



MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Volume 11 Issue 4

July/August 2000

MTC Web Address

Visit the Montour Trail
web-site at:
www.montourtrail.org

Mantra of the Month

- The greatest achievements were at first and for sometime dreams.

— James Allen

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Quicksilver Bridge under construction

By Jack Peth

The construction of the Quicksilver Bridge is a project like none previously undertaken by the Montour Trail Council. To date our bridge work has consisted of the re-decking of existing spans. Quicksilver is a new bridge from the ground up which crosses the busy State Route 980.

The Montour Railroad did have a bridge at this site but with the closing of the rail line, first the bridge deck and then the bridge abutments were removed due to poor vertical clearance and the bad alignment of the road passing under the short span. All that was left, as the Montour Trail came on the scene were the elevated berms stopping short of

PA980 and an access ramp to the South Abutment area.

The Trail Council used this ramp and an old spur line at the McDonald Trestle as access points and improved and surfaced the trail between these access points. The locals get a lot of use from this opened section but were isolated from the 11.5 miles of opened trail, to Boggs, by the rework of the old coal prep plant area and most significantly, the missing bridge at Quicksilver.

The Trail Council hired an engineering firm, (Makin Engineering Co.), to design the new bridge and make detail construction drawings. The heart of this bridge is to be a 137 Ft steel thru truss span of

tubular construction which has a 7'-6" cross section. The span will clear PA980 by 17'-6."

This steel truss was acquired several years ago when the Montour Trail Council was offered an attractive price due to the use of Canadian steel that was refused by the purchaser, Uncle Sam. The two +/- 70 Ft pieces of the bridge have been delivered to the site. Volunteer labor and donated use of construction equipment by Dennis Frank and his associates got the four main cord splices high strength bolted and the secondary members field welded. Once the span was one piece the MTC/BB,

Continued on page 7...

Construction work begins between Clairton & Large

By Paul McKeown

Construction work was started on the trail segment paralleling Peters Creek between Route 837 in Clairton and Route 51 in Large. In March and April, volunteers completed the last of the tree cutting required for this trail segment. Tree cutting on the last 500 feet of trail in Clairton required more man-hours and woman-

hours than the rest of the 1.9 mile segment worked on. These efforts were at the location of the future trailhead parking lot at the Clairton end of the trail. Volunteers also removed 30 feet of concrete curbing from Route 837 where the parking lot entrance will be located. This curb removal involved a lot of sledge hammering.

Following this tree cutting, the City of Clairton performed a preliminary grading of the parking lot area using a bulldozer loaned from the Dick Corporation. By completing this grading, the Trail Council has a place to temporarily store asphalt millings that Allegheny County has offered

Continued on page 7...

THE MONTOUR TRAIL

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Newsletter Editor Deborah Hoerster

Circulation Manager Joan Schweiger

Trail Talk

from the Editor's Desk

Hi there!

There was so much Trail activity to report recently that I almost forgot to tell you something very important.

The annual Allegheny County Rib Cook-Off will take place once again at South Park, and volunteers are needed for the beer booths. The Montour Trail offers its help in exchange for a donation, usually \$4000 annually, from the Mon-Yough Recreational & Educational Committee (MYREC). Not a bad trade-off, in my opinion. We have come to rely on this money as part of the unrestricted funds for our operating budget.

As before, this year's Rib Cook-Off coordinator is John Hooton. If you can donate a little of your time on Sept. 1, 2, 3, or 4, please call John at 412 257-4101 (day) or 724 942-0115 (eve.), and he will pass your name onto the proper day captain, who is in charge of the day you want to work.



Join in the fun! Open the taps, fill the cups, and enjoy the festival-like surroundings, not to mention free parking and live entertainment. All volunteer work should be this good!!

Debby

PS: This space was originally intended for an update on our "Odyssey 2000" biking friend, Dave Porterfield. I promise to give you the "scoop" in the next issue.



Newsletter Deadline

All articles for the Sept./Oct. Trail-Letter will be due **no later than** August 1, 2000.

Please see Page 2 for submitting correspondence.
Thank you.

COMMENTS/NEWS

Your opinion means a lot to us. Send your Comments or news info. to:
Montour Trail-Letter
33 Sterling Dr.
Coraopolis, PA 15108
Or e-mail to:
debho@juno.com

Thanks!

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 2000

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August 2000

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Calendar of Events

- * Allegheny County Rib Cook-Off – Is usually held over Labor Day weekend. This year it is **Sept. 1 thru 4**. See Trail Talk on page 2 for more information.
- * IKEA/Montour Trail 1/2 Marathon and 5K Walk/Run – **Sept. 9, 2000**. (See insert in this issue.)
- * United Way – **Sept./Oct./Nov.** – See page 5 for Contributor number to donate through your workplace.

Friends' Meetings and Work Parties

- ♦ **MTC Board Meeting**, every **third Monday** of the month - **6:00 pm** at Chartiers Valley High School, in the faculty lounge. 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 Dennis at 412- 262-3748 for more information or to get on the agenda.
- ♦ **Cecil Events:**
 - Friends of the Trail meeting**, every **fourth Tuesday** of the month - at the Cecil American Legion, Rt. 50, at **7:00 pm**. Call 412-257-2553 for more information.
 - Work & Clean-up party**, every **third Saturday** of the month - **9:00 am**. Meet at the Storage shed at Hendersonville. Call 412-257-2553 for more information.
- ♦ **Moon/Robinson Events:**
 - Friends of the Trail meeting**, the **Wednesday** before the second Saturday of the month at **7:00 pm.**, at the Forest Grove Fire Department. Anyone from the communities of Moon and Robinson are encouraged to attend. Call 412-859-3020 for more information.
 - Work & Clean-up party**, every **second Saturday** of the month - **9:00 am**. Call 412-262-3748 for more information and location.
- ♦ **Findlay/North Fayette Events:**
 - Friends of the Trail**, call Don at 724-899-3695 or Pete at 412-788-4136 for more information.
 - Work & Clean-up party**, every **fourth Saturday** of the month - **9:00 am**. Meet at the Enlow Ballfield. Call 412-788-4136 for more information.
- ♦ **Bethel Park Events:**
 - Friends of the Trail meeting**, every **first Tuesday** of the month at **7:30 pm** in the Bethel Park Municipal Building Council Chambers. Anyone interested in the Bethel Park Trail segment is encouraged to come. For various committee meetings (such as fundraising) contact Peter Kohnke at 412-854-1835 for more information.
 - Work & Clean-up party**, every **second and fourth Saturday** of the month - **8:30 am**. Call Bob O'Connell at 412-833-6259 for location and information.
- ♦ **South Hills Events:**
 - Friends of the Trail Work & Clean-up party**, last **Saturday** of every month. For more information call Dr. Joe Rudolph at 412-653-4900.
- ♦ **MacDonald Events:**
 - Friends of the Trail Work & Clean-up party**, tentatively held on the **first Saturday** of every month. For more information, contact Ray Johnston at 724-356-2621.



"Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

From Journey in Word by Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

Greetings to all Montour Trail members and friends. The Montour Trail Council (MTC) continues its quest to develop new trail. In fact two new trail openings were just recently held.

On May 12th a dedication ceremony was held for the addition of 0.8 miles in the South Hills. This section of trail near Gill Hall Road was built in conjunction with an upgrade to Piney Fork Road Extension by the PA Turnpike Commission. The MTC was honored to thank Frank Kempf, Chief Engineer for Development for the Turnpike Commission, out of Harrisburg. Frank spearheaded the effort in ensuring that this section was completed in a superb manner. The MTC also thanked Mike

...and the *PREZ* sez...

By Dennis Pfeiffer

Houser, the Design Liaison Engineer for the PA Turnpike Commission for his excellent on site work in completing the project. The MTC was also very fortunate to have Linda Boxx, President of the Allegheny Trail Alliance (ATA) offer words of support at the opening. (See article, page 6.)

On June 3, (National Trail Day), the second mile of the Bethel Park section was officially opened. Peter Kohnke, head of Friends of the Montour Trail in Bethel Park, conducted the ceremonies. (See article, page 6.)

Great progress is also occurring at the Quicksilver Bridge site. The MTC volunteer work force headed by Dick Quasey and Jack Peth are to be commended for outstanding work. The MTC is very fortunate to have these (at least monetarily retired) engineers devoted to this project. In fact a third monetarily retired engineer, Ed Taylor,

was pleasantly surprised in the quality of work being performed by this crew. (See article, page 1.) By the way, Ed Taylor is the MTC Project Manager for the Design & Engineering for completing the trail in Washington County. An agreement with Mackin Engineering is pending for this project.

In closing, I would like to say a few words on the excellent support the MTC has been receiving from various government organizations. All of the 14 townships and 2 counties in which the trail traverses have been extremely supportive of the MTC's efforts. The following has occurred just in the last few weeks:

- Five officials from South Park Township met with the MTC's, Dave Wright, (Allegheny County Engineer and Project Manager), and S.E. Technologies to

Continued on page 5...

Boy Scouts & teens beautify the Trail in Cecil & Moon/Rob

Cecil Trail Section

By Joan Dristas

Boy Scout Troop 1393 from Peters Township enjoyed their annual bike-ride on the Cecil section of the Montour Trail. This year they also gave some of their time by working for several hours trimming, picking up litter, and mulching. Several of the parents involved in the troop also gave up their Sunday morning to help out. There was even breakfast cooked in the parking lot to motivate and energize all who showed up.

This not only gave the boys community hours, but also helped Loren Keaney, the Scoutmaster of the troop, assistance in achieving his Wood Badge ticket. Their time and efforts were greatly appreciated by the Cecil Friends and all who use the trail.

A "thank you" also goes out to Yost Trucking and Supply for their generous donation of mulch for the benches.

Moon/Rob Trail Section

Montour High School's students from the GATE program and the Environmental Club volunteer a few hours each Spring to spit-shine the Trail using good old fashioned elbow-grease. This year, along with grass cutting and weed whacking, our small crew of 15 mulched around bushes and shrubbery, pruned overhanging branches, and painted nearly all the locust posts, which are found around all the gated areas, between miles 0 and 4.3 (the gazebo). They did a wonderful job as usual, and we welcome them back again next year. Many thanks to them all, and their teachers, Mr. Bob Fleming, and Mr. Bill Kutzavich. Thanks, also to all our MTC volunteers: Dick Quasey, Jerry Bates, Joan & Carl Schweiger, Freda Cochran, and Deb Hoerster.

On Friday, April 14, Montour High School's Honor Society students performed a Montour Trail Spring cleanup. About 30 students, teacher Mr. Joe Rynn, and two Montour Trail

members participated in this worthwhile event. This cleanup, organized by senior Gregory Gasior of Kennedy Township, was from trail mile "0" to "6." One group of students started cleaning out a huge pile of dead trees in the Cliff Mine Parking Area (mile 6) in Findlay Township, while the other half was clearing debris from mile "0" at Montour St. in Moon Township. By the end of the day, Montour Trail member Jerry Bates' pickup was fully loaded with trail debris. Also, there was a group of three students who painted the locust posts along the trail from mile "6" to the Gazebo. The students were a pleasure to work with and are to be commended for their dedicated work attitude. In fact one student found a glass pop bottle in perfect condition from the Whistle Company, that had a date on it of 1928! Thus he found something that 72 years of Montour Railroad & Montour Trail cleanups failed to uncover. Now THAT is thoroughness. The trail looks great! Thanks again to the students and their teacher, Mr. Joe Rynn for a very rewarding day.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Membership Chairman

Jerry Agin

Thomas Aubrecht
Laurel Banas
Doug Bostich
Kathy Grant
Frank & Judy Holby
Earl F. Irvine
Marilyn A. Jenkins
Frank Kirkwood
Ted Marz & Lynne
Williams
Nancy M. Mayer
Walter Prescott

Karen Quinn
Mike & Cindy Schneider
Phillip M. Zaviski
Cathy Zeisler

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.

BENEFACTORS

Mark J. Smith
Tim Baker
Mark Schnurer
Gwen & Jeff Steigerwalt

Thank You!

LEADERS CIRCLE

Kathy Grant

Prez sez...

...continued from page 4

discuss the trail project through South Park Township. (S.E. Technologies is designing & engineering the trail between the Washington County line and Snowden Road.) This meeting, which lasted about two hours, was very productive.

- Findlay Township is working at no cost to the MTC on installing lighting in the Enlow tunnel near mile "7" on the trail.

- Moon Township, at no cost to the MTC, is planning on installing a bronze plaque on a boulder to officially dedicate the start of the trail at mile "0" at Montour St. in Moon Township.

- Robinson Township in Washington County has started grading the trail at the Quicksilver

Bridge site to the County line.

- Jefferson Hills Borough has started grading the trail from RT51 in Large towards Clairton.

- Clairton has just finished removing an enormous amount of debris at the end of the trail at Rt. 837 near the Clairton Works. (Note: Dick Corporation lent the equipment for this project.)

- The PA Turnpike Commission (Mike Houser) has volunteered a solution for extending the trail to the Eastern Side of Rt. 51. The trail has no right of way through this section.

As I said earlier, all of this support has just occurred in the last few weeks. The MTC is very fortunate to have such great support from all of these organizations. Please, if you have any contact with any of these organizations, thank them for their support.

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/SENIORS | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORTING | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LEADERS CIRCLE | \$500 + 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 (daytime) _____ (evening) _____

E-MAIL _____

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

WANTED: Person needed immediately to take over the job of answering the phone for the MTC's Administration and Business lines. If interested, please call Dennis Pfeiffer at 412 762-4857.

DON'T FORGET! The Montour Trail Council may be designated as your United Way Contributor Choice option #3308, or Combined Federal Campaign Contributor Choice option #9308, where you work.

New trail segment opens in South Park Twp.

The Montour Trail Council officially opened a new segment of trail in South Hills on Friday, May 12, at 3:00 PM. The new segment is approximately one mile long (0.8) and parallels a new 4,700-foot extension of Piney Fork Road that crosses from South Park Township into Jefferson Hills Borough. Both the Piney Fork road extension and the multi-use trail (10 ft. wide with an asphalt surface) were built by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission at a cost of about \$1.2 million. Adjacent to the roadway and paved trail are 4.5 acres of replacement wetlands also built as part of the Mon/Fayette Expressway at a cost of some \$378,000.

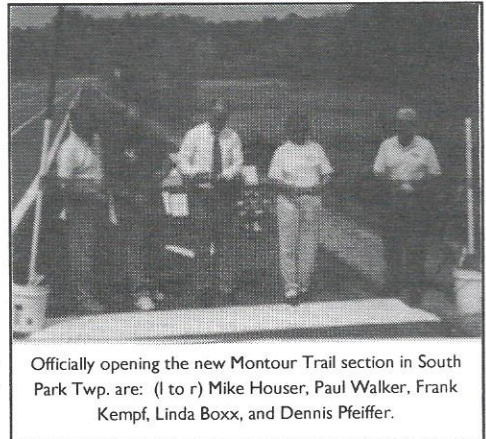
The Turnpike Commission became involved in the Montour Trail project because construction of the Mon/Fayette Expressway in Jefferson Hills required some rearrangement of neighboring roadways and affected potential trail right-of-way options.

The dedication ceremony was

brief. MTC's president, Dennis Pfeiffer, welcomed all those present, and thanked the Turnpike Commission for working hard to preserve a safe suitable right-of-way for the trail. Speakers for the event were: Frank J. Kempf, Jr., the Turnpike's Assistant Chief Engineer for development projects/programs; Linda Boxx, President of the Allegheny Trail Alliance (which is working to complete a nationally prominent rails-to-trails connection from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C.); Mike Houser, the Design Liaison Engineer for the PA Turnpike Commission; and Paul Walker, Supervisor from South Park Township.

After the ribbon was cut and trail was officially opened, talks with Mr. Kempf revealed that even though this was the first time the Turnpike Commission has ever built a section of trail for the Montour Trail Council, they did build a bridge over the Turnpike for the Laurel Highland Trail,

(0.8 mile). Although not a Montour Trail member (yet), Mr. Kempf enjoys trails and is a member of the Appalachian Trail. He has hiked the Appalachian Trail through New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia. Now that the MTC has completed 31 miles of a planned 51 mile trail from Coraopolis to Clairton, maybe we can convince him to hike the Montour Trail!



Officially opening the new Montour Trail section in South Park Twp. are: (l to r) Mike Houser, Paul Walker, Frank Kempf, Linda Boxx, and Dennis Pfeiffer.

Bethel Park spur complete

The Montour Trail Council celebrated National Trail Day on June 3 with the formal opening of what has already become one of its busiest miles of trail: the northern end of the Bethel Park spur.

Extending 2.1 miles from the Peters Township border northward to the intersection of Logan and Irishtown Roads, the Bethel Park spur will become the main gateway to the Montour Trail for thousands of South Hills residents. The first mile (south of Clifton Road) opened in the Fall of 1998, and the northern portion was completed earlier this spring.

The opening ceremony featured appearances by an impressive series of key contributors to the trail. All three of Bethel Park's state legislators (Sen. Tim Murphy, Rep. John Maher, and Rep. Ralph Kaiser), each of whom has helped to provide funds for the Montour Trail, were present. Larry Myers spoke on behalf of Allegheny Power, which provided an easement for the trail plus a \$7,400 contribution toward

its construction. Board chairperson Susan Gold represented the Allegheny Land Trust, which made Allegheny County Regional Asset District funds available for the project.

The occasion was especially memorable for Peter Kohnke, MTC vice president and head of the Friends of the Montour Trail in Bethel Park, who worked tirelessly to negotiate an easement with Allegheny Power when few thought a Bethel Park trail section would ever happen.



(l to r) John Mackey, Vince Gasgeb, John Maher, Sen. Tim Murphy, Peter Kohnke, Jim Hannan, and Ralph Kaiser dedicate a new mile of Trail.

Once the land was secured, however, support for the project grew rapidly. Seeing the

value of a scenic trail in the midst of its populous residential community, the Municipality of Bethel Park pitched in with \$30,000 of financial support plus considerable in-kind assistance.

John Mackey, Bethel Park chief of police, introduced the first two members of his department's bicycle patrol, which will be seen regularly along the trail. Financial support from the Bethel Park Friends helped the police department acquire its bicycles.

Considering Bethel Park's nature as a high-density suburb, the trail segment is surprisingly wooded and peaceful, crossing just two roads in two miles. A pedestrian bridge to eliminate the busier of those two crossings--where the trail meets Clifton Road at an awkward angle--is on the MTC's list of future projects.

The new mile of trail creates a continuous segment of over 6.5 miles in Bethel Park and Peters that is suitable for walkers.

QSB Construction

...continued from page 1

(Montour Trail Council Bridge Builders) got to work on the installation of the 2" x 6" treated wood decking. The decking is being attached to the steel with self-tapping screws. Ask someone who worked on the decking how many drill bits & #3 Phillips bits they went through. The decking cannot be completed until all the form work for the abutments is completed as the balance of the 2" x 6" boards are used in the forms. The decking, handrail & fencing will have been completely installed prior to the bridge being set in place. This is the type of work the Council has done on many bridges.

Now, on to what's new & different about this project. The MTC/BB have undertaken to act as the Contractor for the construction of the abutments, (the concrete structure that supports the end of the bridge). There ain't no THEY, there is just US. If it's required, we have to do it.

An excavation contractor, Greg Orient, has offered his time, construction equipment, (a 1CY track mounted backhoe and a 14 wheel dump truck) and the fuel they use. The South Abutment was excavated on April 1. Greg is now scheduled back in June to excavate the North Abutment.

When the machine excavation is complete it is necessary to do hand digging to get to the top of sound rock on which to pour the concrete footer.

Each of the Abutments consists of 5 pours of concrete: non-pay lean fill, footer, bridge support pier, right side wall, and left side wall.

The modular form panels were built from scratch by the MTC/BB. The typical panel has a ¾" plywood face and 2" x 4" framing. Most panels are 2 Ft x 8 Ft. In wall type construction, steel rods called Snap Ties are used to hold the wall sides together and resist the pressure of the



South Abutment of QSB in the home stretch.

wet concrete.

The method used to connect (tie) reinforcing may be of interest. Will all Local 3 members please move on to the next paragraph. The tie that is used by us is called a "bag tie." It is a 6" length of soft wire with a 3/8" loop formed at each end. After the tie is passed around the intersecting reinforcing, a hooked tool is inserted thru the loops and twisted with a simple wrist motion to tighten the wire around the reinforcing. Do you remember the wire that used to be twisted around a peck sack of potatoes? That's IT. Most of the reinforcing bars are 5/8" diameter.

The concrete, in mixer trucks, is delivered to the site dry and the concrete is mixed while the truck is at the site. Once the concrete placement is completed the excavated earth must be backfilled as layers, and compacted with vibroplate tampers. The MTC loader can do some of the dirt moving but a large amount of hand labor will be required. This is not a high skill job, rather a "Labor of Love."

So, where do we stand? The South Abutment is in the Home Stretch. The lean fill, footer & bridge support pier have been poured & stripped. On Wednesday, June 14, 2000, the fifth and final pour on the South Abutment of the Quicksilver Bridge was placed. We are now looking ahead to the construction of the North Abutment. The North Abutment is now being scheduled for excavation in June. If all goes well we expect the Bridge Truss can be hoisted into position in early August. That's the 'Plan' not a promise!

The MTC/BB has regularly scheduled parties every Wed. & Sat. Some of the hands have been at it full blast for some time & could use some relief. The backfilling operation will require a lot of hands, not brute force. We will also need to do some site cleanup and grass planting.

YES, WE CAN USE YOUR HELP!

Since our requirements vary from day to day, would you kindly call Dick Quasey at 412/859-3014 or Jack Peth at 412/921-7214 to set up your participation with the MTC/BB?

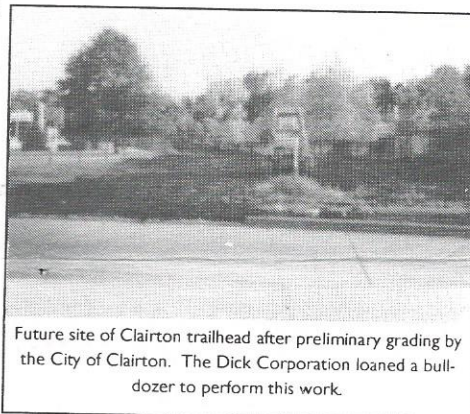
Visitors are always welcome!

...Large and Clairton

...continued from page 1

to donate to us for use as a trail sub-surface material. Jefferson Hills Borough has been working from the other end of the trail segment. At this point, they have performed preliminary grading of 2/3 of a mile, and gathered a pile of rotted railroad ties that they have dug up and removed during the grading process.

These municipalities are to be commended for this donation of public works department time and the use of their equipment. They were able to do this in the early spring during a less busy time period. It is likely that



Future site of Clairton trailhead after preliminary grading by the City of Clairton. The Dick Corporation loaned a bulldozer to perform this work.

they will be helping us again in the late fall when their work slows down again for a short time. These in kind services are very important on this project, since the funding for this section is from a 50/50 DCNR matching grant.

Lastly, the Trail Council is happy to note, that some progress has been made on obtaining property access to a location where we currently have a ¾ mile missing link. As many of you are aware, an interchange and park and ride lot for the Mon Fayette Expressway are being built where our trail crosses Route 51 in Large. Through the combined efforts of Jefferson Hills Borough, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission-PennDOT, State Senator Murphy's office, and the Montour Trail Council, it is now a possibility that the Montour Trail will have a dedicated trail right-of-way through this highly developed area. Details will be forthcoming in future newsletters.



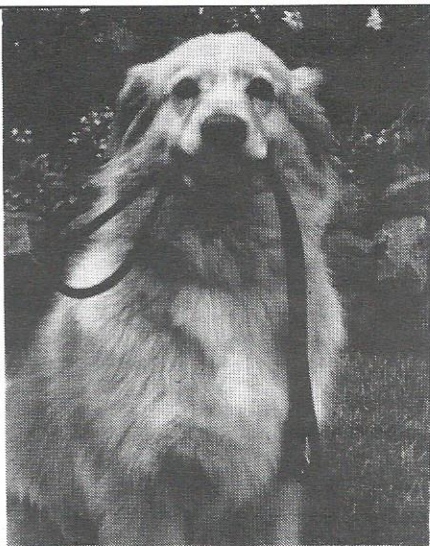
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"I'm ready
for my walk
on the
Montour
Trail."

"Are you?"



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"Penny Day" is in our ears and in our eyes...

You can "count-on" plenty of things to happen on Moon/Rob's annual fundraiser, "Penny Day." You can "count-on" counting coins all day and into the night; you can "count-on" lots of enthusiasm; you can "count-on" lots of volunteers; and...you can "count-on" RAIN! It's almost as predictable as the Three Rivers Arts Festival's claim to fame. No matter the weather, the outcome is always the same - success!

On May 13, some volunteers worked the weigh stations at mile 0 (Groveton), and mile 4.3 (gazebo), while the more daring volunteers took beg-buckets onto the center strips at Park Manor Boulevard, so that people could toss in their coins without missing the green light. It certainly paid off! Those beg-buckets brought in \$2900 for the day's total.

Besides the individual volunteers, the Moon/Rob Friends of the Trail were also fortunate to have the Boy Scout troop #301, under the guidance of Julianne Wimer, help out again this year. (It's hard to say "no" to a Boy

Scout!)

Due to wonderful donators for the event, 13 prizes were able to be awarded. This year our donators were: Airport Marriott, Dingbats, Not Just Toast, ADP, The Tonidale, Sneekers, Butya's, Trailblazers, Ya Fei, and Coco-nuts. Buffalo Scale Company once again gave us the use of their scales for the day. Many thanks to all of them for their kindness, which ensures each year's success.

The top 3 winners of the day were: Denise Cox of Pittsburgh, who donated \$221.00, and was awarded a Brunch for 2 at the Marriott. Colleen McDermott, of Oakdale came in second with \$74.25, and received a Brunch for 2 at Dingbats. Third prize went to Jerry McFarland of Moon Twp., who donated \$35.12 and received a gift certificate to Not Just Toast. Congratulations to all 13 winners and many thanks for their generous contributions. Without their support and the support of so many others who donate each year, there would not be enough funds necessary for Trail



This is the crew at the mile 0 weigh station. Standing are: (l to r) Tom McIlvain, Kevin McDermott, Lenny Boyce (who never goes anywhere without Bob), and Bob Boyce. (Missing from the photo - Deb Hoerster.)

maintenance and general upkeep of the Moon/Robinson section of the Montour Trail. Unfortunately, beautification takes money and lots of time given by many wonderful volunteers. For each and every "Penny Day" volunteer, please accept many warm thanks for a job well-done! You deserve a day off. Try to find a dry, sunny spot on "Penny Lane," and sing the song for your relaxation.

Until next year...