

Annual Picnic

This Car in the enclosed Case was used on a Race Track at the Ruritan Club Picnics. Multiple cars were released down an inclined track. Bets were placed to see which car would be the winner.



This item came from the very First Ruritan Picnic that was held on the Dages Woods which now has the beautiful home of Joe and Gladys Traylor along Hwy 50. The Summer Picnics were held there as a fund raiser for a few years and then they were held at St. Peters Church Grounds. The Annual Picnic was moved to the new Ruritan Community Building after its completion in 1976. The Annual Picnic was discontinued because of preparations for the Turkey Trot Festival which was just a couple months later in the year.

MONTGOMERY RURITAN
Picnic
Montgomery Recreation Park
SUNDAY, JULY 27, 1980
Chicken Dinners
 Beginning at 11:00 A.M. in the
Air Conditioned Community Building
BINGO • GAMES
6:30 Special Entertainment • Marco Singers
7:30 ANNUAL QUEEN CROWNING

Flyers from the 1979 and 1980 Annual Picnic at the Montgomery Recreation Park.

The Annual Picnic was started about 1961 and was first held at the Dages Woods which is where Joe and Gladys Traylor now have their home. The Dages property was sold and after a couple years at that location it was moved to St. Peters School Grounds. In 1977 the Annual Picnic was moved to the new Ruritan Building and held there until it was the Annual Picnic was discontinued. The reason being was the Annual Picnic was too close to the Turkey Trot Festival which was held just a couple months later in the year and the leadership felt it was just too much to handle.

MONTGOMERY RURITAN
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SUNDAY, JULY 29, 1979
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Handwritten note on the right side of the flyer: "The one looking forward to any of our chartered members."

Shown Below is an Invitation Letter to Young Ladies who might be interested in becoming a Ruritan Queen Candidate. It was first started in 1968 with Gertrude Donahue was crowned the first Ruritan Queen. This letter is dated in June of 1980 and not sure when the last Contest was held.

MONTGOMERY RURITAN CLUB

Tuesday, June 10, 1980

Many traditions become a part of a community and none is more traditional in the Montgomery Community than the crowning of a new Ruritan Queen each year. On behalf of the Montgomery Ruritan Club, I would like to take this means to extend to you a cordial invitation to be a Ruritan Queen Candidate in our 1981 Ruritan Queen Contest. Maybe you find yourself flattered by such an invitation; perhaps your second thoughts are "Oh no, not me." But really, Why not? Before you lay this letter aside, let me take a few moments to acquaint you with some of the past history of this event which dates back to the summer of 1968.

Gertrude (Donahue) Gibson was crowned our first Ruritan Queen. Since that year, the crown has been worn in successive years by Karla (Delaney) Miller in 1969; Donna (Murphy) Ryan in 1970; Karen (Hart) Olsen in 1971; Karen (O'Brian) Kane in 1972; Lisa (Nolan) Miller in 1973; Melinda (Hudson) Madden in 1974; Coleen (Wittmer) Swartzentruber in 1975; Barbie Hopkins in 1976; Georgia Dunn in 1977; Cindy Showalter in 1978; Doris Elliott in 1979; and our present Ruritan Queen is Kim Kidwell in 1980.

It has been through the efforts of these young ladies and the several others who have been candidates along with their families that the original park indebtedness was paid off and numerous other improvements have been made to Make Montgomery Recreation Park the envy of neighboring communities. It is indeed a tribute to the unselfish giving by so many in support of Ruritan projects that has made many good things happen in the community. The residents of this community of all ages should be able to enjoy the fruits of these labors for years to come. I am sure you realize our annual queen crowning has been a major fund raising project for the park and community benefit. Do give the matter some thought before you commit yourself one way or the other. Through the years some have indicated a desire to be a candidate simply to help out in whatever way they could. For whatever reason, do give the matter every consideration.

The winning candidate will receive a \$100. savings bond, a dozen roses, a \$20.00 gift certificate and her name will be inscribed on a plaque at the park's shelter house. Second prize includes a \$50.00 savings bond while third place prize is a \$25.00 savings bond. All other candidates will receive \$15.00 cash. All candidates will receive a 5x7 color portrait and a free season ticket to the Daviess County Turkey Trot Festival in September. A free season pass to Indian Rock Lake Beach will be included to each candidate. Candidates and their parents will be the special guest of the Montgomery Ruritan Club at the Annual Ladies Night to be held in early July at the Jasper Heritage Inn.

If you have a desire to be a candidate, discuss the matter with your parents. I will be in touch with you some time within the week. If you have any questions regarding the details of the contest, contact me or someone who has served as a candidate in previous years.

For the Ruritan Committee on the 1981 Ruritan Queen Crowning, I am yours,

Charles A. Kavanaugh

William "Chris" O'Brian

Ruritan Queens Were:

1968 Gertrude (Donahue) Gibson	1975 Coleen (Wittmer) Swartzentruber
1969 Karla (Delaney) Miller	1976 Barbie Hopkins
1970 Donna (Murphy) Ryan	1977 Georgia Dunn
1971 Karen (Hart) Olsen	1978 Cindy Showalter
1972 Karen (O'Brian) Kane	1979 Doris Elliott
1973 Lisa (Nolan) Miller	1980 Kim Kidwell
1974 Melinda (Hudson) Madden	

At this time we are not sure when was the last year for the Ruritan Queen Contest, That is still being researched!