

THE AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY 1980

HIKANATION

CROSS COUNTRY HIKE

According to the U.S. Forest Service, there were less than 1,000,000 hikers and backpackers using 325,000 miles of trail in 1945. Today, there are nearly 42,000,000 hikers and backpackers using 218,000 miles of trail. This increase of hikers and reduction of trails is apparently continuing today in spite of the fact that an energy crisis looms that will severely curtail the interest in high-energy forms of recreation.

The American Hiking Society believes that America and its elected representatives should wake up at once to these facts and encourage walking and hiking. To dramatize this need and the size of the hiking community, AHS has planned a dramatic hike from Golden Gate Park in San Francisco to the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. The hike will begin in mid March, 1980 and end in the spring of 1981. Hiking clubs all along the proposed route are being alerted and will be involved in the hike. State coordinators for every state have already been selected and are finalizing the route through their state. Three thousand inquiries have been received about the hike to date, although publicity has been almost nil. The Sierra Club has volunteered to support the hike in the west, the Appalachian Trail Conference in the east. We expect huge numbers of people to depart Golden Gate Park and even larger numbers to make the last few miles of the hike into Washington, D.C.

The hike could not be more timely. The impending energy problems will turn our attention to low-energy forms of recreation. (See Appendix A). Several independent sources are predicting that walking and hiking will be the next national fad. Simon & Schuster is even advising its book salesmen that it expects this to happen and is preparing to market several new books on walking and hiking in 1980. A hike across America is just what America needs.

LEADERSHIP

The American Hiking Society is fortunate in having the services of Lawrence M. Montgomery in the execution of its 1980 Hike Nation. "Monty" Montgomery is ideally qualified to serve as the Hike Coordinator for the entire project. His reasonable remuneration is reflected in the proposed budget which certainly indicates a strong desire on his part to make a contribution to an exciting idea.

His background of military service, of considerable time working with college students since his military retirement, and the fact that he is one of those few Americans who has hiked the entire length of the 2,035 mile Appalachian Trail, uniquely qualify him for the job he has offered to do.

Monty graduated from Western Illinois University with a B.S. in recreation and park administration. He also attended graduate school there from 1973 to 1975 doing further study in his field and in camping. Only his thesis needs to be completed for his Masters degree. He has been involved in the Boy Scout program much of his life as an adult leader, troop committeeman, district commissioner and camp commissioner. His interests include camping, hunting, target shooting, canoeing, nature study and backpacking.

James A. Kern has ultimate responsibility for the planning and execution of the hike as President of the American Hiking Society. In 1966 he founded the Florida Trail Association and built it to an organization of 5,000 members dedicated to building a footpath the length of Florida. Six hundred fifty miles of a proposed 1300 mile trail have been completed. He was President of FTA for its first nine years. During that time he organized a hike from southern Florida northward to the capitol in Tallahassee, following the route of the trail whenever possible. Hundreds of people took part in this activity. A scroll and hiking staff are now on display in the capitol as a testimony to this achievement.

Jim Kern is one of the original three founders of the American Hiking Society.

Kern graduated from Andover in 1952 and from Yale in 1956. He is a past trustee of the Museum of Science in Miami; past Board member of the Tropical Audubon Society, Miami; presently a Board member of the South Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America. He is a wildlife photographer and writer and is active in the south Florida real estate market. Kern is married and has three children.

CALENDAR FOR THE PLANNING STAGE

- April, 1979 - Final selection of all State Route Planners for the following states through which the hike will proceed: California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C.
- May, 1979 - Annual Meeting seminar on plans for the cross country hike. Final corridor selection, logo contest winner announced.
- July 1979 - State-led survey hikes over the proposed route.
August
- September, 1979 - Planning meeting in Berkeley, CA for March departure.
- October, 1979 - Final route selection.
- November
December 1979 - Discussions by state representatives with private land owners, governmental agencies concerning hike plans.
- December, 1979 - Complete plans for departure celebration,
January, 1980 invitations to dignitaries, etc.
- February, 1980 - Preparation of public relations kit for media.
- Mid March, 1980 - Beginning of hike.

PROPOSED BUDGET

Vehicle Costs	
Fuel - 1000 gal. @ \$1/gal.	\$ 1,000.00
Vehicle cost = 3%/mo. of \$11,000 for 12 mos.	3,960.00
Mileage (.25/mi. for veh. + .05/mi. for trailer)	3,000.00
Emergency Vehicle Rental	250.00
Emergency Vehicle Service	500.00
Administrative Expenses (Washington office)	5,000.00 ✓
Leadership Out-of-pocket Expenses	2,400.00
Publicity Materials	
Media Package	2,000.00
Printing	3,000.00 ✓
Public Steno	500.00 ✓
Postage	800.00 ✓
Phone Calls	1,800.00 ✓
Office Supplies	200.00 ✓
Telephone Message Recorder	300.00 ✓
Large Events - Beginning & Ending	4,000.00
Patches (\$.50 each)	200.00
Awards	1,000.00
Maps	1,950.00 ✓
Per Diem (Hike Coordinator - including planning stage)	20,000.00
Per Diem (other leaders)	*
Liability Insurance for Leadership	**
	<hr/>
	\$51,860.00

* Many well-qualified young people with degrees in recreation planning would be available to provide support services and trail leadership if funds were available for "scholarships". Thus, the hike would provide an opportunity for continuing education and training, which, we have been assured, would apply toward college credits. Reimbursement could come from out-of-pocket expenses up to a minimum wage.

**We have not yet sought professional advice on the kind of liability insurance we should provide for leaders. The cost of this might vary greatly depending upon who the sponsor is and whether the sponsor could help secure such insurance.

APPENDIX "A"

Walking, hiking and backpacking are in the path of the future.

In a sales bulletin issued this spring, Simon & Schuster advised its sales people: "Walking may well be the next rage in this fad-ridden land." With fossil fuel becoming scarcer, and the costs of off-road vehicle operation on the rise, other companies are also predicting a surge in the popularity of walking, hiking and backpacking.

This is no surprise.

During the past ten years, the number of hikers and backpackers in the United States has increased more than tenfold. Winter camping, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing have also become increasingly popular during this decade.

A recent survey by the American Forest Institute shows that one out of every five Americans hiked on an accessible trail last year -- more people than jogged, played tennis, played golf, hunted or went boating -- while 11% of the population, or about 24 million people, backpacked on a remote trail. These figures (see report which follows) are confirmed by National Park Service estimates.

But an incredible fact is this: we have 33% fewer miles of usable foot trails than we did 25 years ago. The most recent statistics reveal there are presently 280,000 miles of trails in the U.S., compared with 325,000 miles in 1945. The bulk of these trails -- nearly 145,000 miles -- are on private lands. Of the rest, 30,000 miles are provided by state and local governments, 8,000 miles are contained in our national parks, and 97,000 miles are in the national forests and on Bureau of Land Management lands. But nearly 60% of all the trails on federal lands -- more than 62,000 miles -- have been allowed to deteriorate beyond their usefulness as trails!

A comparison with Europe is useful. West Germany is only half the size of Idaho, but has half as many miles of trail as the entire United States. England has an equivalent trail mileage, and it is smaller than Florida. Even tiny Luxembourg (the size of Rhode Island) has three miles of foot trail for every square mile of countryside.

APPENDIX "B"

The American Hiking Society was incorporated in Virginia in 1977 as a non-profit organization to provide a national voice for hikers. The founders of AHS adopted the following goals and objectives for the new association.

GOALS

1. To educate the public in appreciation of walking and the use of foot trails.
2. To provide for and protect the interests of hikers.
3. To encourage hikers to build and maintain foot paths.
4. To encourage others to enjoy the aesthetic and spiritual experience of hiking in the natural world.
5. To foster research related to the goals of the organization.

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop a set of standards for hiker education programs that stress respect for nature.

To encourage the development of hiker education programs built on these standards.

To promote the use of educational programs by government agencies, equipment manufacturers and suppliers, children's summer camps, outing organizations, and all other users of foot trails.

To encourage the development of educational materials.

2. To work with affinity groups to insure that hikers' interests are represented in responses to environmental issues.

To communicate the needs of walkers in land and resource management decisions to state and federal administrative agencies.

To establish close relationships with the private sector to insure the provision of hiking opportunities on private lands.

3. To provide information and awareness about existing hiking organizations.

To provide information and awareness about specific

Appendix "B" con't.

governmental programs in which hikers can volunteer their services to build and maintain trails.

To foster the development of local hiking organizations to build and maintain trails where no such organization exists.

4. To provide information on quality outing programs offered by other organizations and outfitters.

To encourage the authorship of articles, books, films, photography, painting and other representations of the hiking experience.

5. To identify and make available existing research on the relationship of the hiker to the natural world and the impact of all users on the hiking environment.

To identify areas of need for further research.

To encourage research on areas of need.

In its first two years, the American Hiking Society has begun to constructively work toward achievement of most of these goals and objectives. For instance:

- A Board of Directors has been selected that brings together many of the top representatives of the U.S. hiking community.
- AHS played the leadership role in successful opposition to a proposed excise tax on backpacking and camping equipment that would have provided funds for projects unrelated to foot trails and their use.
- An AHS Director, the late Representative Goodloe Byron of Maryland, sponsored the Appalachian Trail Bill, which was signed into law by President Carter on March 21, 1978. The Bill, which provides \$90 million for the purchase of trail rights-of-way, is the first piece of legislation in the U.S. to: a) legally establish a permanent right-of-way for a trail, and b) protect that right-of-way from closure or diversion because of development.
- AHS published Volunteer Vacations' on America's Public Lands, a directory of volunteer work opportunities in the nation's forests and parks, the first such directory ever published. The book includes a foreward by President Carter who commends the AHS for its efforts to maintain and improve the national parks - an unusual distinction.
- The Society sent a representative to the October, 1978 European Ramblers Association meeting in Yugoslavia to:

- a)brief European groups on the AHS program, b)provide information on the status of trails and the opportunities for walking and backpacking in the U.S., c)engender a closer cooperation between U.S. and European trail groups, and d)explore the establishment of formal ties between the AHS and major European hiking organizations.
- The AHS compiled a status report on the 23 proposed trails that are under study by the U.S. Department of Interior for designation as National Scenic Trails, a report that was picked up by Associated Press and released to the nation's press on May 18, 1989.
- The Society hired an Executive Director and opened an office in Washington, D.C.
- The Society established four standing committees, staffed entirely by volunteers, to oversee: a)short- and long-range planning, b)education, c)membership growth, and d) monitor state and federal legislation.
- The Board of Directors and Advisory Board began the challenging task of setting organizational priorities and of raising required financial resources.

Still, this is a mere beginning.

"APPENDIX C"



American Forest Institute, 1619 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

research recap

December, 1977

Number 10

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND ATTITUDES TOWARD WILDERNESS—1977

Opinion Research Corporation
Princeton, New Jersey

I. DESCRIPTION

This study was undertaken to measure attitudes toward forest-related recreation vs. development, especially as these attitudes relate to wilderness.

The public survey covered a range of subjects. A parallel study of Washington thought leaders compared attitudes toward National Forests with those held by the public.

The survey, conducted in September, 1977, consisted of interviews with 2,000 members of the general public and 100 Washington, D.C., thought leaders.

In interpreting figures, it must be emphasized that attitudes, not facts, were measured: one in five Americans believe they have visited wilderness areas. True or not, that's a political reality.

It also must be remembered that because 20 percent want more campsites does not mean that 80 percent do not. It is necessary to consider how strongly that 20 percent feels and how effective it might be in the political area.

II. GENERAL SUMMARY

Overall, there was the predictable confusion over the precise definition of statutory wilderness. Wilderness is whatever an individual believes it is. There also were many ambiguous terms: "remote" trails, for example, were simply secluded to most urban respondents. In general, it appears that there is substantial public anxiety about a perceived shortage of *available* wilderness. The city dweller is not aware that many areas that would satisfy his wilderness criteria are available near at hand and automatically supports any proposal he believes will relieve his anxiety.

■ One in five said they had hiked on "accessible" trails in the last year; one in ten in "remote" areas. "Developed" campsites drew 20 percent, "remote" campsites 11 percent. More people expect to participate in each activity in the next year, with by far the largest growth expected in "remote" camping.

■ Generally, the public knows that wilderness areas are different from parks or

other recreation sites, and knows what the differences are. Overall, however, the differences don't appear to be overly important. Of those who expressed an opinion, 48 percent said they would not object to "some development" in wilderness areas; 38 percent would object. Here, again, the emphasis was on a recreational experience, not a pure "wilderness" experience.

■ Only 7 percent say there is "too much" wilderness and 32 percent say "too little." (Males 18-29 in age say "too little" by 51 percent. Overall, 46 percent say "about right," but it would be erroneous to believe this group would oppose new wilderness areas; this simply is an expression of satisfaction.)

■ Among the 7 percent who say there is "too much" wilderness, economic reasons are most important. The argument that "only a few benefit" from wilderness areas appeals to only 3 percent of this already small group. These percentages (who accept the "elitist" argument) probably are too small to have any significance, but 11 percent of nonwhites say "too much," against 7 percent for whites.

■ Those who answer "too little" responded in several ways, all reflecting concern that wilderness and wildlife habitat are being lost to development and population pressures. (This parallels concern found among the leadership in other surveys.)

■ Picnic areas (36 percent) and campgrounds (35 percent) are about equal in leading the list of facilities the public believes should be expanded. Bicycle trails and accessible hiking trails (both 31 percent) are next, followed by beaches and remote hiking trails (both 29 percent) and construction of remote huts and shelters (26 percent). The rankings are about the same for all demographic groups, except among the 18-29 age group, where remote hiking trails vastly outrank everything else.

■ Non-whites, who are virtually excluded from forest-related recreation, have slightly different expansion goals, but remote hiking outranks more accessible facilities even here.

More Support for Preservation

After an explanation, both the public and Washington leaders were offered a choice:

"... increase the yield and sales of timber from our National Forests or ... preserve these trees in their natural state?"

	Public %	Leadership %
INCREASE TIMBER SALES	28	36
PRESERVE TREES	62	38
NO OPINION	10	7
BOTH		10
OTHER (*see below)		9

Following another explanation, the same groups were asked if they favored an increase in timber sales to provide money for road expansion and more public access to National Forests.

	Public %	Leadership %
FAVOR	29	15
OPPOSE	57	69
NO OPINION	14	3
OTHER (*see below)		8

*In both questions, there was criticism of the explanation and the nomenclature from the leadership. Some was of the same type encountered in other surveys: industry often is accused of perverting the definition of multiple use. For example, industry uses "multiple use" to mean available for logging, when that often is the only use prohibited on some land described as "single use."

Public Wants Nearby Facilities

The public appears to be marginally inclined toward more developed recreation, and strongly inclined toward sites nearby.

The public is nearly indifferent to the idea of "vast." However, other surveys show the public is unconcerned about a timber shortage and does not believe that the interests of the forest industry and themselves are the same.

Support for "bigger" wilderness really is support for more recreation sites that are available for desirable activities. New proposals are automatically endorsed because the principle is popular.

Little Support for Timber

It is obvious that opposing wilderness or other set asides on the basis of lost timber-growing potential has no appeal to the public.

Opinion Research Corporation, in a preliminary evaluation of the study results, had this to say:

"We do not find sufficient latent support among the American people to warrant a mass communications program to increase

(A) Which of these activities have you participated in during the last 12 months?

(B) Which of these activities do you expect to participate in during the next 12 months?

	Total Public			Total Public	
	% Question A	% Question B		% Question A	% Question B
DRIVING FOR PLEASURE	58	55	CAMPING: REMOTE	11	14
WALKING FOR PLEASURE	56	52	GOLF	11	12
SIGHTSEEING	50	46	MOTORCYCLE/TRAIL BIKE RIDING	11	10
SWIMMING	43	40	HIKING/BACKPACKING: REMOTE TRAILS	10	11
PICNICKING	42	39	ICE SKATING	9	12
INDOOR SPORTS	42	42	SLED/TOBOGGAN	9	11
OUTDOOR SPORTS	41	38	WATER SKIING	8	9
ATTEND SPORTS	38	39	HORSEBACK RIDING: ACCESSIBLE TRAILS	6	7
FISHING	32	32	4-WHEEL, OFF-ROAD	6	6
NATURE WALKS	27	28	DOWNHILL SKIING	5	8
BICYCLING	26	27	HORSEBACK RIDING: REMOTE TRAILS	5	6
OUTDOOR DRAMA, CONCERTS	22	24	MOUNTAIN CLIMBING	5	6
CAMPING, DEVELOPED	20	21	SNOWMOBILE		
HIKING: ACCESSIBLE TRAILS	19	20	RACING	4	5
TENNIS	17	19	RAFTING	3	4
JOGGING	17	17	AERIAL ACTIVITIES	3	4
CANOEING/SAILING/ROWING	14	16	CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING	2	3
POWER BOATING	14	13	NONE	8	9
HUNTING	13	14			

public support for greater timber harvesting on federal lands.

"Instead, since this issue is perceived more rationally and with greater expertise among Washington thought leaders, we recommend that your persuasive efforts be directed toward this target audience, among others.

"One factor seems to cut both ways in the arguments on this issue: U.S. population pressure. On the one hand, this is seen as a reason to set aside even more wilderness for future generations. On the other hand, it can become a cogent argument for providing access now to areas which can offer recreational opportunities to people who already live in

crowded surroundings.

"The forest industry and its trade associations might consider a public communications program advocating greater federal activity in setting aside forests for recreation and preservation in the more heavily populated areas of the country, such as the pine barrens of southern New Jersey, and diverting future federal activity away from the spacious western areas already set aside."

In whatever course the industry takes, it is obvious that the effort will have to be long term, and that it must recognize the needs felt by the public as well as the needs of the economy.

Which of these kinds of national recreational facilities do you think should be expanded?

	Total Public	18-29	City	Non-White
PICNIC AREAS	36	36	36	35
CAMPGROUNDS	35	40	34	30
BICYCLE TRAILS	31	42	32	24
ACCESSIBLE HIKING TRAILS	31	40	31	17
BEACHES	29	36	32	27
REMOTE HIKING, BRIDLE	29	45	29	18
REMOTE HUTS/SHELTERS	26	28	24	15
HOTEL/MOTEL/COTTAGE	16	12	16	18
EASILY REACHED: BRIDLE PATHS	14	20	15	12
RESTAURANTS	12	10	13	15
MOTORBIKE TRAILS	9	15	11	7
POWERBOAT MARINAS	6	8	6	5
NONE	7	5	7	9
DON'T KNOW	12	4	11	18

*Backpackers finally have a national organization
dedicated to looking out for their interests—*

THE AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

BY WILLIAM KEMSLEY, JR.

SHORTLY AFTER BACKPACKER started publishing in 1973, I began to get mail from readers urging me to help start a national hikers' organization. But why start another when there were already so many? Well, conservation organizations such as the Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society are so embroiled in broad environmental issues that they don't have much time for narrower issues of special interest to hikers. For instance, when the National Trails Bill was introduced in Congress, virtually no conservation organizations aided it. The Sierra Club was asked to testify, but a spokesman said the club had higher priorities.

Generally, hiking clubs do an excellent job of looking out for hikers' interests on the local level. But there have been few efforts on the national scene, except when hikers' interests coincide with broader conservation objectives, like setting aside wilderness lands.

A few people actually started organizations, but they were unable to attract active boards of directors and sufficient members to become real national forces. Despite their energies and good intentions, none of these organizations seemed to have the rare combination of circumstances needed to achieve national leadership.

In 1975 I got to know James A. Kern and Paul Pritchard. Jim was the founder of the Florida Trail Association, whose 6,000 members had built 500 miles of trail. Paul was then the new executive director of the Appalachian Trail Conference. Whenever we met, we found

ourselves talking about the need for a national hiking organization.

Later that year, I asked Jim if he'd be willing to take on the responsibility of founding such a thing, and

he immediately agreed he would.

It took him a couple of months to clear away other business, but once he began, Jim moved fast. In April, 1976, he called Paul and me to a meeting in Brevard, North Carolina, in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. For three days Jim worked us hard, systematically raising points that each of us felt important to the establishment of an effective national organization. The outcome was the draft plan of The American Hiking Society: a set of bylaws, a list of goals, and a step-by-step program of how to go about building the society.

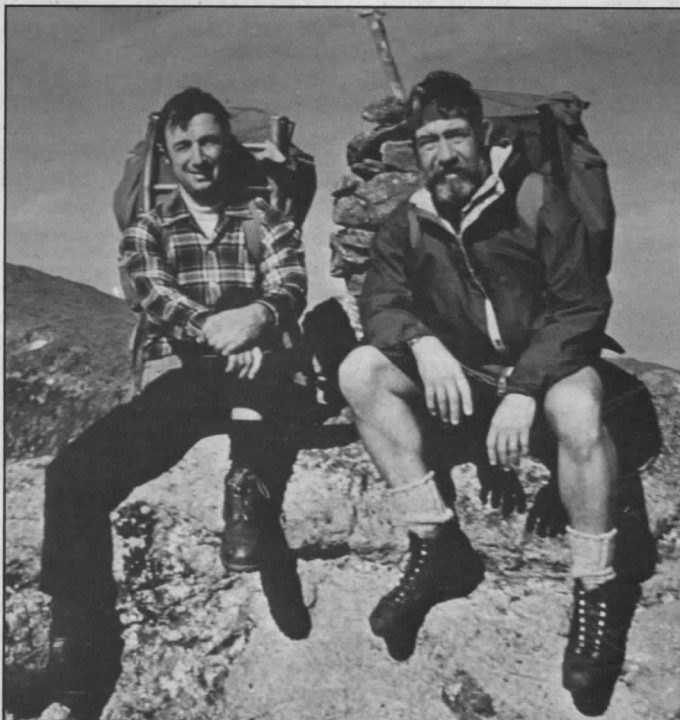


Photo: William Kemsley III

Jim Kern, American Hiking Society president, and William Kemsley, Jr., chairman of the AHS board, hold an informal business meeting (above) on top of Mount Madison in New Hampshire. Below, two of the founders of the AHS, Paul Pritchard and Jim Kern, at the Kern camp on Fish Eating Creek in central Florida.



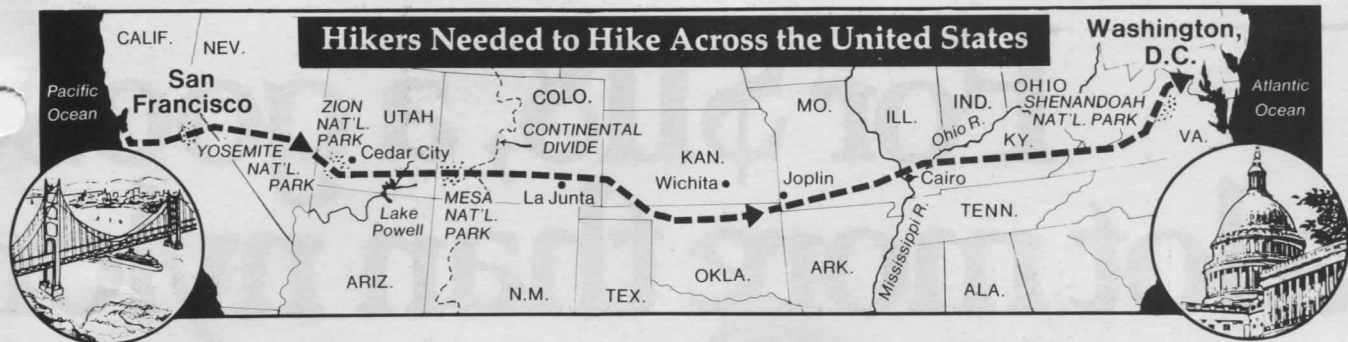
Photo: William Kemsley, Jr.

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS to be done was to put together a board of directors to get the organization off first base. We wanted them to be leaders in the hiking community. It took a fair amount of persuasion to convince them to join the board, for they are all busy people. But we now have an excellent group:

- **Louise Marshall** is the founder of *Signpost Magazine*, a hikers' newspaper in the Pacific Northwest. She is the author and publisher of many books on backpacking, including a number of trail guides. She has been active in conservation organizations, and she is executive vice-president of Recreation Equipment, Inc.

- **Goodloe E. Byron** is a congressman from Maryland as well as a hiker and runner. He recently authored the Appalachian Trail Bill, the first legislation enacted by Congress to earmark a significant amount of money for hiking trails.

- **Tom Deans** is the executive director of the Ap-



The American Hiking Society needs hikers from all parts of the U.S. to join in a cross-country hike to dramatize the lack of sufficient hiking trails. The San Francisco-to-Washington, D.C., hike begins in March, 1979. For more information, write to: AHS, 1489 South Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida 33130.

palachian Mountain Club, the largest hiking organization in the U.S.

- **Bill Ruskin** founded the National Hiking and Ski Touring Association (NAHSTA). He was instrumental in merging NAHSTA with The American Hiking Society to create a more forceful organization. He also founded the Volunteer Conservation Corps, which, under his aegis, AHS will expand into a national volunteer trails organization.

- **Bjorn Kjellstrom**, an avid hiker, orienteer, and ski tourer, is the founder and president of the Silva Company.

- **Gudrun Gaskill**, president of the Colorado Mountain Club, is a recent addition to the board. A backpacker and mountaineer, she has climbed extensively with her husband and children in Colorado, Alaska, and abroad.

Employees of government agencies whom we asked to be on the board were enthusiastic, but felt that, because of their positions in government, they could not serve in official capacities. Instead, they agreed to be advisors:

- **Boyd Evison** is the superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

- **Dave Richie** is the manager of the Appalachian Trail Project for the National Park Service.

- **Bill Holman** is national trails supervisor for the U.S. Forest Service.

- **Colin Fletcher**, author of *The New Complete Walker*, joined us as an advisor.

Jim Kern became AHS president, and I am currently chairman of the board of directors.

After President Carter's election, Paul Pritchard was appointed deputy director for programming of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Ser-

vice (formerly the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation) of the Department of the Interior, so he moved to the AHS advisory board. Replacing him as a director is Jack Gilbert, executive vice-president of The North Face.

IN DECEMBER, 1976, the formation of The American Hiking Society was announced through an advertisement in *BACKPACKER* Magazine. In the spring of 1977, the first membership campaign was launched. The response was encouraging. Between the ad and the mailing, AHS acquired its first

issue. So AHS called a conference in May, 1977, at the Potomac Appalachian Trail Conference headquarters in Washington, D.C. Twenty-three people attended, including representatives from *Wilderness Camping Magazine*, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Association, the Appalachian Trail Conference, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Adirondack Mountain Club, the Boy Scouts, and many conservation organizations.

Attendees were provided with resource material on different kinds of recreational taxes—licenses, fees, permits, excise taxes—and the implications of each. In a few hours we had a cram course on taxation.

A follow-up session was scheduled to coincide with the National Trails Council meeting at Lake Junalaska, North Carolina, last September. The second conference attracted 26 people, many from the same organizations, plus a few others. They voted unanimously to oppose any tax on hikers unless it would directly aid hikers.

When Congressman Barber B. Conable introduced his bill (H.R. 10915) calling for an 11 percent excise tax on such items as sleeping bags, tents, backpacking stoves, and sleeping pads, AHS was ready. We phoned Congressman Conable's office and those



Photo: James A. Kern

During the summer of 1977, Jim Kern toured the United States to meet with leaders of hiking organizations. In Lynnwood, Washington, he discusses his route with AHS board member Louise Marshall.

thousand members.

Among the first issues AHS tackled, despite the embryonic stage of its development, was that of a hikers' tax. Such a tax was proposed in various forms by several congressmen.

Little was known about the implications of the tax or what the rest of the hiking community thought about the

of the committee members hearing testimony on the bill. We wrote letters to conservation organizations that were supporting the bill. We persuaded the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association to oppose it. We talked to other hiking organizations. Finally, we got the bill withdrawn. *For the time being.*

"APPENDIX E"

The American Hiking Society...

for those who enjoy the natural world on foot.

If you enjoy walking on soft earth and fallen leaves, if you come alive with a face full of wind while treading a ridgeline, if you are at home with a pack on your back and no one else in sight, there are some things you should know. You are among the people most neglected by our representative system of government. More importantly, there has been no organization of national

Photo: William Kemsley, Jr.



influence seeking to educate the public in the pleasures of hiking and the use of foot trails. There has been no national organization effectively promoting research in what things hikers enjoy, who they are, or where they go. And there has been no national organization effectively promoting educational programs to reach the millions of people who have only recently discovered the pleasures of walking, hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing and ski-touring. *The American Hiking Society* is for those who want to see these things changed.

Just how neglected is today's hiker? There are ten million of us without the kind of voice we need. Sixteen years ago, Congress set up the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission to evaluate the needs of U.S. outdoorsmen. In the Commission's exhaustive report is the following statement: "It is something of a tribute to Americans that they do as much cycling and walking as they do, for very little has been done to encourage these activities, and a good bit, if inadvertently, to discourage them." Things have gotten worse since then. America has only about 100,000 miles of trail, less than one yard per citizen. If all the hikers got on the trails at the same time they could hold hands. And now that fire fighting utilizes airplanes, helicopters and trucks, one of the main reasons for having trails has disappeared and total trail mileage probably is declining. Urban sprawl, the interstate highway system and the growth of airports also are responsible for eliminating many of the unofficial and unmaintained paths that used to surround our cities and towns.

Hiking appeals to everyone. Studies by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation show that hikers are about evenly divided between men and women. Hiking is a family affair; it is a challenge for the rugged individualist and an opportunity for the elderly, too.

Other studies by BOR indicate that hiking will grow tremendously in the years ahead. Will sufficient land be set aside for trails? Will government be responsive to the



Photo: Kenn Petsch

needs of hikers? Will hikers themselves be properly educated in the use of foot trails? An effective national organization can help see that these questions are answered properly.

Here are the goals of The American Hiking Society

1. To educate the public in the appreciation of walking and the use of foot trails.
2. To provide for and protect the interests of hikers.
3. To encourage hikers to build and maintain footpaths.
4. To encourage others to enjoy the esthetic and spiritual experience of hiking in the natural world.
5. To foster research related to these goals.

Benefits of Membership

The American Hiking Society will not be a one-way street. You will receive many benefits of membership—as well as knowing that you are furthering the interests of hiking and backpacking in America.

Among the benefits you will receive:

- **Newsletter.** You will receive a quarterly newsletter describing out-of-the-way places to hike, trail conditions, new products and legislative news of interest to hikers.
- **Deadheading Service.** Through members of the society, you will be offered a deadheading service enabling you to get from bus, train or airlines terminal to the trailhead in areas where you plan to hike.
- **Insurance.** As a benefit of membership, you will receive an insurance policy which will include special benefits for people in the outdoors.
- **Decal.** Your official decal of the American Hiking Society will be provided upon joining. It will identify your vehicle when parked on American Hiking Trust lands.
- **Membership Card.** Your membership card in the society will entitle you to all privileges of membership that will be developed in the future, so long as your dues are current.



Photo: Lionel A. Atwill



Photo: David Sumner



Photo: Kenn Petsch



to hike and backpack on outstanding scenic lands which will be set aside for exclusive use of hikers and be closed altogether to trail bikes and snowmobiles. These lands will be located adjacent to and provide backdoor access to some of America's most outstanding national parks, forests and wilderness areas. The first of these properties has already been acquired. It is located adjacent to the Flathead National Forest, about a mile west of the Bob Marshall Wilderness and just a few miles south of Glacier National Park in Montana.

• **Privilege of Doing Something.** By joining *The American Hiking Society* you can have the privilege of knowing that you have done something important to help preserve hiking opportunities in America. This is the most important benefit of all. For it will benefit not just you and the other hikers of today—but all future generations of hikers, as well.

The American Hiking Society

1255 Portland Place
Boulder, CO 80302

YES count on me. I want to be a member of *The American Hiking Society*. My \$15 dues for the current year will be paid as follows:

- Bill me.
- I'd rather pay now and save AHS the expense of billing me.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

I would like to volunteer the following services:



Photo: Ruth Smiley



Photo: William Kemsley, Jr.



THE
AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

317 Pennsylvania Avenue, S. E., Washington, D. C. 20003



Please Reply To: 18600 SW 157 Avenue, Miami, FL 33187

August, 1979

MEMORANDUM NO. 5

FROM: James A. Kern & Monty Montgomery

TO : California AHS Members and Cross-Country Hikers

Our "HikaNation" plans, the hike from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Washington Monument, have caught the imagination of a lot of people. We want to dramatize the pleasures of walking and hiking and the need for foot trails. The reoccurring energy problems of the last few months have laid an opportunity in our lap. With the enthusiasm that we have already generated, the hike should be a big success. Whether we have 5 or 10 or 1,000 people hiking across Kansas in the fall of 1980 is probably not too important, but we are leaving a large city and arriving at a large city, and this is where we want to make our impact. We will have about thirteen months to plan our arrival in Washington, once the hike begins, but March 15, 1980, our departure from Golden Gate Park, is coming up.

In order to make March 15th a real smashing day, we are going to meet in the Bay Area and make plans. Jack Gilbert, Vice President of The North Face, has offered the use of company facilities for 7:30 pm., Thursday, September 20th at 1011 Gilman Street, Berkeley, California. I have asked Bill Kemsley to come out to Berkeley with me for the occasion. Can you be there? Please phone Jack's secretary at 415-524-8432 and let him know. If you can bring friends, tell him how many.

I'd like to see 10,000 people in Golden Gate Park that morning for a real upbeat celebration. Perhaps the Governor would talk to us. We'll invite others also. Perhaps we'll have an early picnic lunch in the park, and then set off for an afternoon of walking. This event will be a wonderful way to get our message across. These are only ideas. We need a lot of input on how the day should be planned. Then we'll need some people to help with the details.

Also, we welcome this opportunity to get to know fellow members on the west coast. I am hoping some of you will have connections with other conservation organizations and that they'll be interested in celebrating March 15th with us. Bill and I are looking forward to meeting you on the 20th of September.

Jim O'Hearty

THE
AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

317 Pennsylvania Avenue, S. E., Washington, D. C. 20003



Please Reply To: 18600 SW 157 Avenue Miami, FL 33187

June 25, 1979

MEMORANDUM NO. 4

FROM: James A. Kern & Monty Montgomery

TO : Cross-Country Hikers

We want to make a big event out of our departure from Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. We hope a real crowd of people will join us for the day to walk eastward through the city and out toward the Bay Bridge. Governor Jerry Brown has been invited. The date will be either March 15 or March 22, 1980. We will have a send-off party in the park in the morning, then an early picnic lunch, then we'll step off. To make all this happen smoothly, Jack Gilbert, Vice-President of The North Face and an AHS Board member, has invited us to have a planning meeting at his company's place in Berkeley on Thursday evening, September 20th. We hope a lot of the far-west folks getting this memo will be there that evening. Bill Kemsley and I will both be on hand. If you can come, write to Jack Gilbert, The North Face, 1234 Fifth Street, Berkeley, CA 95710 and let him know.

Glenn Leach won the logo contest at our cross-country hike seminar at the Annual Meeting. We are making some modifications in his idea. Possibly this isn't the final word, but we're getting close, and we thought you might like to see the logo, essentially as it will be subsequently printed on stationary, patch designs, etc.

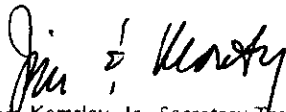


Also, we now have a route coordinator for Utah. Kansas is the only state yet to be filled.

Utah - David Pappas
Box 6951
Goodfellow Air Force Base
San Angelo, TX 76903

A small-scale map showing the up-dated route corridor is provided on the back of this memo.

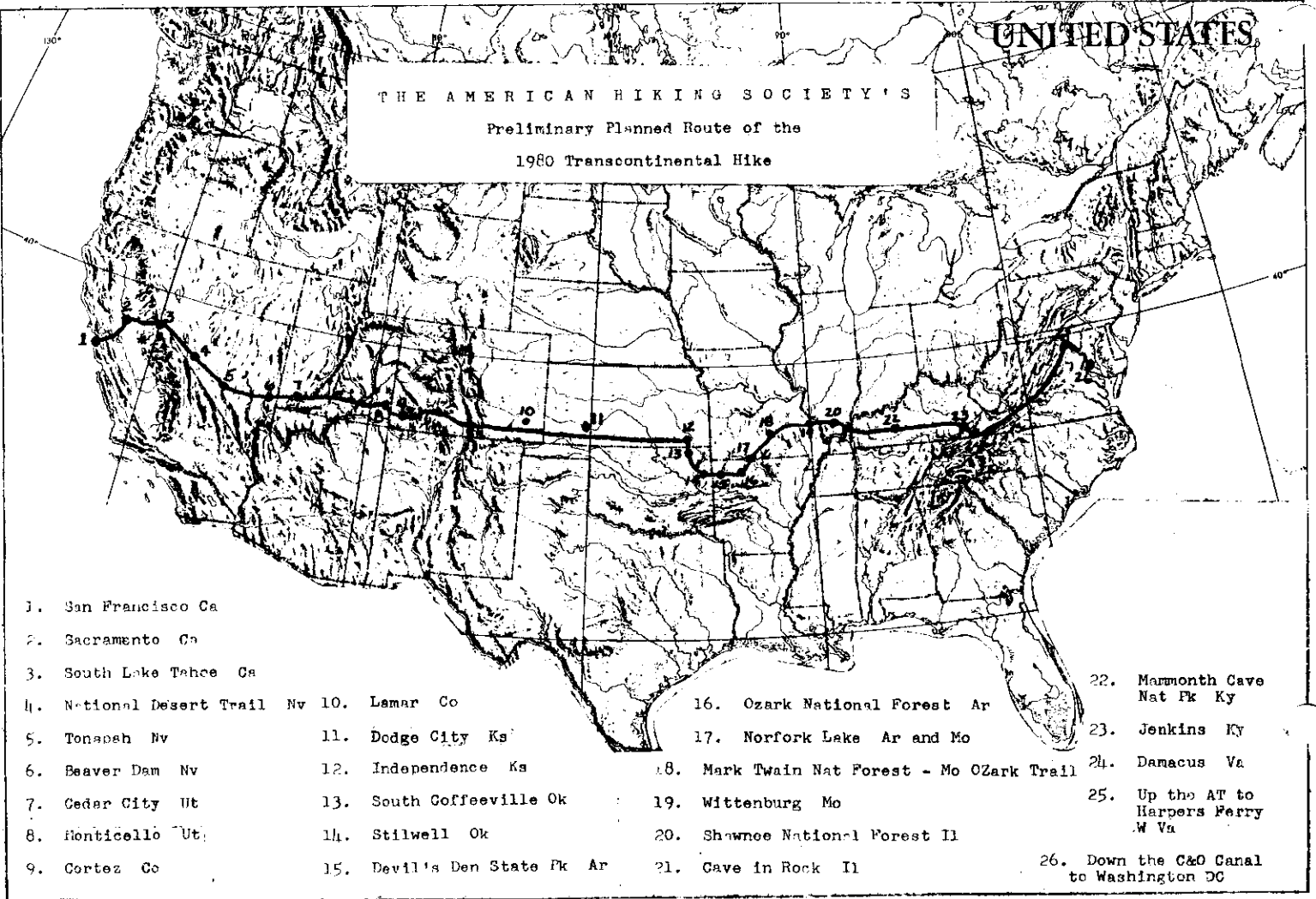
You'll notice that this memorandum is numbered. When you first inquired about the hike, you were sent earlier memos. If you don't have them and want them, please let us know at the time you send us your support check. (see enclosed buck slip.)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim S. Kern". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

OFFICERS: James A. Kern, President; Thomas S. Deans, Vice President; William Kemsley, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer; Craig Evans, Executive Director. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Beverly Byron, Thomas S. Deans, Gudrun Gaskill, Jack Gilbert, William Kemsley, Jr., James A. Kern, Bjorn Kjellstrom, Henry Lautz, Louise Marshall. **ADVISORY BOARD:** Boyd Evison, Colin Fletcher, William J. Holman, William E. Rennebohm, David Richie.

UNITED STATES

THE AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY'S
Preliminary Planned Route of the
1980 Transcontinental Hike



- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 1. San Francisco Ca | | | |
| 2. Sacramento Ca | | | |
| 3. South Lake Tahoe Ca | | | |
| 4. National Desert Trail Nv | 10. Lamar Co | 16. Ozark National Forest Ar | 22. Mammoth Cave Nat Pk Ky |
| 5. Tonopah Nv | 11. Dodge City Ks | 17. Norfolk Lake Ar and Mo | 23. Jenkins Ky |
| 6. Beaver Dam Nv | 12. Independence Ks | 18. Mark Twain Nat Forest - Mo Ozark Trail | 24. Damacus Va |
| 7. Cedar City Ut | 13. South Coffeerville Ok | 19. Wittenburg Mo | 25. Up the AT to Harpers Ferry W Va |
| 8. Monticello Ut | 14. Stilwell Ok | 20. Shawnee National Forest Il | |
| 9. Cortez Co | 15. Devil's Den State Pk Ar | 21. Cave in Rock Il | 26. Down the C&O Canal to Washington DC |

THE
AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

317 Pennsylvania Avenue, S. E., Washington, D. C. 20003

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MIAMI, FLORIDA

THE
AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

1255 Portland Place, Boulder, CO 80302



Please Reply To: 18600 SW 157 Avenue Miami, FL 33187

MEMORANDUM

April, 1979

FROM: James A. Kern, President; Monty Montgomery, Hike Coordinator
TO : Cross-Country Hikers

I received a telephone call last week from Dr. S.A. Larsen (this charming gal is called "Sam" by her friends). She was in town for several days attending a Neuroscience Seminar and wondered if we could get together to talk about the cross-country hike. Sam had previously volunteered to be the Illinois State Hike Planner and select the corridor for our hike through Illinois. She had a map she wanted me to see.

A few hours later we met, and I had a chance to view a meandering line from west to east through the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois, our first state-long, large-scale section map with the completed, proposed route on it. It was an exciting session, talking out the details of a portion of our hike.

We can now provide you with a more complete list of State Hike Planners for our hike. Their names and addresses appear below:

California	-	Craig Evans 210 W. 101 St - #2G New York, NY 10025	Glenn Seaborg Lawrence Berkeley Lab Berkeley, CA 94720
Nevada	-	Mr. Jean Beam, Jr.	1205 Palm Terrace Las Vegas, NV 89106
Utah	-		
Colorado	-	Gudy Gaskill	548 Pine Song Trail Kinnikinnik Hill Golden, CO 80401
Kansas	-		
Oklahoma	-	Tom Creider	Oklahoma Tourism & Rec. Dept. Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Arkansas	-	James Brown	6810 South T Street Fort Smith, AR 72903
Missouri	-	Al Schneider	7219 Amherst University City, MO 63130
Illinois	-	Ms. S.A. Larsen (Sam)	3515 Vine Street McHenry Shores, IL 60050
Kentucky	-	Ron Keal	Route #1 - Box 84AA Upton, KY 42784
Appalachian Trail	-		
Maryland	-	Ed Garvey	1015 Parker Street Falls Church, VA 22046

People wishing to volunteer their time and energy in preparing for the hike should contact the above person nearest to them. There will be a lot of preliminary plans and decisions to make, and each Hike Planner will need all the volunteers he can get. He'll also need a number of "pathfinders" to stay with the hikers as they traverse his state. We still need a lead person for Utah and Kansas.

The American Hiking Society Annual Meeting and "Hike-In" will be held at Prince William Forest Park, 31 miles south of Washington D.C., on May 18,19 and 20. Monty Montgomery and Jim Kern will be conducting a seminar on the cross-country hike at 4:30 pm, Saturday, May 19. We would like to see you all there, particularly if you have input or questions. Write Steve Doyle, 200 N. Pickett - #807, Alexandria, VA 22304 immediately for registration information.

Hundreds of people have written and asked for information about the cross-country hike. A few are planning to try hiking the entire distance. Many are planning to join the group for a portion of the trip. Whether you are one of these or just want to lend moral support and enthusiasm to the project, we want to keep sending you memorandums on the progress of our plans. To do this, we need financial support to avoid a large burden upon the general fund of the American Hiking Society. We have printing and postage, long-distance phone calls, and transportation expenses. We also need a "kitty" to draw on in order to begin a concerted search for a sponsor for the hike. To these ends we are asking each subscriber to send \$10. If you would like to renew your \$15 membership in the American Hiking Society or join AHS for the first time, please send us \$20, a savings to you of \$5. Be sure and indicate whether you're a new member or a renewing member when returning the bottom portion of this page with your check.

Our cross-country hike has an important statement to make. We want to let Americans know the size of the hiking community (see the last issue of the AHS News - February). And we want to announce clearly the need for hiking trails. With a crunch in energy use coming (no one knows how soon or how deep the crunch will be) we want to dramatize the value of walking, hiking and backpacking as low-energy forms of recreation. We want America to be ready and informed when the recreation we enjoy will be one of the options remaining in a low-energy future.

Most of us have no idea of the potential demands that might be made on walking facilities in the future. Comparing America to western Europe provides some startling insight. Germany, which is the size of Oregon, has 2000 more miles of trail than the entire United States. It has 48 trail clubs with more than 2,500 local chapters and 450,000 members. These trail clubs operate nearly 700 trail lodges. They also maintain and mark trails. About half of their funding comes from the local Bundesland, or State.

England, which is smaller than the State of Florida, has as many miles of trails as the entire United States. Its major walking organization - the Rambler's Association - has 30,000 members, larger than any single trail club in this country, yet small by European standards.

Luxembourg, which is about the size of the state of Rhode Island- 1,000 square miles- has more than 3 miles of trail for every square mile of countryside.

Switzerland, which is half the size of Lake Superior, has 35,000 miles of trail. Austria, which is about the same size and shape as the state of Kentucky, has 26,000 miles of trail maintained by the Austrian Alpine Club alone. And it has 160 local chapters scattered throughout the country and more than 205,000 members. It also operates 258 mountain huts, publishes maps and guidebooks, supports scientific expeditions and arranges more than 400 hiking trips in Austria and abroad each year.

Need we say any more? These surprising statistics should urge you to support the cross-country hike. Won't you do so today?—We want to keep your name on the list of those who receive these memos. We also hope we'll see you on the trail.

Jim K. & Monty M.

THE AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

1980 Transcontinental Hike

INFORMATION SHEET

1. How many miles are we hiking each day?

A lot will depend on daily weather, the season of the year, terrain and other factors. We should average the recognized rate of about two miles per hour of actual hiking. Typically, that will translate into an average day of 10 or 12 miles, less in mountainous areas, more on roads.

2. Are we going to hike on trails or roads?

We will always hike on trails when they are available. We will attempt to plan the route through the most scenic public lands, away from congestion and motorists. Perhaps the hike can be a testimony to the idea of a transcontinental trail. As we hear from state route planners, we will refine this answer in later memos to hikers.

3. How many hikers will participate in the hike?

We hope there will be hundreds, thousands perhaps at the beginning and the end to dramatize the need for footpaths, but there will be so many miles of trail to consume that the group size will probably be small for most of the distance (15 or 20?). We'll have a better idea as time goes by.

4. How long does a hiker have to stay on the trail?

This is up to the individual. If he/she has an up-to-date schedule of the hike and has easy access to the hikers, he could join for a single day. Several people have said they want to hike the entire distance.

5. How long will the hike take?

Again, we will revise this answer at a later date when final route selections take shape, but we are estimating that it will be spring-time in the Sierras, early summer in the Rockies, late summer in the plains, fall in Daniel Boone country, winter in the Appalachians and spring in Washington, D.C.

6. Does the hiker carry all his needs or will a support vehicle do it?

Each hiker must carry what he needs, but our support vehicle will be able to resupply him with water, his food and equipment whenever the trail crosses a public road.

7. How many hikers is the leader to be responsible for?

Probably not more than 25. Even though the group is considered to be a loose confederation of enthusiastic hikers, individuals will be expected to recognize a leader representing AHS. His duties will include:

1. Complete the hike plan for his section of the trail.
2. Maintain harmony.
3. See that individual hikers reach their destination safely.

Hikers will be expected to adhere to the trail procedures when adopted, agree to offer and accept expertise, show concern for the group's welfare, practice good conservation, including the conservation of one's own energy and personal resources.

8. Are pets allowed?

We are very concerned about changes in weather, fences to cross, cars along highways and other problems. At the moment the answer is no.

9. How can I secure financial assistance?

The American Hiking Society intends to raise a large sum of money to provide for competent planning and support services. We may be able to arrange for contributions of equipment and food from suppliers, but efforts on this must come second. Without such assistance, hikers should budget at least \$5.00 per day for expenses. Will there be a registration fee? It's too early to tell. We'll keep you posted on these financial concerns.

10. How can I help AHS plan for this hike?

Our hike will dramatize the size of the hiking community to Americans, particularly people in public office, and it will dramatize the need for foot trails. You can help by spreading the word about the hike and by taking part in it, even if only for a short distance. If you have a special skill you think would be useful, let us hear from you. If you live anywhere near the proposed alignment of the hike, I am sure you could be of service as the hikers pass through your area.

11. Can you describe the atmosphere of the hike?

Let's be happy in our work! Let's enjoy an adventure. Let's create a pleasurable and memorable event.

THE
AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

1255 Portland Place, Boulder, CO 80302



Please Reply To: 18600 SW 157 Avenue Miami, FL 33187

MEMORANDUM

January, 1979

FROM: James A. Kern, President ; Monty Montgomery, Hike Coordinator
TO : Cross-Country Hikers

The list of people interested in knowing about our 1980 transcontinental hike is growing. So too are the offers to help. Almost 50% of those who write volunteer services. Often the letter is a general one, just asking us to let them know if we need assistance. One person living near the proposed route offered to feed the hikers on their way through. In time we will probably have a specific suggestion for virtually every one of these offers.

We have been looking for people to recommend a route through each state, and we have made a good beginning. Here is our route selection team, state by state, so far:

California	- Craig Evans, New York, NY
San Francisco Bay Area	- Glenn Seaborg, Berkeley, CA
Missouri	- Al Schneider, University, MO
Kentucky	- Ron Keal, Upton, KY
Maryland/Washington, D.C.	- Ed Garvey, Falls Church, VA
Illinois	- S.A. Larsen, McHenry Shores, IL

If you haven't received a map of the proposed route alignment, see page 67 in Backpacker 30. We're particularly interested in the states shown in the alignment, but we would also like to hear from people in Arkansas, Tennessee and West Virginia. We could still be talked into route changes if people think the route can be improved on. We particularly hope to hear from people in Nevada, Utah, Colorado and Virginia. And we need people to assist those who have already volunteered. So don't be shy.

Funding for the hike is a major immediate task for the Society. Large corporations that we think can benefit from the exposure we can offer them are being contacted now. A lot rides on finding an acceptable sponsor soon. Don't hesitate to suggest possible sponsors.

Later on, we will provide each of you with the names of fellow hikers in your area, should you want to get together to plan the project. Here is one benefit of getting involved: You will learn more about your own state and meet state recreation planners, if you don't already know them. You will then be in a better position in the future to voice your opinions on planning and construction of trails and other recreation facilities in your area.

Usually people write with questions, and we have been doing the best we can to answer them individually. The enclosed Information Sheet should help further. It will be updated from time to time.

Jim K. & Monty M.

THE
AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

1255 Portland Place, Boulder, CO 80302

Please Reply To: 18600 SW 157 Avenue Miami, FL 33187



October 26, 1978

MEMORANDUM

FROM: James A. Kern, President
TO : Cross-Country Hikers

About 11:00 Sunday evening, October 15, we concluded an 8-hour Board meeting. A good portion of that time was spent discussing concerns of the Board for our up-coming hike. From the enthusiastic response of members who have said they want to be a part of the hike and from others who had read about it in Backpacker magazine, it looks very apparent that a group of us could begin at the Golden Gate Bridge on schedule and walk across the country to the Washington Monument. The challenge of completing this enterprise would be something to be proud of and an end in itself. But the Board was concerned about missed opportunities that might result from not having allowed sufficient time for the planning stage. These include:

1. Using the hike to emphasize the size of the hiking community to the general public and to public officials.
2. Making them aware of the limited hiking opportunities available. (The miles we are forced to hike on roads would dramatize this.)
3. Involving to the fullest extent hiking clubs along the route of the trail.
4. Maximizing exposure of the trip to the media.
5. Maximizing the participation of local officials in the states through which the hike goes.

While I was concerned about the large number of enthusiastic people already interested in the hike, many of whom may have begun making plans to free up their calendars for the spring of next year, and though I didn't want to disappoint these people, I agreed in the end with the decision to postpone the hike for one year.

After word of the hike was announced, an important person wrote to offer his help. Lawrence "Monty" Montgomery from Macomb, Illinois, an Appalachian Trail end-to-ender and retired military man with experience in areas important to us, offered to be the Hike Coordinator, to provide his car and Airstream trailer in support of this effort and to perform numerous functions for us: to do advance planning for the hike, to work with hike leaders as the hike progressed, to provide "hospitality" and briefing for arriving and departing hikers, to pick up mail, to meet local officials and bring them to the hike when possible, to distribute a media package, etc. It has been apparent for some time that he could be a key to the success of the hike. Sunday evening we phoned him and asked him if he could fly to Miami and meet with the Board.

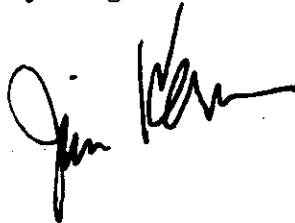
In a 3-hour meeting the next evening, Monty expressed similar concerns that to maximize all the opportunities that the hike represented for AHS and to provide for a richer experience for the hikers, six months was not enough lead time.

After another long meeting on October 17, the idea of a March or April departure month was confirmed and so the hike was advanced one year. A tentative budget was prepared, much larger than the original one, and the decision was made to seek a national sponsor for the event. The general corridor as shown on the maps you have already received was confirmed. The decision was made to write to all those
(over)

who have expressed an interest in leadership roles for help in refining the exact route. While AHS cannot promise to supply the individual needs of hikers (equipment, food, etc.) a decision was made to solicit the help of organizations that might be willing to supply such needs.

Much more was discussed as to how the goals of the adventure could be reached, and a good start was made on the mechanics of making it all come together. But this information will follow in later correspondence. One thing we would like to do early on, and that is come up with a name and logo for the hike, something a little more original than "the AHS cross-county hike". We would use this on patches, T-shirts, stationary, etc. We would like to provide a complimentary pack and frame to anyone who can come up with a name and logo we can use for our trek. Let us have your ideas.

And we will be in touch with all of you again soon.



THE
AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

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