



MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Volume 10 Issue 6

November/December 1999

MTC Web Address

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

Mantra of the Month

- Good humor is one of the best articles of dress one can wear in society.

— William Makepeace Thackeray

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Cecil Twp. ribbon-cutting & Festival

By Dennis Sims

The 12th annual Cecil Township Indian Summer Festival opened on a foggy start as the rains of the previous evening evaporated in to the Millers Run Valley, but the fog quickly dissipated as the sun climbed higher into the sky on what would be a bright late September day and weekend. Two trail related events took place on this opening day.

At 11:00 a.m., the ribbon was cut on the balloon-decorated Glass Hill Bridge providing trail users another six-tenths of a mile to continue their trail-treks. In attendance, were Washington County Commissioners Diana Irey and Scott Fer-

gus and Cecil Township Supervisors Tom Casciola and Frank Egizio. Montour Trail Council president, Dick Quasey acknowledged the officials in attendance for their cooperation and support of the Trail.

Frank is the President of the Cecil Township Parks and Recreation Board and has been helping the Montour Trail Council on two fronts; helping to clear the way between Large and Clairton, and in his back-

yard on the new Cecil extension doing a rough grade between the park and the Glass Hill Bridge and the tie replacement on the Bridge. If it were not for his grading, the ribbon cutting Saturday may have not taken place.

Even though the trail has yet to be graded and surfaced, it has become a favorite of many



Cecil Parks Board President, Frank Ludwin, along with Washington County Commissioners, Diana Irey & Scott Fergus, Cecil Twp. Supervisor, Frank Egizio, and MTC's, Hoyt Hall cut the ribbon for the dedication of the Glass Hill Bridge.

Many thanks are extended to Frank Ludwin, who was one of the ribbon cutters.

Continued on page 8...

Another mile of trail in Bethel Park

By Peter Kohnke

The Montour Trail Council is building trail this fall between Clifton and Logan Roads. The money (\$72,000) has been acquired and Ellis Asphalt Paving has been selected as the contractor. This new mile will add to the one mile of trail also built by Ellis Asphalt Paving last fall. Also being built are an access ramp by

Washington School and two parking lots. The informal 7 car lot along the 'old' trail at Limestone Drive will be officially finished. The other lot is a new one for 23 cars opposite the Ukrainian Orthodox Church cemetery along Irishtown Road. The trail will end at Logan Road, with some benches being installed later at the over-

look to mark the end of the Bethel Spur. As this is being written, we are working to extend the contract to include a ramp on the south side of Clifton Road. And for now, there will be an at-grade crossing of Clifton Road, but a bridge has been proposed.

Continued on page 4...



MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

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Newsletter Editor Deborah Hoerster

Circulation Manager Joan Schweiger

Trail Talk

from the Editor's Desk

You hear everyone talking about Y2K and how everything is either going to fall apart or be just fine. Here's a bit of Y2K news that is just plain exciting!

On January 1, 2000 nearly 250 (237 as we go to print) people accompanied by a staff of 34 and 15 vehicles will pedal their way on a journey of 20,000 miles on bikes through 45 countries on 6 continents. It's called "Odyssey 2000," an around-the-world bicycle trek lasting 366 days from January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000. The intention is to begin and end in Los Angeles, participating in both the 2000 and 2001 Tournament of Roses parades.

Each cycling day averages about 77 miles and they are designating at least 2 days of every week for rest/exploration/travel days. The riders range in age from 16 - 81 (the 81 yr. old being a woman).

You can follow their trek by checking their website at: www.odyssey2000.com or click on one rider's diary updated each day at: www.bikeodyssey.com.

My thanks to Dave Porterfield, a 74 yr. old rider of this trek and avid Trail user, for all his help and information. You can click on Dave's website (his son will keep it updated with pictures) at: www.lifetrek.net. Good luck, Dave! See you in one year.

Debby



Newsletter Deadline

All articles for the Jan./Feb. Trail-Letter will be due **no later than** December 3, 1999. 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.

November 1999

	1	2	3	4	5	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Calendar of Events**December 1999**

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	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- * Annual Dinner meeting – **November 6, 1999** at the Findlay Township Activity Center at 6:00 pm. See Page 4 for more information.



- * Happy Thanksgiving! - **November 25, 1999.**



- * IKEA Christmas tree sale – **December 2 – 5, 1999** in the IKEA parking lot. Volunteers are needed to help wrap the trees. See page 5 for more information.



- * Happy Holidays! - **December 25, 1999.**

**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 Dick at 412- 859-6864 for more information or to get on the agenda.
- ◆ **Cecil Events:**
 - Friends of the Trail meeting**, every **first Tuesday** of the month - at the Cecil American Legion, Rt. 50, at **7:30 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**, every **Thursday** 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 412-859-3020 for more information.
 - Work & Clean-up party**, every **second Saturday** of the month - **9:00 am**. Meet at North Star Petroleum (formerly Robinson Petroleum). Call 412-262-3748 for more information.
- ◆ **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.

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

by Dick Quasey

10th Anniversary salute!

The first recorded meeting of the founders of the Montour Trail Council occurred on August 30, 1989. Stan Sattinger was present and he reports that the other attendees were, not necessarily in order of importance, Bill Metzger, Dino Alberici, Dave Wright, Larry Ridenour, George Schmidt, Hank Parke, Jack Peth, Doug Maher, Dave Hamley, Chuck and Sally Martin, Larry Laude and Glenn Gerney. Obviously this group had the perfect vision of what the Montour Trail would be like and its significance to bikers and hikers.

Just as important they directed their



efforts to making that vision a reality, meeting challenges and performing tasks, many of which were unpredictable, with an aggressive pioneer

spirit, and setting an example of volunteerism which continues to this day. "Wheel-horses", "core leaders," call them what you may, they were soon joined by others such as Jack Swisher, Marshall Fausold, Jerry Agin, Arnie Schulberg, and Dick Wilson and accomplished much. They deserve our thanks and congratulations for a job well done.

MTC's Annual Dinner Meeting

The Montour Trail Council's Annual Dinner Meeting will be held at the Activities Center in Findlay Township on Saturday, November 6, 1999, at 6:00 p.m.. All members who have sent payment for their reservations are in for a fun-filled evening. Any members who have not done so and would like to attend, may call to inquire on the space availability.

Besides dinner and entertainment, there will be raffles - a beautiful bicycle, and a Trail paraphernalia raffle. Door prizes will also be given away.

This is the year of MTC's 10th Anniversary - a time to celebrate! For any inquiries, call Judy Thompson at 412-922-1702.

Another mile in Bethel...

...continued from page 1

This didn't just happen. Many entities contributed. The main ones were:

- Allegheny Power, for allowing us to build the trail on their land, as well as providing us with \$7400 in construction funds.
- The Bethel Park Municipal Council, which provided \$10,000.
- Representative John Maher and Senator Tim Murphy, for providing the \$25,000 DCED (PA Dept. of Conservation & Economic Development) grant.
- The Allegheny Regional Asset District for providing us \$29,600 by way of the Allegheny Land Trust.
- Evey Hardware, for donating a bicycle to be raffled off at the Bethel Park Community Day,

and for Signmaster for making a sign acknowledging the donation.

- The people and organizations who made contributions in memory of Dr. Thomas Ulicny of Upper St. Clair.
- The numerous other individuals who made financial contributions.
- The Bethel Park Public Works Department, which provided some serious earth moving this winter, as well as continuing waste removal.

- USA Waste, for accepting the waste.

- The Bethel Park School Board, for working with us on the ramp by Washington School, as well as permitting some parking.
- Al's Café for permitting parking on the unpaved parts of their parking lot.
- St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, for making the parking area opposite their cemetery available to us.
- The board of the Montour Trail Council, which provided the organizational and legal structure.
- Dave Wright, who tirelessly did most of the engineering of the trail, with the support of his employer, Allegheny County.
- And finally, to the many trail volunteers of the Friends of the Montour Trail in Bethel Park who worked so long and hard, cleaning and clearing the right-of-way over the last year.



Partners in Bethel trail clean-up and construction are: (upper left) Tom Prezel, Peter Musulin, Jay Wells, Bob O'Connell, Bill Capp, and Andy Glaid: (bottom) Stan Olenn, Dave Glenn, and Peter Kohnke.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Membership Chairman

Jerry Agin

Jayne Adair-Cox
June & Tony Cantor
William E. Cook
Darragh Family
Melinda Freed
Mary Gallagher
William Gottberg
Duane Halt
Margaret Hamstead &
Mark Wilson
Robin & Sally Kaye
Richard Kiser
Robert S. Laurenzano
Francis McCaffrey, Jr
Mr. & Mrs. Paul McLeister
Miller's Ace Hardware
Ms. Kiron K Skinner
Alfred Smith
Helen L. Williams

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.

LEADERS CIRCLE

David A. Lewis

John & Sandy Newman

Thank You!

BENEFACTORS

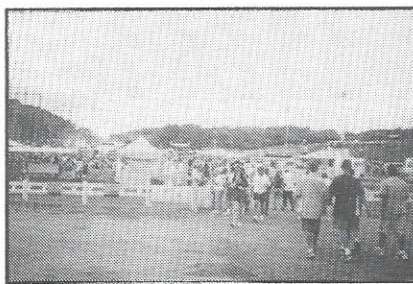
Bob & Maryanne Purdy

IKEA X-mas tree sale

The Montour Trail Council will be at IKEA's Christmas tree sale on December 2 - 5, 1999 in the IKEA parking lot. Volunteers to help wrap the trees are



needed for Thurs. thru Sat. from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm, and on Sunday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. The wrapping proceeds benefit the Montour Trail. To volunteer or for more information, please call Judy Thompson at: 412-922-1702.



Allegheny County Rib Cook-Off was a big success, especially for the Montour Trail Council. Volunteer efforts for manning the beer booths at the event garnered a \$4500 check for MTC.

Our thanks to all those who so generously volunteered their valuable holiday time to help pour beer at this year's Allegheny County Rib Cook-Off. The event took place over the Labor Day weekend from Friday, Sept. 3 through Labor Day, Sept. 6, 1999. If you didn't work it this year, feel free to volunteer next year. It's a fun time for everyone as well as benefits the Montour 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.
- | | |
|--|------------|
| <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

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.

Trailblazing in Jefferson and Clairton

By Paul McKeown

A crew of volunteers has started construction work on a Montour Trail segment within Jefferson and Clairton. The segment will eventually connect Route 51 near the Dick Corporation in Large, PA to Route 837 in Clairton near the wastewater treatment plant. The land was purchased by the Montour Trail Council only a couple of years ago, and was formerly the Peters Creek Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Because of the flooding that occurs in this thickly wooded area, the trail right-of-way will be slightly offset in some locations from the previous railroad centerline to place it on higher ground.

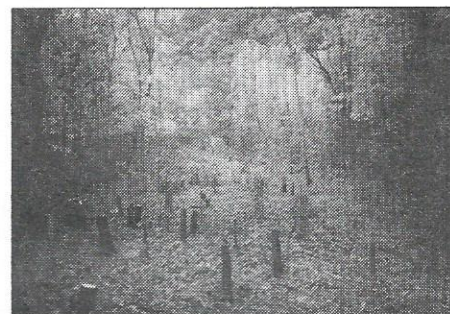
The work that the volunteers are doing is primarily associated with clearing a 15 foot wide strip of land in preparation for construction equip-

ment. The volunteers are using chain saws, bow saws, and a tractor mounted brush-hog. This work has added difficulty in comparison to previously built trail segments because the land is not entirely level and the trees which must be cut down have really grown since the railroad went out of business over 20 years ago.

After clearing work is completed by volunteers, City of Clairton workers will be moving in with construction equipment to install drainage culverts and establish a rough grade for the trails. Volunteers will then return and build concrete forms for building box culvert bridges in two or three areas where water flow crossing the right-of-way is too large for pipe culverts. Construction equipment will then return, this time from Jef-

erson Borough, to install the trail surface.

If you would like to participate in this effort, or would like further information, please call Paul McKeown at (412) 835-6692 or John Hooten at (724) 942-0115.



Newly cleared Trail right-of-way in Jefferson.

South Hills Community Days

By Paul McKeown

Montour Trail only has a mile of trail East of the Peters Township, but that is about to change. We are using volunteers and municipal workers to build trail between Large and Clairton. The Turnpike Authority is building our trail between Snowden Road and Gill Hall Road alongside the new Peters Creek Road Extension, and Montour Trail Council will soon be hiring an engineering consulting company to design everything else East of Peters Township.

As part of this process, Montour Trail Council needs to raise awareness, organize volunteers and boost its membership in this area. Community days represent a fine opportunity towards achieving these objectives, and we staffed booths at the Clairton Community Day on August 14, the Jefferson Borough Community Day on August 28, and the South Park Township Community Day on September 25. These events are custom-

ized to the sponsoring community. Clairton's was sponsored by the fire department and featured firemen competitions and carnival rides, and fireworks. Jefferson's was sponsored by the Borough and featured all-day musical entertainment, fundraising booths run by non-profit and charitable organizations, and fireworks. South Park Township's was held in and around the fair-ground facilities in Allegheny County's South Park, and featured a parade, lots of athletic events for young kids, and tons of booths of all kinds within three buildings.

This being an election year, there were plenty of opportunities to meet politicians. Interestingly enough, trails have become an issue that has strong bipartisan support among most area politicians. In Jefferson, we were invited to share a booth with Borough Council. At one point our trail volunteers were all busy talking

to passerby when it was noticed that a Jefferson Councilperson was VERY KNOWLEDGEABLY answering a question about our trail.



Manning the MTC booth at South park Township Community Day are Earl & Mary Irvine, Keith Jensen and MTC President, Dick Quasey.

Although trail awareness has come a long way, we need to continue to spread the word. If you know of an event close to

our trail that represents an opportunity to reach out to a large number of people in this way, let us know. We also need volunteers to represent the trail at these events.

The 4th Annual IKEA/Montour Trail Half Marathon & 5K Run/Walk

By Jerry Agin

The Fourth Annual IKEA/Montour Trail Half Marathon and 5K Run and Walk, Saturday, September 11, was a big success. Over 800 people took part in the three events.

The early preregistration numbers looked disappointing. As of August 13, we had signed up only 110 runners, as compared to 260 at the same date the previous year. But then the applications started pouring in. In the week before the postmark deadline, we received a record 294 applications. By the time race day rolled around, we had exceeded our 1998 numbers!

The weather was ideal for running. The sky was clear. Temperatures were in the low 60s at the start of the race, warming up to the low 70s by noon.

Most of the registrants had signed up for the Half Marathon, a measured distance of 13.1 miles. The course started in the parking lot of IKEA, and proceeded down Park Manor Boulevard to the Montour Trail, where the runners turned left. They then ran past Enlow and Imperial to a turnaround point a little short of Boggs, and returned to the finish line at the bottom of Park Manor Boulevard. Buses were available to take the runners back up to IKEA for refreshments and the awards ceremony.

The 5K course was a measured distance of 3.1 miles. The course was similar to the Half Marathon course, but the turnaround on the trail was a short distance west of where the Montour Trail crosses the Parkway (Route 60).

The third event was a non-competitive 5K walk. Participants were taken by bus to Ewing Mill Road, from where they could walk at their leisure along the Montour Trail back to Park Manor Boulevard. Even though the runners and the walkers shared the same finish area, the walkers and the runners approached it from different directions.

The male winner of the Half Marathon was Andrew Herr, for the third year in a row. The winning time was 1 hour, 9 minutes, and 27 seconds. The female Half Marathon champion was Mindy Sawtelle, in 1 hour, 20 minutes, 48 seconds. Andrew and Mindy each took home a plaque and a \$500 gift certificate from IKEA. The second through fifth place winners also received



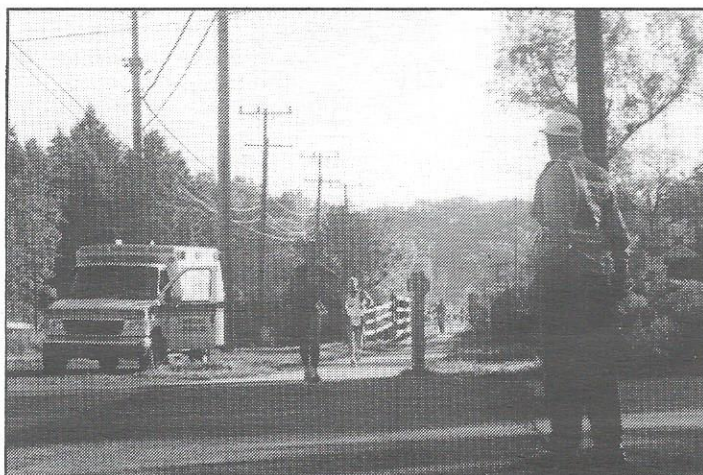
Women runners in Montour/IKEA's 1/2 Marathon.

winners also received plaques and lesser gift certificates. A total of 210 people finished the 5K Race.

There was no tally of finishing times in the 5K Walk, but there were 78 registered walkers.

(Complete race results have been mailed to all race participants. They are also available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.runhigh.com>.)

A lot of people helped make this event happen. Committee members spent months planning and coordinating the race. On race day people helped with registration, traffic control, water stations, split timing, the finish line, communications, and refreshments. Police from four different jurisdictions, and EMTs from three ambulance services helped at various points on the course. The Salvation Army provided coffee to volunteers on the course. Although there are too many people to acknowledge individually, we'd like to thank everyone who helped to make the event a success. We'd also like to thank all the race sponsors who contributed money, materials, or services. We'd especially like to thank our major sponsor, IKEA, who originated this race four years, and who continue to provide major support in many, many ways. Thanks to all volunteers, sponsors, and participants!



MTC's Ned Williams (right) along with area police and EMTs from several ambulance companies do all they can to ensure the safety for all Montour/IKEA race runners.

plaques and lesser gift certificates. A total of 507 people finished the Half Marathon.

The male winner of the 5K was Michael Scaffardi, in 15:24, and the female winner was Tricia Snyder, in 18:24. Michael and Tricia each took home a plaque and a \$150 gift certificate from IKEA. The second through fifth place



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

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On behalf of the
Montour Trail
Council,
we'd like to wish
all of you,

**Happy
Holidays!**



PAGE 8

Cecil ribbon-cutting...

...continued from page 1

trail users. Melinda Freed of Mount Lebanon, who walked the section prior to the ribbon-cutting, was thrilled with the new section, "it takes you through a crown of trees", she said to those attending the ceremony. The Cecil Friends hope to have it graded and surfaced with the cooperation of the Cecil Township Department of Public Works before the snow flies.

With the completion of the bridge (see the previous newsletter for the details), trail users can now continue their journey to PA 980 near the intersection of PA Route 50 (Venice). The Cecil Section of the Montour Trail is now 6.3 miles in length, five miles between Hendersonville and Venice, and 1.3 miles from Hendersonville eastward to Chartiers Creek. Now if we only had a bridge for Morganza Road..... The second trail related event of the day was the naming of the stage in

Cecil Park after Don Berty who passed away last fall. Don Berty was an MTC board member and the Cecil Township Trail Representative, who devoted much of his time to the Parks and Recreation Board as well as the Montour Trail. Frank Ludwin and Mark Chauvet, Parks and Recreation board members, performed the unveiling of the sign which they installed over the previous day.

The Cecil Friends manned their booth near the Tennis Courts both days, thanks go to Hoyt Hall, Bill Palmer, Joan Dristas, Annemarie O'Toole. Dennis Sims and Frank Keppel who performed their share of the duties.

The biggest hits were the genuine Montour Trail Sumac Walking Stick and the MTC post office banks made by Hoyt when he isn't inspecting, enforcing and

"ambassadoring" on the Trail. The doors for the bank are the doors from the Cecil Township Post Office, provided by Don Berty. Hoyt will take orders for these items. The sticks are \$10 and the banks \$40.



(Above) Stage at Cecil Park, renamed in memory of Don Berty.

(Left) Cecil Friends of the Trail manning the MTC booth at the Indian Summer Festival, (l to r) Hoyt Hall, Dennis Sims, President, and Annemarie O'Toole. Annemarie is responsible for making the beautiful arrangement of wildflowers (front) and the pumpkin man (on right).

