

The Golden Triangle

Pittsburgh Council

American Youth Hostels

Volume 40 Number 12

December, 1989

THE MAGNIFICENT SAN JUAN'S

by Glenn Oster

Part II

Slide Programs for December

December 7

Cross-Country Ski in
Yellowstone
with Terry Gossard

December 14

Ted Self Shows Us
Sea Kayaking in Acadia

December 21

Come Carolling with AYH!
Meet at HQ at 6 p.m.
to assemble newsletter
Singing begins at 7 p.m.

December 28

No Scheduled Program
See You After a Safe Holiday

*"Let's get the New Year started
with exciting programs! Call us
to sign up to give a show!"
say Rodney Horner (339-0944)
& Bob Goff (761-2837)*



(This is the second installment of the narrative about the trip that Glenn Oster and five other AYHers took to hike in the San Juan Mountains in southwest Colorado in August this year. In the first installment Glenn discussed their travels, sightseeing and scenic narrow gage railroad trip along the Animas River to reach the trail crossing. His story continues).

All charged up, we crossed the Animas on a foot bridge following the Colorado Trail and up we went, up and up and up for six miles from an elevation of 8,900 to 11,000 feet and Little Molas Lake. We were a tired group, and clearly feeling the altitude, but now truly under way.

Tuesday morning was clear and cold, 34°F, with ice on our pack covers and tents. And guess what, we had more climbing to do, another 1,000 feet and other ups and downs over a beautiful ten miles. As an understatement, the weather throughout our eight days on the trail was most variable, clear and beautiful one moment, overcast the next, and rain soon after in no predictable pattern.

We caught up with a solo back packer named Todd, a big handsome man in his late 30s or early 40s, trudging along under an 80 pound pack. It was enormous. He was hiking the entire Colorado Trail, something like 450 miles. Probing, we found that he has hiked in some most interesting parts of the world, the Malay Peninsula, Indonesia and Borneo as examples. His occupation? a Benedictine Monk from the abbey in Canon City. A really interesting guy.

We camped that evening at 12,000 feet near a sizable stream that literally poured out of the base of a steep mountain side. Although well above tree line, this was a great place to spend the night. Dave and Jerry did some exploring and found three sizable ponds and people camping who had arrived on horses.

Wednesday morning was bleak with more climbing in store, another 500 feet in short order. The scenery was so super and the photographic conditions so poor that some of us may have to do the trail a second time and camp there until the conditions are right. The views, albeit overcast and dull, were incredible.

In the rarified air some had a bit of a struggle to get our packs over the 12,500 feet un-named pass. Cold rain. The descent down the opposite side was unusually steep, but as we approached the meadows we saw great expanses of wild flower of all colors, but predominantly yellow, probably a variation of sunflower. Indeed, all the meadows on the trip were dotted, if not covered, with wild flowers. What a treat! Eventually, we came to Cascade Creek. Talk about icing on the cake, this series of waterfalls was impressive, so much so, that we could hardly get Dave to leave it. In fact, our new friend, Todd, decided he couldn't leave it, and even though early afternoon, he set up camp we said our good byes. On we pressed to a neat camp site near a mountain pond, another 10+ mile day. This site could be reached by jeep road, and we enjoyed the company of a water color artist from San Antonio. He was fascinated with our back pack trip and asked endless questions about equipment, how to go about such a trip, organizations to hike with, and on and on. We promised to mail equipment catalogs and info as to AYH etc. Believe we have a convert!

Thursday provided the best scenery of the hike, beautiful views in every direction. Some of us lunched in the bowl below Blackhawk Mountain. Meadows, peak, flowers, streams, simply great! We had dropped down to 10,800 feet and soon climbed back over the pass east of Blackhawk Mountain and west of another un-named peak of 12,400 feet.

continued on page 4...



COUNCIL NEWS

HELP NEEDED FOR **BIG** TRAVEL SHOW!

The Pittsburgh Council AYH will have a display booth at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center downtown for the 1990 **Pittsburgh Travel, Sports & Outdoor Show!** The show will run Wednesday, February 28 to Sunday, March 4. Please plan to volunteer for a few hours (3-4) during the afternoon or evenings. (There won't be any snow anyway!)

Joe Hoechner will be setting up "blocks" of hours once the show schedule is finalized. It will be printed in January's *Triangle*. (The usual hours are from 1-9 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. on weekends). If you'd like to reserve early, call Joe at 242-0781. Help present AYH to thousands from the Pittsburgh area!

Here We Come A-Carolling!

The annual tradition continues. This year the carolling party is on Thursday, December 21st. Here's what happens: We meet at HQ at 6 p.m. to put together the January newsletter. As soon as that's done, we carol through Shadyside and Friendship to Larry Laude's house for hot cider and holiday treats. Larry lives at 210 South Atlantic Avenue between Friendship and Penn; call 665-9554 for directions.

WHAT TO BRING: Carolling voices, musical instruments, a holiday spirit, refreshments to share, warm clothes, and perhaps a flashlight. Warm socks and shoes will feel really good; it's about a 2 mile walk.

WHOM TO CALL: Call Beverly Honchrek at 787-1012 and let her know what you'll bring, if you have questions on what to bring, or if you can help set up. Hints: Cakes, cookies, or your traditional family holiday treat will be appreciated. The social committee will provide the hot cider and hot chocolate. A shuttle service will be provided to take the food to Larry's house and to bring drivers back to their cars at Headquarters. ☺



Christmas Card List

Now, while you've got your Christmas card list out, or almost out, is the perfect time to get in touch with old AYH friends. We've a night for you to get together, too - the Annual Banquet. The banquet hasn't been officially set yet, but now is a great time to help us update our invitation list. We're looking for people who are no longer members and not receiving the newsletter, but who may be interested in seeing old friends and finding out what we've been up to. Give me a call at (412) 531-1868 or drop me a note with names, addresses and phone numbers. Linda Smithyman, 756 Fathan Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15226. ☺

Annual Council Meeting and Dinner

We held our Annual Council Meeting and dinner on October 20th. If you missed it, you missed some great company and some really great lasagna prepared by Marianne Kasica and Paul Herre. Thanks to everyone who helped make the evening a success!

The recommendations of the nominating committee were accepted, with the addition of Pat Tieman and Ben Bruggmans as hiking and backpacking co-chairs and of Pete Srin as Trails Coordinator. Members elected to various positions are listed on the next page. Committee reports were heard followed by a slide show on the proposed Montour Trail.

At a special Board of Directors Meeting immediately following the Annual Council meeting, the Board approved \$450 towards the cost of incorporating the new Montour Trail Council and authorized the new sailing committee to purchase 3 sail boats. The boats are expected to be 15' boats and will be used for the summer sailing program at Moraine State Park.

At the November Activities Board meeting, Linda Smithyman and Joe Hoechner were elected as Pittsburgh Council vice presidents. ☺

Activities Board Meeting

The next Activities Board meeting will be December 6 at 8 p.m. at Barbara Hanusa's home, 6966 Edgerton Avenue.

DEADLINES FOR JANUARY ISSUE

All Copy
December 7

Binding and Mailing
December 21

Looking for That Special Christmas Gift in 1989 or Travel Ideas for 1990?

Ideas abound in the new 1990 AYH World Adventure catalog available now from your user friendly Pittsburgh Council. Send us \$1.00 or four first class stamps and we'll send it to you. Better still, stop at Headquarters on a Thursday night and pick one up free.

The 1990 catalog is chock full of proven favorites from the 80's, at prices you won't believe. By bike, hike, van, train or canoe—maybe even llama or horse—see the USA or the world from the eyes of an AYH tripper. These are small group tours of six to eight people with an experienced AYH trip leader facilitating participation in planning and implementing a trip you won't soon forget.

Trips are available for all ages. Some trips are open to anyone; others are just for teenagers or just for those over 55. Young at heart is the only age limitation in this catalog!

There are trips as short as nine days; others that are several weeks long—all at a price you'll find hard to beat. This year expand your horizons, or the horizons of someone you love, with an AYH World Adventure Trip. ☞



Dear Hostellers,

Thank you for all of your assistance with the Baker Trail Hike on October 14. The Armstrong County Tourist Bureau appreciates your willingness to help make the event a success.

The Bureau hopes that this annual activity continues to help draw more attention to the trail. If the Bureau can ever be of assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Susan Torrance
Tourism Coordinator
Armstrong County

1990 ELECTION RESULTS

Officers

President	Larry Laude
Treasurer	Fred Hull
Ass't Treasurer	Cay Friedman
Secretary	Marianne Kasica
Vice President	Joe Hoechner
Vice President	Linda Smithyman

Board of Directors

Jack Peth	Bill Johnston
Jane Swanson	Fred Galvez
Linda Smithyman	Cliff Ham
Joe Hoechner	Mike Hurwitz
Roy Weil	

Committee Chairs

Enironmental Service	Cliff Ham
Extended Trips	Bill Johnston Craig Hennemuth
Families	Barbara Hanusa
Headquarters	Gary Ludwig
Marketing	Joe Hoechner
Membership	Joe Levine
Newsletter Editor	Jan Bugby
Pittsburgh Hostel	Fred Galvez
Programs	Rodney Horner Bob Goff
Publications	Bruce Sundquist
Trails Coordinator	Pete Srin
Trips Coordinator	Janet Supowitz



Canoeing	Clare Bunker
Caving	Dan Martt
Climbing	Eric Bauer Rich Rosenberger
X-C Skiing	Fred Parker Rick Ulacky
Cycling	Chuck Ejzak Dino Angelici
Hiking/Backpacking	Pat Tieman Ben Brumans
Kayaking	Ray Yutzy John Gayler
Sea-Kayaking	Ted Self Mark Mistrick
Rafting	Jon Maiman Linda Smithyman
Volleyball	Joel Platt
Sailing	Rick Tomlinson

Appointed Positions and Volunteers

Ass't Secretary	Dottie Lindsay
Librarian	Joel Platt

Unfilled Positions

Council Storekeeper
Hostel Development
Hostel Operations
Service
Special Events



Mid-Week Activities

Every Wednesday. Meet at 10 a.m. Wednesdays at AYH Headquarters, 5th & Shady. We generally take a 3-4 mile hike, but may swim, picnic, etc. Call Marilyn or Cliff Ham (687-4520) for information on current activities or to make arrangements to meet the group. ☞

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Since this is my first "President's Corner" since the elections and since this is also the beginning of the Council's business year, I thought I'd like to list my personal "New Year's Resolutions" for the Council.

1. Open a Pittsburgh Hostel. This has become the perennial plan for Pittsburgh Council. However, I am determined to get a Pittsburgh AYH-Hostel chartered in time for the 1991 Handbook, which means by August 1990. I hope we can open one as early as this Spring.
2. Revise the Council Bylaws. The current two board system for the Council is too cumbersome for the work we have ahead of us. I plan to propose a change to the Council's constitution and bylaws that would have one board, the board of directors, with the committees (activities, hosteling, etc.) meeting separately and reporting to it.
3. Improve volunteer recruiting, recognition and utilization. The Council could not function without its volunteers. However, I believe we need to respond better to new volunteers and to reward those who have already done so much for the Council.
4. Increase Membership. Council membership has been growing very slowly over the past 10 years; I'd like to work toward increasing membership by 10% a year.
5. Improve Hosteling Services. The Council needs to provide more services to traveling hostellers and to potential travelers, such as travel seminars (for example, a seminar on "Hosteling in Europe") and selling more hosteling supplies, maps and books.
6. Improve Hostel Support and Development. Working on a Pittsburgh Hostel will take a lot of effort, but the Council needs to continue to support our other hostels too, not just Ohiopyle, but also Charleroi, Point Park and Schellsburg.
7. Open a part-time office. This can be located at the new Pittsburgh Hostel or possibly at Headquarters. It would be a working area for volunteer and, eventually, for the paid office help that will be necessary to carry out the increasing clerical work brought on by the Pittsburgh Hostel and its increasing membership.
8. Start Headquarters Renovation. The building is getting real "tired" and needs significant work to remain usable. As soon as we can get a long term lease from the city, we should start fixing up what we have and add improvements as necessary.

Well, there it is. This is what I have in mind for the Council over the next 12 months. What do you think? Let's talk it over at the Christmas Party, at Blackwater Fall or at any Thursday Open House. *Larry Laude* (412) 665-9554 ☺



San Juans continued from page 1...

On the way back down, we were startled by a man and woman on mountain bicycles. They had the right to be there, but they were surely at odds with the wilderness experience we had been enjoying. Actually, we had seen tire tracks throughout the entire hike. Carrying bikes up over some of the passes must have taken herculean effort.

We continued to see all manner of wild flowers. The most unusual to some of us were a large blue columbine with yellow center and whitish indian paint brush with magenta edges. None of us had ever seen these flower variations on our other trips to the West. Our day's hike ended at the intersection of Forest Roads, 550 and 576 after 12 miles. The map showed a spring nearby. Nearby? We had to climb steeply down several hundred feet and walk about 1/2 mile to reach a gully with a trickle of water and lug it all the way back to camp. But we made out alright. It had been a day of sun, rain, warm and cold. As mentioned, weather in the San Juans is certainly fickle.

Friday introduced some new elements in our trek. After a good climb, we encountered herds of sheep, together with sheep dogs keeping them in place, and as we sat resting on a log a Mexican or Native American (not sure which) shepherd suddenly appeared on horseback (very colorful, but hard to understand). A little later, more people, U.S. Forest Service workers washing up at noon to return home for the weekend. They were very interesting to talk with and helpful, gave us water and took our trash. We lunched alongside Orphan Butt and a little later came upon 20 or so people doing trail improvement work. These were people, young and old, male and female, from all over the USA working for a week (replaced by other volunteers the next week) under the auspices of the Colorado Trail Foundation. They, too, were interesting people, and we took time to thank each of them for the work they were doing that enabled us, and many others after us, to enjoy this magnificent part of the country. They were doing heavy manual work. Seeing people so dedicated surely is a touching experience.

No good sources of water on the trail; so we scouted out meadows and gullies and, based on a tip from the trail workers, found a water source and good camp site by following

continued on page 6...

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
Cindy Rupert 561-7631

Sailing

Rick Tomlinson 963-8910

Sea Kayaking

Mark Mistrik 521-7688
Ted Self 795-6286

Volleyball

Joel Platt 521-5244

X-C Sking

Fred Parker 856-4713
Rick Ulaky 422-0849

Trips in December & January

HIKING/BACKPACKING

12/8-10 Fri-Sun Int. Glenn Oster 364-2864(H) before 9 pm
234-3967(W)

6:30 pm at HQ. Car camp and day hike in the beautiful gorge and ridges of Hocking Hills state Park in Ohio. The waterfalls should be in full flow. Call Glenn for information and reservations.

12/10 Sun ? Ben Brugmans 736-2751(?) 736-0103(?)

8:00 am at HQ. Hike in Ohiopyle, 8 miles.

12/17 Sun Int. Glenn Oster 364-2864(H) before 9 pm
234-3967(W)

8:00 am in North Park. Hike the 12 mile trail around North Park. Call for info and reservations

1/1/90 Mon All Linda Smithyman 531-1868

9:30 am Meet at Frick Park Nature Center for the first hike/walk of the New Year. Depending on the weather we'll do 2-3 miles and have lunch (at a nearby food joint if it's too cold). Anyone familiar with the park is especially welcome or whoever has a decent map!

SAILING

Windward Islands, Lower Antilles

January 28 - February 4, 1990 Rick Tomlinson (813) 573-9406

We have one place available on a spectacular live-aboard cruise in the Lower Caribbean Sea. We sail a 46 foot Beneteau Sloop from Rodney Bay, St. Lucia, West Indies. Cruising South, we will visit St. Vincent, Bequia, Canouan, Tobago Cay, World's End Reef, Mayreau, Palm Island, Petit St. Vincent, Petit Martinique, Carriacou and St. George, Granada. We will sail, swim, snorkel and visit some of the most beautiful cruising waters in the world.

An experience or inexperienced person is welcome. Learn how to sail or improve your skills. Enjoy gourmet dinners aboard and ashore. For additional information, contact Rick Tomlinson at his Florida home or call one of the Pittsburgh crew members locally; Kate Thomas 935-2637 or Jim Large 683-7721. Treat yourself to one of the greatest vacations of your life and get away from the miserable cold in Pittsburgh.

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT: Next month (January) we will publish details of additional sailing trips scheduled for 1990. Southwest Florida in late April, Long Island Sound in early July, the Maine Coast in September and Exuma Cays, Bahamas in early December.

VOLLEYBALL

6:30 p.m. Mondays at Peabody High School, located at Highland & E. Liberty Avenues. Go in the main entrance, turn right through double doors, turn right into gym. For more information and better directions consult a city map and call Joel Platt at 521-5244(H) or 421-446(W).

12/4 Mon 6:30 pm at Peabody School
12/11 Mon 6:30 pm at Peabody School

a well worn elk trail about half a mile off the trail. No elk, but an ample supply of mosquitoes. We finished early in the day after 11 miles and had plenty of time to wash ourselves and our clothes and bring our trip notes up to date.

According to the Colorado Trail map, Saturday was to be free of serious climbs and descents. We were prepared for an 800 foot climb up past the (would you believe) Cape of Good Hope, and two 200 foot climbs that didn't appear much to be concerned about. However, that's how the trail will be someday. Today, it follows the Highline Trail across Indian Trail Ridge and roller coasters its way up and down every knoll and high point.

At first, the weather was great, but our beautiful views from on top of the world were soon obscured by clouds, then rain, and to make sure we didn't become complacent, electrical storms. We crouched down in low spots behind small shrubs to protect us a bit from the wind, rain, and fireworks, and a half hour or so, the storm would be over and we would resume walking, only to have a new storm.

Eventually, we cleared our last peak and headed down into Cumberland Basin with ponds, people on horseback, and later people in cars. A dirt road near Kennebec Pass

allowed people to reach this superb scenery a good deal easier than we had reached it. The group elected to push on rather than calling it a day and up and over Kennebec Pass we climbed. A few more hundred feet up (we need that) and 1,600 feet down (remember, no serious climbs or descents for the day). We camped near a mountain road and, oddly enough, after only 12 miles of "relaxed" hiking we were all just plain bushed.

Sunday turned out to be big league day for Dave, Jerry and Rahul. They so wanted to return to real food that they compressed the last and a half into one day, some 18-19 miles, and reached the trail's end by evening. Those of us who weren't quite so anxious for a sizzling steak took it a bit slower and had our own brand of experiences.

We hiked along and crossed Flagler Run a number of times until other tributaries turned it into Junction Creek near Durango, and the map wasn't especially clear about elevations; so we were expecting a cake walk, albeit away from Junction Creek, for 12 miles or so. Well, we climbed and how we climbed, probably 1,800 feet. Met an older gentleman on a two day back pack trip who had helped to construct the trail in this area. He was very interesting to talk with. However, information he had been given and generously passed on to us as to a later water source turned out wrong, really wrong. The stream we expected

to find was a damp section across the trail, no flow at all. Looked like we might have to follow the lead of those who were completing the trail that day. Then the trail followed a nearly impassible jeep road and we lucked out. Shortly thereafter, two big 4 wheel drive Dodge trucks proved it could be driven. And they had plenty of water to share. Super! They sat down on the trail and talked with us for some twenty minutes. No longer concerned about a water source, we continued on for another three miles and camped about 100 yards past the point where the trail left the jeep road. We had put in another 12 mile day and were plenty glad to stop but not sure we had enough reserve for the three additional miles we would have had to walk to the source of water. So three cheers for the trucks. As an aside, on the third day of the hike, Pat had developed a very sore muscle to the right of her shin bone. It never let up and completing the hike was rough on her. Thank goodness for an ace bandage, sports cream and ibuprofen. Twelve miles in one day were more than plenty for her sore leg.

Monday was a breeze, a couple miles through a meadow, beautiful views at "Gudy Rest", easy switch backs dropping close to 1,000 feet, and along Junction Creek to the trail's end, a mere 6 miles and the end of one of the most beautiful hikes man can take. Can't wait to do it again. ☺

WIND & WATER BOATWORKS

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Pittsburgh Council Hostels

Chiopyle-AYH-Hostel
Chiopyle State Park
P.O. Box 99
Chiopyle, PA 15470
(412) 329-4476

Charleroi Youth Hostel (S.A.)
Rago's Hotel & Restaurant
601 McKean Ave.
Charleroi, PA 15022
(412) 483-6200

Living Waters AYH-Hostel
RD# 1 (1 mile west on Route 30)
Schellsburg, PA 15559
(814) 733-7607

Point Park College Youth Hostel (SA)
201 Wood Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 392-3824
(412) 391-4100 (after 4 p.m.)



NOTE FOR WINTER TRIPPERS

by Fred Parker

It's no fun to be left spinning your wheels or with a dead battery after returning from an enjoyable outing! So when returning from any trip, insure that all cars start and no one is left in the parking lot.

Now's the time to check and clean your cross-country ski equipment. Check that the bindings are securely attached to the skis. Check your poles and tape any cracks. Clean your skis and smooth any gouges before applying a new coat of base wax. Place your name and phone number on your equipment so it doesn't become lost when mixed with others.

AYH has acquired cross country ski equipment in children's sizes. Available for rental are:

1) 4 pairs of no wax skis which are 150 cm long (these will fit children about 4 feet tall). Two pairs can strap on to any type of boot; two pairs have 75 mm nordic norm bindings.

2) Boots:	European Sizes	American Child Sizes
	30	12
	32	1
	34	3-3 1/2
	35	4
	37	men's 5 or women's 6
	38	men's 5 1/2 or women's 6 1/2

3) Poles:	Length (cm)	No. of pairs	Child's Height
	85	1	3'9"
	90	1	4'0"
	95	3	4'7"
	115	1	5'1"

Each set of skis, boots, and poles can be rented at a rate of \$3.00 per week. If interested, contact Fred Parker at 856-4713.

**AT LAST ! A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA
FOR THE PERSON WHO DESERVES SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...**

**TREAT HIM TO A MASSAGE WITH A COLORFUL
"MERRY CHRISTMASSAGE"**

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CALL (412) 921-9271 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Will it snow? Find out at the ...

Blackwater Falls Getaway Weekend

January 26 - 27 - 28, 1990

Enjoy a relaxing weekend in West Virginia at the beautiful Blackwater Falls lodge overlooking the Blackwater River Gorge.

- ** Cross country skiing - from the front door!!
- ** Downhill skiing - is available at Canaan Valley (20 minutes from the lodge by car)
- ** Tobogganing - with rope tow, near the lodge
- ** Hiking
- ** Birding
- ** Horseback riding (varies year to year)
- ** Loafing, or just "catching up"
- ** Free movies, Saturday evening
- ** Square dancing
- ** Ice skating (outdoor, weather permitting)
- ** Reading

Blackwater Falls lodge has: a restaurant (serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner); a large common room with a fireplace; a game room; a meeting room; and a gift shop with VCR and tape rentals.

Cross country ski trips and hiking trips are informally arranged and led by AYH members. There are usually several small groups covering various ability levels and distances, going out both Saturday and Sunday. Additionally, there is a limited amount of AYH cross country ski equipment available for rent (you must reserve equipment with the cross country chairperson, at least two weeks in advance of the trip).

Reservation Information

Pay in FULL for either:

- (1) One twin bed in a two (2) person room. A roommate will be assigned.

-- OR --

- (2) The WHOLE room. You select your own roommates. Please list them on the reservation form.

Prices listed below include AYH's special weekend registration and lodging costs for Friday and Saturday nights. All meals are your own responsibility.

# Rooms	# People	Type of room	Pay before Nov. 15	after Nov. 15
22	1	1 of two twin beds	46.00	66.00
	2	2 Twin beds	92.00	112.00
10	2	1 Double bed	92.00	112.00
9	3	1 Twin, 1 double bed	108.00	138.00
11	4	2 Double beds	124.00	164.00

**Lower Prices
this Year!!**

No refunds will be given after December 14, 1989 unless the room or single can be sold to someone else. A \$5.00 processing fee will be charged for each refund.

We will be trying to provide a chartered bus from Pittsburgh to Black Water Falls. We must, however, get enough passengers to qualify for a bus. Therefore, if you are interested in reserving a place on the bus, the cost will be \$25.00. Please, enclose a SEPARATE CHECK to cover the cost of all bus reservations (this is so we may send the check back to you if we do not get the minimum number of passengers).

For additional information, please call:

Elaine or Karl Mormer, (412) 521-6404

Carla Steele, (412) 782-0400

A PLANT FOR ALL SEASONS

No Virginia that's not mistletoe! Stand under that and the fellows wont come near you.

Unhuh, **Poison Ivy**—a perennial woody shrub or vine. It can reproduce by seed or rootstock. Stems are erect and shrubby unless it can find a tree, fence or other support, then it is a climbing vine. Leaves are compound with three large shiny leaflets. In the Spring, the five petaled greenish white flowers grow in bunches attached to the main stem. Later in the season clusters of poisonous berrylike drupes form. It is found everywhere, rocky fields, pastures, thickets, woods and waste places.

After sowing the contents of one of those "meadows in a can" in my natural area in the backyard, I noticed I also had a goodly crop of Poison Ivy.

Plant species are considered a weed "when they interfere with man's activities or his welfare." Even I have to concede that



Poison Ivy is one of the worst of all plants. If you haven't learn to recognize it then avoid anything with green leaves. Ha! That holds true only during the summer. This bugger is equally potent in the fall, winter and spring. the shiny green leaves turn red and orange in the Autumn, then brown and fall off. For a short time in early Spring the small leaves reappear a pretty redish color.

Prevention (avoidance) is certainly easier than a cure. Every part of the plant contains a poisonous oil somewhat like carbolic acid. Even a tiny amount of the oil will cause irritation. A person can be poisoned by merely removing his boots after walking through it or

THE EDITOR'S FANCY

handling a pet that has been in contact with the plant. The eruptions of the rash are not a source of infection.

Most everyone is susceptible to the itchy rash that comes from contact with the oil. Washing thoroughly after contact is pactical. Hikers, campers, canoers, etc. would do well to take a long a small piece of Fels Naptha soap on their outings. Jewelweed is said to give relief, also calamine lotion.

Scientist have developed a vaccine, however, this is effective only if taken before exposure. A good idea is to find a good source book and study the picture real hard.

Tex Bagby

Reservation Form for Blackwater Falls – 1990

Name: _____ AYH #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (work) _____

List persons sharing room (if applicable):

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please reserve the following:

_____ a twin bed & roommate @\$ _____ = _____

_____ room(s) w/2 single beds @\$ _____ = _____

_____ room(s) w/1 double bed @\$ _____ = _____

_____ room(s) w/1 dbl & 1 sgl bed @\$ _____ = _____

_____ room(s) w/2 double beds @\$ _____ = _____

_____ DISCOUNT(S) for AYH mbrs @-\$3.00 = _____

TOTAL FOR LODGING:

_____ Bus reservations @\$25.00 = _____

You are entitled to a discount of \$3.00 for each person in the room who is an AYH member.

PAYMENT MUST BE MADE IN FULL. NO CASH OR TELEPHONE RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. A SEPARATE CHECK IS REQUIRED FOR THE BUS.

Please check, as appropriate:

_____ can supply _____ rides

_____ will need a ride

_____ will supply my own ride

_____ riding the bus

Make check(s) payable to:

Pittsburgh Council, AYH.

Send reservation form, check, and a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to:

Elaine Mormor

1522 Denniston Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15217-1450

WILDERNESS LODGE CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING WEEKENDS

January 12, 13, 14

February 16, 17, 18

If you like your lodging intimate and rustic, and your ski trails tracked and groomed, this is the weekend for you in the Erie snowbelt near the New York border! NO SNOW WE STILL GO.

The cost includes lodging Friday and Saturday nights and a candlelight dinner Saturday evening (vegetarian upon request). Trail fees are \$5.00 per day and ski rentals are available at the lodge. Three to six people in a room with assorted doubles, singles and bunks are available. Space is limited to 34 persons each weekend. Call Cay Friedman (371-4923) to make reservations for the weekend you want. After confirmation, send a check made payable to Pittsburgh AYH for the full amount. No refunds after December 28 unless your spot can be sold to some one else. Send checks to: Cay Friedman, 304 Le Roi Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15208.

Weekend costs: Member - \$50.00, non-member - \$55.00. Two private rooms with one double bed each are available for \$60.00 per member and \$65.00 per non-member.



Please indicate the weekend for which you have made a reservation: _____

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Are you an AYH member? _____

_____ I can drive and I can take (#) _____ riders

_____ I cannot drive

_____ I will drive and meet the group at Wilderness Lodge

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ for _____ (#) members, _____ (#) non-members.

PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR CHECK

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Don't miss the Backpackers'/Hikers'/Boaters' Mail Order Flea Market. Books, maps, packs, Rob Roy canoe, oars, stove, cartop carriers, rowing shell, dry bags, misc gear. Reasonable shipping on boats and larger items. Business SASE for 11 page list; contact: Owen Cecil, P.O. Box 584, Manistee, Michigan 49660.

FOR SALE: Almost unused L.L. Bean Maine Hunting Shoe, women size 8B, originally \$79.00, sacrifice \$45. Also, X-C Ski Package, 170 cm Trak Rallye No-wax Skis, S (112) CS120 Trak Boots. Contact Binding system, Nordic 125 cm bamboo poles. Asking \$50. FRED PARKER, 856-4713.

FOR SALE: Curtis Vagabond Solo canoe, fiber glass wood trim, red-orange, \$550. Also, Norse paddle, \$35.; Pentax K2DMD SLR camera with zoom lens, \$300. All Prices negotiable. Contact Lee Ann Reiners, (814)398-8571, or RD 2, Box ML104, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403.

Submit Classified Ads to the Editor by the deadline. Members may place ads for free! Nonmember and commercial ads rates are available on request. Place ads in Editor's mailbox at _____ Editor, The Golden Triangle, 6300 fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232.

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The Golden Triangle is published monthly by the Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels. Contents are at the discretion of the editor. Mail regarding this newsletter should be addressed to: The Golden Triangle, Pittsburgh AYH, 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232, phone (412)362-8181.

ARE YOU MOVING?

To continue receiving the Triangle you must notify us by mail, The Golden Triangle, 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 or call 362-8181. The Triangle is mailed to you Third Class to save you extra postage. The U. S. Post Office does not forward Third Class mail. If it is not addressed correctly, it goes into the trash!>

GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

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 handwritten 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. *Jan Bugby* Editor

COVER: By Robert E. Beckjord, Architect
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American Youth Hostels is a nonprofit 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 and National Office. AYH is the U.S. affiliate of the International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF) which coordinates more than 5,400 hostels worldwide — the largest network of



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS PITTSBURGH COUNCIL 6300 FIFTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA 15232



Membership types available:

- \$25.00 Adult Membership (age 18 to 54, with renewals available at only \$15)
- \$10.00 Youth Membership (age 17 and under)
- \$15.00 Senior Citizen Membership (age 55 and over)
- \$35.00 Family Membership (includes children under 18, with renewals available at only \$25)
- \$50.00 Supporting Membership
- \$100.00 Sustaining Membership
- \$250.00 Life Membership (individual lifetime membership)
- \$18.00 Foreign nationals, including Canadians
- \$10.00 Vol. I, International Hostel Handbook (Europe & Mediterranean)
- \$10.00 Vol. II, International Hostel Handbook (Africa, Americas, Asia & Australia)
- \$14.00 Cotton sleep sack, required at all international hostels
- Donation for Hostel Development Fund (tax deductible to extent permitted by law)
- Total — make all checks payable to: PITTSBURGH AYH

MEMBERSHIPS ARE VALID FOR 12 MONTHS FROM MONTH OF ISSUE

NAME _____

(last)

(first)

(middle)

STREET _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

Birthday: Month _____

Day _____

Year _____

PHONE _____

Were you a member of AYH last year? No _____ Yes _____

Pass # _____

I would like to volunteer, please contact me: Yes _____ No _____

How did you hear about AYH? _____

AYH MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- International Hostel membership card plus Pittsburgh Council I.D. card good for discounts at local bike shops and outfitters.
- USA Hostel Handbook, listing over 250 Hostels in the United States.
- The Knapsack, National AYH travel newsletter.
- The Golden Triangle, Pittsburgh Council's newsletter of trips and activities.
- Open house Thursday nights at Council headquarters.
- Access to National travel programs and Leadership Training courses.

The Golden Triangle

American Youth Hostels

December, 1989

Pittsburgh Council

Volume 40 Number 12



Season's Greetings!

American Youth Hostels, Inc.
Pittsburgh Council
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