

DECEMBER-JANUARY

1960-61



Openhouse

PROGRAM

Thursday nights in December, 8:15

December 1 - Folk Dancing as usual, with emphasis on Christmas dances. Wear low heels, girls, and save your ankles for skiing.

December 8 - Phyllis Wetherby will show a special slide feature, (with music and recorded commentary) on "Project---Pittsburgh."

December 15 - Armand Panson, still wearing that honeymoon look, will show his slides on Mexico.

December 22 - Special Christmas party to give all members a chance to see members who only seem to come out during the holidays. Special goodies in the form of homemade cookies and coffee will be on hand.

December 29 - Ever seen the Queen opening Parliament? Ralph Ludington "snapped" her with her hand on the knob. Other glorious scenes of Western Europe encountered during his recent trip will be shown.



SPECIAL CAROLING SESSION

December 20 - All who would care to go caroling and wassailing thru quaint old Shadyside on Tuesday night can meet at Headquarters at 8:00 P.M. Plan on hot cocoa and traditional Christmas candy at Winifred's apartment when you've sung them out.

ELECTION RETURNS - ACTIVITIES BOARD

The annual election of officers for the coming year originally scheduled for October 20 (President Hugh Gilmour refused to give up the gavel) was finally held October 27.

Lloyd Geertz, former vice-president, was unanimously chosen to head the Pittsburgh Council in what is hoped will be one of its best years.

Margaret Bark and Armand Panson round out the executive staff as secretary and treasurer respectively.

Other conscientious members who have assumed chairmanships are as follows:

Joan Heike	Cyclecrafts
Jacek Jedruch	Hostel Chairman
Winifred Roensch ...	Programs
Ben Dell	Trips and Trails
Connie Barton	Membership
Hugh Gilmour	Public Relations

Don Woodland and Bob Snelsire were elected to the Board of Directors.

All of these "doers" are expectantly looking for additional helpers to assist them throughout the coming year.

NOTICE FROM CYCLECRAFTS CHAIRMAN:

Will those who have bikes in the cyclo shop please put tags on them.

Plan on hot cocoa and traditional Christmas candy at Winifred's apartment when you've sung them out.

GREETINGS

FROM
OUR

The recent election has brought an end to another year at A.Y.H., and let me speak for the entire activities board and say, that the spirit of cooperation, of close harmonious comradeship has started us out on what we hope will be a banner year for the Pittsburgh Council. Let me give you a brief introduction to some of our hope and aims.

Jacek Jedruch has a crew ready to insulate the headquarters building to keep us warm (a minor problem? to Pittsburghers.) He also has several potential hostels that he is investigating, a possible realization to the hope of a chain of hostels on the way to Pymatuning or Erie.

Armand Panson reports that we're paid up on all of our bills!

Joan Heike is planning to have more rental bikes available during the coming summer for those who like to cycle but who hesitate about the initial cost of investing in a bike.

Winifred Roensch has scheduled an interesting line-up of Thursday night meetings. Anyone who would like to volunteer a slide show can call her at Em. 2-5533 or write to 654 Maryland Ave., Pgh. 32.

Margaret Bark and her staff are already busy with the typing and mailing. We have a new addressing machine to speed up the work.

Ben Dell is scheduling frequent winter trips. A guide book describing short hikes, bike trips, canoe streams, and the Baker Trail is about half written and will be printed during the winter.

Hugh Gilmour has a staff turning out (with tongue in cheek) new Golden Triangles.

And with all this activity, Connie Barton has her pencil poised on her membership book, awaiting the flood of new members that we hope will rush to our door.

These are the happenings of the moment. There will be many more ideas cropping up before the year is half through, and I hope that they will offer something to everyone.

—Lloyd Geertz, President

SO WHO KNOWS HIM? THE PRESIDENT THAT IS, WHO KNOWS HIM?

It occurs to us that too often we don't know much about our presidents, so here's the G.T.'s remedy to that problem.

A native Chicagoan, he came to Pittsburgh five years ago to work for the Alcoa Company--Research. A graduate of the University of Illinois, he was not quite certain which of his free-time pleasures offered him the most gratification: racing cars, playing the harmonica, pounding on the marimba, or just canoeing.

Always an independent canoeist, something attracted him to A.Y.H. He's been with us a few years. Now married to Abbie Indie, one of our past secretaries, they now live in Monroeville, where as novice gardeners, they grow mums but no cabbages. He hates cole slaw.

KEYSTONE TRAILS

Two days of hiking over picturesque trails in Pine Grove Furnace highlighted the Fifth Annual meeting of the Keystone Trails Association in October. Among the 168 eager beavers who square danced, moonlight-hiked, slide showed, and hiked some more were:

J. D. Meyers	Pat Dell
Eleanor Meyers	Victor Sorokin
Hugh Gilmour	Tom Gabor
Joan Heike	Don Fisher
Norman Rapoza	Fran Czapiewski
Winifred Roensch	



NOTICE: (to all except Bill Kavalkovich)

Camping equipment can be purchased at wholesale rates if we order in quantity. Some samples of real bargains:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Rucksack (new) | \$5.25 pr. |
| Heavy commercial canvas pack with tubular frame | |
| 2. Field Shoes | \$4.25 |
| 3. Mess Kit | \$24.00 Doz. |
| 1 pot and lid | |
| 1 fry pan | |
| 1 plate and 1 cup | |
| (In one compact unit) | |
| 4. Rayon Rubberized Air Mattress | \$4.50 lots of six each |
| 5. Messware | \$4.80 doz. |
| fork, knife, spoon sets | |
| 6. Mess Kits (Army-New) | \$6.00 doz. |
- For details see Hugh Gilmour.

* The Golden Triangle published by the
 * Pittsburgh Council of the American
 * Youth Hostels, Inc., 6300 Fifth Avenue
 * Hugh Gilmour, Editor Pgh. 32, Pa.
 *
 * Fran Czapiewski, Ralph Ludington,
 * Marius DePaolis, Abbie and Lloyd,
 * Geertz.

* Contributions are enthusiastically welcomed. Call Pe. 1-7387.

HARPER'S FERRY NATIONAL CONVENTION

Not since the famous raid of John Brown in 1859 have so many Yankees descended upon the placid little town of Harper's Ferry, West Virginia.

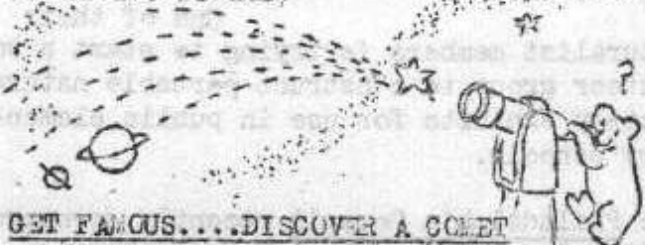
The Hilltop House, (appropriately named, we discovered at 5:00 A.M., as we ascended to it by foot from the railroad station) was busily registering hostellers all day Friday and part of Saturday for the week-end of November 11-13.

Pittsburghers attending the convention were, Betty Bieler, Liz Saffer, Margaret Bark, Pat Vaughan, and Lloyd and Abbie Geertz.

The program proposed by Tony Pranses for National AYH was approved with minor changes. Under this plan, there are six standing committees. Representing Pittsburgh Council on these committees are:

Organization:	Lloyd Geertz
Communications:	Margaret Bark
Program:	Ben Dell
Finance:	Armand Panson
Capital Improvement:	Jacek Jedruch
Service:	Bob Snelsire

Details of the program will be reported in future issues.



On a recent hike through Riverview Park which ended up at the Allegheny Observatory, it was pointed out that there are scads of undiscovered comets racing thru the sky. You can enter the realm of astrological history as comets are named after their finders.

How to do it: Merely pick a small area of the heavens to scan. Report any light patch not included in your star atlas. If it's a new comet, and no one beats you to it, it's yours!

WHAT ARE other councils DOING?



THE SECRETARIAL COMMITTEE proudly announces its existence. They will be the ones who insure your future mailings:

MAILING LIST Libby Kean
MIMEOGRAPHING Eileen Hagan
TYPING Linda Snelsire
CORRESPONDENCE Liz Saffer
ADDRESSING, MAILING.... Bill Kavalkovich



Jacek Jedruch is presently dickering for a temporary hostel in the vicinity of Seven Springs, the heart of the Laurel Ridge area.

If successful, we will be able to offer overnight accommodations and breakfast for \$4.00 per person and offer ski trips on our schedules.

The New York Council has conducted a series of folksong fests, sessions of group singing led by Pete Haas. The final session is scheduled for New Year's Eve. Guest performers have turned up at each session to add some variety to the series.

The Chicago Council is once again conducting a ski-clinic, a refresher course for past skiers and a training session for new skiers. The course also serves as leadership training for future courses.

They have also wrangled an ice-skating arena to set up an ice-skating class at a special rate to their members. Five one-hour group lessons are given at a cost of \$13.50.

Their big project this year, however, is their Bahama Cruise, somehow managed at a cost of \$190 per tripper. Dates of the cruises are as follows: December 19-28, 1960

January 16-25, 1961

July 17-26, "

July 31, Aug. 9, "

Write them at 410 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago 5, Ill. for information.

One of their naturalist members is trying to start a volunteer group to construct portable natural history exhibits for use in public elementary schools.

The Philadelphia Council recently sponsored a Pete Seeger concert at Town Hall.

The Wisconsin Council announces the opening of a new hostel at Delafield, a barracks-like shelter set on a scenic hillside. The building can house eighteen persons. The houseparents, Mr. and Mrs. George Wilson, include at their hostel, a wildlife exhibit of native animals. Five baby skunks were the stars of the month of October. Yes, they were deodorized.

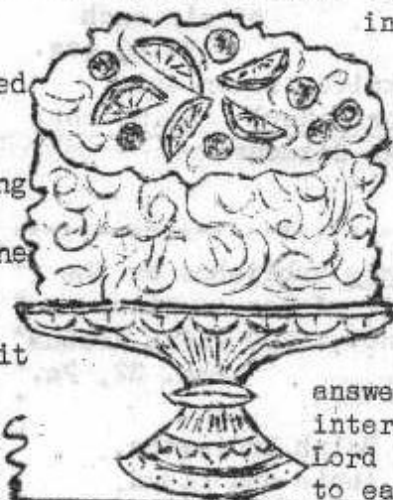
The Los Angeles Council save blue stamps! This enables them to purchase with the redeemable stamps new camp equipment for those summer weekends. Donations are always accepted. The idea sounds good.

The San Diego Council conducted a rummage sale at one of their local churches which netted them \$271.75. They also report the success of their bicycle rodeos! These are conducted at schools and no doubt accounts for the attraction of youth there.

The voice with a smile will no longer be heard.

Liz's mother, who handled all the phone inquiries for the Council, died on October 24, after a short illness. We will never forget the kind and enthusiastic service rendered by Mrs. Saffer, one of our most devoted hostellers.

How about a food column? Any interest? We will pass this item along at present. Chuck Wagon Foods do sell dehydrated foods of all sorts, suitable for camping, climbing, etc. If interested write to Division of Bolton Farm Packing, Boston 64, Mass.



We have had so many good meals served by local leaders on recent trips that we thought interesting ideas about food or recipes might be the answer to other leaders interested in the same. Lord knows, we all love to eat!

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY

To those of us who hike the trails of nature, who thrill to the mere thought of sleeping 'neath a spicy pine tree, or who merely enjoy snapping pictures of a green hill against a cloud-filled sky, ...the notion that this might not someday be possible is hard to accept.

Yet, every day sites which we thought were protected by natural barriers or by off-the-path locations are being examined by industrialists, real estate developers, etc., whose only thought is to exploit this land for their own commercial purposes. In most cases the natural value of the areas is either defaced or forever disgraced.

The W.P.C. has taken a realistic approach to conserving these natural areas.

Best known is their attempt to preserve the Slippery Rock Creek gorge by purchasing over a period of fifteen years the entire area, and then reselling it to the State for a fraction of its cost, thus creating McConnell's Mill State Park.

Fernaliff Park at Chiopyle is another example, and thus two natural beauty areas have been saved for future generations of Pennsylvania hikers.

Recently Mr. Sam Harper, a member of W.P.C. and also a member of our advisory board, spoke at our open house meeting. He stressed the need of conservation today more than ever before.

Further information on this worthy organization can be had by writing to their office at 200 Ross Street, Pittsburgh 19, Pa.

Japan

In a country that is bound by tradition, Japan has taken to hosteling like a duck takes to water. There are some 230 hostels operated by Japan Youth Hostels, Inc. and another 18 operated by the Japanese government. By 1963 the government plans to have another 138 in operation. The hostels are modern in design, ferro-concrete buildings with western-style accommodations.

The hostels operated by the JYH are Japanese-style inns, temples and moderate houses. Brochures from the AYH office of Japan Air Lines.



PITTSBURGH
COUNCIL
SALUTES

Margaret
Bark

For any of you who have joined A.Y.H. in the past three years, Margaret Bark

is the only secretary you have known. A graduate of Dickinson College and now working at Carnegie Library, Margaret joined A.Y.H. four years ago. So enthusiastic she was in her hosteling activities that she had more overnights listed in her pass-book than anyone last year.

Margaret has represented the Pittsburgh Council as the recent Eastern Regional Meeting, the National planning meeting and the National Workshop meeting at Harper's Ferry.

She was introduced to hosteling when she joined a cycling group in Europe. She has since cycled through Cape Cod and along the Horse Shoe Trail. This past summer she was one of the local climbers who scaled the Tetons.

Whoever you are.....

Wherever you are.....

We wish you.....

Froehliche Weihnachten

Mele Kalikimaka

Buon Natale

Feliz Navidad

Lalig Kirstfeest

Joyeux Noel

Felice Capod'Anno

Mabarak

Gledelig Jul

Merry Christmas

News

To those interested in Folk Singing:

Next meeting of the group will be at the University Sq. apartment of Dora Fund on December 10.

Before starting on his month-long vacation in South America, Jacek Jedruch will make our H.Q. building more snug with insulation on the ceiling; other winterizing improvements.

Ramona McCombs became Mrs. Armand Panson in a quiet ceremony in Ligonier in October...later they took a trip to Mexico.

Did Wayne Weaver get 'dem dry bones connected' yet? (a monkey skeleton he's been building for an anthropology course)

and Fred Monks for the wonderful trips they've been leading on Chestnut Ridge. (Hikers' Dream)

Double Bravo! to Margaret Bark who not only has the record for number of trips taken, but also holds the title of "angel of the secretary's office," the council's best service giver.

Former Pittsburghers, Bob and Dolores Lesnick and company, spent their summer vacation at the Ephraim Hostel as house-parents.

When not hosteling, Don Fisher his spare time jumping out of airplanes as a member of the local Sky Divers.

How they spent the summer: Darius Paolius on a five-wk. A.V.H. trip to Russia; Betty Bierer, in a hospital in Chamigny, France with broken ribs; Joan Heike on a cycling trip in N.England.

Mrs. Raphaelle's six senior scouts pulled in at the 12-mile finish line in first place...feet soggy but still singing.... on that snowy Laurel Mt. trip last month.

Norman Roy is hoping Jessica Matoka will get here from Europe in time for his hike on December 18. Jessica has been teaching in Germany.

"Winter Wetskins"..... OR What to wear 'midst wintry gales.

All of you who ski, hike, or ice skate must beware of the "Winter Wetskins," for as these creatures get cold, they begin borrowing from anyone who happens to be nearby.....gloves, boots, mufflers, windbreakers, the shirt off your back.

I was once a "Winter Wetskin," but after attending the funeral of a Samaritan (pneumonia victim) I shaped up and took the advice of Muktuk, an old Eskimo pal, who told me how he stayed warm while hunting in the Arctic Circle. His advice: "wear lightweight furs, loose and in layers."

LIGHTWEIGHT clothing enables you to move about easily, thereby conserving energy. Be sure that the outer layer is tightly woven, wind resistant, preferably water repellent (Muktuk proudly showed me his ski parka from the U.S.)

LOOSE FITTING clothing allows for air spaces. These insulating air pockets are of prime importance in keeping warm. (In his arctic snowsuit, Muktuk said he was as warm as toasted whale blubber.)

LAYERS permit a person to regulate his body heat according to the activity and the outdoor temperature.



EVEN IF THEY DID have four hands, they couldn't do all the work themselves...

Join an activities committee... enjoy hosteling better.

All activity-board members can use help.

START RIGHT HERE

Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels, Inc., 6300 Fifth Ave., Pgh. 32, Pa.
Trips and Trails Chairman: Ben Dell, EM. 2-0953

Sunday, December 4 - Joan Schowe leads an easy hike through Frick Park with a snack included at her parkside home. Depart 1:30 from the parking lot at Forbes and Eiddle Streets. Cost: 75¢ Call Joan at Ch. 1-2289.

Saturday, December 10 - A hostel pass will be your ticket to an exciting weekend at Chestnut Ridge Hostel, Morgantown, W. Va. Margaret Park is taking reservations, and Columbus Council has already spoken for some of the 30 places available. Hiking and cave crawling will be featured, and the rest depends upon the weather.

You'll need a sheet sleeping sack (or sleeping bag if you have one,) mess kit, flashlight, and your A.Y.H. pass. Non-members may arrange for an introductory pass with the leader. Call Poolar 1-4475.

Leave from Headquarters at 6:30 P.M. Friday or 8:00 A.M. Saturday.

Sunday, December 18 - Norman Roy leads a good ten-mile hike for ten-mile hikers in the rolling countryside around Oakdale. Climax of the hike will be supper in Norman's trailer, limited to forty people. Bring lunch and \$1.50. Qx. 5-4713 (sure, he has a phone in that trailer!)

Thursday, December 22 - Christmas-party-Type Folk Dancing in our cozy Headquarters building with Gilmour Kringle tolling the Yuletide carol and leading the merry measure.

Saturday, December 24 - Betty Hierer plans a relaxed hiking trip along the C & O Canal returning the following week. If interested call Betty at Du. 1-6870.



Sunday, January 1, 1961 - Lloyd and Abbie Geertz will entertain all hostelers at their home in Monroeville. After driving east on Rt. 22, turn right at Moss Side Blvd., bear left at Haymaker Rd. and bear left again at the first Y (Saunders Station Rd.) Proceed 1/4 mile to Eastgate sign, where you will turn right; turn left at first street (Hillsdale Drive) and watch for 1348 on right. Anytime after 3:00 P.M. Call Dr. 2-6053.

Sunday, January 8 - Baker Trail Hike in the vicinity of Chchran's Mill, suitable for ten-mile hikers. Bring lunch and soup bowl and Fran will serve home-made soup after it's over. Depart 8:15 A.M. Cost of \$1.75 includes transportation. Call Ma. 1-8970.