

Hostels start Oakland group

By MARY CONNELLY

A new Oakland County club is forming for those who think Sunday morning is the time to host a back-pack or slip into a pair of skis.

An organizational meeting of the Oakland County affiliate of American Youth Hostels, Inc. will be held Jan. 15 at West Bloomfield High School. The national non-profit organization is geared to promote sailing, canoeing, skiing and hiking and inexpensive travel through the use of hostels around the globe.

Currently, approximately 300 Oakland County residents are members of the organization's Detroit council, according to council executive director Rena T. Thompson.

To save energy and time, traveling to Detroit, the starting point of many of the council's activities, Ruth Doerr of Orchard Lake decided to bring a club affiliate to Oakland County.

Miss Thompson said the new club would probably utilize more of Oakland County's recreational resources. However, club members would remain affiliated with the Detroit council and have access to its planned activities.

THE DETROIT council's 4,000 members participate primarily in day-long trips, Miss Thompson said.

Bike riders meet to peddle 30 to 50 miles every Sunday before the winter snowfall. Hikers make weekly treks throughout the year through recreational areas. Others sail the waters of Kent Lake or Lake St. Clair every week.



Sailing and a year-round collage of sports will be promoted by a new Oakland County club.

"The activities are not aimed at a specific age group," Miss Thompson explained. "It's the interest, not the age, that determines the make-up of the group."

One of 35 councils in the country, the Detroit council includes young people, young families and outdoor enthusiasts through age 70, she said.

ON A STATE level, the Detroit council is working to expand the number of hostels in Michigan. The hostels, patterned after those in Europe, are designed to provide overnight community accommodations for travelers at inexpensive rates.

In Michigan, hostels are located in Kalamazoo, Milford, Cassopolis, Empire and Benning. Ann Arbor and Saginaw are likely to be next on the list, she said.

"We're working toward a chain of hostels from Detroit to Mackinac which would be about one day's bike ride apart," Miss Thompson said.

There are 130 hostels in the country, chiefly found in the East, West and Midwest.

The national organization, affiliated with International Youth Hostels, will offer 40 trips utilizing the accommodations throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe during the summer, Miss Thompson said. Under the direction of a trained leader, the three to eight week trips are chiefly aimed to attract teens, she said.

For other members there are week-long trips such as sailing in Georgian Bay or canoeing on Michigan rivers.

IF THE OAKLAND County club were formed to initiate its own activities, it would become the fourth community club in Michigan under the Detroit council's almost state-wide umbrella.

The organizational meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 15 in the community room of West Bloomfield High School.

Miss Thompson will make a slide presentation explaining the organization and club activities will be outlined.

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Robbers escape with coins

BIRMINGHAM—Police are searching for three men who held up the International Collector's Gallery and escaped with an undetermined amount of valuable coins.

A trio of men, one armed, entered the shop at 280 N. Woodward about 7:30 p.m. Dec. 21. Paul Del Grosso of Madison Heights, who was working alone in the shop, was handcuffed to a door by one of the men.

Police said the robbers' direction and method of escape from the shop are unknown. The robbery was discovered at about 10:30 p.m. when Del Grosso's cries for help were heard by another person in the building.

Del Grosso provided these descriptions of the holdup trio:

• An armed white male, aged 30 to 35, about six feet tall, weight 180

pounds, with blond collar-length hair, wearing blue jeans and a waist-length blue jeans jacket.

• A second white male, also aged 30 to 35, about six feet tall, weight 200 pounds, with average length black hair, wearing a long dark trenchcoat and dark pants; and

• An older white man, aged 35 to 40, also about six feet tall, weight 180 to 190 pounds, with wavy brown hair, wearing a brown waist-length jacket and brown pants.

Anyone with information about the suspects or the robbery should contact Birmingham police.

Court backs state law

Announcement Dec. 23 that the U.S. Supreme Court had upheld the constitutionality of a Michigan law against the teaching of birth control methods in public schools will not change anything in the Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills school districts.

"It doesn't shake us up," Norman Quinn, director of health, physical education and athletics for the Bloomfield Hills Schools, said.

"We have been abiding by the original law," he added.

Sex education is not the basis of the Bloomfield Hills health education program, Quinn said, and added, "You can't outlaw something you weren't doing in the first place."

Dr. Frank Goetz, director of curriculum for the Birmingham Schools, said the Supreme Court ruling would have "no effect" in Birmingham.

"We have been abiding by that ruling," he said.

The law and a second one requiring schools to excuse children from sex education classes on parental request had been challenged by a science teacher in the Detroit Schools and an obstetrician-gynecologist who speaks occasionally in the Detroit Schools.

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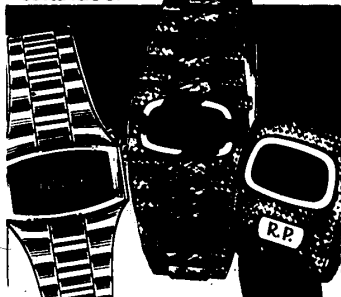


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