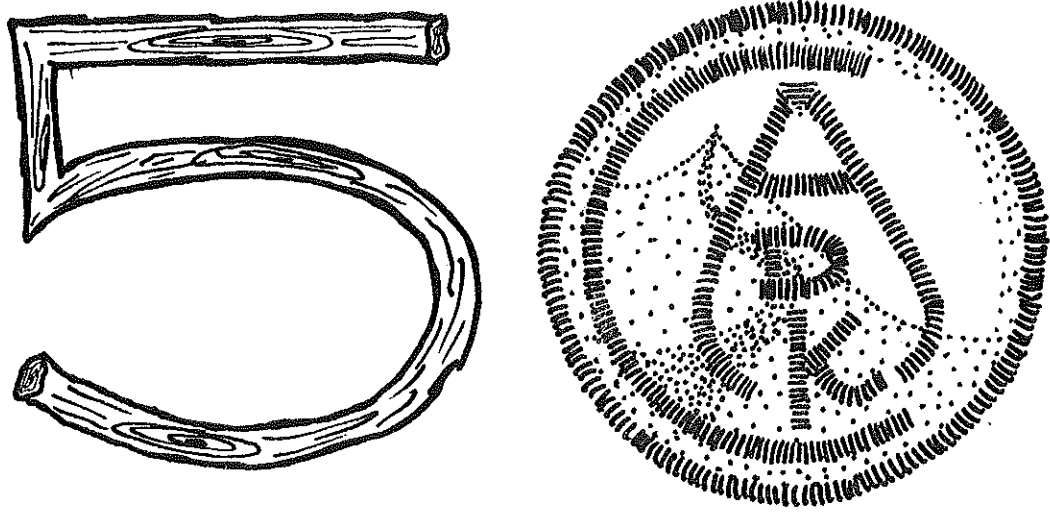
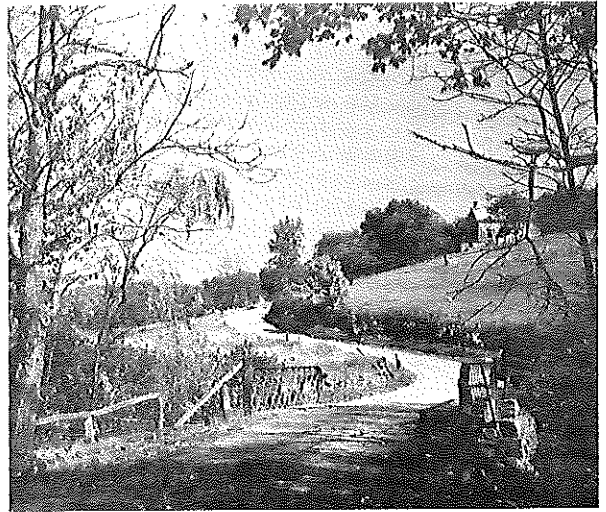


NEW YORK CHAPTER



YEARS

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB



THE FIRST YEARS 1926 - 1927

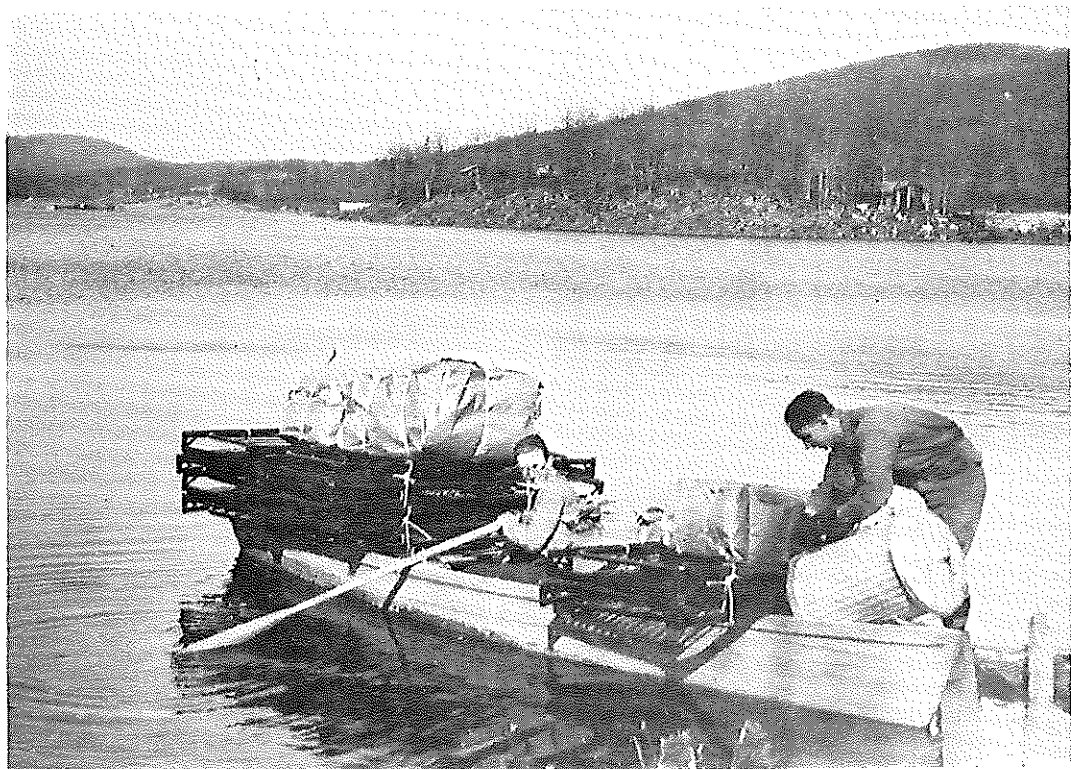
(Above) Getting in wood the easy way

(Upper right) The road from Sloatsburg to Lake Sebago - A country lane

(Right) Lockers being slid across the ice

(Below) Cots and mattresses coming across by boat. The camp road ended at present A.C.A. camp (then Rogers-Peet)

Photos by Frank Oliver



NEW YORK CHAPTER A D K

50 YEARS OF ACTIVITY

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INDOORS at CAMP

During the first years at NAWAKWA the after-dinner specials were song fests. These were most enjoyable and it is unfortunate that they have died out. In the early thirties bridge was going strong. Many evenings there would be three or four tables of bridge. Then, charades flourished for several years. In 1939 the first scrabble board appeared. It immediately became popular and continues strong to the present. Shortly thereafter canasta took over the top spot with several tables working simultaneously. Occasionally square dancing and folk dances were enjoyed. Square dancing has been severely hampered by the wooden posts in the living room.

OUTDOORS at NAWAKWA

Until 1932 the after-dinner walks consisted of short bushwhacking strolls. With the road available, the walk to the dam has been a favorite. In 1928 Donald Terry staged a delightful treasure hunt. The location of the last clue was on Willow Island which meant that the best swimmer got there first. The Camp had row boats and individuals had their canoes; boating was always very popular. The ban on after dark boating was imposed by the Park only in recent years. Ice skating provided much pleasure and activity. In 1933 the likeness of George Washington was sculptured on the boulder near the parking area by Donald Terry of the Bell Labs. While the Chapter provided only rowboats, many individuals had canoes. For many years the canoe parking area was fully occupied. Later canoe sailing became quite popular. Some of the navigators entered the canoe sailing races sponsored by the A.C.A. Then, the Chapter rented some canoes for member use. Following this, several canoes were purchased for the Camp. Later, a sail boat was added to the armada but at times it has been subjected to questionable maneuvers. Rogers Crosby contributed \$170.00 to these projects. For the first few years the walk to Camp from the trains at Sloatsburg or Tuxedo and return provided the daily activity. Now there are three circuits around Camp: Dutch Doctor, Claudius Smith, Tom Jones, Cascade of Slid and many others and variations that lure the members for short strolls or half day walks.

NEAR AND AWAY PLACES

ADK BRIEFS

This name was first used in 1953 but actually these short walks began during the Chapter's first year. Usually billed for Saturday afternoons, they were shorties to places of special interest. Some of the many destinations were Fort Tryon and the Cloisters, Greenwich Village, Bronx Zoo, Botanical Gardens, Spuyten Duyvil, Van Cortland Park, China Town, Hall of Fame, Pelham Bay, Sheepshead Bay, Circle Line Cruise, Day Line to Indian Point, Bayside Ramble, etc.

EASTER SERVICES

Attendance at Easter Services began with the Chapter. From the mid twenties to 1937, the Sunrise Services favored by many were held on the library steps at Columbia University. Then, they were transferred to the Music Hall. In 1939, a group met on Half Way Mountain. In 1941 and 1942 groups met on Tom Jones. These mountain top meetings were at Sunrise.

WEEKEND TRIPS

Weekend trips developed with the Chapter before there was a Camp. In 1924, these were held at Mahopac, Armonk, Oscawana and the Catskills. From 1931, weekend trips have been a standard diet. The number has ranged from one to eight per year. Of the many places Mohonk and Minnewaska have been the favorites in that order. With the arrival of more cars and with the advent of the snow trains, the destinations were extended to the Catskills, Adirondacks, Berkshires and even the White Mountains. John's Brook Lodge and the Adirondack Loj have always been very popular places.

CANOEING

Canoeing also grew up with the Chapter. These outings were scheduled for 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930. Since that time there have been one or more trips per year. The popular ones have been Passaic River, Wading River, Tom's River, Pompton River and the Pine Barrens. Of course, the Delaware River has been the most favored one with a yearly cruise on or around Memorial Day.

SKIING

Aside from our regular hikes, more scheduled outings have been for skiing than for any of the other activities. Actually, skiing began with the Chapter. Such outings were scheduled yearly from 1924 through 1931. Then there was a four year gap. The big boost to skiing was the advent of the snow trains. In 1935, J. Howard Carlson (previous Chapter Chairman) along with other ski enthusiasts organized the first snow train from New York City. It went to Norfolk, Connecticut on January 27, with 525 aboard. The train was sold out weeks in advance. The railroads had been very reluctant to schedule such trains but after this initial success they scheduled snow trains frequently and to many places, and eventually over did a good thing. Howard, also, organized the Central Ski Committee of New York City. This was done at the insistence of Harry W. Hicks who was the Chairman of the New York State Committee on Skiing. Currently, Amtrak is running daily trains from Washington, Philadelphia, New York City, covering the areas of Vermont, such as Bellows Falls, White River Junction, Waterbury and on to Montreal. See New York Times Travel Section of Sunday, December 9, 1973. The ski enthusiasm has carried on through 1972. In this period many outings were scheduled, from one to twelve per year. The areas covered were Catskills, Adirondacks, Bromley, Great Barrington, Haystack, Gore Mountain, Pittsfield, Mt. Snow, Vermont, Manchester, North Creek, Windham, etc.

VACATION TALKS

Starting in the thirties and continuing for a period of over ten years, there were vacation talks regularly in October of each year. During each evening eight or more persons were programmed to show pictures of their vacation, together with a few remarks. Naturally, the time allotted for each person was limited. This time limit was most difficult to control with the result that the last persons were almost squeezed out. This eventually led to the discontinuance of the program.

KODA KRANKS

Not long after the demise of the vacation talks, a group interested in Kodachrome pictures (hence the name) decided to give a different form to these talks. The plan was to use the entire evening for one (rarely two) to show their vacation pictures. The first showing was in 1948 and the idea has proved its value. The programs have continued to the present time, meeting about seven times per year. Generally the group meets for dinner and carry on for the pictures with quite a few coming only for the pictures. The meetings are open to Chapter members, guests, etc. The attendance has ranged from fifteen to forty or more.

ICE SKATING

Our ice skating began at Blue Bird Camp and continued vigorously at NAWAKWA. Also, a number of ice skating events have been scheduled in other areas. In 1943 one was on Staten Island and in 1945 one was on Silver Lake. More recently many mid-week skating events have been scheduled, usually in mid week and at Rockefeller Plaza.

PICNICS

Through the years picnics have been the most popular of the short outings. They began in the early thirties with a short walk, followed by a picnic cookout supper at the Messlinger's on Staten Island. Then, the scene was shifted to the Palisades above Dyckman Street via the ferry. After the ferry was closed down, the meeting place was by the Hudson under the George Washington Bridge on the Manhattan side. These continued until 1968. Through the years well over sixty have been scheduled.

TOURS

The first tour was to the weather station in 1924, then in the Whitehall Building. In most instances they were scheduled for the evenings and were well attended. Some of the most interesting places visited were La Guardia Airport, New York Times, General Post Office, U. N., and Columbia University.

AUTO CARAVANS

The first auto caravan (1928) apparently was not a regularly scheduled event. On a Saturday afternoon, six cars (our limit) headed for the Boy Scout Camp on Ten Mile River above Port Jervis on the Delaware River. Arrangements had been made for the overnight stay and two meals. On Sunday morning the route was down the Delaware River on the West Side, stopping off at the various water falls. This was a most delightful outing. In 1931 a caravan headed for John's Brook Lodge on a Friday evening, spending the night up the way and arriving at the Lodge early Saturday. Twenty Chapter members made up the party.

CAMPING TRIPS

Strangely enough the camping trips did not emerge until 1939. From that time on they went like hot cakes. The usual season for these was from April to November. Usually there were from one to four per year. The sites were Catskills, Adirondacks, Berkshires, Hither Hills, Kittatinny, Taconic State Park, Bear Mt. State Park, Tanglewood and Jacob's Ladder, Pine Barrens, Alpine, Big Hill, etc.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Starting in 1937 and continuing for several years a group met at the Calvary Church for the Candlelight Service, followed by a dinner together. From 1943 through 1968, the groups met at the Riverside Church for these services. Again, they had dinner together later. The attendance varied from about twenty to thirty-five.

BICYCLING

Over the past 35 years, 30 or more bicycle outings have been scheduled. Usually they were one day outings, covering local and nearby areas. Several, however, were weekend affairs to places like Princeton, Long Beach, Easthampton, etc. A most pretentious one was for a week in the Adirondacks, combined with hiking.

NATURE STUDY

From the early days of the Chapter many members have been interested in Nature Study Walks. By far, the most popular and the most frequently scheduled have been the wild flower walks to many interesting places. Frequently, tree walks have been taken, including a few local ones around Camp. Then, there are the bird watchers -- many of them. The most pretentious of these outings was one scheduled for the Adirondack Loj. The high point for bird watching was at Minnewaska with Peter Paul Kellogg when at 6:00 A.M. sixty persons were on hand.

GOLFING

Not to be outdone by other groups, the golfers have had their day. Only a limited number of such outings have been posted. During the late thirties and until the Second World War, many members played regularly at New City. Almost every Saturday during the mild weather one was certain to find several ADKers on the course. Gas rationing put a stop to the play.

BACK PACKING

A few of these trips were made earlier but only recently have they become more numerous. During the past twelve years some ten trips have been scheduled. Sometimes a little spice has been added by including bushwhacking. They have been listed for weekends and for the most part to the Catskills. Some have been made over the entire Northville-Lake Placid Trail.

HIKES AND TRAIL CLEARING

This portion of the report would not be complete without giving the well deserved credit due for the innumerable hikes and trail clearings that have gone on from the beginning of the Chapter. They have been continuous and too numerous to count.

E X T R A C U R R I C U L A R

In 1924 Walter Shannon and Herbert Hauptmann hitchhiked to the west coast, visiting eight or nine national parks. They covered the coast from Tacoma to Los Angeles. The return was made by Panama and Cuba. The trip was so enjoyable that they repeated it in 1926. This time they concentrated on the Cascade Range from Mt. Hood to Crater Lake. The going was made easier with a pack horse. However, one morning the old nag was missing and had to be extricated from a muddy ravine.

In 1928 a group of 8-10 made the canoe trip through the Fulton Lakes chain. In 1932 Ira Ayres led a group to the Adirondacks, camping on Copperas Pond in the Wilmington Notch. In one day the entire group of about fifteen climbed Dix from the Ausable Club. Counting the in and out from the camp site, 21 miles were covered and everyone made the top. This was truly a memorable and remarkable hike.

In 1933, Ira Ayres led another group of 10-12 to the Adirondacks. This time they camped at Flowed Land. On this trip the successful Hysko romance began. Some in the group wanted something extra. So they went up to the Four Corners, climbed Sky Light, down Panther Gorge, up big and little Haystacks, over to Marcy, bush-whacked to Colden and returned to camp. The total elevation covered was about 10,000 feet. This was not a record but certainly a very substantial hike.

During late November and early December, 1935, Frank Cary and Donald Terry climbed the highest peak in the West Indies, La Rucilla (La Palada), located in the Dominican Republic with an elevation of 9951 feet. At 5803 feet, the mule train was sent back. The remainder of the way was trailless with very rough going. Frequently, they had to chop their way through the tangled, matted growth with machetes. At 9185 feet the packs, sleeping bags, air mattresses, etc. were cached and the remaining distance made light.

In July 1938, J. Howard Carlson, William R. Hainsworth and Hans Fuhrer made the ascent of Mt. Robson (12,972), the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies". They had the distinction of being the first to make the top from the North side. One has said "Mt. Robson has the doubtful distinction of being the peak most frequently attempted unsuccessfully in all the Canacian ^kockies". At that time ten successful ascents had been made with thirty to forty failures. They were highly favored with good weather and mild temperature. At their last camp site on the way, the sleeping bags, stove and accessories were cached and the remaining distance made with rucksacks and limited food. The last 2200-2300 feet required twelve to thirteen hours. The return was made on the South slope. The first night was spent on a glacier with no equipment. The sleeping was done while sitting on their rucksacks. On July 28, 1938, the New York Times carried a news item of the successful ascent.

In 1939, 1940, 1941 George Neugebauer organized and led parties of 10-12 to the Adirondacks. They were entirely hiking trips. The time on each occasion was divided between the Adirondack Loj and John's Brook Lodge.

IRA AYRES
December 15, 1973.