior building walls, creaking floors that rise and fall in turn as you walk about the stores, antiquated fixtures and woodwork that has seen better days. Even the gas station was preserved very well and retrofitted to emulate a livery stable. I was here last after backpacking in the Pasayten Wilderness in the North Cascade Mountains three years ago. At that time Joanne Lepinsky, one of the trippers, saw in a store window a T shirt with Lupine flowers on its front that really captivated her. She would have bought it on the spot, but the town rolls up its sidewalks at 6:00 P.M. To make matters worse, the store would not open until 9:00 A.M., well after our planned time of departure. I had volunteered to delay the trip until the store opened, but she graciously declined, and we departed Winthrop without the coveted T shirt. This she repeatedly regretted, and the regret intensified over time. I give you all this background to set the stage for why I went shopping there. (I never shop when I'm traveling.) I looked everywhere in that shop and all the new ones that have sprung up, but no such T shirt. Sorry, Joanne. I remember it well, but this time there was nothing even close to it in Winthrop.

How lucky can you be? We had a beautiful day in which to cross the mountains of the North Cascade Range. They are truly sensational. I've seen them many times and get a special kick out of the trip each time I make it. The highway through North Cascades National Park rivals the drive past the breathtaking Grand Tetons of Wyoming and the incredible US Route 550 from Durango to Ouray, Colorado. Diablo Lake was its usual deep turquoise color, and the rooster comb mountain ranges were every bit as attention getting as when I first saw them. As old as they are, they never get old.

We reached the Pacific Northwest ahead of schedule and elected to visit Mount Saint Helens and Mount Rainier, neither of which were on the original trip plan. After discussing Grand Coulee Dam above, you're going to think that I have a fascination for dams, because we camped close to massive Mossyrock Dam near the town of (would you believe) Mossyrock, Washington. I did this by design so that I could see the dam, which was being built by Dravo Corporation when I started with them in 1966. This was of special interest to me in that I never visited the site while I worked for Dravo.

Off we went next morning to see Mount Saint Helens to our south. Although it was a sunny day in general, the mountain was shrouded in clouds, and we never got to see its crown. Certainly, the devastation caused by the eruption in 1980 is still much in evidence. However, in some areas trees were planted following the big boom, and they are now eight feet tall. I can see a major difference since the last time I was there in 1994. It's coming back, but the desolation will be obvious beyond my lifetime. The northeast end of Spirit Lake is still covered by hundreds of floating trees, all bleached white. How long will it take for them to become waterlogged and sink? We didn't drive the full length of the road into the park. The destruction and all that must have happened at the time of the eruption overwhelmed Phylis, and she just wanted to leave. So, leave we did. On the way north, we came to a parking area for Iron Creek Falls. How could I pass up seeing waterfalls? Conveniently, the falls were only a few hundred yards from the road - well worth the stop. Their drop was only about sixty feet, but the setting was so rustic that in a picture it could be easily mistaken for a wilderness spot fifty miles from the closest trappings of civilization.

By the time we reached Mount Rainier, the sky had become fickle. To get a clear photo of the massive ice cream cone, we had to wait for twenty minutes. But the picture is super, fully justifying the wait. We did many touristy things; one such was walking (slipping and sliding is more apt) down the snow-covered walkway to view Narada Falls from its base. It's impressive; don't pass it by when you visit Mount Rainier (and visit you should.) Another must is the Visitor center at Paradise. The drive up to it is reward enough - scenery that grips you on both sides of the road. Box Canyon is also worth the small investment of time required. The ninety-five-mile Wonderland Trail, that encircles the mountain, passes Box Canyon. I recall the spot clearly from when I hiked that loop several years ago. But on this visit, it was still covered by a foot or more of snow - that would make it much more difficult. (I'm getting quite wimpy.) I have to restrain myself in describing Mount Rainier; it's long been a favorite spot of mine in this wonderful continent on which we live.

To get back on the planned schedule, we drove to the Seattle HI/AYH Hostel to pick up Wayne. Our meeting time had to be fluid, and when we arrived, he was out sampling some of the wealth of what Seattle has to offer. That gave Phylis and me an opportunity to take a walk along the waterfront for an hour or so. On our return, there was Wayne patiently awaiting our presence. We lost no time in loading Wayne's gear into the van and driving to the dock. Our plan was to take the ferry across Puget Sound to Bremerton. Fortunately, our wait was short. The crossing was smooth and comfortable, but the atmosphere was not clear enough to see Mount Rainier. We drove, then, to Olympic National Park and pointed our mini-van skyward as we climbed to Hurricane Ridge. By this time, the overcast restricted our view of all the snow-covered peaks and ridges that make this place such an attraction. We took in all that the rangers had going on at the visitor center and headed back down the mountain to make camp for the night. Later, we drove into Port Angeles for what turned out to be a modestly priced, but delicious, buffet dinner. Our inner selves satisfied, we returned to attend a National Park Service program and afterwards retreated, each to his own little tent for a night of zzzzzzzzzs. However, Mother Nature had something else in mind for us. During the night, the sky opened up and showed no mercy. I made out pretty well, but the runoff made a small river under and through Wayne's tent. Phylis took it for a few hours, but at 3:20 a.m. she came to my tent and announced that she was moving to the van for the remainder of the night. In the morning, she literally poured water out of her tent. Throughout the trip, up until that night, we had experienced no problem with anything other than mosquitos the first few nights.

In the next installment, Glenn will tell of their visit to Butchart Gardens, the drive through British Columbia, the ferry ride up the Inland Passage and their adventures in Ketchikan and Juneau, Alaska

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For Sale: Two Recumbent Easy Racer Bicycles. #1 6,000mi, \$800.00, good condition. #2 500mi, \$1,350.00, new condition. Many extras. Also Burley Deluxe Trailer, nearly new, \$325.00 Call 814-734-1358 eve, for info or to ride!

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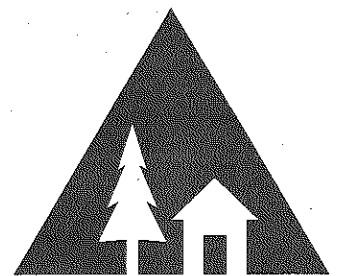
For Sale: Schwinn 12-speed road bikes (2), his and hers; \$40 ea. One Marin Bear Valley mtn. bike, \$100 (\$650 new). 828-0210, leave message.

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