

History Corner

Remembering Fellow Tramp, Frank Guilfoil



Frank was a quiet man with an adventurous spirit and great sense of humor. He would ski down ungroomed slopes in the woods that not even an Olympian would consider skiable. Sometimes he would need to be rescued from his fearless antics on the trail. His wit was shared at Tramp dinners with silly songs and skits he wrote and performed with his pal Pete Pliniski. Many a campfire was built by Frank for us to enjoy hot dogs, marshmallows, and camaraderie. He loved the outdoors and the Adirondacks and was a 46er. For years he organized and led Tramps on High Peaks Weekends. The following are excerpts from the "High Peaks Weekends" article he wrote for the Tramp and Trail History book, Vol. IV.

"It's been a struggle to get a campfire sing-a-long going in the evening. People seem to prefer to just talk, roast marshmallows or attend the slide show or talks the Loj puts on. One year I had a requirement that everyone submit a song with music for a song sheet. Only faithful Millie (Behrens) complied. So much for the requirements.

Some hikers remember certain events which others would just as soon forget and vice versa. I particularly remember . . . we climbed Mount Colden and hiked on a hot day saved eventually by Barb's (Thomas) water filter. One year I cooked swordfish on my newspaper stove - not particularly memorable except that Dick (Becraft) would remind me of it just about every time I saw him.

One time I would like to forget is the year 1995 when I led a troop to Street and Nye Mountains and on the way back got on a herd path that carried us a long way but eventually ended. To say we were lost would be an exaggeration (I claim), but we did have to bushwhack using compasses and did end up walking much further than necessary."

We will never forget you, Frank. We imagine you still looking for adventure, hiking heaven's mountains while sleeping out under the stars by a warm campfire. Rest in peace, dear friend.

Submitted by Bobbie Scarpino