

# PP&L sells the Rock



A rock climber stretches for a hand-hold on the sheer face of Chiques Rock.

Chiques Rock has been sold by PP&L to the Lancaster County Conservancy for \$33,900. The transfer of the 113 acre tract was formalized yesterday in the law offices of Morgan, Hallgren & Heinly in Lancaster.

The Conservancy, which plans to maintain the Rock as open space, will initiate a clean-up and maintenance program manned by volunteers and CETA aides in May. Nature preserve signs will be installed on the perimeter of the area.

The signs will state the rules for public use of the park—no camping, no littering, no removal of plants, etcetera. During the clean-up, the Conservancy will decide which parts of the park should be maintained as special preserves or natural habitats.

Chiques Rock is the third tract acquired by the conservancy. Earlier acquisitions were a 2 acre tract along the Little Conestoga, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Warren H. Boyer, and 46 acres of woodland along Trout Run Creek, donated by Charles and Fred Hauer and their sister, F. June Graf.

The funds for the purchase of the Chiques Rock area were supplied by Conservancy members and volunteers who share a concern for the preservation of scenic open space and environmentally critical areas of Lancaster County.

At the formal transfer, Robert Mowrer represented the Conservancy. PP&L representatives were; Arch Knisely, Community Affairs Manager; Walter Seifried, Columbia Affairs Manager, and George Aukamp, Superintendent of Lake Aldred.

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## Susquehanna Times

BOX 75-A R.D. #1  
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# Editorial: Thank you PP&L

The idea of turning Chiques Rock into a park may or may not be a good one. However, even those of us who have serious doubts about the wisdom of that decision should have some kind words for PP&L right now.

Many local people opposed the idea of turning the Rock into a public park because they were afraid that park status would, paradoxically, threaten the wild beauty of the area. For years, PP&L and the Marietta Gravity Co. have preserved the Rock's woodlands. They also generously allowed the public to use the area for recreation.

After the County Commissioners voted to create the park, PP&L sold its share of the area to the Lancaster County Conservancy (a private conservationist group) for the incredibly low price of \$300 an acre. That isn't a sale. It's a donation.

PP&L has, in effect, given the Rock to the public.

Like all large companies, PP&L gets a lot of criticism. The power industry is technologically complex,

highly regulated, and subject to an incredible variety of taxes.

That unavoidable complexity sometimes breeds irritation—especially when it is reflected in an incomprehensible electric bill.

Did the computer send you the wrong bill? Where did that new tax come from?

You can't call the owner and ask him to explain what's going on. PP&L has 160,000 owners. Most of them are ordinary people and a large percentage are PP&L customers who complain about their own bills.

People certainly have a right to complain, but they should also give praise where it is due. Over the years, PP&L has been one of the best corporate citizens in Lancaster County.

PP&L owns a lot of land, and most of those acres are timbered recreation areas. The Susquehanna River would be a lot less beautiful if its shorelines had been sold to developers.

Hunters, hikers and fishermen all have good reason

to thank their power company. So does anyone who boats, goes on picnics, or studies nature.

In giving away Chickies Rock, PP&L has demonstrated again the public-spirited attitude that governs all that company's land-use policy. We'd like to thank them for it.

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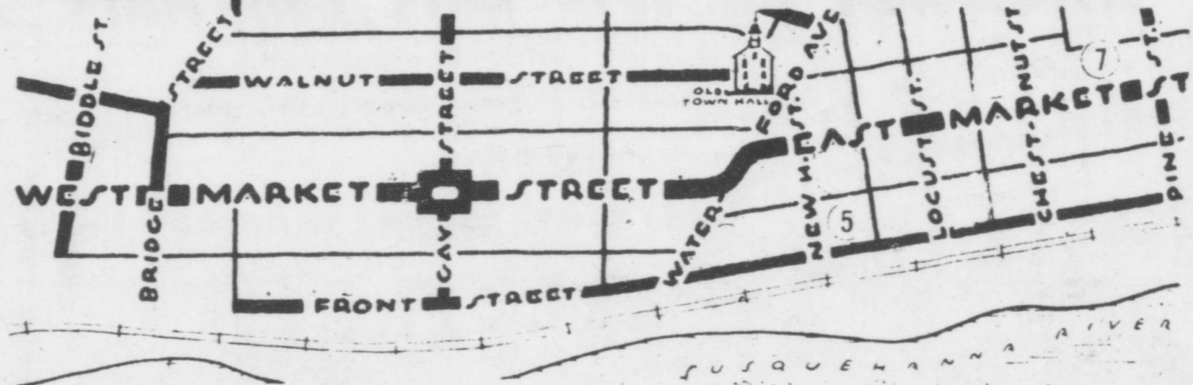


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