

THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL

SPREAD THE WORD!

Who do you know?

by Bill Metzger

For all its size and sophistication, Pittsburgh is still a small town at heart. Everybody knows everybody, or at least that what it seems like. Personal contact really counts for something. It's how things get done. Our network of friends and supporters have been the foundation on which this whole project has been built.

With your help and the help of a lot of people like you, we have completed 16 (soon to be 20) miles of trail in just five years. You all know the amount of work that went into getting to where we are now. We've all been out on the trail enjoying the fruits of our labors. And that's fine. But we can't stop here. We still have a long way to go.

As you have no doubt heard by now, we have been awarded an ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) grant for \$1,000,000. That's no mistake, **one million dollars**. But (and there is always a "but") we have to raise \$200,000 to get the million. Or, looking at it another way, every dollar we raise will get us five more. This is an all or nothing proposition. We either raise the \$200,000 dollars or we don't get the million.

Now, we know we can do this. We have an excellent track record. We've enjoyed fantastic support over the years and have turned that support into a beautiful trail. It can only get better. And that's where you come in. And your friends. And their friends.

We need corporate contacts and contacts of people who have the potential to become major donors. We also need more people to go out and tell our story. (That part is easy. We have a great story to tell.) We know you know someone who can help the trail. You might not know you do, but you do. It doesn't have to be the president of some company or the chairman of the board, it just needs to be someone who can get to the decision makers and tell the Montour Trail story. Tell your friends. Ask your friends. Whatever. Just talk to them about the trail.

We can't stress enough how important this is. Your assistance is critical. For more information about this project, or to pass along the names of your potential contacts, call Jerry Sattinger at 561-5056. ♦

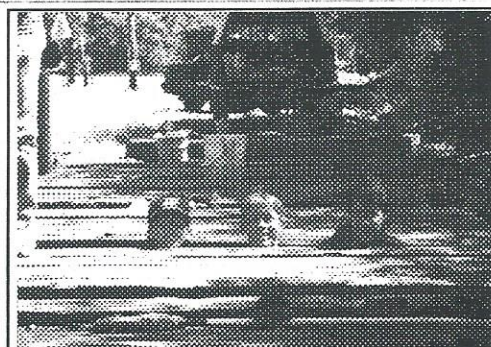
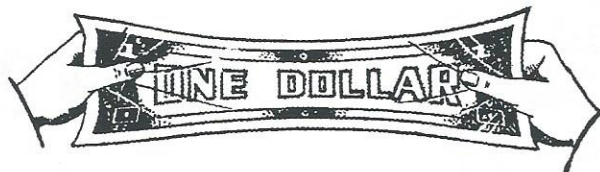


photo by Dennis Pfeiffer

Using their heads in preparing the California Hollow Bridge in Findlay Township for trail use are volunteers Ron Boyd, Bill St. Thomas and Jason Chapple.

Work progresses on the new North Fayette/Findlay stretch

Volunteer work crews and township road departments have been working feverishly to complete the North Fayette/Findlay stretch. After clearing the 3 1/2 mile section of trash and dilapidated railroad ties, the trail volunteers started to rehabilitate the California Hollow Bridge. This work included welding handrail support posts onto

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MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER
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**

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL PHONE NUMBERS:

For information: 412-831-2030

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

Newsletter Editor	Tim M. Killmeyer
Circulation Manager	Jerry Agin

Barner Hill Bridge arrives at Hendersonville

by Dave Wright

Middle States Steel Construction Company has donated a 97 foot long road bridge to the Montour Trail. The firm had removed the circa 1903 pony truss style bridge from over the Conrail tracks just west of Irwin. We plan to rehabilitate and re-erect the span over Washington Pike in Hendersonville. The completed Cecil section of the trail can then be extended to the Peters Township line at Chartiers Creek.

We had hoped to clean and paint the bridge at its storage site in Eighty Four. However, the property was sold and Middle States lost their lease. The new owner required the bridge to be removed

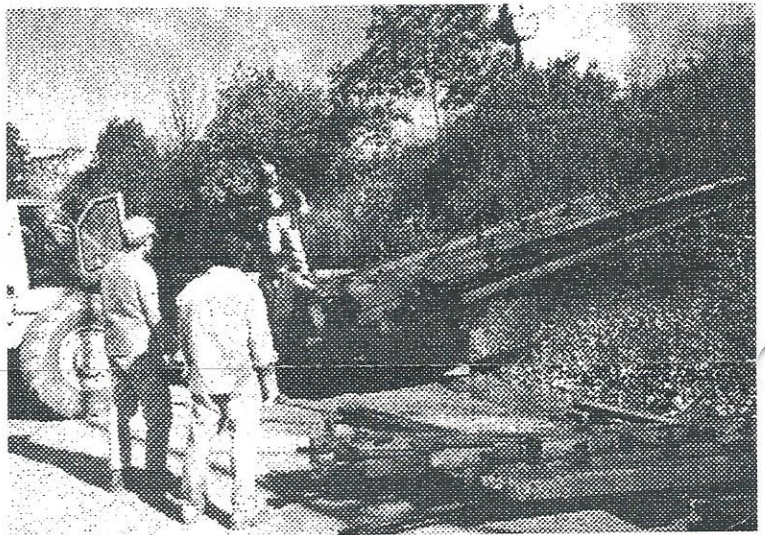


photo by John Hooton

Middle States loaded the bridge trusses on one truck and the floor beams and stringers on a second truck supplied by Gladden Trucking Co. of Claysville. By 8:00 am on Friday, May 27th, the two trucks arrived at Railroad St. in Hendersonville. Dennis Sluciak began unloading the wood and steel stringers and floor beams. Unfortunately, his crane was too small for the trusses, so

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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.



photo by Dennis Pfeiffer

Trail Appreciation Day on June 4th brought many people onto the Montour Trail, including this Brownie troop looking for the free Kool-Aid.

Barner Hill Bridge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

in just one weekend on short notice. Shorty Allison drove his truck crane in from Washington. With the help of Don Berty, Doug Douglas and John Hooton, we unloaded the trusses onto the wood stringers we had spread out on the ground next to Railroad St.

Shorty offered to lift the bridge onto the new abutments with his big crane after they are in place. Coincidentally, it was Shorty who removed the former Pine Creek Bridge No. 7 that we obtained from Allegheny County. Joe Stuart, who owns the garage where we store our tractor, later moved the small pieces out of the way to the trail area above the trusses. The cost to move the bridge was about \$1,200.

We are now looking for the best way to rehabilitate and reassemble the bridge. Stan Siranovich is trying to see what advice his employer, Miles Inc., can offer. KTA-Tator, a paint consultant will test the old paint for lead content. If the paint has no lead, we will recruit volunteers to sandblast and paint the steel. If lead is found, we must investigate the cost of paint removal containment in the field or move the bridge to a shop for cleaning and painting. If the price of rehabilitation is too high, we might have to sell the bridge to a scrapper and obtain a new bridge. ♦

New section

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the sides, removing all the bridge ties so the structure could be painted and replacing and anchoring the ties. They are now in the process of installing the deck and handrails, making it suitable for trail use. Another crew has been installing split rail fence atop the Santiago Rd. concrete arch.

Calendar

Every Saturday until the grand opening, work party on the new North Fayette/ Findlay segment. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** However many hours you can spare. Meet at **9:00 am** at the ballfield end of the completed Findlay section (near the tunnel). Lunch is provided. Call 695-0134 for more details.

Every second Tuesday of the month - **Cecil Friends of the Trail meeting**, Cecil American Legion, Rt. 50, 7:30. Call 221-6406

Every third Saturday of the month - **Clean-up party**, Cecil segment, 9:00 am. Meet at Miller Centrifugal Co. Call 221-6406 for more information.

Every third Monday of the month - **MTC Board Meeting**, 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.

HELP WANTED

As the trail becomes greater in length and the organization becomes larger, it is necessary for more people to take on some tasks to make the workload lighter for everyone involved. Please consider this list to see if you or someone you know might be able to spare a little time to make this trail become a reality a little faster.

EXPERIENCE NOT NECESSARY.

♦ **Equipment coordinator/maintainer**— Would work closely with quartermaster in keeping our tractor, chainsaws, portable generators, brush whackers and other equipment in good working condition.

♦ **Corporate Solicitation** — volunteers needed to approach

companies and corporations who have expressed an interest in donating to the trail. We will train and supply leads.

♦ **Special Events Planning**— Help to plan our Grand Opening festivities.

♦ **People to supply their local bike store, sport shop or other local businesses with trail brochures on a regular basis.** Please contact Jack Swisher at 221-7708 if you or anyone you know would be interested in helping us in these vital tasks. Also, we are looking for any old tools you might have that you no longer use. Shovels, picks, sickles, digging bars, chainsaws and weed whackers would be particularly helpful. ♦

Meanwhile, the road crews of Findlay and North Fayette Townships have graded the right of way and cleared the ditches on the sides in preparation to put down the final surface that will be donated by Allegheny County.

The Trail Council anticipates that the new section will be open by the end of the summer, with a Grand Opening Festival to be held in the fall. ♦

Stay on the trail

by Tim Killmeyer

Many of our trail users become modern day Marco Polos and Magellans when they hit the trail. These adventurers love to explore new territories off the beaten path (or should I say "off the limestone path"?). Unfortunately, none of the land surrounding the trail is public property.

The Forest Grove Sportsmen have been kind enough to allow trail users to use their

restroom facilities and their picnic area. They will even make their phone available in an emergency. What bothers them is people who come riding out of the woods on the creek side of their property and ride across their rifle range. This is both dangerous and stupid, not to mention inconsiderate.

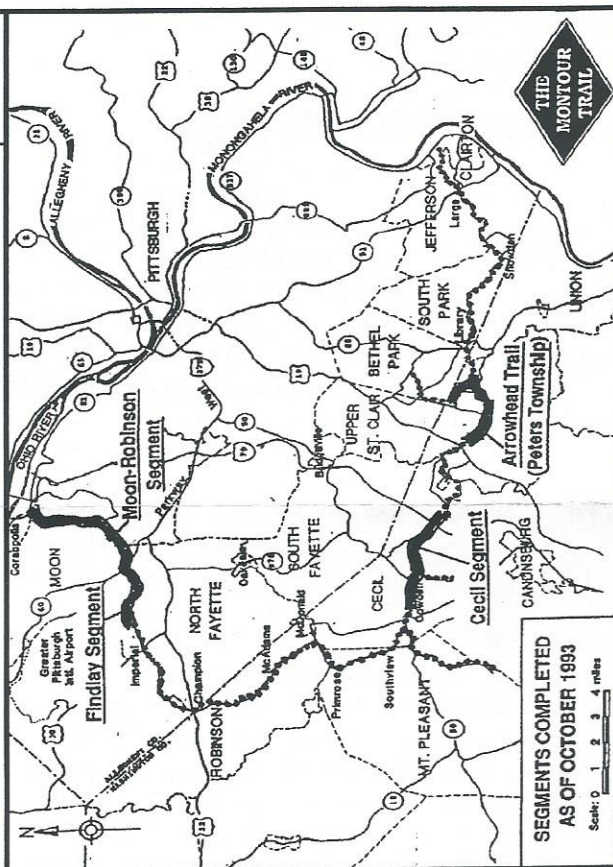
Another case in point is the concrete road leading to Snyder's Scrap Metal yard at the beginning of the trail. This is a private drive used by large trucks and cars and is barely wide enough for two cars to pass.

Another dangerous situation.

Aside from the danger of these two examples, trail users who persist in cutting through peoples yards are not doing anything good for our relationship with our trail neighbors and adjacent land owners. Although reports of these "ugly" trail users have been few, it does not take many to set a bad precedent. We still have two thirds of the trail to build. Please respect all "No Trespassing" signs. In fact, unless you are invited, remember, **STAY ON THE TRAIL.** ♦

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
- ♦ NO HUNTING FROM TRAIL



The trail user and the law

by Dick Quasey

In response to many questions concerning what can be done about people who flout the rules and regulations of the Montour Trail, the following information was prepared with the assistance of District Justice John E. Swearingen, Township of Robinson, Allegheny County.

The rules and regulations established by the Montour Trail Council can be legally enforced using the following procedure:

1. A trail user, witnessing a violation of the Trail Rules and Regulations, should observe and report to the police (preferably in writing) as much detail as possible about the violation (i.e. the nature of the violation, circumstances of the incident, the time, the place, the date, and the identity of the alleged violator(s) i.e. full

name, address, and or place of employment). A vehicle license or registration number will likely suffice.

2. The police, if notified, will in turn corroborate the information and investigate the incident and likely file a complaint.

3. The complaining Montour Trail user can file a complaint directly with the District Justice office instead of expecting the police to do so. Standard complaint forms are available as well as advice in filling out the complaint at the District Justice office having jurisdiction over the location of the alleged violation.

Note: - A violation may be a civil or criminal offense.

- A violation or violator may be pursued by authorities from one municipality to another.

- An attorney is not needed to file a complaint.

- A nominal cost is incurred in filing a civil complaint

- The normal charge for any violation is defiant trespass. ♦

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ☆ Kenneth E. Arthur Jr. | ☆ Chris & Marcia O'Grady |
| ☆ Jim Boykan | ☆ John Phelps |
| ☆ John & Maureen Breitigan | ☆ Ruth E. Rittler |
| ☆ John F. Buzzatto | ☆ Cathy Schnaubelt Rogers |
| ☆ Bill Cambell | ☆ Michael W. Schultz |
| ☆ Doug Damico & Jane Burgundy | ☆ Howard Scott |
| ☆ Scott Deahna | ☆ Gary Shannon |
| ☆ John B. Dickey | ☆ Mark J. Smith |
| ☆ David W. Duessel | ☆ Grace Taucher |
| ☆ Steven B. Franckhauser | ☆ Debora B. Thompson |
| ☆ Jeanne Fullerton | ☆ Bernard & Cathie Vukelich |
| ☆ Joanne Galinowski | ☆ Helen Weaver |
| ☆ William C. Gehr | ☆ Dennis & Pru Yajko |
| ☆ J. J. Giampetro | ☆ Michael Zizan |
| ☆ Bruce E. Godwin | ☆ Frank Zucharo |
| ☆ Ron & Sally Henry | |
| ☆ Patrick W. Kearney | |
| ☆ Lynn & Milt Klein | |
| ☆ David Kunea | |
| ☆ John M. Logue | |
| ☆ Ellie Lyons | |
| ☆ Ron Michel | |
| ☆ Michael A. Orsini | |

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.

Community Museum

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

located on virtually the same spot. The original station, built at the turn of the century, and the only real passenger stop ever on the Montour Railroad, ceased its passenger duties in 1927 and was finally destroyed by fire in the 1970's.

Its location on Main St. in Imperial, directly adjacent to the Montour Trail should make it a favorite stop for trail users. A patio with vending machines will be available to trail users as well as restroom facilities.

It is hoped that the museum will be completed within a year and will be open in time for next year's tourist season. ♦

Corporate match programs

It has come to our attention that many local businesses and corporations will match donations made by employees to various charities and non-profits. PNC Bank is one such corporation and we know there are others. They will even match your membership fee as a donation. Why not ask if your place of employment has a similar program? ♦

**DO IT
TODAY**

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 a United Way donor option
where you work.**

MTC SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Each of the following individuals and organizations has given \$50 dollars or more to the MTC in the past year through direct membership contributions. To each of you we say thank you; together we are making it happen.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| ♦ Larry M. Arch | ♦ Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy |
| ♦ Tim Baker | ♦ Peters Township Kiwanis |
| ♦ Drs. J.G. Benitez & L.G. Allison | ♦ Pittsburgh Geological Society |
| ♦ Sam Bertenthal & Ann Humphreys | ♦ Andrew & Janice Poole |
| ♦ Mike & Cathy Boyle | ♦ Dave & Debby Radovich |
| ♦ James R. Brewer | ♦ Rolling Hills Riding Club |
| ♦ Jim Bukovac | ♦ Rotary Club of Robinson Township |
| ♦ Busse Educational Consulting | ♦ Steve, Ed & Alberta Schotting |
| ♦ David E. Capan | ♦ H. Snyder Steel Corp. |
| ♦ Carolyn Cusick | ♦ St. Vincent DePaul Society |
| ♦ Fred & Imogene Dalbo | ♦ Cliff Stevenson |
| ♦ Jim & Debbie Darby | ♦ Jeanette Stroud & David Dossi |
| ♦ Bernard D. DiPaolo | ♦ Dennis C. Sweeney |
| ♦ Connor, Joanne & Tyler Fox | ♦ Thornburg Community Club |
| ♦ The Garden Club of Allegheny County | ♦ Treehaven Garden Club |
| ♦ Helen E. Girardi | ♦ Andrew T. Tung |
| ♦ Dennis C. Harrington | ♦ Art & Lois Walters |
| ♦ Ralph I. Hauser | ♦ John C. Warrick |
| ♦ Hike & Bike | ♦ Joyce Waslosky |
| ♦ Donald A. Hoecker | ♦ West Hills Area Women's Club |
| ♦ Kent James | ♦ Westland Citizens Development Assoc. |
| ♦ Thomas F. Kavan | ♦ Women's Club of Upper St. Clair |
| ♦ Fred Kissell | |
| ♦ Herman Krummert | |
| ♦ Jim & Jennifer Manown | |
| ♦ Douglas M. Meley | |
| ♦ John & Linda Mikita | |
| ♦ Montour Valley Horsemen's Assoc. | |
| ♦ B.A. Morusek | |

Our Supporting, Sustaining and Benefactor members will be listed regularly in our Jan./Feb. edition. Since we have nearly 700 members (and growing), it is impossible at this time to list everybody, but we thank all for their continued support. 8-)

Trail Council purchases "new" tractor

by John Hooton

After discovering that one tractor was not enough to construct and maintain areas of trail separated by twenty miles or more, the Montour Trail Council decided to purchase a used tractor in order to save over \$18,000 dollars (the cost of a new John Deere like the one we have). John Hooton tells us how, through the generous support of volunteers and businesses, this becomes a most worthwhile purchase.

Editor

Tractor buying, like trail building, is rarely a smooth process - but what a ride! Several board members convinced their peers to adopt a 1952 Ford Tractor from Sharon, Pa. The concept is good - we have ultimately 55 miles of trail to construct and maintain, so we'll need multiples of equipment to get the job done.

We bought the classic through an ad from a person who rebuilds old tractors for a hobby. It was freshly painted, had new "rubber", and even new wheels, so what could go wrong - Right?

Community spirit in Bridgeville ran high. Lorenzo

Auto trailered our prize to H.

Colussy garage so Billy Co-

lussy could give it a good

going over and add updated

lights. Barry Endy of NAPA

Auto Parts added in a traffic

triangle for road safety. Now

we're ready to mow nine

miles of trail near Cecil -

Right? Wrong! Now the ra-

dinator produces its own brand of fudge. The motor blows out

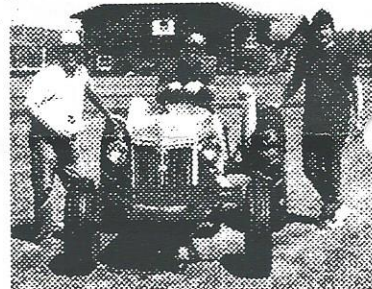
a quart of oil every half mile. The generator and voltage reg-

ulator are frozen stiff - "Is this why we run only as long as

the battery lasts?"

Enter Dan Jones. Some people are born, others are invented just to meet a particular situation. Danny seems to be one of the latter. For one thing, he lives just across the street from where the tractor is stored at Hendersonville. For another, he knows tractors like Bo knows football. Third, he has every tool imaginable. And forth, he is retired and donates generously of his time.

Danny checked out the "head", "de-varnished" the carburetor, re-fashioned the spark leads, and was triumphant in his attempt to get the Cecil portion mowed. Then of course the starter quit on him. Willard Generator is now rebuilding that for us. For Dan, the story just goes on as he looks to rebuild the motor when the mowing season is over. He, in particular, has become a "resource", like so many other volunteers who have come through in times of need. But we must also say "thanks" again to all our local shops and suppliers who so generously donate help when needed. ♦



MONTOUR TRAIL DEED

Know ye, that _____ is the proud owner
of _____ inches of The Montour Trail in the
municipality of **Cecil Township**,
and is entitled to all the rights and privileges
delineated herein, except for those rights and
privileges excluded in the Fine Print.

Fine Print: You don't actually own a piece of the Montour Trail, but we certainly appreciate your donation.

The Montour Trail Council

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, similar to the one above, but with a different, colored border, will show the total number of inches you "own" and the township in which they are located.

Order form for the Incredible Inch Campaign

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

NUMBER OF INCHES _____

CIRCLE THE COMMUNITY WHICH 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

**USE
the
COUPON**

MOON TOWNSHIP

ROBINSON TWP. (ALLEG.)

FINDLAY TOWNSHIP

NORTH PATETTE TWP.

ROBINSON TWP. (WASH.)

MT. PLEASANT TWP.

CECIL TOWNSHIP

PETERS TOWNSHIP

SOUTH PARK TWP.

JEFFERSON BORO

CLAIRTON

BETHEL PARK

Findlay Community Museum on fast track

by Tim Killmeyer

On Friday, May 13, ground was broken for the new Findlay Community Museum. According to Jack Polaritz, chairman of the Findlay Township Ad Hoc Historical Committee, the museum will be a tribute to the Railroad and mining industries which built Imperial and other local communities, and the men

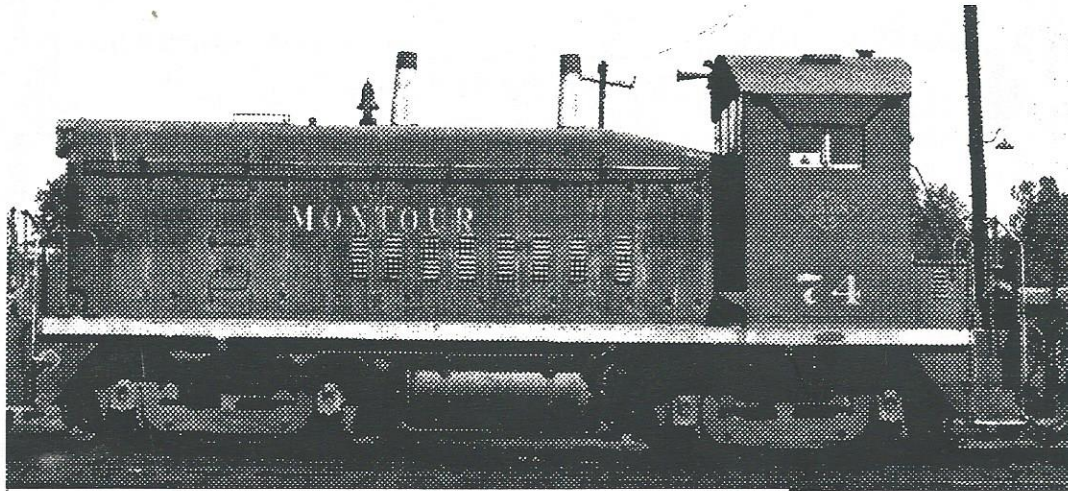
and women who worked in those industries.

Among the items already acquired for the museum are a caboose (which is already on site), and a locomotive (shown below) which was acquired from the P&LE railroad. Also acquired have been mining carts, narrow gauge steam

engines and a coal puncher (the first mechanized piece of mining equipment). Mechanized interpretive displays are also planned so that visitors can enjoy more than just static displays.

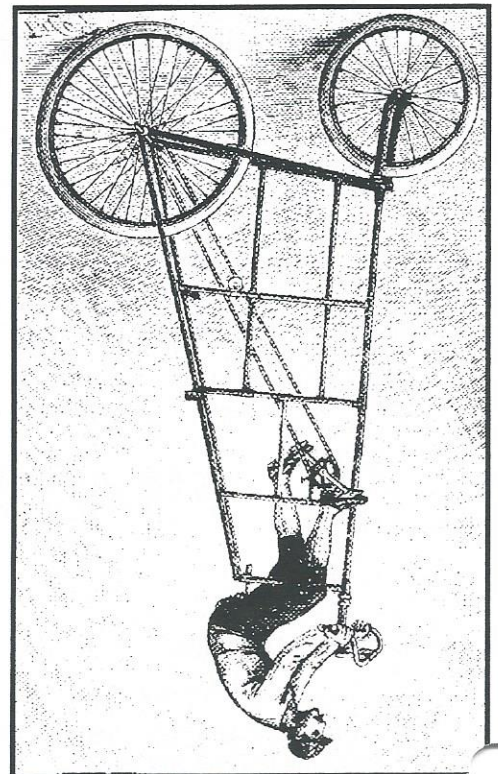
The museum itself will resemble the original Imperial Station which was

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



Last of the Montour Railroad diesel locomotives

photo by Bill Nixon



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