

MEMORANDUM
Punderson State Park
July 1984

Re: The Punderson State Park and its facilities

From: The Punderson Park Manager

To: Whomever it concerns

Punderson State Park, one of 70 state parks maintained by the OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION, is unique because it offers an unusually large variety of recreational facilities while being quite close to Cleveland, its suburbs and the larger cities of the north eastern area of the state.

The park is located 22 miles north of Ravenna, 18 miles south of Painesville, and 25 miles east of the center of Cleveland. The main entrance is on S.R. 87, one mile west of the junction of S. R. 87 and S. R. 44 on the eastern edge of Newbury Township in Geauga County.

Punderson covers a little over 1000 acres and has three lakes. Punderson Lake, the largest, is of glacial origin, mainly spring fed and extends over a bit more than 90 acres. There are two smaller 35 acre lakes which are manmade. The swimming and boating facilities are at Punderson Lake.

HISTORY

The area covered by the park was once the property of Lemuel Punderson, the first settler in Newbury Township (1808) and the founder the village of South Newbury (1810). Punderson and his family were very hospitable and friendly people and the lake and the surrounding land became a popular recreational area early in the 19th century. After Lemuel Punderson died in 1822, his widow and children kept up the tradition until they passed away toward the end of the 19th century.

Mr. W.H. Cleveland started to buy the land around the lake early in the first decade of the 20th century. He owned all of Punderson's original estate by the end of the first decade. On the estate he established the Lakefield Farm, built a large frame home (on the site of the present Manor House), bought and demolished the Wales hotel and several cottages on the east side of the lake. He restored the east side to wilderness, stocked it with buffalo, elk and other animals and restricted the area as well as the lake for recreational purposes.

Upon the death of Mr. Cleveland in 1929, Mr. Karl Long (of Chicago) bought the entire property and planned to settle on the estate. He began the construction of the present Manor House on the site of the Cleveland house, which he demolished. He intended the Manor House to be a traditional English mansion for his family. However, he never finished the task although he spent over \$250,000 on the building. The depression and a terminal illness stopped the construction and the property reverted to the Cleveland family upon his death in the 1930's.

The Cleveland family held the property until 1947 when the State of Ohio bought it and began to improve it for recreational purposes. The half finished Manor House was completed by the State and it became a very fashionable 32 room lodge.

THE MANOR HOUSE

The Manor House is at the end of the main access road, one mile from the park entrance. Besides the facilities for lodging, it has three elegant dining rooms and special rooms for meetings or private parties. There is an outdoor pool located at the lodge for the use of its guests. In addition, recreational facilities include shuffle board, basketball courts and a game room. For the enjoyment of all park users, there are lighted tennis courts located at the chalet.

VACATION CABINS

There are 26 deluxe housekeeping cabins located near the lodge. Each cabin is completely furnished with an all electric kitchen, two bedrooms with two beds in each, a living room with a convertible sofa bed, a dining area, bath and a large screened porch. All have electric and are available and comfortable throughout the year.

GOLFING

There is a beautiful, challenging 18 hole golf course on the south west side of the park. The club house at the course contains a pro shop, snack bar and a place where clubs, hand carts and riding carts can be rented.

CAMPING

A very attractive 205 unit Class "A" camping area was developed on the east side of the lake in the 1960's. Each site has an electrical outlet, nearby water supply and heated wash houses with flush toilets. There is a trailer waste disposal station conveniently located. A portion of the campground is available for families who wish to bring their pets camping with them. An amphitheater located in the campground is not only heavily used for naturalist programs but is increasingly used for other cultural presentations such as history talks which are well attended by people living in the vicinity of the park.

MARINA

A marina, complete with boat launching ramp and boat rental facilities is located at the north end of the lake. Here, boats, electric motors, fishing supplies and some grocery items are available. Gasoline outboard motors are prohibited and the lake is restricted to electric motors, row boats and canoes. The lake is stocked each year with trout but sunfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass and catfish are plentiful.

PICNICKING

There are picnic tables and grills located at numerous locations around the western and northern shores of the lake. Many are secluded and well shaded. The 600 foot bathing beach is very convenient to the picnic areas. Here, lifeguards are on duty during the summer. Also, change booths and rest rooms are conveniently provided.

WINTER SPORTS

Just inside the park entrance is a fully lighted winter sports area and the sports chalet atop a large hill. Two chutes, one for tobogganers and the other for sledders and skiers, guide the users down a 300 yard hill, into a long flat area. There is a tow line which brings the users back to the top of the hill. Nearby is a "kiddy hill" for youngsters. At some distance, there is a 2 1/2 mile snowmobile trail which starts and ends 100 yards from the park entrance. Special provision is made for safe ice skating at the site of the tennis courts.

The chalet which is located at this spot is furnished with fireplace, tables and a snack bar. When not used for the general public, this building is available for private parties. This use extends throughout the year.

POINTS OF INTEREST

The Amish Bikeway starts near the Manor House and goes through a very interesting part of Geauga County.

Additional fishing and boating may be found at a number of nearby lakes. The Geauga County Historical Museum is located at Burton, just five miles east of Punderson.

Many visitors who stay at Punderson, either at the Manor House, Cottages or camping, visit Geauga Lake and Sea World amusement parks.

FEES AND COSTS

The park offers recreation for all budgets. The costs range from the elegant facilities of the Manor House and housekeeping cottages to the modest cost of camping. Specific information on costs can be obtained by communicating with either the park office or the Manor House. The Manor House handles information on the Lodge and cottage charges. It also takes reservations for these. The park office handles information on all other costs.

PARK OFFICE: 178 Newbury, Ohio 44066, Tel (216) 564 2279

MANOR HOUSE: 216 Newbury, Ohio 44066, Tel (216) 564 9144

MEMORANDUM
Punderson Park History Series
Committee

Re: Portrayal of Historical Characters

To: Whomever it concerns

From: The History Program Committee

The people of northeastern Ohio are in for a great treat. History comes ALIVE! THE GEAUGA LYRIC TH EATER GROUP will bring the 19th century back on Sunday September 9 (8 PM) to NEWBURY TOWNSHIP. The fifteenth of the eighteen history series (held each Sunday evening at the Punderson State Park campground amphitheater) will be the portrayal of six prominent 19th century people by the GEAUGA LYRIC THEATER GROUP. Led by LESTER TAYLOR, the long time president of the Geauga Pioneer Union Association, the distinguished historical characters will come back to life in front of the audience.

The presentation will take place at 8 PM on Sunday September 9 at the amphitheater if the weather permits or at the Manor House (Lodge) if it rains. This will be a fantasy bringing to life the important personalities of JAMES A. GARFIELD (George Dauler), SUSAN E. ANTHONY (Joan Pettibone), ELLEN MUNN (Mimi Leinweber) , DR. JULIA GREEN (Shirley aizer) , A. G. RIDDLE (Roger Pettibone), DAN PUNDERSON (Terry Sedivy) and LESTOR TAYLOR (Ted Peterson) . As they did during the program of the Pioneer Union picnic on August 27, 1983, the actors will bring into the present a bit of the 19th century. They will talk of the important issues of their time as well as relate to the present. It will be a rare opportunity for us to feel and learn of the life and times in the Western Reserve over a hundred years ago.

How many of us know who A. E. Riddle, author, historian, congressman , was or that James A. Garfield was not only the 20th President of the United States but also a sailor, farmer, teacher, minister, congressman and general? How many are aware of who Ellen Munn, Dr. Julia Greene, Lector Taylor, Susan B. Anthony and Dan Punderson were? This is your opportunity to see them and hear them. Surely our education is incomplete if it ignores important people such as these.

The PUNDERSON PARK HISTORY SERIES was initiated in the spring of 1984 by a committee of representatives from twelve regional historical societies in the Western Reserve. It is intended to bring HISTORY ALIVE to the people of the Western Reserve and to increase their interest in local history. The programs up to the present have been entertaining as well as very educational. The high quality of the presentations, the attractive environment of the amphitheater and the excellent weather have combined to make the series a success. The parking is close to the amphitheater and has plenty of room. Admission is free.

Lou Horvath
Committee Chairman

PUNDERSON STATE PARK
HISTORY PROGRAM

Summer of 1984
Sunday Evenings at 8

- June 3 History of Punderson Lake, Lou Horvath, Geauga County Historical Society
- June 10 Hotels of Little Mountain, Elizabeth Hitchcock, Lake County Historical Society
- June 17 History of Aurora, Richard Fetzser, Aurora Historical Society June 24
- June 24 History of Kirtland, Anne Prusha, Kirtland Historical Society
- July 1 Norman History, Pamela Rockomer, Lake County Historical Society
- July 8 19th Century Clothing, Mrs. Russell H. Anderson, Chagrin Falls Historical Society
- July 15 Pioneer Gardens, Rebecca Rogers, The Mahoning Valley Historical Society
- July 22 Historical Characters, Janet Maki, Ramrod Busters (Lake County Historical group)
- July 29 John Brown-From Hudson to Harpers Ferry, Thomas Vince, The Hudson Historical Society
- Aug 5 Geology of the Western Reserve, Don Strock, Chief Naturalist Emeritus, Lake County Parks
- Aug 12 History of Middlefield, Garland Shetler, Middlefield Historical Society
- Aug 19 Early Roads & Maps of the Western Reserve, Maurice Fox, Geauga County Historical Society and Kent Oral History Group
- Aug 26 The Shakers, Miss Virginia Atkinson, The Shaker Heights Historical Society
- Sept 2 The History of Mesopotamia, Jo Moore, The Middlefield Historical Society and the Mesopotamia Memorial and Historical Association
- Sept 9 A Portrayal of Selected Historical People of the 19th Century, The Geauga Lyric Theater Group
- Sept 16 The Great Canal Era, George & Katy Hoy, Hudson Heritage Association
- Sept 23 Indians of Ohio, Mrs. Gwen & King, The Indian Museum of Lake County, The Lake County Chapter of the Archeological Society of Ohio
- Sept 30 James A. Garfield, Dr. John Sham, Hiram College