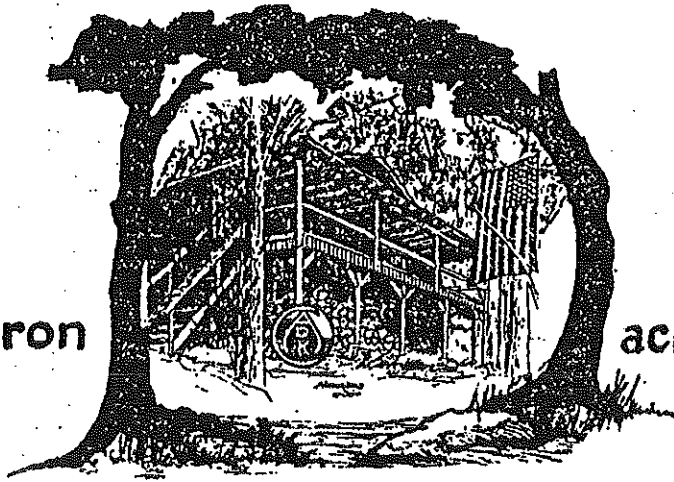




History by Ira Ayres

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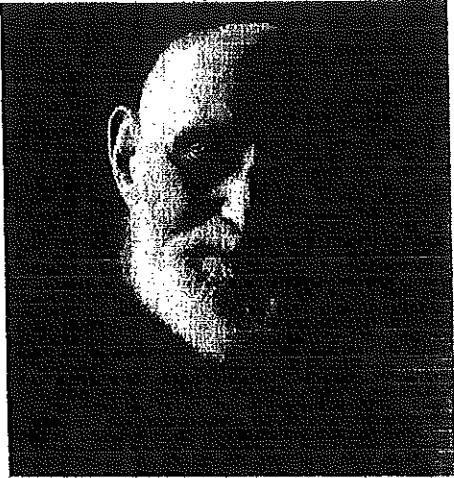


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# MEMORIAL TO IRA H. AYRES



IRA, 1981—Photo by W.N. Shannon, '24

The best known and loved member of the New York Chapter. Ira H. Ayres, died February 27th at the age of 98.

Ira was born near Platonis, Texas and in 1907 graduated from the Bay City, Texas, High School. After obtaining his BA Degree from Southwestern University, he taught and coached football at Meridian College, then Houston High until entering the Army in 1918. After his stint in service he obtained a Masters Degree in Science at the University of Chicago before emigrating to New York City in 1919 to become an assistant in chemistry at Columbia University while working on his Ph.D. studies. As a professional chemist, he subsequently made industrial chemistry his life's work.

Ira joined the newly organized New York Chapter of the ADK in 1923, and the Club became his all consuming interest, to which he made major contributions. He had an important part in the establishment of the Chapter's first temporary camps at Quannacut and Blue Bird and then in 1925/26 initiated negotiations with Superintendent of Camps of the Palisades Interstate Park for the site and construction of Camp Nawakwa on Lake Sebago. Camp continued to be Ira's weekend home until, in his late 80s, he gave up his old Ford.

To preserve the records of some of the early Club activities, Ira wrote *The History of the Adirondack Club New York* in 1972 and the following year the booklet, *New York Chapter - 50 Years*.

Ira was not only deeply involved

in Chapter activities but also made major contributions to the "Main Club" as well, serving as President in 1943 besides being a Governor several terms, Committeeman, etc. He also led many hiking and backpacking trips in the High Peak area.

Ira was very fond of square dancing and for years fostered square dancing groups in surrounding neighborhoods. Another keen interest was bridge which he continued to play regularly even after moving to Amsterdam House in 1981.

Ira was married in 1940 and is survived by a daughter, Muriel D. Ayres of Ocean Grove, N.J. His ashes will be buried in Texas. A memorial service is being considered at Nawakwa.

Walter W. Shannon

(Memorial Service was held at Nawakwa on May 12, 1985)

*This is a reprint of a history of ADK written by Ira and distributed by him in 1972 on the occasion of the Club's 50th Anniversary Celebration. All of us know that Ira, more than anyone else, was responsible for the developments described by him in this "history."*

*Because Nawakwa might never have existed but for Ira's initiative and perseverance the Camp provides a far more fitting memorial to Ira than would a monument fashioned from the finest marble. But even as the wooden structure deteriorates there exist other memorials almost equal in number to the total of all members belonging to the New York Chapter. Deeply imbedded but vivid in our minds are fond memories of a kind and considerate man who became a prized friend while he contributed to our enjoyment of the outdoors.*

*The "history" is being distributed to Chapter Members as a memorial to Ira. Reading it will undoubtedly kindle pleasant remembrances of enjoyable times with him. Also, lest we forget: Ira led in leaving a heritage for which ADKers of the future, as well as past and present members, should be very grateful.*

Robert A. Love '23  
June, 1985

## HISTORY, by Ira H. Ayres

The Adirondack Mountain Club was organized during the evening of Feb. 10, 1922 by a Committee of 100.

The New York Chapter was authorized in November, 1922. The Board of Governors asked the late Raymond H. Torrey at that time to organize the New York Chapter and assume its chairmanship. The objective was to arrange schedules of walks for the Club members residing in the metropolitan area. During the Winter and Spring of 1923 2-page outing schedules were issued. There was no formal chapter organization with a set of officers. Then, Torrey asked to be relieved of his duty and the Governors appointed George A. R. (Bill) Mead as chairman.

George Mead went to work with boundless energy and enthusiasm. A complete 1923 fall schedule of walks was issued. The officers listed at that time were:

Chairman. . . . .	George A. R. Mead
Vice Chairman. . . .	D. Frederick Burnett
Secretary. . . . .	Raymond H. Torrey

The 1924 Winter schedule of walks followed with a more complete set of officers:

Chairman. . . . .	George A. R. Mead
Vice Chairman. . . . .	Frank J. Oliver
Secretary. . . . .	Raymond H. Torrey
Ass't. Secretary . . . .	Agnes Pendleton
Librarian. . . . .	Bernice Goff

with Committees for outings, publicity, photography, publications and hospitality. The Spring, 1924, schedule of walks listed the following officers:

Chairman. . . . .	George A. R. Mead
1st Vice Chairman. . . .	Frank J. Oliver
2nd Vice Chairman. . . .	Ira H. Ayres
Treasurer. . . . .	Raymond H. Torrey
Secretary. . . . .	Marguerite Davie
Ass't. Secretary. . . . .	Mary Holloway



R.H. Torrey Ira J.A. Durrenberger  
(circa 1924)

and Committees for outings, photography, conservation, hospitality, publicity and publications. Other schedules followed regularly.

Mead attended essentially all the outings and other chapter activities, kindling a great deal of interest and enthusiasm for the new chapter. When he turned over the reins to Everett G. Rontzahn on October 1, 1924, there was an active, thriving chapter with a substantial membership.

During the Rontzahn term, a new set of constitution and by-laws of the main club was adopted. This fixed the annual dues for active members at \$5.00 with the chapters retaining 40% of same for their administration expenses. Also, it gave each chapter exclusive control of its own members.

The camp activities of the Chapter began in a limited way at Quannacut during May and June of 1924 under the able guidance of Tenny V. Dickson. The real camp operation began in earnest at Camp Blue Bird during the Fall, Winter and Spring of 1924-25 and 1925-26.

On October 1, 1925 Frank J. Oliver assumed the chapter chairmanship for 2 years. During 1925 the ground work was laid for Nawakwa. During these first years the chapter maintained a publication for its members. In 1924 it was called the "Hiker" and in 1925 the "Bulletin." Neither name seemed distinctive and a call went out for a better name. Ethel Fleming won the prize with "Trail Marker." There is no indication at present that this title will wear out or be changed.

During 1930 a comprehensive set of constitution and by-laws for the chapter was adopted. These have stood the test of time. Only a few minor changes have been made.

To Place the Chapter on a businesslike basis and to protect the individual members, the chapter was incorporated in 1931.

**MEMBERSHIP**

October, 1, 1972

New York Chapter

For 1923 the membership of the New York Chapter was very nebulous. There were no dues at that time. One dollar was extracted from those attending the hikes and they were listed as members. This accounts for the claim of 365 that Autumn. Late that year notice went out that only those who paid their \$1.00 dues would receive the schedules, bulletins, etc. The fiscal year began on October 1st. In June, 1924, only 203 had paid their dues. A fair estimate would place the total membership at 225 on October 1st. From October 1924, to 1930 inclusive the membership is listed as of October 1st. On all succeeding years the listings are as of January 1st:

Year	Mem.	Year	Mem.	Year	Mem.	Year	Mem.
1924	225					1961	357
1925	225	1937	198	1949	304	1962	365
1926	221	1938	210	1950	308	1963	380
1927	221	1939	225	1951	315	1964	390
1928	228	1940	231	1952	319	1965	401
1929	228	1941	239	1953	324	1966	408
1930	228	1942	253	1954	325	1967	427
1931	226	1943	257	1955	327	1968	431
1932	225	1944	256	1956	331	1969	436
1933	221	1945	265	1957	342	1970	438
1934	202	1946	288	1958	351	1971	439
1935	201	1947	303	1959	352	1972	451
1936	196	1948	292	1960	356	1973	465

**CAMP QUANNACUT**

Our first experience in operating a camp was with Quannacut in 1924. No attendance or financial records are available. At least the operation was not in the red. The building was razed many years ago.

The following appeared in our Spring Outing Schedule for 1924:

**CAMP QUANNACUT**

"Camp Quannacut has been engaged by the Chapter from the Palleades Interstate Park Commission for the months of April and May. The camp is situated on beautiful Queensboro Lake in the Park, 4 miles from Bear Mountain Station, and consists of a large 2-story house with wide verandahs upstairs and down. Many of the rooms have fireplaces. There are sleeping accommodations for 36 people. Access will be by motor bus and by trail, from Bear Mountain Station. The camp is equipped with all essentials except linens and food. Members and their guests should bring sheets and pillow-cases; the cabin has plenty of blankets but they must be kept clean. Food may be purchased at Fort Montgomery on telephone orders and delivery will be made at the camp, gratis, except for small purchases. A supply of staple foods (sugar, coffee, salt, etc.) and canned goods will be kept on hand at 10% above cost. The services of caretaker may be obtained for preparing meals (members furnishing the food) by special arrangement with groups at a cost of \$3 per day. Closets with locks are available for storage of personal effects. Members are requested to bring flashlights, sheet music (camp has piano) and books, contributing the books and music to the Chapter. Camp charges are: Members, weekday nights (except Saturdays) and Sunday nights, 50 cents; guests, 75 cents. Members, Saturday nights, 75 cents; guests, \$1. Day visitors 25 cents. Registration should be made not later than the Friday evening preceding each weekend, through the

Chairman of the Hospitality Committee, Miss Tenny B. Dickson, 50 Morningside Drive, New York (Cathedral 7770 after 7 p.m.)"

Saturday and Sunday

April 5-6

**HOUSE WARMING PARTY**

"Lv. Weehawken, West Shore Railroad, Saturday, 1:30 p.m.; ar. Bear Mountain Station, N.Y., 2:46 p.m. House Warming Party for Chapter members only (no guests), celebrating opening of the Chapter's first camp. Expenses, exclusive of food, \$4.85, (railway fare each way, \$1.55; bus each way, \$.50; lodging, \$.75). Bring own food. Return Sunday 5:41 p.m.; ar. Weehawken 10:45 p.m.) Maps: West Point and Schunemunk Sheets U.S.G.S. Hostess: Miss Tenny V. Dickson (Cathedral 7770 after 7 p.m.)"

In my experience, there were 2 special weekends. On one occasion my party had chicken for Sunday. The live chickens were purchased from Bruce Crawson who was foreman of the area and who lived nearby. The other one was when three of the party arrived at Bear Mountain shortly before dark. They were Helen Hitchcock (Love), Leonard Smith and Robert Williams. Upon reaching Queensboro Lake they took the wrong road and got lost. Eventually they became hungry and ate the bread and cheese schedules for Sunday lunch. Finally they decided to back track to the highway. The Park patrol, scouting the area, soon found them and all was well.

**CAMP BLUE BIRD**

During the early summer of 1924, Arthur Lamm and his committee secured from the Park our use of Camp Blue Bird from October 4th through June 1st. The Camp was an old 2-story farm house with a fireplace and sleeping accommodations for 23. Connected to the house on the west side was an open, covered pavilion about the size of Nawakwa's main building and slightly removed and to the north another similar pavilion. These buildings were on the east side of Upper Twin Lake and near its north end and were about 50 feet above lake level. The Lake itself has an elevation of about 1,100 feet. The Camp is located about four miles east of Central Valley. To get there, one took the Erie to Harriman and then the Turnerville Trolley to Central Valley. The trolley was a one coach diesel that operated between Harriman and Newburg twice each way on Saturdays and Sundays. From Central Valley the walk covered four miles and 800 feet elevation.

Upon entering Blue Bird era, the Chapter was poor as Job's turkey. The treasury had little money. We faced the first year with fixed charges of \$270.00 consisting of house rent \$225.00, equipment rent \$35.00 and coal stove rent of \$10.00. There were no kitchen utensils nor did we have spoons with which to eat our cereal. Our group was young and for the most part unable to provide any financial backing. We were strictly on our own and had to rustle for ourselves. Where there is a will there usually is a way. Our guardian angel was Miss Ruby Joliffe, the Superintendent of Camp for the Park. She sold us, on time, some kitchen utensils and tableware at a very nominal price with which to start the Camp. The knives, forks and spoons were of the tin variety. The cups, saucers and plates were china. These items were used for several years and finally thrown into Sebago off the dock. The blankets were rented at a nominal rate and later purchased. These things set us up in business and enabled us to make real headway.

In order to obtain ready cash with which to meet our obligations and also to purchase the absolute necessities, an appeal went out to the Chapter members. Each one was asked to underwrite the Camp to the extent of \$5.00. On each week at Camp, the house fees would be credited against the deposits. The understanding was that at the close of our tenure, the unused portion would be returned provided the Camp operated in the black. Happily we were able to return \$190.00 which was all the unused amount. This gave us a good start and the

Camp was able to carry on with the generated momentum and to end the 2-year period with a surplus of about \$40.00.

During both winters at Blue Bird there were heavy snowfalls. In the entire group there was one pair of skis and one pair of snowshoes. Several large flexible flyers were purchased and used extensively on the road to the rear and on the slope down to the lake. Each participant was asked to chip in 25 cents on each occasion to help defray the costs. Ice skating was the most popular sport. When snow covered the ice, a section would be cleared to provide a good skating rink.

The water supply was not exactly made to order. Service water was pulled in from the lake. To provide hot water, an auxiliary tank was made for us in Central Valley and connected to the water leach of the coal range. This same tank has been in use at Nawakwa all these years. The drinking water came by pails from a spring at the first camp to the south, some 2 blocks away.

Our very successful system of community meals began on our 2nd weekend in October 1924. As camp chairman, I proposed the idea at the very beginning but most of the committee opposed it. They suggested that each individual or group prepare its own meals. This was agreed to as a start; on the 1st weekend, with about 30 persons present. The last one had breakfast at about eleven o'clock due in part to the limited facilities. That told the story and thereafter we began and have continued to have community meals. This placed a heavy burden on the Camp Chairman. No host had been trained and no list of suggestions had been prepared. The success of the Camp was dependent on community meals and the continuation of such meals was dependent on the rotation of the hosts throughout the entire membership. By the end of the 2nd year an experienced personnel was able and willing to continue at Nawakwa. To insure success I was present at almost every weekend during the 2-year period.

There were 2 outstanding weekends at Blue Bird. One cold winter night with a strong north wind and with the thermometer standing at 5 deg., someone suggested that we sleep on the open pavilion and that we did. In those days of no-sleeping-bags we made blanket-rolls. The other event was a night meal. A fire was started in the backyard and six large chickens were rotisseries. During the afternoon, the entire group stood around the fire watching the chickens cook. It was a most delicious meal.

I took over the commissary. Food items were purchased on sales, back packed in and sold at regular retail prices. The profit for the 1st year was \$20. This was real money even in those times.

As a method of attracting attention and of boosting the attendance, the names of each person attending each weekend was recorded. When a person was absent in three consecutive weekends, a card was sent him as a reminder. Without doubt this helped maintain the attendance and to create more interest in the Camp.

On April 4, 1926, we said farewell to Blue Bird. All our possessions of blankets, sleds, utensils, tableware, 3-burner oil stove, auxiliary water tank, etc. were carted down to Lake Sebago and ferried across to Nawakwa.

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### N A W A K W A

October 1, 1972

During the summer of 1925, while working for the Camp Department of the Park, Miss Jolliffe, the Superintendent of Camps, asked me if the New York Chapter would like to have a camp on the new Lake Sebago, elevation 778 feet. My reply was a positive "yes" but that the official offer should be made direct to the Chapter Council. This was done and the offer was immediately accepted officially.

The first big question that required an answer was where should it be located. A committee consisting of A.T. Shorey, Adolph Sippe and a third was appointed to recommend the site. The location selected by this com-

mittee was in the birch grove on the east side and near the upper end of the north arm.

This provoked a storm of protests. In those days almost everyone rode to Sloatsburg or Tuxedo and walked in. The protestors wanted a location on the west side of the lake and on deep water. Herbert Hauptmann, Walter Shannon, myself and others walked down from Blue Bird on numerous occasions to scout the area. We pressured the Council to select the present site which appeared to us to have been the best. The site was officially selected by the Chapter and Frank J. Oliver met J.J. Tamsen, the Superintendent of Construction, and the location was official with the Park.

Before any definite action could be taken it was necessary to decide on what the capacity of the camp should be. The Camp Committee had many loud and active sessions discussing this point. Some were very strong for a capacity of about 25. Others wanted a much larger capacity to provide for growth and expansion, and also to provide income sufficient to pay the rent. The final decision was a capacity of 60. Now we were in a position to tell the Park the desired dimensions and number of cabins, and also to make the appropriate plans for the necessary equipment to be purchased. From our experience at Blue Bird it was decided to have all the sleeping quarters out and away from the main building. Also, it was thought best to have the buildings somewhat removed from the shoreline. In the early autumn of 1925, I met Mr. Tamsen at the site and selected the locations of the main building, the five cabins and the dock. The sixth cabin was added in 1929. The dock was located on deep water and also where it would be clearly visible from the porch. Mr. Tamsen then made his plans for the construction which we requested to be completed by April 1, 1926. The chimney and fireplace were completed before the winter set in. All the equipment and supplies were trucked in over the ice and up the old road from the canoe dock. Also the coal range, the small folding tables and the pump and water line from the lake was brought in at the same time. These items were purchased from the Park. Of course there was no road in to camp at that time.

Preparatory to the purchase of all the essential supplies and equipment, a source of ready cash was required. We had slightly more than broken even during our stay at Blue Bird. The Council most wisely levied an assessment of \$10.00 on each member to help defray the costs. As an aftermath of this action it was deemed unfair for all the succeeding new members to go untaxed. Hence the \$10.00 initiation fee was instituted.

Long before the April 1st date, the necessary equipment and supplies had to be decided upon and ordered. As mentioned previously, the coal range, folding tables and pump and water line from the lake were brought in by the Park during the winter. Norman B. Schomburg, through his company, purchased many of the items for us at wholesale. These included the lockers, boats, oil lamps, the 2 stoves in the living room, 40 to 50 folding chairs, the old hickory chairs and settee, etc. Also, he put me in touch with the Groff Bent Corporation for beds, mattresses and pillows, stating that we would get the bottom price on the same and thereby save his company's 5% commission. From the very beginning a telephone was considered an absolute necessity and was ordered. It was installed in June.

During the winter we made several excursions down from Blue Bird, watching the progress of the construction and also watching the ice on the lake. Our timetable called for the ice to be gone by April 1st. In the meantime Walter Shannon spent a night in the partially erected building to be the first to spend a night in the new camp.

The first move was made on April 4th when we brought over from Blue Bird all our worldly possessions. This included such items as blankets, a 3-burner oil stove, general utensils, "silverware", the auxiliary water tank, the flexible flyers, etc. At the same time, the

beds, mattresses and pillows were awaiting the April 10th delivery.

This brings us to April 10th, the actual opening day. The grand opening took place a week later, April 17, 1926. To the average person now this may seem like any other day, but to us it was a grand occasion. The company agreed to deliver the beds, mattresses and pillows if we would provide guides for the truck drivers. Joe Durrenberger and I rode one truck and Herbert Hauptmann the other. The lake was only partially flooded at that time, the water level being about the same as when work was done on Sebago Beach. This would involve frequent wading when loading and unloading the boats due to the rocky shoreline. A strong crosswind was blowing and the task of operating the old tublike boats with mattresses six high required considerable maritime skill. The real labor involved at this stage consisted in carrying all the items up the hill to the various cabins and placed in order. It is a marvel that 25 souls did so much in such a short time, completing the job well before night.

The cooks did a swell job in preparing a full meal for so many hungry mouths. All the cooking had to be done on the 3-burner oil stove. The coal range was installed but without any coal. The dinner table consisted of three long boards nailed together and supported by saw-horses. Improvised benches provided the seats. This April 10-11, 1926 was actually a work weekend.

The official grand opening was a week later, April 17-18, 1926. Everyone of the 60 beds was occupied. A grand and glorious time was had by all.

At this stage water was the big problem. The pump at the lake with the pipe line to the auxiliary tank provided ample service water. Drinking water was another matter. For this we tapped a weak spring down the road where it dips almost to the lake beyond the parking area. Of course there was no road then. The distance is about 500 yards. All the drinking water was carried up to the house in pails. Light drinkers were the order of the day. Naturally, when the Park water was on it served adequate for drinking. As traffic in the area increased, this spring was abandoned. Then, our only source of drinking water was a spring at the N.Y.U. camp--now the family camp. The water squad went over in boats and brought back full pails. A Chinese yoke was devised for bringing pails up from the dock.

On a weekend shortly before Memorial Day a fire broke out near the drinking water spring. A Chapter member with a group had lunch and a camp fire at the spot where the forest fire began. The entire camp turned out with pails and other items to help fight the fire and save the camp. Our efforts were successful, but an extensive area to the north and west were badly burned over.

On Memorial Day morning, Ralph Evans and I were up early to drive down to Dyckman Street, Manhattan, to bring up our canoe. Just as we got down to the main road in walked Lois Briggs who had lost her way at night in the burnt area. She wisely spent the night there awaiting the sunrise to get her bearings. She was the most woebegone person one can imagine. Fortunately no mental or physical injury resulted.

During the first six years of the camp life, there was no road in from the highway. When the lake was clear of ice, the supplies were brought in by boat from a point near the dam. When the ice was good, the large flexible flyers were used to bring in the supplies. One sled had skis attached for use on snow. During all the time between these 2 periods, everything had to be backpacked around the shoreline.

Long before the camp was built, the beavers had built a dam across the north arm of the lake. It began at a point about where the Baker's toboggan slide touches the lake, went over to the tree island and on to the west side at the big boulder. The water level was about the same as when the lake was full. It was fun to portage over the dam and canoe freely, observing the beavers at work, catching the pickerel or bass and also gathering wild grapes at the extreme north end.

It did not seem appropriate to continue calling our place "the new camp", so word went out for a better name with the winner having a free weekend at camp. Katherine Williams won the prize with Nawakwa. This is an Indian word meaning "in the midst of the wilderness."

The question is frequently asked as to when did we have the first Thanksgiving at camp. The 1st recorded date is 1928 and was most likely the 1st. In the meantime there have been gaps in the occasions.

1929 was a very active year. The partitions in cabin one were removed. Originally the cabin was partitioned into four sections, one of which had a stove. The intention was to provide a small place for a small group coming up during the winter without opening the main building. The idea never worked out. The sixth cabin was erected and is now number 2 in our current sequence of numbering. Also, the rear of the main building was extensively remodeled. The trap door in the extreme north-east corner of the living room was closed off. The rear stairs to the basement was put in as well as remodeling the washrooms and the pack room installed.

During 1931 the float was added. The Chapter had to pay cash for it. That was the reason for its omission from the original set up. Another vital addition was the pyrofox gas with a gas stove and gas lights in the kitchen. Later another gas stove was added and the old oil stove discarded.

The momentous event in 1932 was the road in to camp. The Chapter was not consulted. Some members were quite disturbed and raised belated objections. Fire protection was the reason for the Park action. Strange as it may seem, not one word concerning the road can be found in the records. The above date had to be traced from notices in the Trail Marker cautioning the members to make certain that the gate was kept locked.

Quite a commotion occurred in the Chapter in 1933 relative to winter sports at camp. Many people contended that a ski run and toboggan slide at camp would increase the winter activities there and thereby increase the attendance. Even a special membership meeting was held to discuss the pros and cons. In a referendum the proposal was rejected by a vote of 65 to 57. In retrospect it may be noted that the Baker's Camp toboggan slide was used only slightly the first year and is now rotting away.

In early 1934, 55 new blankets were purchased and the wire closet put up for storing them. The actual cost was not given, but \$250.00 was appropriated for the purchase. At the same time the camp donated 55 old blankets to the Suffern Red Cross.

1935 was a banner year. In October the Council authorized the drilling of a well. Here, again, the Camp had to assume the entire cost. This authorization had been delayed by the cold weather. Finally in November it was completed and the water OK. Through most of 1937 the water was contaminated. It was thought that seepage down the casing was the source of the trouble. The present concrete platform around the well was laid and no further trouble has developed. No record of the cost could be found. Someone in the Chapter has the blueprint of it. The depth is about 96 feet.

1937 cannot be passed by without mentioning one important improvement. In that year the horseshoe course was put in. One has only to look at the tree at the north end to realize how extensively the course has been used--or misused. Later George Lenaghan and I extended the length to the regulation 40 feet.

During 1941 Frank Callcott made the very fine lithograph of the main building. 135 impressions were made with Frank retaining the 1st 25 and the remainder going to the chapter without cost. Many Chapter members have one in their living rooms. By the end of 1971 Frank had sold almost all of his 25.

Beginning in 1948 and extending through the next year extensive changes were made in the kitchen. The work was almost entirely mine. The towel rack, water table, long table beside the sink, the dish shelves and the drain-

board were completed in that order. The center work table was designed by me but cut out and put together by Clayton Scribner.

During 1950, the Camp was having trouble with the old record player. Rogers Crosby took it home and remade it into a fine transistor player. The only replacements required now are the needle and battery.

In 1952 the first gas refrigerator was installed. This was a big improvement over the ice boxes. Previously someone had to purchase 300 pounds of ice and bring it in. The Park had an ice house beside the dam, cutting the ice during the winter and storing it for camp users.

On June 14-15, 1952 the first U.N. weekend was held. This made a big hit at the U.N. with the result that the number accepted had to be limited on following weekends. Though not begun for the purpose of securing new members, still during the years some very valuable members have been taken in.

In December 1952, gas lights were installed in the remainder of the main building. Through the previous 26 years, oil lamps were used. These became more and more difficult to service and only three or four in the Camp could adjust them correctly. The new lights failed by a wide margin to live up to expectation.

During the autumn of 1964 a fire lane was opened up around the entire camp. This had been suggested by the fire warden who visited and inspected our camp. The direction of the project fell to my lot but many contributed substantially. The tree cutting along the power line has blotted out a section but it should be re-opened. The lane begins down by the old spring, follows the road toward camp to the trail leading west, follows this old road almost to the power line, follows the power line to the old ski run and down to the lake.

In 1965 two projects were worked on. George Lenaghen did a swell job on fire protection with the installation of fire extinguisher and a system of fire hoses. He also erected the cabinet beside the coal range. My work consisted in basement excavations which added valuable and much needed storage and locker space.

1969 was the electrical year. The power line was brought into the building and an electric refrigerator installed. The one remaining old gas refrigerator was on its last leg with replacements and spare parts unavailable. This electric refrigerator was an absolute necessity.

During 1970 electrification was extended to the main building. Lights were put in at appropriate locations throughout the building. Many outlets were provided.

1971 will be known as the black top year. The service road was paved all the way in.

Post Script

The Chapter, and especially the Camp, were characterized as a match-making factory, especially in the early years. This does not refer to the kitchen variety, but rather to the home-making kind. The list resembles a typical who's who!

Baker	Draper	Hysko	Porter
Banks	Durrenberger	Keith	Poulson
Bellknop	Eglin	Lane	Rogers
Bibbins	Geiser	Lauffer	Sawtell
Bogle	Geist	Lenaghen	Scheide
Bott, H.	Gunther	Love	Scribner
Boutinan	Haddad	Macaipine	Shannon
Bright	Hardy	Miller	Shannon
Calmer	Hauptmann	Mosher	Smaridge
Campbell	Hawkekotte	Neugebauer	Smith
Carmer	Hawks	Neunzig	Stallard
Cary	Heilin	Noyes	Suter
Clapp	Hentschel	Oliver	Walker, R.L.
Clark	Hetzel	Papirio	Weaver
Doppel	Howard		Wilkie, J.

TRAILS

On Sunday, 11/25/23, the Chapter scheduled a walk over the entire length of Schunemunk, starting at Oxford with A. Tennyson Beals the leader. My party missed the early train. Taking a later train we went to Woodbury. From there we climbed to the top, thence north to the north peak and down easterly to Mountainville. During the late spring and summer I led several parties up for trail clearing on this route, touching the most scenic outlooks and completed the project before Labor Day. In the meantime the Chapter scheduled a trail clearing walk for May 30-June 1, 1924, starting at Mountainville. No record is available as to whether or not this walk ever took place. Then, on 11/7/24, I led the first scheduled walk over the above trail. A so-called Jessup Trail over the mountain has been marked. This trail has the advantage of a good parking area at the start. Over the crest of the mountain it follows foot by foot the trail we laid out.

Kerson Nurian single-handedly laid out and marked a trail that bears his name.

Some of the local trails around Nawakwa were most likely opened up by the New York Chapter members. As in many cases, no records were ever made or kept. Ernie and Alvie Warburton opened up the trail known as the Seven Hills Trail which, of course, includes High Tor and Little Tor.

TRAILS ASSIGNED TO THE NEW YORK CHAPTER

BY THE

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

	Distance (miles)
1. APPALACHIAN TRAIL from Monroe Road to Rte. 17	3.10
2. RECTANGLE from Triangle Trail near Dutch Doctor shelter to Victory near Parker Cabin shelter	2.10
3. BLUE DISC from RD south to Sloatsburg	4.10
4. HILLBURN-TORNE-SEBAGO (HTS) from Sebago Dam south to Ramapo Torne	5.40
5. RAMAPO-DUNDERBERG (RD) from Tuxedo to Rte 210 at Tom Jones Gap	4.15
6. YELLOW TRIANGLE from RD Trail near Tuxedo to Dutch Doctor shelter via Parker Cabin Mountain	4.45
7. TUXEDO-MOUNT IVY (TMI) from RD to Sebago Dam	2.40
8. WHITE BAR (WB) from Dutch Doctor shelter to Island Pond	5.85
9. WHITE CROSS from Claudius Smith Den north to Yellow Triangle Trail	1.90
10. SCENIC TRAIL (Black Rock Forest) from White Clover Farm (Rte 32 south of Mountainville) to Mount Misery (Black Rock Forest)	6.80
Scenic side trail to:	
Eagle Cliff	.25
Sutherland Pine	.25
Wooden Tower	.25
Hill of Pines View	.10
Tower-Valentine Hill	.25
	7.90
TOTAL MILEAGE MAINTAINED. . . . .	41.35