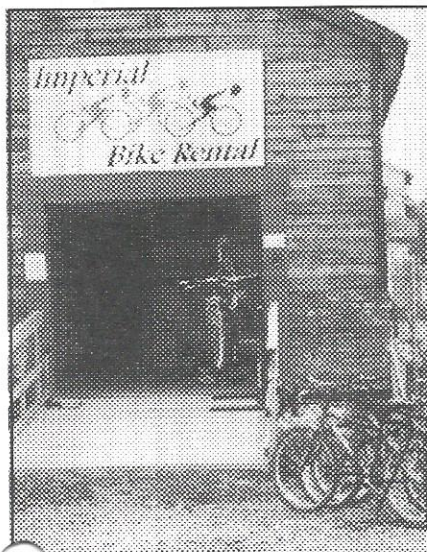


THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL



While local businesses that sell refreshments, gasoline and sporting goods equipment are reporting a brisk trade because of the Montour Trail, new businesses are beginning to arrive on the scene that are inspired by the number of Trail users.

Montour Trail begins to benefit local economy

by Tim Killmeyer

Ask any of the local sporting goods shops and bicycle shops and they will tell you - sales of bicycles, bicycle related equipment and running equipment are booming; and it is largely do to the numbers of people using the Montour Trail since was built. Now we have the opening of a business that would not be if not for the construction of the Trail.

The Imperial Bike Rental shop opened on Memorial Day weekend of this year. It is located halfway between Miles 8 & 9 on the Trail, about 100 yards downstream of the future Findlay Community center and Museum. With a variety of bicycles for any age member of the family, and a repair section offering parts and accesories,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

SEE "RENTALS"

Trail Council promotes more Trail in Washington County

by Judy Thompson

The Montour Trail Council sponsored a breakfast for Washington County public officials at the Quicksilver Golf Club on July 23. Guests included Washington County Commissioners Diana Irey and J. Bracken Burns, supervisors from Robinson, Smith, and Peters Townships, and Borough representatives from Burgettstown, McDonald, and Midway. State Senators J. Barry Stout and D. Michael Fischer sent members of their staffs.

Montour Trail Council Board members shared background about the Trail and plans for completion this year of a three mile segment from Noblestown Rd. just outside of McDonald to State Route 980 near the entrance to Quicksilver. The new "Panhandle Trail" from Carnegie to Weirton was also discussed. The event gave the Trail Council an opportunity to provide some history of and to extol the virtues of the Trail while getting acquainted with the communities that are Trail neighbors. ◆

Pittsburgh to D.C. master plan in the works

by Dick Quasey

In June the physical features of the Montour Trailwere explored and evaluated by Mackin Engineering (RIDC Park West). The Allegheny Trail Alliance, on behalf of its members, has contracted with Mackin to produce a Master Plan for the development of a contiguous hiking/biking trail from Pittsburgh to Washington D.C. and beyond.

This Master Plan will identify the steps necessary to complete the interstate project, make forecast regarding construction costs, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 SEE BIG PICTURE

INSIDE

**NEW
MONTOUR TRAIL
WORLD WIDE
WEB ADDRESS**

PAGE 4

**MOON
WASHOUT
FIXED BY
VOLUNTEERS**

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**ROAST
METZGER ON
THE MENU**

PAGE SEVEN

**WIN A BIKE AT
THIS YEAR'S
ANNUAL
MEETING**

SEE PAGE 8



MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Marshall Fausold | President |
| Dave Wright | Vice President |
| Bill Metzger | Secretary |
| Nancy Reed | Treasurer |
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| Dick Quasey | |
| John Hooton | |
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| Peter Kohnke | |
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| 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

Or E-mail to: 74144.103@compuserve.com

All other trail correspondence should be addressed:

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

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL PHONE NUMBERS:

For information: 412-831-2030

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

Newsletter Editor Tim M. Killmeyer

Circulation Manager Jerry Agin

The Montour Trail Council is an *all volunteer* organization founded in 1989 to convert the abandoned Montour Railroad right of way and the abandoned Peters Creek Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad into a fifty-five mile recreational trail for non-motorized activity regardless of physical ability or financial wherewithal.

EDITOR'S OBSERVATIONS

Slow but steady wins the race; A penny saved is a penny earned; A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush; Remember the Alamo! These are the kinds of maxims that come to mind when thinking about the work of the MTC this year (well, maybe not the last one, but I always liked that one). We have built some trail this year. The grand openings might have to wait until next Spring, but the segments are ready for your enjoyment. Our fundraising committee has raised more than 4/5 of the amount needed to match our ISTE money and the preliminary studies have been completed that will enable us to start spending that ISTE money. The contracts to begin the South Park segment has been put out to bid and work could start anytime soon. A gazebo rest stop has been donated and moved to the Trail and a our first ma- major outside event (the IKEA 1/2 Marathon) is scheduled for early September and should bring us some much needed publicity. Our local Friends of the Trail groups have proved their dedication by dealing with everything from fallen trees and busted up bridges to major washouts of whole sections of trail. **And it's all done by volunteers!** If you couldn't find the time to give us at least one day this year, please consider looking at your 1997 calendars and setting aside a day for us next year.

For those of you that helped us at the Rib Cook-Off this year, you should know that the money that we receive from it this year will go to buy surface material for the new Robinson, Washington County segment. Whenever you use it you will be riding or walking on the fruit of your labor this past Labor Day weekend.

On a personal note, it has become increasingly clear over the past few weeks, that as much as I hate to say it, it might be time for me to pass on the baton of editor to another dedicated trail person. I will do it as long as necessary, but if there is someone out there who thinks they might like to give it a go, call my MTC voice mailbox at 257-2328. When I started I was a computer illiterate and had never used any publishing software, but in two months I put the newsletter into the form you are holding now. Whoever takes it over would be free to put it in any form they wish. If you like this format, I can give you the blank pages on a diskette. PLEASE HELP! I'M D

R
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N
ING!

Tim

Letters

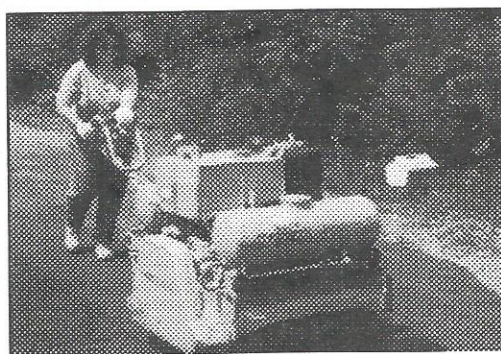
THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER welcomes all questions and comments. Please send all correspondence to the address on the left.

| September | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

Calendar

| October | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

- ♦ **MTC Board Meeting**, every **third Monday** of the month - Second floor of Chartiers Valley High School, in the Library. Turn left off of the Kirwan Heights exit of I-79. Turn left at the next light, go under the Interstate, and the school is on your left. Call Marshall at 531-8628 for more information or to get on the agenda.
- ♦ **Cecil Friends of the Trail meeting**, every **first Tuesday** of the month - in the Boy Scout room at the Cecil American Legion, Rt. 50, 7:30. Call 221-6406
- ♦ **Work & Clean-up party**, Cecil segment, every **third Saturday** of the month - **9:00 am**. Meet at the Kernick Tract parking area. Call 221-6406 for more information.
- ♦ **Moon/Robinson Friends of the Trail meeting**, Every Wednesday before the second Saturday of the month at **7:00**. At the All Occasion Catering party room near the intersection of Silver Lane and Clever Rd.s in Robinson Twp. Anyone from the communities near Moon and Robinson are encouraged to attend. Call 859-3020 more information.
- ♦ **Work & Clean-up party**, Moon/Robinson segment, every **second Saturday** of the month - **9:00am**. Meet at North Star Petroleum (Formerly Robinson Petroleum). Call 262-3748 for more information.
- ♦ **Findlay/ North Fayette Friends of the Trail** Call Don at 899-3695 for more information.
- ♦ **Work & Clean-up party**, Findlay/North Fayette segment, every **forth Saturday** of the month - **9:00 am**. Meet at the Enlow Ballfield. Call 695-2354 for more information.
- ♦ **Montour Trail Council Annual Meeting - Date to be announced. Either Nov. 17 (1st choice) or 10th** A separate mailing will be sent. New format this year will be a meeting with an optional dinner afterward at a local restaurant. This way we hope that more families can attend the meeting without having to spend beaucoup bucks for a dinner. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.



photos by John Hooton
Janet DeLost of North Strabane Township in Washington County got her turn at operating the walk behind vibrating roller. The roller was rented so that the volunteers could pack down the fresh surface material.

On August 16 and 17 a group of dedicated Trail volunteers met to restore the washout that occurred on the Trail between Mile 4.5 and Mile 5 (the Kmart entrance to the Wickes entrance). Runoff from Montour Run Rd. During one of this year's gully washers had eliminated most traces of the original surface material.

The volunteers included: Dennis

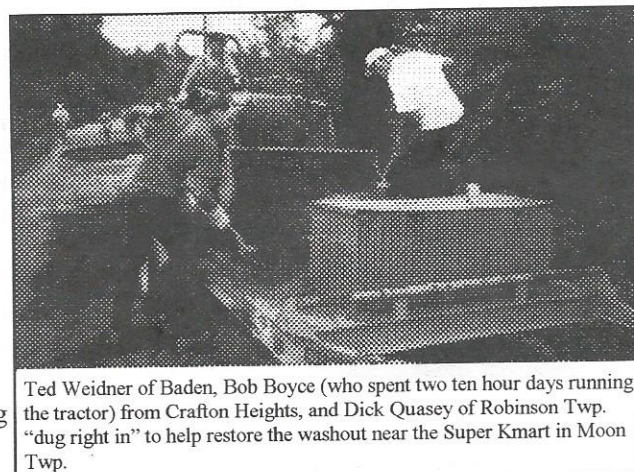
Local volunteers restore Trail surface in Moon Township

Pfeiffer, Dick Quasey, Bob Boyce, Karen Boyce, Ted Weidner, John Hooton, Janet DeLost, and Dean Arlett. They all agree that a small dump truck would have been a great asset in their work. (HINT, HINT)

Besides being a six week nuisance to the daily Trail user, the section needed to be spruced up before the big IKEA 1/2 Marathon on Sept. 14. (If you receive this before the 14th, remember, the Trail will be closed from dawn to 11:00 A.M. on that day.)

The Findlay Township Road Crew has been working feverishly to patch the

washed out sections of Trail near the Enlow Tunnel and along with the volunteers, deserves our thanks. ♦



Ted Weidner of Baden, Bob Boyce (who spent two ten hour days running the tractor) from Crafton Heights, and Dick Quasey of Robinson Twp. "dug right in" to help restore the washout near the Super Kmart in Moon Twp.

**NEW
ADDRESS**



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

Cecil Friends of the Trail keeping Washington County covered

by Don Berty

The Cecil Friends of the Trail group will man a booth at the Cecil Twp. Indian Summer Festival in Cecil Park. The festival will be held on September 28 and 29 from 9 to 9 on Saturday and 9 to 7 on Sunday. The Friends have participated in the festival

since its inception. They will be answering questions and passing out Trail literature as well as helping with the parking for the festival. Special Montour Trail walking Sticks will be available for sale by the Friends. All proceeds will go toward

maintaining the Trail - so GET A STICK!

This past summer the Friends, under the guidance of Ed Dagnal, president of Pro Green Inc., applied Round Up to the Cecil portion of the Trail surface to kill the unwanted vegetation in the middle of the

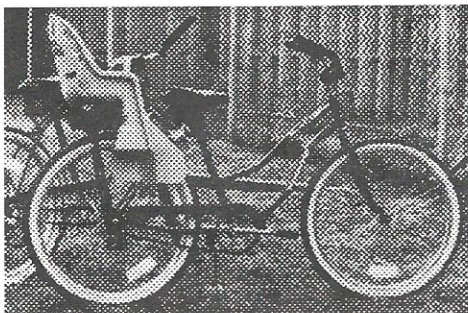
RENTALS CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

the Trail Council believes that the shop will be a valuable asset to the Trail and to the community.

Proprietors Steve Kashmer and Helen Francic were not the first to realize the potential of the Montour Trail but they were the first to put it into action. (Editors note: The Hike and Bike Shop along the Arrowhead Trail in Peters Township has been in business almost ten years, but they were there before anyone dreamed of a 55 mile Montour Trail.) Besides renting bicycles, Imperial Bike is also sells them as a dealer for Raleigh and Nishiki bicycles. They rent Mountain Bicycles as well as single speed, wide tire "Cruiser" bikes. The kids will like their children's bikes, some with training wheels. Rear mounted baby carriers are available for an additional \$2.00. In the works for next year are Diamondback bicycles, child trailers, and tandem bicycles. They also

offer a variety of cold soda, sport drinks and ice cream for a refreshing break.

Imperial Bike Rental is located in the historic buildings of the old Imperial Lumber Company at 330 Main St. in Imperial. The



A Cruiser with optional baby carrier

phone number is 695-1684. Hours are noon to eight on weekdays and 9 to dusk on weekends. For you early risers, Steve is usually in his office after 6:30am at Valley Electric adjacent to the shop. If you buzz the buzzer next to the door, he will come over to rent you your bicycles.

Prices are as follows (talk to Steve or Helen about discount volume pricing):

Cruisers

| | |
|--------|----------|
| \$4.00 | per hour |
| \$12 | half day |
| \$20 | full day |

Mountain bikes

| | |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| \$7.00 | per hour (additional hours \$5.00) |
| \$15.00 | half day |
| \$25.00 | full day |

Senior Citizens \$2.75

Children \$2.00

Baby Carriers \$2.00

Helmets are included in the price.

Eagle Scout candidate helps Trail - gets closer to award

by Dave Carlson

During the week of July 22, 1996, Gregg Campbell of Boy Scout Troop 65, Mt. Lebanon, Pa. organized a volunteer group of scouts to perform remedial repairs to the steel bents of the Library Trestle in South Park Twp. This work was performed by Mr. Campbell as partial fulfillment of his requirements to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

Gregg organized and coordinated the work of ten scouts, who performed over 110 hours of combined volunteer service during this period. The scouts prepared the lower steel portions of six bridge piers using wire brushes and scrapers, then applied a rust inhibiting primer and paint, protecting the bridge piers from further deterioration. The first four feet of each pier was prepared and painted.

Mr. Campbell's group did a very thorough and professional job and the Trail Council thanks them wholeheartedly.



Steve Kashmer and Helen Francic, proprietors of Imperial Bike Rental

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☆ Gerald & Ann Bates ☆ John & Harriet Burress ☆ Gilda DeFerrari ☆ Dana & Terry Divelbliss ☆ Stephen D. Hansen ☆ Diana Irey ☆ Ray Johnston ☆ John H. Kunkle, Jr. ☆ David H. Pokorski | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☆ Frank & Donna Sonnett ☆ Ron Virgi ☆ Charles T. Wright |
|---|---|

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. ◆

THE BIG PICTURE

prioritize acquisition and construction activities for each of the ATA members and the ATA overall. Besides the Montour Trail Council other groups belonging to the ATA include the Three Rivers Heritage Trail, Youghioghny River Trail (north and south), Steel Heritage Trail, and Allegheny Highlands Trail (Pa. and Md.).

Mackin will present its findings to all the groups at a meeting to be held on November 15. All interested persons are welcome to attend. Watch for more announcements about other details. ◆

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

United Way Contributor Choice Program begins in September



The Montour Trail Council continues to be among the agencies that are approved to receive donations under the United Way Contributors Choice Option. This means that once again, when the United Way volunteer at

your business or corporation comes around to solicit from you, you can direct that a certain percentage of your United Way contributions for the coming year go to the Montour Trail Council. Just list Contributor Choice Option #3308 on the form you will be asked to fill out.

In the past, gifts to the Montour Trail via Contributors Choice have amounted to several thousand dollars per year. Please remember the Montour Trail and request option #3308 during the upcoming United Way pledge campaign at your work-place this fall. ◆

Yes, I want to help build the Montour Trail!

- ☐ I want to spread the word. Please send me additional flyers.
- ☐ I have written my Legislator and County Commissioners asking them to support the trail.
- ☐ My organization would like to provide a letter of endorsement.
- ☐ I know a group interested in a presentation.
- ☐ I wish to become a member of the Montour Trail Council.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT | \$5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATION | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORTING | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR | \$250 + up |

(Membership is tax deductible)

- ☐ I wish to make an additional tax deductible contribution of \$ _____ to the Montour Trail Council to help make the Montour Trail a reality.

(Make your check payable to the Montour Trail Council)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (day time) _____ (evening) _____

By applying for membership in the Montour Trail Council, I indicate my support of its goals.

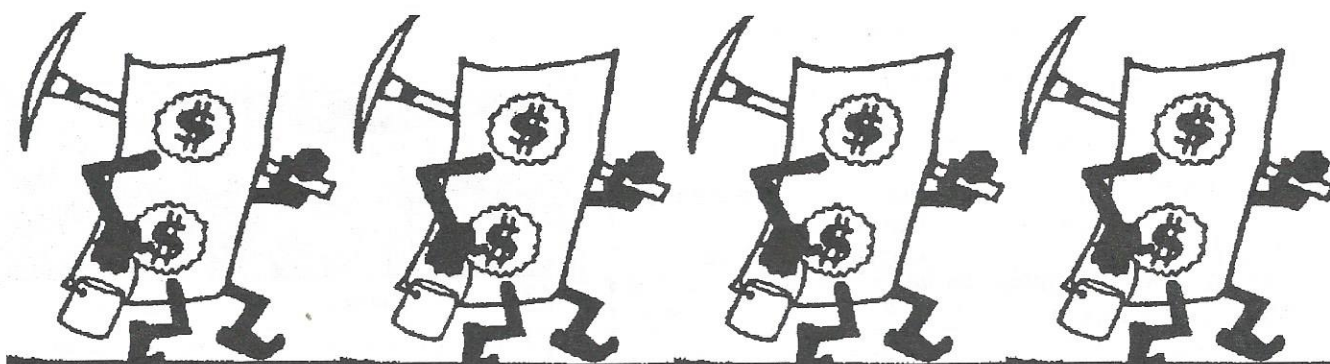
SIGNATURE _____

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling tollfree, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Please fill out this application and return it with your check to:

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

**DON'T FORGET! The Montour Trail Council
may be designated as your United Way Contributor
Choice option #3308 where you work.**



HAVE YOU WONDERED...

HOW ARE OUR FINANCES MONTH TO MONTH?

Average unrestricted income/month

(Membership dues, United Way, License Fees, Interest Income)

\$4800.00

Minimum monthly expenses

| | |
|---|---------|
| John Deere tractor payments | 502.00 |
| Legal expenses | 3000.00 |
| Potty or storage rental | 325.00 |
| Newsletter expenses | 300.00 |
| Telephone | 60.00 |
| Membership support | 190.00 |
| Other: Average trailbuilding, dues, taxes& maintenance expenses | 2100.00 |

Total average expenses \$6477.00

So, on average we spend more each month than we take in.

HOW CAN WE BUILD TRAIL THIS YEAR? YOU MIGHT WELL ASK.

HERE IS WHAT MONEY WE HAVE FOR TRAIL BUILDING

MONEY IN THE BANK

Fidelity Money MarketFund

\$207,775.00

PNC Money Market Fund (Legislative Initiative \$)

7,500.00

EXPECTED INCOME THIS YEAR FOR BUILDING TRAIL

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Keystone Grant (For South Park) | \$50,000.00 |
| Keystone Grant (For Donaldson Property) | 3,750.00 |
| ARAD (1996) (For South Park) | 45,000.00 |
| ARAD (1997- not funded -only requested | 75,000.00 |
| ARAD=Allegheny Regional Assets District | |
| TOTAL | \$389,025.00 |

BUT HERE IS MONEY WE HAVE COMMITTED TO SPEND (IN COMING YEAR?)

TO SUPPLEMENT MONTHLY BILL PAYING (\$2000/MO.)

\$12,000.00

COMMITTED TO MATCHING

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| ISTEA Matching | \$140,000.00 |
| Keystone Grant Matching | 50,000.00 |
| | \$190,000.00 |

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

| | |
|--|------------|
| Hendersonville | 1,800.00 |
| Re-design of Park Manor Blvd | 1,800.00 |
| Parking lot Hassam Rd. (est. \$1200, MTC pays 1/2) | 600.00 |
| South Park Section Contract | 145,000.00 |
| South Park Volunteer's Construction | 7,500.00 |
| Pan-handle Trail Partial Appraisal | 1,500.00** |
| Storm damage | 10,000.00 |

PROPERTY AQUISITION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Dick Corp. | 25,000.00** |
| Pelesky and Cooper Properties | 10,000.00** |
| Donaldson (50% from DEC, 50% MTC) | 3,750.00** |

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Appraisal | 1,000.00 |
| BethelBranch Appraisal | 2,500.00 |

BRIDGE

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| IndustrialSteelBridge | 4,200.00 |
|-----------------------|----------|

TOTAL \$ 416,650.00

**from hoped for 1997 ARAD money

ATTENTION ALL RAIL-TRAIL ADVOCATES

reprinted without permission from the AYH's Golden Triangle

Some of you may know Bill Metzger, the "Yoda" of Western PA Rail-Trails. You may also know that he has gamely suffered with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) for the past 17 years while he has work tirelessly to promote the rails-to-trails concept. (MTL editors note: Bill is a founding father of the Montour Trail Council, serving as a Board Member for the past 7 years, the last 3 as secretary, and has been our one man speakers bureau, delivering talks to countless groups on behalf of the MTC.) He is a walking encyclopedia of railroad information and draws people to the trail organizations with his genuine love of people, bicycling, and nature.

Bill's condition has worsened over the past year. His doctor advised him of a new treatment for MS in Europe that could help him. Bill applied to the clinic in Germany and

was accepted as a good candidate for the treatment. The three week regimen will cost him big bucks and isn't covered under his medical insurance.

Dick Wilson, a local rail-trail giant in his own right, is organizing a fundraising dinner to help Bill pay his bills. His intention are not completely pure. The main focus of the event will be a "roast" for Bill Metzger. If you know Bill you have enjoyed his outrageous sense of humor and have probably been a victim of his rapier wit. It is suspected that Dick Wilson's real reason for "roasting" Bill is to get even for all the bad lawyer jokes.

With "Smilin' Bill" as the catalyst, it should be an outrageous evening you won't want to miss. For more information call George Schmidt at 521-1538. See details below.

BILL METZGER ROAST

September 29, 1996

5:30 P.M., Casual Attire

SPECTRUM HALL, East Smithfield St, BOSTON, PA.

HONORARY CHAIRMEN

Rep. Greg Fajt Rep. Rick Geist Mayor Tom Murphy

Donation: \$20.00 per person through September 22nd
\$25.00 per person after September 22nd

NAME(S) _____

Number of people attending _____ at \$20 / \$25 each _____

additional donation _____

Total _____

Checks payable to: Friends of Bill Metzger

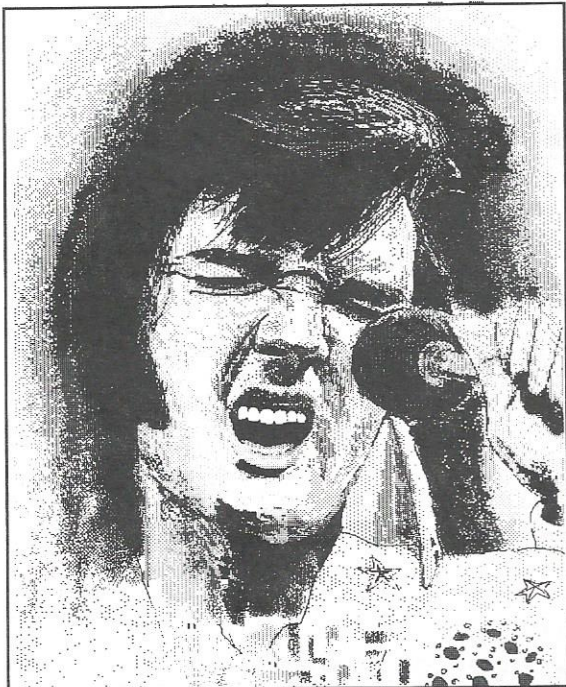
Send this form to :

Tim Banfield, c/o MYTC, P.O. Box 14, McKeesport, PA 15135



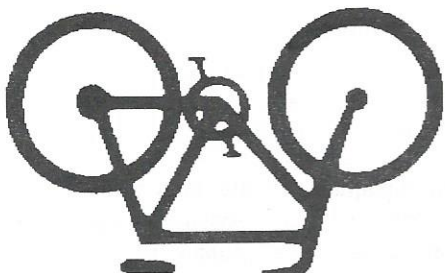
MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 11866
PITTSBURGH PA 15228-0866

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
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PERMIT NO. 2524



Elvis spotted on Montour Trail?

see page 12



The winning ticket will be drawn at the MTC's annual meeting in November, 1996.
All proceeds benefit the MTC.
Bicycle donated by Imperial Bike Shop and has a retail value of \$250.00.

Montour Trail Council
c/o Jack Swisher
709 Dutch Hill Road
Oakdale, PA 15071.

The completed tickets along with a check made payable to the "Montour Trail Council" should be sent to:

Phone: _____ The winner will be notified by phone.

Name: _____ Address: _____

\$3.00 per ticket or 2 for \$5.00 - Please photocopy blank tickets for family, friends, and co-workers.

Montour Trail Council Bike Raffle

The Montour Trail Council is pleased to announce that Imperial Bike Rental has donated a bicycle which will be raffled to raise money for the Montour Trail. The bike is a Raleigh M30 with a retail value of \$250 and features 21 speeds and Shimano components. Also, the winner can select from among several different frame sizes. The raffle tickets are \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. We encourage you to make copies of the blank tickets sell them to your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. The completed tickets along with a check made payable to the "Montour Trail Council" should be sent to: Montour Trail Council
c/o Jack Swisher
709 Dutch Hill Road
Oakdale, PA 15071.

The winning ticket will be selected from a drawing at our annual meeting which will be held in the fall (see Calendar on page 3).