

Call of the wild beckons backpack enthusiasts

By JOHN WISE

(Editor's note: this is the first in a series of stories about backpacking experiences by John Wise.)

During the past winter months a group of young people in this area have been preparing for a unique spring trip. As always, during the Easter break, we must be heading south into the pleasant climate of North Carolina.

The annual migration will take us to the Nantahala Forest for one week of backpacking on the Appalachian Trail. A whitewater raft trip on the Nantahala River will end the week.

This trip is sponsored by the Farmington YMCA under the direction of David Heiser. It has been going on for many weeks, even though the number

of hikers allowed to participate increased to nearly 50 this year. Backpacking has become one of the fastest growing sports in the past decade. Since young people have become increasingly outdoor minded, they must be given credit for this movement.

For many generations backpacking has made slow advances, constantly overshadowed by more weekend-oriented activities such as golf, tennis, fishing, and hunting. But a recent concern for the environment and a need to get closer to nature has changed the scene dramatically.

WORKING IN CONJUNCTION with the Farmington YMCA I have found that the number of people signing up for wilderness trips is increasing rapidly. Relative to this increase, the number of trips has also risen.

With the upsurge of interest among younger persons, backpacking still is basically unfamiliar in this area as compared with other sports.

An immediate drawback to the sport

is the initial cost of good equipment. Many persons are at first hesitant to pay this rather steep price for equipment. It should be remembered that the best equipment isn't essential for beginning attempts. In fact, a pair of lug sole boots or the like, a rented pack and a sleeping bag will start you on your way. Food, tents and transportation are usually included in the trip fee. With this in mind, personal necessities are minimized.

Backpacking is exactly what the name implies. Everything needed for your trip is carried on your back. Included in your pack is essentially a wardrobe, bedroom, kitchen and furniture. Your home is on your back.

The main objective is to be as lightweight and efficient as possible. Being able to stock the pack with enough of everything without packing too much is a major step in itself.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER footwear on a hill can't be over-emphasized. The boot must have enough strength to support your ankle and be

rigid enough to accept harsh punishment from rocks and other sharp objects.

What is worn inside the boot is equally important. Two pairs of socks are a must. The first layer consists of a thin "wick" sock which directs moisture from the foot to the outer wool sock. This sock then absorbs the moisture.

This simple practice saves many blisters, pain and misery. As many others, I once thought that a cotton gym sock would be sufficient. After a few years of seeing what this type of sock does to a tender foot, I concluded that "wick" and wool was the only way.

Even with all of these other considerations, the ultimate advice about boots is to make sure they are well broken in before the trip date and fit properly. If they aren't the consequences will prove disastrous on about the second day of the expedition.

The backpack obviously plays an important part in the sport. There are basically two types of packs, frame and non-frame.

A non-frame or day pack is ordinary

ly used for day or weekend jaunts. No real support is needed in this type of pack because the total weight is minimal. A frame pack is used when a more lengthy trip is taken and more weight is present.

THE FRAMED PACK has a padded hip belt and padded shoulder straps which combined with the frame distributes the weight to the hips, shoulders and back.

As with any outdoor activity, provisions must be made to deal with the elements. With the only available shelter being a small tent, other items must be carefully chosen to insure a pleasant trip in any weather condition. A parka or poncho is a must. In cooler weather a wool shirt or down vest is a good bet for those frosty nights in camp.

What to wear on the actual hike often confuses the first time hiker. The most desirable clothing is lightweight.

This helps decrease the amount of perspiration loss during the day. Even on cool days a great deal of perspiration will be expelled from the body. If a heavy outer layer is worn it increases this process and overheating would most likely occur.

By now, it should be evident that this sport is unique in that many conditions and elements must be considered. An attempt must be made to deal with these varying conditions using only the bare essentials.

Many persons who participate in more aggressive contact sports seem to have the impression that backpacking is easy. This assumption is dead wrong.

IN FACT, along with swimming and jogging, backpacking ranks at the top of the list for total energy expended. Also, I can almost guarantee that on about the third day out the old muscles will be hurting. Backpacking truly challenges the mind, body and spirit.

Foreign foods whet students' appetites for language skills

By SANDI HORNE

There's more to foreign language study than learning to say in French "My Aunt Sophie has a green pencil."

Harrison High School language students set out to prove that on National Foreign Language Day, April 6.

Students served up foreign foods and language skills for the day's open house.

In French class, Angelika Hilarburg, a senior and Tamara York, a junior, prepared a french omelette for the class.

Both students had plenty of preparation for the task. Ms. Hilarburg studied French for four years and Ms. York has studied the language for five years.

Both are looking forward to language related careers. They have the advantage of having lived in a foreign country and learning a new language there.

"This is my fourth year studying French," said Ms. Hilarburg. "I was born in Germany, so I know German and I've also taken one year of Spanish."

Ms. York lived in Belgium for five years while her father worked there. She learned to speak French in a Belgian school.

OTHER STUDENTS who haven't had the chance to live abroad harbor hopes they someday will be able to visit the country they are studying.

"I want to go to France one day," said Paula Ross, a third year French student.

"I like studying French for a cultural reason. We learn about foods and paintings and it helps in everyday things."

Songs and plays in French are part of the cultural background students gain through the courses.

Ginny Blackmer, an advanced student demonstrated her language ability and musical talent by singing a French song, "Domique."

Second year French students entertained with their version of Little Red Riding Hood, performed in French.

The open house served a dual purpose — to stir up interest among parents and students for foreign language study and to make parents aware of the benefits derived from studying a second language.

Parents were supplied with literature about career opportunities for students who know a foreign language. They also learned about the goals of Harrison's language department.

BUT FOR SOME PARENTS the day

brought back memories as well as adding to their knowledge.

"I studied French for three years in school and I enjoyed trying to figure out what the students were saying. I did understand some, which utterly amazed me," said Mrs. Kallgren, whose son Ted studied French at Harrison.

For French teacher Pierrette Orlich, the open house afforded an opportunity to gain more recognition for foreign language students at Harrison.

"The project was successful because it made students more enthusiastic and want to do their very best because their parents were coming to watch them perform," said Mrs. Orlich.

"I feel this kind of activity promotes better understanding within the community of what the schools are trying to achieve."

A knowledge of other languages will help students once they graduate from school and enter the job market.

"Students who can speak a second language will broaden their career opportunities," said Mrs. Orlich. "There are more jobs available for students who offer fluency in a foreign language."

The open house was in response to President Jimmy Carter's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies to investigate foreign language study in the United States.

NINE OUT OF 10 Americans can't speak, read or effectively understand any language but English. About 90 percent of all colleges today haven't any language requirement for admission and a quarter of all high schools don't teach a foreign language of any kind.

Carter's commission believes it's time to change the situation. The U.S. is the only industrial nation in the world that doesn't require foreign language exposure by all students.

Technology has made it necessary to be able to communicate effectively with different cultures around the globe.

At Harrison, language instructors Mrs. Orlich, Maria Schneider and Donna Petrini organized the open house. Students made desserts to represent their foreign language. Presentations were conducted in foreign languages.

French, Spanish and German classes are offered at Harrison.



Enjoying the preparation of pastries while learning about the French language are (from left) Karen Friedland and Nancy Frank. (Photo by Sandi Horne)

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE class of 1969? Farmington High will find out on August 18 when it conducts a 10-year reunion. Graduates can contact Linda (Shelly) Broeder at 669-1608 for further information.

MOTHERS AND FATHERS, TAKE your pre-school child to college. Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College offers a play center for pre-school children of student parents. Registration for classes is scheduled for April 30 and May 1 for the spring semester. There is a nominal fee for the play center. For further information call 476-9400, extension 500.

TARZAN SWUNG ON THEM and watermelons hung on them. Start growing vines indoors. To gather tips on this swinging project, call 858-2519. The Michigan State University Extension Service recorded message will give gardening tips throughout April. On April 16, vines will be the subject of the tape. On April 18, growing cole crops will be discussed. On April 20, listeners will learn to prevent root maggot damage.

A NEW COURSE IN BIBLE research will be offered during the spring semester by Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge campus. The course will be conducted from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday from May 3 - June 19.

The course will be taught by Dr. James Vendettulli, who has a masters in theology from Harvard Divinity School and a Ph.D. from Harvard. He has been a resource scholar at the Ecumenical Institute in Switzerland and a post doctoral fellow at Oxford University.

The course will use archaeological, historical and theological findings to illuminate the texts. Registration and admissions information can be obtained by calling the school at 476-9400.

NORTH FARMINGTON HIGH School class of 1968 will conduct a reunion on May 4 at the Renaissance Center in Detroit. For information call Colleen (Kowalski) Meloche at 585-0774.

MORE THAN 250 pieces of student art will be on display from April 30 - May 11 in the Fisher Building Arcade, 2011 West Grand Blvd. in Detroit. The special display from Our Lady of Mercy High School will feature National Scholastic Art competition winners. This year's exhibit will include paintings, textiles, calligraphy and life-size sculpture. Visitors can view the show from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday through Sunday. The class is taught by Sister Mary Ignatius who has been with the school for more than 30 years and has had more than 1,000 of her art students win Scholastic Awards.

FOURTEEN STUDENTS from Harrison High School Band entered in the annual scholarship competition sponsored by the orchestra boosters recently. The seven finalists were: Alison Fish, Paula Ross, Lisa Rauch, Todd Levin, Janet Kastura, Sandy Kidpinkini and Jaiy Mead. Levin was the overall winner. He performed Concertino for Marimba and Orchestra, Opus 21 by Paul Creston. Awards will be presented at the Harrison Appreciation Banquet to be celebrated at the school on May 14.

A BIT OF VENICE in Farmington Hills? Well, it could be if speculation of Dan Greenberg, Orchard Ridge instructor is correct. Mystified motorists are asking why traffic signals have been placed at the Middlebelt and Farmington Road bridges over the I-696 expressway. The only logical explanation, says Greenberg, is that drawbridges are being installed to allow high-mastered ships to go down the expressway. Gee, Dan, that must have been part of the SEMTA mass transit plan we didn't hear about. LA figures it can take the express gondola into Detroit.

THE SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE COMMUNITY SERVICES in cooperation with the YMCA of Western Wayne County is sponsoring a "Displaced Homemakers Day" from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. on April 22 in the Liberal Arts building of the college, 18600 Haggerty in Livonia. A choice of two out of three workshops will be available.

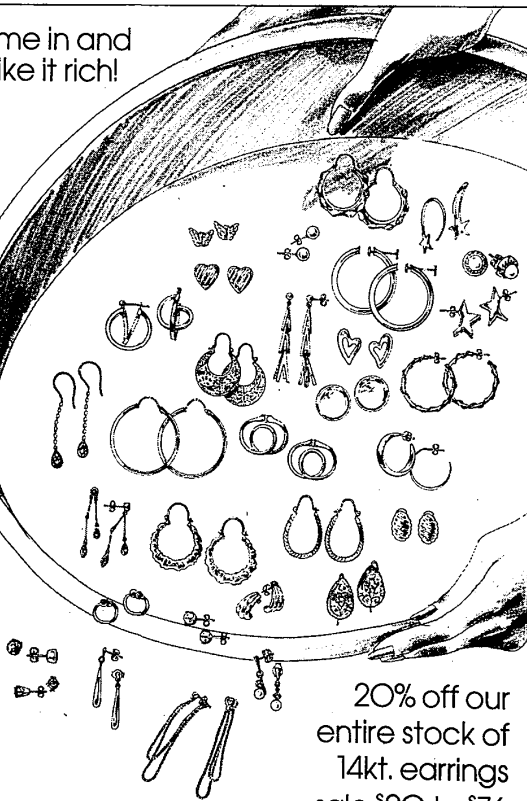
THERE IS STILL TIME TO PICK UP ENTRY forms for the Cystic Fibrosis Bowl-A-Rama from noon until 5 p.m. on April 22 at Country Lanes, Nine Mile west of Middlebelt. Call 476-3201 for reservations. Entry forms can be obtained at any Bonanza restaurant or at the bowling lanes. Sponsors for each bowler should pledge at least one cent for every pin in three games of bowling. The prizes are based on the number of sponsors obtained. The prizes are at each bowling center. The first prize is a 10-inch color television; second prize is an AM-FM cassette stereo radio; third prize is a bowling ball and bag and fourth is a Metro Passbook.

Grand prize is a trip for two to Hawaii for one week. The event is for children and adults.

DEADLINE

Material submitted for the Inside Angles, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024 should include the name and phone number of the sender and should be typewritten if possible. Allow at least one week for publication. All materials become the property of the Farmington Observer.

Come in and strike it rich!



20% off our entire stock of 14kt. earrings sale \$20 to \$76

Reg. \$25 to \$95. The ears have it! Hoops, drops, buttons and stone-set gold earrings. A style for every occasion. Plus diamond earring studs, from .10 cts. to 1 ct. total weight, Reg. \$100-\$1540, sale \$80 to \$1232. Nothing else feels or looks like real gold and now it's more affordable. Now through April 21. Selections will vary by store in Hudson's Fine Jewelry, all stores.

HUDSON'S