

THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL

MONTOUR WATERSHED PROJECT RECEIVES FUNDING

The Montour Valley Alliance recently received confirmation of funding for the upcoming Montour Run Watershed Planning Project. A grant of \$56,500 has been awarded under the Rivers Conservation Program of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Pittsburgh Foundation has provided an additional \$40,000 from its Peaceable Kingdom Fund.

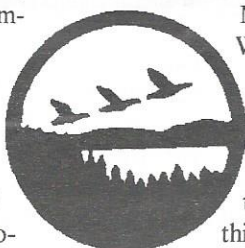
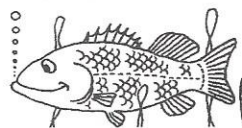
The Watershed Planning Project, which is to be launched this summer, will emphasize community outreach. Area residents, hopefully including many MTC members, will participate in a series of Alliance-sponsored public meetings over the next 12 to 18 months. At these meetings they will be asked to identify concerns and provide information on problems and opportunities they see for the Valley.

Both the DCNR and the Pittsburgh Foundation funding will be channeled to the project through the Hollow Oak Land Trust, which is

acting as fiscal agent for the Alliance. Hollow Oak Board Assistant Janet Thorne will act as Project Manager. The Alliance, which is a broad-based coalition of area organizations and citizens who want to protect and enhance resources while promoting compatible development in the Valley, was established as a Hollow Oak initiative and is chaired by MTC co-founder Stan Sattinger.

Much of the work required for the Watershed Planning Project will be performed by consultants. The end product is to be a master plan that details specific actions for protecting and enhancing the resources of the Montour Valley. Publication of this plan, and subsequent nomination of

Montour Run to the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry, could help fund solutions to flooding, contamination, and other problems that will be brought to light during the study. ◆



Will Congress support trails?

by Bruce Barron

In the next few months Congress will consider decisions with immense impact on the future of the Montour Trail--and of rails-to-trails projects across the country.

The main federal transportation law, known as the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA for short), expires on September 30. When first passed in 1991, it created a category of ten "transportation enhancements"--of which rails-to-trails is the largest--that receives designated funding.

These earmarked monies have comprised less than 2 percent of total federal transportation funding, but their contribution to the trails movement has been indispensable. A \$1 million ISTEA award to the Montour Trail Council is scheduled to begin funding continued trail development soon.

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SEE CONGRESS**

MTC CADs desperately seeking pen plotter

Does your company have an unused plotter that they would be willing to donate or that our engineers could borrow time on? MTC needs a plotter capable of plotting "D" size engineering CAD drawings in a single color. Please call Paul at 835-6692.

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**MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER
33 STERLING DRIVE
CORAOPOLIS, PA 15108**

Or E-mail to: debho@juno.com

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 Deborah Hoerster

Circulation Manager Joan Schweiger

Editor's

Comments

It's been said that variety is the spice of life. If that's so, then Tim Killmeyer's life must be very spicy, due to the added responsibilities that he is undertaking. In order to incorporate these new ventures into his life, he has to withdraw from others - in this case, the newsletter. That certainly does not mean that he will no longer contribute. On the contrary, he will still be writing articles and taking pictures, as well as giving me much needed assistance, when needed.

As you've already guessed, I am the new editor. My name is Debby Hoerster, and I will be pleased to accept any suggestions, helpful hints, or criticisms that you should have. Drop me a line, or E-mail me at the addresses on the left. (Take it easy on the criticism, folks. I'm still a greenhorn with mighty big shoes to fill.)

Also, joining us this month is Joan Schweiger, our new circulation manager. Joan will be taking on Jerry Agin's job as being responsible for our newsletter mailings. Jerry, however, will still remain our membership chairman.

So, you see, we're really not losing anyone. We're simply adding to the work force.

Before I sign off, I know I speak for everyone when I say, "Thank you, Tim." We appreciate the wonderful job that he has done thus far with the newsletter. He has set impeccable standards which I will strive to maintain.

Have a happy summer, everyone!

Debby



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.

July						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		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

August						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					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

- ♦ **MTC Board Meeting**, every **third Monday** of the month - Second floor of Chartiers Valley High School, in the Library. Turn left off of the Kirwan Heights exit of I-79. Turn left at the next light, go under the Interstate, and the school is on your left. Call Marshall at 531-8628 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, at 7:30 pm. 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.
- ♦ **Moon/Robinson Friends of the Trail meeting**, every Wednesday before the second Saturday of the month at 7:00 pm. At the All Occasion Catering party room near the intersection of Silver Lane and Clever Rd. in Robinson Twp. Anyone from the communities near Moon and Robinson are encouraged to attend. Call 859-3020 for more information.
- ♦ **Work & Clean-up party**, Moon/Robinson segment, every **second Saturday** of the month - 9:00 am. Meet at North Star Petroleum (formerly Robinson Petroleum). Call 262-3748 for more information.
- ♦ **Findlay/North Fayette Friends of the Trail**, call Don at 899-3695 for more information.
- ♦ **Work & Clean-up party**, Findlay/North Fayette segment, every **fourth Saturday** of the month - 9:00 am. Meet at the Enlow Ballfield. Call 695-2354 for more information.
- ♦ **IKEA 1/2 Marathon and 5K**, Montour Trail, **Sept. 13, 1997**. (See below)
- ♦ **Allegheny County Rib Cook-Off**, at South Park on **Aug. 29, 30, 31 and Sept. 1**. To volunteer, call Marshall Fausold at 531-8628. For more information, see page 8.

'97 IKEA 1/2 Marathon, 5K Run, and 5K Walk

by Bill Morphy

Marshall Fausold, Dennis Pfeiffer, and myself have been working with Molly Bovard from Ikea, in the planning for this year's race. It's scheduled for **Sept. 13**, rain or shine. Last year there were 901 people registered in the three events. Four thousand dollars was raised for the Trail. Its namesake, IKEA, is the major sponsor. Other sponsors this year include: Mellon Bank, B-94 (radio station), Kyodo-West, Pittsburgh City Paper, and Imperial Bike Shop.

We've made a couple of changes for this year. The biggest one is in the 5K Walk course. The walkers will be bussed before the runners races begin, to a point 3.1 miles out on the Trail. They will have a scenic, leisurely, one-way walk to the finish line at the gazebo. They will again board a bus to

be shuttled back to IKEA. Last year they walked from the parking lot, down Park Manor Blvd. and onto the Trail for a short loop. We will have representatives from The MTC accompany them on the walk to tell the Trail Story and answer any questions about the Trail.

Race packets for those who pre-register before Sept. 5th, will be available to be picked up at IKEA in the lobby on Sept. 10th and 11th, from 4 - 8 PM. This is to alleviate some of the confusion on race day.

The awards ceremony and breakfast will be held in a tent in the IKEA parking lot instead of inside the restaurant. A continental breakfast of bagels, fruit, juice, and Swedish coffee will be served.

I will be in touch with you soon if you

were one of the 47 people that I worked with last year as Trail guards, truck drivers or MTC information table workers. You may also call me at 787-1182. Call Molly at IKEA, 747-0440 if you have an interest in working a water table, registration table or any other necessary job. Last year it took a collective effort from about 200 people from the MTC, running clubs, Boy Scouts, YMCA and more!

Inserted in this Trail-Letter, you will find an application for the '97 IKEA event. All are welcome and encouraged to participate. Just fill it out and mail it, along with your entry fee. That's all there is to it. Oh...you might want to dust off your sneakers from their long winter's sleep and make sure that they still fit. ♦

Work ready to start at major intersection

by Tim Killmeyer

After years of planning, design, and bureaucratic red tape, the Montour Trail Council and the Moon/Robinson Friends of the Trail are ready to undertake improvements at the Montour Run Road/Park Manor Blvd. intersection. The plans were designed by Trail Council member Bob Dudash of Robinson Township and approved by both Moon Township and PennDOT. They call for the existing guiderail around the intersection to be removed. A new guiderail, 25 feet long, will curve from the abutments of the bridge

on Park Manor Blvd., protecting vehicles that miss the bridge from going into the creek on both sides of the Trail.

The Trail will curve toward the existing crosswalk at the intersection where a WALK/DON'T WALK light and button are already in place. Special landscaping and a split rail fence will prevent people from using the old crossing, about three car lengths from the crosswalk.

After getting several bids, Boardmember Dick Quasey contracted with Metro Fence of

North Fayette to install the new guiderail. The cost will be reduced by salvaging the existing guiderail, removed by the Trail Council volunteers. This will be the first order of business. Work is expected to start around the first week of July and will continue for several weeks. Much help will be needed with this project. We need shrubs, volunteers, and cash donations to help defray the costs. Please call 859-6864 for more information.

**MTC WEB
ADDRESS**



Visit the Montour Trail web-site at: <http://trfn.clpgh.org/orgs/mtc/>



"Penny Day" rake-in \$\$\$

The rain was falling as well as the temperatures, but spirits were high as Dean Arlett instructed his crews on "Pennies for your Trail day", May 10, 1997. Everyone was huddled in their rain slickers with some hands donning gloves as they accepted pennies, weighed them, or held out their buckets for donations from the very few trail users, or from the stopping motorists along Park Manor Boulevard.

The collection sites included Groveton, Park Manor Blvd., and Walmart. Walmart's Green Chairman, Kim Smith, was instrumental in our drive. By allowing us a table inside the store, Walmart agreed to match whatever money was collected there which came to a total of \$493.87. The all-encompassing Penny Day rake-in was \$3559.21, which definitely showed a terrific generosity on the part of all our benefactors.

Despite the sloppy day, many volunteers showed up including Boy Scout Troop #314 from Moon Township. What a wonderful group they were! It was a pleasure being alongside these hard-working young men all day.

As everyone knows, awards are given for those who bring in the most pennies. We garnered 15 prizes from some very wonderful sponsors, namely:

Red Lobster, Stacy's Restaurant

(Airport Marriott), Bobby Rubino's, Don Pablo's (#61), Walmart, Polar Water Co., Eat'n Park Restaurant, Showcase Cinema West, Max & Erma's, Grand Concourse, Dingbat's, Karadante's Restaurant, Sneakers Restaurant, Hair With Flair, Lone Star Steakhouse & Saloon, and Buffalo Scale Company. The total value of these being just under \$450.00.

The lucky prize winners were: Frank Suatoni, Jim Boyhan, Dave Mueller, Linda Rumberg, Julia Ann Stewart, Bill Formosa, Tom Calahan, Paul Samko, Mary Ellen Kelly, M/M Bernard Bosket, Jack Miller, Kevin & Leslie McDermott, Robert Neugebauer, M/M George Kurtnich, and Pierre Haan.

Words just can't express our appreciation to all those who supported "Penny Day" or volunteered in any way. This was truly 'team' effort at its best. A very special thanks goes to our sponsors for their donations of so many lovely prizes. And the biggest thanks goes to our chairman, Dean Arlett, for all his enthusiasm and organizational efforts.

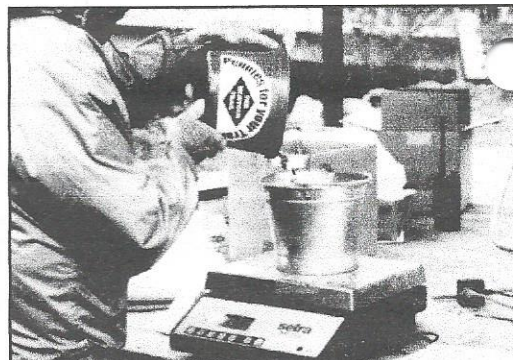


photo by Tim Killmeyer

"Show me the money!" Weighing the pennies is the best job of the day. Worst job? - counting them.

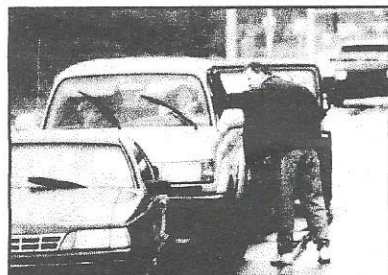


photo by Tim Killmeyer

Here's the ever-dedicated Dean Arlett, reaching for that last penny!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Membership Chairman

Jerry Agin

* Catherine A. Berg
* Annette Ciotti
* Joanne H. Cox
* Mrs. Geraldine Daucher
* Dale Demy
* Catherine Eagon
* Robert Edwards
* Justin Falgione
* L. M. Ferris
* E. H. Gundrum
* Leda & Jeff Heidenreich
* Kristen Heiser
* Donald M. Kammerer
* Jim & Marylea Lewellyn
* Frank Ludwick
* Gary D. Miller
* Tania Muic-Thiel

* Dietrich Reinhardt
* Joseph P. Rudolph
* The Schlossman-Wallach Family
* Pamela Scott
* David P. Smith
* Donna A. Sprandle
* Chriss Stephens
* Dennis J. Ziolkowski

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.

Coming soon to an access point near you

by Dorene Ciletti Filipek

The Montour Trail Council is undertaking a research study to learn more about trail users and uncover basic information about the economic impact the trail has on the local community.

The study is being coordinated by Dorene Ciletti Filipek, M.B.A., a marketing and management instructor at Sawyer School, with assistance from Robert Morris College marketing students Jason Friend and Steve Hynds.

Trail users will be asked to complete a short questionnaire, administered by volunteers located at various access points along the trail. The data will be tabulated and results will be used to assist in securing funding for the trail. ◆

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.

- ☐ STUDENT \$5
- ☐ INDIVIDUAL \$15
- ☐ FAMILY \$25
- ☐ ORGANIZATION \$50
- ☐ SUPPORTING \$50
- ☐ SUSTAINING \$100
- ☐ 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

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

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 11866

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

Montour High School students enjoy a hard working, fun-filled day on the Trail

On Friday, May 23, under the supervision of teachers, John Wasko and Bill Kutzavich, 29 Montour High School students from G. A. T. E. and the Environmental Club, enjoyed a vigorous day on the

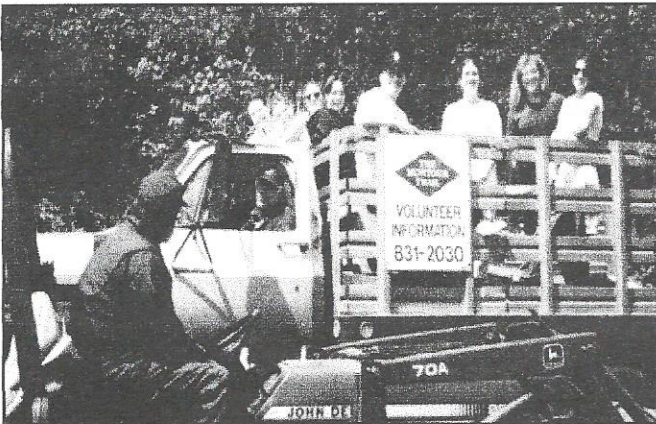
Trail. Six groups were formed with work details and one adult assigned to each group. Some of the duties included culvert cleaning and minor trail resurfacing. But, by 1:00 p.m., all missions were completed and the students returned for pizza and soft drinks.

It was a beautifully sunny day, almost matching the sunny attitude and vitality of the students, a truly wonderful group. Much was accomplished with a little bit of hard work and lots of good humor.

And so, to the students and their teachers,



tons of kudos for a most enjoyable time on the Trail and a job well done; and many, many thanks to Friends volunteers, Dick Quasey, Gerry & Ann Bates, Dave Murphy, Joan & Carl Schweiger, and coordinator, Debby Hoerster for their time and effort.

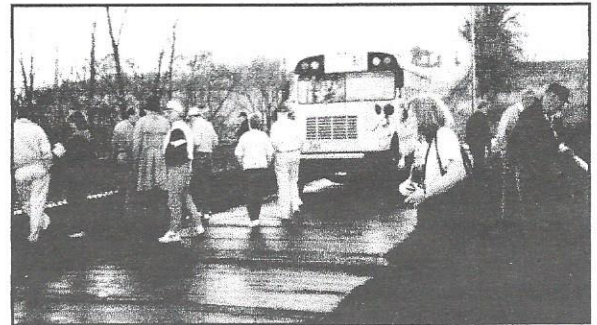


Montour Trail Bus Tour - an informative trip

by Dick Quasey

The bus tour, Saturday, May 3, provided 25 Montour Trail supporters with a better comprehension of the total Montour Trail concept and the tasks that remain to complete all 52 miles from Groveton (Coraopolis) to Clairton (Gateway to the West). The tour route focused on sections of the undeveloped Trail. Dave Wright, Trail Engineer, used maps, a descriptive itinerary, and background information to

provide an interesting running commentary. As the tour group passed significant locations and structures along the Trail such as: wild life habitat and conservation areas, bridges in need of renovation or relocation, likely grade crossings and historical landmarks, they would frequently disembark to get a closer view.



Most importantly, the supporters were given the opportunity to view the large, i.e. long stretches of potential Trail as yet inaccessible to the average hiker/biker. Future bus tours will be even more interesting as work on the Trail progresses. A wonderful lunch was provided by Nancy Reed and Judy Thompson, along with plenty of refreshments, compliments of Dennis Pfeiffer. Thanks to all those individuals who helped make the day a success and to all those who supported it.

However, trails opponents and highway builders have sought to rewrite ISTEA so as to let states decide whether to spend ANY of their transportation money on enhancements. If states are given this discretion, nonprofit groups like the MTC will be hard pressed to defeat pressure from the well-heeled highway construction community to spend all the money available on roads.

The MTC recently communicated with the two U.S. Senators and three U.S. House members who represent the region, urging them to keep dedicated transportation enhancement funding in the reauthorization of ISTEA (commonly called NEXTEA).

We didn't get form-letter replies—which is both good news and bad news. It's good that the legislators and their staff paid us personal attention. But it's bad news that apparently no other trails advocates had pushed some of these legislators to look at the enhancements issue seriously before we did.

Congressmen Frank Mascara (20th District) and Mike Doyle (18th District) provided statements in support of the enhancements program. Doyle stated, "Earlier this year, I joined with other Members of Congress to voice support for ISTEA's critical elements to [House transportation committee chairman] Bud Shuster. It is my strong belief that ISTEA

works, and I will do all I can to defeat adjustments that abandon our shared commitment to enrich our community through the development of trail projects."

Congressman Mascara, who is member of the House transportation committee, wrote that "Enhancements must not go neglected" and that he would advocate maintaining adequate funding for them.

Our two senators were somewhat more cautious in their replies. Rick Santorum, who spent half a day helping to build the Mon-Yough Trail in Elizabeth while he was a congressman, expressed continued support for rails-to-trails, and Arlen Specter wrote that trails priorities "should be taken into account" in the ISTEA reauthorization process. Neither, however, was ready to promise support for dedicated enhancement funding.

As this newsletter went to press, the MTC was still awaiting a reply from Congressman Bill Coyne (14th District).

These exchanges reinforce how important it is for trails supporters to take just a few minutes to make their views known to their legislators. Don't ask us to give you a form letter to sign; legislators know they reflect minimal effort by the constituent. Phone your congressman and senators or, even better, write a short,

personal letter expressing why you believe continued funding of rails-to-trails is important and asking for a specific reply. The MTC would appreciate seeing a copy of any replies you receive.

If you don't know which district you live in, your local library, the League of Women Voters, or the MTC can tell you.

Here's how to reach our federal officials:

* All House members can be contacted by phone through 800-972-3524; Senate members can be phoned at 800-962-3524.

* Senator Rick Santorum, 120 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

* Senator Arlen Specter, 530 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

* Congressman Mike Doyle, 133 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

* Congressman Frank Mascara, 314 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

* Congressman Bill Coyne, 2455 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515



Improvements North Fayette/Findlay Section

by John Peter Merther

On Saturday, April 26, 1997, representatives of the North Fayette/Findlay Friends of the Trail, Mr. Don Behnke and Pete Merther, installed two sections of split rail fencing on the Trail. They were placed near the Enlow Tunnel at the two locations where bank improvements were made last year. These rail sections were needed because of the bank encroaching on the trail. This will provide additional safety for Trail users in this

area. Thanks to all who helped with this project and a special thanks to Dick Quasey for getting the tractor ready. (What would we do without Dick?)

In addition, the MTC would like to extend its thanks to Findlay Township and manager, Gary Klingman for taking the initiative in grading the Cliff Mine parking area. Our Trail users really appreciate it. It's this kind of relationship with the local townships that keeps this Trail going. ♦



Letter to the Editor

Montour Trail Council;

We recently spent a weekend in Pittsburgh to attend a family celebration. We stayed at the Marriott in Coraopolis with our two terrier dogs. We were delighted to find the excellent Montour Trail at our doorstep and enjoyed the Enlow-Groveton section. We kept our dogs on lead and we picked up after them. Thank you for permitting our use. Responsible dog owners are always grateful when such areas are open to them and want to enjoy the cleanliness of the Trail with all others in harmony.

We would like to give a gift membership to our relatives in Pittsburgh. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Peter & Dale Demy

Note: Dear Peter & Dale,
Your letter is much
appreciated. (Editor)

Allegheny County Rib Cook-Off moves back

Montour Trail Council volunteers from Washington County will be crying in their beer this year, while residents of Allegheny County won't have the "it's too far to drive" excuse to use this year. That's because after three years the

Allegheny County Rib Cook-Off is finally moving back home to South Park this year.

MYREC, (the Mon-Yough Educational and Cultural Council), sponsor of the Rib Cook-Off, has asked us if we would like to return to perform our beer pouring duties again this year and we have responded with a resounding "YES!" The Montour Trail Council volunteers have raised \$4000 in each of the last three years doing what some have described as "the most fun volunteer job going."

So our crack volunteer recruiters will be manning the phones over the next two months rounding up people who are willing to give up four or more hours over the

Labor Day weekend (August 29, 30, 31 and

September 1). A minimum of thirty two people per day is needed to pull this whole thing off correctly - that's a lot of man (and woman) power. Parking and entrance fees are waived for those who help us out.

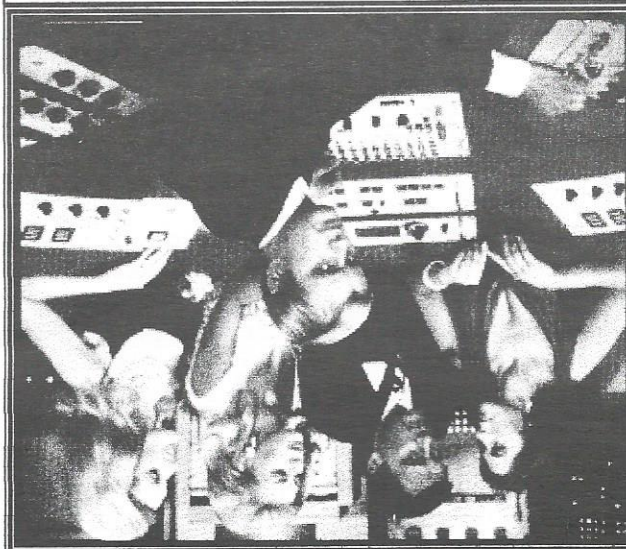
We don't handle any money. Another organization sells beer tickets which are redeemed at the beer booths. The booths themselves are already set up and Iron City Brewery keeps their own people on hand to change the kegs and keep the suds flowing. All you have to do is pour.

Ask your friends, neighbors, and relatives if they would like to join you in a booth for an afternoon or evening. A minimum of four hours is all we ask, and many people donate more time than that. If you already know which days and/or times you would like to work, call 531-9628 and make your reservations now.

Parking is free and the volunteers always get to park close to the festivities. So call now and come on out to be right in the middle of the music, food, and fun this Labor Day weekend. You'll never have more fun as a volunteer and you'll be raising money for the Montour Trail to boot! ♦



U.N.C.L.E. always uses the Montour Trail as its training facility



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