

▲ T O U E ▲ GOLDEN TRIANGLE

VOL 1 NO. 3 PITTSBURGH COUNCIL A. Y. H. INC.

HOSTEL

Here it is! -- the first Hostel in a long chain stretching from Pittsburgh to Erie. The Camp Virginia Trees Hostel, ideally situated overlooking the rolling countryside of the Conoquenessing Valley within an easy three-mile hiking distance of Zelienople or Evans City and a 35-mile cycle trip from Pittsburgh, opens as a year-round Hostel June 23.

On June 3 and 4 the Pittsburgh Council sent a work party to the camp, and now in addition to the statement, "We hold our outings regardless of the weather," we can also say, "We hold our work parties regardless of the weather." In miserable, rainy weather, the work crew cleared the ground, hauled the stones for the fireplace, and prepared everything for the following day's work of pitching the tents, cementing the fireplace, and building the tables and benches for eating.

The Camp at which the hostel is located is operated by The Brashear Association, and during the nine-week summer season its facilities are fully utilized by the children from the Brashear Settlement Houses in Pittsburgh's South Side. During this time hostel accommodations are provided for eight fellows and eight girls in two large Army pyramidal tents. Food purchased at stores as close as a ten-minute walk from the hostel can be cooked on the huge outdoor fireplace. During the summer the camp pool and showers will be most refreshing after your hike or bike trip out. The remainder of the year, the bunkrooms will be in a brick farm house with fireplaces in the rooms.

After the Council-sponsored weekend of June 23, the hostellers, according to standard hosteling custom, should reserve in advance with the houseparents, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Pan-

CAMP VIRGINIA TREES

kowski. A letter (with postcard for reply) addressed to the houseparents at Camp Virginia Trees Hostel, R. D. No. 1, Evans City, Pa., or a phone call to Zelienople 477 J-1 will let the houseparents know that you are coming and assure you of a place to sleep. From time to time, Council-sponsored weekends will fill the Hostel to capacity, but at other times passholders can use the Hostel in small groups. The next sponsored weekend will be July 15 and 16, with Wes Bunnelle leading the hikers and Grace Kriner, the cyclists.

To gain admittance to the Hostel, the hosteller is required to arrive under his own steam with a current AYH pass, a sheet sleeping sack, and eating gear. The Hostel will have blankets and pots and pans. The hostellers give their passes to the houseparents, sign the registry book and pay the overnight fee of 40¢ if under 21 and 50¢ if older. A sheet sleeping sack is an envelope made from muslin or an old sheet into which you can crawl before hopping under the Hostel blanket. In colder weather a standard blanket or feather sleeping bag will fulfill the sleeping sack requirements.

Here is the Hostel, the first one. If you use it, there will be another and another and so on to Erie.

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CYCLE RACING IN THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

by Tony Franses

For 40 years, American cyclists have been putty in the hands of European Olympic competitors; but there were once golden days in the United States--1889 to 1905 when American anklers took back seats to no one anywhere in the world. It was during this period that shouts and cheers from the Velodrome in old Allegheny drowned out those from nearby Exposition Baseball Park. Besides the ever-popular sprints, there were paced races behind two, four, or even five-seaters to add a strictly American flavor to a Sunday cycling program. But grandest of all was the big annual "Cleveland to Pittsburgh Race" featuring as many as 200 of the best anklers in the nation. In 1904, the winner established a record which still stands--9 hours, 2 minutes (and no paved roads!).

Then came the dark ages to our area until, late in August 1949, cycle racing was reborn when 6 men and 4 women from AYH ran 28 miles cross-country against the clock. In October, track races brought forth an even larger turnout. Thusly encouraged, the Pittsburgh Council launched its 1950 National Youth Hostel Week observance with a racing classic--107 miles cross country. The winning time of 7 hours, 7 minutes would win no European laurels, but considering the terrain and weather, and recalling the enthusiasm of competitors, Press, and public, it became clear that cycling has a place in the repertory of American sport. With the happy mixture of racing and touring AYH offers, anklers of first rank can develop here. Who knows? Next year someone may crack that Cleveland-Pittsburgh record!

TRIPPING AROUND



The Pollacks at Avella surprised us by remembering everyone's name from last year...they missed Martha Wood who was "just learning" last year....Nat'l Youth Hostel Week: Policemen along the century route stopped traffic for the racers--Tony Franses, Larry Cohen, Ted Jeannette led the field...Five of the racers made McConnell's Mills the next day--trails, rocks, crawling caves--no more buttons on Stan Boston's shirt!!! The Baker Trail nite hike convinced us that we should have more evening trips ...the river by night!...Vivian Reichman's folk songs--her husband's "Blood on the Saddle"...Louise Franses almost covered the city on her walkatour...luxurious overnight at the Improvement of the Poor Camp near Warrendale....

Jim Deitt will give Bear Cave on Helen MacMurdo's Chestnut Ridge hike his vote over Dulaney's Cave--more individual exploring....Unity-North Bessemer cycle trip for beginners converted Dottie Stewart, Kay Walczak, and Dale Knapschafer....Remember the cloudburst in Pgh. on May 27?...Mount Davis is closer to the clouds...5 or 6 miles in the rain...John Ferchak looks good in a blanket-sarong...beautiful, clear night...rock scaling..."we will return."

As the first hikers reached the top of the dirt road, the first biker came down the main road into Gill Hall--that is Joan and Kay Walczak's perfect trip planning....Mary Comensky wants to take her dog on some trips soon because he is getting old and she wants him to see some of the world before he dies....From Aspinwall to the Kiskiminetas Junction via Baker Trail with packs from Friday night to Sunday 8:23 train...Lloyd George, a pedigreed mongrel, joined AYH in Fox Chapel and hiked the distance...Sunday was the most beautiful day ever--even the packs didn't complain...Henry Fosner's first trip, but 10 days in the Smokies is "rather" good training--he gets poison ivy, poor fellow...the bikers had a rough half-mile through fields and woods from the road to the Great Oaks campsite with their cycles....flash!