

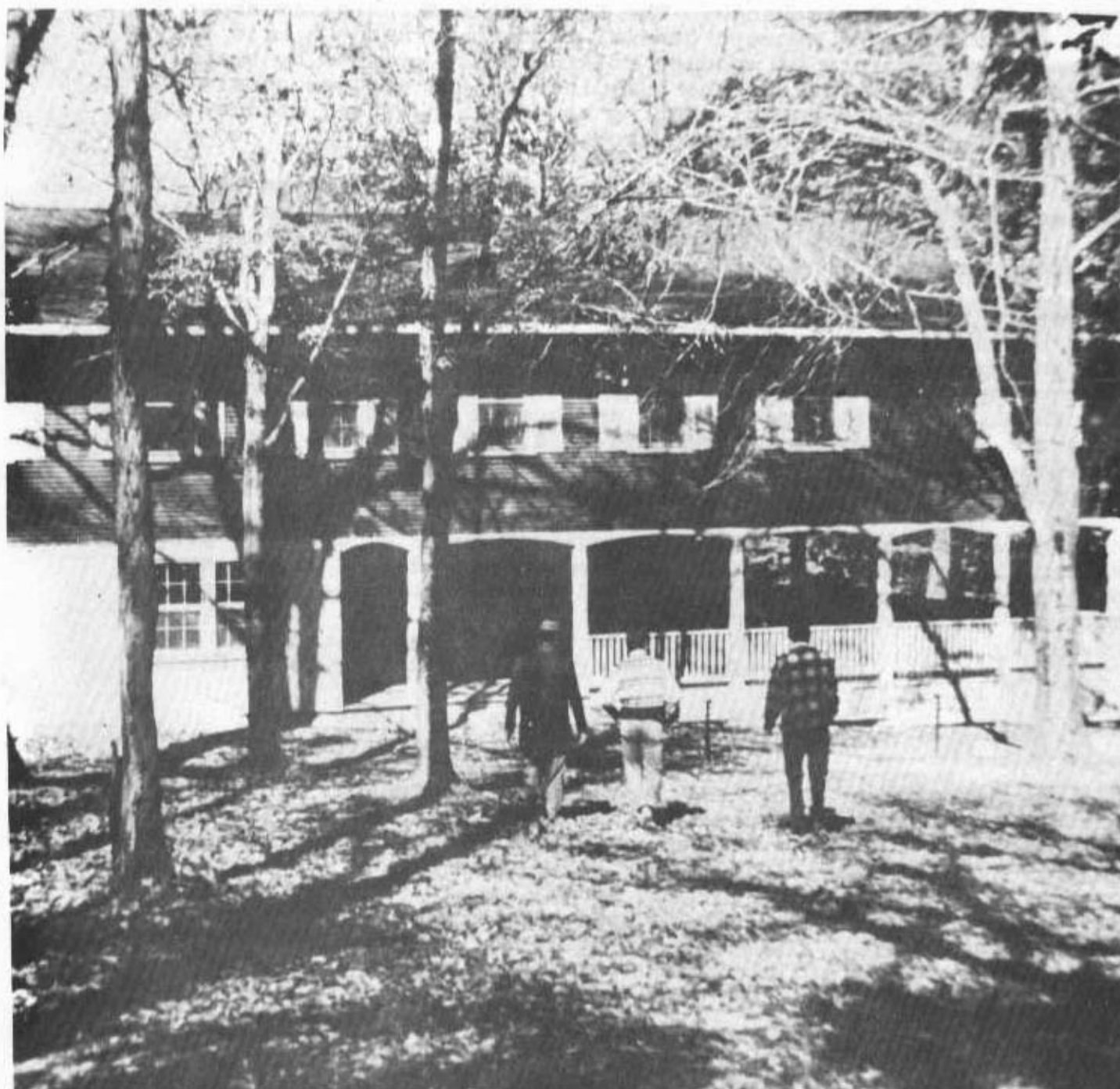


**golden
triangle**

ayh

pittsburgh council, american youth hostel, inc.

Volume 25, Number 12, DECEMBER 1974



HOSTEL OF THE MONTH

Laurelville Mennonite Church Center Youth Hostel

Negotiations have been completed between Pittsburgh Council, AYH and the Laurelville Mennonite Church Center to secure their chartering as an approved AYH overnight facility.

In response to a "lead" from George Tiedeman, National AYH Hostel Director, Larry Giventer and Joe Hoechner recently met with Mr. Terry Burkhalter, resident pastor, and Mr. Arnold Cressman, Executive Director, to discuss the chartering possibilities and to make a "checklist" inspection of the Center. The visit was very productive.

The Church Center consists of approximately 78 acres of land north of the town of Laurelville and running east-west between Route 31 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike. It is about 7 miles west of the Donegal (Exit 9) Interchange. The Bear Rocks Ski Area is about 2 miles away, with the nearest general store only about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away. The property consists of wooded, rolling hills crossed by small streams and a few trails. The buildings on the grounds consist of a dining hall, guest house, meeting house, main lodge, office, and about 12 small cabins scattered about.

It is two of these cabins that would probably serve as the hostel. They measure about 15 feet by 30 feet and with bunk bed accommodations would hold about 15 males in one and 15 females in the other. Family and group accommodations and tent sites are also available.

The Center is run as a low cost operation, open to groups of all races and religions. The Center has various programs, meetings, arts and crafts activities that would be open to all AYH'ers staying there at the time. Other facilities on the site include tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts and even a swimming pool! The overnight charge for hostellers will be \$3.00 during the summer and \$3.25 during the winter. Hostellers, of course, will bring their own sleeping bag or sheet sack. The usual hostel customs will be followed.

One problem which may arise as a result of their schedule of programs is that the center may be filled on some weekends. Reservations in advance would be required for all AYH members planning an overnight there. For reservations write:

Terry and Sandy Burkhalter, houseparents
Laurelville Mennonite Church Center Youth Hostel
Route 5
Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, 15666

or call: (412) 423-2056

This new hostel need some help from Pittsburgh Council to get it started. Immediate requirements include CO₂ fire extinguishers for the cabin bunk rooms and kitchen and cooking utensils (pots, pans, dishes). In addition, joint programs will be set up during the summer for hiking, canoeing, and rafting in the area. If you would like to help contact Larry or Joe any Thursday night at headquarters. To start, bring in your unwanted, but still serviceable, cooking and dining utensils. A collection box for these items will be set up at headquarters.



Cabin which would serve as an overnight facility at the hostel.



Jacob's Creek runs next to the Laurelville Church Center Hostel.

BACK COUNTRY LOST AS WILDERNESS ?

As is commonly known the U.S. Senate passed an Eastern Wilderness Areas Bill S. 3433 last spring. Included in the bill were Dolly Sods and Otter Creek, both of which would become "instant wilderness" areas in the Senate bill. The Cranberry Back Country was placed in a study-area category, which while not making it a wilderness area, would give it the same protection as a wilderness area during the study period.

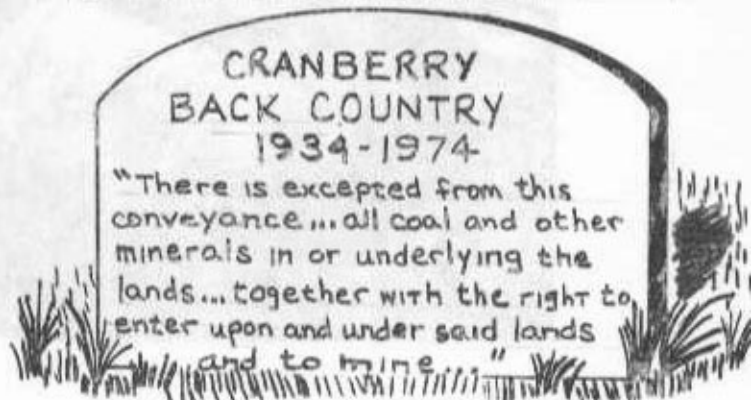
However, the bill, now called HR 13455, is bogged down in the House of Representatives in a subcommittee of the House Interior Committee. Somewhere along the line this subcommittee has dropped the Cranberry Back Country from the list of study areas. And coal mining is threatening to ruin its wilderness characteristics very soon.

The present threat to the Back Country had its roots sixty five years ago. In 1909 the Cherry River Boom and Lumbar Company sold its untouched mineral holdings to the West Virginia and Pittsburgh Railroad Company and the Gauley Company, now known as the Mid Allegheny Corporation. In 1934 Cherry River sold its surface holdings, which at the time consisted of little since the area had been extensively logged and burned, to the Federal government for inclusion in the Monongahela National Forest. But owning the surface does little to protect the land, for the Gauley Company's deed gives the owner of the mineral rights the right to do anything necessary to the surface above the minerals they own in order to mine the minerals underground.

The Mid Allegheny Corporation is now moving ahead with plans to mine the Cranberry Back Country. Work has already begun several miles behind the gates on Cranberry River and the Middle Fork of the Williams. Roads are being built along the Middle Fork, Laureilly Branch, and Cashcamp Run on Cranberry to enable Mid Allegheny to take core samples along the ridge separating Middle Fork from Cranberry where the North-South Trail now runs. Equipment for drilling is being moved by four wheel drive vehicles and mining is scheduled to begin as soon as the core samples are analyzed. At the moment it is expected that the main opening will be in the vicinity of the Little Fork of Williams with a tippie complex at Three Forks near the mouths of Little Fork and Middle Fork and a railroad extension from Cove Run up the Middle Fork. These plans are not yet confirmed.

In any case, it seems at present that the mineral rights deed is unbreakable. If HR 13455 is not reported out of committee and passed in the little time that remains before Congress adjourns for the year, the Eastern Wilderness Bill would have to be reintroduced next year.

- Based on an article by Ron Hardway, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.



TIPS AND TALES

Although the cycling season may seem to be at an end, there are always a few die-hards who cycle all winter. If you are one of these you may want to keep in touch with Jack Batchelor or Tony Trosan. Depending on the weather they will organize "spontaneous" weekend trips during any Thursday night session.

If you do intend to enjoy the winter skiing (weather permitting) you may want to keep in touch with Joe Hoechner. Joe would like to hear from novice skiers interested in taking one day trips to close, "cheap-o" areas. These would be private, non-hostel trips.

If you would like to take professional lessons, contact Jack Kowalski, 681-1611, for rates and dates at Boyce Park Ski Area.

Interested in an illustrated history of cycling? For only \$1.90 you can get a 104 page copy of the Smithsonian cycle collection. It is available from the Public Documents Distribution Center, 5801 Tabor Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa., 19120. Ask for the title "Wheels and Wheeling", Index # 4700-00268.

There have been some recent problems with beginners on hikes. Seems that instead of bringing "raingear", some have brought "reindeer" along. Please note that any reindeer brought on trips will not be covered by AYH insurance, and travel at their owner's risk.

Has anyone ever bicycled between Greater Pittsburgh Airport and downtown? If you have done this (or maybe know someone who has) your help is needed in getting this mapped out as a possible bike route. If your route is safe, fairly direct, and without too many steep hills it could be included in a future AYH cycling guide. Contact Joe Hoechner at any Thursday meeting.

FREE BICYCLES???

Now that the title has your attention, let me explain. The Home for Crippled Children has recently asked Pittsburgh Council for donations of any old bikes for the use of their slightly handicapped kids. In the past we have donated some of our stock bikes as new replacement bikes were bought. Now that all of the Council's bikes are fairly new, we have no useable bikes to donate.

What they don't need are \$300 ten speeds! What they'd like are one or three speed clunkers, or even the hi-rise "stingrays". If you have a rideable bike of this type, bring it to the headquarters, after contacting Joe Hoechner, 343-2465.

So this Christmas, if you or your kids are expecting a new bike, how about making other kids happy by giving your old one to the Home.

The Golden Triangle is a monthly publication of the Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels, 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15232.
362-8181 Thursday evenings only.

editor: Mary Giventer
production: Aileen Pastorik
contributors: Joe Hoechner
Jim Roberts
Larry Giventer
Ron Hardway

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT AYH

If you need any last minute gifts for your favorite person, why not look up your friendly hostel store-keeper, Joe Hoechner. Currently Joe's stock includes the following items:

Bike safety flags - \$2.50 each, a telescoping 6 foot metal type that retracts to only 3 feet. Very handy for putting in car trunks, narrow hallways, etc. Can also be used as a lightening rod.

Cycle T-shirts - \$2.50 each. A white background shirt with the silhouette of a racer on the front, in red with red trim bands around the neck and arms. Available in medium size only.

Bikecentennial calendars - Start 1975 right with the first color cycle calendar ever produced. Keep track of your dates while enjoying the excellent photos, plus tips on riding, repairs, etc. Cost \$3.00 each (Cost is \$3.50 if purchased directly from Bikecentennial).

Also you should not overlook the AYH bike atlas, Hiking, Canoeing, or Climbing guides available through the Publication Chairman, Bruce Sundquist.

Now does anyone have any ideas on how to gift wrap a six foot bike flag ?

A HOLIDAY WISH FROM AYH

MAY YOU ALWAYS CAMP
WHERE THE WATER RUNS SWEET
WITH PLENTY OF SHADE AND GRASS.
WHERE WELL MARKED TRAILS
OF FRIENDSHIP MEET
AS THE KIND YEARS GENTLY PASS.

PITTSBURGH HEART FUND RIDE

The annual Pittsburgh Heart Fund bike derby was held Sunday, October 27, at Three Rivers Stadium.

As part of the activities a 50 mile "open" senior race was held which was very popular with Allegheny Cycling Association and AYH members. The winning time was 2 hours and 6 minutes with the riders placing:

1st	Oscar Ratenborg
2nd	Jim Reilly
3rd	Marty Schneider
4th	Tom Stocker
5th	John Wronosky

A 25 mile open junior race was also held with the following results:

1st	Tom Chew
2nd	Matt Copcutt
3rd	John Tour

A few AYH members participated to get their qualification patches.

Those members included:

Ed Hale	- 25 miles
Roy Weslager	- 25 miles
Shay Foley	- 25 miles
Tony Trusan	- 50 miles
John Bohrer	- 75 miles
Joe Hoechner	- 75 miles
Doug Smith	- 75 miles
Jack Batchelor	- 100 miles
Ms. Aileen Herman	- 100 miles

Congratulations to all !

THE LAW AND YOU

There is now a bill in the Pennsylvania Senate #1825 which is strictly for the allocation of funds to establish the Lehigh Gorge State Park. This bill is a result of the efforts of the Friends of the Lehigh. The Secretary of the Department of Environmental Research has indicated that the gorge is a priority in their purchasing objectives and they plan to invest \$2.9 million for this purchase. Any comments on the establishment of the Lehigh Gorge State Park can be sent to: Joint Conservation Committee, Room 151, Capital Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 17120.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PITTSBURGH COUNCIL, AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS, INC.
6300 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15232

please print!

_____ date of application

_____ name

_____ street

_____ city

_____ state

_____ zip

_____ telephone number

Will you use your pass in Europe this year? _____

Is this a renewal? _____ If so, when did you first join? _____

Age (if under 18) _____

check one!

- ☐ Youth Membership (under 18)..... \$5.00
- ☐ Senior Membership (18 and over).....\$10.00
- ☐ Family Membership (valid in U.S.A & Canada only)...\$12.00
- ☐ Organization Membership (valid in U.S.A. & Canada
only -- for recognized non-profit
organizations, valid for not more than
25, with leader for each group of
10 persons)\$15.00

all above memberships expire December 31, 1975!

- ☐ Life Membership.....\$50.00

OPTIONAL OFFER TO ALL MEMBERS...

- ☐ Subscription to Wilderness Camping Magazine -- bimonthly --
includes special section on A.Y.H. in addition to feature
articles on outdoor travel and recreation -- one year.....\$1.50

Enclose check or money order for the total amount due and send it to
the address at the top of this form; ATTN. MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

Please fill out activities questionnaire on reverse side of this form.

Pittsburgh Council's active program of trips, schools, etc. is supported by the volunteer efforts of its active members. There is no paid help and no outside financial support. Below is a list of some of the ways our members contribute to the program that serves you. Please check off the ways that you anticipate that you will be willing and able to support your council's program in the coming year. (Use numbers to indicate your order of preference if you wish.)

- ☐ Trip leading -- in areas that you are familiar with and in activities you are proficient in.
 - ☐ Hiking/Backpacking
 - ☐ Canoeing/Rafting
 - ☐ Bicycling
- ☐ Schools -- assisting with instruction in canoeing, bicycling, climbing, x-c skiing, etc.
- ☐ Publications Program -- everything from writing and editing to collating, stapling and mailing.
- ☐ Photography -- for use in guides, newsletters, public relations efforts, etc.
- ☐ Artwork -- for use in guides, newsletters, public relations efforts, etc.
- ☐ Typing -- newsletters, guides and other publications.
- ☐ Newsletter Production -- collating, stapling and mailing.
- ☐ Headquarters Maintenance -- repair, cleaning, painting, etc.
- ☐ Hostel Maintenance -- remodeling, repair, cleaning, painting, etc.
- ☐ Trail Maintenance -- shelter building, reblazing, rerouting, etc.
- ☐ Equipment Maintenance -- repair and servicing.
 - ☐ Canoe Equipment
 - ☐ Bicycle Equipment
- ☐ Foreign Visitors -- hosting
- ☐ Open-House Programs -- showing slides from recent trips, etc.
- ☐ Public Affairs -- getting involved in local projects, hostel development, conservation and environmental protection and youth activities.
- ☐ Professional Services -- financial auditing, legal services, etc.
- ☐ Other -- describe below.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

At the October 17 business meeting, election of council officers and activities chairmen was held. The new council officers are:

President: Larry Giventer
Secretary: Claudette Falkenhan
Treasurer: Frederick Hull

Cycling: Ray Rossi, Dave Barbour
Canoeing: Gordon Bugby
Climbing: Jim Gogots
Hiking: John Bohrer, Joe Levine
Winter Sports: Jack Kowalski
Trips and Trails: Joel Platt
Baker Trail: Cliff Ham, Dave Porterfield
House: Gary Ludwig
Hostel Development: Joe Hoechner,
Roy Weil
Newsletter Editor: Mary Giventer
Newsletter Production: Aileen Pastorik
Leadership Development: Jim Roberts
Program: John Hayes
Public Relations: Jim Roberts
Special Events: Mike and Marta Hurwitz
Publications: Bruce Sundquist
Membership: Karen and Elaine Merisko
Council Store: Joe Hoechner

Elected to two year terms on the Board of Directors were: J.D. Meyers and Lloyd Gertz.

Elected to three year terms on the Board of Directors were: Don Hoecher, Liz Saffer, Cathy Lynch.

At the November 12 Activities Board meeting Joe Hoechner was elected vice president.

The positions of caving chairman and service chairman are still not filled. Anyone interested in either of these please contact Larry Giventer.

- RENEW AYH MEMBERSHIP NOW!
- All passes issued before 10/1/74 (except Life) expire this Dec. 31.
- 1975 passes will be good until 12/75
- Special Offer - Subscribe to Wilderness Camping Magazine - AYH info in each issue - for \$1.50
- Fill out both sides of membership form in this issue of the Golden Δ .



PEUGEOT

RALEIGH

SCHWINN



SALES AND SERVICE

Floyd Newingham

Schwinn Bicycle Center
740 Fifth Avenue
New Kensington, Pa, 15068

335-6464

OPEN HOUSE

Open House is held every Thursday evening. Everyone is welcome, member or non-member. Doors open about 7:45 PM with the program starting at 8:30 PM. Come and find out about us.

December 5 - Jay and Margaret Angel bicycling through the Green Mountains, the Adirondacks, and other trips. Come see puppy Shana on a bike.

December 12 - Barney Bench retracing Coronado's expedition from the city of Mexico to the plains of Kansas.

December 19 - Tonight is annual AYH caroling night. Meet at the headquarters at 8:30 PM to take a musical saunter through Shadyside. Wassail afterwards at the Hams' house, 4723 Wallingford St., off Devonshire. If you're not a caroler, come to the Hams' house about 10 PM for the party.

December 26 - No Program.

TRIPS AND TRAILS

The trips listed below are open to the public with the exception that A.Y.H. members are given priority when the trip is of limited size. Trip costs include 40¢ for registration and insurance (\$500 medical) plus transportation costs and equipment rental. Call the trip leader to reserve or cancel or just for more information about the trip.

Please call during normal hours (6:30 - 9:00 PM) unless otherwise noted. Make reservations early but in no case should they be made later than the Thursday before the trip.

- Tues Dec 2 Beginner's Map Reading - Bring compass (if you have one), pencil and paper. Learn to find your way in the woods - or how to get lost and still look like you know what you are doing. Meet at the headquarters at 7:00 PM. Reservations are not necessary and cost is \$0.00.
- Sat Dec 7 Experienced Beginner's - Intermediate Backpack - Join
Sun Dec 8 Jay and Margaret Angel on a beautiful backpack trip on the Laurel Highlands Trail. Shelters can be used in place of tents. Leave 8:00 AM Saturday and return sometime Sunday evening. Call Jay and Margaret to reserve at 362 - 5282.
- Sun Dec 8 Beginner's Hike - with Joe Levine on the Rachel Carson or Baker Trail. Bring lunch, suitable clothes, and about \$2.00. Leave at 9:00 AM. Phone 422-8287.
- Fri Dec 13 Caving. See a warm cave in West Virginia with
Sat Dec 14 Norm Snyder. Leave Friday night and return late Saturday night. Call Norm at 371-2371 between 5:30 PM and 7:00 PM for more details and to reserve.
- Sat Dec 14 Beginner's Hike - Join Joan Goode in a beginning hike at Settler's Cabin. Bring warm clothes, lunch and about \$1.50. Leave at 9:30 AM. Warm up and hot drinks served at Joan's after the hike. Reserve with Joan at 921-8505.
- Sun Dec 15 Intermediate Hike or Beginner's Cross Country Ski - If snow conditions permit we will seek out suitable cross country skiing. If there is no snow, plan on approximately 10 miles of hiking in the Mountain Streams or Laurel Ridge area. Mary and Larry Giventer lead this expedition. Leave headquarters at 8:30 AM. Call 422-9282 for final plans.
- Sat Dec 21 Beginner - Intermediate Hike - Join Joe Hoechner for hiking at the new Laurelville Church Center Hostel. Here's a chance to see their facilities and explore the 80 acres of land. Bring lunch, hiking boots, cameras, and about \$3.00 for transportation. Leave headquarters at 8:30 AM. To reserve call Joe at 343-2465.

TRIPS AND TRAILS CONTINUED

Sun Dec 22 Hike. Join John Hayes for an Advanced Stroll (John is very good at strolling). Leave headquarters at noon and get back at 4PM. Call John at 325-2345. Come warmly dressed and prepared to enjoy the scenery of Frick Park.

Fri	Dec 27	<u>Caving.</u> A cave trip to the second largest cave in
Sat	Dec 28	Virginia. Norm Snyder promises 20 miles of passage. Leave headquarters at 7:00 PM Friday and return late Saturday night. Call Norm at 371-2371 between 5:30 PM and 7:00 PM.

Sat	Dec 28	<u>Intermediate to Advanced Back Pack</u> - Enjoy winter
Sun	Dec 29	backpacking in the Cranberry Back Country with the Mt. Lebanon playboys John Bohrer and Roy Grant. This will be a beautiful trip, so don't miss it. Call John at 561-6563 or Roy at 343-5848.

Sun Dec 29 Join Elaine Merisko (271-0831) for an activity to be announced at a place to be announced at a time to be announced. Come Thursday night before the trip and find out what's up.

Wed Jan 1 Bicycling Start the New Year right with the season's first ride. If Joe Hoechner is not skiing (weather permitting) he will lead an afternoon ride in town. Break the dull TV Football Habit! Cost 40¢. Time approximately 1:30 PM. Reservations needed - call Joe at 343-2465.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Reserve the weekend of 14-16 February 1975 for the annual COOK FOREST WEEKEND. Travel by chartered bus to Laurel Oaks Cabins and have a weekend of fun, frolic and fellowship. Cabin rental is a bit higher than last year, and food will cost more. The bus will cost 9% more than last year. Reserve now with \$5 deposit per person, checks payable to David Porterfield, Textor School Road, R.D.#2, Box 173, Zelienople, Pa., 16063. We'll try to hold the total cost for the weekend to about \$20.00 including bus, sleeping quarters, and food. Committee: Nan, Dave, Link and Chik Porterfield Phone 471-1733 day, 452-7071 night.

Joel Platt, the new Trips and Trails chairman, would like to remind all trip leaders to get their trip reports in promptly after their trips. If it is not possible to come to headquarters on a Thursday night, the trip reports may be mailed to headquarters c/o Joel Platt.

Other, "spontaneous" trips, may be arranged that were not announced in Trips and Trails depending on weather, interest, etc. Check on any of these at open house on Thursday evening. If you are planning such a trip please announce in advance if this is to be an AYH or a private trip.

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
DECEMBER						1
2	3 Beginners' Map Reading	4	5 Open House Bicycling in Adirondacks	6	7 Back Pack	8 Hike
9	10	11	12 Open House Comrade's Trail	13 Caving	14 Hike	15 Hike or Cross country Ski
16	17	18	19 Open House Christmas Carol	20	21 Hike	22 Hike
23 30	24 31	25 Merry Christmas Bike Happy New Year	26 No Program	27 Caving	28 Backpack	29

Pittsburgh Council
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