

Early Days of the Turkey Trot

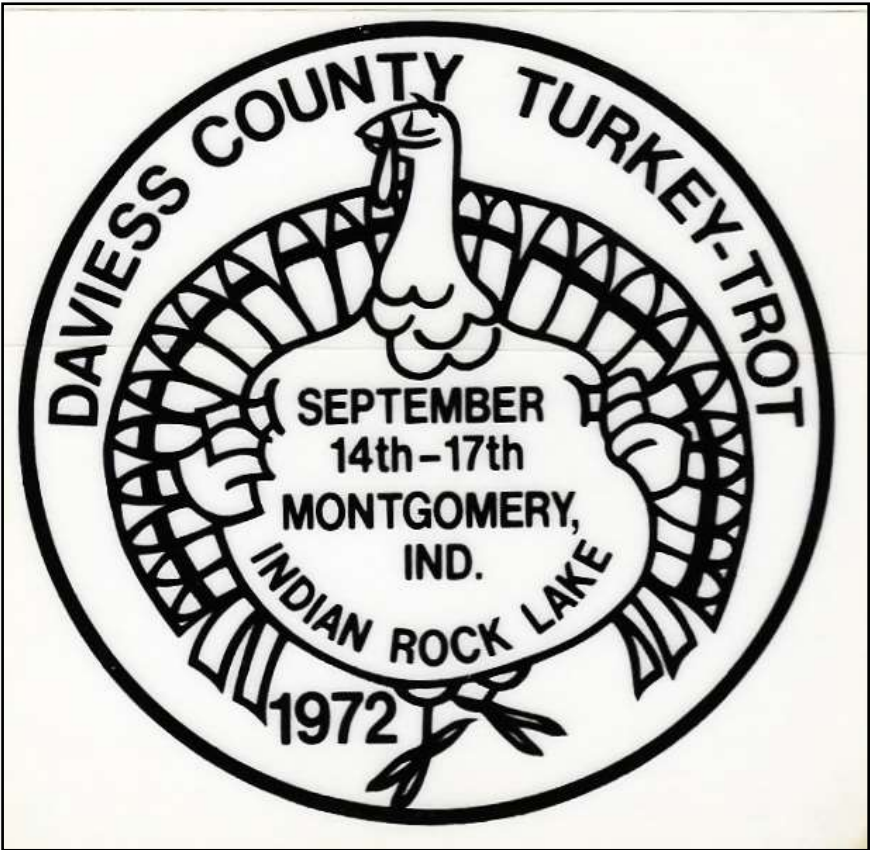


First Turkey Trot

As you can see on the left this was the banner that was used for the first Turkey Trot and the event was called the “Daviess County Fall Festival” or Daviess County Turkey Trot. The Daviess County Chamber of Commerce was a partner with the Montgomery Ruritan Club in those first few years of the Turkey Trot. However they turned it over to the Montgomery Ruritan Club and the name change to the Montgomery Turkey Trot Festival.

First Decal for Turkey Trot

The Decal on the left was used on Glasses and cups, and other items that was sold at the Turkey Trot and Beer Garden. The First Turkey Trot was held on the Montgomery Turkey Trot Grounds on Sept. 14th to the 17th of 1972. It was called the **Daviess County Turkey-Trot.**



Aerial View of one of the first years of the Turkey Trot:

This is an aerial view in what could be the first Turkey Trot held in Sept. of 1972. This is a view looking south from a low flying plane. Note if you will the large tent in the top center of the picture that was used for the Display Booths, the Track on the center of the picture and it appears that Tractor Pulls was going on, the mobile home trailer parked on CR Road 100 North, this was used for the Turkey Trot office and where Entertainers waited to come on Main Stage. Note the parking area at the top of the picture as a good crowd for Sat. afternoon. You will also note the four tents just below the big main tent as it was used for food booths, the larger tent on the top right of the picture was the Beer Garden Tent as it is fenced in. You will note on the Track, no bleachers, just lawn chairs and people standing, the stands came later.



The bottom right of this picture you can see the camp grounds as they were the all the camp sites we had at that time. On the bottom left of the picture, you can see the shelter house, now gone, replaced with campsites. This picture was taken on a Saturday afternoon of that first Turkey Trot.

Aerial View of one of the first year of the Turkey Trot: This is an aerial view in what was the first Turkey Trot held in Sept. of 1972. This is a view looking north from a low flying plane. You can see the Track as the Tractor Pull is taking place. You can see Tractor lined up on the north side of the track ready for the next pull. See the Carnival below that has been a part of each Turkey Trot each year. You will note at top of the picture where the old Shelter House was, now it has campsites as it borders Indiana Rock Lake. Also the old parking lot used for the beach house which also is now campsites. You can also see the flat truck beds used for the main stage for entertainers. Note there were no fences as you paid your admission as you drove in on CR 100 or Park Rd. as you entered the Grounds.



**First Trial Turkey Race Held in August of 1972 at the
Armour Turkey Plant in Washington**



This is the picture of the first Trial Turkey Races prior the official Turkey Races during Turkey Trot. It was set up as a Media Event and the media was there from Evansville and Terre Haute. Shown here is (L-R) Fred Murphy, Kenny Stoll, Denny Hughes and Curt Miller. This picture was taken on the front lawn of what was then the Armour Turkey Processing Plant in Washington which was later purchased by Perdue Farms. We believe this picture was taken in early August of 1972 as was used to stir publicity for the First upcoming Turkey Trot.

**First Trial Turkey Race Held in August of 1972 at the
Armour Turkey Plant in Washington**



Shown here is a picture on that first trial run of the Turkeys and their jockeys. Shown in front is Curt Miller (sitting on ground) Kenny Stoll standing and Bob Showalter. Not sure who is in the background but could be members of the media who was on hand for the media day event.

First Turkey Trot in 1972



Shown here is Jockey Chris O'Brian as he tries to guide his Turkey down the Track at that first Turkey Trot in 1972. This may have been a demonstration as he may have been the only one on the track and he was using his cart. In the first Turkey Trot the Race Track was actually held out on the Park Road as the Road was blocked off at both ends and traffic was now allowed thru during the hours of the Turkey Trot events. Chris was one of the First Charter Members of the Montgomery Ruritan Club and helped in many ways in its success. Here he is having fun just promoting the Turkey Races.

First Turkey Race Winner in 1972

Pictured here is the first Turkey Racing Champion in the first racing competition held at that first Turkey Trot back in 1972. Shown here is Craig Miller on the right as he holds the Championship Trophy along with his brother Curt Miller who is holding the winning turkey "Firebird". We were not sure how many was in the racing field back then but it is believed there were at least 40 vying for the trophy and the money.



First Year of Turkey Races in 1972



These two pictures from the Turkey Race from that first Turkey Trot. As you can see a member of the Jaycees with the gun raised to start the race. That organization actually supervised the turkey races in the first couple years before the local Ruritan Club had to take over. Again these races in that first year were held on the Park Road.



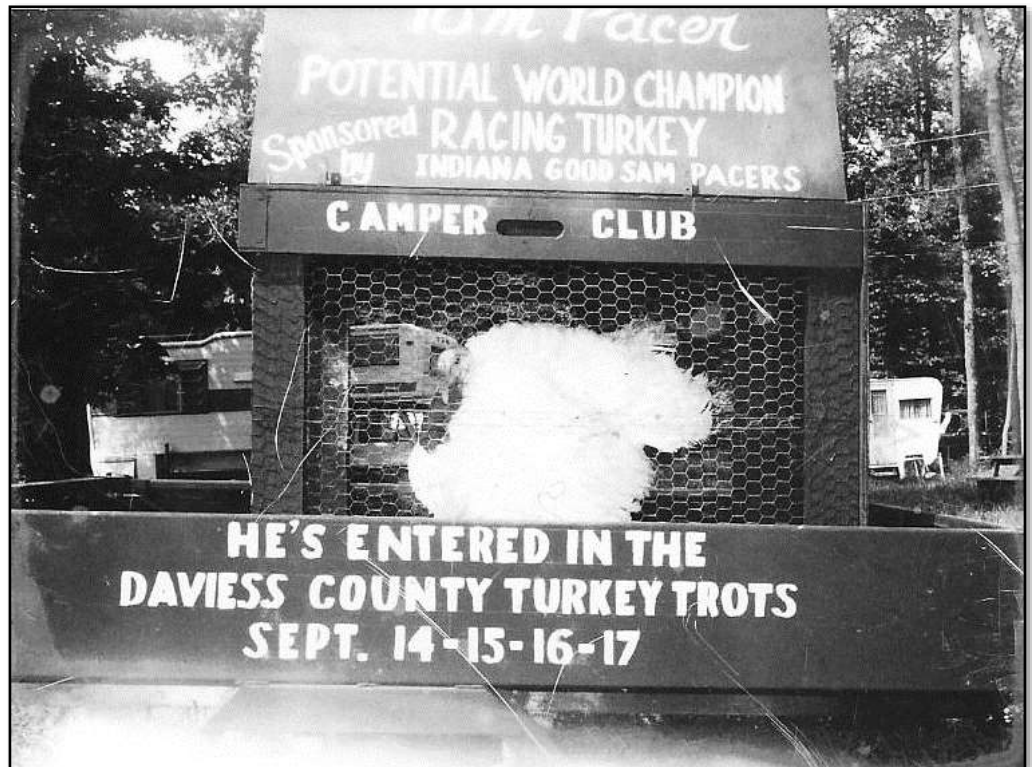
Craig Miller Wins First Turkey Race in 1972

Pictured here is Craig Miller wearing the Number one and finished as the very First Turkey Racing Champion in 1972 in its first Turkey Trot. This race was run on the Park Road in front of the Old Shelter House. That may have been the only time the Turkey races were run on the road as a track was built in the field south of this where the Ruritan Bldg. now stands. The Track was there for a few years and then moved to its present location on the Turkey Trot Grounds.



Another picture from the first Turkey racing at that first Turkey Trot.

In those first Turkey Races the turkeys came from different places around the country and right you can see one of those early bird racers. This one had its own traveling cage and trailer. Not sure where this came from but it may have been from out of state. Don't really know how this turkey came out in the race.





Pictures from the first Turkey Trot as Sammy Terry paid a visit to the Turkey Trot.

He had an appearance on the Main Stage. The bottom picture shows them clowning around. This was inside the house trailer that was parked on the park road and was used for the Turkey Trot Office and the Entertainers to get ready before entering the main stage. Not sure who was his sidekick.



This article was found in the history file of Chris O'Brian.

Not sure if this was written as press release for the upcoming 1974 Turkey Trot. In the article it mentions the first two Turkey Race Winners Craig Miller in 1972 and Alan Winnegar in 1973.

Indiana is truly the racing capitol of the world with the Indianapolis "500" and now the infamous TURKEY TROT RACES. Only two years old, the TURKEY TROT RACES and FESTIVAL have made headlines and newlines around the world. News that has been translated into at least five foreign languages.

There is a pride among Turkey Trot jockeys like Alan Winnegar and Craig Miller, both past winning jocks. A justified pride, because in the past two racing seasons, many famous birds (Miss Development, Mealy, Superbird, Miss Ding-a-Ling, White Lightning and Dirty Bird, to name a few) have come to vie for the glory of Feather Alley, yet none has felt the sod. All have left with no honors and the stark realization that they were destined to dress some holiday table.

You might ask, "What does it all add up to?" Well, what we are saying is that the jockeys and birds of Daviess County are top notch. Our jockeys would like to prove this by beating your birds in races sanctioned by the National Turkey Federation. These races will be held September 12th thru 15th at the Montgomery Ruritan Park, Montgomery, Indiana. Bring your camper - campsites are available on the grounds, and be prepared to enjoy yourself because the races are part of the Daviess County Turkey Trot Festival. Other activities include free stage entertainment, gate prizes, home demonstration tent, carnival rides, and samples of various turkey recipes prepared especially for you. All this, and a Beer Garden too.

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The Turkey Jockeys Association of Daviess County CHALLENGES YOU to a turkey race, your birds against ours, in Feather for Feather Competition ----- WINNER TAKES THEM ALL. All races sanctioned by the National Turkey Federation. Race date is September 12th - 15th. BRING YOUR BIRD.

Shown here is the first set of Rules for Turkey Racing at the Turkey Trot.

The Turkey Racing began at the first Turkey Trot in 1971.

The Rules were updated as the years went along.

DAVIESS COUNTY TURKEY TROT FESTIVAL

RACE REGULATIONS

1. The trials will determine the fastest 25 turkeys to race in the semi-finals. Each heat race will consist of 5 entrants.
2. Birds racing in semi-final races will be determined by placing numbers 1 thru 25 in hat and having festival committee member draw numbers. First 5 numbers drawn will be in 1st semi-final heat, second 5 numbers -- etc.
3. The winner from each of the five semi-final heats will race in the final race at 4:00 P.M. Sunday.
4. Individual timers will be assigned to the birds in all races.
5. Race track length will be 200 feet.
6. If the bird leaves the track he is disqualified -- this includes flight by bird or carrying by jockey.
7. Every turkey will be on leash at all times. The maximum length of leash is 10 feet.
8. There will be no artificial or mechanical stimulation of turkeys. The GENTLE touch of the jockey's hand may be applied to start the bird. However no abuses of the bird will be tolerated. The timers will watch for this very closely.
9. There will be no person or items (except costumes or leash) touching the turkey during the race.
10. The race will be started by a starting pistol.
11. Jockeys must maintain control of bird at all times. Jockeys must remain behind birds during races. Birds may not be led or pulled down track.
12. All turkeys in the Best Dressed competition must be alive. Best dressed Competition will be based on the turkey only.

This is a Worker's Lists from the second Turkey Trot in 1973. This lists was for workers who help to park cars in the parking area. The lines thru the name may be the ones that showed up for work.

2-1111
~~1-1111~~

SEPTEMBER 1973

TURKEY TROT FESTIVAL
WORK LIST

~~Paul Miller~~
Paul Steiner, Co-Chairman


PARKING

THURSDAY	4:00 - 7:00	Max Burkhardt Charley Newton ✓ Harvey Newton Amos Wittmer David L. Miller	7:00 - 11:00	Ben Delaney Joe O'Brian Chris Doyle Don Troutman Floyd Reed
FRIDAY	4:00 - 7:00	Tony Bullock Jerry Hinglin Galen Graber Lowell Graber Ray O'Connor	7:00 - 11:00	Jim Hayes Bill Harp Joe Haskins David Waller Ziba Graham, Jr. Vernon Knapp
SATURDAY	9:30 - 1:00	Dick Bransman John Glass Bill Armstrong Jack Opell Harry Hanson	1:00 - 4:00	Bill McCain Owen Rader Al Knepp Bob Petty Chris Hinkle Tom Hughes Jack Walker
SUNDAY	10:00 - 2:00	Jim Scheid Hobart Smith ✓ Chet Thompson Tim Hager Mark Petty		

A-A-A-A-A

Tony Wickman
Brad Gra


NOTE: Anyone above who cannot help as shown, notify Paul Miller (486-3299) or Paul Steiner (486-3416). Passes to be picked up a ticket booth.



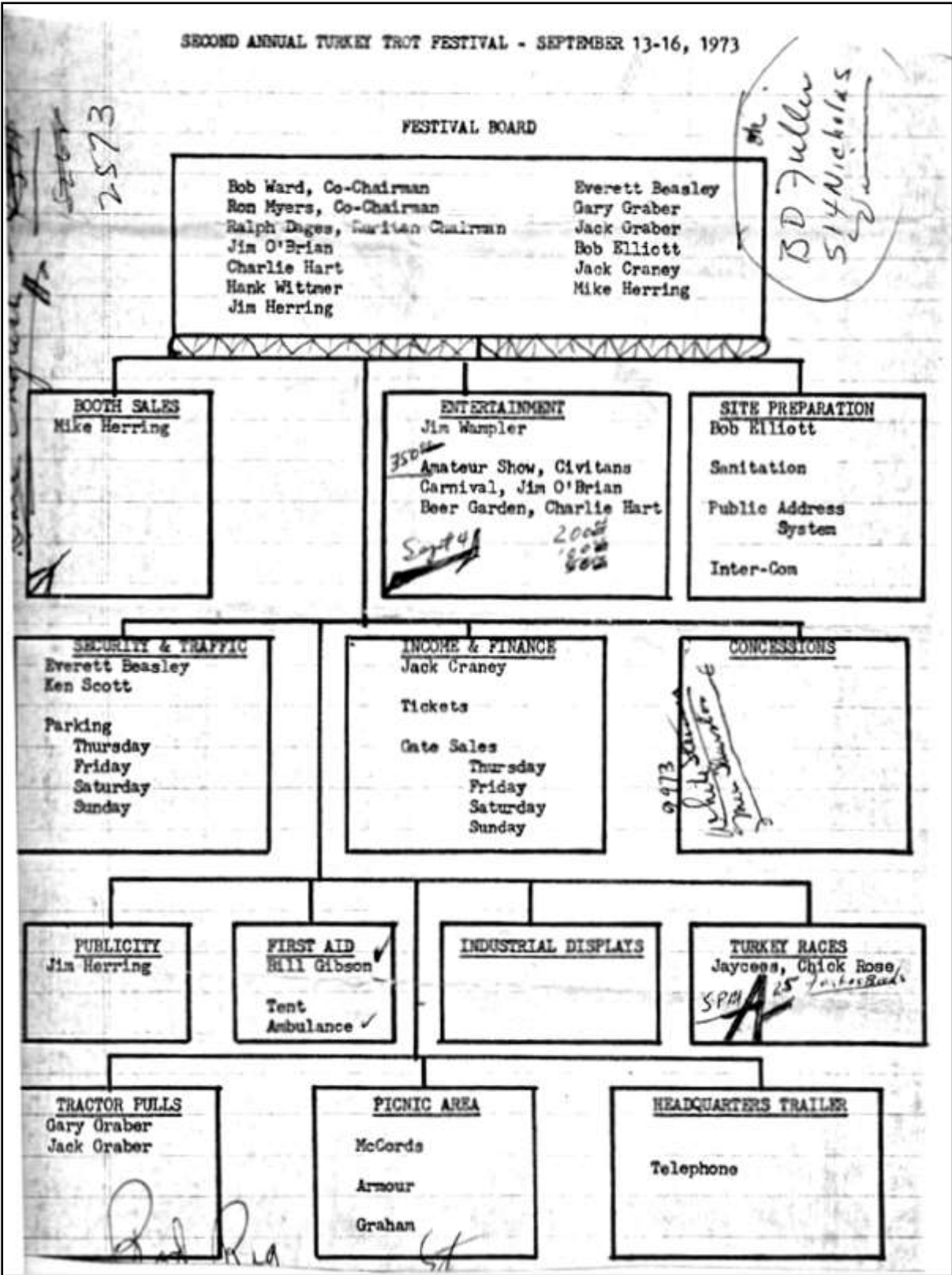
Sunday Morning Worship Service During Turkey Trot

In the early days of the Turkey Trot there was a Worship Service on Sunday Morning at the Stage area and it was conducted by one of the area ministers. This particular one held on Sept 18, 1977 was led by R.P. Hawkins. This was one of the programs.

<p style="text-align: center;">MORNING WORSHIP SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1977 9:30 A. M. Turkey Trot Stage Montgomery, Indiana *****</p> <p>THE CALL TO WORSHIP:</p> <p>LEADER: The Lord reigns; He is robed in majesty; The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength.</p> <p>PEOPLE: Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.</p> <p>LEADER: Thy throne is established from of old; Thou art from everlasting.</p> <p>PEOPLE: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name.</p> <p>CONGREGATIONAL HYMN..All Hail the Power of Jesus Name</p> <p>All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all; Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all!</p> <p>Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, Ye ransomed from the fall, Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all; Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all!</p> <p>O that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall! Join in the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all; Join in the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all!</p> <p>SCRIPTURE READING.....Friedman Hedrick</p>	<p>HYMN... "Sweet Hour of Prayer"</p> <p>Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care, And bids me at my Father's throne Make all my wants and wishes known: In seasons of distress and grief, My soul has often found relief; And oft escaped the tempter's snare, By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!</p> <p>Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! Thy wings shall my petition bear To Him whose truth and faithfulness Engage the waiting soul to bless. And since He bids me seek His face, Believe His Word, and trust His grace, I'll cast on Him my every care, And wait for thee, sweet Hour of prayer!</p> <p>Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! The joys I feel, the bliss I share, Of those whose anxious spirits burn With strong desires for thy return! With such I hasten to the place Where God, my Savior, shows His face, And gladly take my station there, And wait for thee, Sweet Hour of Prayer!</p> <p>PRAYER</p> <p>SOLD.....John Newton</p> <p>THE GOSPEL MESSAGE.....Rev. R. P. Hawkins</p> <p>HYMN... "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"</p> <p>O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain, For purple mountain majesties, Above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed His grace on thee, And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea! (Over)</p>
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<p>O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern impassioned stress, A thoroughfare for freedom beat, Across the wilderness! America! America! God mend thine every flaw, Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!</p> <p>O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life! America! America! May God thy gold refine Till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine!</p> <p>O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years, Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears! America! America! God shed His grace on thee And Crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!</p> <p>BENEDICTION</p> <p>Pianist.....Virginia Arns In Charge of Usbering.....Cecil Harns Song Leader.....Marion Barbi</p> <p>EVERYONE COME SHARE IN THIS WORSHIP SERVICE!</p> <p>"May Grace, Mercy and Peace be with you as you travel"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">M o r n i n g W o r s h i p</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">TURKEY TROT FESTIVAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 1977 9:30 A.M. MONTGOMERY, INDIANA</p>
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This was an Organizational Chart from the 1973 Turkey Trot which outlined the chairman for each activity and for the Chairman of that activity.



Results from that 1974 Turkey Trot: Here is a newspaper article from the local Washington Times Herald which details the results from 4 days of the Turkey Trot. The big news was that Old Rock III jockeyed by Brian Traylor was the winner of the Turkey Races. The article talks about the Best Dressed Turkey, Tractor Pulls and the highlight was the Barbara Mandrell Show on Saturday Night.

Turkey race won by Camping Club

By GREG THOMAS

Old Rock III was named the 1974 Turkey Trot champion racing bird Sunday and three of the first four turkeys across the finish line were disqualified because of "too helpful" jockeys.

The racing rules state that the jockey cannot pull or push the turkey at any time and rules were strictly enforced.

Old Rock III was entered by the Indian Rock Camping club of Montgomery and was jockeyed by Brian Traylor. He covered the 213 ft. course in a respectable 23.2 seconds, 5.2 seconds slower than the world's record set last year by Snoopy.

Second place went to The Streak, sponsored by the G.C. Murphy Co. of Washington and handled by Bill Chestnut. The Streak "roared" across the finish strip just 5.8 seconds after Old Rock III.

Ted Wasdon, Indianapolis, secretary-treasurer of The National Turkey Federation presented the winners with handsome trophies, courtesy of the federation. In a brief statement Wasdon also praised the Turkey Trot for its contribution to and promotion of the turkey industry.

Miss Martin County, entered by Midwest Engineers and jockeyed by Jayson Loughmiller, was awarded the title of "Best Dressed" live bird. She sported an original powder blue satin bikini offset with a pair of false eyelashes. Miss Martin County also received a fine trophy for her splendid effort.

The championship turkey head ended four days of turkey racing, tractor pulls, entertainment and exhibits. Attendance was held at an estimated 25,000 persons due to two days of rain and mud.

State champion Ed Carmichael topped the list of tractor pull winners with a 1st place in the 9,000 lb. super stock class Saturday and another 1st in the 12,000 lb super stock class Sunday. Carmichael, who drives a 1066 International, is the 1973 Indiana and Illinois super stock champion and is current points leader in the 1974 tourney.

Washington's Bob Boyd Farms copped the win in the 12,000 stock class Sunday to strengthen their hold on 2nd place in the Indiana State points championship. Other winners Sunday were Jerry Phegley, 9,000 lb. stock; Mark Lawyer, 16,000 lb farmer; Jim Gregory, 11,000 lb. farmer.

The complete list of winners:

7,000 lb. antique, Leslie Staubaugh
Merlin Graber, Don Graber, Gary Knepp

9,000 lb. super stock, Ed Carmichael, Brian Huntley, Roy Hunter, Tom Kalb, Jerry Phegley.

9,000 lb. stock, Jerry Phegley, Sonny Hirsville, Horst Earl, H.D. Trimble, Randy Bennett.

12,000 stock, Bob Boyd Farms, Bud McGuire, Jim Trimbough, Bill Schroeder, Don Gladdish.

16,000 lb. farmer, Mark Lawyer, Ervin Yoder, Gibb Boyd.

11,000 lb. farmer, Jim Gregory,

Denny Wehr, Roy Zeigler.

12,000 lb super stock, Ed Carmichael, Everett Hurley, Roy Hunter, Jarit Perkins, Willard Graber.

Indiana State Tractor Pullers Association president, Don Zeck, was on hand to view Sunday's action.

The largest single day's crowd jammed the stage area Saturday despite cool weather to experience an exciting Barbara Mandrell Show. Barbara, and her superb backup group, The Do-Rites, started with a medley of popular country tunes spanning some 30 years to present favorites. The audience then roared with applause as she sang her current hit, "This Time I Almost Made It." She then concluded the hour long show with a gospel favorite and a few of her past hits.

Gary Dawson and the Ranglers were up for beer garden duty Saturday night. The sunny weather during the day was responsible for increasing the number of patrons to more than double Friday night's attendance. Dawson and his band were well received with their rendition of country and popular numbers.

Gospel music fans received an added treat Sunday as London Parris and The Apostles and local favorites, The Brittan Brothers, closed out the musical section of the festival.

Bill Gibson, Daviess County Hospital Administrator, was presented a plaque Sunday by Chamber of Commerce president Bob Elliot. Each year the Chamber compliments a business or industry which has made significant contributions to the residents of Daviess County and this year the county health services were named recipient.

Alber Croudr, Vincennes, was the winner of the pontoon boat given away by the Chamber.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1974

Newspaper Clipping from Local Newspaper after the 1974 Turkey Trot.

Shown here is the awards presentation for the fastest bird and the best dress turkey.



(Times-Herald Photo by Greg Thomas)

AT LEFT, BRIAN TRAYLOR, who piloted Old Rock III to Sunday's Turkey Trot championship, is presented a trophy from the National Turkey Federation by Indianapolis 500 queen Andrea McCall. Old Rock III was sponsored by the Indian Rock Camping Club of Montgomery.

AT RIGHT, THE BEST DRESSED award at the 2nd annual Turkey Trot went to Miss Martin County who modeled this stunning powder blue bikini. She was entered by Midwest Engineers and her trainer is Jayson Laughmiller.

Newspaper Article from the Turkey Trot in 1974: Third year of the Turkey Trot and it brought out newspaper reporters from Evansville and the surrounding area to cover the Turkey Trot events.



Evansville Courier columnist Joe Aaron gets only a flap of the wings out of the turkey he raced at the Montgomery Turkey Trot Festival Thursday night. Aaron took part in the media turkey race following preliminary turkey racing. (AP Laserphoto)



Cliff Morse of Montgomery said he used "good common sense" to goad this turkey to a slow first place in one of several Turkey Trot Festival heat races Thursday. The reluctant bird is named Jim Dandy. (Courier photo by Steve Kinney)

Newspaper Article from the Washington Times Herald, Sept. 3, 1974

A local newspaper delivery girl (Janet O'Connor) got a press pass so she could deliver her newspapers to the homes along Park Road. In the early days of the Turkey Trot the ticket money was collected one the road as the cars turned onto Park Rd from Co. Rd. 650. This was prior to the fences being built around the Turkey Trot Grounds. The two men collecting the money were Tom Craney and Charlie Newton.



Picture Right: Shown below could be turkey racing with carts. Kenny Stoll on the left and Denny Hughes on the right as they race down the track on the Park Road. This was not the actual race but more of a warm prior to the racing of the Turkeys.





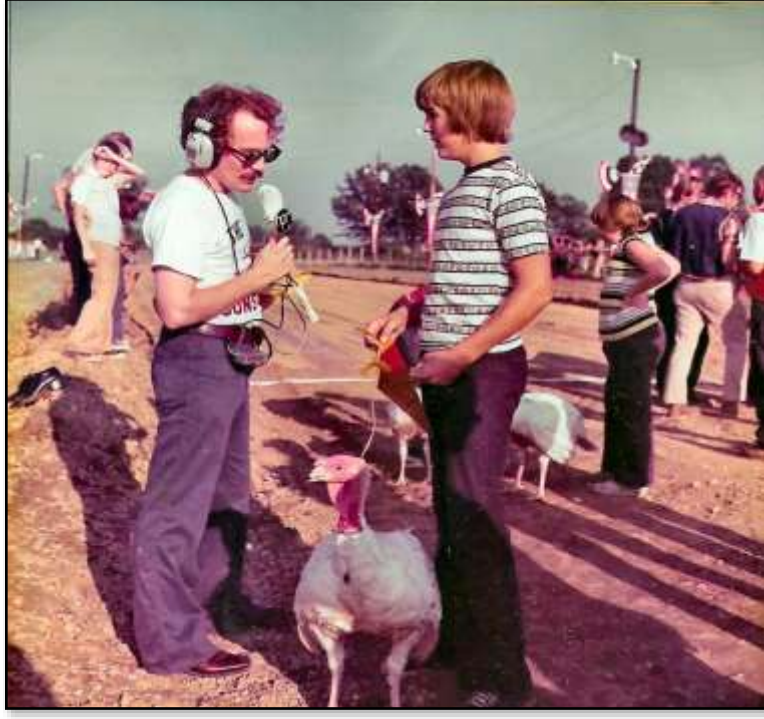
Brian holds the trophy and you can see his proud father Joe (with Sunglasses) in the background.



Brian Traylor pumps his fist in the air as he crosses the finish line just .2 of second ahead of 2nd place.



Shown here is the Awards Presentation as Brian is presented the Championship Trophy by the Indiana 500 Queen Andrea McCall along with Chris O'Brian of the Indian Rock Campion Club who was the sponsor of Brian's Bird "Old Rock III".



Brian is interviewed by one of the media outlets prior to the semi-finals on Sat. evening. Needless to say Brian won his heat and qualified for the finals.



Turkey trotters

Mildred Drake of Charleston, Ill., bends down to coax her turkey into action at the annual Turkey Trot Festival at Montgomery in Southern Indiana. Ms. Drake is among 25 contestants who are racing their fowl in the four-day trots that choose a champion turkey trotter on Sunday. (AP Laserphoto)

This is one of the many pictures that appeared in local newspapers during the early days of the Turkey Trot. This lady was all dressed up for the occasion with her early century clothes. It is believed this picture was from the Evansville Courier and was taken in the first years of Turkey Trot.



JOINING THE exhibitors at the 33rd annual Daviess County Turkey Trot Festival races will be mayors of Washington and Loogootee who received their tickets this week. From left are Leo Sullivan, Robert Brown and Chris O'Brian, Turkey Trot club member. The Montgomery festival opens Thursday with a variety of events and a special section is included in today's Times Herald. (Greg Thomas photo)

This is a publicity picture take before the 1976 Turkey Trot as Chris O'Brian (right) poses with the Mayor's of Washington (Leo Sullivan) and Loogootee (Robert Brown). The Club reached out to area communities for their support of the local Turkey Trot Festival.

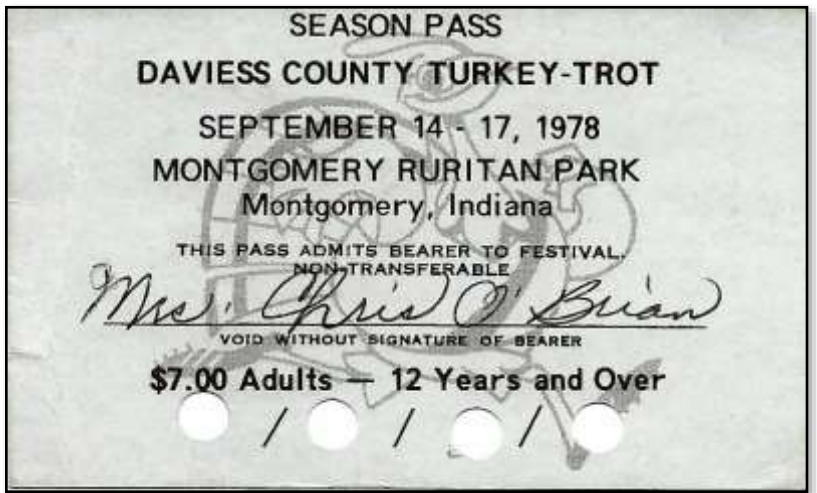


"BARTLEY BEARD SPECIAL" was given an advance look at the Montgomery Turkey Trot Festival facilities Saturday by his jockey Rod Hill, promptly issued a challenge to other brand racing turkeys throughout the area. Daily turkey races are a feature of the four-day festival which opens Thursday.

This Newspaper Article appeared in the Washington Times Herald on Sept. 13, 1976 in preparation for the Annual Turkey Trot. Shown here is Rod Hill with one of the Turkeys he will race in that upcoming Turkey Trot.



Shown here is a Car Pass that will admit booth venders the right to park up by the Community Bldg. or where their booths were located.



Shown above is a Turkey Trot Season Pass from Sept. of 1978 that was Sold to Chris O'Brian's wife. It admitted a person to the Turkey Trot for all four Days for just \$7. 12 year old were free. A real bargain as it now costs about \$35-\$40 for 4 days.



This was an old Turkey Trot Festival banner that was kept by Chris O'Brian. This was from the early days when it was called the Daviess County Turkey Trot Festival.

Newspaper
Article that
appeared in
Evansville
Courier on Sept
12, 1980

Fast turkeys, apple hero on tap

By JOAN CAMERON
Courier staff writer

Racing turkeys and Captain Applesauce will make the scene in a weekend full of activities available to Tri-State residents.

Travelers can venture to Montgomery, Ind., to join in the fun and laughs at the ninth annual Turkey Trot Festival, which features turkey races and a best-dressed turkey contest. Or they may opt for the Murphysboro, Ill., Apple Festival, which this year has a theme of "Our Superheroes" and boasts its own in the newly created Captain Applesauce.

The Daviess County, Ind., folks were looking for something different in the way of festivals when they came up with the Turkey Trot event.

"We raise a lot of turkeys around here and the Armour Co. has a plant located in town, so somebody said why not a turkey race," explained Dave Cox of the Daviess County Chamber of Commerce. "There's only one thing dumber than a turkey, and that's the guy that races them."

"It's a hoot to watch them, it's just crazy."

Events opened Thursday with the first heat races, which continue each day. Friday's activities include a heat race at 6 p.m. and entertainment by Canadian Thom Bresh and two other groups.

Saturday's fare features an early morning six-mile run, tractor pulls, the

turkey race semifinals at 5:30 p.m. and an evening of entertainment, headlined by Peggy Sue and Sonny Wright. Sunday's highlights are the best-dressed turkey contest at 4 p.m. and the turkey race finals at 4:30 p.m.

The turkey races include their share of theatrics. "Last year we had a grudge race where one of the guys who was beaten before came to the track in a sort of 'Gorgeous George' getup," noted Cox. "He came in riding in a convertible with his turkey, got out and made a big deal of removing his cape, put his turkey on the track, and then ended up getting beat."

The turkeys race on a course of about 200 feet. "They're supposed to run in a straight line. The winner does," Cox laughed. "Their priorities change in a hurry. They might be leading the track and a grasshopper will go across the track and completely change their priorities."

Cox predicts a crowd of 20,000 over the four-day affair, with rides, conces-

sions, exhibits and a beer garden also included in the activities at the Montgomery Recreation Park. A daily admission fee covers all events except rides.

Murphysboro's 29th annual Apple Festival opened Wednesday and will run through Saturday night, with chairman Marion Nash expecting the four-day attendance to run between 40,000 and 50,000.

Captain Applesauce was unveiled in August, bursting from a simulated apple crate, then went back into storage until the festival.

"The kids didn't know whether to like him or take a bite out of his stomach," explained Nash, who has run the festival for 26 of its 29 years. "San Diego has its chicken, Murphysboro has Captain Applesauce. He's faster than a falling apple, can turn a river of apple cider and can jump a 30-foot apple tree. He's begun to develop a character of his own."

Included in the weekend's activities are the national apple peeling contest, with sessions all four days. The peeler with the longest amount of peelings in three minutes claims top prize. Apple core throwing and apple seed popping contests are also on the schedule, as well as tractor pulls, road runs and a celebrity golf tourney.

Friday's agenda includes the golf tourney, arts and crafts show, children's parade, and petting zoo. The evening closes with the "Appletime Revue" and Miss Apple Festival Pageant preliminaries at the Murphysboro High School.

Saturday opens early with the Appletime Apple Pancake Breakfast at 6 a.m., followed by the minimarathon and two-mile fun run. The Appletime Grand Parade, featuring about 35 high school bands and Gov. James Thompson as parade marshal, will be at 11 a.m.



How far to Montgomery? How much will it cost?

CITY	END TRIP	GAS	COST
Evansville	124	6.5	\$8.07
Owensboro	160	8.4	\$10.50
Conn. Ill.	188	9.9	\$12.37

These estimates are based on a car averaging 19 miles to the gallon, using unleaded gas purchased at the local average of \$1.25 per gallon. Mileage supplied by Indiana State Police.

Other costs facing visitors to the festival include daily admission to the park grounds, \$8 for 4-day pass, \$4 for Friday and Saturday, \$3 Sunday, children under 12 free.

News Article that
appeared in the Evansville
Courier during the 1984
Turkey Trot

Daviess Turkey Trot is off and gobbling

By STEVE KINNEY
Courier Staff Writer

MONTGOMERY, Ind. — Feathered fowl as hunky birds boogied down the racetrack Thursday night to open the 13th annual Daviess County Turkey Trot at Recreation Park here.

Only a select few of the estimated 2 million turkeys in Daviess County will trot in the festival, which not only provides four days of fun and entertainment, but celebrates one of the county's prime industries.

Commerce was far from the minds of Thursday night's youthful turkey jockeys. They lined up five at a time to coax their often reluctant birds down a 200-foot track during several preliminary races. The jockeys, who trail behind their turkeys holding a leash, used various methods.

"The secret to success is good common sense," said Cliff Morse, 15, whose Jim Dandy was the slowest of the heat race winners. "You've got to use your noodle." Morse's time of one minute 42

seconds was eight years behind last year's champion in turkey terms.

Charlotte Van Winkle, 11, urged her turkey across the finish line in 37 seconds by using a noise difficult to hear by the large crowd in the grandstand. She was asked to explain after winning the heat.

"I've been practicing making dog noises," she revealed, "and boy, he really ran." Another winner Thursday night, Connie Pisk, 21, said she also used conversation for her turkey triumph.

"I talked to her all the way down the line," she said. "I knew she'd go. If not, I was gonna kick her butt." Actually, the rules prohibit any turkey touching, except for a gentle nudge at the starting gun. Even so, some competitors, like Evansville Courier columnist Joe Aaron, never got their birds off the starting line.

None of the heat race winners came even close to the record turkey trot time turned in last

year by Lacey Goosey, jockeyed by Lori Gray. Miss Gray, who also won the championship in 1979, is the granddaughter of Fred Murphy, whose offspring have won half the 12 previous trots.

In addition to Miss Gray, Murphy has two other young relatives in the competition this year. Because of poor health, the 74-year-old Murphy had to step down as chief turkey handler this year. But he still offered to pay the \$5 entry fee for any child who wants to race but can't afford it.

Go-karts and bar stools will also race at the festival, which runs through Sunday afternoon and is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Ruritan Club. A carnival is set up at the spacious park, as well as an outdoor stage.

Bandana will perform tonight, Terri Gibbs will sing Saturday night along with Notan' Fancy, and Sunday's activities will include kid's games and a contest for the best dressed live turkey.



Giddy-up Gertrude flies to an early lead as jockey Connie Pisk offers encouragement

'86 Turkey Trot moved up 1 week

From Staff Reports

Now that the Daviess County and 4-H Fairs are over, it is time to begin thinking about the Daviess County Turkey Trot Festival.

Moved up one weekend from its normal time, the "trot" is scheduled for Sept. 4-7, at the Montgomery Recreation Park.

Last year, if one recalls, the 20th Century Chevy Car Fest, the Turkey Trot and the First Annual White River Valley Antique Association's Show all competed for patrons on one weekend in September.

This year, the car fest is reportedly moving back one weekend, the antique show is scheduled for the same weekend, (Sept. 12-14), and the turkey classic moved up one weekend. Officials are also hoping the weather will be a bit warmer on the earlier dates.

Also, different this year — there will be two identical entertainment shows on both Friday and Saturday night — one at 7 and one at 9.

Entertainment will be good this year, as usual, with The Kendall's on Friday night, whose hits include "Thank God For the Radio," and "Heaven's Just a Sin Away." Moe Bandy and the Rodeo Clowns will also perform on Saturday night. Their hits include "I Just Started Hatin' Cheatin' Songs Today," and "Just Good Ole' Boys."

Other scheduled events include: turkey races at 7 p.m. on Thursday, with the media turkey races following at 7:30 p.m.

Also, on Thursday, at 8 p.m. the Chicago Knockers Mud Wrestlers will "get down and get dirty."

Friday there will again be turkey races at 6:30 p.m. and the Terry Tunks Spectrum Sound Show will be in the beer gardens from 10 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. The younger generation will be able to enjoy "Hog Rox," where Bret Graber and Mark Holt will D.J. in the parking lot beginning at 10 p.m.

Saturday's slate is full of events with the heavy horse pulls getting underway at 1 p.m. Mark Strange, organizer of this year's Turkey

Trot, said that he anticipates 16 teams from the surrounding counties and states to participate, with some original Daviess County-born horses competing.

The mud volleyball tournament will begin at 2 p.m. and the "Crusher," a monster truck will be on the grounds on Saturday afternoon as well.



File photo

There will be three-wheeler races at 4 p.m. and the semi-final turkey races at 6:30 p.m. The Spectrum Sound Show will again be in the beer garden on Saturday night. Troy Stoll will D.J. in the parking lot from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Church services will be headed at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, with the championship turkey races beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Service awards will be presented at 12:45 p.m. There will be a demo derby at 1 p.m. on Sunday, an event that used to be held on Thursday night.

Children's games will begin at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Also changed from last year are the prices. A four-day pass will cost \$10 and daily admission was raised to \$5. Children under 12 are still free.

Washington Times Herald News Article from 1986

The Big news in this Pre-Turkey Trot Article is that the Turkey Trot is being moved up one week. Making an agreement with the 20th Century Car Club, the Ruritan Club moved their date up a week so it would not conflict with their Car Club date.

It has been a problem for years that all three major events in the County was taking place the same weekend so the car club and the Turkey Trot reached an agreement but the White River Valley Antique show still falls on the same weekend as the Turkey Trot.

Glen O'Brian Winner of 1986 Turkey Race

Shown Here is Turkey Trot Chairman Mark Strange (right) as he presents the trophy to Glen O'Brian for winning the Turkey Race Championship at the 1986 Turkey Trot. The winning Turkey's name was GTO the 3rd.





Shown here is more of the best dressed turkeys showing what they can do as the judges huddle to make a decision. Not sure who were the participants in the best dress competition or the judges.

A large crowd was on hand for the best dressed turkey as this was held just prior to the major events on the Track in 1986.



This picture from Chris O'Brian Collection was very unusual.
It shows some of the participants for one of the events arriving on the main track in an old Hearse. Not sure if this was some of the Judges for the Best Dressed Turkey event or what it may be. It appears that Big Bird might be welcoming the special guests to the Turkey Trot. Over the years many media events were held to drum up attention to the Turkey Trot and this may have been just another one of those special news events.

Best Dressed Turkey in the 1986 Turkey Trot



For many years the Turkey Trot sponsored the Best Dressed Turkey Event during the Turkey Trot. In this picture the owner and turkey are dress a like.



Here the couple are dressed a like and just could be a square dancing couple. Not sure who they were but could have been the winner.



People had all kinds of get up, see the little red airplane, there is actually a turkey sitting inside that plane and on the back is a little white streamer which reads "Eat More Turkey". Someone spent some time getting this ready.



Here the contestants are lined up for the judges and the media are there to take their pictures. This may have been one of the biggest years for the contest. In later years the interest fell off and no one took the time to enter the contest.



Two Pictures from the 1986 Turkey Trot Mud Volleyball Tourney.

As the saying goes it's a dirty job and somebody got to do it and boy do they have fun playing mud volleyball at the Turkey Trot. Mud Volleyball has been played at the Turkey Trot since the early days of the Turkey Trot and they always have a full slate of teams entered and booked up prior to the Turkey Trot.



1986 Turkey Trot: Shown here is two pictures of the Horse Pulls back in the 1986 Turkey Trot. The Horse Pulls have been featured on Saturday at the Turkey Trot for nearly every Turkey Trot since it began. As you can see in this photo, the Grandstands on the South side of the track were not built at this time in 1986. That was a nice addition to the Track.



The Crusher at the 1986 Turkey Trot

From time to time a special attraction came to the Turkey Trot and that was the case in 1986 when "The Crusher" was on display in the one picture and then doing its thing by crushing cars in the other picture. A large crowd came out to see this prior to the Truck Pulls on Saturday.

Shown here is Chris O'Brian Receiving the Ruritan Service Award in Sept. of 1983 from the Ruritan President Paul Miller.



This Picture and write up taken from Chris O'Brian's scrap Book. The Presentation was made on the Track prior to the Demo Derby on Sunday Afternoon of the Turkey Trot in 1983. Chris was one of the Ruritan Charter Members.

*1983 Dorriss Co Turkey
Trot
Service Award
To Chris O'Brian by
Paul Miller*

This is a Turkey Trot Work Schedule for the Gates and it may be somewhere in the 1980's time frame. Mike Healy and Terry O'Brian was the Chairman for the Gates during this time. Again, you can look at this list and see the Members or Volunteer workers who are no longer with us.

TICKET SALES

CHAIRMEN: Mike Healy
Terry O'Brian

THURSDAY WORKERS

5:00 - 7:30

Jay Myers
Steve Pershing
Rollie Land
Bob Wichmann
Darrell Stoll
Lee Kavanaugh

John Hayes
Darrell Lechner
Lewis Doyle
Marion Barber
Leo Ryan
Don Lahey

Ken Parsons
Bob Elliott
Al Kavanaugh
Steve Reddick
Dave Omer
Jerry Barnard

7:30 - 10:00

Jim Steimel
Max Eaton
Odious Minkle
John Mangin
Joe O'Brian
Paul Wade
Glen Craney

Howard Craney
Bill McAtee
Ron Lechner
Troy Lechner
Art Haag
Cliff Williamson
Jim Schnarr

Don Troutman
Mike Sluder
Dan McAtee
Russ Titzer
Mike Arvin
Joe Woods

FRIDAY WORKERS

4:00 - 7:00

Dave Omer
Al Kavanaugh
Bob Elliott
Bill Harp
Harold Fox
Amos Wittmer
Glen Graber

Pat Schitter
Bernard Fuhs
Gerry Frette
Herman O'Conner
Lois Wininger
Mike Sluder
Bill Thombleson

Tom Gallagher
Alvis Graber
Everett Harrawood
Tom Miles
Leo Riney
Terry Riggins
Jim Petit

7:00 - 10:00

Larry Wilcher
Mike Donahue
Jim Nolley
Max Eaton
Harvey Wagler
Ed Theroff
Bernard Harner
Bob Patterson
Richard Graber
Jim McCloud

Dennis Toy
Tony Fuhs
Byron Overton
Jim Hayes
Larry Carpenter
Joe Gray
Paul Gaither
Bert Lengacher
Kent Fuhrman

Mike Steiner
Steve Sweet
Jack Schmeltz
Mark Cornelius
Dan Gress
Lois Wininger
Gary Meade
Jim Parson
John Divine

Turkey Race Line-Up for Sept. 7, 1990

Here is the line-up for the Turkey Races from Sept. 7, 1990. This night there were 7 heats and as usual there were some that cancelled out and new ones that showed up to race at the last minute. The Turkey Races are always a big draw at the Turkey Trot.

TURKEY RACES - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1990

1st Anna Marie's Green Construction Kemper CPA Group Todd Wilcher O'Brian's Turkey Racing	Slick Willy Speedy IRS Known As The Doctor Dirty Turkey 4th	William Johnson Amy Petty Lindsey Showalter Todd Wilcher Corey O'Brian
2nd O'Brian's Turkey Racing Cumming's Auction Service Lynn's Beauty Shop	GTO 7th Lego Checker Brutus Thunder Bird	Glen O'Brian Cody Cummings Travis Knepp Jeremy Bullock Lincoln Knepp
3rd Anna Marie's Lynn's Beauty Shop Kemper CPA Group Miller Building Supply Charlie's Paint Service	Batman Keamosobie Uncle Tim Angie Ryan's Roadrunner	Steven Rollins Landon Knepp Lacey Showalter Adam Miller Jill Bridgewater
4th Anna Marie's Mama's Place O.K. Ranch Kemper CPA Group	White Lightning Bart Simpson Sunday Silence Joe-Joe Uncle Denny	Michelle Baird Sandra Jones Jeffery Knepp Kyle Dages Travis Strange
5th J. D.'s Taxidermy Anna Marie's Darren Wilcher Dave Kavanaugh	Tweety Ninja Ultimate Warrior Freddie Wrecker	Jon-Jon Knepp Nathan Rollins Darren Wilcher Grant Mattingly Kara Kavanaugh

6th Downham's Taxidermy Auto Clinic Mama's Place	April Terri Turkey Piggy Mister T. Frank Lucy	Jessica Mattingly Lacy Downham Katie Healy Christina Demarco Dusty Davis <i>Autumn Bullock</i>
7th Kyle Wilcher Dave Kavanaugh Mama's Place Bob Hoover's Body Shop Miller Building Supply <i>mama's Place</i>	Zeus Gobbler Thunder Thighs Tweety 2 <i>Can't touch this Feathers</i>	Kyle Wilcher Kristi Kavanaugh Mary Petry Jarrod Miller Brandon Miller <i>Heather Faulkner</i>
8th Mama's Place	Lucy Feathers	Autumn Bullock Heather Faulkner

2nd Sheet of the
Line-Up for Turkey
Racing Sept. of 1990

Financial Report for First Turkey Trot in 1972: Shown here is the financial report for the very first Turkey Trot held in 1972. The total profit was less than nine thousand dollars and that was split with the Daviess County of Commerce. One item that stands out is the entertainment cost was \$6,735. That is a far cry from what is in now for the Turkey Trot. The scribbling on here was probably done by Chris O'Brian as he made notes during the meeting when this report was presented to the local club members.

3/00

FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR
1972 TURKEY TROT FESTIVAL

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Chamber of Commerce (Advance)	\$2,500.00	Chamber of Commerce (Refund)	\$2,500.00
Gate Receipts	7,639.00	Printing	134.40
Beer Garden	4,250.47	Jackets	545.00
Concession Stands (5)	670.42	Mugs	1,620.00
Advance Tickets (Gate & Rides)	5,445.85	Fiesta Rides (Advance Ticket Refund)	1,113.75
Mugs & Jackets	1,425.00	Entertainment	6,735.00
Carnival Rides	835.90	Exhibit Booth Refund	150.00
Exhibit Booth Sales	4,500.00	Beer Garden Expenses (Beer, Coke, Chicken, and Misc.)	1,620.40
Turkey Entry Fees	5,400.00	Advertising	490.16
Tractor Pull Entry Fees	32.00	Electrical	356.63
Sales Tax on Jackets	24.00	Tent Rental	2,274.60
Total Gross =	\$27,722.64	Sales Tax	24.00
	-18,909.54	All Other Expenses	1,345.60
Total Profit =	\$ 8,813.10	Total Expenses =	\$18,909.54

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