

Bedford Reservation – Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Historic Sites in our Parks

Elijah Nobles

Mills

Comstock Family

Distillery

Ma Parker's Tavern

Roads in Little Egypt

World's End

Gleeson Family – Astors – Astorhurst

James Egbert Homestead, Farm, Hannah Egbert Grave

Oxen Lanes – Sandstone Quarries

Cleaveland Hill Farm and Quarry

Mars Wager Quarry

Boy Scout Cabin – Hermit – Hermit Hollow Picnic Area

Sagamore Hills Beer Garden

Also see: Life in the Community of Little Egypt album

New York Central Freight Line

Also see: Trains, Trolleys and Planes album

Bedford Glens

Powers Mill, Mills

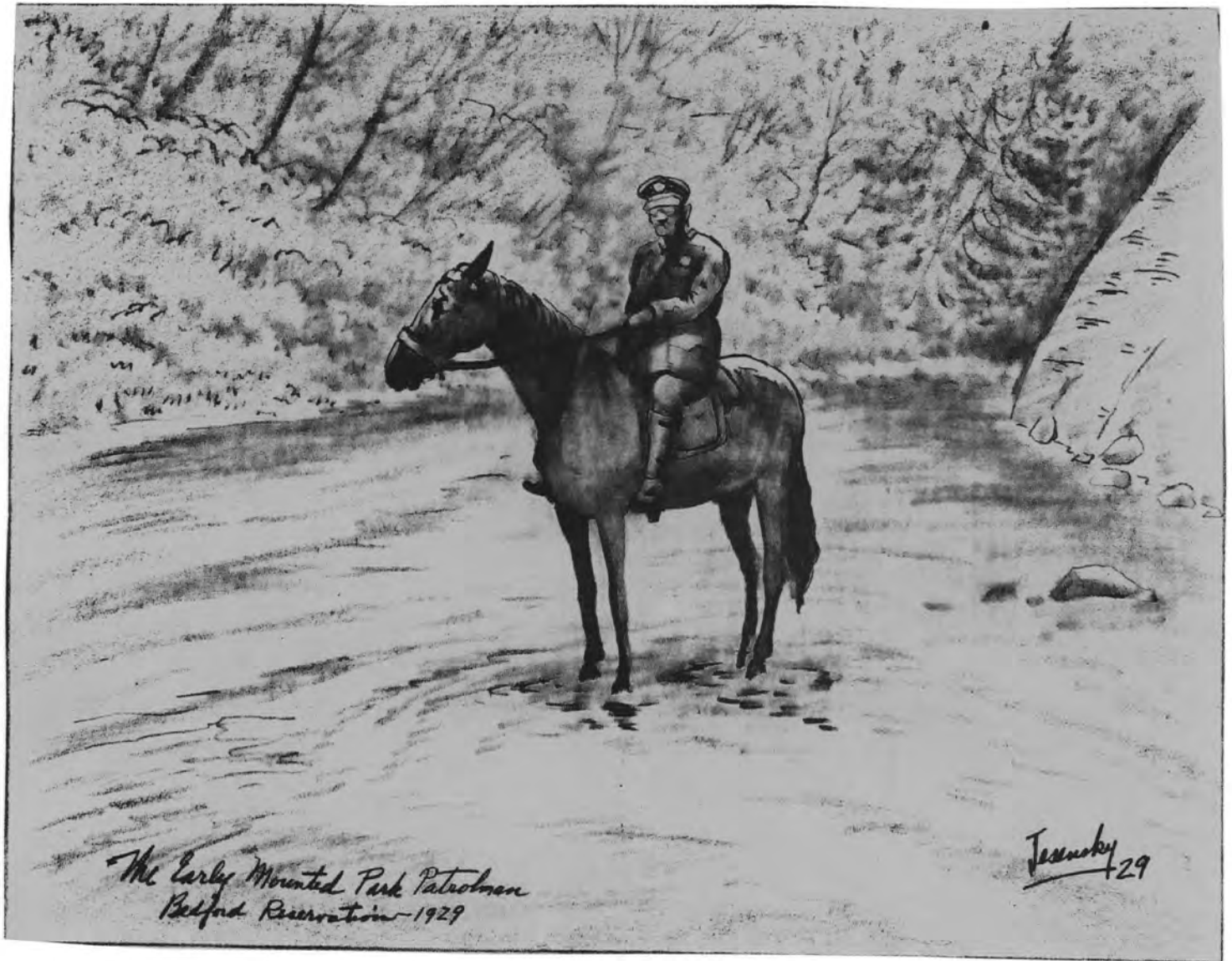
Viaduct Park

Field Trip Guide to Selected Sites in CVNP

Also see: Tinkers Creek Cemetery Album

A Mounted Park Patrolman oversaw Bedford Reservation in 1929

Park Ranger Gonyol and Park Ranger Mills shared the work schedule



***Historical Sites in Our Parks: Sights in Cuyahoga Valley National Park
and Bedford Reservation within Boundaries of the Village of Walton Hills c. 2004***

Ninety years ago promoters of a park system in Greater Cleveland acquired land in the area of Tinkers Creek for one of the first links in the development of an "Emerald Necklace," the Cleveland Metroparks.

In 1974 Congress authorized the creation of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, which is now the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Chapters in this booklet feature historic sites in Bedford Reservation and Cuyahoga Valley National Park that are within the boundaries of Walton Hills.

BEDFORD RESERVATION

When the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District was established in 1917, the Board of Park Commissioners recognized the significance of the Tinkers Creek gorge in Bedford Township and immediately made plans to survey and purchase land around the gorge.

Most of the gorge area was then privately owned by farmers who willingly sold their "worthless" back acreage to the Park District. The steep hillside banks of Tinkers Creek made the land economically unfit for farming.

Years back, in the mid 1800s, quarries operated along the banks of Tinkers Creek. Good quality, marketable sandstone had been removed from those banks. Also in the 1800s, the noise of working grist mills and saw mills could be heard along both the north and south sides of the area. But, by the early 1900s, blocks of discarded sandstone, foundation bricks, stone blocks, mill stones and discarded metal parts marked the spots where there had been quarries and mills.

By 1922 the Park District owned 712 acres of land around the area of Tinkers Creek, and named the park Bedford Reservation. A small portion of the park came from within Bedford city limits, but most of the acreage was in the township area that is now the Village of Walton Hills. At the present time Bedford Reservation encompasses 2206 acres of land, much of the additional land also within Walton Hills.

In the 1920s Bedford Reservation was a more or less undeveloped park. It was merely acres of hilly forest, winding streams, and a few trails.

In contrast to the nearby woods, park land along Egbert Road from today's ranger station past the golf course and into Lost Meadow Picnic Area had been acres of fields, abandoned farm land.

Many of the large evergreen trees we see in the park, especially those along Egbert Road, were planted in the 1930s. During the depression years the Board of Park Commissioners was able to use federal dollars to create the park we recognize today. The Civilian Conservation Corps Program developed Gorge Parkway, complete with scenic stone bridges, stone culverts and stone walls to enhance the park. Men hired by the CCC planted many spruce and other evergreen trees in selected areas. They improved the existing bridle paths. Picnic groves with pavilions were also the product of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Shawnee Hills Golf Course is the most versatile golf facility operated by the Metroparks. Shawnee Hills opened in 1957 as a public 9-hole, par 3 regulation course. Since its expansion in 1989, Shawnee Hills offers golfers an 18-hole regulation course, a 9-hole par 3 course and a 29-station Driving Range.

Golfers walking down the hill from the #1 green to the #2 tee, pass the grave site of Hannah Jane Egbert, the infant daughter of James Egbert who was buried in 1843 in her front yard. The 18-hole course was designed to skirt the grave site.

Bedford Reservation is considered a distinctive and significant area for several reasons: the Tinkers Creek Gorge, a unique, brittle shale-sandstone rock called the Bedford Formation, the diversity of plant and animal life, its many historic sites and Shawnee Hills Golf Course.



(2006 photo)

TINKERS CREEK GORGE

Today, the Tinkers Creek Gorge receives national recognition as a national natural landmark.

Except for when it flows through Bedford Reservation, Tinkers Creek is a calm, slow-moving stream. In our area, however, the river plunges abruptly in a series of cascades and waterfalls. Steep scenic cliffs of exposed sandstone and shale frame its sides. For over 12,000 years Tinkers Creek has been carving out a valley through Bedford Township. Its steep-walled gorge is one-half mile in length and 190 feet deep at the observation platform. As the river continues to slowly cut through soft and brittle sandstone and shale, the valley will become even deeper in years to come.

Many sightseers enjoy stopping along Gorge Parkway to view the spectacular gorge. The National Park Service saw the need to preserve the area, and in October of 1968 Tinkers Creek Gorge became a National Natural Historic Site, and is listed on the National Registry of Scenic Places.

A UNIQUE TYPE OF ROCK CALLED BEDFORD FORMATION

Geologists consider Bedford Reservation a significant site because of the exposure of a Mississippi Era shale and sandstone 300 million years old. The rock called Bedford Formation was first described and given its name in this park. It is a brittle, soft rock made of thin layers of shale alternating with thin layers of sandstone. This rock has the ripples or wave marks of the ocean, from when and where it was formed. The Bedford Formation is visible in the cascades, waterfalls, and rapids, and along the walls of the gorge in Bedford Reservation. It can also be found in other gorges in Northeast Ohio.

Besides going to Bedford Reservation to see the Bedford Formation, students of geology seek Cleveland Shale, usually found at a lower level, and Chagrin Shale, at a still lower level. Fossils of sharks and other fish can be found in the Cleveland Shale.

DIVERSE PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Bedford Reservation is noteworthy for its great diversity of plant and animal life. Many species of trees that are not typical of northeast Ohio grow along the hillsides, as well as several rare or endangered species of wildflowers. Many species of birds live in the area, some of which are not usually found in Northern Ohio. Seasoned naturalists and amateurs alike come to Bedford Reservation to seek and study the wonders of nature the park has to offer.

CASCADES, RAPIDS AND WATERFALLS

There are over 70 cascades, rapids and small waterfalls in Bedford Reservation, many of them along Deerlick Creek. Bridal Veil Falls, one of the most popular scenic spots in the park, is on South Branch of Deerlick Creek.

In 2013

Bedford Reservation : 2290 acres

in Bedford 1043 acres

in Walton Hills 939 acres

*This was before the
Parks obtained additional
acreage*

OUR JEWEL IN THE EMERALD NECKLACE

by Jean and Bob Kalnsinger

Make a guess.

Approximately how many people visited Bedford Metropark in 1992?

For the official count, all visitors were tallied, even though they may have been taking the scenic route to their home or work place. Was your estimate one million or more? In all, 1,273,140 people visited Bedford Metropark last year.

"I certainly think Bedford Metropark ranks #1 among all the parks circling Greater Cleveland, asserted William Osborne, Park Manager. "This park has some truly unique features, the gorge being its most famous attraction. Standing at the look-out, viewing the gorge in its natural glory, takes one back a few centuries to a time when this area was a true wilderness."

"Visitors from all over the country and from the far parts of the world marvel at the scenic features of Bedford Metropark, and often relate their feelings to the park staff," continued Osborne.

Prior to 1976 Bedford Metropark was serviced by Brecksville Metropark, along with Hinkley Metropark. In that year Osborne was named Park Manager of Bedford Metropark. Today Osborne continues as Manager and Scott Robbins is the Assistant Park Manager.

Osborne credits William Stinchcomb, the founding father of the Metropolitan Parks, for planning one of the finest park systems in the country. In 1917 The Cleveland Metropolitan Park District was established. Stinchcomb envisioned an "Emerald Necklace" of parks surrounding Greater Cleveland.

He foresaw the day when there would be the need for residents of the area to have nearby parks where they could seek recreation in a natural setting.

Throughout the 1920's the county bought selected tracks of land for this purpose.

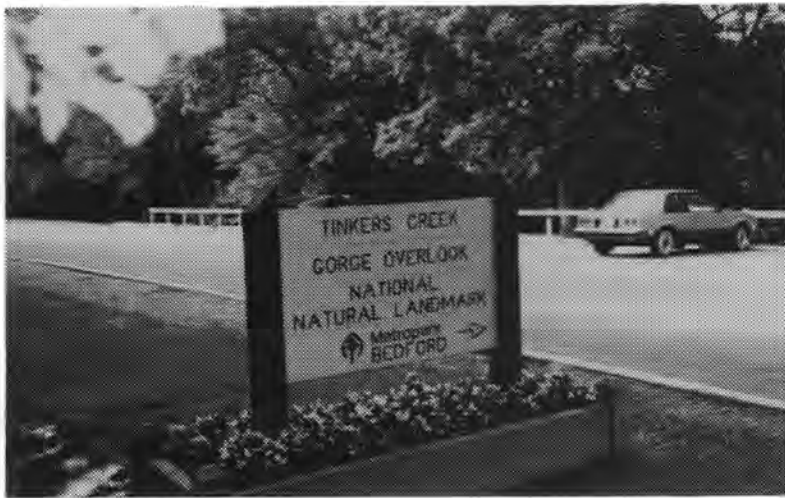


Photo by Nina Wolf

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(continuation of OUR JEWEL in the EMERALD NECKLACE)

The Park Commissioners recognized the significance of the Tinker's Creek and immediately made plans to survey and purchase land around the gorge. Although it had been privately owned, the area retained its natural state -- steep hillsides made the land economically unfit for farming and lumbering. By 1922 the park district owned 712 acres of land around Tinker's Creek, naming it Bedford Reservation. At the present time Bedford Metropark encompasses 1335 acres of land, much of the acreage coming from the township area that is now Walton Hills.

Visitors to the park frequently see rangers patrolling by car or on horseback. Park Rangers, who have full police powers, are trained by the State Highway Patrol and then by the Metroparks. Bedford Metropark has a very good safety record. Osborn attributes this to the Rangers' enforcement of speed limits and park rules. However, Osborn and his staff are always reminded of the occasional Tinkers' Creek drowning.

Additional articles about Bedford Metropark will be featured in future Owls, but the reader may want to order the park district's free monthly newsletter, The Emerald Necklace. Write to: Cleveland Metroparks, 4101 Fulton Parkway, Cleveland, Ohio 44144. The August newsletter lists all the Cleveland Metroparks Institute of the Great Outdoors fall courses. The September newsletter details the Institute's Chesapeake Bay trip. Registration and payment are required for these special offerings.



GORGE OVERLOOK in Bedford Reservation became a National Natural Landmark in 1968. The overlook stands on the old Cleveland Quarry. (2006 photo)

APRIL



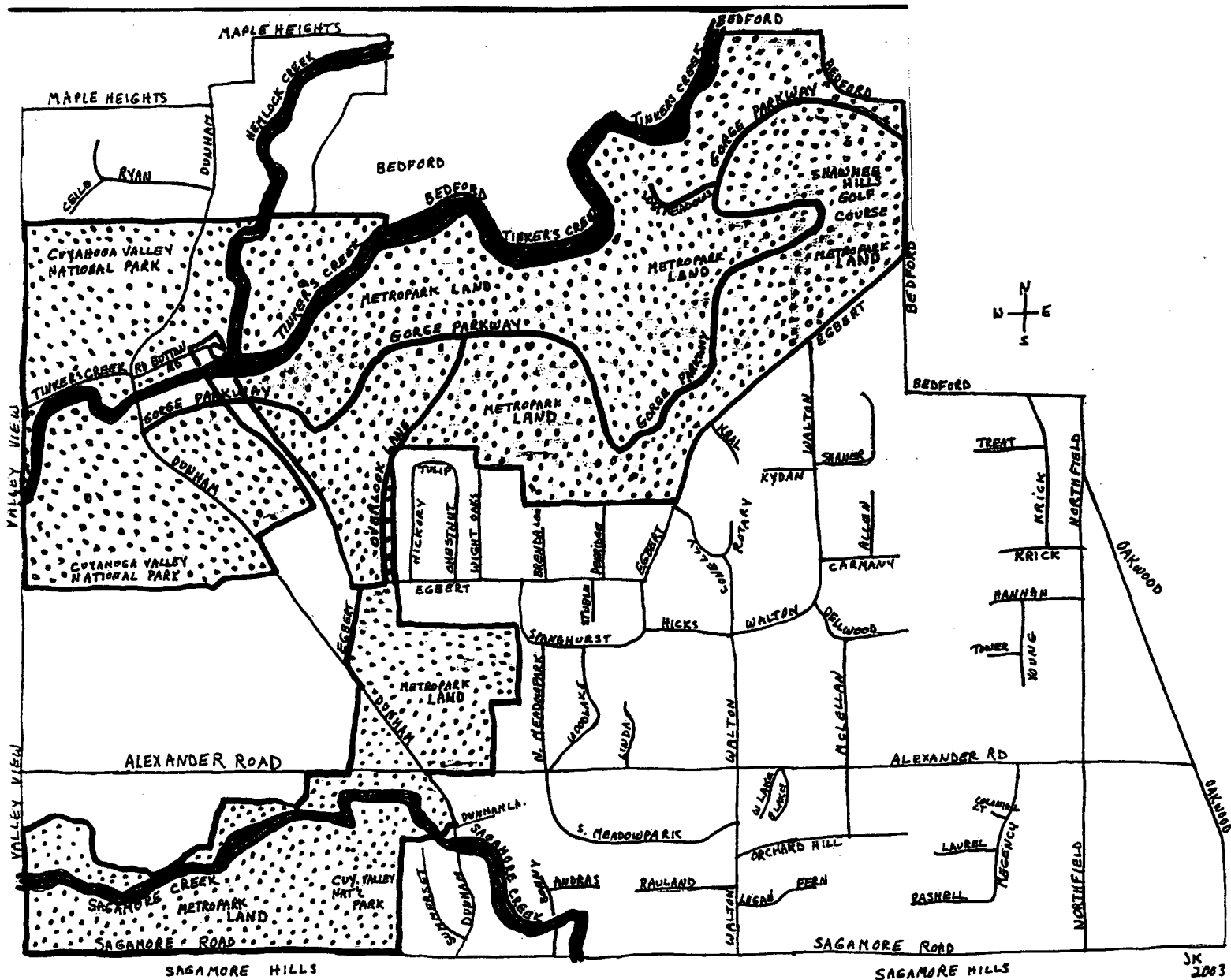
Bridal Veil Falls
Bedford Reservation

JUNE





AREAS of BEDFORD RESERVATION and the CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK within the BOUNDARIES of the VILLAGE of WALTON HILLS



The CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

For its first twenty-five years the park was named the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. In December of 1974 Congressman John Seiberling of Akron, along with a group of biologists, naturalists and historians, successfully persuaded Congress to authorize the creation of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. The CVNRA was established six months later, in June of 1975.

October 2000 marks the date when this national recreation area officially became the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, listed among other national parks like Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon. A section of the national park, small in size but having notable historic sites, is within the boundaries of the Village of Walton Hills. The CVNP includes the western parts of the village that abut Tinkers Creek, Sagamore Creek and Dunham Road.

The Cuyahoga Valley National Park is a 33,000 acre national park along the Cuyahoga River, stretching from Cleveland to Akron. The CVNP preserves the rural character of the Cuyahoga River Valley; a 22-mile long strip of yesterday, between two modern urban centers, Cleveland and Akron. The park has 125 miles of multi-purpose trails, and a canal with locks, aqueducts and a towpath. The park has historic significance, promotes cultural offerings and has recreational facilities.

The National Park Service allows some local parks and private businesses within the boundaries of the CVNP to operate independently. For example, Bedford Reservation which is part of the Cleveland Metroparks, is under the jurisdiction of the Cuyahoga County Board of Park Commissioners. The Astorhurst Restaurant and the Astorhurst Golf Club are two privately-owned businesses within the national park.

GLEESON GRIST MILL STONE, by Astorhurst Restaurant (1986 photo by Nina Wolf)



Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Ohio

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Ohio

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley National Park
15610 Vaughn Road
Brecksville, OH 44141



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

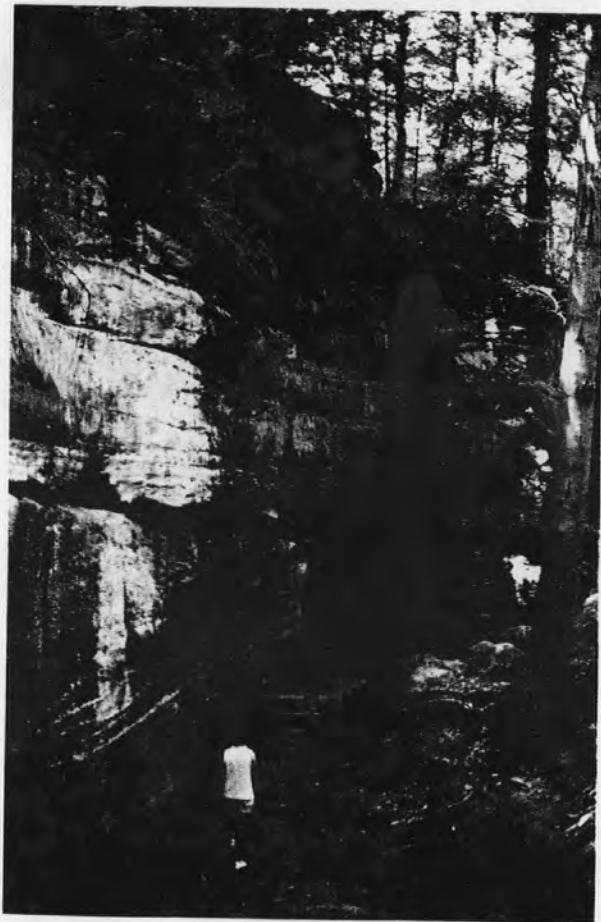
Cuyahoga Valley National Park



Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

1974

Explore the
**Cuyahoga
Valley**
National Recreation
Area ~ in Ohio



WELCOME to the CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Here in a gentle valley guarded by steep, wooded hillsides a new unit of the National Park System has been established by the Congress of the United States.

Over 30,000 acres along 22 miles of the Cuyahoga River between the major cities of Cleveland and Akron have been spared from the intrusions of urban sprawl.

Down through the center meanders the Cuyahoga River, named centuries ago by the Indians whose word for it was "ka-ih-ogh-ha," meaning "crooked." Paralleling the river are remnants of the historic Ohio and Erie Canal. Water for the steel mills of Cleveland still flows through several miles of the canal, passing over original 19th century spillways, through locks and an aqueduct.

Men and women of vision for many years have seen the Cuyahoga Valley as a green haven from the crowded nearby cities. With the help of generous benefactors, Metropolitan Park systems of both Cleveland and Akron have established seven parks in the area, ranging in size from 150 to more than 3,000 acres. Boy and Girl Scouts have established large camps in the woodlands. Hale Farm and Village has become a living museum. The Cleveland Orchestra came to the valley's rim to create the beautiful Blossom Music Center.

But commercial development and rapid population growth threatened additional thousands of unspoiled acres until, in December 1974, Congress acted to preserve the area for all time. In keeping with the policy of bringing parks closer to the people, the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area was authorized as the third urban national park. This came shortly after establishment of the Gateway National Recreation Area in New York City and New Jersey and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in and near San Francisco.

By late 1977, the National Park Service had made substantial progress toward planning for the management of the new park. Land acquisition was moving forward. But it will be several years before the Recreation Area is in full operation to serve visitors. Until the full scope of National Park Service operations are available, the public must use caution to avoid trespass on private lands.

However, roads are open and Metroparks are open . . . the valley is here to be explored and enjoyed on each of the 365 days of the year! You can drive along the river or up on the highlands where the view stretches out for miles. You can hike or bike, ski or sled. You can play or picnic or bird-watch, enjoy classical or rock music at Blossom Center or turn back the pages of history along the canal or at Hale Farm.

Early in 1978, the National Park Service plans to establish an information center at Happy Days Camp of Virginia Kendall Park. This is on the south side of Route 303, a mile west of Route 8 and two miles east of Peninsula. Visitors may stop here for information as to available facilities.



Sixteen miles of Bike and Hike Trail follow an abandoned railroad bed along the eastern park boundary.

Cover Photo: An explorer's delight Near Ice Box Cave in the Ledges at Virginia Kendall



A LOOK AT THE PAST

The earliest maps drawn by French explorers who found the Great Lakes showed the Cuyahoga River. The Indians used it as a waterway from the cold of the north to the warmer waters of the south, with but a short portage or carrying place to the Tuscarawas which flowed on to the Muskingum and the Ohio.

Many centuries earlier, other human beings lived in the Cuyahoga valley. Archeologists have found evidence here of the Adena and Hopewell cultures, commonly known as the Mound Builders. They inhabited this area from 300 B.C. to 600 A.D. and possibly later.

Long before there was human life in Ohio, great glaciers covered the land, scraping out the valley of the Cuyahoga and leaving their marks as they receded to the north.

In 1785 the newly formed United States government signed a treaty with the Indians establishing a western boundary for the new nation. This was along the Cuyahoga River from Lake Erie to what is now northwest Akron, thence over the portage and down the Tuscarawas River. The Indians were entitled, said the treaty, to retain a homeland west of the river.

So it was that when Moses Cleaveland came in 1796 to lay out township lines in the Western Reserve of Connecticut, he stayed on the east side of the river. In 1805, a new treaty pushed the Indians farther westward.

Settlers came in increasing numbers but found no market for their crops until 1827 when the Ohio and Erie Canal was opened through the valley from Cleveland to Akron. Villages sprang up at the locks where mills used the surging water and travelers were fed and entertained. Here, also, boats waited their turns to go through the narrow stairsteps or loaded and unloaded cargoes of grain, cheese, whisky, lumber and coal from interior Ohio and manufactured goods from the Eastern states and from Europe.



The Village of Peninsula's many canal era buildings provide an opportunity to travel back in time.



The Moccasin-flower (Pink Lady's-slipper), one of the many varieties of Spring wildflowers.

Whether one's interest in history is casual or profound, the Cuyahoga valley has many treasures. Here may be found the mounds built by pre-historic peoples, the lookout points where the native Mingoes and Ottawas had their camps, the masonry of the old canal locks and the hard-packed trails of the old canal towpaths. Brick, stone and wooden homes of the earliest settlers are well preserved.

Countless legends of life in the valley are told. David Hudson, Jonathan Hale and others who gave their names to today's localities wrote of their weeks of arduous travel from Connecticut to "a land as fine as I have ever seen." Counterfeiter Jim Brown and the Mallett brothers of Moneyshop were chronicled by a sheriff who pursued them in canal days. Tales of apple-butter and maple syrup making are told by grandchildren. And sweet corn still grows on the floodplains where the Indians once cultivated it.

The National Park Service has been charged with the responsibility of protecting and preserving the natural and cultural resources of this historic setting. Here, we and generations to come will be able to better understand the events and customs that shaped our heritage.

The 30,000 acres are now to be preserved as an open book in which we can live history and enjoy nature as we walk and look and play.

FROM VISION TO REALITY

The concept that the whole Cuyahoga valley between Cleveland and Akron should be preserved as parkland was first voiced in 1925 when the Olmsted brothers, renowned landscape architects, made a survey for the newly established Metropolitan Park Board of Summit County. They said: "The dominance of this topographic feature, and its great and impressive beauty, are certainly beyond question; and to save that scenery for all time for the benefit and enjoyment of the people — not only of Summit County but of communities much farther afield would be an accomplishment justifying unusual effort and worthy of great praise."

Both the Akron and Cleveland Metropolitan Park Districts moved to acquire land and establish parks. But financial resources were limited. Gifts provided more acreage than tax monies.

As part of its famed "Emerald Necklace," Cleveland Metroparks developed the large Bedford and Brecksville parks. The Akron system has operated Furnace Run, Deep Lock Quarry, Hampton Hills, O'Neil Woods and Virginia Kendall Park. The latter, mostly state-owned, is the first to be transferred to operation by the National Park Service, effective Jan. 1, 1978.

In all, some 10,000 acres of the 30,000 within the authorized boundaries of the National Recreation Area are already open and available as public parklands.

In 1968, a study for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources extolled the natural and historic values of the Cuyahoga valley and urged state participation in an extension of public parks.

But it was all too evident that commercial and residential developers might win the race against county and state park planners.

Thus it was that those desiring to preserve the Cuyahoga valley turned to the federal government for assistance. Introduced in Congress in 1971 by Rep. John F. Seiberling, the first bill calling for establishment of a Cuyahoga valley park languished and died. But in the 93rd Congress, a revised bill was given hearings in both Washington

and in the valley and was passed unanimously in both houses late in the session. President Ford signed the measure into Public Law 93-555 on December 27, 1974.

Given a mandate to develop this urban park, the National Park Service moved immediately to start the planning process. Congress authorized an expenditure of \$34.5 million over a five-year period. In October 1976, Congress added 908 acres to include the valley slopes adjoining the flood plain south of Rockside Rd., which is the park's northern boundary. Also added was an additional \$6 million authorization for land acquisition.



The National Park Service schedules special events such as "The People of 1776" and "Johnny Cake Village". Future programs will offer further glimpses of history.

PLANS FOR THE PARK

When the National Park Service undertook to make specific plans for the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area three major considerations were involved:

1 — The terms of *Public Law 93-555*, authorizing the park. The preface said that "in the management of the recreation area, the Secretary of the Interior shall utilize the resources in a manner which will preserve its scenic, natural and historic setting while providing for the recreational and educational needs of the visiting public." In 3,000 words, the act goes on to make provisions for land acquisition, development, administration and the establishment of a citizens' advisory commission.

2 — The laws, regulations and experience accumulated in more than 100 years of operation of national parks, monuments, historic sites and recreation areas.

3 — The desires (sometimes conflicting) of residents of the area as well as many others interested in the park. To learn these views, a series of public meetings were held at four different stages of the planning process. Suggestions and opinions from thousands of persons were received, orally and in writing, and were carefully weighed.

The net result of all this was a general management plan which makes these statements:

"In recognition of the Cuyahoga valley's values within the regional milieu, planning for the park is based on the idea of open-space preservation rather than facility construction, of recreational settings rather than formalized developments . . .

"In a gradually deteriorating environment where fewer and fewer places allow us time and space to rediscover the beauty of nature, the peace of the countryside or the substance of the past, the need to protect landscapes that refresh the spirit and restore our perceptions has become one of the most basic requirements of recreational planning.

"The overall concept for management and development of Cuyahoga is that of resource preservation for compatible recreational use."



Grist Mills, using the ready source of water, sprang up along the Ohio and Erie Canal. The Wilson Mill, once called Alexander Mill, is located at Fourteen Mile Lock.

In summary, this is not a place for an amusement park or for organized sports. It is an open area where you can hike or bike, ski or skate, paddle a canoe on the river and, as water quality is restored, even fish or swim. You can study nature or simply relax and enjoy what you see. Many will drive through the quiet country roads as a contrast to the rush on the main highways. Always, there will be the aura of years-gone-by — an opportunity to have a link with the past. Truly, a place of recreation.

All this takes planning, to strike a proper balance between conservation and use. This is the aim of the National Park Service.

SEVEN PARKS ARE OPEN

The first operational unit of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area is Virginia Kendall Park. The transfer from administration by the Akron Metropolitan Parks to National Park Service is effective Jan. 1, 1978.

Of course, the distinctive attractions of this great tract will remain the same: The rock ledges carved by the glacier, the winding trails through the forests and over the rocks, the shelter houses and tables for picnicking, the wide-open playfields, the lake where youngsters may fish in the summer and toboggans slide down in the chill of winter.



Winter at the Ledges.



Spring sunshine in the gorge on Chippewa Creek, one of the numerous Cuyahoga River tributaries.

At the Happy Days shelter house on Route 303, the National Park Service is establishing its first information center for visitors.

When Captain Hayward H. Kendall died in 1929, his will gave the National Park Service first option to receive the 450 acres he owned in Boston township. The Park Service declined to accept this small block of land at that time and so it went to the state of Ohio which soon turned over operation to the Akron Metropolitan Parks. The state provided \$75,000 for an additional 800 acres in 1940 and Metropolitan Parks has added more from time to time to bring the total to the present 2,143 acres. Now it becomes a major unit of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

* * *

It is almost unbelievable that within a half hour's drive from busy downtown Cleveland are the great forests and deep ravines of Bedford and Brecksville Metroparks, encompassing 1,334 and 3,057 acres respectively.

Remaining under the management of Cleveland Metroparks for the indefinite future, they now have the additional protection of being within the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

Flowing through Metropark Bedford is Tinker's Creek, longest of the tributaries of the Cuyahoga. Its deep, rocky gorge was designated several years ago by the National Park Service as a National Natural Landmark. Besides hiking, biking and bridle trails and numerous picnic spots, Bedford also includes the attractive Shawnee Hills golf course, open to the public for a fee.

Across the river to the southwest lies beautiful Metropark Brecksville. Here, too, are hiking and bridle trails and plenty of picnic spots as well as the inviting Sleepy Hollow golf course. Brecksville has the Squire Rich House, a historical museum, and the Harriet L. Keeler trail for disabled persons, leading to the Trailside Interpretive Center. Chippewa Creek flows through a deep ravine in the park before it reaches the Cuyahoga.



Nineteenth Century farming methods, still in use at Hale Farm and Western Reserve Village, add to the character of the Cuyahoga Valley.



Nowhere are history and nature more closely intertwined in a relatively small space than in Deep Lock Quarry Park of Akron Metropolitan Parks, just south of Peninsula. From the parking lot off Riverview Rd., a pleasant trail leads through the woods to an old stone quarry and to the deepest of the locks on the Ohio and Erie Canal.

Huge building blocks of Berea sandstone were cut from the hillside here in the 19th century and hauled down to the canal on horse-drawn railway cars. Later, millstones were fashioned here. A few that may not have measured up to specifications are still seen scattered about.

The lock, well preserved but without its gates, has been marked by the Civil Engineers of Ohio with a plaque to commemorate the great engineering feat that was the construction of the canal.

Illustrating another era of transportation history, alongside this park runs the railroad which took away most of the canal's traffic in the late 19th century. During summer weekends a steam train runs through the valley on this track, carrying visitors back to an earlier day.

Three other units of Akron Metropolitan Parks, lying within the National Recreation area, are Furnace Run park, just south of the Ohio Turnpike in Richfield; Hampton Hills in Northampton township and O'Neil Woods in Bath township. Each has a hiking trail and picnic spots.

* * *

In addition to the public parks, there are two privately operated ski centers and a golf course, open to the public for fees. They are the Boston Mills Ski Center on Riverview Rd. and Brandywine Ski Center, off Highland Rd. and the Brandywine Golf Course on Akron-Peninsula Rd., just south of Peninsula.

TAKE A TRAIL TO SOMEWHERE

Near the entrance of each of the Metroparks within the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area is a signboard telling of the trails within the park. It shows the symbols that distinguish each trail and tells the approximate length.

Most of the trails are loops, bringing you back to the spot where you started. Each has been laid out by park naturalists and rangers to accentuate the special wonders of the park and to provide a variety of not-too-difficult walking.

Try Ice Box Trail in Virginia Kendall Park. Within a mile of the Ledges parking lot you'll be in a cool (frigid in Winter) overhang in the great rocks. West, across the valley, on Brush Rd. of Furnace Run Park is the Daffodil Trail. In the Spring, 20,000 planted flowers nod at you along the rim of a plateau edged with beech and dogwood trees. In Hampton Hills, a small stream is crossed two dozen times, by rustic bridge or stepping stones or just a child-sized hop.

Longest of the trails is that portion of the Buckeye Trail traversing the full length of the park. Extending from Lake Erie to the Ohio River, the Buckeye comes from the north through Bedford Reservation, down Sagamore Creek to the Cuyahoga River, thence mostly along the old towpath of the Ohio Canal to Bath Rd. on the south. It is marked with blue blazes on trees and utility poles and by its own insignia in portions within the Metro parks.

A good day's jaunt is the 13-mile Cuyahoga Trail, with its A markers, laid out by the Boy Scouts' Order of the Arrow. It loops from Camp Manatoc, through Camp Butler, down Route 303 through Peninsula, south on the canal towpath (also Buckeye Trail) to Johnnycake Lock, across the river on Bolanz Rd., north on Akron-Peninsula Rd. to Salt Run, through Virginia Kendall Park and back to Manatoc. One can start and finish at any convenient place on the circuit.

The eastern edge of the park has a hike-and-bike trail, also good for cross-country skiing. The flat riverside roads are often used by cyclists and joggers and antique cars. The hillside roads have so

little traffic that they are great for walking or horseback.

Wherever you explore, remember that private residences remain in the National Recreation Area. Respect them. Do not trespass on private property.



Trails, like these at Virginia Kendall, are found in all seven existing park areas within the national recreation area boundaries.

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

The Indians agreed that the Cuyahoga valley should be "sacred ground" — a place where there should be no battles — because all needed access to the river and the trails.

Parkview Drive in Brecksville Metropark was once called Whiskey Lane because there were several distilleries nearby. In the early 1800's many farms had their own distilleries and whiskey was legal tender.

The towpath along the canal, trod by horses and mules pulling the boats, was always on the side between the canal and the river, so that hillside erosion would not block the path. Speed limit on the canal was four miles an hour.

Jim Brown, the valley's most famous counterfeiter, was also a justice of the peace. He is buried in Boston cemetery, near the canal, under a tiny headstone that bears only his name.

Locks on the canal, besides being numbered, had names such as Mudcatcher, Lonesome, Red, Pancake and Johnnycake. At Everett in 1828, a freshet in Furnace Run blocked the canal with silt. During a delay of several days, cornmeal was the only available food, so hungry passengers ate johnnycake, morning, noon and night, and thus dubbed the lock.

Another freshet, in May 1975, washed out Summit County's last remaining covered bridge. Earlier, it had been designated a National Landmark. Plans are underway to have it rebuilt for pedestrians, cyclists and emergency vehicles by the summer of 1978.

A dam under the Route 82 bridge diverts water from the Cuyahoga River into the canal which carries it for nine miles to the steel mills in Cleveland. Three locks in the canal as it parallels Canal Rd. still have portions of their old wooden gates.

One of the highest points in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area is the lookout at the Ledges in Virginia Kendall Park. Here, from a point 1,000 feet above sea level and 300 feet above the river, is a view that extends for miles up and down the valley.



Headquarters for the National Park Service in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area is located at 501 W. Streetsboro Rd. (Ohio Route 303) two miles east of Peninsula and one mile west of Ohio Route 8. Mailing address: Box 158, Peninsula, Ohio 44264. Phone: (216) 653-9036.

Superintendent, William C. Birdsell

BILL HICKEY



CLEVELAND TOWN

National park brings nature to urbanites

There is a place that is perfect for the restoration of the human spirit. It was sculpted by glaciers and their melting waters and other forces of nature eons ago, and today is a diverse area of enchanting natural wonder. It is part river flood plain, part steep and gentle valley walls, part numerous streams and their accompanying ravines, and upland plateaus.

Moreover, it is covered in large part by forests of deciduous and evergreen trees, with the first-mentioned expected to be ablaze in color in the next few weeks. It is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna and, best of all, it is right at Cleveland's doorstep.

If you have any free time in October, even an afternoon, let me suggest a quick trip to the nearby Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (CVNRA). It is yet another outstanding attribute of Greater Cleveland and one that deserves more than the acknowledgment it has received to date.

There are only four other American cities that have national parks at their doorstep: New York, San Francisco, Atlanta and Santa Monica, Calif. All have been created since 1968 in an effort to bring the wonders of nature closer to urban dwellers, who make up 75% of the nation's population. I have been told that none of those other parks even begins to compare with ours in natural beauty, historic significance or in the cultural and recreational facilities available.

The park, which celebrated its 10th anniversary earlier this month, encompasses some 32,000 acres, most of which lie along 22 miles of the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron. It is a charming mixture of natural beauty and historic sites, one bound to please outdoor enthusiasts, nature lovers and would-be historians.

It is not only the park's easy accessibility that makes it special, but the fact it is unlike other national parks, which are owned and operated exclusively by the federal government. The CVNRA is a park in which a number of private entities and other organizations have joined forces with the federal government for the laudable purposes of environmental preservation and setting public-use goals.

Within its boundaries, for example, are six public parks systems, quasi-public attractions such as Hale Farm & Village and Boy Scout reservations, plus privately owned facilities like Blossom Music Center and two ski resorts, Brandywine and Boston Mills. Thus, the park's well-deserved label of having a mosaic management.

Speaking of boundaries, the park's northern one, Rockside Rd., is only eight miles from Terminal Tower. Its southern boundary actually extends into Akron. It is bounded on the east and west by Ohio 21 and 8, respectively, with variances here and there.

An even more exciting aspect is that the park is now in a position to increase its facilities for all sorts of outdoor activities, ranging from new hiking and ski trails to water sports. Also planned are bed-and-breakfast hostels for overnight or longer stays.

The first 10 years were by far the hardest, according to a park spokesman, as the efforts of the personnel were necessarily divided by such tasks as land acquisition, reclamation and restoration of areas of the park that had been environmentally degraded by industry and the wastes of surrounding communities.

In the northern end, for example, there were areas stripped by mining and serving as dumps; on the southern end park personnel had to dispose of a million-or-so tires and other remnants of a monstrous junkyard.

It should also be noted that much of the federal government's funding has gone to restore the 250 historical structures within the park's boundaries, 85 of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the highest order attainable.

The park is also an area of great significance in matters prehistoric. There are over 300 archeological sites of immense value to the study of the valley's earliest inhabitants, those primitive people who roamed its floor thousands of years ago.

From its inception, the park has been a valuable study area for local students, and now those in charge plan to maximize its educational possibilities in the form of programs, resources and facilities. Many workshops, including overnight ones, are planned for October.

Better yet, there are some marvelous dreams floating about the area, some generated by park personnel, others by private citizens, who not only want to preserve the environment of natural wilderness but to make it more accessible to area residents.

One of the niftiest dreams belongs to a group of people who have formed a non-profit organization called North Cuyahoga Valley Corridor Inc. They are dedicated to linking the park to the downtown (Flats) area by three means — water, rail and a jogging-biking path. It is visionary, of course, particularly since the area from the park's northern boundary is roughly 90% privately owned. But that is exactly the kind of dream other men had years ago when they sought to establish what is now the Metroparks system.

(OVER)

The Chesapeake & Ohio tracks are still intact, and a good portion of the Ohio Canal remains. The canal's tow-path is what is envisioned as the all-purpose trail between the two points.

According to Tom Yablonski, one of the Cuyahoga Valley Corridor spokesmen, state legislators have been very supportive of the group's plans. Our county commissioners and leaders of other communities have been more cautious in attitude, awaiting a feasibility study.

"It's never easy to get people to envision what the area could look like 25 years down the road if a corridor from the heart of the city to the heart of the park could be created," Yablonski added.

Let's hope that vision comes, but in the meantime, let's enjoy the marvelous park that is slowly being recognized as the pendant on our city's Emerald Necklace.

An old friend becomes first U.S. park in Ohio

By TOM DIEMER
PLAIN DEALER BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Move over, Yellowstone, and step aside, Yosemite. It's time to make room for Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

On its 25th anniversary, the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area is about to shed its cumbersome moniker and become Ohio's only national park.

The Interior Department spending bill, passed by the Senate yesterday, officially renames the 33,000 acres of woodlands, hills and streams south of Cleveland. Once President Clinton signs the bill into the law, the name change is official.

Rep. Ralph Regula, the Navarre Republican who quietly pushed for the redesignation, said the new name had no practical implications for management or funding of the park.

It's public relations, really.

"When you go down the road and see 'national recreation area,' that does not resonate with the citizenry the way it would as the Cuyahoga Valley National Park," Regula said.

John Debo, superintendent of the recreation area, said the impending name change might bring more recognition to a unique resource that Ohioans sometimes overlook or even misunderstand because of its confusing name.

In truth, the National Park Service considers recreation areas, national monuments and national seashores all to be national parks, Debo said. But the signs will have to be changed, nevertheless.

e-mail: tdiemer@pland.com
Phone: (216) 959-4212

10-2000

There's something new under the sun

FORBES WOODS 2009

3 parks have opened in Greater Cleveland

DEBBI SNOOK
Plain Dealer Reporter

It's spring, time to feast your eyes on a new patch of green.

Parks aren't born every day in our urban and suburban worlds. Still, over the last year, a few have popped up in a steel mill's old slag field, a sprawling natural wetland and the remnants of an old farm.

Lace up the sturdy shoes, put the dog on a leash and grab the kids and their bikes. Time to explore someplace new:

What it offers: It's a spit of a trail now, a short, de-stressing walk in the woods with identified trees, ravine overlook and stories about the Scottish farmers who worked the land. Eventually this little loop will connect to Bedford Reservation. Meanwhile, catch your emotional breath here, walking and talking through what ails you. Or just put some green distance between you and everything else in the world.

To reach this Plain Dealer Reporter:
dsnook@plaind.com, 216-999-4357

Forbes Woods, Cleveland Metroparks

Best entrance: The only entrance is on Forbes Road in Oakwood. Take I-271 and I-480 to the Forbes exit. Go west on Forbes 1.5 miles to a small parking lot on the right.



The ghosts of farm life are touchstones to the past of Forbes Woods, a park in Oakwood that opened at the end of last summer.



City of Bedford Heights



On January 25, 2007 Cleveland Metroparks entered into a real estate transfer via a 99-year lease of 53.87 acres of land with the City of Bedford Heights. The land will be used as open space, and a master plan and time-line for improvements was quickly developed. Phase I has been completed. This phase includes a 2,400-foot, eight-foot wide all purpose trail which has been named Ridge Trail, a scenic overlook, parking lot, educational exhibits and historical site protection.

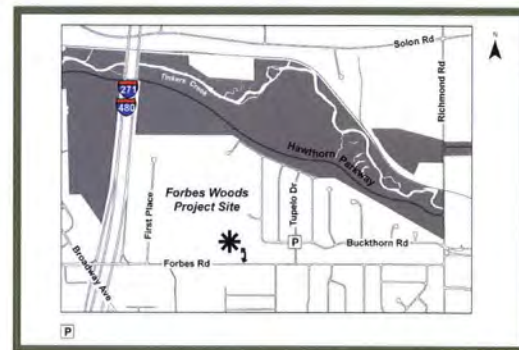
Total construction cost of the all purpose trail, overlook, restroom, and drinking fountain is \$187,600. The City of Bedford Heights provided \$125,000 of this cost with Cleveland Metroparks financing the balance. The area was opened to the public on July 10, 2008.

Future improvements considered for the area include:

Phase II: Construction of 3,300 foot, eight-foot wide asphalt all purpose trail as a connection to Hawthorne Parkway in Bedford Reservation.

Phase III: Trail improvements and educational exhibits as warranted.

Photo: Groups and individuals may perform archeological study at Forbes Woods by permit.



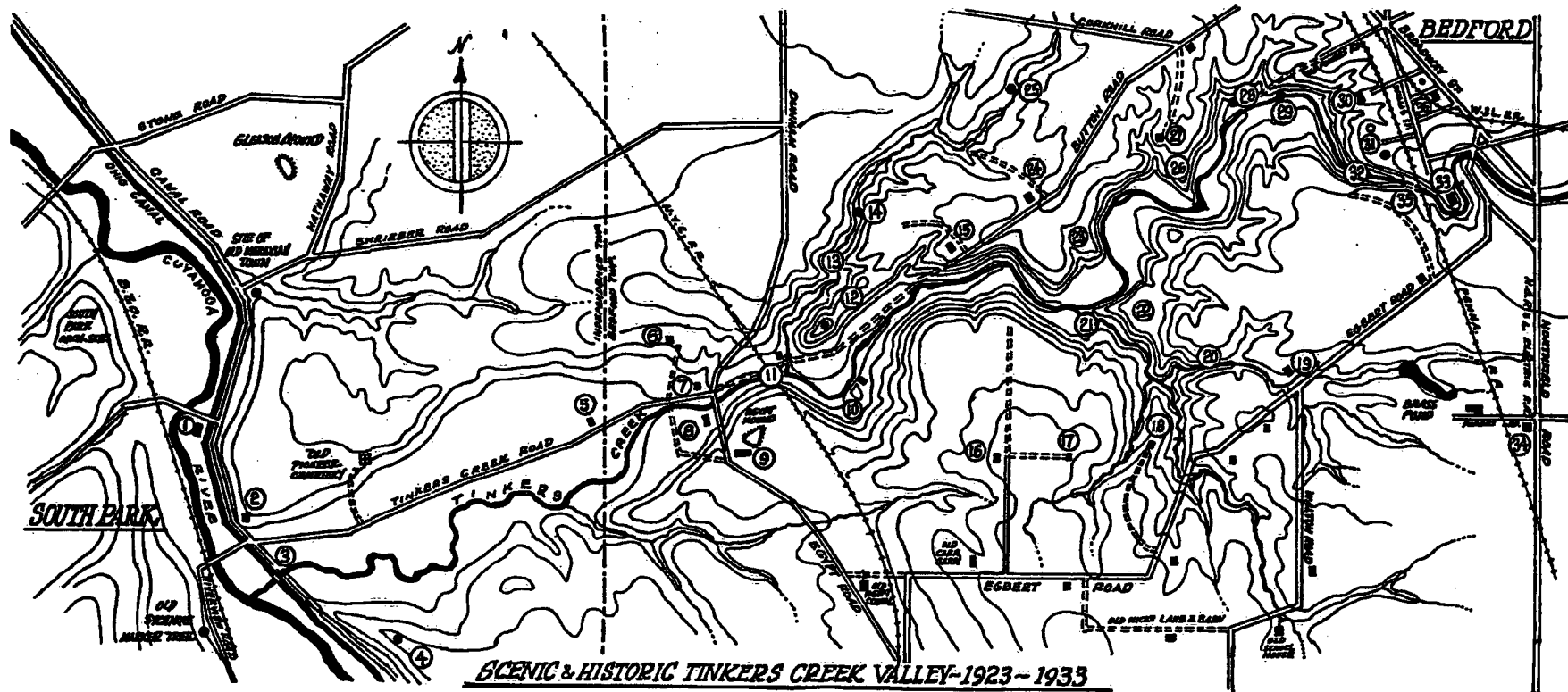
Forbes Woods is located on Forbes Road between Richmond Road and I-480/271 in Bedford Heights, Ohio. The area is managed as part of Cleveland Metroparks Bedford Reservation.



For more information contact:

Administrative Offices
4101 Fulton Parkway
Cleveland, Ohio 44144-1923
216-635-3200

A MAP OF SCENIC & HISTORIC TINKERS CREEK

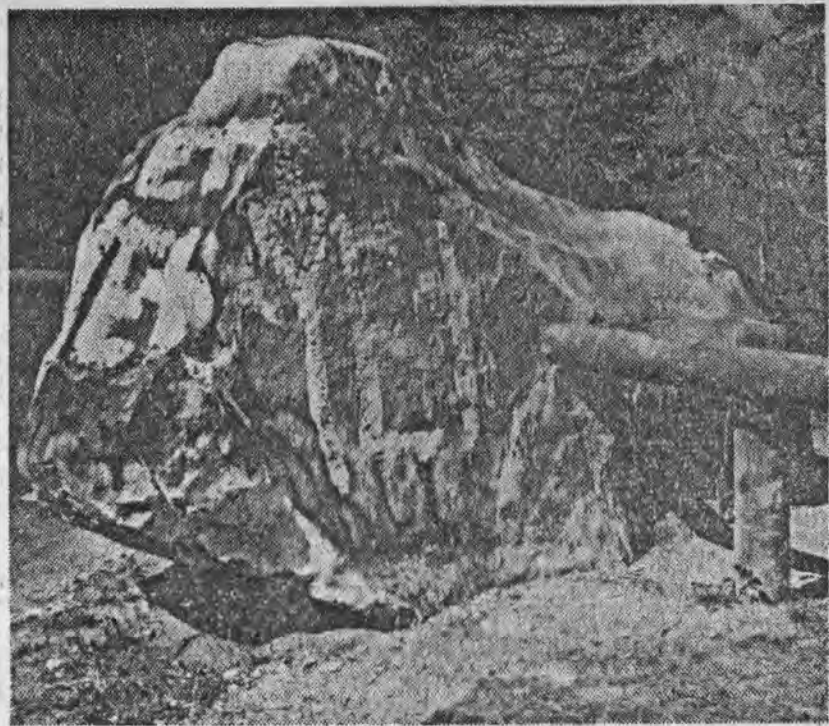
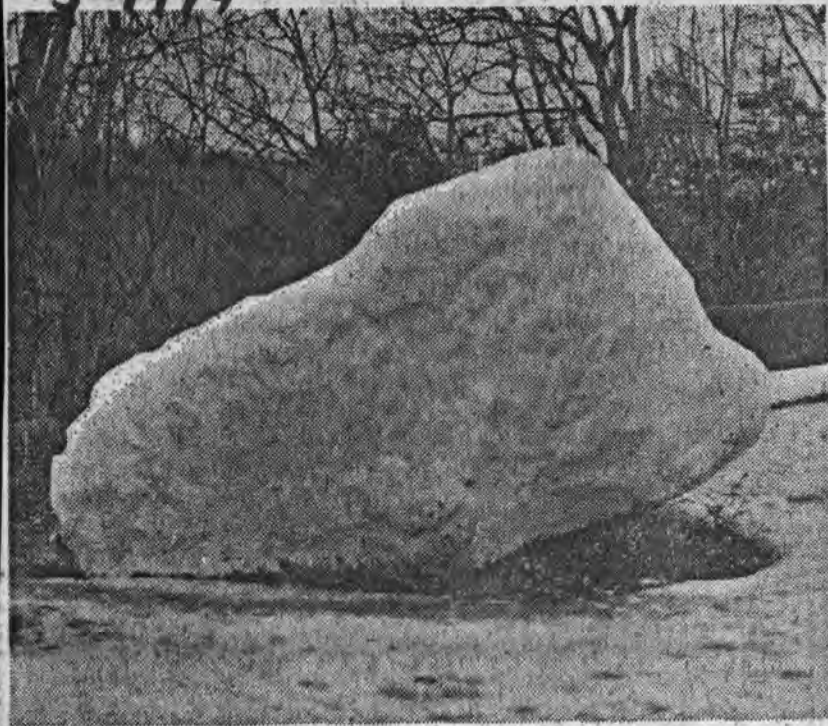


SCENIC & HISTORIC TINKERS CREEK VALLEY-1923-1933

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| ① Lock Tender's House & Canal Lock | ⑩ Hermit Hollow - Hermit's Cabin | ⑲ Old Egbert Place & Lone Grove | ⑳ Old Process Orchard & Park Police Hut |
| ② Old Carey Place - Early Settlers House | ⑪ The High Steel Trestle across Tinkers Creek | ⑳ The Rock Shelter - Paul's Cave | ㉑ Ruins of Old Wooden Mill, Barn |
| ③ Tinkers Creek Canal Aqueduct | ⑫ Indian Ridge - Old Hill-Top Fort Site | ㉑ Scenic Overlook Creek Valley | ㉒ The Old Bedford Glass Park & Sawmills |
| ④ Sagamore Trail Ridge & Archaeological Site | ⑬ Scenic Hemlock Creek Valley | ㉒ Lost Meadow Vista Point & Scenic Falls | ㉓ The Willie Brown Area site of Corral Vents, Mammals |
| ⑤ The Old Comstock Place - First House Here | ⑭ "Vulcan Rock" on Granite Boulder of the glacier | ㉓ Scenic Horseshoe Cliff - Vista Point | ㉔ The Great Klogs of Tinkers Creek |
| ⑥ The Old Mighton Place - Early Settlers House | ⑮ Old Vaicsek Place at Brink of Old Cutton Hill | ㉔ The Old Cutton Place - near The Hurst Place | ㉕ Site of Bedford's Early Mills and Scenic Falls |
| ⑦ Site of Mother Parker's "Tavern House" | ⑯ Old Cleveland Place - The Elmer B. Wright Place | ㉕ Pioneer Spring of many years | ㉖ Site of The Bedford Gypsy Camp |
| ⑧ Aster Hurst - Site of Sawmill & Bedford Settlers | ⑰ The Cabin - of the art group | ㉖ Scenic Hogback Point | ㉖ The Stone Arch Tunnel & Old P.P. Vaidant |
| ⑨ The Old Carey Double House - Tavern & Stage Stop | ⑱ 1/2 Old Great Farm at Scenic Bridal Veil Falls | ㉗ Girl Scouts Cabin | ㉗ The Old Town Hall - The Present Historical Society |

Compiled and Drawn by Joseph B. Seashy for "Pages of a Tinkers Creek Valley Book" - 1980

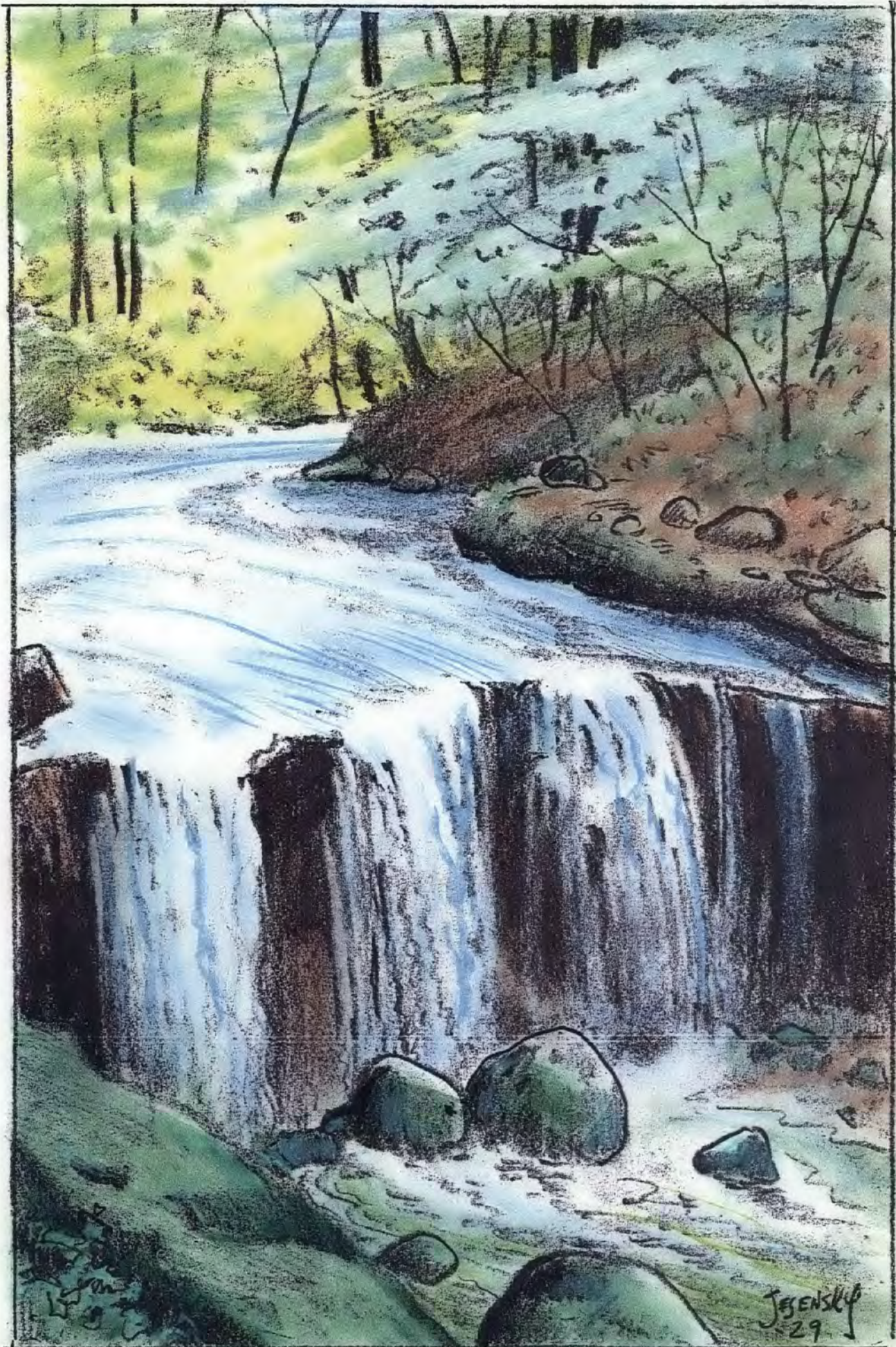
5-1979



ROCK OF AGES CHANGES — OFTEN! — This big hulk along Tinkers Creek in Metroparks Bedford is constantly being painted with graffiti. Metroparks maintenance workers say they have nothing to do with either the graffiti or the whitewash job, and say prime suspects are each

year's graduating class at Bedford High. Photo on left was taken by Press Photographer Bill Nehez Mar. 4. Yesterday Nehez photographed the change. A Metroparks spokesman says the hijinks have been going on for 25 years.





Stone Quarry Falls - Deerlick Creek - Spring flow





After shower - Flow

*The Brial-Vieil Falls -
Deedick Creek Branch - Timber Creek.*

← Normal Flow



Deerlich Creek Falls at the Junction Point. Bedford Metropark



Jammy

The Great Falls - Tinker's Creek - Spring Flow



Junction Point - Deerlich Creek - 1952



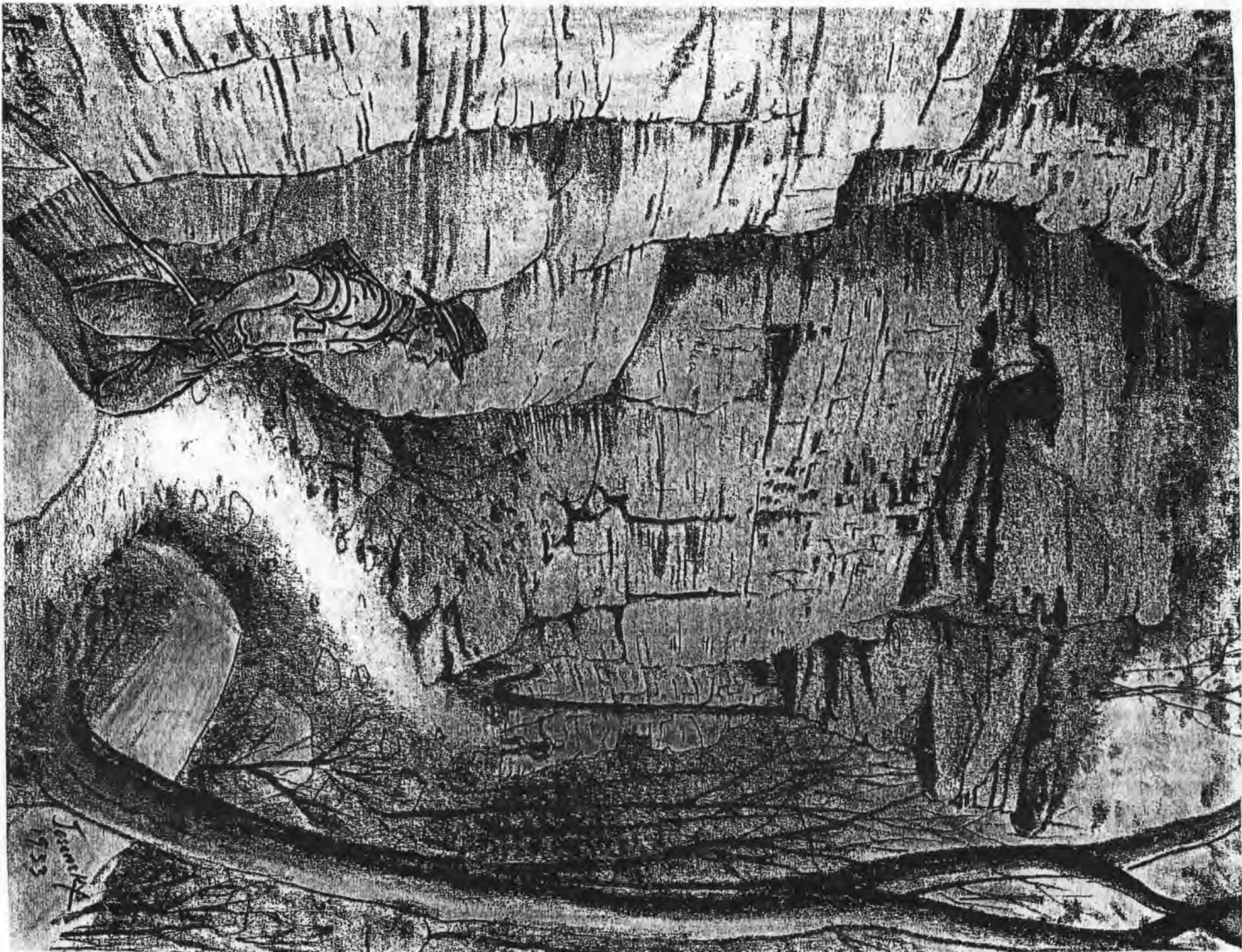
Same view - 1992

J. D. Jesensky





Slip Thru. Great gorge - Jinton Creek



A. Jinton
1953

Bedford Reservation improvements

1985

By Dan Santos

Extensive improvements to the Bedford Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks are included in the 10-year, \$51 million master plan recently adopted by the park system's board of commissioners.

Covering the years 1985 through 1994, the Metroparks Action Plan will direct the system's services, programs and capital improvements. The plan provides for nearly \$4 million worth of improvements to the Bedford Reservation and its adjacent Shawnee Hills Golf Course.

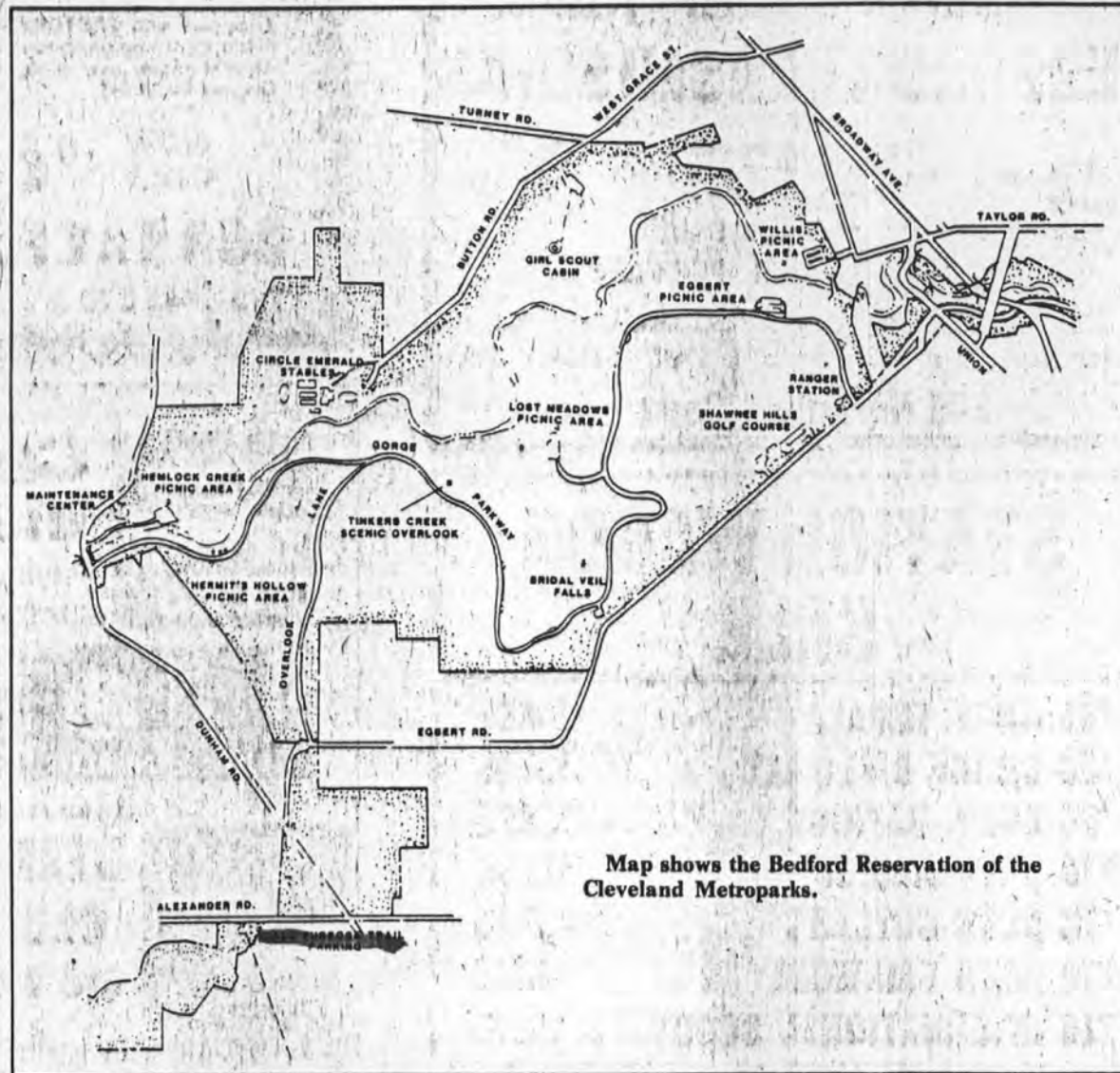
Funding for the plan is proposed to come primarily from a .50 mill levy the system will place on the November ballot. The .50 mill levy is composed of a .35 mill renewal levy (expiring December 31, 1984) with a .15 mill addition. The cost to an owner of a \$50,000 home (market value) would be \$3.50 per year.

The .50 mill levy will have a life of 15 years.

According to Kathleen A. Hemker, spokesperson for the park system, improvements to the Bedford Reservation and the rest of the parks are "very much contingent" on the approval of the November levy.

Hemker said the levy is expected to bring the park system about \$7 million per year. She said the park commissioners originally adopted a master plan in the late 1950s.

"The master plan for 1980 to 1990 is already about 65 percent complete," she said. "A new master plan will incorporate part of the old master plan and add another five years of improvements."



Map shows the Bedford Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks.

The new master plan follows last year's public survey by the park system. "About 89 percent of the survey respondents approved of

the facilities and quality of the park system," Hemker said. "We hope that that percentage carries itself over into the polls in Novem-

ber."

She said survey responses were used to consider future improvements to the parks. One major

→continued

planned

continuation

concern of the respondents, she said, were odors coming from toilet facilities. "We're still experimenting with new methods of ridding the latrines of odors," she said. Most of the toilets in the park do not have running water.

One recent improvement to the Bedford Reservation has been the construction of a Parcourse physical fitness trail. The trail is sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Northeast Ohio, and is located at the Egbert Road Picnic Area.

The Bedford Reservation serves the Bedford-Maple Heights area and is located on land surrounded by Egbert, Dunham and Button roads and Broadway Avenue.

In the reservation is the Tinkers Creek Gorge, a natural scenic overlook which forms the backbone of many of the park's activities. Park visitors can picnic in a variety of natural settings, enjoy golf at two popular nine-hole courses, hike or ride horses on trails in the park.

The 10-year master plan includes a total of \$3,593,000 in improvements to the reservation and the Shawnee Hills Golf Course.

The first 5-year segment of the reservation improvements, 1985 to 1989, calls for \$1,318,000 worth of improvements. Planned improvements for the first five years are to the Circle Emerald Stables, the Hermit's Hollow Picnic Area, the Lost Meadows Picnic Area, where a new shelter will be built, and on Button Road.

Improvements also include various road paving, striping and curbing projects and the installa-

tion of new picnic and play equipment throughout the park.

Improvements at Shawnee Hills include the construction of a new nine holes and general rehabilitation to the existing facility. Total cost of the improvements over the 10-year master plan at the golf course is \$765,000, in 1984 dollars.

The more ambitious effort in the 10-year master plan, as far as the Bedford Reservation is concerned, is scheduled for the second five years, 1990-1994.

Major work scheduled for the reservation during that period are a new nature center, a lake, a demonstration pioneer farm, a new picnic area at Dunham Road and a new parking area.

Hemker said the nature center would include a trailside museum and would serve as a point of visitor contact in the reservation. "The center would be used to allow visitors to better understand the park system and would allow us to plan public programs indoors, which we can't do now at that reservation," she said. No location for the nature center has been selected yet, she said.

The Bedford Reservation is one of the natural parks in the "Emerald Necklace" of the park system.

Hemker said a group called "Friends of the Metroparks" will be coordinating a campaign promoting the park system's levy.

Detailed information on the Metroparks Action Plan and its effect on the Metroparks' other reservations is available at its Administrative Offices, 4101 Fulton Parkway, Cleveland.

METROPARK'S 2000



PARK DISTRICT'S MASTER PLAN FOR BEDFORD METROPARK :

The Metropark's Master Long-Range Plan for Bedford Metropolitan Park will soon be in final draft form, complete with drawings.

The plan details the upgrading of restrooms, putting up sign posts with historical and natural data along the walking paths, improving the trails, repairing and installing retaining walls and drainage ditches, and also creating a reservable picnic area in the Cleaveland Hill Farm acreage at the end of Wight Oaks Drive.

This new picnic area which can be reserved by groups will be accessible from a new roadway off Gorge Parkway, not Wight Oaks Drive. It will feature a pavilion and open play area, bathroom facilities and parking.

- The next step in the Park District's Master Plan according to Steve Coles, Cleveland Metroparks Chief of Park Planning, is sometime this year the Park District will meet with community representatives such as mayors, councils and interested parties.



PARTICIPANTS ABOUT TO BOARD A VAN:
THE MARCH TOUR OF BEDFORD METROPARK

PARTICIPANTS LOOKING AND LISTENING:
THE MARCH TOUR OF BEDFORD METROPARK

by Bob and Jean Kainsinger

1995



**Cleveland
Metroparks**

AMERICA'S BEST ... AND RIGHT IN OUR OWN BACK YARDS !

Accolades continue to roll in for the Cleveland Metroparks. Recently the Metroparks District was honored as **THE OUTSTANDING PARK and RECREATION DEPARTMENT** in the **NATION** by the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials. The Cleveland Metroparks District was praised for its long range planning, management, collaborative community networking, and outdoor education and recreation opportunities.

Last year the Metroparks District was awarded the National Gold Medal Award by the Sports Foundation and the National Recreation and Park Association.

METROPARK HAPPENINGS



**Cleveland
Metroparks**

A ROUGH AND RUGGED HIKE IN BEDFORD METROPARK SATURDAY, APRIL 23 8am - 1pm



How many times have you said, "What I'd like to do is go down to the gorge and walk the banks of Tinker's Creek!" This is your chance, WITH A GUIDE to lead you. If this trek is too strenuous for you, pass on the word of this super opportunity to someone younger.

Saturday, April 23rd, Volunteer Naturalist Chuck Thomas will guide a group of hikers up steep slopes and down ravines to narrow floodplains in a venture through the great gorge of Tinker's Creek.

The 4-mile hike will start at Lost Meadows Picnic Area at 8 am. Take a light lunch and wear sturdy footwear. You must register beforehand at 526-1012.

OUR BUS TOUR OF BEDFORD METROPARK

A group of 35 people, most of whom are Walton Hills residents, toured Bedford Metropark by bus one Sunday early in March. Historian Joe Jesensky and Park Manager Bill Osborn told many fascinating stories about the history and the geology of the area. It was a cold drizzly morning, but the bits of information Joe and Bill shared with the participants made the event very worthwhile. Now wooded over, they pointed out to us old Indian campsites and forts, mill sites, quarries, farms and dairy pastures and the Bedford Glens dance hall.

Bedford Metropark is the most distinctive and significant of all the parks in the Emerald Necklace. The gorge, the "type locality" rock commonly called the Bedford Formation, and its diversity of plant and animal life make it unique.

Except for when it flows through the park, Tinker's Creek is a calm, slow-moving stream. In our area, however, the river plunges abruptly in a series of cascades and waterfalls. There are over seventy cascades, rapids and small waterfalls in the park; Bridal Veil Falls is the most popular of them.

For over 12,000 years Tinker's Creek has been carving out a valley through our area. Steep scenic cliffs of exposed sandstone and shale frame its sides. Its steep-walled gorge is one-half mile in length and one hundred ninety feet deep at the observation platform. As the river continues to slowly cut through soft and brittle sandstone and shale, the valley will become even deeper in years to come.



LOOKING DOWN AT TINKER'S CREEK
VIEW FROM RIM OF LOST MEADOWS PICNIC AREA:
THE MARCH TOUR OF BEDFORD METROPARK

If there is enough interest, another tour of the park can be arranged, but we may have to carpool and we may not be able to have Joe as our guide. If interested, contact us at 232-6142, and tell us your preference of day of the week and month of the year.

HIKE AND BREAKFAST IN THE PARK

SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 16



Mark your calendars!



Sign-up dates are Thursday and Friday, October 6 and 7

Hike and Breakfast date is Sunday, October 16 9-11:30am

Sunday, October 16th, the trees in Bedford Metropark will be at their peak. Join a park naturalist for an early Sunday morning walk through nature's near-by wonderland, our metropolitan park. Work up an appetite!

Afterwards, a delicious hearty breakfast awaits you, prepared by volunteer chefs Don and Lynn Shaft and a host of other volunteers. Price of admission: Each participant takes an ingredient; a dozen eggs, a pound of bacon, etc. When you phone in your registration the park ranger will tell you what to contribute for the breakfast and give you details about the morning walk.

Between 50 and 70 people are expected to join the walk and breakfast. Registration is required on Thursday, October 6 or Friday, October 7. Phone 526-1012.



Around Us

9-29-05

Walton Hills audio tour of Bedford Reservation set

Walton Hills residents are invited for a special tour of the Bedford Reservation narrated by resident historian Jean Kainsinger on Oct. 3 and 4. The Oct. 3 trip is for those who are able to get in and out of the van frequently and walk close to the sites, and the Oct. 4 trip is for those who would like to enjoy the sites from inside the van. Departure time is 9:15 a.m. from the Walton Hills Village Hall. The van will stop for lunch after the tour. The tour is free, but have \$10 for lunch. Call Lisa or Carol at 440-786-2964 to sign up or to obtain more details.



Walton Hills Owl 11-2005

A STROLL in the PARK

On a sunny, warm October Day, 17 villagers spent the day in Bedford Reservation, touring historic sites and enjoying the scenery. A Bedford school bus took the group to 8 locations in the park.

The HEAR! HERE! tour was organized and conducted by Jean and Bob Kainsinger, who volunteered their time.

Not pictured is the photographer, Jack Ulman.

Metroparks 2000: Park District Master Plan

Cleveland Metroparks master planning process is nearly complete, with preparation of management guidelines for each of the 13 Park District reservations. The two-year planning process has sought to underscore practices that maximize the Park District's mission of conservation, education and recreation. Priority commitment is given to "taking care of existing infrastructure," including, for example, 77 miles of road, 180 buildings, 62 miles of all purpose trails, and six golf courses. In addition, an inventory of natural resources in the seven-county, Cleveland metropolitan area has been completed to facilitate regional open space coordination and public agency cooperation.

Cleveland Metroparks and each of the 13 reservations, encompassing 19,000 acres, have not previously had master plans to guide their management and resource protection. The master plans will serve as guidelines to achieve a balance between visitor recreational use and conservation of open space and wildlife/plant habitat.

For further information, contact Cleveland Metroparks Chief of Park Planning Steve Coles at 351-6300, ext. 238.

PARK DISTRICT'S MASTER PLAN FOR BEDFORD METROPARK :

**Cleveland
Metroparks**

The Metropark's Master Long-Range Plan for Bedford Metropolitan Park will soon be in final draft form, complete with drawings.

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PARTICIPANTS ABOUT TO BOARD A VAN:

PARTICIPANTS LOOKING AND LISTENING

To: Mayor Thellmann
Council Members Day, Charsanko, Kalnsinger, Pankratz, Tomcik, Tranchito
Walton Hills Owl Editor Sabo
Petition Signers

April 28, 1994

From: Jean Kalnsinger

Re: Walton Hills Owl article, April, 1994 page 25, "Metropark's 2000,"
written by Jean, edited by Bob

By way of clarification please allow me to explain the Owl article
"Metropark's 2000."

In the March '94 issue of the Emerald Necklace the following article,
"Metroparks 2000: Park District Master Plan" appeared on page 3.

March '94 Vol. 43 # 3

Metroparks **2000**: Park District Master Plan

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I phoned Mr. Coles' office, he phoned me back and allowed me to interview him for an article I was going to compose for the Walton Hills Owl. (A copy of this article, written from his words, is *ON THE BACK*).

When Mr. Coles told me about the park's plans for the Cleaveland Hill Farm acreage I said, "Gee, that pavilion and picnic area will abut the houses on Chestnut, Tulip and at the end of Wight Oaks. Will you put up a fence around the picnic area?" Mr. Coles said a fence was not in the plans, and he added residents who abut other Metroparks' picnic areas don't complain, and he thinks they like the convenience of having a nearby play area and pavilion. I know he did not anticipate negative response to the park's plans for the Cleaveland Hill Farm acreage even though I hinted to him that this might be a concern to nearby residents.

Bob and I felt the Metroparks' long-range plans for Bedford Metropark, which will soon be in final draft form, are of interest and possible concern to Walton Hills residents. Even though we are six years from the turn of the century, those of us who live near the park have keen interest in the future development of the park.

We believe it is better to alert Villagers now, rather than wait until these plans are too far along to challenge/change.

Village of Walton Hills, Ohio

MUNICIPAL BUILDING • 7595 WALTON ROAD • WALTON HILLS, OHIO 44146

4/21/94
PLURSE CC
COUNCIL
TMC
EJS

April 21, 1994

Mr. Steven D. Coles
Chief of Park Planning
Cleveland Metroparks
4101 Fulton Parkway
Cleveland, Ohio 44144

Dear Mr. Coles:

Thank you for your letter of April 14 explaining the Metroparks' position concerning a new picnic area in the Bedford Reservation located in Walton Hills. Your letter helped defuse what could have been a difficult situation at our council meeting on April 19 regarding the notice in our local paper concerning an old homesite on Wight Oak Lane being the intended location for a picnic area.

I believe all of the residents in that area are pacified at this time. I am enclosing their petition for your files.

Thank you for your prompt response. I look forward to discussing this project with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Edward L. Thellmann
MAYOR

VILLAGE OF WALTON HILLS, OHIO

ELT:jcn

enclosure

DIRECTOR'S NOTES CLEVELAND METROPARKS—PRESENT AND FUTURE

The Cleveland Metropolitan Park District was formed in July 1917, one year after the formation of the National Park Service.

There are about 30 park districts in Ohio under the same authority as Cleveland Metroparks. The Park District was created in accordance with Chapter 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Park Board is a body politic and corporate. A three-member board is appointed by the senior Probate Court Judge of Cuyahoga County for a three-year term on a rotating basis. The Board of Park Commissioners may acquire lands either within or without the Park district for conversion into forest reserves and future conservation of the natural resources of the State. It may create parks, parkways, reservations, to improve and protect and promote the use of the same in such a manner as the Board deems conducive to the general welfare.

To provide for rural parks and open spaces for the City of Cleveland and surrounding communities, the Board proceeded to consider a comprehensive plan for the acquisition of a system of parks and parkways which would carry into effect its reason for existence.

Shortly after the Civil War, General William T. Sherman visited friends in Cleveland and observed what is now Metropark Rocky River. He had just returned from a European tour viewing some of the valleys and scenic areas there, and commented that he had not seen as beautiful a valley as Rocky River in all his travels.

A master plan for land acquisition was prepared by William Stinchcomb and Frederick Law Olmsted of Boston, for the former Cuyahoga County Park Board, and as approved and adopted by that board and presented to the National Conference on City Planning at its meeting held in Cleveland in June, 1916, was adopted by this Board as its plan for the proposed system. This plan

illustrated the various suggested routes combined into one continuous outer encircling parkway, touching the present existing city park system in two places, and crossing or following most of the improved main county roads and municipal thoroughfares in the District.

The Board planned to survey the entire territory involved to include a comprehensive, accurate topographical map of each section in order to intelligently acquire the lands needed.

In 1961, Cleveland Metroparks and the Regional Planning Commission updated the land acquisition plan with the "Gems of the Emerald Necklace." Now we have over 18½ thousand acres, which is slightly short of the goal of the 1961 Regional Planning report.

Since the formation of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area with its intended acquisition outside of Cleveland Metroparks, the open space goal for the area is reached. Metroparks has kept pace with population growth: 1930—1,500,000 visitors, 1950—8,500,000. Expanding suburban development began in the late 1950s, now in full swing, visitation increased to 15,000,000 in 1970 and 17,000,000 in 1975, and is projected to be over 20,000,000 by 1980. Extensive user surveys were conducted from the winter of 1974 through the summer of 1975. The purpose was to identify the many types of Park visitors and how they perceived their experiences in relation to their specific activities. About 8,000 questionnaires were distributed to Park users. From this survey and the rapidly increasing usage, two issues emerged: an increasing demand for recreational facilities, and ability of the natural resources (park) in its present size and condition to withstand the pressure of the increasing use.

Since conservation-preservation is the objective of the Metroparks creation, it followed that management of its resources was necessary to continue. Development of a Natural Resource Department concerned with forestry management, wildlife management and fish management has been established to give emphasis to our natural resource preservation.

The Cleveland Metroparks System is now producing a plan for the development and management of the parks, covering ten years beginning with 1980.

Before commencing any detailed study or planning effort, a methodology or structure for performing all work was established. A work program was evolved which addresses certain basic study needs which include: refinement of study purpose; identification of necessary data; collection of data not presently available; analysis of data; development of alternatives; plan formulation; and preparation of written reports.

The Board of Park Commissioners is now in the completion stage of this plan which is essential for the next ten years' growth of capital projects and land acquisition, as well as operation of the Cleveland Metroparks System. Combining inventory data, visitors needs and desires, demographic projections, resource sensitivity, conserva-

tion balance, and open space availability will result in a plan that can accomplish preservation of diminishing natural areas through selective acquisition, provide for the increasing and varied recreational needs of the public, balance optimum development with the natural resource sensitivity, and manage the natural resources to assure their protection and stability.

Your Cleveland Metroparks are different from almost any other natural resource because though we may properly use them, we do not consume them.

Harold Schick, *Director-Secretary*

THE EMERALD NECKLACE

Published Monthly By

Cleveland Metroparks System
55 Public Square
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
(216) 621-1054



Metroparks

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Shawnee Hills Golf Course

2-2003

"Northeast Ohio's Total Golf Experience"

In 1989, Shawnee Hills, in Bedford Reservation expanded to a 27 hole facility, including an 18-hole regulation course and a 9-hole Par 3 course. The original 18 holes were designed by local architect Ben Zink in 1957. Zink, a golf course superintendent at Acacia and Kirtland, designed Berkshire Hills in Chesterland and the former Landerhaven Golf Course in Mayfield Heights. The expansion of the course was designed and constructed by Cleveland Metroparks staff with the exception of "gorge holes" #2 and #3 which were completed through a contract. From the original 9-hole regulation course, only four holes remain intact.

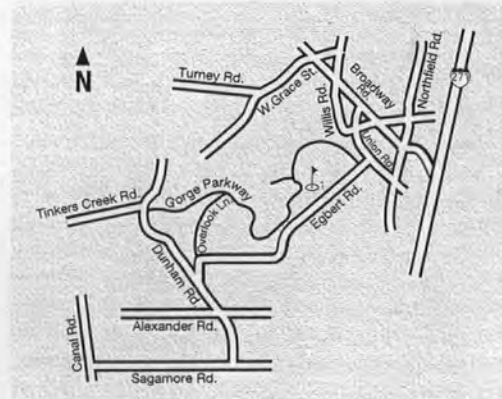
Shawnee Hills is the most versatile course in Cleveland Metroparks. Lessons are available and players can practice on the 29-station driving range. Beginners can enhance skills on the sporty par 3 course. The back nine with its gentle rolling terrain and water hazards has been likened to a "Florida" course. The challenging front nine with its hills and large pines, maples, oaks, and beautiful Deer Lick Creek, is reminiscent of a course in the Carolinas. As you walk down the hill from the #1 green to the #2 tee, take note of the grave site of Mary Egbert. The Egberts farmed the land that most of the course was built on. Mary

was one of the Egbert sisters and died at the age of three in 1843.

The most difficult hole at Shawnee Hills, and possibly the toughest hole in Cleveland Metroparks is #13. It is a converted par 5 hole, now a 451 yard uphill, tree-lined, dogleg left par 4.

The best feature of Shawnee Hills is its versatility. Players can enjoy the game no matter what their skill level.

Shawnee Hills Golf Course features: pro shop; professional golf lessons; power and hand cart rental; club rental; practice putting green; driving range; watered greens, tees and fairways; and a snack bar.



Bedford Reservation
18753 Egbert Road
Bedford OH 44146
(440) 232-7184



Regulation Course

18 Holes	Par 71	6366 Yards	Middle	Back	Ladies
Course Rating			68.3	69.1	71.5
Slope Rating			111	113	117

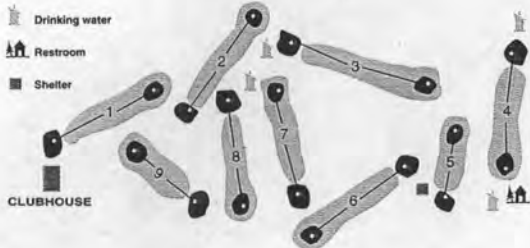
Hole	Par	Yards	Hole	Par	Yards
1	4	421	10	4	370
2	4	401	11	3	192
3	4	352	12	4	280
4	5	490	13	4	469
5	4	356	14	3	135
6	3	175	15	4	357
7	4	334	16	5	552
8	4	418	17	4	385
9	4	330	18	4	349
Out	36	3277	In	35	3089

Par 3 Course

9 Holes Par 27 1293 Yards

Hole	Par	Yards
1	3	150
2	3	159
3	3	188
4	3	150
5	3	96
6	3	154
7	3	140
8	3	138
9	3	118
Out	27	1293

KEY



NEW at BEDFORD RESERVATION

HEAR HERE!

1620 AM

an Audio Tour of Bedford Reservation
June 1st - October 23rd

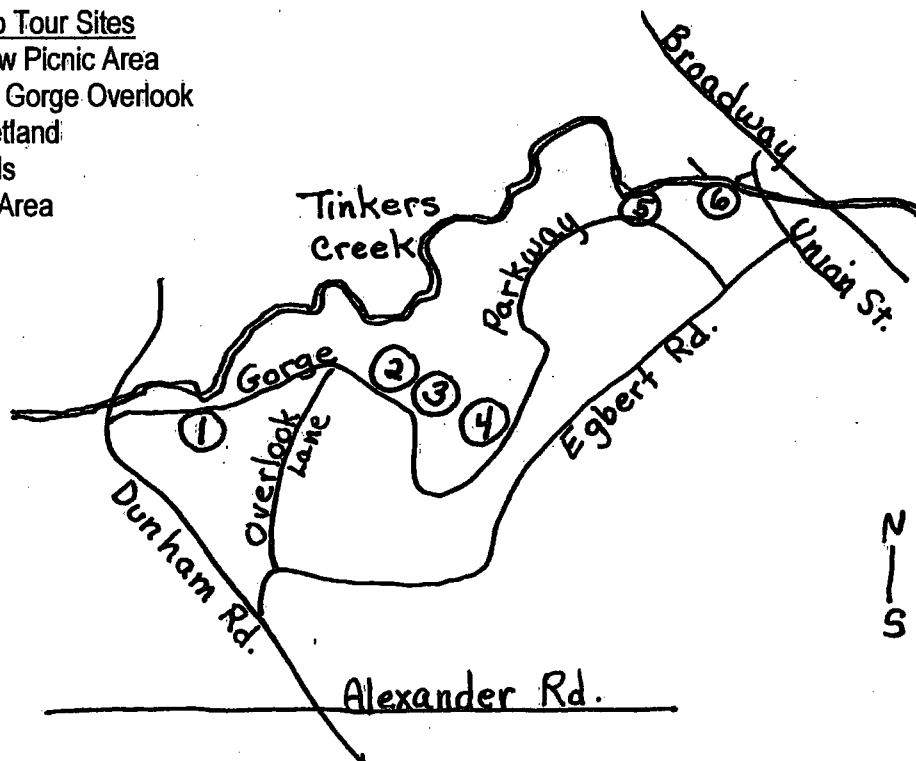
Hear Here! is a half-day, self-led audio tour through Bedford Reservation, adaptable for persons of all ages and physical capabilities. Pick a morning or afternoon some day between June 1st and October 23rd, hop in the car and drive to any of the Bedford Reservation's entrances, including the one to Viaduct Park, by Taylor and Willis Roads. Tune your radio to 1620 AM when you enter the park.

Hear Here! will be your guide for a very unique experience. At each stop tune in to 1620 AM to listen for facts and interesting stories about places nearby.

As a Hear Here! visitor you can customize your tour to your liking. You can get out of the car and explore each area after listening to the audio, or choose to drive onward to another tune-in stop.

Hear Here! Audio Tour Sites

- 1 - Hermit's Hollow Picnic Area
- 2 - Tinkers Creek Gorge Overlook
- 3 - Bumtridge Wetland
- 4 - Bridal Veil Falls
- 5 - Egbert Picnic Area
- 6 - Viaduct Park



J. Kainsinger

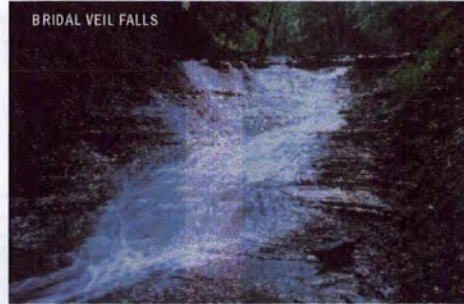
BEDFORD RESERVATION



- 1** TINKERS CREEK GORGE NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK
- 2** BRIDAL VEIL FALLS
- PA** HERMIT'S HOLLOW PICNIC AREA
P **WC** **BB** wading pool
- PA** HEMLOCK CREEK PICNIC AREA
P **WC** **BB** **TR**
- PA** LOST MEADOWS PICNIC AREA
P **WC** **BB** **TR**
- PA** EGBERT ROAD PICNIC AREA
P **WC** **BB**
- PA** WILLIS STREET PICNIC AREA
P **WC** **BB** **TR**

hearhere!

AN AUDIO TOUR OF CLEVELAND METROPARKS



Hear Here! Audio Tour Sites

- 1 Hermit's Hollow Picnic Area
- 2 Tinkers Creek Gorge Scenic Overlook
- 3 Burntride Wetland
- 4 Bridal Veil Falls
- 5 Egbert Picnic Area
- 6 Viaduct Park

HEAR HERE! AUDIO TOUR MAP
Cleveland Metroparks Bedford Reservation
located in Bedford and Walton Hills

For more information, call 216-635-3200.





TINKERS CREEK SCENIC OVERLOOK

hear here!

AN AUDIO TOUR OF CLEVELAND METROPARKS



VIADUCT PARK

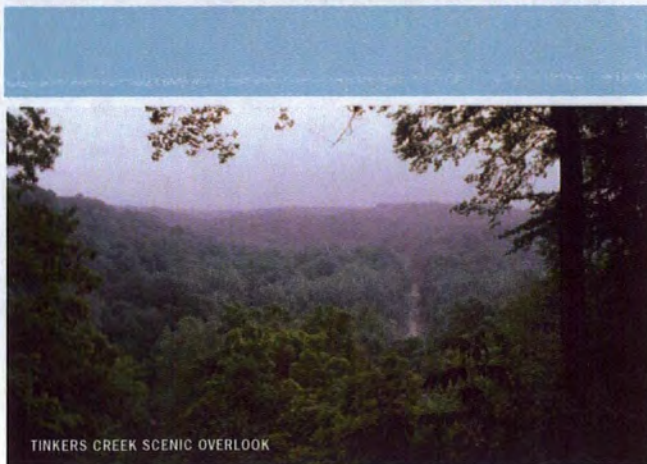
HEAR HERE! JUNE 1 - OCTOBER 23

Cleveland Metroparks Bedford Reservation

Cleveland Metroparks Bedford Reservation, located in Bedford and Walton Hills, is yours to discover when you take part in Hear Here! – An Audio Tour of Cleveland Metroparks!

This half-day, self-led tour is perfect for all ages. Pick a morning or afternoon, weekday or weekend, hop in the car, and get ready to tune your radio to 1620 AM at each Hear Here! site for a unique tour of six gems of the "Emerald Necklace."

At each stop, turn off your car engine and tune in to 1620 AM to listen for facts and interesting stories about places like Tinkers Creek Gorge Scenic Overlook, Bridal Veil Falls and Viaduct Park. Feel free to customize your tour – stopping at sites in whatever order you like. And, be sure to get out and explore each area after you listen.



TINKERS CREEK SCENIC OVERLOOK



hear here!

AN AUDIO TOUR OF CLEVELAND METROPARKS

June 1 - October 23

Cleveland Metroparks Bedford Reservation

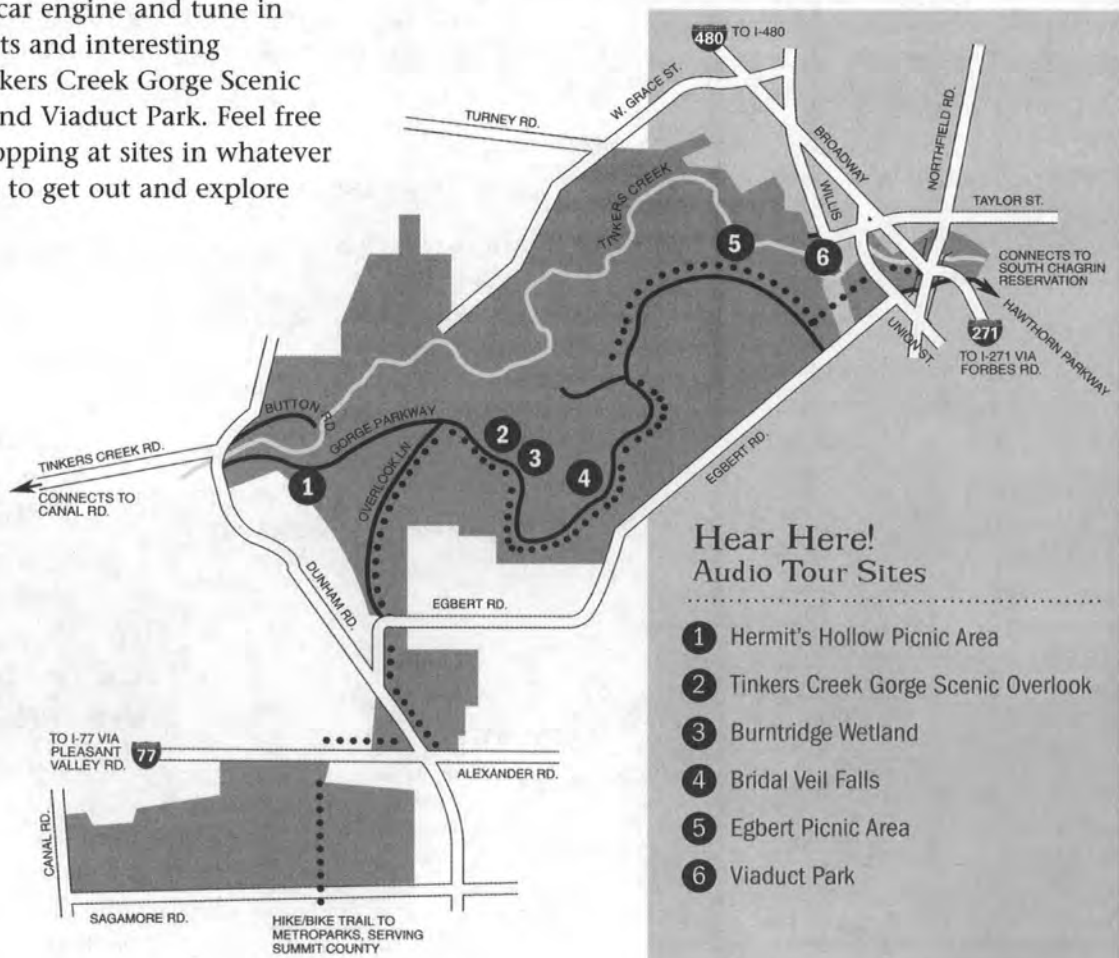
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The “great” falls of Tinkers Creek at Viaduct Park in Bedford Reservation.



Hear Here! Audio Tour Sites

- 1 Hermit's Hollow Picnic Area
- 2 Tinkers Creek Gorge Scenic Overlook
- 3 Burntridge Wetland
- 4 Bridal Veil Falls
- 5 Egbert Picnic Area
- 6 Viaduct Park

HEAR HERE! AUDIO TOUR MAP

Cleveland Metroparks Bedford Reservation
located in Bedford and Walton Hills

Cleveland Metroparks Summer Golf

The Brothers Championship

Saturday, June 18 • 10 a.m.
Manakiki Golf Course
North Chagrin Reservation
440-942-2500

Compete in the tournament that crowns a winning two-person team of brothers. The front nine is a scramble and the back nine is a better-ball competition. Register by June 12. A \$120 team fee is required when registering. Prizes will be awarded.

Girl's Golf Day

Saturday, June 18 • 1 p.m.
Shawnee Hills Golf Course
Bedford Reservation

Celebrate "girl power" at this girls only golf day for ages 8 to 15. Includes a clinic, speaker and golf on the Par 3 course. Register by June 12 by calling 440-232-7184. A \$12 fee is due when registering.

Treat Dad to Golf on Father's Day

Sunday, June 19 • 1 p.m. - dusk
Dad's play free on Father's Day at all six Cleveland Metroparks golf courses after 1 p.m. Dad must be accompanied by at least one greens fee paying family member. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the golf course - see the directory on page 28 or call 216-635-3673 (FORE).

Moonlight Golf

Friday, June 24 • 9:30 p.m.
Shawnee Hills Par 3 Golf Course
Friday, July 22 • 9 p.m.
Mastick Woods Golf Course

Golfers challenge their night vision and play nine holes with a "Nitelite" golf ball! A shotgun start takes players into a night world of golf, with glowing golf balls, tees and greens. Registration is required and space is limited. The fee is \$20.

Father/Daughter Tournament

Saturday, June 25
Little Met Golf Course
Rocky River Reservation

Dads and daughters tee off starting at 1:30 p.m. Registration required by calling 216-941-9672. The fee is \$25 per team.

Course Championships

Saturday, July 30 and
Sunday, July 31
Are you the best amateur golfer in Cleveland? Top finishers in these 36 hole course championships - Big Met and Shawnee Hills (\$70), and Manakiki and Sleepy Hollow (\$80) - qualify for the 54-hole Greater Cleveland Amateur Championship August 12 - 14 at Sleepy Hollow.

Father/Son Golf Tournaments

Bring your family two-some for these Dad and son events.

Saturday, July 9
Fathers and pee wees, ages 6 - 9
9-hole play (modified alternate shot) - \$25 per team
Mastick Woods Golf Course
Rocky River Reservation

Sunday, July 10
Fathers and cadets, ages 10 - 13
9-hole play (modified scramble) - \$30 per team
Little Met Golf Course
Rocky River Reservation

Saturday, July 16
Fathers and juniors, ages 14 - 17
18-hole play (front 9 - scramble, back 9 - better ball) - \$60 per team
Big Met Golf Course
Rocky River Reservation

Sunday, July 17
Father and adult son (18 & over)
18-hole play (front 9 - scramble, back 9 - better ball) - \$80 per team
Manakiki Golf Course
North Chagrin Reservation

Register at least six days prior to the tournament. Space is limited. See the directory on page 28 or call 216-635-3673 (FORE).

Hey Golfers: Stay in touch with the "On the Fairways" golf email newsletter

Subscribe now and start receiving a free golf email newsletter from Cleveland Metroparks Golf. Featuring: golf tips, special offers, news from the courses, and more! Register by emailing: msj@clevelandmetroparks.com now and be entered to win a foursome of golf passes for next season.



July 2005
Emerald
Necklace

hearhere!

AN AUDIO TOUR OF CLEVELAND METROPARKS

June 1 - October 23

Cleveland Metroparks Bedford Reservation

Cleveland Metroparks Bedford Reservation, located in Bedford and Walton Hills, is yours to discover when you take part in Hear Here! – An Audio Tour of Cleveland Metroparks!

This half-day, self-led tour is perfect for all ages. Pick a morning or afternoon, weekday or weekend, hop in the car, and get ready to tune your radio to 1620 AM at each Hear Here! site for a unique tour of six gems of the “Emerald Necklace.”

At each stop, turn off your car engine and tune in to 1620 AM to listen for facts and interesting stories about places like Tinkers Creek Gorge Scenic Overlook, Bridal Veil Falls and Viaduct Park. Feel free to customize your tour – stopping at sites in whatever order you like. And, be sure to get out and explore each area after you listen.



Witness the breathtaking beauty at Tinkers Creek Gorge Scenic Overlook.



Hear Here! Audio Tour Sites

- 1 Hermit's Hollow Picnic Area
- 2 Tinkers Creek Gorge Scenic Overlook
- 3 Burntridge Wetland
- 4 Bridal Veil Falls
- 5 Egbert Picnic Area
- 6 Viaduct Park

HEAR HERE! AUDIO TOUR MAP
Cleveland Metroparks Bedford Reservation
located in Bedford and Walton Hills

Plight of the Phoenix

You will read this two months from when I am writing this. I know it will be summer, on the day you read this but I needed to write this down while it was still fresh in my mind. Some things cannot wait.

We awoke today to find that a bird once thought extinct – gone, without a trace for nearly 60 years – has been returned to us. The ivory-billed woodpecker, a bird so large, so dramatic that it was called the *Lord God Bird*, has been found in the Big Swamp of Arkansas.

Extinct is forever, and the general wisdom said this bird was gone. Few Americans remain who can say with certainty that they saw one in the swamps of the south in their youth. Rediscovering the ivory billed woodpecker in Arkansas is like waking up and finding a mastodon eating cabbages in your garden. Yesterday, both seemed equally probable. Yet today one is true.

Birders are an active group, and amazing to some, as active on the internet as they are in the field. The local and national listservs were abuzz with the news, and the controversies that immediately arose. A few wrote that they'd like to travel to Arkansas to see one. Others pointed out that the research teams established a record of over 20,000 hours of effort for each sighting. An average of seven years of searching per bird seemed out of the reach of most. Still others pointed out that most sightings were reported from a relatively small area, and that the bird might indeed be quite findable under those circumstances. Who might arrange to see one, and how might it happen? Yet others feared for its future with the potential of researchers who might capture, band or seek DNA samples of the bird; or worse yet, others who might clandestinely "collect" it? Could a bird which still teeters on the brink of extinction be toppled over into the dark abyss of

history by curiosity, love, study, or simple greed?

But then a groundswell quickly arose which heartened me, and reaffirmed my faith in the best of those who find their hearts in nature. Many wrote to say that they rejoiced in the rediscovery of this phoenix-bird, now

arisen from the ashes of time, but that they would never try to go and find it. It was enough to know that it was still alive, blood coursing through its veins, eking out its meager living amongst the darkened backwater swamps of one block of land in Arkansas, in areas so remote that it had remained undiscovered for nearly a half-century.

For the most part, wildlife management does not manage wildlife, it manages habitat. The wildlife

largely manage themselves. Wildlife management has a long and strong tradition in Cleveland Metroparks, and can measure its successes in many acres of new wetlands, careful stewardship of meadows and watersheds, the increase in biodiversity throughout the Park District and the rise of formerly extirpated species like beaver and wild turkey. Here the habitats are many, and most species remain abundant and healthy. But in the backwater swamps of Arkansas ...

It has been written that our civilization may be measured not by what we created, but what we chose to leave alone. The Lord God Bird has risen like the phoenix of legend from the mists of history. Now we must choose what to do. Until one fateful day in late April, the bird seemed gone forever. Now we, as stewards of the earth, have been given one more chance to do something profoundly right.

Robert D. Hinkle, Ph.D.
Chief of Outdoor Education



Ivory-billed woodpecker, Singer Tract, Louisiana, 1935. Photo courtesy of David Allen.

Historic Sites in Our Parks – Bedford Reservation and Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Elijah Nobles – First Person to build a cabin in Bedford Township

Mills Built on Property that had been Nobles' Lot

First Permanent Settlers – the Comstock Family

Distillery

Ma Parker's Tavern

Roads in Little Egypt

**Also see: Life in the Community of Little Egypt Album
Most of the Little Egypt area is in either Bedford Reservation or the CVNP**

World's End

Gleeson Family – The Astors - Astorhurst

James Egbert Homestead, Farm, Hannah Egbert Grave

Oxen Lanes and General Data about our Sandstone Quarries

Cleaveland Hill Farm and Quarry

Mars Wager Quarry

Boy Scout Cabin – Old Hermit – Hermit Hollow Picnic Pavilion

Sagamore Hills Beer Garden

New York Central Freight Line

**Also see: Trains, Trolleys and Planes Album
The NYC Freight Line went through what is now Bedford Reservation and CVNP**

Bedford Glens

Powers Mill and other Mills

Viaduct Park

Field Trip Guide to Selected Sites in the CVNP

**Also see: Tinkers Creek Cemetery Album
Tinkers Creek Cemetery is in the CVNP**

SITE of the FIRST CABIN in BEDFORD TOWNSHIP

The first person to build a cabin in Bedford Township was Elijah Nobles. In 1813, Nobles built his log cabin on the north side of Tinkers Creek, just to the east of the Independence Township line, near today's Dunham Road. He only lived there a short time. According to Crisfield Johnson, in his definitive *History of Cuyahoga County Ohio* published in 1879, Nobles "found himself reduced to extreme poverty with a heavy encumbrance on his land." He abandoned his cabin in 1815 and moved to Bedford.

Nobles' land was at the junction of two well-traveled roadways; Tinkers Creek Road, which became a dedicated county road in 1811, and the Cleveland-Pittsburgh Stage Road, which had earlier been part of the Mahoning Trail and is now Dunham Road. Part of Nobles' property passed into the hands of Adams & Starr who built the first mills in the township, and the rest was purchased by Cardeo Parker who opened a tavern.

1813: Elijah Nobles - first person to move into Bedford Township

The Hudsons of Hudson OH gave Elijah Nobles lot 46 for free - on condition he make certain improvements to the land. Nobles' property was on Tinkers Creek Road, and 3 miles from his nearest settler.

Neighbors in Independence Township came and built him a cabin - in a single day.

Nobles became weary of loneliness. He left his cabin in the spring.

Most of his land passed to Adams and Starr. The rest was taken by Cardee Parker - "Mother Parker's Tavern.

1815: Adams and Starr opened the first factory in Bedford Township - a Saw and Grist Mill on Tinkers Creek.

1820: Culverson & Boland built "Gleeson Mills" - then taken over by Moses Gleeson.

Mills Elijah Nobles' lot was split in two parts. On one section, in 1815, Adams and Starr opened the first factory in Bedford Township, a Saw and Grist Mill on Tinkers Creek. By 1820, the second owners of the mill, Culverson & Boland, rebuilt the structure to only accommodate grains, and sold the business to Moses Gleeson. The Gleeson Grist Mill thrived. A stone foundation supported the mill's wooden super-structure. A mill race, or sluice, channeled water from Tinkers Creek to the mill, providing a constant supply of water to the grist mill. See Map 2-4

Gleeson also established a Saw Mill in Little Egypt, located in today's Hermits Hollow Picnic area of Bedford Reservation. It was run by a steam engine. See Map 2-5

GRIST MILL

Early maps show a grist mill and a saw mill in this area. The grist mill was built by Adams and Starr in 1815, on part of Elijah Noble's property. Moses Gleeson took over the mill a few years later and made it a successful operation. A stone foundation supported the mill's wooden super structure. A millrace, or sluice channeled water from Tinkers Creek, providing a constant supply of water to the grist mill. Today, two mill stones from the old Gleeson grist mill are featured in front of the Astorhurst Restaurant. They were found at the mill site by a former owner.

The grist mill stood behind the present day Astorhurst Restaurant on the grounds where there is now a concrete block building used for living quarters. Records at the Cuyahoga County Archives indicate the mill, with living quarters for the family, was built c. 1840. Moses and Polly Gleeson, with their 7 sons and 3 daughters moved to the grist mill location from their first homestead at the junction of Canal Road and Tinkers Creek Road.

The site of the grist mill is now on Cuyahoga Valley National Park land.

THE COMSTOCK FAMILY

The first permanent residents in Bedford Township were the Comstocks. In 1814, Stephen and Julia Comstock left Connecticut to settle here on land they purchased from the Connecticut Land Company. They built their log cabin on the north side of Tinkers Creek on what is today Astorhurst property. Their second child, Sarah, was born in April of 1815. Sarah Comstock was the first child of settlers born in Bedford Township.

Today, although both the Astorhurst Golf Course and the Astorhurst Restaurant and picnic grounds are privately owned, they are both within the jurisdiction and boundaries of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

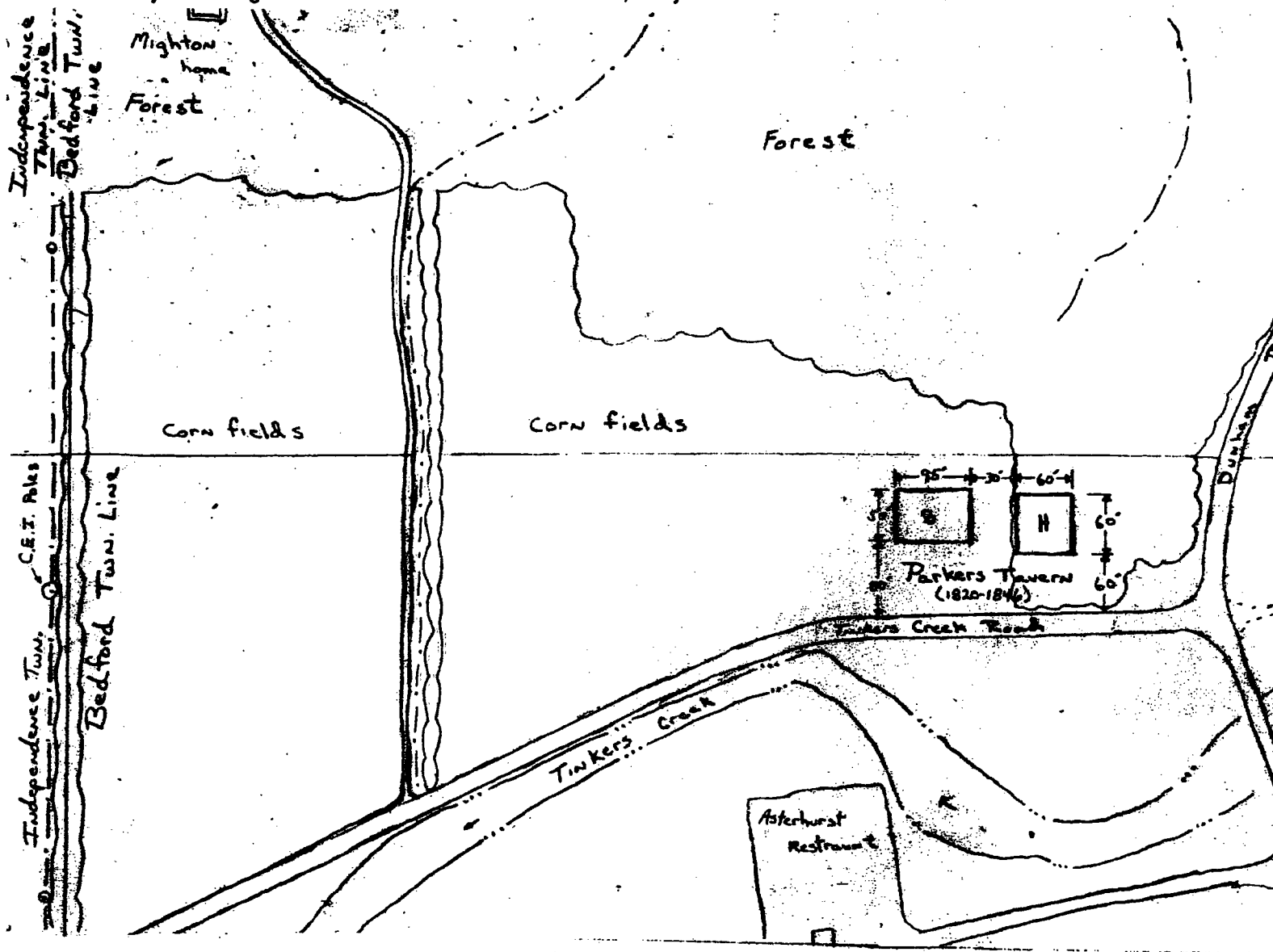
DISTILLERY

This area had springs of crystal-clear water seeping through cracks in rocky hillsides. A distillery was in use off and on into the early 1900s. Using a wooden trough, the distillers piped spring water from the hillside by today's Astorhurst Driving Range to the flats below where they made their liquors. The site of the distillery is in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

The Site of Ma Parker's Tavern

Sketch by Joseph Jesensky

Ma Parker's Tavern The other part of Noble's lot was taken by Cardeo and Mary Ann Parker. The Parkers built a house big enough for a tavern and inn. They called their establishment **Mother Parker's Tavern**. Ma Parker's Tavern, as it was more often called, operated from 1820-1846. It was known as a friendly, homey establishment. The front of the house had a tavern and small dining room used when the Parkers had women customers. The upstairs had sleeping space for traveling men, and the Parkers probably offered their bedroom to women and families who stayed overnight. When Cardeo Parker died in 1827, Mary Ann Parker continued to run the business.



The Legend of the Lost Dauphin is a story told about Ma Parker's Tavern. In the early 1820s, two young men entered the tavern. Ma Parker served them dinner and they stayed overnight. They left the next morning without paying the bill. Several months later, Mary Ann Parker received a letter postmarked from a country in Europe. In the envelope was a sum of money. The writer requested Ma Parker keep the issue a secret.

Louis Philippe and his wife, dressed in men's clothes were the visitors. Louis Philippe was the Lost Dauphin, the King of France's oldest son. He and his wife were staying in the United States for his safety. It is known that the two of them had been in the Ohio cities of Gallipolis and Coshocton. They probably escaped their entourage for a get-away, but didn't take enough money with them. Louis Philippe returned to France to reign as King of France from 1830 - 1848. The French word "Dauphin" is their term for a Crown Prince who would take over the throne upon the current King's death.

MOTHER PARKER'S TAVERN

In c. 1820 Cardeo Parker opened an inn and tavern on land that earlier belonged to Elijah Nobles. This public house was called Mother Parker's Tavern. It was in operation from 1820 until 1846 and was noted for its warm hospitality. Mary Ann Parker, Cardeo's wife, operated the business during the 1820's and for a short time after her husband died in 1827. Then she moved to Independence and opened an establishment by the Akron-Cleveland Canal.

The Legend of the Lost Dauphin is a story told about Mother Parker's Tavern. In the early 1820's two young men entered the tavern, and Ma Parker served them dinner and found them a room in her inn. They left the next morning without paying the bill. However, several months later Mary Ann Parker received a letter postmarked from a country in Europe. In the envelope was a sum of money that far exceeded the unpaid bill and a letter identifying the two visitors. The writer requested Ma Parker to keep the contents of the letter secret.

In time the story became public. The Lost Dauphin was Louis Philippe, the oldest son of the King of France, and his companion was his wife disguised as a young man. Louis Philippe returned to his country to reign as King of France from 1830-1848. It is historical fact that Louis Philippe traveled in Ohio during the 1820s when he was forced to flee his country and live in exile. It is also known that Louis Philippe stayed in two other Ohio cities, Gallipolis and Coshocton, during the early 1820's, so the legend that King Louis Philippe of France slept overnight in Walton Hills is probably true.

The last private owners of the Cardeo Parker property were the Grohs, descendants and heirs of the Mightons. Two of their scenic old barns stood at the base of the hillside, but neither is there today, nor is the Groh house. In 1981 this land became part of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

***Historical Sites in Our Parks: Sights in Cuyahoga Valley National Park
and Bedford Reservation within Boundaries of the Village of Walton Hills c. 2004***

ROADS in LITTLE EGYPT

Tinkers Creek Road. This road became a dedicated county road in 1811. Tinkers Creek Road started at the Cuyahoga River and traveled eastward to Dunham Road.

An iron trussed bridge with wood planks crossed Tinkers Creek at the north end of Egypt Road. The bridge was located at the site of the old Gleeson grist mill, near the township border.

Ned Hubbell, in his book *Life in Bedford 1813-1970*, writes that Tinkers Creek was on the south side of today's Astorhurst Restaurant, not on the north side as it is today. The path of Tinkers Creek has been diverted to its current horseshoe shape around today's Astorhurst Restaurant parking lot.

Egypt and Dunham Roads. Both of these roads were once part of the Mahoning Trail and the Cleveland-Pittsburgh Stagecoach Road. At its north end, Egypt Road started at Tinkers Creek Road and extended south to Valley View Road in Sagamore Hills.

The south end of Dunham Road was at Button Road. Dunham Road went northward into the Village of Maple Heights. Egypt Road and Dunham Road did not connect in those days. Egypt Road got its name from what was thought to have been an Indian Mound that resembled the shape of an Egyptian pyramid. Dunham Road was named for the Dunham families who settled along the Maple Heights section of the road in the early 1800s.

Records at the County Engineers office show Egypt and Dunham Roads as being among the very oldest roads in Cuyahoga County. They became dedicated County roads in 1820, twenty years after Moses Cleaveland and his team surveyed this part of the Western Reserve in 1796 and 1797. By 1852 the County laid wood boards along the roads, marking them as plank roads on their maps. Years later, the County paved the roads with bricks. In 1907 the County relocated the two roads in the Tinkers Creek area and merged them to form one roadway – Dunham Road.

Button Road. Button Road, dedicated as a county road in 1825, was one of several early highways of the Western Reserve. The west end of the road started at Dunham Road and the east end was at West Grace Street, in Bedford. The road connected Bedford with the canal and Cuyahoga River. By taking Button Road, it was only four miles from the center of Bedford to the canal.

The last time the County Engineers did any repair work on Button Road was in 1915. By 1923 Button Road was no longer a through road. Portions of the hilly mid-section of the road had washed out by then, and the County decided it was not feasible to rebuild, pave and maintain that part of Button Road.

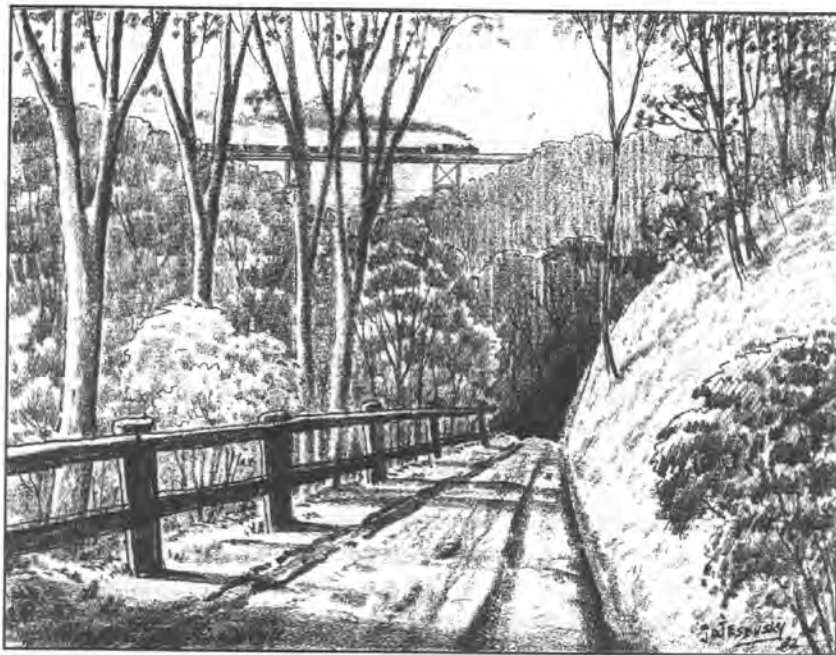
The missing mid-section of Button Road is a steep, narrow dirt path; a 180-foot incline along a ridge. A natural spring on the steep hillside makes the land unstable. Years ago there had been a wooden guard rail, but it offered little protection to the traveler. The severe grade presented a real challenge to a man

who tried to pull a wagon loaded with goods up the hill. One local farmer made extra money by providing his services and his team of spare horses or mules to travelers who needed help up Button Road hill.

Today, the short, paved western section of Button Road leads to Bedford Reservation's maintenance center and Hemlock Creek Picnic Area.

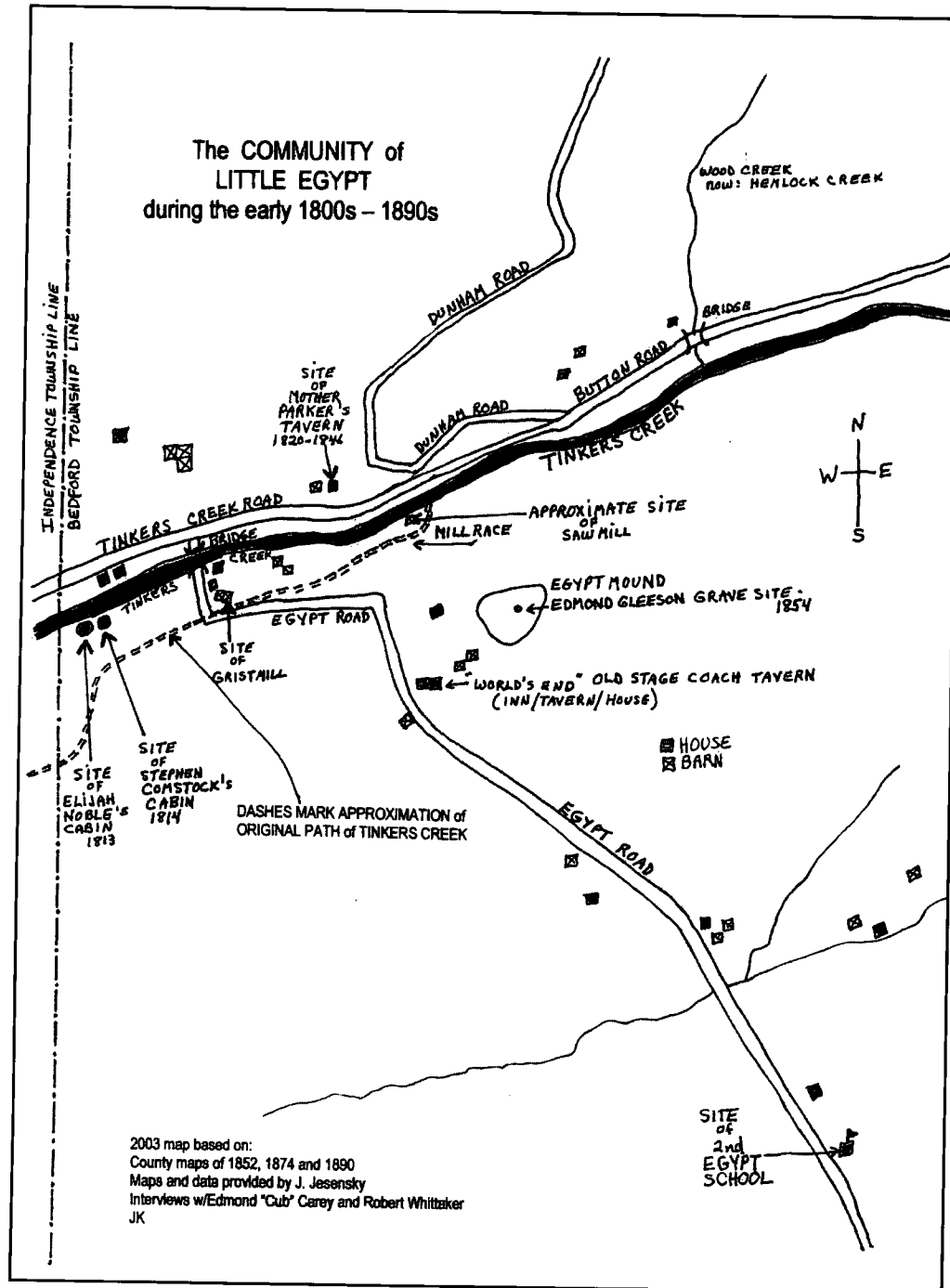
Park staff recently cleared the underbrush from the old washed-out, mid-section of Button Road. Horseback riders and hikers can now follow the original path of Button Road, from Dunham Road to its terminus at West Grace Street in Bedford.

The junction of Tinkers Creek Road, Button Road, Dunham and Egypt Roads was bottomland, prone to flooding and mosquito problems. Today, landfill elevates the banks of Tinkers Creek and low land in this area.



VIEW from BUTTON ROAD HILL, in Bedford Reservation.
(1932 sketch by Joseph Jesensky)

The COMMUNITY of
LITTLE EGYPT
during the early 1800s - 1890s



2003 map based on:
County maps of 1852, 1874 and 1890
Maps and data provided by J. Jesensky
Interviews w/Edmond "Cub" Carey and Robert Whittaker
JK

WORLD'S END

World's End was the name of an old tavern house on a stagecoach stop along the Cleveland-Pittsburgh Stage Road. *World's End* sat on the eastern hillside of Egypt Road, overlooking the Tinkers Creek Valley, opposite today's Astorhurst golf course driving range. Indeed, from that vista a person could have felt he was on top of the world.

The building, owned by Moses Gleeson, was of unique architecture. It was two houses joined together. One section housed the resident family and the other half accommodated overnight guests upstairs, with a kitchen, dining room and tavern on the first floor. In front of the stagecoach inn, near the road, a spring-fed watering trough provided horses and pack animals with ample, good-tasting water. This long wooden water trough was a local landmark for many years.

By the turn of the 20th century the structure was no longer used as an inn or tavern. For a few decades Howard Carey, a descendant of Moses Gleeson, and his family resided in the historic homestead. A fire which accidentally started in the kitchen destroyed *World's End* in either 1936 or 1937. The wooden building – over one hundred years old – had to be torn down.

In 1982 the national government purchased the hilltop where once sat *World's End*. Soon afterwards the park service cleared the land of structures left standing.

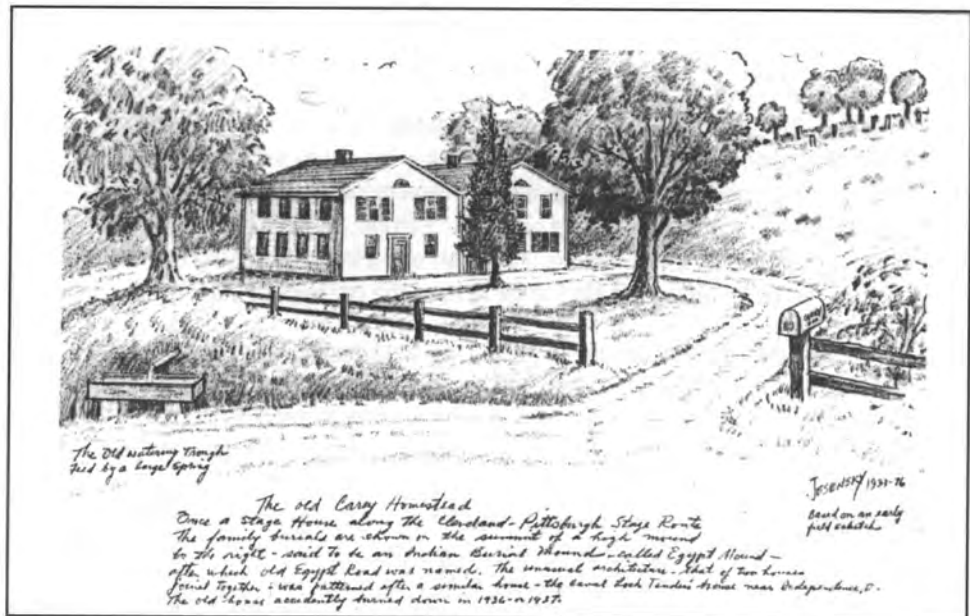
The twin to *World's End*, called the Locktender's House, which was also built by Moses Gleeson, stands at the corner of Canal and Hillside Roads. This building, restored by the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, houses the Canal Visitor Center. The Locktender's House built c. 1825, was completed by 1827 in time for the dedication of the Cleveland to Akron stretch of the canal.

However, in 1827 the Locktender's House consisted of only one house. Its duplicate connecting side wasn't built until 1853. Perhaps for its first years, *World's End*, like the Locktender's house, was only half its size.



SKETCH of WORLD'S END by Joseph Jesensky.
 Jesensky based this 1976 drawing on his 1931 sketch.
 Part of his caption read:

"The Old Carey Homestead. The family burials are shown on the summit of a high mound to the right – said to be an Indian Burial Mound called Egypt Mound after which old Egypt Road was named. The old watering trough was fed by a large spring."
 (Sketch reproduced by Nina Wolf)



Egypt Mound has been studied a number of times by geologists, archaeologists and others who were authorized by the state or national government to determine its origin. The reports conflict with one another, but the mound has been declared non-Indian. Joseph Jesensky, who was a Cuyahoga Valley Researcher, believed the mound to be of glacial origin, a Glacial Kame. Glacial kames are heaps of rocks and gravel deposited by the glaciers, more than 14 thousand years ago. It is possible that local Indians used the top of this glacial kame for one of their burial mounds.

The mound is level at the top and roughly triangular in shape, like the bottom of an iron. The two longer sides are about 30 meters long, and the shorter end is about ten meters long. It is about eight meters higher than its surrounding land. Jesensky had a theory of how the mound became triangular shaped, which is peculiar to the shape of other mounds. He

thinks that between 1904 and 1909, when New York Central crews were seeking landfill to elevate the track level behind the mound, they dug up the back part of the mound. The large rocks scattered around the base of the mound could be rocks that were too large to use for fill. Today, trees and underbrush conceal the mound's existence from the passerby.

The top of Egypt Mound was used as a cemetery by the Gleeson family. The grave and gravestone of Moses Gleeson's son, Edmond, are there. Edmond died at age 44, in 1854. A fence that had surrounded the burial plot is now gone, and the slabs of sandstone which supported the fence are barely visible. The fact that the top of mound is a Gleeson burial site, hindered the investigations into the origin of the Egypt Mound.

The GLEESON FAMILY

Moses and Polly Gleeson first settled on land they purchased in Independence Township, on Canal Road by Tinkers Creek Road. By 1818, Moses Gleeson began purchasing nearby parcels of land in Bedford Township, by the junctions of Tinkers Creek, Dunham and Egypt Roads.

Within a few years Gleeson became the principal land owner and businessman in this area. Gleeson owned a gristmill, a sawmill, a large inn/tavern known as *World's End*, a lot of acreage along the east and west sides of Egypt (Dunham) Road south of Tinkers Creek Road, and land north and south of Tinkers Creek.

Gleeson land north of Tinkers Creek is now part of Bedford Reservation, and his other land holdings are now part of Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Note: Moses Gleeson's surname is more frequently spelled *Gleason*. *Moses Gleeson* is recorded on original deeds in Cuyahoga County Archives, and is also the spelling used by Crisfield Johnson in his historical reference book.

COMSTOCK / GLEESON / CAREY FAMILIES

As years went by, in 1848 Gleeson's 38-year old son, Edmond, married the 26-year old Comstock daughter, Charlotte. They had a daughter, Clara, who married Dominick Carey in 1881. Clara (Gleeson) Carey inherited the bulk of the Gleeson estate, including the Astorhurst land holdings.

With Dominick's talents in the construction industry and Clara's money, the two of them developed a construction company that employed from 700 to 1200 men at one time, making a fortune and a name for themselves. Newspaper articles credited Dominick Carey with participation in the construction of the New York City subway and Sandusky Bay Causeway and Bridge. Tragically, in 1892, only eleven years after they were married, Dominick Carey drowned during a storm while overseeing flood damage to the Main Street Bridge over the Ohio River in Wheeling, West Virginia. He was 48 years old. This stone bridge, which Carey designed and his company built, was considered the greatest stone arch in the United States at the time. His achievements are recorded in lengthy obituaries in a number of newspapers.

1934 PHOTO of the ASTORHURST VILLA.
In those days the Astorhurst was commonly referred to as a
"leisurely, genteel dining facility."
(Photo courtesy of The Bedford Historical Society archives)

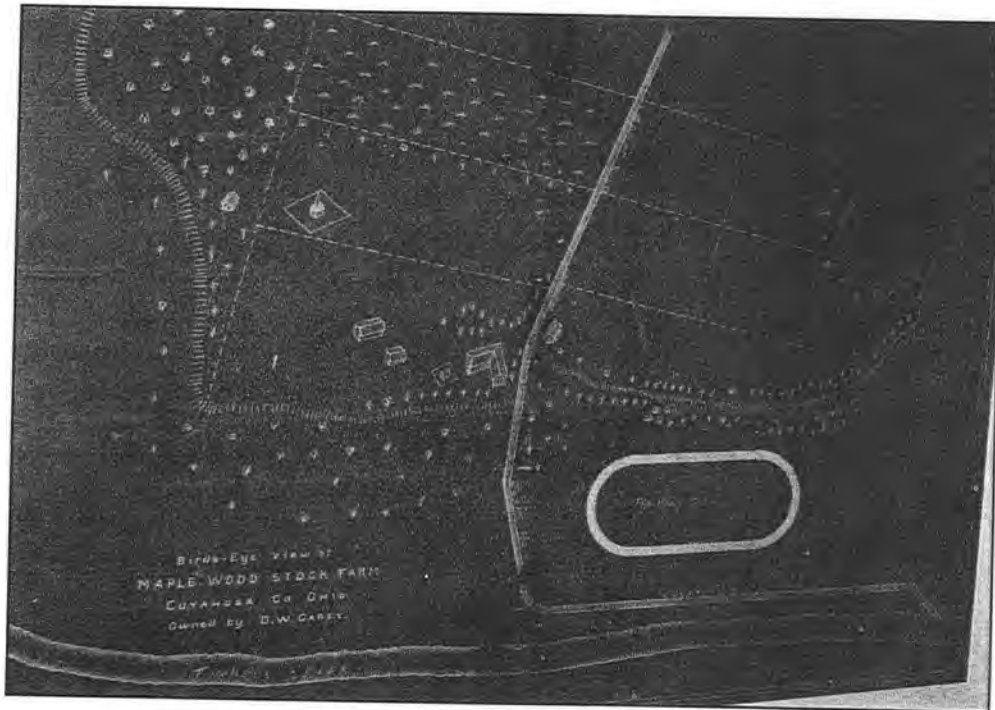


SITE of MAPLE WOOD STOCK FARM

For many years the rolling acres of the Astorhurst property were pasture land. In the late 1880s Dominick Carey built a horse training facility on bottom land near Tinkers Creek and Dunham Road. He designed Maple Wood Stock Farm to satisfy his passion for raising, training and trading race horses. Carey hired managers to take over the daily operation of the facility, and then

later, one of his sons, Howard, managed the Maple Wood Stock Farm. Howard Carey trained trotters and pacers, racing them at Grantwood and Cranwood Race Tracks in southeast Cleveland. Howard ran the training track until the family sold its Astorhurst acreage to Philip and Mary Astor in 1918.

Dominick Carey's blueprint of Maple Wood Stock Farm is on display at the Walton Hills Historical Resource Center. The blueprint illustrates the horse facility, the original path of Tinkers Creek and Egypt Road, and the grave site of Edmond Gleeson on Egypt Mound.



DOMINICK CAREY'S BLUEPRINT of his MAPLE WOOD STOCK FARM. Lois Fradette donated the blueprint to the Village of Walton Hills in 2001. (Photo by Jeffrey Smith)

SITE of ASTOR DAY CARE CENTER

Philip and Martha Astor purchased twenty-one acres and the old Gleeson house from the Careys in 1918. The Astors renovated the old house and opened a child care center in their home. Well-to-do Cleveland and Shaker Heights families left their children with the Astors when they vacationed.

Because parents often picked up their children around the supper hour and stayed to eat, the Astors decided to add a country club type of restaurant to their house. The new business prospered, and before long the Astors closed their child care center and concentrated exclusively on the dining operation. In 1933, when the 18th Amendment was repealed and prohibition ended, the Astors obtained a liquor license for their business. The small-group dining room on the north side of the building was the Astor's restaurant.

THE ASTORHURST

Party Center and Picnic Grove. When a group of investors purchased the Astor property in 1958, they enlarged and changed the layout of the house to include a large restaurant/party room, two smaller party rooms and a lounge bar. Since 1974 the Astorhurst has been owned and operated by the Prinios family. They recently converted their facilities into a party center. Astorhurst Party Place acreage includes a picnic grove with a sheltered pavilion and cooking facilities for large groups of people.

Astorhurst Country Club, the golf course. In the mid 1960s a group of investors bought the adjacent Carey land for a golf course. They sold out in 1974. The Astorhurst Country Club, as it is now called, is an 18-hole, daily fee, public golf course.

The ice cream stand. Close to Dunham Road is an ice cream and sandwich stand that opened in 1985. It is on the same site as a hot dog stand that operated some forty years earlier. The original owners also sold fuel from a gas pump that was at the side of road, in front of the building.

Although all these Astorhurst properties are privately owned today, they are within the jurisdiction and boundaries of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

EDMOND "CUB" CAREY

Edmond "Cub" Carey, great-grandson of Moses and Polly Gleeson and son of Dominick and Clara Carey, died in 1997. He lived his whole life in the Tinkers Creek area. In 1979 he was interviewed by four interested parties: Dr. David Brose who was the Archaeologist and Historian for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Wally Newark, a free lance reporter for the Cleveland Press, Robert Burns, Jr., Researcher for the CVNRA, and local historian Joe Jesensky. During the interviews his recollections helped confirm and enrich many bits of historical data reported about Little Egypt. The CVNP is currently restoring Cub Carey's home, located at the corner of Tinkers Creek and Canal Roads. The house is rightfully named "The Gleeson House."

CHAPTER 8

EGBERT ROAD and the JAMES EGBERTS

Egbert Road is named for James Egbert, the man who petitioned the County for its dedication. It became a county road in 1833. Considered a minor thoroughfare, Egbert Road remained a winding, narrow dirt lane after several other county roads in the area were planked. Finally, in the late 1920s the surface was graveled.

In 1837 James Egbert purchased 80 acres of land along the northwest side of Egbert Road, at the north end of what is now Walton Hills. He proceeded to clear the land, farm and raise his family. By 1846 he had an operating saw mill on his property, and by 1860 he owned an additional 156 acres of back land. Egbert family members retained ownership of the acreage until 1900.

County Archive records indicate that for a period of years before and after 1860, James Egbert also owned and operated a saw mill at the southwest corner of Dunham and Alexander Roads, aside Sagamore Creek. That land is also park land.

The EGBERT HOUSE

The James Egbert house was an impressive two-story house that sat on a gentle hilltop overlooking the intersection where Walton and Egbert Roads meet. The house had an ornate front door and threshold, in contrast to the more simple neighboring farmhouses. A winding driveway that led to the house crossed a stream. A ten-foot long wooden bridge forded that creek.

The site of the Egbert house is now part of Shawnee Hills Golf Course, in Bedford Reservation. The terrain was altered when the Metroparks rerouted the stream in the mid 1980s for a new 18-hole course at the golf course.

FARM LAND BECOMES PARK LAND

In the early 1920s the Metropolitan Park Board began purchasing farmland along the north end of Egbert Road, including the James Egbert farm. The Park Board rented out those farms for a few years, until they were prepared to raze the old houses and include the fields in its Bedford Reservation.

The rows of evergreen trees facing Egbert Road today were planted during the depression years.

HANNAH EGBERT GRAVESTONE

Several long-time residents recall seeing the upright sandstone slab grave marker of Hannah Jane Egbert. The infant girl lived from 1840-1843 and was buried in the family front yard on the northwest bank of the stream. Local sightseers frequented the site on their walks through the park. When the Park District tore down the house and barn in late 1929, the gravestone was discovered and left standing intact. As years passed by, the gravestone got broken and the top half disappeared. The site of Hannah Egbert's grave is between hole number one and two on the 18-hole golf course. Recently the Metroparks repositioned the bottom half of Hannah Egbert's gravestone to a new spot a few yards away - uphill and near a cart path.



The JAMES EGBERT HOUSE stood on the northwest side of Egbert Road, overlooking the Walton/Egbert Roads intersection. (1910 photograph reproduced by Nina Wolf)

ANOTHER SAWMILL

County Archive records indicate that for a period of years before and after 1860, James Egbert also owned and operated a sawmill at the southwest corner of Dunham and Alexander Roads, aside Sagamore Creek. That land is also park land.

OLD OXEN LANES

Some parts of the horse trails and roads in Bedford MetroPark, as well as some of our old village roads, were once oxen lanes used by early settlers. The farmers followed the lanes to the various mills and settlements, hauling their products by oxen teams or pack horses. For added income some farmers cut timber from the wooded hillsides of the park area, then followed the oxen lanes to Dawson's Mill, or other Bedford sawmills. Farmers used the lanes, too, when they hauled logs up out of the valley for their own use.

Berea Sandstone was quarried in several spots along Tinker's Creek and its tributaries. Teams of oxen hauled the stone from the creek beds along trails that led to the roads. One easy to spot old sandstone quarry is the Cleveland Quarry. The remains can be seen a few feet to the north of Gorge Parkway at the Overlook Lane intersection. The oxen lane began at the quarry and went northeast to Egbert Road. The bridle path on the north side of Gorge Parkway (as it winds towards Egbert Road) is the old oxen lane. Another oxen lane that is easily accessible led to a quarry near the Lost Meadows picnic area. The park road leading to Lost Meadows follows this particular lane.

More than fifty years ago Elmer B. Wight charted and mapped the old oxen lanes. (See ELMER B. WIGHT.)

OXEN LANES and SANDSTONE QUARRIES

When Bedford Metropolitan Park opened in 1922, the Park Board determined that it was not necessary to build a new roadway in the park. There already were horse trails and wider, tramped down oxen lanes winding through the park. These oxen lanes, used by local farmers and quarry workers in the 1800s, led west to Dunham Road, north to Button Road and east to Egbert Road.

Families who lived along Dunham and Egbert Roads used the lanes to take their produce to markets. They also used them to haul logs to Dawson's Mill and other nearby sawmills. The mills paid cash for logs, especially for chestnut, maple, oak and beech logs. The hard work of cutting down trees on and near their land, and selling them to a mill, was worth the effort to cash poor local farmers.

In the early 1930s, Elmer B. Wight, a summer resident who owned Cleveland Hill Farm on Wight Oaks Drive and was interested in preserving local history, charted and mapped the old oxen lanes that meander through Bedford Reservation and areas nearby.

SANDSTONE QUARRIES

In the 1840s quarrying became a major industry along the banks of Tinkers Creek and its tributaries. By the 1880s the market for commercial grade Berea Sandstone seemed unlimited. It was a common sight for the locals to see teams of oxen hauling sandstone blocks along oxen trails and onward along the existing local roads. Today's visitor to Bedford Reservation can see remnants of three old quarries and oxen lanes that led to quarries.

The CLARK CLEVELAND QUARRY

Remains of the Cleveland Quarry are on the banks and south hillside of Tinkers Creek, a few feet north of Gorge Parkway at the Overlook Lane intersection. Descendants of the family state that several buildings in downtown Cleveland along Superior Avenue were built with sandstone blocks from the Cleveland Quarry. An oxen lane connected the Cleveland Quarry and Egbert Road. Today's bridle path on the north side of Gorge Parkway, as it winds toward Egbert Road, was the lane used by the Cleveland Quarry.

LOST MEADOW QUARRY

This sandstone quarry was located on the banks of East Branch of Deerlick Creek, near today's Lost Meadows area. One oxen lane led from the quarry to Egbert Road and another lane led to the center of Bedford via Button Road and on to West Grace Street. The park road and a bridle path leading from Gorge Parkway to the south hillside by Lost Meadows follow the old oxen lane.

CHAPTER 7

THE CLEVELAND HILL FARM and QUARRY

Another historic site in Bedford Reservation begins near the end of Wight Oaks Drive and extends north to Tinkers Creek. A little over ten years ago the Metroparks razed the last standing structures on the property; the c.1854 Greek Revival house and its large, old bank barn. Mother Nature reclaimed this whole area where there was once a prosperous quarry and dairy farm, a princely house of Greek Revival design, two cottages and a cabin. Some former residents of note were Clark Cleaveland, a descendant of Moses Cleaveland, Elmer B. Wight who was instrumental in documenting the Indian and pioneer history of this area and Virgil D. Allen, Jr., who was the first Mayor of the Village of Walton Hills.

Today's hiker, following a gas line that runs through this land, will see flat fields and woods on the south side of Gorge Parkway, and to the north of Gorge Parkway, sandstone boulders stuck into the steep-sloped, carved-out bank of Tinkers Creek.

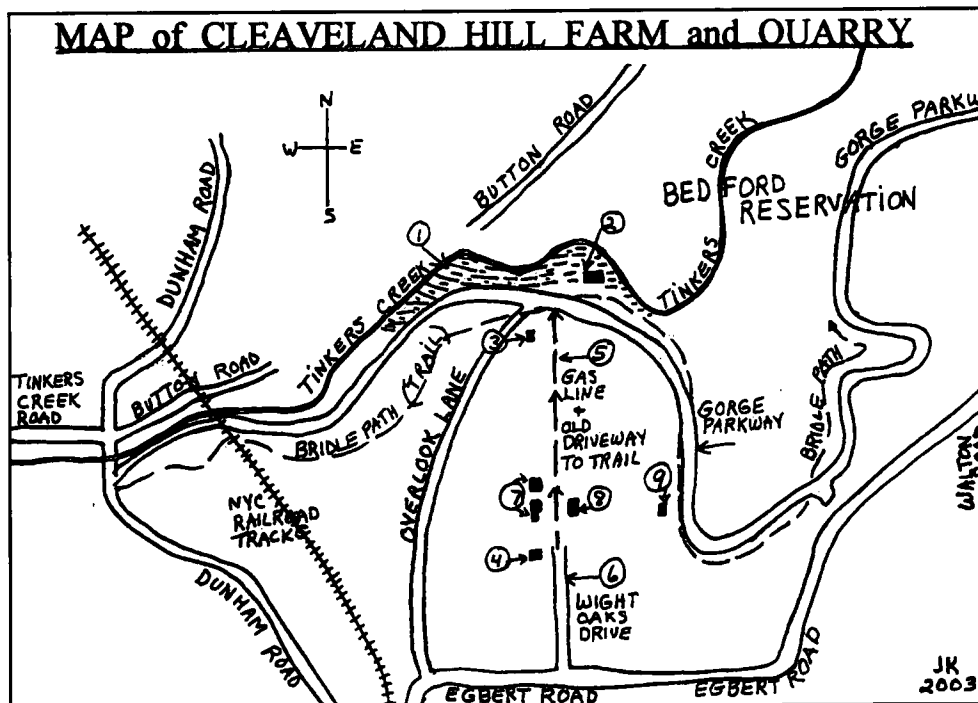
FIRST SETTLERS on the PROPERTY

Earliest records at the Cuyahoga County Archives indicate in 1827 Martin Sheldon was the owner of these 162 acres. His log cabin sat a few yards southeast of where Overlook Lane meets Gorge Parkway today.

To reach their house the Sheldons took a trail that started at Dunham (Egypt) Road and followed the south ridge of Tinkers Creek. Today's Gorge Parkway follows that trail. Sheldon cut a path to connect his house and the trail by Tinkers Creek. Today a gas line follows Sheldon's trail. In 1833, when Egbert Road was laid out, Sheldon extended his drive to Egbert Road.

ABNER CLEVELAND

Abner Cleaveland inherited nearby parcels of land along Tinkers Creek from his uncle, Moses Cleaveland. He moved from his home state of New York when he was a young man, to see his newly-acquired land. He settled down in



- 1) Site of the Cleaveland Hill Quarry.
- 2) Gorge Overlook.
- 3) Site of first homestead built in 1827 by Martin Sheldon on his 162 acres.
- 4) Site of homestead built in 1827 by Sheldon's neighbor, Joseph Trumbell, on his 154 acres.
- 5) This pathway led from the trail (today's bridle path) to the homestead and farm. Today, a gas line follows the pathway and Gorge Parkway follows the trail.
- 6) When Egbert Road was laid out, residents cut a new drive for egress to Egbert Road. The 1860 County Atlas lists it as Cleveland Hill Lane. Elmer Wight renamed it Wight Oaks Drive.
- 7) Site of the Clark Cleaveland house and bank barn.
- 8) Site of cottage Elmer B. Wight built for weekend guests.
- 9) Site of Joe Jesensky's cabin. Between 1923 and 1933 Jesensky spent many weekends and vacations hiking, sketching and taking field notes in the Tinkers Creek area. Jesensky assisted Wight with topographical maps of the area.

Bedford and began purchasing additional parcels of land in Bedford and outlying areas.

In 1846 Abner Cleaveland and his elder son James, upon seeing exposed, commercial quality sandstone on the south hillside bank of Tinkers Creek, envisioned a money-making opportunity, and bought parcels of property along the creek that are now part of Walton Hills. Abner and James Cleaveland considered their purchase a business venture, with no intent of moving from their homes in Bedford. Instead, Abner's younger son Clark moved to the banks of Tinkers Creek, developed the quarry into a prosperous business and managed the dairy farm on acreage uphill and south of the quarry.

JAMES CLEVELAND

James Cleaveland acquired more quarry land when, in 1859 at age 35 he married Edmond Gleeson's 32-year old widow, Charlotte Comstock Gleeson. James promptly sold his interest in the quarry land to his father. James Cleaveland and his wife Charlotte made Bedford their home, where from 1860-1862 he was Mayor.

CLARK CLEVELAND

Clark and Fanny Ladiska Cleaveland, built their house in c.1854. The site of the house is a short distance past the north end of Wight Oaks Drive. If the house were standing today, it would be west of the road, with the front of the house facing east. Their Greek Revival style home was a popular architectural form throughout the Greater Cleveland area from 1820 until 1860. Near the north side of their house stood one of their out-buildings, a large impressive-looking bank barn.

It is written that Clark Cleaveland made most of his money from the quarry, not from the dairy farm. Several buildings along Superior Street in downtown Cleveland were built with sandstone blocks from the Cleveland Quarry, and sandstone blocks from the Cleveland Quarry were used to build Walton School that still stands today at 7307 Walton Road.

Clark Cleaveland died at age 80 in 1913, and Fanny Cleaveland died six months later, at age 89. The gravestones of the Cleavelands can be seen in Bedford Cemetery.

1909 photo of the CLEVELAND HILL FARMHOUSE, built c. 1854, on the west side of Wight Oaks Drive. Noted residents: Clark Cleaveland, Elmer Wight and the Virgil Allens. Margaret Allen, widow of our first mayor, sold the house and the last remaining parcel of their Walton Hills land to the Metroparks in 1977. (Photo reproduced by Nina Wolf)



FANNY and CLARK CLEVELAND in a 1910 photo. (Photo reproduced by Nina Wolf)

In 1929, sixteen years after Clark died, the Metroparks bought from Elmer B. Wight, their first parcel of "Cleveland" acreage, land that encompassed the quarry.

"CLEAVELAND" or "CLEVELAND"

A county scribe by the name of John Tinker, is credited with revising the spelling of the name "Cleaveland." Moses Cleaveland and his descendants in this area are remembered by an incorrect spelling of their last name. Throughout his life, Abner Cleaveland signed his name as given to him, yet the carving on his marble marker at Bedford Cemetery is "Cleveland." Likewise, the names carved on tombstones of his descendants are also spelled "Cleveland." Abner's son James used the new spelling of his name, and his son Clark accepted both spellings. In the 1930s the faint lettering on the front of the large bank barn could still be read "The Cleaveland Farm."

ELMER B. WIGHT

One Cleaveland Hill Farm owner of note was Elmer B. Wight, a wealthy man who devoted considerable time from 1914 into the 1930s to the documentation of Indian and pioneer existence, not only in the Tinkers Creek Valley, but throughout the Western Reserve and the State of Ohio.

CAST ALUMINUM PLAQUES marking the Mahoning Trail were nailed to strategically located trees in the 1920s by Elmer Wight and members of his Pathfinders Association No. 1. All plaques in our area were removed from the trees by memento-hunters.

(1986 photo by Nina Wolf)



Wight purchased the Cleaveland Hill property in 1917, a few years after Clark and Fanny Cleaveland died. Wight had hoped he and his ailing wife could move from their primary residence near Lake Erie to the Egbert Road property, but his plans never materialized. Wight used the house as a weekend retreat, especially in the summer, but never made it his permanent residence. During the Wight years, caretakers lived on the property, managed the farm and cared for the house.

In 1914 Wight founded the Indian Pathfinders Association No. 1. The goal of the Pathfinders was to draw maps of Indian trails as well as Indian campsites, villages, Indian and non-Indian forts, routes of military expeditions crossing the state, and sites of battles and other historic incidents. The men spent years researching material in libraries and museums throughout the country, conducting numerous interviews, corresponding and meeting with historians, and retracing the old trails on foot.

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS of TINKERS CREEK VALLEY

At his own expense Wight had aerial photographs taken of the area so he could more easily track old Indian and oxen trails. He wanted to use the photos to make topographical maps of the Tinkers Creek Valley.

In the early 1920s Elmer B. Wight befriended a young graphic artist who had been spending his weekends and vacations in Bedford Reservation. While hiking in the park, Joseph Jesensky drew sketches of scenic and historic spots and wrote field notes of his observations. The friendly young man became acquainted with local residents who lived near the park. The old timers related to Jesensky the local history of the area. It was that type of information, plus his acute observations, that Jesensky relied on to record his extensive field notes. Probably no one in those days knew Bedford Reservation better than Jesensky. Wight was impressed with the young man and asked Jesensky to help him by making individual topographical maps from his aerial photographs.

Between 1923 and 1933 Joe Jesensky and Elmer Wight used the photos to make a series of topographical maps of the Tinkers Creek Valley. Individual maps featured the rivers and creeks, old Indian trails, forts and campsites, oxen trails, roads, farmhouses and lines of fences, and other historic and scenic points of interest.

Copies of all these maps can be viewed at the Walton Hills Historical Resource Center.

In 1929 Elmer Wight sold to the Cleveland Metroparks the part of his land that included the quarry. This was the first of four parcels of the Cleaveland Hill Farm and Quarry that would eventually be park land. Before selling the acreage, Wight moved the original cottage that overlooked the quarry and gorge to a spot on his farm.

HOME of the FIRST MAYOR of WALTON HILLS

Elmer Wight's daughter, Margaret, married his good friend's son, Virgil D. Allen, Jr. In the mid 1930s Margaret and Virgil Allen, Jr. remodeled and enlarged another cottage on the Cleaveland Hill Farm for a weekend and summer home. This cottage, originally built by Wight for his weekend guests, stood across the drive facing the main house. As years went by, the Allen family spent more and more time at their retreat in the country, until in 1946, three years after Elmer Wight passed away, they moved into the main house.

Virgil D. Allen, Jr. served as first Mayor of the Village of Walton Hills, from June 1951 to January 1954. He died nine years later. Allen is remembered for leading the drive for zoning ordinances in Bedford Township, organizing efforts and working for the incorporation of the village and writing the first set of Village Zoning Ordinances. He was instrumental in persuading Ford Motor Company to build a stamping plant in the village.

REMAINING ACREAGE SOLD to METROPARKS

Margaret Wight Allen shared her father's keen interest in the ecology of the land. The Allens sold sections of the farm to the Metroparks in 1952 and 1961. In 1977, when she was ready to move in with her daughter Betsy, Margaret Allen wanted to assure herself that Cleaveland Hill Farm would become a natural preserve. She sold the remaining acreage, main house and bank barn to the Metroparks.



Cleveland Metroparks System
4101 Fulton Parkway
Cleveland, Ohio 44144
(216) 351-6300

Metroparks

*Copy
Spoto
Council
Clerk
W.E. Bosway
Mayor
3/8/85*

March 1, 1985

The Honorable William E. Bosway
Mayor of Walton Hills
7595 Walton Road
Walton Hills, Ohio 44146

Dear Mayor Bosway:

As you may be aware, we are in the process of developing a new all purpose trail through the entire Bedford Reservation (a total of 5.5 miles) up to Alexander Road, which will include pocket picnic areas adjacent to the trail.

The corner of Alexander and Dunham Roads is scheduled for reforestation and horticultural improvement; our goal is to beautify this particular area of your community. The clearing will begin in 1985, with completion of the trail in 1986.

Mr. Terry Ries, our Director of Operations, and Mr. Mark Oesterle, our Superintendent of Maintenance, will be contacting you or your representative to review the plans.

Thank you for your interest in the Metroparks.

Best regards,

Lou E. Tsipis
Executive Director-Secretary

LET:emg

9-1991 report

on Cleveland House

(Metroparks tore it down a couple years later)

Report on Willett residence (Cleveland Hills farm)
at the end of Wight Oaks Rd. (16536 Egbert, Walton Hills)
Listed in "Tracing Our Heritage" book by the Kainsingers

Sept. 22, 1991 (beginning on page 59)

Approximately four weeks ago, Debbie Willett approached Bedford Historical Society about the Cleveland Hills farm. She and her Metroparks ranger husband live there as rent-paying tenants of Metroparks. As Metroparks wishes to get out of the landlord business, and for other reasons, the buildings on the Cleveland Hills farm property are scheduled for razing in the near future, along with almost a dozen other buildings on Metroparks properties.

The original part of the house was built in 1854; an adjacent barn with slate roof (which is in need of \$1,000 in repair) was erected in 1929 to replace an earlier barn, which burned down.

Early residents, the Wight family donated ^{to sell} much of the Bedford Metropark acreage. Of even greater interest is the road (actually narrow gravel driveway) leading to it. This intersects a section of the original Bedford township - before it was named ^{was} Bedford! - and laid out by Lorenzo Carter in 1797. Traces of it remain in Metropark and in a modern highway in Maple Heights.

Metroparks has weighed the possibility of a nature center or a museum as a goal for the buildings. But the isolation of the property, the laws requiring modification of the structures for public use, the need for parking, toilets, and widening of Wight Oaks Road for legal access: these proved to be obstacles which Metroparks cannot justify using tax monies to overcome.

Carl Cassavecchia, Park Naturalist, referred me to Steve Coles of Metroparks headquarters (531-6300). Steve Coles said Metroparks had received bids for demolition of all buildings scheduled to be razed. Contracts for these services will be signed within a short time. However, if any organization or municipality comes up with a proposal whereby Metroparks would no longer be responsible for the Cleveland Hills farm buildings, but still own the property they stand on, demolition can be delayed or even cancelled. This should be a concrete proposal and not just a "save the buildings" plea. Proposal should be to Mr. Vern Hartenberg, 4101 Fulton Parkway, Cleveland OH 44144, to his personal attention, and as soon as possible. He is director of Metroparks, and responsible to the Metroparks trustees (who decided to raze the many buildings described previously).

Preservation is difficult, and the time factor adds to this. About the only way our Historical Society could accomplish this project is in partnership with the village of Walton Hills, Audubon Society, or other bodies. Restoration and repair are future responsibilities, along with water supply, septic tank system, immediate repairs needed to preserve, fire and liability insurance. Again the time factor enters. Joint proposal would include resident caretaker not connected with Metroparks. The house is interesting inside and out. Renovation by the tenants may not be in keeping with the 1854 era.

Possibly the buildings cannot be saved. I suggested to Steve Coles access only by hiking path, with small shelter and pit toilet, would be a good destination on foot, along with a sign erected by Metropark and our Society, commemorating the Cleveland Hills/Wight farm and the Lorenzo Carter road. Not satisfactory, but a solution.

Lynn Jones, member Bedford Historical Soc. Board of Trustees

HISTORIC HOUSE TO BE RAZED

Walton Hills Owl: October 1991 by Robert Kainsinger

The historic Cleveland House built in 1854, at the end of Wight Oaks Drive, is one of several structures slated for razing within the next few weeks by the Metroparks.

The Metroparks Board has weighed the possibility of using the house for a nature center or museum. But the isolation of the house, the need for widening Wight Oaks Drive for legal access, and laws requiring modification of the house prove to be obstacles which the Metroparks cannot justify using tax monies.

The Board will reconsider its plans if an organization moves the house and undertakes its restoration and yearly maintenance.

Preservation and yearly upkeep would be expensive and time-consuming for any organization. The Bedford Historical Society cannot and will not undertake this project, nor can Hale Farm and Village. Unless a group of residents care to organize and manage a project of this magnitude, plans for razing will go on as scheduled. Interest parties please contact Councilors Bob Kainsinger or Doris Pankratz, or the Village Hall.

For more information: *The Village of Walton Hills: Tracing Our Heritage*, pages 59-73, and page 83



SUN PHOTOS BY KEVIN RE

A old Allen farm on Wight Oaks Drive, off Egbert Road, is an example of farms of the past that have been left to go wild again. The farm house and barn are all that remain of the buildings on the farm which is now part of the Cleveland Metroparks.

Bedford SunBanner
8-8-1991

Wilderness reclaims pioneer farm



Ed Kuilder, Cleveland Metroparks natural resource manager, tends the old Allen farm's fields, keeping some areas cut low while allowing others to grow wild.

By **FRANK COOK**
Staff Writer

Looking at the old Allen farm located off Wight Oaks Drive in the Cleveland Metroparks in Walton Hills, it is difficult to tell that it was once a thriving business, with a quarry operation and acreage for farming.

It's all overgrown now with trees, bushes and shrubs. To the untrained eye, it would appear the fields have been allowed to go wild with little or no management.

But that is far from true.

Just ask Ed Kuilder, Cleveland Metroparks natural resource manager, and Peggy Jarrett, naturalist.

They recently conducted a tour of the old Allen farm to show how farming practices changed the landscape forever, and how the Metroparks is maintaining the land now.

Kuilder keeps a careful eye on what is growing on the 10-acre farm, described as "a relic of rural Ohio."

This summer's lack of rain has been a concern for him.

"We had a nice spring; that helped," he said. "But I'm surprised some of the plants have held out this long. The soil is not that good to begin with."

Fruit and nut trees now grow wild and provide a wide variety of foods for the animals that live around the farm, he said.

They include blueberries, raspberries, an old apple orchard, chestnut, walnut, dogwoods, hawthornes, crabapples and much, much more.

Every couple of years, Kuilder cuts back some of the trees and bushes. This allows plants such as onions, milkweed and goldenrod to flourish that would otherwise be shut off from sunlight to grow.

Along with the usual animals of the Cleveland Metroparks, such as deer, raccoons and skunks, Kuilder said the vegetation and a large, old white oak have attracted a pair of turkey vultures that now call the Allen farm home.

Of course, the history of the farm has shaped the the way the farm is

today.

Jarrett cites "Tracing Our Heritage" by Jean and Robert Kainsinger, a history of Walton Hills Village, for much of the available information about the farm.

Two former owners of the farm of note were Elmer B. Wight, who was instrumental in documenting the Indian and pioneer history of the area, and Virgil D. Allen Jr., who was the first mayor of the village.

The farm was surveyed in the early 1800s. By the 1840s quarrying became a major industry along the banks of Tinker's Creek and its tributaries. By the 1880s the market for commercial grade sandstone seemed unlimited.

Abner Cleveland and his sons, James and Clark, purchased property along the creek and started a quarrying operation.

In 1929, 16 years after Clark Cleveland died, the land around the quarry was sold to the Cleveland Metroparks.

In 1917, Elmer Wight bought the farm and used it as a summer home for many years. Caretakers tended the farm during those years. In 1977, the farm was sold to the Cleveland Metroparks.

"During the quarrying years, teams of oxen hauled the cut stone to Egbert Road from its remote location along the banks of the creek. Today, the lane created by the wagons and oxen is the bridle trail between Gorge Parkway and Tinker's Creek," according to the Kainsinger's book.

The two-story Greek Revival style homestead on the farm was built by Clark and Fanny Cleveland in 1854. The frame house had a slate roof until 1986 and pegged wood plank flooring. Sandstone blocks from the family quarry line the basement walls.

In later years a wing was added to the original structure. The house is due to be torn down in a couple of months, part of an overall plan by the Cleveland Metroparks to get out of the leasing business of homes

within its boundaries.

"We're a park district and we have limited resources," said M. Jane Christyson, marketing and district services director. "Keeping these houses isn't serving the taxpayers well."

But when the house is gone, the fields and tree stands will remain and continue to be a home to the wildlife and the wild plants, under the attentive care of Metroparks employees such as Kuilder.

9-1991 Report on the Cleaveland House
Metroparks razed house in 1992

Report on Willett residence (Cleaveland Hills farm)
at the end of Wight Oaks Rd. (16536 Egbert, Walton Hills)
Listed in "Tracing Our Heritage" book by the Kainsingers
Sept. 22, 1991 (beginning on page 59)

HOUSE
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The MARS WAGER QUARRY

Mars Wager, who came from a prominent Cleveland family and lived on Cleveland's west side, purchased over 200 acres of land facing Dunham Road for its marketable Berea sandstone. The Wager Quarry, which was along the back acreage of the property, was in operation in the late 1800s until the very early 1900s. An oxen lane led from the quarry to Dunham Road. Sandstone was quarried until the NYC laid tracks for its freight line along Dunham Road, cutting off the quarry from its access to Dunham Road. The Wagers eventually sold the back acreage to the Cleveland Metroparks. Today, a visitor can see remnants of the quarry by following a path on the west side of Overlook Lane.

*Historical Sites in Our Parks: Sights in Cuyahoga Valley National Park
and Bedford Reservation within Boundaries of the Village of Walton Hills* c. 2004

The Mars Wager Quarry

Commercial-grade Berea Sandstone was discovered on the slopes of the Tinkers Creek River, and east of World's End. In the late 1880s, Mars Wager, who had already owned sandstone quarries in the southwest sections of Greater Cleveland, bought parcels of land here, for a quarry operation.

Wager purchased over 200 acres of back-acreage land along the east side of Dunham Road for its marketable Berea sandstone. This local Wager Quarry was in operation in the late 1880s until 1904.

An oxen lane led from the quarry to Dunham Road. Blocks of sandstone were carted to Dunham Road, down Dunham Road Hill to Tinkers Creek Road, and west on Tinkers Creek Road to the Canal, where the sandstone blocks were put on flat boats and shipped to Cleveland.

Sandstone was quarried at the site until the New York Central Railroad stopped the quarry operation. Sometime around 1904, when NYC workers began working on the track in Little Egypt, the railroad stopped quarry workers from trespassing through their right-of-way to get to Dunham Road. The railroad track paralleled the east side of Dunham Road, cutting off the quarry from its access to Dunham Road.

The Wagers eventually sold this back acreage to the Cleveland Metroparks. Today, a visitor can see remnants of the quarry by following a path on the west side of Overlook Lane.

Wager Quarry 1994 Photo



Wager Quarry

1994 Photo

The MARS WAGER QUARRY

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Wager Quarry Commercial-grade Berea Sandstone was discovered on the slopes of the Tinkers Creek River, and east of World's End. In the late 1880s, Mars Wager, who owned sandstone quarries in the southwest sections of Greater Cleveland, bought parcels of land here, for a quarry operation. See **Map 3-11** Blocks of sandstone were carted to Egypt Road, down Egypt Road hill to Tinkers Creek Road, and west on Tinkers Creek Road to the canal, where they were put on boats and shipped to Cleveland.

The New York Central Railway stopped the operation of the Wager Quarry. Sometime around 1904, when NYC workers began working on the track in Little Egypt, the railroad stopped quarry workers from trespassing through their right-of-way to get to Egypt Road.

Black Beauty Riding Academy In 1935, Henry and Eleanor Dziczkowski purchased about 40 acres of land, on Egypt Road, from the Wager family. The Dziczkowskis lived in Cleveland and "camped" here on weekends. The family liked horses, and wanted a diversion from living in the city and operating their funeral parlor. They opened Black Beauty Riding Academy at 7125 Egypt Road, using about 16 miles of Bedford Reservation bridle paths and oxen lanes created by the Wager Quarry. Their livery usually had from 20 to 25 horses. See **Map 3-11** Black Beauty had a dance hall pavilion, and was open for hay rides, and church and youth groups. Black Beauty Riding Academy was in business for about 20 years.

1994 Photos
Wager Quarry



The Boy Scout Cabin Chris Foss – the Old Hermit Hermit Hollow Picnic Pavilion

Boy Scout Cabin

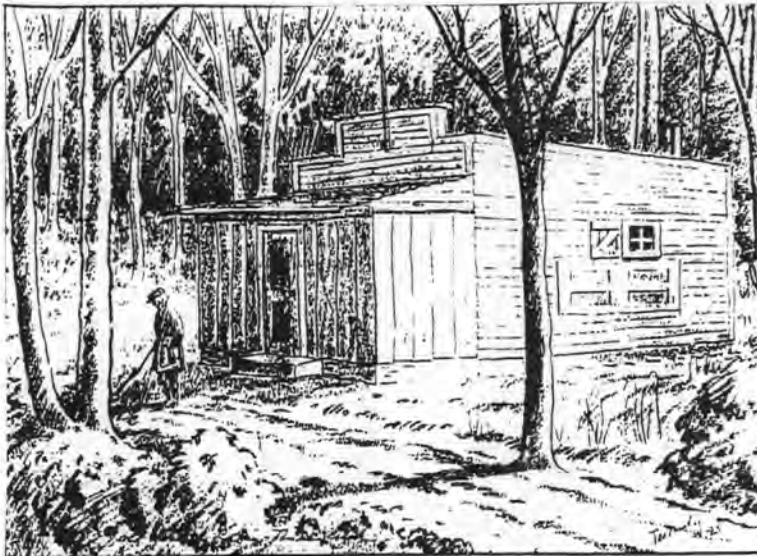
Before the Cleveland Metroparks established Bedford Reservation in 1922, the Bedford Boy Scouts built a Cabin near Dunham Road, by Tinkers Creek, in the present Hermit Hollow Picnic Area. From the cabin, a narrow path paralleling the south side of Tinkers Creek, went downhill to Dunham Road. The Boy Scouts used the cabin on weekends and in the summer. In the 1920s, when the Scouts no longer used the cabin, they let an old man whom locals called a Hermit, to stay there as caretaker.

Chris Foss – the Hermit

The Bedford Reservation staff allowed the hermit, Chris Foss, to stay in the cabin. Foss died in the cabin in 1929, at the age of 82. Soon afterwards, the cabin was razed.

Hermit Hollow Picnic Pavilion

The pavilion and the picnic area are named for the recluse who made the shanty his home for several years. The cabin is no longer standing, but the site of the cabin is behind the pavilion's bathroom facilities.



THE BOY SCOUT CABIN and the
Hermit, Chris Foss.
SKETCH by JOSEPH JESENSKY, 1925

QUAKER FLATS

Sometime during the late 1800s a group of Quakers lived here and farmed the bottom land that is now Hemlock Creek Picnic Area in Bedford Reservation. They raised a special type of corn for the manufacture of brooms. The story originated with Chris Foss.

TINKERS CREEK TAVERN

Tinkers Creek Tavern at 14000 Tinkers Creek Road is on the approximate site where Elijah Nobles built his cabin in 1813. In operation since the mid 1920s, the rustic tavern has been called Charlie's, Tinki's and Sebastian's. The property was recently purchased by an individual who specializes in renovating historic sites for their commercial value. The building and grounds are under construction. The remodeled tavern will feature large windows overlooking Tinkers Creek.

ALONG DUNHAM ROAD

The SAGAMORE HILLS BEER GARDEN

by Jean and Bob Kainsinger

The Sagamore Hills Beer Garden at 7100 Dunham Road was a local gathering place in the mid 1930s and 1940s. It was located on the hillside next to the Astorhurst. The beer garden was primarily a summer attraction and was closed during the winter months.

Joseph Silk and his wife Anna managed the family run business from their living quarters in the back of the house. A special feature of the establishment was moonlight dancing on the large inside dance floor. Patrons were served at tables on the enclosed front porch and also under the grape arbor in the back.

The Silks developed their back acreage, which sloped down to the valley, into picnic grounds. They rented the grove to church groups and other local organizations. Facilities in the grove included pop, beer and food stands, outside picnic tables and a big pavilion that sometimes served as a dance hall.

Many years ago the beer garden was remodeled into a residence, and is now home to the DAN and JENNIFER VALENTINE family. The property is owned by the National Parks. It is possible that in the year 2010 the Park System may choose to end its lease with the family. If so, the land would revert to parkland acreage.



MOONLIGHT DANCING,
the country atmosphere and beer
-- not necessarily in that order --
drew customers to The Sagamore Hills Beer Garden
at 7100 Dunham Road.
(1986 photograph by Nina Wolf)

CHAPTER 10

The NEW YORK CENTRAL FREIGHT LINE

For several decades in the 1900s, New York Central freight trains ran along the Dunham Road section of Walton Hills. This secluded strip of land is now mostly park owned, except for a section east of Dunham Road and north of Egbert Road that is privately owned since the mid 1990s.

The freight line, in operation from 1911 until the 1960s, hauled strings of cars laden with coal and other bulky cargo. During those years the familiar whistles of its coal-powered steam locomotives pierced the ears of nearby residents several times daily.

Faced with declining business, the New York Central stopped using the line in the 1960s. In 1973 they tore down the high steel trestle and removed the tracks. NYC employees hauled away most of the debris, but left behind some railroad plates and spikes for local souvenir hunters to find when they scoured the track bed.

The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company took over ownership of the railroad right-of-way. The company turned over to the local Metropark the portion of the right-of-way south of Alexander Road for a multi-purpose trail.

CEI kept its section of right-of-way from Egbert Road to the south trestle abutment, at the top of the hill by Tinkers Creek. The right-of-way was 60 feet wide near Egbert Road, but widened to 300 feet wide at the abutment. Its path was covered with large rough stones, making it difficult for people to negotiate on foot and nearly impossible by bike. The last four hundred yards of the right-of-way was a man-made embankment that gradually rose to an imposing 80 feet above the surrounding ground level and ended abruptly at the south trestle abutment. In 1994 and 1995, the elevated railroad bed leading to the south trestle abutment was leveled to its original terrain.

Today, only memories and scattered pier foundations remain of the NYC line that paralleled Dunham Road. Its long and high steel trestle that spanned Tinkers Creek Valley and was a noted landmark, is erased from the landscape. Even the elevated railroad bed leading to the south trestle abutment is flattened.

The FREIGHT LINE'S BEGINNINGS

Back in the 1890s the Lake Erie and Pittsburgh Railway bought the right-of-way for this freight line. At the turn of the century the New York Central Railroad System acquired the L. E. & P., one of several smaller railroad lines in this part of the country. Local people referred to the line by both its names, the L. E. & P. and the New York Central. On official county maps, however, it was listed as the L. E. & P. Railroad for its entire existence. The freight line extended from Cleveland to Hudson, Ohio. Once in Hudson, the freight line connected with other rail lines.

Whereas most railroad tracks in our part of the country follow a valley floor and have relatively few and easy grades, this stretch of tracks crosses steep, treacherous hillsides and unyielding terrain. This line required many culverts, fills and bridges, including several high trestles. The highest and most imposing of its bridges crossed Tinkers Creek. This bridge was the longest, at roughly a quarter mile, and stood a full 150 feet above the water. Two other nearby trestle bridges on this line, that are also now park land, crossed Sagamore Creek gorge and Brandywine Creek.

Engineers and construction crews faced significant problems and arduous and risky work conditions when they planned and laid this freight line.

WORK STARTS on the LINE

It took seven years, from 1904 until 1911, to complete the Tinkers Creek section of the freight line. Work crews elevated long stretches of the land before they laid the ties and rails. A wide concrete culvert was constructed for Sagamore Creek to flow through.

Cuyahoga County engineers rerouted Egbert Road in 1907, so that instead of having to build two bridges in the Egbert / Dunham Road area, one would suffice at the new intersection. That bridge supported the two-way train tracks as well as a railroad spur. In addition, bridges were built over Alexander Road and Sagamore Road.

The SOUTH TRESTLE ABUTMENT
as seen from Hemlock Creek Picnic Area.
(1994 photo by Judi Schroeder)



VIEW from the ELEVATED PATH
(1994 photo by Judi Schroeder)



DURING the REMOVAL PROCESS, the ENCASED TIMBERS by the south trestle
abutment are exposed. (1994 photo by Judi Schroeder)

TRESTLE BRIDGE PREPARATIONS: RAISING the GROUND LEVEL

The natural land elevation at the northwest hillside of Dunham Road was much higher than the hillside level at the southeast. In between the two hillsides was the Tinkers Creek Valley. In order to minimize the grade, the ground level for tracks southeast of the bridge had to be built up. Crews raised a 400-yard stretch of land until it rose to an imposing 80 feet above the surrounding ground level, where the south trestle abutment would be constructed.

The raised embankment consisted of approximately 250,000 tons of granulated slag, "popcorn slag" as it is also called. Granulated slag is ideal road-base material because of its fine granulation, light weight and compacting properties. The slag is a by-product of the blast furnace process used by steel-producing factories in the early 1900s. It is believed that this particular slag came from old steel mills in Youngstown and/or Pittsburgh.

CONSTRUCTING BRIDGE ABUTMENTS

Constructing a railroad bridge to cross the Tinkers Creek Valley was an engineering feat. Sturdy bridge abutments on both of the hillsides were needed because the hillsides were composed of flaky, unstable shale and soft sandstone.

Railroad crews built and then buried a wooden framework under each concrete abutment. They used 12 inch by 12 inch timbers for the hidden reinforcement. Then they encased the wooden scaffolding with dirt, gravel and slag, and, lastly, poured concrete over the mixture for added strength. These superstructures formed the foundation for the high steel trestle bridge.

Some of the encased timbers by each trestle abutment crisscrossed to form a framework for the embankment leading to the trestle abutment. The NYC built a wooden scaffold structure, using timbers 12" x 12" thick. Local old-timers said it resembled a Tinker Toy construction. Many evenly-spaced concrete piers provided a sturdy foundation for the framework.

The framework served two purposes; it provided support for the to-be-built elevated track and it housed temporary railroad tracks during construction.

CONSTRUCTING THE NYC TRESTLE BRIDGE over the Tinkers Creek Valley.
(Photo reproduced by Nina Wolf)



STARTING in 1911 NYC freight trains crossed Tinkers Creek Valley on this trestle-supported bridge. (Date of photograph unknown. Photo reproduced by Nina Wolf)

Using those tracks, a train engine repeatedly backed up and dumped a bottom-load car of slag, thus forming the slag-filled embankment. As more and more slag was dumped, the wooden scaffold was completely buried. Except for the piers and framework, the embankment was composed solely of granulated slag. Time and weather exposed some of the inner wood framework.

In 1909, when most of the other projects for this section of the line were completed, work began on the bridge.

The TRESTLE BRIDGE

This railroad bridge, built during the years 1909 to 1911, towered 150 feet above Tinkers Creek and had a span of almost a quarter of a mile.

The trestle-supported bridge had two sets of tracks with a narrow walkway in the middle. Several platforms jutted out along the side of the bridge for emergency use. The platforms served as safe havens where railroad workers could stand when trains passed by. Also, on each platform sat a barrel of water. Even though the bridge itself was made of steel, sparks from the steam engines could ignite the wooden ties, causing a fire.

Underneath the railroad trestle bridge there was a catwalk, built so that railroad employees could walk under the tracks to inspect and make repairs. The catwalk was made of a string of suspended wood planks, each about 8 inches wide and 2 inches thick. The workers had to walk on those planks. Workers hastily got off the catwalk if they felt the vibrations of an approaching, slow-moving freight train.

Several long-time residents, men and women too, from suburbs in and around Walton Hills, share their stories about their bridge walks. They tell of breathtaking, harrowing trips along the bridge and/or catwalk, from one end of the bridge to the other. Most of them never felt or saw an approaching train, but they said they would have outrun an approaching train rather than scurry to the nearest platform for safety. None of these people recall anyone falling off the bridge.

RAILROAD SPUR

The NYC constructed a spur called the Little Egypt Siding. It paralleled the main set of tracks. The spur began south of the trestle bridge, to the rear of the property at 7135 Dunham Road, and ended just north of Alexander Road, by today's First Energy high-voltage electric power lines. The single-track siding enabled workers to take cars off the main track for repairs or water, and allowed other trains to pass by.

SAGAMORE CREEK CULVERT

West of Dunham Road and a few feet south of Alexander Road, railroad crews constructed a wide culvert through which Sagamore Creek could run, and over which the tracks could be laid. This is yet another long stretch of land where considerable landfill was required to provide the proper grade.

SAGAMORE CREEK WATER TOWER and PUMP HOUSE

A large, high water tower and a pump house were built in the ravine on the bank of Sagamore Creek. From the tower, crews got their water supply for construction of the line, and later, water for their steam engines and emergency uses. A coal-powered steam turbine ran the pump. According to Richard Long, son of a New York Central section foreman, it took no more than five minutes for a fireman to fill his water tank at the Egypt stop before his engineer continued his journey.

The tank (body) of the water tower was made of 2 _ inch thick tongue and groove redwood planking. The support for the high water tower was the usual superstructure of concrete and steel. Both the pump house and the water tower were torn down in the early 1940s, but pieces of concrete and metal are near the culvert.

In the railroad's early years, Joseph Dolejs, a local resident, performed two jobs for the railroad. He ran the pump house and was the line walker. Engineers stopped their trains at his pump house station to add hot water to their engines. Dolejs checked the coal supply and made sure adequate hot water was available. As line walker, he checked his section of tracks for loose ties, and kept an ample supply of water barrels placed on platforms along the trestle.

The MEN WHO BUILT the NYC FREIGHT LINE

The SUPERINTENDENT

The superintendent in charge of the construction of this particular New York Central line spent stretches of time here, but did not move to this area. He and his son, who was his assistant, rented rooms at Howard and Gertrude Carey's residence, the old Stagecoach Inn called "World's End." The large house sat at the crest of Dunham Road hill, across the street from the present day Astorhurst Driving Range.

The SECTION FOREMAN

Two successive section foremen were in charge of this 30-mile section of the line from 1904 - 1936.

In 1904 the NYC transferred Benjamin Long from his territory in Michigan, to take the job of section foreman in the Tinkers Creek Valley. He was in charge of thirty miles of the construction and maintenance of the rail line; fifteen miles of track in either direction from his Tinkers Creek Valley headquarters. His section of track extended north to the Marcy station, which was in Cleveland, and south to the Brandywine station. Benjamin Long moved here with his wife, Celia, and their three children.

In 1919, when Benjamin retired, his younger brother, Edward Long, assumed the job of section foreman. The NYC transferred Edward Long, his wife Annie, and their eight children from Hillsdale, Michigan. Edward Long was section foreman until he retired in 1936.

The BOARDING HOUSE FOREMAN

Pete Vranek was the boarding house foreman for the work crew, from 1904 until the mid 1920s. His job was to act as interpreter between the section foreman and the work crew, and keep the construction of this section of the railroad line moving along on schedule.

Vranek took orders from the section foreman, and had the job of relaying messages from his boss who only spoke English, to the crew, who only understood their native language, Hungarian. Vranek also had a working knowledge of the railroad business. Vranek's wife, Kathryn, was paid by the railroad to keep the boarding house clean, do the laundry and feed the road gang. She cooked, served them breakfast and supper, and also packed their lunches.

Although Pete and Kathryn Vranek were also recent immigrants from Hungary, the NYC hired them because they had a working knowledge of English. The Vraneks took the job because it came with free housing, free food, and free transportation to Cleveland, Ohio. The Vraneks had two children, Eli and Anna.

By the time this section of the rail line was completed and the construction gang and the boarding house foreman were "let go," the Vraneks had saved enough money to move to Cleveland and live on their own. The Vraneks opened a grocery store in their new neighborhood.

The GANDY DANCERS

Most of the men hired by the New York Central to construct this railroad line were recent immigrants from Hungary. They were either single or came to this rural locale without their wives. When they arrived many of them did not speak English. They had to rely on their boarding house foreman for instructions given to them from the railroad bosses. They kept mostly to themselves.

Most of the local residents didn't socialize with the railroad laborers. Township people referred to the section crew workers as gandy dancers; a slang term used to describe workers of a section gang who walked with a strained gait after having used a tamping bar along the railroad tracks, day after day.

RAILROAD HOUSES

At the turn of the century the New York Central purchased three houses because of their proximity to the railroad right-of-way. One was to be the residence of the NYC section foreman and his family, the second house a camphouse for the laborers, and the third was purchased because it stood underneath the path of the planned trestle bridge. Two of those houses are privately owned residences today. The third house was torn down by the

Metroparks and the acreage houses Bedford Reservation's maintenance center.

The RAILROAD CAMPHOUSE

The New York Central purchased a house at 15801 Egbert Road, situated on the east side of the railroad right-of-way, to be used as a bunkhouse where all its laborers would live, as long as they kept their jobs with the NYC.

The house faced Egbert Road, which in those days went sharply downhill, straight to Dunham Road. (Today, the west end of Egbert Road bends southward after it passes Overlook Lane.) When the NYC planned its tracks, Cuyahoga County engineers rerouted Egbert Road so that only one railroad bridge would have to be built over Dunham Road. The camphouse and its pie-shaped three and a half-acre lot were bordered by the tracks, old Egbert Road and the New Egbert Road.

The upstairs of the house was made into one large dormitory where all the laborers slept. The first floor contained the kitchen and living quarters for the boarding house foreman and his family, and a large dining room filled with picnic tables where the crew workers ate and socialized.

When the NYC no longer needed the camphouse for its workers, and the Vraneks moved out, they put it up for sale. The house sat vacant for a few years until Norm and Elizabeth Pearce purchased it in 1940. In 1958 Jake and Eleanor Senchur bought the property. Through the years their family expanded the property to five and a third acres. Today, four houses are on the land, all owned by Senchur family members.

The SECTION FOREMAN HOUSE

The New York Central bought the house at 7345 Dunham Road, built c. 1874, to be used as living quarters for its local section foreman and his family.

After purchasing the house, the railroad company made the inside as attractive as possible for its section foreman. The remodeled living room featured a large bay window as well as a set of solid oak French doors that separated two front rooms from the entrance hall.

From 1904 to 1939 the LOCAL SECTION FOREMAN lived in this NYC house at 7345 Dunham Road. (Year of photograph prior to 1935. Photo reproduced by Nina Wolf)



The RAILROAD CAMPHOUSE at 15801 Egbert Road housed the boarding house foreman and the section crew. This aerial view shows the house bordered by train tracks, new routing of Egbert Road across the bottom, and original Egbert Road pathway partly visible on the right. (Date of photo unknown. Photo reproduced by Nina Wolf)

A small apartment was added on one side of the upstairs of the house. The NYC built this suite of rooms for an assistant foreman and his family, should there ever be a need for one. Most likely the suite was never used for its original purpose. It is known that during Edward Long's tenure as foreman, there was no assistant foreman hired for this section of the line.

There were two coal stoves in the house; one in the living room and one in the kitchen that was used for both cooking and heating. There was an outside pump, an outhouse, and kerosene lanterns illuminated the inside of the house.

Train tracks ran along the rear of the lot. The NYC insisted that at all times the section foreman have a clear view of the tracks from inside the house. No sheds, barns, underbrush, trees or garden were allowed to obstruct his view of the tracks.

In the 1940s when Dunham Road was widened, a wide strip of frontage was taken away for the roadway, so that today the house sits much closer to the road than it did originally.

The NYC maintained the house, as it did the camphouse. The outside of the house was painted at regular intervals by railroad workers. However, the railroad would not pay for major improvements. When the Longs in the mid 1930s wanted the house wired for electricity, the family bore the installation cost themselves.

Richard Long, one of Edward Long's sons, worked part-time on the railroad line during his four years at Bedford High School (Moody) and over college vacation periods.

Paying the railroad company \$7.00 a month rent, the Edward Longs occupied the house from 1919 until 1939, which was three years after Edward retired. At that time the NYC gave the Longs the option of purchasing the house or moving. When they chose to relocate, the railroad sold the house. This house is privately owned today, and is not on park land.

The THIRD RAILROAD HOUSE

A third railroad house was located on the north side of Button Road, near where Hemlock Creek empties into Tinkers Creek. The house sat in the path of the railroad right-of-way, and also in the path of the soon-to-be-built

trestle. The New York Central solved the problem by purchasing the property and moving the house several yards to the east. Instead of using the house for railroad personnel, the company leased it to a local family, Rudolph and Lena Willing. Willing farmed the Button Road acreage and used his team of horses on excavation jobs.

As the house began to show its age, rather than sink money into major repairs, the NYC put the house up for sale. The Willings bought the property and renovated the house. Their son, Jack, and his wife Kathleen, lived in the house until they had both passed away, at which time the property became part of Bedford Reservation. The Metroparks razed the house and barn, and since the late 1980s the property houses the Bedford Reservation management and maintenance center.



PICTURED on their FRONT PORCH in days of yesteryear, are Willing family members. (Date of photograph unknown. Photo reproduced by Nina Wolf)

BEDFORD GLENS

Bedford Glens, a wooded picnic area with baseball fields, can be reached from Willis Road, in Bedford. Willis Road is parallel and south of Broadway Avenue, south of Bedford Commons and east of the Post Office. Bedford Glens is on the North side of Tinkers Creek, opposite the Egbert Road picnic grounds.

Evan Day purchased the wooded area in 1902, almost 20 years before this area became part of Bedford Reservation. Evan Day developed the woods into a park with a large pavilion, where Cleveland and Bedford people could picnic and dance. By 1924, Day had greatly improved and expanded his facilities at Bedford Glens. The pavilion featured an elegant year-round ballroom dance floor, with a bowling alley built in the lower level annex. Evan Day gave dance lessons to individuals and groups.

Ballroom Dancing at Bedford Glens: Ed Day, a band leader, was the nephew of Evan Day. For several years Ed Day and his orchestra performed at Bedford Glens. Ed Day was referred to as the "Waltz King of Ohio."

Crowds of Greater Clevelanders came to Bedford Glens by car and the Interurban Trolley Car (The ABC Line) to dance to the music of Ed Day's band. Also, nationally noted bands, including Lawrence Welk and Rita Rio and Her All Girls Band were guest bands that played at Bedford Glens.

For two to three hours each week, a local radio station, WHK, broadcast Ballroom Music by Ed Day and his band, "Ten Knights in a Ballroom."

In 1939, when roller skating and roller dancing became more popular than ballroom dancing, the dance floor was converted to a roller rink where people roller skated to music.

On April 18, 1944 fire destroyed the wooden pavilion. It was never rebuilt. The Metroparks acquired the land in the 1920s, but Bedford Glens Dance Pavilion continued to be operated by Evan Day until 1944.

Jean Kainsinger

Bedford Glens

One of the most rugged and spectacular areas to be seen in Ohio or any other state is ~~in our midst. This is, of course, the deep~~ Tinker's Creek gorge, known for a century or ~~more as the Bedford Glens.~~

The Cleveland Metropolitan Parks acquired 1300 acres of the ravine and environs in the early 1920s, and it became the Bedford Reservation. Its preservation as a natural wilderness was assured. Fortunately, no plans have been made to make the depths of the gorge more accessible to the multitudes, and most of the Bedford Glens will remain forever wild... much as it was when a few Indians would hunt deer or spear fish in the clear, clean waters of tumbling Tinker's Creek.

And Tinker's Creek does tumble. From the upstream, or easterly end of Bedford

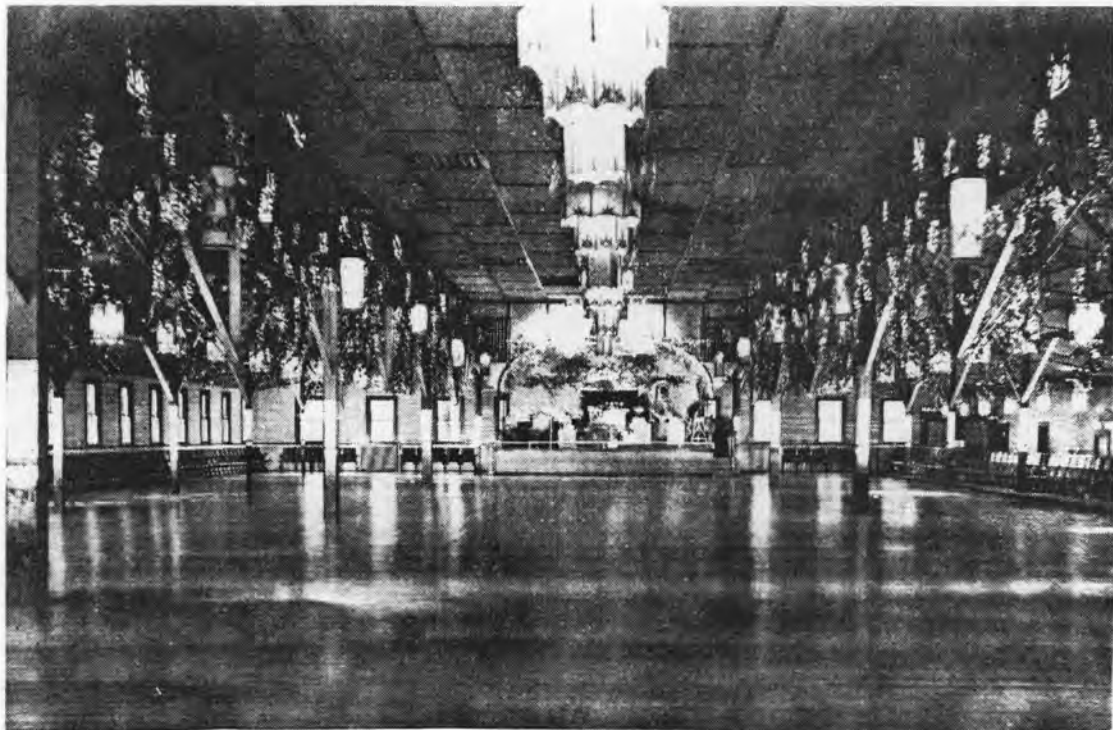
Reservation, which is the lower end of the Arch, to the westerly end, where Dunham Road crosses the stream, a continuous series of rapids and small waterfalls drops the waters a total of 90 feet in elevation. The ravine is steep-walled the entire distance, with a depth ranging between 140 and 190 feet.

In 1968 the National Park Service, after a study of the area by scientists over a period of many years, thought it over and designated the Tinker's Creek area as a Registered National Natural Landmark. A bronze tablet saying it was so was installed near the observation platform overlooking the depths.

It is prime area for discovery, observation and solitary reflection for naturalists and geologists, and for artists, photographers and just plain hikers.

In the woodlands on the flat areas surrounding the rim of the gorge are stands of huge oaks and hickories, and on the slopes are beeches, maples, tulips and other native trees. On the steep cliffs of the ravine large hemlocks and yellow birches may be found clinging precariously to the rock and shale walls.

BEAUTIFUL BEDFORD GLENS BALLROOM



The Night the Glens Burnt Down

It was a balmy spring evening. All was quiet along Broadway. A few skaters were warming up at the roller rink, warming to an evening of graceful gliding over the old hardwood ballroom floor.

It was quiet and peaceful in the old home town, but the country was at war, and violence and destruction and despair raged around the world. Hundreds of boys and men from the town were in the midst of that violence and destruction, far from home but longing to be there.

On tropical coral islands in the Pacific, in England and Africa and Italy, in warships at sea and in training camps in the homeland, the boys from Bedford longingly remembered the home town. Some of these recollections brought them back to the grand old ballroom near the center of town.

Some were old enough to have spent a few evenings dancing with their best girl, or any girl, in that grand ballroom of Bedford Glens Park, or roller skating there as changing times brought changing diversions. Some

had received their high school diplomas in that spacious, gleaming chamber, some had worked as pinsetters in the adjacent bowling alleys, and most had listened to Ed Day and his Bedford Glens orchestra broadcasting the good music from Bedford over radio station WHK, with Larry Roller announcing.

The quiet, peaceful Tuesday evening along Broadway was suddenly transformed, as the most spectacular, memorable local fire since 1893 lighted up the springtime sky. It was April 18, 1944.

The widely known and heavily patronized Bedford Glens Park, operated as a dance hall and roller rink by Evan Day since about 1900, was completely destroyed -- totally wiped out

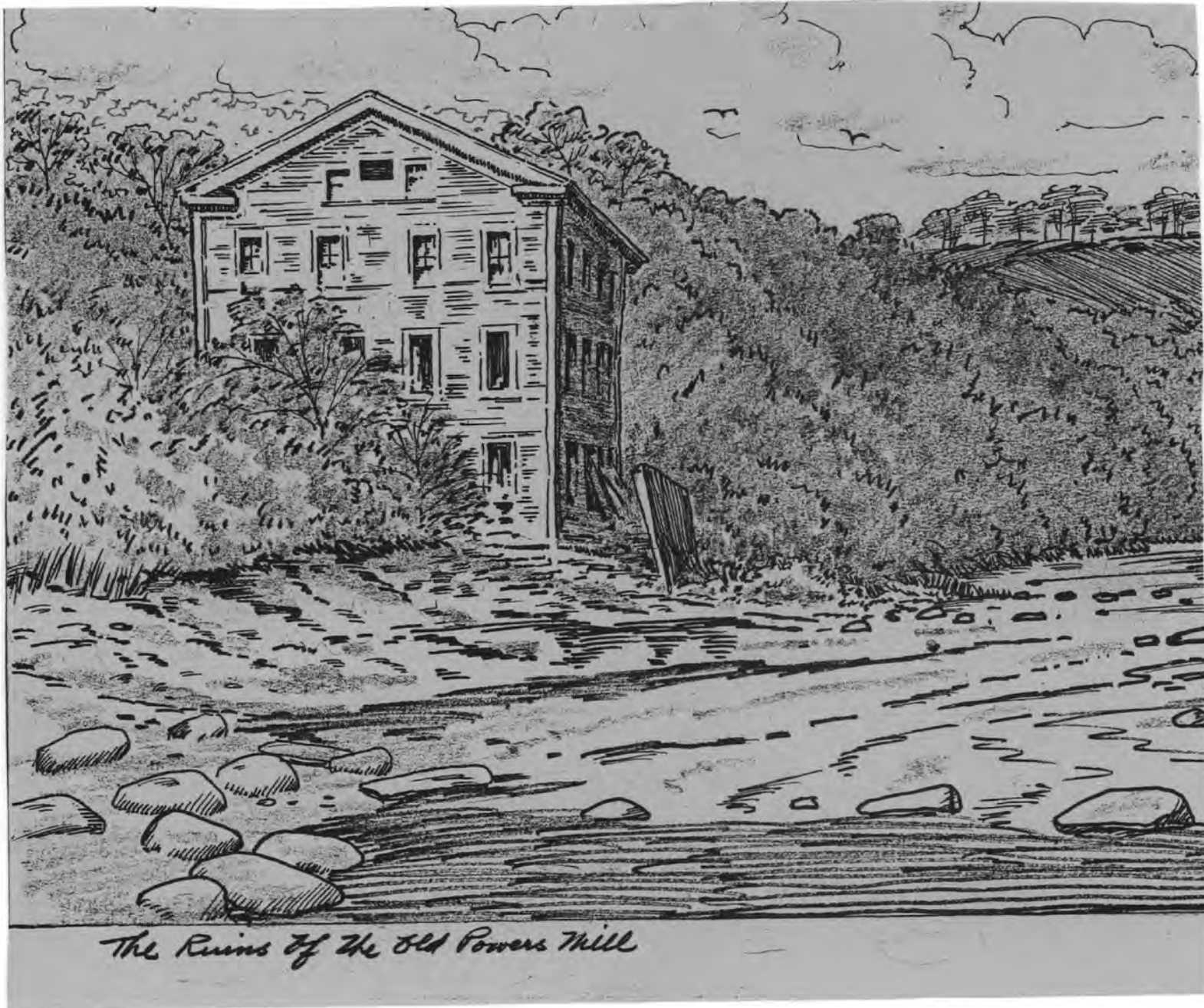
by a sudden flash fire that swept across the ancient boards, shooting flames 500 feet into

The morning after. The smoking ruins of the former resplendent ballroom.



POWERS MILL

Evidence of an old mill built by Stephen Powers in 1842, can be seen along the north banks of Tinkers Creek from behind the pavilion at the Egbert Road picnic area. The Powers family owned and operated a saw mill and woolen factory for about fifteen years. By walking down to Tinkers Creek a visitor can see the remnants of Power's stone dam and buildings.



Tinker's Creek II

Totally worthless as farmland

Last week in this space, if you were interested, you might have followed the gently course of old Tinker's Creek as it flowed downstreams in a westerly direction through old Bedford Township. The narration floated along with it to the midway point in its winding, rocky path across the township, as depicted on an 1892 map.

In 1892 Tinker's Creek emerged from under the 100-foot high stone railroad viaduct to enter the deep and narrow gorge that was already widely noted for its spectacular, rugged scenery. Hikers and explorers descended the steep slopes to enjoy the coolness and solitude of the Bedford Glens, as it was (and still is) known. It is at this point that the present Bedford Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks begins. For the past 60 years and more nearly three miles of the Tinker's Creek gorge and its immediate environs have been Metropolitan Park property. In 1892 it was all privately owned.

On its winding westward course the stream skirted the boundary of Bedford Village, through a 138-acre parcel of land owned by A.E. Van Valkenburg, and looped up through Joseph Mayer's holdings. The ruins of Stephen Powers' old woolen mill were there, still standing in 1892, near the foot of Powers Road hill. A few blocks of the stone foundation wall and a fragment of one end of the mill dam may be seen there today, 130 years after the mill was abandoned.

Just beyond the Powers Mill site were Little Falls and Little Lake, popular fishing and swimming spots enjoyed by the youth of the village--free recreation easily accessible from the village down old Powers Road.

From Little Lake, which was just a wide pool at the bend of the stream Tinker's Creek started rus-

hing toward the south on its generally westward route. A.M. Whittaker owned 156 acres, with the 100-foot-deep gulch running diagonally



**Around
the Town**
By the Village Observer

through the middle. Mary D. Silver owned a part of that gulch and Frank and Clara Gleeson had title to a narrow strip one-half mile long, consisting of nothing but the creek, steep shale cliffs and precipitous wooded hillsides.

William H. Button had some open farmland on the heights just north of the ravine and Clard B. Cleveland farmed part of a 126-acre parcel to the south, with the wilderness of Tinker's Creek intruding on both properties.

Though the Van Valkenburgs, the Whittakers, the Silvers, the Gleesons and the Buttons owned a natural wonderland with some of the most beautiful and awesome scenery in the midwest, it was totally worthless as farmland or for development. That stretch of the stream was unsuitable for millsites or as a source of timber, though it was thick with giant oaks and maples reaching straight for the sky. The depth and steepness of the high walls of the ravine made it inaccessible, and the carving of wagon roads to the bottom was totally unfeasible.

The very feature that made the Tinker's Creek gorge economically worthless saved it from the intrusion of civilization, so that the Great Gorge of Tinker's Creek of 1985 remains much the same as it was in 1892, and for centuries before that.

The narrow ravine opens up as it nears the western edge of the township. In 1892 Button Road contin-

ued on beyond its present end, down a steep muddy wagon roadway to the valley floor. Here it ran along the north bank of the creek through some bottom farmland toward its juncture with Dunham Road. It crossed a little bridge over Wood Creek, also known as Hemlock Creek, a tributary that had dug its own small scenic valley through several miles of woodland and farmland.

Dunham Road came down the hillside into the valley from the north, crossed Tinker's Creek on a low-level bridge and continued to the south as Egypt Road, on up the hill and out of the valley. Just beyond the bridge the creek left



The ruins of Powers Mill, along Tinker's Creek, as it looked in 1897.

Bedford Township to enter Independence Township.

It was just five miles west of the point that Tinker's Creek entered Bedford Township, as a determined crow would fly, and about 300 feet lower in elevation. The historic stream left the area of Township 6 in Range 11, guiding the accumulated waters collected from a widespread area of Northeastern Ohio, toward the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie.

In the 170 years since the first settlers to this township without a name discovered the stream we call Tinkers, nearly every square foot of the 25 square mile piece of wilderness has been altered, developed and realtered. The forest had been cleared and farms established, to be taken over by urban development. Hills have been flattened and hollows filled, changing forever the contour of the land. Big

industrial plants have been built, to prosper for awhile and then to languish into abandonment. Five separate towns occupy the land, each contributing its bit to the ever-changing landscape.

Through it all, though, running across the center of the 25 square miles, are stretches of landscape that haven't changed. Down along the banks of Tinker's Creek, and in the primeval forest that grows there, you may view the same vistas that the Indians of centuries ago might have seen. While doing so, ignore the occasional beer can or shattered bottle lying against a rock, and close your ears to the distant roar of a jet airliner high above.

This the primitive wilderness, silent but for the soothing sound of the rushing waters, or the cry of the bluejay somewhere in the hemlocks.

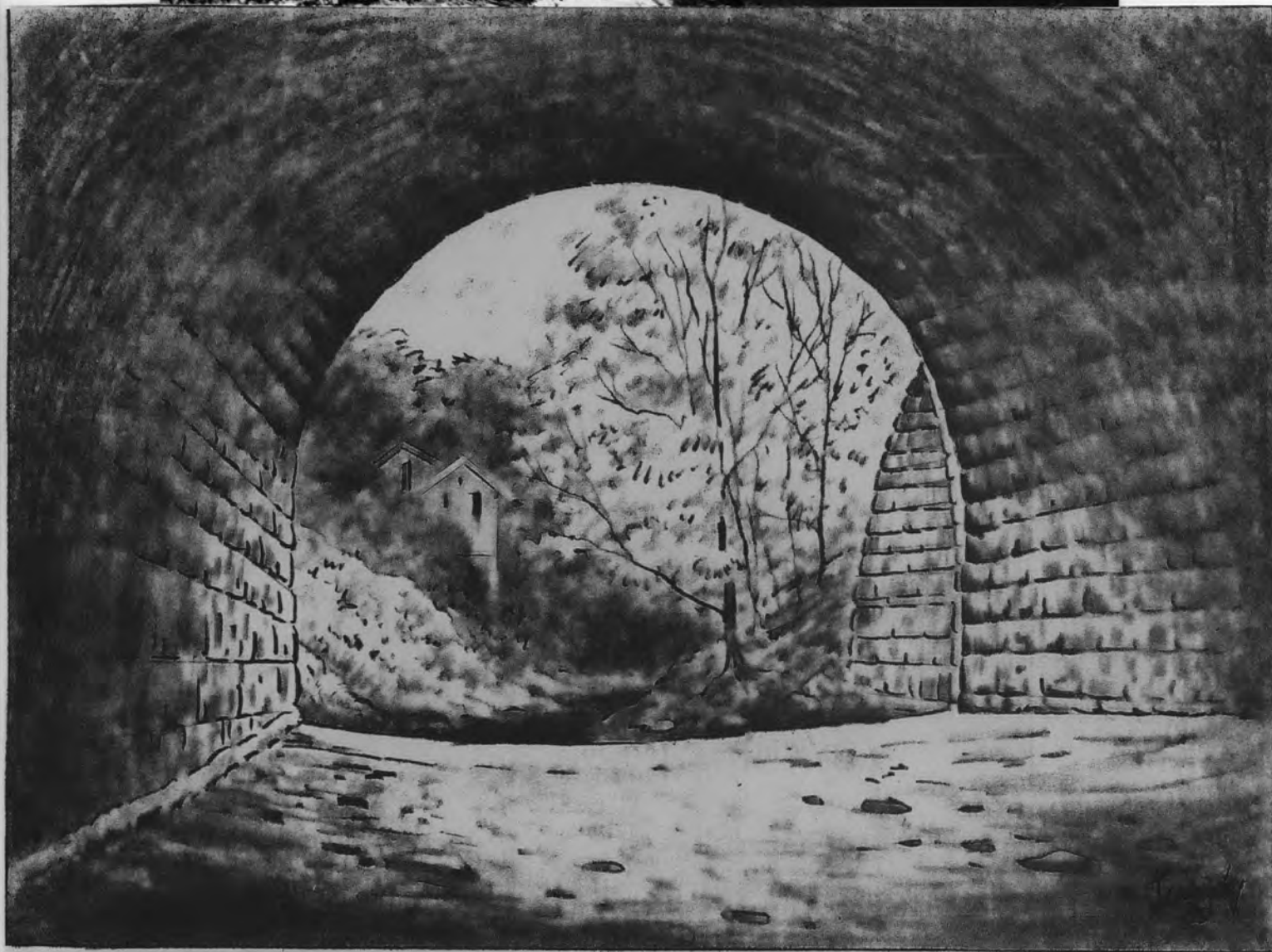
Old Woolen Mill on Tinkers Creek
behind Beford Glens
built in 1842
water wheel powered by
Tinkers Creek
photo 1885



Woolen Mill on Tinkers Creek
photo 1895



Grist Mill
Tinkers Creek Dam
at Bedford, Ohio
1892



A glimpse of the Old Mills-Tinkers Creek

SITES ACROSS the CREEK - in BEDFORD The GREAT FALLS of TINKERS CREEK and VIADUCT PARK

Viaduct Park, a section of Bedford Reservation located at the junction of Willis and Taylor Streets, is a new 6.6 acre park dedicated in June of 2002. A paved path from the parking area leads down to Tinkers Creek. By walking down the path, a visitor sees the impressive Great Falls of Tinkers Creek, the viaduct above the arch and remnants of the industry that once thrived in this area.

The Great Falls of Tinkers Creek was the source of power for the first industries in the town of Bedford. In 1821 Daniel Benedict built a saw mill in this location, ruins of which the visitor can see. A visitor can see evidence of Holsey Gates' roller mill, which earlier had been Willis' grist mill. The Holsey Gates roller mill housed a large 3-story wooden building that hung over Tinkers Creek's edge. There are ruins of the Bedford Electric Light & Power Company plant and an old bridge that crossed Tinkers Creek and connected Willis Street to Plank Road (now Union Street).



The GREAT FALLS of TINKERS CREEK. 2006 photo, taken after an October rain.

The Viaduct is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad stone viaduct, a picturesque bridge that spans the Tinkers Creek gorge at its east end, was completed in 1864. It replaced a wooden truss bridge built some twelve years earlier. The Viaduct is 225 feet long and towers 120 feet above the water. In 1902 the C & P Railroad completed another railroad bridge, one that sits atop the stone arch, for another set of tracks. Tons of fill dirt were used to support the 1902 bridge and the existing arch. This is now the Norfolk Southern line.

Viaduct Park

Bedford considers factory cleanup

Officials awaiting firm cost estimates

PATRICK O'DONNELL
Plain Dealer Reporter

BEDFORD — The old Brush Wellman Inc. factory site on Egbert Road could get a cleanup and return to active use, but Bedford officials need to get some answers first.

City officials envision removing remnants of pollution from the site, then using state and local funds for redeveloping brownfields — contaminated industrial sites — to help a business move there. They are in negotiations with Brush Wellman for 49 acres of the 65-acre parcel but want to know just what they are getting into before obtaining the property. Brush Wellman is a unit of Brush Engineered Materials Inc. of

Cleveland.

City Manager Bob Reid says the company estimates it will cost as much as \$6 million to remove contaminants so that the site can pass environmental standards for redevelopment. The city now needs to verify that figure and make sure nothing else lurks under the surface that can drive the cost higher.

The Cuyahoga County commissioners awarded Bedford \$25,000 earlier this month to pay the environmental engineering firm Burgess and Niple to study the pollution situation. Burgess and Niple is expected to report back next month.

"It's something we really ought to be aggressive on, yet cautious," said Economic Development Director Re-

becca Kwiatkowski-Corrigan. "It has so much potential, but it's a brownfield and there are lots of strings attached."

The parcel, across from the Shawnee Hills Golf Course and adjacent to the Bedford Reservation of Cleveland Metroparks, was an industrial site for 50 years before a Brush Wellman subsidiary closed its brake parts plant there in 1985. The plant was demolished in the early 1990s, and despite some cleanup of residue from that operation, a string of plans for both full cleanup and development have come and gone.

Today it is one of the few spots in the city open to new businesses and the jobs and taxes a business would bring.

The city is looking at the front 49 acres but not the rear 15 acres be-

cause of wetlands issues. Negotiations with the company center less on a purchase price than on how much responsibility for lingering pollution the city will take on.

If the city thinks it can meet cleanup standards, it will apply for Clean Ohio Fund money that voters passed in November 2000 to clean and reuse old industrial sites. The city must also do a cost-benefit analysis once it knows how much the cleanup will cost, what help it can receive and what revenues a new business will generate.

"It might still behoove us to go ahead with the project," said Reid. "If we don't in the very near future, that property could stay vacant forever."

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C.H. PETE COPELAND | THE PLAIN DEALER

Naturalist Carl Casavecchia of the Cleveland Metroparks considers the new Viaduct Park an interesting blend of nature and history.

Bedford's Great Falls back again

Once-popular area renovated into park

GRANT SEGALL
Plain Dealer Reporter

BEDFORD — Two centuries ago, the Great Falls of Tinkers Creek were a bustling place.

The creek's lush, misty banks hosted a gristmill, a sawmill, even a small electric power plant for nearby homes. Busy factories topped the slopes.

But the falls were gradually bypassed by the roads and the times.

"It was just completely forgotten," Holsey Gates Handyside, 74, a descendant of area pioneers, says of the falls throughout most of the 1900s. His childhood friends would hike in the nearby Bedford Reservation but mostly avoid the slippery falls and the treacherous ruins on the banks.

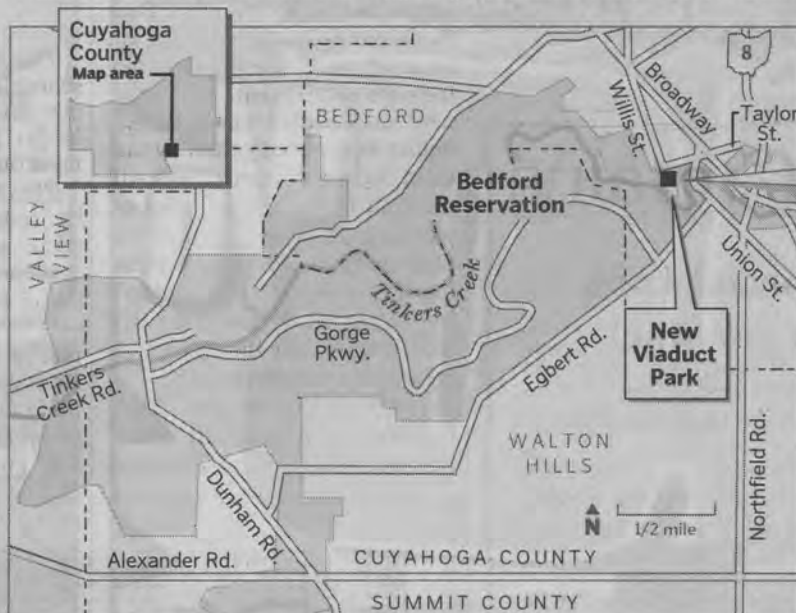
Now, though, the site is being renovated as a new piece of Bedford Reservation called Viaduct Park. The park is already open to the public and will be formally dedicated today.

The park's 6.6 acres have a mix of natural and man-made attractions.

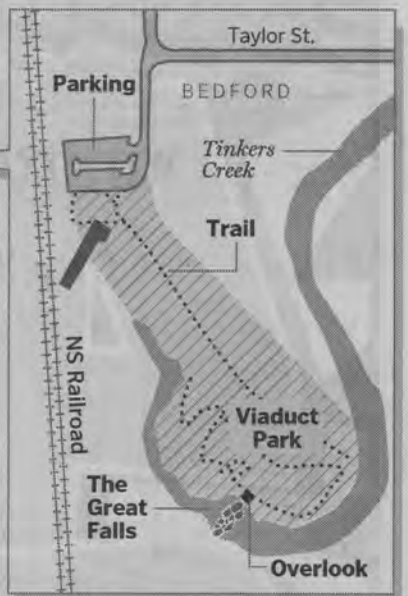
The centerpiece is the falls, where water rushes over a slab of sandstone

The newest piece of the Cleveland Metroparks

Viaduct Park, to be dedicated Thursday, contains 6.6 acres of nature and history.



SOURCE: Cleveland Metroparks



THE PLAIN DEALER

and tumbles down a wall of shale.

The banks sport sycamores, hemlocks, wild strawberries and a few less desirable species, including plenty of poison ivy.

"Stay on the trail," warns Cleveland Metroparks naturalist Carl Casavecchia.

Below the falls are the park's two leading man-made features. Tinkers Creek flows through "the Arch," a stone tunnel 512 feet long that runs beneath railroad tracks and "The Viaduct," a tall, defunct railroad bridge.

The falls' banks contain remnants of other structures, including a dry

tunnel some 30 yards long that visitors can walk through, at least in a crouch.

New additions include observation decks and a wheelchair-accessible path wending 1,000 feet from the parking lot to the falls.

Several homes and workplaces from the 1800s survive above the falls. The Taylor Chair Co., founded nearby in 1816 and moved next to the falls in 1850, is believed to be the oldest continuous business in the Western Reserve and the oldest American business still owned by the same family.

The Cleveland Metroparks is leas-

ing Viaduct Park from the city of Bedford for \$1 per year. The park has been developed for \$399,100, with the state pitching in \$207,000, the Cleveland Metroparks \$122,540 and Bedford \$69,140.

Bedford also hopes to build a mile-long trail linking the park safely to the rest of Bedford Reservation, which lies just past the Arch and the tracks.

Viaduct Park is in Bedford at Taylor and Willis streets, both of which intersect nearby Broadway.

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VIADUCT PARK

The Viaduct Park area was privately owned and used as a dumping ground. Rumors spread that the owner would put it up for sale. Residents feared that buyers would buy it for a real dump and the Bedford Historical Society did not have the funds to purchase the land. The City of Bedford, Bedford Historical Society, Bedford Reservation and Cleveland Metroparks worked together to buy and maintain the property. Garfield Nature Center is the Metroparks office in charge of Viaduct Park.

Viaduct Park, located at the junction of Willis and Taylor Streets, was dedicated in June of 2002. A paved path from the parking area leads down to Tinkers Creek. By walking down the path a visitor sees the impressive Great Falls of Tinkers Creek, the viaduct above the arch and remnants of the industry that once thrived in this area. The Great Falls of Tinkers Creek was the source of power for the first industries in the town of Bedford.

Viaduct Park Sign-Post: "The Park Map"

"Cleveland Metroparks proudly assisted the City of Bedford in the renovation of this historic area. Completed in May of 2002, the story of early industry in Bedford is revealed through photographs and documentation provided by the Bedford Historical Society and area residents. Especially appreciated are the memories and reflections of Mr. Dick Squire.

As you walk the grounds of this living exhibit and experience the stories of times past, remember there is far more information available at the Bedford Historical Society and the Cleveland Metropark Garfield Park Nature Center."

The Great Falls

Tinkers Creek is a quiet river until it gets to Bedford. Soft, brittle sandstone and shale in the Bedford section of Tinkers Creek allows the river to cut a deep gorge through the rock as it flowed west through the Bedford area. Walton Hills resident Roger Fuhrmeyer is currently painting four murals of The Great Falls, a mural depicting the falls during each of the four seasons.

Viaduct Park Sign-Post: "The Great Falls"

"Can you see the rising mist, hear the power of the falling water? Imagine the added sounds of huge belts whirring as they transfer that water power to mechanical power – turning gears, spinning shafts, crushing, grinding and sifting grain into flour. Imagine millers scurrying about, farmers loading and unloading their wagons. All this activity because of the water you see falling before you, the free power provided at the Great Falls of Tinkers Creek.

Notice the creek bed above the falls; it is supported by a layer of Berea Sandstone. Below the falls, a softer rock known as Bedford Shale is being eroded at a much faster pace by the continuous flow of water. Can you see the large sections of sandstone below? As the softer shale is washed away, the harder sandstone eventually breaks under its own weight and drops. Over many years, the falls continue to recede upstream, similar to Niagara Falls."

Northfield Road

Northfield Road is one of the very early Cuyahoga County Roads. In 1803 the section from Union Street to Sagamore Road became a dedicated County Road. There was a gap in Northfield Road by Tinkers Creek, in Bedford. The gorge was too deep for building a bridge on Northfield Road to span Tinkers Creek. The North end of Northfield Road ended by Giant Eagle, Solon Road; the South end of Northfield Road started at Union Street, by Light of Hearts Villa / St. Mary's Church.

Travelers wanting to continue north or south on Northfield Road had to make a half circular detour to where the land elevation over Tinkers Creek was much less steep, and the Red Bridge was built. Heading north, travelers turned west onto Union Street, and at the intersection of Old Egbert Road and Union Street took the Red Bridge to Taylor Street, turned north on Taylor Street, turned east on Solon Road to Northfield Road.

Union Street (at first it was named Plank Road because wood planks were laid on it in the early 1800s) "united" Broadway Avenue (by Zamos Cleaners/Moonglow) with Northfield Road by Light of Hearts Villa / St. Mary's and the eastern end of Broadway Avenue (Pinehurst / Carylwood School area)

The Northfield Road Bridge we have today, between Giant Eagle and Light of Hearts Villa, was built in the 1930s. In recent years it was rebuilt.

VIADUCT PARK

Red Bridge That Spanned Tinkers Creek

The east abutment for the Red Bridge *can be seen on the west side of Egbert Road*, very close to Union Street. It is where you can see a break in the trees. It can also be seen in Viaduct Park. The west abutment for the Red Bridge can be seen in Viaduct Park.

Viaduct Park Sign-Post: "The Red Bridge"

"Red Bridge was named for its red-painted wood sides. When this area bustled with activity in the 1800s and early 1900s locals traveled ^{to} Willis Street or Plank Road (now Union Street) to this area. Wagons full of grain or timber rumbled over the bridge to be milled. Workers for the mills and power plant traveled over the bridge."

Viaduct Park Sign-Post: "Taylor Road – Old Egbert Road Abutments and Old Mill Sites"

"The power of Tinkers Creek was harnessed around 1821 by Daniel Benedict for his saw mill and later Luther Willis' grist mill. Over time this 6.6 acre area also saw the emergence of an electric power plant.

Bedford's industry saw its beginnings here in the valley below. You can find the

- 1) Ruins of Benedict's saw mill
- 2) Holsey M. Gates' Bedford Roller Mill (formerly Willis' grist mill)
- 3) Bedford Electric Light and Power Company (formerly People's Electric Light Company)
- 4) Abutments of the Red Bridge that took local merchants and travelers over Tinkers Creek from Willis Street to Plank Road (now Union Street)
- 5) Old millrace which provided water to the mills and power plant
- 6) Views of the Arch and the old stone railroad viaduct you are standing on. This hidden area and its activities were instrumental in the industrial development of Bedford, bustling center of activity from 1821 – 1931. Since then "progress" has spread Bedford's industry to new boundaries, allowing nature to blanket the old...into the pages of time."

The Arch

In the mid 1800s railroad tracks were to be laid in the area. The tracks had to cross Tinkers Creek. A long/ deep Arch was built around Tinkers Creek so its water could pass through the arch, an arch that could withstand the weight of trains.

From the walkway you have a good look at the arch, but you do not see the train tracks. The arch looks like a huge oatmeal box with another half of an oatmeal box that curves, forming a bend. After a maze of tinker-toy-like lengths of lumber was assembled in the shape of an arch, blocks of sandstone were laid to form the arch. Then, tons of soil, rocks, and probably cement were poured over another wood framework built at the sides and top of the arch to add support for the arch and train tracks.

Viaduct Park Sign-Post: "The Arch"

"One of the amazing architectural creation of its time, the Arch was built between 1901 – 1902. Its purpose is to control the flow of Tinkers Creek while providing a base for the railroad above. It is 512 feet long, with a 20 degree turn inside. The openings are 40 feet wide and 32 feet high.

The sandstone for the arch was quarried on-site from the cliffs around you. Non-powered carts on temporary rails, overhead cable, pulleys and temporary derricks powered by stationary steam engines helped move the massive amount of materials used in the construction of the arch.

Standing against many floods and the march of time, the arch remains as a monument to those craftsmen who toiled in its creation. Construction progressed from the west (downstream) along the course of Tinkers Creek. Heavy timber forms temporarily supported the massive tapered sandstone blocks – each piece hand-crafted and fitted to form the giant arched tunnel."

VIADUCT PARK

The Viaduct

The Viaduct is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Completed in 1864, the Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad Stone Viaduct is a picturesque railroad bridge that spans Tinkers Creek Gorge at its east end.

The Viaduct is built over the Arch.

Viaduct Park Sign-Post: "The Viaduct"

"The Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad stone viaduct across Tinkers Creek Gorge was completed in 1864, replacing the original wooden truss bridge which opened in 1852. The massive stone structure, 225 feet long and towering 120 feet above Tinkers Creek is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The photo in the lower right was taken in the spring of 2001. A quick comparison gives you some sense of the massive amount of fill added in the 1902 effort to make two (2) tracks cross Tinkers Creek Valley at this point."

Viaduct Park Sign-Post: "The Saw Mill" (located at lower level, facing north)

"If you trace the beginnings of most early settlements, you will find a readily available supply of fresh water; water to drink, water to move people or materials, and in the 1800s water to supply power.

With this power in mind, Daniel Benedict started his saw mill here in 1821, along the banks of Tinkers Creek. The mill provided an efficient way for new settlers to turn their abundant timber into lumber, constructing their businesses, new homes, barns, bridges, furniture, etc.

A new neighbor, the grist mill, began operations in 1825. Water power was diverted from Tinkers Creek via a millrace, behind a newly constructed dam. However, the saw mill, now just downstream of that new dam, would need power as well. Cooperation was the key to survival in this budding town and success in the "business" of the township. Owners of the new dam and the millrace were required to provide water to the saw mill as well as to their new grist mill."

Viaduct Park Sign-Post: "The Grist Mill"

"In 1825 Luther Willis built the first grist mill in Bedford on the spot before you. Over time various owners managed the operation until 1876, when the Gates family assumed ownership.

In 1891 Washington Gates and his son Holsey M Gates modernized it into a roller mill by replacing the traditional millstones with the newest roller mill technology. More "modern" rollers produced a more efficient and softer product for cooking and baking. Bedford Roller Mill became well known throughout the area for its products—Pansy brand flour and Gates Best pastry flour. A little known fact: Holsey M Gates never had a middle name. He added the M (M for miller, without a period) for business purposes."

Viaduct Park Sign-Post: "The Grist Mill Proprietors"

"Before coming to the Bedford area, Holsey Gates' oldest son, Washington Gates and Washington's son, Holsey M Gates, had operated a mill on the Chagrin River in Chagrin Falls. Washinton's father had also previously built and operated a sawmill (1826) and gristmill (1827) in Gates Mills. Washington bought the Bedford grist mill in 1872. The Gates family remained grist mill proprietors in the Bedford area until 1907-1908 when the mill shut down to permit continuous operation of the electric power plant.

Holsey M and his wife Clara were also very active within the community, particularly in the area of music. In 1914 Holsey M Gates' daughter Edna Gates married Douglas Handyside, a local investment banker. The Gates-Handyside family remains an active part of the Bedford community still occupying the Gates Handyside house on Broadway Avenue."

VIADUCT PARK

Viaduct Park Sign-Post: "The Power Plant"

"In 1891 utilizing the natural energy of Tinkers Creek, the People's Electric Light Company redirected water through the millrace, powering turbines that generated "electricity." Back then the amazing invention of electricity was only used to light street lamps in the early evening hours.

Operators Stanley Smith, Al Kolb and Wilbur H. Jones were faithful to their duties of providing this power. Bedford Electric Light and Power Company purchased People's Electric Light Company in 1904 and over the years, with the appearance of electrical appliances and Bedford's expanding population, the power plant eventually went to a 24/7 operating schedule. The plant finally shut down in 1913 as the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company provided affordable service to all of Bedford. In 1918 fire destroyed the abandoned plant.

The remnants before you are supports for the turbines and portions of the building's lower brick walls."

Viaduct Park Sign-Post: "Mill Pond and Dam"

"A few remnants of the hand-cut sandstone arc that dammed Tinkers Creek are all that remain. Its job was to harness waterpower, diverting it to drive the mills. The dam created a large millpond that extended far upstream. If the water got cold enough, it provided an excellent ice skating pond, a spot for a little frozen fun on a winter's day."

Viaduct Park Sign-Post: "The Millrace" (sign faces east)

"The water from Tinkers Creek was dammed and diverted through the millrace you see before you. The millrace was built for the grist mill c. 1825. Later in 1891, when the electric power plant was opened, the second tunnel was built.

Can you tell which tunnel led to the great mill and which one led to the electric power plant? Hint: the answer lies in the building materials. You may ask how the water was shared once the electric power plant came on line. Not a problem in the late 1800s. At that time electricity was only needed at night, while the roller mill operated only by day. Thus the water flowed to the grist mill during the day and then was diverted to the electric power plant at night. A shared use of the water resource that worked just fine."

Viaduct Park Sign-Post: "The Millrace" (sign faces west)

"The water from Tinkers Creek was dammed and diverted through the millrace you see before you. "

Viaduct Park Sign-Post: "The Geology"

"The rock wall before you began forming when seas covered much of Ohio. Accumulating sand, pressure and time combined to form this rock known as Berea Sandstone. Prior to the seas that deposited the sandstone, a great deal of erosion took place, causing dips and valleys in the underlying shale. As the sea deposited its sand it did so at varying depths and with varying amounts of pressure, thus forming various thicknesses of sandstone layers. The seas flowed from the north and became shallower in this area. Deltas were formed, thus creating shallow beach areas where waves continually rolled the sand particles onto the shoreline. As a result you may find some sandstone rocks with ripple marks in the valley.

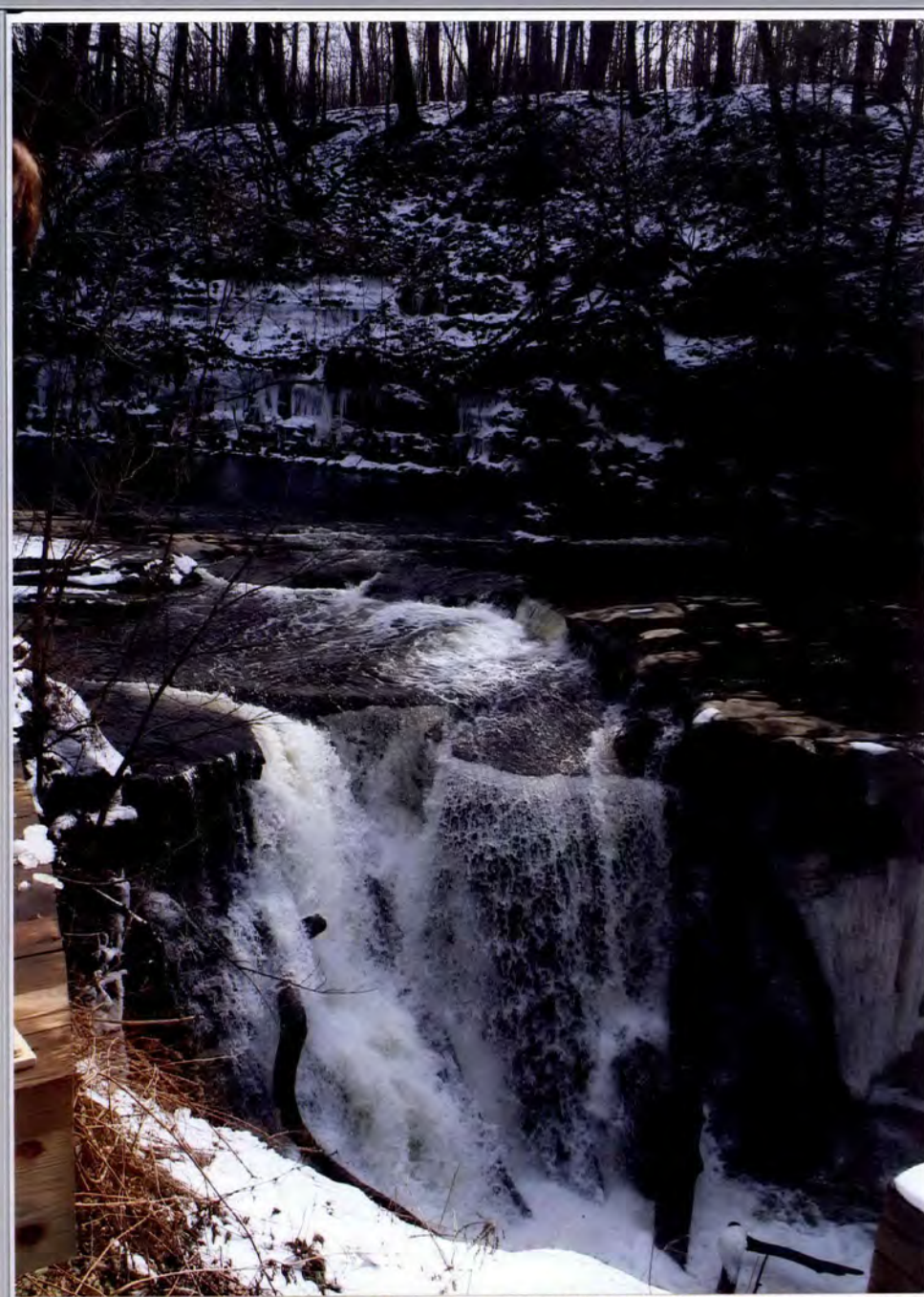
The harder sandstone can be seen on top of the softer shale, shale which is formed in seas that have more clay particles than sand. A great deal of sandstone was quarried from these valley walls in the 1800s and 1900s. Much of it was used for structures such as the Arch in the valley below."

Viaduct Park Sign-Post: "Taylor Chair Company"

"Taylor Chair, reported to be the oldest continuous family-owned business in America, has been renowned for its fine craftsmanship of chairs since 1816.

Benjamin F. Fitch arrived in the territory before it became Bedford Township. A prolific hunter and chair maker, he became well-known and depended upon by early settlers. Production of the first chairs began in his cabin near the corner of Libby and Center Roads in what is now Maple Heights. Fitch's daughter married William O. Taylor who learned the chair-making trade from Fitch. In 1859 Taylor moved the business to a factory adjacent to today's Viaduct Park. In 2006 the company moved to its present site in Bedford off Egbert Road. After numerous names adorned the letterhead, the current name, Taylor Chair Company, has stood the test of time since 1885. Taylor Chair's history gives us a glimpse of how the Industrial Revolution changed manufacturing from a cottage (home-based) industry to a mass production (factory) industry. Examples of Taylor chairs can be seen on display at the Bedford Historical Society Town Hall Museum."

Viaduct Park
Bedford Reservation





Viaduct Falls
Bedford
Reservation

4-2-1953

New park is piece of area history

By **MIKE LESKO**

Staff Writer

BEDFORD — It is one step in a list of potential improvements to the Tinker's Creek area in Bedford.

Tinker's Creek Viaduct Park, located at the corner of Willis and Taylor streets near downtown Bedford, was dedicated Saturday.

"Hopefully, this is just the beginning of the historical development of that site," City Manager Vilas Gamble said. "We're looking forward to doing some things with some of the old mill sites.

"Having a historical park site would hopefully be something that people from Northeast Ohio would come and visit," he said.

City officials envisioned a mini-park adjacent to the abandoned railroad bridge near Willis Street.

"I think it came out the way we had expected," he said. "Knowing what was there before, I think it was improved about 1,000 percent."

Visitors can look out over the gorge from the newly dedicated park.

"There were improvements on the bridge, not only to make it accessible, but also to save the structure," he said. "There were some major cracks in the arches that were reinforced."

Brush and trees were cleared off the bridge, and minor repairs were made.



SUN PHOTOS BY JAMES SEKERAK

Onlookers peer at the gorge during the dedication of Tinker's Creek Viaduct Park.

12-2001

Improved view

Walkway to falls is planned for park

By **MIKE LESKO**
Staff Writer

BEDFORD — Town officials are planning a walkway to the water falls as an addition to Tinkers Creek Viaduct Park.

It would provide a path to the creek side adjacent to the park, which is off of Willis Street near downtown in Bedford.

"The way we envision it is, it will be a boardwalk similar to what you find in the (Cleveland) Metroparks," City Manager Vilas Gamble said.

He views it as a historical site.

"In that area along the creek are original factory sites," he said. "There are still some remnants of those foundations. It provides some information about what was there at one time."

He said Metroparks officials have given the city of Bedford some ideas about how signs might be erected to describe what was here. He said the Western Reserve Historical Society will put the site

in its publications.

"Historically minded folks will want to see this along with the railroad viaduct bridge," he said. "So this is the complete the package."

Gamble said the preliminary cost estimate is \$95,000. The project is scheduled for 1999.

He said the city intends to apply to the state for a grant, which would pay for 75 percent of the total cost. The application must be submitted by next July.

"Without the grant, we probably won't be able to do it in the coming year," he said.

He said if the grant doesn't materialize by next year, he's not sure when the project would start. Still, it is an idea that town leaders believe is worthwhile.

"That's one reason why the parking lot at the (Tinkers Creek Viaduct) park is larger than we originally anticipated," he said. "We figured it would be a tourist attraction, and we'd need more parking than we originally planned."

Gamble said there will be other aspects to the project like getting some of the trees thinned out.

"So when you look at the railroad bridge down to the falls, you'll be able to see the falls," he said. "That would open it up and improve the view."

He said the project likely will be designed so it will be handicapped accessible.

"I assume it would be a series of ramps with very gradual slopes," he said.



RPC Photos / Kimberly Mauser

Work at Viaduct Park is almost complete. The Cleveland Metroparks has begun adding asphalt trails, wooden steps and observation decks near the waterfall.

City manager Bob Reid said 16 informational signs, which will describe the history of the area and welcome visitors to the park, still need to be installed. A sign designating the park also will be posted at the corner of Taylor and Willis streets.

Reid said the majority of the work should be done by the end of December, but construction will pick up again in the spring to finish landscaping the area.

"It's going to be a real addition to the city," Reid said.



2-2012

The Village of Walton Hills

Walton Hills is a community with a rich history, where people come together to live, work and play!



VIADUCT PARK WINTER WALK

On February 15th some Walton Hills residents went on a hike to the Viaduct Park, a section of Bedford Reservation which is located at the junction of Willis and Taylor Streets. It is a 6.6 acre park that was dedicated in 2002. There is a paved path that leads from the parking area down to the Great Falls of Tinkers Creek. At one time the Great Falls was the source of power for the industries in the town of Bedford. The waterfall is beautiful and there are plenty of information markers explaining this picturesque area. This park is well worth checking out!



4-2016

Did You Know?

Northfield Road is one of the very early roads in Cuyahoga County.

In 1803 the section of Northfield Road from Union Street to Sagamore Road became a dedicated County Road.

For 127 years, from 1803 to 1930, there was a gap in Northfield Road in Bedford, where the road crosses Tinkers Creek Valley. Northfield Road ended by Giant Eagle / CVS at Solon Road, and continued at Union Street by Light of Hearts Villa / St. Mary's Church. Back then, engineers considered the gorge too deep and too wide for them to construct a bridge over the Tinkers Creek Valley.

Instead, the County Engineers built **The Red Bridge** at a nearby location where the valley was much narrower and less deep. Northfield Road traffic was rerouted. To head North, Northfield Road travelers turned West onto Union Street at the intersection of Olde Egbert Road and Union Street. From there they continued west on the Red Bridge to Taylor Street, turned North on Taylor Street until they came to Solon Road, and then East on Solon Road to Northfield Road.

The Red Bridge Cuyahoga County engineers built the Red Bridge on the south side of Union Street. The site of the Red Bridge was at the North end of today's Viaduct Park. A visitor can still see evidence of the Red Bridge abutments in Viaduct Park.

The Northfield Road Bridge Finally, in the 1930s, the County had the technology to build a bridge that could span Tinkers Creek Valley, and connect the gap in Northfield Road. A scenic spot in Bedford Reservation is looking up at the bridge from the Creek level. Visitors can get there by continuing north on Egbert Road at Union Street, and taking the park road a short distance to the bridge area.

2012

2-2012

Wednesday, February 15th A Historic Walk Through Viaduct Park

The Walton Hills Recreation Department and the Historical Center Staff are coordinating a winter field trip to Viaduct Park, a "new" six-and-a-half acre park in Bedford Reservation. Viaduct Park, located at the junction of Willis and Taylor Streets, was dedicated in June of 2002. A paved path from the parking area leads down to Tinkers Creek. By walking down the path, a visitor sees the impressive Great Falls of Tinkers Creek, the viaduct above the arch and remnants of the industry that once thrived in this area.

We will probably see the **Great Falls of Tinkers Creek** as it frequently looks in the dead of winter, sheets of ice hanging over shelves of rock. Then again we might see cascades of water falling down layers of rock to lower elevations. The Great Falls of Tinkers Creek was the source of power for the first industries in the town of Bedford.

We will see evidence of a saw mill built in 1821, a roller mill that had been a grist mill, and the ruins of the Bedford Electric Light & Power Company plant. We will also see the location of an old bridge that crossed Tinkers Creek and connected Willis Street to Plank Road (now Union Street.)

The **Viaduct** is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Completed in 1864, the Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad Stone Viaduct is a picturesque railroad bridge that spans the Tinkers Creek Gorge at its east end. It replaced a wooden truss bridge built some twelve years earlier. The Stone Viaduct Bridge is 225 feet long and towers 120 feet above the water.

In 1902 the Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad completed another railroad bridge, one that sits atop the stone arch, for another set of railroad tracks. Tons of fill dirt were used to support the 1902 railroad bridge and the existing stone arch railroad tracks. This is now the Norfolk Southern line.

Plans are to meet at the Village Hall at 11:45 am, go to Viaduct Park and then lunch at a Bedford restaurant.

Phone Carol Stanoszek at the Recreation Department
for more information, and to make a reservation for a ride on the village van,



JANUARY

*Photo Taken By:
James Chambers*





**TINKERS CREEK WATERSHED
2009**



Historic Viaduct Park

Bedford's industry began here as the power of The Great Falls of Tinker's Creek was harnessed between 1821-1913 for a saw mill, grist mill, and electric power plant. Families such as the Benedict's, Willis', Gates', and others all left their mark on this important parcel.

Hidden by time and muffled by the roar of locomotives, this area has been revitalized through a cooperative effort of the City of Bedford and Cleveland Metroparks. Walking paths, overlooks, and interpretive exhibits help preserve the past and conserve the natural surroundings, while telling the story for future generations.

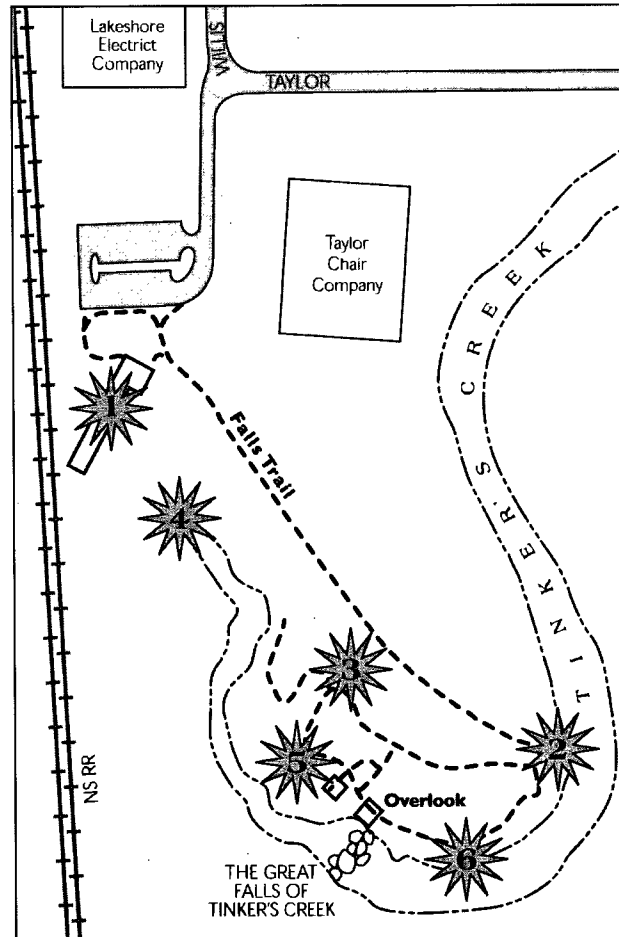
For more information on this area contact:



**Cleveland
Metroparks**
Administrative Offices
4101 Fulton Parkway
Cleveland, Ohio 44144-1923
(216) 351-6300

Viaduct Park is located southwest of Union Street at the intersection of Taylor and Willis Streets in Bedford, Ohio, in the Bedford Reservation of Cleveland Metroparks. To reach the Park, take I-271 to the Broadway/Forbes Exit. Turn right on Forbes, right on Broadway, and take Broadway to Taylor. Go left on Taylor and the park entrance is approximately 1,000 feet on the left.

Viaduct Park Features



- 1 Railroad Stone Viaduct 2 Red Bridge Ruins 3 Power Plant Ruins
4 The Arch 5 Millrace & Roller Mill Ruins 6 Dam & Saw Mill Ruins

Viaduct Park Partners

The improvements to Viaduct Park, completed in June 2002, were a cooperative effort between Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Bedford. Much has been done to showcase the historical significance and natural beauty of the area.

- 1998 * City of Bedford provides park access and an overlook at the old stone railroad viaduct.
- 1999 * Cleveland Metroparks leases 6.6 acres of land from the City of Bedford to facilitate future improvements of Viaduct Park.
- 2000 * The consulting firm of Ciuni-Lynn Associates of Garfield Heights, Ohio is retained to prepare plans for park improvements and historic restoration.
- 2001 * Nerone and Sons, Inc., of Warrensville Heights, Ohio is awarded a contract to construct park improvements.

Funding partners Include:

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (NatureWorks Grant)	\$207,420
Cleveland Metroparks	\$122,540
City Of Bedford	\$69,140
Total Project Cost	\$399,100

Park improvements included 1,000 feet of paved trails and overlook decks to highlight historic features including a former dam site, The Great Falls of Tinker's Creek, The Arch, the railroad stone viaduct over Tinker's Creek, and the ruins of the former Bedford Roller Mills and Bedford Electric Light and Power Plant.





Cuyahoga Valley National Park Field Trip Notes : CVNP

Cuyahoga Valley National Park covers over 33,000 acres along 22 miles of the Cuyahoga River, between Cleveland and Akron. For its first 25 years the park was named the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. In June of 1975 the CVNRA was established thanks to the efforts of Congressman John Seiberling of Akron, along with a group of biologists, naturalists and historians, who persuaded Congress to create this national recreation area.

October 2000 marks the date when the park officially became the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. A section of the national park, small in size but having notable historic sites, is within the boundaries of the Village of Walton Hills.

Why the Cuyahoga Valley is an historically important area:

1. Glaciers covered this land and scraped out the valley, leaving their marks.

Good quality flint for arrowheads and igniting a fire was found in this area.

This valley was a good hunting grounds area - Deer and other animals need salt in their diet, and came here for their salt needs.

2. Prehistoric peoples left behind a legacy of archeological sites throughout the valley.

The Adena and Hopewell Indians, known as the Mound Builders, lived in this area 300 BC - 600 AD

The Indians needed salt to preserve their meat, and salt could easily be extracted in this area, especially along Tinkers Creek in the Bedford Metropolitan Park area.

The various tribes all needed access to the river and trails that crisscrossed through this area.

Many Indian tribes used this neutral ground to travel from cold waters of the Great lakes to the Ohio River and the warm south.

The Indians agreed that this valley would be **sacred ground - a place where there would be no battles** -

The 90-mile long Cuyahoga River was named by the Indians, who called it "ka-lh-ogh-ha."

The word meant crooked. Compared to many rivers, the Cuyahoga River is not wide nor is it deep.

3. The Cuyahoga River was labeled on New World maps of the 17th century.

These maps were drawn by French explorers who found the Great Lakes and explored rivers leading into the Great Lakes.

4. In 1785 the United States signed a treaty with the Indians giving them the land west of the Cuyahoga River. That is why, in 1796, when Moses Cleaveland came to lay out township lines in the Western Reserve for the Connecticut Land Company, honoring the treaty, he stayed east of the River.

In 1805 a new treaty pushed the Indians farther westward.

5. For centuries the river and its valley have provided a vital transportation route, home and livelihood for wildlife and man. Farmers down to the present day have found the valley soil productive and easy to work, and the upper slopes of the valley well-suited for orchards.

→
The following pages only discuss some of the historic sites in CVNP we pass on our field trip - the areas around Canal Road, Riverview Road, Route 303 and Akron-Peninsula Road.

For information about historic sites in the Walton Hills area, you may wish to read- *Historic Sites in our Parks - Sites in CVNP and Bedford Reservation within the Boundaries of the Village of Walton Hills* that is available at the Walton Hills Village Hall. For information about additional historic sites south of the town of Peninsula you may wish to get literature at one of our local CVNP visitor centers.
→

PILGERRUH

South of Stone Road, on the West side of Canal Road, is the site of the Moravian Village called Pilgerruh. From 1786-1787, ten years before Moses Cleaveland and his surveyors came here, Pilgerruh was the first (but short-lived) white settlement in the valley. It was founded by Moravians, a religious group from eastern Europe.

The CANAL VISITOR CENTER

The Canal Visitor Center on Canal Road, just south of Hillside Road was at first the Lock Tender's House for the Twelve Mile Lock, so named because it is 12 miles from Lake Erie. The lock tender operated and maintained the lock, and lived in the house. The house had at times been a hotel, saloon, dance hall, grocery store and blacksmith shop.

In 1980 the Park started plans for its renovation into a visitor center and museum.

The CANAL

On July 4, 1827 the Cleveland to Akron stretch of the Ohio and Erie Canal opened. It paralleled the Cuyahoga River. The Ohio and Erie Canal followed and used natural rivers such as the Cuyahoga, Tuscarawas, Muskingum and Scioto. The canal was 309 miles long, had 146 locks and cost \$4 million dollars. Today that would not build one mile.

The Cleveland-Akron stretch of the canal covered 38 air miles, but it was 100 crooked miles long. The canal was dug by hand – a ditch that was 4-feet deep, 26-feet wide at the bottom and 40-feet wide at the top. Farmers now had a way to get their crops to market before they spoiled. Boats waited their turn to go through the narrow locks. Mills and Villages sprang up at the locks. Inns fed, entertained and housed canal travelers.

The towpath along the canal was always on the side between the canal and the river, so that hillside erosion would not block the path. Towboys, leading a horse or mule who was roped to a flatboat, walked and guided each boat through the canal. A towboy was paid \$.36 a day and a shot of whiskey. The locks were numbered by how many miles they were from Lake Erie, #1 lock being the closest. Some locks also had names such as Johnnycake Lock.

In 1880 the Railroad replaced the canal as the major means of transportation. Ironically, the canals moved all the materials for the building of the railroads.

1913 was the year of the Great Flood. A massive flood washed out so many areas of the canal that the canal could not be rebuilt or used.

The AQUEDUCT

On Canal Road, just south of Tinkers Creek Road.

An aqueduct is an ancient engineering achievement – a bridge-like structure that is a large pipe or conduit for carrying water across an intersecting river or valley. This aqueduct carries the water in the canal over Tinkers Creek. The aqueduct was wide enough to accommodate a water conduit and towpath. Boats floated on the water-filled bridge, and the towboys, with their mule or horse, walked along the aqueduct-towpath.

WILSON FEED MILL

On Canal Road, just south of Pleasant Valley Road.

Wilson Mill is the last operating mill on the canal. The Alexander family built the mill in 1853 and owned it until 1899 when the Wilson family purchased the property and changed the name. It was originally water-powered via a horizontal interior turbine, rather than the traditional overshot wheel we are accustomed to seeing.

Abutting the mill is 14-Mile Lock and its floodgate. A floodgate is a spillway for flood control so the mill has a steady stream of water power.

PINERY NARROWS

Off Route 82, just east of the bridge, walk the narrow roadway called Station Drive, down to under the bridge. This stretch of a narrow 2 ½ mile valley is called Pinery Narrows. Large stands of majestic white pine trees are only a memory. This is where Commodore Perry had his men collect very tall white pine trees for masts for his sailing ships used in Lake Erie battles in 1813, during the War of 1812. The logs were floated to Lake Erie.

This section of Pinery Narrows is also the site of an ice business in operation during years before refrigerators, when people had ice boxes. Blocks of ice were cut in winter and kept in storage for sale during the Spring, Summer and Fall months. The ice blocks were packed in "caves" or underground pits. The blocks of ice were separated from each other with sawdust. Icemen with blocks of ice in their wagons, would drive up and down city streets, peddling their blocks of ice to their customers.

A dam under the Route 82 bridge diverts water from the Cuyahoga River into the feeder canal, which carries it for 9 miles to the steel mills in Cleveland. There were 4 or 5 feeder canals between Cleveland and Akron. The steel mills bought the water "canal rights" from the State of Ohio - visitors could walk along the towpath but were not allowed to canoe on that stretch of the canal. I don't know if the steel mills still control those 9 miles of the canal.

JAITE

On Riverview Road, southeast corner of Highland Road, just north of Snowville Road.

Jaite was once a company town. The Jaite Paper Mill was built in 1906 and used the ample supply of well water in the paper making process. The company town, built to house its workers and company officers, is now used as the National Park headquarters.

PONTY'S CAMP

On Riverview Road, on the hilltop, south of Columbia Road, between Columbia Road and Boston Mills Road. Chief Pontiac (b. 1720? d. 1769) was born in northern Ohio. His mother was a Chippewa squaw. Chief Pontiac was leader of the united tribes of the Chippewa, Potawatomi and Ottawa Indians.

Chief Pontiac is considered one of the best organizers of the American Indian tribes. At first Chief Pontiac was friendly with the English; until they advanced into his country. Then, in the French and Indian War of 1754, Chief Pontiac helped the French troops against the English. In 1760 he organized the Indian tribes from the Detroit Michigan area to northern Ohio, to the Mississippi Valley. He captured 8 frontier forts and killed several hundred settlers and soldiers. In 1763 the French and English declared peace, and the French stopped helping the Indians. Chief Pontiac, defeated and discredited, was forced to withdraw to northern Ohio.

The TOWN of PENINSULA

At the intersections of Riverview Road, Route 303 and Akron-Peninsula Road.

Peninsula was once larger than Cleveland. It began as a canal town, with hotels, bars and boatbuilding during the active canal years. The town is listed as a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places.

The BRONSON CHURCH, also known as the Bronson House, was built in 1836.

The G.A.R. HALL dates back to the middle 1800s.

The PENINSULA LIBRARY, on Riverview Road, south of Rt. 303 has a Mosaic on the front of the building. The mosaic mural depicts transportation of the river, railroad and canal. Note the watering trough in the front.

The OLD CONGER HOUSE, on Riverview Road, just north of Route 303. This brick house, with church windows, was built in 1844. At one time it was a church, but it is now a private residence.

DEEP LOCK #28 and DEEP LOCK QUARRY

Off Riverview Road, south of Route 303.

Lock # 28 is the deepest of all locks in the 308-mile Ohio and Erie Canal. The lock has a 17 foot drop. The usual drop on a lift lock was 8-12 feet. The additional depth was not economical, and canal builders never built another lock with this deep a drop.

Deep Lock Quarry. This steep-walled sandstone quarry provided sandstone for many regional structures including the first section of Akron City Hospital. The stone was also used in building the break wall in Cleveland, along with the intake crib in Lake Erie where Cleveland's water supply inlet is located. After 1879, the owner, Ferdinand Schumacher, began using the stones as hulling stones at his American Cereal Works in Akron. This company later became Quaker Oats. Schumacher is credited with introducing oatmeal to America.

Early quarrying was slow, difficult work performed with hand tools. Workers risked their health as they faced occupational hazards, including lung damage from inhaling the fine stone grit. Late in the 1880s mechanization altered the quarrying process. One new machine was a channeling machine driven by a steam engine. It traveled on a portable track, driving bits against the stone, cutting a channel about 3 inches wide. By cutting channels at right angles, the stone was cubed, and the bottom side loosened by wedges or a small blast. You can still see the channel marks in the exposed stone.

The OVERLOOK and The LEDGES

To get to the Overlook and Ledges go north on Riverview Road to Route 303, turn east on Route 33 to Akron-Peninsula Road, turn south on Akron-Peninsula Road to Truxell Road, turn east on Truxell Road, and north on the 2nd park road at the sign that reads "Ledges."

From the Overlook a person sees an awesome, expansive view of the Cuyahoga Valley.

The Ledges are composed of a rock formation called Sharon Conglomerate. This hard rock is comprised of cemented sand and small quartz pebbles. It resisted erosion while glaciers cut through softer rock and formed the valley.

Kendall Park, the Overlook, the Ledges and Happy Days Visitor Center are all part of the Virginia Kendall area of the CVNP. This was Hayward Kendall's country retreat in the early 1900s. Kendall willed 420 acres to the State of Ohio for a park he named in memory of his mother. In the 1930s, during the Great Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built the structures in the park and planted many of the trees and shrubs that are along the trails.

TINKERS CREEK REGION EVENTS

- JK
- 1922 - Bedford Reservation created as a Metropolitan Park
 - 1923 - First visit to Tinkers Creek (Bedford Islands Park) via the ABC cars.
 - 1924 - Discovered Rock Shelter & Lost Meadow
 - 1926 - Built Burntride Cabin on Elmer B. Wight Land.
 - 1929 - Old Egbert House demolished - Lone stone grave stone found.
 - 1929 - Old Chris Fass - Tinkers Creek Hermit found dead in his cabin.
 - 1930 - Old Wells' House along Egbert Road - demolished
 - 1930 - First nature Trail established in Park at Egbert Road Picnic Area.
 - 1930 - Bridle Paths built in Park - The beginning of mounted Patrol.
 - 1930 - Old fields along Button Road Planted in Pine Seedlings.
 - 1931 - Conducted an archeological Survey of Tinkers Cr. Valley - with Donkin, Local Arched.
 - 1932 - Gypsies camped at the Scarpets Place - Their last appearance in the area.
 - 1932 - Old fields around the old Goat Farm planted in Pine Seedlings
 - 1932 - The scenic Gorge Trail built along the north face of the goat gorge, by W.P.A. crews.
 - 1933 - New Sign Program started for all Metropolitan Parks at Rocky River Reservation.
 - 1934 - All park Trails improved in the Bedford Reservation - by W.P.A. crews.
 - 1935 - Left the Cleveland area to work in the Ohio Division of Forestry - and was absent for 5½ years.
- During that period - the following occurred:
- 1937 - The Bedford Parkway was constructed - from Egypt Rd. to Egbert Rd. Patrolling was now done by motor cars.
 - 1944 - The Bedford Islands Park Pavilion Burned down.
 - 1972 - The Ball field at the Wells' Picnic Area was enlarged - destroying part of the Indian mound there and its ancient Oak trees.
 - 1962 - The "Indian" Petroglyph in the Rock Shelter was re-discovered by Wm. Newberger and proclaimed to be an authentic work by the Cleve. Mus. of Nat. Hist.
 - 1973 - The same petroglyph was re-examined by Jas. L. Murphy - Cleve. archeologist and proclaimed not-to-be of Indian origin.
 - 1982 - The "Vulcan" Rock discovered in Hemlock Cr. Valley in 1929 was examined by Park Naturalists and geologists - It could be of singular importance.
 - 1973 - The High Steel Trestle was demolished - only parts of its stone work remains.

Joseph H. Jenks

Emerald Necklace

A link to Cleveland Metroparks

Emerald Necklace

A link to Cleveland Metroparks



**Cleveland
Metroparks**



Emerald Necklace

A link to Cleveland Metroparks

600 ACRES
32 BUILDINGS

HAWTHORNDEN
S. Side of
Sagamou Road
between
Dunham Rd
+
Canal Rd

HISTORY OF HAWTHORNDEN

by

May E. Moran

4-1967

During the period of 1918-19 an appropriation was given to Cleveland State Hospital for enlarging its hospital services. Using some of this appropriation 133 acres of land, located eight miles from Cleveland on the Summit-Cuyahoga County line, were purchased. Consisting of farm land, known in the area as the Ritchie Farm (which had the distinction of being the 2nd oldest homestead in the State of Ohio) the site became a hog, dairy and truck garden farm. Products of this farm were transported to the Cleveland State Hospital.

Slowly over the years the site expanded. Not long after the establishment of the farm it became evident that the area needed another large hospital and the beginning of Hawthornden was determined. In this beginning, as one looked over the farm land, a wilderness of briar patches interspersed with many Hawthorn trees could be seen. The Hospital Staff, visualizing a campus hospital for the mentally ill, surrounded by the Hawthorn trees, named the new facility Hawthornden State Farm.

In 1923 the first building was erected on the site of the present sewage treatment plant on Sylvan Drive. This was a frame building housing 150 patients and 50 staff

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members who came from the Cleveland State Hospital to operate the farm.

In 1926, the contract was let for the first permanent building now known as Cottage 6. Water was obtained from drilled wells and supplies were sent from Cleveland State Hospital for the patient and staff farm workers who resided here. These workers pioneered in clearing the land and 1930 found them continuing to come from the Cleveland Hospital. In 1928, the second and third buildings, Cottages 9 and 10 were started. Work was also begun on the powerhouse and the cattle barn. In 1930, a laundry building and a building housing the kitchen, cold storage, store room and bakery were constructed.

Cottage 11 was built in 1933. With the exception of the first permanent building (Cottage 6, 1926) all the buildings were of the English Tudor style. It is interesting to note that each of the buildings included units for patients and living quarters for the staff. This arrangement was intentional so that if emergencies arose on the separate cottages staff would be available at all times.

In 1934, work was started on Cottages 1, 2 and 3. Directly following the erection of these three cottages, Cottage 27 was built.

On July 25, 1938, the Hawthornden State Farm began to accept patients transferred from other state hospitals as a separate facility. Dr. Cuy H. Williams, long-time Superintendent of Cleveland State Hospital,

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was appointed Superintendent and arrived to organize this new hospital.

On August 14, 1941, the legislature of the State of Ohio established Hawthornden as a totally independent psychiatric hospital thereby legalizing the separate facility and program. Thus, on August 14, 1941, with 15 buildings, Hawthornden State Hospital was officially an independent hospital to become known as one of the newer and better equipped state-owned hospitals in Ohio.

After 1938, Hawthornden State Hospital continued to grow, additional land was purchased and new buildings were added. In 1939 cottages 4, 5, and 8 were built.

From 1941 to 1945 no expansion was undertaken due to the war, but problems arose as the population continued to increase. In 1945, two cottages were built, D1 and D2. These were designated for temporary use but D1 is still being used and D2 was in use until about 1962.

In 1948 it was necessary to expand the facilities of Cottage 3, the receiving cottage, due to the increasing number of new admissions. A new wing was built on the rear of the building at this time.

During these years, from 1941 to 1948, Cottage 9 was used as the administration building. It was evident that larger quarters for the professional staff were needed. A choice spot was selected, centrally located to all other buildings, and late in 1948 the present administration block was erected.

The basement and first floor became the "heart" of the Hospital. It was here the offices were located from where all phases of hospital business are directed. Ten years later additional office space was needed and the attic of the Ad Building was remodeled into office rooms.

With the increase in buildings and population there was a need for a building to treat physical illnesses, so 1948 saw the construction of the Institution's Medical-Surgical building.

Hawthornden continued to outgrow its existing accommodations. The building housing the kitchen, cold storage building and the Employees Dining Room was proving itself much too small. In 1949 a modern, larger building was added, the cafeteria and storeroom.

As more patients continued to come more staff was needed, and with more staff the need for more housing was evident. In 1949 new housing units were added with the building of two single homes and one double.

Before the completion of the new cafeteria building another building for patients was built in 1950 (cottage 7) and also in this year a new laundry building was started. Early in 1951 three new buildings for patients were constructed. These did not follow the pattern of the Old English Style buildings. These new buildings are one story high, with no basements, and are commonly called the "B" type buildings. We know these now as 24, 25 and 26. In 1952 the employees' Old English Style building was completed.

After the construction of the new cafeteria (1949) the old kitchen building had been vacated and a decision was made to remodel the old building into a Chapel. In 1952 work was started and in 1953 the building had become a place "For prayer meditation and inspiration!". Inside are three separate Chapels - Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish, believed to be the only place in the nation where three separate faiths worship under one roof. A large lovely library is located in the center with space for over 8,000 volumes.

In the rear of the building a large auditorium with a capacity of nearly 700 people is located. The basement is occupied by the central sewing room, Occupational Therapy Shop and storage space. This building is now known as the Williams Memorial Chapel Building, named in honor of the Hospital's first Superintendent, Guy H. Williams, M.D.

In 1958-59, two new cottages were added, Cottages 21 and 22. These are of modern design, and in 1959-60 another modern building for Geriatric patients was constructed, Cottage 23. No new buildings have been added since 1960.

LAND PURCHASES

Seeing a need for more land as the institution increased in population and facilities, the State continued to purchase additional land. In 1925, 107.8 acres, the remainder of the Jake Ritchie Farm, was purchased by the State. In 1926, 57 acres of land owned by Mr. Abram was purchased which

squared out the area of the then Cleveland State Hospital Farm. In the late 1930's, a tract of 45 acres was purchased from Muskingum College. Also in 1930 a 90 acre tract was acquired from the Dissett estate located above the railroad. Two parcels of land consisting of several acres, number unknown, were then purchased from Mrs. Elias Peck for an entrance from the main highway to the land acquired from Muskingum College.

Approximately in 1948 the State released some of the hospital land by selling 16.95 acres to the Metropolitan Park Commission. With the unknown amount of land purchased from Mrs. Peck in 1930 the hospital consisted of nearly 600 acres. Since no land has been purchased since 1948, Hawthornden State Hospital is a 600 acre State Institution.

WATER PROBLEMS

For supplying water for the original powerhouse, in 1925 a concrete dam was constructed across a gully which was centrally located. With the arrival of people fresh, pure water was essential and a well was dug nearby. This held a sufficient amount of water for awhile. Early in 1926 a steel overhead water tank was erected at a convenient location and three wells were drilled. Water from here was pumped into a ground tank and from here it was pumped into the overhead tower. As new buildings were erected water lines were run from them to the overhead tank. It was intended to use the water from the dam for the powerhouse but, the water was found unfit for use in the boilers.

Soon it developed that the water supply was insufficient. Administration, noticing a stream in the Rad-Templeton section, and aware of the need for more water, urged the purchase of this land in 1927. After it was obtained a dam was built across this stream, a pump house was built and a water line was laid to the ground tank. Although this provided an additional supply of water it, too, soon proved insufficient. After the construction of the Laundry Building (1930), the water situation again became a problem.

It has long been known that in this area it is very difficult to obtain a good water supply. Because of this, outside sources were sought and in 1931 a new water line was laid from the main on Riverview Road in Brecksville, down through the valley, across the Cuyahoga River, and up to the farm, connecting with a main line at Cottage 3. From this source the hospital maintained an adequate supply of water for some time.

In 1941 a second 250,000 gallon reservoir was built beside the established one. After this was done workers dismantled the old overhead water tower and moved it to an area in the fields. Plans were to use this for irrigation, using an old drilled well for a water source for this tower. It was soon discovered that the supply was insufficient.

The water line which came from Brecksville was destroyed by a landslide in 1950. Temporary repairs were made to continue water service but this event expedited the search for another water source. Water lines were then run from the main in Maple Heights to the hospital reservoir. As soon as the new

main from Maple Heights was completed a new water line was laid from the main near the reservoir to the overhead tank, thus providing water for irrigating purposes.

At the same time the second reservoir was under construction a fire hydrant line system was installed. Fire hydrants are located within 300 feet of any building. The new reservoir provides the hospital with an adequate water supply for fire protection. A fire truck was purchased by the hospital in 1950.

A sufficient supply of hot and cold water is now available in all the hospital buildings. A word of praise should go to all the workers who did pioneer work in solving the many water problems which arose throughout the years.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

With the supply of water came the problem of sewage disposal. Early in 1926 the first disposal plant was built beside the main road which leads into the hospital. This plant provided adequate service but with the increase in population and the added amount of water it became essential to construct a new and larger sewer system. In 1941 a new plant was built and the existing lines were tied in to the new system. It was soon found that the existing lines were inadequate and late in 1941 an entire new trunk line of a much larger size was laid. When this line was planned consideration was given to an increase in water supply necessary because of the increased population. Sewer problems arose again in 1948 and a new 12" sewer line

was installed. New manholes were built and all the buildings were tied into the new system.

ELECTRIC SERVICE

When Cottage 6 was built in 1926 no facilities were available on the grounds for the production of electricity, therefore electric power was purchased from the Ohio Edison Company. Upon completion of the power house in 1928, when boilers and generators were installed and put into operation, electric service from Ohio Edison was discontinued. The hospital's powerhouse now supplies electric and heating requirements for the entire hospital. Electricity is used for operating purposes in most areas of the hospital with the exception of the ovens in the cafeteria. Propane gas is purchased for fuel for the gas ovens in which almost all the baked goods the hospital uses is baked. Two big rotating ovens (32' x 8' are located in the bakery. Each oven will bake 250 pies at one time. In order to supply electricity to these ovens a transformer would have to be purchased and since the gas purchased is not too costly, it was decided that it is more economical to maintain the ovens with gas. Up until about six years ago, the hospital bakers baked all the bread used in the hospital. It was then decided that it would be more economical to purchase day old bread. Since that time (1958) the hospital purchases bread. At the present time, due to the rise in bread prices, officials in Columbus are making a study to see if it would be more economical to go back to baking the hospital's own bread.

When Cottages 9 and 10 were being constructed in 1928 excavation was started for a tunnel which would connect these buildings to the power house. In 1929, upon completion of these cottages, a tunnel 8 feet high and 6 feet wide, fully concreted, was completed. All the utility lines were run through this tunnel to the new cottages, with the exception of the cold water lines which were underground.

As new cottages were built the tunnel continued to grow. As new buildings were built branch tunnels from the main tunnel were constructed so that all buildings would be provided with this underground passage. When Cottage 27 was completed in 1935, a problem arose in servicing this building with the tunnel and utility lines. This building was located across a ravine from the powerhouse. The tunnel was extended from the powerhouse to a service bank back of the powerhouse and poles were placed across the ravine. The utility lines were then run through this section of the tunnel and then connected to the poles and finally connected to Cottage 27. In 1938, a wooden tunnel was built across the ravine. This was connected to the tunnel branch and was supported on cantilever butts built on top of the concrete dam (1925) aforementioned. After this tunnel was completed the utility lines were removed from the poles and placed through this section of the tunnel. In 1941-45 when D1 and D2 were built no provision was made for a tunnel as these were to be temporary cottages. Utility lines were run underground to these buildings. All other buildings are connected by the tunnel with the exception of the first constructed

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building (Cottage 6, 1926) and Cottages 24, 25 and 26. In 1949, a section of tunnel was constructed to Cottage 6 which connected into the main tunnel. Cottages 24, 25 and 26 do not have tunnel access as these are basementless buildings.

The new buildings erected in 1958-59, Cottages 21, 22 and 23, were not serviced by the large 6' x 8' tunnel. Utility lines were run through a small tunnel which provides only crawl space. Water pipes were extended from the powerhouse through the main tunnel and then through the crawl space area. Although the main purpose of the large tunnel was for a looped service of the utility lines, today it is used for many purposes. In inclement weather patients and staff use the tunnel to go from Cottage to cottage. On cold winter days those who reside on the cottages connected by the tunnel may get to almost any area without going outside. Supplies for all areas are delivered via the tunnel.

The tunnel is well lighted and kept clean and maintained by the hospital maintenance department.

THE BARN, THE HUT, THE CARPENTER SHOP

In 1928 a cattle barn was built on the upper end of the grounds. After it was completed it was occupied by a small herd of dairy cows and some horses. As the dairy grew it was necessary to make other provisions for shelter for the horses and equipment. In 1931, a horse barn and machine shed were built by the hospital staff, of salvaged material.

The carpenter Shop occupied a portion of

the barn until after the completion of D-2. Then the shop moved into one wing of this building. In 1948, a steel building was erected for the Carpenter Shop. At the same time another steel building was erected for the paint shop. In December 1959, the paint shop was damaged by fire but was repaired in 1962 and a ain was used as the paint shop. No area had as yet been provided for an indoor area for patient recreation, so in 1946 a 40 ft. x 100 ft. Quonset Hut was purchased and erected by the hospital staff. Here many of the patients spent their free time playing cards and engaging in other social activities.

In 1961, the hut was remodeled into a bowling alley. Four semi-automatic lanes were donated to the hospital and these were installed by hospital staff and volunteers.

In 1940, other additions were made to some of the other small buildings on the grounds. The carpenter shop needed room for the storage of lumber so a quonset shaped bomb shelter of steel was erected along the side of the shop in 1949. Finding this suitable for storage another structure of the same type was erected beside the powerhouse, for the storage of pipe. Shortly after this two such types of shelter were erected at the cattle barn for garages for trucks and machinery.

Until 1940 there had not been a suitable place for the storage of produce raised on the farm, so a root cellar was built near the cattle barn. In 1943 a shed was built over the underground root cellar for the storage of tools and equipment

A-1967

A steel building was purchased in 1954 and erected by the hospital staff adjacent to the powerhouse. This addition is used as a garage for the fire truck.

In 1960 Cottage D2 was vacated of patients and the building became the Central Storage Building. It is here that the mechanical stores are located. All maintenance supplies are kept in this building and distributed to the other areas as needed.

From the time of the original construction of the powerhouse additions have been made. At present, this unit of the hospital is more than four times its original size.

HAWTHORNDEN STATE HOSPITAL IN 1964

Upon entering the hospital grounds the beauty of the setting is difficult to describe. The large rolling campus, with its lovely shrubbery and weeping willow trees, makes an ideal location for a place for people who are mentally ill to make a recovery. In the words of a patient, "My general opinion of Hawthornden is a place of beauty". Today the patients are provided with benefits known to modern psychiatry. They live in an area which compares to a small town. Provisions are available for almost any phase of living. The patients have available many forms of activities provided by the Activities Therapy Department, including Occupational Therapy, Recreational Therapy, Industrial Therapy, Music Therapy and the use of the Library. Those patients who wish to use these services are always welcome and those who need encouragement are urged to participate and are taken to these areas.

The O.T. Department provides needlecraft, leathercraft, weaving, ceramics, woodworking and many other forms of handicrafts. The R. T. Department provides many forms of recreation including bowling, ball games, camping, swimming, basketball, dances, movies, physical fitness classes and other activities.

A bus is used for transportation of patients to outside, off-grounds activities. The staff is ever on the alert to acquire new sources of entertainment and new means to provide therapy for the patients.

The Music Department extends many forms of Music Therapy to the patients. Patients are welcome to visit the music studio and music programs are also provided on the cottages for those patients who are unable to leave their cottages. Patients are encouraged to present stage plays using their own talents in the writing, production and acting.

The Library offers to the patients service similar to that of any Public Library. A bookcart visits the cottages, providing the service to patients who cannot come to the Main Library.

All the activities departments, besides offering leisure time services to the patients, provide a working setting for many patients. Through the Industrial Therapy Department patients are assigned jobs according to their interests and abilities.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Hawthornden employs fourteen full time physicians, including the Superintendent and

The Clinical Director, each physician is assigned to a cottage so that every patient is provided with medical and psychiatric care.

Nursing services in the hospital have changed considerably in recent years. Originally the wards were constructed with small offices with little space for medicines. Since the advent of tranquilizers and other medications for the mentally ill, areas have been provided with adequate space for a more intensive treatment program.

From the days when patients were kept in seclusion, confinement, restraints and behind locked doors, we have come to the time when the majority of cottages have open doors, now only a small unit is necessary for the seclusion of patients who have not yet been stabilized by modern therapy.

In 1959-60 the Open Door Policy was adopted and since that time has progressed quite rapidly and has proven to be satisfactory.

From the days of early nursing employees have learned on a so-called apprentice basis working with another, more experienced worker. All new nursing employees are given a one month orientation class followed, as can be scheduled, with a thirty hour class on remediation, a one hundred hour class for Psychiatric Aide I, a sixty hour class for Psychiatric Aide II and a continuous in-service program.

In 1957-58 Remediation Classes started. This was a new program, highly recognized

nationwide, and this hospital implemented this method of treatment.

In July, 1962, Hawthornden offered its first Student Nurse Psychiatric Affiliation which was a three month course approved by the State Board of Nurses Registration. In June of 1962 Hawthornden had become an accredited hospital through the National Accreditation Board, the Joint Commission of The American Hospital Association, and the American Psychiatric Association. The first student nurses came from St. Thomas Hospital of Akron, Ohio.

The Nursing Department performs varied duties, working in a team relationship with all other departments such as Dietary, Housekeeping, Laundry, assisting in all clinics and transporting patients within the grounds and to and from other state hospitals.

Assistance is also given to the Activities Therapy Department by the Nursing Department. The overnight camping trips for patients now supervised by Recreation were originated by the Nursing Department in 1959.

The Nursing Department now has a total of 26 nursing stations, at least one of which is located on each ward throughout the hospital.

COMMUNITY SERVICE UNIT

On October 10, 1963, an Act of the State Legislature required diagnostic and treatment services to non-hospitalized patients on a more formally structured basis be given

patient's income or that of the liable relative. The fee ranges from "no-charge" to \$10 per appointment. Medication is also provided for indigent patients.

Hawthornden's Out-patient and After-care Clinic (Community Service Unit) is located in one of the newer buildings, Cottage 21, which is also the present admissions building.

At the present time three staff members, including a Physician, a Social worker and a secretary, are available full time, five days per week. The Psychology Department offers its services when needed.

Patients who are released on Trial Visit or are discharged are offered the services of the Community Clinic on an appointment basis. All residents of the district served by Hawthornden State Hospital may avail themselves of the Unit's services.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Religious services are available to all patients. Chaplains for each faith group are employed full time, with the exception of the Jewish Chaplain who is on a part-time basis. Besides carrying out their programs of religious services, these chaplains visit individual patients and lead group therapy sessions. Previous to the remodeling of the old kitchen into a chapel building (1951) religious services were held in basement areas of Cottage 6 (1934) and Cottage 2 (1934) and when the Hut (1946) was completed all services were held there. The first full time chaplain, a Protestant, came to the hospital in 1951. The first full time Catholic Chaplain

came in 1958. Prior to 1958, Catholic patients were served by priests who came from nearby parishes.

In 1955 a Jewish Rabbi was appointed to the chaplaincy. He also serves four other hospitals in this area.

OTHER PATIENT SERVICES

Hawthornden has its own barber shop and beauty shop. Patients may visit a clothing room where they may pick out clothing articles for themselves off racks and counters similar to a department store. They may also visit the commissary, which is a combined store and restaurant, to purchase articles or to chat over a cup of coffee.

The patients have Dental, Chiropody and Eye Services available to them when necessary or when prescribed by the ward doctor.

The Psychology Department is located in Cottage 21. The full range of psychological services is available to the patients, including diagnostic testing, psychotherapy both group and individual, and guidance and counselling.

In 1951 a Housekeeping Department was established from where the services of housekeeping of the large institution are directed and performed. In the beginning the head housekeeper operated with a staff of patient help. Today the department operates with hospital employees and with patient help assigned by Industrial Therapy. All hospital sewing is done in the main sewing room which is under the direction of Housekeeping.

19 Hawthornden State Hospital now operates with thirty two buildings, eighteen of which are occupied by patients. It has risen in capacity from an anticipated population of 800 to its present population of 1200. From the beginning, the staff member total has risen from 50 to 523 and more need to be added due to the rise in patient population.

Hawthornden has an Administrative Staff which operates under policies as established by the Central Office in Columbus. The areas described in the brochure create a set-up in many ways similar to a small community. Hawthornden is a community within a community.

Full hospital care is given with the exception of surgery and provisions are made for this. If a patient requires surgery he is transported to Cleveland State Hospital by Hawthornden's ambulance.

Using the latest methods in psychiatric care, Hawthornden State Hospital makes every effort to continue in the pattern of offering the best of care to the mental patient to help him recover from his illness and to return to his family and community.

September, 1964

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I have received help from several people in writing this History.

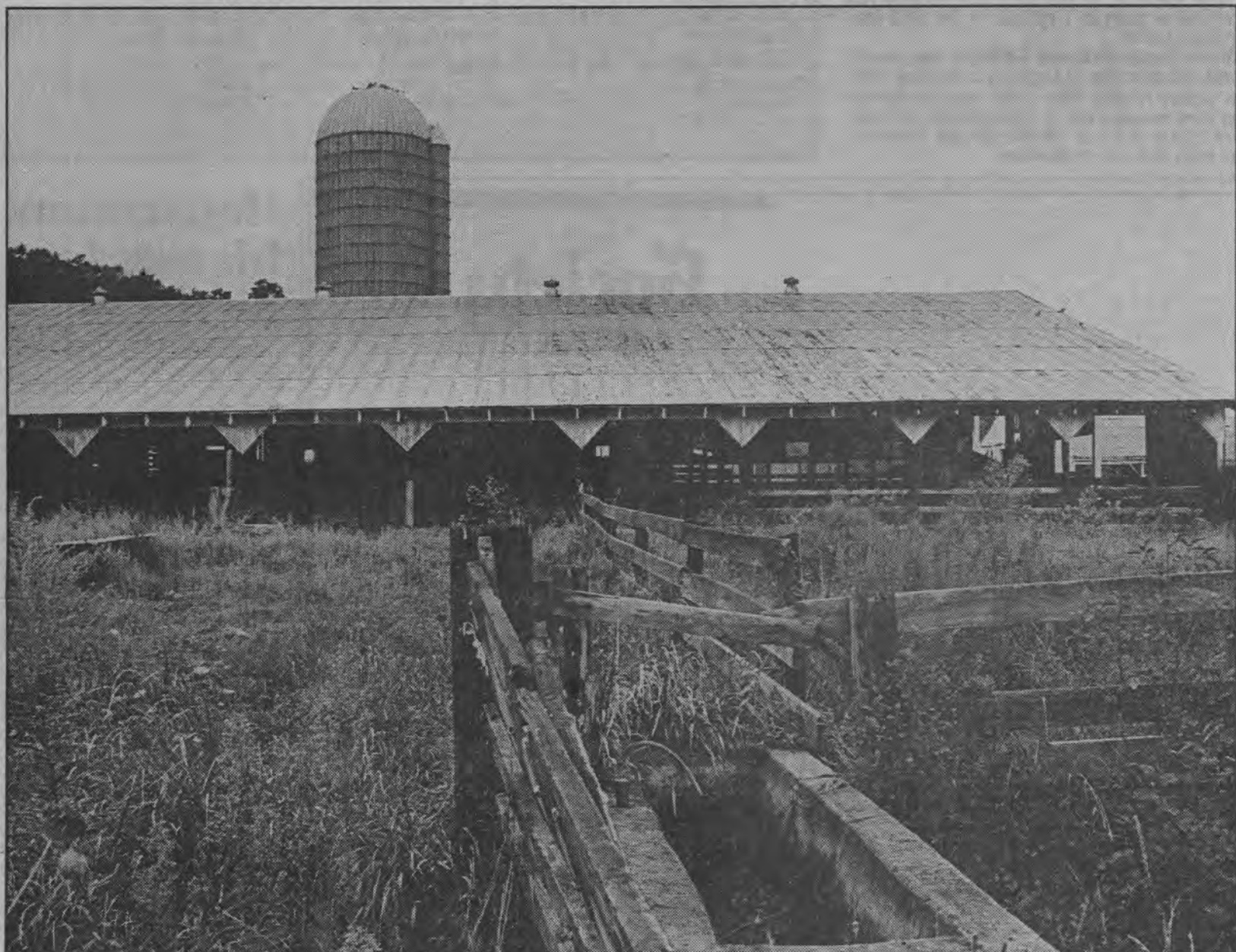
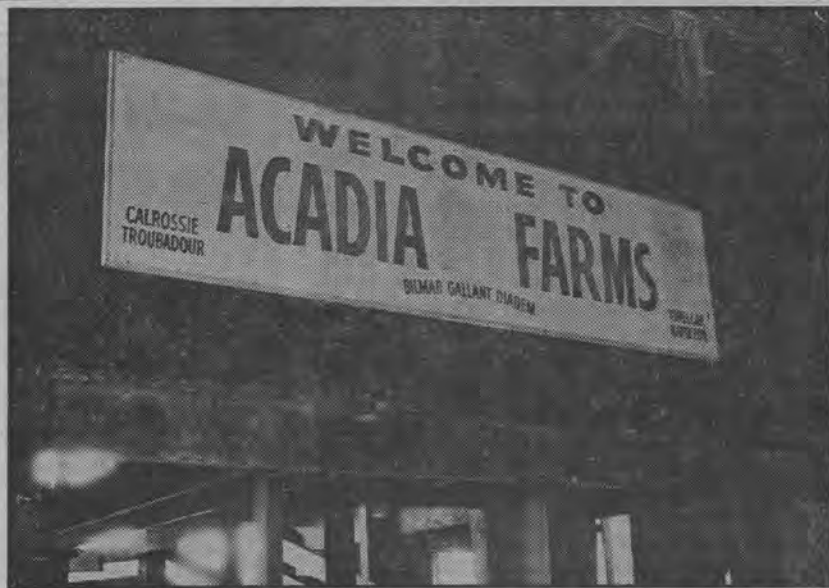
I should like to thank in particular, Dr. Guy H. Williams, Supt.; Dr. Frederick Lingl, Supt. 1964-67, who encouraged me to write it; Mr. Roy Johnson, Mrs. Mildred Stoll, R.N.; and Mr. David Armbrust. Mr. Johnson was employed at Hawthornden for forty-one years, from October 22, 1925 to June 30, 1966. He retired as Building Maintenance Supt. Mrs. Stoll was Head of the Nursing Dept. and was employed for seven years from Sept. 3, 1957 to Oct. 31, 1964. Mr. Armbrust is still employed as Head of the Carpenter Shop. He started here Feb. 1, 1937. Previous to this he was employed at Cleveland State Hosp. When he started at Hawthornden the only buildings in existence were 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 11, chapel, barns and old laundry.

M. M.
April, 1967

A sign inside Cyrus S. Eaton's cattle barn names some of the late multimillionaire's prize-winning livestock.

Plain Dealer
9-1-1987

Cyrus S. Eaton: A legacy on the land



Cyrus S. Eaton raised prize-winning cattle in this barn.

PD photos/RICHARD KENDZIERSKI

Grandson plans development

By **MARCUS GLEISSER**
STAFF WRITER

Six hundred acres of the late Cyrus S. Eaton's estate, once a visiting spot for notables from around the world, is back in the family.

Eaton's grandson, New York lawyer David LeFevre has recently purchased most of the multimillionaire's Sagamore Hills estate and is now planning what type of development he wants.

"We are in the very early stages of having soil, vegetation, engineering and topographical studies made," LeFevre said. "We are thinking of possibly coming up with a planned unit development of which a significant part would be residential, plus some commercial and light industrial use."

The land is bounded by Olde Eight Rd., W. Valley View Rd. and Houghton Rd. It abuts the Willow Lake community and is notched by Fell Lake, the old Seiberling estate, Northfield Macedonia Cemetery and several housing sites.

The main land, watched over by Jeff Lahodny, the caretaker, is still far from the hands of a broker, said LeFevre. Yet to come is a market study and then talks with potential brokers to determine the best course.

"Our first big accomplishment was to put together the two 300-acre parcels that had fallen into other hands over the years," said LeFevre, son of the late Dr. Fay A. LeFevre, physician and chairman of the Cleveland Clinic, who was married to Eaton's daughter, Mary Adelle.

Half the land had been left in trust by Eaton with a company he had formed, Chertsey Corp., and the other 300 acres had gone to his son, Cyrus Eaton Jr., who had mortgaged it with Commercial Credit Corp., a Control Data Corp. subsidiary.

LeFevre joined with other investors to purchase both tracts, which gave him 80%.

Eaton Jr. said he had not been out to see the large farm area in nearly seven years because "I can't bear to see it. It has absolutely been left to rot and ruin."

"The engineering study where sewers and power lines will go is due in about a month," LeFevre said. "Then we'll decide where to go from there."

The farm was bought by the elder Eaton in 1912, pieced together with the help of a neighbor, George T. Bishop, who was reportedly influential in the utilities industry and a business adviser and guide to Eaton.

The estate became Eaton's home and retreat where, he once said, talk of high finance and corporate mergers was relaxed in the peacefulness of the countryside and where talk often overflowed into world politics.

The land is rolling and heavily wooded in places, flat in other areas where it has been leased out and farmed for barley, hay and soybeans. This is where the elder Eaton used to ride his horses.

Where Boyden Rd. runs into Valley View stand barns that once housed an array of specially bred, prize-winning cattle shared with the Soviet Union for breeding purposes. A special stall held P.S. Troubadour, the proud-looking 1956 International Grand Champion Steer.

The 955-pound steer brought Eaton national fame as it traveled the country in a specially fitted railroad car and was photographed with President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson and television stars like Arthur Godfrey, Gary Moore and Bob Hope.

Across Olde Eight Rd. hangs a sign "Acadia Farms" at the driveway leading to the remodeled old farmhouse where Eaton once entertained American and world notables.

SEE EATON/6-D



GUS CHAN / PLAIN DEALER PHOTOGRAPHER

Arrow Cottage, part of Cyrus Eaton's estate in Sagamore Hills, is surrounded by upscale houses. Arrow Cottage was originally a two-room cabin and was expanded after Eaton bought it in 1912.

A gently worn country cottage

Honoring their home's storied past, a Cleveland couple breathe new life into part of the old Eaton estate

By **BRIAN E. ALBRECHT**
PLAIN DEALER REPORTER

SAGAMORE HILLS TOWNSHIP — Here, in this expansive room of wide windows and wormy chestnut, the 73-year-old white-haired millionaire married his friend's 35-year-old daughter while reporters and photographers waited outside, sipping champagne.

Here, in this hall connecting the original 1799 two-room pioneer cottage to subsequent additions, ghostly footsteps can be heard pacing the floorboards at night.

Here, on land surrounding Arrow Cottage (so named for the archaeological souvenirs left by long-dead Indians), orchards blossomed, horses and cattle grazed, and the world's rich and powerful found solace in its solitude.

The Arrow endures as one of the last fragments of a Cleveland legend. It is a small island of history surrounded by the modern quarter-million-dollar housing of Eaton Estates in Sagamore Hills Township. The Arrow's latest owners are restoring and improving the cottage to

prepare it for its third century.

Eaton Estates subdivision in Summit County is named for Cleveland industrialist Cyrus Eaton, who built an empire based on mining, steel, shipping, utilities, manufacturing and railroads but came under withering criticism during the Cold War for his business and personal dealings with Russia, Cuba and other Iron Curtain countries.

Eaton acquired the cottage in 1912 as part of an 850-acre farm-estate, Acadia Farms, which he created to serve as his home and a place for raising



PLAIN DEALER FILE

Cleveland industrialist Cyrus Eaton.

prize-winning cattle and hosting international dignitaries and celebrities from business, science, politics and industry.

SEE COTTAGE/4-B

Couple breathe new life into part of old Eaton estate

COTTAGE FROM I-B

Concrete cul-de-sacs have replaced the rolling hills Eaton once rode across in the carriage drawn by his troika — a three-horse team of white stallions that was a personal gift from Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

Arrow Cottage is a lingering echo of that history and one of the things that prompted Robert and Dawn Nero to buy the house in 1996.

Their first impressions, though, were purely visceral.

"I looked in the front door, saw the dining room and fireplace and said, 'This is it,'" Dawn Nero, 36, recalled.

Her husband liked the large family room, with its wooden beams, large fireplace and one area in particular that was just the right size.

"As soon as I saw the room, it was, 'Oh yeah, pool table,'" he said. "Then I saw the swimming pool and pool house, and that was really it."

Later, they would discover the joys and challenges of restoring and redecorating a house with five bedrooms, three full bathrooms and two half-baths, five fireplaces and the two-bedroom pool house with two fireplaces and dinette.

The former Cleveland residents had been looking for a larger home, closer to Dawn Nero's parents, who still live in Sagamore Hills, where Dawn grew up knowing Eaton only as "that guy with the big farm."

Arrow Cottage had come a long way by the time the Neros saw it.

Eaton had refurbished and

modernized the original two-room cottage in the 1920s, adding a dining room, a kitchen, three bedrooms and two baths.

Among its first tenants was Eaton's ex-wife, Margaret House, who lived there for a few years after their divorce in 1934. It was the residence of his son, Cyrus Eaton Jr., from 1946 to 1979 and the setting for Eaton Sr.'s second marriage, to Anne Kinder Jones, in 1957.

After Eaton Sr.'s death in 1979, the estate was purchased and developed for housing by his grandson, New York lawyer David LeFevre.

Today, all that remains of the original estate is the house on Northfield Rd. where Eaton lived and died, a few smaller guest and caretaker houses such as Arrow Cottage, and an old silo from the cattle barns.

The Neros' initial task involved cleaning and clearing. After Cyrus Eaton Jr. left, the house passed to another owner, then renters, then a period of vacancy while Eaton Estates was developed.

Robert Nero, 48, recalled peering down a hall of the cottage into a room that appeared to be filled with fog or smoke.

"It wasn't until I walked in that it literally hit me in the face — cobwebs," he said. "The house was infested with spiders, big ones."

Outside, a jungle of overgrown foliage blanketed the cottage and the yard. The Neros discovered a brick patio and walkway under a layer of grass.

There were repairs to the old slate roof; a kitchen makeover with new appliances, bay window, countertops and wood floor; re-

pairs to the pool; bathroom renovations; and a new porch roof. Future projects include restoring the pool house.

Rather than stripping and sanding the old wood floors, the Neros had them cleaned and oiled.

"We wanted the old look with all the scratches that showed people had walked here for many, many years," Dawn Nero said.

The floors were in keeping with their overall philosophy in restoring the house.

"We didn't want to be tearing out walls and all of that," she said. "We wanted to keep it the way it was."

The philosophy suits two fans of their efforts, Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Eaton Jr.

"It's a joy to see what the Neros have done to restore it," Mary "Stevie" Eaton said.

A photo album they keep in their Shaker Square apartment documents the halcyon days of Arrow Cottage, showing pastures and woodland surrounding the cottage as far as the eye could see. The greenery, which since has been bulldozed for development, provided a sanctuary for birds and was supplemented with plantings of daffodils and flowering shrubs — an Eaton Sr. touch — which he frequently surveyed on horseback.

"My father would shudder to see it now," Cyrus Eaton Jr. said.

Mary Eaton remembered the last time Eaton Sr. visited them at the cottage and how much he loved the view from the pool house.

Eaton Sr. was fiercely protective of the cottage and country enclave, his son said.

"My father once told me the cottage was the oldest place in the



GUS CHAN / PLAIN DEALER PHOTOGRAPHER

In a living room that once housed international dignitaries and other guests of millionaire industrialist Cyrus Eaton, Dawn and Robert Nero enjoy the history that goes along with the cottage they bought in 1996. Their home is part of Eaton's once-sprawling estate in Sagamore Hills Township.

old neighborhood," he said. "But when I met some people and started bragging about it, my father told me, 'Don't go around telling people that, because you'll have everyone under the sun coming out to look at it.'"

The remark proved prophetic, in that Arrow Cottage and two other area homes are part of a fund-raising house tour Jan. 2 sponsored by the Northfield Historic Preservation Association.

During their occupancy, the Eatons expanded the house, adding the large family room, kitchen eating area and in-ground swimming pool with its adjacent house.

The Eatons have visited Arrow Cottage and its latest occupants, and Dawn Nero said it almost seemed that the old house forged an instant bond between the couples.

"It's as if we've known them all our lives," she said. "We just have very warm feelings about them."

Both couples said the cottage offers something special. Mary Eaton said it was a chance to teach their four children the value of nature.

"It was a great place to bring up a family," she said.

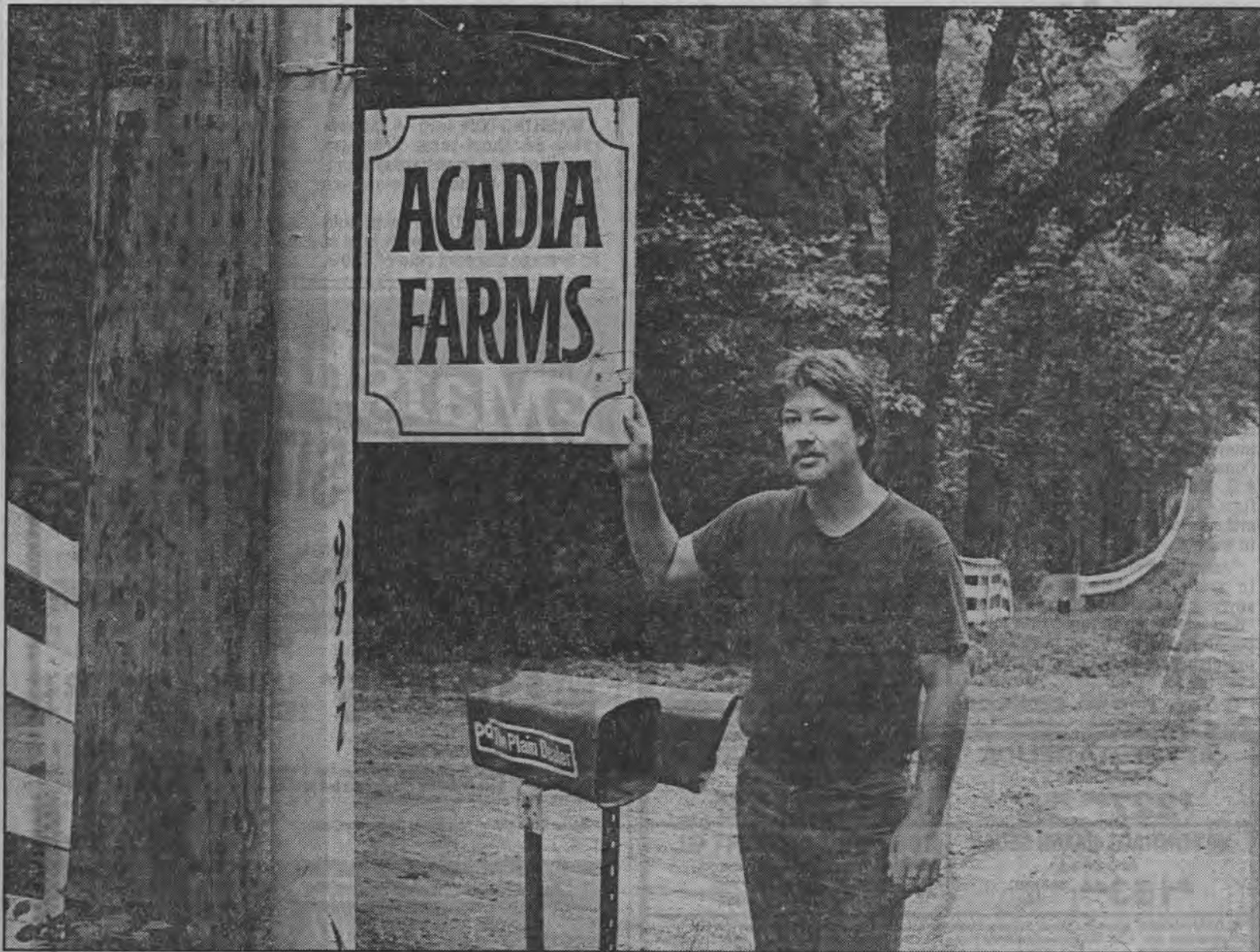
Dawn Nero said she enjoys living in an older home.

"I just think it has a lot more character than a new house," she said.

The three acres provide ample space for the children to play, she said. There's room to garden, too.

"I'm a city boy," said her husband, vice president for operations at the Zak Funeral Home in Cleveland. "I work in the city, but I get to come home and go right to the roots of this development. It's like owning a piece of history."

Nodding to the surrounding housing, Robert Nero said, "We live in the old, yet we're mixed in with the new, so we get the best of both worlds."



Jeff Lahodny, caretaker of the late Cyrus S. Eaton's estate at the sign marking the entrance to the main home.

PD/RICHARD KENDZIERSKI

Eaton

FROM/1-D

Guests included Soviet President Anastas Mikoyan, Nobel Prize winners Sir Norman Angell and Lord John Boyd Orr, Sir Julian and Lady Huxley; Ladislav Smid, counselor of the Czechoslovak mission to the United Nations; and Karoly Csatorady, United Nations ambassador from Hungary.

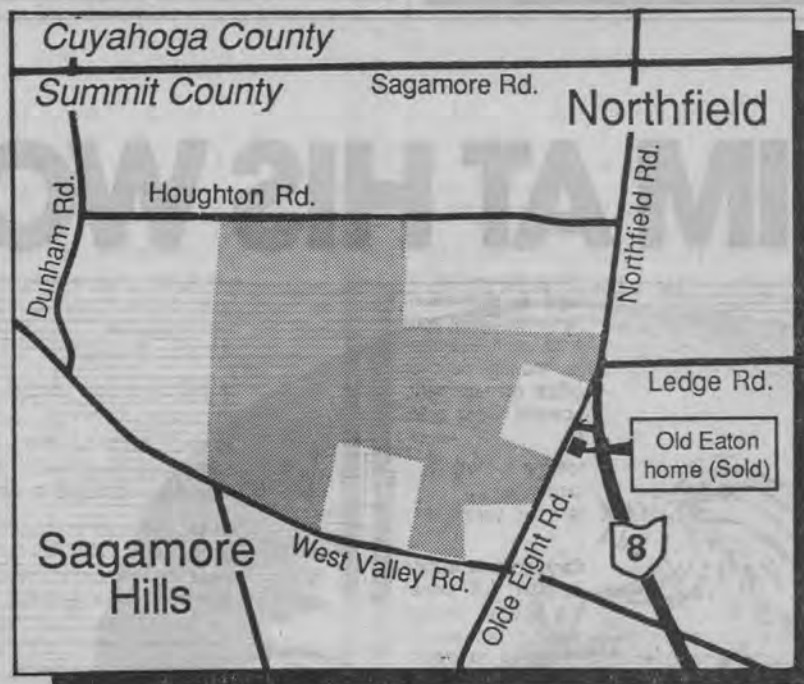
Near the house is the large yard in which Eaton's wife, Anne, in a sedate, summery off-white silk shantung dress, once welcomed guests and made introductions from the wheelchair to which she was confined by polio.

In a hollow near the house is the large barn that once held Eaton horses and the three big white horses that drew the troika, a personal gift from Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev.

The house, where Eaton died in May 1979, was sold by Anne Eaton in 1980 to Dr. Ruben Agra, who is renting out nearby houses to a half dozen tenant families.

A 5.5-acre triangle of land where Olde Eight Rd. splits off from the new Ohio 8 is for sale in a separate deal by Yvonne Highley of Property Professionals Inc. as a commercial corner.

On June 16, 1962, Eaton celebrated the 50th anniversary of his



PD graphic

The shaded area indicates the 600 acres of the Cyrus S. Eaton estate bought by Eaton's grandson, David LeFevre.

purchase. A huge white tent near his house was festooned with ribbons and trophies won by the Eaton horses and cattle.

The motif that day was 1912. Painted wicker chairs, a player piano, ancient wall telephones, enlarged pictures of Eaton as a

young man, a sparkling 1912 automobile parked near the edge of the tent as though it had just discharged its passengers, added to the impression that the years had rolled back.

It was considered a showplace farm then, with sweeping graveled

driveways to the 165-year-old sprawling Western Reserve farmhouse built by Connecticut farmer John Wilson. It had once faced the road, but Eaton had it moved back and turned to face the setting sun.

Eaton was reported by Fortune Magazine to be worth more than \$100 million and to have controlled about \$2.6 billion of a variety of industries when he lived on the farm.

When Eaton bought the farm, it had 850 acres. Over the years, Eaton donated 12 acres for Lee Eaton elementary school, in memory of a daughter who died at 41 after a lengthy illness.

Other land was appropriated by Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. for its high-tension wires, and the National Park Service took a section, LeFevre said.

Eaton owned a 3,000-acre farm in Canada where he is buried, Deep Cove Farms of Upper Blandford, Nova Scotia. He was born in the Nova Scotia village of Pugwash where his parents owned a farm and village general store.

"The big thing is that the land here has now come full circle," LeFevre said. "What my grandfather put together as Acadia Farms, although it is no longer called that, is back in the family again, and we have high hopes for it."