

HISTORY of T.C.H.C. by E.F. Washburn...On Sunday, March 16, 1947, five Endicott residents met three other congenial souls in Elmira and hiked six miles, mostly uphill, to Mark Twain's Study overlooking the Chemung valley. "From this hike came the idea of starting a club of our own. I met with Mr. Tannenhaus on the following night and the Endicott Hiking Club was born." So writes Evelyn Miller in the club's first log book. For many years Evelyn was secretary, photographer and moving spirit of the club's activities. One Sunday's hikers decided on the locale of the following week's hike and Evelyn sent out penny postcard notices. Good newspaper publicity brought out new hikers almost every week. Before the end of the year there were sixty-five members. As all but ten were from Binghamton the name was changed to the Triple Cities Progressive Hiking Club (the "progressive" was soon dropped) and the meeting place was to the east side of Court House Square, where it remained until the move to Westover a few years ago. The hike often started at the meeting place and led to the outskirts of town, then open country before the mushrooming of suburbia--West Corners, Union Center, Campville, Bunn Hill were some of the destinations. Early photos show the men dressed in business suits, overcoats and fedoras; the women in skirts, with occasional slacks on the more daring. Hiking boots, skis and such were practically unknown; a newspaper notice stated: "Hike club members will devote the winter season to walking on paved roads." Many of the long-ago hikes ended with impromptu refreshments, either at a restaurant or "pig-stand" or at the Millers'. Such things as oysters and crackers, in the summer time strawberries or blueberry pies topped with ice cream. We were disorganized - but we flourished and we had fun.

The first anniversary was celebrated by dinner at Day Hollow Restaurant, which began the club's annual meeting date.

Over nearly thirty years, the club's activities have changed with the times, but the spirit of companionship and the enjoyment of the outdoors remains.

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