

BATONA TRAIL DIARY

THE ORIGINAL 30 MILES

SOMETIME 1960 - The idea of building a hiking trail through the Wharton and Lebanon State Forests was first suggested by Dale Knapschafer of the Batona Hiking Club.

JAN. 20, 1961 - A letter (#1) was written to State Commissioner Salvatore A. Bontempo, of the Dept. of Conservation and Economic Development, explaining our plans, and hoping for endorsement.

To our pleasant surprise a most favorable reply (#2) was received. We were to meet with J. C. Mac Donald, manager of Wharton. Just about that time Mr. Mac Donald was advanced to a post in Trenton, and our first meeting was held with assistant, Sid Walker. We had earlier received a letter from Mr. Mac Donald (#3).

JAN. 27, 1961 - At a leaders meeting of the Batona Hiking Club, Morris Burdock, President presiding, building the trail was made an official Club project.

FEB. 18, 1961 - A letter was written to Mr. Mac Donald, stating our plan and suggesting a meeting date.

FEB. 21, 1961 - Letter received from Mr. Mac Donald setting a meeting date of Sat. March 11.

FEB. 27, 1961 - Letter sent to Mr. Mac Donald acknowledging the meeting date.

TRAIL DIARY CONT.

MARCH 11, 1961 - Had meeting at Green Bank office. Mr. Mac Donald
couldn't come. We met his assistant Mr. Sid Walker.
We had a friendly discussion on plans.

APRIL 13, 1961 - Letter written to Mr. Mac Donald requesting an
additional meeting on April 29, at Park office.

APRIL 17, 1961 - Reply received from Mr. Walker confirming
meeting on April 2.

APRIL 29, 1961 - Meeting held with Mr. Walker. Discussed advanced
details of trail, and agreed to call it Barton Trail.

MAY 4, 1961 - Received letter from Mr. Walker informing us that
Mr. J. P. Allen, superintendant of Lebanon would like to
meet with us.

MAY 6, 1961 - Letter written to Mr. Allen suggesting meeting May 20.

MAY 8, 1961 - Letter received from Mr. Allen confirming meeting.

MAY 20, 1961 - Had a friendly meeting with Mr. Allen and discussed
the trail work through Lebanon Forest.

MAY 23, 1961 - Letter written to Mr. Mac Donald mentioning meeting
with Mr. Allen, and requesting official permission to
begin trail work.

TRAIL DIARY CONT.

MAY 26, 1961 - Received letter from Mrs. Walker giving official permission to start work on Batons Trail.

JULY 7, 1961 - Letter written to Mrs. Walker to give progress report on trail work.

AUG. 15, 1961 - Letter written to Mister Walker to give second progress report.

AUG. 18, 1961 - Acknowledgement of "Progress Report" received from Mrs. Walker.

AUG. 19, 1961 - Unscheduled meeting held with Mrs. Allen of Lebanon to discuss trail work.

AUG. 26, 1961 - Had meeting with Mrs. Allen. We met Mrs. Mitchner, chief Ranger of this area. He inspected trail work in this area, and found it satisfactory. He and Mrs. Allen agreed to build log bridges over two streams at Pakim Pond. Mrs. Mitchner suggested using existing trail beyond Carpenter Spring. Dale Knapechaber and Morris Bardoach checked it, and found it satisfactory.

SEPT. 3, 1961 - Walt Worezniak took George Sommer over the route to make sketches for the Batons schedule.

OCT. 3, 1961 - Letter written to Mrs. Walker for meeting to give trail mileages and discuss final details.

OCT. 9, 1961 - Received answer from Mrs. Walker that he couldn't meet us on the 14th, but suggested the 21st.

TRAIL DIARY CONT.

OCT. 13, 1961 - Wrote Mr. Walker that we couldn't meet on the 21st because of a Katekill camping trip, and suggested Oct. 28.

OCT. 28, 1961 - Met with Mr. Walker. Settled final questions, and gave mileages for a system of signs.