THE TRAIL-LETTER
A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL
VOLUME #2 ********WINTER - SPRING 1991******** ISSUE #1

TRAIL-LETTER IS ONE YEAR OLD

This is the first anniversary issue of the Montour Trail-Letter.

The Council has grown from 50 members at the time of its incorporation to over 400 members comprising individuals, associations, and businesses. We are getting closer to our goal: preserving the Montour Railroad right-of-way for future use as a recreational trail. Negotiations are currently underway with the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad regarding the purchase of the available portions of the right-of-way and it is expected that within the next several weeks these negotiations will a sales agreement in place. A public-private partnership is being developed to manage the trail, and a Local Trail Representative network is being organized in the individual communities to develop connections with community leaders and citizens to aid in the trail development and to report back to the MTC Board their questions and comments.

Fund raising efforts continue to proceed with contacts to public and private sources. These funds will go toward the purchase of the right-of-way and toward the development of the trail. We will also have to show to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission in the next few months that we have the financial base to assume the responsibility of the numerous bridges that are along the trail.

We are very close to seeing our dream come true, but we will continue to need your assistance in making this dream a reality. When you receive your renewal notice please take time to renew and if you have services that the Council can use, please tell Jerry Agin (343 - 1425) our volunteer coordinator, what you can do for the Council. He will see that the appropriate committee chairs get your name for their resource list.

If you have contributions that you would like to future editions of the Trail-Letter, please contact your newsletter editor, Dennis Sims (257 - 2553), and he will be more than glad to incorporate your message. The deadline is typically the last weekend of even months. Thank you for your support and we hope you will continue to support this very worthwhile cause that can only improve the quality of life in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MARCH 25

The next meeting of the MTC will be held on Monday, March 25, 1991 at 7:30 PM at the McDonald Fire Hall. The program will feature Tim Sposato who will discuss the history of the Montour Railroad. The Council will also show its slide presentation that is available to any organization that desires more information about the Trail project. A question and answer session will follow. See map enclosed with newsletter for directions to the McDonald Fire Hall.

TRAIL DISPLAY TAKES FLIGHT

Air travelers should stop and inspect the display on the upper concourse at the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport by the Arcade. Tim Killmeyer, who earlier constructed the display at Station Square, arranged for the space, and once again crafted this work of art.
BICYCLES TO RIDE IN ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Ober Rooney is organizing a contingent of bicycles for the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 16 in Pittsburgh. If you are interested, contact Ober at 364-3956. Decorate your bike with flags and display the Montour Trail colors. The staging area for the parade is at the Civic Arena and Ober requests participants meet there at 9:00 AM. The parade moves out at 10:00 AM.

UNITED WAY OKAYS DONOR OPTION

The United Way has approved the Montour Trail Council as a donor option selection. When your employer or place of work hands out the United Way donor cards, select the MTC as your donation's destination.

LOCAL TRAIL REPRESENTATIVES GET ORGANIZED

Jack Swisher is leading the way in organizing a Local Trail Representative (LTR) network in the Montour Trail Council. These people will be the eyes and ears for the Council in the individual communities that the trail passes through and they will represent the MTC at the local township and municipal level. Their principal duties are to work with local governmental officials regarding trail matters, and coordinating efforts with the community to build support for the trail and resolve conflicts. They will report back to the Board and committee chairpersons for guidance. The Trail has been divided into 10 sections with each section hopefully having two to three representatives with one of those persons leading and coordinating efforts. There will be three TAC's to oversee the LTR's and they will act as mentors and helpers for the LTR's.

There are still several openings for the LTR's. The only requirements are that 1) you live in the community you will represent, 2) you will have the time available to perform this task which is estimated at 2 to 5 hours per week. Contact Jack Swisher (221-7708) to see if he has a position available in your community.

The communities are: Moon, Robinson, Findlay, North Fayette, South Park Townships, and the boroughs of Jefferson and Bethel Park in Allegheny County. In Washington County they are: Robinson, Mount Pleasant, Cecil, Peters and Chartiers Townships.

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