

Dedication of Ruritan Park



The Signing of the Agreement Between the Town of Montgomery & Montgomery Ruritan

The picture left is of the meeting in which the joint agreement was reached and signed between the Montgomery Ruritan Club and the Town of Montgomery for Management of the Park. At the head of the table (left) Joe Traylor, Morris Cocran, Charles Hart, Charles Steiner, Albert Dillion, Jay Myers (back to camera), Ed Gootee and Cecil Mathewson. (Traylor, Gootee and Mathewson were representing the City of Montgomery, Myers was from Citizens Bank who would supply the money from the Ruritan Club, Hart, Steiner, Dillon represented the Ruritan Club.) Christ O'Brian was also at the Signing along with A.L.(Pol) Grannan who took the pictures.

Signing Agreement

In this picture on the opposite side of the table is Charles Hart and Charlie Steiner who were representing the Montgomery Ruritan Club and in front with her back to the camera was Gert Heffernan, Clerk for the City of Montgomery. Practically hidden is Albert Dillion and Jay Myers. This was a historic agreement as other agencies were also involved in this agreement. They were the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources, Soil Conservation Services and Prairie Creek Watershed. This agreement was signed on July 6, 1964 in Montgomery High School in what was the Home Economics Room at that time. This was the beginning of a major endeavor by the Ruritan Club and it was one of those moments in time where they say "If you build it, they will come".



Montgomery Park To Open Sunday

The Montgomery Recreation Park built by the Prairie Creek Watershed and sponsored by the Town of Montgomery and the Montgomery Ruritan Club will open to the general public on Sunday, May 28.

The lake covers an area of 26 acres and serves a dual purpose of flood control and a recreation site. The park itself covers approximately 13 acres.

The park includes ten camp sites with water, electricity, picnic table and a grill for each. Five tent sites are also available with the same facilities except no electrical outlets. Toilet, laundry and shower facilities are provided in a central location on the camp grounds for all campers.

A boat launching ramp and dock space for twelve rental boats is located near the park entrance. Boats with less than 10 h.p. motors will be allowed on a trial basis. A shelter

house with space for eight picnic tables for group outings may be reserved for a nominal fee. In the picnic area are to be found twenty-eight picnic tables and ten outdoor grills with water stations located in each area.

One of the special attractions at the park is the beach area for swimmers. A bath house with showers, dressing rooms, a basket room, concession area and toilet facilities for both bathers and those in the picnic area is provided. In addition to a sandy beach, a diving tower and life guard stations are located in the area.

The engineers of the project were Midwestern Engineers, Inc., of Loogootee. The project inspector was Gordon Bough and the project supervisor was Robert Elliott, both of Midwestern Engineers. The government representative of the Soil Conservation Service was Harold Belcher and the contracting officer was Joe Traylor.

The prime contractor was Gress Brothers of Washington. The sub-contractors were: Builder, Aubrey Steen of Montgomery; Plumbing, Cleo Quinn, Shoals; Electrical Work, Moore and Armes, Inc. of Washington; and Landscaping, Chapman's Nursery of Washington.

There is no charge for admission to the park but the following prices will be charged for use of the park facilities.

Swimming—Family season ticket, \$22.00. Adult, \$10.00 (anyone out of high school). Student, \$5.00 (Grades 1 thru 12). Daily admission fee:

Adult, 50c; student, 25c. Preschoolers, 15c.

Joe Todrank and Charles Kavanaugh will manage the beach and concession areas. Swimming season tickets may be purchased at the beach house Sunday, Monday or Tuesday or by contacting either of the two managers.

Claude Alsman has been employed as park superintendent and will supervise the camping and boating areas.

Camping Fees — Modern (electrical outlet and water) \$2.00 per night; semi-modern (water station only), \$1.50 per night. Primitive (tents), \$1.00 per night.

Boating — Boat rental, 50c per hr.; \$2.00 per day; \$1.00 for launching own boat; \$5.00 for launching for all summer; \$10 for mooring own boat all summer.

Fishing — There will be no charge for fishing. The lake has been stocked with bass, bluegill, red ear and channel

Opening Day for the Montgomery Camp Grounds and Park,

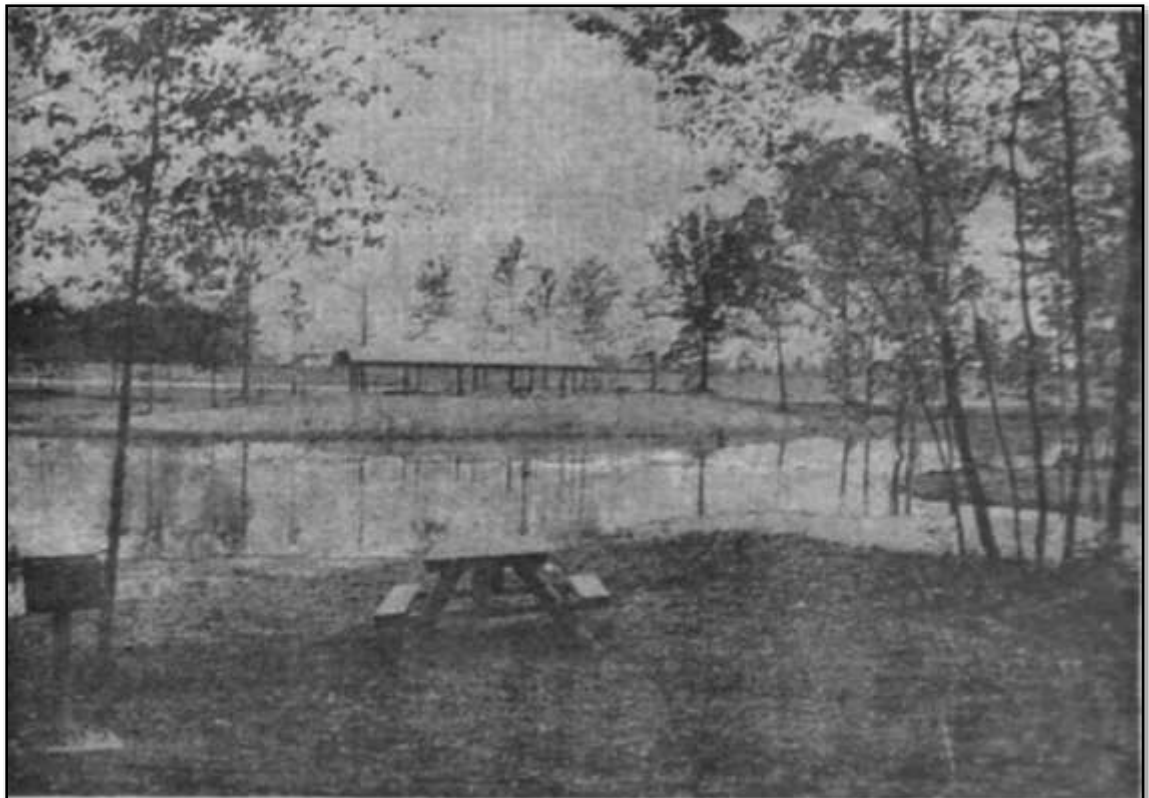
This was the newspaper Article in which heralded the news of the grand opening of the Montgomery Park and Camp Grounds and the Montgomery Beach. This Article was from May of 1966.



THIS SIGN announces the entrance to the Montgomery Recreation Park, which is located on the northeastern edge of

Montgomery, on the north side of the B & O railroad tracks. (Photo by Martin Studio).

News Article from Washington Times Herald in May of 1966 Hailing the new Park & Campgrounds



THE SHELTER house is seen from across one of the fingers of the 26 acre lake. A camp site can be seen in the foreground.

The park also has a beach area, shower rooms and other swimming facilities. (Photo by Martin Studio).

Black and White
Picture of the Park
Beach on one of
busy summer days.
Shown here is the
Park Beach
probably not long
after it was opened
up on May 28 of
1965. This was a
popular attraction
to the park in its
early days but
when many of the
families started
putting in pools the
interest waned and
the Beach was
eventually closed
and that area was
turned into
campsites.





Aerial View of Campgrounds/Park/Lake: Shown here is an aerial view of the Ruritan Park, Campgrounds and Indian Rock Lake as it appeared sometime around 1970. This view is looking from the south looking North West. It was taken sometime during the summer and it may have been around the time that the Ruritan Club purchased the ground south of the CR 100 (Park Rd.) known as the Montgomery Property.



Aerial View of Campgrounds/Park/Lake: This view is looking from the south looking North West. You will note that the top of the picture is land on the north side of the lake where the Gasthof Restaurant and Motel are now located. Campgrounds appear to be at capacity and this was well before the Park Superintendent's House/Office was built. This picture would have been taken before the first Turkey Trot.



Aerial View of Campgrounds/Park/Lake: This view is looking from the east looking North West. At the bottom of the picture Louie Clements home was still on the corner and the Grannan house on the point of the lake was still there. This is a good view of the 26 acre Indian Rock Lake. It appears CR 100 N. heading towards Cannelburg was still a rock road. It was a mud road until 1964-65 time frame and them blacktop for part of the way in the 70's.



Aerial View of Campgrounds/Park/Lake: This view is looking from the Southeast looking North West. It is believed these series of pictures would have been taken around 1970 or around the time the Ruritan Club acquired the Montgomery Property.

This is side-1 of the Dedication Program on that Aug. 27, 1967. The Park/Campgrounds was opened in 1965 but the Dedications were not held till the following year. It appears there were several speakers from the Dept. of National Resources and from the Soil Conversation Service along with Elected Officials. It looks as if U.S. Senator Vance Hartke was confirmed to attend but cancelled out. It appears the total costs of the Project was \$164,000 but the Ruritan's share was somewhere around \$80,000. These notes on here were from Chris O'Brian's copy and he was on Stage as he was instrumental in getting this project started and completed and was a big part of the Dedication Ceremony.

PROGRAM (See Back)

Invocation Rev. Ben R. Dean

Introduction of RURITAN QUEEN & COURT

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS

Chas. B. Smith Past Milt

John Mitchell Director,
Dept. Natural Resources

Robert F. Whitsitt Soil Conservation Service
State Adm. Officer

Don C. Divens Soil Conservation Ass't
State Conservationist

Jim Barber Soil Conservation Service

John Myers
William Gray U. S. Congressman

Bill Kelley - Joe Taylor
~~Vance Hartke~~ U. S. Senator

Benediction Rev. Robt. Wannemueller

Master of Ceremonies - Charles Hart

Music By - Washington High School Band

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS
RESPONSIBLE FOR
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Soil Conservation Service
Prairie Creek Watershed
Indiana Dept. Natural Resources
Town of Montgomery
Montgomery Ruritan Club

FINANCING

	Land	Dam Construction	Recreation Construction
SCS	\$12,000	\$20,173	\$53,320
Local	1,600		54,000
State of Indiana	11,000	11,249	
TOTAL	\$24,600	\$31,422	\$107,320

TOTAL PROJECT COST APPROX. = \$164,000

Contracting Officer - Joe Traylor
SCS Project Engr. - Harold Belcher
Consulting Project Engineer - Bob Elliott
Consulting Project Inspector - Gordon Bough

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Gress Bros. Inc.
Washington, Indiana

CONSULTING ENGINEER,

Midwestern Engineers, Inc.
Loogootee, Indiana

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- 85

This is side-2 of the Dedication Program which is lists the Ruritan Club Officers and Directors at that time. It also lists the Ruritan Presidents from 1961 thru 1971. The hand written notes was probably done by Chris O'Brian. The Montgomery Town Board is also listed along with the Ruritan Queen Candidates for that year and their sponsors. An artist drawing of the layout of the park/lake is on the right side of the dedication program.

MONTGOMERY RECREATION PARK
DEDICATION PROGRAM

RURITAN CLUB OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Jim Nolley	President
Bill Loughmiller	Vice President
Walter Downey	Secretary
Bob Showalter	Treasurer
Charles Hart	
Jim O'Brien	
Bob Elliott	
Charles Steiner	

RURITAN CLUB PAST PRESIDENTS

Joe Arvin	1961	67 Jim Nolley
Harold Perkins	1962	68 Robert Showalter
Tom Jones	1963	69 Chris O'Brien
Joe Traylor	1964	70 Clyde Schuman
Charles Hart	1965	71 Ralph Dages
Charles Steiner	1966	

MONTGOMERY TOWN BOARD

Cecil Matthewson	President
Edward N. Gootee	
Donald Joe Traylor	

RURITAN QUEENS

Gertrude Donahue	Igleharts Elevator
Linda Hughes	Traylor's Fertilizer
Sandy Arvin	Arvin Welding Co.
Jean Doyle	Trudy's Cafe
Jean Dages	Lois Winnegar
Mary Sue Nolan	Amway Products
Patty Haag	Eaton Elevators

3:00 PM SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1967

Picture of Park-Lake Dedication from May of 1967



Shown here is the Dedication Ceremony of the Park-Lake in August of 1967. Not able to identify all in this picture but starting from the left ??, Joe Traylor, Lisa "Nolan" Miller (Ruritan Queen), Chris O'Brian, ????, ????, Mayor Othmar Frye of Washington, Jay Myers and in front was Captain McCarty of the Crane Naval Base and Bob Elliott who was the Project Engineer on this Park-Lake project. In this picture a presentation was made to Crane Naval Base for their local support.

I gave Him Tour of Park
of most of This Information
Chris O'Brian

See Charlie Hart at Montgomery 486 3222 business

Peden stuff:

A report on participation, preference and community benefits at Montgomery Lake by Glenn A. Gillespie, U of Mo.

Montgomery lake, a part of the Prairie Creek Watershed project in Daviess County, near the town. 26-acre lake was constructed through cooperation of SCS under pl 566, part of PC watershed project and PC conservancy district. Assisted by Indiana Dept of Natural Resources. Town owns the land and agreed to operation and maintenance.

Project for 50 acres to be purchased, 26 to accommodate water impoundment, 11 acres for water access, and 13 acres of public park. Estimated 19000 visitor days per year. Campgrounds completed in 1967 had 15 designated campsites and more than 100 there several times. During 1970, 19,000 visitor days in camp grounds alone. Improvements made every year since opened in May 1967. Another 21 acres acquired. Swimming, fishing, boating popular.

Local share of funds for development entirely provided by operation of the park. Annual gross in excess of 20,000\$ a year. Project costs were \$164,000. Local sponsors provided \$1600 for land purchase and \$54,000 for recreation facilities. Ind Dpt Nat Res \$11000 for land and 11,249 for dam.

Most popular activity at the lake in his study was camping, then bank fishing, sightseeing, walking and hiking. Those who came spent an average of about 4½ days on their recreation trip, spending about \$3.25 per recreation day while there. Attendance at the lake in 1970, the year of the study, was 31,648. Community benefits generated by the project to the local area of ~~#####~~ \$102,856.

This was a document from Chris O'Brian; it appears he has given Mr. Glenn Gillespie who was from the University of Missouri a tour of the park. Mr. Gillespie did a study on how much usage the park would get and where the visitors were coming from. This was completed a few years after the park was in use.

**ANALYSIS OF 1969 OPERATIONS OF THE
MONTGOMERY, INDIANA RURITAN PARK**

	<u>Camp Sites</u> <u>Rented</u>	<u>Camper</u> <u>Days</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>of Total</u>
DAVISS COUNTY	1,587	6,348	39½%
ADJACENT COUNTIES			
Knox	676)	2,704)	
Martin	209)	836)	
Pike	62)	248)	
Greene	30)	120)	
Dubois	27)	108)	
Total adjacent counties	1,004	4,016	25 %
ALL OTHER INDIANA COUNTIES	1,116	4,464	28 %
OUT OF STATE	319	1,276	7½%
OTHER COUNTRYS	1	4	
GRAND TOTAL	4,027	16,108	



\$80/40

COMPARISON

	<u>Year 1968</u>	<u>Year 1969</u>
Percent of total ^{Campers} from Daviess County	36.8%	39½%
" " " " surrounding counties	32.3%	25%
" " " " all other Indiana counties	23.6%	28%
" " " " Out-of-State	7.4%	7½%
Total Camper Days	992	16,108

$$\begin{array}{r} 992 \\ 4 \\ \hline 3968 \end{array}$$

This was the results of a study done by Mr. Glenn Gillespie who was from the University of Missouri. Mr. Gillespie did a study on how much usage the park would get and where the visitors were coming from.

Shown below is a Yearly Financial Report from the Montgomery Ruritan Beach for 1973. It was prepared by Albert Kavanaugh who was the Beach Manager. Back then it was not a big fundraiser but it was a service to the community for the beach to be open. Many of the kids rode their bikes to the beach and spend the afternoon and in warm days it was open late into the evening.

MONTGOMERY RURITAN BEACH FUND
Financial Report as of October 1, 1973

Disbursements -- 1973

P. A. Kennedy Co.	\$179.50
Holland Dairy Co.	342.02
Chesty Foods, Inc.	228.29
Krodel Supply Co.	27.00
Coca Cola Bottling Co.	377.68
Stewart Sandwich Co.	228.30
Stoll's Grocery	<u>13.38</u>
Total Concession Exp.	\$1396.17

American Playground Co.	196.80
Internal Revenue	318.23
Sports Mart	8.48
Montgomery Postmaster	<u>2.00</u>
Total Miscel. Exp.	\$ 525.51

Cash Box Change	25.00
Net Payroll Payments	2589.80
Montgomery Ruritan	<u>1000.00</u>
Total Disbursement	\$5536.48

Income -- 1973

Season Tickets	\$ 906.75
Basket Room	2549.73
Concessions	<u>2097.50</u>
Total Income	\$5553.98

Cash Box Change	25.00
Refunds	14.63
Bank Balance 4/15/73	27.63
Total Deposits -- 1973	\$5553.98
Total Expenses -- 1973	<u>\$5536.48</u>

Bank Balance	\$ 84.76
10/1/73	

Gross Payroll -- 1973

Jerry Smith	\$254.16
Tom Seal	392.51
Lynn Heffernan	6.00
Brenda Reed	199.50
Mary Ann O'Brian	202.00
Debra Mangin	152.28
Beth O'Brian	97.04
Ellen Renneker	195.00
Leonard Seal	60.75
Tony Showalter	115.50
Allen Reed	7.50
Linda Elliott	54.00
Chris Mangin	25.14
Stephen Grannan	23.64
Erin O'Connor	10.50
Karen O'Brian	13.13
Janice Reed	5.25
Donna Dancheon	<u>18.00</u>

Total -- \$1831.90

Management

Charles A. Kavanaugh \$ 900.00

Gross Payroll -- \$2731.90
Net Payroll -- \$2589.80

This annual financial report is submitted by the Beach Manager of Indian Rock Lake Beach.

Charles A. Kavanaugh
October 1, 1973