

THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL

Bridge Progress

by Dave Wright

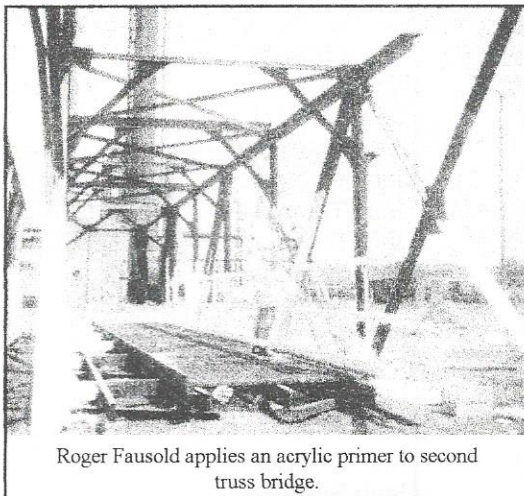
Member Paul Rankin, a Bridgeville dentist, is providing generous support to install two bridges. Howard Steffen of Mainline Contracting Co., which is demolishing the Wheeling-Pittsburgh steel mill in Monessen, offered two truss bridges for sale. They carried pipes across the P&LE tracks between two buildings. Because no salt was used on them, they were in fairly good shape.

Paul had one bridge, 8 feet wide by 100 feet long, moved by David Minnotte's donated truck to ESP Painting Company in Ambridge. Jay Lowery of ESP pledged to donate his blasting and painting. (Jay is storing another bridge we purchased from Industrial Steel Company, which he blasted and painted.) The bridge will then travel to Hendersonville where it will cross Mor-

ganza road, formerly Washington Pike.

The second truss bridge, 10 feet wide by 115 feet long, is being abrasive blasted and painted in Monessen by Paul Mckeown, Dennis Pfeiffer and Dave Wright. We applied an acrylic primer and will use epoxy mastic finish coat which should last a long time. We asked Bruce Ohl, who moved the "Desperate Measures" bridge, to provide a bid to move this one to Robinson Highway (SR 980) at Quicksilver Road.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources approved Keystone Park and Recreation funding for 50 percent of the Quicksilver Bridge costs, as well as trail improvements from SR 980 north to Champion Processing, Inc. Paul Rankin, again, pledged to provide the required local



Roger Fausold applies an acrylic primer to second truss bridge.

share for the cost of the move.

We sent a notice to proceed to RBA Group's Upper St. Clair office to provide design calculations for the substructures of both bridges.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
SEE BRIDGES**

Weirton sponsors rail trail - Council allocates \$15,000 installment

*permission to reprint by Weirton Daily Times
by Melissa Anderson - Staff Writer*

City officials have decided to help sponsor a 29-mile bike trail between Weirton and Carnegie, Pa.

Council allocated \$15,000 of the \$75,000 needed for the 2.5-mile stretch of the trail, which will follow railroad lines through the countryside. The trail will pass through three counties in two states.

At a special meeting Monday, City Council voted 6-1 to enter

into the contract with the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways and the state rail authority to acquire land and build the trail in the Harmon Creek area. Ward 4 Councilman, George Ash, cast the only vote against the project, saying he was concerned about the city being responsible for cost overruns.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 SEE WEIRTON

INSIDE

UNITED WAY
CONTRIBUTOR'S
CHOICE

PAGE 3

EXPLORER'S CLUB
DONATES TO
MTC

PAGE 4

SUMMER
UPGRADES TO
TRAIL

PAGE 6

CECIL'S
INDIAN SUMMER
FESTIVAL

PAGE 7



MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Circulation Manager Joan Schweiger

Editor's

Comments

After hearing so many wonderful things about the Cecil section of the Trail, my husband and I decided it was time to pay it a visit. So, with our Trail map in hand and our bikes in the car, we set out for Cecil Park.

Finding the park was a piece of cake. Finding the Trail was another matter. It took a minute or two of concentrated observation to find out exactly where we needed to be and how to get there. (*And as every woman knows - when you're with a man, you don't ask for directions.*)

This section of the Trail starts a little before mile post 25 and continues through mile post 29. It has a tunnel with a curve in it, which makes it especially dark and very interesting. A guided horse-riding path runs adjacent to some of its areas. The horses are housed in a stable nearby. And it has a beautiful little park-like section with planted flowers in a tree stump, Mountain Laurels (the State flower), shrubs and a picnic table. All meticulously cared for. There was even a deer standing in the middle of the Trail watching us, watching it.

But best of all, this Trail section has "friends". We encountered two Cecil friends of the Trail: John Hooton, who needed my husband's assistance in the weather treatment of a picnic table, and Hoyt Hall, who truly enjoys engaging people in lively conversation about the wonders of his Trail.

Needless to say, we were impressed with the Cecil Trail, but not half as much as we were with the hospitality of its "friends".

Debby



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.

Calendar of Events

- ♦ **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, at 7:30 pm. 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 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 859-3020 for more information.
- ♦ **Work & Clean-up party**, Moon/Robinson segment, every **second Saturday** of the month - **9:00 am**. 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 **fourth Saturday** of the month - **9:00 am**. Meet at the Enlow Ballfield. Call 695-2354 for more information.
- ♦ **IKEA 1/2 Marathon and 5K**, Montour Trail, **Sept. 13, 1997**. Registration opens at **6:30 am** at IKEA on the day of the race. To register before this or for more information call IKEA at (412) 747-0440, ext. 1060.
- ♦ **United Way, Contributor's Choice** campaign to start soon at your workplace. See below for more information.
- ♦ **Cecil Parks & Recreation** is sponsoring their 10th annual Indian Summer Festival on **Sept. 27 & 28**. For more information, see page 7.
- ♦ **Annual Membership meeting** to be held on **November 2**. Call Marshal Fausold for more details at 531-8628.

United Way - Contributor's Choice

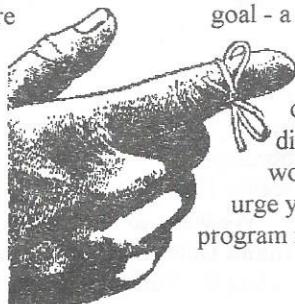
by Nancy and David Reed

United Way and the Combined Federal Campaign brought in \$8700.00 and 90 new MTC members in the past 12 months. TO "ANONYMOUS GIVER" AND ALL OF YOU WITH NAMES...MANY, MANY THANKS.

This is a wonderful way for our membership to grow and an important source of operating funds. As you know, we are all volunteers, but we still have expenses. There are insurance premiums, trail maintenance expenses, the costs of printing the newsletters and trail maps, and porta-potty rentals, just to name a few. These necessities and niceties are not paid

for by grant money we receive to build trail. We depend entirely on memberships and donations.

We can't say this THANK YOU often enough. THERE WOULD BE NO TRAIL WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERS. The United Way giving program is an easy way to help meet our goal - a quality rail-trail.



United Way does an incredible amount of good throughout the district. There are many worthy causes, so we urge you to participate in the program if you can. And,

whether you are an old friend of the Trail or a new one, consider designating the Trail to receive part or all of your United Way or Combined Federal Campaign gift.

Mention to friends you walk, bike, or work with that here's a way to be able to watch your United Way gift working.

Our agency code for United Way of South Western PA is 3308. Our code for the Combined Federal Campaign is 9308.

AND DON'T BE ANONYMOUS. Let us know who you are, so we can say thank you.

Pittsburgh Explorer's Club designates MTC to receive \$1000.00 grant

by Marshall Faus.

Each year the Pennsylvania Environmental Council selects a number of organizations in various categories as recipients of their Three Rivers Environmental Award. Accompanying this award is the opportunity for the winning organization to select an environmentally focused group to receive a \$1000 cash award, funded by Duquesne Light.

This year's winner in one of the categories was the Pittsburgh Explorer's Club. The Club, which coincidentally is now celebrating its 50th year of promoting a wide

variety of outdoor activities, was selected to receive the award for its annual Mt. Washington clean-up. For the past several years the club's members have employed their climbing skills to rappel from Grandview Avenue down the face of Mt. Washington to McArdle Roadway, bagging and removing the trash accumulated over the preceding year. The quantity is staggering! And unfortunately it is an annual harvest.



The Explorer's Club chose the Montour Trail Council as their designee to receive the \$1000 grant. The MTC is grateful to the Explorers Club, not only for this most welcome grant, but also for their continued support since our founding. The ECP was one of the first community organizations to write letters of support for the MTC's project and has continued to renew as an organizational member of the MTC ever since.

A hearty "Congratulations and Thank You" to the Explorers Club of Pittsburgh from the Montour Trail Council!

MTC WEB ADDRESS



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



Penny Day omission

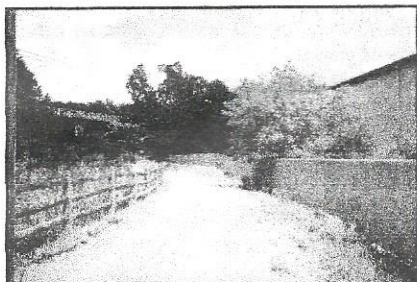
We forgot to mention one of the sponsors of our Penny Day fundraiser. We would now like to acknowledge and sincerely thank ADP for their generous donation of \$50.00 to our event. Without the support of our very fine sponsors, such as ADP, we would not be able to offer the lovely motivational prizes for those who bring in the most pennies. It certainly would be a loss on all accounts.

In Memoriam ...
Donations to MTC in memory of someone who particularly enjoyed the Trail seems to be a fitting commemoration. The Board of Directors of the Montour Trail wish to thank the employees of Sylvester and Associates, Inc. for their monetary contribution in memory of Kathy Gruda. This money will help us to complete the Trail for the benefit of all people like Kathy.



Universal Specialties' new fence

Universal Specialties approached Moon/Rob. Friends, Tim Killmeyer and Dick Quasey, to ask if they would be allowed to erect a fence, at their own expense, along Trail property to ensure the privacy of their business. Due to the Trail's proximity, they were experiencing trespassing and felt that fencing was the solution to the problem.

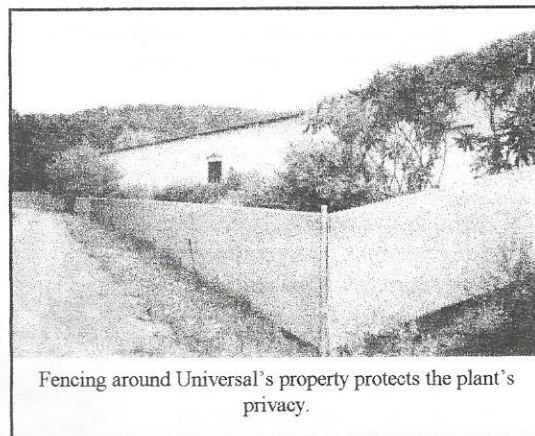


Fence built by Universal Specialties (on the right), compliments the natural beauty of the Trail near mile 3.5.

Concessions and compromises were made by both parties. Universal built, and will maintain, a swale that has cut

down on trail erosion, while MTC gave up a foot of Trail property on which the fence was built. The result - one good looking fence bordering a very scenic Trail.

We want to thank Universal Specialties for being a good Trail neighbor by providing the handsome fence, and drainage correction.



Fencing around Universal's property protects the plant's privacy.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Membership Chairman

Jerry Agin

* Bruce Boles	* Patrick O'Hara
* Tom Brown	* Donna M. Panazzi
* Cheryle Campbell	* Thomas Porsching
* William Capp	* Jessica Puzausky
* Paul D. Fetchin	* David N. Rennick
* Gary. W. Goins	* Sharon Rhodes
* Kathy Grochmal	* Jerry Stebbins
* Chris Hay	* Gwen & Jeff
* Buddy Hobart	Steigerwalt
* C. B. Hooton, Jr	* Vince Szeligo
* Kevin & Suzette Kelley	* Tom Talkowski
* Mary Jeanne Krob	* Gary Taylor
* David & Linda Kusuma	* Stephanie Waite
* Mr. & Mrs. Albert Lami	* Susie & Tim Williams
* Darlene Lovasik	* Darrell & Cindy Wright
* Rob & Nan MacLachlan	
* Ted & Donna Malesky	
* Michael Marshall	
* Tom & Sandy McCaslin	
* Stewart Metosky	
* Joseph & Carol Mikco	
* Gayle Osenider	

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.

Amenity signs for the Trail

The MTC felt that the Trail needed some signs so that visitors to the area would know where they could find different amenities, such as food, fuel and lodging, just like they do on the interstates.

With that in mind, they decided that two different kinds of signage were needed. First, a kiosk for general advertising in a central area, and second, more specific signs to denote local businesses with access points along the Trail.

MTC Board members approved the erection and placement of a wooden kiosk with

glass panels on either side, enclosing advertisements of businesses in the area. For a price of \$100.00 per year, a business may advertise on this kiosk whether or not they are in the vicinity of the Trail. Pricing, if any, for specific business signs has not yet been determined.

Steve Kashmer, one of the owners of the Imperial Bike Rental Shop, volunteered to build the kiosk, and Stan Siranovich designed the individual signs.

The kiosk will be placed in the Cliff Mine parking area (mile 6). And for now, the only specific business sign is for the Imperial Bike Rental Shop.



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

Please fill out this application and return it with your check to:
MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 11866

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

Other offices of this firm have designed several other rail-trails. We plan to meet soon with PennDOT and the consultant when Robinson Township digs a test pit to view the soil conditions at Quicksilver.

In the meantime, Clint Cottrell and his crew have brushed rust

off half the 45 foot bridge over Piney Fork Run west of Triphammer Road. They applied a rust arrester which is designed to chemically neutralize the rusting process. Deck and fence construction will follow, supported by Legislative Initiative funds from the late State Representative, Albert Pettit. ♦

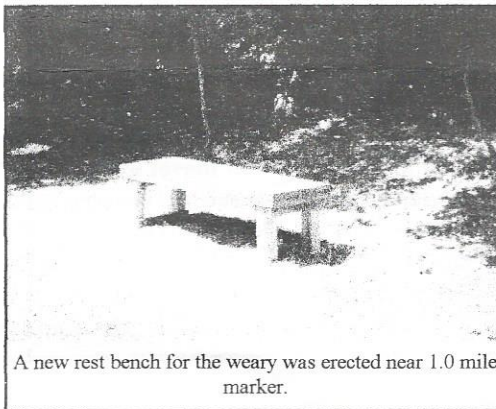
*"Go out, go out I beg of you, and taste the beauty of the wild.
Behold the miracle of the earth with all the wonder of a child."
Edna Jaques*

Montour Trail Council details summer upgrades

*reprint permitted by Coraopolis Record 8-6-97
photos by Debby Hoerster*

Several improvements have been made to Montour Trail this summer.

The crushed limestone trail follows the abandoned Montour Railroad route from

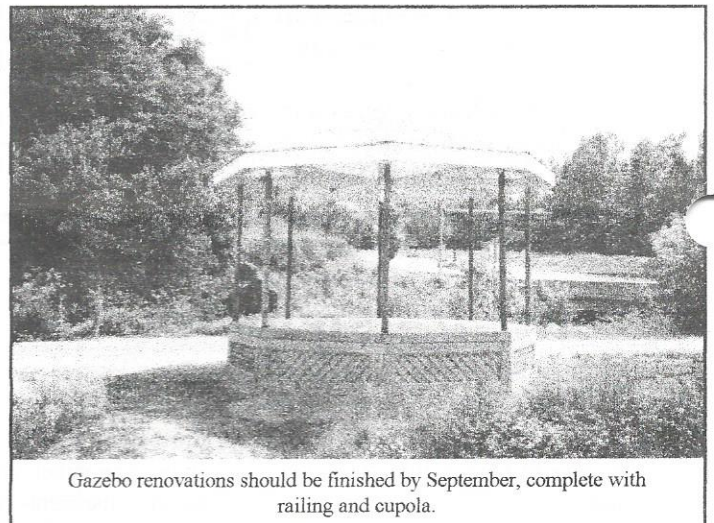


A new rest bench for the weary was erected near 1.0 mile marker.

dren walk or ride through this intersection, and though some bike riders may not like the inconvenience of stopping to use the traffic button, doing so is in the interest of safety for all trail users.

Another trail improvement is the addition of handrails to the gazebo at the entrance to Robinson Town Centre.

The gazebo was donated to Montour Trail by the borough of Coraopolis.



Gazebo renovations should be finished by September, complete with railing and cupola.

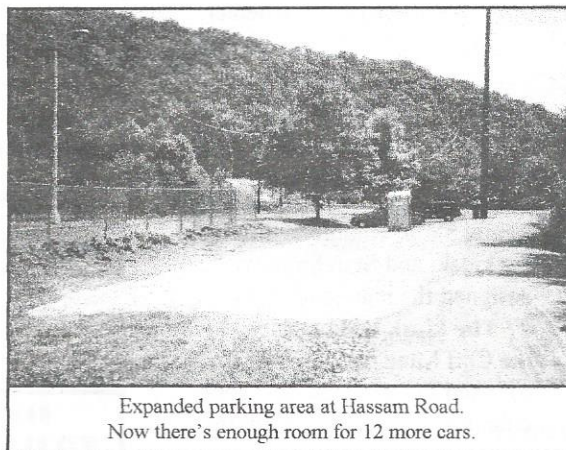
Coraopolis through Moon, North Fayette, Robinson and Findlay.

A rest bench was installed at the 1-mile mark in Groveton. The parking lot on Hassam Road in Moon was expanded to provide room for 12 more cars.

Dick Quasey of Montour Trail Council said users of the trail near Robinson Town Centre will be re-routed to make trail use in that area safer.

Walkers and cyclists will be directed to the pedestrian traffic signal at the Montour Run Road intersection. They'll be able to press a button that operates the signal.

Quasey said many families with chil-



Expanded parking area at Hassam Road. Now there's enough room for 12 more cars.

A portion of the Trail between the Enlow ballfield and Enlow Tunnel in Findlay was washed out during a heavy rain. Volunteers will restore the surface.

Findlay Water Authority will donate a fountain to the Trail before September 1.

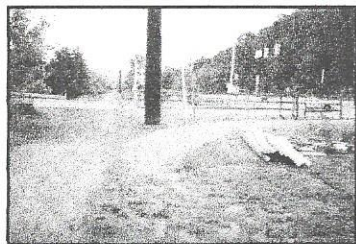
Drawings are being completed for a bridge abutment that will cross Route 980 at Quicksilver Golf Course in Washington County.

Quasey said the Trail's board of directors hopes to seek bids for the abutment by October 1. ♦

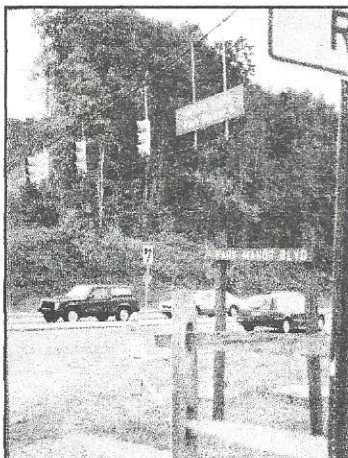
Trail change at Park Manor Drive

by Dick Quasey

Safety conditions for Trail users have improved at the Park Manor Drive intersection with the redirection of the Trail going toward Montour Run Road and the pedestrian crossing where traffic control stations are located. The

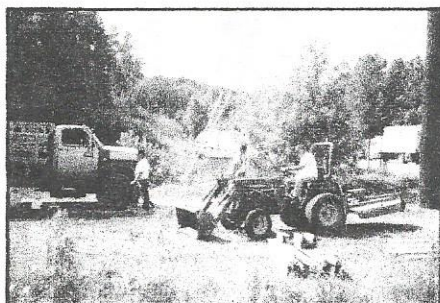


New Trail path at Park Manor intersection



Pedestrian traffic signal at Park Manor intersection

direct crossing of Park Manor Drive has been closed off.



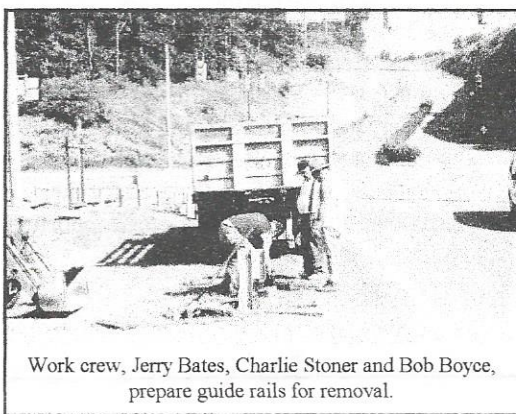
Moon/Rob Friends, Charlie Stoner, Tim Killmeyer and Dick Quasey, working hard to make a safer crossing.

Approximately 300 feet of steel highway guide rail was removed by Trail volunteers in July. Metro Fence replaced it with just 50 feet of new curved guide rail at

each bridge abutment. In early August, volunteers laid down the necessary new trail base course and surface material and installed 140 feet of split-rail fence.

The traffic control stations will be modified in the near future to make them more conspicuous and user friendly.

This change by MTC is supported by PennDOT and Moon Township authorities, and is intended to enhance the safety of all Trail users.



Work crew, Jerry Bates, Charlie Stoner and Bob Boyce, prepare guide rails for removal.

WEIRTON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The decision clears the way for the state to provide \$60,000 in grant money for the city's portion of the Panhandle Rail Trail.

The city would also be responsible for any cost overruns in developing 2.5 miles of the 13-miles of the trail in Harmon Creek, beginning at the east boundary of Colliers and extending to near the Harmon Creek exit of Us 22.

The 2.5 mile trail project would be a cooperative effort between council, the Harmon Creek Trail Association - which is a citizen's group - and the city's board of Park and Recreations.

City solicitor Joe DiBartolomeo told council that the contract with the state had nothing to do with an agreement with the park board. He said council needed to decide the fate of the contract with the state before April 30, when it would have expired.

"I think its a good program ...I would suggest going ahead and passing it," he said.

After hearing DiBartolomeo's recommendation, council indicated it would work on an agreement with the park board.

DiBartolomeo said after the meeting that the trail falls under the park board's recreation program. He said the board and council will now have to decide how to maintain and manage the trail.

"I really think the project's going to go, and I really think the park board will work with them," DiBartolomeo said.

Council's special meeting was called by Ward 2 Councilman D.J. Minella, Ward 6 Councilman Tim Reinard and Ward 5 Councilman George Kondik.

"We had a deadline to meet," Reinard said. "We want it done, we really think it's a good idea and we want to make sure the bills get paid and the work is done correctly."

Cecil's 10th annual Indian Summer Festival

Cecil Parks & Recreation Board is sponsoring their 10th annual Indian Summer Festival on Sept. 27 & 28 at the Cecil Community Park on Rt. 50. Each day, starting at noon, over 100 booths, craft and food, will be featured, with fireworks on Saturday night.

Among these booths, MTC will be sponsoring an informational booth with picture boards to promote the Cecil Trail. Donations in any amount will be gratefully accepted. Those donations of \$10.00 or over will receive a very nice walking cane, (for Trail use, of course).

Why not drive out and enjoy a great day of fun and entertainment as well as get to know the beautiful 4 mile section of the Cecil Trail. (Don't forget your bikes!)

MTC represented at McDonald Festival

by Stan Sattinger

The Trail Council recently gained an opportunity to "get public" and inform area residents about the new 3-mile McDonald section and connecting portions of the Montour Trail.

MTC volunteers staffed our information booth throughout McSummerfest '97, a 7-day festival organized by the McDonald Volunteer Firemen.

Many copies of the Trail Guide were given out, many new friendships were made, and a number of local people signed up to show their interest in the possible formation of a McDonald Area Friends of the Montour Trail group later this year.

Quite a few MTC volunteer hours were donated, as the booth was open for the full 5 hours of festival operation each day. Taking part in the daily setup, operation, and teardown of the booth were: Marshall Fausold, Doria Gregg, Bev Honchorek, Bernice and John Hooton, Tim Killmeyer, Peter Kohnke, Pete Merther, Edie O'Neill, Dick Quasey, Dennis Pfeiffer, Jerry Sattinger, and Ford Shankle.

President Joe Rehak and other members of the McDonald Volunteer Firemen are thanked for their hospitality, and for providing the MTC with a great opportunity to be introduced to the community.



photo by Pete Merther

MTC member, Dick Quasey, volunteers his time to staff the information booth at McDonald's Festival.

8

"Don't forget to stretch!"



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