

The Golden Triangle

Pittsburgh Council

American Youth Hostels

Volume 41 Number 2

February, 1990

Slide Programs for February

FEBRUARY 1

To Be Announced

FEBRUARY 8

Hocking Hills
Winter and Spring
Glenn Oster

FEBRUARY 15

To Be Announced

FEBRUARY 22

To Be Announced

Programs are needed for
March. Call
Rodney Horner (339-0944)
or Bob Goff (761-2837)



HOCKING HILLS

by Glenn Oster

And you thought Ohio is flat. You should have seen it! Gorges, cliffs, waterfalls and steep hills to get you puffing. That's how we found things at Hocking Hills in south central Ohio.

On December 8-10, 1989, we AYHers drove out to Hocking Hills State Park to get in a little hiking and to see the scenery. We saw scenery and more scenery. To make matters even better, we had new snow and on Saturday night a clear sky with a big moon. How could it get better?

By we AYHers I mean Helen Coyne, Jacki Short, Tom Ruppel, Tony DiCello, Mark Mistrik, Karl Gundlach and I. As to logistics, we loaded our gear in my utility trailer and ourselves in my mini-van and off we went from headquarters on Friday evening. Some 200 miles later, southeast of Columbus, we turned off the highway and into the park. The first hurdle was fording a stream into the campground area, but even at 21 degrees F it was no problem. Next hurdle - a long, steep hill with much unplowed or salted snow, but we took it easy and the van took it in stride. The weight of the trailer didn't seem to annoy it much.

We drove into a pine grove, the only area in which we were permitted to camp, and set up our tents with light from the van (no moon on Friday night). Soon we were ZZZ-ing.

Next morning we came to life about 8:00 am - sort of. Absolutely no one responded when I called from my tent that it was time to get it in gear. We all wanted to stay in our warm

sleeping bags, but some of us had urgencies even greater than keeping warm. The morning was clear and frosty at 18 degrees F; fortunately no wind.

We were busily making breakfast and trying to keep our feet warm when a park ranger came along and in a nice way told us we were in the wrong place and would have to move to an area beyond where we had camped. After breakfast, we did just that. Not that I'm lazy or anything, but some of the tents were free standing, and I set them fully assembled, on top of the trailer and hauled them to where we should have camped. Wish I could have heard what the people already camped there had to say when they saw our version of a tent trailer.

Didn't take long to set up a new campsite, register at the park office and start to hike. Gorgeous day, blue sky, sunshine, crisp with new snow on the ground and tree limbs. How lucky can you get!

We hiked for close to two miles through the park and down through the forest to Old Man's Cave area via a quaint A-frame wooden bridge across the gorge. From there we headed to the access point for the upper falls, a 20 foot drop into a large pool. Unfortunately it was too shaded for good picture taking. Despite the shadows, everything looked even better than in summer.

Down the gorge we hiked to explore Old Man's Cave. This was interesting. Although it was only a large rock overhang, it was actually the home of a hermit, Richard Rowe, following the Civil War for a great many years until his death.

continued on page 7.



COUNCIL NEWS

PITTSBURGH'S NEWEST TRAVEL/ SPORTS SHOW

THE PITTSBURGH HOSTEL STORY

by Linda Smithyman

One of the most important items needed when establishing a hostel is community support. At the present time we are visiting several community groups to get the word out about AYH and our mission to establish a hostel here in Pittsburgh. Unfortunately, due to concerns with zoning, the status of the building in the Friendship area remains uncertain. Undaunted, we continue to search for other appropriate buildings in a good location in our area pending a final decision on the Friendship building. If you know of a building please let us know and we will check into it. Also, some volunteers are contacting foundations in the area for additional support and contributions. We hope that you have generously responded to the letters asking for your support and returned them to headquarters with a check enclosed. Member support is crucial to obtaining additional support from non-AYH sources.

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00 pm at the home of Larry Laude, 210 Atlantic Ave. Please call me at 531-1868 for additional information or directions. ☞

A Hostel in Pittsburgh in 1990?



if you can help

Wednesday, February 28 through Sunday March 4, should be marked off on the calendar of all outdoor enthusiasts in Western Pennsylvania. Those are the dates of the all new Pittsburgh Travel, Sports & Outdoor Show at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh.

The travel booths will have representation from states throughout the Midwest, East, South and West. Also, exhibits from several international tourism favorites, the Bahamas, Canada and exotics including the flower of the east, Singapore. There will be a full range of conservation oriented displays of state wildlife and fisheries agencies, outdoor gear retailers, boat dealers, sportsmen's clubs and charter operators throughout the Great Lakes. And of course Pittsburgh AYH! Certainly, a full family interest affair.

It's all under one roof, easy to get to, has plenty of parking nearby and is located within easy walking distance of the city's modern, new subway. For folks who haven't travelled to this area recently and haven't seen the new Pittsburgh, a pleasant surprise awaits you. The Convention Center is in the heart of it.

Show hours are: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 4:00 - 10:00 pm; Saturday, 11:00 am - 10:00 pm; Sunday, 11:00 am - 6:00 pm. Ticket prices are: \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 13.

Volunteers are needed to staff the AYH Booth. Call Joe Hoechner at 242-0781 for details. ☞

DEADLINES FOR MARCH ISSUE

All Copy

February 1

Binding and Mailing

February 16

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AND STUDENT IDENTITY CARDS

You can take advantage of student discounts in 65 countries with an International Student Identity Card. With this Student ID Card, you are eligible for reduced air fares and admission fees to museums, theaters, and cultural sites. There is no maximum age for the card, but various attractions might have their own age restrictions on the discounts offered.

You can buy a card for \$10, but must furnish proof of your student status (either a letter from your registrar or dean, or a clear copy of a current transcript). The card is valid for up to 16 months: from September 1 through December 31 of the following year. To get a 1990 identity card, you must be a student during the 1989/1990 academic year.

If you are under the age of 26, but not currently a student, you can buy a Youth International Exchange Card from the Federation of International Youth Travel Organization for \$10. This card gives you many of the discounts offered to International Student ID cardholders. To buy a card, you must furnish your passport number and proof of your age (such as a birth certificate, driver's license or your passport).

Along with your card, you will receive a world-wide guide to discounts available to cardholders.

Pittsburgh Council is looking into the possibility of selling both the Student and Youth ID cards. In the meantime, the Student ID Card is available in Pittsburgh at the University of Pittsburgh's Center of International Studies in Oakland. Call (412) 648-7390 for more information. Students outside the Pittsburgh area should check with their university or college for availability. To the best of our knowledge, the Youth ID card is only available by mail from the office of the Council for International Educational Exchange in New York City; call (212) 661-1450 for information. The Council also carries the Student ID card. ☞

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I'm writing this just after celebrating the wedding of my daughter Sandy to Hal Israel in Washington D.C. on January 6th, so this will be shorter than usual. (By the way, Sandy and Hal met at the Washington Hostel while Sandy was volunteering at the National Office and Hal was helping at the hostel).

We've already started the new year at the Council, with great plans for our two biggest projects, the new Pittsburgh Hostel and Headquarters. I'd like to encourage all of you to help your Council make these projects a success. Help can include an active managing role, occasional volunteer assistance or donation of money, supplies, or services. If you feel you can help in any of these areas, please call the Council at 362-8181 or give me a call directly at (412) 665-9554. (If you leave a message, please say that you'd like to volunteer). *Larry Laude* ☞

HELPING HANDS GET A BED IN DC!!

The AYH National Office is offering free overnights in Washington D.C. for anyone willing to volunteer at the National Office. Here's the deal: YOU volunteer for two weeks for 5 hours a day, Monday through Friday, and AYH provides **free accommodations at the Washington International Youth Hostel and a \$25 per week stipend**. All volunteers must be sponsored by their local Council, so if you're interested, please contact Pittsburgh Council. ☞

ACTIVITIES BOARD MEETING...

The January Activities Board meeting was canceled due to its being so close to the holidays.

The February Activities Board meeting will be at 8 pm on February 7th, 1990 at the home of Gay and Larry Friedman at 304 LeRoi Road in the East End. Directions will be included in the meeting notice. ☞

"What's that little Discount Card for, anyway?" This question is being answered frequently at the Council office these days. The free card, being distributed with 1989/90 memberships, allows members to receive discounts on travel equipment, admission fees, food, transportation, and more at many locations throughout the United States. As before, your AYH membership card entitles you to discounts, and the discount card is designed for those times when a hostel manager wants to hold your membership card overnight. A list of discounts has been published in the Fall/Winter issue of *The Knapsack* and also in the **1990 AYH Handbook**. ☞

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR RENEWING MEMBERS

2 YEAR PASSES: Due to a mistake at the National Office, many of our members with 2 year passes expiring in December of 1990 have been receiving notices saying that their memberships expire December of 1989, and that it's time to renew. IT'S NOT TRUE! If you bought a 2 year pass between September 1988 and September 1989, your membership does not expire until December of 1990. We apologize for the confusion that this has caused.

EUROPEAN DATES: We are required to use the European format for all dates on membership cards. Thus, a pass sold on December 7, 1989 will be dated 7.12.89 and not 12/7/89.

EXPIRATION DATES: Remember that memberships will expire at the end of the month 12 months after the date of sale. For example, a pass sold on December 12, 1989 is valid until December 31, 1990.

NEWSLETTERS: This (the February issue) will be the last issue of *The Golden Triangle* being sent to members who have not renewed. Please note that if you have let your membership lapse, there may be a delay in starting to get your newsletter again. Joe Levine, Membership Chair

DONORS TO AYH PITTSBURGH COUNCIL

Pittsburgh Council gratefully acknowledges the recent contributions of these members. Your donations toward a Pittsburgh Hostel, Headquarters Renovation and the General Fund are helping AYH provide valuable services to its members and the hosteling public.

Anonymous

Thomas E. Allen
Carol & William A. Bayer
David J. Beattie
Patricia Bell
Bernard M. & Marie Bench
Ethel J. Bishop
Irwin & Roslyn Bendet
Gerald D. Blum
Sally J. Brunson
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Rex & Mary Dumbaugh
Doug Ettinger
Richard & Ruth Fisher
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Ed & Marcie Schultz
Carolyn L. Sheffer
Margaret L. Smith
Linda Smithyman
Tom Valenza
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WHY JOIN AYH?

- Receive our monthly newsletter. *The Golden Triangle* is filled with trip information, events and articles.
- Choose from an extensive schedule of local and international activities year-round.
- Stay at hostels in over 60 countries at low member rates.
- Receive *The Knapsack*, AYH's national publication on hosteling and world adventure travel.
- "Learn by doing" in workshops on backpacking, bicycling, canoeing, caving, hiking, rock climbing and sailing.
- Develop your leadership and organizational skills with volunteer opportunities.
- Take advantage of low cost outdoor equipment rentals for members.
- Make new friends and have fun!

❄ ❄ SNOW HOTLINE ❄❄

The Bureau of Forestry's Unit has begun operation of its snow hotline. Persons can telephone (717) 787-5651 to receive a recorded message of snow conditions across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The recorded report is updated on Tuesday and Friday of each week throughout the snow season.

A FREE X-C SKIING PUBLICATION entitled *Cross-Country Skiing in Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests* can be requested from the Department of Environmental Resources' Bureau of State Parks. Cross-country ski trails on State Forest

land and State Park lands are grouped by geographic regions which include: Southwest, Southcentral, Southeast, Northeast, Northcentral, and Northwest Pennsylvania.

Each listing provides a contact source for additional information, the length and location (county) of the trail and a brief description or significant information about the trail(s).

If you are interested in receiving a copy of this publication, contact: Bureau of State Parks, Department of Environmental Resources, P.O. Box 1467, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1467.

Pittsburgh Council Activity Chairs

Bicycling

Chuck Ejzak 466-6196
Dino Angelici 931-6651

Canoeing

Clare Bunker 244-9788

Caving

Dan Martt 921-4638

Climbing

Eric Bauer 687-0766
Rich Rosenberger 372-2806

Family Activities

Barbara Hanusa 441-7205

Hiking & Backpacking

Ben Brugmans 736-2751
Pat Tieman 561-3286

Kayaking

Ray Yutzy 341-5682
John Gayler 421-1307

Mid-Week Trips

Cliff Ham 687-4520

Rafting

Jon Maiman 441-2306
Linda Smithyman 531-1868

Sailing

Rick Tomlinson 963-8910

Sea Kayaking

Mark Mistrik 521-7688
Ted Self 795-6286

Volleyball

Joel Platt 521-5244

X-C Skiing

Fred Parker 856-4713
Rick Ulaky 422-0849

Trips in February

BICYCLING

Bicycling Planning Meeting Wednesday, February 21

Time: 7:30pm at Joe and Cheryl Hoechner's (phone 242-0781)

The meeting is open to all AYH members or potential AYH members who are interested in bicycling. Among the topics to be discussed are: picking the dates to have weekend and other special trips, how to develop trip leaders, and the general direction of the bicycling program. Please call ahead to let us know you are coming and to get direction to Joe and Cheryl's house. Call either Chuck (466-6196) or Joe.

HIKING/BACKPACKING

2/10 Sat Int Glenn Oster 364-2864(H) before 9 pm
234-3967(W)

8:00 am at HQ. Hike the aRachel Carson Trail—14 miles. Call Glenn for information and reservations.

2/23-25 Fri-Sun Int Glenn Oster 364-2864(H) before 9 pm
234-3967(W)

6:30 pm at HQ. Backpack a beautiful section of North Country Trail, Route 6 to Henry's Mill. Call Glenn for information and reservations.

2/25 Sun Int Ben Brugmans 736-2751(H) 736-0103(AM)
8:00 am at HQ.

RAFTING

Rafting Planning Meeting Sunday, February 18

Time: 7:00pm at Linda Smithyman's (phone 531-1868)

A planning meeting for the rafting season will be held on Sunday, February 18 at 7:00 pm at Linda's home in Brookline. Anyone interested in becoming a leader or leading raft trips on the Youghiogheny River is encouraged to attend. We will discuss scheduling dates, training and advanced level rivers to conquer. Videotapes of several rivers will be shown and refreshments will be served. Call Linda at 531-1868 for directions.

Trips in February

VOLLEYBALL

ATTENTION ALL VOLLEYBALLERS!

Note : If Pittsburgh schools are closed for any reason, such as snow days or national holiday, there will be no volleyball that day. We play on MONDAY nights starting at 6:30 at PEABODY High School located at Highland and E. Liberty Avenues. Go in the main entrance, turn right, through double doors, and turn right into gym. Call Joel Platt at 521-5244(H) or 421-4446(W).

2/5	Mon	6:30 pm at Peabody School
2/12	Mon	6:30 pm at Peabody School
2/26	Mon	6:30 pm at Peabody School

X-C SKIING

The Pittsburgh Council of the AYH has a free brochure describing the cross-country ski program. It provides a brief history of Nordic skiing and information about AYH trips, instruction, and available rentals. For a copy of this brochure, send your name and address to: AYH Skiing, 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. Please include a first class stamp for postage. Or call (412) 362-8181.

Beginner's skiing every Tuesday evening in February when there's snow. Meet at HQ at 6:30 pm to ski with Mark Mistrik. **Reservations are essential!** Call Mark at 441-8293(h) 647-7609(w).

Beginner's skiing every Thursday evening in February when there's snow. Meet at HQ at 6:30 pm to ski with Fred Parker. **Reservations are absolutely essential!** Call Fred at 856-4713(h).

2/3	Sat	All	Eric Bauer	687-0766
8:30 am at HQ.				
2/4	Sun	All	Terry Gossard	321-2382
8:30 am at HQ.				
2/10	Sat	All	Rick & Shirley Ulaky	422-0849
8:30 am at HQ.				
2/11	Sun	All	To be announced	
8:30 am at HQ.				
2/17	Sat	Adv	Norm Snyder	351-4068
8:30 am at HQ. Ski till dark.				
2/18	Sun	All	To be announced	
9:00 am at HQ.				
2/24	Sat	All	Rick & Shirley Ulaky	422-0849
9:00 am at HQ.				
2/25	Sun	All	Joe Hoechner	242-0781
8:30 am at HQ.				



BEAR RUN NATURE RESERVE

1/2 mile north of Fallingwater
on Pa. Rt. 381
Phone: (412) 329-8501

Nature trails. Over 20 miles of marked trails open every day, year round; free admission. Trail map at parking lot.

Winter Ski Program. The 4,200 acre Bear Run Nature Reserve offers a variety of winter activities; ski touring, hiking, backpacking, etc. The barn will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm (412) 288-2777. A taped message is available after 5 pm.

Beginner Ski Tour Area. There is an excellent area for new skiers just across Rt. 381 from the barn. It consists of open, mowed fields, with both level and slight downhill grades. Signs will lead you to the beginner ski area.

MID-WEEK ACTIVITIES

Rambles

Every Wednesday. Meet at 10 am Wednesdays at the tennis courts parking area on 5th opposite Beechwood. We generally take a 3 to 4 mile "ramble" at a slow pace. Call Marilyn or Cliff Ham (687-4520) for more information on current activities or to make arrangements to meet the group.

Ice Skating

A group from AYH often ice skates at the Schenley Rink Wednesdays, 1:30 - 3:30 pm at the adult session.

continued from page 1...

We continued downstream on a wide trail that crossed the creek from time to time on bridges and even went through a thirty foot tunnel carved through the rock. The gorge with its rock cliffs and trees looming high above us is surely unique in the east, let alone Ohio.

Next came the Devil's Bathtub, a six foot wide pot hole into which the stream dropped and swirled before dropping again and soon we reached the lower falls. There the stream cascades for a short distance and ends up in a free fall, a combination of something like 40 feet, into a pool ringed in ice.

And the beauty did not stop there. Farther down the gorge we went on the Buckeye Trail (a 900 mile segment of the 3200 mile North Country National Scenic Trail) for nearly two miles and saw all manner of ice formations hanging from the cliffs like pipes of a huge church organ. And the downed trees and rocks along the stream seemed to take on a new life under their mantle of new snow wherever the sun was able to cut through. An especially striking scene was looking ahead to where the snow was falling gently from the trees in areas where the sun's rays were shining. How could anyone not be moved.

In time we crossed a wooden bridge to a point where we could see Cedar Falls. This is an unusual waterfall that courses down a steep rock face, splits, rejoins itself and then free falls, total drop about 150 feet. We had a hard time leaving this scene, but leave we must if we wanted enough daylight for gathering firewood and making dinner.

Just above Cedar Falls we picked up what's known as the 20K Trail and followed it back past Rose Lake to our campsite. We gathered quite a large amount of firewood lying about in the nearby forest and to "add fuel to the fire" (ahem) so to speak. Our neighbors donated some split firewood that they had brought from home. However, the firewood had to wait until after dark to do its thing. December nights arrive early in the evening and last a long while. Starting the fire too early results in

an earlier bedtime when the firewood is no more.

Dinner was uneventful except for the pan of water I spilled in my lap (some example of the leader's camping skills). Then our aficionado of campfires, Mark Mistrik, took over and built a good one, really toasted your buns. We stood or sat around the campfire, told tales, kept warm and felt sorry for the AYHers who weren't enjoying it with us. The highlight of the campfire was the entertainment that Mark brought along. He knew that Jacki reads well, and he brought this book for our edification. I suspect he was also reading it in his tent because at 4:25 am I could see a light on (he says he fell asleep with his candle lantern on). Although Jacki's reading was done marvelously well, I didn't really understand the story selected for the reading, pretty much over my head, involving characters like Tigger, Christopher Robin, and some creature by the name of Winnie. That never happened before on any of my trips.

For a change of pace, and to enjoy the clear sky and moonlight, we went for a walk to the far side of the campground, nearly a mile one way. How can I explain the beauty of that walk with the moon shining so fully on that clear, white snow on the ground and trees? You'll just have to take my word for it.

Bedtime after a warm-up around the fire and all was peaceful and quiet (except for an occasional snore here and there).

Sunday morning's temperature was in the low 20's F and we had lost our clear sky, but things still looked great. The quote of the morning was Karl Gundlach's, "I just proved you can survive a cold night in a \$10.00 sleeping bag.. He must really have come upon a good deal.

Breakfast over, we boarded the mini-van for some mini-hikes to see some of the park's other attractions,

the first of which was Ash Cave, an enormous rock overhung with a thin stream of water free falling 75 feet or more. This treat involved only about one mile of hiking, but climbing above the falls to circle back on the cliff overlooking the gorge made some of us puff a bit.

Next came Rock House. This is a huge rock formation with rooms to explore and seven natural window openings you can see through. As to the latter, there were lots of icicles and a variety of colors evident in the rock underside of the window ceilings. On the way into Rock House we missed a major trail turn and got in more steep hill hiking than planned. That was okay — warned us up.

Last came Conkle's Hollow and a long, very steep climb to the top of the cliffs that align themselves on both sides of the gorge and extend to what, out west, would be called a box canyon. We hiked to the end and circled back on the opposite cliff with views of open exposed rock approaching 200 feet thick. Then, back on trail, we dropped down to the valley floor. Although it was getting late, there was no talking the group into leaving. They wanted to hike up the gorge, and that, to, o was rewarding. At the end of the box canyon was a number of large rock ledges with a 95 foot waterfall that in some places fell behind the ledges and in others flowed in visible free fall. Really worth seeing.

After that it was just a matter of getting back to break camp and head for home. And who could forget our stop at the Manning Family Restaurant, inexpensive, with service about equal to the price, and real country atmosphere.

What a trip! What super company these AYHers are! Wish we could go again next week. ☞

AUDITIONS FOR COAL COUNTRY CLOGGERS

The Coal Country Cloggers will hold auditions this winter for men and women with a basic knowledge of clogging and an insatiable desire to dance, perform and have good time. For more information, call 321-4462 or write to the Coal Country Cloggers, P.O. Box 99191, Pittsburgh, PA 15233. ☞

THE EDITOR'S FANCY

The year end holidays were delightful and after the family departed and the left over cookies and turkey were disposed of properly (unfortunately into my gizzard), I went back to my every day pursuits. A favorite is bird watching and doing battle with four squirrels.

First off, I have to confess I feel a bit guilty spending a great deal of cash on 200 pounds of sunflower seeds and other assorted mixes. At just the time when we receive all those begging letters for contributions. This doubles my resolve not to let the four squirrel regulars get much of it.

So I stand guard at the kitchen window with a wooden spoon. If just once he lingers in the feeder until I can get both the inside and storm window open, I would give him a firm wack. At the first disruption he actually sticks his nose up to the win-

dow to get a better look at me. Continuous pecking on the glass sends him to the rose trellis a few inches away. If there is a score kept, its Jan _ 0, squirrel _ 100.

Other regulars are a lot of cardinals, a few jays, dozens of sparrows and purple finches. A pair of skittish titmice zip in, grab a sunflower seed and hurry back to the security of the hedge to enjoy it. They also eat at the suet ball. Several woodpeckers wait patiently at the suet ball for the starlings to stop fighting and get done with it. The chickadee is brave enough to try to eat with the starling. A special visitor has been a Carolina wren. If its name is an indicator of where it is supposed to live, it stopped short of its destination. Ten or more snobbish coppery colored gold finches hassle each other over the eight perches of the niger feeder. This all adds up to a very bright, animated splash of color, all the more so because of the white snowy background.

The most action around the feeders lately has been my resident Handyman who had too much free time on his hands when the weather wouldn't cooperate for

X-C skiing. The squirrels had been pulling the suet ball over to the trunk of the tree and chewing the plastic mesh away causing the contents to drop to the ground, much to their delight. Handyman took a ladder out in the foot of snow we had and moved the position of the suet ball, then attached a see-sawing broom handle to the tree pointing to the suet ball to fool the squirrels into using it and being dumped when they attempted to reach the suet ball. It took one squirrel one try to alert the others about that!

Another project was a sort of three fingered arm holding a tin pie pan attached to the rod that the finch feeder is hanging on. This is supposed to catch all the little black seeds that normally cover the ground under the feeder. The finches mostly ignore it and the arm is so heavy the weight of one too many birds will surely bring it all crashing down sooner rather than later.

The birds and I watched all this activity with much amused interest. And I am sure that wretched squirrel sat up there on a tree limb swishing his tail and grinning from ear to ear. ☺

WIND & WATER BOATWORKS

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AN UNFORGETTABLE HIKE

By Joe Levine

The hike was listed in the *Triangle* as "easy." It was late in April, trees were still mostly bare. The weather report promised a hot and hazy day.

A large group showed up for the hike on a four mile section of the Rachel Carson Trail. We dropped off the hikers in the school yard at Hiles and set up the shuttle in Tarentum. I gathered the group and we set off for the trail. However, PENDOT had messed things up by re-routing the new Rt 28 Expressway with a 150 foot cut where our trail had passed, high on the bluffs. We gazed up the dirt cut with some misgivings. Several hikers were "seniors" and not in the best of physical shape. Dick Nugent broke the chilly silence: "Hey Joe, Did you bring climbing gear?" We laughed and headed up the cut. We took it easy going up, stronger hikers helped the seniors and a sturdy cyclone fence near the top provided additional handholds for those who needed it. We took a short break and set off down the trail in good spirits.

As it happened, I lost the trail. How can you lose a trail, you ask? Easy! A tree with the crucial blaze is down, or someone blacked out a few blazes for spite. I sent out a few hikers in the most likely directions to yell when blazes were spotted while the rest of us waited. We were on a part of the bluffs overlooking the Allegheny River that were relatively featureless with thick stands of young trees. In that case, when you can't maintain visual contact between hikers, auditory contact is essential. After a few minutes, one of the scouts yelled "trail" and we resumed hiking. All was going well but the temperature was going up. I called a short break under some meager shade.

As we sat and chatted cheerfully, I looked at the group and said, "Hey, where is John Hayes?" A chill went up my spine as it hit me - I'd lost John Hayes! For those readers who never knew him, John was a short, stocky, cheerful and indomitable hiker, biker, and X-C-skier who became active in AYH after his retirement. The kind of member we couldn't afford to lose! I

questioned the group, someone had seen him taking off back when we lost the trail. "Alright," I said, "everyone stay put, don't move and wait for me." With a shot of adrenalin in my blood I double timed down the trail retracing our steps and silently praying that I would find him. Around where we lost the trail I began shouting, "John! John!" With great relief I heard his voice, "Over here!" I found him in a small clearing, calmly sitting on a log munching some gorp. He told me he had looked for the trail and didn't hear our voices, realized he was lost, and sat down to wait. "Did I do right, Joe?" "Absolutely, John, now let's rejoin the group."

All's well that ends well, right? Usually, but not on this hike. We started up a long, gentle hill out in the sun, about a mile and a half from Tarentum. The temperature hit 90 degrees and I planned to break for lunch at the top. As I topped the hill there were my hikers in a circle looking at someone on the ground. It was Peg Brust, one of my seniors, attended by our nurse Joan Goode. Joan reported that Peg had palpitations, felt weak and had to lie down. "Could she complete the hike after a rest?" "Too risky," replied Joan. I consulted my map. There was a dirt track descending to the outskirts of Tarentum, just a few feet from where we stood. I made my decision. When Peg felt stronger, with her son Robert, and Joan, she would slowly descend to the nearest residential street and wait for the cars. The rest of us would finish the hike and pick them up on our return to Hiles. All went as planned. Peg recovered and we returned safely to Headquarters.

However, there was one more fly in the ointment. When we laid out the trail with Cliff Ham several years earlier, we passed through a farm with very good well water. With that well in mind, I promised the hikers they would soon be drinking cold, sweet water, but it never happened. The trail was routed through the woods, skirting the farm. We had to drink tepid city water from our canteens. It was a minor disappointment at the end of a memorable day - a hike I cannot forget and wouldn't wish on any trip leader!

PLAN YOUR WESTERN BACKPACKING VACATION NOW!

Friday evening, August 3 to
Saturday evening August 18, 1990

Join Glenn Oster on his 7th annual backpack trip to the West. This year, the Beartooth Wilderness in Southern Montana. For intermediate/advanced skills. Distance, climbs and altitudes will be more moderate than in recent years with time to fish the mountain streams and lakes. In addition to great scenery, we stand a good chance of seeing elk, moose big horn sheep, mountain goats, bear and deer. While traveling out and back we will see the Badlands of South Dakota, Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park, Wind Cave National Park, Devil's Tower, Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Tetons. Cost should be under \$500. For information and reservations, call Glenn at 234-3967(w) or 364-2864 (h) before 9 pm.

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THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY WEEKEND AT THE IRONMASTERS MANSION HOSTEL

By Frances Gayler

After a traditional turkey dinner for the whole family at our house, it was time for a getaway weekend in the Appalachian Mountains to work off some of the turkey. Driving east from Pittsburgh for four hours, put John and me in the beautiful snow-covered scenery of Pine Grove Furnace State Park, between the two eastern-most ridges of the mountains, and close to nearby Gettysburg.

There to welcome us for the Friday dinner hour, were house-parents Joan and Bob Beard, two of the most interesting people that you would ever want to meet. Having led World Adventure bicycle tours in Europe and China, they had some good stories to tell, not the least of which was the history of the Hostel. In

fact, Bob, dressed up in top hat as the last Ironmaster (the man who ran the iron-making operations at the furnace), and gave us a candlelight tour of the mansion Friday night, weaving in its history since 1762, when it was built. Refurbished in the late 1970s, it was then opened as a Hostel, complete with antiques and memorabilia.

By sheer coincidence, the first person we saw while registering was an old friend from Pittsburgh AYH who now hails from New Jersey, Donna Leban. She was there with a group of hikers from the Delaware Valley. After consulting each other on the following day's activities, we were invited to join her group for the ten-mile walk on the Appalachian Trail, which runs past the front door of the Hostel.

Winter is a perfect time for hiking along the mountain ridges, as the leaves have all fallen and the surrounding countryside provides sweeping vistas. The fresh-fallen snow gave the terrain a new beauty that reminded me of those New England winter scenes, complete with a white spire in the valley below. Later in the weekend we examined dozens of pine trees at a Christmas Tree farm, attempting to pick "The Perfect One" which eventually rode back to Pittsburgh on the top of our jeep. In conclusion, our Thanksgiving interlude was spent at one of the most congenial hostels that I've ever visited, (all for only \$7.00 a night!), and I would highly recommend it, if you have never been there. ☞

MAN AND HIS ENVIRONMENT

By Abble Geertz

I wish that Man would get along in harmony
with his environment. It seems so wrong to me
That we can't see our devastation
Leading to elimination

Of one species after another, with no thought
Of whether it will be missed or not.

We'd rather not consider our destruction
As we go about the business of construction
Destroying forests that are home to many beasts.
Who cares about them?

Does it matter how they feel and what they think?
Does it make a difference as they become extinct?

Can it matter if we destroy the rain forest and
All the life that's in it?
Do we care about the future, or just about this minute?
Are we concerned about the future of our planet?
I wonder, will it survive? Can it?

From the jungle to the beaches
From the plains to higher reaches,
From the Tongass to the Serengeti,
Voices cry out, "When will we be set free?"

As we remove the lumber
And decimate the number
Of creatures who belong there,
Do we fail to see the wrong there?

We drown the beaver and the otter
We poach elephants for slaughter,
We heap tons and tons of ivory tusks in stacks,
Then display with pride our carved knick-knacks.

We harpoon the whale that swims the ocean's tide.
We club newborn baby seals on the head,
Skin them for fur before they're dead,
While their Mothers cry in anguish by their side.
Our fur coats have their glamour,
But did we hear the clamor
And the screaming of the creatures as they died?

Road kills, oil spills,
Too much speed, too much greed.
Overpopulation due to over-copulation,
Homo sapiens has much to learn indeed.

It's Man's opinion
He has dominion
Over everything that nature has to offer.
Some folks cry and plead for fixes,
But politicians just nixes
For there's never enough money in the coffer.
Will we ever learn?

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SAILING THE GULF OF MEXICO

Rick Tomlinson will organize and skipper live-aboard sail cruises in southwestern Florida in late April. Two eight day charters are offered for persons who wish to learn to sail and for experienced sailors.

April 21-28: Depart from Ft. Myers and practice sailing and navigating in the Sanibel/Captiva area. Sail to Naples and Marco Island, then to the 10,000 Island area, to Shark River, and on to the middle Keys. Enter Big Spanish Channel and sail the shoal route to Marathon. Exit through the Moser Bridge pass into Hawk Channel and snorkel the beautiful reefs of the Keys. Sail to Key West and spend the last day of your vacation exploring this historic town.

April 29-May 6: Depart from Key West and practice sailing and navigating in the Straits of Florida. Snorkel the reefs off Key West, then sail to Marquesas Cay. Sail to the Dry Tortugas and snorkel the most remote and unspoiled reefs in the United States. Sail from Tortugas to Sanibel Island, a spectacular day and night crossing of 130 miles. Cruise Pine Island Bay, exit Red Fish Pass and tack up the Boca Grande Inlet into Charlotte Harbor. Dock at Ft. Myers and disembark.

We will sail a 47' Gulfstar sloop if six people sign up for each trip or a 42' Pearson sloop if only four persons wish to go. The boat must be chartered by March 1st, so it is absolutely essential that you sign up early. The first week's trip is rated Basic Coastal Cruising. It involves shorter passages between anchorages in more developed cruising grounds. The second week's trip is more adventurous, to remote areas and with possibility of stronger winds and heavier seas. It is rated Intermediate Coastal and Introductory Off Shore Cruising. Sign up for both trips and enjoy two complementing experiences.

We will dine aboard for breakfast and lunch every day. Five evening meals will be prepared by Rick and served aboard. Three evening meals will be eaten ashore at ports of call. Onboard dinners will be gourmet cuisine.

Shared costs will be about \$650 per person per week for charter fee, boat operating expenses, provisions and AYH trip fee. Transportation cost, shore lodging and meals ashore are additional.

For those new to live-aboard cruising, we follow the training curriculum of the American Sailing Association. Persons who wish to get the most from the experience are encouraged to read appropriate training manuals prior to the cruise. Those who wish a more casual introduction to sailing a mid-sized keel boat will be instructed onboard in lesser detail and to a lower level of proficiency. Experienced sailors may just enjoy the cruise and practice their skills or may contribute to the training of others.

For further information on these trips and to sign up, please contact your Skipper, Rick Tomlinson. At 4 Devonshire Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 until January 15th and after March 30th. Phone: (412) 963-8910. At 4571 Great Lakes Drive, S., Clearwater, FL 34622, between January 16 and March 30th. Phone: (813) 573-9406.

Note: I will be sailing the Lower Antilles between January 25th and February 14th and will be out of touch. Please write a note to my Florida address. ☛

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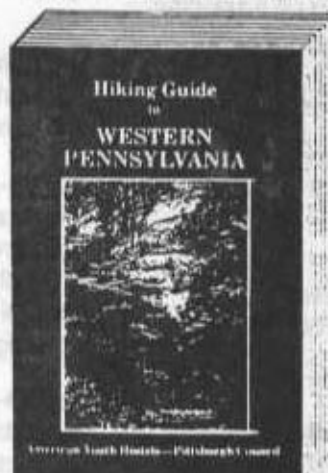
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All articles of interest to our members are welcomed — subjects relating to our trips and activities, the environment, the outdoors, etc. Articles submitted should be neatly typed and double spaced (at least a 12 point font), on disk or can be sent via modem when prior arrangements are made. Sorry I cannot accept more than one or two short paragraphs of hand-written copy. Poor spelling and punctuation are risky, they can turn into anything I want them to be. The use of material will be limited to available space. Place articles in the Editor's box at AYH Headquarters or mail to *The Golden Triangle*, 6300 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15232. *Don Bugby* Editor

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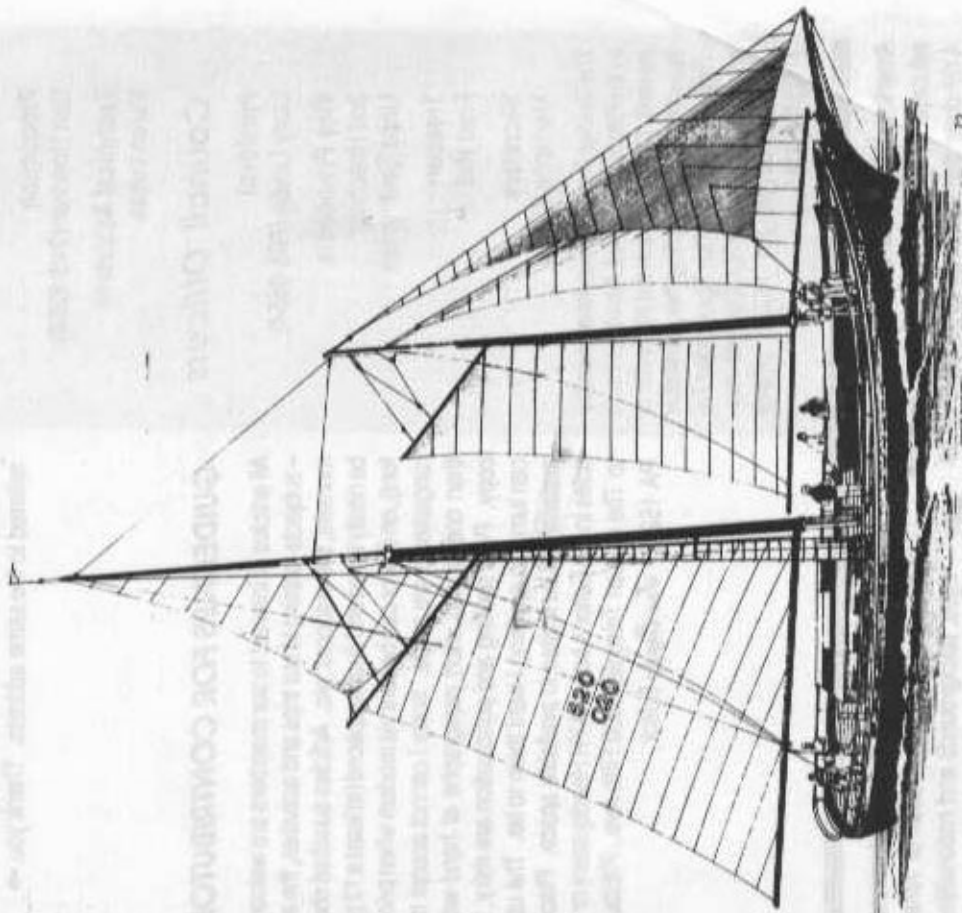
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Pittsburgh Council

American Youth Hostels

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