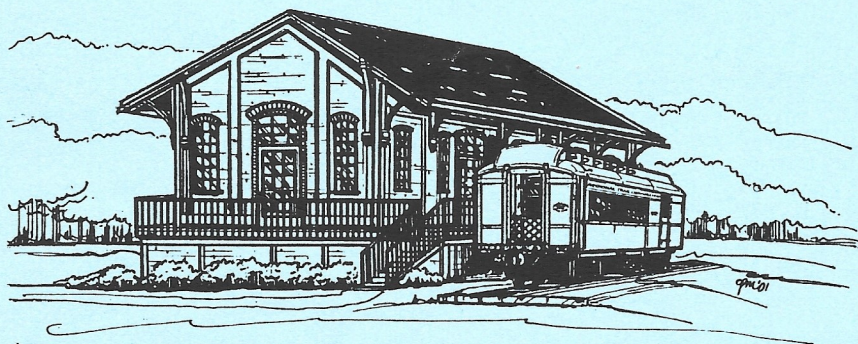


A Promise Kept



*Saturday, April 7, 2001
The Regional Trail Corporation
Groundbreaking
The Youghiogheny River
Environmental Education Center
and
Yough River Trail Visitor Center*

Ground Breaking Program

Saturday, April 7, 2001

2:00 PM

- Welcome Carol Bibby
Vice-President, Westmoreland Yough Trail Chapter
- “A Promise Kept” John Markle
Regional Trail Corporation
- Introduction of Honorable Guests John Markle
- Ground Breaking Caz Liszewski
Project Coordinator
- Refreshments and Tours of Rail Car Staff
Regional Trail Corporation

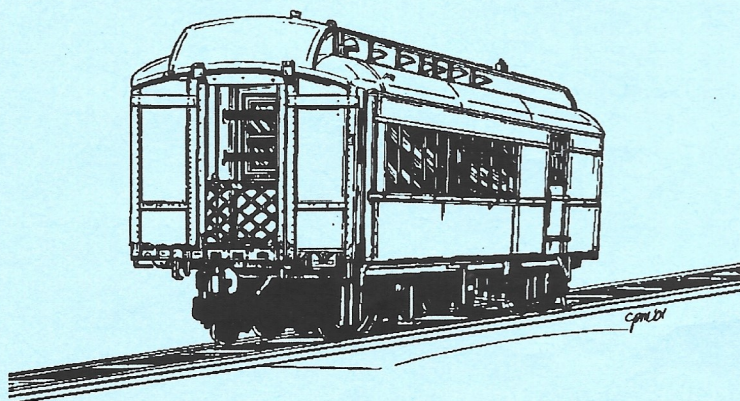
Please register at the Registration Table, located adjacent to the Rail Car.

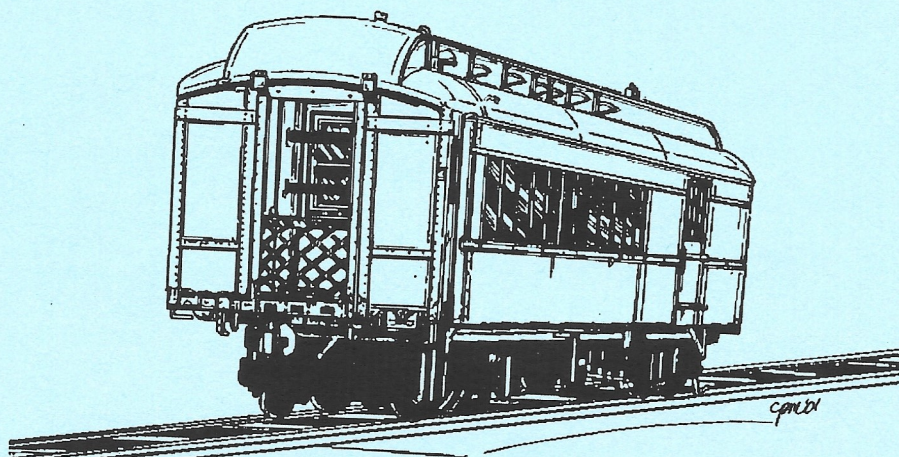
You may also wish to visit the Regional Trail Corporation's Gift Shop, located in the Rite Aid Annex on Route 136.

Project Goals and Timetable

Yough River Environmental Education Center & Visitor Center

Fall, 2001	Spring, 2002	Fall, 2002	Spring, 2003	Fall, 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Education Center Exterior Completed • Visitor Center Exterior Completed • School Learning Programs Initiated and Provided To Local School Districts • Begin Work on EE and Visitor Center Interiors Landscaping Projects Begin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscaping and Parking Area Work Continues Educational • Programs Expanded to Include Community and Civic Groups • Landscaping Projects Continue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedication Ceremonies For Environmental Education Center and Visitor's Center • Adult and College Education • Programs Begin Landscaping Projects Continue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Line Programs Begin • Live Broadcast Feeds Provided For Site-Based Learning Activities To Be Telecast To Local Schools • Daily Education Programming and Tours Offered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of Environmental Education Concept To Other Trail Sites • Development of River Vistas For Community Use • Educational and Visitor's Center To Operate Programs on Full-time basis





On Independence Day Weekend, 1997, a group of students and adults spent their holiday weekend attempting to raise community awareness about environmental concerns and the learning opportunities available along the Youghiogheny River Basin.. Those students and their sponsors also raised \$310.52, which they donated to the Regional Trail Corporation for the movement of the Combination Baggage - Passenger Car from its location at Buddtown to its current site along Collinsburg Road in West Newton.

The students coined the phrase "Combination Renovation - Engineering Education." This slogan emphasized the trail group and educational community's plan was to convert the rail car into an Environmental Learning Center. On that 4th of July weekend, a promise was made by members of the Regional Trail Corporation - these students would be present at the ground breaking for the renovation and conversion of the rail car.

Through the efforts of those students and the Regional Trail Corporation, local industry and government became aware of the goals of this effort. Organizations and companies, including Allegheny Energy, The West Newton Lions Club, The West Newton Veterans of Foreign Wars, and General Nutrition made cash contributions to this effort. Frank Marsh, whose father was one of the Station Masters at the original Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad Station, also contributed to the project. Thanks to efforts put forth by Congressman Mascara and his staff, the CSX Corporation laid the rails and bed on which the rail car sits. The Mon Valley Education Consortium organized the local awareness effort which led to student involvement. Local government officials, including State Senator Allen Kukovich, State Representative Ted Harhai, and Congressman Frank Mascara, Penn DOT, DCNR and many others helped in the raising of the funds needed to initiate the project, which we dedicate today by way of this ground breaking ceremony.

Today we keep that promise. We hope that you will share in the enthusiasm which these young people and their fellow students have brought to this project. We seek your assistance and support in the continuation of this program. We need volunteers for a variety of project components. Make a promise today to help, so that your children, your grandchildren and their grandchildren will enjoy what we today have set forth to build.