

712 March-April 1950

GOLDEN TRIANGLE

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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 Schirrmann, 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 Horseshoe 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 hostels. Councils floundered and fell disorganized, and the newest groups, such as the 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. With courage and new determination, however, the loose ends were gathered, the veterans of the movement were summoned and advised of the task which lay ahead, and deliberate reconstruction began.

Six long years after the demise of the original Pittsburgh Council, a fledgling local group began anew on Washington's Birthday, 1948 to hold

(HISTORY CON'T)

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-Yale-Princeton Club in an effort at reorganization. This group, guided by 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.

ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

The Washington Birthday hike to Presto Lake, Bridgeville, in 1948 is having a two-fold commemoration on its second anniversary. The hike is being repeated on Saturday, February 18, under the leadership of Tony Pranses. The second celebration will be the Anniversary Banquet, Thursday, February 23, in the Williamsburg Room of the Union Bus Terminal.

Elizabeth Wadsworth, Editor of Knapsack, will be the principal speaker at the dinner, while colored slides of 1949 trips will bring back many memories. The dinner is under the chairmanship of Betty Saffer, Program Chairman.

LEADERSHIP

Leadership certificates entitling the holder to preferential attention when applying for sponsored trip leadership were awarded to 20 members of the local Council upon completion of the Leadership Course. The course consisted of six one-hour lectures beginning Thursday, November 3.

Chairman Tony Pranses began the first lecture of the Leadership Course with a history of the Youth Hostel movement from its inception in Europe and a discussion of the purpose of AYH. Betty Bierer covered the problems of financing, and Wes Bunnelle talked about hostellers themselves publicizing the activities of the group. Planning of trips and leaders' responsibilities on trips were discussed by Louise Pranses in the third lecture. George Cohen and Jack Stein lectured jointly on cycle leadership, with George explaining gear operation, proper cycling methods, and the right foods to eat while cycling. Jack followed with an explanation of legislative road markers and map reading. Mary Louise O'Callaghan and Bruce Merriitt discussed bike leadership and the need for good sensible equipment. The lecture series was completed by Tony Pranses with a discussion of extended trip leadership.

Buy Your 1950 Pass Now

Youth Pass \$2.00

Adult Pass \$3.00

Family Pass \$5.00

SEE GEORGE COHEN

PROGRAM

The Thursday evening Open House was originally planned as a work party and at first a faithful few turned out each week to address cards and lick stamps, but the company was so pleasant attendance grew and soon thirty or more hostellers and friends were milling about Headquarters every Thursday. Many hands may make light work but they also fouled up the filing system, and in order to save the Secretary's sanity she transferred her committee's work to Wednesday evenings and Thursday became Open House.

No group of A.Y.H. members is ever at a loss for entertainment since there are always colored slides to show, black and white photos to admire, past and future trips to discuss, and as the evenings grew cooler, square dancing became popular both as amusement and to augment our new oil-burning heaters (it is estimated that one square is equivalent to 50,000 BTU), and to our guests, simply the sight and sound of thirty or forty Hostellers talking at once on thirty different subjects is entertainment enough. However, in September it was decided that some formal program be planned for each Thursday and a Program Chairman was appointed to coordinate the activities of the members and to provide outside speakers on subjects relating to outdoor life in general and to hostelling in particular.

Officially the Program Committee includes Elizabeth Saffer, Chairman; Martha Wood, Walter Pagels, Louise Franes, Tom Ferguson, and, ex officio, the Council Chairman, Tony Franes, and the Speaker's Bureau Chairman, June Redman. However, every member of the Council is invited to offer suggestions, to present a program himself, or to bring an outside speaker.

The Committee does not intend to set an arbitrary schedule, but rather to provide the opportunity for everyone to participate in, or to present, or simply to observe whatever type of entertainment he most enjoys.

BAKER TRAIL SONG

(Tune: Field Artillery Song)

Over hill, over dale,
On the Horace Baker Trail,
As the hostellers go hiking along.
Pick 'em up, lay 'em down,
Leave the stragglers back in town,
As the hostellers go hiking along.
For it's hi, hi, he,
Though we're beat as you can see,
We sing out a lusty hiking song.
If a tourist comes by,
We'll ptui in his eye,
As the hostellers go hiking along.

HOBBY SHOW

Therese O'Callaghan is in charge of the Hobby Show to be held March 9, 1950. This is your chance to be part of the program. If you collect anything from women or men to worn out bike parts or if you like to build or make things, contact Therese O'Callaghan and give her the word about your wares.

PHOTO CONTEST

A trophy will be awarded for the best black and white photograph taken on a 1949 Pittsburgh AYH outing. The best photo for each trip will be chosen first by a committee. These photos will then be shown to the local membership, who will pick the winning photo.

Entries must be filed by March 2. Members may enter as many photos as they desire so long as the negative of each is available. The name of the contestant and the name and date of the outing must be recorded on the back of each print. All entries become the property of the Pittsburgh Council AYH.

NAT'L TRIPS

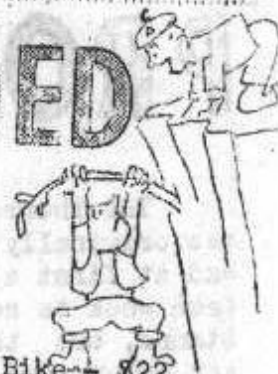
Applications for Nationally sponsored trips are available at Council Headquarters. Also available are applications for leadership of these trips.

BUY YOUR 1950 AYH PASS!

EUROPE



EXTENDED TRIPS



Fond farewells and last minute shopping started me on my trip to Europe. It seems as if I dreamed it all, from the "gay" nights aboard ship with fellow AYH'ers, to the "gay" nights in Paris. From the moment I landed on the continent, I became a hosteler! I was ready to dive into the mass of all that Europe had to offer, and come out loaded with knowledge and a few other small items, like watches, cameras, etc.

I became the foreigner, the one who could not speak the language; the one who bartered with signs in order to live on my SMALL funds. I lived on the starch diets of the hard-hit countries and the rich varied foods of the not so hard-hit countries, a few miles away. I felt the grief and devastation of the scarred farm lands and cities in the once world powerful nations. And at the same time I saw the places and homes from which the people who settled the "States" came, and was confused by the strong contrast between our everyday life and their's.

Then there were the little villages up high in the Alps with majestic peaks shutting them off from the rest of the world, and I wondered if at one time those people did not worship the towering mountains before they turned to the force which created them. I could feel the mountains drawing me to them, just as so many others had felt, and as I looked out over their summits I understood how insignificant, how tiny my being and mind were compared to the earth spreading beneath me.

I saw people seldom adventuring from their villages, I met others from all cities of Europe spending their "holidays" hosteling in places as new and strange to them as to me, although they were only a few hundred miles from home.

The sunken plains of the Netherlands and their maze of canals show

June 24 - July 2

Western Pennsylvania Bike - \$22

June 30 - July 9

Adirondack Mountain Climbing - \$40

July 8 - 23

Pennsylvania-New York Bike - \$54

July 22 - 30 - Appalachian Trail - \$31

July 29 - August 13

New England Bike - \$100

August 12 - 20

Western Pennsylvania Bike - \$22

August 19 - September 3

Great Lakes Bike - \$125

September 2-10 Horseshoe Trail - \$25

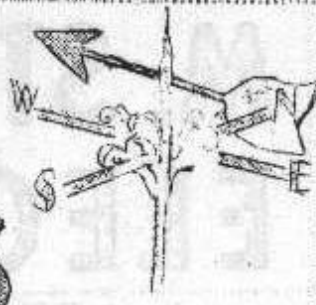


(EUROPE CON'T)

the industry and patience of the Dutch. While beautiful Paris with its clean streets and symmetrical layout, its fabulous gardens, monuments, and opera; its universities, cafes, theatres, and society women; its slums, gutters and women of the streets; all mirrored the sensitive nature and independent flavoring in the people of a once glorious France.

If I had been anything but a hosteler, I could not have seen all these things and the many which exist in understanding but are difficult to put into words. For hosteling is something more than the Dulaney's Cave Trip and the Circle Tour; it's a way of life into which we all try to escape to a different world of new scenes, new life, and a new understanding.

TRIPS AND TRAILS



BAKER TRAIL



The Trips and Trails Committee, which was the fourth committee to be organized, was formed on January 6, 1949. The purpose of this committee was stated as "to make possible more carefully planned trips of a greater variety by working closely with the leaders and assisting them to the greatest extent possible." Prior to the formation of this committee, the trips were planned by the officers and several other interested persons.

At present the Trips and Trails Committee has undertaken a very extensive program. They are trying to build up and maintain a very full program of diversified outings. This is done by personal research of maps and library reference books on caves, historic, and scenic spots in Pennsylvania and surrounding states; by personally scouting good prospective areas; by contacting Hostel Members and other persons and getting their opinions on good prospective areas; and reviewing the outstanding trips of the past and repeating the best of them after a period of at least one year has lapsed. In conjunction with this, they have prepared a leadership code for all AYH sponsored trips in order to explain what the committee does for the leaders and hostellers and what the committee expects in return from them. They are building up a good map reference library including local road maps, county maps, State park maps, legislative route maps, topographical maps of all our area, as well as many others. The committee also has a very large train, bus, and streetcar schedule library and is responsible for keeping track of and maintaining the accumulative cooking equipment. Perhaps the most ambitious undertaking of this committee is the blazing and maintaining of a hike trail from Aspinwall to Cook Forest.

The success of the 1949 Trips and Trail Committee is best evidenced by the following comparative figures of

In the early Fall of 1949, the Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh Council authorized the construction of an extended trail to connect Pittsburgh with Cook Forest, an estimated distance of 125 miles. The trail was named the Horace F. Baker Trail in honor of the prominent Pittsburgh attorney who served as president of the first local council and whose guidance and assistance have played so prominent a part in the progress of the present Council.

Construction of the trail is accomplished in several steps. First, one or two scouts establish a logical route to be followed by a blazing party which marks the route with bright paint blazes on trees and rocks. The third step is the establishment of mileposts, to be followed by parties establishing campsites at regular intervals. The final refinement, of course, is the opening of hostels along the route.

The trail starts in Aspinwall and roughly parallels the Allegheny River to Freeport, where it crosses and proceeds to Kelley Station, Crooked Creek Dam, Mahoning Dam, and thence to Cook Forest. At present, scouting is virtually complete to Crooked Creek Dam and blazing has been accomplished as far as Tarentum. This portion of the trail almost completely avoids paved roads and crosses streams by such rustic means as cable and log bridges.

Upon completion of Sector No. 1 (to Crooked Creek Dam), a brochure will be prepared describing the route. This will be available to AYH members and to other groups in the community interested in hiking.

(TRIPS CON'T)

1948 and 1949. A total attendance of 296 persons for 16 trips in 1948, five being overnites, as compared to 1225 people attending 43 outings in 1949 including 15 overnites, plus the innovation in 1949 of a canoe trip, two cave crawls, cycle races and an extended trip.

CANOE TRIP



M. STALLEY ELECTED

Varying the hike-like routine of summer 1949, seventeen members took a two-day canoe trip down the Allegheny. The outing was made possible by the Water Safety Program of the American Red Cross, which provided eight canoes and transportation from Pittsburgh to Freeport, starting point for the voyage.

The hostellers slept in a riverside park at Freeport, Friday night, and paddled across the river for breakfast the next morning. Mountain climbers in the group limbered up by scaling the 500 foot cliffs on the south bank of the river while breakfast was being made.

From Freeport, the hostellers paddled upstream a mile to the mouth of the Kiskiminitas river and then started down to rendezvous at lock No. 4 at Natrona. This was the first of three locks encountered on the trip. In each case all eight canoes were taken thru together, with occupants holding them to steel ladders at the sides, going down hand over hand as the boats took a drop of ten to twenty feet.

Saturday lunch was made in a park in Breckenridge, where hostellers could sprawl on the grass and also keep an eye on the canoes drawn up on the beach below. Highlight of this noon hour was the recording of the words of "Squaws Along the Yukon" on paper.

A strong headwind cut paddling speed in half for the afternoon, and the crew was all in when they made camp on 14-mile island, just above Oakmont. Red Cross-provided tents were converted into awnings, and campfires were built on the beach.

Sunday schedules, computed from Saturday's performance, were more than ample, the wind having died down, and 9-mile island took only an hour's paddling, broken by a stop for Mass and shopping in Oakmont.

Nine-mile island had been picked for Sunday lunch partly because of its convenience, and partly as an opportunity to show recent members the site of

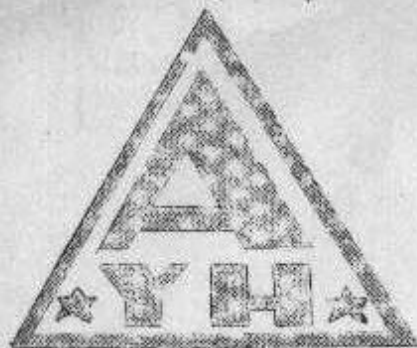
Marshall Stalley, Assistant Director of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, was elected Vice Chairman of the Pittsburgh Council, AYH at the meeting of the Board of Directors on January 13. Mr. Stalley is one of the six members of the Executive Advisory Board, which, along with the Activities Board, makes up the Board of Directors of the Council. The other members of the Executive Advisory Board are Emil J. Bonavita, Director of Water Safety, American Red Cross; Robert C. Cooper of the Allegheny Branch, YMCA; Nathan H. Kaufman, Director of Health and Physical Education, Y.M. & W.H.A.; Hugh W. Ransom of the Health and Welfare Federation of Allegheny County; Allen E. Risedorph, Superintendent of the Bureau of Recreational Activities. City Department of Parks and Recreation.

Quarterly meetings of the full Board are scheduled.

(CANOE TRIP CONT)

a memorable overnight in October 1948, when pioneer Pittsburgh hostellers battled rats and rain for an exceedingly long Saturday night. The water travelers also found it a perfect jumping-off spot for wave-riding sallies whenever a stern wheeler or large power boat came by.

Only two hours were needed to cover the last stretch of river to Pittsburgh. Under the Sixteenth Street bridge the lead canoes converged, swapped leftovers from lunch, and drifted. Later arrivals came alongside, and held the craft together with only the outside paddlers working. The last nine blocks to the docking point, under the Seventh Street Bridge, were taken as a nine canoe raft, with the party, by that time increased to twenty, singing lustily "Old MacDonald Had a Farm," as usual.



PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS, INC.
6300 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh 32, Pa.
LE 1-2556 PAC 1-4997

Golden D
1950

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS March 1, 1950

SQUARE DANCING - Beginning Tuesday, March 7, the Pittsburgh Council will sponsor a square and folk dancing session on the first and third Tuesday of each month at Hostel Headquarters. Admission will be 25¢ to passholders, 35¢ to nonpassholders; light refreshments will be served. Come and bring your friends. 8:30 p.m.

CYCLE COURSE - To instruct all interested persons in the fundamentals of cycling, a 4-week course covering cycle maintenance and operation will be held on the Thursday evenings listed below, starting at 8 p.m. sharp:

March 9 - Background of Cycling	- Tony Franses
March 16 - Traffic Regulations and General Cycling Principles	- Jack Stein
March 23 - Elementary Maintenance	- George Cohen
April 1 - Field Training Session	

REGULATIONS FOR CYCLES - Lights and Licenses - All cycles on sponsored trips must have lights and a licence as specified by your community. This is some insurance for you in case of accident and is required by state law. The leader will check for these two items before permitting him to participate on the trip.

BICYCLE SALES

Rental Cost Applied on Purchase of New Cycle - Henceforth, the rental price for two trips will be applied to the purchase of a new cycle if ordered within 60 days of first rental.

PRICE LISTS

(Ladies' and gents' cycles available for all models)

Tourist	rod brakes	3-speed	\$59.95
Sports Light Roadster	calliper brakes	3-speed	58.50
Lenton Sports '531' tubing	Calliper brakes	3-speed	64.25
Lenton Clubman '531' tubing	calliper brakes	3-speed	60.00

Front Wheel Cynahub can be fitted to all models \$7.25

The cycles are also available with free or fixed hubs, close range hub, and 4-speed hub.

Cycle Gears (2, 3, 4-speed)	from \$6.50 up	Toe Clips	\$1.25 pair
Generator Units	from \$2.00 up	Toe Straps	1.25 pair
Alloy Carriers (spring clip)	\$2.00	Hub Horns	1.50
Alloy Kickstands	2.25	Dunlop repair kits	.75

We have a full line of all parts and best known accessories. ASK FOR A CATALOG!

BICYCLE RENTAL

For AYH Passholders

25¢ per hour

\$1.00 4-24 hours

60¢ each additional 24 hours
or fraction

For Non-passholders

35¢ per hour

\$1.40 4-24 hours

85¢ each additional 24 hours
or fraction

Correction - April Thursday Open Houses listed in the Golden Triangle - Should be April 6, 13, 20, 27 with the same programs listed.

MARCH-APRIL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Week-end outings open to 1950 passholders only. One-day affairs are open to all, but nonpassholders pay 25¢ additional registration fee. Costs listed are approximate but cover total expenses and will be collected by leader at meeting place.

On overnight outings, bring eating and sleeping gear. On one-day outings where AYH provides meals, bring eating gear. Private cars permitted only when authorized by leader.

Details of meeting places, times, and exact cost are listed on bi-weekly postal cards sent to 1950 passholders. Others phone leaders for details. Reservations accompanied by one-half the listed cost must be made in person or by mail at least 48 hours prior to outing.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5 - MINGO CREEK TO CANONSBURG HIKE. 18-mile cross-country hike. Bring lunch. Cost \$1.50. Leader Jack Stein (JA 1-0381)

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 11-12 - BEAVER FALLS OVERNITE. Tour through Old Economy and hiking around Beaver Falls, staying at N. Sewickley Twp. Fire Dept. Bring Saturday lunch. Cost \$4.15. Leader Wes Bunnelle (MU 1-1120)

SUNDAY, MARCH 19 - BRIDGEVILLE-CANONSBURG HIKE. 12-miles cross-country. Bring lunch. Cost \$1.15. Leader Jan Reel (Carnegie 2056)

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 25-26 - HOOF-AND-MOUTH CLUB ANNIVERSARY OVERNITE. Return our West Virginia friends' visits. Hike around Caglebay Park, Wheeling, Saturday; Sunday to Elm Grove. Bring Saturday lunch. Cost \$4.50. Private transportation desired. Leader Sam Shaw. Call Jack Stein (JA 1-0381) for information.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2 - HERMINIE HIKE-BIKE. 10-mile hike. Cost \$1.00. Leader Stan Baston (Glenshaw 569J). 40-mile bike trip with Bill Snell leading (HI 1-7053). Cost 15¢. Bring lunch.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8 - NORTH BOROS HIKE-BIKE AND CAMPFIRE SUPPER. Repeat of a favorite. 8-mile hike. Cost \$1.15. Leader Herb Buchwald (WA 1-4725). 30-mile bike trip with Jim Deitt leading (WA 1-6752). Cost 60¢

SUNDAY, APRIL 16 - Another TWIN ECHOES TRAIL TRIP. 12-miles. Bring lunch. Cost \$1.30. Leader J. D. Myers. Call Betty Saffer (CH 1-0382) for information.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, APRIL 22-23 - AVELLA OVERNITE. The hikers will join the bikers on a trip that was all-bike last year. Hike 10 miles each day. Cost \$3.80. Hike leader Edith Caporali (EM 1-9603). 50-miles of biking each day. Cost \$1.80. Bike leader Bruce Merritt (FE 1-3857). Bring Saturday lunch.

THURSDAY OPEN HOUSE PROGRAMS

As usual, AYH Open House is observed every Thursday evening from 8:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. There is no charge, and this is an excellent time to learn about hosteling, meet the gang, and take part in the excellent and diversified programs.

- March 2 - Pennsylvania Department of Highways' Film - Mr. McCutcheon
- March 9 - Hobby Show - Call Therese O'Callaghan (MA 1-9907) to register your hobby.
- March 16 - "Rolling Hostel" - Betty Bierer
- March 23 - Amateur Astronomers of Pittsburgh - Charles LeRoy
- March 30 - Square Dancing
- April 4 - European Pictures - Tom Ferguson
- April 11 - Sing-Song - Fred Mauk. Folk Songs - Sonia Zabarenko
- April 18 - Bike Trip to Florida and Cuba - Leslie Cohen
- April 25 - Square Dancing



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COMPLETE STOCK
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STANDS, ETC., AT POPULAR PRICES

TIME PAYMENT PLANS

RENT A CYCLE

LIGHTWEIGHTS

FOR AYH PASSHOLDERS

25¢ per hour

\$1.00 4-24 hours

60¢ each additional 24 hours
or fraction.

FOR NON-PASSHOLDERS

35¢ per hour

\$1.40 4-24 hours

85¢ each additional 24 hours
or fraction.

BARGAINS

BERETS \$1.25

AYH PINS .35

BERET-PIN-COMBO 1.50

AYH PENNANTS .30