

Trio of hikers completes Appalachian Trail trek

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MILLINOCKET

Three young men completed the 2,050-mile Appalachian Trail at Baxter Peak, Mt. Katahdin during the week of Sept. 9. Larry Dorr, 20, Canton, Mass., and Blair Orr, 20, Madison, Wis., reached their goal at 11 a.m. Sept. 10, while Karl E. Hartzell, 24, Clinton, Md., finished on Sept. 14. Larry Dorr had started at Springer Mountain, Ga. on April 4 with Blair Orr starting a week later on April 13. The two men with similar names first met in southern Virginia and again in Pennsylvania, but did not start hiking together until reaching Hanover, N.H. They encountered problems of getting each other's mail at checkpoints so were aware of each other along the trail.

Larry Dorr, a college geology student had set a goal of finishing the trail before his 21st birthday, and saw this accomplished with a few days to spare. Dorr hadn't climbed Katahdin before but had been in Maine several times. He had been planning the trip for a year.

Dorr hadn't gained any weight during the trip on a diet with little variety. This included chocolate and peanut butter for lunch while walking, and either macaroni, rice or potato with some meat sauce for dinner. He averaged 15 miles per day, taking a day off from hiking at various times and places. Dorr stated he made a slight detour in Connecticut when he nearly stepped on a rattlesnake, and he ran for quite some distance near Mt. Bigelow in Maine when he kicked a bee's nest by mistake.

Dorr studied botany and geology during the trip, kept a journal of his activities, and took about a thousand colored slides which he is anxious to see when he returns to his home.

Orr had walked in previous years about 100 miles of the trail in the southern states. He also averaged 15 miles per day, but stopped at a summer camp and was invited to be a camp counselor for one week in Pennsylvania, and took another week off when he became ill in Connecticut.

Karl Hartzell started on May 6, hiking about 95 per cent of the trail by himself. He averaged 17 miles per day, with an 11-day break at the half-way point. He is a graduate of forestry from West Virginia University and has had a job for one and a half years as a plywood inspector to save money for the trip. He estimates it cost \$1,500 for equipment which included three pairs of boots.

Hartzell was impressed with an entry made by a hiker who was traveling the trail from Maine to Georgia. The following was on the register at Nahmakanta Lake, about 30 miles northwest of Millinocket, dated Sept. 8, 1974. "The Big Katahdin to Georgia. My name is Bob Hill of 3080 Saxon Court, Columbus, Ohio. My legs ache, my feet have blisters, I've got mosquito bites and I'm hungry with a long way to go. To top things off, I'm a mixed up 18 year old reaching for a dream. But Maine, even though you've got too many mud spots, bugs, and this raunchy lean-to, I love you. Your beauty and solitude are worth the pain and sweat. Be happy out there. God loves you!"