

Hostelling, Travel and Outdoor Recreation From American Youth Hostels



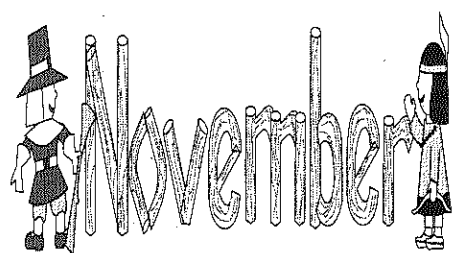
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

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 46, NUMBER 9

NOVEMBER 1996



Features

Glenn regales us with his latest adventure in "Look out Sisters Three, Here We come"
Turn to Page 6 for Another of his Great Saga's

Summer is over ...
But
Sea-kayaking Continues...
Turn to Page 5
for a list Of Trips

Looking for Up-to-Date information on the Baker Trail... Look No Further!!! Turn to Page 4 for Details.

HI-Pgh on the information super highway, point your browser to;
<http://trfn.clpgh.org/orgs/ayh/> for the latest on activities, slide shows & local hostelling.



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.....And MORE!!!

Pittsburgh's hostel is under construction!

We finally got it all together and it's really going to happen. It began on July 22, not with the popping of corks, but with the rustling of paper. There are three separate contracts for three stages of construction. The contractor, Waller Corporation, took over the building on Monday the 22nd. (You can tell it's under construction by the port-o-john parked out front.) The expected completion date is Spring of 1997.



NOTICE

Please note, that the Golden Triangle has changed its frequency of publication. the new schedule is as follows.

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.
Number 10 issue ->
Dec. / January

Deadlines for submission will remain as always the first Thursday of the month preceding the month of the publication. (i.e., the first Thursday in January for the combined Feb/Mar issue.). Please consult page two of the "GT" for the actual dates of upcoming deadlines or call the office at (412) 422-2282.

Editor...

Wilderness Lodge Cross Country Skiing

Once again Pittsburgh Council will be offering three weekends at Wilderness Lodge. Come join us for two days of Nansi Janes' warm hospitality at her stone lodge just 20 miles east of Erie. Dates this year are: Jan. 24-26, Jan.31-Feb.2, and Feb. 15-16. Look for the application in the Dec/Jan issue of the the Golden Triangle.

AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS

PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
5604 SOLWAY STREET
PITTSBURGH, PA 15217

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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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Oops...

If you find an error, please notify the editor. See the address for the *Golden Triangle* below.

MATERIAL...

All material to be published, should be sent to the address below. It Can be submitted on Disk in either IBM or Mactintosh format, sent E-mail. or Type written. NO EXCEPTIONS. Call if you have questions.

Mail regarding this Newsletter should be addressed to:

American Youth Hostels
The Golden Triangle
5604 Solway ST.
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
Office: (412) 422-2282

**PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
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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 Larry Laude 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 (Holiday Issue)
All copy, Nov 7
Binding/Mailing, Nov 28

Feb / Mar (Travel Issue)
All copy, Jan 7
Binding/Mailing, Jan 28

If your work is on computer,
Please contact Bill Eberle
@ 921-3395 or
76202.3051@Compuserve.com

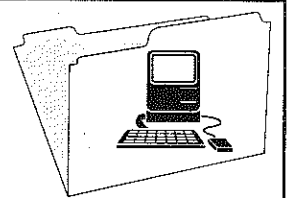
Moving?

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) 422-2282.

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.
- 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"

November Slide Shows

- November 7:** Gail Gregory, "Ecosystems In Our Backyard: Costa Rica, Belize, and Tikal".
- November 14:** Mary Pitzer, "Car Camping In Capitol Reef National Park Of Utah".
- November 21:** Virginia Phelps, "Awareness Of Nature...And Of The Need To Protect It". Award-winning pictures of flowers, animals and landscapes.
- November 28:** No show. Thanksgiving day.
- December 5:** Judy Marshall, "The Yough River Trail: From Pittsburgh To Western Maryland".
- December 12:** Billie Woodland, "Ireland". See green countryside, and the rugged seashore of Donegal and Galway Bay.

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.

Pittsburgh Council Hostels

Ohiopyle AYH Hostel

Ohiopyle State Park
PO Box 99
Ohiopyle, PA 15470
(412) 329-4476

Living Waters AYH Hostel

RD #1(1 mile west on Route 30)
Schellsburgh, PA 15559
(814) 733-4212



Bicycling With Hurricane Fran... at HI Stanford House

On Friday, September 6th, as I departed for the Stanford House hostel, hurricane Fran was on my heels. The weather report predicted a full weekend of heavy rain! I wondered, of the 14 who signed up, how many would show up?? And if they did, what would I do with them in heavy rain??? I shouldn't have worried, but this was the first time I had led a weekend trip for years and years!

The rain began in Ohio in the late afternoon, probably earlier in Pittsburgh. Marilyn Ham and Ann Ruth were the first to appear that evening. Then later the others started coming. Some called to say they would be there in the morning. It rained heavily all night and I was thinking it might be best to do the museums in Cleveland. In the morning it became apparent that everyone was there to bicycle, rain or sun. We were ready for the rain, so we donned our rain gear and started down the towpath. The rain was steady.

What a wonderful ride we had! The rain added an interesting dimension. The waters of the Cuyahoga River raged past, while the normally busy towpath was all ours! We explored, as we went, whatever we found, including the old deserted canal locks, the Hunt Farm Visitor's Center and a beaver pond. The Indian Mound eluded us. Steve Nydes said he saw a sign indicating where it was, but when we got there we couldn't find it. A mystery. But the next time we will find it!

On to the Hale Farm and Village where we ate lunch. I noticed as I was looking through the lunch room window, that on the other side of the glass, it was 1830! Next year we must go back to spend more time there to learn about this living museum. We took a hilly road to a covered bridge (a nice change of pace) and a short tour of the town of Peninsula. There we found many shops and a police welcoming committee for anyone who dared to challenge their bicycling rules. We didn't. Bob Tait bought a wonderful pink flamingo lawn ornament which decorated his bicycle for the ride back to Stanford House. Back at the hostel it was only 2 pm and the hostel didn't open until 5 pm. We took a 4? mile hike up and down the trails to Brandywine Falls. The falls were quite impressive with the huge volume of water cascading over the ledge.

Dinner was at the "Leaping" —or was it the "Winking" — or, Oh, whatever — "Lizard". There were more animals than lizards there — It was a ZOO. The next time we will cook dinner at the hostel! Sunday was a beautiful sunny day, perfect for bicycling. This time we went north on the towpath stopping at the Frazee House and the Canal visitor's Center. We had lunch at the end of the towpath, at a shady picnic table Blanch Asherman found for us. On the way back, we climbed a good sized hill on a carriage path to another hike and bike path Blanch said afterwards "You didn't tell us about that hill!!" We ended up at Brandywine Falls again but from a very different approach.

An ice cream stop back in Peninsula brought our hurricane weekend to a successful close. Everyone came except Joyce Appel's 2 sons. (This was only because her van blew the transmission so Joyce and Paul could bring only 2 bikes instead of 4.)

This was a most enjoyable way to bicycle. We kept moving, did a lot of exploring and kept together. We weren't especially concerned about how far we were going or how fast, although we did get in a respectable number of miles. This "see the world" touring is where AYH has always excelled. There is a demand for this kind of cycling Let's do more of it! Being a leader was most enjoyable also. Your way is paid and with AYH people everyone works together. We need more bicycling trips and leaders. Let's keep this up next year.

Come on out AYH bicyclists!!! Make 1997 the year to rejuvenate the bicycling program.

Joan Roolf, Trip Leader

*Your Ad
Could Be Working For You.
The Golden Triangle
Reaches Over 3000 Travel and
Outdoor Enthusiasts Every Month.
Call The AYH Office At
(412) 422-2282
for Advertising Details!!!
Don't Have An Ad Layout?
We can Design Your AD!!!*

SKI-TOURING COURSE... TO BENEFIT: CITIPARKS' FRICK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Contact:

Bruce Sundquist
210 College Park Drive
Monroeville, PA 15146-1532
(412-327-8737)(day or eve)

A two-evening course on ski-touring (cross-country skiing) basics will be held on Tuesday, December 3 and Tuesday December 10 from 8 to 10 PM at Frick Environmental Center on Beechwood Boulevard two blocks south of Forbes Ave. in Squirrel Hill. The course will be conducted by members of Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club, Pittsburgh Council of AYH, and the Explorers' Club of Pittsburgh, three organizations that run ski-touring trips that are open to the public. The cost will be \$10/person including lecture notes, and all proceeds go to support Citipark's Frick Environmental Center programs.

The course will cover about everything one can learn without putting on skis, for example: where to go, trail maps, phone numbers for ski-conditions, buying and renting equipment, what to wear, temperature control, dealing with snow conditions, ice and hills. Class size is limited to 75 people. For reservations call 327-8737. A lecture that falls on the night of a travelers' advisory will be postponed one week.

Please Note: This is a **NON-AYH EVENT**

First Aid, CPR Class

Basic three hour first aid and CPR class will be offered at AYH. The price is only \$10! This has applications to almost all activities. You never know when you're going to need it! If interested, please call Tracy Duggins at 963-0675.

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 donation of support for a
Hostel in Pittsburgh in the amount of:

— \$2500
— \$1000
— \$500
— \$250
— \$100
— \$50
— Other: \$ _____



Name _____

Address _____

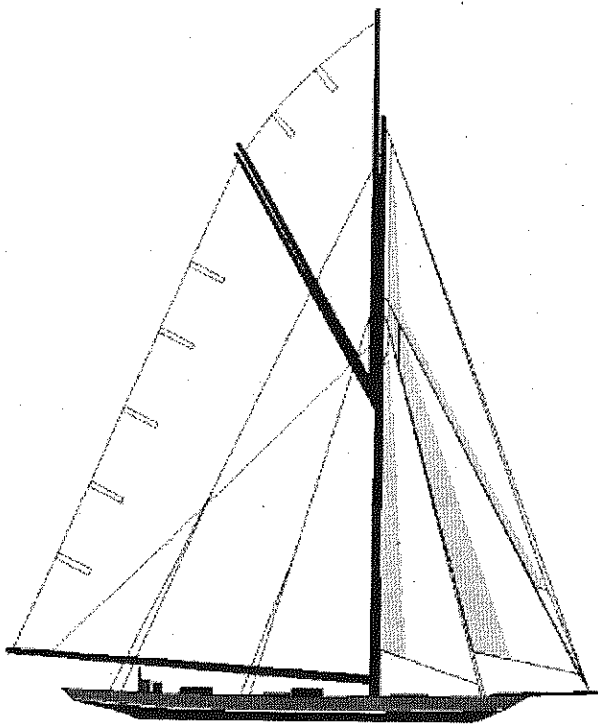
Telephone _____

Mail your Donation to:
AYH
Pittsburgh Hostel Fund
5604 Solway St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412-422-2282

SAILING

The AYH owns Flying Juniors, Sunfish, and an International 470. Several members also use their own sailboats. All sailing trips are complete for 1996. In March or April 1997 we will schedule a Sailing planning meeting. Anyone interested in day sailing, weekend charters, or summer sailing classes should attend. Details will be available in the February/March 1997 Golden Triangle.

Jan. 11 & 12 or
18 & 19 Sat & Sun.
Sail Expo
Atlantic City, NJ
Bob Zavos 241-0659



WEEKEND TRIP. Depart Friday after work for the Ironmaster's Mansion Hostel and a group dinner. Early Saturday morning we continue east to Atlantic City for the World's Largest Indoor Sailboat show with seminars, exhibits, and even some indoor sailing. We may stay over night in the area and spend an optional second day at the Expo or drive to the Chamounix Hostel in Philadelphia. We begin the return trip to Pittsburgh Sunday afternoon. The Expo runs for nine days and includes two weekends. If you are interested in this trip please call prior to December to indicate your weekend preference. Final plans will be published in the December/January Golden Triangle.

CANOEING

Saturday November 9 Paul Bronder 882-9255
Class I or II trip if weather permits. Call for details.

Saturday November 16 Joyce Appel 526-5407
Flatwater trip. Call for details.

TWO GREAT RAIL-TRAIL BOOKS!

We are carrying two great new books published by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. The first, **40 Great Rail-Trails in the Mid-Atlantic**, includes detailed maps and mile-by-mile descriptions for the best trails in New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. The trails selected for this book offer surprising diversity and intriguing experiences for anyone who enjoys the outdoors! Local rail-trails in the book include the Montour, Oil Creek, Youghiogheny, and Allegheny Highlands Trails. Available through AYH for \$14.95 plus postage and \$1.50 shipping. The second book, **700 Great Rail-Trails**, is a directory of the current rail-trails across the country. Not much description for any one trail, but a good place to start looking for your next rail-trail adventure. Available now for \$9.95 plus tax and \$1.50 shipping.

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



Required in all youth hostels, the sleeping sack serves as your top & bottom sheets, with a built-in pillowcase. Regular sleeping bags are not allowed at hostels due to public health regulations. Our nylon sleep sack is especially light, compact, and dries extremely quickly (handy on trips). The cotton/polyester sleep sack is a little heavier and bulkier, but feels just like your bedsheets.

Order one today! See the order form on the back page for prices.



Bees Back on Baker Trail at Walter's Crooked Creek Bridge

by Patty Scheuering

It was a bright, warm, sunny morning in October. At 8 am, on a Sunday, four AYHer's met at Crooked Creek Park in Armstrong County, 30 miles from Pittsburgh, to install our first Tereszkievicz pre-manufactured bridge. Walter Tereszkievicz, the master bridge builder, Bob Roth, veteran of numerous AYH trail maintenance forays, Bryan Koehler, from the Butler Outdoor Club and the North Country Trail Association and a veteran of our joint Cook Forest Campaign in 1995, and myself began to unload the wood from Walter's truck when, almost immediately, someone stepped in a hole in the ground (not me!) and as a result, we shot the next hour and a half waiting for a can of Bee spray and for a swarm of very belligerent bees to settle down. Unbelievably, no one got stung.

The bridge installation was no easy task, much like a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle! (Pardon the pun) Walter had everything pre-measured, pre-cut, pre-drilled and partially pre-assembled, spending more than 110 hours in preparation time. It still took four of us nearly six hours of intense labor to install the bridge at the site.

The year "1970" was carved on one side of the hand railing to commemorate the original installation at that site; the year "1996" was also carved in the rail to memorialize the date of this day's installation; "Baker Trail" was carved, obviously, to identify the trail, and an American Youth Hostel metal tag, complete with address, and an original yellow, metal, circular blaze was nailed to the front of the bridge—just like the original blazes that were nailed to trees to mark the trail way back when.

Please, go, look it over. Remember "If we build it, they will come". We did build it, you should go. The new bridge is located south of the Crooked Creek Dam, less than a mile from the Visitor Center parking lot, which in turn is 1 mile off Route 66, a couple of miles south of Ford City.

To get there from Pittsburgh, take PA Route 28 to the Ford City/Route 66 turnoff just outside of Kittanning, about 25 miles from the Highland Park bridge, then follow PA Route 66 for about 5 miles to the signs marking a left turn to Crooked Creek Park. Once in the Visitor Center parking lot (not the Office parking lot), locate the trail by the road, and, NOT CROSSING THE ROAD, follow the blazes back into the woods, around the fishing area by the dam outlet, to the new bridge, which is close to a natural gas pumping station you encounter along the trail.

Your feedback and constructive criticism is welcomed and needed. As always, this gratifying project was completed thanks to the time and efforts of those willing to volunteer their services. Thanks to all who helped, especially Walter for all the work and the long, long hours he put into this project.

Hiking trails in Pennsylvania are numerous; it is a constant challenge for just a few volunteers to take care of all those miles. Please consider giving some of your time to help maintain our trails. Our next project will be to rebuild the supports for the Covered Foot Bridge over Horney Camp Run, also in the Crooked Creek area, and next to the old Ira Swank farm.

If you are interested in helping out, or even if you just want to come and watch what goes on, enjoying a day in the woods, please call Jim Ritchie (828-0210) or me, Patty Scheuering, (325-3224) to let us know you'd like to come. When the time comes to go out to do the work, we will call you to let you know.

HIKER ALERT!!!

BAKER TRAIL

September 24, 1996

Hikers have been denied access to the Kiski Junction Bridge, where the Baker Trail crosses the Kiski River near the village of Schenley between Armstrong and Westmoreland Counties, by the new owners of the Kiski Junction Railroad Co. The new company runs a short line railroad from Baghdad to Schenley along the Kiski River hauling freight for Allegheny-Ludlum Steel and providing amusement rides on the weekends.

Be advised that the Baker Trail is CLOSED over that Bridge. Trespassers may be cited and fined. There is no detour at this time. The section of the Baker Trail from Route 356 in Garver's Ferry to Kiski Junction may only be used for in-and-out hiking. All northbound through-hiking must begin in Schenley.

Office staff

Part time office help needed. The Pittsburgh Council office needs a part time staff person to work 10-15 hours per week during the day. Duties are to open mail, sell books and memberships, answer the phone and fill reports. Hours are somewhat flexible. Call Larry or Marianne for more information or leave a message at the office.

MID-WEEK RAMBLES

"Rambles" are casual Wednesday outings sponsored by the of Hostelling International - American Youth Hostels. Most take place in and around the city of Pittsburgh. The group normally meets at 10 a.m. in the upper parking lot of Mellon Park in Shadyside, off Shady Avenue near the intersection with Fifth Avenue.

Trips are normally three to four miles in length, at a leisurely pace. Trips are always subject to change because of weather, conflicts of schedule, and the choice of the group. We do plan to walk in all kinds of weather, so please dress appropriately. From time to time, we will schedule lunch at a restaurant or a brown bag lunch. These are optional. We also try to carpool to save energy and to enjoy each other's company. Please share the expenses of transportation when trips exceed 10 miles; the suggested contribution is \$2 per passenger. Call trip leader for more information, especially if you plan to meet us at the trail head.

- November 6** Murphy Bottoms, Freeport. Visit Murphy family cemetery. Ed Divers 828-5154. Bring a bag lunch.
- November 13** Frick Park from Beechwood Boulevard. Joe Levine 421-9706. Bring snack as desired.
- November 20** North Side Ramble with Earl McCabe 761-1844. Bring snack as desired.
- November 27** No Ramble.

SEA-KAYAKING

Friday evening November 1st thru Sunday November 3rd, 1996

Mark Mistrik 361-2943

Meets: Contact trip leader

Post Halloween weekend paddling trip to Lake Moomaw, Virginia. Strange but scenic area features an ancient fault, Shenandoah mountains, waterfalls, abandoned homesteads, and even hot springs. Fossilized Devil's corkscrews are abundant here. Car camping both Friday and Saturday night. More than anything, this place reminds me of hiking through Shenandoah, but with a kayak! Call for more information and to reserve.

Friday evening November 8th thru Sunday November 10th, 1996

Mark Mistrik 361-2943

Meets: Contact trip leader

Weekend roadtrip to Urbanna, Virginia. Two overnights in a resort-quality condo, paddling daytrips on the Chesapeake Bay's Eastern Shore. Breakfast provided on trip, bring your own lunches, and we'll either go out to eat Saturday night or cook something up as a group. Trip includes an evening paddle to see the bioluminescence—naturally occurring sparkling water, that occurs here at night. Call for more information.

Friday evening November 22nd, 1996.

Mark Mistrik 361-2943

Meets: 5:30 PM in Shadyside

Light Up Night Paddle and Dinner, Downtown Pittsburgh. This trip combines an evening paddle with a monthly dinner. You may either, or both. We'll paddle from the Southside down past the point and up the Allegheny river to Cruisers restaurant, seeing the city lit up at night and fireworks, from water. Then we'll have dinner at the restaurant. Call for more information, to reserve a kayak, or a space with us at the restaurant.

Wednesday evening November 27th
thru Sunday December 1st, 1996

Mark Mistrik 361-2943

Meets: Contact trip leader

South Carolina Lowcountry. Come spend a Southern-style Thanksgiving with us in sunny & warm South Carolina. Sightseeing in historic Charleston, beach walks, palm trees, plenty of wildlife, and maybe porpoises. Blackwater river, lake & saltwater paddling daytrip. Lodging in a rustic Cabin with fireplace overlooking the Edisto river. Call for more information. Space very limited.

Saturday December 14th(???), 1996

Mark Mistrik 361-2943

Meets: Contact trip leader

Come join us for dinner at Bedford's historic Jean Bonnet tavern restaurant followed by a walking tour of Old Bedford Village Saturday night when they light it up by candlelight and dress it up for Christmas. Call for more information and date confirmation

Friday evening December 6th, 1996

Vickie Gotaskie 344-4929

Meets: 6:30 at the restaurant

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 see the lights, Christmas windows & decor. This year we're going back to the Sesame Inn for some of the city's best Chinese Food. You can order your own dinner or pool up with us & sample the whole menu! Survivors finish off the evening with chocolate fondue's after carolling. Everyone's welcome, but please let us know you're coming so we can make the appropriate number of reservations.

HIKING / BACKPACKING

Nov 11-17 Mon-Sun (or part of that) Glenn Oster 364-2864
Join Glenn for a whole week or part of it on an intermed/advanced backpack trip of 53 miles to US rte 60 near Buena Vista, VA. Should you be interested in 'slackpacking', let Glenn know. Some sections would be challenging, but the trip could be extended 25 additional miles to the James river with the same time frame. Call for info & a reservation.

Nov 16-17 Sat-Sun Clare Bunker 244-9788
Saturday, Appalachian trail from Washington Monument State Park to Gathland State Park, MD (9 miles); Sunday, Gathland State Park to Harper's Ferry, WV (11 miles); staying at Harper's Ferry AYH. Call for info / Meeting local / reservation.

Future "Slackpacker" Appalachian Trail (AT) hikes:

December: AT, Shenandoah National Park, VA. Call 244-9788 for info.

January: AT, Harper's Ferry, WV, to VA 605, staying at Bear's Den Hostel.

Dec 8 Sunday Glenn Oster 364-2864
Int. 8+ mile loop around Bear Run nature reserve, conditions permitting, take peninsula trail & get a view of the Yough river. Call for info & a reservation.

Dec 28 Saturday Veronique Schreurs 422-0358
Easy/int. 6-8 mile hike in Lynn Run State Park. Call for info/reservation.

New Student ID Discount for 1996

Travelex, the world's largest operator of passenger-terminal Bureaux de Change, offers a commission-free foreign currency service to all ISIC ("student ID card") and ITIC ("Teacher ID card") holders. Also available is the Travelex Buy Back Guarantee. Exchange the equivalent of \$500 or more in a single currency, and on return ISIC/ITIC holders can exchange up to 30% of their unused currency at the same exchange rate that they bought it, commission free. Travelex services are available at airports and retail outlets in Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Just look for the Mutual of Omaha / Travelex logo and present your ISIC/ITIC.

Call Pittsburgh AYH to get your student/teacher ID card as well as the Hostelling International membership card/hostel pass.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have extra hours to donate to the Council? Current volunteer opportunities in Pittsburgh Council are listed below. Contact the person listed or leave your name and telephone number at the office (412-422-2282).

*Southwestern Autumn Breeze Bicycle tour; Bill Eberle, 921-1932

*The Great Ride, Bicycle tour; Larry Laude, 665-9554

*Weekend bicycling trip leaders; Wm Eberle, 921-1932

*The Mon Valley Century bicycle tour; Chuck Ejzak, 466-6196

*MS-150 Bicycle tour; Bill Eberle, 921-1932

*Hostel development and fund-raising; Marianne Kasica, 665-9554

*Ohiopyle hostel support and work parties; Wm Eberle, 574-2025

*Office help answering phones and assisting hostellers;

Larry Laude, 422-2282

*Leading Pittsburgh Council trips; Wm Eberle, 921-1932

*Slide shows at the Thursday Open House; office, 422-2282

*Trail Maintenance, Baker Trail and Rachel Carson Trail;

Jim Ritchie, 828-0210

*HQ Maintenance, minor routine maintenance on a regular basis. 1-2 people are also needed to coordinate the work, track of volunteer time and to report on HQ to the board and to identify any problems or required major repairs. If you can help as little as one hour a month, please call Ray Yutzy at 341-5682.



KENN HOWARD
MASSAGE THERAPIST

412 242 2424



*Great for tired and
sore skating muscles!*

*Aye, There's the rub.
—Hamlet*

LOOK OUT SISTERS THREE HERE WE COME

by Glenn Oster

This past summer, Glenn Oster led a Pittsburgh Council HI/AYH van trip to Oregon to backpack the Three Sisters Wilderness and to do some sightseeing on the way out and back. This is the first of three installments of an article he has written to share their experiences with us. In this issue of the Golden Triangle, he describes the trip out and how their backpacking plan worked out:

America's westlands are assets that attract interest and pay huge dividends. Some of us have known this for some time. Others discovered it for the first on a Pittsburgh Council HI/AYH trip to Oregon's Three Sisters Wilderness last summer, from June 28 to July 13, 1996. The format for this trip was like most of the other twelve trips to the far west that I've had the privilege to lead. Yet, each trip is different and enjoyable in its own way. Sometimes, it's the scenery that makes it so special; at other times, it is the makeup of the group on the trip. This time it was both. We saw some breathtaking scenery and had an enthusiastic, enjoyable group of trippers.

Joining me on the trip was Blanche Asherman, Todd Jindra, Anita Lieb, Lorraine Johnson, Phyllis Renda, Milyssa Sassos and Wayne Shelton. We rented a 15-passenger van and alternated drivers to reduce the driving fatigue. Those who were ill at ease driving such a large vehicle were excused. There were enough of us who like to drive that it was no hardship to have our turns at the wheel come around a bit sooner. The rear air conditioning vents helped to make the long ride pleasant, and the congeniality and good natured teasing that went on certainly added to the fun.

The group gathered very promptly on Friday evening. We assembled at the North Hills Mount Nebo Park&Ride lot at I-79 and got under way quickly. The idea was to get in as much sleep, or at least, rest, as possible during the first few hours of night time travel. Great idea, but sleep was not to be; it was late, late before the excitement of embarking on the adventure finally calmed. I took the first driving shift and drove for several hours to keep from disturbing the slumber of those who could actually sleep in a van. Todd earned top honors in this event. He could fall asleep almost instantaneously, an ability that most of us envied. However, he did miss some great scenery at times; the trip should have seemed shorter to him than to the others.

Scenery was not the name of the game for the first twenty-some hours. We drove straight through to Scotts Bluff, Nebraska, and the only scenery of note was Chimney Rock, twenty-six miles short of Scotts Bluff. It's a butte, over 300 feet high, with a tall center spire suggesting a chimney. How could such a formation occur there in the midst of that table top flat prairie? It's the remains of an eroded ridge, referred to in many areas as "bluffs." Imagine the thrill the pioneers felt when they saw this first evidence of western scenery as they made their hot, dusty, laborious trek to their perceived heaven on earth.

We camped overnight at Scotts Bluff but got too early a start in the morning; the national monument was not to open for another hour. With this extra time, we poked around the museum grounds for a while. We gazed up at the enormous rock monoliths, for which Scotts Bluff was named, and looked at replicas of the covered wagons that the pioneers used on their momentous journeys. Both the Mormon Trail and the Oregon Trail crossed this area through the same pass alongside the museum. It's humbling to realize how much they accomplished, especially considering how little they had with which to carry out such a mind boggling odyssey. Rather than wait out the hour, the group opted to get under way, and that we did.

Our next stop was to see a three hundred feet deep hole in the ground - big deal. It really was a big deal of sorts, called "Hell's Half Acre." It's a badlands area stretching about a half mile where the clay-like soil has eroded into diverse configurations of varying shapes, earth tone colors and sizes. Of particular interest was the array of movie making equipment there. A film, "Starship Trooper," was being made there for release in 1997. I've been there often, but thanks to the interest of this group I saw more this time than on all my previous trips. The trippers enjoyed it and spent quite a while drinking in its unusual form of beauty. The day was clear and hot, but that didn't dissuade them.

US Route 26 kept urging us westward. It provided miles and miles of miles and miles. Those miles offered little more than arid land covered by sage brush and populated by herds of pronghorn antelope. They became so commonplace after a couple hours that no one bothered to report seeing them. Antelope are beautiful, graceful creatures that move away like the wind if you stop to take their pictures. Given enough time, those miles and miles did produce something very special, the Grand Tetons (a Readers Digest article I read once called them the "sweater girl mountains" Wow!).

The first sighting of the Grand Tetons brought the van to a halt so everyone could get a wide view of their splendor. That was only the first of several stops as the mountains became closer and Jackson Hole came into view. North America is one awe-inspiring

continent of unbelievable scenery, with the Grand Tetons shining as one of its crown jewels. We stopped for pictures as we drove south along the mountain range but didn't have time to hike in the area. At Jackson, we turned west again and traveled across the mountain pass into Idaho. We camped near the little town of Ririe, fifteen miles northeast of Idaho Falls. Some of us drove to a restaurant for dinner and on the way crossed a bridge over the Snake River. We could hardly believe our eyes. Look east from the bridge and see a huge, bright moon shining - look to the west and experience a magnificent sunset. What an unexpected bonus! Surely wished that all in the group had been with us.

Next day took us all the way to Bend, Oregon. We had dinner there and marveled at the beauty of the city as it celebrated its 75th anniversary. I couldn't believe the progress made in recent years. My recollection of Bend from driving through twelve years ago was a large yawn. I no longer think of it that way. Some of the trippers even gave thought to relocating there. It is a bicyclist's haven with many dedicated routes. I was getting antsy, but I couldn't take my eye off the target - our destination, Lava Lakes Campground in the backcountry. It was no disappointment. In the lake, fish were jumping almost everywhere. The more engrossing scene, though, was beyond the lake, where pyramidal Mount Bachelor loomed, snow covered and sunlit. It posed there for us against a fleeting backdrop of pale green sky and reddish tinged clouds - enough to make you emotionally charged and then drained as the scene faded. What a super ending to our long miles across the country! But, I did not have my camera ready - missed it. Talk about emotional draining, have you ever seen a grown man cry?

Another beautiful morning. Our plan that day was to drive to the resupply point of our scheduled backpack trip. We wanted to confirm its location with those who, instead of backpacking, intended to sightsee and do other activities meanwhile. They were to meet us there after three days with food, clean clothes and fuel for the cooking stoves. On the way, we got our first look at the Three Sisters. There they were in the distance, all snow covered and white against a clear blue sky. Todd considered this sight to be the highlight of the trip. Our resupply location established, we set out for the Devil's Lake Trailhead. Everyone joined us for the first day's hike, some intending to turn back after lunch. Up we climbed from 5400 feet to a broad meadow at 6800 feet. That was where we had lunch and, regrettably, from where we had to turn back. The snow was just too deep to continue. I had discussed my intended hiking route with the rangers by phone the previous week, but they didn't tell me that the trail wasn't ready for hiking. We had no choice but to return to the trail head. Naturally, I was most disappointed. I've looked forward for many years to the time when I could hike a circle around those mountains with the snow capped Three Sisters looking down and watching over me. It must wait until another day. The locals say that I should delay until late August or early September to hike the higher trails in the Three Sisters Wilderness.

I made a fast trip into Bend to see the rangers and worked out a lower elevation loop for us to hike. However, most of those in the group abandoned the idea of backpacking for various reasons, and only Anita and I were left to hike my new loop. As a result, I shortened the hike to three days. That would give us more time to visit places not originally in the travel plans. Anita and I started at the Elk Lake trailhead and climbed about 1,000 feet to Sisters/Mirror Lake where we had lunch. Earlier, we had full intention to hike a major trail due west from there. However, during the morning we were fortunate to encounter a ranger who had just completed that trail. He said it was hikeable if I didn't mind climbing over 140 trees toppled during the winter. I did mind and asked about an alternate challenging trail that showed on the map. He considered it much better - only 110 trees down on that one. Scratch that one as well. So much for the new hiking plan I worked out with the rangers at Bend. Instead, we changed to a route that on the following day would take us past Horse Lake. We hiked through snow fields, but they were more compact than on the first day's aborted hike, and we sank very little. At times, the snow made finding the trail difficult, but we managed. Along the way were beautiful ponds on all sides with great reflections. We came upon an unnamed one so attractive that we had to stop there to camp for the night. Incredibly, the water was warm, and we enjoyed a good swim - a great way to rinse off the trail dust. However, once out of the water, we battled mosquitos and retreated to the tent when dinner was over. Nevertheless, that spot will remain in my memory as one of the best of all my backpacking trips.

It had rained during the night, and things outside the tent were a night damp and the atmosphere foggy in the morning. I mentioned that we were planning to hike past Horse Lake. Thank goodness we were not staying there - the mosquitos were fierce. Later, we came upon trail workers who wore trousers, heavy weight long sleeve shirts and head nets. We also saw one young man who did not. He had so many mosquito bites that it was hard to see where they hadn't bitten him. Youth can withstand a great deal of discomfort. I would have been dead - no blood left after all those bites. The rangers explained that mosquitos were at their peak, hatching just after the season's snow melt. That day's hike took us past Island Meadow, Dumbell (spelled as the map does) Lake, Reserve Meadows and on to Seno Lake where we set up camp. The lake was pretty in the afternoon sunlight, but no match for the previous lake. The big attraction this night was star gazing. In the

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SISTERS THREE, continued from Page 6

clear, moonless night, with no city lights anywhere to lighten the sky, the stars seemed radiant. Against the inky blackness, the stars seemed to glisten and dance. In the dark, even the mosquitos left me alone to enjoy the stars. Anita had gone to sleep earlier and missed this display.

Days were a comfortable temperature, but nights were a bit cool - had ice on the tent when we arose. Considering that we were continually revising our hiking plan because of snow and fallen trees, route selection always seemed to be an open subject. That was a first for one of my trips. As to route selection from that site, Anita was anxious to return to Lava Lake where we had camped our first night in Oregon. She, too, had that unforgettable sunset in mind and had not managed to photograph Mount Bachelor. That decided our route for the day, and we did, indeed, get to take pictures of Mount Bachelor, but in bright sunlight. It was perfect - that is, it would have been, if we hadn't first seen it dressed in its special sunset clothes. The newly planned route set up an ambitious hiking day. The map showed the trail's passing by Red Crater. If we could skirt the lower elevations of the crater, we could pick up a dirt road on the opposite side that would shorten the hiking miles. I watched every step of the way and never saw anything resembling Red Crater. As a result, we went via Quinn Meadows and back the paved road one mile to Elk Lake Campground, a total of over 17 miles. A truly attractive section of that trail followed along sparkling Sink Creek. It was about eighteen feet wide and uniformly ten inches deep from side to side. The water was absolutely clear, and the rocks over which it flowed were a rich golden color in the sunlight. The icing on this visual cake was an eight-foot water fall. What a bonus! Anita may be new to backpacking, but she's in excellent physical condition and a natural. She really did well throughout those three days of hiking.

**Be Sure And Join Us Next Month
as The Golden Triangle Continues With Part II Of
"LOOK OUT SISTERS THREE...
HERE WE COME"**

POST CARDS

— Hello, Pittsburgh AYH —

Well, this is the last leg of my World Wander! Our plan is to meet in San Clemente State Park on October 7th and ride into San Diego together on the 8th. There will be 4 to 6 of us meeting in San Clemente. I had a layover day here at Point Reyes - time to hike and relax. I have been in touch with Mike & Marta Hurwitz and they want a full accounting of my trip - so I will stay a day with them before flying home via Atlanta, where I'll visit with my two sons who live there. I'm looking forward to being home now.

LOVE,
Helen Coyne

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Oldtown "Otter" very experienced, with air bags, seat, D rings for thigh straps.
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Camping Gear
Impossible to list, stop by to examine.

Central Susquehanna Hostellers

CSH Meetings

Meetings are the third Thursday of each month at 7:15 pm at the Lewisburg Area Community Center at 100 North 5th Street in Lewisburg.

Bike Rides

In addition to longer weekend rides, there are normally shorter bike rides every Thursday evening. Call Chris Olsen at 717-523-8471.

CSH Information

Call Chris Olsen at 717-523-8471.

Lewisburg Trips

For information on activities in the Lewisburg area,
call Chris Olsen at 717-523-8471.

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All trips and products listed here are private and are **not sponsored or endorsed** by American Youth Hostels. Non-commercial ads are free for members. Contact the Editor for more info on Ads for Members and Non-members.

For Sale: Rhode Gear Eurosport twin rear-mounted bike rack, hardly used, fits most cars. \$75. Glenn, 731-7415.

WANTED TO BUY: Tandem Bicycle, John Gayler, 366-4062

For Sale: Oakley sweep lens, blue, M frame, new in box, \$75. Canondale shorts, size S, new, \$8. 2 bicycle jerseys, used but clean, size S and M, \$5 each. Call Michael, 412-322-7206.

For Sale: NIKON FG SLR. 28 mm 52 mm and 70-210 mm zoom macro lens closeup lens tripod and bag mint condition \$400.00. Call RICHARD GREGO, 412-533-5725

For sale: Epoke 205 mm x-country skis, good condition, \$50; Contact ski boots, size 11, hardly used, \$35; free poles. Call 731-7415.

For Sale: Northface internal-frame backpack \$150; Northface tadpole tent (1-2 person) \$140; Whisper light stove \$50; First-Need water filter \$40. Call 242-9747(w) or 1-800-917-4763(pager) and leave message.

For Sale: Sail board/wind surfer; Mistral-large older model in good condition. Fiberglass mast, hardware, 2 sails (4m&6m) \$250. Perfect for starter. Night 766-3972 or Day 762-7440.

For Sale: 2 Dolfino professional silicone dive masks; low volume, fog-free, double edge. Used once and in original box. (older snorkles free) \$35 Eileen 531-9610

For Sale: Kneissl (XC) Skate Skis; Size 190; without bindings; Used once! (Too long for me.) \$50.00 Call 372-1068 eve.

For Sale: 60" metal desk, 55" wood roll top desk, steno chair Peg Cline @ 372,1782

Distributing AYH brochures We are looking for places to distribute hostelling brochures, primarily brochures describing hostelling and how to purchase a Hostelling International membership, but also some specific hostel brochures. If you have some suggestions on where we can display brochures for potential hostellers - such as colleges, travel agencies and travel bookstores, please call the office at 412-422-2282. We will be happy to deliver them.

Editor, The Golden Triangle
5604 Solway ST.
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

REMINDER TO TRIP LEADERS

All trips and equipment usage must be approved by the appropriate activity chair or co-chair. Trip reports and fees should be turned in by the end of each month at either the AYH Activities Building or AYH Office or mailed to Pittsburgh Council, 5604 Solway St., Pittsburgh PA 15217

The Pittsburgh Council Travel Store is open Mon. 9 to 3, Wed. 11 to 6 and Fri. from 9 to 3. Hours are subject to change, so it's a good idea to call the office at 412-422-2282 before coming in. We're in Room 202 of the Wightman School Building at 5604 Solway Street in Squirrel Hill, near the intersection of Wilkins and South Negley. All passes, ID cards, rail passes, and books are available.