

The Emerald Necklace



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*Issued monthly on behalf of the millions of people who use the parks
that they may have a better understanding of the beauty around them.*

Editor

H. E. Wallin

Park

Naturalist

THIS MONTH IN THE PARKS

BUZZARD SUNDAY

Sunday March 18th is the day to welcome back the Turkey Vultures to their roost in the Hinckley Reservation. Naturalists will be on hand all day to explain the phenomena and give you information about the park.

The Cleveland Hiking Club will lead hikes to various parts of the park during the day and there will be special hikes to the ledges to see this interesting rock formation.

The Hinckley Chamber of Commerce will serve pancakes and sausage in the school on Rt. 303 near the center of Hinckley. They are planning even more exhibits than they have had in other years.

The big birds should be back sometime during the preceding week and should be established in their roost. The best time to see the birds is in the early morning and again late in the afternoon.

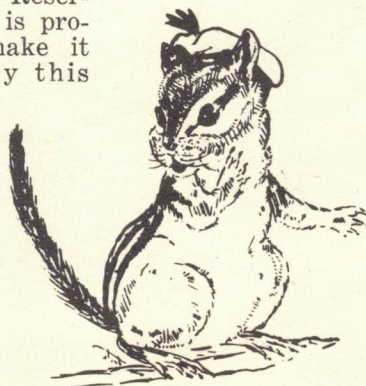
SUNSET POND

We expect the pair of Canada Geese back on their pond in the North Chagrin Reservation sometime this month depending on how soon there will be open water.

This will be their 14th year of nesting on this beautiful waterfowl sanctuary. Last year six young took off for their wintering grounds with their parents.

NEW RESERVATION NAMED

The newest reservation located at the Lorain County line has been named the Bradley Woods Reservation. Work is progressing to make it accessible early this summer.



Tammy Chipmunk Says:

National Wildlife Week - March 18 - 24.

Conservation of Wetlands will insure Waterfowl for the Future.

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EARLY INDUSTRY

Many of the rivers and streams that flow through the metropolitan parks played an important part in the lives of the early settlers to this section of the Western Reserve. In fact it was along the streams that the early settlements were made to take advantage of the power provided by the running water for industries of pioneer times.

Some of the remains of the mills and dams can be documented, others are lost for all time. It is of especial interest and value to be able to record some of the research done in the Rocky River Reservation by Mrs. Lyle G. Chambers of Berea on the part waterpower played in the Rocky River Valley.

In pioneer days even small shallow rivers could provide waterpower for pioneer undertakings. This story will tell a bit about three areas now included in the Rocky River Reservation. It is interesting to note that each area is now a picnic area in the park.

The oldest installation was known as Vaughn's Mill and was located in the approximate position of the Baldwin Lake dam near Berea. In addition to the available waterpower, the outcropping sandstone could be used to fashion the mill stones. In those days the land was on the level of Prospect Street, and later the sandstone was quarried and the pits partially filled with rubble from the quarrying operation.

The Vaughn Mill and farm of 200 acres was purchased by John Baldwin, Sr., who no doubt continued to operate the mill until quarrying operations took over the area. Later he owned a mill on the east side of the river known as the "Rocks".

Just off busy Route 42 a short distance north of Strongsville is a popular

picnic spot known as Albion Park. This was once an industrial center and the location of a town larger than Cleveland was in those days. The first mill was built in 1820 and was a boon to the farmers who otherwise would have to travel to Middleburg or Columbia to have their grain ground into flour.

Soon after the grist mill was built, other industries located in this spot along the river. Albion became the location of a saw mill, a tannery (owned by Mrs. Chambers' great-grandfather), three blacksmith shops, a tin shop, a scythe-snath factory, two wagon shops, two tailor shops. There were three churches, two schools, five stores and two taverns. In 1840 a machine shop was built that made machinery for the manufacture of woolen cloth. For a short time woolen underwear was manufactured in Albion, under the trade name of "Hamburg."

Ebenezer Pomeroy operated a tavern at the intersection of Albion Road and the Pike (Route 42). When the stage started down the north hill (the turnpike entrance) the driver would blow as many blasts on a horn as there were passengers desiring dinner. By the time the stage had climbed the south hill, the meal was ready.

A fire in the winter of 1843, with the river frozen, destroyed most of this business area. In 1851 the railroad was built through Berea, the Stagecoach stopped running, and Albion's importance dwindled.

The mill at Albion, however, stood until the 1920's at the east end of the bridge over the dam. Wooster Pike at that time followed the east side of the river, perhaps where the present road was built; crossed the bridge over the dam and climbed a very steep hill to come out opposite the present Albion

Road (west). When the leaves are off the trees, the old road is clearly visible from the bridge site.

The third mill was at "Little Cedar Point" at the junction of the East and West Branches of Rocky River. This is the only one where those interested can trace the site of the dam, the mill race and the foundation of the mill. A land section of the dam can be found on the north side of the Maple Grove Picnic Area. From the river side of that area, a tunnel took the water for the mill race under Cedar Point Road. The water taken from the East Branch returned to the river near the ford a short distance north of this spot. The stone work of the mill race and the foundations of the mill are just beyond the bridle path.

This mill was built about 1824 and changed hands a number of times. It was in operation until about 1902. According to descendants of the early pioneer families a wooden bowl factory was located here and maple syrup was made from the sugar maples and sold for one dollar a gallon. The river was no better behaved in those days than now and everyone agrees that the dam was often damaged by spring floods.

No doubt other mill sites can be found along the East Branch of Rocky River. Mrs. Chambers has found evidence that the first owner of the Albion Mill sold it and two years later built the "East Mill" probably near where Camp Cheerful is now located. The Strongsville History, published in 1901, relates that there was also an iron furnace on the river, below the old depot in Middleburg township. The settlers brought their yellow ironstone (bog iron?) to be made into much needed pots.

HISTORY RELIVED

Early this year negotiations were completed and a permit granted by the Park Board to the North Olmsted Historical Society to restore and preserve the old Prechtel House and outbuildings on Cedar Point Road just easterly of Lewis Road in the Rocky River Reservation.

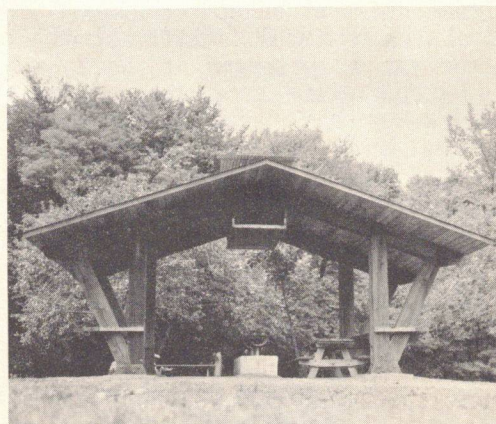
This house, one of the first in North

Olmsted township, was built by Martin Prechtel in 1876. The property was once part of the Ruple farm for which Ruple Road was named. It is a good example of farmhouses of that period and is worthy of preservation for that reason. The property was purchased by the Park Board in 1925 and the house maintained as a rental property until recently.

Mrs. Robert Barlik of 23530 Mastick Road, President of the North Olmsted Historical Society, reports that plans are underway to spend this summer restoring the house and outbuildings. They are in the process of gathering materials of the period of early occupancy. Already a number of farm implements, household pieces and books have been collected to make the old farmhouse look as it did in the late 1800's. Members of the society are working with the Western Reserve Historical Society to make the restoration as authentic as possible.

This is the second house to be so treated in a Metropolitan Park. A similar restoration has been made to the Squire Rich House in the Brecksville Reservation, now being operated as a house museum by the Brecksville Historical Society.

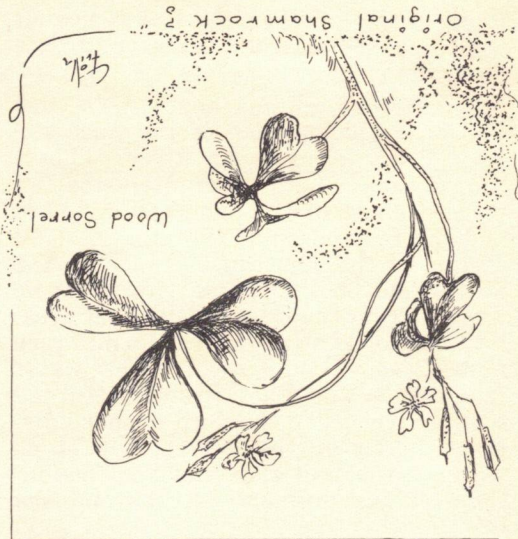
The Park Board is glad to be able to have cooperation of this kind in preserving items of historical significance within the Metropolitan Parks.



One of the twenty cook houses in the Metropolitan Parks designed for the use of large group picnics.

RETURN REQUESTED

Mr. James Ehrbar
15603 Pearl Road
Cleveland 36, Ohio



2048 Standard Building
Cleveland 13, Ohio

Cleveland Metropolitan Park District

Velva

Permit No. 2911

Cleveland, Ohio

PAID

U. S. POSTAGE

BULK RATE

AROUND THE NECKLACE

COOK HOUSES

Throughout the parks and parkways we now have the picturesque little buildings that were designed to prepare food for large groups of people. A specially designed charcoal burner occupies the central area upon which large quantities of food can be prepared at the same time. Picnic tables surround the shelter in such a way that a large group can feel somewhat separated from others using the picnic area.

With the exception of one that can be reserved, Old River Farm in the North Chagrin Reservation, all of these are available on a first come first served basis. No fee is charged for their use.

At present there are 20 of these cooking shelters located in the following picnic areas:

- Huntington Reservation - Wolf Road
- Rocky River Reservation - Mastick Road,
- Maple Grove, Lagoon, Wallace Lake
- Big Creek Parkway - Fern Hill, Snow Road
- Brecksville Royalton Parkway - York and
- Akins Roads
- Hinckley Reservation - Johnson
- Brecksville Reservation - Oak Grove,
- Meadows
- Brecksville-Bedford Parkway - Sagamore
- Road
- Bedford Reservation - Willis Street, Lost
- Meadow
- South Chagrin Reservation - Upper Sulphur
- Springs, Squaw Rock
- North Chagrin Reservation - Sunset Pond,
- Old River Farm
- Euclid Creek Reservation - Quarries,
- Highland Road

Would friends of yours like to receive the Emerald
Necklace? Send names and addresses to:

Cleveland Metropolitan Park District
2048 Standard Bldg., Cleveland 13, Ohio