MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL

All systems "GO" for South Park Twp.

by Tim Killmeyer

After months of concern over the status of Rd. Volunteers will be meeting every Monday

the one and a half miles of Trail scheduled to be built in South Park Twp. this year, all the elements needed to proceed have fallen into place in just a few weeks. Following on the heels of a well attended informational and

teer recruitment meeting in South Park on April 25, it was announced that the Montour Trail will receive a \$50,000 grant, money that is needed for work unable to be done by volunteers.

The South Park meeting was attended by South Park residents as well as Trail Council members "itching" to build more Trail. It was hosted by Dave Carlson, South Park Trail Representative, in the Eagle Lodge behind the oval at South Park and included highlights of past Trail Council

accomplishments along with tentative (at the time) plans for 1995 in South Park Township.

Those plans call for a one and a half mile section of Trail to be built between Stewart Rd. (near Consolidated Coal) south to Triphammer

Western Pa.
Wheelmen give
\$2,000 grant

The Western Pennsylvania Wheelmen organization has granted the Montour Trail Council \$2,000 to pay for the materials used by volunteers to deck a Trail bridge just north of

Tripham mer Rd.

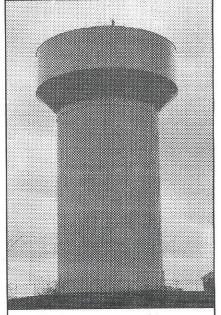
Park
Twp. This bridge is
vital for the completion
of the Trail in that
area. Thank you WPW!

evening (except Memorial Day) at 6:00 on the site of the future CoGo's store at the intersection of Brownsville and Piney Forks Rds. Trail Council engineering volunteers are in the process of seeking the necessary construction permits from South Park Township while others are contacting adjacent landowners so we can properly introduce ourselves.

The \$50,000 came from a Keystone Community Grant under the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund. This was a matching grant and the matching funds came from two sources, a \$10,000 private, anonymous donation and \$40,000 dollars from the funds allocated to the Trail Council from the Allegheny County Regional Asset District.

As good as all this sounds, money is still needed for gates, signs, fencing, gas for our truck and tractor, etc., etc., etc. so please don't forget to join us or renew your membership.

For more info on the South Park section call Dave Carlson at: 644-2844 (day) or 831-8304 (evenings).

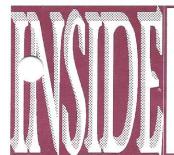


Jack Swisher stands on top of the water tower near Settlers Cabin Park during the installation of the antenna for the Montour Trail radio system. See article on page six for the whole story.

Apology

Please excuse the delay in the delivery of your TRAIL-LETTER. When I sat down to start it, the video display on my computer monitor was about six inches wide and getting smaller. By the time the needed parts were replaced and the newsletter was finished up and printed, our circulation manager was out of town and could not get it in the mail right away. I apologize for the delay.

Tim



PARK MANOR
BLVD.
CROSSING
BEING STUDIED

PAGE 3

ROBINSON
SECTION,
WASH. CNTY.
GETTING
READY
SEE PAGE 6

TOUR DE
MERCY MONTOUR
FOCUS DAY
JULY 8
SEE PAGE 7

BEER
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED
LABOR DAY
WEEKEND
PAGE 8



MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER is published bi-monthly January through December. All correspondence should be addressed to:

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Or E-mail to: 74144.103@compuserve.com

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

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Newsletter

Tim M. Killmeyer

Editor

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Circulation Manager Jerry Agin

Manager

EDITOR'S OBSERVATIONS

Well, the weather is finally starting to break and Spring is raising its spirit over the Montour Trail the way the sun rises in the morning sky after a night of hard, driven rain. The Spring flowers are steadily taking their turns at showing us their long slumbering beauty and in a few weeks the Trail will be ablaze with color as they join together in a silent crescendo.

I only hope I can enjoy it.

What happens is, being as involved with the Trail as I am, I find it hard to separate my Trail building and maintenance experience from the Trail experience of the casual user. When I'm on the Trail, I let the loose fenceposts or stream erosion problems I see occupy my mind at least as much as the wild Bloodroot spreading across the hillside. The bikers stop me to tell me about the walkers who won't let them by. The walkers stop to tell me about the bicyclists who don't warn them before they come around. And I've seen it myself. While riding my bike the other day, I came up behind four bicyclists. Three were paraplegics riding those three-wheeled, hand powered bikes. Some people were walking toward us, so I decided to wait until they passed before I passed the people in front of me. But before they could get by, without warning, a guy comes along and passes me, the people in front of me, and zig-zags over just before he hit the walkers coming toward us. He didn't know if I was going to pass or not. I could have turned right in front of him and there would have been some serious injuries. Same thing for the guys in front of me who weren't necessarily keeping all the way to the right, as it looked like they were just learning how to ride.

There is no speed limit on the Trail, but bicyclists somehow need to be educated in proper trail etiquette. Here are a few tips:

- Always warn before you pass anyone. Chances are they can't hear you coming and they just might turn in to your path, ruining both your days. I have found that a small bell on my handlebar works well. The people i pass appreciate it and it keeps me from yelling "On your left" every two minutes.
- When riding with a friend or friends, always go single file when passing someone approaching from the opposite direction and also when passing someone going in the same direction as you.
- Wait to pass safely when someone is also approaching from the opposite direction.
- When riding on the Trail, think about how some cars treat bicyclists when they are riding on the road. The slower bicyclists and the walkers deserve the same respect you demand from autos when you ride on the road

I'll tell you about the woman I found picking the freshly planted daffodils some unknown benefactor planted on the Trail some other time.

7im





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.



Calendar

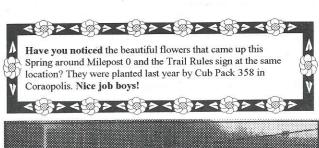
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- ♦ MTC Board Meeting, every third Monday of the month Second floor of 441 Smithfield St. across from Kaufmann's, 6:00pm. All MTC members are welcome to attend. Call Jack at 221-7708 for more information or to get on the agenda.
- ♦ Cecil Friends of the Trail meeting, every first Tuesday of the month in the Boy Scout room at the Cecil American Legion, Rt. 50, 7:30. Call 221-6406
- ♦ Moon/Robinson Friends of the Trail, every second Thursday 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.
- ♦ Findlay/ North Fayette Friends of the Trail meeting, every third Wednesday of the month, at 7:00. Held at the West Allegheny Community Library. Anyone from the communities around Findlay and North Fayette are encouraged to attend. Call Fred at 695-0134 for more information.
- ♦ 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.
- ♦ Clean-up party, Moon/Robinson segment, every second Saturday of the month 9:00am. Meet at North Star Petroleum (Formerly Robinson Petroleum). Call 262-3748 for more information.
- 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.
- ◆ Trail construction preparation South Park Twp. Every Monday evening at 6:00 until segment is completed. Meet at the site of the future CoGo's at the intersection of Brownsville Rd. and Piney Forks Rd. Call 831-8304 for more information.
- National Trails Day Saturday, June 3. Come out and enjoy your trail!
- ♦ Tour de Mercy Day on the whole Montour Trail. Saturday, July 8. Sponsored by Mercy Hospital. Details upcoming in the local papers, on T.V. or call 232-7506 for more information.



Hats off to the 21 members of the Montour High School Environmental Club who came down to the Trail on May 5 to help us spruce up the place a bit. They cleaned up the Trail parking area near the Brothers Grimm Lounge, picked up trash left by illegal dumpers at Milepost 0 near Groveton, and planted quite a few blue spruce and white pine trees along the Trail. They deserve a big Thank you!

NAO TAMO

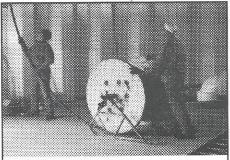




Members of the Montour Trail Council, including: Bob Dudash, Dick Quasey, Frank Keppel, and Tim Killmeyer have been meeting with PennDOT to discuss the Trail crossing at Park Manor Blvd. and Montour Run Rd. below Robinson Towne Center. It has been decided that the guiderail can be removed to allow the Trail to curve over to the existing crosswalk. But miles of red tape need to be cut through before any work can actually be done. Who will do the work is also yet to be decided, but it is being worked on.

Montour Trail radio system nearing completion

On April 1 a handful of Trail volunteers ascended new heights. Working atop a 160 foot water tower was not something they anticipated when they became Montour Trail volunteers. But you never know what tomorrow is going to bring. Recruited by Bill Morphy, head

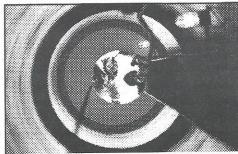


Dennis Pfeiffer (L) and Dick Quasey feed cable upwards from the floor of the tower.

Trail radio technician extraordinaire, they pulled a heavy, 250 foot antenna cable (about twice as thick as your average garden hose) to the top of the new water tower just outside Settlers Cabin Park. Under the expert tutelage of Bob Foley (who helped Bill plan the installation down to the most minute detail) things went rather smoothly.

The radio system will be a valuable asset to the Trail Council when doing routine construction, maintenance, and special events over the 55 miles, not to mention the public safety benefits for a Trail that goes through 13 municipalities, each with a different set of radio frequencies.

Morphy says that the system could never have been completed without the help of numerous Trail supporters and benefactors, including:



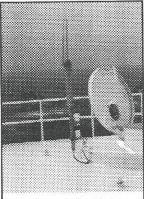
Meanwhile, Jack Swisher (L) and Bob Foley pull it through the pulley system 160 feet to the top of the tower.

- Howard Theis, the board of the Robinson Township Municipal Authority, and Ray Antonelli for letting us install the antenna on their water tower.
- Bell Atlantic Mobile, for the donation of the antenna cable.
- Ed Neal, Mark

Rupnick, and Roy Brosi of Duquesne Light Co. for the loan of equipment and hardware necessary to install the cable and for the donation of two-way radio equipment including the antenna.

- Glen Murdoch of Steel City Tower for miscellaneous technical advice and equipment.
- And especially to Bob Foley, without whose technical expertise the installation would have been much more difficult.

The volunteers who actually installed the antenna and cable along with Morphy and Foley included: Jack Swisher, Dennis Pfeiffer, Dick Quasey, and Tim Killmeyer. The bracket needed to attach the antenna to the top of the tower was fabricated by John Jeanette.



The finished antenna
That's the wave pool left-center

Cecil Friends plan improvements to the Montour Trail in Cecil Township

by Dennis Sims

The Cecil Township Friends of the Montour Trail, marking their first anniversary, will be working hard this spring on improvements to the Trail in Cecil Township and surrounding areas. The Friends project list includes:

- ⇒ Replacement of some of the flooring on the Johnson Road High Bridge over the Westland Branch. Materials to be provided by Mount Pleasant Township.
- ⇒ Planting 200 trees provided by the Pennsylvania Game Commission in selected areas along the trail. Thanks to John Hooten for arranging for the trees as well as obtaining mulch and topsoil to help them along. Thanks to Mount Lebanon Public

Works for the mulch and Federouch Landscaping for the topsoil.

- ⇒ Assisting Brian Fullgraf and the Cecil Boy Scout Troop 1369 in placing benches at half-mile intervals between Cecil Park and Hendersonville as part of his Eagle Scout project. Thanks to Liberty Lumber in Canonsburg ad Desmet Lumber in Cecil for donating the materials.
- ⇒ **Making** improvements to selected undeveloped sections of Trail in Cecil Township.

Trail users that find the parking areas at the Hendersonville and McConnell Road access points filled to capacity will be happy to know that additional parking is available at the "Kurnick Tract".

This parcel of land was purchased last year by the trail and provides access to the Trail midway between Hendersonville and McConnell Road and is located on Cecil-Henderson Road about one mile west of Hendersonville.

The Cecil Friends meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Scout Building adjacent to the Cecil American Legion on Route 50 in Cecil. You are invited to attend this meeting. For more information about the Friends or you would like to assist the group in one of our many projects please contact Dennis Sims at 257-2553 or Don Berty at 221-6406.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Dean Arlett
- Jim & Andrea Barter
- 3 Dan Cusick
- The Danver Family
- Minda Fall
- Alex Fenton
- 3 William M. Flanery
- Tammy & Scott Graner 1
- * Jim Greenberg
- A Mary Lynn Halapy
- Lester P. Hammond A
- Sandra Herrod
- Jeffery C. Honnold
- **Paul Johnson**
- 3 John Jones
- T Ron Joseph
- Dwight M. Keating
- **Bill Kerakos** 1
- Chuck Klump, Jr. 1
- Thomas Lengerer
- John & Joyce Maguire
- Daniel & Caryn **McGuire**
- Suzanne McLaren 1
- Don Murphy

- Leilani Murray
- James L. Mutton
- **Bob & Betty Muzik**
- John & Valerie Over
- ☆ Mr. & Mrs. N.B. Perkey
- ☆ Joseph Raffaele
- ☆ Donald Ruth
- Jerry Shumate
- ☆ T.P. Sontag
- ☆ Jim Stauber
- ☆ Julia Anne Stewart
- ☆ Steve Swingenstein
- ☆ David & Lorraine Weaver
- ☆ Leon & Bee Williams
- ☆ Linda, Leanna, & Jim Zaccone

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.

Montour Trail Guide now available

The Montour Trail Council in cooperation with the Allegheny County Planning Department is in the second printing of the 1995 "Trail Guide" for the Montour Trail. The fold out brochure (suitable for putting in a bike bag or fanny pack) includes:

- The most detailed map of the Montour Trail in the history of the world, along with a description of the Trail.
- 2 Never before seen directions to major trail-heads.
- Beautiful cartographic renderings of the completed and uncompleted sections - including the actual mileage of the completed sections!
- Yet another retelling of the "Trail Rules"
- Heretofore hard to find emergency phone numbers for municipalities along the Trail.

These FREE brochures will be distributed as widely as possible; on the Trail, in bike shops, with renewal notices, to new members, and at special events. So don't call or write because you're certain to get one somewhere.

Yes, I want to help build the Montour Trail! I want to spread the word. Please send me additional flyers. I

I have written my Legislator and County Commissioners asking them to support the trail.

My organization would like to provide a letter of

I know a group interested in a presentation.

I wish to become a member of the Montour Trail Council.

STUDENT \$5

I

1

I

I

INDIVIDUAL \$15

FAMILY \$25

ORGANIZATION \$50

SUPPORTING \$50

SUSTAINING \$100

> BENEFACTOR \$250 + up (Membership is tax deductible)

I wish to make an additional tax deducible contribution to the Montour Trail Council to help make the Montour Trail a reality.

(Make your check payable to the Montour Trail Council)

ADDRESS_

___ 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.

Archivist wanted

Anyone interested in volunteering to become the "official" historian and archivist for the Montour Trail Council should call 942-0115 for more information. We are looking to preserve our wide collection of press clippings, trail background material and other paraphernalia.

Historical Researcher

We are also looking for someone that would be interested in going to Washington D.C. to visit the Interstate Commerce Commision Library to research the valuation documents of the Montour Railroad produced between 1915 and 1926. They are on record. All we have to do is give them three days notice before your visit so that they can have them ready at the library. These records document and place a value on all property owned by the railroad at that time, including property, buildings (and their location), kinds and numbers of railcars, locomotives, and machinery. Call Dave Wright at 350-6645 or 746-2517 if you can help.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!

On April 26, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives voted 187 to 10 in favor of House Bill 48. The bill now requires Senate passage. Action in the Senate will require the combined efforts of every Pennsylvania cyclist.

Bicyclists often fail to appreciate the legislative mindset. Because we reduced traffic congestion and improved air quality), we tend to assume that understand the individual and societal benefits of cycling (improved health,noble goals, pure motives, and bi-partisan support should be enough to guarantee the success of a pro-bicycle legislative bill. Not so. Legislatures are more likely to pass a bill if it has a constituency that is willing to organize and work for its passage. Organized support carries more weight than noble goals and pure motives.

Allow me to review some reasons why a Senator would want to; 1) work to bring the HB48 to the floor for a vote, and, 2) vote in favor of HB48 without amendment.

PennDOT's forthcoming Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan (due in late May or early June) calls for the creation of a Bicycle/ Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The Bike/Ped Committee is consistent with PennDOT's existing practice. PennDOT currently works with committees on mass transit, aviation, and rail freight, to name a few. A Bike/Ped committee fulfills the public participation goal in PennDOT's upcoming Transportation Policy Plan.

⇒ HB48 benefits all Pennsylvanians, without regard to a citizen's social or economic status.

⇒ HB 48 does not infringe upon any other transportation mode.

The Advisory Committee provides for inter-agency coordination of ped/bike policies and programs.

⇒ Governor Ridge has indicated his desire to sign HB48.

The first letter that you write should be to your own senator. The second should be to Senator Robert Jubelirer, Senate Majority Leader, Senate Box 203030, Harrisburg, PA 17120 asking him to schedule HB48 for a vote as soon as possible. The third letter should go to Senator J. Doyle Corman, SenateTransportation Committee Chair, Senate Box 203034, Harrisburg, PA 17120 requesting that HB48 be reported to the floor promptly.

The new Bike Fed toll-free phone line (800/747-0888) will be available weekday evenings until 9 PM until HB48 passes the Senate. Call us if you need help identifying your senator, or in locating a mailing address or voice/fax phone numbers.

It is your letters that will put HB48 over the top.

Tom Helm, Executive Director, Bike Fed PA

Robinson, Washington County begins preliminary work

The road crew from Robinson Township, Washington County has begun working on the



segment of Trail that will eventually connect with the 11 1/2 mile section that ends in North Fayette.

Working back from the entrance to the Trail off of Noblestown Rd. near the McDonald Trestle, they have already done preliminary grading and brush cutting in preparation for the more intensive work of ditch clearing and preparing the base for the final surface.

Volunteers are needed to help clear the route of rail-road ties and trash so that the crews can do their job more effectively. If your biking and hiking needs are increasing over the 11 1/2 miles (23 miles round trip) currently available in the airport area, you might want

to consider helping with this project.

The Trail Council is actively seeking funds for the purchase,

or donations of the final surface material so that we can get this section of Trail up and running.

Call 926-3804 for more information

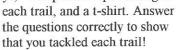
Tour de Mercy comes to the Montour Trail July 8

Pittsburgh Mercy Foundation and 8 local trails are banding together to promote wellness, fitness, family fun and adventure. At the same time you can help to raise funds that benefit existing programs with the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System for families and youth at risk. You can do that by gathering pledges from your co-workers, friends and family for every mile of the 8 trails that you conquer!

It will all happen between June 3 and October 15, 1995. You pick whatever days are good for you. But for even more fun, excitement and activities, you might want to check out each of the 8 trails on their respective "Focus Days". That's when each of the trails will have events and activities above and beyond the usual trail experience. The 8 trails and their Focus Days are as follows:

- Allegheny River Trail, Saturday, August 19.
- Armstrong Trail, Saturday, September 23.
- Butler-Freeport Community Trail, Saturday July 15.
- Ghost Town Trail, Saturday, September 30.
- Montour Trail, Saturday, July 8.
- Roaring Run Trail, Saturday, August 12.
- Three Rivers Heritage Trail, Saturday, June 3.
- Youghioghenv River Trail, Saturday, July 1.

Just call 412-232-7506 for an entry form. When you return the entry form along with your registration fee (\$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors over 60 and \$5 for children.) The Pittsburgh Mercy Foundation will send you back an official Tour de Mercy packet. These packets contain your pledge form, maps for each trail, details of their "Focus Days," fun questions pertaining to



Try 1 trail, 5 trails, or, for you "Trail Blazers," all 8 trails. You design your own program, enjoying hiking and biking when it's convenient for you between June 3 and October 15. But don't forget to come to the Montour Trail "Focus Day" on July 8

along the 11 1/2 mile airport section of the Trail. Just get off the parkway at the Montour Run Exit and follow the signs. See you there!

Order form for the Incredible Inch Campaign

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

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 This beautiful document will show the we "sold" every inch of trail, it would pay for the whole thing.

For your money, you will receive a genuine, simulated hand-lettered, fauxembossed, 8 1\2 x 11 inch official looking "deed" (suitable for framing), that will proudly proclaim your ownership of the trail (with the requisite fineprint). total number of inches you "own" and the township in which they are located.

i	
1	NAME
1	ADDRESS
1 1	CITY
	STATEZIP
1	number of inches
1	
1	CIRCLE THE COMMUNITY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE NAMED ON YOUR "DEED":
1	

Please fill out this form and return it with your check to: MTC INCREDIBLE INCH CAMPAIGN 1060 STANFORD RD. PITTSBURGH PA. 15205

I

1 I

MOON TOWNSHIP	CECIL TOWNSHIP
ROBINSON TWP. (ALLEG.)	PETERS TOWNSHIP
FINDLAT TOWNSHIP	SOUTH PARK TWP.
NORTH PAYETTE TWP.	JEFFERJON BORO
ROBINSON TWP. (WASH.)	CLAIRTON
MT. PLEASANT TWP.	BETHEL PARK

Will you bolunteer to help pour beer?

adequite force.

by Marshal Fausold, President

Parking and entrance fees are this income. be invited to continue and will lose MYREC's expectations or we will not Trail Council. We must meet of significant operating income to the is expected to be a continuing source activities we will come up short. This have committed themselves to other help, but if too many of our members membership in early August, soliciting

So save us a day this Labor Day want on a final summer weekend? pouring beer! What more could you excellent. And you are in the shade music is good and the ribs are waived for those who help us out. The

won't be able to do it without you. and have a good time doing it. We Weekend. Help us raise some money

> genuinely good time (really!). those who participated had a an organization such as ours. Besides, say, this is no inconsiderable sum to

we should be able to turn out an year, with plenty of time to prepare, able to fulfill our commitment. This were short-handed and were barely because of various circumstances, we We need your help. Last year, Washington County Fairgrounds. Monday evening. Same place - the Weekend, Friday afternoon thru lend a hand. Same time - Labor Day This year we have again agreed to

also. We will be contacting all our Trail. Friends and family are welcome coming Labor Day Weekend for the Please, plan to save one day of the

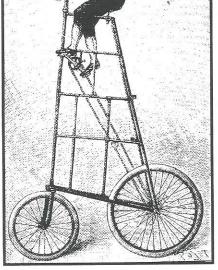
> Cook-Off by Allegheny Count Rib helped out at the the Montour Trail Back last Labor Day

the sponsoring ont services, return for booths. In at the beer sbus animoq

Educational & Riverfront Yough the Monorganization,

(MYREC) donated Cultural Council

Montour Trail. Needless to \$4,000 to the





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