

# History of the Ruritan Camp Grounds

This is Information on how the Indian Rock Lake and Park at the Montgomery Recreation Park came to be. This details how the project came together with a partnership with the City of Montgomery and the Montgomery Ruritan Club. The project got underway in 1966 and opened in 1967.

## INDIAN ROCK LAKE At MONTGOMERY RECREATION PARK (Structure B-3-1)

A public recreation development was completed in June 1967 adjacent to Structure B-3-1 of the Prairie Creek Watershed, Daviess County, Indiana. On September 29, 1961 the local residents of the Montgomery community and the only civic club, Montgomery Ruritan Club, made a request to the Prairied Creek Watershed directors to participate in the project development of B-3-1.

The Montgomery Ruritan Club, organized in 1961, became stronger every year through the efforts of the dedicated membership that includes men living in the Town of Montgomery (population of approximately 500) and within a 7 mile radius of the community. Discussion continued towards this development and P. L. 566 was utilized for the first time in the Middle West.

A preliminary plan and cost estimate was prepared by consulting engineers, Midwestern Engineers, Inc., in 1964 and the Town of Montgomery backed by the Ruritan Club entered into a Cooperative Agreement on March 15, 1965 for the proposed recreation development operation and maintenance.

Project plans set out 50 acres to be purchased, 25 acres for the water impoundment, 11 acres for the water access area around the shoreline and 13 acres for the public park. Actual costs as well as estimated usage exceeded the early preliminary estimates. As an example: 19,000 visitor days were estimated while several local people doubted this high figure; however, this number has been exceeded in the campgrounds alone this 1970 session. The campgrounds as completed in 1967 had 15 designated campsites, but there have been in excess of 100 camping units on a single night paced in the campgrounds.

The swimming beach has experienced several crowded weekends as well as the picnic grounds and shelter house. The fishing and boating are becoming more desirable every year.

The above is good evidence that the demand for recreation is greater than all expectations. The Montgomery Ruritan Club is proud to have visitors look over the park where they contributed their greatest efforts this first decade of their organization. Improvements and additions have been made every year since the park officially opened May 28, 1967. Additional beach area has been completed, more campsites, more electrical outlets, more restroom facilities in the campers building and this year, the fourth season for the park, the Ruritan Club has acquired 21 acres south of the present park in order to provide for the development of more park space in the near future.

The local share of the funds required for the development of this recreation project are being entirely provide by the operation of the park. Initially the Ruritan debt was nearly \$60,000 and at the end of the 1969 season, their debt balance was only \$38,000. The parks annual gross revenue is in excess of \$20,000 per year

which is a considerable amount when considering the parks size. In spite of the size it has been a very successful "pilot project" for P.L. 566, SCS and many others.

Additional data and statistics are as listed below:

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-P.L. 566	\$12,000	\$20,173	\$53,320
Local Sponsor	1,600		54,000
Indiana DNR	<u>11,000</u>	<u>11,249</u>	<u>        </u>
TOTAL	\$24,600	\$31,422	\$107,320

TOTAL PROJECT COST APPROX. = \$164,000

Contracting Officer	-	Joe Traylor
SCS Project Engineer	-	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

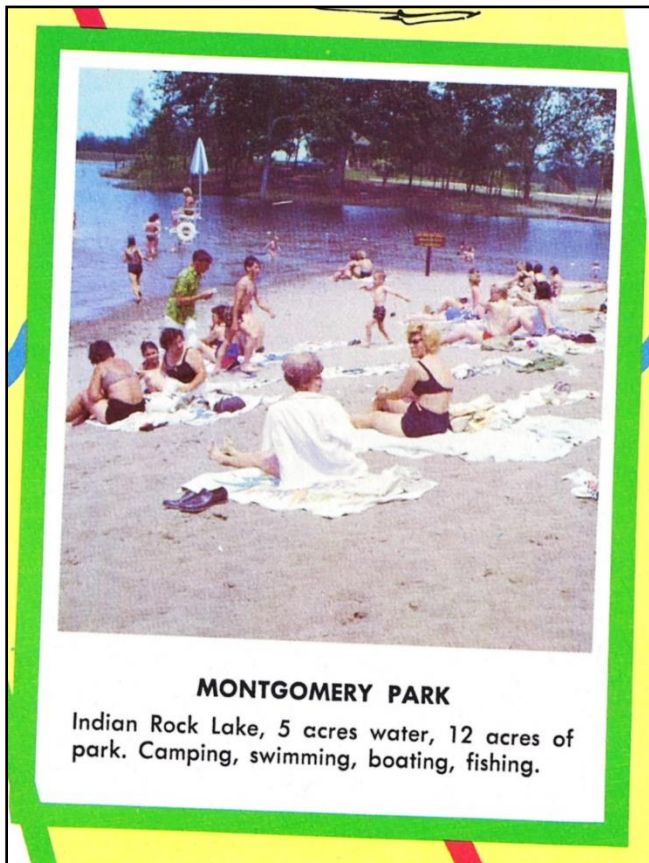
RURITAN CLUB PAST PRESIDENTS

Joe Arvin	1961	Charles Steiner	1966
Harold Perkins	1962	Jim Nolley	1967
Tom Jones	1963	Bob Showalter	1968
Joe Traylor	1964	Chris O'Brien	1969
Charles Hart	1965	Clyde Schnarr	1970

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These are two of the pictures of the Montgomery Park that appeared on flyers that promoted Camping and Swimming in the Daviess County Area. This may have been put out by the Daviess County Visitors Bureau.



MONTGOMERY RECREATION PARK

MONTGOMERY, INDIANA  
 LOCATED 1/2 MILE NORTH OF US\*50 TURN NORTH IN MONTGOMERY AND FOLLOW MARKED ROUTE

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FREE ADMISSION TO PICNIC GROUNDS

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CAMPING . . . MODERN AND PRIMITIVE LAKESIDE SITES  
 SHOWERS - TOILET & LAUNDRY FACILITIES  
 WATER-ELECTRICITY - SANITARY STATION

SWIMMING . . . MODERN BATHHOUSE SAND BEACH  
 DIVING TOWER

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BOATING . . . CANOE AND BOAT RENTAL LAUNCHING RAMP  
 FISHING

This was one of the early flyers that was used to promote the Montgomery Recreation Park which was also referred to the Montgomery Park or Ruritan Park.



One of the early flyers that promoted Parks/Recreation in the Daviess County Area. Note it had a picture of the Montgomery Beach.

**TO BEDFORD**

**TO VINCENNES**

**HIGHWAY Nos. 50 & 150**

**HIGHWAY No. 257**

**WASHINGTON COUNTY SEAT**

**WASHINGTON COUNTY SEAT**  
Olympic size pool, 9 hole golf course (semi-private), horse shows, spring, summer and fall, fishing in two park lakes.

**EAST SIDE PARK**

**AMISH-MENNONITE COMMUNITY**  
CENTRAL DAVIESS COUNTY  
Thrashing machines, shocks of fodder and wheat and buggies are not uncommon sights in the fertile farmlands where these hardy citizens live.

**HISTORICAL DAVIESS COUNTY MUSEUM**  
303 E. Walnut St., Washington, Indiana

**MOTORCYCLE SCRAMBLES**  
Plainville, Ind. normally starts season over 4th of July. Meets sanctioned by American Motorcycle Club.

**DOGWOOD LAKE**

**GLENDALE**

**WHITE RIVER**

**EAST FORK**

**MONTGOMERY**

**INDIAN ROCK PARK**

**DOGWOOD LAKE**

**TO BOWLING GREEN**

**TO MONTGOMERY BEACH**

**MONTGOMERY PARK**  
Indian Rock Lake, 5 acres water, 12 acres of park. Camping, swimming, boating, fishing.

**GLENDALE WILDLIFE AREA**  
DOGWOOD LAKE  
ICE FISHING ON DOGWOOD LAKE

**1,400 ACRES LAKE OVER 5,400 ACRES**

**Fishing, camping, on the lake. Quail, rabbit, pheasant and deer in the uplands of the area. Normally registered hunting.**

**hunting. Ducks and geese in season on the lake. Quail, rabbit, pheasant and deer in the uplands of the area. Normally registered hunting.**



This is one of the Flyers put out by the Montgomery Ruritan Club advertising the Campgrounds, Swimming, Fishing and boating. The Lake is known as Indian Rock Lake and covers 26 acres of water.

**CAMPING . . .**

Many wooded sites overlook Indian Rock Lake. Firewood is available. Water, hot showers, flush toilets, and electricity are convenient to most campsites. Dump station is free to campers. Reservations available to chartered clubs.

**SWIMMING . . .**

Large, sand beach with lifeguards on duty. Easy walking distance from campground.

**FISHING . . .**

Great for bass and bluegill. Fishing is fun to campers and picnickers. Boats are for rent.

**PICNICKING . . .**

In beautiful shaded areas by the lake. Ideal for family reunions. Picnicking areas are close to beach and shelter house. Please make reservations for shelter house. Grocery store within walking distance.

**CAMPGROUND RULES**  
Montgomery Recreation Park

1. Camping fees:
  - a) \$15.00 per unit per week
  - b) \$2.50 per unit per night
 Additional: a) \$.50 per unit per night for air conditioning  
 b) \$.25 per person over 6 people per unit per night
2. Maximum camping period shall be 14 days.
3. Camping sites are on a "first come" — first serve" basis. No reservations except for "Chartered Clubs."
4. Campers under 18 years of age must obtain special permission from superintendent or caretaker.
5. Campsites must be cleaned daily and waste deposited in containers provided. Please wrap garbage. Maintain a clean campsite, and leave it clean.
6. Dogs, cats or other pets must be kept on a leash.
7. Defacing of park property will not be tolerated.
8. Fireworks and firearms are prohibited at all times.
9. Fires may be banned by the superintendent or caretaker if conditions dictate. Never leave an unattended fire.
10. Use only one picnic table per camping unit.
11. Quiet is required after 11 p.m. Please consider your neighbors.
12. All non-campers must pay a \$.50 dumping fee for the use of the sanitary dumping station.
13. Any member of a camping unit will be admitted to the beach for \$.20 per day. SEE Park Management.
14. Motorcycles are not allowed in camping area.

PARK MANAGEMENT

**Montgomery  
Recreation  
Park &  
Campground**

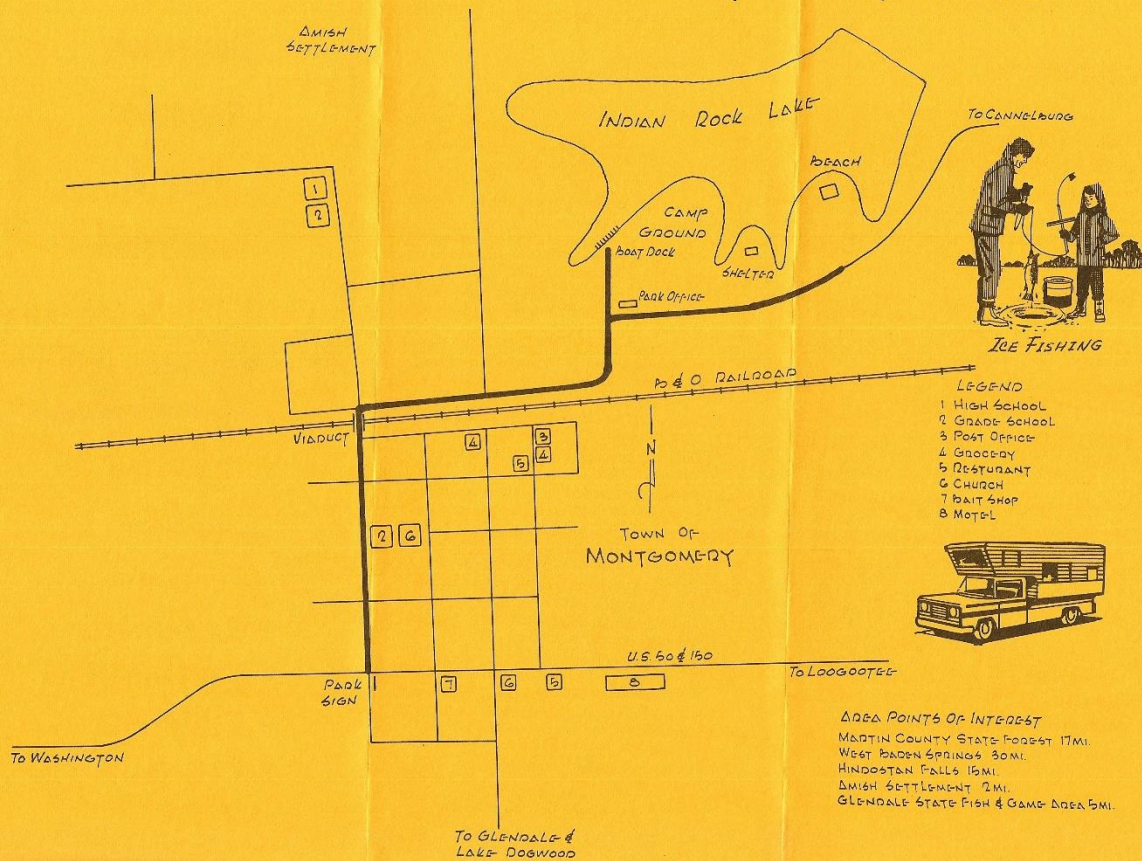


6 Miles East  
of  
Washington  
on  
US 50 & 150

- **CAMPING**
- **SWIMMING**
- **FISHING**
- **PICNICKING**

Rated 3★ Rand-McNally

**MONTGOMERY RECREATION PARK**



**AREA POINTS OF INTEREST**  
 MARTIN COUNTY STATE FOREST 17MI.  
 WEST PADEN SPRINGS 30MI.  
 HINDOSTAN FALLS 15MI.  
 DMISH SETTLEMENT 2MI.  
 GLENDALE STATE FISH & GAME AREA 5MI.





This is one of the many work sessions held at the Ruritan Park. Shown here is (L-R) Louis Kavanaugh Jr., Mike Steiner, Terry O'Brian, ???, Alvis Graber, Deron Steiner, Vaughn Graber, Jim Traylor, Brian Traylor, Lee Kavanaugh and Tony Steiner. In front is Scott Nally. Person not identified is probably the individual who was with the Play Ground Equipment Company helping us put the large playground Equipment together.



This Picture was earlier in the day when we were just getting started on the Playground Equipment. The Ruritan Members had answered the call many times to come and volunteer at the Park/Campgrounds/Turkey Trot Grounds and saved the Club large sums of money by donating their time and talents to see that projects just this were completed.