



MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Volume 14 Issue 6

November/December 2003

For your consideration

We make ourselves rich
by making our wants
few.

Henry David Thoreau

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MTC Web Address

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

This Year's IKEA Race Breaks Records

The 8th annual Ikea / Montour Trail Half Marathon and 5K Run and Walk took place on Saturday Sept. 13th. This year's event will top all previous years in terms of registered participants (1,280) and money raised (projected at approximately \$19,000).

Our work with IKEA this year was especially enjoyable because of Ellen Douglas, the new IKEA PR person, who took great interest in the event. Ellen told us that one of the reasons that she wanted to become the PR person for IKEA was to work on the event. This year was a true collaboration between IKEA and the Montour Trail. The evolution of the shirt layout best exemplifies that collaborative effort. At our first event meeting I suggested a tribute to the McDonald Trestle for the theme for this year's shirt. Ellen rode out to McDonald and took a digital photograph of the Trestle. She and Todd Barnes (Recipient of the Golden Spike Award for IKEA at the McDonald Trestle Ground breaking) then used graphic enhancement software to develop the final artwork for the front of the shirt. I am amazed how it all came together, and we have had many compliments on the finished product. But those wearing the event shirts will remember more importantly the opening of the McDonald Trestle (story page 4) for many years. Who knows where our shirts will travel spreading the word about the great trestle opening!

Laura Orr did a great job in her first year as our Registrar. Her husband Bill Orr, a competitive biker and runner

himself, worked side by side with her. Laura also recruited North Park Club House to provide some post race food. Great Job Laura and Bill! They served a cold pasta salad and fruit, which was excellent!

This year was our first experience with timing chips. The runners were given their chips before the event to attach to their shoes. After the runners crossed the finish line we had to retrieve the chips from the runners. We set up a "Chip Recovery Area" near the gazebo. My wife Dianne was responsible for that operation and did a great job along with all of our volunteers.

Jimmy Hamilton won the men's race, but this was not a surprise for me. Many years ago while working for Dravo, I was a member and, then, President of the Dravo running club. One of our activities was to run road races. Every year we had a group that traveled to Wheeling to run the Wheeling Distance Race. Wheeling was a grueling 20K Road Race which was deliberately laid out to encompass every hill in Wheeling. One year, Harry Hamilton, one of our members, brought along his younger brother Jimmy. You guessed it! Jimmy finished well ahead of all of us. Even as a high school youth Jimmy was an excellent runner. At age 34, Jimmy won our half marathon this year in a time of 1:09:30, running a 5:18 pace per mile. Congratulations to Jimmy and all of the great runners who participated in this year's event.

Coca Cola gave us over \$2,000-worth of

(Continued on page 5)



MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Peter Kohnke | President |
| Dennis Pfeiffer | Vice President |
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| Mike Pucci | Treasurer |

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MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER
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Bridgeville, PA 15017
Or E-mail to:
newsletter@montourtrail.org

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: 412-257-3011
Fax: 412-257-3016

Newsletter Editor Astrid Cook

Trail Talk

from the Editor's Desk

Why is it that we so often measure our lives by the seasons that pass? Certainly it is more than a matter of laziness or "appropriate" conversation (as in, it's always better to talk about the weather than more serious matters). Particularly as we age, the days and months quickly morph into seasons and years.

When I was young, I always loved autumn: the vibrant colors, the crisp cool evenings, the anticipation of winter and snowy fun. Now, as I have grown older, I rather prefer spring with its budding flowers and sudden burst of green that appears after the first good rainfall. I suppose this change in attitude is because I understand the greater metaphor that is autumn: All things pass; all things die.

We mourn a passing of our own at the Montour Trail Council. Longtime MTC member Dick Quasey passed away in early September from a cerebral hemorrhage. Dick was enjoying his passion of the outdoors, fishing in Ontario with his sons, when he was struck down at age 79.

To those who never knew Dick, it is difficult to do him justice in mere words. Of course there were many accolades, many achievements, many important and not so important remembrances of all he accomplished over nearly eight decades on this planet.

But all those accomplishments don't explain or adequately describe the effect he had when walking into a room. He was a reasonably tall man, but he always seemed to fill whatever space he was in. He was huge! Not in body, but in aura. He commanded respect and admiration wherever he went.

And he had a really good sense of humor.

All of which helped him in his quest to build a trail system from the old railways. Dick was sort of a father figure to most of us at the MTC (and that's not a statement about his age!). He just took charge and never minced words or feelings. Just like when you are a child you expect "Dad" to get things done and would never lose faith in his ability, so you would always rest assured that if Dick said he was going to do something, he would get it done and get it done in superior fashion.

So we have suffered a tremendous loss at the MTC: We have lost a leader, a friend, a truly good man.

And while nobody can say for certain, we feel sure that Dick's main desire would be for us to finish our work of building the Montour. Something that will live beyond us all. Season after season after season. In perpetuity.

Astrid

Newsletter Deadline

All articles for the January / February Trail-Letter
will be due **no later than** December 1, 2003

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.

Friends' Meetings and Work Parties

- ◆ **MTC Board Meeting**, every **third Monday** of the month - **6:00 pm** at 304 Hickman St., Suite 3, Bridgeville, PA. Turn right off of the Bridgeville exit of I-79. Turn left at the next light, go straight at next light and make left turn onto Hickman St. just after the Post Office. Call Peter at 412-854-1835 for more information or to get on the agenda.
- ◆ **Cecil Events:**
Friends of the Trail meeting, every **fourth Wednesday** of the month at **7:00 pm**. From May-August, meetings are held at the Kurnick Access area along the trail off Cecil-Henderson Road; other months meet at the MTC Offices. Call 412-257-2553 for more information. **Work & Clean-up party**, every **third Saturday** of the month - **9:00 am**. (Subject to change; check information boards.) Meet at the Storage shed at Hendersonville. Call 412-257-2553 for more info.
- ◆ **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 Clifton Road Bridge Committee meetings, 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 Trailblazing:**
Friends of the Trail Work & Clean-up party, last **Saturday** of every month. All volunteers are welcome. For more information, call Paul McKeown at 412-835-6692.
- ◆ **Fort Cherry Events:**
Friends of the Trail Meeting, first **Wednesday** of the month at McDonald Borough Bldg., Council chambers at 7:00 pm. **Work & Clean-up parties**, scheduled as needed. For more information, contact John Wasko at 724-796-3781, or Joe Seibel at 724-693-2523.
- ◆ **Peters Township Events:**
Friends of the Trail Meeting, will meet September 2 and then the first **Monday** of the month **beginning October 2003** at Peters Township Parks and Recreation Community Room at 7:00 pm. For more information on **Work & Clean-up parties**, please contact Mark Imgrund at 724-941-6351 or by e-mail at mcimgrund@adelphia.net.

November 2003

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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| 30 | | | | | | |

December 2003

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| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

Calendar of Events

MTC Annual Dinner—November 16

MTC Board Meeting—November 17

IKEA Tree Sale begins—December 4

MTC Board Meeting – December 15

IKEA Tree Sale

At press time, details were still sketchy about the IKEA Christmas Tree sale that helps benefit the Montour Trail. For a small fee/donation, we will wrap your tree for easy transport from Robinson to home and hearth! We hope you will buy your tree from IKEA this year and help the MTC. Check our Web site or call IKEA for more details.

TrestleFest -- A Memorable Milestone

They arrived on foot, on bikes, and in shuttle vans. An estimated 800 to 1,000 Trail supporters added their presence to the Montour Trail TrestleFest on Saturday, September 6, helping to dedicate and open a key link of the Trail: the 960-foot McDonald Trestle and the new 5-mile trail section immediately to its south. Completion of this section brings the total length of trail thus far completed to 22.3 contiguous miles (39 total miles), adapting the largest structure of the former Montour Railroad for safe use as an elevated crossing for Trail users. It was indeed an occasion for celebration.

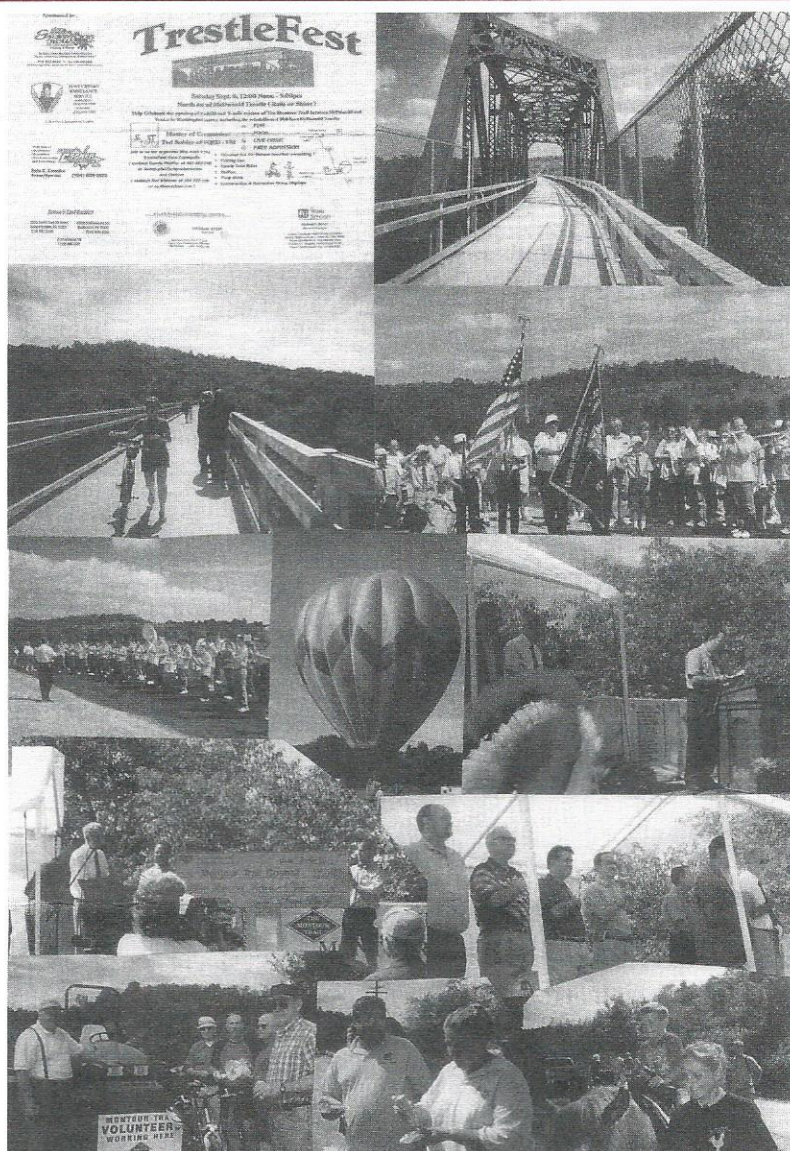
The opening ceremony began with the playing of our national anthem by the Canon-McMillan High School Band. MTC President Peter Kohnke introduced Master of Ceremonies Ted Sohler of WQED-FM, who in turn called on an impressive assembly of dignitaries, including State Senator Barry Stout, State Representatives Mark Mustio and Vic Lescovitz, Washington County Commissioner Bracken Burns, Sheriff Larry Maggi, a representative of County Commissioner Diana Irey, and Kathy Pippy, wife of State Senator John Pippy (on duty in Iraq). The traditional ribbon-cutting followed, opening the way for many to take their first walk or ride across the trestle.

After the ceremony, festival goers found a number of attractions spaced out over a quarter-mile of the former approach track, ranging from pony rides and a petting zoo to a display of the Fire Safety House and McDonald Volunteer Fire Department's ladder truck. The beautifully clear weather and calm winds enabled Roy Weil to offer rides in his tethered hot-air balloon – the "Emerald Shazam." The musical group Acousticity gave forth with blues and folk-flavored musical selections. The Grill Guyz and McDonald Tastee-Freez offered sausages, hot dogs, and drinks. And a total of 15 different civic, conservation, and recreation organizations set up booths and displays.

We are grateful for the support of our TrestleFest sponsors whose sizable financial contributions helped to cover festival costs: Atlas Railroad Construction Company; BFI Waste Services; Dale Csonka Heating & Air Conditioning Inc.; Fort Cherry Ambulance; Graphics Plus Inc.; and Green's Taxi Service. We are especially indebted to Green's Taxi and Fort Cherry Ambulance, who, in addition to cash donations, provided multiple shuttle vehicles and drivers for the entire day at no cost to the Trail Council. Other contributors included McDonald Pharmacy, Mary Jo Wasco Calligraphic Arts and Design, Bryan Smith Velvet Express Trucking, and J.F. Lomma, Inc.

As festival organizer, I want to extend my thanks to TrestleFest Committee members Bruce Barron, John Hooton, Mark and Tina Imgrund, Ray and Emma Johnston, Frank Ludwin, Dennis Pfeiffer, Thom Saunders, John Wasco, and Ned Williams. I am sad to be unable to personally thank Dick Quasey, who played a key role in getting the new Trail section completed in a timely manner and, as always, was otherwise helpful as only Dick could be.

Stan Sattinger

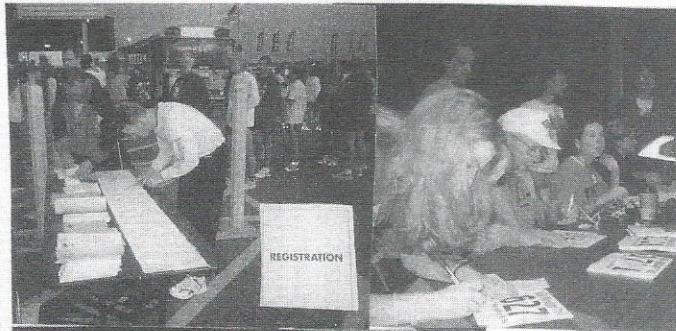
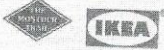


The 8th Annual
IKEA-Montour Trail
½ Marathon
And
5K Run and Walk

Saturday, September 13, 2003



Benefits the maintenance
and expansion
of the Montour Trail



A group of picture takers moved almost as swiftly as the runners to get all these photographs taken at the 8th Annual IKEA / Montour Trail Half-Marathon and 5K Fun Run / Walk. Thanks to all who helped, participated or watched on the sidelines.

of the course in the area of Wicks to be completed before the race. The motion to fund the surface materials to do the improvements passed unanimously. Frank Ludwin volunteered to install the new surface material. In an extraordinary effort, Frank Ludwin, Dennis Sims, Hoyt Hall, Bill Capp and his friend John completed the job on Friday Sept. 12th — the day before the event. I sometimes sit back and marvel at the capabilities of our membership. Great job guys!

So many people made so many contributions to this year's event that I could write a book about each and every one of them. Thank you all, we couldn't have done it without you. For complete race results see www.runhigh.com.

Jess Forquer/ Race Director

IKEA/MTC Half-Marathon Breaks all the Records

(Continued from page 1)

product, including: Powerade, Dasani Water, Vanilla Coke and Minutemaids Lemonade. Thanks Coca Cola!

A.J. Myers did an excellent job of providing bus service for the event at a substantially discounted price. Thanks A.J. Myers !

The Mall at Robinson was a major cash sponsor this year. Dick's was a cash sponsor and also gave us \$1,000 in gift certificates to give away in our raffle. Other cash sponsors for the event were: Robinson Town Center, No. 1 Cochran, Elite Runner's and Walkers, Eagle Physical Therapy, Computer Associates, and Ohio Valley Hospital.

Service sponsors were: Ambassador Tent Retails, Great Harvest, Interstate Communications, The Salvation Army and Mr. John of Pittsburgh.

Special thanks also to all of the emergency services: Findlay Township Police, Moon Township Police, North Fayette Police, Robinson Township Police, Northwest EMS, REMS and Valley EMS.

As usual, there was a lot of last minute grooming of the trail by Dennis Pfeiffer, Peter Mether and Company. This event showcases the trail, and these guys worked hard to get it ready. In addition, at the August board meeting Ned Williams proposed trail improvements to part

Events News: "Trestlefest," Ribs and Biking

Rain can't stop the Tour the Montour

Not even rain kept over 100 riders from participating in the inaugural "Tour the Montour Trail Ride" on Saturday, September 27th. Cyclists from ages 7 to 81 braved the weather to come out and show support for the trail by choosing a 6, 12, 18, 24, or the 44 miles tour of the trail. The participants were excited about the new McDonald Trestle, as it was the first time for many to traverse the 960 foot span of the new bridge which officially opened on September 6th. The riders also enjoyed special trail fact signs that were put up along the trail that had historical and little known facts about the trail.

The cyclists met many friendly Montour Trail volunteers along their journey. Rest stops were stationed along the trail for cyclists to take a break, grab a drink, have a piece of fruit and chat with the many volunteers supporting the ride. The ride provided the opportunity for some who have never seen the trail to just bring their bikes and ride and not have to worry about food, drinks,

or mechanical problems. Thanks to corporate sponsors such as Fisher Scientific and Park West Supply, the ride was a huge success and many are looking forward to next year already. Over \$1,400 was raised for the maintenance and expansion of the Montour trail.



A sign crediting DCNR, RAD, ALT & HOLT is unveiled at the first annual Tour the Montour ride. Present (from left) are MTC Vice President Dennis Pfeiffer, HOLT Executive Director Janet Thorne, ARAD Executive Director David Donahoe, and ALT Executive Director Roy Kraynyk.

In addition before the start of the rides a new rule sign was unveiled at mile "0" with the help of David Donahoe, (Executive Director of the Allegheny Regional Asset District - ARAD) Roy Kraynyk (Executive Director Allegheny Land Trust - ALT) and Janet Thorne (Executive Director Hollow Oak Land Trust-HOLT). (Tracy Robinson the Environmental Planner of the PA DCNR could not attend.) This sign commemorates the cooperative efforts of these organizations mentioned above to acquire and preserve the Montour Trail corridor from mile

"0" to mile "7.3" This property was purchased from the former PL&E railroad. Thanks to all of these organizations for their help in this critical acquisition.

Dennis Pfeiffer

Richard Quasey: Mentor, Friend and a Man who Left his Mark

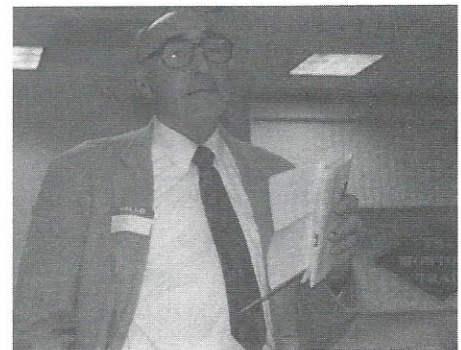
We were all saddened with the passing of our good friend and trail council member Richard Quasey on September 4, 2003. Dick had a cerebral hemorrhage while on a fishing trip with his three sons in Ontario, Canada. Dick passed away in a hospital in Sunbury, Ontario. He will be greatly missed by all of us who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him.

Dick dedicated countless hours to all aspects of building and maintaining our beloved Montour Trail. His contributions to the Montour Trail were numerous. Dick was President of the Montour Trail Council in 1998—1999. His leadership qualities were especially valued when leading the way on some very special construction projects. Three projects in particular come to mind.

In the fall of 1993, Dick lead an effort with a volunteer crew to refurbish a 90-foot-long bridge near trail mile 3.4 in Robinson & Moon Townships. This bridge became know as the "volunteer" bridge and was completed in October of 1993. After ten years, volunteers involved with this bridge project still talk about the great experience Dick created for them with his superb planning and leadership qualities.

In 2000, Dick lead another volunteer effort to build new abutments and install a new bridge over Rt. 980 at Quicksilver Road. Dick's leadership and coordination skills with the two other project leaders (Jack Peth & Ned Williams) made this project a huge success.

The latest project Dick was involved with was the McDonald Trestle in Robinson Township to Venice trail section along with the improvements to the Cecil section. Dick handled many aspects of this project. The most critical of these was leading a volunteer inspection crew for this federal PENNDOT administered TEA21 project. Dick coordinated his efforts with Ed Taylor the MTC project manager. This was a new highly detailed and paperwork intensive experience for the Montour Trail



Continued next page

Welcome New Members

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

NEW MEMBERS

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Diane Aiken | Bob & Betty Robison |
| Anonymous | William D. Russell |
| Diane L. Antolic | Rich & Diane Sahar |
| Norman C. Arbes | Priscilla Salvatore |
| Gerri Bartelme | Ralph Schmidt |
| William Bartelme | Jeffrey & Christine Sicilia |
| Elmer & Darlene Beachley | Mike Silvestri |
| Robert Burns | Don A. Smith |
| Charles Edward Coughlin | Stanley D. Solak |
| John Dorman | Cherie Stellfox |
| Dressel Family | John C. Stuart |
| Fisher Scientific | Peter Swartwout family |
| Michelle Gilboy | Daniel Vamos |
| Leo T. Goode, DMD | H. Douglas Wayt |
| Tom Grayson | Marilyn Weisensee |
| Nancy & Edward Hale | Jeff Worden & Family |
| Howard Harris | David L. Zinsner |
| David Hiebert | |
| Kris & Eric Kaleida | |
| John M. Kauer | |
| John C. Kirby | |
| Keith Lagnese | |
| Gary M. Lengyel | |
| John Lubinski | |
| Verneta Matt | |
| Pat & Walt Mavracic | |
| Bob Neu | |
| Raymond Perr | |
| Philip J. Petre | |
| Gerry Petro | |
| James N. Priola | |
| Michael Rathi | |

Membership Co-Chairs - Stefni and Jerry Agin

Council, but Dick was there to lead us through the process. The great results of his efforts are now being experienced by thousands of trail users on the McDonald Trestle and the other new trail sections.

We have been receiving condolences from hundreds of people who have known Dick. He had a special talent of working with individuals from all walks of life. Some of the most complementary comments of Dick's work methods came from the employees of Atlas Railroad and Mackin Engineering. Everyone enjoyed working with Dick.

Dick was always pushing the MTC to move as quickly as possible to construct additional trail. The best legacy to the memory of Richard Quasey, we feel, would be to complete Dick's beloved Montour Trail as soon as possible.

Thanks Dick for all of your efforts. We miss you. Rest in Peace.

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.
- ☐ **STUDENT / SENIORS** \$15
- ☐ **INDIVIDUAL** \$25
- ☐ **FAMILY** \$35
- ☐ **SUPPORTING** \$50
- ☐ **SUSTAINING** \$100
- ☐ **BENEFACTOR** \$250
- ☐ **LEADERS CIRCLE** \$500 + up

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



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

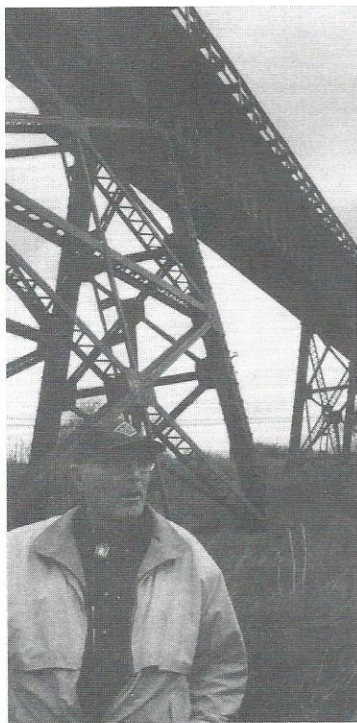
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Farewell Richard Quasey



6 June 1924
4 September 2003

