

Car mishap claims new RVTA leader Offa Lou Jenkins

The Roanoke Valley Trail Association suffered an untimely loss Dec. 1 when RVTA Chair Offa Lou Jenkins was struck and killed by an automobile on the street in front of her home in Littleton. Mrs. Jenkins, who long served education, numerous causes and her community, had recently assumed the chair of the RVTA when Tommy Semler moved from the area.

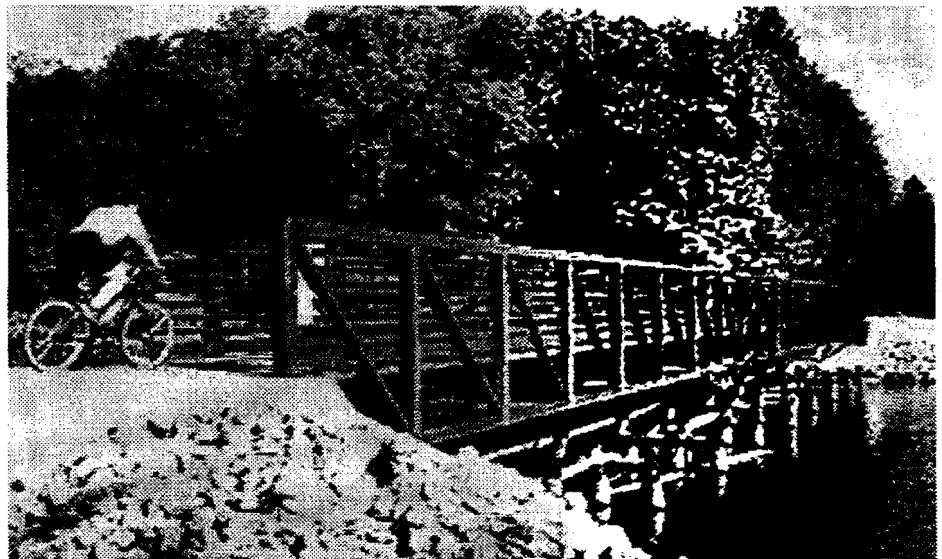
Mrs. Jenkins, 79, was a native of Warren County and grew up near Littleton. After college, she taught in the Norfolk and Portsmouth, VA, school systems. Her career in education continued through a doctorate degree from the University of Virginia and secondary school administration positions. She went on to be professor in charge of the special education program at Marshall University and chair of the special education department at Winthrop College.

She returned to Littleton upon her retirement and continued her extensive public service activities, including serving as the mayor of Littleton and was on the Halifax County School Board at the time of her death. After her death, her family found files on more than 200 active projects in her home.

She had been a member of the Roanoke Valley Trail Association from the beginning of the feasibility study.

A Dec. 6 memorial service for Mrs. Jenkins filled the Lakeland Arts Center, a converted school building, which was one of her many successful community projects.

NCRT extends its condolences to the Jenkins family and the town of Littleton.



Greensboro reconnected

A key Greensboro and Guilford County trails connection went up in smoke three years ago when arson damaged one railroad bridge and destroyed a second over the Lake Brandt reservoir. The damaged bridge has been repaired and this 140-ft. replacement bridge was officially opened Oct. 18. The bridge was funded by a \$137,500 Weaver Foundation grant to the Piedmont Land Conservancy. The burnt pilings of the original wooden bridge can be seen below the new clear span steel structure.

Brevard council hears new trail proposal

The Brevard City Council reacted favorably Dec. 15 to a proposed three-mile trail that would connect public facilities and recreation resources to Pisgah National Forest. The proposed trail would be built on donated public and private rights-of-way, including a long-abandoned logging railroad.

The proposal was made by the Brevard Bicycle/Pedestrian Path Study Committee, formed in the midst of controversy over an earlier rail-to-trail proposal to connect downtown Brevard to community schools, hospital and recreation center. That project is stalled by a title challenge brought by numerous adjacent property owners. The complaint awaits action in

federal district court. Longtime Mayor John Peterson, who led the rail-trail opposition, lost his position in the Nov. 4 elections.

The newly proposed trail would be north and west of the rail-trail project, thus connecting the recreation center to Sycamore Flats picnic area in the national forest.

The study committee also looked at road lanes to serve bicyclists and pedestrians.

**Happy Holidays
and smooth trails to y'all!**

Anti-trails bill gets leadership backing

The recent addition of Rep. Dick Arney, U.S. House majority leader, to the list of H.R. 2438 co-sponsors indicates that private property rights interests are mounting a serious attack on federal railbanking and interim trails. It is expected that some form of the bill will be taken up by the Resources National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee when Congress returns for the new year..

Rep. Jim Ryun's attempt to fast-track an attack on Section 8(d) federal railbanking hit a speed bump Nov. 6 when the House National Parks and Public Lands subcommittee waved off an early vote to rush H.R. 2438 to the full Resources committee.

Criticism was lodged on the merits of the bill and the rush to prematurely move the legislation before Congress recessed for the year. After a critical statement about the bill by the ranking minority member, a chorus of dissent against moving the legislation went up from both ends of the table. Even majority members protested that the bill had not been debated after an Oct. 30 hearing.

Most of the negative comment came from Midwestern representatives. Within minutes, Rep. James Hanson (R-UT), the NP&PL chair, said that it was evident that there were not the votes to send the legislation up to the full committee. Rep. Ryun (R-KS) then called off the vote by removing the issue from consideration at that time.

H.R. 2438 was introduced Sept. 9 by Rep. Ryun. By Nov. 13, the list of Republican co-sponsors had grown to 56 with all but 13 representing western states. Three Democrats, one from Indiana and two from Texas, joined the GOP backers.

Co-sponsors hold 20 of the majority's 27 seats on the House Committee on Resources, to which the bill was assigned. One of the co-sponsors, Rep. Don Young (R-AK), chairs the Resources committee.

Twelve co-sponsors are on the National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee with one, Rep. James Hansen (R-UT), holding that chair. Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC 3rd) is a bill co-sponsor on the subcommittee.

Trail advocates are urged to register opposition to H.R. 2438 with their Congressional representatives.

Representative's name is followed by district number and hometown. All mail addresses are Washington, DC 20515.

Eva M. Clayton (NC 1 - Littleton)
2440 Rayburn HOB
202-225-3101

Bob Etheridge (NC 2 - Lillington)
1641 Longworth HOB
202-225-4531

Walter B. Jones (NC 3 - Farmville)
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202-225-3415

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Howard Coble (NC 6 - Greensboro)
2239 Rayburn HOB
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Mike McIntyre (NC 7 - Lumberton)
1605 Longworth HOB
202-225-2731

W. G. (Bill) Hefner (NC 8 - Concord)
2470 Rayburn HOB
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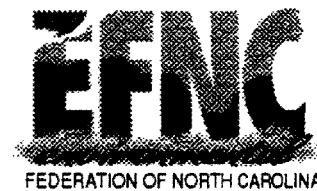
Sue Myrick (NC 9 - Charlotte)
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202-225-1976

Cass Ballenger (NC 10 - Hickory)
2182 Rayburn HOB
202-225-2576

Charles H. Taylor (NC 11 - Brevard)
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A million here, a million there

Travel and tourism is the second largest North Carolina industry with \$9.2 billion in annual expenditures.

The state travel industry directly supports 161,000 jobs and another 100,000 jobs indirectly.

More than \$438 million in state tax revenues and \$245 million in local tax revenues are generated by tourism to support roads, parks and schools.

So how about investing a measley mil or two in trail development? Hello, Raleigh?
--Ed

Rail-trails mean business

According to a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management survey of businesses along the Cape Cod Rail Trail, 75 percent of owners believe the trail's proximity to their business will make it easier for them to sell in the years ahead and 60 percent say they have expanded their business since opening and cite the trail as a prominent factor in their expansion decision.

Take it with you by rail

Now you can take it with you. Your bicycle, that is.

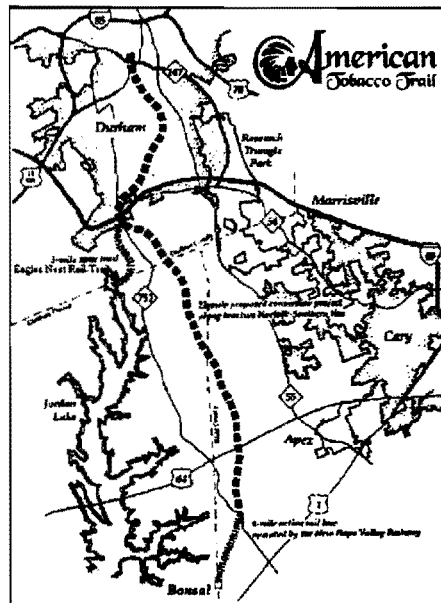
The Piedmont passenger train's new checked bicycle service allows you to hop aboard without the need for a bike carton. Up to 10 bikes can be carried in a special baggage car rack. The cost is \$5.00. Make the bike space reservation when you call Amtrak to arrange your trip. Call 800-875-7245.

Tandems loaded on the baggage car do need to be in cartons. Folding bicycles can be taken aboard the Piedmont and stowed in baggage shelves.

ATT pieces coming together in Triangle

The American Tobacco Trail is being pulled together piece by piece and moved toward the long-sought vision of a strategic spine for Triangle greenways. State and local governments, businesses and citizen advocates all are playing roles in making the 23-mile project reality.

- The first piece of trail was set in asphalt this fall when a section behind a new Eckerd store on Fayetteville Road in Durham was officially recognized at a Nov. 4 ceremony. For its contribution to the trail, Eckerd was awarded a symbolic golden spike by Triangle Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and NCRT.
- Durham planning and NC DOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Division have completed designs for the Durham city section, which will be constructed in three phases this spring and summer. The work will begin downtown and proceed south.
- Work is underway on a large commercial and residential development in south Durham that will incorporate an ATT connector to help span the "Durham Gap" north of I-40.
- The Durham city and county governments have adopted greenway master plan amendments that call for ATT routing across I-40 via a new bridge, rather than using existing highway bridges.
- Durham planning has signed an option to purchase the section from Massey Chapel Road to Fayetteville Road. Meanwhile, NC DOT Rail Division is negotiating with Norfolk-Southern to purchase three miles from Fayetteville Road to the Chatham County line.
- The Rail Division also is negotiating



to acquire the unprotected section in Chatham County. The county is moving on trail development and management plans in anticipation of leasing the corridor.

- The Wake County section was acquired two years ago by the Rails Division. Wake County has petitioned NC DOT to put top priority on completing acquisition of the Chatham County segment. And the Wakes parks and recreation department is planning hearings on trail development and management.
- TRTC continues to clean and brush the Durham sections, promote public support and monitor the many aspects of the ATT project. Working with the Durham Open Spaces and Trails Council, TRTC gathered support for an ordinance to protect all surplus rail corridors that are on the DOST master plan. Resolutions also were passed to discourage at-grade automobile crossings on the ATT.

Lincolnton development aims for spring start

A second round of bids for developing the downtown section of the Lincolnton Railroad Greenway has resulted in an acceptable proposal. Work on drainage improvements, retaining walls and trail surface paving is expect to begin in the first quarter of 1998. Landscaping of the first half-mile section is planned to follow soon after.

The project improvements were delayed when no acceptable bid was obtain last summer for a scheduled fall opening. The development is being financed by ISTE A enhancement funds administered by the state pedestrian and bicycle program.

Purchase of the .7-mile segment was financed by state Rail Division ISTE A funds.

Bill boosts trails funding

The House BESTEA bill would increase National Recreational Trails Fund to \$120 million over three years. It would authorize \$30 million for 1998 and add \$10 million to each of the next two years. The federal trails fund, which distributes off-road fuel taxes to state trails programs, has been sparsely funded under the original ISTE A.

Please note NCRT's change of address to:

North Carolina Rail-Trails
PO Box 61348
Durham NC 27715-1348

Stop by the Info Depot:
<http://www.NCRail-Trails.org>

JOIN THE NORTH CAROLINA RAIL-TRAILS INITIATIVE, NOW!

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____ Best Time _____

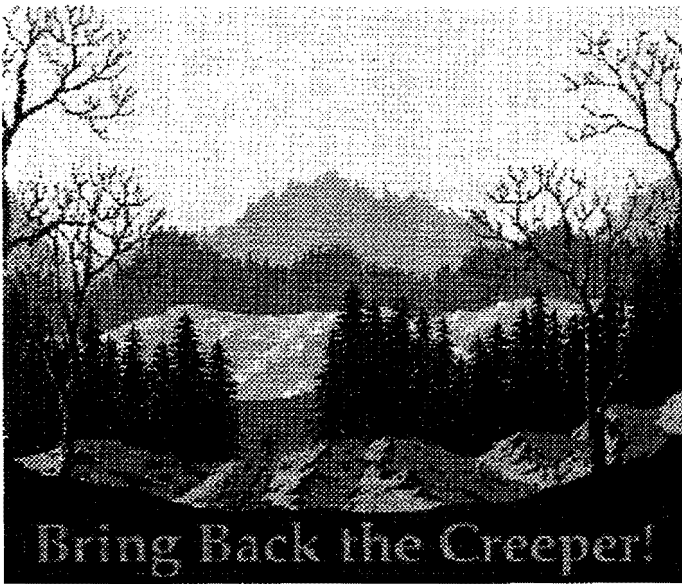
Reason for interest in rail-trails _____

NCRT annual memberships: Individual - \$20, Corporate - \$100

Mail to North Carolina Rail Trails, PO Box 61348, Durham NC 27715-1348

(Winter 98)

THANK YOU FOR JOINING NCRT



*Interested in acquiring a scenic mountain trailside retreat?
For more information, call 704-495 4472
e-mail infodepot@ncrail-trails.org*

Land trust receives mining spur line

The LandTrust for Central North Carolina recently received fee simple title to approximately three miles of spur line at Gold Hill in Rowan County. The spur connected the Winston-Salem Southbound (CSX) to historic gold and copper mines in that area. The corridor property was donated by a private party in New York. The land trust is formulating plans for the property.

NCRT meets Jan. 10 at Williamston

NCRT's winter quarter meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Williamston Town Hall. The Williamston Shewarkey Trail and Stokes section of Coastal Carolina Trail projects will be reviewed and toured. Quarterly meetings are open to the public.

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Wake County	Leslie Kennedy	919-362-4011
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NC DOT Rail Planner	Mark Sullivan	919-733-4713
NC DOT Bike-Ped. Prog.	Curtis Yates	919-733-2804
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	Steve Emmett-Mattox	202-797-5400
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