

# THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL

## 3 1/2 MORE MILES!

### Montour Trailfest set for September 25

*by Stan Sattinger*

**Montour Trailfest '94** is planned for Sunday, September 25 from 1:00 to 4:00 and will begin at the ballpark just north of Imperial, Pa. You can easily reach the ball park by taking the McClaren Road exit from the new Southern Expressway (Route 60) and heading south. Trailfest '94 marks the opening of the new 3.5 section of the Trail in the townships of Findlay and North Fayette.

As you might know, each fall, to mark the opening of new sections of the Trail, we have conducted ceremonies featuring high school bands, color guards, commentaries by elected officials, credits to our contributors, and information and food booths. This year we want to begin greatly increasing the attendance

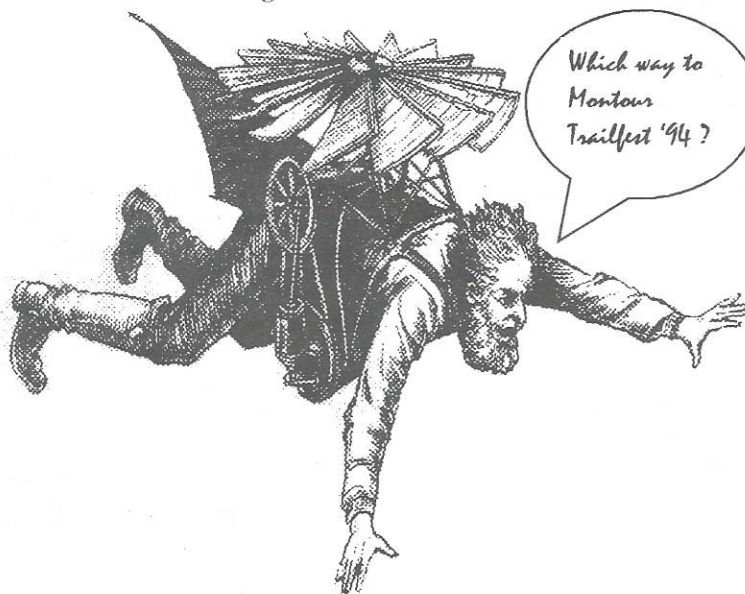
at our trail openings by turning these ceremonies into what truly may be called festivals.

To obtain much larger turn-

outs than ever before, we are planning to include new kinds of features such as children's activities, radio, TV, or sports

personalities, and one or more hot air balloons. We will also try out the new approach of placing attractions right at trailside to enable people to "try out" the Trail while they browse or nibble at information and food booths. We are jokingly referring to the Trailfest as a "linear festival."

A number of your fellow members are working hard to finish the Findlay/North Fayette trail section and to put Trailfest '94 together. We are being helped by Townships, local civic organizations, recreation and conservation groups, and sports equipment merchants to plan this event. We hope that you mark it on your calendar and will make every effort to support us by being there on the 25th. ♦



# INSIDE

**WMTC  
COMING TO THE  
AIRWAVES  
SOON?**

**SEE PAGE 3**

**VOLUNTEER  
PROFILE  
MEET  
NEIL PHILLIPS**

**PAGE 6**

**MONTOUR  
TRAIL  
SURVEY**

**SEE PAGE 4**

**IT'S UNITED  
WAY DONOR  
OPTION TIME!**

**SEE PAGE 5**





### **MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jack Swisher	President
Dave Wright	Vice President
Marshall Fausold	Secretary
Nancy Reed	Treasurer
Don Berty	
Dick Quasey	
John Hooton	
Tim Killmeyer	
Larry Ridenour	
Stan Sattinger	
Arnie Schulberg	
Tim Banfield	
Tom Dougherty	
Peter Kohnke	
Bill Metzger	
Bill Morphy	
Dennis Pfeiffer	

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

**MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER  
25 REGINA DR.**

**MCKEES ROCKS, PA. 15136**

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**

**Newsletter Editor** Tim M. Killmeyer

**Circulation Manager** Jerry Agin

# Calendar

**Every second Tuesday** of the month - **Cecil Friends of the Trail meeting**, Cecil American Legion, Rt. 50, 7:30. Call 221-6406

**Every third Saturday** of the month - **Clean-up party**, Cecil segment, 9:00 am. Meet at Miller Centrifugal Co. Call 221-6406 for more information.

**Every third Monday** of the month - **MTC Board Meeting**, 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.

**Sunday, September 25**, from 1:00 to 4:00, **Trailfest '94**. Grand Opening of the next 3 1/2 miles. See page one for details.

## HELP WANTED

*As the trail becomes greater in length and the organization becomes larger, it is necessary for more people to take on some tasks to make the workload lighter for everyone involved. Please consider this list to see if you or someone you know might be able to spare a little time to make this trail become a reality a little faster.*

### ♦ Insurance Professional

In reviewing our current insurance policy, an oversight was discovered which could lead to a \$1,000 or more increase in next year's policy. Are you, or do you know of, a knowledgeable insurance professional to help us consider alternatives to our current coverage?

### ♦ Corporate Solicitation

volunteers needed to approach companies and corporations who have expressed an interest in donating to the trail. We will train and supply leads.

### ♦ Special Events Planning

Help to plan our Grand Opening festivities.

♦ **People to supply** their local bike store, sport shop or other local businesses with trail brochures on a regular basis.

**Please contact** Jack Swisher at 221-7708 if you or anyone you know would be interested in helping us in these vital tasks.

**Also, we are looking** for any old tools you might have that you no longer use. ♦



## Letters



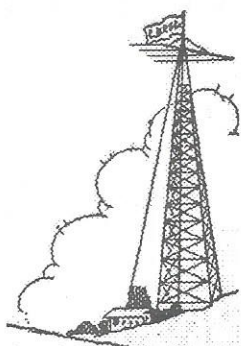
**THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER** welcomes all questions and comments. Please send all correspondence to the address on the left.

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.



## Help needed in Trail radio test

by Tim Killmeyer



Are you a scanner or ham radio enthusiast? If you are, you can help with a radio test being conducted by trail Director Bill Morphy, with assistance by members of the Steel City Amateur Radio Club, on Saturday, October 15. On that day, sometime between the hours of 8am and 4pm (but probably around 11 or 12 o'clock), an amateur radio operator will be broadcasting from a tentative repeater site in Robinson Township.

This test will help us determine what the area of coverage might be if we were using commercial radio equipment of similar frequencies. Other amateurs will be spread out over the 55 mile length of the Trail to see how reception is from that particular site and to see if transmissions can be received at that same site. Scanner enthusiasts can also help out by letting Bill know later where they were when they received the transmissions.

If these tests are successful, Bill will look further into the possibility of the Trail Council receiving its own frequency allocated for use by the FCC. He is trying to find out if this would be helpful in coordinating construction, maintenance and special events along the 55 mile corridor.

The frequencies to be monitored on October 15 are: 146.490 and 446.010. If you would like to be involved with this project, or if you hear our test, give Bill Morphy a call at 787-1182. ♦

## Robinson water authority provides drinking fountain

The board of directors of the Municipal Authority of the Township of Robinson (MATR), based on the recommendation of manager Howard Theis, gave its approval for the installation of a water fountain on the Montour Trail. The fountain is located just before the crossing at Park Manor Blvd. and Montour Run Rd., below Robinson Towne Center.

This installation would not have been possible last year, but the placement of a new waterline connection along Montour Run Rd. to Findlay Township made the project feasible.

The fountain is the first of its kind along any portion of the Trail and it will be accessible to persons in wheelchairs according to Theis. MATR will turn on the fountain after the last freeze and turn it off in the fall.

The Montour Trail Council is extremely grateful for this amenity to the Trail and we know that it will be used by many people. ♦

## Major Donor contacts still needed

In spite of a \$10,000 donation from an anonymous couple (see page 8), The Montour Trail Council still needs your help in locating individuals and corporations who are capable of donating to our Major Donor Campaign. As each month passes, we

are getting closer to the time when we will have to present proof of our \$200,000 matching funds to PennDot in order to receive our allocated share of \$1,000,000 in Federal ISTEAFunds. All we need are some more people to contact us with sources, i.e. individuals

and corporations, who donate to worthy causes such as ours. We will do the rest. Remember, every dollar we receive gets us five more in Federal monies. The time to act is now. If you know of a source, please call Jerry Sattinger at 561-5056. ♦



## Bell Atlantic Mobile provides communications link for MTC

Construction along the Montour Trail was a little easier this season thanks to some help from Bell Atlantic Mobile. The company loaned three portable phones to the Montour Trail Council to use throughout the construction season so that our volunteer workers could have a communications link while out on the trail. The company also provided airtime at no cost to MTC.

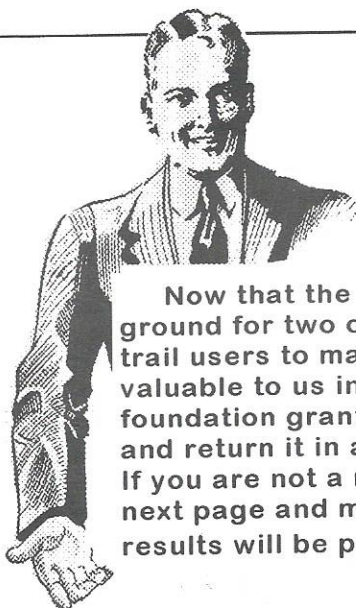
Workers were able to call if they needed additional supplies, rather than having to leave their posts to obtain materials. In addition, anytime there was a problem or a worker needed assistance, help was just a phone call away.

The Montour Trail Council thanks Bell Atlantic Mobile for their support and for letting our volunteers put this wireless technology to work to make their jobs easier. ♦



Old communication technology





# MONTOUR TRAIL SURVEY

Now that the summer of 1994 is over, and the Montour Trail Council has had trail on the ground for two of its five years (yes, it's been five years), we think it is a good time to survey trail users to make sure that we are doing our job correctly. This information will also be valuable to us in planning for future portions of the 55 mile Montour Trail and in applying for foundation grants. We are asking all our readers to complete the survey as soon as possible and return it in an envelope marked "SURVEY" to: 25 Regina Dr., McKees Rocks, Pa. 15136. If you are not a member but would like to become one, please fill out the application on the next page and mail it in. You can include your survey with your application if you like. The results will be published in a future issue of THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER. ♦

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: M F Town of residence: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

How far do you drive to get to the trail? \_\_\_\_\_

How many times a month do you use the trail? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you use it mostly: Monday - Friday or Saturday and Sunday

Do you use it mostly: Before noon or between noon and five or between five and dusk

Do you use it for walking? Y N If yes, then how many times per month? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you use it for running? Y N If yes, then how many times per month? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you use it for bicycling? Y N If yes, then how many times per month? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever cross-country skied on the trail? Y N If no, do you plan to? Y N

Do you use a wheelchair on the trail? Y N

Mark each section listed below 1; 2; 3; 0; etc., in order of the one you use most (1) to the one used least. Use zero for the sections which you never use. If you use more than one section together, mark both with the appropriate number.

\_\_\_\_\_ Peters Township Arrowhead Trail \_\_\_\_\_ Cecil Section \_\_\_\_\_ Findlay Section (miles 5 thru 8)

\_\_\_\_\_ Moon/Robinson Section (miles 0 thru 3) \_\_\_\_\_ Moon/Robinson (miles 3 thru 5)

\_\_\_\_\_ Undeveloped Sections

Favorite thing(s) about the trail? (In order of priority)

Thing(s) about the trail that you would improve?

Plans call for a few miles in the South Park section to be improved in '95.

What section would you like to see improved next?

Second choice?

Are you a member of the Montour Trail Council? Y N



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ☆ Deb Anderson               | ☆ Mariette Martire            |
| ☆ Thomas Beaman              | ☆ Sandra Nemetz               |
| ☆ Barbara Blumling           | ☆ Gregory & Judith Neugebauer |
| ☆ Mr. & Mrs. Sean Brennan    | ☆ Robert O'Connell            |
| ☆ Dominic R. Broglia         | ☆ Nancy Campbell O'Farrell    |
| ☆ Steven J. Caroleo          | ☆ Marilyn & Gerald Peckich    |
| ☆ David M. Chauvet           | ☆ Byron H. Ruth               |
| ☆ Melanie Collier            | ☆ Matthew A. Sanfilippo       |
| ☆ Janice E. DeJulio          | ☆ John W. Sargent             |
| ☆ Bob DiBella & Carol Savage | ☆ Mrs. C. Siranovich          |
| ☆ Glen Ersly                 | ☆ Janet Smith                 |
| ☆ Ray C. Fallen              | ☆ Jim & Pat Stafford          |
| ☆ Jutta Gerber-Orr           | ☆ Joseph & Johanna Stout      |
| ☆ Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Greer    | ☆ William & Joan Terrell      |
| ☆ Susan & Robert Guise       | ☆ Sam Tischler                |
| ☆ Joanne Hagar               | ☆ John A. Wiles               |
| ☆ Lonny & Nicki Harrison     |                               |
| ☆ John Jenkins               |                               |
| ☆ David and Judy Jones       |                               |
| ☆ Gloria D. Kabana           |                               |
| ☆ Joe & Linda Kimak          |                               |
| ☆ Mr. & Mrs R. Koehler       |                               |
| ☆ Mrs. E. Koehler            |                               |
| ☆ Cheryl Kopia               |                               |
| ☆ Gordon & Janet Macleod     |                               |

*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.*

## United Way Donor Option: available where you work

The MTC continues to be among the agencies that are approved to receive contributions under the United Way Donor Option. This means that once again contributors may direct that a specified percentage of their United Way contributions for the coming year go to the Montour Trail Council. In the past several years, gifts to the Trail via the Donor Option have amounted to several thousand dollars per year. Please remember the Montour Trail and request the Donor Option during the upcoming United Way pledge campaign at your workplace this fall. ♦

## Corporate match programs

It has come to our attention that many local businesses and corporations will match donations made by employees to various charities and non-profits. PNC Bank is one such corporation and we know there are others. They will even match your membership fee as a donation. Why not ask if your place of employment has a similar program? ♦

**DO IT  
TODAY**

## 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 a United Way donor option  
where you work.**

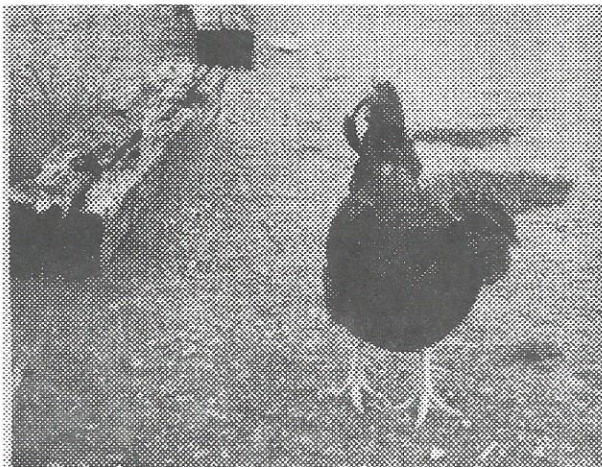


## Incredible Inch Campaign off to rousing start

Thanks to our Trail Appreciation Days and the wonderful support of some of our members, the Montour Trail Council has "sold" 2,087 inches of trail as of August 15. That leaves only 3,482,713 more inches to go. Better get yours while they

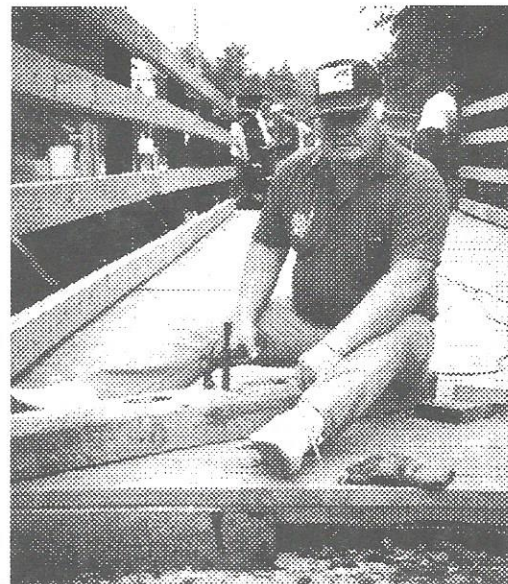
last! Christmas is coming and they make great gifts, so fill out the coupon below and send it in today. We will also be selling them at Montour Trailfest '94 on September 25. You will be able to receive your "deeds" right there. ♦

### Rooster missing! Police suspect fowl play



*Photo by Tim Killmeyer*

Has anyone seen the "wild" rooster which was sort of the unofficial mascot for the Findlay section this year? He was last seen in the area of the Enlow ballfield parking area.



*photo by Tim Killmeyer*

Dedicated volunteer Neil Phillips hard at work on the California Hollow Bridge.

## Volunteer Profile



### Meet Neil Phillips

Neil Phillips started working with us on the Moon/Robinson section of the Trail in May of '93 and hardly a weekend passed that he didn't show up to do something to help get this trail ready for use. He moved railroad ties, collected trash, cut trees and brush, installed gates and fence posts and built bridges. And guess what? After a long winters rest, Neil was back again in the spring to do it all over again on the new North Fayette/Findlay section.

Neil, 63 years old, was born and raised in Weirton, W.V. In 1956 he moved across the state line to Paris, Pa. with his wife Audrey. Now married for 42 years, they raised four daughters, all married; Pamela, Janice, Debarah and Beverly.

He worked at Weirton Steel for nearly 38 years before retiring. During his time at Weirton Steel he also worked his farm where he raised polled Hereford cattle (polled = no horns). Obviously this guy is no stranger to work and it shows on the Trail. When not working on the Trail, he also enjoys bicycling and golf. ♦



## A Montour Trail Halloween Tunnel Tale

*by Tim Banfield*

The Peters Creek Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad (part of a future section of the Montour Trail) has a tunnel that is part of local folklore. The story has many different versions. We will present one here. If you know another version send it in to the editor for use in a future newsletter. The tunnel in question goes by the name of Greenman's Tunnel. It is located along Piney Fork near Snowden in South Park Township.

Legend has it that a man once lived in the tunnel. His face had been horribly disfigured in an electrical accident and his skin had an eerie green glow as a result. His job was to keep trespassers out of the tunnel, and he would chase away the many youths who would venture into the tunnel on dares late at night. Even though he died years ago, local residents report that Greenman's ghost now haunts the tunnel. The story goes that if you are near the tunnel late at night on dark, moonless, fall nights, Greenman may appear to chase you away from his tunnel.

It is a good thing that when the trail is built through the tunnel, it will be closed after dark! ♦



## Catholic Youth Services provides summer work crews

by Tim Killmeyer

In cooperation with the Montour Trail Council and the Allegheny County Department of Maintenance, Catholic Youth Services provided the Montour Trail with valuable labor this summer. Thanks to a federal grant received by CYS, they were able to hire 16 full-time 15 and 16 year olds. Also, 16 part-time 12 and 13 year olds were hired who attended school in the morning and worked on the trail in the afternoon. Most of the youths came from the McKees Rocks area.

Each group of eight youths came with a crew leader, also supplied by CYS, who picked up and dropped off the young men and women, and also supervised them on the trail.

Joe Moses, the head of the Allegheny

County Maintenance Dept., supplied a general supervisor, in the person of **Bill Seibert**, to educate the youngsters in the ways of split rail fence installation and other forms of trail maintenance and to haul supplies in his County pick-up truck.

Montour Trail Council hired **Jim Rydell** to use the auger on our tractor to help with post holes, but as the kids can tell you, there is a lot of rock down there.

All in all, the crews primed and painted all the gates, cut brush, installed over 4,160 feet (!) of fence, installed 1,200 feet of underdrain in the Enlow Tunnel and raked 100 tons of gravel over the same.

Our thanks to all who participated in this project! ♦

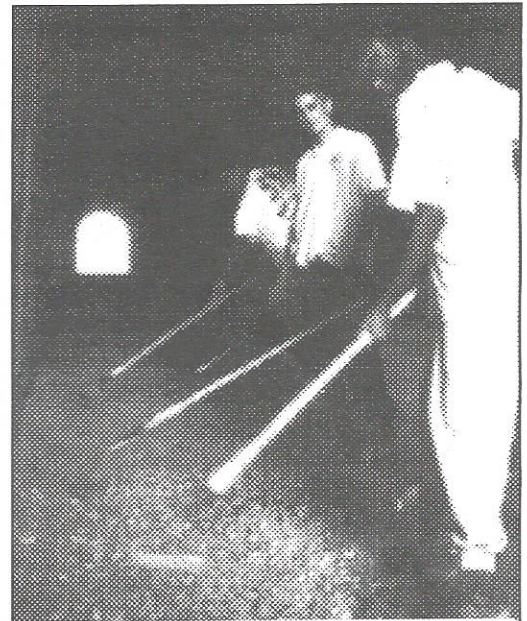


Photo by Tim Killmeyer

**Smoothing out the rough edges**  
Summer work crew youths smooth out the new edge of the trail inside the Enlow Tunnel in Findlay.

## 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 we "sold" every inch of trail, it would pay for the whole thing.

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF INCHES \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCLE THE COMMUNITY WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE NAMED ON YOUR "DEED":

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

USE  
the  
COUPON

ROBINSON TWP. (ALLEG.)	CECIL TOWNSHIP
FINDLAY TOWNSHIP	PETERS TOWNSHIP
NORTH PATETTE TWP.	SOUTH PARK TWP.
ROBINSON TWP. (WASH.)	JEFFERSON BORO
MT. PLEASANT TWP.	CLAIRTON
	BETHEL PARK



# Major donor campaign gets major boost

by Stan Sattinger

**IT'S GREAT!**

A \$10,000 gift from a Montour Trail Council member couple who wish to remain anonymous has provided a boost to the Major Donor campaign and has moved us closer to attaining our goal. This gift will bring the Montour Trail Council another \$50,000 in pro-rated money from our \$1,000,000 ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) funding allocation. We are grateful for the confidence that this gift suggests and look forward to other

individuals and corporations coming forward in support of the Trail. **We still need more** corporate contacts and contacts of people who have the potential to become major donors. We also need volunteers who can help us get potential donors involved with the Trail. Our Montour Trail Council member couple has given us a tremendous lift; it is up to all of us to do our share. If you have contacts that you can provide, please call Jerry Sattinger at 561-5036.

## Montour trailblazing in South Park Township

by Tim Banfield

Montour Trail Council volunteers have spent the summer making the Trail from Triphammer Rd. to Brownsville extension more accesable to hikers and mountain bikes. This one mile section of the Montour Railroad was abandoned in the 1970's and became heavily overgrown with brush. Thanks to the hard work of MTC volunteers on some of the hottest days of the

summer, including **Jim Angler, Diana Blocher, Dave Cooper, Peter Kohnke, Lois Ludwig and Paul McKeown**, you can now enjoy this segment if you happen to be in South Park and want to get away from the crowds on the paved bike trail.

**Other good news** in South Park comes from a recent meeting held by Montour Trail Council members with officials from South Park Township to address questions and

concerns regarding Trail development in the township. The meeting went smoothly with MTC giving a clearer picture of trail construction details, with the aid of a slide presentation by MTC vice-president and engineer, Dave Wright.

**We have hope** that it will not be long before this part of the Trail becomes one of the first sections of trail developed in southern Allegheny County! ◆

8

This man is running because:  
1) Somebody stole his clothes  
2) His dog is after another dog  
3) "Greenman" is after him.  
(see page 6)



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PITTSBURGH PA  
PERMIT NO. 2524

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

THE  
MONTOUR  
TRAIL