

MP 36.5 Brush Run Road Bridge

Mile 35.5 Trail Bethel Branch MP 2.8

Overhead deck plate girder bridge with wooden deck carried Brush Run Road over the Montour Railroad. A hi-rail truck works a weed spraying project west of the bridge.



Photo courtesy Tim Sposato Collection

A 2012 view from near the same location shows the bridge removed and the cut filled in. The Montour Trail runs up the fill to the roadway level crossing.



Bryan Seip photo

A 1980's view from the same location shows a short train making its way eastbound past the bridge.



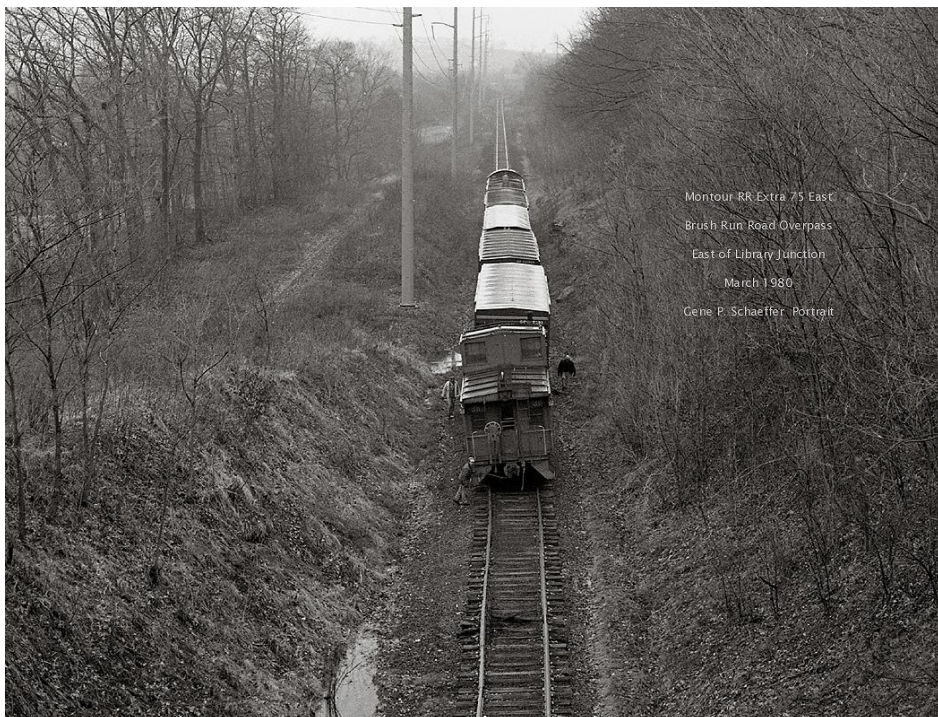
Gene P. Schaeffer photo

The bridge was a good spot for photographing Montour trains as they worked their way along the cut. Just east of the bridge, Montour #27 leads a train of coal eastbound toward Mifflin Junction in 1952, and a few minutes later, #25 works by, pushing on the rear. Due to the winding geography of the railroad, eastbound trains were actually headed west on the compass at this location.



Photos courtesy William Poellot, Jr.

A view off the other side of the bridge in March, 1980 shows a problem, as caboose #36 has derailed just west of the bridge, dropping its left side wheels onto the ties due to wide gauge in the rails. This short train of box cars was headed railroad eastbound to Brookside Lumber in Bethel Park.



Gene P. Schaeffer photo

2012 views from each side of the Brush Run Road crossing show the cut filled in and the Montour Trail rising up to a road level crossing. East of the bridge site, where the steam train curved through the cut, is now a parking area, and on the west side, where the derailment was shown, the filled-in cut is seen as the trail runs toward Bethel Park.



Bryan Seip photos

Aerial views show the bridge site over the railroad and cut. The bridge is above center, with the railroad/trail running from top left to bottom right, where Library Junction's wye can be seen. Brush Run Road runs from center left to upper right. Peters Presbyterian Church is at the intersection of Brush Run and Brookwood Roads in lower left quadrant. Houses now fill farm land on both sides of Brush Run Road.



1939 view courtesy Penn Pilot



2011 view courtesy Google Images