

THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

VOLUME #4 ISSUE #3

A Bi-monthly publication of the Montour Trail Council

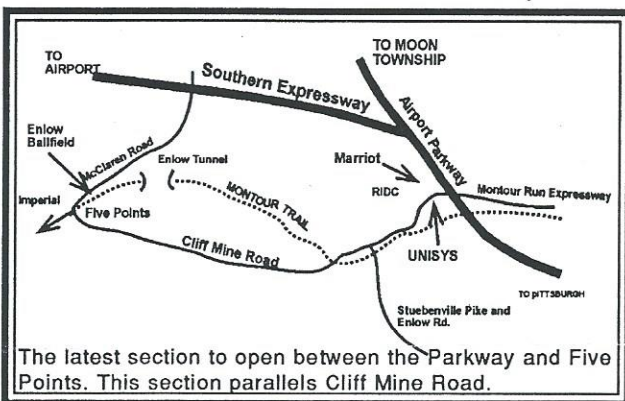
AUGUST

1993

SECOND SECTION OF TRAIL OPENS IN FINDLAY TOWNSHIP

Once again, the weatherman gives the Montour Trail Council a super day to see that another trail segment opens under sunshine. Sunday, July 18, 1993, saw festivities marking the opening of a 2.6 mile segment of trail in Findlay Township from the Enlow Ballfield eastward (or northward by the Montour Railroad nomenclature) to the Airport Parkway near the Montour Run Interchange. This brings the total mileage of the Montour Trail completed to 11 miles (Arrowhead Trail in Peters Township included).

Special ceremonies marking the opening began at 1:30 P.M. with Findlay Township Supervisor Joe Nester providing the welcoming remarks to celebrate the opening of the first section of the Montour Trail in Allegheny County. The Rev. Tom Petrosky of the Valley Presbyterian Church gave the invocation. Music was provided by the West Allegheny High School Band under the direction of Tom Snyder.



MTC President Stan Sattinger thanked Findlay Township for their contributions to the project after which MTC Board Member and Fund Development Chairman Tom Dougherty thanked Allegheny County and the other supporters who made this effort a success. Tim Killmeyer, MTC Board Member and Airport Area Coordinator, talked about the work done to complete the Findlay Segment and future development of the trail, west and east of this segment.

Following the speeches, the moment everyone was awaiting began with a procession to the trail gate where the Trail sign was raised and placed into pre-dug holes under the orchestration of Bill Metzger. Everyone was then invited to run, walk, or ride their bikes on the newly opened section of trail.

DANGEROUS SITUATION RELIEVED BEFORE TRAFFIC INCREASE

One of the remaining abutments of a Montour Railroad bridge that crossed Morganza Road in Cecil Township was obstructing the view of motorists at Hendersonville. The Montour Trail Council, aware of the hazard, worked with Cecil Township and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation - District 12 to remove this obstruction. The work was completed just as traffic was being restricted on I-79 for the Southpointe Interchange construction. Motorists would be using Morganza Road (Washington Pike) to bypass the construction. Without the collaboration of PennDOT, Cecil Township and the Trail Council, this obstruction would still be in place and with the increased traffic, an accident would have been likely.

The roadway narrowed as it passed under the crossing and the vertical clearance was too low for trucks. But more importantly, there are three roads that meet Morganza Road (Cecil-Henderson Road, Railroad Street and Hahn Road) close to the crossing. Drivers trying to enter Morganza Road from these side roads had their vision obstructed because of the structure and were at risk of an accident.

The bridge structure had already been removed after several trucks hit the bridge, but the concrete abutments had been left standing. Before the Montour Trail Council would extend the Cecil Township segment eastward towards Chartiers Creek, this situation would have to be alleviated. (see **ABUTMENT** on Page 3)

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL VIPS

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VICE PRESIDENT	DINO ANGELICI
SECRETARY	PETER KOHNKE
TREASURER	JACK SWISHER

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Moon	Dennis Pfeiffer	262 - 3748
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	Steve Schotting	787 - 2079
North Fayette:	Fred Pollastrini	695 - 0134

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	Christine Bock	833 - 8069
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR DENNIS SIMS

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL PHONE NUMBERS

For Information	412 - 831 - 2030
For Administration and Business	412 - 257 - 2328

THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 11866
PITTSBURGH PA 15228 - 0866

The Montour Trail-Letter is published bi-monthly by the Montour Trail Council. Deadline to submit copy is the 25th of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

The Trail-Letter is printed at Mail and More in Carnegie with the help of Mark Addlesturger.

PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE AND OBEY THE TRAIL RULES

1. Keep right, except to pass
2. Warn before passing
3. Leash your pet
4. Stay on trail
5. Keep horses off improved surface
6. No fires or camping
7. Trail open daily, dawn to dusk
8. No hunting
9. No motorized vehicles
10. Walk-bicycles through tunnels

When using the trail and you see other trail users not following the rules, politely ask them to do so.

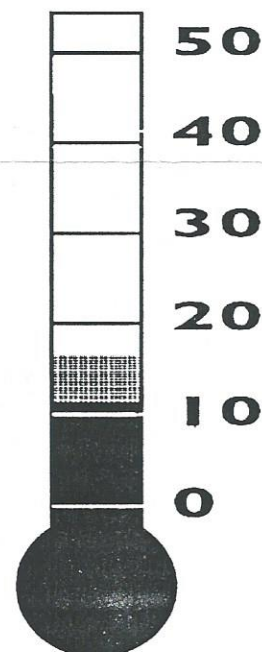
ONE-FIFTH OF THE WAY



UNDER CONSTRUCTION



COMPLETED



MILES

ABUTMENT continued from page 1

The east abutment would remain to serve as an anchor for a replacement bridge. With help from Cecil Township and Sluciak Contracing, the embankment behind the west abutment was graded back leaving the abutment wall exposed and ready for removal.

PennDot arranged to have their contractor provide the operators and heavy equipment necessary to knock down the concrete abutment. Sixteen members of the Montour Trail Council and Cecil Township citizens volunteered to be flag persons after the project was to be shut down for the lack of flag persons. They accumulated over 250 hours of volunteer time during the three week period it took to complete the work.

The Trail Council plans to replace the bridge with a longer structure that will provide the necessary vertical clearance. A bridge that once crossed Conrail tracks near Irwin was carefully dismantled and stored by Middle States Steel Construction of Eighty-Four PA, for the Council. After Middle States offers a reasonable price to re-erect the trusses at Hendersonville, our volunteers may rehabilitate the bridge. Cecil Township has agreed to build the new abutment on the west side of the road for the replacement bridge.

Thanks to the following volunteers who served as flagpersons while the abutment was removed:

Don Berty
Joan Berty
Nile Douglas
John Thomas
Joe Nugent
Neal Phillips
Chad Thomas
Sandy Caley

Lou Caley
Gordon Hartman
Christina Livolsi
Dick Quasay
David Yelich
Jonathan Boggs
Jason Berty
Nancy Reed

(Photo right)

Trail Council member Neal Phillips volunteering as a flagman while the abutment is being broken apart by the jack-hammer on the arm of the backhoe

Yes, I Want To Help Build The Montour Trail

- ☐ I want to spread the word. Send me additional flyers
- ☐ I have written my Legislator and County Commissioners asking them to support the Trail
- ☐ My organization would like to provide a letter of endorsement
- ☐ I know a group interested in a presentation
- ☐ I wish to become a member of the Montour Trail Council(membership is tax deductible):

<input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> CLUB OR ORGANIZATION	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORTING	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTANING	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> CORPORATE	\$250

- ☐ I wish to make a tax deductible contribution of \$_____ to the Montour Trail Council to help make the Montour Trail a reality.

(make your check payable to the Montour Trail Council)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

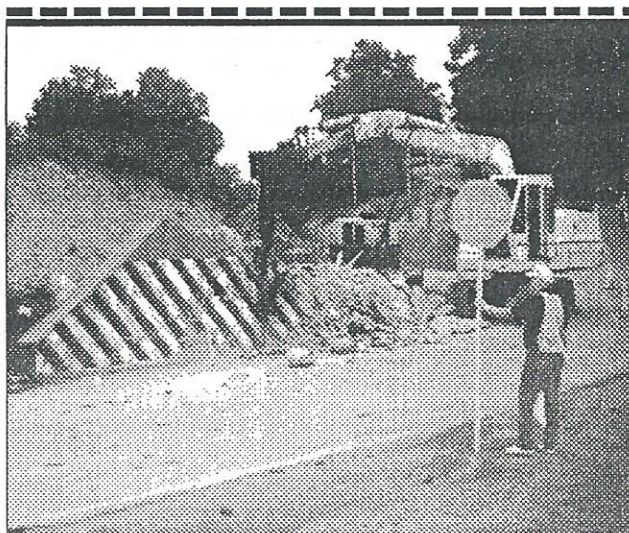
STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (day time) _____ (Evening) _____

By applying for membership in the Montour Trail Council, I indicate my support of its goals.

Signature _____

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



FINDLAY SECTION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FINDLAY TOWNSHIP

Supervisors Ray Chappell and Danice Brinkley who work hard for early completion after the Township expressed interest and support in the planning stages.

Roadmaster Ray Chappell and Foreman Paul Redick for services in kind which provided:

The removal of 100 truckloads of loose ballast
Grading of right-of-way
Correcting drainage problems
Laydown of the the crushed-stone pathway

Township Manager Gary Klingman who made arrangements for the ceremony with help from **Chris Caruso, Steve Sarachine, Cheryl Rinehart and Judy Horanimus** of the Township Staff.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Planning Department under Director Ray Reeves and the coordination of **Larry Ridenour**:

Funded and monitored contracts for environmental assessment and right-of-way property value appraisal.

Purchased the trail surface material.

Commissioners Larry Dunn, Peter Flaherty, and Tom Foerster who signed the agreement of sale in which the County became a partner with the MTC in the acquisition of 38 miles of right-of-way from the Montour Railroad.

Winston Jones, Department of Development, who prepared and administered the application for 50% funding of the right-of-way acquisition under a Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs RIRA Grant.

Assistant Solicitor John Woltz who helped draft the Public-Private Partnership Agreement between MTC and the County and the sales agreements for seven land parcels previously acquired by Duquesne Light.

Engineering and Construction under the direction of Herb Higginbotham who approved the services of MTC Board Member and volunteer **Dave Wright, P.E.** for helping with design, construction follow-up and property acquisition.

Special Service and Maintenance Operations under the direction of Joe Moses, along with **Paul Ostrowski, Frank Verl, and Nick Larusso** who provided transportation, equipment and supervision for Federal Job Corps workers who cleared ditches and brush, performed drainage work, and constructed stream-bank protection.

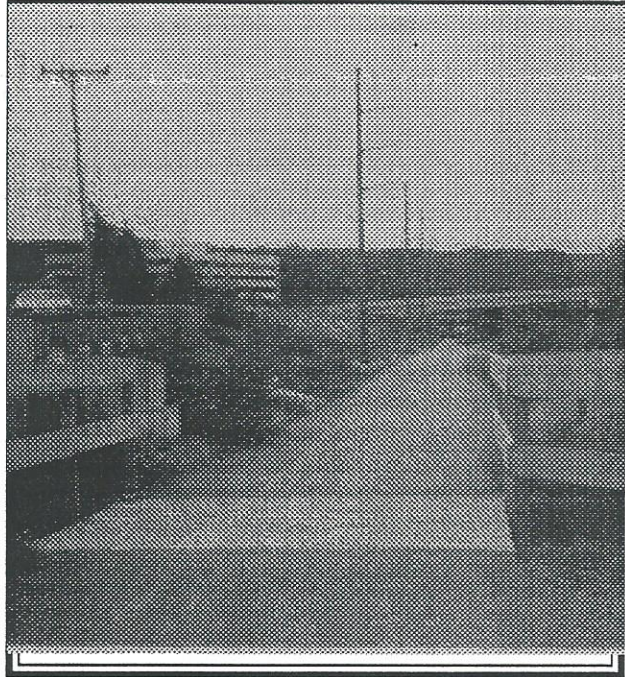
From the **Redevelopment Authority, Stanley Horne, Peter Czuczman, and director Richard Drnevich** who took on the task of acquiring additional land parcels to extend this segment.

Mike Diehl from the Department of Parks for administrative issues.

OTHER THANKS

George Paturalski and Phil Willis of Browning Ferris Industries (BFI) who arranged for the hauling and disposal of 18 dumpsters of trash.

Larry Berwick, Bob O'Connor, and Karl Wilk of Duquesne Light who coordinated their new power line installation project to facilitate Trail completion, helped to acquire over 19 acres in additional parcels, and re-decked two bridges in Moon and Robinson Townships.

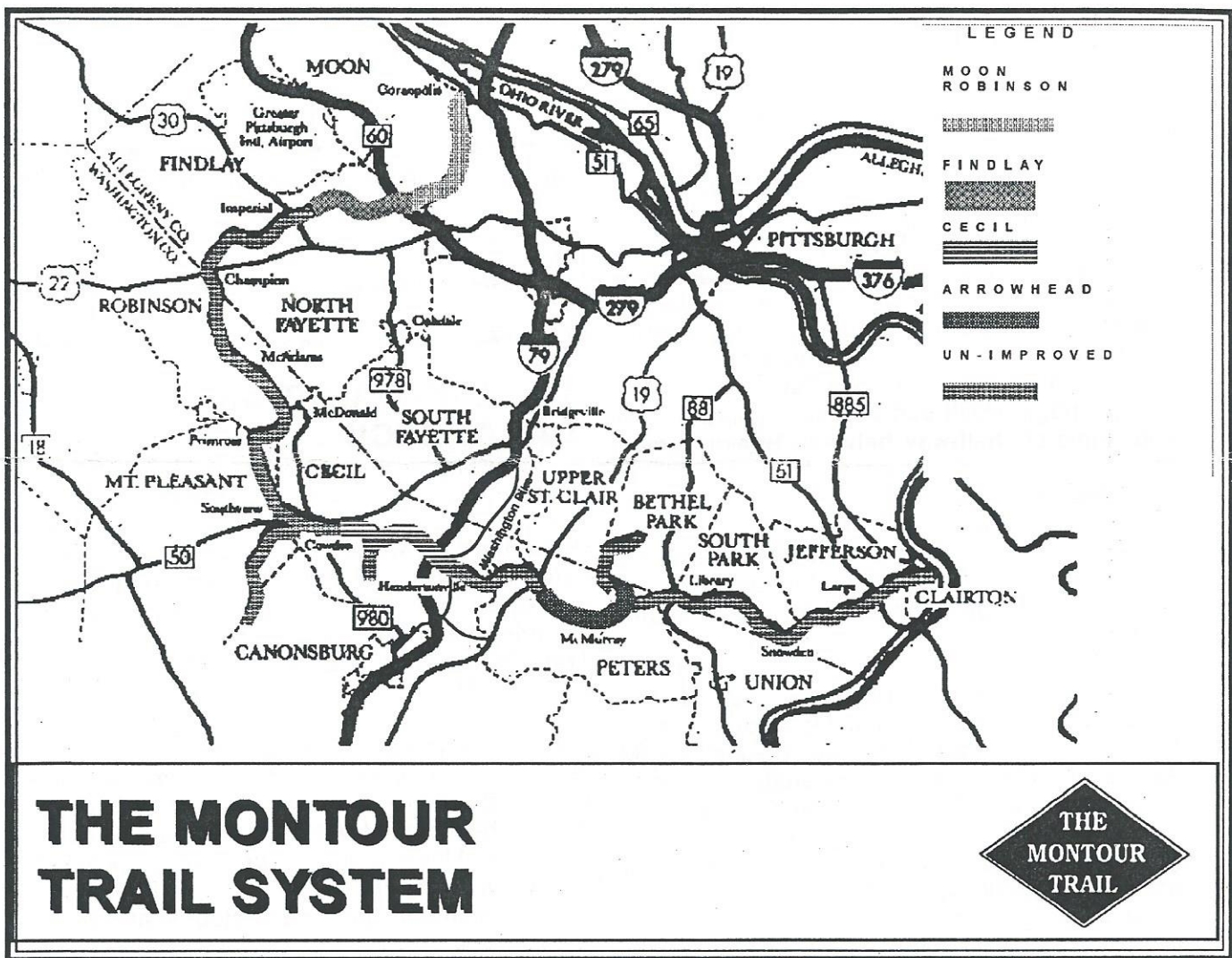


Looking east toward Unisys from the small bridge built last summer by the Job Corps workers next to Cliff Mine Road. Note, the poles carrying Duquesne Power electric lines installed earlier this summer.

THE FINDLAY SECTION

The Findlay Section is 2.6 miles between end-points at the Enlow Ballfield along McClaren Road near Five Points and the Airport Parkway Interchange at the Montour Run. This section features the Enlow Tunnel which is 558 feet in length. Unlike the National Tunnel on the Cecil Section, this tunnel is straight. This section will connect up to the 5.4 mile Moon-Robinson section later this year when completed providing an 8 mile segment from Enlow to Groveton.

Findlay Township is looking forward to extending the trail westward to Imperial and working with North Fayette Township to extend the trail all the way to U.S. 22 at Champion, a distance of 4 miles.



UNITED WAY REMINDER

Our readers are reminded that the MTC is among the agencies that have been approved to receive contributions under the United Way Donor Option. A donor simply designates MTC as a recipient and indicates what percent of United Way contributions for the coming year are to be directed to the Montour Trail Council. This year the Donor Option has been redesignated as the Contributor Choice.

Gifts to the Trail Council via the Donor Option in 1992 totalled nearly \$2000 and much larger amounts can be raised if we all remember to request this option during the upcoming United Way pledge campaign.

LATE TRAIL NEWS

MOON-ROBINSON SECTION OPENING SCHEDULED. Township officials have set Sunday, October 10, 1993 as the celebration marking the opening of this section. Township crews and Trail volunteers will be working hard over the next month and half to see that this section is completed on schedule. See enclosed flyer for more details.

TRAIL COUNCIL HAS ANOTHER BRIDGE. Historic Little Pine Creek Bridge #7 on Fall Run Road in Shaler Township, Allegheny County has been disassembled and is being stored along the Trail for future use. The bridge was built in 1896 and is in the National Register of Historic Places.

HOLT GETS \$20,000 GRANT

The Hollow Oak Land Trust (HOLT), a non-profit volunteer organization working to preserve land along the Montour Trail and other areas of western Allegheny County, recently received a \$20,000 grant from the Allegheny County Greenways Program. The funds will be used to purchase a 77 acre tract in the Montour Run Valley. The property is in Moon Township and lies along a ridge which can be seen from the Trail approximately half-way between Beaver Grade and Hassam Roads. The land has many hiking trails and could someday serve as part of a link between Moon Park and the Trail. The acquisition is part of the Montour Greenway Project, the Trust's plan to preserve natural areas along the Trail from Coraopolis to the county line at Champion.

In order to raise additional funds needed to complete the deal, the Trust is holding a raffle for a home or business landscape design by JRM Associates, including plant materials and installation for a total value of up to \$4000. A variety of prizes donated by local merchants will also be given away. The drawing will be held in December and the installation done in the spring. To enter, send your name, address, phone number and check (**payable to HOLT**) to the address above. Tickets will be mailed to you. For more information call **262-2691 or 787-2978** evenings.

HOLT P.O. Box 741 Coraopolis PA 15108

One ticket	\$2.00
three tickets	\$5.00
six tickets and a one year membership	\$10.00

TRAIL INFORMATION DAY AT CECIL

On Saturday, August 28, 1993, the Montour Trail Council will be holding a Trail Information Day. MTC members will be stationed at several sections along the Cecil Township section of the Trail to provide information to trail users concerning the role of MTC in building and maintaining the Trail. Volunteers will be on-station from 9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

If you are interested in volunteering for a three hour shift during the event, you may call Don Berty at 221-6406 or Paul McKeown at 835-6692. You will be provided with MTC membership applications and fliers which answer frequently asked questions. Bring your own lawn chair. Even if you cannot volunteer, feel free to stop by and chat.

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