

Tinkers Creek

Historical Importance of Salt in Tinkers Creek

Tributaries of Tinkers Creek

Tinkers Creek Watershed

Proposed Lake Shawnee - 1960's

Pollution of Tinkers Creek

Clean-Up of Tinkers Creek

Tinkers Creek is the largest tributary of the Cuyahoga River.

The many springs along the hilly section in Bedford and Walton Hills provided fresh water to the animals, Native American Indians and Settlers.

Saltlicks and deposits of salt can be found under rocks in the creek, especially at the junction of Deerlick Creek and Tinkers Creek. The salt in Tinkers Creek attracted the animals. The Indians and Settlers came here because it was a good hunting ground where they could also collect their needed supply of salt. Old-time residents remember the good fishing in Tinkers Creek. Bass, Bluegill, Croppie and Catfish from the creek provided the main course for many family dinners. Local mothers often made soup from turtles caught in the creek.

The Importance of Salt in Tinkers Creek and its Tributaries

Did you ever wonder why the Tinkers Creek Valley became a historic area?

Perhaps it could be evaporated into one word – **Salt**.

Salt is one of the minerals in the porous, sometimes brittle Sedimentary Rock.

Salt

Cliffs of exposed sandstone and shale frame the sides of Tinkers Creek and its tributaries in the Bedford Reservation area. After a heavy rain or period of melting snow, water seeps through the rock, and trickles down into the Creek.

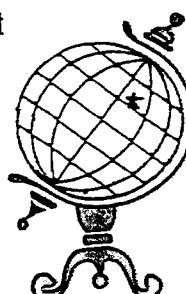
The rain water carries the salt with it. Some of the salt collects on the exposed rocks in the creek bottom, dries out, and adheres to the bed rocks.

Animals, big and small, need salt. Through the years, being the smart creatures that they are, animals living in and around this area frequented Tinkers Creek. Salt deposits are under the rocks, and when rushing water filters through the rocks, dissolved salt mixes with the fresh water, providing animals their mineral salt requirements. Animals paw at the exposed rocks and lick the salt off them.

Bands of **Native Americans** chose to camp on the hillsides of the Tinkers Creek Valley. They knew this was a good hunting area, where they could easily obtain meat and animal skins.

Here, the squaws collected salt. The women found, or made, a hollow near the edge of the creek, filled it with water, let the water evaporate, and scraped out the salt.

Salt enabled the squaws to make **jerky**. We have beef jerky, theirs was probably venison jerky. Each Summer the women made enough jerky for their families to chew each traveling day, as they trekked to their Winter camp. The jerky provided the travelers with salt and protein. They made a brine solution by continuing to add small amounts of water into the hollow, letting it evaporate, and repeating the process until it was a brine. Then they soaked long narrow strips of meat in the brine. When ready, the women strung the strips of venison on tree limbs to dry.



Fur Trappers knew this was an area to get a plentiful supply of pelts. There were two Trading Posts along Tinkers Creek. One was by the Cuyahoga River and the other was by Indian Point / Hemlock Creek Pavilion in Bedford Reservation. This area attracted the **Early Settlers** for the same reasons.

Tinkers Creek

Tinkers Creek, the largest tributary of the Cuyahoga River, begins in Streetsboro, in the Twin Lakes area by Kent Ohio, and winds its way westward. It curves through Bedford Reservation and flows into the Cuyahoga River. Several streams empty into Tinkers Creek, but two of its major tributaries, Deerlick Creek and Hemlock Creek empty into Tinkers Creek in Walton Hills. Tinkers Creek and its tributaries supply one third of the water that flows into the Cuyahoga River.

Except for when it flows through Bedford Reservation, Tinkers Creek is a calm, slow-moving stream. In the park area the elevation of the land drops considerably, and the river plunges abruptly in a series of cascades and waterfalls, and carries with it **salt**.

Scenic cliffs of exposed sandstone and shale frame the sides of Tinkers Creek in the Bedford Reservation area. For over 12,000 years Tinkers Creek has been carving out a valley through this area. Its steep-walled gorge is one-half mile in length and one hundred ninety feet deep at the Gorge observation platform. The creek bottom is littered with worn-down rocks of many sizes, a result of the cascades and waterfalls.

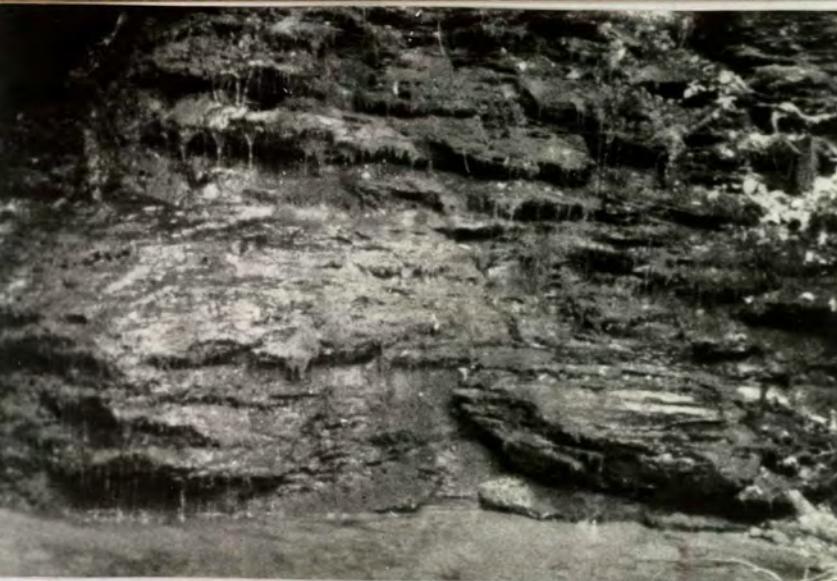
Sedimentary Rock in our Area

Exposed Mississippian Era shale and sandstone that is 300 million years old engulf the sides of Tinkers Creek. The unique rock is named **The Bedford Formation**. **This brittle, soft rock is made of thin layers of shale alternating with thin layers of sandstone**. The rock is visible in the cascades, waterfalls, and rapids throughout the park, and along the walls of the gorge. The Bedford Formation was first described and named here, designating Bedford Reservation a "type locality." This rock is also seen nearby in other gorges throughout northeast Ohio. One can also see exposed layers of sandstone, especially **Berea Sandstone**, and **Cleveland Shale** usually found at a lower level, and **Chagrin Shale** at a still lower level.



Bedford Formation

1986 Photos taken
in Bedford Reservation



TINKERS CREEK

Tinkers Creek is the largest tributary of the Cuyahoga River. It begins near Streetsboro, Ohio in the Twin Lakes area and winds its way westward. It curves through Bedford Reservation and flows into the Cuyahoga River, just south of Tinkers Creek Road, in Valley View, Ohio. Tinkers Creek and its tributaries supply one third of the water that flows down the Cuyahoga River.

Several streams empty into Tinkers Creek, but two of its major tributaries, Deerlick Creek and Hemlock Creek (formerly called Wood Creek) join the river in Walton Hills. Deerlick Creek's branches -- East Branch, South Branch and Southwest Branch -- wind through villagers' properties prior to emptying into Deerlick Creek.

Tinkers Creek was named for Captain Joseph Tinker, a member of Moses Cleaveland's surveying party. Tinker was noted for his skill at transporting supplies from Connecticut to the surveying work crew in the Western Reserve. Sometimes he led pack horses overland to the surveying party, and if he could reach the men by boat he used water routes to deliver goods to the surveyors.

In the fall of 1797, Joseph Tinker and two other men were in a boat near the Lake Erie shoreline when it capsized during a storm. All three drowned, but Tinker was given the honor of having a creek named for him by his fellow map-makers.

In the 1800s and early 1900s residents reported good fishing in Tinkers Creek. Bass, bluegill, crappie and catfish from the creek provided the main course for many family dinners. Local mothers often made soup from turtles caught in the creek.

SALT LICKS and SPRING WATER

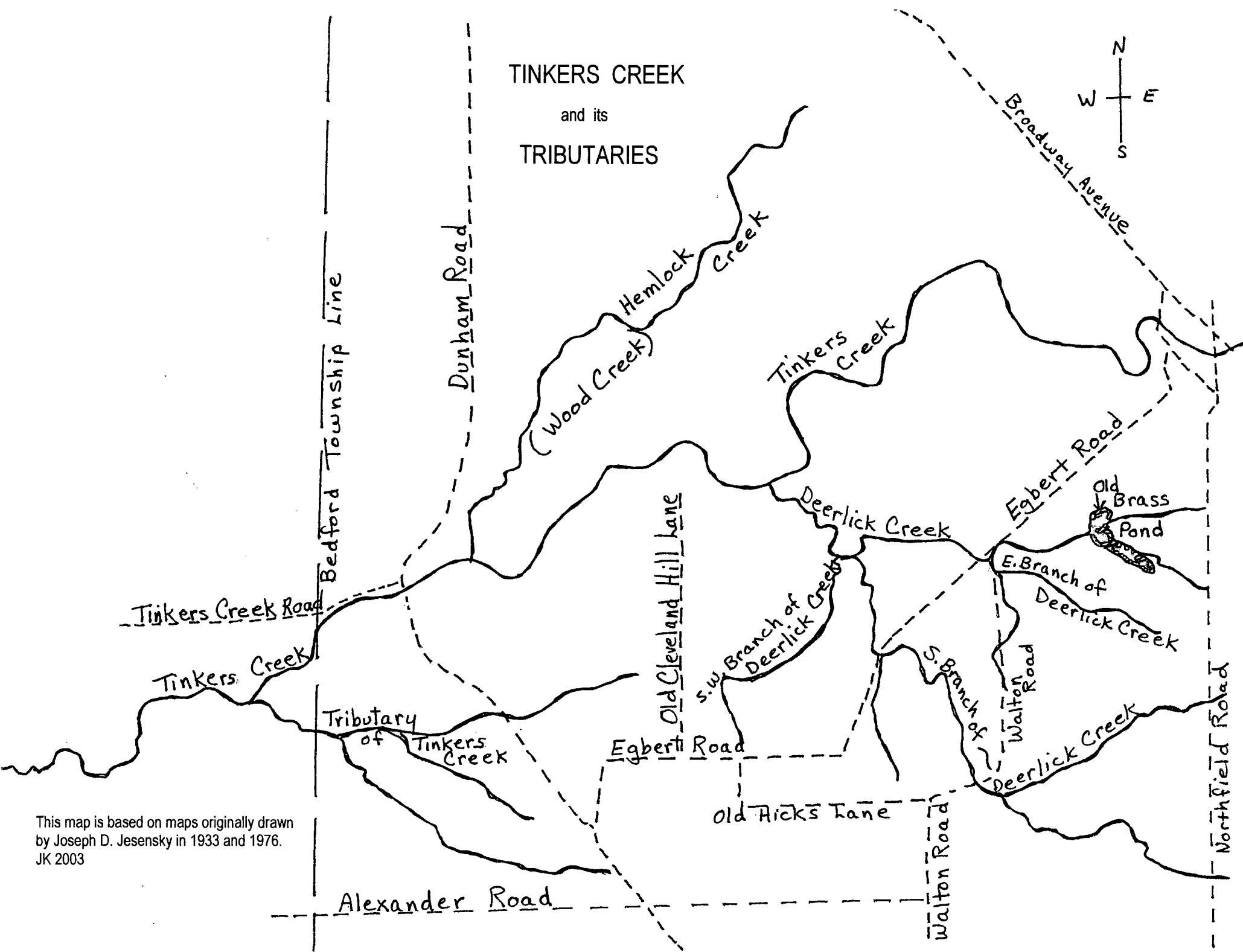
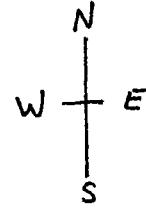
There are many springs along Tinkers Creek and its tributaries where fresh water seeps through rocks. The Indians knew about the springs, frequenting the spots for drinking water.

Salt licks can be found in the creeks, especially in Deerlick Creek, one of the principal Tinkers Creek tributaries. Salt deposits are under the rocks, and when the rushing water filters through the rocks, dissolved salt mixes with the fresh water, providing animals their mineral salt requirements. In years past animals were regularly seen licking the salty water seeping through rocks at the mouth of Deerlick Creek. Indians, fur traders, and early settlers considered the salt licks a prime source for wild game, meat and pelts.

TINKERS CREEK

and its

TRIBUTARIES



This map is based on maps originally drawn by Joseph D. Jesensky in 1933 and 1976.
JK 2003

TINKERS CREEK GORGE

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

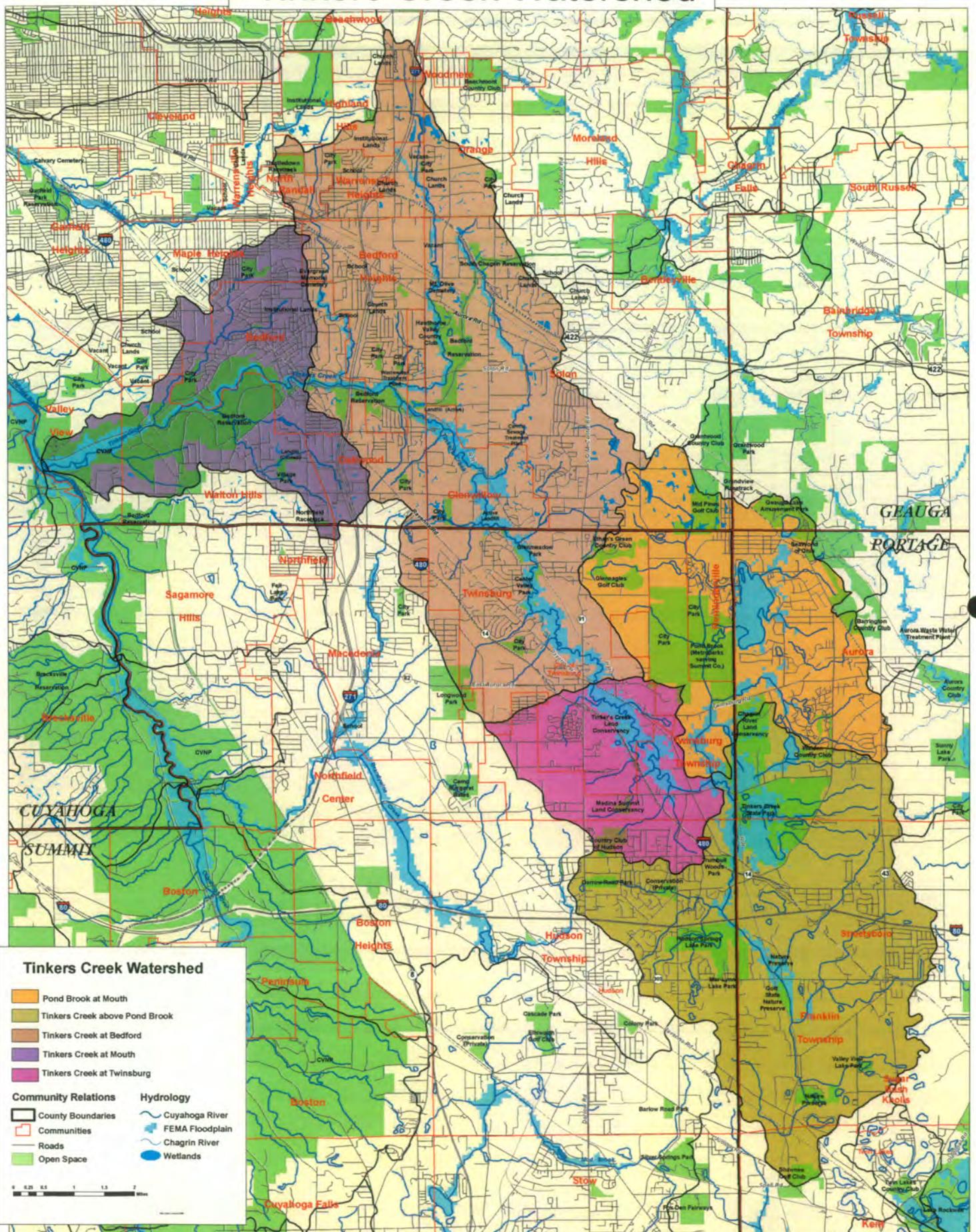
Except for when it flows through Bedford Reservation, Tinkers Creek is a calm, slow-moving stream. In the Bedford/Walton Hills area, the river plunges abruptly in a series of cascades and waterfalls. Steep scenic cliffs of exposed sandstone and shale frame its sides. For over 12,000 years Tinkers Creek has been carving out a valley through Bedford Township. Its steep-walled gorge is one-half mile in length and 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.

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 on the National Registry of Scenic Places.



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

Tinkers Creek Watershed



Gorge Overlook
Tinkers Creek

SEPTEMBER

Photo Taken By:
Jen Garerich



How Tinkers Creek Was Named, The Story Of Joseph Tinker

Amzi Atwater and Warham Shepard were busy directing the surveys for the fifth meridian in July 1797, when one of their assistants, Minor Bicknell, became violently ill with fever.

On July 20, it became apparent that medical aid was necessary if Bicknell was to survive his illness. Atwater, with one or two others of his party, volunteered to leave his work and take the stricken man northward toward Cleveland.

A crude stretcher was fashioned with two poles, strips of bark to form a framework, and bedding. Two horses were then placed one behind the other and the stretcher attached to their sides so that Bicknell was carried between the two animals.

In this manner, the little party pushed its way through the dense wilderness of what is now Cuyahoga Falls, Hudson, Bedford, and finally Independence. Atwater had only his compass to guide him. The party made just 10 miles a day over the forest trails.

But word was sent ahead to Cleveland and it was arranged that a doctor and medical supplies be sent up the Cuyahoga River to what is now Tinkers Creek to meet the party.

On the morning of July 25, the party arrived at the junction of the creek and the river. Bicknell was delirious and it was evident that he had lost much ground in the battle with his illness. The party

made camp and waited anxiously for some sign of the boat's approach, but death won the race. Bicknell died two hours after the party reached its destination.

At noon the boat arrived. The doctor was not needed except to help the rest of the party bury the unfortunate man.

All this has very little to do with Bedford, except that the man in charge of the boat was Joseph Tinker. Tinker was master of transportation for the early survey parties that came into the Western Reserve.

At times he transported supplies with pack horses. At other times he navigated Lake Erie, the Cuyahoga River and its tributaries and other bodies of water in performing his services.

Often he brought supplies from Conneaut to what is now the great city of Cleveland by lake boat. He was an important cog in the settling of Cuyahoga County by the white man.

Joseph Tinker's name is perpetuated in the name of Tinkers Creek, the principal tributary of the Cuyahoga. Tinkers Creek cuts a northwesterly course through Bedford and is the principal asset of Bedford Metropolitan Park. Its rugged, sandstone gorge is a beauty spot known throughout the county.

Sixteen years after the Bicknell incident, Elijah Nobles came to what is now Bedford, as its first white settler. In the years to follow, the creek that took the name of Joseph Tinker was to play a tremendous part in the settling of Bedford.

On its banks was to be produced flour, lumber and woolens from mills built and operated by Adams and Starr, Culverson and Poland, Moses Gleeson, Daniel Benedict, Luther Willis, Stephen Powers and many others.

In the fall of 1798, Joseph Tinker decided to make a much delayed visit back east to his relatives. Death was to take a hand once more, however. Tinker got as far as the lower part of Lake Erie and there, he was drowned in its icy waters.

Editor's note: This historical feature was published in the Times-Register more than 15 years ago. Due to the new interest in Tinkers Creek, we enjoyed re-reading it and thought our readers would too.

NYC Railroad Trestle

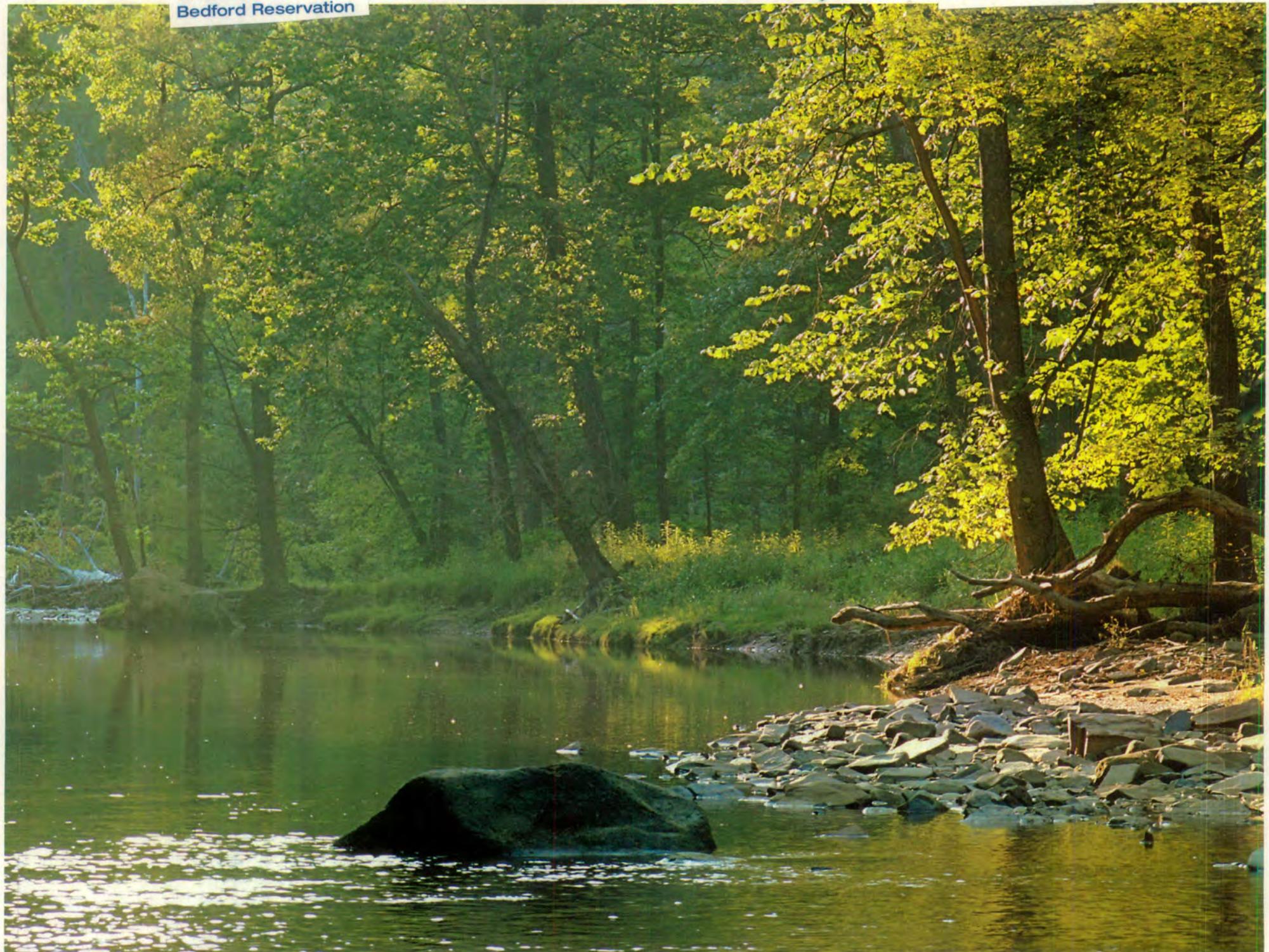


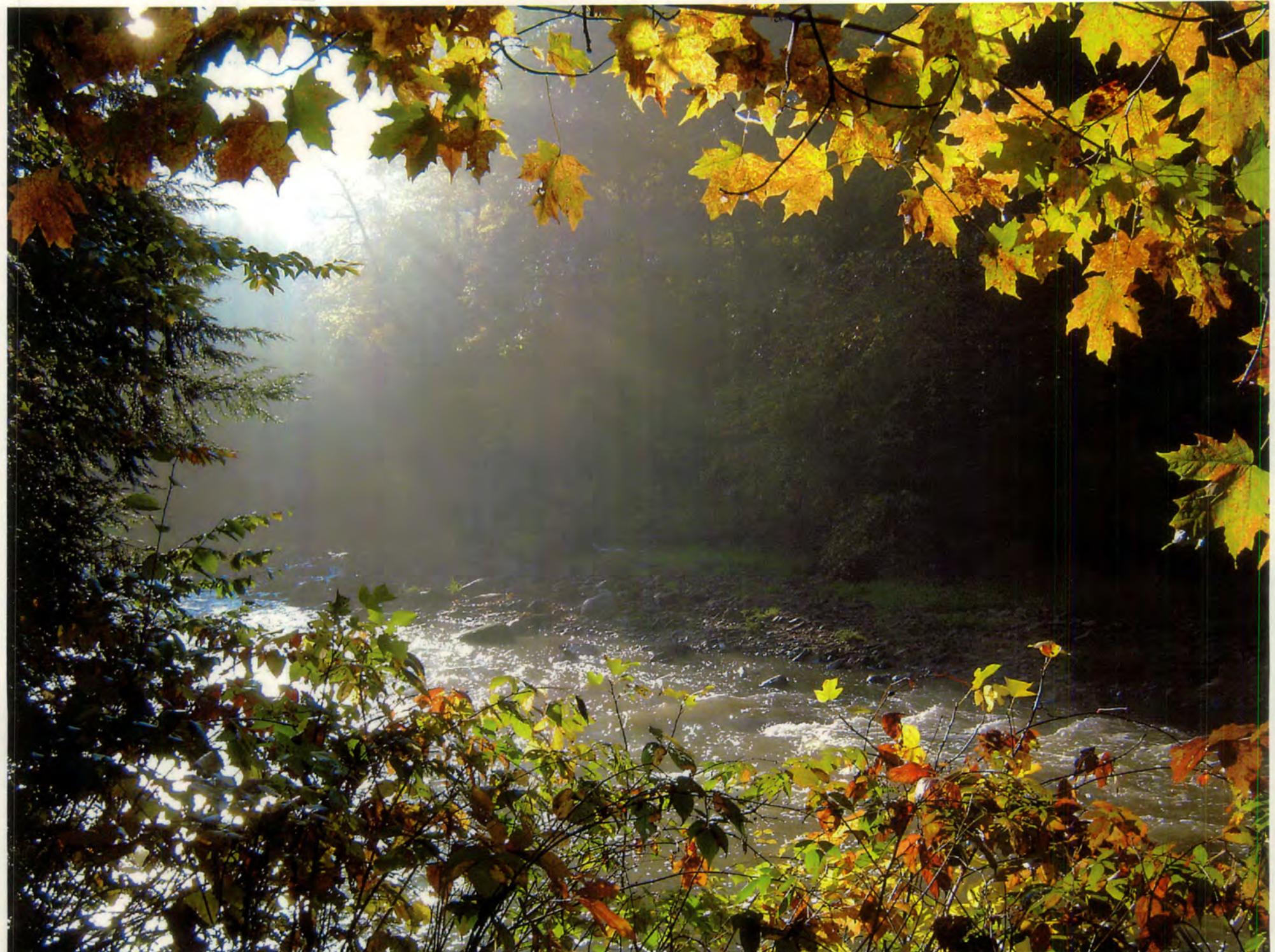
Tinkers Creek
mid 1960s Photo

Tinkers Creek
Bedford Reservation

JULY

Photo Taken By:
Mike Birskovich



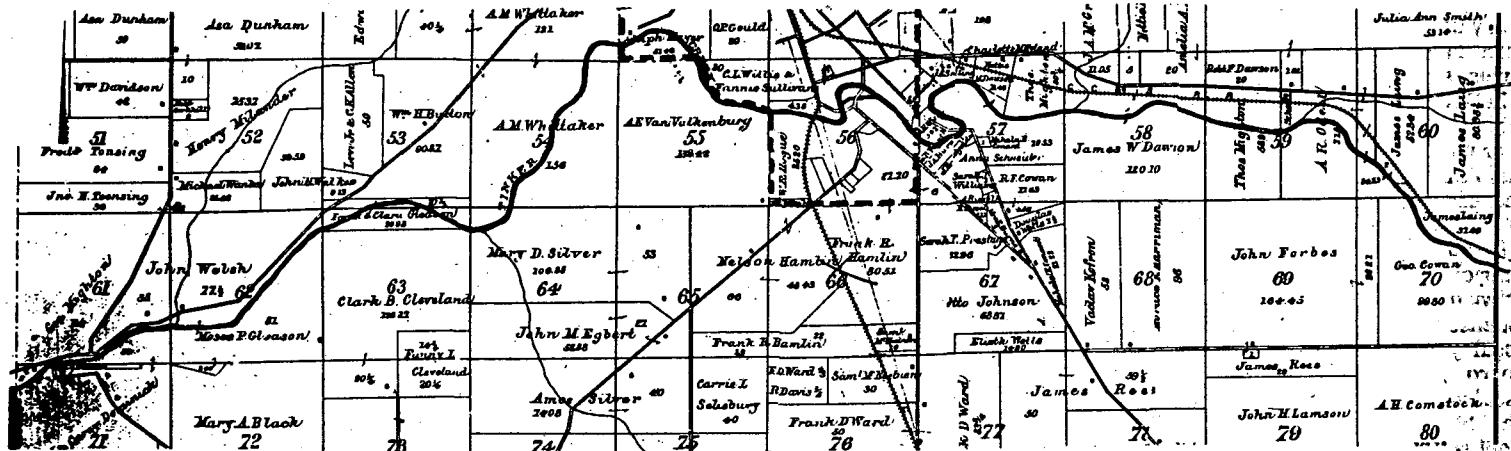


They swam at Cowan's Crossing

For dozens of decades the stream has twisted through the woodlands, slowly eating away at the surface, digging a ditch that became ever deeper with the centuries. The creatures of the forest roamed the length of the ravine. The deer, the wolves and bears and the beavers lived off the fullness of the lush growth, with the cool tumbling waters offering constant refreshment. The Indians came and found luxury in the environment.

Settlers from the east followed, attracted by the free ever-flowing power of the waters, and built a town around the ditch and gave it a name. We know it as the Great Gorge of Tinker's Creek.

Tinker's Creek winds from east to west across the middle of old Bedford Township, which was surveyed in 1797 as Township 6 in Range 11 of the Western Reserve. Nearly a century ago, in 1892, a map of Bedford Township was drawn and published as part of an oversized volume that included all



A portion of the Bedford Township map of 1892, showing the course of Tinker's Creek as it flowed from the east boundary to the west boundary. Richmond Road is on the eastern extreme (right)

This was—and is—known as "Cowan's Crossing," though it has been more popularly called "Collins Crossing" in a distortion of the name. For many years, back when the water was clear and pure, a popular swimming and fishing hole was here.

Both the stream and the railroad turned to the northwest for half a mile, through James Laing's farmland, before heading westward. For the next two miles the railroad and the waterway followed roughly parallel paths, with the tracks on the north slope of the wide, shallow valley. And thus it is today, with the tracks hanging on the bank of the stream along one stretch, but with several hundred feet of wooded flatland between them for most of the way.

Along this two mile stretch Tinker's Creek follows an almost level course, with just a few gentle rapids. Several small tributaries flow into the main stream, but only two

are marked on the map. One of these would be Bear Creek. James Dawson, who used the water power to turn his sawmill, and Thomas Mighton, with a grist mill, both owned land along the creek. Solon Road was nearby, heading into the village.

As the stream nears the village its nature changes. The waters flow faster as it tumbles over more frequent and more violent rapids. The valley begins to deepen and the sides close in, becoming steeper and higher.

In 1892, and until about 1931, Tinker's Creek made two 180 degree turns to form an "S" curve, at one point doubling back to flow toward the east. A steel truss bridge carried Main Street over the creek at the foot of Schnieder Hill. When the Northfield Road high level bridge was built across the valley in 1931 and '32, that reverse curve was altered by digging a new channel, eliminating one loop and several

and Dunham Road is near the western edge (left). The Village of Bedford is in the center.

hundred feet of old Tinker's Creek. A big concrete culvert was built to convey the waters under Broadway far downstream from the old steel bridge, which was no longer needed over the now-dry stream bed.

Here the CC&S Railroad left the waterway, heading northward into the village. The CC&S became the

Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad a few years after the date of the map, and is now the Norfolk and Western, or the Norfolk Southern.

Most of Tinker's Creek to this point now borders Cleveland Metroparks property, with a park drive following the course of the stream on the south rim of the val-

(Continued on page 9)



**Around
the Town**
By the Village Observer

of the areas of Cuyahoga County.

At that time it was all Bedford Township (before Maple Heights, Bedford Heights, Walton Hills and Oakwood Village) except for a small space in the center. This was the Village of Bedford. The boldest, blackest feature on the map is a wavy, twisting line that represents Tinker's Creek.

The bold, black line entered Bedford Township from the east by crossing Richmond Road at the township line, into the 99 acres owned by George Cowan. Just to the north of the stream the CC&S Railroad also crossed Richmond Road and entered the township.

ley slope. The dense growth of the woodland hinders any view of the water from the roadway.

Our creek continues its way downstream and generally westward. There was a wooden bridge at the bottom of Union Street hill in 1892, but a stone and concrete structure spans the waterway today. The stream makes a wide sweeping curve, biting away at a steep, high shale bank on the outside and leaving a wide flat floodplain on the inside, as it approaches the historical mill sites that gave Bedford a reason for being.

It is an interesting spot to visit today, and is within a ten-minute walk from Bedford's bustling downtown business section. To be seen are the remnants the Red Bridge and the mill dam, the huge stone foundation stones of the industry that once flourished on the banks of Tinker's Creek, the dry millrace, ruins of the power plant, the roaring waterfall with spray rising into the wind, the big stone arch portal to the long tunnel and the old stone railroad bridge high above.

In 1892 that now quiet area was at its height of activity, the busiest industrial spot in town. Farmers and merchants, teamsters, millwrights, sawyers, stonemasons, loggers, builders and loafers were there each day. Here were the sawmills, the gristmills, the electric power plant, a blind factory, a cider mill, a feed and grain store, a lumber yard ... all dependent upon the free energy produced by the volume of water falling from a high level to a lower level.

Tinker's Creek swept past the millsites, over the Great Falls and on through one of the four openings in the high stone arch C&P Railroad bridge. Cleveland & Pittsburgh passenger and freight trains crossed the old viaduct frequently in 1892, emitting clouds of coal smoke and showers of soot. The realignment of the tracks, with the stone arch tunnel and mountainous fill were ten years in the future.

This brings little old Tinker's Creek (which really should be called Tinker's River) halfway through its turbulent journey across old Bedford Township. Ahead of it is the spectacular depths and heights of the Great Gorge, recognized as a national natural historic landmark.



A winter scene of Tinker's Creek as it flowed under the stone C&P Railroad viaduct. Looking upstream, or toward the east. About

A shark in Tinkers Creek

by the Village Observer

A shark has been discovered in Tinker's Creek. It was seen last week by Bob Burns, a geologist who lives in Maple Heights. Bob discovered the fish near the site of the old Powers woolen mill, down in Bedford Glens.

The mill was built in 1842, and that same shark was there then, but apparently nobody realized it. In fact, that same fish was swimming blithely around, looking for victims, 360 million or so years ago, in the waters of the ocean which covered Bedford and Maple Heights and Cleveland and Glenwillow and everything else in this part of the country.

Three hundred and sixty million years ago the floor of our local ocean was one or two hundred feet lower than the elevation of the present land. Our fish died and lay undisturbed in the sediment at the floor of the sea and slowly became covered by the buildup of additional sediment through the eons.

After a few million years the ocean dried up or drained away as the land shifted or rose or whatever. Layer upon layer of matter - sand, soil, decayed plant and animal life, built up through the ensuing millions of years, and the tremendous pressure of the weight above slowly compacted the accumulation into widespread formations of hard sandstone and softer shale.

The bones of our buried shark eventually deteriorated and the cavity was filled with pyrite, or fool's gold. And that is what Bob Burns discovered as he was putting around Tinker's Creek -- a chunk of pyrite in the form of a shark's skull, with the jaws and teeth intact.

Last Saturday Bob and his father, along with Dr. Michael Williams, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Cleveland Museum of

Natural History, dug out the specimen from the shale. Dr. Williams took it to his museum, where it will be studied carefully and scientifically, supplying another scrap of information on the evolution and development of life on earth.

The shark was in the layer of stone that geologists identify as Cleveland Shale, which is just below, and a few million years older than the formation known as Bedford Shale. Bedford Shale is prominent in the Tinker's Creek gorge, and is found in other deep river cuts throughout northeastern Ohio.

It took hundreds of millions of years for the land to build up from the shark's level to the present grade, but it took only about 10,000 years for Tinker's Creek to grind its way down to its present course.

According to Dr. Williams, this is just the second fish fossil ever recovered from Tinker's Creek, in spite of the fact that geologists have been examining and studying and measuring and sampling the formations in the gorge for more than a hundred years. Numerous treatises have been written and published about this prime geological area, that is within a 15-minute saunter away for most of us.

It doesn't take a masters degree in geology to enjoy the beauty and spectacular views that abound in our own Tinker's Creek valley, known for generations as Bedford Glens.

Bedford Glens

Generations of local kids growing up have spent week-ends and spring vacations hiking through the Glens, which wasn't always known as the Bedford Reservation of Metroparks.

Climbing to Hog's Back, wandering along the trail across Lost Meadow, sitting in Poet's Cave trying to dry

Bedford Times-Register
12-1979

out before a smoky fire after a sudden April shower and drinking from the nearby spring with the frog living in the ancient wooden cask overflowing with fresh spring water, are memories treasured by those who were kids not so long ago.

Little Falls and Little Lake and the Arch were favorite spots for summer swimming and angling, when the water was pure and the fishing was easy. A friendly greeting with Scottie Mills, as he rode the trails with his trusty steed on their daily patrol rounds, was a reassuring encounter.

These young explorers, with plenty of time on their hands but no cash in their pockets, were conscious of the natural beauty around, but didn't expound upon it. They were not naturalists or geologists -- just teen-age kids taking advantage of a priceless recreation center, all free. They were not concerned with identifying trees or birds, and knew nothing of Cleveland Shale and Bedford Shale, but were only interested in the best route to scale a shale bank.

They would climb over and under the great cut stones of the remnants of Powers Mill and the adjacent dam (just a couple of hundred feet upstream from the foot of the old abandoned Powers Road hill) looking for blue gills, and wouldn't have recognized a shark fossil if they saw it.

102. Jan. 22, 1981-- Being a ramble along the tumbling stream as it winds westward through the Township.

Tinker's Creek

Tinker's Creek wanders down toward our town from the highlands to the south, down this side of the divide that sends the drainage of the land either northward toward Lake Erie or southward to the Ohio River. The little stream has its origin near Streetsboro and gradually gains strength as smaller tributaries join it.

The stream cuts across the area of old Bedford Township, flowing from east to west, five miles from border to border but about seven miles on its twisting and turning course. On its way, Tinker's Creek enters Oakwood Village, curves upward into Bedford Heights, tumbles down through Bedford and exits through Walton Hills.

It starts gently enough at Cowan's Crossing and for a couple of miles is a lazy stream, flowing through a wide, shallow tree-covered valley, sharing the way with the old Wheeling & Lake Erie railroad tracks (now the N. & W.). It enters Bedford winding just below the cemetery at the foot of Schneider Hill, and a little farther on the wide valley suddenly becomes a deep, narrow gorge, and placid Tinker's Creek becomes a wild, raging tyrant, tumbling over rocky rapids and a misty waterfall.

For nearly a century the constant power of the rushing waters around that waterfall brought early industry to Bedford, as mills were built utilizing that power, to grind farmer Burns' grain into flour and to saw the timber into boards to build the village.

Here the stream rushes through 500 feet of the huge Arch under the railroad fill, and



enters the Bedford Reservation of Metroparks, known for more than a century as Bedford Glens.

Here, for thousands of years, the stream has carved a deep gorge a couple of miles long through hard rock and soft shale, and hundreds of years ago a forested wilderness grew in the bottom and on the slopes of that gorge. That isolated wilderness has been preserved, surrounded by the developments of progress because of its inaccessibility, and because the land was totally useless for agriculture or homesites.

In 1968 the United States National Park Service, recognizing the need for preserving this scenic treasure in its natural state,



designated the entire Tinker's Creek gorge, or Bedford Glens, as a Registered National Natural Landmark, and with the help of the Cleveland Metroparks system that stretch of wilderness will remain wild for future generations to enjoy.

Two major tributaries join Tinker's Creek in the gorge, each forming a picturesque miniature gorge as it plunges to meet the larger stream. Wood Creek (also called Hemlock Creek) works its way down from the north, and Deerlick Creek meanders through the former farmlands of Walton Hills, approaching from the south.

Joseph Tinker's memorial leaves the township area under a little concrete bridge at Dunham Road, near the bottom of old Button Road hill. Here the elevation of Tinker's Creek is something over 300 feet lower than where it entered the township area, five miles east. The creek continues on into Valley View in Independence Township, where the valley opens up into a wide floodplain, and thence empties into the Cuyahoga River.

In 1797 three members of the surveying party engaged in laying out the lot lines of the Western Reserve drowned in Lake Erie when their boat capsized in a storm near the mouth of the Cuyahoga River. One man was named

Pierce, another Edwards, and the third was Joseph Tinker. Our stream was named in memory of one of the victims... so we could easily be living near the banks of Pierce's Creek or Edwards Creek, which wouldn't have made a bit of difference to the creek we call Tinker's.

A half century ago and more Tinker's Creek was a favorite stream for local fishermen. In the quiet pools below the rapids, on Little Lake just below Little Falls (not to be confused with the Great Falls at the mill sites) boys would drop their lines into the clear, clean water and wait patiently. A good string of fish of assorted sizes would sometimes result, but at times, when the fish weren't interested, an afternoon would result in nothing more than a frustrated trudge up the hillside and home, empty handed.

Saturday and Sunday afternoon hikes down to the Glens were a common and economical form of entertainment for the young people of the village. The Hogback, Lost Meadow, Poet's Cave, Deerlick, Powers Mill, the Arch, Sulphur Spring, the Red Bridge and the Trestle were well-known landmarks to many of our townspeople. Most of them are still there, waiting to be rediscovered.



TINKER'S CREEK

There's no need to Tinker with creek's punctuation

Bedford Sun 12-25-2008

For nearly a year this column has been a part of the Bedford Sun and its name "Tinker's Creek" is reflective of the one geographic landmark that is common to all four communities that make up our coverage area.

Those who look closely at the nameplate may have been aware that the vast majority of the time we have used the title "Tinker's Creek" (singular possessive apostrophe included), but there have also been occasions where we have called it "Tinkers Creek," eschewing the apostrophe, and once it was even called "Tinker Creek") no apostrophe and no "s."

We'll call that an accident, but was it wrong? Most will say "yes," but I'm not so sure.

So exactly what style is correct?

Crossing over the bridge on Richmond Road in Oakwood that spans the creek, one sees the singular possessive apostrophe. There are examples of both styles along Dunham Road, and signs for the Tinkers Creek Road Tavern doesn't use the apostrophe, perhaps because the name was so long already.

Janet Caldwell, interim director of the Bedford Historical Society, said much of the society's work does not use the apostrophe in deference to what she called the local norm, but that her personal preference is for a singular possessive apostrophe.

One thing everyone agrees on is that it's not a plural possessive. There was only one Captain Joseph Tinker.



Robert
Nozar

According to historical accounts written by Ned Hubbell and Bob and Jean Kainsinger, the creek (by the way, it's not really a creek) was named after Tinker. It seems Tinker was a member of the Moses Cleaveland surveying party and it was his job to travel back and forth from upstate New York, including

Erie and a settlement at Niagara Falls, to secure and deliver provisions to the surveyors.

Tragedy struck in November 1797 when Tinker's boat capsized and he drowned. Some say he drowned near the mouth of the Cuyahoga river.

But Jean Kainsinger said that is absolutely not the case.

"It happened at the southeast corner of Lake Erie, near Buffalo," she said.

When word about the accident reached Tinker's friends who were at the mouth of the creek in question, they decided to name it after their lost pal.

Jean said early maps and references to Tinker's Creek (and look at that, I keep using the singular possessive apostrophe) showed both styles, but no "Tinker Creek."

And, one might ask, why not?

After all it's Dunham Road, not Dunham's Road. And one can find Hudson Bay, but not Hudson's Bay. Dunham didn't own the road and Hudson didn't own the bay.

But numerous churches are named after saints who didn't own them, and the possessive apostrophe is on many.

Bedford schoolteacher Bret Johnson said he favors the "Tinker's."

"It looks better and the man's name certainly wasn't 'Tinkers,'" Johnson said.

A call to the home of Jim and Kathie Rice, each of whom are retired Bedford teachers, was answered by Jim.

He knew how to handle the question: He gave the phone to his wife.

"There should be an apostrophe," Kathie said. "That is usually the way to show that something has been named after someone. And it has been used so long that way, it's just the usage to which people are accustomed."

The Kainsingers wrote a book called "Tracing Our Heritage" in which they describe how Tinker's Creek got its name, and she points out that there was good reason for the confusion as to how it is spelled and punctuated.

"Remember, they were bivouacking, so they were not necessarily taking the time to be particular, they were just interested in honoring Captain Tinker," Jean said.

But their big mistake was in not realizing that the waterway they were naming was not a creek at all, but a river that became more easily identified as such only during particular times of the year.

"In the fall and winter it certainly seems like a creek," Jean said. "But in the spring it becomes quite clearly a river. In fact, it's the main tributary of the Cuyahoga River."

Bedford Heights Councilman Alton Tinker is the only

"Tinker" in the local phone directory and he has some definite thought on the subject. He said it is for sure not a plural possessive, and he doesn't like the idea of calling it "Tinker" Creek.

"Yes it should be apostrophe 's,'" Tinker said. "The apostrophe singular, definitely because having it named after Joseph Tinker certainly indicates possession, not in the sense of ownership,

but that for more than two centuries Joseph Tinker has possessed the creek as a historical fact, as a gift from his friends."

All right, I'm sold. I guess a Tinker would know.

Was yankee Joseph Tinker an ancestor of Alton Tinker, who is of Jamaican descent?

"Not that I am aware," Tinker laughed.

Merry Christmas to all of my friends.

CHAPTER 11

LAKE SHAWNEE

Lake Shawnee - a recreational opportunity for swimming, fishing, boating, camping and winter sports. Lake Shawnee would have been the most extensive recreational facility in the Cleveland Metroparks. Lake Shawnee and the dam to create it would have been within the borders of Bedford Reservation.

For six years in the 1960s, the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board, Cuyahoga County Commissioners, County Engineers, Army Engineers, Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Foundation, Regional Plan Commission and Cleveland Chamber of Commerce promoted the economic, industrial and recreational benefits of the Lake Shawnee proposal. It would have been a flood control solution and a water recreation facility for not only local residents, but for visitors and vacationers.

However, Lake Shawnee would also have destroyed the natural and historical sights within Bedford Reservation. Chances are, the lake and dam would also have changed the environment of neighboring communities, such as Bedford, Walton Hills and Valley View.

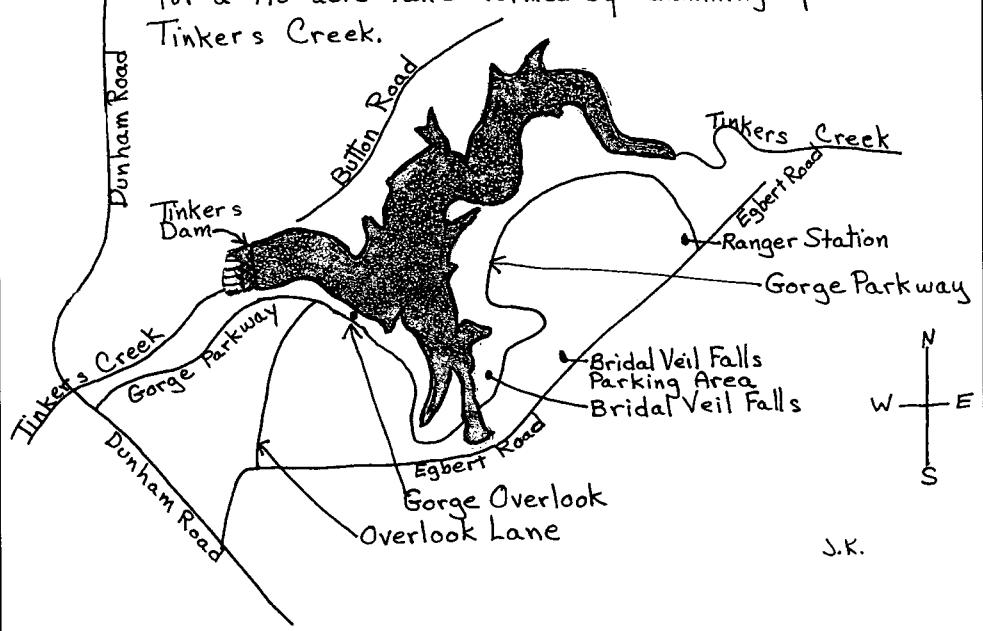
The LAKE SHAWNEE STORY

In 1961 County leaders planned to dam up Tinkers Creek near Dunham Road and create a huge lake within Bedford Reservation; the size of the lake estimated at more than 140 acres. Its 40-feet high and 200-feet long dam would have water gate controls and a roadway (Button Road) across the wall. Lake Shawnee would be two and one half miles long, stretching from near the Ranger Station on Egbert Road to Dunham Road. It would be the deepest man-made lake in Ohio; indeed almost as deep as Lake Erie.

The federal government was expected to pay for building the dam because it was categorized a major flood control project. Since Tinkers Creek and its tributaries supply one third of the water flowing into the Cuyahoga River, the dam would control flooding in areas of the Cuyahoga Valley.

Lake Shawnee

1961 plan proposed by The Metropolitan Park Board
for a 140 acre lake formed by damming up
Tinkers Creek.



This aggressive project got quite a bit of press in Cleveland newspapers. Some of the large headlines read, "Parks Chief Hits Idea of Dam, Lake," "Tinker's Creek Dam Would Add to Water Fun," "Federal Aid Sought for Flood Control Dam Here," "Would Build Reservoir in Metropolitan Park," "Would Create Year-Round Water Play Spot," "Tinkers Creek Kindles New Spark," "County Planners Optimistic Over Tinkers Creek Dam," "Giant Cuyahoga Dam Is Proposed," "Advantages of Tinker's Creek Dam Outlined," "Tinkers Dam, Reservoir to Be Aired," "We're Bound to Get Beautiful New Lake."

From the very beginning, in 1961, conservationists, naturalists and concerned laymen actively protested the destruction of the unique wilderness and historical aspects of the Tinkers Creek Gorge area. Lake Shawnee would have hidden from view a unique kind of rock.

Geologists considered Bedford Reservation a significant site because of the exposure of a Mississippian Era shale and sandstone that was 300 million years old. They named the unique rock "Bedford Formation." This very brittle, soft rock is made of thin layers of shale, alternating with thin layers of sandstone. The surface of Bedford Formation has ripples, or wave marks of the ocean from where it was formed. Bedford Formation was first described and named in the park, designating Bedford Reservation a "type locality." This rock is visible throughout Bedford Reservation in cascades, waterfalls, rapids and along the walls of Tinkers Creek Gorge.

William Nimmerger, who was an artist and amateur naturalist, headed the drive to stop the flooding of the Tinkers Creek Valley. With help from staff members at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, he researched and wrote a report about the ecological and geological significance of the valley.

Nimmerger's work, over a four-year period, was a major factor in the subsequent abandonment of the project by the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board. In 1965 the Lake Shawnee project had not yet received federal financial assistance, and in February of 1967 the entire project was dropped by the State of Ohio.

A year later the National Park Service proclaimed the Tinkers Creek Gorge a National Natural Landmark, preserving the area from ever becoming a recreational lake.

"LAKE SHAWNEE"
2-10-1967

2/10/67

Tinkers Creek Dam Will Not Be Built

By Press Ohio Bureau

COLUMBUS—The proposed \$5,000,000 Tinkers Creek Dam near Bedford will not be built, Natural Resources Director Fred Morr said today.

Morr said the \$2,000,000 appropriated by the state has been transferred to other department projects and that there are no plans to request another appropriation from the current Legislature for the dam.

He said failure of Cuyahoga County Commissioners to place a local \$8,000,000 financing issue for the dam before the voters had led to the decision.

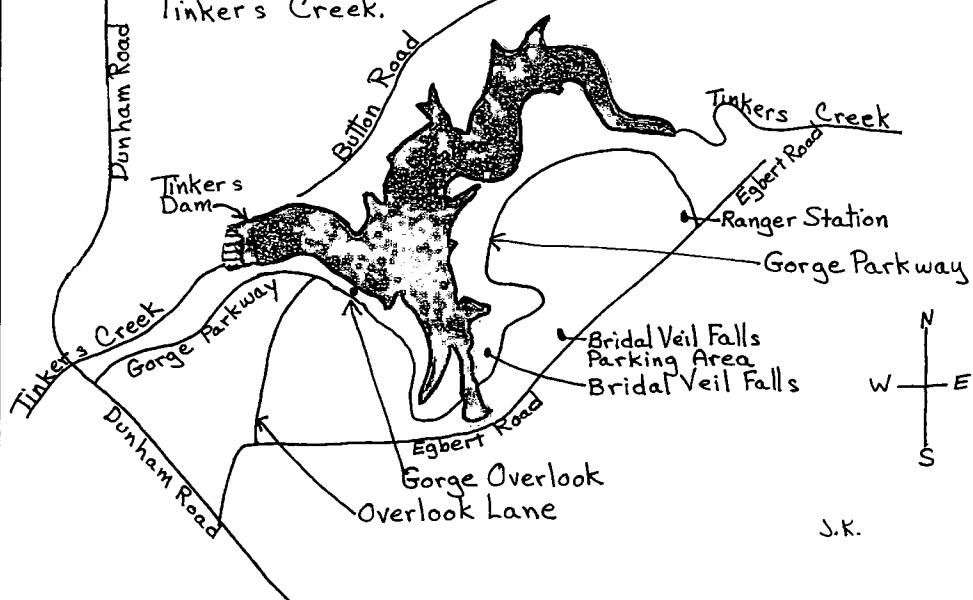
However, he said that in the next biennium the state plans to spend \$1,500,000 for development of the Tinkers Creek Wildlife and Park areas near Aurora.

Plans include fishing, picnicking and a public shooting area.

The proposed dam in Bedford was shelved in 1965 by the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board which owns the surrounding land when conservationists protested destruction of the unique wilderness aspects of the Tinkers Creek Gorge.

Lake Shawnee

1961 plan proposed by The Metropolitan Park Board for a 140 acre lake formed by damming up Tinkers Creek.



BEDFORD TIMES 2-9-1961

Engineers Find Tinkers Creek Crucial Point In Cuyahoga Floods

Excerpts from a report on Flood Control Studies by Stanley Engineering Company.

Average annual flood damage on the Cuyahoga River is \$298,300. Estimated damage caused by the devastating flood of January 1959 was \$2,974,000.

Any further major industrial growth in the potentially wealthy Cuyahoga River Valley is unlikely until means of allaying the danger of further flooding is installed.

The Cuyahoga River basin has an irregular shape covering 810 square miles, mostly in Geauga, Portage, Summit, Medina and Cuyahoga Counties. The river crosses these and many other political boundaries during its course of 100 miles between its source near Chardon and its mouth at Cleveland Harbor.

Above Cuyahoga Falls, the river flows through rolling hills, dotted with many small lakes, ponds and swampy areas. The slope of the upper river is relatively flat except in the vicinity of Cuyahoga Falls. Below that city, the river flows through a deep, well-defined valley.

The flood plain is irregular in width, varying from 800 feet at Chippewa Road to more than a mile at one point in the City of Cleveland. The flood plain is built up of deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel. This results in severe erosion by the stream during flood flows.

The sides of the valley are generally gently sloped and heavily wooded except in the vicinity of Chippewa Road where the valley is a gorge. The lower six miles of the river have been widened and

deepened to form a part of the harbor facilities for the Port of Cleveland.

Several principal tributaries enter the entrenched portion of the Cuyahoga below Cuyahoga Falls. These streams are Big Creek, West Creek, Mill Creek, Tinkers Creek, Sagamore Creek, Chippewa Creek, Brandywine Creek, Furnace Run, Yellow Creek and Mud Creek.

These streams and scores of other smaller tributaries joining the main river between Akron and Cleveland are characterized by steep slopes and rapid-draining terrain.

Two major concentrations of heavy industry and commerce beset the river at Akron and Cleveland. The valley between these two cities is interspersed with numerous subsidiary townships.

A network of highways and railroads serve these cities, interconnecting them and giving access to the main trunk lines crossing the basin. The use by these facilities of the river valleys together with the tendency of other development to congregate near them and the great expense involved in relocation have been major factors affecting plans for flood control.

Major damage along the Cuyahoga in the floods of January and February 1959 was in the residential, commercial and industrial areas between the Village of Valley View and the Nickel Plate railroad bridge on the lower Cuyahoga River. Damage was also reported by communities located on tributaries of the main stream. Two lives were lost during rescue operations.

Engineers learned of recently increased intensity and magnitude of runoff from storm flow in the rapidly developing suburban areas bordering Cleveland. Storm drainage improvements made in these communities tend to increase the severity of flood flows in the tributaries to the Cuyahoga.

The flood plain of the Cuyahoga River in Cuyahoga County contains an estimated 2,500 acres of potential industrial sites which could be turned into highly productive income-producing property if the hazard of floods could be reduced to an acceptable danger.

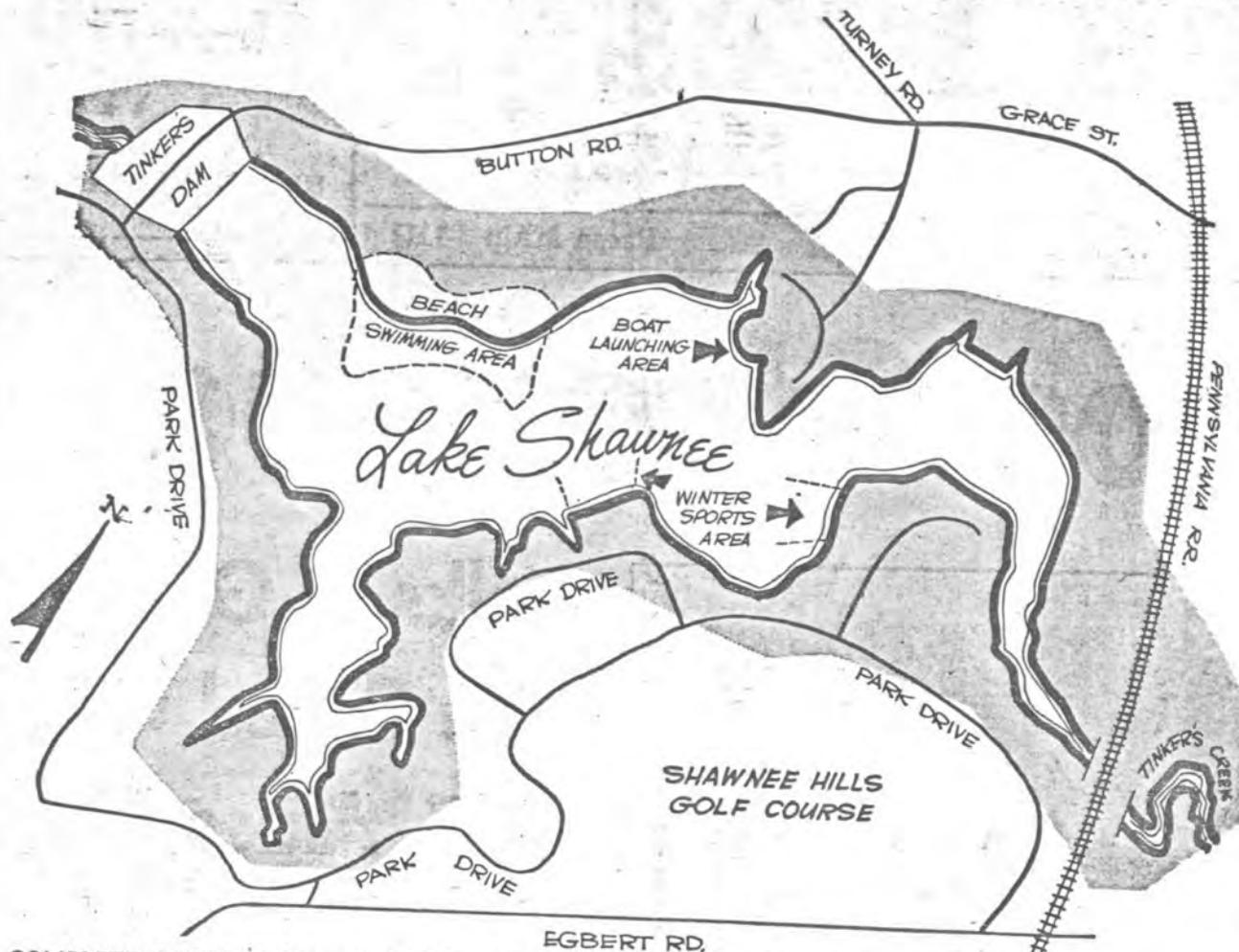
Principal flood damage recorded on the Cuyahoga River has been in the lower reaches of the main stream below the mouth of Tinkers Creek and above the upstream limits of Cleveland Harbor. Substantial damage has also been incurred along Big Creek and Tinkers Creek, some of this latter attributed to back water from the main river.

The most severe damage recorded in the January 1959 flood was in the vicinity of the intersection of State Highway 17 and U. S. Highway 21 in an area of intensive industrial and commercial development. The Village of Valley View had heavy residential damage.

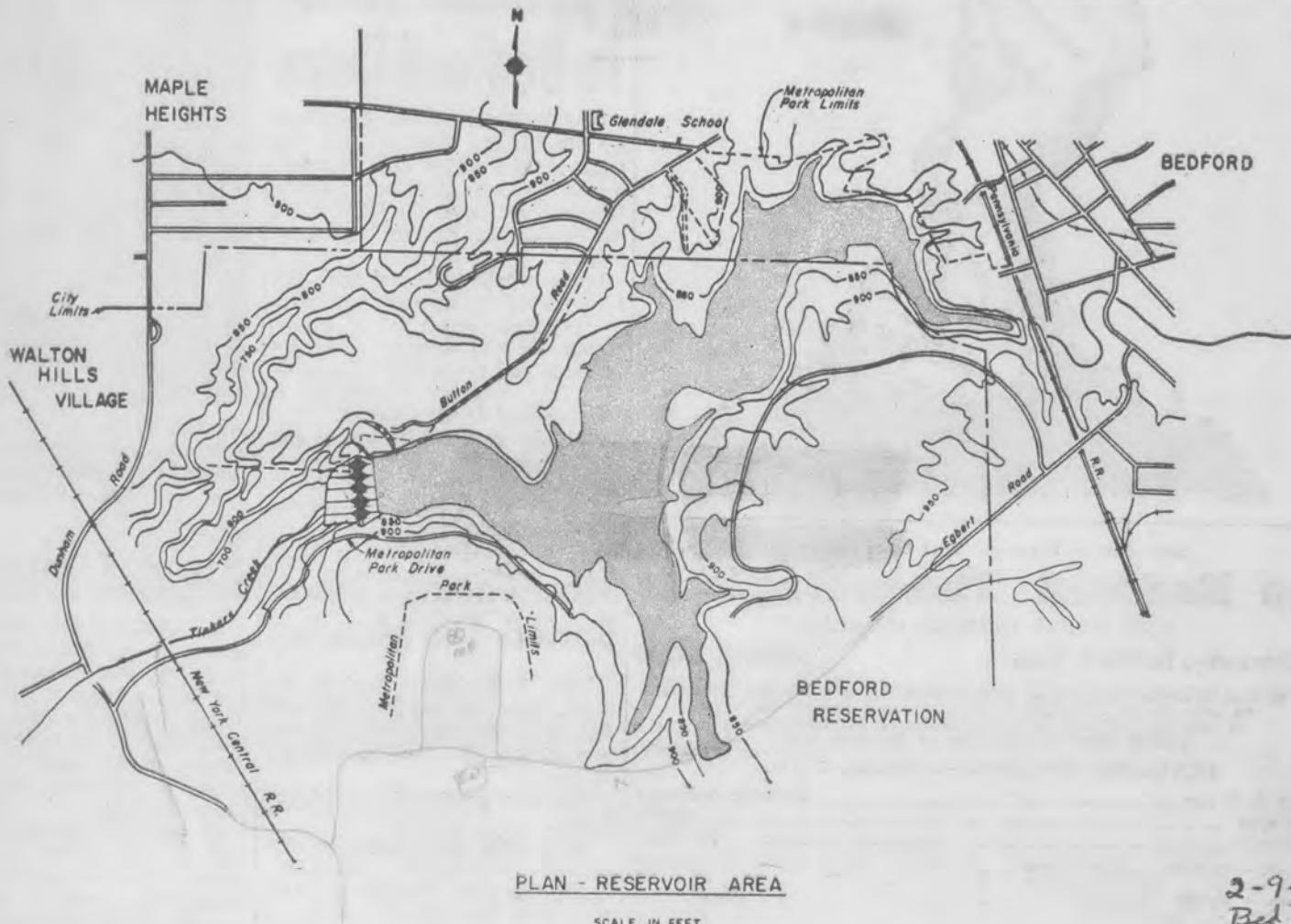
Of dam sites considered for a flood control project, the one on Tinkers Creek controls the largest drainage area and has the greatest effect upon flood stages in the principal damage area.

6-161

Tinker's Creek Dam Would Add to Water Fun



COMPLETE RECREATION FACILITIES will be available in Bedford Reservation if a dam is built across Tinker's Creek to create a 140-acre lake. The Park Board plans to use the flood control lake to meet some of the strong demands for additional swimming, fishing, boating and winter sports facilities in the park system. A day camp area, picnic and play areas and a trailside museum also are planned.



PLAN - RESERVOIR AREA

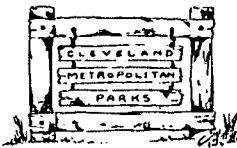
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2-9-61
Bed Times

Tinkers Dam

"LAKE SHAWNEE" 9-1965



The Emerald Necklace

SEPTEMBER, 1965



TINKER'S CREEK DAM

The project for a Tinker's Creek dam talked of for sometime, now is heading in a practical and beneficial direction. Abandoned are plans for a tremendous water impoundment for flood control only; substituted is the idea of a lesser dam which would contain a recreation lake and prevent high water as well.

The original dam proposal called for flooding 600 acres of the 1335 acres of the Bedford Reservation for periods up to five weeks. This in effect would kill most of the trees and vegetation and destroy the park.

The present plan envisions a dam that would create a lake of 140 acres in area 50 feet deep. This depth could be increased to 100 feet during flood periods with the water level lowered to the 50 foot depth as soon as the period of flooding was over not to exceed a 24 hour period.

In determining the present height of dam and water level great care was taken to assure the safety of a unique relic community of northern plants that occurs in the upper end of the gorge. This community includes some fine specimens of Yellow Birch, Hemlock, American Yew, spreading Juniper, and one of the

few stands of Mountain Maple in the entire park system. The location of this community is well above the level of the proposed lake.

Most of the other unusual features of the park will not be disturbed. Great numbers of large trees of many species will continue to grow on the hillsides well above the water level. Stands of rare plants known only to the most ardent botanist will not be disturbed in any way.

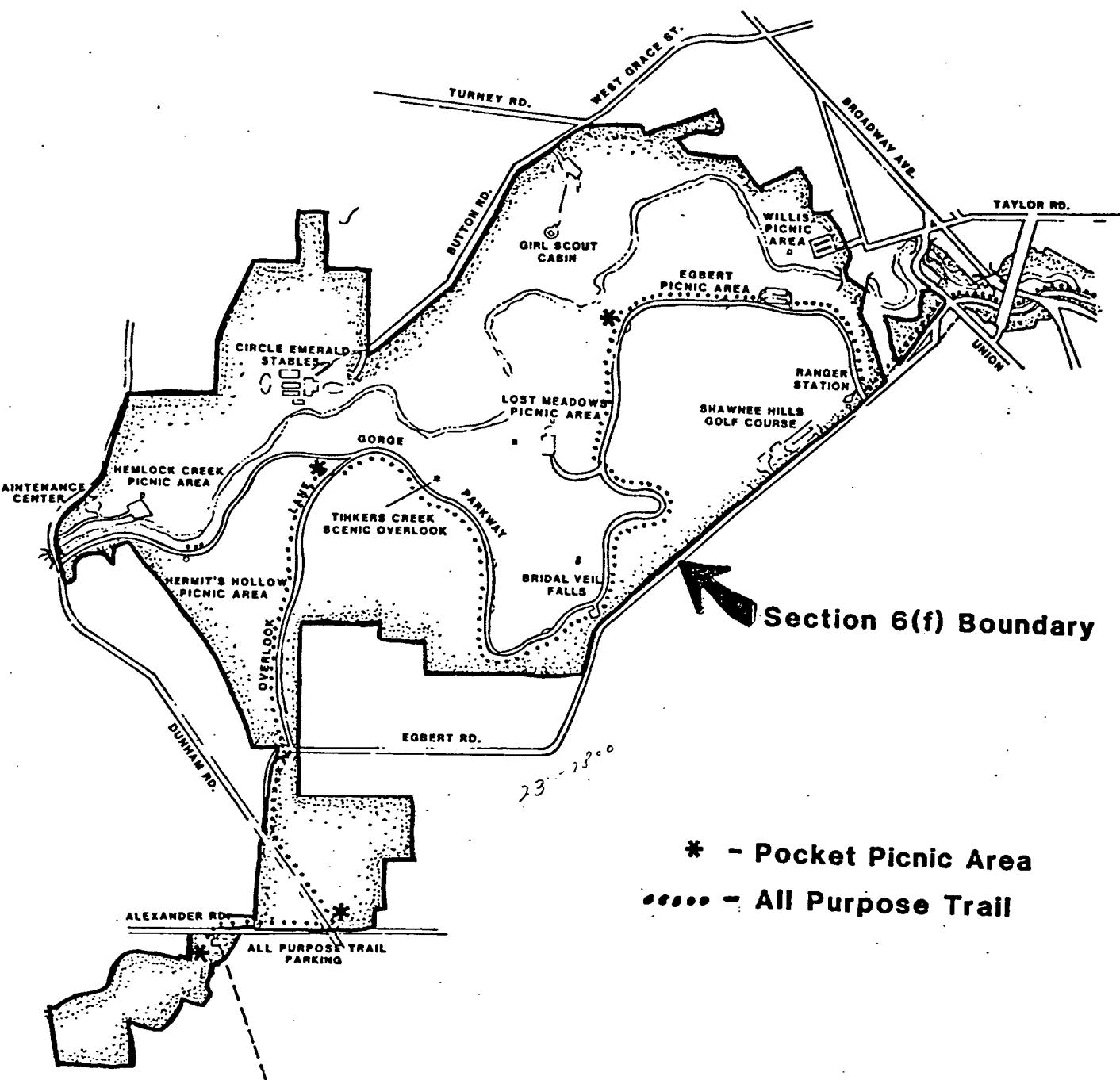
The impoundment, to be called "Shawnee Lake", will provide boating and fishing and possibly swimming. Provisions are to be made to draw down the water level during the winter months to facilitate the development of ski slopes and to provide for other winter sports.

In planning the dam, provisions are made to drain the lake completely as an emergency measure. Passing over the dam and spillway will be a roadway that will afford a means of crossing Tinker's Creek without traveling through Bedford making approximately 200 more acres available for outdoor enjoyment.

The project is being thought of as a 3 way venture with the State, the County and the Park District participating. Officials of all three bodies are in favor of the project. Governor Rhodes and Natur-

al Resources Director Fred E. Morr are especially enthusiastic.

Bedford Reservation Existing and Proposed Development Map



* - Pocket Picnic Area

..... - All Purpose Trail

Would Create

1961

Year-Round Water Playspot

One of the most beautiful public recreational facilities in the State of Ohio will soon be a reality in Bedford if present negotiations with the federal government are carried through.

The Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board and the Cuyahoga County Commissioners have cooperated to develop plans for a dual-purpose dam across Tinkers Creek within the borders of Bedford Reservation.

Primary function of the dam would be flood control for the Cuyahoga River Valley. Secondary attraction would be creation of a 140-acre lake to provide boating, fishing, swimming, ice skating and skiing facilities.

Dam with a 300-foot spillway would be constructed 1,000 feet upstream from the railroad trestle bridge seen from Dunham Road. Reservoir would be continued in the gorge downstream from the City of Bedford. It would lie completely within the 1,260-acre Metropolitan Park reservation.

Normal lake level at the dam would be 150 feet, making it possible to stock species of deep water fish not found in any other nearby waters. Flood level at the dam would be 185 feet.

Dam would be an earth-fill structure with a control tower and concrete spillway around one end. The lake, spreading fingers into the natural contours of the precipitous gorge, would have an estimated seven miles of coastline.

Harold W. Groth, director of the Metropolitan Park District, is enthusiastic about plans for the lake, which he assures would not detract from the natural beauty of the park. Trees above the water line

would be left standing, he says.

Public park facilities would include boat docks and bathing beaches. Groth said the lake would freeze in wintertime and the level could be pulled down for skiing from the slopes onto the lake, as well as ice skating.

Portion of the reservation which would be used is now in an undeveloped natural state. Steepness of the gorge makes it difficult to enter. Attempts to maintain bridle paths have been unsuccessful due to periodic flooding which washes them away.

Definite plans for the recreational development have yet to be worked out. First must be determined a method of financing the \$3,800,000 project. But Groth is confident that the dam is so important to the Cuyahoga Valley that it will be built, one way or another, and could be completed in as little as three years.

The Bedford Times.

Seventy One Years of Service to Bedford . . . Northfield . . . Oakwood . . . Walton Hills .

VOL. LI, No. 17—Printed in Two Sections—Section One

2-9-1961

BEDFORD, OHIO, THURS

Federal Aid Sought For Flood Control Dam Here



Would Build Reservoir In Metropolitan Park

Now in the hands of the United States government are plans for a \$3,800,000 flood control project for the Cuyahoga River Valley which will vitally affect future industrial growth in the valley and, as a pleasant consequence, provide a recreational lake for the Bedford area.

Plan grew from a survey on flood control measures made at the request of county commissioners by the Stanley Engineering Company. The firm found the most economically feasible and attractive solution to the Cuyahoga River flooding problem would be construction of a reservoir on Tinkers Creek below Bedford.

The completed Stanley report last fall drew enthusiastic approval of commissioners and the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District on whose land the reservoir and its retaining dam would be built.

Commissioners have appealed to the federal government for financial aid in carrying out the project. Flood control is in the bailiwick of the Corps of Army Engineers. Similar projects have been carried out elsewhere in Ohio by army engineers who both construct and operate the dams.

Frank M. Gorman of the commissioners has furnished leadership in pushing the project and has been named its official expeditor. He and others on the board have written congressmen urging development of a \$4,000,000 appropriation for Cuyahoga Valley flood control.

Responsible for coordinating phases of the survey and subsequent plans is the Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Foundation. Its executive director, John H. Byrne, cites the wealth-creating value of the project:

"The \$3,800,000 estimated investment for the proposed flood control dam and reservoir in Tinkers Creek in the Cuyahoga River Valley pre-

sents a spectacular opportunity to create hundreds of millions of dollars of new wealth in land values, industrial and commercial development and new jobs for thousands of Cuyahoga County citizens," he stated.

"The project is feasible. It can be financed. It must be built to save lives and homes and reclaim by flood protection thousands of acres for urgently needed industrial sites for 'base' industries in Cuyahoga Valley, long regarded as the industrial backbone Ohio."

Byrne promises "immediate assistance in hastening the wealth-creating Tinkers Creek project will be put in operation."

There are other methods of securing funds for the project. The county could submit a bond issue to build the dam. It could be a threeway project with the federal government, the county and the park district sharing the costs.

The proposed dam has thus far only been tentatively designed. It can't actually be structurally designed until test borings are made at the site. And these await determination of a method for financing the construction.

"LAKE SHAWNEE"
(NOT DATED)

County Planners Optimistic Over Tinkers Creek Dam

By DICK WOOTTEN

County planners today know the path to a \$3,800,000 Tinkers Creek Dam project is strewn with obstacles.

To receive federal aid by 1965, they must: GET THE ENDORSEMENT of the National Projects Committee of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress next week.

CONVINCE the U.S. Congress to place money for a U.S. Army engineers survey in the July national budget. RECEIVE a favorable report from the Army declaring the project "economically feasible."

Officials Optimistic

Yesterday 50 county officials, mayors, engineers and property owners viewed the prospects of overcoming these obstacles with optimism.

They met at Pesano's Restaurant in Garfield Heights (which during the 1959 flood was two feet under water) to chart a course for the future.

Mayor Vernon Kraushaar of Brooklyn Heights, chairman of the Flood Control Committee of the Cuyahoga County Mayors Assn., said, "I have written to all of the senators and congressmen concerned and they have promised 100% cooperation."

Plan Lobby

Robert Anderson of the Stanley Engineering Co. said endorsement of the project by the National Rivers and Harbors Congress was "almost the same as having the project on the list of studies, backed by federal money, to be made by the Army Engineers."

Anderson will be an Ohio

A wide beach, located on missioners," the north shore of a 140-acre lake so that the sun warms it. Tentative schedule, if the Army Engineers get the final day, with a swimming and diving area for 5000 people include a year of detailed and a bathhouse.

A boat launching area with parking space for 200 boats and trailers; and facilities for boat and electric motor rentals; a fishing and boating cove.

When that begins, the Park Board will work first on clearing the swimming area, and

then the boating area, offering the removed land to help fill the dam.

New lakeside picnic and play areas for more than 500 people, a day camp area and a trailside museum; two winter toboggan and ski slopes.

All these will be provided by the proposed 2½-mile long Lake Shawnee in the Bedford Reservation of Metropolitan Park, if the Federal Government provides ways to finance building of a dam across Tinker's Creek, lying at the bottom of Bedford Gorge.

Efforts to have an Army Engineer Corps feasibility study included in the 1961 federal budget are being made in Washington. If they are successful, the project could be completed by 1965.

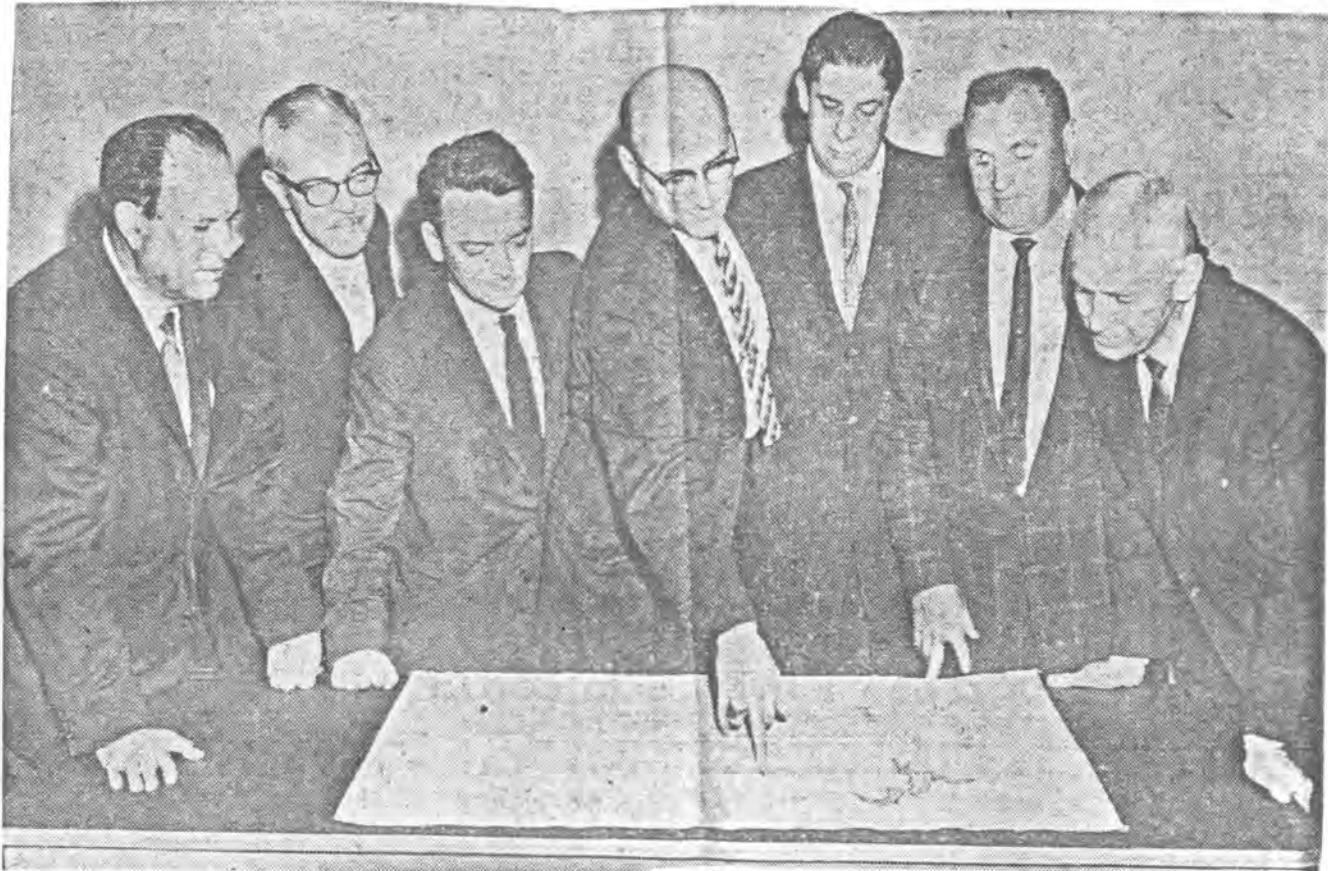
Plans call for filling the gorge to form a lake 810 feet above sea level, or close to 200 feet deep at some places. It would be the deepest lake in Ohio.

In winter the level would be lowered 38 feet, exposing sloping banks along the south shore for winter sports.

"This will be the most complete recreation facility in the Metropolitan Parks," said Harold W. Groth, park director. "It will have everything—boating, swimming, camping, picnic facilities, museum, winter sports."

The recreation facilities all will be financed by the Park Board. But building of the dam for flood control purposes on land donated by the Board probably will be financed by the Federal Government or the County Com-

"LAKE SHAWNEE" NOT DATED



VIEWING TINKERS CREEK DAM PROJECT PLANS

are these county planners who were briefed yesterday on the \$3,800,000 project preliminary to a hearing in Washington next week. Shown are County Engineer Albert Porter, Army engineer Norman Sanders, County Commissioner Frank Gorman, engineer Robert Anderson, whose engineering firm has completed a project study, County Commissioner William P. Day, Mayor Vernon Kraushaar of Brooklyn Heights and William Henry of the Regional Plan Commission.

AN EDITORIAL 2-1961

Tinkers Creek Kindles New Spark

There is an old expression, "not worth a tinker's dam," which refers to the clay moulds used in great quantities by early metals workers. Inasmuch as the dams had to be broken to remove them — and thereafter were of no value — the expression has come down to us as a synonym for worthless.

By an unrelated series of circumstances, the expression "Tinkers Dam" now has new importance and stature for the Bedford area and the Cuyahoga River Valley.

Damming of the historical 28-mile Tinkers Creek within the limits of Bedford Reservation will create a tremendously important new recreational facility for our city along with its utilitarian function of providing flood relief for the industrially wealthy river valley.

Our local Metropolitan Park will become the most important link in the "Emerald Necklace" which encircles Greater Cleveland and will attract thousands of pleasure-seekers into and through Bedford. It will provide summer and winter sports facilities such as Bedfordites have never before known, right at our doorstep.

(Continued on Page 3)



ENGINEERS CONTEND that holding flood waters at Tinkers Creek will prevent the Cuyahoga River from overflowing its banks as it did in January 1959 at the intersection of Routes 17 and 21.

We're Bound to Get Beautiful New Lake



N. R. HOWARD

By N. R. HOWARD 8/7/1961

Contributing Editor P.D.

LAKE
SHAWNEE"
8-7-1961

Some day not so far off, the deepest and most beautiful lake in Ohio will be just outside Cleveland, hovering over the Cuyahoga valley something like a mountain land-lock.

I went to look at its site, the other day, guided by Harold Groth, director of the Metropolitan Parks, and John Byrne, water conservationist. Even without water in it, it is one of the jewels of the "emerald necklace" of our county park system.

It already has a name, "Lake Shawnee"; its feasibility has been charted for the county government by the Stanley Engineering Co., and it has two bargains to its prospect which in this expensive day are immeasurable.

Unless something unforeseen delays it, Lake Shawnee will fill two and a half miles linear-wise and 150 acres of already owned Metropolitan Park at the three-ridge gorge of Tinker's Creek south and west of Bedford, so precipitate as to look from the tops like the Alleghenies in northern Pennsylvania.

The site does not have to be acquired, though the park board might profitably pick up some small adjacent parcels as protection for the lake as a resort. If the lake site had to be acquired—this wild-wooded, cliff-lined valley—the project would cost many millions.

Nature Seems to Suggest Proper Site

At the west end of the location, two of the ridges begin to curve toward each other, as if by a suggestion of Nature as to where the gorge could be inclosed.

To dam it here with a 200-foot stone and earth dam with water gate controls and a roadway across the wall probably would cost less than any comparable dam in the state's whole water conservancy system. This dam would pile up the waters of Tinker's Creek to give most of Lake Shawnee a depth of nearly 200 feet, which is as deep, approximately, as Lake Erie.

The other bargain stems from the circumstance that Tinker's Creek and its tributaries supply one-third of the water that comes down the Cuyahoga into Lake Erie.

By controlling one-third of the river's water, this dam will end for good the flood hazards of the Cuyahoga lower valley and reclaim thousands of acres of now half-dependable, half-useless land for badly needed industrial sites that could become worth multi-millions in land value and industries thereon.

From a "lookout" Groth has built on a vision-opening off the Bedford park reservation highway on the south ridge of Tinker's Gorge, you see delicious pictures, from the imagination, of this forest lake. Visible are two or three of the high-shale cliffs up the gorge, and below, almost below your feet, are the treetops of virginal forest.

The 150 acres for the water will have to be lumbered out, of course, which is no great job for the Metropolitan Parks kind of natural maintenance; to leave the bottom woodlands it would give us a lake of rotting vegetation.

Except in one or two places where low parts of the ridges would be shaved down for bathing beach and docks, Lake Shawnee would be surrounded by cliffs and deep forest, so an extent no other man-made lake in Ohio has these. Pictorially it will be terrific.

Tinker's Creek comes to the gorge, after rising in or near Geauga Lake, in comparatively unpolluted condition, and the fall of the lake as regulated by a big modern dam would be engineered to create swift enough current to be cleansing.

Very interesting how this lake was "discovered" and plotted to be of such value. Two years ago, after the flash floods that wrecked even the East Side of Cleveland, the county commissioners called a convention of commissioners from surrounding counties in which our various streams originate to discuss small-stream hazards. Out of it came a contract to the engineering company for the now widely known "feasibility report" as to the Cuyahoga.

Almost the first engineering discovery was of the Tinker's Creek control. A long time before, the thoughtful Groth had envisioned what big recreational water would do in that deep gorge, so the Metropolitan Parks jumped in with glad cry. Now the county, the parks and the county's Regional Planning Commission are all working on it.

Though most conservancy lakes cost tens of millions, the agencies are talking about \$5 million or \$6 million for a job that would not only build dam and lake but relocate, in the interests of down-water river users, a section of the Cuyahoga.

At the moment, the plan is ready to go to the U.S. Army Engineers, the river guardians, for study, suggestions, possibly some finance planning.

I would think that, if our county and parks governments would offer to build the dam, the engineers and "Washington" might offer, in return for such local enterprise, to do quite a lot more.

Have no fears. This Lake Shawnee is a natural certainty, if it has to build itself.

LAKE SHAWNEE
12-5-1963

12/5/63
963

Giant Dam Backed for Cuyahoga

From First Page

ers Creek reservoir in the Bedford Reservation.

South Park is still in the dream stage. In a letter to Groth inviting his comments, Koenings said:

"Our report is merely a draft and does not yet reflect the preliminary views of this bureau. Review and approval must be secured from Washington before the report has any status."

However, his report saw the reservoir as "a tremendous recreation attraction" for the Cleveland-Akron complex capable of 10 million visitor-days a year.

THE RESERVOIR would back up behind a 40-foot dam across the valley near the Tinkers Creek junction. Besides all highway crossings except Route 82 and the Ohio Turnpike, it would inundate the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad right-of-way, a paper mill and other industries and homes.

It would wipe out the park drive between the Brecksville and Bedford Reservations and swallow up about 400 acres of park in Brecksville alone.

A 30-foot variation in water level would creat four miles of mud flats at the southern end at low water, Groth said.

Groth told Koenings that the proposal was "quite a visionary thing" and "community support would be hard to secure." He questioned what local agency could afford the estimated \$1 million annual bill for maintenance and operation.

KOENINGS HIMSELF cited a major obstacle. He said the water would have to be clean. The Cuyahoga carries the Akron area's sewage effluent and a foaming load of detergents.

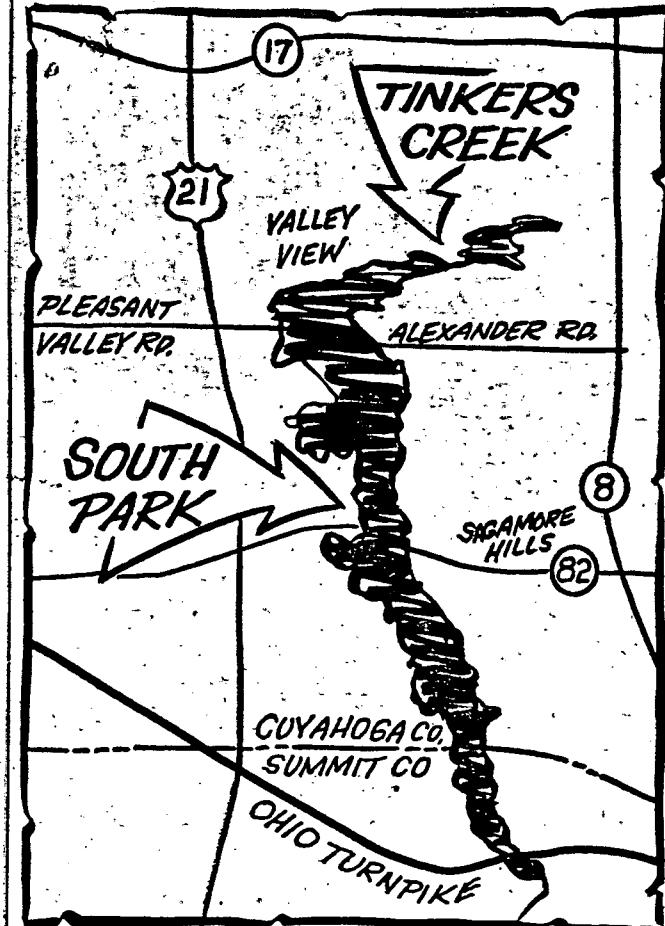
Koenings criticized the Tinkers Creek project as of "little significant recreation potential." It would require a 142-acre reservoir for flood control and recreation at an estimated cost of \$4 million, plus \$6 million more for Cuyahoga River channel improvement to open the valley for industrial expansion.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation is a recently created agency of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

of \$15 million as "completely unrealistic." Groth guessed that the total cost might be nearer \$75 million.

THE BUREAU'S report by Roman H. Koenings, regional director with offices in Ann Arbor, Mich., has been submitted to the Buffalo district engineer's office of the Corps of Engineers. The corps is in the second year of a feasibility study of the more modest

Continued on Page 8, Col. 6



The Cuyahoga Valley would be turned into a 15-mile-long reservoir under the South Park proposal suggested by a federal recreation agency. Arrow points to the Tinkers Creek impoundment project for which South Park would be a substitute. Plain Dealer Map (Roy Heam)

12-4-63

Giant Cuyahoga Dam Is Proposed

By ROBERT J. DRAKE

A tentative report by the federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation envisions the damming of the industry-rich Cuyahoga Valley above Cleveland to create a giant flood control and recreation lake.

The proposed South Park project would be a 2,800-acre lake stretching for 15 miles south of the mouth of Tinkers Creek to Peninsula. It would wipe out the towns of Boston and Jaite, eliminate all but high-level highway crossings and swallow some 600 acres of Metropolitan Park land.

Vigorous objections have been raised by Harold W. Groth, director of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park System, who branded the bureau's preliminary price tag

"LAKE SHAWNEE" 1963

Advantages of Tinker's Creek Dam Outlined

The economic, industrial and recreational benefits of both the county and the municipalities in the area," he continued. Additional benefits in badly needed recreation facilities were described yesterday to 66 national, state and city persons interested in water conservation.

At a luncheon in Hotel Carter, John Byrne, executive director of the Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Foundation, pointed out that the area concerned is not only a manufacturing center but also an ideal distribution center with highways leading in all directions.

William B. Henry, director of the Regional Plan Commission, described the region.

"From the dam up to the Harvard Rd. Bridge, 850 acres would be protected from 100-year floods (the most devastating kind), and of that area only 70 acres are unbuildable," he reported.

"Roughly 90% of that area is zoned for industry, and if it were made useable, it

would broaden the tax base of both the county and the municipalities in the area," he continued. Additional benefits in badly needed recreation facilities were described by Harold park property, in an area Groth; Metropolitan Park di- that now is almost inaccessible," he said.

"The 170 acres that would be flooded by construction of the dam lie entirely within areas, swim and boat-launching facilities and winter sports areas, just southwest of the heavily populated area of Cleveland.

"Nothing would be disturbed, we would lose nothing, and the dam would augment our facilities — everything is on the plus side."

Also endorsing the Tinker's Creek dam project were Curtis Lee Smith of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce and County Commissioner Frank Gorman. They asked the luncheon guests to cooperate in helping to win federal funds to finance part of the project.

Tinkers Dam, Reservoir to Be Aired

Plans for the proposed flood control dam and reservoir at Tinkers Creek in the Cuyahoga River Valley will be aired Friday before the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Public hearing is scheduled at 1 p. m. in the Brooklyn Heights City Hall. The meeting was arranged by Lt. Col. Leon J. Hamerly, chief of the Buffalo district of the Army Engineers.

Present will be representatives of the Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Foundation, Metropolitan Park Board, industries, railroads, and mayors of Valley View, Garfield Heights, Independence, Cuyahoga Heights and Brecksville.

Army engineers will ask for a report on frequency and seriousness of floods in the Cuyahoga valley and details on the proposed flood control plan.

The engineers will report their findings to members of the River and Harbor Committee and the Public Works Committee of the U. S. House of Representatives.

Parks Chief Hits Idea of Dam, Lake

A flood-control proposal that would put under water 2800 acres of land from near the month of Tinkers Creek to Peninsula, O., has been criticized as unrealistic by Parks Director Harold W. Groth.

The proposal, originally made some 30 years ago, has been revived in a report issued by the U. S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

It calls for construction of a 40-foot dam and creation of the 2800-acre recreation lake.

The South Park project lake would eliminate the Baltimore & Ohio Rail Road tracks, homes, roads and industries.

The report does not have the approval of the bureau which issued it. Groth said it's a pipe dream.

Groth said he expects the Tinkers Creek flood control program, not the South Park project, will eventually be approved and constructed.

Dick
Squier's
notes
1992 *

- 10: In 1965 William F. Nimberger was hired by the Cleveland Metropolitan Park to survey Bedford Reservation and was successfull in to oppose the building of a Tinkers Creek Dam and a "LakeShawnee" p.290 WITH DRAWING OF THE PLANS !!!! Also, picture of "Venerable n.oak-on Willis Indian Mound 62 (p.293!!!!
- 11: JOE SESENSKY MAP OF TINKERS CREEK * * * * 394, P.295 + p.298 296.297
- 12: Egypt MOUND p.326,327,328

Tinker's Dam

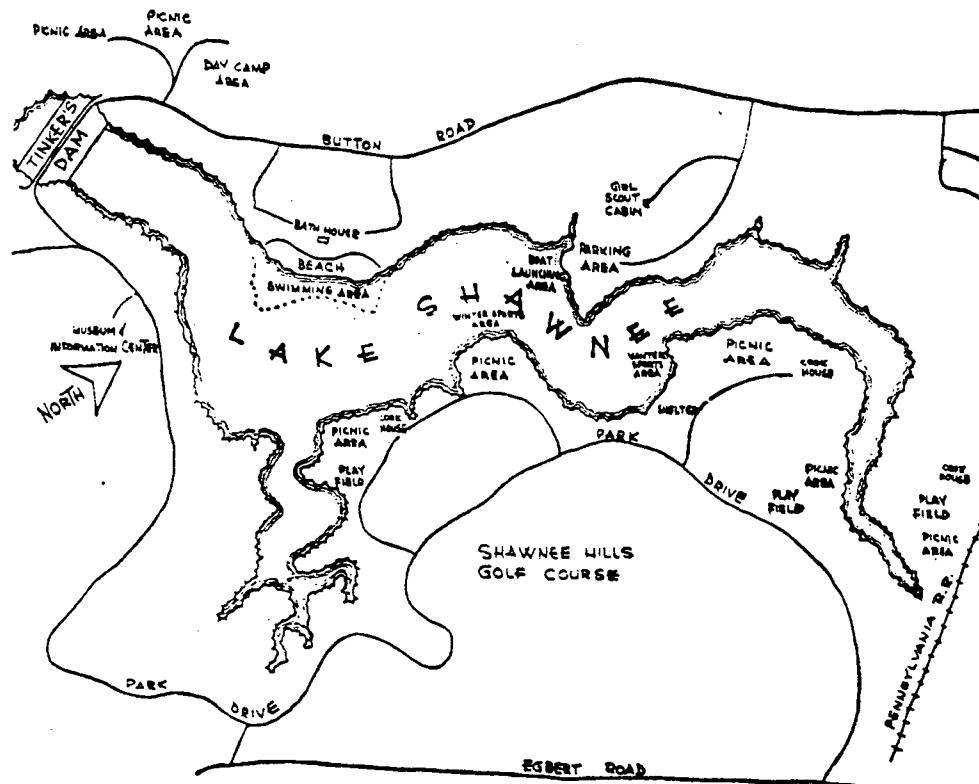
The Lonely Dedication of Bill Nimberger.

In 1965 William F. Nimberger was employed by the Cleveland Metropolitan Parks to make a survey of the Bedford Reservation. The survey became a complete botanical, geological, archaeological and ecological record of the rugged Tinker's Creek gorge.

Bill Nimberger was an appropriate choice for the job. He was already familiar with the wilderness far off the roads and trails in our Bedford Glens, having spent four or five years in roaming through the Glens and

noting the natural wonders to be found there. In addition, he was a knowledgeable student of the sciences involved.

Day after day, during that summer and autumn, Bill systematically and thoroughly covered the park from the railroad arch to the Dunham Road bridge, on both sides of the stream. With his topographic map, steel measuring tape and notebooks and pencil, he carefully noted and recorded (in an almost illegible scrawl) what he observed, from the water level up the slopes and cliffs.



CLEVELAND PRESS MAP

Nimberger's Tree Documentation

TINKER'S CREEK



Basswood



Pignut Hickory

'64



Tupelo

182



Venerable N. Oak - on Willie Indian Mound 62



W. Oak



Tulip Poplar - Record Size

'57



Red Cedar



Scarlet Oak



Crack Willow

2

TINKERS CREEK BECOMES POLLUTED

For decades in the 1900s polluted water filled Tinkers Creek and its tributaries. Polluted water flowed through villagers' properties, parkland and eventually emptied into the Cuyahoga River. Much of the pollution entered streams from Bedford and Walton Hills businesses situated along Northfield Road, Krick Road and the north end of Egbert Road. The polluted creeks had foam floating on the surface, slime-covered rocks and water that supported little, if any, desirable plant or animal life.

Starting in the early 1900s, Brass Pond was a basin of foul odors and toxic wastes. Brass Pond was located at the west end of Krick Road Industrial

Park, on land more recently owned by the S. K. Wellman Corporation. Polluted water from Brass Pond flowed over the dam into the East Branch of Deerlick Creek. Over a hundred years ago Best Foundry dug the five-acre Brass Pond along the creek, for a water supply for its manufacturing plant. A concrete dam was built at the west end of the pond. Today, Krick Road Industrial Park is situated on the site of the old foundry.

The pollution of Tinkers Creek could be attributed to Best Foundry or other nearby manufacturing plants. McMyler-Interstate Company, an industrial complex of fifty buildings stretching along Northfield Road from Interstate Street to the railroad tracks, manufactured giant cranes, heavy equipment and during World War I, munitions and other war supplies. A more recent contributor of hazardous wastes could have been S. K. Wellman's bucket division plant that faced Egbert Road.

Over seven decades several businesses, industries and residential properties drained their liquid wastes into Brass Pond. The combination of chemicals dumped into the water from many varied sources formed new compounds, some of which were toxic wastes containing high levels of ammonia, nitrogen, iron, phenolic compounds and aluminum. Polluted water went from Brass Pond, to Tinkers Creek, to the Cuyahoga River.

CLEANING UP POLLUTED CREEKS

After years of working closely with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, in 1978 Thomas G. Young, Mayor of Walton Hills, got permission from the Ohio EPA to drain Brass Pond. A local work crew drained and cleaned out the pond and then knocked down the dam.

The Ohio EPA was then able to trace and monitor the source of any new pollutants entering the stream. The Ohio EPA, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and the Cleveland Metroparks began working together to prevent liquid wastes from entering local Tinkers Creek tributaries.

Within a decade there were visible signs that this section of Tinkers Creek and its tributaries were improving. The rocks lost their slimy, whitewashed appearance and became more natural looking, and once again the water began to sustain schools of small fish and other animal life.

THE POLLUTION AND CLEAN UP OF LOCAL CREEKS

For many years polluted water filled creeks flowing through villagers' properties. Much of the pollution entered streams from Bedford and Walton Hills businesses situated along Northfield Road. The pollution wasn't confined to our village. From the branches of Deerlick Creek it was carried into Tinker's Creek, and eventually emptied into the Cuyahoga River. The polluted creeks had foam floating on the surface, slime covered rocks, and water that supported little, if any, desirable plant or animal life.

Brass Pond, located at the end of Krick Road Industrial Park, no longer poses a menace to Walton Hills, thanks to the persistence of Former Mayor Thomas Young. For many years, starting in the early 1900's, Brass Pond was a basin of foul odors and toxic wastes. The polluted water from Brass Pond flowed over the dam and into the East Branch of Deerlick Creek.

At the turn of the century Best Foundry (part of today's Krick Road Industrial Park encompasses the foundry site) dug a five-acre pond along East Branch of Deerlick Creek to have a water supply for its plant. A concrete dam was built at the pond's west end to contain the water. The property on which the pond was located is now owned by the S. K. Wellman Corporation.

Perhaps the pollution began with the foundry's manufacturing process, or possibly from liquid wastes created by other nearby plants. The McMyler-Interstate Company, with its industrial complex of fifty buildings stretching along Northfield Road from Interstate Street to the Conrail tracks, manufactured giant cranes and other heavy equipment. Later, during World War I, they produced munitions and other war supplies. That company could also have contributed significantly to the pollution of the water.

Most likely the problem was created and allowed to accelerate by the several businesses, industries, and residential properties that drained their liquid wastes into the pond over seven decades. Neighboring septic tanks drained into Brass Pond through ditches and natural water sources. The combination of chemicals dumped into the water from many varied sources formed new compounds, some of which were toxic wastes containing high levels of ammonia, nitrogen, iron, phenolic compounds, and aluminum.

Mayor Young conducted many hearings and worked closely with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to solve the pollution problems caused by Brass Pond. After years of effort, in 1978 Mayor Young got permission from the Ohio EPA to drain the pond. Young and Al Spoto (the Road Commissioner and Building Inspector) not only planned the clean-up operation, but they themselves toiled with other workers to drain and clean out the pond. They siphoned most of the water over the dam, draining the pond slowly to prevent flooding of the stream. When the dam could be knocked down a crew from S. K. Wellman provided the machinery and manpower to do the job.

Once the pond was drained and cleaned the Ohio EPA was able to trace and monitor the source of any pollutants entering the stream. As a result the Ohio EPA soon began to ride herd on a few Bedford and Walton Hills companies who were still dumping untreated water into branches of Deerlick Creek.

In 1954, while Ford's Walton Hills Stamping Plant was under construction, Cuyahoga County built the Walton Hills Sewage Treatment Plant to handle the wastes from industries on both sides of Northfield Road. However, as the industrial area grew during the next thirty years, the treatment plant capacity was not sufficient to handle the waste volume and the plant was subsequently abandoned. Krick Road and other local companies are now tied into the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District through the Cuyahoga Valley Interceptor Sewer System.

The Ohio EPA, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and the MetroParks are constantly working to prevent liquid wastes from entering the local Tinker's Creek tributaries. It is hoped that when all the local sewers are tied into the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District the pollution level will no longer pose a hazard.

Already there are visible signs that our creeks are cleaner than they have been for years. The rocks have lost their slimy, whitewashed appearance and are more natural looking; and the water can sustain schools of small fish and other animal life once again.

Village of Walton Hills, Ohio

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

May 17, 1977

The Honorable William J. Brown
Attorney General of Ohio
Environmental Law Section
State Office Tower 17th Floor
30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Subject: Case No. 75-WC-209
Erieway Pollution Control Company Inc.
33 Industry Dr.
Bedford, Ohio 44146

Dear Mr. Brown,

On July 30, 1976 Mr. Ned E. Williams, Director of the Ohio E.P.A. requested that your office take all appropriate legal action against Erieway Pollution Control Company for violation of an order issued October 28, 1975 by the Director pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 6111.03 (H) and 3745.08. The Company is also in violation of section 6111.07 (A).

According to Mr. Dennis E. Lee from the Northeast District Office of the O.E.P.A. your office has been in contact with Erieway for obtaining compliance quote "without the expense and further delay of legal action".

Mr. Lee also stated that your office had given Erieway until November 30, 1976 to come into compliance or legal action would be initiated.

To date, the original order and extension have not been complied with and no action has been taken by your office.

Erieway collects polluted caustic solutions, waste oils and spent pickling liquors from industrial firms in Cleveland and surrounding areas. Word has it that they are expanding their geographic collection area to include a wider range of political subdivisions (cities and counties).

Page 2

The Director's orders required Erieway to submit detailed plans relative to their site, operations and treatment facilities within 90 days (February 1, 1976) after receipt of the orders. To date they have submitted six or seven sets of plans to the Northeast District Office of the Ohio E.P.A. and none have been approved by that office.

The Chem-Pac sludge material which is a residue of their industrial waste treatment operation was to be removed from their premises with the exception of 7,500 cubic yards within 75 working days.

Erieway had been using their site as a landfill area which was an unapproved site and without a permit.

The accumulation of this material drastically changed the topography of the industrial location, desecrated the site and created slides which caused the sludge to move onto residential property.

The order issued requires Erieway to submit reports twice a month to the Ohio E.P.A. and to the Bedford and Walton Hills communities specifying the quantity of Chem-Pac sludge produced, quantity removed from the premises, the location of disposal, the sources of industrial waste received and the volume, method, and location of disposal of the liquid waste from their operations.

Since November 1, 1975 thru March 15, 1977 Erieway's non-certified reports have indicated 1,501 cubic yard of Chem-Pac produced, 49,344 cubic yards (1,332,288 cubic feet) of Chem-Pac removed from the premises and 5,691,650 gallons of liquid waste hauled to their Plant number II located at 2516 Train Ave in Cleveland, Ohio to be dumped into the Cleveland Regional Sewer System.

A visual inspection of their premises would indicate that in no way have they removed 1.3 million cubic feet of the accumulated Chem-Pac sludge.

The Director's orders also required Erieway within 14 days to construct and maintain dikes on its premises to prevent the discharge of pollutants to the waters of the State and which shall contain all liquid industrial wastes on their premises.

The numerous recorded inspections by the Northeast Office of the O.E.P.A. reflect repeated violations of this order permitting the liquid wastes to enter a creek tributary which feeds into Tinkers Creek in the Cleveland Bedford Metropolitan Park (now designated as part of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park area) and in turn into the Cuyahoga River in Valley View.

On one inspection the company was caught discharging their liquid waste into the Cuyahoga County Sanitary Sewage Treatment Plant in Walton Hills through a manhole which had a connection to the sewer system. They were doing so without a permit.

Page 3

The creek tributary that carries the seepage and overflow from Erieway runs bright orange and stains the creek bed in a similar color.

On a most recent incident the Enforcement Division of the United States E.P.A. ordered the Company to dam the water tributary and to siphon off the oil spills it had created.

On days when there is little air movement the caustic odors create body irritations that cause the affected residents to close their doors and windows in fear of any health hazard the odors may present.

The Cleveland Regional Sewer District ordered the Company to stop discharging excessive amounts of iron into the districts Westerly Sewage Treatment Plant from their Train Ave. facility.

Erieway was discharging 10,000 pounds of iron daily into the sewers and much of it went into Lake Erie turning the lake orange and causing the sewer district to violate its state discharge permit.

The Cleveland Regional Sewer District Board considered banishing Erieway from the use of the sewer system. They recently imposed operating conditions on the Company by requiring them to post a \$10,000 bond and construct a pollution sampling station and the district would than closely monitor discharges from Erieway.

Cleveland Regional Sewer Board Director Andrew Unger stated that Erieway has failed to live up to any of its commitments to the sewer district.

Mr. Brown, your office has been quoted as stating you are not taking action against Erieway in order to obtain compliance without the expense and delay of legal action.

It has been nineteen months since Erieway was told to conform to orders by the Director of the Ohio E.P.A. and they continue to pollute.

To date, there has been twenty two State, Federal, County, City and Village Agencies and Departments involved with the problems of pollution that Erieway is creating. The problems have involved the time and efforts of fifty plus public officials in these various Agencies and Departments.

In a news article, the Cleveland Regional Sewer District stated they spent some \$18,000 in staff time policing Erieway in just a seven month period from May thru November 1975. I hesitate to guess the total cost of the governmental agencies, departments and personnel involved.

Sufficient documentation exists to indicate Erieway's contempt towards the Ohio E.P.A. and the inability of the Ohio E.P.A. to compel this company to comply with their orders.

The records also indicate the reluctance and failure of your office to take the necessary and requested action in support of the agencies efforts.

Mr. DeGaetano, President of Erieway, has been quoted as stating "the State doesn't want to close us down and our grounds and operations don't constitute a beautiful site but Erieway processes industrial waste that would otherwise end up in streams, lakes and sewers".

Records indicate the industrial waste is still ending up in streams, lakes and sewers but in more centralized locations.

We at the local level have no power to enforce the O.E.P.A. laws and we must appeal to your office and legal council for action.

I find it rather ironic that Erieway's stationery letterhead reads "State Approved Industrial Liquid Waste Disposal".

We are appealing for a response and action!

Sincerely,



William E. Bosway
Councilman
Village of Walton Hills, Ohio

WEB:jw

cc: Ned Williams, Director O.E.P.A.
 Ralph Everett, Environmental Board of Review O.E.P.A.
 Bruce Cryder, Attorney General's office
 John Januska, Group Chief Northeast District Office O.E.P.A.
 Dennis Lee, ~~Group Chief~~ Northeast District Office O.E.P.A.
 James A. Rhodes, Governor State of Ohio
 Ron M. Mottl, Congressman 23rd District
 Donna Pope, State Representative 12th District
 Arnold Leder, Enforcement Division United States E.P.A.
 Robert Bolus, United States E.P.A.
 William Birdsell, Superintendent Cuyahoga Valley National Park
 Andrew Ungar, District Director Cleveland Regional Sewer District
 Raymond Kudukis, President Cleveland Regional Sewer District
 Harold Schick, Director Cleveland Metroparks System
 Howard Bergman, Commissioner Cleveland Division of Air Pollution Control - Dept. of Public Health and Welfare
 Paul Beck, Cuyahoga County Sanitary Engineers Office
 John Fidley, Editor Bedford Times Register
 Betty Klaric, The Cleveland Press
 Judith McCluskey, Cleveland Plain Dealer
 City of Bedford, Public Officials
 Village of Walton Hills, Public Officials
 Jerome A. Stano, State Senator 24th District
 Richard F. Celeste, Lt. Governor State of Ohio
 William Bohna

THE S. K. WELLMAN CORP.

200 Egbert Road
Bedford, Ohio 44146
Phone: (216) 232-2400

RE: BRASS POND

July 18, 1978

Arthur Gedeon
U.S. EPA
Federal Bldg.
Cleveland, OH 44199

Dear Mr. Gedeon:

Thank you for your assistance during our conversation of today. I would appreciate it if you could investigate the possibility of our obtaining assistance from the Federal EPA in planning to drain the lake on S. K. Wellman property.

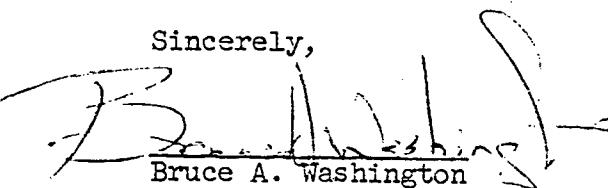
As I mentioned, the lake is man made and is estimated to be 60 years old. Total surface area of the lake is not more than five acres. We estimate that it contains from 15 to 20 acre feet of water. The OEPA feels that the lake is dead except for algae and bacteria.

We propose to drain this lake. We have not decided whether the drainage will be temporary or permanent but our purpose is to reduce odor problems in the area and determine if there are any effluents entering the lake at below surface levels.

I trust that you will get more information from Jim Irwin regarding the names of possible sources of pollutants. Any pressure which could be exerted by your office on the polluters would be appreciated.

In the event we do decide to drain the lake, I would need written confirmation of your statement that the Federal EPA requires no permits or other forms for such an undertaking.

Sincerely,


Bruce A. Washington

Director,
Facilities & Equipment Engineering

BAW/deg

cc: Arthur Dickard, City Manager, Bedford
Mayor Thomas Young, Walton Hills✓
Jim Irwin, Ohio EPA, Twinsburg
File

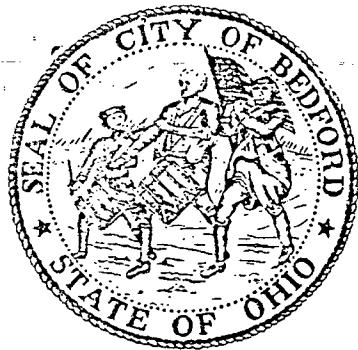
Received 7/20/78

Copies to all councilmen, clerk and Mr. Spoto



Velvetouch

FRiction PRODUCTS



CITY OF BEDFORD OHIO

65 COLUMBUS ROAD

BEDFORD, OHIO 44146

PHONE: (216) 232-1600

: RE: TOXIC WASTES
in Tinker's Creek

July 13, 1978

Mr. Ned E. Williams, P.E., Director
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
361 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43216

Dear Mr. Williams:

The City of Bedford and the Village of Walton Hills have been working jointly for a number of years in an attempt to resolve an environmental problem associated with industrial pollutants getting into what was once a fresh water lake but which is today a sludge pond with a few feet of a mixture of oils and water.

During this period of time, your local Twinsburg office of EPA has been extremely helpful and cooperative. However, their authority is certainly limited. We have had a number of meetings held recently with one of our larger manufacturers, the S. K. Wellman Company, Mayor Thomas Young, Council Members, Service Directors and representatives from your Twinsburg office. However, we have reached the point where we need to involve you from an authoritative nature representing the Ohio EPA. Additionally, we have had a meeting with a Federal representative of EPA and were advised that until such time that the State of Ohio exhausts all remedies and there would actually be a violation of Federal EPA regulations, they cannot physically become involved.

Our meeting adjourned yesterday, July 12, with each one of us being responsible for arranging a major meeting on July 26 here in the City of Bedford. I am, at this time, requesting that you, as Director of Ohio EPA, if at all possible, attend this meeting. We are going to also invite a representative of the United States Corps of Army Engineers and representatives of the Federal EPA. As is evident by those being invited to this meeting, the problem is extremely severe and critical. What we are going to discuss is both the feasibility and possibility of seeking approval to possibly drain all or part of this five acre body of water. We will be looking to you for direction as to how to proceed with the undertaking of this project.

Mr. Ned E. Williams
Ohio EPA
July 13, 1978
Page 2.

On behalf of Mayor Romito, Mayor Young and myself, your presence would be deeply appreciated and necessary for the success of this very important pending meeting.

Once again, the date for the meeting has been set for July 26 at 3:00 P.M. at Bedford City Hall. Please confirm your availability.

Very truly yours,



Arthur V. Dickard
City Manager

AVD/ds

cc: Mayor Andrew V. Romito
Mayor Thomas Young, Walton Hills
Mr. James Irwin, Twinsburg Office of EPA
Mr. Bruce Washington, S. K. Wellman Company
Mr. James Podojil, Councilman, Walton Hills

THE S. K. WELLMAN CORP.

200 Egbert Road
Bedford, Ohio 44146
Phone: (216) 232-2400

RE: BRASS POND

July 18, 1978

Mr. Fred Mueller
Corps of Engineers
Cleveland District
End of E. 9th Street
Cleveland, OH 44199

Dear Mr. Mueller:

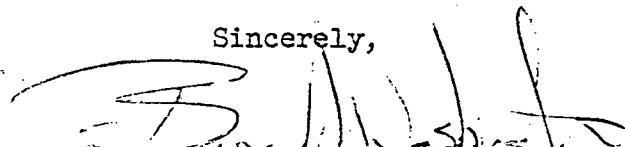
This letter is to confirm our conversation of today regarding draining the lake on our property. As I mentioned, the lake is man made and is estimated to be 60 years old. Total surface area of the lake is not more than five acres. We estimate that it contains from 15 to 20 acre feet of water. The OEPA feels that the lake is dead except for algae and bacteria.

We propose to drain this lake. We have not decided whether the drainage will be temporary or permanent but our purpose is to reduce odor problems in the area and to determine if there are any effluents entering the lake at below surface levels.

I would appreciate it if you could confirm by letter your statement that the Corp of Engineers requires no permit for such a project.

Thank you for your kind assistance.

Sincerely,


Bruce A. Washington

Director,
Facilities & Equipment Engineering

cc: Arthur Dickard, City Manager, Bedford
Mayor Thomas Young, Walton Hills ✓
Jim Irwin, Ohio EPA, Twinsburg
File

Received 7/20/78

Copies to all councilman, clerk and Mr. Gandy



*Brass Pond
Brush-Wellman Inc still pollutes
soil*

Eyesore looked at as business park

PATRICK O'DONNELL
Plain Dealer Reporter

BEDFORD — A company that cleans up old industrial sites for new uses could convert the former home of a Brush Wellman Inc. brake factory into a business park.

Hemisphere Development of Beachwood hopes to make the former brake parts plant on Egbert Road into a light industrial park. The contaminated site has been vacant since Brush Wellman stopped using it almost 20 years ago.

The project hinges on state grants available through the Clean Ohio Fund, a \$200 million account created in a statewide vote in November 2000. The pur-

pose of the fund is to make old industrial sites, called brown-fields, competitive for development.

Hemisphere executive Todd Davis said the company needs financial help to remove and treat contaminated soil and debris at the Brush Wellman site.

"Without the grant funds, the economics wouldn't make sense," Davis said.

Hemisphere has taken a lead in reusing old industrial sites in Northeast Ohio. It previously worked on the Collinwood Yards in Cleveland and last year received two of the three Clean Ohio grants awarded in the region.

Those grants are helping to create an industrial park at East

80th Street and Kinsman Road in Cleveland and to convert the old Diamond Shamrock Superfund site in Fairport Harbor into a housing and marina development.

If Hemisphere wins grants in the next round, decided in December, the company will rid Bedford of an eyesore and boost the city's tax base.

The city long has wanted to put the land to new use. Several months ago, the city weighed buying the land from Brush Wellman with tax money and completing the cleanup with city money and grants. It held off as it sorted out cleanup costs and considered risks of undiscovered contamination.

"The city wasn't really ready to

do it alone," said Rebecca Corrigan, the city's economic development director. "You really need somebody that's an expert to carry this and follow it through."

Bedford may need to contribute to the reclamation by co-applying for grants, paying some cleanup costs or allowing taxes from the new park to pay for new roads and sewer lines.

Davis said Hemisphere has expertise that cities lack.

"I think Bedford's very happy not to get into the nitty-gritty of the cleanup work and development," he said. "It takes the financial risk off the city's plate."

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter:
paodonnell@plaind.com, 216-999-4818

Lake odor to be solved

SouthEast Sun
10-5-1978

Re: Brass
Pond

By MADELAINE
FLETCHER

BEDFORD — Cooperation among Walton Hills, Bedford and the S.K. Wellman Corp. could solve the problem of the smell coming from the lake behind the S.K. Wellman plant on Egbert Road.

City Manager Arthur Dickard told council at its Monday night meeting that the long-standing problem of the odor should be solved

by agreement of Wellman officials to lower the level of the lake.

"The problem with the lake is not the water, but the sludge," Dickard said. "By lowering the water level of the lake, the sludge can be lifted out to be air dried or re-buried," he said.

According to Dickard, the state and federal Environmental Protection agencies (EPAs) have been involved with the meetings with him, Tom Young, mayor of Walton Hills, and Wellman representatives.

"The EPA said the lake is dead and there's no bringing it back, so there's no harm in lowering the level," Dickard told council.

The lake level would be lowered through a siphoning process, whereby the water would be sent out regular inlets. Dickard said the water would be so diluted that it would not have any harmful effects on

downstream waterways.

"The water is leaving the lake through these inlets now, the siphoning will just accelerate the process," he said.

Dickard said the sludge build-up is a problem caused by years of abuse. He said no dumping is going on now except for accidental spills. "Over the years the lake was used as a dump, and the sludge is a result of that," he said.

Dickard said he is happy about Wellman's willingness to help solve the problem.

Council was hampered in its regular business Monday night by the absence of three members. Mayor Andrew Romito, councilmen Andrew Zolata and Harry Chambers were not at the meeting, which meant council couldn't pass any legislation on emergency.

Council put on first reading an ordinance awarding the Morton Salt Co. a contract for \$450,500 for rock salt.

THE S. K. WELLMAN CORP.

200 Egbert Road
Bedford, Ohio 44146
Phone: (216) 232-2400

RE: BRASS POND

January 29, 1979

Roxane Alaimo
7133 Allen Drive
Walton Hills, OH 44146

Dear Ms. Alaimo:

Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you on 1/26/79. I hope that during our discussion the S. K. Wellman Corporation's desire to be a socially responsible neighbor of Walton Hills and Bedford was clear.

With specific regard to the lake problem, we have been working with the Mayor of Walton Hills on this problem for some time. We have directly involved the district office of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the state offices of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the city of Bedford. During the progress of the meetings, we have taken a course of action which led to the following activities.

1. An attempt was made to find the source of pollution which was being fed to the lake which would cause the smell. All inlets were examined for a period of time, but nothing conclusive was found.
2. The idea was brought up that the smell might be coming from activity or chemicals already in the lake. Samples of water and sludge were taken by EPA and analyzed. The problem was found to be most likely associated with the sludge in an anaerobic bacterial activity called Benthal Decomposition.
3. Research was done to determine the levels of authority required to drain the lake and to determine potential problems which might result.
4. The City of Walton Hills has begun to lower the level of the lake with the ultimate intention of making it into a channel to alleviate or reduce the problem

Enclosed you will find a copy of an article from the "Southeast Sun" dated 10/5/78. This may help to understand the problem. I should mention that hauling the sludge away may not be necessary. We feel that simply drying it in air will solve the odor problem.

Please feel free to contact The S. K. Wellman Corp. should you have further questions.

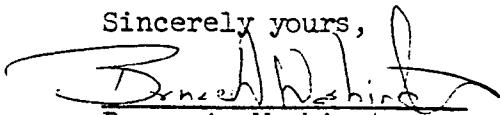
Received 2/5/79

Copies to all councilmen & Mr. Spata.

VELVETOUCH

FRiction PRODUCTS

cc: R. H. Rozek, President
R. S. Kaminski, Vice President

Sincerely yours,

Bruce A. Washington
Director, Facilities &
Equipment Engineering

Mayor Tom Young, Walton Hills ✓

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

Village of Walton Hills, Ohio

RE: TOXIC WASTES in VILLAGE CREEKS

October 12, 1984

Mr. Ralph M. Potter
2618 Brainard Road
Pepper Pike, Ohio 44124

Dear Mr. Potter:

I have received your letter relative to the condition of the creek in the Bedford Metropolitan Park area.

There are two water tributary runs in our Village which empty into Tinkers Creek and carry water flow from residential and industrial districts of Walton Hills, Bedford and Oakwood. For years, these creeks have been a constant issue of concern and discussion with the residents and public officials of Walton Hills and the neighboring communities. We have great concern with the pollution they carry and deposit into Tinkers Creek in the Bedford Metropolitan Park which is now part of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation area.

My files are full of correspondence and papers relative to the occurring conditions of these waterways.

The chalky substance you recently discovered is a alkaline deposit resulting from a cement plant which has been depositing its "wash-out" water into the creek.

In discussion with Mr. William Miller an Environmental Engineer from the Twinsburg office of the Ohio EPA, he informs me that this company has been put on notice and has been given a date deadline to conform to the standards of the agency. He will be monitoring the situation.

The recent opening of the Cuyahoga Valley Interceptor Sewer trunk lines through our Community should have some positive effects upon these waterways.

Also, the federal government has mandated a industrial pre-treatment program of industrial waste water. *not meeting certain standards*

I have enclosed copies of the most recent correspondence I have had regarding the situation.

I want to thank you for your concern and assure you that Walton Hills has been attentive to these conditions.

Sincerely,

William E. Bosway
William E. Bosway
Mayor
VILLAGE OF WALTON HILLS, OHIO

Tom Stanley, Cleveland Metroparks System

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

10-12-1984

Village of Walton Hills

City of Bedford

Sirs;

RE: TOXIC WASTES IN VILLAGE CREEKS

One of my favorite walks in the Metroparks starts near Lost Meadow picnic area in the Bedford park, and follows a lovely creek up one side and down the other. Recently I was shocked to find that the creek had become grey-white, due, I found, to a heavy deposit of chalky material on every rock.. Following the creek upstream, I found it crosses Egbert Rd. near Walton Rd., crosses Walton, coming from the wooded area east of Walton. It appears to originate somewhere near the industrial area between Egbert and Krick (Forbes) Rd.

I would like to know how and why such an act of heavy pollution occurred. I would hope that a determination could be made by appropriate authorities as exactly where the pollution originated to so that these questions could be answered, and so an agreement could be reached as to how to prevent such an act in the future.

I am sending a copy of this letter to both local papers in hope of developing broader support for obtaining action on this problem.

Sincerely yours,
Ralph M. Potter
2518 Brainard Rd.
Pepper Pike, Ohio 44124

Just don't chug-a-lug Deer Lick's beery suds

Cleveland P.O. 10/28/84

From Mayor Boway

By PAULINE THOMA

STAFF WRITER

A stream running through the Cleveland Metroparks' Bedford Reservation has what looks like beer foam on its surface.

The stream flows over rocks that appear to be coated with layers of thick, white paint. The water, when it can be seen under the foam, has the appearance of diluted milk.

Known as Deer Lick Run, it is a tributary to Tinkers Creek. One of the many places the dirtied waterway can be seen is where it runs beneath Egbert Rd. at Walton Rd. in Walton Hills.

Park devotee Ralph M. Potter, a chemist who lives in Pepper Pike, alerted The Plain Dealer to the deterioration of the once-clear creek.

Potter, an environmentalist, said he was shocked to find a heavy deposit of chalky material on every rock in the water. He questioned how the pollution could have occurred and wondered who has the authority to clean it up.

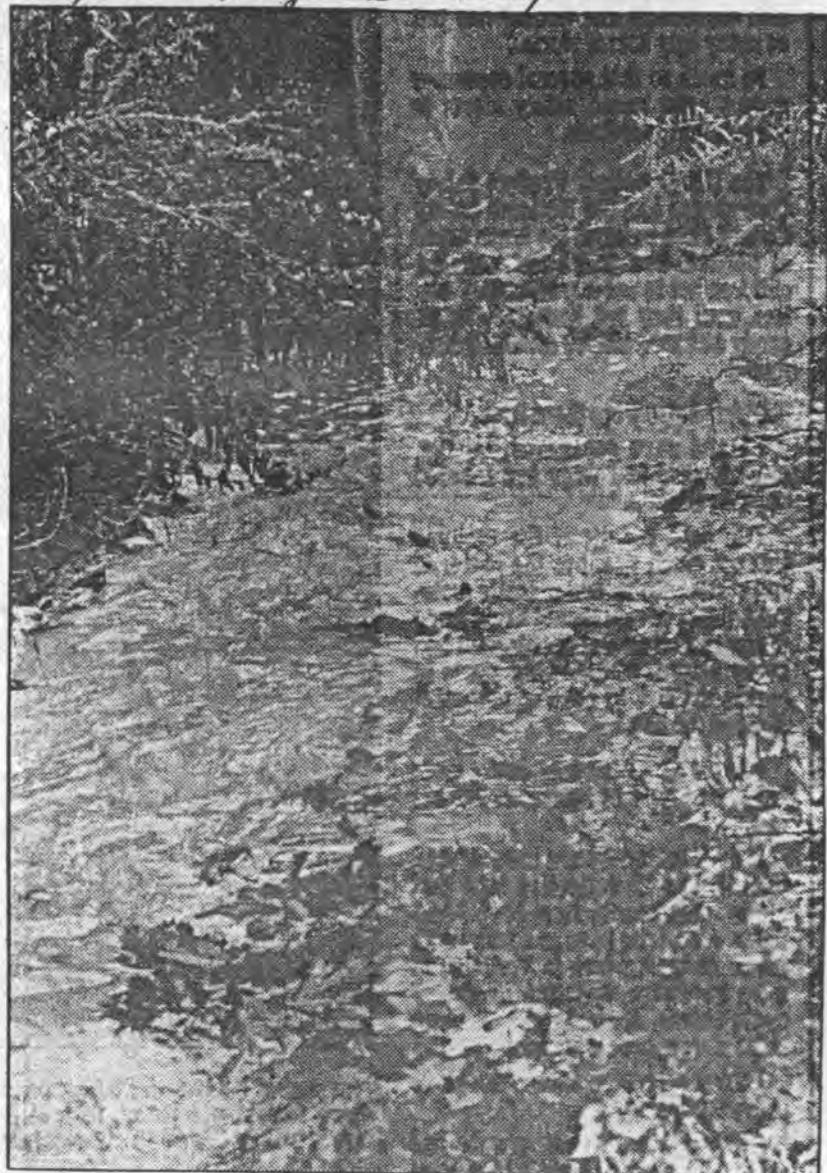
The dirtiness comes as no surprise to the park district, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, all of which are trying to get the pollution stopped at its sources.

Robert D. Davic, environmental scientist-biologist with EPA's waste water surveillance division, blamed four polluters: the Walton Hills sewage treatment plant and three firms in the nearby Krick Rd. Industrial Park — Bedford Anodizing Co. and Great Lakes Etching & Finishing Co., both at 7010 Krick, and the chemical division of Ferro Corp., 7050 Krick.

Davic said samples were taken from Deer Lick Run four times last summer and many violations of water quality standards were found. Among the pollutants in the water were ammonia, nitrogen, iron, phenolic compounds and high levels of aluminum, he said.

In explaining what would make the water turn white, he said the most likely possibilities would be diatomaceous earth and aluminum compounds.

James F. Weber, manager of the sewer district's industrial waste section, said the EPA had "soft-pedaled its regulations" recently because the Cuyahoga Valley Interceptor (CVI) was nearing completion and EPA



Deer Lick Run, at Egbert and Walton roads in Walton Hills, looks like a river of beer.

believes tying the treatment plant and the industrial firms into it will solve the pollution problem.

Weber said the Walton Hills plant was connected to the interceptor Sept. 25. Ferro Chemical at about the same time and Great Lakes Etching a short time later. The sewer district, after evaluating the industrial discharges from Bedford Anodizing to determine if the waste is acceptable for the new interceptor, gave permission to the company Wednesday to tie in, which is expected to take several months.

When discharged materials are deemed unacceptable for the interceptor, Weber said, companies have to pre-treat their wastes before they can run it into the sewer.

Weber said diatomaceous earth is relatively innocuous, and aluminum hydroxide, also found in the water, is not toxic to humans but does get trapped in gills of small fish and causes them to suffocate.

Ron Poole Jr., son of the owner of Great Lakes Etching, denied any waste is going from there to the creek. He confirmed the plant has been connected to the CVI.

Thomas DeWeese, owner of Bedford Anodizing, which treats aluminum to prevent oxidation, said his firm uses aluminum hydroxide. He said the substance is by nature a milky color. He said he expects to be able to connect to the interceptor by the end of this year.