

## The « Centre Gymnique d'Alsace »

Organized naturism has been existing in Alsace for over a century. At those times the club which was the oldest in France. The “Alsace Naturists” located on a fluvial island on the borders of Illkirch-Graffenstaden and Oswald. In the sixties, the increasing number of adherents underlined the smallness of the place, so that a small number of motivated members began to look for a bigger place, which led them to discover a hilly, rustic and wooded zone, in the west of Wasselonne, between the former Pasquay paper mill and the vestige of a sandstone quarry where, in the past they extracted stone blocs for the building of the Strasbourg Cathedral. About 5 hectares were proposed mostly for sale and partially for hiring. The presentation of the place happened in spring 1966 and the naturists who were there were all for the creation of a new club settling in this location.

Without wasting any time, and in the same year, the mastering of the ground, was obtained thanks to several members who built an ITC which got some parcels at the same time as the CGA was founded under an associative status. The term “gymnique” has a sporty connotation and at the same time remembers us ancient Greece where the athletes performed naked.

This is common to all members of all naturist clubs and led the CGA in the application of the official nowadays legislation to proceed to the occultation of the exploitable part of the land, about 3.5 to 4 hectares. Then, thanks to the voluntary collaboration of the members, so as to sums of money to hire outside enterprises the works that have, during the 52 years of existence, given to this site its present characteristics :

- open green space with a variable relief surrounded by trees, among them, a majority of acacias.
- an orchard, which not only brings season fruit, but also allows our naturists to get shelter from burning sunbeams.
- an enclosed car park.
- a collective chalet of many uses : a meeting room, a cloakroom, an infirmary, a sanitary bloc and refrigerators.
- a sanitary bloc including shower, toilets, sinks and wash tubs.
- a swimming pool 15 by 7 meters and a small one for little children, both statutory enclosed.
- a wolley-ball ground.
- a multi-purpose covered place sheltering tool, tables and benches for parties, ping-pong tables and a baby-foot.
- a bowling alley with several tracks.

This place is for leisure, resourcefulness and relaxing for its members who are about 200 most of them being families. It's also a space of accommodation : there are about 50 spots for catravans for the adherents. The CGA welcomes members of other clubs ; 16 spots are affected to naturist tourists of all origins, most of them being Dutch. During the months of July – August of former years, INSEE statistics, these spots are occupied by 60% and bring with them an average of 260 arrivals, about 1680 nights. These campers contribute positively to the trading activity of Wasselonne and surroundings.

The CGA is affiliated to the FFN (French Federation of Naturism) which is itself part of the FIN (International Federation of Naturism). To join those organizations binds their members to accept the fundamental moral values, like self respect, respect of the others and of the environment. Naturism is a philosophy of life, without any social differences, a way of relaxed life, matching with the elements of nature. It's easier to experiment the pleasure of naturism than to describe it !!