

THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

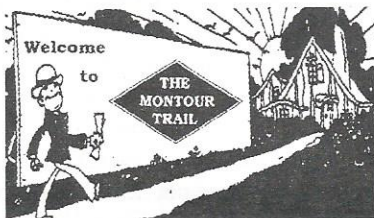
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL

Ribbon cutting set for April 19

Everyone is invited to a ribbon cutting ceremony being planned for April 19 on the new, 3 mile section of the Montour Trail in Robinson Twp., Washington County.

This long awaited section of Trail brings to 13 the grand total of miles of trail Washington County. It leaves us with only a three mile gap between the end of the present completed section at Milepost 11 1/2 and the beginning of the newest section near Quicksilver Golf Course on Rt. 980. That gap should be plugged by this fall if certain funding becomes available.

The new stretch of Trail is in an ideal location for the people living near the population centers of McDonald, Midway, Bulger, and Burgettstown in that corner of Washington County. As word of the new recreation



area spreads it is anticipated that more trail will have to be rapidly developed to accomodate an ever

growing number of users.

The ceremony will be held at 1:00pm at the Noblestown Rd. end of the new section, 1/4 mile outside of McDonald. Parking will be available for that day only, part way up the Trail on the uncompleted section leading to the McDonald Trestle. You can also park at the other end near the entrance to Quicksilver Golf Course. Take the McDonald Exit of Rt. 22 West, turn right and follow the signs. Or follow Noblestown Rd. out of Carnegie. Bring the family and try a new section. Fun and surprises will be had by all! ♦

ISTEA funds in jeopardy!!!

Previous federal ISTEA funding was mandated for specific transportation enhancements. But now, the House Transportation Committee is considering making these enhancement funds discretionary for the states. This could very easily mean a loss of funds for projects such as ours. The following guidelines issued by the Rail-to-Trails Conservancy can help you in writing a letter to support keeping the ISTEA program in its current form.

Under ISTEA, the state of Pennsylvania has been apportioned over \$49 million dollars for its Enhancements Program.

CONTINUED PAGE 5 SEE ISTEA

Trail helps students learn

by Judy Thompson

Middle School students will be introduced to the Montour Trail through a learning unit developed by John Wasco, a teacher at Montour High School. The purpose of this unit is to introduce students, and their parents, to the past, present, and future uses of the Montour Trail within their own community and to its ties to Western Pennsylvania and beyond.

Sixth graders at David E. Williams Middle School in the Montour district will be the first to participate in this unit when they begin to study the Trail in early March. They

will view slides of the Trail and study maps in introductory lessons. Students will then choose individual projects from a list of possible activities such as history of the Montour railroad, railroad bridge or tunnel building, the coal industry in Western Pennsylvania, other rails-to-trails, wildlife and plantlife along the Trail, environmental concerns along the Trail, physical fitness as related to the Trail, etc.

The Montour Trail Council, and lead resource person Dave Wright, have provided maps, brochures, and bibliographies for

student use. John Hooton will present the Trail slide show developed by Bill Metzger in the introductory lesson, and other Trail members will serve as resource contacts for individual projects. Funds for books and other costs related to the unit have been provided through a grant from the Montour Education Foundation. Other school districts interested in using the Trail Learning Unit should contact Trail Board liaison, Judy Thompson, at 922-1702. ♦

INSIDE

8TH
ANNUAL
FISHING
TOURNEY



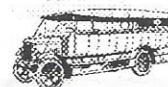
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PENNIES
FOR
YOUR
TRAIL



SEE PAGE 6

BUS TOUR
THE MONTOUR



SEE PAGE 8

PA.
MAIN LINE
LINEAR
PARK

SEE PAGE 7



MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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**

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL PHONE NUMBERS:

For information: 412-831-2030

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

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Circulation Manager	Jerry Agin

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

There is all kind of activity going this Spring with the Montour Trail Council. Grand Openings, bus tours, building bridges (literally and figuratively), fundraising and fence mending. And we expect a few nice grants this year to keep on adding more miles of Trail. Things sure look good for the Montour Trail right now.

The only downside I see is the number of members we've gained in the last two months. I know winter is a bad time for promoting the Trail, but still. If you know someone who uses the Trail at least once a month, try to get the membership application from this newsletter into their hands. Give it to people who never use the Trail but think it is a great idea. In fact, PLEASE, don't ever throw this newsletter in the waste can. Take it to work and leave it in the break room. Leave it in the laundromat. Carry it to the Trail and give it to someone (you can take the mailing label off). We need to let more people know that this Trail is not built and maintained primarily by government agencies. It is being built by people's friends, neighbors, and families. And as the miles of completed Trail begin to add up, we need more and more people to support it.

Try to make it out to the ribbon cutting for the new section of Trail in Robinson, Washington County. Use that time to show your support for the Rails-to-Trails concept. As public and private funds continue to be cut in ever increasing numbers, we need to show that this is an idea that is not dead. But more than that, it should be a time for us to celebrate what we have accomplished together. So come on out for a couple of hours. Take a look at the McDonald Trestle while you are there. It's pretty impressive.

Last, but not least, set aside one Saturday this year to help your local Friends of the Trail group. You'll be glad you did.

Tim

Letters

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

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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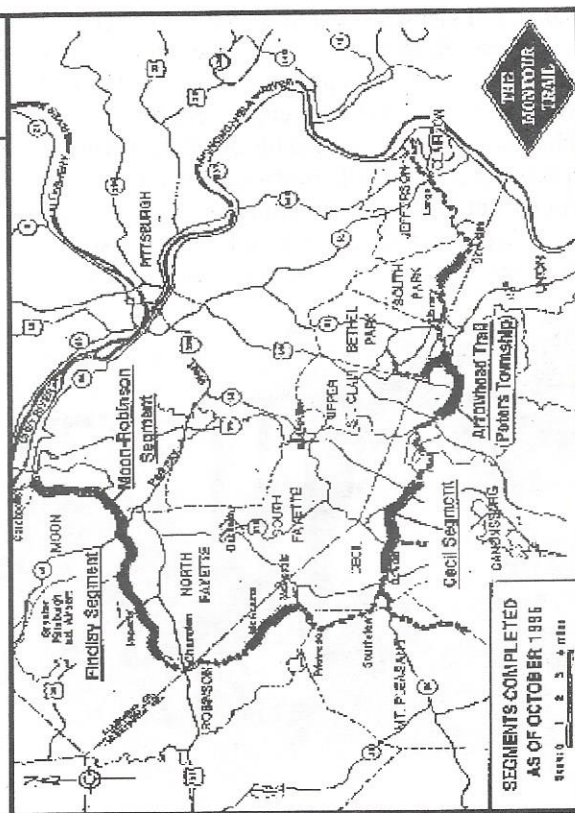
Calendar

April						
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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, 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. (Begins again in April)
- ♦ **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 - **9:00 am**. Meet at North Star Petroleum (Formerly Robinson Petroleum). Call 262-3748 for more information. (Begins again in April)
- ♦ **Findlay/ North Fayette Friends of the Trail** Call Don at 899-3695 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. (Begins again in April)
- ♦ **Grand Opening Ceremony**, Robinson Twp., Washington Cnty., **April 19, 1997 at 1:00 pm**. Ceremony will be held at the Nobletown Road Trailhead, 1/4 mile outside of McDonald. (See article, page 1)
- ♦ **Montour Trail Bus Tour**, Coraopolis to Clairton, **May 3, at 9:00 am**. Some seats still available. First come, first serve. Call Nancy Reed at 921-0356 to reserve a seat. (See article, page 8)
- ♦ **Pennies for your Trail Day**, Moon/Robinson section, **May 10, from 9am to 3pm**. (See article, page 6)
- ♦ **Fishing Tournament**, at Forest Grove Sportsmen's Club, between miles 1 and 2 on the Trail. **April 19**, call 269-0942 for more information or to register.
- ♦ **IKEA 1/2 Marathon and 5K**, Montour Trail, Sept. 13, 1997. More details to follow.

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**



Trail day at Walmart

by Debby Hoerster

The new WalMart Store in North Fayette Township, sometimes offers time and space in their store to community organizations as a goodwill gesture insuring their neighborly intentions. The Montour Trail Council (MTC) set up two display tables on Thursday, February 6, and created a lot of interest among WalMart customers as well as employees. Many people were aware of the Trail and stopped to look at the pictures on the display boards, which showed a mosaic of work parties, dedications, and "before" and "after" shots. Volunteers from the

MTC handed out brochures and newsletters. While doing this, they also tried to relate the advantages and importance of the Trail to the surrounding communities and also tried to urge people to become members of the Montour Trail Council, as well as Friends of the Trail in their particular areas. The Friends of the Trail are always in need of volunteers to help maintain and add to the beauty of the Trail for all to enjoy.

We'd like to thank WalMart and their Green Chairman, Kim Smith, for giving the MTC the opportunity to make

the community aware of the beauty and benefits of the Trail. Hopefully, they'll be able to help us in future events with matching funds, or with a grant from the WalMart Foundation.

We also thank Judy Thompson for initiating this project, and making all the arrangements for its success. And last, but not least, the MTC would like to thank our volunteers of that day: Judy Thompson, Nancy Reed, Pete Merther, and Debby Hoerster for their help and participation. ♦

**MTC WEB
ADDRESS**



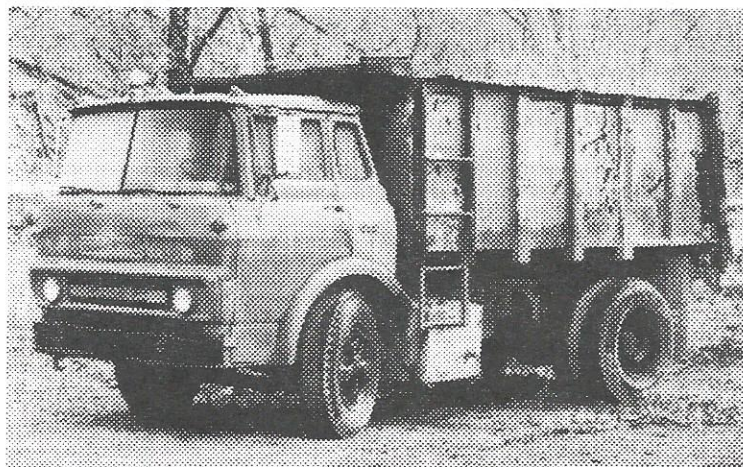
Visit the Montour Trail web-site at: <http://trfn.clpgh.org/orgs/mtc/>

MTC's Adopt-a-Truck program gains two new bundles of joy

by John Hooton

The Montour Trail Council recently added to its fleet of work vehicles. Dr. Paul Rankin D.D.S., of Upper St. Clair has kindly donated a much needed dump truck to the Trail Council. It is a 1973 GMC7500 with a 432 6cyl. engine. Marshall Fausold, President of the MTC, donated his old 1984 Toyota pick-up. Both vehicles are currently inspected and are in running condition. But they both cry out for some much needed cosmetic surgery. Won't somebody please take an interest in these venerable kings of the highway? Maybe you've been

itching to try your autobody skills on that '49 Nash out in the driveway, but you're just not sure. Well, here's a chance to sharpen those skills before you tackle that automotive jewel you've procrastinated on these last 25 years. Also, the GMC needs some kind soul to take a look at its rear suspension. It's capable, but not as capable as it use to be. Please, if anyone has an interest in helping us preserve these trucks to work on the Trail for years to come, please call the MTC truckmaster at 257-4101 during the day or 942-0115 in the evenings. ♦



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- ☆ Kenneth K. Manko, 2nd
- ☆ Jack O'Keeffe
- ☆ Doug Ripper
- ☆ Joseph R. Sullivan

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.

ISTEA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The state has programmed this money to 153 projects. It is important that Congressman Shuster, who chairs the reauthorizing committee in the House, knows how beneficial these projects are to the state and to your community. Your letter to Congressman Shuster in support of the Enhancement Program in ISTEA '97 will point out to him in a specific and timely way why he should support the Program in its current form. The following pointers should be helpful:

- Send one letter to: The Honorable Bud Shuster
2188 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
- Send a copy of the letter to your Congressman
- Try to send another copy to: Franz Gimmmler
Rail-to-Trails Conservancy
3410 N. Edison St.
Arlington, VA 22207-1830
- Thank Congressman Shuster for his efforts on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania, congratulate him for his leadership successes, and acknowledge his efforts on behalf of local communities and values.
- Ask Congressman Shuster to support continuation of the Enhancements Program in ISTEA '97 as a **mandated set-aside under the law**. Without this federal protection, the Program may be discontinued in many states.
- Describe your enhancement project(s) and the benefits brought to your community: Mobility, development, renewal, revitalization, recreation, community services, acceptability, restoration, community history and pride, beautification, livability.
- Emphasize the project's impact on transportation in your community: Acceptability, congestion, circulation, collection and distribution, type of trips served, air quality objectives, mobility, new access to important destinations, celebration of transportation history, role in a balanced multimodal community transportation system, mobility for disabled, disadvantaged.

Please write today! Thank you. ◆

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.**

Annual fishing tourney set for April 19 (Fish all morning then come to our Grand Opening ceremony!)

On Saturday, April 19, the Forest Grove Sportsmen's Association will hold its 8th annual Trout Fishing Tournament from the banks of Montour Run Creek. The creek is adjacent to the Montour Trail. This year the Sportsmen plan to stock the stream with over 3,000 trout of all variety; rainbow, brook, brown, tiger, and others - all between 8" and 23".

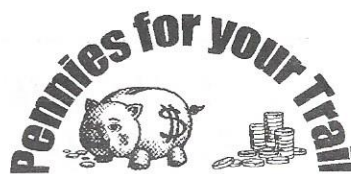


Trophies and cash prizes will be awarded in the adult category for the top ten longest fish. Prizes in the children's category go to the top three finishers. The top cash prize is \$200. There will also be door prizes and a tag-fish kitty.

The day will begin with a pancake and sausage breakfast beginning at 5:00am. Price of the breakfast is \$3.00. The price of the tournament if you register before April 11 is \$10.00. After April 11 the cost to register is \$12.00.

All proceeds go to stocking the stream next year and for improving the stream as a natural trout habitat without the need for stocking every year.

To register or for more information, call 269-0942. ◆



Get out those jars of pennies! It is almost time for the 3rd annual Pennies for your Trail campaign. Once again the Moon/Robinson Friends of the Trail will be collecting pennies (and other coinage) to help improve and maintain the Trail in the Airport area. On May 10, from 9 o'clock to 3 o'clock, the Friends will man stations at Milepost 0 (the beginning of the Trail in Groveton) and at the intersection of Robinson Town Centre to collect and weigh your pennies. Bags will be available so you can take your container home if you like.

Prizes will be awarded to the top donors by weight. Nickels, dimes, quarters, half dollars, and paper money will not be turned away. All will be weighed by our electronic scales and recorded by our the groups fastidious record keepers. Last year's prizes included a Breakfast for Two package at the Airport Marriot, several gift certificates for local restaurants, and hair salons, and running shoes. This years prizes have not been announced at press time, but chairman Dean Arlett promises they will be better than ever and more of them.

Full details, including the list of prizes will be posted in the May/June TRAIL-LETTER as well as other local newspapers. So make plans to come to the Trail on May 10, start adding to that pile 'o pennies, it might be just what you need to put you over the top. ◆



Start getting in shape! The IKEA 1/2 Marathon and 5K race on the Montour Trail has been scheduled for Sept. 13, 1997. Last year, IKEA donated the \$4,000 proceeds from the race to the Montour Trail Council. More information to follow in upcoming issues.

photo by Sharon Newman

First South Park Twp. section under construction

by Dave Wright

A 1.4 mile long section of the Montour Trail is partly constructed in South Park Twp. Our contractor, Tony Tedesco, expects to resume work in the Spring. He will finish excavating a ramp at Stewart Rd. At the same time, he will resume hauling the fill material to Triphammer Rd. to construct a driveway and parking area.

Tony completed grading, drainage and trail surface between Brownsville Rd. and the bridge over Brownsville-Library Rd. Because the concrete abutments are in poor condition, the County recommends demolishing this bridge. County surveyors recently completed field measurements for us there. Demolition can proceed when funds are available.

The Trail is also completed between the Bethel Park Sewage Treatment Plant and the bridge over Piney Fork Run near Triphammer Rd. We will organize volunteers to install a deck and fences on this bridge in the Spring. Those interested in helping to install gates, fences and the bridge deck can contact Dave Carlson at 831-8304.

An opening ceremony will be planned for later this year. Funding for this \$170,000 project comes from Allegheny Regional Asset District, Allegheny Land Trust, Pa. Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources and private source. The MTC has applied for additional funds to continue with another contract this year that will extend this section. ♦

The Pennsylvania Main Line Linear Park

by Brian Nogrady

With its landmark architecture, tree lined streets, community organizations, and special events like Community Day and Light Up Night, Edgewood is certainly a unique place in which to live. In many ways it still maintains its character of a century ago as "a place where persons in search of fresh air and a quiet life could make a nightly escape from Pittsburgh." For eight years Edgewood Council, citizen groups and individual residents have tirelessly fought the extension of the Martin Luther King Jr. Busway, because as designed it would destroy the character of the borough at its very heart, the historic train station. Six examples of landmark architecture surround the tracks near the historic train station. In fact, the station itself and the Gardner-Bailey house only a few hundred feet away, are National Register Landmarks. These beautiful structures, that are such an important part of Edgewood's history and its bright future, deserve

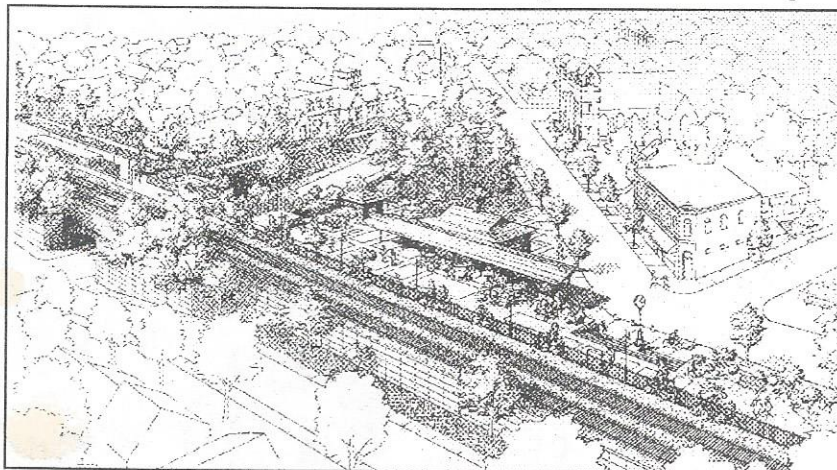
more than to have a concrete highway with jersey barriers and chain link fences in front of them. Fortunately, progress does not necessitate the paving over of our history and the destruction of our community's unique character, only short sighted planning and poor design do.

The thin strip of land next to the railroad tracks, despite its ragged appearance is a wonderful place for architecture. In the proposal for the development of the Pennsylvania Mainline Interborough Linear Park, a community park will be built in front

of the historic Edgewood Train Station canopy, completely covering the transit roadway below. In this 1,000 ft. long park, summertime concerts, weekend farmers markets, and annual arts festivals will be held. A restaurant/community museum with outdoor cafe style dining, will occupy the restored station, and simple gardens with gravel walking paths will provide places to stroll or read a book. As such, the park will serve not only to protect the historic architecture and quasi-rural character of the borough but also

Braddock's national landmark Carnegie Library, will be places that celebrate the rich past of these communities and the character of the people who built them, through the great architecture that they left behind. The development of this valuable legacy will help to promote the building of a brighter future for these communities, one that is intimately tied, in the past and future, to that thin strip of land that connects them.

The new PAT board is very interested in the development of the Main Line Park. This



has prompted the Port Authority to include the proposal in RFP (Request for Proposals) for the final design stage of the busway extension. PAT will basically be taking a step backwards towards the preliminary design stage, in order to study the feasibility and costs of the proposal in detail. Although this was an exciting achievement, in the end whether the Main Line Park will be built depends on the continued strong political support that it has received

bolsters Edgewood's image as a local cultural center. Even more importantly, it will provide a place where Edgewood's unique community life can continue to grow and flourish at the town's historic center.

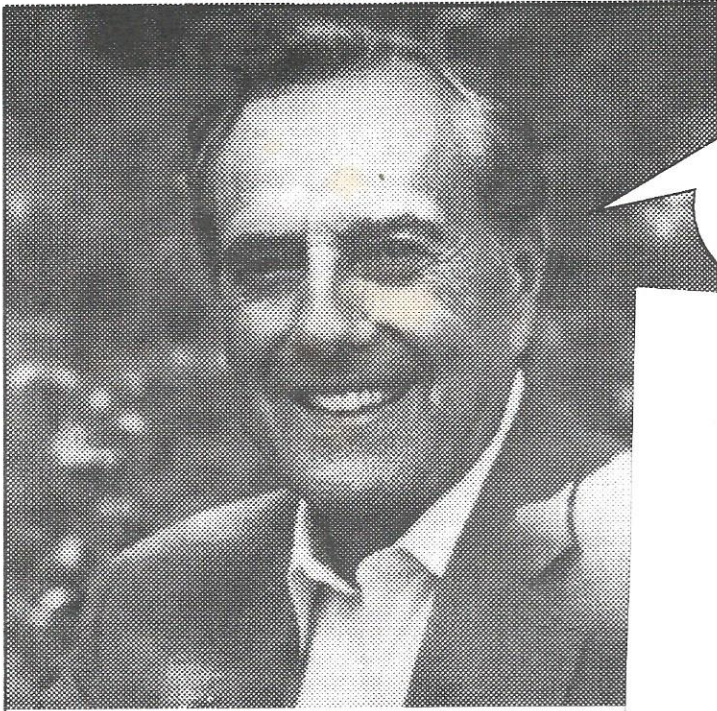
The Main Line Park plan, unlike PAT's plan, benefits all communities along the roadway extension and even those beyond. Each community from Wilkesburg to Trafford, which is just over the Allegheny County line (11 rail miles east), will have its own community park. The community parks, located in front of landmark architecture like

but most importantly continued public support. **Each and every letter of support is crucial in ultimately achieving this turning point for Edgewood and the entire region.** Please address your letter of support to "The Board of Directors, Port Authority of Allegheny County, 2235 Beaver Ave., Pgh., PA 15223"; and send it by way of the Edgewood Council at the Edgewood Borough Building, 2 Race St. Edgewood, PA 15218. The council would like to keep a copy of your letter of support and will forward en mass to the PAT Board with others. ♦



MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL
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PITTSBURGH PA 15228-0866

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I guess now
I'll have more time
to use that
Montour Trail!

Bob Dole on November 6, 1996

MTC readies Magical Mystery Tour

by Tim Killmeyer

Trail at Rt. 837 in Clairton and the old tunnel in Jefferson Twp. now used to store salt. **Watch** in wonder as Stan Sattinger waxes poetic about the numerous cattails and natural wetlands that are found along the Trail.

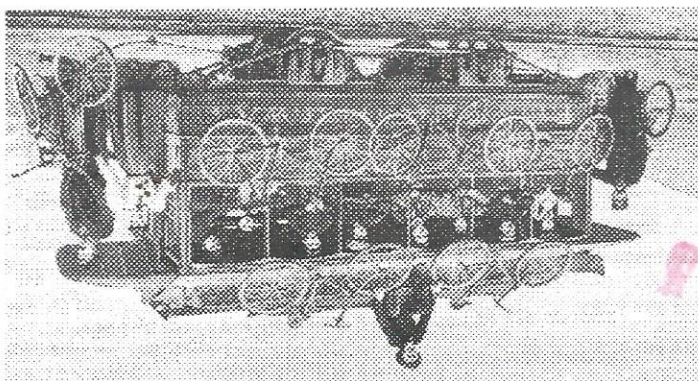
Yes folks, you can't miss this one! And how much

would you expect to pay for a day outing like this? \$25? \$35?

\$50? Well, you can be a part of this excursion for the palty sum of \$10 - \$15 (depending on the number of participants).

No money will be used from the general funds to pay for this trip! You must provide your own box lunch. The bus will leave from Milepost 0 in Groveton at 9:00am on Saturday, May 3, 1997. Seats can be reserved on a first come-first served basis by calling Nancy Reed at 921-0356.

are interested. And who wouldn't be? **Here's your chance** to amaze your friends with a knowledge of the Trail formerly granted to a privileged few.



Listen with rapt attention as Dave Wright points out the Dick Corp. sign on an old Montour R.R. bridge and describes how the Mon-Fayette interchange at Rt. 51 will impact the Trail. **See** the mysterious, hidden entrance to the

few seats are still available for those who nately for the rest of the membership, a decided that a tour was in order. Fortunately, the Board of Directors made about different sections of the 55 formed when critical decisions need to be the same boat. In order to be better in-

nected with the Trail are in alone. Many people con- Rd., rest assured, you are not Garden Rd. and Gill Hall connection between Potato

If you are not sure of the 3rd. tour Trail for Saturday, May nizing a bus tour of the Mon-Board of Directors is orga- you're in luck! The MTC urday afternoon? Well nothing better to do on a Sat-

Montour Trail begins and ends? Are you curious about how we are going to overcome certain barriers. Do you have

Is it a mystery to you where the