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Tuesday, August 24, 2004 — Time: 12:53:21 AM EST

Local News

- Front page
- Business
- Classifieds
- Editorials
- Local columns
- Letters to the editor
- Neighborhood news
- News
- Obituaries
- Weddings
- Engagements
- Readers Feedback
- Corrections
- Circulation Services

News

- Ohio
- West Virginia
- National
- International

Sports

- Local/state
- National
-

Affiliated sites

- Warren Tribune Chronicle
- East Liverpool Review
- The Steubenville Herald-Star

Morgan (Monument) rides again

By MARY ANN GREIER/Salem News staff writer

LISBON - The monument marking the surrender of confederate raider Gen. John Morgan returned home less than a mile east Monday, hitching a lift via Davidson's Towing.

"The monument has been picked up and moved out of the roadside park," East Liverpool Historical Society President Tim Brookes said.

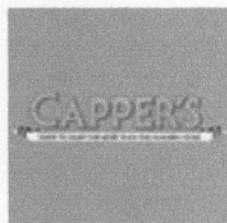
With the proposed closing of the rest area maintained by the Ohio Department of Transportation on state Route 518, Morgan's Monument needed a new home and Brookes couldn't think of a better spot than it's original resting place. "We're just pleased to get it done," he said.

Bill Davidson of Davidson's Towing in Salem donated his services to make the big move, slowly hauling the 2- or 3-ton stone and base in one trip suspended from the back of a tow truck normally used to haul semi trucks.

The East Liverpool Historical Society owns the 20-foot by 30-foot parcel of land where the monument originally stood before it was moved to the rest area in 1958. East Liverpool resident Will L. Thompson erected the monument in 1908 near the area where historians thought the actual surrender took place.

The monument survived the trip unscathed and was set on some steel beams near the hole where it will be placed. Brookes said they still need to do some preparation at the site.

After its removal from the rest area, he said they discovered



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gravel had been placed in the hole before the 20-inch thick base which measures 4-foot by 6-foot. They plan to also place gravel in the new hole, place the base inside with the 6-foot tall monument on top and fill in where needed.

Once everything's in place, he said they'll re-dedicate the monument. Sons of Confederate Veterans and Sons of Union Veterans have already shown an interest in attending and he said previously the confederate group had offered to maintain the site.

People who want to visit the site can park in the lot at Mellott's Welding Shop. Brookes said company owner Terry Mellott and land owner Doug Hoppel have both been cooperative and helpful.

County Recorder Jeff Hochadel arranged for the lift from Davidson and was present for the occasion, along with Commissioner Jim Hoppel and Brookes' father, Charles.

The move attracted some people passing through but caused no major traffic tie-ups, according to Brookes.

The site will eventually receive recognition as part of the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail, a project tracing Morgan's path through Ohio, sponsored by the Ohio Civil Wars Trail Commission. The trail will include two or three markers in Columbiana County.

Brookes had been working on the monument move for some time. He didn't want to see the monument moved to some site far away from the actual surrender point.

The move will make the monument more visible. He also said it's near the ridge where the union cavalry set up its battle line to stop Morgan from advancing.

ODOT also proposed closing a rest area on state Route 7 near state Route 46, holding a public meeting earlier this month to secure public comment on the proposed closings. Easements secured for the rest stops will be vacated, with the properties reverting back to the original owners.

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