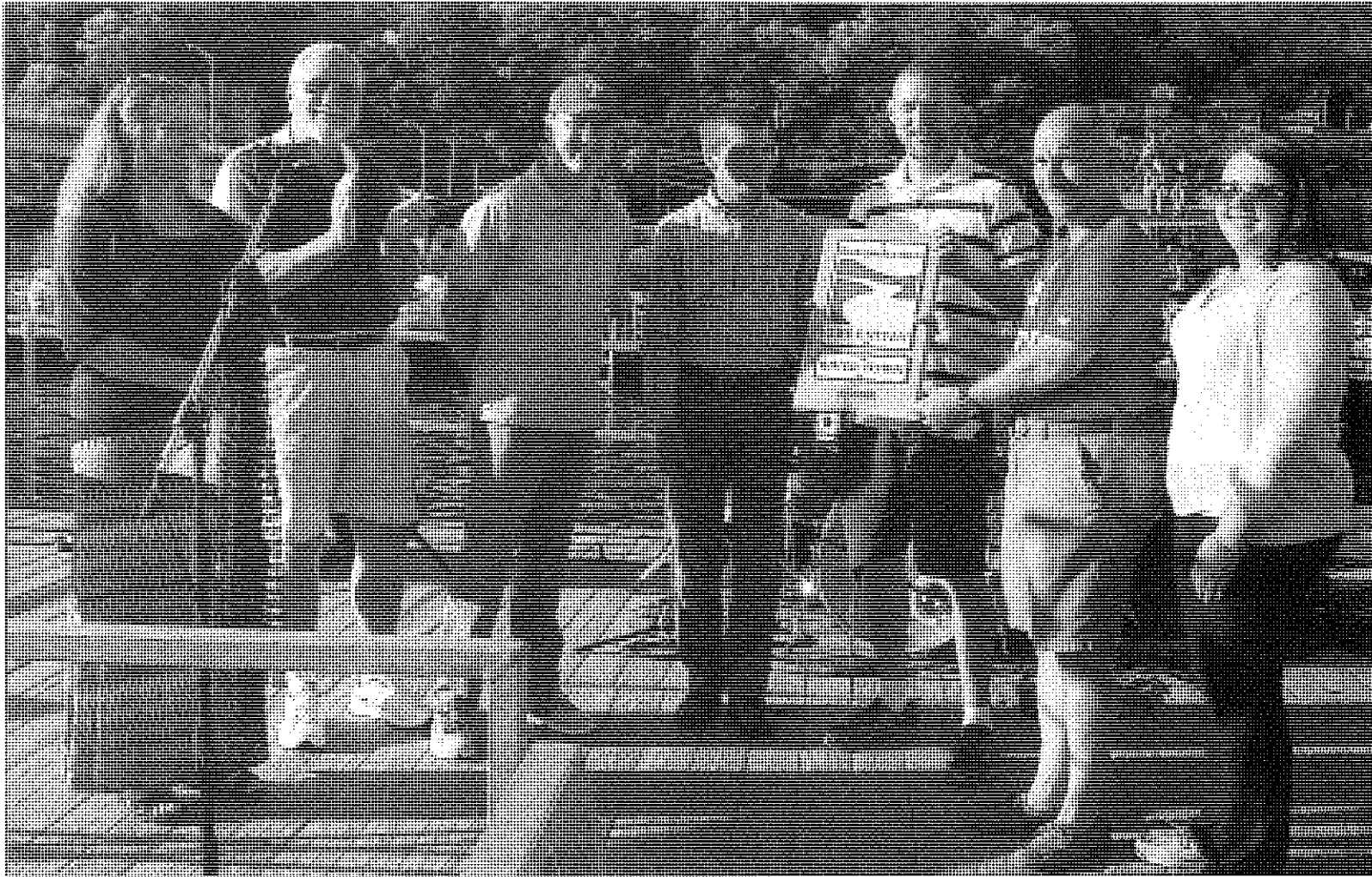
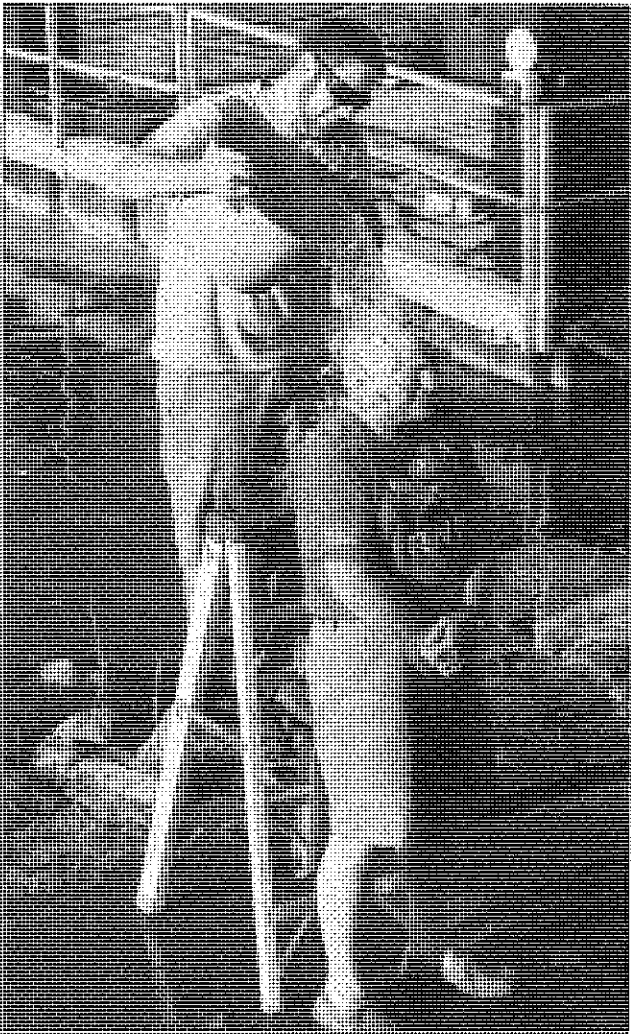


# A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT



JIM BUNKLE/THE EXPRESS

Participating in the ceremony designating Lock Haven as a "River Town," Sunday at Corson Amphitheatre were, from left, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership representative Alice Trowbridge, Clinton County Commissioners Pete Smeltz and Joel Long, Partnership representative Zac Fyle, President of Downtown Lock Haven Inc. Josh Grimes, Lock Haven Mayor Rick Viallo and Downtown Manager Natasha Gorham. Below left, the mayor takes the ice bucket challenge following the ceremony, much to the enjoyment of the crowd. Below right, Tom Wolf, Democratic Party nominee for Governor of Pennsylvania in the 2014 election, made a surprise visit to the amphitheatre Sunday evening, as a brief stop on the campaign trail. He is seen with Stephanie and Joe Waltz of Lock Haven.



# City officially designated as River Town

By **JIM RUNKLE**

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**LOCK HAVEN** — Lock

Haven — once a river town, still a river town and likely to remain a river town into the future — was officially designated a “River Town” Sunday at a short ceremony at the Corman Amphitheatre in the city.

The city has always been a river town — but this is the official designation, and it arrives by way of an initiative from the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership.

The partnership offers a River Towns Technical Assistance Program to help communities return to the river and their historic downtowns.

The partnership’s goals include helping towns along the Susquehanna create river parks, bike trails, walking trails and water

access points; attract and promote sustainable economic development; protect water quality; and lessen flood damage with green infrastructure.

The floating stage, just before the concert by Tusk, was an appropriate venue, many thought, since the amphitheatre was built as a recreational feature of the Susquehanna River, and the stage was an additional feature that expanded its use.

The new designation should open up some new opportunities that enhance those efforts and expand upon them, according to Mayor Rick Vilello.

“This was an easy decision,” Vilello said, “and we are honored to be a part of this effort.”

The concept is an effort to cross the borders that separate local governments and communities and

create a green corridor of recreational and enhanced use for the Susquehanna River.

The program’s focus on attracting businesses and tourists to that corridor makes it a natural for Downtown Lock Haven Inc., the nonprofit agency that boosts the city’s shopping district.

The benefits of becoming an official River Town include help toward building or sprucing up an attractive riverfront. This in turn can draw tourists, attract businesses and jobs, increase property values and tax revenues, and encourage healthy exercise.

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership has been working since 2001 to connect communities along the 500-mile river, said Alice Trowbridge, the partnership’s greenway coordinator. This giant greenway is being developed

community by community, she said.

As for the SGP organization itself, she said, it can offer technical help for planning and project development, money to make things happen, and marketing through its website, newsletter, press releases and social media.

The city also is required to promote the river as a resource in at least two ways, City Councilman Ted Forbes reported, requirements that seem entirely possible for Lock Haven to meet.

The mayor also publically took the ice bucket challenge before the concert.

Among those attending were Tom Wolf, Democratic nominee for governor, accompanied by State Rep. Mike Hanna, and candidate for U.S. Congress Kerith Strano Taylor