

By Lynda Roberson
Of The Print

Hosteling could be defined as traveling under your own steam—bicycling, hiking, canoeing, skiing, sailing, horseback riding, and staying at yourth hostels.

Hostels are inexpensive overnight accommodations with responsible adult supervision, owned or chartered by one of 48 national hosteling associations. These associations are affiliated with the International Youth Hostel Federation.

Too many people associate hosteling with summer trips to Europe because, for the most part, bicycling, hiking and using youth hostels is done by college students who want to visit Europe inexpensively.

However, hosteling is flourishing in the United States as well as the rest of the world as a year-round fun thing to do.

American Youth Hostels, Inc. (AYH) is a youth service organization supported by voluntary contributions, as well as membership and program fees.

The American Youth Hostels national headquarters in Delaplane, Va., reports the largest surge ever of college-age hostellers who used the non-profit travel program to stay inexpensively overnight at some 4,500 hostels in the United States and throughout the rest of the world.

While most hosteling is done by bicyclists and backpackers during the summer, many hosteling activities abound throughout the winter at cross-country and downhill skiing areas.

Hosteling isn't a fancy way to travel, but it is a way to keep close count on your traveling dimes and dollars. For the most part, you'll be bunking-it in dormitories, furnishing your own towels and sheets (or "sheet sleeping sack" where required), and you'll

Hostels provide inexpensive lodging

have to do a little chore, like sweeping down a hallway or carrying out the trash.

Unlike motels, you'll usually have access to a fully equipped kitchen where you can prepare your own food. Each hostel also has hot showers and a common room where hostellers gather around the fire or a piano at the end of the day to exchange ideas and enjoy each other's company.

In the United States and Canada, you'll find hostels in lodges, converted lifeguard stations like on the island of Nantucket, community centers, remodeled sorority houses and even an old city jail like the hostel in Ottawa.

Overseas hostels are located in medieval castles, old mills, churches, former railway stations and, like the one in Stockholm, in a remodeled, three-masted sailing vessel.

The overnight cost at the hostels ranges from 90 cents to \$3.50 a night.

Some hostels have family quarters available, but for the most part, families accustomed to hosteling know that they may have to split up for the night. This can be an exciting, new adventure for the children.

Separate men's and women's dormitories with double-deck bunks are available at most hostels. All of the hostels are supervised by resident house-parents who assure that rules and regulations are adhered to.

Anyone and everyone is eligible to join a youth hostel association. The name "youth hostel" is slightly misleading because it no longer refers to just young people. The only requirement now for hosteling is to be "young" in spirit and

in your thinking. Its membership is open to everyone from youngsters to the senior citizen.

There are various customs that are followed by most hostellers. They travel with a current youth hostel pass, their own sheets or "sheet sleep sack" and eating utensils. They arrive at hostels between 4 and 7 p.m. and turn in early, usually around 11 p.m., so they can rise early around 7 a.m. or so and be out of the hostel by 9:30 a.m. (hostels are closed from 9:30 a.m. until 4 or 4:30 p.m.)

Most hostellers buy their own food and pitch in with chores as it is the custom to leave every hostel in better and cleaner condition than you found it.

Alcoholic beverages are taboo in hostels, except in certain European areas where wine is served with meals. Smoking is not usually allowed in hostels, except in areas designated by the houseparents.

The customary limit one can stay at a hostel is three days unless special arrangements are made with the houseparents for longer stays.

Each hosteller is required to present a valid membership pass from one of the 49 IYHF associations, which he turns in to the houseparents at check-in and receives back when he leaves the hostel.

A membership card is issued by the American affiliation of the IYHF and it entitles you to use any of the IYHF's 4,500 hostels located throughout the world. AYH membership cards must show a photo (individually attached) and must be signed. This is a commitment to abide by Youth Hostel customs.

In some areas of the United States, seasonal rates may apply,

such as ski areas during the winter. In this case, hostellers may have to pay as much as \$4.25 a night. However, many skiers readily agree that this charge is very low considering other rates in the area.

Portland has recently acquired a new youth hostel at 1809 N.W. Johnson. It is called the Northwest Portland Hostel and is operated by the Holy Order of Mans. Donald Slakie is the supervisor of the new hostel, which is opened year

round. This hostel is affiliated with AYH.

Anyone interested in joining or starting a youth hostel should contact Mrs. Gene Hibbard, 9814 58th Avenue C, Puyallup, Wash., 933.

According to Hibbard, if you join AYH, you will receive a free copy of the American Youth Hostel handbook. This book lists all hostels in the United States, their overnight fees, special information pertaining to each hostel and maps of most areas.

New youth hostels are springing up all over the country, seems to be the best way to go if the person who likes to travel but has limited means.

Students offered cut-rate travel

For the students who wish to enrich their lives with educationally oriented tours over the winter holidays, colleges and universities throughout the West are arranging for innovative tours throughout the winter season of 1977-78.

These tours will unite students of similar interests and provide them with a relatively low-cost way to see Europe.

Some examples of tours being offered are:

7th Annual European Ski Tour. University of Nevada at Reno, December 19-January 4, 1978, 17 days to the super resorts of either Kitzbuehel, Austria and Canazei, Italy, or Mayrhofen, Austria and Davos, Switzerland, plus 2 nights Munich. Includes airfare; hotels; meals; special Christmas, New Year's Eve, and Farewell Dinners; lectures; and sightseeing for \$858 and \$899.

CSUN Ski Europe, California State University at Northridge,

December 29-January 22, 1978, 25 days skiing Kitzbuehel, Austria and Davos, Switzerland plus 3 days Vienna including the New Year's Eve Imperial Ball, and Zurich. \$855.

Christmas Russia, December 17-January 3, 1978, 18 days to Paris, Leningrad, Kiev, Moscow and Vienna. Includes airfare; hotels; most meals; sightseeing; 6 theater tickets; 2 Gala dinner parties; and farewell party for \$1399.

Skiers Karnival, January 8-23, 1978, 16 days, one week each at the jet-setters resorts of Davos, Switzerland and Kitzbuehel, Austria, plus two days Munich. Includes airfare; hotels; meals; transfers; parties; sightseeing; and a night at Munich's annual city-wide fest, "Fasching," for \$949.

For brochures and information contact Margaret Pfefferkorn at the University of Nevada, Reno, (213) 478-2511,

Search for bigfoot adds new twist to vacation plans

By Joy Williams
Of The Print

For those who are looking for something unusual to do over the winter holidays could consider joining an expedition to hunt for the legendary Bigfoot.

Dale Beatty and Mike Hoffman, along with several other hunters, lead an expedition last fall and are getting ready to try it again soon.

Beatty who is majoring in history at the College said the reason he hunts the creature is because people say Bigfoot doesn't exist. Beatty wants to prove it to himself, one way or the other.

The trip is being planned for the Estacada area near Squaw Mountain and the Tygh Valley country where numerous sightings have been made recently.

"We welcome people to come along who know what they are doing," Hoffman said.

"If one is planning a hunt, a person should research the subject in your school or local library, read books sold on the subject, or visit the research center located in The Dalles. Some good books on Bigfoot are written by Saunderson, Green and Napoir."

There has also been a public clearing house created in The Dalles for the public. An English-

man named Peter Burns, who has hunted the Yeti purported to be a distant Himalayan cousin of Bigfoot, keeps detailed files and a map of Bigfoot sightings.

"The expeditions usually take about four to five days at least," said Beatty. "We set up a base camp and work out of that, going off the main trails—broken but not well used."

"Be armed with cameras. It has never been discovered that Bigfoot is dangerous, but rather a shy creature who eats berries and roots, and perhaps small game like mice and rabbits."

"The purpose is to prove that Bigfoot does or doesn't exist, and then to protect his existence as he would certainly be considered an endangered species," said Hoffman.

"It has been found that more footprints and sightings have occurred in the winter months," said Beatty. Perhaps it is the lack of food that brings him down to the valleys or maybe it is just that there are more hunters roaming the woods at this time.

"The areas where most of the sightings have been observed are Washington, Northern California, Oregon and British Columbia. The national forest by Estacada is a good local area."

The famous Pattern Bigfoot film, that was shown in many theatres throughout the United States, was examined by Walt Disney productions and was reported to be a fake. "It was most remarkable because no evidence could be found that it was not real," Beatty said.

According to Beatty there is a whole county of people who believe in the existence of Bigfoot. Skamania County in Washington has an active law that no one can hurt, capture, or hunt Bigfoot, he said.

Before plans are made to go on an expedition one should consider the old Indian curse that anyone who sees Bigfoot will suffer drastic results. Paterson, who publicized the Bigfoot film, died in a car wreck two years after a sighting and a whole family was drowned after seeing the creature while on a fishing trip.

Is Bigfoot a reality or just a large bear, a cross between a mountain man and an Indian, the missing link, a creature from outer space or just imagination? No one knows for sure. But if he is imagination and nothing more, then he has caused one of the largest running hoaxes in history and sightings have been recorded on six continents as far back as 1840.

