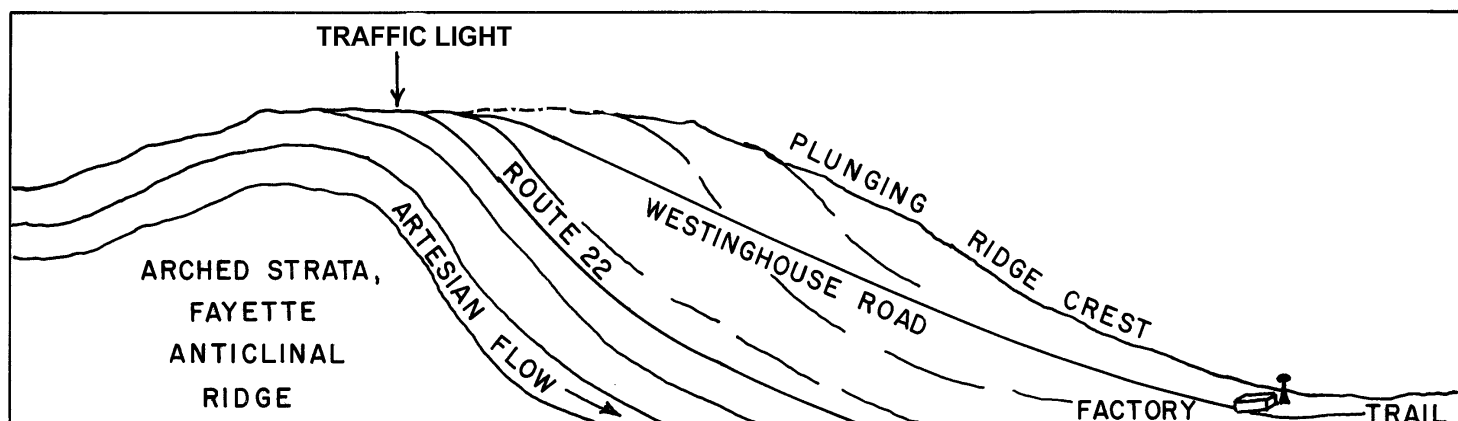


WEST PENN TRAIL

at

SOCIAL HALL SPRING



These stone wing walls confine the discharge end of a 24-inch iron pipe that conducted water from adjacent fields into a 24-inch drain culvert that conveyed the troublesome flow away from the railroad bed and sent the water eastward, toward the river. The size of the drain pipe is a measure of the large volume of water that once flowed toward the railroad corridor, where the water flooded the track bed, until the flow was intercepted and diverted away from the tracks.

In the language of the 1839 newspaper advertisement, it was a "never-failing" artesian flow – a mountain-side "spring". But where was the mountain?

That mountain is a ridge, called the Fayette Anticline, that runs 70+ miles, southwest to northeast, from Uniontown; on Route 30, east of Greensburg, the

Mountain View Motel is perched on the crest of the ridge. On Route 22, west of Blairsville, the ridge summit is much lower, and is located where there is now a traffic light at the entrance to the Westinghouse Road. East and west of that light, Route 22 climbs up a low hill to the crest of the ridge. The ridge, there, is not very high because, at that point, the anticline begins to plunge underground, north of Route 22. The Westinghouse Road is on the sloping nose of the plunging ridge.

Underground water flows down the west flank of the ridge, seeping through porous sandstone strata that dip (slope) downwards toward the 1907 railroad grade. That artesian flow emerged above ground as the "never-failing" spring that supplied the Social Hall farm property; later, that strong seep became a nuisance that had to be diverted away from the railroad bed.