

LAKE MINNEWASKA MOUNTAIN HOUSE

Season of 1919

Where shall I spend my summer vacation this year?" What a host of considerations crowd themselves into your mind as you ask yourself this question! And yet, when you have carefully analyzed them, how few and simple are your requirements-if you could only be assured of satisfying them.

You are perfectly right in using nice discrimination. Quite naturally you select the place that has distinctive features appealing to your own personal good taste and judgment.

Preference seems to direct you to the place that is totally different from your all-year-round environment. Mother Nature, wild and rugged, seems to call you as to an annual Mecca-away from the "tumult and the shouting," where one can live a life less complex and once more get in harmony with all that is beautiful in nature. This primeval instinct, manifested in so many unmistakable ways, good-naturedly lures us away for the change that brings rest and recreation in fullest measure.

Yet there are considerations of accessibility, lest the trip there and back mar the harmony of an otherwise perfect outing. While you seek an entire change, you feel sure you can enjoy it the more if with it come comfortable surroundings, congenial, refined companionship, good food in plenty of variety and a thorough satisfaction of your ordinarily simple wishes. Yes, you seem to desire a place that is different from home, but with all the comforts and the atmosphere of a real home.

Perhaps it is the fulfillment of all these requirements that makes Lake Minnewaska Mountain Houses so all-satisfying, so complete. Certain it is that the wonderful scenery, beautiful, lofty situation of the houses and commanding views of broad vistas of distant mountains and valleys have never proved monotonous or tiring. Year after year the same guests, who contribute so much to the harmonious surroundings, seem to indicate beyond doubt that Minnewaska has a never-ending attraction for one, who with discriminating taste seeks a perfect summer vacation.

Since 1879, when the first of the Minnewaska houses was opened, thousands of guests have been entertained and a large number of these return year after year. For them, Minnewaska brings a new inspiration, new pleasures, renewed friendships. Revived and invigorated in mind and body at the close of each season they look forward to the next year with the same enthusiastic spirit of pleasurable anticipation.

The proprietors of the Lake Minnewaska Houses devote untiring attention to the fulfillment of their ambition to make each guest entirely pleased and to make of each one a lasting friend. No

inquiry, no request is considered too trivial to have their personal attention. Whether you are laying plans for the summer, for week end, or only a day, they invite your correspondence in order that your every wish may be anticipated.

Even though endowed with the most vivid imagination, if you have never seen Lake Minnewaska, you have a delightful surprise in store for you. No elaborate description is sufficiently satisfying or fitting for this region so heavily endowed with Nature's gifts. Here, within only four or five hours of the most crowded precincts of New York City and its suburbs, on the very summit of that part of the Appalachian range known as the Shawangunk Mountains, lies this vast estate of over seven thousand acres. Situated eighteen hundred to two thousand feet above the sea, nature has not only wrought out of her own rugged elements wonderful combinations of lakes and woods, flowers and foliage, but has also provided rare vantage points from which one may get some of the most magnificent views of the great Empire State. These views include the neighboring mountains and the valleys of the Hudson and its tributaries from way below Storm King to Lake George, as well as the more distant outlooks into five other states.

For the most part covered with a health-giving resinous mountain pine and primeval hemlock, this estate, privately owned, and therefore shutting off undesirable intruders, includes lakes, falls and cascades of water as pure and sparkling as ever bubbled from mountain springs, secluded glens thick with ferns and strewn with mighty boulders, elevated Cliffs and towering crags, streams and mighty crevices fissures driven deep into solemn hills. Here you find not the gentle contours of the neighboring Catskills, but large vistas of more rugged scenery, leaving the impression that, although all is now so exquisite, peaceful and serene, once, far back in the distant ages, mighty forces had wrought havoc and left all this in the wake of its terrible course.

As if in an enormous bowl, serene in its security from any disturbance from without, lies beautiful Lake Minnewaska. The rim of this bowl rises from sixty to one hundred and fifty feet above the surface of the lake. Like a rare gem, in a perfect, secure setting, the lake is the center of attraction. Surrounding it, lie many opportunities for pleasurable experiences that may be had on the estate.

Overlooking this delightful lakelet, on the summit of the highest vantage point, affording a view of some of the most charming and comprehensive valley and mountain scenery are the Cliff and Wildmere Houses, with accommodations for five hundred guests.

Far above the high temperatures, the dews and dampness, and enervating influences of a lowland summer-serene and secure away from the harsh discordant tumult of the city-you find yourself here in perfect harmony with gentle and refined society that surrounds you, or alone, free to do that which most suits your fancy at the moment. For forty years this has been a favorite resort of a limited class of people, season after season. While it has never been the aim

of the management to attract guests indiscriminately, there is none of the exclusiveness that admits only the wealthy to recognition. Naturally, the loud, the coarse, the vulgarly ostentatious realize how manifestly they would be out of place, and go elsewhere.

Resembling very much the large, comfortable, country homes one sees, rather than hotels, both houses are arranged with utmost care for the comfort of guests. The rooms are of unusual size, almost double the size of those one generally finds at summer hotels. Each is arranged to afford a view of part of the beautiful scenery and many of them have private balconies large enough for easy-chair lounging.

Great tanks which supply the buildings with water, and pumps operated by specially-installed gasoline engines, keep guard against any possibility of fire. Standpipes with hose connections reaching all parts of the buildings are conveniently located in each house.

Both houses are lighted by gas and Welsbach burners. The drainage from each house is far down the mountain side, away from the lake, leaving it pure and uncontaminated.

Each house has a separately conducted dining-room, each overlooking a magnificent view. Minnewaska gardens supply some of the vegetables and fruits, while nearby dairies and metropolitan markets provide everything that could be desired for good food in plenty of variety. That Minnewaska "sets a good table," goes without question.

Built in 1879 and enlarged in 1881 the Cliff House, situated on the east of the lake 1,800 feet above tide water, opens the season of 1919 June 27th, and closes about September 10th. It accommodates two hundred and twenty-five guests. In some parts of the building the mountains of six states are visible, including the highlands of the Hudson, the Berkshire Hills, the Green Mountains of Vermont, the Helderbergs, the Catskills, and the Shandaken Mountains as well as many river valleys; all blending into one most comprehensive and inspiring view. From up here, high above the lowlands, one gets a limitless variety of beautiful effects which light and shadow, storm and sunshine, mist and moonlight have upon this matchless picture.

In response to the popularity created by the Cliff House, Wildmere, on the northern end of the lake, was opened in 1887 and in 1911 a considerable addition to it was built. It accommodates three hundred and fifty guests and for the season of 1919 will open May 29th and close October 1st. Here, as in the Cliff House, the halls are heated by furnaces and the public rooms by open fireplaces. In the Wildmere also nearly all of the private rooms have open fireplaces for burning the resinous mountain pine. Here, too, the view from each room in the house is magnificent. To the West and North for fifteen to thirty miles one sees the Rondout valley spread out like a map.

In the new addition, which is more than one hundred and fifty feet in length and has four sleeping floors, each of the rooms is heated by steam and connected with the office by telephone. A large number of the rooms in this portion of the house have private bathrooms.

Three and one-half miles from Minnewaska is beautiful Awosting Lake, which has four times the area of Minnewaska. Being of glacial origin, it is very similar in characteristics. Here two thirteen room cottages, with open fire-places and spacious verandas, are for rent, furnished. They are both located on high ground overlooking the lake and have running cold water. They may be rented with or without a stable.

On the north side of Awosting Lake is the thriving boys' camp under the management of Mr. Jerome F. Kidder. This camp, in existence for several years, has proved very attractive for a boy's summer vacation. The dormitories and other buildings in connection with the camp are substantial structures. Provision has been made for all sorts of recreation of which boys are fond, including boating, bathing and a large attractive playground provided with baseball diamonds and tennis-courts.

Three quarters of a mile from Minnewaska, on the Kerhonkson turnpike, is the Laurel Inn, a small country boarding house with accommodations for twenty guests. The Inn has an elevation of 1,200 feet, and is within easy walking distance of the most attractive scenery of the Minnewaska estate. The building is in good repair and has bathroom and toilet accommodations. The rates per week vary from \$12 to \$16. For further information, address Manager, Laurel Inn, Minnewaska, Ulster Co., N. Y.

There is perhaps no location more accessible, more delightful and more healthful than Minnewaska. But its unusual scenic attractions and its comfortable home-like accommodations are not all that it affords. The management has succeeded in providing every opportunity for a well-rounded, complete vacation, no matter what the individual tastes of the guests may be. Lake Minnewaska water is soft, and becoming warm early in the season affords delightful bathing. There are four bathinghouses, two for men and two for women, with a bathingmaster and life-guard always in attendance so that women and children may enjoy it to the fullest extent.

St. Lawrence skiffs are for rent at reasonable prices, either by the day or season. Boating is a favorite recreation at Minnewaska and, because of the land-locked position of the lake, the most inexperienced can enjoy it with absolute safety.

A garage is maintained at Laurel Inn, three-quarters of a mile from Minnewaska. The roads on the estate are winding and many are on high cliffs. For this reason, to avoid danger of accident, automobiles are not allowed on the estate. The best road to Laurel Inn, where the garage is

located, is by the way of Kerhonkson where carriages and accommodations at Minnewaska Houses can be engaged by telephone.

Excellent tennis-courts, ball grounds, bowling-alleys and shuffleboards are provided.

Provision is made for baseball and many spirited contests are held on the Cliff House grounds. These have proved popular attractions for many of the guests, for the rivalry between the houses is keen.

Walking and driving are among the most popular of recreations at Minnewaska. The unusually beautiful paths and roads, from which automobiles are excluded, are kept in excellent condition. The estate abounds in beautiful trails each leading to some vantage point of this romantic region. One can explore great crevices and the ice caves, and find pleasure in the laurel in June and rhododendron of early July and an endless succession of beautiful flowers and ferns. Distributed at various attractive places are quaint, rustic summer-houses where one may break a walk by a rest or enjoy the scenery in solitude and be invigorated by the tonic of mountain air.

So numerous are the walks, and so great their popularity, that regular walking clubs are formed each season. The attractions are so many, that even a spirit of exploration can be indulged on the Minnewaska estate. There is provided a good livery with comfortable carriages and careful drivers. Saddle horses may be hired by the hour or day, while guests who bring their own horses and carriages will find ample accommodations for them.

There are a dozen different drives which one may take on the estate, each leading to an unusually beautiful view point and each attractive along its entire route.

Further information as to the route and direction of each drive may be obtained at any time.

For rates and accommodations, apply to E. A. & G. H. Smiley, Minnewaska, Ulster Co., N. Y. Special rates made for the early part of June and the latter part of September. Liberal terms to families coming early in the season.

Rooms may be inspected in May, during which month parties will be met at Kerhonkson by appointment, and entertained over night at one of the hotels, if desired.

Both houses will be conducted on a strictly temperance plan. Both houses have well-lighted reading-rooms, stocked with current literature, newspapers, periodicals, and books of reference. Letters should be addressed to Minnewaska, Ulster County, N. Y. There are three mails each way daily. The Western Union Telegraph Company has a direct line to New York. Telegrams should be addressed to Lake Minnewaska, N. Y.

Send all express to Kerhonkson, N. Y.

Long-distance telephone in each house.

A good physician resides at the lake. All the surroundings are sanitary; all the influences restorative; and, in order that they may remain so beyond the shadow of a doubt, persons who are suffering from tuberculosis are not received.

It is assumed that visitors will neither arrive nor depart on Sundays. No dogs taken.

The main approach to Minnewaska is less than six miles of stage ride from Kerhonkson, a station on a branch of the New York, Ontario & Western Railway, one hundred and nine miles from New York City.

From the north, the way is by Kingston over the same railroad to Kerhonkson (twenty-two miles). The stage ride takes about ninety minutes. Guests will be met at other points only by appointment and payment of an extra charge for transportation. The summer time-tables will be sent on application as soon as issued. Baggage should be checked to Kerhonkson. It is advisable to place upon each piece of baggage a tag with the owner's name and the hotel at which he intends to stop.

Optically read from the 1919 brochure on 6/4/2002.

Lake Minnewaska History Site

www.lakeminnewaska.org