

one of Howard Zahniser's sons.

Howard Zahniser - known to thousands as "Zahnie" - began a career in newspapers when his first job as a teen was working at *The Forest Press* in Tionesta, and later at papers in Illinois and Pittsburgh. He is most well known however for his work with The Wilderness Society. There he was an early advocate of a national policy for wilderness preservation. Zahniser initially drafted a wilderness bill in 1956, saw the legislation through 66 revisions from its introduction in 1956, and testified at all seventeen congressional hearings held on it throughout the United States. The act, a testimony to Zahniser's foresight and sheer persistence, was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on September 3, 1964, four months after Zahniser's untimely death.

Howard Zahniser, born in Franklin, Pennsylvania in 1906, was raised in Tionesta. Zahniser spent many years in Tionesta and was inspired by the area's natural beauty. He canoed on the great Allegheny River and enjoyed hiking in the forest around Tionesta. He is buried along the Allegheny River in the Tionesta Riverside Cemetery. Zahniser would likely be proud to know that some of the very islands he camped and picnicked on are now included, as the Allegheny Islands Wilderness, in the National Wilderness Preservation System that he was instrumental in seeing establishing for the Nation.

For more information on the state historical marker program, including instructions and deadlines for nominations, call (717) 787-8823.

Champion Of American Wilderness To Be Honored With Historical Marker

Nearly a century after his birth, Howard Zahniser is to be honored with a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker near his hometown of Tionesta, abutting the Allegheny National Forest. Zahniser was Executive Director of The Wilderness Society from 1945 to 1964, and the chief architect of the federal Wilderness Act of 1964. The Zahniser marker is one of 28 approved for installation statewide this year by the PHMC.

"On behalf of my family, I appreciate the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's interest in memorializing my father's life work and attachment to Tionesta and the Allegheny region," stated Ed Zahniser,