

With its 3 primary tributaries, it drains an area of 1755 square miles on the eastern edge of an intensely industrialized and urbanized stretch of Southwestern Ohio from Dayton to Cincinnati.

In the relatively short segment proposed for inclusion in this legislation, the Little Miami traverses a wide variety of topography. Its floodplain varies from a few hundred feet to 1½ miles. From the flat farmlands in Clark County the river plunges into a deep, narrow gorge at Clifton and later through steeply wooded areas and again through gently rolling hills.

Besides the many beautiful scenic areas, the river and the immediately surrounding countryside is rich in historical and recreational features. Nineteen sites, from 3 prehistoric cultures, are located in the area near Cincinnati, a popular tourist attraction which should be preserved. The Adena culture, mound building Indians dating from 1000 B.C.-700 A.D., is the oldest.

The first reported white contact with the Shawnees, then in the area, took place around 1770 and it is reported that Oldtown, very close to the river was the birthplace of Tecumseh, famous Shawnee leader of the Indian resistance. Other historical landmarks in the Little Miami area include: the second oldest (1788) settlement in the northwest territory; a Quaker meeting house built in 1800 which is still standing; Clifton Mill, built in 1835; two early taverns frequented by stage coach travellers, one of which, the Golden Lamb, is still serving and is known as one of the best and most famous hostelrys and dining places in the Midwest; several covered bridges and Kings Mills, formerly the site of a large powder plant, active from the Civil War through World War II. This area was also the main line of the pre-Civil War "Underground Railroad" in Ohio. These, and many more historical sites, are threatened by the encroaching industrialization and "urban sprawl," the destructive bulldozer leveling ground for more subdivisions.

Local groups and citizens have taken some steps to preserve the values of the Little Miami. The Glen Helen, a 100 acre area in Greene County was a gift to Antioch College in 1929. Also in Greene County a Committee for a County Common is at work reserving 1800 acres near the Glen Helen in their natural state. Both areas indicate the interest of preserving the scenic environment, but I question that even with such interest enough can be done without outside help.

Today, however, the Little Miami and the surrounding area are still extensively used for camping, fishing, canoeing, hiking, riding, hunting, sightseeing, and field studies for historical, archaeological, biological and geological work. We are happy in Ohio to still have such a resource—but we need help to save it. The Little Miami is within an hour's drive of the huge metropolitan areas of Dayton and Cincinnati, not to mention many rapidly growing smaller cities.

If the Little Miami is not included (what is today the source of enjoyment for these people will be destroyed by them tomorrow).

III. WHY THE LITTLE MIAMI AS A SCENIC RIVER?

Despite my lack of eloquence in describing to my colleagues the beauty of the Little Miami, I want to close by emphasizing why I think the Little Miami belongs in Scenic Rivers legislation. The Little Miami meets the criteria I think relevant in selecting rivers for inclusion in this system. I would like to mention these criteria, tests if you will, for inclusion.

First, preserving the Little Miami is an urgent need of southwestern Ohio. Unlike perhaps some of the rivers being considered in the Far West, the Little Miami is close to an encroaching urban area. Thus it should be included both because tomorrow may be too late and those people of the area need recreational facilities now, and will need such green spaces more desperately tomorrow.

Second, the Little Miami would be an efficient, useful river to include. It is close to urban areas, so close that it can be used conveniently (if it isn't destroyed first.) Including the Little Miami would do more than preserve a scenic river; it would be a useful addition to Ohio and the Nation. But the Little Miami is utilitarian in another manner. Rather than being exclusively "wild", or "historic", or "scenic", the Little Miami within its stretches is all the types of rivers proposed; part is wild, part rich in historical features; part scenic, through pastoral farmland; and deep woods. In a sense, the Little Miami offers "more for the money."

Third, the Little Miami meets my "intrinsic" test for inclusion. No restoration is necessary to save it. It is now scenic and wild.