

# THE TRAIL-LETTER

A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL  
**VOLUME #2 \*\*\*\*\* SUMMER 1991\*\*\*\*\* ISSUE #3**

## NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

The last issue of the Trail-Letter mentioned that the Trail Council is in the process of acquiring, or gaining access to various portion of the right-of-way for our planned 55-mile Montour Trail. Of these, the largest single holding is that of the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad of approximately 43 miles total length.

We are represented in negotiations with the P&LE by our council, Dick Wilson of the law firm Vuono, Lavelle, and Gray. Dick reports that the P&LE seems to feel that our offer is within an acceptable range. The railroad would grant an easement for trail use of the corridor from Coraopolis to Imperial. Allegheny County, in partnership with MTC, would own portions from Imperial to Champion and within South Park. Portions between Champion and Peters Township in Washington County would be owned by MTC. We hope to finalize the agreement for purchase this month.

We will also be working to acquire or to obtain easements in other portions currently owned by West Penn Power, Dick Corporation, and several municipalities. Key people in these efforts will include Andy Poole, MTC Chairman of Corporate Contacts, and our Trail Representatives.

## TROLLEY RIDE TO HIGHLIGHT NEXT TRAIL COUNCIL MEETING

The bi-monthly meeting of the Montour Trail Council will be held on Monday, July 29, 1991. At 7:30 p.m., board the antique trolley for a two mile ride. The trolley will be from the Arden Trolley Museum across the road. Rides are \$3.00 for adults, \$1.50 for children, and children under 6 are free. Park in the Washington County Fairground. See map on page four for directions.

The meeting will follow at 8:00 p.m. at the 4-H Building. The speaker will be Roy Kraynyk, president of the Hollow Oak Land Trust. The Hollow Oak Land Trust would like to see the Montour Run Valley preserved in its current state.

## WESTINGHOUSE FOUNDATION GRANTS \$20,000

The Westinghouse Foundation has awarded the Trail Council \$20,000 "... to provide support for the acquisition of the Trail right-of-way to help meet the recreational needs of all Western Pennsylvania residents."

Other recent grants include \$5000 from SmithKline Beecham Consumer Brands and \$1000 from Integra Financial Corporation. These funds add to earlier awards totalling nearly a half-million dollars, which should be nearly sufficient for the acquisition of the Trail right-of-way. However, funding from all sectors, public and private, of at least \$3,000,000 will be needed within the next three years to complete the development of the Trail.

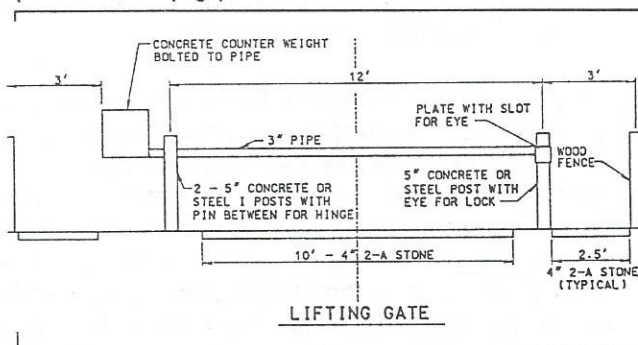
**These funds are not available for MTC operational and administrative costs. We need all council members to renew their memberships in the council to recover these costs.**

## TRAIL PRE-CONSTRUCTION WISH LIST

by Dave Wright

In anticipation of reaching a sales agreement with the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad in the near future, we should be ready with signs and gates to secure the property.

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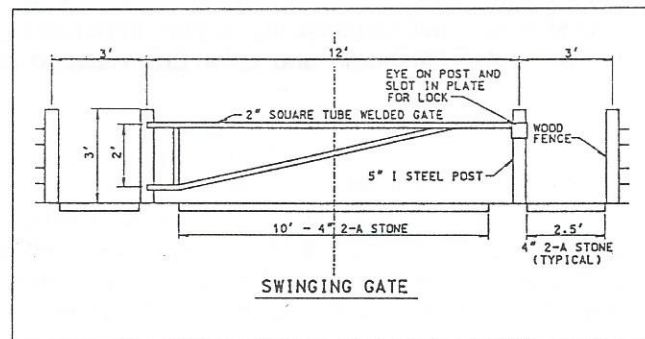
Now is the time to start getting our hands dirty. Here is a wish list for labor and materials:

- 1.) Pipes, square tubes, wide flange beams, posts, plates, and fasteners to fabricate about 65 metal gates. The local trail reps are asking the municipal police whether they prefer swing gates or lift gates (see drawings).
- 2.) People with tools who can cut, drill and weld the gates together.
- 3.) Fence materials and a power post hole digger to install the gates and side fences and a truck to distribute the materials.
- 4.) Aluminum sign blanks and people to silk-screen approximately 40 signs for public access points saying **"Montour Trail Not Improved Here — Use at own Risk"** with more people to install the signs.
- 5.) Somebody who is willing to organize all of the above.
- 6.) We are studying traffic conditions at each of the 20 road bridges for the Public Utility Commission to determine if each bridge is a safety hazard or if it can be converted for trail use. We need people to place and remove traffic counters at 15 Washington County road bridge locations, as well as distance measurements.
- 7.) Allegheny County surveyors are now measuring cross-sections along Montour Run. We need a source of large stone or concrete rip-rap and to place it at several places where Montour Run is eroding the railroad fill. The Forest Grove Sportsmen Club placed large pieces of former concrete pavement along the stream bank at their property.
- 8.) We need a dump truck and backhoe to clean ditches that have filled up and created puddles along the railroad.
- 9.) Allegheny County is seeking a consulting engineer to investigate potential environmental problems with the Montour Railroad property. We need to provide them a list of people who know the railroad and can describe toxic waste dumps and spills.
- 10.) Lastly, the federal government is now debating re-authorizing surface-transportation assistance programs. Jim Hobbs, PennDot Assistant District Engineer, has said he could provide funding for our project if federal funds were available that were limited only to trail projects. Funds that may be spent now on trails must compete with more important road projects. As a result, trails do not receive funding. Now is the time to write your federal elected officials to support federal funding

limited only to trail projects. Suggest that federal funding should be made available for bridges removed with federal funds to be reused for other public projects.

**Call Dave Wright at 355-6645 (office) or 746-2517 (home) if you can help.**

Editor's note. The article last month by Dave about the use of historic bridges on our trail struck home. Cooper Power System (formerly McGraw Edison) in Canonsburg has a bridge they want to dismantle. It is a 150 foot pedestrian bridge (3 truss spans, 50 feet each) that could be suitable for our use. They have contacted us. We are now exploring its compatibility for use on the Montour Trail and looking for a storage site.



## WORK-RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS SOUGHT

by Stan Satttinger

Many friends and members of MTC can now exploit two important funding conduits related to their place of employment. These include the employer matching gift and the United Way Donor Option, which we are entitled to receive under our IRS designation as a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

Under the matching gift provision, many firms will make a dollar-for-dollar match of employee contributions, under which MTC membership dues are eligible. We have also been approved by the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania for donor option contributions. During annual United Way campaigns, donors can designate MTC to receive all or a portion of their payroll-deduction gifts for the coming year.

Please give your consideration to these easy and effective ways of leveraging your contributions to the Montour Trail.



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR UTILITY CONTACTS**

by Stan Sattinger

One of the ways in which the Trail Council will attempt to build an ongoing income stream for maintenance and operation of the Trail will be through compatible right-of-way leases to utilities. Upon signing of the purchase agreement with the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad, we need to be prepared to contact the utilities to determine the extent of their interest in the use of the Montour Trail right-of-way for their lines. This, in turn, will enable us to make provisions for these uses in the shortest time and with the least possible disruption.

We need to quickly establish a Utility Contacts Committee to take on these tasks. If you have related experience or contacts, or are just plain interested in helping in this role, please call me at 561-5056 during the evening.

### **RECYCLE YOUR METAL HANGERS AT RUBY'S CLEANERS**

To help recycling efforts, Ruby's has added a new twist to their metal hanger return program. For each hanger recycled, Ruby's Cleaners will make a donation to the Montour Trail Council. Ruby's Cleaners wants to do their part to help out with our environment.

Ruby's Cleaners are located in Monroeville and Mount Lebanon.

**THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL**  
P.O. BOX 11866  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15228-0866  
PHONE : (412) - 831 - 2030

<b>STAN SATTINGER</b>	<b>PRESIDENT</b>
<b>DINO ANGELICI</b>	<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>
<b>PETER KOHNKE</b>	<b>SECRETARY</b>
<b>JACK SWISHER</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>
<b>DENNIS SIMS</b>	<b>NEWS-LETTER EDITOR</b>

## **MTC SAYS THANKS**

The trail council wishes to thank Scout Troop 1369 of Cecil Township for their hospitality at our May meeting. The use of their meeting room and the refreshments provided by their parents were appreciated by all those who attended. Thanks also to Tim Sposato, whose talk and slide presentation about the Montour Railroad was both entertaining and enlightening.

### **TRAIL NIGHT AT THE BALLYARD**

Wednesday, July 17, 1991 will be Montour Trail Night at the Pirates-Astros game. The Trail Council has 40 tickets for the game which starts at 7:35 p.m. This is a Buck-Night so the cost of general admission tickets are \$1. Call Dino Angelici at home 931 - 6651.

Tim Killmeyer and Dino Angelici will be hosting a tail-gate party prior to the game in the parking lot in front of the former Clark Candy Building. Hot dogs, hamburgers will be provided along with snacks and beverages. There will be a \$2.00 cover charge for tailgating supplies, a bargain if you've priced refreshments in the stadium recently. Since the seats are general admission, all MTC members are encouraged to meet in the tail-gate area so we can sit together. The fun begins at 5:00 p.m. and continue until 7:30.

## **ANNUAL PICNIC BEING PLANNED**

The second annual Montour Trail Council Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 8, 1991 at Cecil Park along Route 50 in Cecil Township. Walks along the trail are planned as well as a variety of bicycle tours to be led by Council members through the wilds of northern Washington County. Like last year, hot dogs, hamburgers, etc will be provided. Attendees will be asked to bring a covered dish. Further details will be announced as time approaches.



## MTC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**WHEN:** Monday, July 29, 1991 at 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** 4-H Building at the Washington County Fairground

### PROGRAM:

**Trolley Ride at 7:30 p.m.:** Meet at Trolley Stop on Map for ride on antique Trolley Cost is \$3.00 for Adults, \$1.50 for Children and children under 6 free. Ride will be approximately two miles.

**Guest Speaker:** Roy Kraynyk, president of the Hollow Oak Land Trust .  
The Hollow Oak Land Trust wants to preserve the Montour Run Valley.

