



HOSTELLING
INTERNATIONAL

GOLDEN TRIANGLE

American Youth Hostels, Pittsburgh Council

Hostelling International, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping all people, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through hostelling.

VOLUME 44, NUMBER 1 & 2

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1994

Welcome!

Hostelling International has always been known as an inexpensive, unique way to travel. But did you know how much your membership card is really worth?

Hostelling International is a worldwide network of volunteers and staff whose mission is to enable you to travel exactly the way you want.

Benefits include:

*access to 6,000 hostels in 70 countries

*a free guidebook of all the hostels in Canada and the United States

*the IBN global computer network which lets you reserve a bed at any of 70 major international hostels up to six months in advance

*hundreds of discounts from 5-45% off food, transportation, equipment attractions and entertainment

*39 councils provide programs and fun activities for hostellers at the local level such as sailing, cycling, wildlife treks, theater trips and planetarium visits.

But the most important benefit is the hostelling experience. Take a walking tour of Washington, DC, or the Amalfi coast, a guided trek in a tropical rainforest or Redwood

National Park, stay on a Native American reservation, climb Mount Monadnock or visit Sri Lanka. You'll be meeting hostellers from all over the world and making friends.

Whether you're staying in the states or traveling overseas, we hope we'll see you hostelling around.

GETTING YOUR SEA LEGS

One of Europe's most unusual hostels is the af Chapman, moored on a small island in the center of Stockholm's elite hotel district. This fullrigger ship, built in England 105 years ago, spent her early days as sea carrying freight for the British, and then the Norwegians. Purchased and renamed by Swedish interests in 1915, she became a naval training ship - and later a reception depot for marines - until the end of the Second World War.

When the Navy put the ship up for sale after the war, the Swedish Touring Club (STF) convinced the city of Stockholm to buy what is now one of the last fullriggers in Sweden. Soon after, the city offered the club - which desperately needed hostel space in Stockholm - use of the vessel. Opened in 1949, the af Chapman has been filled with hostellers from all over the globe ever since.

The wooden interior of this floating hostel has been restored, and memorabilia from its marine past decorates some of the rooms. Guests have a choice of single or shared accommodations, each with its own porthole window. Wherever you stow away your gear, a favorite pastime is to climb the circular staircase up to the cabin on top of the boat. There, you can sit and watch the King's Palace as boats cruise by, or mingle with the landlubbers who come to see one of Stockholm's favorite tourist attractions.

Accommodation: Open from April 2 to December 12, the af Chapman has 136 beds available. If you're out on the town, you don't have to worry - the hostel doesn't pull up the gangplank till 2 a.m. You can get light meals on board and no groups are accepted between June 15 and September 15.

This is a very popular hostel, and advance booking is absolutely essential. Write to: STF Vandrarhem af Chapman, Skeppsholmen, 111 49 Stockholm, Sweden; telephone 08/6795015, fax 08/6117155.

AYH: A vision for the year 2006

Preface

Exposure to the wonders and diversity of the world is fundamental to the personal growth of every human being. Knowledge of diverse cultures and traditions, history and geography, empowers us as citizens of the world.

Travel promotes personal growth, cultural awareness and self-reliance. Whether in the country or the city, for a day or a year, travelling simply with an openness to the people and places around us can increase our understanding of and respect for cultural and ecological diversity, thereby contributing to a better world for all.

Mission

To help all, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through hostelling.

Hostelling is educational travel, local and global, using programs and hostels to facilitate interaction between travellers and community members and to promote discovery of ourselves, local cultures and the world.

see VISION, page 11

Traveling the Green Way



You can actively, easily and cheaply contribute to the conservation of the environment while traveling.

HI's in-hostel environmental certification program is based on waste reduction, water conservation, energy conservation and non-toxic product usage. Hostels that earn HI's "Sustainable Living Center" certification will, for example, recycle, install low-flow water systems, install fluorescent lighting and use products that do not harm the environment either by their content or packaging. That's just a small sample of the ways hostels will be helping to sustain life on earth. They'll even lend you a tote to carry groceries.

So, next time you visit a "Sustainable Living Center" hostel, know that you're helping save the environment.

Look in your 1994 Hostelling North America guidebook for details.

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.....And MORE!!!

AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS

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HOSTELLING

Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels, Inc.
Serving Western Pennsylvania & West Virginia Pan Handle
Since 1948, Incorporated 1955

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Oops...

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

Letters...

[Letters to the editor are welcome. Letters will be edited to conserve space when necessary. Letters are published at the discretion of the editor.]

Mail regarding this Newsletter should be addressed to:

The Golden Triangle
5604 Solway ST.
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Office: (412) 422-2282

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Dave Casassa	963-1869
Ray Yutzy	341-5682
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Cliff Ham	687-4520
Rafting	
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Rock Climbing	
Eric Bauer	687-0766
Sailing	
Joel Hough	371-4986
Bob Zavos	241-0659
Sea Kayaking	
Mark Mistrik	647-7609

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Vicki Krug	361-4386
Trail Systems	
Glenn Oster	364-2864
Jim Ritchie	828-0210
Headquarters Programs	
Tom Rodgers	621-6310
Chris Kline	441-7352
Storekeeper	
Wm Eberle	833-9732

The following positions are currently open and we are in need of responsible people to fill them. If you are interested please call Jon Maiman at 441-2306.

Caving, Volleyball coordinator,
Ast. Store Keeper, HQ Volunteers

NOTICE

Please note the deadlines for future issues of the **GOLDEN TRIANGLE**

MARCH
All copy, February 3
Binding/Mailing, Feb 24

APRIL
All copy, March 3
Binding/Mailing, Mar 24

If your work is on computer,
Please contact Bill Eberle
@ 833-9732
or
Larry Laude @ 665-9554

Moving?

If you move, or have any subscription problems, please notify us right away. Returned mail costs 52 cents for each piece, so we can save money if you let us know about any changes in your address. You can also phone in changes to the office at (412) 422-2282.

About AYH

American Youth Hostels is a non-profit organization which promotes international understanding, educational and recreational travel, good citizenship and an appreciation of America. AYH does this by bringing travelers of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities together in hostels and by providing low-cost travel programs. AYH is the US affiliate of Hostelling International (HI), [Formerly named International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF)], which coordinates more than 5,400 hostels worldwide—the largest network of accommodations in the world.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings and Happy New Year! Since this is the first column I've gotten to do since the National Council meeting last November, I will give you my impressions of the meeting (Bill asked me to do this). Well, to be honest, I don't really have many impressions of that meeting. It was one of the quietest National Council meeting I've ever attended. One very important thing that happened, though, was the quiet passage of the vision statement of the Strategic Plan. This vision statement is the culmination of a years worth of work by a committee made up of many people from all facets of AYH. I have asked Bill to include the full text here in the newsletter for all to ponder. What is important about it is that it brings into sharper focus what it is that Hostelling International American Youth Hostels is trying to achieve. It is not exactly the perfect distillation that I and others would like to see (for example, one perfect sentence) but it is a clearer picture than we've had before.

Happy Hostelling

Marianne Kasica

January Slide Shows

Jan 6th The Steps of Marco Polo: Trekking across the PAMIR MTS. of Central Asia by Walter Vox

Jan 13th Tripping through the scenery and culture of Japan with the ASIA-AMERICA CLUB

Jan 20th The Queen Charlotte Islands of Canada on board Sea Kayaks by Cliff and Marilyn Ham

Jan 27th Louise Saylor, 2 year Peace Corps vet in Honduras The Beauty, culture and her efforts in that country

To Schedule a show or have a show idea call
TOM RODGERS 621-6310

February Slide Shows

Feb 3rd Call 621-6310 after Jan 22nd, for recorded details.

Feb 10th Bicycling around Nova Scotia, Canada: Its the "best place to bike in the world". according to Cliff and Marilyn Ham.

Feb 17th Live music and a "taped" campfire: with AYH struggling musicians Ron Boone and Teresa "Terry" Tyler.

Feb 24th Newsletter Prep night. Socialize as we get the word out. Join us for a beverage or light meal at a nearby Eatery afterwards.

To Schedule a show or have a show idea call
TOM RODGERS 621-6310

Pittsburgh Council Hostels

Ohiopyle AYH Hostel
Ohiopyle State Park
PO Box 99
Ohiopyle, PA 151470
(412) 329-4476

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

Charleroi Youth Hostel (SA)
Rego's Hotel and Restaurant
601 McKean Avenue
Charleroi, PA 15022
(412) 483-6200



OHIOPYLE HOSTEL UPDATE

Thanks Sue!!!

Sue Moore has devoted many years at Ohiopyle Hostel as host manger. Her children have grown and moved on but the hostellers have kept on coming. Sue will be ending her tenure as manager as of January 15th. We would very much like to thank her for her dedication and many years of service to the Pittsburgh Council. We really and truly appreciate your efforts and keep in touch, Sue. We'll probably see her on those rivers in West Virginia more often.



Bob Utz arrives

Thanks Sue!!!

Thanks Sue!!!

IBN: International Booking Network

Now you can reserve your bed quickly and easily in advance! The new computerized International Booking Network (IBN), developed specifically for **Hostelling International**, allows you to make instant reservations at 70 major gateway hostels around the world.

1. How can I get in touch with the IBN?

Visit one of the reservation centers located in the following cities: Boston, Los Angeles (Santa Monica), Miami Beach, Montreal, New York City, Ottawa, San Francisco, Seattle, Toronto, Washington, DC, or Vancouver, or call Hostelling International at (202)783-6161.

2. How do I pay?

If making reservations from one of the hostel centers, you may pay with cash or Visa or MasterCard. If reservations are made by calling HI, only a Visa or MasterCard will be accepted. There is a fee of \$2 per booking (this may include up to nine people).

3. How far in advance do I need to make reservations?

You'll need to book your reservation at least 48 hours in advance, except for Japan, which requires seven days notice. You may make reservations up to six months in advance.

Help out at Ohiopyle

We need to move some Materials/furniture to Ohiopyle and within Ohiopyle. If anyone can help out, has a truck to move some furniture and other items, etc., I would be grateful for your assistance. I do not have a date as yet but would plan for Dec. 29 to 31st or preferably Jan. 2nd or possibly Sat, Jan. 15th at the latest. Please call Linda at 531-1868 to offer your assistance.

OHIOPYLE HOSTEL WORK PARTY

Thanks to Donald Smith, Theresa Tyler and Linda Smithyman who helped out at Ohiopyle on November 14th to do last minute work.

Thanks Again!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

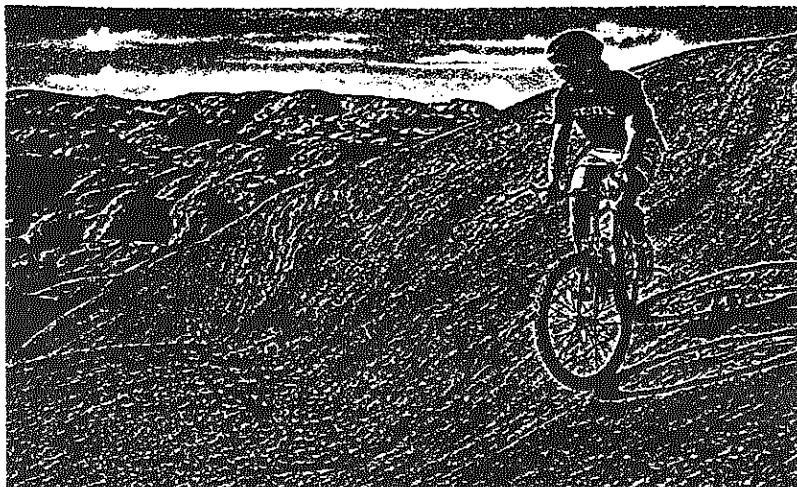
- *Mon Valley Century (Chuck and Lynn Ejzak, 466-6196)
- *SABRE (Bill Eberle, 833-9732)
- *Typing articles for the newsletter into a computer (Bill Eberle, 833-9732)
- *Hostel development and fund-raising (Marianne Kasica, 665-9554)
- *Ohiopyle hostel support and work parties (Linda Smithyman, 531-1868)
- *Travel and Hostel Editor for the newsletter (Larry Laude, 665-9554)
- *Answering questions at the council office (Joe Hoechner, 422-2282)
- *Leading Pittsburgh Council trips (Jon Maiman, 441-2306)
- *Scouting trails for the next Hiking Guide (Joe Hoechner, 422-2282)
- *Slide shows at the Thursday Open House (office, 422-2282)
- "Trail Maintenance, Baker Trail and Rachel Carson Trail (Jim Ritchie, 828-0210)"

Volunteer Opportunity of the Month!

Join Joe Hoechner for a few hours at Monroeville Mall on Sat Feb 26th at the Boy Scout Expo. AYH will have a tabletop booth to hand out Hostel info. If you can spare a few hours (No snow anyway!) call Joe at 242-0781. Thanks!



Take The High Road Off-Road.



For your convenience,
TRM has 2 locations:

703 Washington Road
2 miles north of South Hills
Village on Route 19
Mt. Lebanon

343-6885

Bill Green Shopping
Center
Across from Pool City
Pleasant Hills

653-6022

TREK USA
American Bicycle Technology

AYH Membership Agencies

Pittsburgh Council AYH has established almost 20 agency locations in Western PA and Northern WV when you can renew your membership or buy new memberships on the spot.

We are also looking to establish sales outlets in areas of our jurisdiction that don't have nearby agencies such as Wheeling WV, California PA, Altoona, Johnstown, Warren and perhaps Somerset.

Pittsburgh Area

PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
6300 Fifth Ave, Pgh, PA 15232
412-362-8181
(Thursday evenings only)

PITTSBURGH COUNCIL (office)
Room 204 Wightman School
5604 Solway St Room 204
Pittsburgh PA 15217
412-422-2282
(Mon,Wed, Fri 9am to 3pm)

FORUM TRAVEL
4608 Winthrop St, Pgh PA 15213
412-681-4099

ATLAS TRAVEL SERVICE
Kaufmann's
400 Fifth Ave, Pgh PA 15219
412-261-0248

SEWICKLEY TRAVEL
519 Broad St, Sewickley PA 15143
412-741-9565

GATEWAY TRAVEL
6507 Wilkins Ave Suite 105
Pittsburgh PA 15217
412-661-2600

PLEASE CALL PGH-AYH
AT 412-422-2282 FOR
OUR
3 STATE COLLEGE PA
LOCATIONS

Pittsburgh AYH is accepting pledges and donations for the Firehouse Hostel.

Although the Building, Located at 344 Boulevard of the Allies, is not Ours yet, we hope that the sale will be approved by City Council.

Our Fundraising efforts are escalating to foundations and will include corporations as well. If any member is involved or knows of someone involved with these groups we would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to let us know. Having a contact person really helps to get some attention. We need to raise a ton of money for this building and we need all the help that we can get

Thanks for your interest and help.

Clip out the coupon below and make your pledge today.

Yes, I would like to make a pledge of support for a Hostel in Pittsburgh in the amount of:

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

Yes, I can also volunteer my time for:

- Fundraising
- Architecture or Design
- Construction
- Public Relations
- Clerical help
- other: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Mail your Pledge to:

AYH

Pittsburgh Hostel Fund
5604 Solway St.; Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412-422-2282

Pennsylvania

LENZ TRAVEL SERVICES
140 South Main Street
Slippery Rock, PA 16057
412-794-4833

MCMULLEN TRAVEL & TOURS
224 S Broad Street
Grove City, PA 16127
412-458-6170

AAA WORLD TRAVEL
1169 Wayne Avenue
PO box 1018
Indiana PA 15701
412-349-4193

OHIOPYLE AYH-HOSTEL
Ferncliff Road
PO Box 99
Ohiopyle, PA 15470
412-329-4476

REGO'S HOTEL (hostel)
601 McKean Avenue
Charleroi, PA 15022
412-483-6200

EDINBORO TRAVEL SERVICE
122 Erie Street
Edinboro, PA 16412
814-734-1639

LIVING WATERS AYH-HOSTEL
RD #1 (1 mile west on route 30)
Schellsburg, PA 15559
814-733-4607

Travel Service Inc
204 West 6TH Street
Erie PA 16507
(814-453-4994)

West Virginia

WVU OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTER
Mountain Lair Student Union
Morgantown, WV 26506
304-293-2203

MORGANTOWN Travel SERVICE
127 High Street
Morgantown, WV 26505
304-292-8471

In with the New..... Out with the Old.....



Hostelling International, Has 6,000 hostels in 70 countries, and for years these 70 different Hostel federations have been using their own distinct logo to represent their country. These different logos, while all being sharp and artistic in their own right, have been causing a great deal of confusion for international travelers. When arriving in a strange country for the first time, a hosteller would need to figure out what was the symbol for that country (not always an easy task). With a great deal of "clone" competition, a hosteller could end up staying at a hostel that was not part of "HI". This fake hostel might not live up to the strict licensing rules and regs of "HI" and therefore place the hosteler at undo risk; For that reason Hostelling International has come up with one and only one logo that will be recognized world wide. Hostelling International, accept no substitution!!!



PLANNED GIVING PART IV LIFE INSURANCE GIFTS TO AYH

by Joe Hoechner

Sometime you may reach a point where life insurance no longer has the financial significance for your family that it once did. In that case, you may wish to make a gift of the policy to Pittsburgh AYH.

There are two ways to do this. You may make AYH the owner of the policy. This allows you an immediate income tax deduction. If the policy is fully paid up, your deduction is equal to the replacement value of the policy, unless that value exceeds the tax or cost basis. In this latter case, the deduction is limited to the tax basis. If premiums remain to be paid, the deduction is approximately equal to the cash surrender value. If you continue to pay the premiums on such policies, you will be entitled to a charitable contribution deduction up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income. Or you may wish to contribute the amount of the premiums to AYH; we, in turn, could pay the premiums. As long as we are not under any obligation to pay the premiums, you will be entitled to a charitable contribution deduction up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income.

You also may name Pittsburgh Council AYH as the beneficiary of your policy. Since the designation is not irrevocable, it cannot be counted for any immediate tax savings. However, at your death, your executor may take a federal estate tax charitable deduction for the entire amount.

Example: Years ago, Mr. Dabney named his daughter the beneficiary of a \$40,000 whole life policy. Now, he wishes to donate the policy to AYH. The present value of the gift (policy) is \$20,000 and the annual premiums are \$1,600. Having assigned the policy to us, Mr. Dabney is entitled to take a charitable contribution deduction of \$20,000. Because he continues to make the premium payments, he may also deduct the \$1,600 each year. In addition, the \$40,000 face value of the policy is removed from his estate.

Life insurance interacts well with other gift mechanisms. For instance, you can use all or part of your trust or annuity income to establish an irrevocable life insurance trust. The trust could purchase insurance on your life - perhaps in an amount equal to the charitable gift - and you could name a spouse or a child as the beneficiary. This way, you can make a charitable gift and replace the assets with life insurance for the benefit of a loved one.

Alternatively, you could take all or a portion of the income for a set term of years and purchase a universal life insurance policy naming a family member as beneficiary. This is another excellent way to replace the wealth transferred to the Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels.

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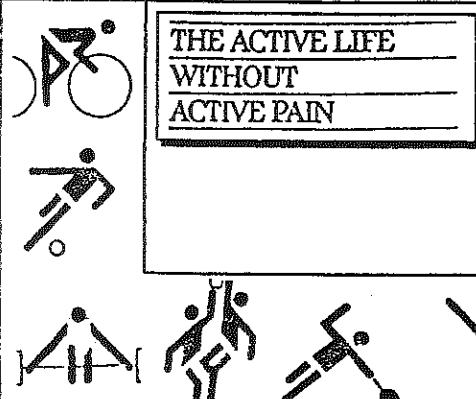
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Line 11C or 19C to the Wild
Resource Conservation Fund
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Wild Resource Conservation Fund
P.O. Box 1467
Room 101, 3rd & Rely Streets
Harrisburg, PA 17105-1467



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Winter Fling: Hostels in the Sun and Snow

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Orlando, FL
St. Augustine, FL
Honolulu, HI
New Orleans, LA
Silver City, NM
Truth or Consequences, NM
Austin, TX
El Paso, TX
Houston, TX
Padre Island National Seashore, TX
San Antonio, TX

HI Skiing Destinations

Anchorage, AK
Crowley Lake, CA
Breckenridge, CO
Glenwood Springs, CO
Pitkin, CO
Silverthorne, CO
Winter Park, CO
Gooding, ID
Kellogg, ID
Naples, ID
Peterborough, NH
Taos, NM
Syracuse, NY
Ashland, OR
Bend, OR
Poconos, PA
Schellsburg, PA
Ludlow, VT
Bellingham, WA
Jackson Hole, WY

Check Hostelling North America
for details on these vacation spots
and 13 additional hostels specializing
in cross-country and down-
hill skiing.

BOOKSTORES WANTED!

Pittsburgh AYH is always
looking for new outlets for
our small collection of
outdoor guidebooks.

If you live in areas such as Warren, St. Mary's, Altoona, Erie, Kane, Indiana, Bradford, Brockway, Punxsutawney, PA or maybe Wheeling or Morgantown, W.V. you can help us find new stores.

If your town has a local bookstore that has a section with "Outdoors" please let us know. Don't forget local outfitters also that sell guidebooks.

Send in your "lead" to: AYH Publications, 5604 Solway Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

The office staff will then send out the appropriate sales information to the shop. Don't forget to include the complete address including zip code. Thanks.

The Sights, Sounds and Scene in Santa Monica

By Valerie Roth
(with contributions from Rose Colby, Santa Monica Hostel Manager)

Over the past ten years, Santa Monica has become the hippest neighborhood in Los Angeles. The combination of warm, sunny beaches, trendy restaurants and alternative shopping spots has made this beach resort a must-see for the backpacker. You'll enjoy the California "free-living feel" that Santa Monica exudes and, for your convenience, there is an AYH-Hostel located right in the center of town so you won't ever miss out on the action.

Santa Monica still has the feel of the 1950's beach resort, with its Art Deco hotels, renovated Victorian homes, and seaside condos with a Mediterranean flavor. The people of Santa Monica take great pride in the history and the future of their city; development is kept at a minimum. No high-rise hotels on the beach here! The Santa Monica Pier is a colorful and popular spot with lots of fresh seafood stalls, pizza joints, a game arcade and, in the spring and summer, a carnival that takes over half the pier! And don't forget to see the famous Carousel that was featured in the 70's film, "The Sting".

The gem of Santa Monica is the newly-developed Third Street Promenade, an outdoor pedestrian mall between Broadway and Wilshire in downtown Santa Monica. Only one block from the Hostel, this area offers three large movie theaters, 55 restaurants, seven bookstores, many funky shops, dance clubs and cafes. On the weekends, Third Street becomes a carnival of performers from blues guitarists to Russian folk musicians, magicians to stunt artists. There's also a hip coffeehouse, Congo Square, which was inspired by the beat-generation coffeehouses of the 50's. There you can relax, sip cappuccino while sitting on some of the "vintage" furniture, and absorb the vibes coming from the smoky tables of artists and students. If you're lucky, you might be there on a night with a live performance featuring music from India, Latin America, Brazil or straight-up American jazz.

If you feel like doing a little shopping as an alternative to the beach, Santa Monica is certainly not lacking. Head up to the Third Street Promenade again for a diversity of souvenirs and wacky gift items. Santa Monica Place, a newly-developed indoor mall spanning three blocks of the city, is another option. Or look for the Santa Monica Farmer's Market if you are in the area on Wednesdays from 10 am to 3 pm. This impressive open-air market offers a multitude of fresh vegetables, fruits, flowers, and seafood — more than enough to provide a hearty meal for the hungriest backpacker.

For those who want to look at the upscale scene, head over to Montana Avenue. Spend a few hours window shopping at the artsy boutiques and stop for lunch at one of the trendy cafes. Be on the lookout for famous faces too, as many well-known television and movie stars have homes right off Montana Avenue!

Get out and explore the coastline near Santa Monica. Rent a bike or rollerskates right at the beach and head out the lively Venice Beach, about a mile from the Santa Monica Pier. People-watching takes on new meaning as you cruise the Ocean Front Walk in Venice. Local comedians entertain the masses, but lookout for jugglers throwing chainsaws!

There are great bargains to be found as well on sunglasses, T-shirts, and local souvenirs. Stay on the bike path and pass through the beach communities of Marina Del Ray, Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach. Forty miles later, you end up at the lovely Redondo Beach, only another five miles to the Los Angeles International Hostel at San Pedro.

Getting to the Santa Monica International AYH-Hostel from Los

see SANTA, page 10

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bike
shop**

very complete selection of parts, accessories, helmets, and clothing
Fit Kit sizing - Wheelsmith spoke computer - complete frame prep

with over 20 years experience serving Western Pa. cyclists

* 10% off all non-sale items to A.Y.H. membership *

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Klein - Diamond Back - Frames

Burley Tandems and Trailers

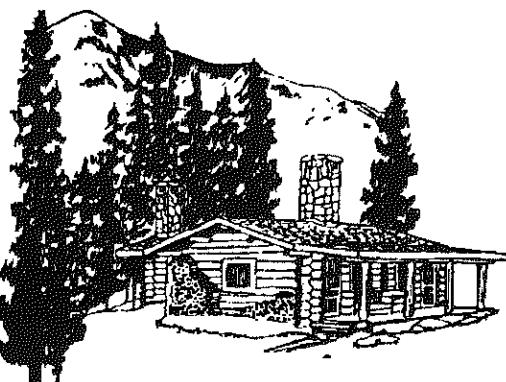
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING (NORDIC SKIING)

* Cross-country ski trips leave the AYH headquarters at 8:30 am, unless otherwise indicated.

* Believe in snow

* Contact the trip leader for details on his trip.

Jan 1 Sat	Happy New Year!	Go on Linda's Hike
Jan 2 Sun	Pat Rossi	335-5067 ALL
Jan 8 Sat	Brian McBane	443-8972 INT
Jan 9 Sun	Joe/Cheryl Hoechner	242-0781 ALL
Jan 15 Sat	Norm Snyder	351-4068 INT
Jan 16 Sun	Linda Smithyman	531-1868 ALL
Jan 22 Sat	Judy Menosky	242-1573 ALL
Jan 23 Sun	Steve Tubbs	279-4866 ALL
Jan 29 Sat	Tom Kaveney	276-8044 ALL
Jan 30 Sun	Gordon Bugby	371-4233
		Instructive for the beginner, Call before 10pm
Feb 5 Sat	Blanche Asherman	828-8158 INT
Feb 6 Sun	Chuck/Lynn Ejzak	466-6196 ALL
Feb 12 Sat	Steve Tubbs	279-4866 ALL
Feb 13 Sun	Joe/Cheryl Hoechner	242-0781 ALL
Feb 19 Sat	Norm Syder	351-4068 INT
Feb 20 Sun	Jim Ritchie	Hike/Ski, see hiking trips
Feb 26 Sat	Jeff Marsh	384-7827 ALL
Feb 27 Sun	Linda Smithyman	531-1868 ALL (hiker/skier)

**CROSS-COUNTRY
SKI WEEKENDS
WILDERNESS LODGE**

January 28-30 1994
February 4-6 1994
February 18-20 1994

If you like your lodging intimate and rustic, and your ski trails tracked and groomed, these weekends in the Erie snow belt near the New York border are for you. Nansi Janes' Wilderness Lodge has been a perennial favorite of AYH cross-country skiers who enjoy the miles of groomed trails. Peek'n Peak is also nearby (within skiing distance) for the enjoyment of the down-hill skiers. After skiing, come warm up by the fire with a glass of your favorite beverage.

The cost of the weekend includes Friday and Saturday night lodging and a delicious candlelight family-style dinner Saturday evening. A vegetarian meal is available upon request. Breakfasts and lunches are available at the lodge at an additional but reasonable cost. The rooms are mostly hostel style accommodations with 3 to 6 people in a room, but there are three double rooms available as well for the first two weekends only. Space is strictly limited to 36 persons for the first two weekends and 32 persons for the third weekend. We will reserve entire rooms for you and your friends if you wish. The cost of the weekend does not include transportation, but we will try to assist with car pooling.

The cost: \$50 per person for the weekend for AYH members (\$60 for non-members). Three private rooms with a double bed are available for \$120 for the weekend for AYH members (\$140 for non-members). Trail use is \$5 per day. Please be prepared to purchase trail tickets at the lodge.

How to reserve: Call Helen Coyne at the AYH office at 412-422-2282 to make reservations for the weekend you want, then send a check made payable to Pittsburgh AYH for the full amount. Please reserve early. These trips fill up fast! We will also keep a waiting list in case there are any cancellations.

Please note: There will be no refunds after 21 days before each trip unless we get a replacement for you. In any case, however, we will keep a \$10 processing fee.

Name: _____

AYH Pass # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

I would like to reserve the weekend of the _____

If my primary choice is full please reserve the _____

Enclosed is a check for \$_____

[] I am driving and can take _____ passengers.

[] I need help find a ride.

[] I will drive and meet the group at Wilderness Lodge

HIKING / BACKPACKING

January 1 Sat Linda Smithyman 531-1868
5th Annual New Year's Day Hike in Frick Park. Possibly 4 miles. Meet at HQ at 10:00 am. Anyone who wants to can accompany me to brunch afterwards at a nearby restaurant. We walk regardless of rain, snow, sleet or hail and have been lucky with the weather the last 4 years.

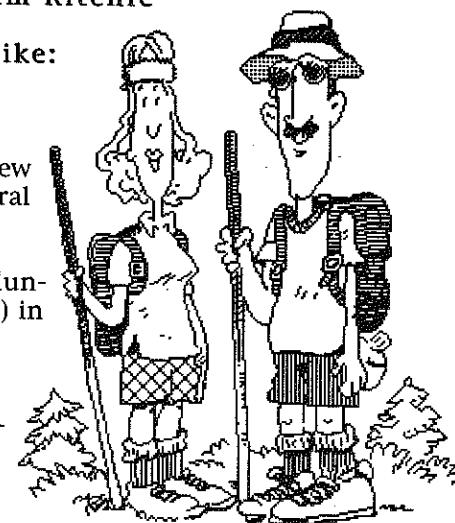
January 2 Sun Jim Ritchie 828-0210
Deer Lakes County Park. This is a half day hike exploring Deer Lakes County Park near Russelton. We will follow any trails we find. Meets at the Riverview High School parking lot next to the Hulton Bridge in Oakmont at 8:00 am. Expect to be back to your car by 12:00 noon. Call for info/reservations.

January 8 Sat Glenn Oster 364-2864
Hike the North County National Scenic Trail in Moraine State Park. Enjoy this 14 mile segment of the trail from the bicycle concession to Jennings Nature Reserve. We are indeed fortunate to have this important trail so close to Pittsburgh. Call for info/reservations

January 9 Sun Jim Ritchie 828-0210

Baker Trail Maintenance Hike:
Mahoning Reservoir Area.

We're going to go up again and finish the job we started in November. We need a chain saw crew for some heavy cutting and several others to handle weedwackers (manual), bowsaws, and loppers. Limit will be two carloads of volunteers. Dinner (or coffee and pie) in Dayton afterwards. Meet at 8:00 am in the Ames parking lot in Harmarville, next to Integra Bank. Call Jim for info/reservations.



January 14-16 Fri-Sun Glenn Oster 364-2864

Backpack the North County Trail in Allegheny National Forest. Follow the Trail over the gentle terrain from Dunham Siding to Kelletville. If there is deep snow, we'll camp in the area and cross country ski. Call for info/reservations

January 15 Sat Veronique Schreurs 733-1741

Duff Park. This will be an easy hike of about 4 miles, but will have several hills to climb. Meets at 1:00 pm in the parking lot at the School Road entrance to Duff Park in Murrysville. Please call Veronique for more information, directions, and reservations.

January 22 Sat Tom Kaveney 276-8044

Bear Run. An easy to intermediate hike, around 8 miles, on the loop trail on the east side of the road. This hike will be canceled if the trails are adequate for cross country skiing. Meets at 8:30 am at HQ in Mellon Park. Call Tom for a definite reservation.

February 12 Sat Veronique Schreurs 733-1741

Duff Park. Easy hike, about 4 miles, but there will be several hills to climb. Meets at 1:00 pm in the parking lot at the School Road entrance to Duff Park in Murrysville. Please call Veronique for more information, directions, and reservations.

February 20 Sun Jim Ritchie 828-0210

Boyce Park. This is another half day hike, this time exploring Boyce Park near Monroeville. We will do the 3 mile circuit hike of the civilized half of the park and then we will explore the uncivilized half in bushwack fashion if necessary. Meet at 1:00 pm in front of the Four Seasons Ski Lodge in Boyce Park at 1:00 pm. Expect to be back in your car at 4:00 pm.

February 26 Sat Jim Ritchie 828-0210

Baker Trail, Maintenance and Inspection: Armstrong County. Need one carload of helpers to go on a combination trail maintenance and inspection trip on the Baker Trail, this time from the Cochran's Mill Shelter near Crooked Creek to the Idaho Shelter (near Idaho). We'll carry some tools, clear a little trail, paint blazes if possible, and visit landowners when need be. Ride in the car when the Trail follows roads, walk in the woods when it doesn't. Meets at the Riverview High School parking lot next to the Hulton Bridge in Oakmont at 9:00 am. Call for info/reservations.

February 27 Sat Linda Smithyman 531-1868

Possibly 4 miles somewhere. Meet at HQ at 10:00 am. If there is enough snow I'd rather go cross-country Skiing.

Student/Faculty

DISCOUNT

AIRFARES

TO

EUROPE

via British Airways

Forbes

Travel

521-7300

ADOPT-A-TRAIL

**ONLY 10 MORE PIECES
OF THE
RACHEL CARSON TRAIL REMAINING**

The response to the appeal for hikers to adopt sections of the Rachel Carson Trail and the Baker Trail, appearing in the November newsletter was overwhelming. Since that time, all five sections of the Rachel Carson Trail that were listed have been adopted and, also, two sections of the Baker Trail have been adopted as well.

For the Rachel Carson Trail, this means that the entire trailway from its trailhead north of Harrison Hills Park all the way to Bailey's Run Road in East Deer Township will be properly blazed, all the obvious trash along the Trail picked up, and bad patches of brambles and blowdown will be removed from the Trailway.

Volunteer TrailWorkers coming forth to help care for the Rachel Carson Trail include Diane Flannigan and Joan Pfiefer from the South Hills, Seid Waddell from Sarver, Michael Crawford and Jim Harris from Highland Park and the South Hills, and Don Smith from Irwin. Seid already went out and fixed up some major problems on a stretch in Harrison Township and within Harrison Hills Park, reblazing, spotting out some old misleading blazes and clearing out some brush.

On the Baker Trail, Sam Saccamango volunteered to keep up the first section of the Baker from Garver's Ferry to Godfrey and Elizabeth Sommer and her dad, from Indiana, PA (White Township) will maintain the section from the Idaho shelter all the way over to Route 422 near Shelocta.

If you would like to join the AYH TrailWorkers and adopt a piece of the Rachel Carson Trail, those listed below or any other, or the Baker Trail, please call Jim Ritchie at (412) 828-0210 or see him at the Thursday night Open House, 8 pm-10 pm at the AYH Headquarters in Mellon Park.

Remember, TrailWork is mostly pleasant, light-duty work: hike the trail twice a year, carrying a plastic garbage bag and picking up trash along the trail, repainting faded blazes along the route, and clearing patches of brambles or knotweed. For anything larger than that, you will call the TrailMaster to arrange for a volunteer work party to come out and assist you.

Section M6: Bailey's Run Road to Crawford Run Road, East Deer Township

Length: 1.5 miles

Notes: This section of the trail climbs out of Bailey's Run Hollow and passes through the wooded area skirting the Bailey Farm, an area teeming with wildlife: deer, raccoons, birds and wildflowers. After keeping to the high ground for nearly a mile, the Trail plunges precipitously into the valley of Crawford Run.

Section M7: Crawford Run Road to Springdale Hollow Road, East Deer and Springdale Townships

Length: 2.75 miles

Notes: The Trail makes a dramatic ascent up to high ground from Murray Hill Road and then roller-coasters its way past a small housing development and into a wooded area leading out onto a power line where the Trail parallels the Allegheny River far below the bluffs. Wonderful vistas, in and out of trees and fields.

Section M8: Springdale Hollow Road to Tawney Run Road, Springdale Township

Length: 2 miles

Notes: The Trail follows the power lines and pipelines on a roller coaster pathway from Freeport Road to Peterson's Nursery, skirts the Nursery property and then descends through a small wooded area to an old railroad grade near Tawney Run Road. We have seen many turtles, frogs, and harmless snakes along this stretch. This section includes a short spur trail to the Rachel Carson Homestead in Springdale.

Section M9: Tawney Run Road to Russellton Road, Springdale, Frazer, and Indiana Townships

Length: 2 miles

Notes: After following Yutes Run Road for half a mile, the Trail shoots steeply uphill to a world of upland meadows and beautiful vistas at an altitude of nearly 1300 feet, the ceiling of Allegheny County. Following is another dramatic plunge down to Deer Creek along Russellton Road near Rural Ridge. There is a short spur on the high ground to a wonderful vista overlooking the Allegheny River Valley.

Section M10: Russellton Road to Emmerling Park, Indiana Township

Length: 3 miles

Notes: Once again the Trail ascends one of its trademark hillsides, from 800 feet elevation at Deer Creek to nearly 1300 feet at the top of Rich Hill in Indiana Township. The Trail passes through a stand of old hemlocks, comes out at Cove Run Road near Emmerling Park.

When you volunteer to adopt a section of the Rachel Carson or Baker Trail, a time will be arranged with you for a trail maintenance orientation. The orientation consists of a guided walk along your trail section and instructions on blazing and clearing and other maintenance expectations.

BICYCLING (Road & Mountain)

All Sundays B Bill Eberle 833-9732
 Montour trail Fat-tire ride. Mountain Bikes a MUST. If not sure if your bike is right Give me a call. We will park at Cecil Park (Meet 10 am @ Park), and take a Ride on the Montour Trail, the Arrowhead trail, as well as some actual single track! We will be stopping at the Old-time Hendersonville shops plus other Snack spots along my route. Aprox. 27 miles. Int Pace. Please call to confirm. Ride will go if there is sufficient interest each week. Please call by each Friday for trip status.

March 22, 1994 Tue Bill Eberle 833-9732
 1994 Bicycle Planning Meeting. Come swap stories and make plans for our trip roster for 94. Special plans in the works. Check out March issue for more details

Ride Class: A - Adv. 60+ miles at a faster pace. (tend to be between ages 18 and 70). B - Intermediate, 30-60 miles, at a more aggressive pace. C - Easy, 15-30+ miles at an easy pace. D - Beginner. Short, easy rides for the family. AYH Members are given priority over nonmembers ,hurry limited space. Bicycle Helmets (ANSI or Snell approved) are required on all rides. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Participants are responsible for their own equipment.

MID-WEEK RAMBLES

January 5 Wed Cliff Ham 687-4520
 Ramble in Frick Park, probably in lower area and out to Braddock Avenue.

January 12 Wed Marilyn Ham 687-4520
 Walk from Fifth and Shady through Schenley Park to Ham's House, 3729 Parkview Avenue. Pot luck Lunch; bring a dish. Slides of Duck Hollow and the slag heap by Ilse Conley. Call to inform of presence and dish, (In case of snow or Ice, postpone to January 19.)

January 19 Wed Cliff/Marilyn Ham 687-4520
 Annual visit to Calvary Cemetery.

January 26 Wed Marilyn Ham 687-4520
 Our first exploration of the Borough of Carnegie. Magnificent churches, the Carnegie library, and other features.

February 2 Wed Cliff Ham 687-4520
 Walk in Highland Park; Last look at the remaining reservoir?

February 9 Wed Cliff Ham 687-4520
 St. Mary's Cemetery and part of Lawrenceville, the area close to Allegheny Cemetery.

February 16 Wed Cliff Ham 687-4520
 Lawrenceville Riverfront Trail, still in the planning phase; other historic parts.

February 23 Wed Cliff/Marilyn Ham 687-4520
 Linden School area.

Return visit to Carnegie Mellon University and that area. See the almost complete niches; look at Christmas decorations.

Notes for all Rambles: Meet in the upper parking lot near Headquarters at Fifth and Shady Avenues by 10 am.

* Trips are subject to change because of weather, conflicts of schedule, and choice of group. We will plan a walk in all kinds of weather; be prepared.

* Please share expenses of transportation when trips exceed ten miles. One dollar per passenger is suggested.

* Call the leader for further information about a trip or to inform the leader that you plan to attend. Call Cliff or Marilyn Ham, at 687-4520, for information. Do not call after 10 pm.

WINTER VACATION

**BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK, TEXAS
FEBRUARY 5-19, 1994**

Escape from Pennsylvania's bleak and dreary February weather, and experience the warmth and beauty of the desert in winter. Join Glenn Oster on a two week trip to visit this very special place - Big Bend National Park, Texas.

Hike the igneous Chisos Mountains and view the Rio Grande as it scours its way through solid rock in Santa Elena / Boquillas Canyons and separates Mexico from the USA. Count on seeing all manner of desert vegetation including century plants, sotol, cactus and more. May be lucky and see road runners (the "beep beep" type), coyotes, armadillos and peccary (wild, pig-like animals, also called javelinas). Nights should be chilly and the days mild - on balance, perfect for being out of doors.

Travel will be by van, camping each night. And on the way to Big Bend, we'll take time out to tour spectacular Mammoth Cave. Cost per person is estimated to be about \$300 plus meals.

Contact Glenn Oster for info/reservations. (412) 364-2864

FOOT NOTES

hiking and backpacking news

by Jim Ritchie

I got a letter from Thomas Brandon from Brookville, PA last week. Tom is a regular hiker on the part of the Baker Trail that passes through his area; Tom visited the Summerville Shelter in September this year and reports that it is in "good shape". Several efforts on his part to locate the whereabouts of the Corsica Shelter, a little bit more to the North, have been unsuccessful. Tom's is the third report I've had this year on the ill-fortune of the Corsica Shelter. Apparently, the road leading down to the shelter from the Trail is covered with dead-fall. Tom has a friend who says he knows where the shelter is located and promised to take him there in the spring. If it is there, and if work needs to be done, Tom promises to lead his scouts out there (he is a scoutmaster, too) and do what they can to spruce it up. Stay tuned for further news on the disappearing Corsica shelter.

For those of you unfamiliar with the Baker Trail shelters, there are nine of them between Garver's Ferry near Freeport and the Allegheny National Forest near Marienville. They are, in order from Pittsburgh, Schenley, Crooked Creek, Cochran's Mill, Idaho, Atwood, Mahoning (Jantz), Summerville, and Corsica. The shelters are Appalachian-style, enclosed on three sides with an overhanging roof on the front. All the shelters have a nearby source of water; most, at one time, had outhouses, but many of those are in disrepair (this is a wonderful trail maintenance project). Several had picnic tables on the site.

The 141-mile Baker Trail was built as a backpacking trail in the early

see FOOT, page 10

AND THE RAINS CAME (ON THE BAKER TRAIL)

by Jim Ritchie

On Saturday, November 27, six of your fellow AYHer's served the cause of good trails above and beyond the call of duty: Glenn Oster, Jim Ritchie, Helen Coyne, Mark and Vicki, Donald Smith, and Kirk Slater. That particular Saturday featured an all-day rain. Not only did it rain without respite, but as the day advanced it rained harder and harder. This crew worked

most of the day on a Baker Trail maintenance project in the vicinity of Mahoning Reservoir, just below the dam. Temperatures for the day warmed up to only around 45 degrees, no sun, and fortunately no wind.

The group split into two work parties, one party starting on the east end of the trail segment and the other on the west. The east end party was engaged mostly in whacking down a jungle of brambles, small saplings encroaching on the trail and several

see RAIN, page 11

YOSEMITE AND OTHER POINTS WEST

By Glenn Oster

(This is the third in a series of articles Glenn has written covering the sixteen day van tour which he and seven other Pittsburgh Council AYH members took to the far west in June. In this installment he tells of their adventures over the three day period after completing the backpacking portion of their trip.)

Of immediate importance were a shower and clean clothes - hmmmm good. Then came food canister return, lunch and more of Yosemite. Karl was especially interested in Yosemite Falls and everyone enjoyed watching the specks on the side of El Capitan which were, in fact, climbers, 2000 feet or more above us. What courage and skill this has to demand! To a non-climber such as I, this is, to use an overworked teen-age word, awesome. I've been there earlier in the morning and seen their hammocks attached to the sheer rock so far above. I marvel at the technology which has evolved that enables them to accomplish such a mind boggling feat. I've seen climbers approaching the top, nearly 3000 feet up, so small that they could only be seen through high powered binoculars, a testimony to human skill, strength and endurance.

In particular, I wanted to show the group the view from Glacier Point. From there we could see most of what's important - Half Dome in all its majesty, Nevada Falls, Vernal Falls, Liberty Cap, Yosemite Falls, El Capitan and the valley floor so far below. Lingering there was not destined to occur, however; a storm moved in and unleashed its fury on us. Its strong wind and rain drove us in a mad dash back to the van. We did get to see everything, but it would have been nice to absorb the views a while longer. We waited out the storm and then drove to Jerry's special interest, Mariposa Grove, a stand of monstrously large sequoia trees. Some of us hiked in to see Old Grizzly and his brothers and sisters. Without doing so consciously, you found yourself holding your breath. Mariposa included other large trees, probably Jeffrey pines, with cones measuring at least 15 inches long and 5 inches in diameter. The cones had matured to the point where they were parting company with their parent trees and dropping all over. One grazed a man's head some twenty

see OSTER, page 11

SEA-KAYAKING

Jan 21 Fri Vicki Gotaski 344-4929
Monthly Sea-kayaker's (and everybody else) dinner for January tonight. Vicki was napping when I called her for the newsletter submission and hadn't figured out which restaurant we're going to yet. Call to find out and to reserve, please. 6:00 pm in Shadyside or 6:30 pm at the restaurant (wherever that is).

Feb 2 Fri Diane Bialecki 885-1074(h)/624-3920(w)
Monthly Sea-kayaker's (and everybody else) dinner. This month we will have a dinner theater night on the town. We will start off with dinner at Khalil's in Oakland where they specialize in incredible Shish-Kabobs and fabulous middle eastern cuisine. We will then head over to the Pgh Playhouse for the award winning urban musical "Company". Tickets are \$16.00 for the play so call by Jan 15th to reserve, so our seats can be together. You also have the option of just coming for the dinner. Dinner at 6PM, show at 8PM. Call for info/reservations

Feb 12-13 Sat-Sun Mark Mistrik 647-7609
"ICE CASTLE EXTRAVAGANZA" Winter Weekend at Chautauqua Lake. See an ice castle constructed from blocks of ice cut from the lake, tour the unique town of Chautauqua, fill out the weekend with cross-country skiing in New York's Snowbelt, sightseeing thru Amish country, a possible winery tour, and a hike along Lake Erie's frozen shoreline before returning home. We'll decide upon overnight accommodations (NO CAMPING ON THIS ONE!) and trip particulars at the December Sea-kayaking's dinner (everyone welcome). Reservations "hoped for" before Jan 7th, 1994.

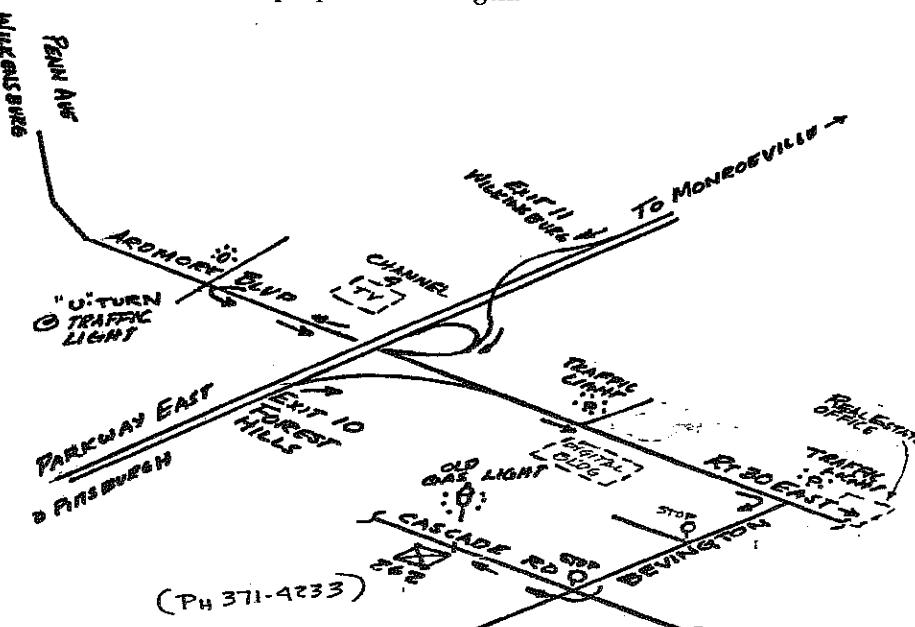
CANOEING

The AYH Canoeing Program offers a variety of paddling for a wide range of skill levels and interests. Western Pennsylvania offers canoeing on whitewaters of the mountains, to flowing rivers of the valleys, to lakes nestled in the rolling hills. The region abounds with canoeing opportunities suited to almost every taste. Most recreational canoeing in Western Pennsylvania is on moving-water rivers ranging from narrow creeks that are canoeable only after heavy rains to major rivers with year-round flow. They cover the complete spectrum from still through swift, from pristine through industrial, and from easy through difficult.

This program emphasizes open-canoeing paddling. Trips start in May. We use solo and tandem canoes having different designs and characteristics so paddlers can gain experience using equipment rented at a reasonable fee. Basic instruction on Wednesday evenings, weekend day trips on flat and whitewater, whitewater I & II schools, solo school, camping, river trips and exploring marshes are scheduled with the leader who qualifies you for their trip. Basic instruction is a pre requisite for whitewater paddling so be sure and take the class.

March 8 Canoe Program Planning Meeting
Tues 7:30 PM Jan/Gordon Bugby 371-4233

Anyone Interested in Canoeing activities is invited to Bugby's home for this planning meeting. We will discuss issues effecting canoeing, equipment maintenance and develop the SCHEDULE of classes and trips for the 1994 paddling season. We do allow enough time to enjoy Jan's food. Canoeists do need to keep up their strength.



Culture Club

Our next effort will take place on Sunday, January 9th. We will meet at 3:00 pm at AYH HQ. We will walk over to Clayton, the Henry Clay Frick mansion for a tour of the mansion, (\$5) gardens and classic autos. Dinner will be at a nearby restaurant or we will find some other interesting place to go. Please call ahead for details!

The February date will be Sunday the 13th. We will meet at 2:00 pm today at the Carnegie Museum front lobby in Oakland to see the "Viva Mexico" movie for \$6. At 4:15 pm we will take a short hike in Schenley Park or Phipps Conservatory and go to dinner afterwards (so eat lunch first).

The cost for the activities is strictly up to the choice made by the participants (what you pay for dinner is up to you). Everyone is welcome to join in for one or all activities. Please call Tom Rodgers at 621-6310 or Linda Smithyman at 531-1868 for additional details.

TRAVEL NEWS

by Laurie Bruns

Homestays Abroad

The Association to Promote Intercultural Relations (ASPIRE), a federation of organizations which offer homestay and language programs in Europe, Mexico, and South America, has just released information about their 1994 programs. Call 1-800-453-6802 for a copy.

Passport/Visa/Travel help...

Passport and visa information is available directly from the Department of State. Call 202-647-5225.

Passport photos will be taken free of charge for anyone booking their travel arrangements through A-1 Adventure Travel. Call 344-4845 for information.

Need a passport or a visa in a hurry? Visa Advisors in Washington, D.C. provides same day to 4+ day-service - for a fee. Contact them at 202-797-7976 for additional information.

If you need help in obtaining a copy of a birth certificate, Senator Mike Fisher's office can help. Call his district office at 831-9898.

The Center for Disease Control provides information on health warnings in particular countries as well as descriptions of various diseases. Call 404-332-4555.

The Department of State provides updated information on areas considered dangerous for travelers. Call 202-647-5225. Travel advisories are also available on-line through CompuServe, GO STATE.

Alaska Bound?

Planning a trip to Alaska this summer? If you want to book a cabin aboard the Alaska Marine Highway (Alaska Ferry), the time to act is now. Call 1-800-382-9229 for information, reservations, and ticketing for the entire system. Credit cards are accepted.

The AlaskaPass provides 8, 15, 22, or 30-day passes, or a 12/21 day or 21/45 day flexible pass. One pass allows unlimited travel on ferries, buses and trains throughout Alaska and the Yukon. Call 1-800-248-7598.

Budget Britain

Many universities in the UK offer accommodations during the summer, and some have rooms available during school holiday weeks. For a brochure, write to Carole Forman, General Secretary, British Universities Accommodation Consortium, Box 996 ATW, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, England.

Passes, passes, & more passes...to stretch sightseeing dollars in Europe, investigate the following:

The Great British Heritage Pass provides admission to more than 600 castles, gardens and other historical sites in England, Scotland and Wales. The Pass costs \$50 for 15 days. For information call 212-986-2200.

The Scandinavian cities of Copenhagen, Helsinki, Reykjavik, Oslo, and Stockholm issue travel cards for savings on public transportation, sightseeing tours, parking, and admission to museums and other attractions. The savings vary, depending on the city and the length of the pass. Call 212-949-2333 for more information.

Traveling with your bike

Bikes fly free on five major airlines if you are a member of the League of American Wheelmen. Annual membership fee for an individual is \$25, or for a family, \$30. Call 1-800-288-BIKE to join.

Maps, maps and more maps...

A free catalog of more than 2500 top map titles is available from MapLink, 25 E. Mason St., Dept. A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. Also available is a 330-page directory to more than 30,000 detailed maps from around the world (\$29.95).

Under the English Channel

Want to be among the earliest to take the new high-speed train from England to France through the Channel Tunnel? The official tunnel opening will take place on May 6, 1994, with a limited schedule of train service available for the summer, 1994. Write to EuroStar Reservation Center, BritRail Travel International, 1500 Broadway, 10th Floor, New York, New York 10036, for a "Reservations Request Number". These allocated numbers will be contacted before the reservations are opened to the general public.

WHERE THE ACTION IS

Most travellers visiting Europe end up in Amsterdam sooner or later, and the Dutch hostelling network (NJHC) has two great places for them to stay. The Stadsdoelen Hostel is right in the middle of the city, and the Vondelpark Youth Hostel is in the center of the action for hostellers who want to take in the sights.

Just outside the door of Vondelpark is the park of the same name, a favorite hang out for the younger crowd - especially on sunny summer days. And close by is the Leidseplein, center of Amsterdam's rip-roaring nightlife. Within easy walking distance are some of the city's best known museums. The Rijksmuseum, home to Rembrandt and other Dutch masters, has a free, short slide show on Dutch art every 20 minutes. Next door, the Van Gogh Museum is a user-friendly introduction to the artist's life and work; while the Stedelijk Modern Art Museum, one door over, is a fun-filled look at some of the art in this century.

Stadsdoelen Hostel is situated along one of the oldest canals in the heart of Amsterdam. It's close to Dam Square and the bustling city center with its busy shopping streets, clubs, and restaurants. The Leidseplein is also easily accessible from here.

Accommodation: Vondelpark Youth Hostel offers 300 beds and Stadsdoelen holds 184. Since this is one of the cities most visited by travellers to Europe, advanced booking is essential. Vondelpark is one of the European hostels that is hooked up to the new International Booking Network.

Both hostels have self-serve kitchens, and offer meals as well. They're easily accessible by bus or train from Schiphol airport and by subway (get off at Nieuwmarkt for Stadsdoelen) or trolley bus (nos. 1, 2, and 5 for Vondelpark). For booking information contact your nearest Hostelling International Canada office.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU**HOSTELS ARE A GREAT PLACE TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS WHEN YOU'RE AWAY FROM HOME.**

Hostellers and discounts store customers used to have a lot in common. They were both looking for products that were cheap. But travellers are realizing European hostels have a lot more to offer than low prices. With castles and monasteries to choose from - and a booking service that allows you to arrange for a room anywhere in the world - hostels have become an attractive alternative to more conventional accommodations.

Unlike the bunker-style hotel room that shields you from your fellow travellers, hostels are places to meet people and be thrown into activity. As Mike Adair, a Canadian student who has travelled all over Western and southern Europe says, "They get you involved. We were intermingling from room to room and you only knew these people maybe an hour."

Sharon Lebrun, another student who's been to Western and northern Europe, says she still keeps in contact with people she met in hostels. "I think one of the most attractive aspects of hostelling was just meeting the other people from around the world who were doing the same thing you were doing and interacting (with them)."

Gloria Jouppien has stopped over at hostels in England and Scotland. She still stays in touch with the people she met too; and she has fond memories of characters like the middle-aged fireman who reminded her of a Viking, and the group who lived like nomads. One time, she even bumped into an acquaintance from her own city. "We recognized each other but we didn't know from where," she recalls. "It's funny who you see."

Like their counterparts in Canada, European hostels have a relaxed attitude that lets you "come as you are." That's something Jouppien really appreciated. "When you travel, you look a mess and you feel uncomfortable if you go to a hotel," she explains. "You want a place where you can throw your stuff down and meet interesting people."

Adair was pleasantly surprised by a welcoming committee at the hostel in Corfu; they spent an hour telling him about the local sites. In Street, England, Jouppien's hostel manager made homemade apple cider and put on a barbecue in the back yard.

But today's hostels are more than a safe place to stay and meet others. Some offer sports such as canoeing, cycling, and whitewater rafting; at others, you can join a city tour, take in theatre events, go horseback riding, or even try ballooning. If you just want to hang out, most also have ping pong tables, with comfortable common lounges on the premises.

They're a great place to get to know what's going on too. While the staff can provide you with maps and information on activities in the area, other hostellers are usually happy to share tips as well. "We met a lot of people and that's where you found out where to go, where not to go," says Adair, adding that saved "a lot of time and hassle."

The kitchens and low-cost breakfasts are another feature that won Adair over. He says a meal at McDonald's can be as much as \$15 in some places, and being able to cook on the premises was a real plus.

Jouppien, on the other hand, liked the security. She appreciated being able to stash her valuables in the hostel safe when she wanted to go on a day trip. She was also impressed by a turn-of-the-century hostel she stayed in that was donated just to shelter people who were travelling. Like many hostels in England, she says, it doesn't turn away any women traveling alone.

And while the good value and community feeling of hostels hasn't changed much since the movement began in Germany in 1909, the accommodations have. In the last decade, many of the buildings in the European chain have been extensively renovated. To keep pace with the growing demand, they are now larger, with more rooms for couples and other small groups.

What more could you ask for?

(credit- "HI-CANADA")

SANTA, from 5

Angeles International Airport (LAX) is approximately a 30 minute ride on the local Santa Monica Bus Lines. Take the free LAX Shuttle Bus "C" from the lower level of the airport to the city bus terminal outside the airport. From the bus terminal pick up the #3 Santa Monica Bus for 50 cents. Ride to the corner of 4th Street and Broadway; the Hostel is two blocks west (towards the ocean) on Second Street.

From the Los Angeles Greyhound Station, take the RTD #60 going west on Seventh Street. At Seventh and Spring Street, transfer the RTD #33 (downtown Santa Monica). Ride to the corner of 2nd Street and Broadway; the Hostel is just 500 feet away! There is also a Greyhound Station in Santa Monica at 5th Street and Broadway — walking distance to the Hostel.

From the Amtrak Station in downtown Los Angeles, cross over to Los Angeles Street to find the RTD Bus Terminal. Take the #33 to downtown Santa Monica, getting off at 2nd and Broadway.

If you are traveling by car, the 10 Freeway West brings you to Santa Monica. Take the exit marked 4th and 5th Streets, go left on 4th Street, follow to Santa Monica Boulevard. At Santa Monica Boulevard, turn left and follow to 2nd Street. Left again on 2nd Street and the Hostel is on your right at 1436 2nd Street.

The Santa Monica International AYH-Hostel, a beautiful four-story building, celebrated its third anniversary this past April. As the newest link in urban hostelling, this modern facility — built around the historic Rapp Saloon — is within easy walking distance to all the attractions. The cost for members of the international youth hostels is \$14.00 plus tax per night for dorm rooms, non-members pay an extra \$3 per night. The Hostel also offers double rooms and smaller, more comfortable dorms for an extra fee. Reservations are accepted by telephone with a major credit card (MC/VISA) or may be mailed with a first night's deposit. RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY FOR APRIL till OCTOBER OR TO GUARANTEE SPECIAL ROOMS.

FOOT, from 8

1950's. While not used frequently as such today, it would be a great "discover America" odyssey to hike the length of the trail, from the bluffs over the Allegheny River, over hills and dales, through the Amish county around Armstrong and Indiana counties, continuing through rural Pennsylvania to Cook Forest and the ANF.

On another subject, I wanted to say a few things about trip leaders leading trips. Once in a while we hear about complaints on the part of trippers about their trip leader like "Why are we going this way?" or "The hike was too long" or "The shuttle took too much time" or "The trip leader shouldn't be allowed to bring a dog", etc. We sometimes forget that trip leaders are volunteers, doing something they enjoy tremendously (hiking, being outdoors) and are sharing that experience with others whose company (hopefully) they will enjoy as well. They are not being paid; there is no monetary compensation for leading trips. The main perks are that YOU get to go where YOU want to go and pretty much on YOUR terms. Now the leader does have an obligation to inform the trippers of any peculiarities or eccentricities for a trip; but beyond that the tripper should be supportive, let the leader have his or her fun, and contribute to a pleasant day. Most of the leaders are responsive to suggestions, anyway, so if you have one, let the leader know, but don't be critical or hostile.

On the subject of car-pooling, the Activities philosophy of AYH is based on the concept of low-cost and low-impact adventure. It is customary to organize into a minimal number of cars because parking at trailheads is often severely limited, and because carpools in its own little way contributes to the conservation of nonrenewable resources (gasoline, oil), and because it promotes the opportunities to meet and enjoy other people who share your interests in the outdoors, and because it reduces the risk exposure associated with long strings of cars following each other to some destination through traffic lights and along superhighways. Please help your trip leader accomplish these ends.

While hiking and backpacking are usually at a lull in the months of January and February, there are a full twelve opportunities for you to get out and challenge the cold weather. Perhaps the best kept secret around AYH is that hikers hardly ever get cold (at least as long as you keep moving). We do recommend you wear some sort of wicking underwear to keep the moisture away from your body, something like polypropylene fabrics; wear wool socks over polypro liners (for the same reason plus the wool will keep you warm even when it's wet); and wear a hat and gloves to keep your body heat from radiating away through your extremities. Dress in layers and if you wear jeans, wear something else to compensate for them such as polypro long john or a supplex nylon or gore-tex shell. These help retain body heat.

Hiking these months will consist of a number of half-day hikes in Allegheny County's county parks, Boyce and Deer Lakes, and Duff Park in Murraysville. Linda Smithyman wanted to know if she advertised her 5th Annual New Year's Day Hike in the New York Times and the Washington Post if she would break her standing record on number of trippers (n=29). We're not sure why she wants to break her record, but some have suggested she owns stock in Rhoda's Restaurant in Squirrel Hill, where Linda always seems to end up on New Year's Day.

Glenn (Oster) never quits hiking (or backpacking): he's going on a day hike in January, on an Allegheny National Forest/North Country Trail backpack later in January and to the Big Bend National Park (Texas—Rio Grande country) in February. Tom Kaveney goes to Ohiopyle country in January for a day hike at Bear Run (only if XC skiing is not possible—Tom doesn't want to ruin the trails, walking in them, if skiers are out making tracks, too).

Let Hostelling International-American Youth Hostels put your Ski plans in Focus

You can picture your next long weekend so clearly. There you are skiing down world-famous slopes at Taos, Silver Mountain, Winter Park, Killington, Stratton, Mount Pocono, Broken Top, or Aspen. Unfortunately, it's not as clear how you're going to pay resort prices on a shoestring budget.

Let Hostelling International-American Youth Hostels put that picture back into focus. HI-AYH makes travel affordable for people on a budget. HI-AYH has nearly 50 hostels located near major downhill and cross-country ski areas averaging just \$7-\$20 per night, per person.

Some offer special programs for the skier. The Hilton Creek International AYH-Hostel, located in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains, has an "Introduction to Ski Touring Program". The hostel also has cross-country ski equipment for rent and a hot tub to soak away the strains of the day.

Nine Pennsylvania HI-AYH hostels provide economical accommodations near some of the East's finest downhill and cross-country skiing. The Pocono AYH-Hostel, only two hours from New York City, is convenient to 10 downhill ski areas, including Mount Pocono, Alpine Mountain, and Camelback. Cross-country skis and lessons are available nearby.

In Oregon, the Bend Alpine AYH-Hostel is located near Three Sisters, Broken Top, and Mount Bachelor Ski Areas. The hostel is only one block from the free ski shuttle to Mount Bachelor, one of the finest U.S. resorts for both cross-country and downhill skiing.

Four Colorado HI-AYH hostels are located near the spectacular slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Some have ski storage, a hot tub sauna, and fireplaces. The Winter Park AYH-Hostel is right at the Winter Park Mary Jane Ski Area with 106 trails and 20 ski lifts. Plus, the hostel is convenient to all buses and trains and features extras such as winter inner tubing and an alpine slide.

At the Trojan Horse AYH-Hostel, in Ludlow, Vermont, you are near the Okemo Mountain Ski Area and within 25 miles of nine other Ski areas, including Killington and Stratton Mountain. X-country ski trails radiate out from Ludlow.

Today's HI-AYH hostels are affordable dormitory-style accommodations for travelers of all ages. Separate rooms are provided for males and females, although some couple and family rooms are available. Most have fully-equipped kitchens, dining areas, and common rooms for relaxing and socializing.

Hostelling International-American Youth Hostels is a 60-year-old, not-for-profit corporation and a member of the International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF). With nearly 6,000 hostels in 70 countries, it is the largest network of accommodations in the world. HI-AYH promotes understanding of the world through its educational, recreational, and travel programs.

Travelers should look for the Blue Triangle and the Hostelling International seal of approval to guarantee quality, budget accommodations.

For more information on ski area hostels and other HI-AYH locations in the USA, check out the listing on page 5 or contact: Hostelling International American Youth Hostels 6504 Solway ST. PGH, PA. 15217, 412-422-2282

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For People Who Live Their Dreams...

OSTER, from 8

feet away from us, and one fell directly on a small car's outside mirror breaking the glass. We decided to leave before one of those monsters fell on us. By the time we reached the valley, it was too late to do anything but eat dinner and drive back to our campground. Falling asleep that night was no trouble at all.

The following day we retraced the Tioga Road on our way to the High Sierras and south to a forest of bristlecone pines. Never before on my western trips had I ever come across such a tree. I had seen lots of old, knurled Utah Juniper trees which looked like pictures I had seen of bristlecone pines, but now I'll be able to recognize the difference. I had assumed from the maps that the trip off the main road to see them would not involve as much as an hour. However, washboarded gravel roads turned the "short" trip into several hours. Nevertheless, it was worth the effort to see these trees, the oldest living things on earth - some of them over 4000 years - and believe me, they look it.

This didn't end the day, however; we pressed on past Sahara Desert-like sand dunes in Death Valley to Las Vegas. I had expected the group to spend several hours at the one arm bandits and tables and even suggested that I hold all the money that they could not afford to lose. However, when we reached the city and drove through, they really only wanted

RAIN, from 8

obstructive blowdowns that had to be cut away with bow saws. About a half mile of trail was cleared away, leaving the route 95% clean and unblocked, the goal being to leave it clear enough to walk through with a backpack sticking up 6-12 inches over your head. Only a couple of larger blowdowns need to be cut, these requiring chainsaws. That will be attended to in a follow up trip.

The westerly work party covered more ground, about a mile or so; the first part of it was not too badly overgrown but as they progressed down the hillside a major blowdown area was encountered and a jungle-tangle of brambles as well. That group also managed to finish most of its work but on the follow up some chainsaw work and some more bramble-clearing needs to be finished.

If there are such things as angels, AYH could use one to ADOPT that section of the Baker Trail and keep it cleared once the work parties are finished. This piece of the trail was requested last year by the Armstrong County Tourist Bureau for its annual Fall Foliage Hike, organized annually by Susan Torrence. But we had to tell Susan that the trail in that area needed maintenance badly so we didn't recommend that route. If you are the angel that volunteers to keep the jungle there under control, you may be very proud in the future as several hundred people hike through your section and see what a great job you've done. HOW ABOUT SOME OF OUR MEMBERS WHO LIVE IN ARMSTRONG COUNTY???

to witness first hand all the opulence, lights and glitter (where in the world do they have more lights) that make up this thriving oasis in the desert. I don't think anyone lost much more than ten dollars or won more than fifteen cents - high rollers, indeed.

Our campground was within Las Vegas city limits, and after so many days on the road we were in dire need of clean clothes. A trip to the laundromat chewed up a good portion of the morning, but it

**"...a storm moved
in and
unleashed its
FURY
on us...."**

did much for the peace of mind of certain trippers. Probably, if we had not visited the laundromat then, it wouldn't have been long until the matter became a compelling urgency. Fortunately, we never reached that point on the entire trip. Eventually that morning, we got underway headed for Arizona's Grand Canyon National Park. Along the way we saw Lake Mead and made the mistake of stopping at Boulder Dam. Although we were trapped by crowds and traffic, that place is something special; unfortunately, too many other tourists were of like mind.

Later in the day we arrived at Grand Canyon and settled into a

commercial campground outside the Park's boundary (The campground office conveniently forgot to mention that the tenting area is immediately on the opposite side of a fence from the sightseeing helicopter's landing spot. Needless to say, we ate dinner in a restaurant). However, before dinner we took the Park shuttle to Hopi Point to watch the long red rays of the fading light on the Canyon's walls and to see the sunset. I've seen it under better cloud conditions, but it was worthwhile, nonetheless. Next morning, we saw the South Rim in much better light, and everyone who hadn't seen the Canyon before the previous night was overwhelmed. It was such a pleasure to see that the atmosphere in the Canyon was more clear than I've ever seen it. At other times when I've been there, prevailing winds over the adjacent arid land picked up minute particles of sand and deposited them in the Canyon. Unfortunately, they remained suspended in the air inside the Canyon resulting in a disappointing haze which reduced visibility and the intensity of the Canyon's magnificent colors. Again we lucked out.

In the next issue of the "GT", we will run the final installment of Glenn's account of their adventure.

He will cover the last three days of this major western trip.

VISION, from 1**Hostelling seeks to:**

Promote global awareness...through a network of welcoming, comfortable and affordable hostels that encourage exploration and nurture cross-cultural communication, and through programs that interpret local culture principally through interaction among hostellers and community members.

Encourage educational travel...through information, activities and services that facilitate safe, affordable and culturally sensitive hostel travel for all ages.

Interpret our environment...through activities that promote meaningful, low-impact travel using hostels and that focus on the conservation and interpretation of the built and natural environment.

Broaden community participation...through involvement of all members of the community in hostel travel, Council programs and volunteer participation.

Desired outcome

Hostellers become caring world citizens who are catalysts for intercultural exchange and understanding and stewards of the earth.

CLASSIFIED

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

For Sale: Sailboat, "Bandit" 17' and trailer. Good Condition. Cabin, wide 6 foot beam, rollerjib. \$1,700 or BEST OFFER. Eileen 241-0421

New Zealand Adventure, I am interested in backpacking, tramping, Kayaking, whale watching, exploring glow-worm grottos, black water rafting, hiking in rainforests, seeing volcanos and MANY other NZ adventures. I am a 31 year old woman who is interested in traveling from 3 to 10 weeks with one or more other drug-free, smoke-free women. Cydra -(412) 371-2904

WANTED Artists to draw the designs for the 1994 Great Ride, MVC and SABRE T-Shirts. Call Larry Laude (665-9554).

Wanted to BUY: 26" wheels, with quick release hubs, contact Bill at 833-9732

For Sale: Centurian Dave Scott - Ironman SIS Shimano 105 components, 700x20c, CR-MO Tange Frame, 22" Equiv. size, Fushia & yellow, Min. mileage - Excellent cond. asking \$400.00 Rich, 295 9858

For Sale: Woman's Blue Ross Eurosport Bicycle, Racing Style, 26", Good condition, \$75 or Best Offer, 571-1848.

For Sale: 21" Centurion men's 12-speed bike. Fits 5'8"-6'2". Very good condition. \$99. Glenn 731-7415.

New Zealand bicycle tours, Feb.-Mar. 1994. Three tours to choose from, all two weeks duration. Designed so that you may travel at a leisurely pace, van support and moderately priced. Call Helen Coyne, Serendipetal Tours, 412-776-0678

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For Sale: Slick Tires for Road use of Mountain bikes. 26x1.5". Hardly used \$19 for two. Kathleen 341-1564

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