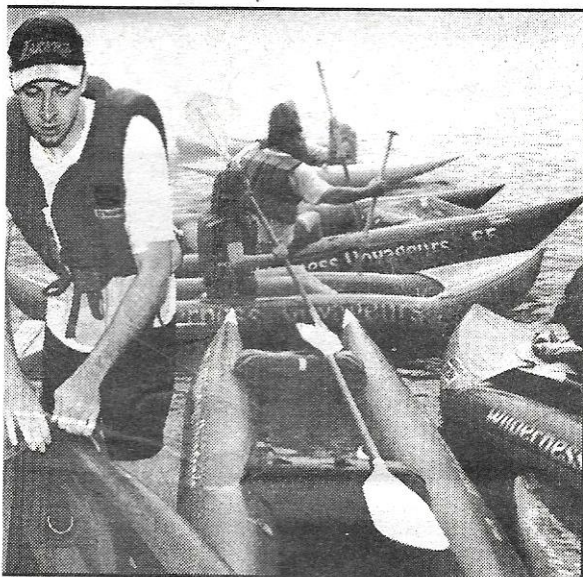


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Review Photo by John Brothers

**Over the waters of the Youghiogheny  
Fray of Scranton pulls his duckie, also  
a ni kayak, back into the water to con-  
tinue down the river.**

The Hamiltons' used the words wet and soggy to describe the first five miles of their journey down the Youghiogheny River.

Dave and Dorothy Hamilton were joined by their daughter, a sister and several nephews and a great-great-niece who were so far having a lot of fun.

With a sandwich in one hand and drink in the other, former Connellsville native Don Nixon, who now lives in Pittsburgh, recalled the times he swam in the Yough as a young boy. "I saw this in the newspaper and said whoopee. I've never done any of this," Nixon said.

For 8-year-old Logan Goddard of Mifflinburg, the trip was fun, but cold. Goddard was accompanied on his first sojourn by his mother, Susan, who said she started taking her older son, Cody, on river sojourns from the time he was 8.

Goddard said she and Cody paddled the Susquehanna River in New York. At first, Goddard said she was apprehensive about Logan being in

a duckie by himself, but after they were on the water she changed her mind. "This river is more fun and less dangerous," said Goddard. As a volunteer for the Westmoreland Regional Trail Council, Harry

Morrison of Latrobe said, although it rained, the first five miles of the trip were still pleasant.

"I've always loved rivers," said Rick Sherry, a 46-year-old firefighter from Bethlehem. "I traveled the Delaware (River) when I saw an ad about the sojourn five years ago, and I've been back every year."

The trip's itinerary included: Wednesday, biking from Ohioptyle to Connellsville for lunch and canoeing to The Rivers Edge Campground at Adelaide; Thursday, boaters will canoe from the campground to Dawson and continue to Whitsett; and on to Sutersville on Friday. There, they will stay until Saturday, biking for a half-day to Boston, Pa., to join in a Boston Tea Party before canoeing to McKeesport to celebrate.

*Kristen Hays, an Associated Press writer, and Joyce Koballa, a reporter for The Daily Courier in Connellsville, contributed to this story.*