

New park is quite a sight

By John Switzer
Dispatch Staff Reporter

A park with a view of three counties, a rare sight in central Ohio, opens today in Fairfield County.

Chestnut Ridge Metro Park, between Canal Winchester and Carroll on Winchester Road, is the newest park in the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District.

METRO PARKS Director Ed Hutchins said the park gets its name from a sandstone ridge that runs through it. The ridge is 1,050 feet above sea level.

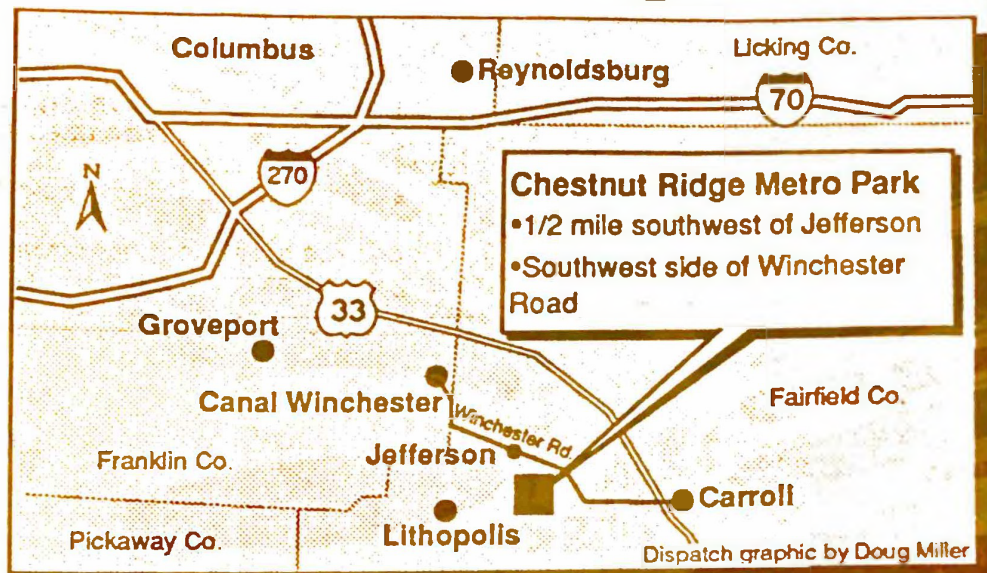
"It allows you to look into three counties — Pickaway, Fairfield and Franklin," he said.

"On a clear day you can see the skyscrapers in Downtown Columbus," he said. "It is one of the outstanding natural landmarks in central Ohio. It really stands out."

The park is on the southwest side of the road, 4 miles southeast of Canal Winchester.

The 500-acre tract includes a 2-mile nature trail, picnic areas and toilets. For the time being, it will be open only on Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m. until dark. It will not be open Christmas Day.

THE RIDGE was once covered



with chestnut trees. They were destroyed by the chestnut blight in the 1930s and '40s. Oaks, maples and other hardwoods grow there now.

Other parks in the metro system include Battelle-Darby Creek, Blacklick Woods, Blendon Woods, Highbanks, Inniswood Metro Gardens, Sharon Woods and Slate Run Park.

The system also has the Slate Run Historical Farm and Pickerington Ponds, a wetland wildlife refuge.

Hutchins said the metro parks

district, which began with Blacklick Woods in the 1940s, now manages about 11,500 acres. He said he hopes another park can be opened within the next 10 years.

"SOME OF these parks are filling to capacity on real busy days, so we think there is a need for another park," he said.

"We have to go to the voters in November for renewal or replacement of our existing 10-year, 0.23-mill tax."

He said a new park could be part of the system's 10-year plan, financed by that levy.

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Chestnut tree, an old favorite, seeing revival

By Earl Aronson
Associated Press

When I was a child — a long time ago! — chestnuts were a regular feature of our Thanksgiving dinner. Street vendors selling hot-roasted American chestnuts were a common sight.

Chestnuts still are available in food markets, but most are of a Chinese variety. A blight early in this century killed most of the American chestnut trees, once a major source of hardwood lumber from forests in the Eastern United States. The nuts were also an important food for early settlers and their livestock.

MY GRANDFATHER often took me into the woods at his farm in North Wilbraham, Mass., to show me the tall, gray, ghostly dead chestnut trees. He often sent us bags of chestnuts, before the fungus disease ruined the trees.

The disease was accidentally introduced to the East Coast from the Orient in 1904. It spread at the rate of about 20 miles a year, killing an estimated 3.5 billion chestnut trees in half a century.

Many years of research have gone into efforts to develop an immune tree. Chestnuts grow in many areas, but they are a species known as the Chinese chestnut, which is blight resistant.

The trees grow quite rapidly and may begin producing nuts two to three years after planting. Two or more trees of different varieties are needed for nut production.

Chestnut trees should be planted in well-drained, sandy loam soil. They prefer a moderately acid soil with a pH near 6.0. I'm told they won't survive in low areas with poorly drained soil.

Several new chestnut varieties have been developed in this country. One is the Revival Chest-

One new variety, the Revival Chestnut, was the first chestnut to receive a U.S. plant patent.

nut, which R.D. Wallace, president of Chestnut Hill Nursery in Alchua, Fla., says was the first chestnut to receive a U.S. plant patent.

Wallace said it "offers the best-possible combination of characteristics found in American and Chinese chestnuts."

He added: "It bears extremely large, sweet, easy-to-peel nuts, has a straight-boled, upright growth habit, and beautiful, lustrous green foliage. It has the same blight resistance that is found in varieties of Dunstan Hybrid Chestnuts. Revival Chestnut offers the opportunity to bring back the heritage of the great American chestnut."

Mature Revival Chestnuts, Wallace said, can annually produce from 1 to 2 tons of nuts per acre. He says the trees will grow and bear in many U.S. climates.

Chestnuts are nutritious; they are high in protein and carbohydrates, and low in fat. Chestnut Hill describes the nuts as "a grain that grows on a tree."

Chestnuts may be prepared in many ways, and are a delicious ingredient in soup, stew and poultry stuffing.

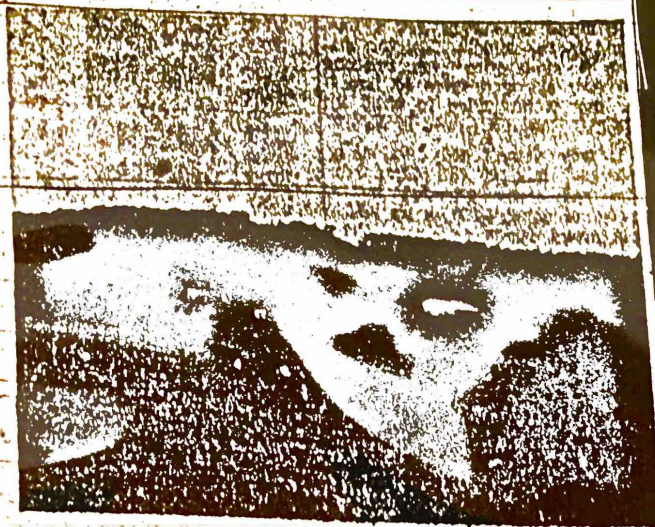
Chestnut Hill says chestnuts will retain their freshness up to six months when stored in plastic bags in the vegetable drawer of the refrigerator or in a root cellar (at 35 degrees). The nuts ripen in September and October and are easy to harvest.



Eagle-Gazette

NATURE NOTES

by Charles Goslin



CHESTNUT RIDGE . . . Looking north from the Cramer Mill Road (County Road 25).

CHESTNUT RIDGE . . . For years we have wanted to walk Chestnut Ridge but for some reason we never got around to doing it until last Sunday. American chestnuts once grew on this high ridge in Bloom Township, which extends from Jefferson on old Rt. 33 to near Lithopolis . . . hence the name Chestnut Ridge. By the many stumps of chestnut trees still present on this ridge we knew that the chestnuts were once abundant on this range of hills which are a part of the Allegheny escarpment that crosses Fairfield County.

No longer are there any American chestnuts growing on Chestnut Ridge or in any other area. . . . The chestnut blight which was first reported in the U. S. in 1904 has completely destroyed (except for a few sprouts from old roots) the native American chestnut. Here in this high ridge we did not find even an old root that was still alive. . . . Only stumps, fallen trees and a few standing skeletons of this once magnificent tree. From George Patrick of Greencastle we learned that, years ago, groups from as far away as Pickerington would come to Chestnut Ridge in the fall to gather large quantities of chestnuts. . . . Now it is a thrill to find just one chestnut bur during the entire fall season. On rare occasions one will find a chestnut bur on the sprouts that grow from the old roots. No longer do we need those special clubs (a broom handle with a heavy metal nut on one end) we used to knock down the chestnuts.

The end of the ridge above Jefferson looked interesting to this is where we started our walk along Chestnut Ridge. We worked our way thru goldenrods (dried plants), tick-trefoil (beggar's lice) and briars to reach this wooded point, rather than follow a lane. The lane would have taken us to the point, but it first passed thru an orchard. . . . it would have been difficult to explain that we were interested in the rocks and trees native to this ridge and not in the fine apples that are grown there. There are many orchards on Chestnut Ridge and many of the trees were loaded with apples. (This observation was made from a distance so I cannot vouch as to how delicious they were).

Beech, sugar maple, chestnut oak, basswood, dogwood, and other kinds of trees grow on this hill that overlooks Jefferson. As we walked among these trees we noticed that the ground was strewn with small sandstone boulders. . . . Could there be a sandstone outcrop on this ridge? . . . There is. . . . Out on the point we found an abandoned stone quarry. By the size of the sycamores, wild cherries and a red maple, we knew it had not been worked in years. The sandstone, 39 feet of it, that's exposed in this quarry is marked with dark brown streaks and rings. . . . an iron oxide which is probably limonite.

From the notes of the late Jesse E. Hyde we learned that this sandstone has been named the Lithopolis member of the geologic formation known as the Cuyahoga, and which is just beneath the Blackhand sandstone that forms the scenic area of Hocking County. . . . we found other quarries on Chestnut Ridge.

Newest metro park set for opening day

By Jim Fry
For The Dispatch

Today marks another milestone in the 43-year history of the Metro Park District of Columbus and Franklin County when Chestnut Ridge Metro Park opens at 7 this morning.

The park will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m. to dark.

The entrance to Chestnut Ridge is on the southwest side of Winchester Road, between Amanda-Northern and Benson roads, 4 miles south of Canal Winchester.

Chestnut Ridge features parking for 50 cars, restrooms, a picnic shelter and cooking grills. The 2-mile nature trail goes through mature and second-growth woodlands. Hikers also can view meadows from the trail, which traverses bottom lands, hillsides and a ridge.

The trail includes a 700-foot boardwalk. Numerous sugar ma-

NATURE

ple trees are along the trail. Also along the trail are a large umbrella magnolia and the stumps of two American chestnuts. A beehive is located in a wild black cherry near the trail entrance.

The opening of this metro park is in keeping with the way park district operations are administered. Members of the board of park commissioners, who serve three-year terms without pay, are appointed by the Franklin County Probate Court judge.

Michael B. Karr, Everett J. Krueger and Dr. Robert M. Zollinger are the commissioners. Edward F. Hutchins has been director-secretary of the park district since 1970 and served as a board member in the 1960s.

The park district was created Aug. 14, 1945, when a hearing



Sugar maple

was conducted in Franklin County Probate Court.

Thirty-five people testified in favor of creating a park district. There was no opposition. Judge C.P. McClelland said it was a pleasure to preside in a matter on which everyone was on the same side.

Jim Fry contributes stories on nature for The Dispatch 12-18-88

The Restoration of the American Chestnut

Charles R. Burnham

Once abundant, the American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), sometimes called the sweet chestnut to distinguish it from the horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), has almost disappeared from forests, the victim of a destructive fungus (Fig. 1). No other native tree matched its usefulness or its place in American culture. Through current research this handsome tree, whose wood was so functional, has an excellent chance of coming back (Burnham 1981; Burnham et al. 1986).

The American chestnut once comprised 25% or more of the native eastern hardwood forest. In the United States its range extended north from the lower New England states to Vermont and Maine, west to Michigan, and south to Mississippi and Alabama, reaching also across the Canadian border into southern Ontario (Fig. 2). It was a big tree, averaging 90 to 120 cm in diameter and 25 to 40 m in height, with occasional specimens reaching even greater size (Fig. 3).

Indians living in the northeastern United States were probably the first to take advantage of this versatile species. Even-aged stands at

some village sites indicate that the trees might have been planted (Day 1953). When the first settlers arrived, they found a tree better suited for timber than the European chestnut *C. sativa*; in addition, the nut of *C. dentata*, although smaller than its Old World counterpart, was better flavored. When the land was cleared for farming, a few of the better nut-producing trees were saved.

When many New England farm-

the mainstay of that industry. The tree was no less valued for its appearance and shade: throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries chestnuts were frequently planted along city streets and country roadsides.

From the forester's point of view, the chestnut was exceptional for several reasons. It grew rapidly, often adding one or more centimeters in diameter each year—a remarkable rate of growth for a high-quality hardwood. Also unusual was its strong coppicing, or sprouting, ability (Fig. 5; Graves 1926). When trees were harvested, sprouts from the stumps soon became large enough to be thinned for use as poles; the remaining sprouts were left to grow into timber (Zon 1904). Thus no replanting was necessary. An annual crop of nuts, rare among nut-bearing trees, made the chestnut a dependable source of food for man and wildlife (Fig. 6). For many Appalachian families it also provided an important cash crop. Boxcar loads of chestnuts were shipped to the large cities, where street vendors sold the roasted nuts. The loss of the chestnut tree added to the hardships caused by the Depression in the 1930s.

The chestnut-blight fungus probably entered the United States before 1900 on nursery stock of other *Castanea* species imported from the Orient. It was first reported in the United States in New York in 1904, and by 1910 the American chestnut trees in the New York Zoological Park were dying. At that time many of the hardwood forests consisted of second- and third-growth trees that had sprung up following clear-cutting of the original forest. The great competitive ability of the chestnut sprouts often resulted in almost pure

*Mendelian genetics
offers a powerful tool
for solving a problem
that has not yielded
to other approaches*

ers abandoned their farms and moved to lands farther west, the American chestnut reestablished itself on these farms through natural reproduction of the trees that had been saved. The straight-grained wood, not as hard as oak and thus more easily worked, had many uses, including lumber for heavy construction, shingles, paneling, furniture, musical instruments, pulp wood, and fuel for homes and industries (Fig. 4; Betts 1943). The wood split easily and was widely used for rail fences, sometimes known as "worm fences" because of their zigzag form. High in tannin, chestnut was as resistant to rot as redwood, and was therefore used for telephone and telegraph poles, mine props, and fence posts. Most of the ties for the first railroads were made of chestnut. Tannin from the bark and heartwood of the chestnut was the best available for tanning heavy leathers and was

Charles R. Burnham is emeritus professor in the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, where he taught from 1938 until his retirement in 1972. He has also taught at West Virginia and Purdue universities. His realization that the backcross method could restore the American chestnut led to the creation of the American Chestnut Foundation by a group of interested scientists in 1984. His research interests have included the breeding of field corn, winter barley, and sweet clover, breeding for disease resistance in sweet corn and watermelons, and chromosome translocations and their uses. Address: Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota, 1509 Gortner Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Is this the Chestnut's Last Stand?

In Michigan, some determined senior citizens are helping scientists save the blight-ridden trees

By Mike Toner
Photographs by David Kenyon

AFTER 76 AUTUMNS among the woods and orchards of Lake Michigan's eastern shore, Ward Taylor knows the signs of the season by heart: the scattered frosts of September and the steady procession of colors—the maple's red and gold, the sumac's crimson and the birch's blazing yellow. Taylor also knows that by the second week of October, in scattered groves from Benton Harbor to Traverse City, the spiny burrs that hang from a few special trees will be parting to drop the mahogany-colored nuts that form inside of them.

The first tiny cracks in the husks are his summons to action. Without intervention, the nuts will drop and be quickly devoured by deer, squirrels and wild turkeys. But for Ward Taylor and 85-year-old James Comp, these particular nuts are too precious for such a fate. The trees that bear them are among the last healthy stands of the American chestnut on the planet. And the few bushels of nuts they yield each year are the dwindling fruits of a species that once—before it was decimated by chestnut blight—dominated the eastern forests from Maine to Georgia. The scattered chestnut groves of Michigan's lower peninsula are the



Head of a small army of nut gatherers, Ward Taylor (above) shows burr-covered seeds from a rare healthy chestnut. He sends the nuts to researchers, who are trying to restore populations of the tree.

Sprouting from the base of its nearly lifeless parent (left), a young chestnut tree offers the hope of a new generation. A weaker form of blight may eventually allow saplings to grow to a ripe old age.

chestnut's last stand. Planted by settlers in the late 1800s, the trees lie several hundred miles beyond the species' natural range. Some of the trees have never been infected by the deadly blight. Others are actually recovering, aided by the appearance of a less deadly strain of the fungus that has killed more than 3.5 million trees.

That is why, during each October of the last ten years, two sprightly old men and an ad hoc army of senior citizens, conservationists, Boy Scouts and prison laborers, have trooped into the woods with burlap bags and fervent hopes that they may be doing their part to help the chestnut survive. After being dried and husked in Taylor's red-post barn near Manton, Michigan, the chestnuts gathered this fall will be turned over to a federal nursery, grown to seedling size and sold at nominal cost to researchers and amateur horticulturists.

In the decade since the program began, the group that Comp affectionately calls his "bunch of nuts" have salvaged a quarter of a million chestnuts. Last year alone, 15,000 chestnut seedlings were sold to the local Wexford County Soil Conservation District. After a decade of conservation, chestnut seedlings now grow in backyards from Georgia to Oregon.

The chestnut blight first established a foothold in the early 1900s in New York when sick trees were brought in from Japan. By 1950 it spread through the trees' natural range (colored area).



Both for those who plant those who make it possible the deciduous forest a deeply rooted nostalgia for a tree that was once the hardwood forest. "I watched a chestnut die," says Comp born five years before anyone in America had heard of chestnut blight. "Wherever I lived—in Maryland, West Virginia and Ohio—I watched it die. But this old tree is really a fighter. The roots never die."

Michigan soil conservation officials say that some of the program's earliest seedlings have already begun to bear fruit. But it is still too early to talk of success. Even in the wild, fresh chestnut "sprouts" often grow for several years before succumbing to the blight. In Michigan and a few other states, however, there are now faintly encouraging signs that chestnut blight itself is under attack—the victim of viruslike agents similar to ones that enabled the chestnut groves of France and Italy to fully

recover from the blight in the 1950s.

Weakened, or "hypovirulent" strains of blight have been introduced in America before, but there has been little success in getting them to spread from tree to tree. In Michigan, though, a cross-country skier discovered in 1976 what appeared to be a "homegrown" strain of the fungus. Research since then suggests that, although it also attacks chestnuts, the "new" blight does not overwhelm the trees' natural defenses. And to the elation of both scientists and chestnut lovers, it seems to be slowly spreading—squeezing out the lethal form of the blight as it goes.

Michigan State University scientists have identified at least 15 groves where

chestnut trees are either holding their own or actively recovering from the blight. Other weakened strains of the fungus have also been found on individual trees in Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia and southern Pennsylvania.

"In groves where the weakened strain of the fungus has established itself, we have seen continued recovery from the blight in the last five years," says Dennis Fulbright, a Michigan State plant pathologist. "The chestnut may never fully recover. But if we can get a grove that has been infected with chestnut blight where the trees live to maturity, we may be able to look forward to the day when the American chestnut will at least be able to survive in a state of flux."



Plant Your Own Chestnut Tree

GROWING a chestnut tree is no easy task. However, if you watch closely and attend to the tree as soon as the fungus begins to grow on it, you can fight the blight. If you're willing to take on this risky proposition, here are some tips:

- American chestnuts grow in almost any type of soil, but they do best in well-drained, slightly acid, sandy-loam soils. After you plant all of your seedlings, keep the area around them continually free of weeds.
- Plant seedlings in groups of at least three. The trees must be able to cross-pollinate. Without the other trees nearby, a chestnut will not bear fruit.
- Once your seedlings have taken root, you must continually check them for signs of the blight. Watch for cankers—orange depressions in the bark with small orange bumps protruding from them.
- As soon as a canker appears, give the tree a mud pack, as follows: take soil from the base of the tree and mix it with water into a cementlike mud. Plaster the mud over the entire canker, then cover it with plastic and tape it to the tree so the mud won't dry. Leave the pack in place for at least two months or, better yet, through an entire growing season. Remoisten it as often as necessary.

For more information about the trees and how to buy seedlings, write: Wexford County Soil Conservation District, 3060 West 13th Street, Cadillac, Michigan 49601. All requests should be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope (39 cents postage).

To appreciate the optimism in such a sober prognosis, it is necessary to appreciate the devastation the orange-colored fungus called chestnut blight left in its wake. At one time, the chestnut occupied a cherished, seemingly unshakable place in the American landscape. Thoreau praised the fragrance of its creamy white flowers and the succulence of its fruit in *Walden*. Longfellow's village smithy stood beneath a spreading chestnut tree. And the holiday tradition of "chestnuts roasting on an open fire" was a fixture for generations of life in America.

The tree was as impressive in life as it was in literature. With a broad crown and a trunk six feet in diameter, it some-

times grew as high as 120 feet. Its natural range covered 200 million acres of the eastern United States.

Sometime around the turn of the century, however, the spores of the lethal fungus apparently hitchhiked their way to North America on a shipment of imported Oriental chestnut seedlings. Although the Asian chestnut had long ago evolved its own defenses against the blight, the new arrival faced no natural enemies. The American chestnut was virtually defenseless.

Airborne spores of the fungus easily penetrated cracks in the chestnut's bark and grew swiftly in the nutrient-carrying layer of tissue between the bark and the tree's woody core. As it grew, the

fungus created visible wounds, or cankers, that slowly encircled a limb or the trunk and strangled everything above. In 1904, H.W. Merkel, a forester with the New York Zoological Society, noticed the first unsightly cankers on some of the chestnut trees in Bronx parks. Merkel tried cutting the fungus away, but finally gave up. Carried by the wind—and possibly by animals and insects—the blight spread rapidly. By the 1920s, the fungus had invaded 80 percent of the chestnut's natural range.

The blight showed up in chestnut groves in Europe in 1917, apparently imported in a shipment of mine timbers from the United States. By the 1950s, however, the appearance in Italy of weakened strains of fungus enabled the European species to recover.

In the genetically uniform trees of North America, the chestnut blight's devastation was more lasting. Only a few, widely scattered trees now survive. A recent survey by William Stambaugh and other Duke University scientists, for instance, found only 26 chestnut trees along the entire length of North Carolina's Appalachian foothills.

U.S. scientific efforts to save the American chestnut have been concentrated in two broad areas: the development of disease-resistant trees and the introduction of weakened strains of blight from Europe. Currently, researchers at four major universities are attempting to find a solution to the problem. Thus far, however, no miracle cures have been discovered.

The uncertainties only reinforce the Michigan volunteers' resolve to continue their annual chestnut harvest and recruit more volunteers. "We never know which autumn will be the last one for us," says Taylor. "We need to get more young people involved."

Because he is 85, Comp may, for the first time in a decade, decide to stay home from this year's "harvest." He worries about having someone to take his place. "It's not easy to get a lot of people excited about the American chestnut these days," says researcher Fulbright. "Most of the population of the United States is either too young to remember the tree, or too old to do much about it."

Mike Toner is science editor of *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*. Photographer David Kenyon works for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

VOL. 177, NO. 2



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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



Between Monterey Tides

ATHAPASKANS ALONG THE YUKON 44

A SOVIET SEA LIES DYING 73

COMMON GROUND, DIFFERENT DREAMS:
THE U.S.-CANADA BORDER 84

CHESTNUTS—MAKING A COMEBACK? 128

SEE "BALI, MASTERPIECE OF THE GODS" WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, ON PBS TV

invader, using every means

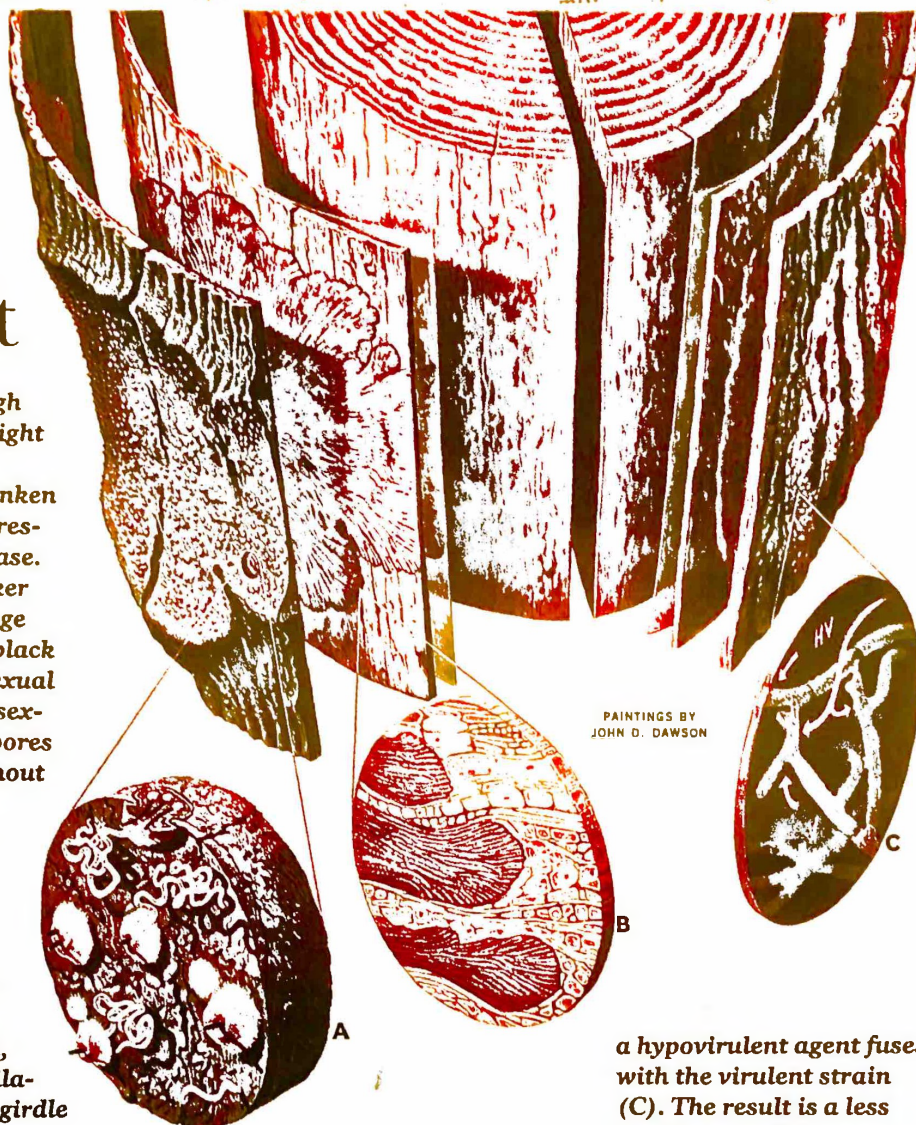
utilized, not only is it saved but

And sending up new shoots

Battling the blight

INVADING the tree through cracks in its bark, the blight fungus *Cryphonectria parasitica* develops a sunken canker, indicating the presence of the virulent disease. A closer look at the canker surface reveals the orange blush of stromata with black structures containing sexual spores and tendrils of asexual spores (A). These spores are transported throughout the chestnut's natural range in North America, Europe, and Asia (map and inset) by birds, insects, and the wind.

As the fungus continues to penetrate the inner layers of the bark, it grows in threadlike filaments that fan out and girdle



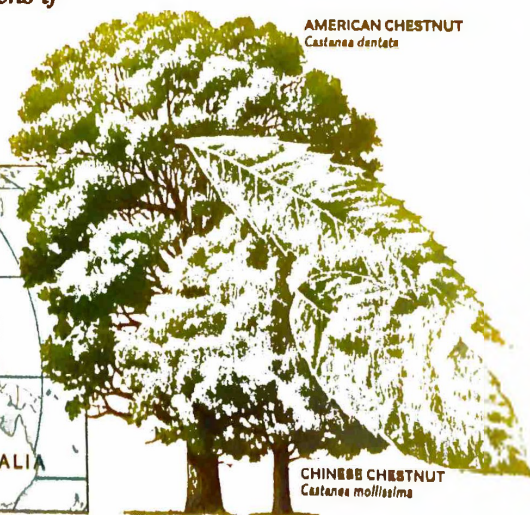
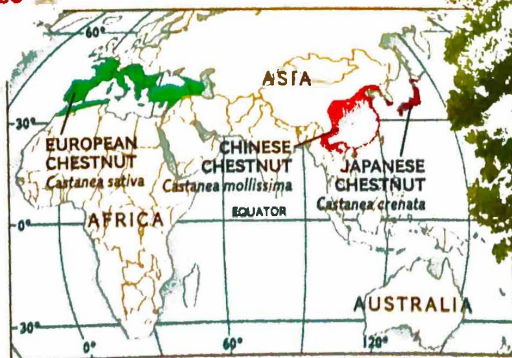
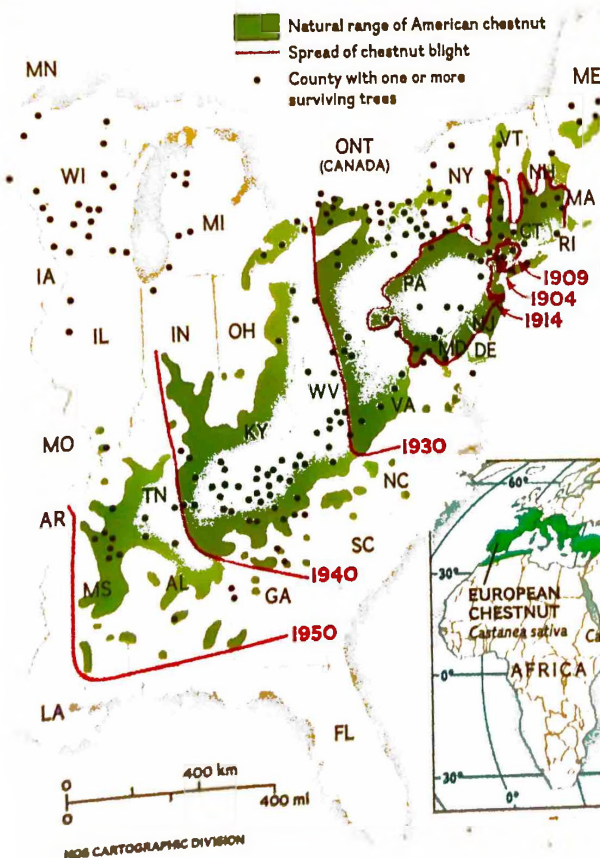
PAINTINGS BY JOHN D. DAWSON

the tree (B). As water and nutrients to the rest of the plant are choked off, the tree begins to die.

In Europe in 1951 a number of healing cankers appeared that contained a less virulent (hypovirulent) form of the fungus. Researchers now know that the chestnut-killing fungus weakens if

a hypovirulent agent fuses with the virulent strain (C). The result is a less significant infection that allows the chestnut to survive.

Evolving with the blight, Asian chestnuts bear a natural resistance. Although smaller than the American tree (below), they play a significant part in experiments to breed a resistant tree with American characteristics.



AMERICAN CHESTNUT *Castanea dentata*

CHINESE CHESTNUT *Castanea mollissima*

John W. Beasley
Penelope N. Beasley
Rt. 2, Box 95N.,
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608-835-7703
September 3, 1988

Mr. Stacy A. Brehm
8535 Winchester Road N.W.
Carroll, Ohio 43112

Dear Stacy,

Our order of the copy of Idle Weeds by David Wallace finally arrived, and I got my act together to write up a bit of the history of the Wagner Homestead. And, here they are! Please use the Wagner Homestead History (or the relevant parts thereof) in any way you see fit.

By Sister and Brother-in-law really appreciated the tour of the old family place. I may have started an epidemic of visitors! (Tho since I have only one younger brother, it shouldn't get to be too great.)

We'll look forward to staying in touch. If you happen to talk with Mrs. Ruth Melvin, please give her our best regards.

Sincerely,


John Wagner Beasley

P.S. - If you know
where I could reach
Dave R. Wallace, I
would like to get
in touch with
him. Thank you

September 3, 1988

THE WAGNER HOMESTEAD - JEFFERSON, OHIO

This is the history of the Wagner homestead which comprises the north end of the Chestnut Ridge Park outside of Canal Winchester Ohio. Written by John Wagner Beasley and Elizabeth Wagner Reed who are the grandson and daughter of John Ovid Wagner and Catherine Cleland Wagner who built the buildings, including the house, and established the orchard.

I, John Wagner Beasley, lived on the farm for most of the summers while I was growing up until I was 16. In many ways that farm was a second boyhood home - very different from my other homes in Minneapolis and St. Paul (the latter of which was in an academic ghetto) and was a very important place to me. My grandfather was in a way a third father to me, after my father who was killed in action at Salerno in WW II when I was about 18 months old, and my stepfather, Sheldon C. Reed, a Professor at the University of Minnesota. My grandfather taught me many things about mechanics, carpentry, and life! From my grandmother, those same summers, I learned the value of a positive view of life, a wonderful tolerance, and a realistic but kindly outlook.

Many of my earliest memories revolve around the Wagner farm. In fact, my earliest memory that I can place is sitting in my mother's lap in the rocking chair in the living room of the farmhouse with her singing the old Irish song, "The Harp That Once Through Tara's Halls." I also recall my grandmother taking me out to see a newborn calf just about 50' North of where the large rocks are sticking up through the ground on the flat area above the house. I was probably 5 or 6 years old at the time. In later years I helped more around the farm, played in the woods, and loved to sit in the basement reading my grandfather's old Popular Mechanics and Popular Science Magazines. All this, on occasion, with milkshakes made out of ice cream and fresh peaches!

The original entrance to the farm lies about 1/2 mile west of the new park entrance, right at the top of the hill at Jefferson, Ohio. It included, on the north end, the cliffs that are the remains of the old sandstone quarry. The stone from that quarry was used in some of the locks of the Ohio Canal at Lockville and probably elsewhere. The farm extended down to what was called the Slough road (now named Amanda Road) on the west, and along that road until a point about 200 yards South of the partially excavated indian mound at the top of the hill (I excavated the trench on the east side of the mound, during the summers of 1957 and 58 when I lived there helping on the orchard. Many indian artifacts, now owned by my mother, were uncovered in the field to the south of the mound when it was originally plowed by my Grandfather, but I never found anything either in the mound or elsewhere on the orchard.)

On the east, the boundary more or less followed the upper part of the hillside, from that point 200 yards south of the mound until a point roughly about 200 yards south of the end of the new nature trail at which

point the boundry line turned downhill to the east. (The old stone quarry on the east side of the hill was on the old Artz place). The large chestnut stump, just below the nature trail and some small sandstone outcroppings near the north end, are part of some of my other earliest childhood memories. I used to climb up on the stump and sit on it.

On the flat spot right at the north end of the nature trail was the Packing House (as we all called it) where the apples were sorted and stored, the wood working and repairs done, the machinery kept, and the sales made.

During my boyhood summers, I used to spend almost every day up there. Just about where the trail loops around at its Northern extremity, there was the south end of the Packing House which was was a small dark shed for the orchard sprayer and the small Oliver caterpillar tractor. Mr. Wagner used the caterpillar tractor for pulling the sprayer and wagons because he felt, correctly no doubt, that a standard wheeled tractor would be too dangerous on those hills.

In that shed there was also a well with an old fashioned pump run by a motor with an open belt. The ice-cold well water went into an old wood barrel cut in half or could be diverted to the holding tank for water for the sprayer that sat on the concrete pillars on the hill must south of there, or to the square concrete tank just below the packing house area from where it went down to the house. The well water was wonderful, and some of the customers who came to buy apples would fill jugs with it to take home. It has been located by a "water witch" (my grandfather feeling that he had very little to lose hiring one), but instead of drilling where the witch said to he decided to drill a few feet to one side. Obviously, that didn't hurt anything. To this day, I'm not really happy drinking any water except ice-cold well water!

The packing house was build on a concrete slab and was probably 40 by 70 feet, 2 stories (the upper being an attic) and on the west side was the apple storage room which was made of sort of a ceramic brick with cork insulation. Each evening when it got cool the door would be opened and a big ceiling exhaust fan started and the floor was wetted down with water. There was no other refrigeration, but most of the time it stayed quite cool and had an unforgettable apple smell not replicated in the fruit sections of more modern groceries.

Below the packing house, inside the circle of the road between the homestead house and the packing house, was the barn. It was small, probably built for no more than 4 to 6 cows, with an upper loft which was full of equipment when I was there. On the South side of that barn was a hen house. The bamboo grows now in what was then the chicken-yard in front of that barn (when I lived there it was on the North side of the road nearer to the quarry).

The quarry was always a wonderful place to play, although the Wagner's were always concerned that someone might fall from the cliff. There where with bee hives just above the cliffs at the edge of the cherry orchard - that sour-cherry orchard stood between the cliffs and the Packing House.)

Continuing down the road just before it makes a 90 degree right turn sharply and downhill just to the west of the house is a large walnut tree. Mr. Wagner used to park an old Dodge car (possibly of 1920's vintage) on the flat space above that tree in position so that it would be rolled downhill to start it if necessary, although it also had a hand crank in front. I loved, as a small boy, to ride on the running board of that car.

This walnut tree, the bushes just east of it, and the large gray rock pushing up in the yard behind the bushes also date from my earliest memories, as of course, does the house itself, where I lived on and off until my Grandfather died when I was 16.

The history of the Orchard dates back to 1917 or 1918 when J. O. Wagner (always called "J.O." by his friends and family) returned from the Philippine Islands where he had worked as a contractor, florist, school teacher, court interpreter, and acting Governor for the the US occupying government. When he left, some of the natives asked him "Who's going to protect us from the government now?"

J.O. was mostly self-educated. He ran away from home before finishing high school, bicycling from Payne Ohio to Fort Wayne Indiana where he lied about his age to get into the Army which was preparing for the Spanish-American war. After being mustered out in the Phillippine Islands, he decided to stay. He taught himself road building, carpentry, horticulture, and the Spanish, Igarote, and Ifugau languages.

He built his first house in Baguio, the Philippine Islands where it still stands at the end of Wagner Road having survived several typhoons, earthquakes and air raids during World War II. He also built much of what is now the Benguet trail. Generally, when he built things he never used 1 nail where 2 would do, nor a 2x4 where a 2x6 would fit, nor used softwood when he could get hardwood! Even the apple crates he made for the orchard were made of chestnut!

His wife, who JO called "Midget" due to her small size (under 5') came to the US to take nurses training. She had inherited a small sum of money from her parents when they died, and was able to come 2nd class on the boat. She had a job waiting for her which her sister who was living in New York had arranged. She was from Northern Ireland and had been orphaned in her teens. She came to New York and was a 1903 graduate of the Long Island College Hospital in New York where she got 2 nursing degrees, partly because she was very active on the committee that established the "RN" degree. She then went to the Philippine Islands since she heard that they needed nurses. She originally settled in Manila which she hated and subsequently went to Baguio, where she was the only trained nurse, and trained the first nurses in Baguio.

They had two children. The first, John, died at 9 months of age from bacillary dysentary. The second, Elizabeth, survived and grew up on the homestead in Ohio from the age of 7 on. She went on to get a Ph.D. in Botany at Ohio Sta University and has subsequently had a very academic career at, among other places, the University of Minnesota. Both J. O. and Catherine Wagner are buried in the Betzer Cemetery in Carroll, Ohio.

J. O. Wagner was raised in near Payne, Ohio and had always wanted to return to Ohio to raise apples. When he returned to Ohio from the Philippine Islands, he went to the Wooster Agricultural Station to find out a good place to raise apples and was referred to the hill because of the "air drainage" and the proximity to the Columbus market. Part of the farm he bought from Mr. Cross who owned the part along the highway, and the other part from Mr. John Artz.

During 1918 the family lived in Canal Winchester while the house was being built. He had a sawmill brought in and started using the hardwood cut as the place was cleared to build the house. (My Grandmother remembered the workman cursing years later when they were working to put in a new furnace and had to cut some of the old lumber!). They moved into the house in 1919, before it was completely finished.

Elizabeth attended the one room Jefferson School which still stands at the junction of Amanda Road and old route 33. (She feels that the education was especially good as a child could advance in subjects while remaining with his or her own peer group for social activities, and the having kids at the different grade levels facilitated the learning.)

At the spring below the house J. O. build a holding tank for the spring, and installed a hydraulic ram at the foot of the hill which pumped the water to a tank at the top of the hill and from there there was a gravity feed to the house. My mother had the job, as a small girl, to go down to the bottom of the hill to start the ram. She recalls it as a small thing sort of like a fire hydrant which you had to poke with a stick to get it going. The waste water ran down into the Mr. Artz's field below there.

He also installed a Delco generator (gasoline engine driven) which charged a bank of 36 wet cells which were charged. It was run every few days to charge the batteries and always ran when the washing machine was used. The whole thing was in the basement of the house, on the West side. My mother used to have the room between the master bedroom in the corner and the bathroom as her bedroom. She remembers that she could not be in there when the Delco was running because of the exhaust. (This room was later used by my Grandfather as an "office" When my grandfather used that for the office, he built a stand-up desk, as he did not like sitting down while he worked.)

The house was designed initially for the view, for protection from the west and north winds and for possible later use as a packing house (They intended to build another house on the flat later on), and for this reason the first floor was build to be able to handle trucks driving in on it. The basement of the house was set in the sandstone bedrock of the surrounding hillside. As the orchard grew, it was necessary to build an packing house at the top of the hill, and so this house remained as a residence.

When J.O. and Catherine Wagner were thinking of coming to Ohio, they had read a book about somebody living in a happy valley, called Valley of the Moon, or Luna Vega, and so originally the place was called Luna Vega. It was also given this name because of the crescent-moon shape of the valley below to the south where the Artz farm was. However, the name never really stuck. (The view is no longer there, now that the trees have grown up, and the Artz farmhouse has been moved across the road and slightly South of the park entrance.)

The house is an unusual and notable structure because of being so strongly built and for the interior design. It was paneled with cherry and chestnut which was harvested from the land cleared for the orchard and laid out in a horizontal pattern. However, when the house was remodeled, probably in 1940 or so when the coal burning furnace and inside toilet were added, he took the boards down, had them tongue and grooved, and reinstalled them in the current vertical pattern. He was especially happy with the way they fit together.

I can recall, as a small boy when the furnace was still coal-fired that there was a small chain loop that ran up into the dining room to adjust the damper. It was also about this time (late 1940's) that the attic was redone. Later on, I slept up there during several of the summers that I stayed with my Grandparents.

The original driveway was of concrete. This went straight up the hill from the entrance, and was solid concrete until it got on the level where it neared the house and became 2 tracks of concrete. It went around the house where the current drive is and cut inside of the current drive - between it and the site of the old barn. It was built of large stones after it passed above the house. In the late 1940's that driveway was replaced because the customers felt that it was too steep - and there was increased danger as the number of customers increased. He rented a bulldozer and built the present, slightly more curved driveway. It was gravel, and had logs running diagonally across it every 100' or so to force the water to the proper side for drainage. This made for some pretty good bumps while driving up the road and there was still a considerable erosion problem.

The Wagners saw this site and the farm as their dream home, never realizing, of course, that the depression and drought would come. Had the bank had any use for the orchard they could have foreclosed on it during those times, but never did. For Elizabeth, these were times of a lot of hard work, and she had the privilege of knowing that her work was important to the whole family and that would bring in money that would help them keep the farm. She also thinks that one of the reasons she liked school so much is that the alternatives (picking berries) were not a whole lot of fun!

In the early days, J.O. planted raspberries, currants, gooseberries, strawberries and other small fruits while he waited for the apples and peaches to come into bearing. He also raised chickens and shipped the eggs to New York. They had a couple of cows, and had to fence much of the woods to keep them in. They also had a couple of horses to plow the garden and pull the sprayer before he could get a tractor. (He hated working with horses, although he liked the animals themselves!). Elizabeth picked raspberries and other things to help the family survive economically.

He had an interest in many types of apples and at one time had over 40 varieties growing. I have scions from 3 of his trees growing now in Wisconsin - a Melba (also called Sheepnose, I think), a Maiden Blush (very good, but ugly) and a Jonathan.

He felt that peaches should be picked ripe only, and most of his peach trees were designated to somebody. When the trees were ripe he would call the "owner" and tell them to come out and pick. Most of the peaches were picked by the tree's owner, with only a few being picked to be sold locally. The peaches were picked dead ripe and were so sweet that we would have to brush the bees and wasps off that were feeding on the nectar. The fuzz got on our skin and made for a lot of itching, which was not pleasant on a hot August afternoon! That was the downside! In the evenings late in the summer we might sit on the western hillside, just below the packing house, and eat grapes while we watched the huge red sun set near Columbus which was part of the skyline on that side of the hill.

He raised grapes, and used to talk about taking grapes into Columbus during the Prohibition era. He said that he would get an anonymous call telling him to bring his grapes to a certain intersection at a certain time. He would get there and a boy would jump up onto the running board of the car and direct him down one alley after another until they would pull behind a garage somewhere and a lot of people would appear and unload the car in a flash. He would be paid and sent back on his way to the farm. Years later, I talked with an friend whose Italian parents and grandparents lived in Columbus. We think that my grandfather was running grapes to his grandfather to make wine!

Mr. Wagner died in early 1959, in January, at the age of 79. Late in the evening, after a day's work, he was sitting in his chair by the porch door (a large armchair with a hassock) and said to my grandmother that he had some indigestion and asked if she could get him some "soda" for it. When she returned from the kitchen he had died having worked the farm until the day he died. My grandmother came to live with us and lived for 12 more years until she died at the age of 95.

The Wagner family, J.O., Catherine, daughter Elizabeth and grandson John all cherished this place. The relatives and neighbors enjoyed going to "the hill". Professors from Ohio State University came to "botanize" and a local Columbus photographer frequented it for pictures. Many other people also had important roots in this farm. Many of the boys from surrounding communities worked there. One of them, Bill Rice, stayed on the farm to keep it going for the year after J. O. died, and subsequently went to live with Elizabeth and her husband while he went to college. It is a great pleasure for all of us to know that the farm has been made into a park so that many other people will be able to enjoy it.

Flowering plants (con.)

may apples (*Podophyllum peltatum*)

larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*)

jack in the pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)

Salomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*)

white snake-root (*Cimicifuga racemosa*)

(also known as black cohosh)

milkweeds - pink (*Asclepias syriaca*)

swamp (*A. incarnata*)

whorled (*A. verticillata*)

Roses - bush, pink (*Rosa setigera*)

dwarf (*Rosa virginiana*)

sweetbrier (*Rosa rubiginosa*)

Lady's Tresses (*Spidrium* or *Sprenthes*, 2 sp.)

Goldenrods (*Solidago* sp.)

Asters - New England (*Aster novae-angliae*) and others

Spurge - flowering (*Euphorbia corollata*)

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Bonset (*Eupatorium* ^{white} *perfoliatum*, & *E.* ^{pink} *purpureum*)

Phacelia (*Phacelia persicii*)

Forget me not (*Myosotis* or *Cynoglossum* - not seen)

Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*)

Plants native to Chestnut Ridge 1925-1950

Shrubs and small trees:

- Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) - Sassafras (*Sassafras*
~~sassafras~~)
- dogwood (*Cornus* or *Cynodylon floridense*)
- spicebush (*Benzoin aestivale*)
- cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) - Thornapple (*Crotogeus*
sp.)
- elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
- pawpaw, or papaw (*Asimina triloba*)
- hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)
- wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpurea*)

Vines:

- grape (*Vitis* sp.)
- virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)
- wild clematis (*Viorna viorna*)
- bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*)

Flowering plants - (Herbs).

- Toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*)
- wild phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)
- spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)
- trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)
- Violets, light and dark blue, yellow, white (*Viola* sp.)
- Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium reptans*)

Flowering plants (con.)

- golden alexander (*Zizia aurea*)
 parsnip (*Angelica atropurpurea* or *A. villosa*)
 penstemon (*Penstemon grandiflorus*)
 black eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
 ironweed (*Vernonia altissima*) ^{moth} common
 mullen (*Verbascum blattaria* and *V. thapsus*)
 thistle (*Cirsium lanceolatum*)
 teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*)
 jewel weed (*Impatiens biflora*)

Ferns:

- Adder tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum* (rare))
 Grape fern (*Botrychium virginianum*)
 Maiden hair (*Adiantum pedatum*)
 spleenwort (*Asplenium* sp.)

There were other ferns but I do not know the species.
 I scoured the whole territory from a small child on.
 majored in botany at Ohio State, I still have botaniced
 friends I could refer you to, and old school friends
 and relatives who know my parents (in Lancaster)
 Hope you find the above useful in restoring the flora.

Elizabeth Wagner Read

May 5, 1989

The following list has been compiled by my mother, Elizabeth Wagner Reed, and myself (John Wagner Beasley) and represents as far as we can remember, the types of fruits that grew on the orchard of J. O. and Catherine C. Wagner, Wagner Orchards, Carroll, Ohio. There may be errors either of some fruits omitted or possible one or two added.

APPLES:

Yellow Transparent
Early Harvest
Melba
Chenango Strawberry (Sheepnose)
Duchess
Wealthy
Baldwin
Jonathan
Stamen Winesap
Winesap (Virginia)
Hubbardson Nonesuch
Grimes Golden
Red Delicious
Yellow Delicious
Maiden Blush
Wolf River
Northern Spy
Kinkaid
Mother
Rome Beauty
Ben Davis
Russet
Rambo
Winter Banana
Cortland
Wagener (no relation)
Haralson
(and possibly others)

PEACHES: These grew on western slope about half-way up the hill. He would let them ripen on the tree and when ripe would call the person for whom the tree was reserved and that person (and usually their family) would come and pick them.

Elberta
Champion
Belle of Georgia ?
Indian Red Cling ?
(and possibly others)

GRAPES: These also grew on the Western slope, just below one or two levels of Jonathan trees and above the peaches/

Concord
Delaware
Niagara

CHERRIES: Mostly sour - were on flat just above road to where the old packing house was. The few sweet cherry trees (which mainly fed birds) were below and to the south of the house.

Montmorency
unknown sweet type - maybe Blackheart or Oxheart?

QUINCES: These grew on a small plot of two acres just to the North of where the house access road takes off from Old Route 33.

PLUMS: Few Trees, never did very well - kept getting brown rot.
Green Gage

PEAR: Just one tree, a Bartlett, to the West side of the house.

CURRENTS:
Red, White and Black Currents

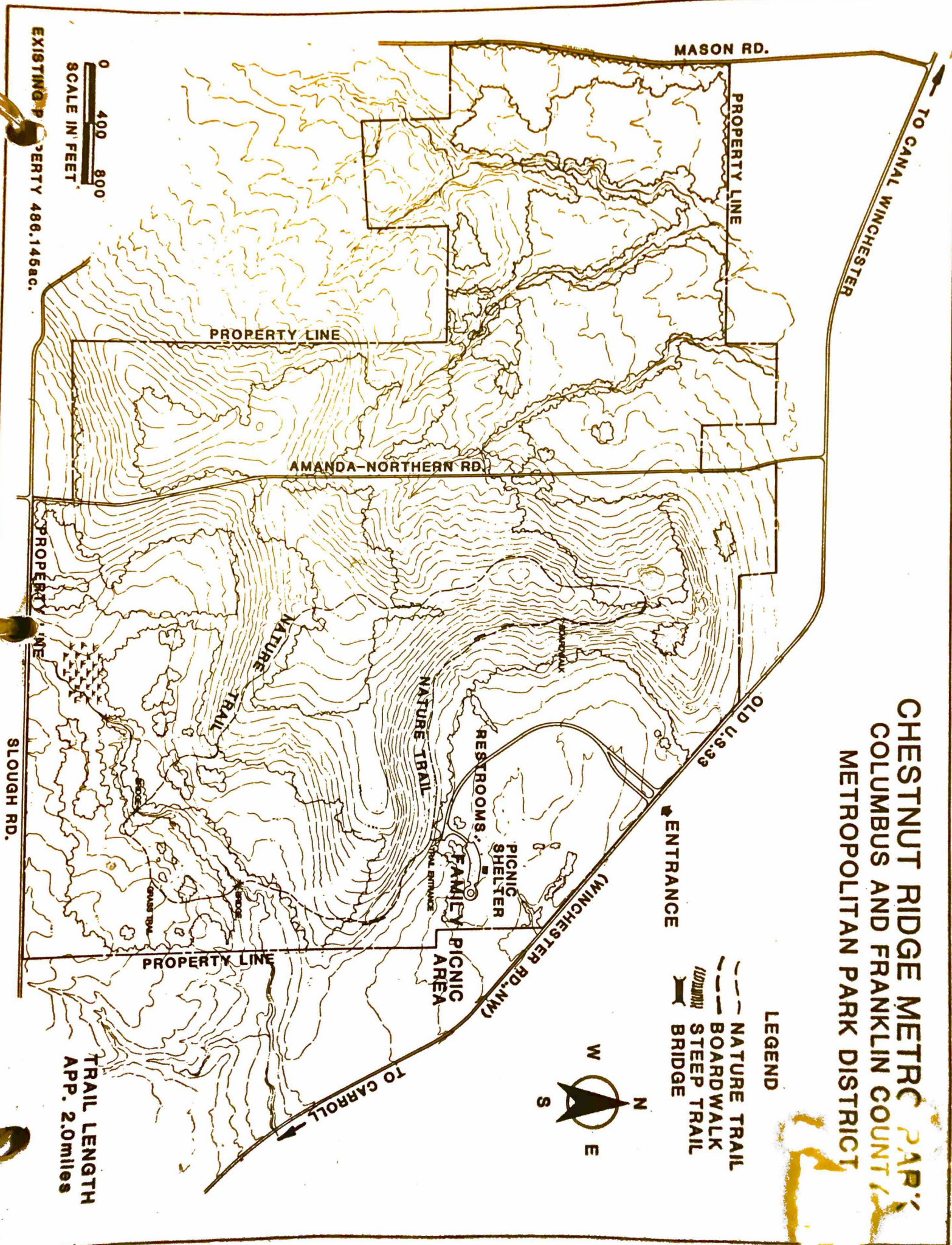
GOOSEBERRIES:

RASPBERRIES: Raspberries and strawberries were grown on the flat just to the west of the house.

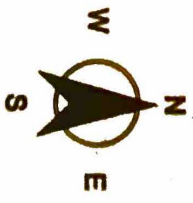
King
Latham

STRAWBERRIES:

CHESTNUT RIDGE METRO PARK COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT



- LEGEND**
- NATURE TRAIL
 - BOARDWALK
 - STEEP TRAIL
 - BRIDGE



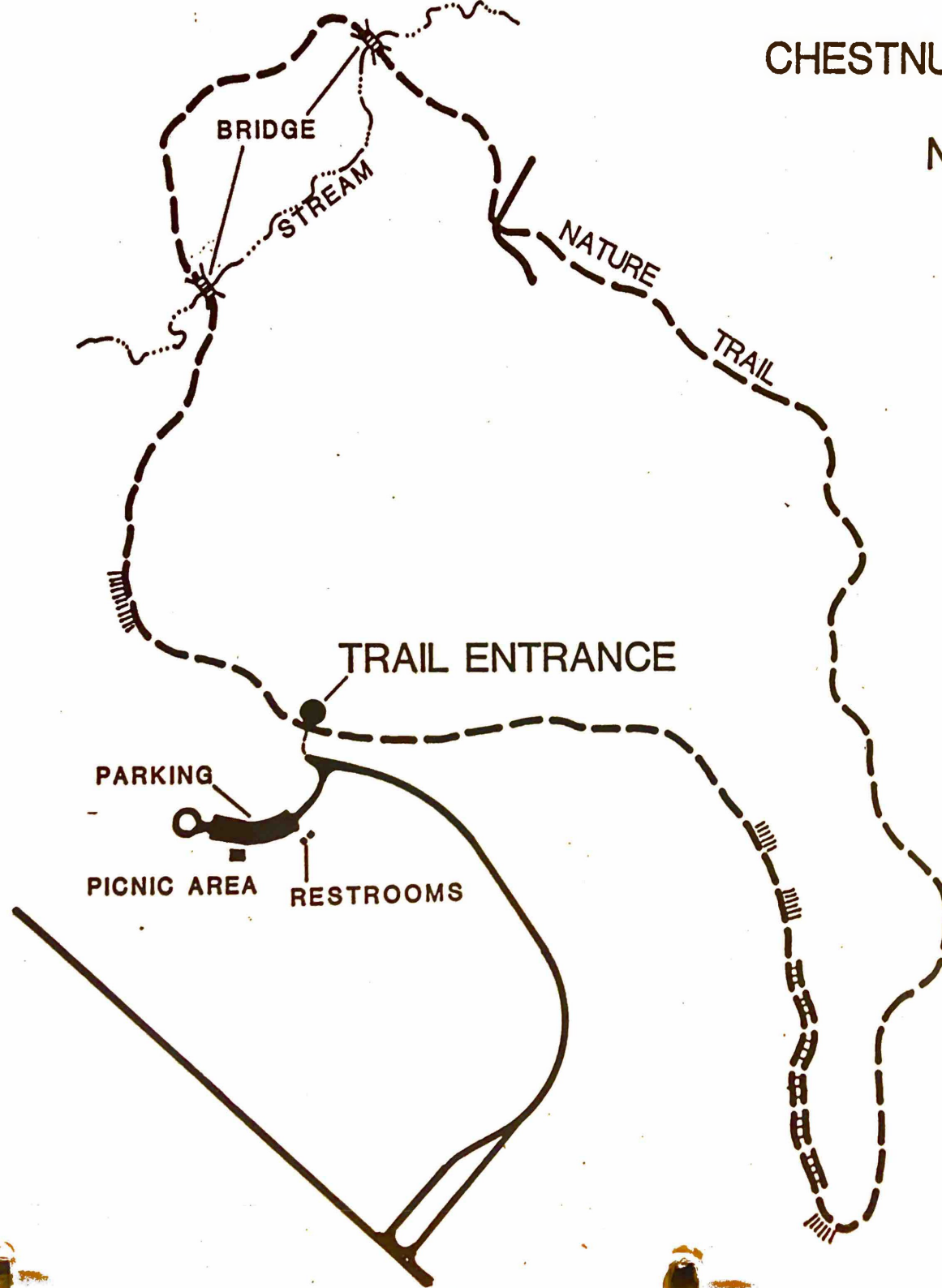
TRAIL LENGTH
APP. 2.0 miles

EXISTING PROPERTY 486.1466c.

SCALE IN FEET
0 400 800

CHESTNUT RIDGE METRO PARK

NATURE TRAIL 2.0 MILES



||||| STEEP TRAIL

~~~~~ BOARDWALK

● YOUR LOCATION





# Chestnut Ridge Metro Park bustling

By D.L. Browning  
Southeast Editor

Stacy Brehm has been a Metro Parks ranger for more than 10 years, and he can spot the call of a redtail hawk in an instant. He can tell you the difference in blue jays and why bluebirds need freshly mowed groundcover.

All that and more is available at the newest Metro Park, Chestnut Ridge, now open only weekends. Brehm is the manager of the new park as well as nearby Slate Run Metro Park. The new park is located three miles southeast of Canal Winchester on Old Route 33. It's 486 acres, Brehm said, contain not only beautiful scenery, a two-mile nature trail and picnic grounds and facilities, but also hold one of nature's enduring legacies of the glacial age.

"Everyone of the Metro Parks is different," Brehm said. "But the Blackhand sandstone formation in Chestnut Ridge — and the reason that ridge is so high," he said, pointing to the ridge high above, "is because when the glacier went through that's where it stopped."

Brehm will tell you that Chestnut Ridge got its name from the now destroyed Chestnut trees that once covered the high sandstone ridge. A Chestnut tree blight, brought over from Europe in the 1930s wiped out the trees in the United States. The only remains of these once great trees are large stumps scattered about the landscape of the park.

Brehm is clearly excited about the prospects of the new park generating new visitors to the Metro Park system, which now receives more than two and one-half million visitors annually.

From the top of the ridge on a clear day, one can easily see downtown Columbus, he noted. While much work remains to be done at the new park, including developing scenic vistas to assist in viewing the panorama, building a wooden play structure, barbeque grills and the like, nature provides ample reasons for visiting the new park now.



Metro Park Ranger Stacy Brehm points to one of many hardwood trees in the new Chestnut Ridge Metro Park, now open weekends. Metro Parks concentrate on nature and present a natural environment for all living things to enjoy.

"I came in here yesterday and there was a dove bedding down by the picnic area," Brehm said, strolling up the nature trail. One easily notes the immense number of fallen trees that remain as if frozen where they lay.

"A lot of people say, 'Why don't you pick up that firewood?'," laughed Brehm. "It (dead trees) provides essential nutrients and other things and it protects the ecosystem," he added. "They also provide protection for small animals and plants."

See CHESTNUT, page 2.



# CHESTNUT

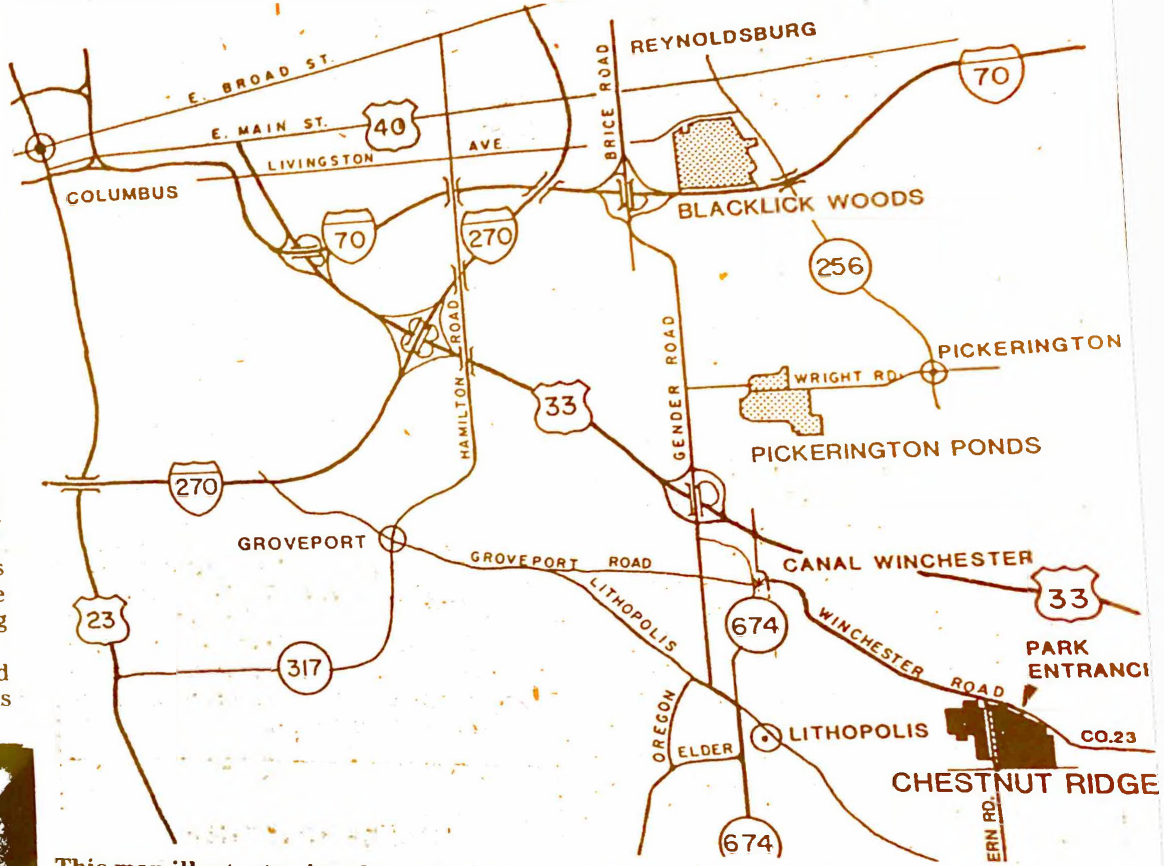
continued from page 1.

Because the Metro Park system concentrates not on providing recreation services such as Columbus parks do, they can enhance nature itself by letting nature simply be itself, explained Brehm. For example, Brehm noted that fungi on a tree "mean that tree is on the decline." However, if that tree should fall, it just might provide the shelter for someone else living in the woods.

For these reasons, among others, visitors are prohibited to leave the nature trail. Safety and enjoyment are the other factors.

"As far as taking small children on the trail, we explain to them if they really want to see animals, they'll have to be quiet," Brehm said. He pointed out that few animals or plants would be available to anyone other than people — and dogs — be traipsing about the woods.

Dogs are forbidden on nature trails, said Brehm. This is because of safety concerns



This map illustrates just how close the new Chestnut Ridge Metro Park is to Columbus. On a clear day, you can easily see downtown Columbus from the park.

and the possible damage they could do. "If the deer smell a dog, they just won't come around," Brehm said.

And, especially in the spring, animals abound at Metro Parks. "We have woodpeckers as large as crows," Brehm said. "We have Pileated woodpeckers...we have more than 30 kinds of warblers, and we have bluebirds," said Brehm.

Brehm said Bluebirds were on the decline and in serious trouble some years back, yet their future looks brighter because of one of the Metro Parks programs: building bluebird's homes of their own.

"I had a ranger put some bluebird boxes out near the end of the picnic area," Brehm said. "Within 20 minutes, they were sitting on the box." He explained that bluebirds naturally nest in woodposts, and had lost many of their nesting sites over the years.

All park rangers are part-time, said Brehm. Many are schoolteachers, he noted, who can fit the summer hours in between their jobs. The Civilian Conservation Corps offers much assistance to the Metro Parks,

he said, building and repairing as needed. Maintenance, he added, is the biggest task in a Metro park.

Brehm can explain that when one hears the bluejays overhead, "They're scolding us." Remarkably, bluejays can actually imitate the call of a redtailed hawk in an attempt to maintain their territory, he said, as one flew overhead.

If anything perturbs Brehm, it is the future. Metro Parks is supported by Franklin County taxpayers through a .23-mill tax. The levy will be put before the voters for renewal in May, 1990. Should the levy pass, Brehm said, "We will be able to hire more staff and open Chestnut Ridge on a daily basis. Some of our parks fill to capacity on weekends."

Future plans at the park call for installation of a children's fishing area and ice skating in the winter. "We're only 25 minutes from downtown," Brehm said. "And this is a great place to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city."





## 300-400 Acres In Bloom Township

# Chestnut Ridge Park To Be Developed This Year

By Rocco Arcieri  
E-G Staff Writer

If the weather and land cooperate, several hundred acres in Bloom Township may develop into a new park by year's end, according to Roger Hubble, assistant director in the planning and development division of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District.

But officials with the Ohio Department of Transportation say there may be more than just these natural concerns after they gave a preliminary look at plans delivered Monday by Jones and Stuckey, the consulting firm for the park commission.

Hubble responded to questions which arose after what appeared to be construction stakes were seen in the area.

"That would be the Chestnut Ridge Park area and the stakes you are seeing are because they (Ohio Department of Transportation) are getting ready to put in an access road," said Hubble.

"Prior to today we did not know anything about it," said Becky Parks, assistant liaison officer for district five of ODOT. She said the district is one of the largest and covers seven counties including Fairfield, Perry, Licking and Muskingum but not Franklin.

She said it would be about a week before ODOT's engineer's would be able to look over the plans and make any corrections.

"The planning and design engineers say they have already seen several things that need to be corrected and they said if this many things are wrong at a glance then how many things will turn up on closer inspection? They will apparently be re-doing the plans," said Parks.

The corrections are then given back to the consultant who makes the changes and then re-submits them to ODOT and if they meet with district

approval they are sent to the state for final approval, she said.

If the park meets with delay this year it will be just another step in the long evolution of this metro park venture.

Some areas of the 300-400 acre park were purchased by the Columbus and Franklin county park agency "as far back as twenty years ago," said Hubble. One of the oldest deeds registered for that area was purchased by the commission in December of 1963, according to records in the county recorder's office.

Hubble said the project is getting underway now because of recent appropriations by the Board of Park Commissioners.

"The money was voted in during January of this year," said Hubble. He said \$240,000 has been appropriated for the entire project which includes the access road, picnic facilities, parking, restrooms and electric service.

Parks said ODOT received a "rough estimate," for just the access road, of \$160,000.

Hubble's preview of the park included no ball fields or other athletic facilities are planned.

"We going to make it part of our present system (of parks). We won't have anything like ball fields. We build a more passive park facility with picnic areas and possibly some nature trails," said Hubble.

Construction should begin this summer but he was unsure of when it may be ready for public use.

"It is not likely to be ready this summer and I really can't say when it would be ready. It all depends on how quickly the land would be ready to take public use (after construction)," he said.

Parks said the the plans submitted on Monday list Sept. 30 as the completion date but she said that will depend on how quickly the plans meet with final approval.



September 3, 1988

## THE WAGNER HOMESTEAD - JEFFERSON, OHIO

This is the history of the Wagner homestead which comprises the north end of the Chestnut Ridge Park outside of Canal Winchester Ohio. Written by John Wagner Beasley and Elizabeth Wagner Reed who are the grandson and daughter of John Ovid Wagner and Catherine Cleland Wagner who built the buildings, including the house, and established the orchard.

I, John Wagner Beasley, lived on the farm for most of the summers while I was growing up until I was 16. In many ways that farm was a second boyhood home - very different from my other homes in Minneapolis and St. Paul (the latter of which was in an academic ghetto) and was a very important place to me. My grandfather was in a way a third father to me, after my father who was killed in action at Salerno in WW II when I was about 18 months old, and my stepfather, Sheldon C. Reed, a Professor at the University of Minnesota. My grandfather taught me many things about mechanics, carpentry, and life! From my grandmother, those same summers, I learned the value of a positive view of life, a wonderful tolerance, and a realistic but kindly outlook.

Many of my earliest memories revolve around the Wagner farm. In fact, my earliest memory that I can place is sitting in my mother's lap in the rocking chair in the living room of the farmhouse with her singing the old Irish song, "The Harp That Once Through Tara's Halls." I also recall my grandmother taking me out to see a newborn calf just about 50' North of where the large rocks are sticking up through the ground on the flat area above the house. I was probably 5 or 6 years old at the time. In later years I helped more around the farm, played in the woods, and loved to sit in the basement reading my grandfather's old Popular Mechanics and Popular Science Magazines. All this, on occasion, with milkshakes made out of ice cream and fresh peaches!

The original entrance to the farm lies about 1/2 mile west of the new park entrance, right at the top of the hill at Jefferson, Ohio. It included, on the north end, the cliffs that are the remains of the old sandstone quarry. The stone from that quarry was used in some of the locks of the Ohio Canal at Lockville and probably elsewhere. The farm extended down to what was called the Slough road (now named Amanda Road) on the west, and along that road until a point about 200 yards South of the partially excavated indian mound at the top of the hill (I excavated the trench on the east side of the mound, during the summers of 1957 and 58 when I lived there helping on the orchard. Many indian artifacts, now owned by my mother, were uncovered in the field to the south of the mound when it was originally plowed by my Grandfather, but I never found anything either in the mound or elsewhere on the orchard.)

On the east, the boundary more or less followed the upper part of the hillside, from that point 200 yards south of the mound until a point roughly about 200 yards south of the end of the new nature trail at which



point the boundry line turned downhill to the east. (The old stone quarry on the east side of the hill was on the old Artz place). The large chestnut stump, just below the nature trail and some small sandstone outcroppings near the north end, are part of some of my other earliest childhood memories. I used to climb up on the stump and sit on it.

On the flat spot right at the north end of the nature trail was the Packing House (as we all called it) where the apples were sorted and stored, the wood working and repairs done, the machinery kept, and the sales made.

During my boyhood summers, I used to spend almost every day up there. Just about where the trail loops around at its Northern extremity, there was the south end of the Packing House which was a small dark shed for the orchard sprayer and the small Oliver caterpillar tractor. Mr. Wagner used the caterpillar tractor for pulling the sprayer and wagons because he felt, correctly no doubt, that a standard wheeled tractor would be too dangerous on those hills.

In that shed there was also a well with an old fashioned pump run by a motor with an open belt. The ice-cold well water went into an old wood barrel cut in half or could be diverted to the holding tank for water for the sprayer that sat on the concrete pillars on the hill just south of there, or to the square concrete tank just below the packing house area from where it went down to the house. The well water was wonderful, and some of the customers who came to buy apples would fill jugs with it to take home. It has been located by a "water witch" (my grandfather feeling that he had very little to lose hiring one), but instead of drilling where the witch said to he decided to drill a few feet to one side. Obviously, that didn't hurt anything. To this day, I'm not really happy drinking any water except ice-cold well water!

The packing house was built on a concrete slab and was probably 40 by 70 feet, 2 stories (the upper being an attic) and on the west side was the apple storage room which was made of sort of a ceramic brick with cork insulation. Each evening when it got cool the door would be opened and a big ceiling exhaust fan started and the floor was wetted down with water. There was no other refrigeration, but most of the time it stayed quite cool and had an unforgettable apple smell not replicated in the fruit sections of more modern groceries.

Below the packing house, inside the circle of the road between the homestead house and the packing house, was the barn. It was small, probably built for no more than 4 to 6 cows, with an upper loft which was full of equipment when I was there. On the South side of that barn was a hen house. The bamboo grows now in what was then the chicken-yard in front of that barn (when I lived there it was on the North side of the road nearer to the quarry).

The quarry was always a wonderful place to play, although the Wagner's were always concerned that someone might fall from the cliff. There were with bee hives just above the cliffs at the edge of the cherry orchard - that sour-cherry orchard stood between the cliffs and the Packing House.)



Continuing down the road just before it makes a 90 degree right turn sharply and downhill just to the west of the house is a large walnut tree. Mr. Wagner used to park an old Dodge car (possibly of 1920's vintage) on the flat space above that tree in position so that it would be rolled downhill to start it if necessary, although it also had a hand crank in front. I loved, as a small boy, to ride on the running board of that car.

This walnut tree, the bushes just east of it, and the large gray rock pushing up in the yard behind the bushes also date from my earliest memories, as of course, does the house itself, where I lived on and off until my Grandfather died when I was 16.

✓ The history of the Orchard dates back to 1917 or 1918 when J. O. Wagner (always called "J.O." by his friends and family) returned from the Philippine Islands where he had worked as a contractor, florist, school teacher, court interpreter, and acting Governor for the the US occupying government. When he left, some of the natives asked him "Who's going to protect us from the government now?"

✓ J.O. was mostly self-educated. He ran away from home before finishing high school, bicycling from Payne Ohio to Fort Wayne Indiana where he lied about his age to get into the Army which was preparing for the Spanish-American war. After being mustered out in the Phillippine Islands, he decided to stay. He taught himself road building, carpentry, horticulture, and the Spanish, Igarote, and Ifugau languages.

✓ He built his first house in Baguio, the Philippine Islands where it still stands at the end of Wagner Road having survived several typhoons, earthquakes and air raids during World War II. He also built much of what is now the Benguet trail. Generally, when he built things he never used 1 nail where 2 would do, nor a 2x4 where a 2x6 would fit, nor used softwood when he could get hardwood! Even the apple crates he made for the orchard were made of chestnut!

✓ His wife, who JO called "Midget" due to her small size (under 5') came to the US to take nurses training. She had inherited a small sum of money from her parents when they died, and was able to come 2nd class on the boat. She had a job waiting for her which her sister who was living in New York had arranged. She was from Northern Ireland and had been orphaned in her teens. She came to New York and was a 1903 graduate of the Long Island College Hospital in New York where she got 2 nursing degrees, partly because she was very active on the committee that established the "RN" degree. She then went to the Philippine Islands since she heard that they needed nurses. She originally settled in Manila which she hated and subsequently went to Baguio, where she was the only trained nurse, and trained the first nurses in Baguio.

✓ They had two children. The first, John, died at 9 months of age from bacillary dysentery. The second, Elizabeth, survived and grew up on the homestead in Ohio from the age of 7 on. She went on to get a Ph.D. in Botany at Ohio State University and has subsequently had a very academic career at, among other places, the University of Minnesota. Both J. O. and Catherine Wagner are buried in the Betzer Cemetery in Carroll, Ohio.



3  
J. O. Wagner was raised in near Payne, Ohio and had always wanted to return to Ohio to raise apples. When he returned to Ohio from the Philippine Islands, he went to the Wooster Agricultural Station to find out a good place to raise apples and was referred to the hill because of the "air drainage" and the proximity to the Columbus market. Part of the farm he bought from Mr. Cross who owned the part along the highway, and the other part from Mr. John Artz.

During 1918 the family lived in Canal Winchester while the house was being built. He had a sawmill brought in and started using the hardwood cut as the place was cleared to build the house. (My Grandmother remembered the workman cursing years later when they were working to put in a new furnace and had to cut some of the old lumber!). They moved into the house in 1919, before it was completely finished.

Elizabeth attended the one room Jefferson School which still stands at the junction of Amanda Road and old route 33. (She feels that the education was especially good as a child could advance in subjects while remaining with his or her own peer group for social activities, and the having kids at the different grade levels facilitated the learning.)

No  
At the spring below the house J. O. build a holding tank for the spring, and installed a hydraulic ram at the foot of the hill which pumped the water to a tank at the top of the hill and from there there was a gravity feed to the house. My mother had the job, as a small girl, to go down to the bottom of the hill to start the ram. She recalls it as a small thing sort of like a fire hydrant which you had to poke with a stick to get it going. The waste water ran down into the Mr. Artz's field below there.

No  
He also installed a Delco generator (gasoline engine driven) which charged a bank of 36 wet cells which were charged. It was run every few days to charge the batteries and always ran when the washing machine was used. The whole thing was in the basement of the house, on the West side. My mother used to have the room between the master bedroom in the corner and the bathroom as her bedroom. She remembers that she could not be in there when the Delco was running because of the exhaust. (This room was later used by my Grandfather as an "office" When my grandfather used that for the office, he built a stand-up desk, as he did not like sitting down while he worked.)

3  
The house was designed initially for the view, for protection from the west and north winds and for possible later use as a packing house (They intended to build another house on the flat later on), and for this reason the first floor was build to be able to handle trucks driving in on it. The basement of the house was set in the sandstone bedrock of the surrounding hillside. As the orchard grew, it was necessary to build an packing house at the top of the hill, and so this house remained as a residence.

When J.O. and Catherine Wagner were thinking of coming to Ohio, they had read a book about somebody living in a happy valley, called Valley of the Moon, or Luna Vega, and so originally the place was called Luna Vega. It was also given this name because of the crescent-moon shape of the valley below to the south where the Artz farm was. However, the name never really stuck. (The view is no longer there, now that the trees have grown up, and the Artz farmhouse has been moved across the road and slightly South of the park entrance.)

The house is an unusual and notable structure because of being so strongly built and for the interior design. It was paneled with cherry and chestnut which was harvested from the land cleared for the orchard and laid out in a horizontal pattern. However, when the house was remodeled, probably in 1940 or so when the coal burning furnace and inside toilet were added, he took the boards down, had them tongue and grooved, and reinstalled them in the current vertical pattern. He was especially happy with the way they fit together.

I can recall, as a small boy when the furnace was still coal-fired that there was a small chain loop that ran up into the dining room to adjust the damper. It was also about this time (late 1940's) that the attic was redone. Later on, I slept up there during several of the summers that I stayed with my Grandparents.

The original driveway was of concrete. This went straight up the hill from the entrance, and was solid concrete until it got on the level where it neared the house and became 2 tracks of concrete. It went around the house where the current drive is and cut inside of the current drive - between it and the site of the old barn. It was built of large stones after it passed above the house. In the late 1940's that driveway was replaced because the customers felt that it was too steep - and there was increased danger as the number of customers increased. He rented a bulldozer and built the present, slightly more curved driveway. It was gravel, and had logs running diagonally across it every 100' or so to force the water to the proper side for drainage. This made for some pretty good bumps while driving up the road and there was still a considerable erosion problem.

The Wagners saw this site and the farm as their dream home, never realizing, of course, that the depression and drought would come. Had the bank had any use for the orchard they could have foreclosed on it during those times, but never did. For Elizabeth, these were times of a lot of hard work, and she had the privilege of knowing that her work was important to the whole family and that would bring in money that would help them keep the farm. She also thinks that one of the reasons she liked school so much is that the alternatives (picking berries) were not a whole lot of fun!

In the early days, J.O. planted raspberries, currents, gooseberries, strawberries and other small fruits while he waited for the apples and peaches to come into bearing. He also raised chickens and shipped the eggs to New York. They had a couple of cows, and had to fence much of the woods to keep them in. They also had a couple of horses to plow the garden and pull the sprayer before he could get a tractor. (He hated working with horses, although he liked the animals themselves!). Elizabeth picked raspberries and other things to help the family survive economically.



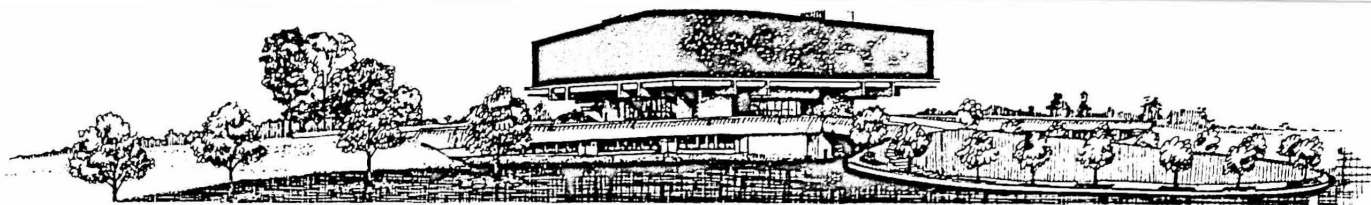
He had an interest in many types of apples and at one time had over 40 varieties growing. I have scions from 3 of his trees growing now in Wisconsin - a Melba (also called Sheepnose, I think), a Maiden Blush (very good, but ugly) and a Jonathan.

He felt that peaches should be picked ripe only, and most of his peach trees were designated to somebody. When the trees were ripe he would call the "owner" and tell them to come out and pick. Most of the peaches were picked by the tree's owner, with only a few being picked to be sold locally. The peaches were picked dead ripe and were so sweet that we would have to brush the bees and wasps off that were feeding on the nectar. The fuzz got on our skin and made for a lot of itching, which was not pleasant on a hot August afternoon! That was the downside! In the evenings late in the summer we might sit on the western hillside, just below the packing house, and eat grapes while we watched the huge red sun set near Columbus which was part of the skyline on that side of the hill.

He raised grapes, and used to talk about taking grapes into Columbus during the Prohibition era. He said that he would get an anonymous call telling him to bring his grapes to a certain intersection at a certain time. He would get there and a boy would jump up onto the running board of the car and direct him down one alley after another until they would pull behind a garage somewhere and a lot of people would appear and unload the car in a flash. He would be paid and sent back on his way to the farm. Years later, I talked with an friend whose Italian parents and grandparents lived in Columbus. We think that my grandfather was running grapes to his grandfather to make wine!

Mr. Wagner died in early 1959, in January, at the age of 79. Late in the evening, after a day's work, he was sitting in his chair by the porch door (a large armchair with a hassock) and said to my grandmother that he had some indigestion and asked if she could get him some "soda" for it. When she returned from the kitchen he had died having worked the farm until the day he died. My grandmother came to live with us and lived for 12 more years until she died at the age of 95.

The Wagner family, J.O., Catherine, daughter Elizabeth and grandson John all charished this place. The relatives and neighbors enjoyed going to "the hill". Professors from Ohio State University came to "botanize" and a local Columbus photographer frequented it for pictures. Many other people also had important roots in this farm. Many of the boys from surrounding communities worked there. One of them, Bill Rice, stayed on the farm to keep it going for the year after J. O. died, and subsequently went to live with Elizabeth and her husband while he when to college. It is a great pleasure for all of us to know that the farm has been made into a park so that many other people will be able to enjoy it.



Interstate 71 and 17th Avenue

the ohio historical society / ohio historical center / columbus, ohio 43211 / telephone (614) 469-4663 <sup>766-5347</sup>

October 23, 1974

Mr. Terry Slider  
Metropolitan Park District  
999 Park Road  
PO Box #72  
Westerville, Ohio 43081

Dear Terry:

All ridge and hill tops in the area should be checked before any construction actually begins in the park area. An old 1914 map of Fairfield County indicates additional sites close by. I marked the ones we discussed on a xerox of that portion of the U.S.G.S. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' Canal Winchester quad.

This information should be considered confidential and not for publication. Until the park is developed and protection is provided by park personnel, it is important to keep "relic collectors" from the sites.

I hope the information will be of use in planning educational and trail programs. If I can be of further assistance, feel free to call. Thank you for your interest in archaeology.

Sincerely,

Bert C. Drennen  
Assistant Curator of Archaeology

BCD/pl





CARROLL 4 1 MI.  
LANCASTER 13 4

50'

4410

T. 15 N.

4409  
T. 14 N.

(CARROLL)  
4463 1 SW

4407

4406

47'30"

4405

SCHAEER MOUND

POSSIBLE MOUNDS

STONE MOUND

OLD MAID'S  
ORCHARD MOUND

A CULTURAL HISTORY  
OF  
CHESTNUT RIDGE METRO PARK

Completed by  
Robert W. McCormick

for  
Metropolitan Park District  
of  
Columbus and Franklin County

Columbus, Ohio  
August 1993



## A CULTURAL HISTORY OF CHESTNUT RIDGE METRO PARK

by

Robert W. McCormick

### Geological Origins

The ancient bedrock of Ohio is sedimentary and was formed over eons of time by the deposition of materials in compacted layers. The general bedrock pattern of Ohio includes limestone in western Ohio, which slopes down gently to the east under the younger shale bedrock. Farther east, both limestone and shale slope down under the still younger sandstone that composes the hills of the Appalachian Plateau.

Chestnut Ridge is situated on the boundary of the unglaciated Allegheny Plateau to the south and east and the glaciated till plains to the north and west. The knob or outlier of Black Hand Sandstone which forms the backbone of Chestnut Ridge was deposited about 345 million years ago during the early part of the Mississippian Period. At that time, the Appalachian Mountains were making their initial rise to<sup>1</sup> east as North America collided with the African Continent. The sediments which eroded from these rising mountains were carried westward by streams into the Ohio sea and were deposited as deltas, similar in many respects to the delta of the modern Mississippi River. The shales and siltstones underlying the Black Hand Sandstone represent mud deposited in the offshore portion of the delta. The coarser-grained Black Hand Sandstone represents stream or beach deposits associated with the nearshore portion of the delta.

Black Hand Sandstone is a medium-to-coarse grained conglomeratic sandstone that is composed almost entirely of quartz grains. Its resistance to weathering has maintained the height of Chestnut Ridge while areas west of the Metro Park have eroded away. This process of weathering and erosion have carved the scenic ridges, cliffs, waterfalls, and rock-shelter caves in many areas of Fairfield and Hocking Counties.<sup>1</sup>

Black Hand Sandstone is named for the impression of a large hand and wrist, with thumb and fingers distended, inscribed on cliffs of sandstone rock located in the "Narrows of Licking County." This huge black hand is believed to have been carved by Indians using sharp-pointed or thin-edged flint, and the parts chiseled out became blackened from weathering or from a coat of black moss. It is presumed that this black hand was designed to show the trail, perhaps to Flint Ridge. Some writers indicate that there were also figures of wild animals on this rock-face. When the Ohio Canal was built through Licking County in the late 1820s, the section of rock was removed, and the inscriptions destroyed.<sup>2</sup>

The ice age glaciers advanced into Ohio several times, each time changing existing drainage patterns and leaving glacial deposits. The last of these glacial advances, the Wisconsin Glacier, reached its maximum extent near Lancaster about 18,000 years ago and by 14,000 years ago the glacier was gone from Ohio.

The deposits marking the end of a melting glacier are called moraines. The melting of the glaciers produced great torrents of meltwater which caused the clays to be washed away, while the coarser materials, the sands and gravel, created gravel outwash. When this was deposited in holes in the ice it formed kames, and when deposited in tunnels in the ice, it formed eskers. The Lithopolis Moraine and the Marcy Moraine in the vicinity of Chestnut Ridge were formed by melting glaciers.<sup>3</sup>

While Chestnut Ridge lies near the end of the glaciated area of Ohio, geologists agree that the Chestnut Ridge area was glaciated. Whether or not the glacier covered the peaks of Chestnut Ridge is a matter of some debate, but the prevailing evidence indicates that even though no clear-cut glacial deposit may be found of the summit of Chestnut Ridge, the glacier covered the summit at its maximum extent.<sup>4</sup>

#### Pre-history---People

Toward the close of the ice age, as early as 13,000 BC, the Paleo-Indian people were present in this area of Ohio. As the ice sheets retreated northward, Paleo-Indians disappeared, along with the mastodon, the mammoth, and the other large animals they hunted. While no site associated with the Paleo-Indian period is known in the vicinity of Chestnut Ridge, some isolated surface finds have occurred in Fairfield County.

The Archaic people supplanted Ohio's first residents and they, too, were hunters pursuing their prey with flint-tipped spears. They hunted bear, deer, wild turkeys, and waterfowl. By 1000 BC the Archaic People had disappeared from Ohio. Evidence that Archaic People were in the area of Chestnut Ridge is indicated by the location of a site in Violet Township about 5 kilometers from the Park and other sites in Fairfield County.<sup>5</sup>

About 1000-800 BC a more sophisticated culture called Adena appeared in this area. This culture is called Adena because evidence of its existence was excavated in 1902 on the grounds of Thomas Worthington's estate, Adena, near Chillicothe.

Adena culture people lived in semipermanent villages since their culture was more advanced than hunters and gatherers. They domesticated plants, and grew squash and corn. The Adena built effigy mounds, of which Great Serpent Mound in Adams County is the most spectacular. They also built conical burial mounds, and



hundreds remain visible today. The Adena pipe is one of the most famous artifacts found in the Adena burial mounds. About 100-300 BC the Adena culture passed from the scene as a society. There is an Adena mound in the Park which is described below.

About 100 BC another mound building culture, the Hopewell people, appeared in Ohio. The Hopewell built burial mounds and also earthworks in geometric forms--circles, rectangles and octagons. The burial mounds reveal information about the Hopewell culture. Copper artifacts, decorated clay vessels, and tobacco pipes of the platform type, some carved to represent birds and animals have caused some writers to suggest the Hopewell were "the Greeks of Ohio's ancient world."<sup>6</sup>

The Fort Ancient culture appeared in southern Ohio between A.D. 960-1,000. The emergence of this culture from a Late Woodland base was stimulated by an increased reliance on maize agriculture, a more sedentary lifestyle and the influx of Mississippian influences. The Fort Ancient subsistence economy was centered around a strong maize agriculture base with some growing of beans and squash, while hunting and gathering supplemented the economy. Hunting focused on turkey, deer and elk with mussel, fish and other animal species providing additional food sources.

Year-round settlements were concentrated along the major rivers. A majority of the sites were located along the Scioto River and other major drainage areas in southern Ohio.<sup>7</sup>

A survey of the cultural resources for Chestnut Ridge Park indicated that there was one documented mound in the Park. This site, Old Maid's Orchard Mound (33-FA-43) is a conical shaped mound about 60 feet in diameter and 7 feet high. It is located atop Chestnut Ridge, .7 mile south of the village of Jefferson, just west of Amanda Road in Section 10 of Bloom Township. This mound was placed in the National Register of Historic Places 5 July 1973. This mound is typical of the Adena people.<sup>8</sup>

In 1986 a field survey of the Park was conducted using systematic subsurface testing, surface collection and visual inspection. Three prehistoric archaeological sites were discovered. Two were small lithic scatters (chips from making stone tools) and the third was a burial mound. The two lithic scatters sites were deemed not eligible for the National Register. The mound was located five meters from the nature trail. It is presumed that this mound was one of the five mounds reported in 1914.<sup>9</sup>

### Historic Indians

In the middle of the eighteenth century, when the French and English struggled for control of the current state of Ohio, they found the area occupied by a number of Indian tribes. The earliest

of these tribes had come to the region scarcely more than fifty years before. The absence of native tribes is accounted for by the apparent extermination of the Eries by the Iroquois Confederation in the 1650s. While the present state of Ohio was uninhabited for many years, it was crossed and recrossed by parties of Iroquois whose conquests extended to the Mississippi River.

The Indian population in Ohio probably did not exceed 15,000 people prior to the American Revolution. There was room for all and there was little reason for rivalry, even though nearly all of the Ohio Indians had felt the impact of the conquering Iroquois of New York. Even in the eighteenth century Ohio tribes were subject to a modest dominance by the Iroquois, who still had a vague claim on the Ohio Valley.

When the white settlers arrived, the major tribes in Ohio were: Miamis, Shawnees, Wyandots, and Delawares. In addition, there were scattered bands of Ottawas, Tuscaroras, and Mingoes. An abundant food supply in Ohio enabled these tribes to be semi-sedentary. Though they moved frequently, they also established semi-permanent villages. These villages were located along waterways.

After the middle of the eighteenth century, the Ohio tribes felt the need to resist white advances and acted together in emergencies to offer resistance to white settlement.<sup>10</sup>

Elements of the Wyandot and Delaware tribes were prominent in the area now included in Fairfield County when early settlers in the Marietta area explored this region. A principal town of the Wyandot tribe was located where current Lancaster stands. It was reported that in 1790 there were about one hundred wigwams, with a population of five hundred in this town, which was called Tarhe, or "Cranetown." The town was named for the principal chief of the tribe "Tarhe--the Crane." The wigwams were built of bark, set on poles, with one square open, fronting on a fire, and were about the height of a man.

Prior to the Greenville Treaty of 1795, The Wyandot tribe made frequent attacks on white settlements along the Ohio river in Kentucky. Tarhe, the Wyandot chief, had participated in the Battle of Point Pleasant in 1774 and was the only chief who escaped from the Battle of Fallen Timbers (1794) where General Anthony Wayne defeated the Indians. He was one of the principal signatories of the Greenville Treaty, and he was given the Indian's copy of the Treaty. Following that time he was quite friendly with the white settlers. The Wyandots removed to Upper Sandusky soon after the treaty was signed, and Tarhe, past 70 years of age, with a number of his warriors marched with Gen. William Henry Harrison in a number of campaigns in the War of 1812, including the expedition to Canada which ended with the Battle of the Thames in which Tecumseh was killed.



There was a small Indian town located within the current borders of Bloom Township. This town located on the southern boundary of Bloom Township was called "Tobytown" and was named for a minor chief. The town was located north of Royalton and south of Greencastle on Little Walnut or Toby Creek. While some historical publications refer to this town as a part of the Wyandot tribe, current consensus identifies the town as a small town (or camp) of the Delaware tribe. Early white settlers in Bloom Township would have seen little of the inhabitants of this camp.<sup>11</sup>

The Indian activity in Bloom Township, Fairfield County, Ohio after white settlement was quite limited and non-confrontational. The Treaty of Greenville (1795) removed the habitation of the Indians above the northern line of Delaware County before the white settlers arrived. The abundance of game attracted numerous hunting parties of Wyandots to this area. Their visits were quite peaceful, with an occasional party appearing with skins or sugar to sell. While there were obvious concerns among the white settlers about Indian attacks during the War of 1812, there is no evidence of conflict in the area now encompassed by Chestnut Ridge Park. The nearest reported Indian conflict was about eighteen miles north of Urbana, Ohio.<sup>12</sup>

#### Indian Wars and Treaties

The relations of settlers and Indians in the Ohio country at the turn of the nineteenth century must be viewed in the context of the fifty years of conflict between these peoples in the period preceding settlement.

The Ohio Land Company was organized in Virginia in 1748. The company petitioned the King of England for five hundred acres of land which was to be settled, and this petition was approved since the British wished to block the French advance in the Ohio Valley. Christopher Gist was employed to report the nature of the country and the dispositions of the Indians.

In 1754 George Washington with his colonial troops was forced to surrender in what is now western Pennsylvania, and the Ohio Valley passed to the French. In 1755, Gen. Edward Braddock's defeat a few miles from Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh) destroyed what little British influence remained. In 1756 the Seven Years War (the French and Indian War in American history) began. The colonists and the British were ultimately successful, with the most important action for the future of Ohio being the capture of Fort Duquesne by Gen. John Forbes in the fall of 1758. This fort was named Fort Pitt by the British.

The struggle between the British, the colonists and the Indians extended from 1763 until 1783. During this period there were many areas of conflict, but perhaps the Battle of Point Pleasant on 10 October 1774 with 1,100 backwoods militia opposing

about 1,000 Indian warriors was the most important. The battle was fierce but ultimately the frontiersmen prevailed. As indicated above, the Wyandot chief, Tarhe, was conspicuous at the Battle of Point Pleasant.

The American Revolution in the Ohio country was essentially a continuation of conflict with the Indians. The murder of the Christian Indians at Gnadenhutten by the forces of Col. David Williamson was followed by the capture of Col. William Crawford, who was tortured and burned by the Indians, while the white renegade, Simon Girty, watched.

Indian wars continued after organized settlement began in 1788 along the Ohio River. The campaigns in what is now western Ohio took place from 1790 to 1794. In 1790 Gen. Josiah Harmar, a veteran of the Revolution led an army of 1,500 men, most of them untrained militia, through the Miami Valley to what is now Fort Wayne, Indiana, where several units were routed by the Indians. Gen. Arthur St. Clair was placed in charge of a new army of 3,000. St. Clair was the first governor of the Northwest Territory and commander of the armed forces. He planned to build a chain of forts in the western part of what is now Ohio with a fort every twenty-five miles. On November 3, 1791 at the east fork of the Wabash River (current Darke County, Ohio) his army was attacked by Little Turtle. Although St. Clair exhibited personal bravery, about half of his force was annihilated and a huge amount of stores was captured.

Gen. Anthony Wayne was placed in charge of the army. He collected 2,500 men at Pittsburgh, proceeded in the spring of 1793 to Cincinnati where he spent months drilling the troops in frontier methods. He spent the winter at Fort Greenville. After receiving reinforcements, Wayne defeated the Indians at the battle of Fallen Timbers (near Maumee, Ohio) on 20 August 1794. The Indians were led by the Shawnee Blue Jacket. In less than an hour, the Indians were in flight. In August 1795, the Treaty of Greenville was signed by ninety representatives of the Indians. Among other things, this treaty established the Greenville Treaty Line, running from Lake Erie via the Cuyahoga and the Tuscarawas Rivers to a point above Fort Laurens, then westward via a point near Loramie's Station to Fort Recovery and southwest to the Ohio River. All land south and east of that land was surrendered to the United States.<sup>13</sup>

The land now in Chestnut Ridge Park was south and east of the Greenville Treaty Line.

#### Natural Resources

Ohio's mineral resources include coal, clay, stone, sand and gravel, gas, petroleum and salt. Coal and clay are primarily found in the unglaciated area in southeastern Ohio, where low-grade iron



ore also exists. The other mineral resources are not as localized.

The preponderance of heavy forests over the area now encompassed by Chestnut Ridge was both a hindrance to agriculture and a necessity for the pioneer settlers who came to this area. The fact that there were stands of oak, maple, hickory, walnut, elm and other deciduous trees covering this area meant the land must be cleared before farming could take place. On the other hand, these same trees provided the wood for making houses, furniture, fences and for fuel.

The climate in central Ohio provides a growing season of about 170 days between killing frosts, with an annual rainfall of about 38 inches. The temperature ranges from ten below zero (fahrenheit) to one hundred degrees above zero in a single year. The climate is generally favorable to agriculture.<sup>14</sup>

#### Land Development in the Northwest Territory

As indicated above, the struggle for the Ohio Country during the American Revolution was essentially a continuation of the conflict between Indian and frontiersman that had begun during the French and Indian War. The negotiations at the close of the conflict dictated that Ohio would become a part of the United States of America.

Four states--New York, Virginia, Massachusetts and Connecticut--had claims on the land north and west of the Ohio River--the Northwest Territory. It took several years to complete the cessation of claims and special conditions had to be met in some cases. Virginia surrendered her claim, but reserved the region between the Scioto and the Little Miami Rivers to satisfy the bounties promised to her Revolutionary veterans. Hence, even today this area is identified as the Virginia Military Tract. Connecticut, unable to secure lands elsewhere, reserved ownership and jurisdiction over a region extending one hundred twenty miles west of Pennsylvania. This is known as the Connecticut Western Reserve and is located in northeastern Ohio.

Congress adopted a Land Ordinance in 1785 which specified that a regular system of surveys, including a numbered system of range, township, and section should be developed in the Northwest Territory. This spared Ohio, except in the Virginia Military District, the confusion caused in the eastern states by an indiscriminate method of locating land. The earlier system permitted a settler to select a site that suited him and have it surveyed. These tracts often overlapped earlier purchases, and left unattractive lands unclaimed.

On May 18, 1796 an act was passed by Congress which established the procedures for the surveying and sale of lands

"east of the Scioto River." This included all of the land in Fairfield County plus land in Perry, Hocking, Vinton, Jackson, Lawrence, and part of Muskingum Counties. The 1796 act called for surveying the land into six mile square townships, and prescribed the subdivision of each township into one mile square sections. Each township would contain 36 sections and each section would contain 640 acres. This survey procedure became the standard for surveying all of the land lying west of Ohio.

While the survey method for Fairfield County was a systematic and regular procedure, a grant to Ebenezer Zane, on May 17, 1796 provided him with one square mile of land at the crossing of the current Muskingum River (Zanesville), Hocking River (Lancaster) and Scioto River (Chillicothe). Zane had permission to open a road from Wheeling to Limestone (Maysville), Kentucky and he was to maintain a ferry at the crossing of each of these rivers. Zane made the surveys himself, and hence, his survey lines do not fit the regular section lines.<sup>15</sup>

Ebenezer Buckingham was the deputy surveyor who surveyed township 14, range 20 of the Congress Lands East of the Scioto River in May 1801. He had been appointed by Surveyor General Rufus Putnam and was employed by the U.S. Government to survey these lands as a prerequisite to the official sale of lands by the government. Buckingham was born in Greenfield, Connecticut in 1778 and came to Marietta in 1796 as a young man 18 years of age. He surveyed Coschocton County in 1796, and a large part of Muskingum County in 1798. After surveying in Fairfield County in 1801, Buckingham surveyed land in Indiana. (See the appendix for biodata about Buckingham)

It is fortunate that the original notes for the survey conducted by Buckingham still survive in the Ohio State Auditor's Office. These survey notes indicate not only the range and bearing of the posts placed to designate the section, quarter-section and township lines, but also the surveyor's observation of the kind of timber growing on the land, the streams running through the land, and provided his judgment about the relative productivity of each section of land. A complete copy of the original notes for all sections of township fourteen, range twenty is included in the appendix of this report. A transcription of the notes for sections three, four, nine and ten is also included. The current land in the Chestnut Ridge Metro Park is located in these four sections of current Bloom Township, Fairfield County.

Buckingham and other government surveyors were paid three dollars for each mile of survey completed, but one must understand that the deputy surveyor was required to pay his axmen, chainmen and the rest of his crew from the amount he received from the government. It was not unusual for these surveyors to "locate" desirable land for prospective buyers, and often the surveyor personally purchased choice sections from the government. There is



no evidence that Buckingham purchased or obtained land in Bloom Township, but he did purchase section 20 in Berne Township of Fairfield County more than a quarter of a century after he surveyed the land.

Several items of interest are found in these survey notes. When running the section line between sections three and ten, and nine and ten, Buckingham commented on the timbered ridges with thin soil and with Chestnut and other timber growing. This is the ridge of current Chestnut Ridge Metro Park. The map accompanying Buckingham's notes shows the "Road from Franklinton to New Lancaster" running diagonally across section nine, and across one corner of section ten. Hence, there must have been a "road" of sorts before the first official settlers arrived in Bloom Township. In the notes for the survey between sections two and three, near the north boundary of the township, he notes a house four chains (264 feet) west of the section line. There are other locations where a house is reported.

The government policy for the sale of Congress Lands was quite clear. This land had to be officially surveyed before any land could be sold. The existence of "houses" in township 14 of range 20 when the official survey was being run indicates there were "squatters" on this land. This is not surprising, since the Refugee Lands, and U. S. Military Lands to the north, the Ohio Company Lands to the east, and the Virginia Military Lands to the west had all been surveyed and opened for settlement before township 14 was surveyed. Further, Fairfield County had been established in the year preceding this survey. Nevertheless, it is only after Buckingham's official survey that one can trace the official owners of these lands.<sup>16</sup>

#### Ownership of the Land

Ownership of land can be identified in a rather straightforward fashion by reviewing the deed records at the county recorder's office. Often there is a significant variation between the people who owned land and those who lived on the land. This is especially true in Ohio in the early nineteenth century, particularly in some sections of the U.S. Military Tract where the original sale of land by the government was in units of quarter-townships of some 4,000 acres. While there was some absentee ownership in the Congress Lands East of the Scioto, the sale of land by the government in units of quarter-sections of 160 acres tended to attract more owner-settlers.<sup>17</sup>

The original owners who purchased land from the government in sections three, four, nine and ten of Bloom Township are shown below:

#### Section 3

N.W. Quarter, James Madison, President to George Hoshor,

assignee of Winn Wiship and J. Finley, 1 December 1811.

S.W. Quarter, James Madison, President to Henry Orwis  
(sic) assignee of Daniel Mier and George Hoshor, 20 September  
1815.

Eastern Half, Thomas Jefferson, President to Samuel and  
Zebulon Lee, 2 February 1807.

#### Section 4

N. W. Quarter, Thomas Jefferson, President to John Hanna,  
Sr. assignee of Daniel Lee, 2 June 1807.

S. W. Quarter, James Madison, President to John Defort,  
10 December 1811.

Eastern Half, Thomas Jefferson, President to Henry  
Asbaugh assignee of Dorsey Mason, 20 December 1808.

#### Section 9

N.W. Quarter, Woodrow Wilson, President to Peter  
Robinault--intended date 1 September 1811. (This is a twentieth  
century re-issue of the warrant).

S.W. Quarter, James Madison, President to Daniel Avert  
assignee of John Critz, 12 December 1817.

N.E. Quarter, The records are not clear regarding the  
original owner.

S.E. Quarter, James Madison to John Alspach, 6 July 1816.

#### Section 10

N.W. Quarter, James Madison to John Rockey, 11 December  
1812.

S.W. Quarter, Thomas Jefferson to Andrew Flick, 3  
February 1807.

N.E. Quarter, James Madison to Jacob Alspach, 20 February  
1812.

S.E. Quarter, James Madison to Martin Kettrig, 3 August  
1810.

In terms of tracing ownership of the land currently in  
Chestnut Ridge Metro Park, one must follow primarily the S.W.



quarter of section 3, the southeast quarter of section 4, the northeast quarter of section 9, and the southeast quarter of section 10. The land in these tracts was primarily purchased by settlers directly from the government.

In section 3, Henry Orwig sold some 88 acres to Michael Alspach on 2 March 1835. Michael Alspach appeared as the owner of this land on the plat map of 1866, and records indicated he died 13 February 1873. After a partition suit among the heirs of Michael Alspach, this land was conveyed to Henry Fictore on 21 April 1876. Henry Fictore lived in Violet Township, north of the Park area, but he continued to own this tract of land until his death 7 January 1894. The administrator of Fictore's estate conveyed this land to John F. Pearce on 19 December 1894. On 19 March 1898, John F. and Eliza J. Pearce conveyed this land to John Gross. John and Lillie Gross conveyed this property to John O. Wagner, 16 October 1917. In 1937 and 1950 John O. and Catherine Wagner sold small parcels of land and on 8 September 1959, Catherine Wagner, then a widow and her daughter Elizabeth C. Reed and son-in-law Sheldon C. Reed conveyed the property to Robert O. Heer. Robert Heer sold this land to the Metro Parks 27 April 1975.

Also in section 3, Henry and Dorothy Orwig sold 40 acres to Michael Thrash on 3 November 1815. When Michael Thrash died 7 June 1863 the administrator of his estate conveyed this property to John Thrash, Henry Howard and Susan Showalter, his heirs, on 17 April 1864. On 24 August 1868 John and Matilda Thrash, Henry and Caroline Howard conveyed this property to John P. Morris. On 29 March 1892, John and Louisa Morris conveyed this property to John W. Artz and on 14 November 1917, John W. and Minerva Artz conveyed the property to John O. Wagner.

Michael Thrash also obtained a portion of the eastern half of section three on 19 June 1812 from David W. Whyam, who in turn had purchased it from Samuel and Zebulon Lee on 28 August 1807.

In section 4, Henry Alspaugh (sic) conveyed the S.E. corner to the administrators of John Teford, who conveyed the property to John Kunkel on 30 September 1813. On 24 August 1846, Daniel Kunkel conveyed the S.E. Corner to Henry B. Alspach who conveyed the property to Elijah Alspaugh 1 May 1850. Elijah Alspaugh obtained another portion of the S.E. corner of this section on 25 January 1853. Elijah Alspaugh sold this corner to Jesse Swank on 11 June 1864 and on 1 April 1874, Swank and his wife sold the property to Catharine Glick. The 1875 plat map of Bloom Township shows E. Allspach and T. Glick as the owners of the S.E. corner of section 4. Thomas and Catharine Glick sold the S.E. corner to Jesse Swank 7 February 1877. William Foor obtained the property in 1880 and on 13 May 1883 Daniel Boyer, et. al. conveyed the property to Sarah Boyer. On 5 March 1901, the Sheriff of Fairfield County conveyed the property to Clement V. Moore. Warren J. Moore obtained this property through the will of Clement Moore. Warren and Ora Moore

conveyed the property to Gale L. Wright, who with his wife conveyed the property to Paul and Clarissa Woodcock on 24 December 1947. On 10 February 1950 Paul and Clarissa Woodcock conveyed the property to Ervin Moore and John Lewis Moore. On 10 April 1959 John Lewis and Eloise Moore conveyed their interest in the property to Ervin Moore. On 12 June 1964 Ervin and Erie L. Moore conveyed the property to the Metro Park.

Since there is only a very small portion of the N.E. portion of section 9 in the current Metro Park, an extended description of ownership will not be outlined. While the records are not completely clear, it appears that Frederick Feller owned this property in 1835. He conveyed the property to Conrad Feller on 23 July 1851. Conrad Feller owned this property for about 30 years and appeared on the 1875 plat map as the owner of this land. In 1880, Conrad Feller conveyed the property to Samuel Zaayer who conveyed the property to Virgil H. Zaayer 17 January 1890. On 14 December 1944, the sheriff of Fairfield County conveyed the property to Warren J. Moore, following a partition suit between Harley Z. Simms and Virgil A. Zaayer. On 8 April 1966 Warren J. and Ora G. Moore conveyed property to the Metro Parks.

The ownership of the properties now in the Metro Park lying in section ten is best illustrated by tracing the ownership of the Laws and Boving properties purchased by the Metro Parks.

The N.W. quarter of section 10 was conveyed to John Rockey, 11 December 1812 and the N.E. quarter was conveyed to Jacob Alspach on 20 February 1812. On 23 January 1815 Jacob and Elizabeth Alspach conveyed this property to John Alspach, and on 16 August 1816 John and Mariah Alspach conveyed 80.74 acres to Daniel Rockey. On 18 December 1856, the administrators of the estate of John S. Rockey conveyed 80 acres to John D. Alspach, a grandson of the original owner of this quarter-section of land. After extensive litigation, the sheriff conveyed the property to Cornelius A. Alspach on 31 May 1898. On 20 August 1901 C.A. and Emma Alspach conveyed the property to Hannah Alspach, who died 4 September 1927. On 4 October 1930 the property was conveyed to Daniel Alspach, a widower, On 20 May 1936, Daniel Alspach conveyed the property to Ann B. Campbell and on 5 November 1946 Anne B. Campbell, a widow, conveyed the property to her daughter, Catherine L. Laws, while reserving life use of the dwelling and the three car garage with servant quarters. On 18 October 1973 Catharine and Glenn Laws conveyed the property to the Metro Parks.

The Boving property was also a part of the N.W. quarter of section 10 purchased 11 December 1812 by John Rockey. On 10 August 1815 John and Elizabeth Rockey sold 40 acres to Samuel Knoyer. On 10 July 1819 Samuel and Catherine Knoyer sold this property to John Fellers. On 17 May 1830 John and Elizabeth Fellers sold the property to Sebastian Alspach and on 19 March 1832, Sebastian and Christena Alspach conveyed the property to George Doudel. George



Doudel died circa 1857 and on 2 December 1859 his heirs conveyed this property to Daniel Boyer. After litigation, the sheriff conveyed this property to Sarah Boyer on 15 May 1883. On 19 August 1891 this property was conveyed to George E. Martin by the administrator of the estate of George Boyer. On 11 January 1896, George E. and Margaret Martin conveyed this property to Andrew G. Jacks. On 20 October 1922 Andrew G. and Leota Jacks conveyed the property to Jasper and Emma Farley. On 3 May 1926 Jasper and Emma Farley conveyed 28 acres to Francis A. and John F. Percy. On 6 May 1933 Francis A., Kathryn G. and John F. Percy conveyed this property to Nellie G. Wing and her son Fred W. Wing. On 1 April 1954 Nellie G. Wing conveyed the property to Fred W. Wing, but maintained a life estate in the property. Nellie G. Wing died 11 July 1957. Her son Fred W. lived in Canal Winchester and her son G. Russell Wing lived in Long Beach, California. On 6 February 1958 Fred W. and Betty E. Wing conveyed this property to Louis W., George, and John F. Boving and their wives. On 17 January 1963 the Boving's conveyed this property to the Metro Parks. There were oil and gas leases on this property in 1920 and in 1960.<sup>18</sup>

#### SETTLEMENT OF THE AREA

While the ownership of the land can be traced from deed records and plat maps, the actual settlement on the land must use other sources. Even though the 1875 atlas of Fairfield County lists the date of settlement for some of the persons living in Bloom Township, this is not a comprehensive list. Obviously, some of the early settlers had expired or moved away prior to that date. The published recollections of early settlers late in the nineteenth century provides some clues as does estate records, partition records and cemetery records.<sup>19</sup>

There is consensus in the published histories that the Courtright, Hushors, Glicks, Hoys, Alspaugh (Alspach), and Thrash families were early settlers in Bloom Township. While they are not mentioned as early settlers Henry Orwig, Peter Robinault, and John Rockey, are either themselves buried, or have children buried in cemeteries near the current Metro Park area. Orwig, Robinault and Rockey were original owners of land in the sections of Bloom Township which are not in the Park.

Abraham Van Courtright (1748-1825) and his wife Effie (Drake) Courtright (1752-1824) came to Fairfield County from Pennsylvania with their three sons circa 1801 and settled near Betser Church, two miles south of Lockville. Jesse Courtright, son of Abraham, laid out Greencastle in 1810. Abraham Van Courtright died near Greencastle, but the original homestead remained in the Courtright family. In 1875 Zephemiah Courtright farmed this property and in 1912, A.V. Courtright lived on this land.

The Alspach family came to Bloom Township quite early. Henry Alspach was an original owner in section four, John Alspach was an

original owner in section nine and Jacob Alspach was an original owner in section ten. While one will find a number of different spellings of this name, the name is consistently spelled "Alspach" on the tombstones in Betser Cemetery. One can be reasonably certain that all of the Alspach's (Alspaugh) are related. It would be very time consuming to determine the precise relationship of all the Alspach's in Bloom Township since they followed the typical Pennsylvania-German procedure of using the same first names in most of the families.

The land of Jacob Alspach in section 10 remained in the family until purchased by Anne G. Campbell, wife of Dr. Edwin Campbell in 1936. In 1883 it was reported that John D. Alspach who lived on this land "south of Jefferson" was a grandson of Jacob Alspach.<sup>20</sup> Also in section 10, Isaac Hummel owned and lived with his family on land in the northwestern part of this section from circa 1832 until his death in 1884.<sup>21</sup>

In section 3, Michael Alspach purchased 88 acres from Henry and Margaret Orwig in 1835. Michael died 13 February 1873 at 91, years of age, indicating he was born circa 1782 and would have been 53 years old when he purchased this property from Orwig. This property is the same property ultimately conveyed to John O. Wagner in 1917 and on which Wagner established his orchard.

Also in section 3, Michael Thrash, born in Maryland, purchased 40 acres from Henry Orwig in 1815. Michael Thrash died 7 June 1863. Since both Michael Thrash and Michael Alspach lived until after 1850, we can identify them in the U.S. Census and document that they were settlers on the land, not just owners of the land. The property on which Michael Thrash settled was purchased in 1868 by John P. Morris and was the property on which he built the house still standing across the Winchester Pike. This land was also purchased by John Wagner in 1917.<sup>22</sup>

In section 4, Henry Alspach obtained the eastern one-half as the assignee of Dorsey Mason in 1808. The southeastern corner of this section appears to remain in the Alspach family until after the Civil War, and presumably members of the family lived on this land. M. L. Boyer, whose name appeared on the 1875 plat map settled at this location in 1836.<sup>23</sup>

The settlement pattern in section 9 is more difficult to establish. From 1823 through 1880, Conrad Feller owned and lived on the land now in the Metro Park. The census and the 1875 atlas demonstrate his occupancy of this land.<sup>24</sup>

George Hoshor was the original owner of the northwest quarter of section 3, and sources list him as an early settler on this land. Further, a "Hoshor Cemetery" with burials as early as 1811 is located about one-half mile north of Jefferson on the Hoshor land. August Shaer, born in Germany, settled on the northeastern



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quarter of section 3 in 1847.<sup>25</sup>

It is quite likely that there were some tenants living on the land in and around the current Metro Park, but it is not possible to identify which tenant was living on which parcel of land. The agricultural census for 1850 through 1880 does provide a macro view of the improved and unimproved land, and the nature of farming in the current Metro Park area. In addition one can identify the farming patterns of owner-operators in this area.

Fairfield County was part of the area in the Scioto Valley that concentrated upon feeding cattle and swine and driving them over the mountains to market them in the early nineteenth century. As early as 1808, the Scioto Valley had furnished cattle for eastern markets, but the great cattle feeding period in this area was between 1840 and 1850.<sup>26</sup> The farms in the current Park area can be characterized as general farms during most of the nineteenth century, shifting toward horticultural production in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

During the mid-nineteenth century, agriculture was shifting from the frontier methods toward a more scientific approach to farming. Agricultural magazines, such as the Ohio Cultivator, county agricultural fairs, new agricultural equipment, and the development of the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Ohio State University) in 1872 all contributed to significant future changes agriculture, but the changes in mid-nineteenth century were quite minuscule.<sup>27</sup>

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In 1850 the agricultural census indicated the land in Bloom Township was 70 percent improved (cleared) and 30 percent unimproved. In the current Metro Park area the land was 55 percent improved and 45 percent unimproved. In 1860 all land in Bloom Township was still about 70 percent improved and 30 percent unimproved, while the land in the Park area was 72 percent improved and 28 percent unimproved. By 1870 Bloom Township was 79 percent improved and 21 percent unimproved, but by 1880 the Park land was still about 75 percent improved and 25 percent unimproved.

These data indicate that land-clearing in the current Park area increased between 1850 and 1860, but stabilized after that time. The topography of the Park land probably contributed to the later clearing of some of the land. A comparison of the 1850 and 1860 agricultural census shows a marked increase in income from orchards between 1850 and 1860. The stabilizing of the improved land in the Park area was undoubtedly associated with the topography of this land, since some of this land was not economical to farm.

Changes in farming patterns on the farms in the Park area between 1850 and 1880 show "Indian corn" as the major crop grown, and swine as the most numerous livestock kept. There was a decline

6

in non-milk cows on these farms and a dramatic decrease in the number of sheep kept on these farms during that thirty year period. In 1850 there was no income from orchards reported, but by 1880 John D. Alspach reported 100 bearing apple trees, and John P. Morris reported six acres of apple trees, but only 25 trees were in production. John W. Artz reported one acre of apple trees, with 40 bearing trees, Isaac Hummel reported two acres with 20 producing apple trees, and Augustus Shaer reported three acres of apples with 50 trees and one acre of with 60 bearing peach trees. In the 1880 census, John W. Alspach listed his primary occupation as "Tending Vineyard."<sup>28</sup>

The generalizations one can make about the settlement of this land are; (1) this area was settled primarily by owner-operators of the farms, (2) the settlers were primarily general farmers until the mid-nineteenth century when there was a marked increase in horticultural production and (3) this area was settled primarily by persons of German ancestry from Pennsylvania.

#### Natural History of the Land

Ebenezer Buckingham's survey notes make it quite clear that the area now in Chestnut Ridge Metro Park was covered with sizable trees in 1801. There were beech, hickory, ash, oak, sugartree and, of course, chestnut trees. Since this township was surveyed into sections, the description of the area is much more complete than in those locations (U.S. Military Tract) where only the boundaries of the township were surveyed. (See appendix)

The recollections of Judge Chaney about his early years in Bloom Township provide a useful perspective on the nature of the land. Chaney settled in the northern portion of Bloom Township in 1815. He indicated:

The whole country was new and wild. The little farms were small, and fenced in with rails; and the dwelling houses were log-cabins; and the stables and barns were built of logs.

Our living was that of frontier settlers. We worked hard and were poor; but did not doubt the future. . . . There were wolves and wild turkeys in great abundance, and now and then a bear. There were hawks of many varieties, which have nearly entirely disappeared; and the owls were hooting about the woods all the time.<sup>29</sup>

It has been stated that "the pioneer was of necessity a woodsman before he could be an agriculturist." In general, underbrush and trees under 20 inches in diameter were cut, and the larger trees were girdled so they would die. Trees that were girdled while in full leaf were sometimes burned the next winter. If not burned, they might stand for several years.<sup>30</sup>



As reported above, clearing of the land progressed continuously during the first half of the nineteenth century. Not all of the timber was burned, since some was required for buildings. Chaney described the home in which he and his wife "went to housekeeping." It was a log cabin fourteen feet square. "Its floor was made of rough puncheons split out of forest trees. It had a clapboard roof and clapboard loft, and was one low story high, had a stick and mud chimney, wide open fireplace with the primitive back wall, jams and hearth."<sup>31</sup>

Timber from the immediate area was used for the first bridges which were logs cut for sills and abutments and the platform was made of slabs split from sections of trees and made level on the upper side with the broad-ax. After saw mills became available, oak planks with a thickness about two inches were used for the platform. Chaney and Jacob Alspach were among those who operated saw mills in Bloom Township.<sup>32</sup>

In 1801, the surveyor, Buckingham, noted the chestnut trees growing along the ridge. These trees ultimately gave their name to the ridge, and subsequently to the Metro Park. The American Chestnut tree (*Castanea dentata* Borkhausen) has been described as one of the most important trees of Ohio, prior to the infestation of the blight (*Endothia parasitica*) in the early twentieth century. It is reported that some chestnut trees reach ten to twelve feet in diameter, and they were admired for their wonderful sprouting ability, which permitted them to reproduce after repeated cutting for railroad ties, poles, and other products.

The chestnut tree was confined to the eastern portion of the state of Ohio. It is thought that the blight which destroyed these trees came into this country on Chinese Chestnuts which, despite a high degree of infection with this blight, showed a degree of resistance to it. The blight was first detected in 1904 in the New York Zoological Park and spread across New Jersey and the great chestnut stands of Pennsylvania and into Ohio. By the early 1930s, the chestnuts in Ohio had died from this disease.

There have been a number of attempts to develop disease resistant chestnut stock. While some of the results have been encouraging, at least twenty years is required to determine whether or not a tree is canker free. The chestnut blight has spread over the entire United States, but there is one area near Cadillac, Michigan where there is a disease-free stand of native American Chestnuts.<sup>33</sup>

An article written by Charles Goslin, Fairfield County Historian, in 1956 described the flora of Chestnut Ridge. The article reported a Sunday walk across the Ridge. The author found no living Chestnut trees, "only stumps, fallen trees and a few standing skeletons." He reported that there were "many orchards on Chestnut Ridge and many of the trees were loaded with apples."

He observed that "Beech, sugarmaple, chestnut oak, basswood, dogwood, and other kinds of trees" were growing on this hill that overlooked Jefferson. He commented that "out on the point we found an abandoned stone quarry. By the size of the sycamores, wild cherries and a red maple, we knew it had not been worked in years."

The author indicated that in addition to the main quarry, he found two small workings on the top of the ridge. He surmised that these small quarries provided stone for the foundations of early homes in the area. He found growing in that area rock-loving ferns, and pawpaws. Sassafras, tupelo and dogwood trees formed the understory of the forest, while beech and red oaks formed the canopy. He indicated that one portion of the ridge was shaded by sugar maples and white oak, another had white ash and elms, another had beech and red oaks, another mostly scarlet oaks, and still another mostly black locust.<sup>34</sup>

A more recent observation of flora and fauna in the Metro Park area was made by Goslin in the 1970s. He opted to walk along Mason Road, while walking from Jefferson to Lithopolis. He noted that the "undeveloped" park land was still used as farm land. "Beneath the scotch, red and white pines that have been planted, large patches of common speedwell covered the ground. Early goldenrod and selfheal bloomed in the sunny spots. Smooth sumac had gone to seed and the fruits were almost full grown on the papaw trees." . . . "Carolina wrens and song sparrows serenaded as we walked by. Carolina grasshoppers resting on the warm blacktop took wing. . .  
."35

### Transportation

There are no navigable streams in Bloom Township, so trails and rudimentary roads provided the early transportation for this area. While some local historians suggest there were no roads in Bloom Township prior to 1802, the surveyor, Buckingham, recorded in his survey notes in May, 1801 that he intersected the "Road to the forks of the Scioto" at 13 chains, 95 links moving north along the section line between sections 9 and 10. Further, he designated this as the road from New Lancaster to Franklinton on the map he filed with his survey notes. This road ultimately became Route 33, although the location of this road has been changed in recent times.<sup>36</sup> Zane's Trace had been cut through in 1796-1797 from Wheeling to current Aberdeen on the Ohio River. This trace followed roughly what is Rt. 22 from Zanesville to Lancaster and current Route 159 from Lancaster to Chillicothe. By 1798, Franklinton (now part of Columbus) was a thriving village on the Scioto River.<sup>37</sup>

While Fairfield County was established in 1800, it was not until 1805 that Bloom Township was organized, even though it had been surveyed into sections in 1801. The first north-south road



across Bloom Township was the "Wheeling to the Lakes Road" established in 1811. This road was also known as the "War Road" since it was utilized in the War of 1812. It passed through Greencastle which was laid out by Jess Courtright in 1815 and through Jefferson, laid out circa 1806 by George Hoshor. This road is now called the Amanda-Northern Road.<sup>38</sup>

In the early period, roads were "opened" which meant that the trees were cut down. It is reported that the early supervisors of the roads were primarily concerned with the "extraction of stumps." To encourage residents to work at this task, one of the early election regulations specified that only those who had worked two days on removal of stumps from the road were permitted to cast a ballot.<sup>39</sup>

Chaney reported that "corduroy bridges" were used in constructing roads through swampy areas. Poles or logs ten or twelve feet in length were cut and laid down side by side across the road for the distance it was to be corduroyed. About a foot of earth was placed on top of these logs, which filled the space between the poles and made a "passably good road." But the Supervisor was responsible for repairing these roads by adding earth which wore or washed away in the rain. In many cases, the roads were simply not usable by wheeled vehicles during significant portions of the year.<sup>40</sup>

Transporting farm products to the eastern markets over these roads was most difficult, and transportation via the Scioto, and Ohio Rivers to New Orleans was also costly. The stimulation of Ohio's economy during the War of 1812 increased speculation about the building of canals to connect the Ohio River with Lake Erie. When New York State began building the Erie Canal in 1817, connecting Lake Erie with the Hudson River, it was clear that Ohio producers would have an advantage if they could get their goods to Lake Erie and move them by inexpensive water transportation to New York's national and international market. In 1822 the Ohio General Assembly created an Ohio Board of Canal Commissioners to study the linking of the Ohio River with Lake Erie by one or more canals. One of the persons appointed to the Board was Ebenezer Buckingham, the person who had surveyed Bloom Township in 1801. Thomas Worthington of Chillicothe was also a member of the Board.

It was assumed by most people that the canal would follow a central location and move up the Scioto-Sandusky watershed. That route would have served the state capital and accommodated the politically potent Scioto Valley. It was discovered that there was insufficient water for the canal to be so located. Instead, the route for the Ohio Canal went from Portsmouth to a point eleven miles from Columbus, then northeast across the Licking Summit passing Newark on its way to the Muskingum, the Tuscarawas, the Cuyahoga and Lake Erie. In addition, the Miami Canal between Cincinnati and Dayton was to be built in Southwestern Ohio. In

February 1825 the general assembly authorized construction of the Ohio and Erie Canal and construction began at Licking Summit south of Newark on July 4, 1825.

The specifications for the canal called for the main channel to be twenty-six feet wide at the bottom, forty feet at the water line, with a minimum depth of four feet. Each side of the channel was to be cleared for twenty feet, and on the side nearest the river, a ten-foot towpath was to be built.<sup>41</sup> Canal boats were 60 to 75 feet long and 14 feet wide so that the boats could pass. Cargo capacity of a boat was up to 60 tons. Boats could turn around at basins built at the official canal ports. Locks were designed to lift an average of nine feet each and the length of a lock was 100 feet.<sup>42</sup>

Construction of the canal was completed primarily by local contractors who usually worked on about one-half mile of line or an entire lock or aqueduct. There were some professional contractors engaged who had worked on the Erie Canal. The Cleveland newspaper reported the daily arrival of "the hardy sons of Erin" who had worked on the Erie Canal.

On July 4, 1827 the canal was opened from Cleveland to Akron and in August 1828 the canal opened south from Akron, across Portage Summit to Massillon. The section to Newark was not completed until July 1830. There was a new bond issue in 1830 and the work in the Scioto Valley was accelerated. In October 1831 the canal opened as far south as Chillicothe and the segment to Portsmouth was completed in 1833. The entire length of the canal from Cleveland to Portsmouth was 333 miles, including twenty-five miles of feeders. There was an eleven mile feeder from Lockbourne to Columbus.<sup>43</sup>

The canal passed through the northeastern corner of Bloom Township just northwest of Carroll to Lockville. A detailed map of Lockville in 1866 appears in the appendix. There were seven locks in Lockville and the stone used to build these locks came from Chestnut Ridge. Extrapolating from prior data one must conclude that the canal in Bloom Township was constructed in 1830-1831. In 1830 the newspaper in Lancaster extolled the virtues of the canal, even though the lateral to Lancaster had not yet reached that town.<sup>44</sup>

The beneficial effects of this improvement (the Ohio Canal), yet in its infancy, are daily developed. They are seen and felt by the cultivators of the soil, in the ready sale of the farmer's surplus grain, in the augmented price and the increasing demand for staple products of agriculture. . . . Ohio merchants proclaim, with exulting pride, that their supplies of goods are brought by the Ohio Canal! Ohio will now, indeed, begin to enjoy the fruits of her youthful wisdom and energy.<sup>45</sup>

While competition from the railroads developed in mid-nineteenth century in Ohio would spell the demise of the canal, as late as 1860, Lockville was a very active village, and its citizens were still very much involved with the canal. In Lockville and Jefferson in 1860 there were seven "boatmen," two lock tenders, a stone cutter, stone quarrier, and a stone mason. It seems certain that the ability to transport stone on the canal, kept the stone quarries on Chestnut Ridge active.<sup>6</sup>

In 1961 Goslin walked along the old canal from Lockville to Carroll. He began his walk at Lockville Park on the eastern edge of Lockville. This county park was established so that Lock No. 11, one of the seven locks at Lockville, would be preserved. The towpath along the north bank of the canal was still evident at that date. West of Lock No. 11, the towpath was on the south bank of the canal. Water was still in the canal, but erosion, disrepair and cultivation had nearly destroyed what remained of the canal.<sup>7</sup>

The advent of the railroad spelled the ultimate demise of the canal. While there was competition between these two systems all over Ohio, in the area from Lockville to Carroll, there was literally head-to-head competition, since the railroad tracks followed the same general route as the canal. The railroad traveled north of Lockville through Lockville Station, then turned south and crossed the canal about one mile east of Lockville. No evidence of the railroad trestle across the canal bed remains.<sup>8</sup>

A railroad into the Hocking Valley was projected as early as 1853 but nothing was done until 1864. When subscriptions had reached \$830,000, the company organized and elected officers December 19, 1866. The name was changed to the Columbus and Hocking Valley Railroad Company in 1867, and the purpose of the road was to bring coal, iron and salt out of the valley. The railroad was completed to Canal Winchester July 16, 1868 and to Athens in January 1871. The road was dedicated in January 1869 and opened for business in July 1870. A dinner party excursion involving 1,800 persons traveled from Lancaster to Columbus in January 1869. The train left Lancaster at 9:30 a.m. but a large crowd joined the train at Canal Winchester, and six more cars had to be sent from Groveport. The party arrived in Columbus late, but all were appropriately dined and entertained. The return trip at 3:30 included eighteen coaches and the trip to Lancaster was made in two hours. On the regular schedule, two trains left Lancaster daily, one at 7:15 a.m. and another at 3:30 p.m. These trains arrived in Columbus at 10:15 and 5:08 respectively, and it was advertised that one could leave Lancaster and arrive in Chicago for early breakfast the next morning.

The Columbus and Hocking Valley Railroad operated in connection with the Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad beginning in 1876. Stock in the Columbus and Hocking Valley Railroad was popular but as a result of some "high financing" the railroad



experiences troubled times. About 1915 the railroad passed into the control of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company.<sup>49</sup>

The Scioto Valley Electric Railway, sometimes called the Scioto Valley Traction Company was built circa 1903-1904. The first regular car service from Columbus came to Lancaster on 25 July 1904. This line was built with an electrified third-rail, rather than with an overhead power line. The main line was laid from Columbus to Chillicothe through Lockbourne and Circleville, but a branch line started from Obetz and ran to Groveport and Canal Winchester. From Canal Winchester the line ran just north of Jefferson in Bloom Township, and just south of Lockville to Carroll and then on to Lancaster. In the Bloom Township area, the Traction Line ran parallel with the old canal bed.

The interurban made the trip between Columbus and Lancaster in slightly less than one hour in 1904. The line carried both passengers and freight and operated until October 1, 1930. A segment of the line between Groveport, Obetz and Lockbourne continued to carry freight until about 1975, and the segment between Lockbourne and the Pickaway Power Station operated with diesel power until about 1980. There is still about a mile of track of the Scioto Valley Electric Railway in Groveport.<sup>50</sup>

#### Education, Churches and Social Welfare

The first school teacher in Bloom Township was Abraham Courtright in 1805. While there is no specific documentation, this school must have been a subscription school, whereby parents paid for their children to attend. Section 16 of Bloom Township was set aside as "School Lands" in the law of 1796. This same section was set aside in all townships in the Congress Lands East of the Scioto River. The township trustees were responsible for renting or leasing this land to someone to farm. The income generated was to be used to support a common school. While it is likely that there were some funds generated to support schools, the income was never enough, and the parents were required to make some additional payments either in cash or in kind.

It was not until 1825 that Ohio passed the first law for financing public education. This led to the development of sub-district, one-room schools in each township, within walking distance of the pupils. Goslin identified twelve sub-district schools in Bloom Township.

One of the first schools in Bloom Township was a small log structure erected about 1816 by John Chaney a mile south of Lockville. When this school was destroyed by fire, a second school was erected on land conveyed by John Alspach to School District No. 1. The school at Lockville, known as No. 2, was built on land transferred to Bloom Township School District in 1885 and in 1967 was the Zion Lutheran Church.

School District No. 3 was located in Jefferson. There was land set aside for public use in Jefferson when George Hoshor laid out the community, but whether or not a school was built on that property cannot be ascertained. Land was granted to the school board by Talbot and Cross in 1892.

School No. 9 was known as the Egypt School on the Salem Church Road. In 1967 this was a residence. The Salem School, known as No. 10, stands near the Salem United Methodist Church and was named because of its proximity to the church.

School No. 12 was in the northwest corner of the township. This school was known as the Moore School, named for the family that owned the land. The school in 1967 was a residence.

There were six schools in the southern part of the township. Brick School, Greencastle School, Coonpath School, Marcy School, Heister Settlement School and Wesley Chapel School.<sup>51</sup>

It is reported that the first church in Bloom Township was the Old Betser Church, built of logs in 1809 and located two miles south of Lockville. It was built on "Fellers Hill" which commands one of the most picturesque views in the area.<sup>52</sup>

Isaac Hoy founded the society of the Evangelical Association and built a church just prior to the Civil War. Judge Chaney recalled in 1877 that when he came to Bloom Township in 1815 "the Lutherans and German Reforms were the principal religious denominations in my neighborhood." Both denominations used the Betser Church. He also recalled a church south of Lithopolis known as the Glick Church.<sup>53</sup>

Graham indicated that the Presbyterian Church was built in 1861 with the Courtright family as the founders of this church. He also indicated that the third building for "Salem Church" (German Lutheran) was erected in 1870.<sup>54</sup>

The nineteenth century social welfare organization in each township was entrusted to the "Overseers of the Poor." This board was responsible for providing public assistance to the indigent. However, these officials were also responsible for making certain that such assistance was not given to non-residents of the township. Hence, the overseers often returned the poor to their "place of residence." It is also reported that sometimes the overseers sold the paupers to the lowest bidder for their maintenance.<sup>55</sup>

### Twentieth Century Developments

During the first two decades of the twentieth century the area in Bloom Township now in the Metro Park continued was an agricultural area. Improved transportation provided increased

communication with villages such as Canal Winchester, and Groveport and with the urban area of Columbus. As indicated earlier, the Columbus and Hocking Valley Railroad was operative, as was the Scioto Valley Traction line, but the Ohio and Erie Canal had been abandoned. There had been some improvement in the road system, but county and township roads were still not all-weather roads.

Lithopolis, had been laid out in 1815 by Frederick Baugher, and had originally been called Centerville, since it was about halfway between Lancaster and Franklinton (Columbus). This village had been chartered in 1836 and named Lithopolis, which means "City of Stone." In the early twentieth century Lithopolis was the major center of population in Bloom Township, but the population was only about 1,000. Jefferson and Greencastle were very small villages, and Lockville, developed because of the concentration of locks on the canal at that point, was struggling for existence.<sup>56</sup>

The period 1910-1914 was the "golden age" for agriculture in Ohio and in this area. The ratio of costs of agricultural production to the prices farmers received was very favorable and this period was used as a bench mark for "parity" for about forty years.

The college of agriculture at Ohio State University was becoming more popular with farmers and many farmers' sons attended either degree programs or short courses at the college. The college initiated the agricultural extension service including boys and girls clubs (later called 4-H Clubs), extension schools, and other agricultural education activities as well as educational programs for homemakers.

The teaching of agriculture in public schools was developed leading to the teaching of vocational agriculture in high schools by the time of World War I.<sup>57</sup>

In the village of Jefferson there was a supply of spring water which was bottled and marketed in Columbus between 1906-1910. Columbus had typhoid epidemics each summer, so the bottled spring water was in great demand. The water was shipped to Columbus on the Scioto Valley Traction line. Business boomed with investments tripling the first year. To meet the increased demand, a better spring was located on the Benson farm a mile from Jefferson. The water was piped to a new building built along the Traction line. When Columbus began purifying its water, the demand for spring water declined and the business failed.<sup>58</sup>

The 1920 U.S. Census reveals that some of the descendants of the early pioneer settlers were still living in this part of Bloom Township. Levi Thrash, aged 76, son of Michael Thrash lived in the area. Charles A. Alspaugh, aged 70 lived near John O. Wagner, aged 39. Both John W. Artz, aged 71, and John H. Artz, aged 23, lived in this area, as did John E. Cross, aged 60



John O. Wagner was a newcomer to the area with an interesting background. Originally from Payne, Ohio he had left home while in high school, joined the army and served in the Philippine Islands during the Spanish-American War. He stayed in the Philippines, met and married his Irish-born wife, Catherine, there. Wagner came back to Ohio to start an orchard and chose Chestnut Ridge because of the air drainage, which prevent damage from late frosts, and because of the proximity to the Columbus market.<sup>59</sup>

Perhaps one of the most important events in Bloom Township during the 1920s was the incorporation of The Wagnalls Memorial in Lithopolis. This independent foundation was founded by Mabel Wagnalls-Jones in 1924. Its purpose and activities is to provide scholarships and fellowships and support for community development, youth, libraries and the arts. Mabel Wagnalls-Jones was the daughter of Adam and Anna (Willis) Wagnalls, both of whom were natives of Bloom Township, Fairfield County.

Adam Wagnalls was born 23 September 1843 in Lithopolis, and died at the home of his daughter in Northport, Long Island, New York 3 September 1924. Wagnalls earned an A.B. degree from Wittenberg College in 1866, married Anna Willis 4 June 1868 and served as pastor of the First English Lutheran Church of Kansas City. He is best known as one of the founders, and subsequently president of the Funk and Wagnalls publishing firm, publishers of a well-known dictionary. The Wagnalls Memorial Building in Lithopolis was nearing completion at the time of Adam Wagnalls' death and was dedicated 10 May 1925.

The grants, scholarships and fellowships of The Wagnalls Memorial are limited to Bloom Township. In 1991 this foundation provided grants to 246 individuals in addition to supporting foundation-administered programs, and distributed \$1,859,771 from assets of over \$17,000,000. This existence of this program has served as a magnet to attract farm and non-farm residents to Bloom Township so that their children may take advantage of the scholarship program and other activities.. The Wagnalls Memorial built a magnificent library building adjacent to the Memorial Building in 1983.<sup>60</sup>

In the inter-war period (1920-1940), the area near the current Metro Park land was developed into several fine country estates.<sup>61</sup> An example is the estate of Dr. Edwin E. Campbell, a Columbus physician and his wife Anne. On 20 May 1936 Daniel Alspach conveyed this 94 acre property to Anne B. Campbell. This couple built a fine home on the south end of Chestnut Ridge with a commanding view of the eastern landscape. Dr. Campbell continued to practice medicine in Columbus and was described as a down-to-earth person who enjoyed farming. After Dr. Campbell's death, Mrs. Anne Campbell conveyed this property to her daughter Mrs. Catharine L. Laws 5 November 1946. Mrs. Campbell retained life use "of the dwelling premises and the three-car garage with servant quarters

together with 50 feet of ground on all sides with right of ingress and egress."<sup>62</sup> The buildings located on this property were described in 1971 as; (1) Main House--Living room, dining room, kitchen, four bedrooms, three baths, entrance foyer, screened in porch and garage; (2) Second Dwelling--Living room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bath, screened in porch; (3) Tenant House--Very old brick house. Living room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms and bath---basement but no central heating. There were two barns and other utility buildings.<sup>63</sup>

The 1930s brought the Great Depression. The New Deal programs created to alleviate the problems of the Depression created a number of agricultural agencies which had an impact on this area. The Agricultural Adjustment Act was designed to reduce surplus production, the Soil Conservation Service was designed to promote proper land use, and there were agencies designed to provide financial aid to the farmer. The 1938 aerial photograph of this area shown in the appendix was one of the products created by these agencies. The 1938 and 1951 photographs provide visual evidence of the nature of the vegetation in the current Park area.<sup>64</sup>

A number of the properties which were subsequently purchased by the Metro Park Board were leased for potential oil and gas production in the 1920s and again in the 1950s and 1960s. There is no record of any actual drilling on any of the Metro Park properties. The nearest property on which drilling is recorded is in section 8 of Bloom Township.<sup>65</sup>

The 1964 plat map of Bloom Township shows the nature of the development of the area just after the Metro Park Board started acquiring land in this area. The orchard developed by John O. Wagner was sold shortly after Mr. Wagner's death in 1959 to Thomas Quinn who operated it for a few years. He sold the land to George Boving who subdivided the ridge into lots for houses. The subdivision was called Chestnut Heights. On January 17, 1963 the Metro Parks purchased this land to return it to a natural state for conservation and recreational programs.<sup>66</sup>

The plat map reveals several additional subdivisions in Bloom Township, products of the post-World War II era. More significantly, there are many small "estates" of five to ten acres throughout Bloom Township.

The pressure for urban and suburban development will undoubtedly grow more intense in the future. The Canal Winchester area is just beginning to experience significant development, and is one of the last areas in Franklin County where development related to the Columbus Metropolitan area may take place. One would anticipate that the 486 acres now in Chestnut Ridge Metro Park will see a significant increase in use in the coming decade.

Draft Prepared: 29 July 1993

## ENDNOTES

27

1. "Geology of Chestnut Ridge." A paper prepared by Michael Hanson, Ohio Geological Survey, Columbus, Ohio, 7 June 1989, at the request of Gary Moore, Naturalist Coordinator, Metropolitan Park District of Columbus and Franklin County.
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3. Jane L. Forsyth, "The Glacial Geology of Fairfield County--Field Guide," (Bowling Green, Ohio: 27 October 1990) Arthur R. Harper, Ohio in the Making (Columbus: College of Education, Ohio State University, 1948) Clinton R. Stauffer, George D. Hubbard, and J.A. Bownocker, Geology of the Columbus Quadrangle, (Columbus: Ohio Geological Survey, 1911)
4. Ibid.
5. Elsie Immel, Julie Kime and Shaune Skinner, Cultural Resources Survey for Chestnut Ridge Metropolitan Park (Columbus: Ohio Historical Society, 1980) 27.
6. George W. Knepper, Ohio and Its People (Kent: Kent State University Press, 1989) 9-13, and Eugene H. Roseboom and Francis P. Weisenburger, A History of Ohio (Columbus: 1953) 8-13.
7. Immel, Kime and Skinner, Cultural Resources Survey for Chestnut Ridge, 19-20.
8. Ibid., 25 and 47-50.
9. Julie Kime, "Archaeological Survey of Chestnut Ridge Park, Phase II," (Columbus: Archaeological Services, Inc., 1986).
10. Roseboom and Weisenburger, History of Ohio, 13-16. Knepper, Ohio and Its People, 14-17.
11. This description of the Indians in Fairfield County was drawn from, Henry C. Shetrone, "The Indians in Ohio" Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society Publications (Vol. XXVII, 1919) 273-510; Goslin, Crossroads and Fence Rows, 121-123; Everts, Historical Atlas of Fairfield County, Ohio; and Howe, Historical Collections of Ohio, Vol. I, 588.
12. History of Delaware County, and R. & J. McCormick, Probing Worthington's Heritage, 13.
13. The description of the Indian wars and subsequent treaties is taken from Roseboom and Weisenburger, History of Ohio and Knepper, Ohio and Its People.



14. Ibid.

15. C. E. Sherman, Original Ohio Land Subdivisions (Columbus: Ohio Cooperative Topographic Survey, 1925).

16. A description of the legal actions and the survey procedures for Congress Lands East of the Scioto River may be found in C. E. Sherman, Original Ohio Land Subdivisions (Columbus: Ohio Cooperative Topographic Survey, 1925) 107-123. The field notes of the original survey of township 14, range 20, Congress Lands East of the Scioto are located at the Land Office, Auditor of State, 1272 South Front Street, Columbus, Ohio. The conveyance of section 20, township 14, range 20 (Berne Township) to Ebenezer Buckingham 15 May 1829 is found in Deed Book R, page 111 at the Fairfield County Recorder's Office. Personal information about Ebenezer Buckingham is found in Old Northwest Genealogical Quarterly, Vol. IV (1901) 1-6.

17. Ohio Lands: A Short History (Columbus: Thomas E. Ferguson, Auditor of State, January, 1993) 18-24.

18. Ownership of the lands encompassed in Chestnut Ridge Metro Park was identified through the use of deed records in the Fairfield County Recorder's Office, the use of the 1849, 1866, 1875 and 1915 plat maps in the Fairfield County Engineer's Office and the use of the abstracts of tile located at the Metropolitan Park Headquarters in Westerville.

19. Everts, Historical Atlas of Fairfield County. A.A. Graham, History of Fairfield and Perry Counties (Chicago, 1883). Hervey Scott, A Complete History of Fairfield County, Ohio (Columbus, 1877). Charles Miller, History of Fairfield County (Chicago, 1912). Goslin, Crossroads and Fence Rows.

20. Graham, History of Fairfield County, 211.

21. Deed records at Fairfield County Recorder's Office, U.S. census for Bloom Township, 1850 to 1880 and cemetery records for Salem Presbyterian Church in Bloom Township.

22. The U.S. census records for Bloom Township 1850 through 1920 are located on microfilm at the Ohio Historical Society. Everts, Atlas of Fairfield County, (1875) shows a picture of the John P. Morris house.

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30. R. Carlyle Buley, The Old Northwest Volume I (Indiana Historical Society, 1950) 138-239.
31. Scott, History of Fairfield County, 162.
32. Ibid. See also Scott, History of Fairfield County, 84.
33. Forest Dean and L. C. Chadwick, Trees of Ohio (Columbus: 1937) 32; Donald Peattie, A Natural History of Trees (Boston: 1950) 189-191; Interview with Thomas Berger, Division of Forestry, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Columbus, Ohio, 26 July 1993.
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35. Goslin, Crossroads and Fence Corners Vol. II.
36. Buckingham, Original Survey Notes, range 20, township 14, page 144. Charles Goslin that the New Lancaster-Franklinton Road was opened to Rock Mill in 1802 and extended through Bloom Township in 1803.
37. George W. Knepper, Ohio and Its People (Kent State University Press, 1989) 114.
38. Goslin, Crossroads and Fence Rows, 123.
39. Everts, Atlas of Fairfield County.
40. Scott, History of Fairfield County 163.
41. Knepper, Ohio and Its People, 149-159.
42. Harry N. Scheiber, Ohio Canal Era (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1969) 40-41.
43. Ibid. 45-50.
44. Hannum's Atlas of Fairfield County, Ohio (Lancaster: 1866).

45. Lancaster Ohio Eagle 3 November 1830.
46. 1860 U.S. Census for Bloom and Violet Townships, Fairfield County, Ohio. On microfilm at Ohio Historical Society.
47. Goslin, Crossroads and Fence Rows Vol. 1, page 34.
48. Ibid., 35; Everts, Atlas of Fairfield County.
49. Osman C. Hooper, History of the City of Columbus (Columbus, 1920) 227-228.
50. Interview with George Silcott, July 1993. Silcott is the author of The Return of the Interurban (Worthington: Central Ohio Railfan's Association, 1950). Also see Lancaster Eagle-Gazette: Sesquicentennial Edition, 3 June 1950, Sec. B, p. 32.
51. Goslin, Crossroads and Fence Rows, Vol. 1, 124-126. See also Edward H. Miller, "History of Educational Legislation in Ohio from 1803 to 1850," Ohio Archaeological and Historical Publications, Vol. XXVII (1919) 1-271.
52. Miller, History of Fairfield County, 132-134.
53. Scott, History of Fairfield County, 164.
54. Graham, History of Fairfield County, 211.
55. Scott, History of Fairfield County, 84.
56. Miller, History of Fairfield County, 132-134.
57. Virginia E. and Robert W. McCormick, A. B. Graham: Country Schoolmaster and Extension Pioneer (Worthington: Cottonwood Publications, 1984) 81-118.
58. Taken from oral history held by Chestnut Ridge Metro Park.
59. 1920 U.S. Census is on microfilm at the Ohio Historical Society. The information about John O. Wagner is taken from a letter from John Wagner Beasley to Stacy A. Brehm dated 3 September 1938 held by Chestnut Ridge Metro Park.
60. Stan Olson, ed., The Foundation Directory, 1993 Edition, 880.
61. Goslin, Crossroads and Fence Corners Vol.II.
62. Oral history from Chestnut Ridge Metro Park and land records in Deed Book 186, p. 406 and Deed Book 223, p. 181.
63. Letter in Laws Property folder, District Metro Park office, Westerville, Ohio.



64. The aerial photographs for 1938, 1951, 1964, 1980, 1988 are located in the National Archives, 841 South Pickett Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22304. The Fairfield County Soil and Water Conservation District, 831 College Avenue, Suite B, Lancaster, Ohio 43130-1081 holds copies of these photos and the 1983 infra-red aerial photo.

65. Oil and Gas Logs, Ohio Geological Survey, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Fountain Square, Columbus, Ohio.

66. Information was taken from the 1964 plat map and from the oral history held by Chestnut Ridge Metro Park.

## Geology of Chestnut Ridge

Chestnut Ridge, in northern Bloom Township, Fairfield County, is a unique scenic area that owes its existence to a long and complex geologic history. The ridge, which reaches an elevation of 1,110 feet, is part of the area that marks the boundary between the glaciated till plains to the north and west and the unglaciated Appalachian Plateaus province to the south and east.

The backbone of Chestnut Ridge is formed by a knob or outlier of Black Hand Sandstone that was once part of a more extensive deposit that has been subsequently eroded. The Black Hand, and the beds of shale beneath it, were deposited in an ancient sea that covered Ohio during the early part of the Mississippian Period about 345 million years ago.

At this time, the Appalachian Mountains were making their initial rise to the east as North America collided with the European continent. The sediments eroded from these rising mountains were carried westward by streams into the Ohio sea and deposited as portions of deltas, similar in many respects to the delta of the modern Mississippi River. The shales and siltstones underlying the Black Hand Sandstone represent mud deposited in the offshore portion of the delta whereas the coarser-grained Black Hand Sandstone represents stream or beach deposits associated with the nearshore portion of the delta.

The Black Hand Sandstone received its name from a large, soot-inscribed outline of a human hand on a cliff of this rock in Black Hand Gorge in Licking County. The hand, which was created by Indians to show the trail to Flint Ridge, was quarried away during building of the Ohio Canal in the 1820's.

The Black Hand Sandstone is a medium-to-coarse grained conglomeratic sandstone that is composed almost entirely of quartz grains. This stone was quarried extensively in the Hocking Valley and other areas during the 1800's. Principal uses included bridge abutments, foundations, and stone for many public buildings.

The Black Hand Sandstone is resistant to weathering and consequently forms scenic ridges, cliffs, waterfalls, and rock-shelter caves in many areas of Fairfield and Hocking Counties. The processes of weathering and erosion have carved these scenic features during a long interval, perhaps tens of millions of years in length.

The final chapter in the geological development of Chestnut Ridge began about two million years ago when great continental glaciers moved southward from Canada, eventually covering about two-thirds of Ohio. At least three, and perhaps four or more, separate glaciers covered portions of the state during the Pleistocene Epoch, commonly referred to



as the Ice Age. The most recent glacial advance, known as the Wisconsin reached its maximum extent, at Lancaster, about 18,000 years ago. By 14,000 years ago, the glacier was gone from Ohio.

The Wisconsin glacier completely surrounded Chestnut Ridge but, owing to its relatively high elevation as a bedrock knob, apparently did not flow across the ridge. Chestnut Ridge, and several other knobs of Black Hand Sandstone must have appeared as dark, rock islands projecting above a sea of glacial ice during the height of the last glacial advance.

MH/bc  
6/7/89

PHASE II ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE  
CHESTNUT RIDGE METROPOLITAN PARK,  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, OHIO

By

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Submitted by

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Lead Agency:

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
(Land and Water Conservation Fund)

August 1986

## ABSTRACT

A Phase II archaeological survey of proposed development areas within the Chestnut Ridge Metropolitan Park was conducted in August, 1986 by Archaeological Services Consultants, Inc. The park encompasses portions of Sections 3, 4, 9 and 10 in north-central Bloom Township in Fairfield County, Ohio. Investigation was restricted to two areas slated for immediate development - a two mile long nature trail and a facilities area.

Phase I literature review of the 460 acre park was completed in 1980 (Immel et al. 1980). One archaeological site was found to have been inventoried within the Chestnut Ridge Park. This site, the Old Maid's Orchard Mound (33 FA 43), has been listed on the National register of Historic Places. Four additional mounds are shown to exist within the park in Mill's Archaeological Atlas of Ohio. However, the existence of these mounds had not been verified.

At the time of reconnaissance the ground cover of the project area consisted of woods and mown weeds. Subsurface testing and visual inspection of the project area located three prehistoric archaeological sites. Two of these sites are small, plow-disturbed lithic scatters which do not appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The third site is a mound located several meters away from the proposed nature trail. The location of this site should be noted during the construction of the nature trail, in order to protect it from disturbance. If these recommendations are followed, no further archaeological investigation of the nature trail and facilities area is necessary.



## INTRODUCTION

Under contract with Metro Parks of Columbus and Franklin County, Archaeological Services Consultants, Inc. has conducted a Phase II survey of two development sites within the Chestnut Ridge Metropolitan Park, Fairfield County, Ohio (Maps 1 and 2). This survey was done at the recommendation of the State Historic Preservation Officer in order to identify any properties within the project area which may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

A Phase I literature review of the Chestnut Ridge Park was completed in 1980 by the Department of Contract Archaeology, the Ohio Historical Society (Immel, Kime and Skinner 1980). This report is currently on file in the Archaeology Laboratory, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus. Review of archaeological records and literature showed that one site has been previously inventoried in the park area. This site, the Old Maid's Orchard Mound (33 FA 43), is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is located about 400 meters west of the proposed nature trail on Chestnut Ridge. Two other mounds were reported to the Ohio Historical Society in 1971 to exist on the northern portion of Chestnut Ridge at an elevation of 1060 feet AMSL (Immel et al. 1980:25). However, the existence of these possible mounds has not been verified. Mills Archaeological Atlas of Ohio also shows five mounds in the park area (Map 3). These appear to be situated on Chestnut Ridge. One of



the mounds is probably the Old Maid's Orchard Mound. The locations of the other four mounds have not been field checked.

The Phase II field reconnaissance of the proposed nature trail and facilities area was conducted on August 4, 1986. Field crew consisted of Greg Sheldon, Gary McDaniel and Steve Duray. Julie Kime was the field supervisor. Arrangements to curate the field notes, photographic negatives and artifacts resulting from the survey will be made with the Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio, pending acceptance of the collection.



## RESULTS OF SURVEY

Chestnut Ridge Park is a nearly 500 acre tract of land located east of Lithopolis in north-central Bloom Township in Fairfield County, Ohio (Map 2). The northern and eastern boundaries of the park follow old U.S. Rt. 33. Slough Road forms the southern limit. The tract is characterized by areas of rugged topography and rolling, hummocky land.

The project area consists of two areas scheduled for immediate development. A two mile (3.2 km) nature trail is planned in the eastern half of the project area (Map 3). This trail will be 5-6 feet wide (1.5-1.8 m). Play equipment, toilets, and water facilities will be located just north and east of the proposed trail, southeast of two existing ponds. This area measures approximately 400 feet (122 m) east-west by 200 feet (61 m) north-south [Map 3].

Reconnaissance began at the proposed entrance sign along old U.S. Rt. 33. Test pits were excavated in a single transect along the staked center line of the proposed drive, south to the facilities area. Units were placed at 20 meter intervals here, as throughout the project area. The ground cover in this rolling area consisted of mown weeds. Twenty-three test pits were excavated in this area. No cultural material was recovered.

Investigation of the nature trail began southwest of the facilities area and continued around the ridge, finally reaching the starting point. The ground cover consisted of wood or weeds. Seventy-five test pits were excavated along

the staked centerline (Map 4). In areas where the ground surface was visible, surface collection was conducted. Generally, these areas were barren areas of dirt path, 2-5 m wide, through wooded areas. Surface visibility was estimated at 50%. Approximately 380 meters of the proposed nature trail was surface collected (Map 4). Steeply sloping areas were visually examined for archaeological sites such as rockshelters. About 340 meters of the nature trail were sloping. No rockshelters were discovered in these areas.

Through subsurface testing and surface collection three prehistoric archaeological sites were discovered. Two of these are small lithic scatters of unknown temporal affiliation. The third site is a burial mound.

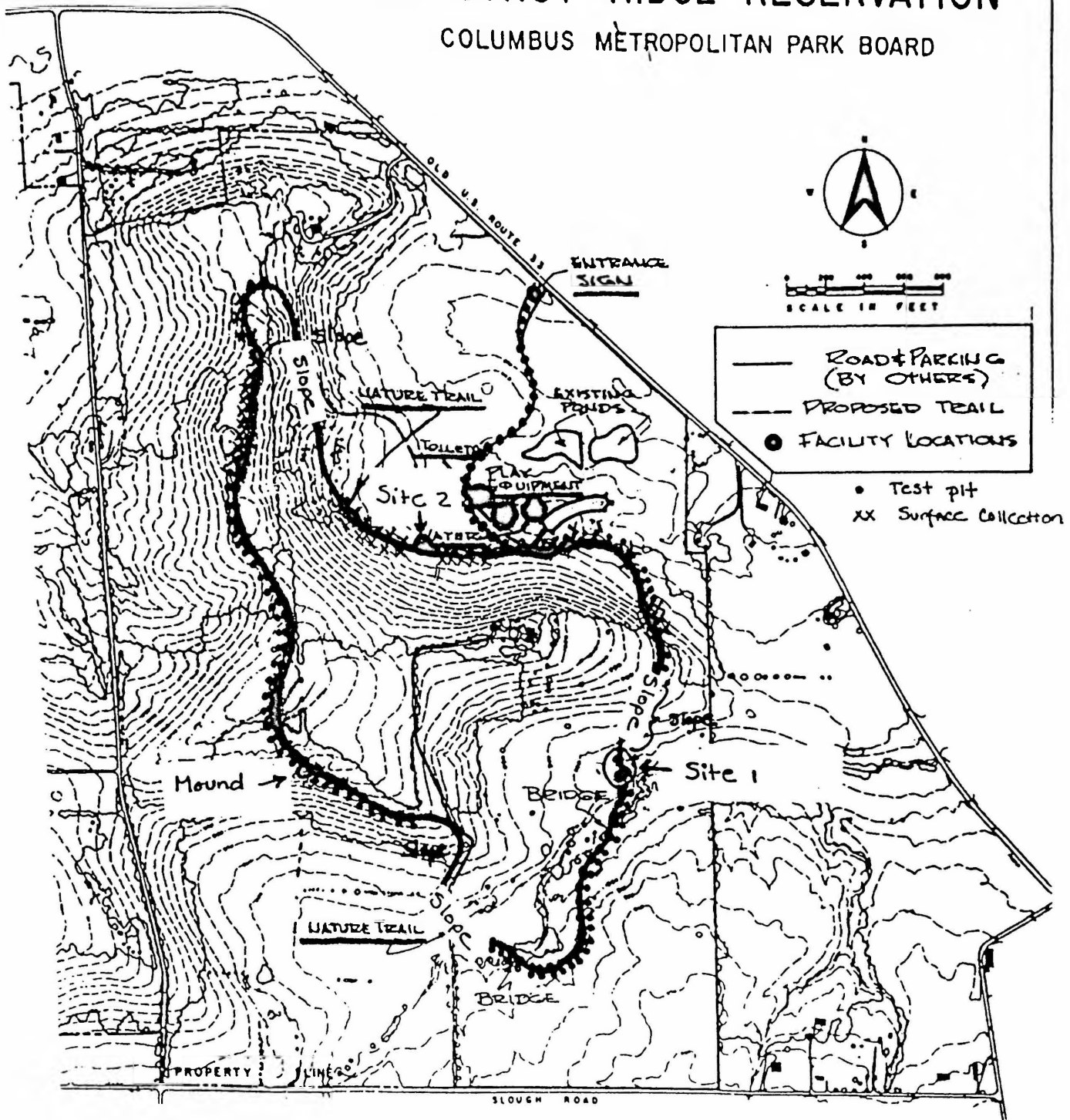
Site 1 is located along the eastern portion of the project area, just northwest of an intermittent stream (Map 4). One lithic flake was recovered from TP 49. Three flakes and a possible fire-cracked rock were found in the backdirt of TP 50, located 20 meters south of TP 49. No additional material was found in surrounding units. No in situ remains were discovered. Site size is estimated as 20 meters in diameter. Site 1 has been assigned the site number 33 FA 202.

During testing of the southwestern part of the nature trail an earthen mound was discovered approximately 5 meters west of the proposed trail (Map 4). This site has been inventoried as 33 FA 203. The mound is situated on a slight slope at the edge of the ridgetop, overlooking steep slope to the south. The area was wooded at the time of survey.

ATTACHMENT D-11 DEVELOPMENT PLAN

# CHESTNUT RIDGE RESERVATION

COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN PARK BOARD



Map 4 Map of the project area showing the location of test pits



The mound has a pot hole approximately 4 meters deep in the top. It is about 1.5 meters high and 10 meters in diameter. Fallen leaves were brushed off the surface of the mound, but no artifacts were noted. It is likely that this mound is one of the five mounds reported by Mills (1914)[Map 3].

Site 3 is located in the north-central part of the nature trail, southwest of the facilities area (Map 4). It is at the base of the ridge on gently sloping topography. Although the area was wooded, the surface was relatively bare of vegetation owing to heavy shade. Surface visibility was estimated at about 75%. Surface collection resulted in the discovery of one flake and three fragments over an area approximately 5 meters in diameter. One test pit was excavated in the center of the site. No artifacts or features were noted in the unit. The site has been designated 33 FA 204.

The proposed facilities area is located just north of the nature trail and south of two existing ponds (Map 4). Surface collection of bare patches throughout the mown, grassy area produced no artifacts. The surface appeared to be rocky, previously disturbed fill. One test pit was excavated in the center of the facilities area; this unit contained fill with coal fragments to about 15 centimeters below the surface. The 1961 Canal Winchester 7.5' quadrangle shows two (non-residential) structures in this location [Map 2]. These buildings are no longer standing. It is possible that the area was disturbed during demolition of these structures or during construction of the two nearby

ponds. A house is shown just to the east of the facilities area. This structure is also no longer standing.

## SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In August, 1986 a Phase II archaeological survey of a proposed nature trail and facilities areas within the Chestnut Ridge Park was completed. The park is located southeast of Canal Winchester in Fairfield County, Ohio.

Phase I literature review indicated that one National Register site, a mound, has been located within the park (Immel et al. 1980). At least four more mounds have been reported in the area. However, their existence has not been verified.

Phase II field survey consisted of systematic subsurface testing, surface collection and visual inspection. Three prehistoric archaeological sites were discovered. Sites 1 and 2 are small lithic scatters located on gently rolling topography. The third site, a mound, is located on the edge of a ridge. It is situated just 5 meters off the proposed nature trail.

Based on the results of the survey it appears that Sites 1 and 2 are not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. They are small, plow-disturbed lithic scatters of unknown temporal affiliation. Therefore, no further archaeological investigation is recommended for these sites.

The mound is located just 5 meters outside the proposed nature trail area. The location of this mound should be noted in order to protect it from accidental disturbance during construction.