

Hikers Reopen a 400-Mile Path

Begin Walking From Washington Bridge to Adirondacks

By JOHN C. DEVLIN

New Yorkers who want to stretch their legs can now do it with a vengeance.

Over the week-end lovers of hiking began blazing the trail of the Long Path, which extends 400 miles from the New Jersey side of the George Washington Bridge to Whiteface Mountain in the Adirondacks.

Unlike American pioneers, who used to whack a scar in a tree to mark a route, the hikers have gone modern. They use sky blue paint and signs reading "Long Path," or little aluminum markers bearing the abbreviation "L. P."

The Long Path is mostly level as it runs along the top of the Palisades adjacent to the Palisades Interstate Parkway. It gets much more rugged as it reaches the Catskills and continues upstate.

Yesterday and Saturday the advance party for future hikers over the route included Robert Jessen, 21 years old, of 842 Belmont Avenue, Brooklyn, and Mary Ann Smetana, 18, of 334 Cornelia Street, Brooklyn.

Mr. Jessen is an employe of the American Textile Company and is president of the Ramapo Ramblers, a hiking club. Miss Smetana is in the mortgage department of the Serial Federal Savings and Loan Association, 70 Church Street.

Starting in the shadow of the bridge, with the approval of the Palisades Interstate Park Police, the hikers snipped at blocking branches, put stripes of the blue paint on rocks and logs, and nailed the two types of markers on trees along the wooded, picturesque route 400



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Miss Mary Ann Smetana waits while Robert Jessen paints a blue arrow on a rock about three-quarters of a mile north of George Washington Bridge. This is point at which hikers usually take a farewell look at Manhattan while following arrows along the 400-mile Long Path.

feet above the Hudson River.

The route was laid out about thirty years ago and crosses the Appalachian Trail west of Bear Mountain. The current project of marking the old trail has received the encouragement of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, a parent body for many local hiking groups.

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