

# THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL

## Trail Council receives \$125,000 from new Regional Assets District grant

by Tim Killmeyer

**The much needed cash will be used as 50% of the matching funds for our million dollar ISTE A grant.**

The Montour Trail Council is going into 1995 with a full head of steam thanks to the board of the newly formed Regional Assets District. This group disperses moneys raised from the new county-wide 1% sales tax added to the existing 6% State tax.

The Trail Council had applied for \$200,000 but the first year income generated by the new tax was not as high as anticipated. Every successful grant applicant received less than they expected, but the board members of the Trail Council agree that the Regional Assets District board was very generous to our organization.

The \$125,000 received from the grant has been earmarked to go toward the \$250,000 matching funds needed to obtain our one million dollar grant from the federal ISTE A (Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act) grant. That grant was awarded

almost two years ago and it is only due to the fact that PennDot (the state bureaucracy that gets to dole out the Federal ISTE A funds) has been dragging its feet that we have not needed the matching funds before now.

We still have not reached our goal however. Nearly \$100,000 is still needed to complete our match. The Major Donor campaign committee is still hard at work contacting corporations. In the meantime a few private individuals have been very generous in their giving.

So if you know of anyone in a position to help us with a donation, just let us know and we will be happy to tell them the Montour Trail story. That includes the secretary who has the ear of a well placed corporate executive or a private individual that would like to make a tax-deductible contribution. Just let us know at 561-5306. ♦



photo by Bill Metzger

Newly elected board members (from l to r) Frank Keppel, Ford Shankle, and Fred Pollistrini bring their fresh enthusiasm and insight to the Montour Trail Council.

## More "Friends" groups formed

by Stan Sattinger

Two new Friends of the Montour Trail groups have been established to care for the recently completed Trail segments in the vicinity of Pittsburgh International Airport. Approximately 15 people attended the kickoff meeting of The Moon/ Robinson Friends of the Montour Trail at Moon High School on November 17; an equal number met to form the Findlay/North Fayette Friends at the Findlay Township Library on December 1.

Members plan on getting together once a month for Trail maintenance and promotion. These activities would include picking up litter and graffiti clean-up as well as other things. Upcoming meetings will be spent planning the spring and summer agendas.

The formation of these groups brings to three the total number of Friends of the Montour Trail groups that have been established, building on the creation of the Cecil Friends about a year ago.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**  
see Friends groups

# INSIDE

**BLOODY COUP  
ATTEMPT  
UNTRUE**

SEE PAGE 4

**CECIL  
SEGMENT  
GETS MORE  
PARKING**

PAGE 2

**CROSS  
COUNTRY  
SKI TIME  
IS HERE!**

SEE PAGE 4

**VOLUNTEER  
PROFILE:  
MEET  
STAN  
SIRANOVICH  
SEE PAGE 4**





### MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marshall Fausold	President
Dave Wright	Vice President
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Dick Quasey	
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25 REGINA DR.**

**MCKEES ROCKS, PA. 15136**

All other trail correspondence should be addressed:

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

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**For information: 412-831-2030**

**For administration and  
business: 412-257-2328**

Newsletter Editor	Tim M. Killmeyer
Circulation Manager	Jerry Agin

## MONTOUR TRAIL RULES

- ♦ **leash your pet**
- ♦ **Keep right except to pass**
- ♦ **Warn before passing**
- ♦ **Stay on the trail**
- ♦ **Walk bicycles through  
tunnels**
- ♦ **Trail open daily. dawn to  
dusk**
- ♦ **No fires or camping**
- ♦ **Keep horses off improved  
surface**
- ♦ **No motorized vehicles**

## Letters

THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER welcomes all questions and comments. Please send all correspondence to the address on the left.

The Montour Trail Council is an *all volunteer* organization founded in 1989 to convert the abandoned Montour Railroad right of way and the abandoned Peters Creek Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad into a fifty-five mile recreational trail for non-motorized activity regardless of physical ability or financial wherewithal.



# Cecil segment gets new parking area

Washington County residents living in the area of Hendersonville can now formally access the Trail by parking at the new "Kernick Tract", adjacent to Cecil - Hendersonville Rd.

The 1 1/2 acre site was dedicated on October 29, 1994. In attendance was Mrs. Elizabeth Kernick, former owner of the property, her friends, and a handful of MTC members.

According to Arnie Schulberg, Real Estate Committee chairman, Mrs. Kernick was very generous in her decision to make the tract available to us at a very reasonable price. The Trail Council reciprocated by erecting a sign and dedicating the property in the name of her late husband Thomas E. "Butch" Kernick.

New directional signs have been ordered and will be installed by the



Beneath the sign dedicating the property to her late husband is Mrs. Elizabeth Kernick with Nile Douglas (l) and Dave Wright (r).

Cecil Friends of the Trail group. The new signs will direct Trail users to the site from the new SouthPoint exit of Interstate 79 as well as from Morganza Rd. out of Bridgeville.

This was the first purchase of land by the Trail Council for other than actual trail use. But as anyone who uses any of the sections of Trail knows, places to park on a warm, sunny day can be few and far between. Access in the Cecil area is especially critical as the parking area along McCormick Rd. is the only Trail owned parking along the entire 4 1/2 miles. (The parking at Hendersonville will eventually become trail.)

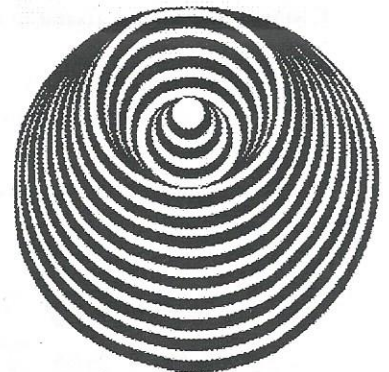
The Montour Trail Council would like to thank Mrs. Kernick and all who made this acquisition possible. ♦

## Friends groups

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The mission of these groups is to maintain, improve, promote, and monitor the completed segments of the Trail while the Trail Council proceeds with the development of new Trail segments. All MTC members are automatically eligible for membership in any of the Friends groups at no additional

cost and regardless of area of residence. For more information, please contact Tim Killmeyer at 787-1472 regarding the Friends groups in the Airport area or Dennis Sims at 257-2553 about the Cecil Friends. Or, see the calendar below for dates, times and locations of future meetings. ♦



JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Calendar

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

- ♦ **MTC Board Meeting**, every **third Monday** of the month - Second floor of 441 Smithfield St. across from Kaufmann's, 6:00pm. All MTC members are welcome to attend. Call Jack at 221-7708 for more information or to get on the agenda.
- ♦ **Cecil Friends of the Trail meeting**, every **first Tuesday** of the month - in the Boy Scout room at the Cecil American Legion, Rt. 50, 7:30. Call 221-6406
- ♦ **Clean-up party**, Cecil segment, every **third Saturday** of the month - 9:00 am. Meet at Miller Centrifugal Co. Call 221-6406 for more information.
- ♦ **Moon/Robinson Friends of the Trail**, every **second Thursday** of the month at 7:30. At the All Occasion Catering party room near the intersection of Silver Lane and Clever Rd.s in Robinson Twp. Anyone from the communities near Moon and Robinson are encouraged to attend. Call 859-3020 more information.
- ♦ **Findlay/ North Fayette Friends of the Trail meeting**, **Tuesday, January 10**, at 7:00. To be held at the West Allegheny Library. Anyone from the communities around Findlay and North Fayette are encouraged to attend. Call Fred at 695-0134 for more information. Next meeting will be **Wednesday, February 8**, at 7:00.
- ♦ **Board member bus tour (filled)** - Leaving from Mile 0 (Groveton) at 10:00 sharp on **Saturday, January 14th**.





## Bloody coup untrue

Despite rumors to the contrary, it was not a bloody coup attempt which caused Marshall Fausold to become the new president of the Montour Trail Council. So says Jack Swisher, recent past president. "I did cut my hand while trying to change the oil in the Trail tractor" Swisher said, "but Marshall was only trying to help."

The recent demands of a new job with Mellon Bank had left Jack (above left) with too little time to devote to the presidency of the Trail Council. So

when he turned in his resignation at the November board meeting, the board unanimously elected Marshall (above right) as the new president.

"I hope I can continue the fine work Jack has been doing" said Marshall.

Jack will continue in his capacity as board member and stay with the various committees on which he serves.

Now if we can only get someone to change the oil in that tractor...

## X-Country skiing set to take off on the Trail.

Its no secret that cross-country skiing is enjoying a boom unparalleled at any time in history (in this country at least). It combines the best aerobic work out you can get from any

sport with the kind of exhilaration that only comes from being outdoors on a cold, snowy day.

And the best part is: your not

cold! That's right. The most common error of novice skiers is to overdress. Amazingly, after just five or ten minutes sliding down the Trail, your body gets toasty warm.

Its also quiet. You stand a good chance of seeing some of the numerous wildlife the Trail is noted for. Deer, fox, turkey and other footprints abound, depending on the depth of the snow.

Equipment is also reasonable. You can get good quality skis, bindings, poles and boots at between \$100 and

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## Volunteer profile:

### Meet Stan Siranovich

by Tim Killmeyer

The past two construction seasons have been busy ones in the airport area. First were the segments in Findlay, Moon and Robinson. Then the new extension into North Fayette. One constant through it all has been the generous help of Stan Siranovich.

Stan started coming down to the Trail to help fill up dumpsters of trash and cleaning up the hundreds of old railroad ties lying around. And as is typical of many of our trail blazers, he kept on coming, Saturday after Saturday, month after month. And when "crunch" time came, when it seemed that we would never get all the things done that needed done before a Grand Opening, he came down on some weeknights to see that it got finished.



And speaking of Grand Openings, Stan also serves on the committee that plans them, doing publicity, press releases and taking care of other details.

Now Stan is helping Fred Polistrini to organize the new Findlay/North Fayette Friends of the Trail group. That is the group that will continue to promote and maintain the completed Findlay/North Fayette sections so the Trail Council can continue to build more trail. He is also a regular at the MTC board meetings.

Originally from the North Hills, Stan has been a resident of North Fayette Township for the last ten years. He has been employed at Miles Inc. (soon to be Bayer) for 15 years as a chemist. He enjoys both downhill and cross-country skiing, as well as bicycling. Besides the MTC, Stan is also a member of the Hollow Oak Land Trust (H.O.L.T.), the Western Pennsylvania Wheelmen, and the American Chemical Society. ♦



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☆ A &amp; H Equipment Company</li> <li>☆ Donna Anglemyer</li> <li>☆ Mary Ann Aug</li> <li>☆ Carl B. Baker</li> <li>☆ Jesse S. Bounds</li> <li>☆ Joe &amp; Kathy Chepega</li> <li>☆ Frank Corcoran</li> <li>☆ Raymond G. Dick</li> <li>☆ Jim &amp; Phyllis Fabian</li> <li>☆ Kathleen Farrington</li> <li>☆ R. V. Flint</li> <li>☆ Laurie Ford</li> <li>☆ Hoyt Hall</li> <li>☆ Ed Hartzell</li> <li>☆ Vicki Homitsky</li> <li>☆ Jack L. Klein</li> <li>☆ Mr. James J. Lacey, Sr</li> <li>☆ Judi Lewis</li> <li>☆ John Maurer</li> <li>☆ George Millick</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☆ Judy Moser &amp; David Rhing</li> <li>☆ Beth Quigley</li> <li>☆ Kathleen Rice</li> <li>☆ Shanna Sladick</li> <li>☆ Theodore &amp; Janet Slimick</li> <li>☆ Donna Sunderland</li> <li>☆ Tiffany Tyler</li> <li>☆ Walden Woods Community Services Assn</li> <li>☆ Ted Weidner</li> <li>☆ Marc Yergin</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

*The Montour Trail Council would like to welcome these new members and thank them for their support. We would also like to thank all our members who have renewed their membership and remind all that a growing membership is one of the criteria foundations look for when we apply for grants.* ◆

### Cross-country

CONTINUED FRONT PAGE 4

\$200. And you're set. No lift tickets to buy. You can ski in your yard, on your street, in the woods, or at the local golf course. But many people agree, a trail like the Montour is the best. You can slide along quietly for what seems like forever, often next to a picturesque frozen creek. In Washington County you will be able to ski along for miles without ever crossing a road at grade.

Many of the local ski organizations are only now coming up to speed about the Montour Trail project. And the more they find out, the more excited they are getting. One such organization is the Pennsylvania Cross-Country Skiers Association. Based in the Pittsburgh area, it includes members from Ohio, Maryland and Central Pennsylvania.

Besides organizing and promoting cross-country skiing in the area, they help sponsor and organize local race series. They are major supporters of the Bill Coch Ski League, a kind of Little League for cross-country aimed at youngsters aged 13 years and under.

One thing for you non-skiers to be aware of is how much work it is to blaze a cross-country path through deep snow. When you walk in the tracks, it makes for a very uneven and bumpy ride for the skiers. So if the walkers and mountain bikers could blaze their own paths, everyone should be able to co-exist peacefully. ◆

*For more information about the Penn. Cross-Country Skiers Assoc., contact Rick Garstka at 462-7493.*

*Memberships are \$6 for individuals and \$9 for families.*

*It includes a bi-monthly newsletter with info on touring centers and discounts for members.*

## Yes, I want to help build the Montour Trail!

- ☐ I want to spread the word. Please 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.

<input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATION	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORTING	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR	\$250 + up

(Membership is tax deductible)

- ☐ I wish to make an additional 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 \_\_\_\_\_

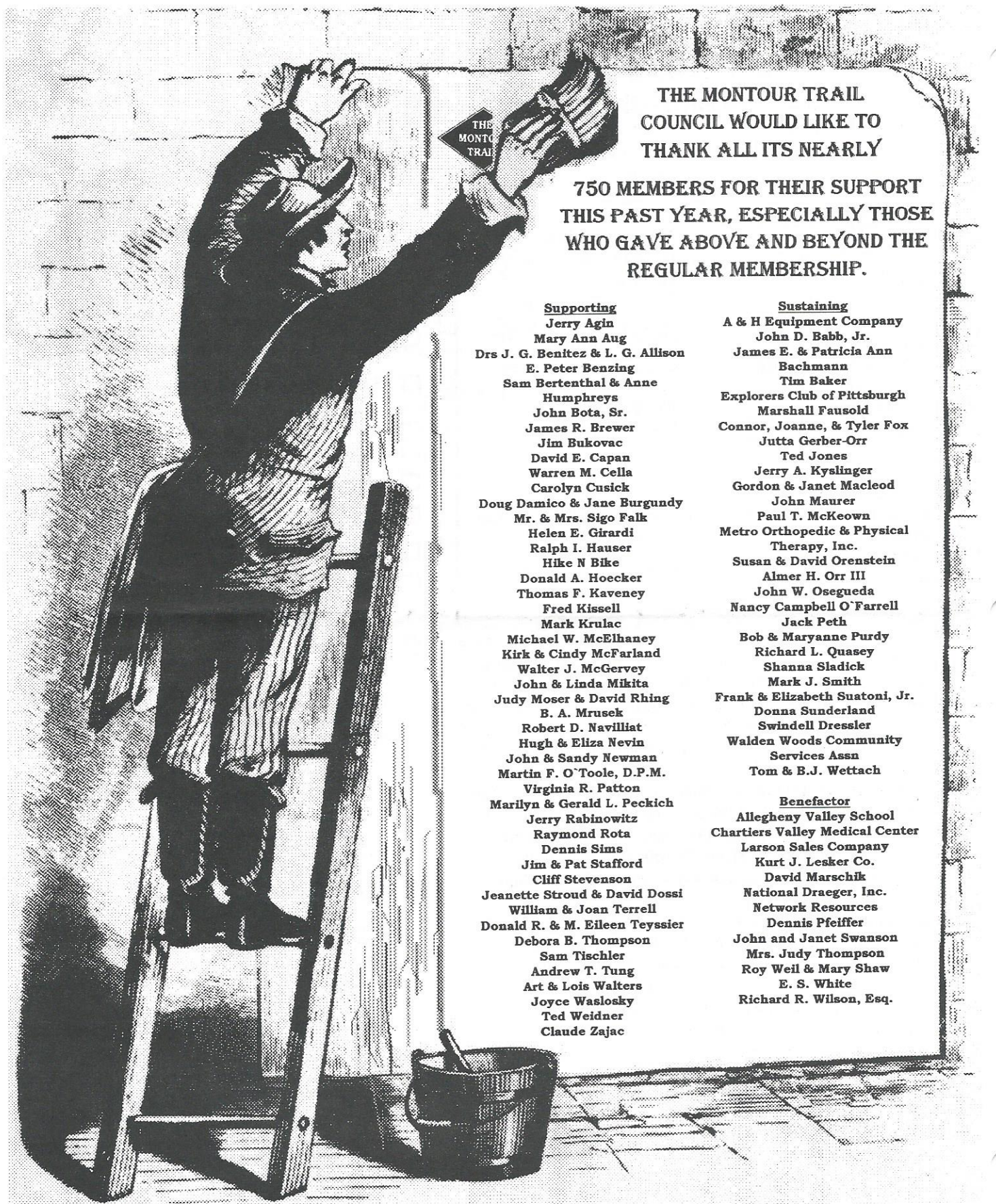
A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling tollfree, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Please fill out this application and return it with your check to:

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

**DON'T FORGET! The Montour Trail Council  
may be designated as your United Way Contributor  
Choice option #3308 where you work.**





THE MONTOUR TRAIL  
COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO  
THANK ALL ITS NEARLY

750 MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT  
THIS PAST YEAR, ESPECIALLY THOSE  
WHO GAVE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE  
REGULAR MEMBERSHIP.

Supporting

Jerry Agin  
Mary Ann Aug  
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E. Peter Benzing  
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Cliff Stevenson  
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William & Joan Terrell  
Donald R. & M. Eileen Teyssier  
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Sam Tischler  
Andrew T. Tung  
Art & Lois Walters  
Joyce Waslosky  
Ted Weidner  
Claude Zajac

Sustaining

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James E. & Patricia Ann  
Bachmann  
Tim Baker  
Explorers Club of Pittsburgh  
Marshall Fausold  
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Ted Jones  
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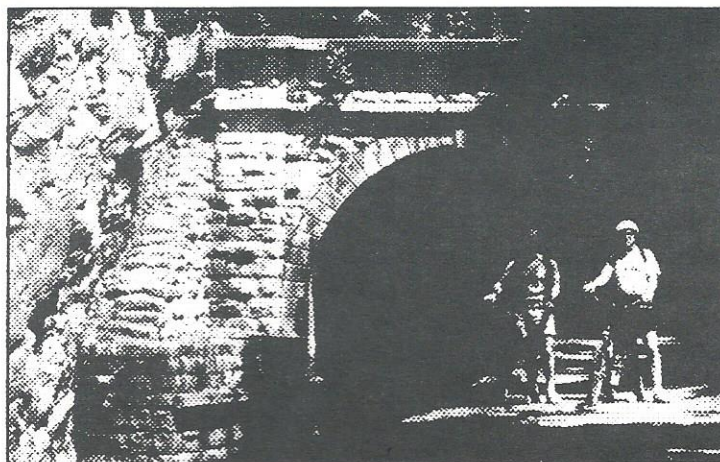
## Keppel, Morphy named to Duquesne Light Environmental Honor Roll

Montour Trail Council board members Frank Keppel and Bill Morphy have been selected as members of the Duquesne Light Environmental Stewardship Honor Roll. Each were selected as one of only thirty Duquesne Light employees so honored because of their voluntary commitment to environmental enhancement, preservation and protection.

Bill, Frank and the other employees will be recognized at a luncheon to be held at the Pittsburgh Vista Hotel. In addition, plaques that include the names of all the members of the 1994 Honor Roll will be displayed at various Company locations.

Both are residents of Robinson Township in Allegheny County and perform various tasks for the Trail Council. Bill started as a trail-blazer in the spring of 1993 when we were starting to develop the Moon/Robinson segment and was elected as a board member that fall. Frank has been serving as the Robinson Trail Representative for the last few years and was elected to the board this past fall.

Congratulations Frank and Bill! ◆



Montour Trail co-founders Dino Angelici and Stan Sattinger pause outside the Paw Paw Tunnel during a trip to the 180 mile C&O Canal towpath last summer. The 150 year old towpath starts in Cumberland, Maryland and ends about a mile from the White House in Washington D.C. One of the highlights is the 3,118 foot, brick lined Paw Paw Tunnel that was considered one of the Wonders of the World when it was completed, 50 years before the turn of the century.

Dino, his wife Betsy and sons Adam and Patrick have relocated to Somerset, Pa. where he now operates the dental clinic at the State Correctional Institute.

## Order form for the Incredible Inch Campaign

Disclaimer: You won't actually own a piece of the Montour Trail, but we appreciate your donation.

The whole Montour Trail is now "for sale". All 3,484,800 inches of it. Buy it by the inch, foot, yard, rod, meter, furlong, mile or league. It is all the same reasonable price; a buck an inch. That's right, **a buck an inch!** And your inches run the whole ten foot width of the trail (that's 120 inches wide).

You can be creative: add up the

height of your entire family and buy that many inches of trail, or measure the length of your whole family's feet. How long is your dog? Buy his length in inches of trail. Or, if your a little short, just buy the length of his tail. And they make great gifts for that active friend. If we "sold" every inch of trail, it would pay for the whole thing.

For your money, you will receive a genuine, simulated hand-lettered, faux-embossed, 8 1/2 x 11 inch official looking "deed" (suitable for framing), that will proudly proclaim your ownership of the trail (with the requisite fingerprint). This beautiful document will show the total number of inches you "own" and the township in which they are located.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF INCHES \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCLE THE COMMUNITY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE NAMED ON YOUR "DEED":

Please fill out this form and return it with your check to:  
MTC INCREDIBLE INCH CAMPAIGN  
1060 STANFORD RD.  
PITTSBURGH PA. 15205

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the  
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PINDLAY TOWNSHIP  
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ROBINSON TWP. (WASH.)  
MT. PLEASANT TWP.

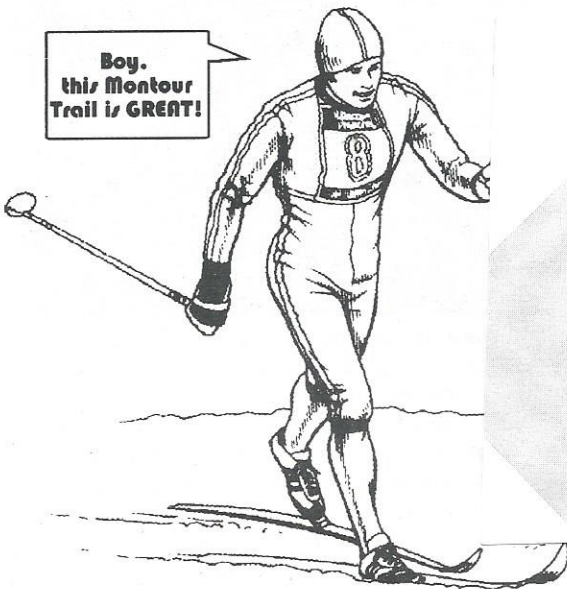
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