



golden triangle

ayh

pittsburgh council, american youth hostel, inc.

Volume 21 Number 4 April, 1970

OPEN HOUSE

8:30 PM Thursdays

- April 2 Steve Lord guides a tour of England.
- April 9 Come on the last ski fling of the season with Jack Kowalski on the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc.
- April 16 Liz Miller present a view of Colorado and Mesa Verve.
- April 23 Folk dancing time with our old friend Hugh Gilmour.
- April 30 A different view of the world-experimental self-underground!

CANOE SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

It's meaning Whitewater Canoe School time again and the dates are reserved at Carondowanna, May 1,2,3, 1970 (Fri. eve thru Sun. eve). If enough interest is shown, beginning C-1 and/or K-1 classes will be taught-in addition to beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes in open canoes. Every participant should be thoroughly familiar with canoeing on flat water and have had some minimal white-water experience. The minimum age is 18. The cost is \$20.00 (plus \$3.50 for canoe rent if you don't bring your own canoe). Applications are available at A.Y.H. headquarters or call Bunni Dawson (Y.W.C.A) at 391-5100 x261. Applications are due April 3 and applicants will be notified of their acceptance or rejection by April 14. Preference will be given to those who have led or who are interested in leading trips.

CANOEING SEASON

Now that canoeing season is under way, those of you prospective riverrats not familiar with the bare necessities of life on the river please take note:

You should bring,

1. Money for hostel fees(\$1.75), gas(1.25¢/mile) dinner (\$2-4).
2. Knee pads.
3. Lunch and something to drink (not in glass) (put in plastic bag so it will stay dry)
4. Sneakers or other shoes that you don't mind wading in.
5. Water in canteen for drinking.
6. Swimsuit.
7. Complete change of clothes & shoes & socks & jacket for end of trip.
8. String to tie carkeys to you if you drive.
9. Somthing to hold your eye-glasses on.
10. Handkerchief.
11. Hat to protect from sun.
12. Sunglasses.
13. Suntan lotion.
14. Sunburn oil.
15. Raincoat.

The hostel will supply:

1. Life jacket.
2. Paddle.
3. Canoe.
4. "Experienced" leaders.
5. Throwlines.
6. Tape to patch a canoe with
7. A waterproof bag to put lunches in.
8. First aid kit and maps.

Cont. on next page

Canoeing season cont.

As you grow more experience you may wish to purchase your own paddle and life preserver. The cost of lost or damaged to hostel equipment is equal to its repair or replacement cost.

NOTICE

Canoeing chairman is looking for volunteers to organize the Annual A.Y.H. Loyalhanna Races to be held on Saturday, May 9, 1970.

CYCLING

The snow can't last forever so it's time to put away the skis and get out the bicycles, and for some of us to trim down the waistline expanded by a sedentary winter. We hope to have a very active cycling program this year with cycle trips for both beginners and advance cyclist every weekend and during the summer at least one two day trip per month. Now is the time to start getting in shape for some of the longer rides we will be having or for the harty perhaps you should be getting in shape for TOSRV.

On April 9, at 7:45 PM before the hostel meeting we will be having a meeting at the hostel to plan the cycling program and discuss the preparations of a cycling guide for the Pgh. area. All interested are invited.

SUMMER EXTENDED TRIPS IN OUR AREA

Saturday May 30 through Friday June 5: Seven day backpacking trip in Otter Creek and Dolly Sods area. Three days in beautiful Otter Creek, newly declared Scenic Area; then four days in spectacular Dolly Sods, with its Canadian-type climate. Group cooking. Cliff Ham, leader. Reserve early please.

Saturday July 4 through July 10: A week's backpacking trip in Potter County along the new Susquehannock Trail - sixty five miles of new growth with abundant wildlife: deer, bear, and wild turkey, in an area of "unspoiled scenic beauty". Leader Dave Porterfield.

WANT ADS

Rags needed

Our multilith machine consumes rags that are used for cleaning ink off its various parts. Anyone with rags to spare is urged to put them in a bag and drop them off at our headquarters in the back room.

Wanted

1-gallon plastic bottles for use as boat bailers. Drop them off under the paddle rack behind the hostel door.

One L man, black raft - good as new. 15 ft. x 6 ft.; capacity in flatwater is 15 men. Original cost was \$1800. Selling now for \$200. Call Doug Ettinger at 828-2540.

Two used 17 ft. Gruman canoes with shoe keels for white water. One selling for \$110.00 and the other for \$100.00. Going fast! Call Doug Ettinger at 828-2540

OPEN LETTER TO AYH MEMBERS

By Frank Ashley, Culver City, Calif.

Everything went very smoothly at the AYH National Convention in San Francisco. No rock 'em, sock 'em battles like last year. It appears that the majority of delegates were more than satisfied by the fact that AYH now has more money, more members, and more scheduled trips than ever before.

Yes, it is true. American Youth Hostels has more of everything.... except hostels!

At the present time there are fewer than 80 actual hostels in this country, excluding the college dorms and Y's that are "supplementary accommodations." How many AYH members realize that there were more chartered hostels in the early 1950's than exist today? How many realize that not one true hostel chain exists west of the Mississippi River? Or that, with a single exception, there are no hikers' hostel chains? Or that we do not have a single hostel located on government land?

It is uncanny that on December 5th, the very same day that AYH delegates were congratulating each other on a job well done, the American Alpine Club announced that they had obtained permission to operate a hostel in Grand Teton National Park! The AAC will lease buildings vacated by the Park Service a few years ago and will begin their operation this coming Spring.

Why is the Alpine Club going to operate this hostel rather than the American Youth Hostels?

Why? Because the AAC realized the need and acted. AYH failed to realize the need and/or failed to act.

In my opinion AYH is not at a crossroads; it blindly drove through the intersection years ago! Foremost in our minds should be the obvious fact that without hostels, AYH has no legitimate reason for existing. It is now time to take stock of our position and our future long rang goals. Is AYH to become (a) a glorified travel agency or (b) an organization "to provide youth hostels - simple overnight accommodations in scenic, historical, and cultural areas..."?

Opportunities for hostel development in this great nation are unlimited. A few that immediately come to mind are the Maine canoe country, the Sierras, Glacier National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Zion-Bryce Canyon country, Blue Ridge Mountains, etc., etc.

The Alpine Club has pointed the way. Will we follow their lead, or will we ease back into our secure comfortable cocoon?

The choice is ours. The time is now.

Readers are invited to comment on this open letter, please address your opinions to the AYH headquarters at 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15232.

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McConnells Mill/Moraine State Parks Hiking Trail Planned
By David Porterfield

Temporary name of the organization which will plan and establish a hiking trail between McConnells Mill and Moraine State Parks is Butler County Trail Committee (BCTC.) The name will be changed when the trail is named, because part of the trail will be in Lawrence County. Members of BCTC include representatives from Butler County Parks, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, AYH and other organizations. Initially subcommittees will include Location, Publicity, Volunteer, Education, Historical, Biological and Geological. Preliminary plans call for the trail to be about 20 miles long with at least one lean-to shelter, ending at historical Old Stone House at the junctions of routes 8, 173 and 528.

AYH members interested in working with BCTC should select subcommittee interests and contact Dave Porterfield (office 471-1733 or 452-9690; home 452-7071; home address R.D. #1, Box 173, Zellenople, Pa. 16063), who will act as AYH liaison member of BCTC.

AYH To Help with the Laurel Highlands Trail

By Bruce Sundquist

Western Pennsylvania will soon have a new hiking trail that promises to be the most popular in the area. The trail will run along the top of Laurel Ridge from Conemaugh Gap (near Johnstown) to Ohiopyle State Park, a distance of about 58 miles. (A special pedestrian bridge will cross the turnpike.) The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy purchased 11,000 acres of land for the trail several years ago with a one-million dollar grant from the Richard King Mellon Fund. The land was then turned over to the state which purchased an additional 4,000 acres. A contract was recently let for the construction of the trail (Nilan Engineers of Somerset.) However, no money was appropriated for layout of the trail. To accomplish the layout, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy called together a "Laurel Highlands Trail Task Force" composed of experienced hikers and outdoor people interested in the trail. Bob Strong and Bruce Sundquist represent AYH on this task force.

At a recent Activities Board meeting, it was ~~decided~~ that AYH would "adopt" a 10-mile section of the trail and lay it out in the following sequence of steps:

- (1) Scout the land purchased thoroughly - locating scenic views, springs, etc.
- (2) Decide on a trail route and mark this route with plastic tape "blazes."
- (3) Have the route approved.
- (4) Clear the approved route of brush, saplings, branches, etc.- leaving signs, shelters, latrines, spring improvements, erosion barriers, etc. to the contractor.

Several AYH scouting trips have already been run. More will be run in April (see Trips and Trails Section.) We hope to have the project completed by late May. The southern end of the trail (Rt. 31 to Ohiopyle) will be done first. Individuals who wish to do scouting work on their own or in their own small groups should contact Cliff Ham or Bruce Sundquist for maps of the property boundaries and other information.

CANOE SEASON IS HERE!

Since the canoe season is here, we thought we would offer this little story in hopes that we might encourage future canoeists

THE NEW RIVER

By A. Survivor

Before Labor Day Weekend last year, there were some AYHers who were very much in awe of the New River in West Virginia; now, after the trip, we are downright scared of it!

What could a river do to strike terror to this hearty group of paddle drivers? Well...the first rapids we encountered wiped out an entire raft - four people engulfed by the raging river - and the rapid only appeared to be moderate-sized standing waves. They called that "Surprise Rapids" -- it had a hidden hydraulic.

The river boasts about 6 to 8 miles of flat water before you really hit the rough stuff, by that time the river's won half the battle.

There's a big monster they call the "Lower Kenny;" everyone on the trip stopped to scout this particular rapid before running it - and we shouldn't have, we all just stared at it for about 15 minutes, trying to figure out the right approach (a couple of the more squeamish decided there wasn't any.) Actually, we were trying to work up enough nerve to just get through it -- anyway at all! The water power seemed to be about equal to - oh I'd say something like Niagara Falls. But really, it turned out to be quite an enormously thrilling and fun ride -- if you made it.

One of the rapids in the New River is now famous as a "raft eater." During the run through this particular rapid, one of the rafts became strangely attracted (more like pulled) toward a large evil-looking rock which promptly sucked the raft into its clutches. The rafters did manage to free themselves, but not without difficulty and danger to their lives. As we surveyed the situation, we discovered that the rock was undercut and the raft had completely disappeared beneath it -- not a sign of it anywhere. However, the next day, we again challenged the New River afresh and upon arriving at the very same "raft eating" rapid, found that some kindly fishermen, who had witnessed our plight the day before, had found the raft when it apparently broke free from the pull of the rock during the night because of a change in the water level, and pulled it ashore for us to recover. We were lucky that time!

The only other incidents occurred when two canoeists from another party, which kindly accompanied us down the river, sustained injuries from yet another undercut rock (one kayak made it to the take-out point held together with borrowed tape.) And the last, but not least famous incident of a raft which had to be scuttled because it was caught in a hydraulic which would not spew it out, and as the water poured in, a certain canoeist happened to sail over the crest of a wave only to find himself landing smack on top of the abandoned raft. He had to make a quick decision as to whether he should try to paddle a raft out of a hydraulic from inside the canoe on top of it, or abandon ship. The latter choice was made for him -- by the river. Everybody ended up in the water on this trip!

So you really want to take up canoeing?

TRIPS AND TRAILS

APRIL

- SUN 19th Baker trail maintenance trip. Do you know how to hold a paintbrush? Mix cement? Come and help repair Schenley Shelter. BONUS: Don Woodland's famous cookout after work. Meet in upper parking lot at 8:30 A.M. with lunch and about \$1.75. Eb Moll is foreman, at 441-0226.
- SUN 5th CYCLING - Alan Sher (421-4429) kicks off the cycling season with a leisurely 25 mile bicycling trip in the Cannonsburg area for intermediate cyclist (experience with a 10 speed bike). Leave hostel at 10:00 A.M. and return by 5:00 P.M. Bring lunch, cost \$1.00 plus rental.
- SUN 5th HIKE - 1 P.M. Marilyn Ham leads a trip for beginners and others, exploring Riverview Park on the North Side. Bring your good humor, 40¢ (perhaps a little for transportation.)
- SAT 11th CLIMBING - Climbing at White Rocks, for beginners and experienced climbers, bring tennis shoes or climbing boots and lunch with about \$3.00. Call Ken Horner, 457-7088.
- SAT 11th 12th Bruce Sundquist leads an exploratory hike in the Laurel Highlands area. This will be a two-day car-camping trip, between Ohiopyle and the Scullton area. Leave upper parking lot at 8 A.M. Saturday, return Sunday by 6 P.M. Reservations are necessary to plan food; 327-8737. Cost about \$4.00 and bring lunches for the two days.
- SAT 11th CYCLING - Bob Omlar (264-2658) see the first sign of spring (hopefully) on a 35 mile cycling trip in the beautiful Washington County. Leave hostel at 8:30 A.M. Bring a lunch, cost about \$1.50 plus rental.
- SAT 11th HIKE - Dave Porterfield leads an exciting hike in the Lake Arthur area, to view the extent of the new lake, to scout out possible trails, perhaps to get lost. Meet in upper parking lot at 8:30 A.M.
- SUN 12th CANOEING - Gene Cone (621-2600 x341) leads a daring "closed boats only trip either on the Big Sandy or the Upper, Upper Yough depending on his spunk at the time. AYH rafts absolutely are not allowed on this trip. Call Jim Hurst (434-3964 bus.) for raft rental.
- SUN 12th CYCLING - Alan Sher (421-4429) leads a relatively easy 25 mile trip near Sewickley for intermediate cyclists. Leave hostel at 10 A.M. and return by 5 P.M. Bring a lunch, cost \$1.00 plus rental.
- SUN 12th CANOEING - Henry Pollak (621-3500 x7198 or 421-9413) leads a trip on French Creek - good fast moving grade one river.

TRIPS AND TRAILS continued

- SUN 12th HIKE - Armand Panson will lead an expedition to the Laurel Mountain area (to find Bruce?). Good hiking shoes, lunch, and about \$2.00. Meet in upper parking lot at 8:30 A.M.
- SUN 12th HIKE - The trip you've been waiting for! Mary Brincka visits the Mount Washington and Grandview observation area. Leave the hostel at 1 P.M., return about 5 P.M. Cost will be 40¢ plus transportation and fare(s) on the incline.
- FRI 17th Weekend in the mountains at the cabin of Celia Powell.
SAT 18th Opportunities to canoe, cave, hike, bike and talk. Group
SUN 19th cooking, but limited to 15 persons. Call Celia, at 362-6920. The cabin is northeast of State College area.
- SAT 18th CYCLING - Mike Hurwitz (731-1083 or 256-3343) leads a cycling trip in the Ligonier area passing by Rolling Rock. There will be an option of either an easy 25 mile down hill trip or a more rigorous 35 mile trip. Leave hostel at 8 A.M., bring lunch, cost about \$2.80 plus rental.
- SUN 19th CANOEING - Lloyd Geertz (372-6053) leads a intermediate trip either on the Upper Yough or Redbank. Meet at H.Q. and bring change of clothing, lunch and preferably your own paddle and life preserver.
- SUN 19th HIKE - (That's Patriots Day, and the date of the Boston Marathon!) Tess Henry will lead a trip to McConnells Mill, tour the grist mill, and hike about 4-5 miles at a leisurely pace..... Cost about \$1.50.
- SUN 19th CYCLING - Beginners and intermediates trip to be announced call Mike Hurwitz (731-1083 or 256-3343).
- SAT 25th CYCLING - Mike Hurwitz (731-1083 or 256-3343) try our first 25 in 3 of the season near North Park. Leave 8:30 A.M. bring a lunch (optional) cost \$1.00 plus rental.
- SAT 25th HIKE - Hike about ten miles along the Baker Trail, probably from Idaho to Crooked Creek area, ending with supper cooked on the trail. Reserve with Cliff Ham, (621-7825). Bring a lunch and about \$2.50. Leave upper lot at 10 A.M.
- SAT 25th CANOEING - Kathy Spindt (486-9512) leads an intermediate trip on the Callelman (between Markleton and Fort Hill). Leave H.Q. 8:30 A.M. Bring a lunch and change of clothing. Experienced canoeists only and money for gasoline and dinner, please.
- SUN 26 HIKE - Hike with intrepid leader Fran Czapiewski to another new and fascinating area - place to be announced. Leave upper parking lot at 8:30 A.M. and bring lunch and about \$2.00
- SUN 26 HIKE - Three hours of tripping among the trillium, the Spring Beauties, and the Wild Geranium at the Wildflower Reserve near Racoon Creek with Linnea Freeburg. Leave hostel at 1:30 P.M. and bring about \$1.25.
- Sun 26 CYCLE For experienced cyclists. Call Mark Powder, 362-9491.
SUN 19 CYCLE To city parks. 1 P.M. Bob Taylor, 363-8770 40¢ plus rental.

TRIPS AND TRAILS continued

- SAT 25th CLIMBING - Climbing at Coopers Rocks in Cooper State park. For beginners and experienced climbers. Bring tennis shoes and a pack lunch with about \$3.50. Call John R. Henry at (265-3761).
- SUN 26 CYCLING - Beginners and intermediates trip to be announced call Mike Hurwitz (731-1083 or 256-3343).
- SAT May 2 HIKE - A repeat performance of the hike along the Connoquenessing, North of Evans City, with Dave Porterfield. More trillium and other wild flowers, a nudist colony, and plenty of woods. Fill your canteens with unchlorinated water from Dave's spring. Hiking shoes, lunch and about \$1.40.
- May 8-9-10 TRIPLE FEATURE WEEKEND - Come to a weekend in Coopers Rocks State Park, West Virginia; stay overnight in our hostel. Select your favorite activity: HIKING, CLIMBING OR CANOEING. Reserve food and bed with Eb Moll, (441-0226) now. Cost about \$9.00, deposit \$5.00. Canoeing will be led by Don Hoecker, (243-8298); Climbing will be led by John Henry, (265-3761); and Hiking will be led by Eb or a deputy!
- April
SUN 5th KITE FLYING - It's the fifth annual Kite Flying trip! Meet at the hostel at 1:00 P.M. with your kite and plenty of string. "High Tea" (food?) will be provided on the field. Cost about \$1.50 for meal. Please reserve in advance with Cathy Lynch- 361-3707.

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

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