

# THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL

## Environmental study breaks loose first chunk of ISTEA funds Trail Council to pay 20% of \$74,800 tab

by Marshall Fausold, president

In January 1993 the Montour Trail was approved for \$1,000,000 in Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) funds. In January 1996, we will finally be allowed to begin the expenditure of those funds. After a lengthy review and approval process by PennDOT, a contract has been negotiated between Allegheny County (on behalf of the MTC) and SE Technologies, Inc. of Bridgeville, and is expected to receive final approval by the County in late December. This contract, in the amount of \$74,800, provides for the preparation of a comprehensive environmental report for the entire Montour Trail. Because the ISTEA funds are a Federal highway program, a report such as this is a necessary prerequisite to use of those funds for final design and construction.

The task of SE Technologies is to investigate and document the impacts of the construction and use of the Montour Trail on the community and the environment. The areas of impact considered include Cultural Resources, Hazardous Waste, and Wetlands. Cultural Resources includes identifying historic or other significant structures near the trail and identifying potentially

significant archeological sites which the trail might impact. Hazardous Waste involves locating any places where past human activity in the vicinity of the trail has created the presence of substances considered hazardous and evaluating the degree of hazard. The Wetlands portion requires the location and delineation of any wetlands along the trail so that construction can avoid them. Finally, using the data developed, the report will summarize the effect of the trail on community development, cultural resources, wildlife habitat, ground and surface water resources, etc.

This all sounds pretty extreme for a walking/biking trail doesn't it? But remember, as far as ISTEA is concerned, this is a highway project. Most of us wouldn't want a highway built without these things being considered and we're just caught in the process. Our impact in terms of disruption of the communities' quality of life is minimal, as is our impact on wildlife habitat and water resources. We had a survey of potential hazardous waste along the trail done as a precaution prior to purchase, so we look for no surprises there.

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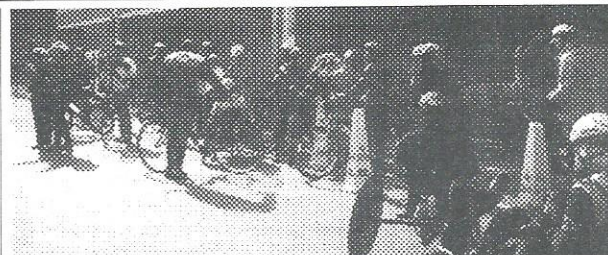


photo by Dominique Martonik

## AXA Riders use Trail on 'round the world journey

Over 100 bicyclists used the Montour Trail on a cold day in November as they completed their journey around the world. The Trail was an integral part of the Nov. 12 segment of AXA World Ride '95 from Steubenville, Ohio to Pittsburgh. Included in the pack were some driving hand powered cycles, some pedalling bicycles with one leg and others who were blind, riding as stoker on the back of tandems. Trail volunteers Bill Morphy, Dennis Pfeiffer, Stan Siranovich, Dick Quasey and Tim Killmeyer erected signs, opened gates, directed traffic at intersections and guided support vehicles so they could stay near the Trail. The riders finished their world ride in Washington D.C. on Nov. 17. ♦

## Trail meeting in Feb. plans Robinson (Wash.) construction

The Montour Trail Council invites all members and non-members to attend a pre-construction meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 7:00pm in the Fort Cherry Elementary School cafeteria.

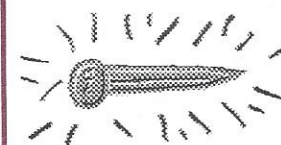
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THE COVETED  
GOLDEN SPIKE

FRIENDLY  
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### **MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER  
25 REGINA DR.**

**MCKEES ROCKS, PA. 15136**

Or E-mail to: 74144.103@compuserve.com

All other trail correspondence should be addressed:

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

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**Manager**

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.

## **EDITOR'S OBSERVATIONS**

Talk about a big year for the Montour Trail Council! 1996 is here and with any luck at all more than half of the Trail will be off the drawing board and on the ground by the end of the year. Out of a total of 55 miles we already have 11 1/2 miles built in Moon, Robinson, Findlay, and North Fayette; 6 miles in Cecil; and 3+ miles in Peters Twp. With the 1 1/2 miles planned for South Park Twp. and the 6 miles planned for Robinson Twp., Washington County we will have over 28 completed miles of Trail. One stretch alone will be almost 18 miles long when we're finished this year. Almost 40 miles round trip entirely on the Trail! I can't wait.

**But there's more.** Allegheny County is negotiating an option on some property that will allow the Trail to go from Mile 0 in Groveton, back to Coraopolis and the bank of the Ohio River's back channel across from Neville Island. As things firm up we will let you know.

**Money continues** to be the stumbling block to completing more Trail in a timely fashion (isn't it always). But our fundraising committee has re-emerged with renewed vigor and several promising grant and foundation proposals have been put together with the hope of matching those ISTEA funds.

**And remember,** those grants are usually earmarked strictly for construction. There are still legal fees, postage fees, tractor payments, insurance costs, truck inspections, and maintenance costs for the sections of Trail already completed, to name but a few of the non-construction related expenses that the Trail Council incurs. These items all come out of our general operating fund which is maintained mostly by membership renewals and contributions. So if you have a friend who enjoys the Trail, please ask them to consider membership in the Montour Trail Council. No one else is going to build this Trail if we don't.

See you on the Trail,

*Tim*

P.S. Don't forget the meeting on February 13 at the Fort Cherry Elementary School cafeteria. I look forward to seeing you.



## **Letters**



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



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	29		

- ♦ **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
- ♦ **Work & Clean-up party**, Cecil segment, every **third Saturday** of the month - 9:00 am. Meet at the Kernick Tract parking area. Call 221-6406 for more information. (No work Dec., Jan. + Feb.)
- ♦ **Moon/Robinson Friends of the Trail meeting**, Every Wednesday before the second Saturday of the month at 7:00. 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.
- ♦ **Work & Clean-up party**, Moon/Robinson segment, every **second Saturday** of the month - 9:00am. Meet at North Star Petroleum (Formerly Robinson Petroleum). Call 262-3748 for more information. (No work during Dec., Jan. + Feb.)
- ♦ **Findlay/ North Fayette Friends of the Trail meeting**, every **third Wednesday** of the month, at 7:00. Held at the West Allegheny Community Library. Anyone from the communities around Findlay and North Fayette are encouraged to attend. Call Stan at 695-2354 for more information.
- ♦ **Work & Clean-up party**, Findlay/North Fayette segment, every **forth Saturday** of the month - 9:00 am. Meet at the Enlow Ballfield. Call 695-2354 for more information. (No work Dec., Jan. + Feb.)
- ♦ **Robinson Twp. Washington County - Tuesday, February 13**, informational meeting and volunteer recruitment to continue the Trail into Robinson Twp. to the McDonald Trestle. See page \* for more information. Call 796-4635 if you cannot attend the meeting but would like to help extend the Trail.
- ♦ **Trail Walk - New section for 1996!** Sunday, March 10 (rain date March 17) Meet at Mile 11.5 (current end of Airport Area section) across from BFI entrance at 10:30 am. Take the McDonald exit of Rt. 22 and turn left. Make the first right. You are there. Signs are posted. Walk is approximately 6 miles. Transportation back to start will be provided. See it now so you can appreciate the improvements!

## TheHollow Oak Land Trust helps to keep the Montour Trail green and serene

by Roy Kraynyk  
President, H.O.L.T.

Enclosed in this issue of the **TRAIL LETTER** is a brochure that was produced by the Hollow Oak Land Trust (HOLT). HOLT is a non-profit organization working to conserve land in Western Allegheny County, especially along the Montour Trail. Many of you might have seen the HOLT plaque on the Trail near Mile Marker 2 identifying one of HOLT's conservation areas. The Montour Greenway brochure is intended to raise the public's awareness of how the valley contributes to the quality of life for people of the region. It is also intended to alert people of the fact that the valley is vulnerable to irresponsible land use that

would ruin the Trail, stream, wetlands and wooded slopes: in other words, the features that make the valley a refreshing place to go to get away from the hectic, urban environment that surrounds it.

**The Montour Valley** is one of the last of its kind in Allegheny County and deserves special attention. We would all feel a great sense of loss if the same thing happened down in the "Heart of the Greenway" that is wappening right now to the hillsides and streams along the Parkway. We consider the "Heart of the Montour Greenway" to be the section of the Valley between Beaver Grade Rd. and Hassam Rd. where the landscape is

largely undisturbed. It is the wildest section of the Montour Trail in Allegheny County. How many of you have seen the breeding Mallards, the Great Blue Herons, the trout or the hillsides covered in trillium? How many of you would continue to use the Trail if parking lots and factories lined the edges? Please continue your support of the Montour Trail Council and the Hollow Oak Land Trust to help us protect this special, natural recreation area.

**On behalf of** the Hollow Oak Land Trust, thanks to the Montour Trail Coucil for distributing the brochure and for all of your support over the years. ♦





photo by John Hooton  
MTC members enjoying the Annual Meeting include: (clockwise - L to R) Karen Boyce (with back to camera); Bob Boyce; Bill Morphy; Frank Keppel; Dick Quasey; Denise Kohnke; Peter Kohnke; and Bernice Hooton.

## 1995 Annual Meeting celebrates a year of preparation for more Trail

The MTC Annual Meeting was held on December 3, 1995 at the Airport Marriot. About 60 people attended the event including honored guests **Patty Bierman**, wife of the late **Dr. Morris Bierman**, whose family and friends donated over \$3,500 to the Trail in his memory, and **Elizabeth Kernick**, who made a much needed parking area available to the Trail Council in Cecil.

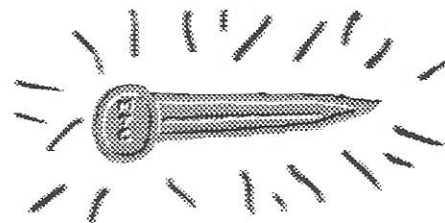
After a scrumptious lunch of Grilled Chicken Breast Normandy or Sole Almondine, topped off with tortes, pies, and cakes of all descriptions, the attendees were treated to an informative presentation by "in house" guest speaker **Bill Metzger** on the "Spine-Line" trail project that will connect Pittsburgh with Washington D.C. Then presentations were made to the Golden Spike Award winners for 1995 (see list at right). These were our "Trail Blazer" volunteers who helped to ready sections of Trail for construction this year.

Then new board members were elected. **Marshall Fausold** and **Nancy Reed** were re-elected for another three year term. Because of the resignation of **Arnie Schulberg** (he will retain his chairmanship of the Real Estate Committee) and the retirement from the board by **Stan Sattinger** and **Tim Killmeyer** (both of whom will remain active with the Trail Council in various capacities) due to by-laws regulations, three new board members were elected. **Paul McKeown**, **Judy Thompson**, and **Bob Boyce** were elected for three year terms.

A nice addition to this year's meeting was **Dave Wright's** collection of H.O. scale railroad cars. All of the cars are representative of actual cars from railroads that have been turned into rail-trails, including a Montour Railroad coal hopper.

Special thanks goes to **Dennis Pfeiffer** who did an outstanding job in organizing this year's meeting. ♦

## 1995 Construction Season Golden Spike Awards



### Hendersonville East Section

- ♦ John Hooton
- ♦ Morris Deliere
- ♦ Joe Nugent
- ♦ Ben Shinsky
- ♦ John Thomas
- ♦ Dennis Sims
- ♦ Don Berty
- ♦ Hoyt Hall
- ♦ Dan Jones
- ♦ Dick Quasey
- ♦ Nile Douglas
- ♦ Peter Kohnke

### South Park Twp. Section

- ♦ Kevin Dayoff
- ♦ Maryann Dayoff
- ♦ Andrew Glaide
- ♦ Roger Kronz
- ♦ Dan McGuire
- ♦ Frank Munsky
- ♦ Michele Munsky
- ♦ Henry Pecher
- ♦ Al Stanish
- ♦ Cindy Stanish
- ♦ Patty Stanley
- ♦ Tim Sullivan
- ♦ Scott Foster
- ♦ Dave Carlson
- ♦ Cathy Carlson
- ♦ Rick Hemmick



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

☆ David J. Collier  
☆ Patty Dandrea  
☆ Roger Fausold  
☆ Civie & Kathy Felice  
☆ Sally B. Grant  
☆ Michael Karpa  
☆ W. J. Kellar Agency Inc.  
☆ Richard Nuss  
☆ Nancy Pace  
☆ Negley & Mary Robinson

☆ Marilyn M. Smith  
☆ Gregory Walz  
☆ Duane Wolley  
☆ Bill Zinn

*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.* ◆

## meeting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The meeting is being held to discuss plans to continue the Trail into Washington County from its current terminus in Findlay Twp. This will add six more miles to the Trail for a total of 27 1/2 miles from Groveton to McDonald. If you would like to see this project become a reality for 1996, please mark your calander and attend.

To get to Fort Cherry Elementary (behind the High School), take the McDonald exit of Rt. 22 and turn right on to 980 South toward McDonald. Continue past Quicksilver Golf Course another mile to the "T" intersection and turn right. Cross the RR tracks and turn right. Take the second left (at the main intersection) on to Fort Cherry Rd. Follow MTC signs. School is at top of hill ◆

### A reminder to WALKERS and CROSS-COUNTRY SKIERS:

**WALKERS** - Please do not walk in the cross country ski tracks. They are very hard to blaze and maintain. Boots and shoes dig them up and make them less smooth for gliding. Walk, run, and ride toward the middle of the Trail.

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIERS** - Make your tracks to the far right hand side of the Trail (in either direction). They will be far less likely to be trod upon in that location.

## ISTEA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When the report is finished in late 1996, it will be reviewed by PennDOT, a process that should take about six months. When finally approved, we can begin spending the ISTEA money on construction!

A final word on cost and reimbursement. ISTEA money is 80% from Federal highway funds, 20% from local match. To get the \$1,000,000 noted above, the MTC must raise \$250,000. As we spend (in increments) we are reimbursed 80% of what we have spent. We will be paying (through Allegheny County) the entire \$74,800 and will receive appropriate reimbursement upon completion of the study. ◆

## 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.**





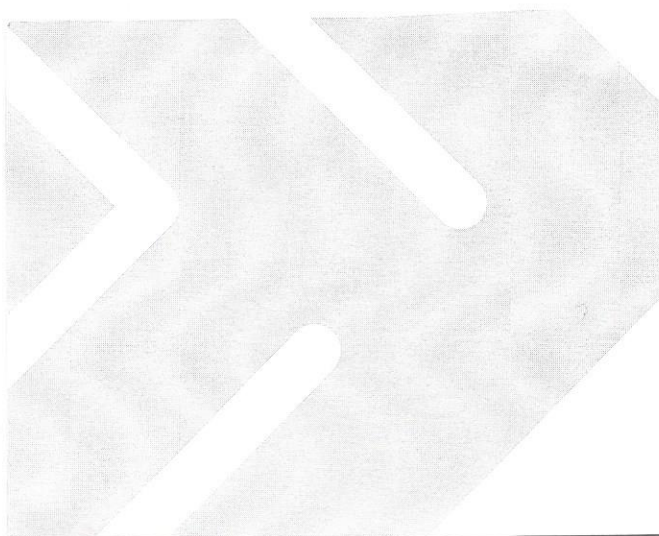
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**You know us. If there had been a Montour Trail when we wrote "A Long and Winding Road" we would have called it "A Long and Winding Trail."**

(celebrity quotation impersonated)



9

Four concrete and wood benches were donated to the Montour Trail recently. Julia Kalinsky, of Cecil/Hendersonville Rd., no longer had any use for the benches herself and graciously offered to donate them to the Trail Council.

Ms. Kalinsky, whose backyard abuts the Cecil section of the Trail (now four years old), reports no problems from Trail users and much prefers them to the motorcycles and ATVs that used to race up and down the old right of way behind her house. Although she doesn't use the Trail herself, she says that her nieces and nephews enjoy it during their visits.

It took four Trail volunteers to get the benches from her backyard and lift them onto the Trail-truck. They placed one at the beginning of the new "Hendersonville-East" section and another near Cecil Park. The other two will be placed in the Moon/Robinson section.

The Montour Trail Council finds it gratifying to see that while other trails are experiencing "neighbor problems" our Trail users make the Trail a positive experience for our neighbors. ◆

**Trail neighbor donates benches to provide more rest areas**

Trail volunteers Morris Deliere, Dick Quasey, and Don Berty prepare to unload a new bench. Tim Killmeyer not shown (he took the photo).

