

2-8-81

Hello,

My name is Cindy Bain and I am one of the Hikanation Hikers from Virginia. And I hear you are interested in us Virginians and that I should write you. So I am but I'm terrible at writing so bear with me.

I'm 24 years old as of December. Had a nice Birthday and party with the group. They kidnapped me and took me to the closest bar and there we celebrated by drinking beer, playing the juke box and winning in pool. That's my favorite past time when we're in town.

I did start in San-

Francisco with Marce Guerin
whom is also from Virginia
and will also write you.
We came out together and
I couldn't have gotten a
better hiking companion.
She's very dedicated to
walking and the hike
itself. By the way she
is 59 years old.

I'll tell you more about
Marce and I because I
think it's interesting. We
came to know one another
back in Spring of '79 when
I had advertised for a
female hiking companion
to hike the Appalachian
Trail with me. So she
called me and wanted to
go though I was leaving
in a few days. But I and
she knew there wasn't enough

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time so she didn't go but kept in touch with me.

Well I didn't finish the A.T. as planned for reasons I will not discuss but did get up to Damascus, Virginia. And I am glad I didn't because I would not have the money to do this hike.

I did not think I would do this hike either but things changed and I decided to do it. I tried to get Marce to go all along but she did not want to without me. She wasn't sure what it would be like I guess.

So I called 1 month before the trip started and told her I had given

my months notice at work and was going on the Hikanation, She about jumped thru the phone she got so excited and wanted me to help her get ready. And that we did, We got equipped, started running, making plans, etc. Here we are today in Kentucky getting closer and closer to D.C.

We were one of the 2 couples that knew each other before the trip that are still hiking. We were in good shape when it started and better shape now. Still smiling and enjoying ourselves despite the cold weather. We are the only 2 females that have walked the whole

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way excepting the fact that
cl did miss 8 miles back in
Nevada because a bunch
of us were in the Hawthorne
Parade for PR reasons.

Well anyway cl was
married in Sept. of '74
and separated Feb. '80.

That is why cl was able
to do the trip. We split
the money we had saved
for a house so cl had the
money, the time and the
incentive. cl worked for
the Alexandria Animal
Hospital as a receptionist
since March '73 and
will probably go back
and work there when
the trip is over. cl will
also go to school but have
no idea what to major
in yet.

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All and all I am very
easy going likable person.
I don't get upset about
anything nor let anything
bother me. I guess that's
how I get by so well.

I am super glad I am
doing this trip and am
very supportive on the
idea behind it. My main
reason for coming. We
seem to have done quite
a lot for trails so far. I
learned about the trip
through Backpacker Mag.
Which we are boycotting now
because they won't print any-
more articles on us. Editorial
conflicts or some dumb bull.

We have a steering committee
in the group which consists of
5 people and have elections
every month or so. Well I've

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been on this committee in every state except Oklahoma and Arkansas. I just like trying to help out with the trip. I've helped out by being pathfinder in the first half of the trip but we now have some full time volunteers to do the job.

I started out on the trip carrying 18 lbs. but with winter gear and a few days of food it averages near 50. I learned alot from my A.T. trip so I was well prepared for Hikanation.

I know I have talked alot about myself because I thought that was what I was supposed to do.

If you would like to know anything else like what I thought of each state or

my experiences, etc. Let me know and I'll write back.

But I will tell you a little about the group before I end this letter...

We have around 50 hikers heading for D.C. 37 originals. Do about 14 miles a day depending on terrain. Usually rest one day a week and 2 days a month. $\frac{1}{3}$ are females. Age range right now is 14 years and 69. All kinds of people - wild, straight, young, old, skinny, fat, etc. And we have learned how to relax, enjoy the minor things in life and how to have a good time.

Well I'll close and you let me know what's happening. Take care and so long,
Cindy