

Spring Camp Out

The Following is a newspaper article from the Washington Times Herald concerning the Spring Campout that was to be held on the Ruritan Camp Grounds and Turkey Trot Grounds. Over 200 Camper Trailers shown up that April. They had to put them in the Turkey Trot Grounds as it was too many for Camp Ground area. The hand-written date at the bottom says 1973 but the Community was not finished until 1976-77 time frame.

Spring Campout Scheduled At Ruritan Park

Come April 27, 28, and 29, the population of Montgomery will swell by as much as five times its normal size when more than 2,000 converge on the Ruritan park for the Spring Campout of the Indiana Chapter of the National Campers and Hikers Association.

"Preparations have been in the works since we found out our bid to hold a campout was accepted 14 months ago," observed Clyde Schnarr, president of the Indian Rock club, host chapter for the campout.

Max Burkhardt and Bob Showalter are the co-chairmen of the campout and already more than 200 camping units have pre-registered.

"We've got them coming from Elkhart in northern Indiana to Henderson, Ky., and from Terre Haute to Union City on the Indiana-Ohio boundary," according to Chris O'Brian, registration chairman. One family coming is from Mansfield, Ohio and another is coming from Cory, Penn.

"We wanted to host the campout to sell our park and county and just to be good Joes," commented Schnarr. The motto of the campers and hikers association is "The Friendliest People in the World."

Schnarr said he was releasing

information about the campout now so area people would know in advance. "Two days of activities have been planned but many of our visitors will be sight-seeing and taking in nearby communities," Schnarr said. Some campers and hikers will arrive one week before the campout officially begins.

Highlight of the three-day event will be the selection of a queen to represent Indiana at the national contest in California this summer. Also, the campers will select a conservation poster to represent the state in national competition. The poster and winner will be sent to California.

Other activities include a 16-mile Hindostan Hike, which will start on the square in Loogootee and end at the Shoals Overlook; a three-legged sack race; retiree's euchre party; tall tales or liars contest; bowling; a teen dance, and entertainment by the Wagler Family from Montgomery, a spiritual singing group, and other musical artists.

Schnarr pointed out that all activities are for NCAA members only. Mementoes of the campout will be given to all who attend and the Montgomery Ruritan Club will give away door prizes.



PLANNING THE Spring Campout of the Indiana chapter of the National Campers and Hikers Association, at Montgomery's Ruritan Park April 27-28-29, are, seated from left, Max Burkhardt and Clyde Schnarr, standing from left, Chris O'Brian and Jim O'Brian. Burkhardt, Schnarr and Chris O'Brian represent the Indian Rock club, host chapter for the campout, while Jim O'Brian is president of the Montgomery Ruritan Club.

Wednesday 11, 1973

This picture here shows the entrance to the Ruritan Grounds where the Campers were Parked. This was one of the largest camping weekends ever held at the Ruritan Park. It brought Campers from all across the State. This NCHA Camp Out was held in April of 1986.



The Turkey Trot Grounds were full of Camper Trailers and vehicles that weekend as a huge crowd showed up for the big Camp Out. What made it even more tricky was the fact we had rain and cold weather leading up to this big event and some vehicles had trouble getting in and out of the grounds but it all worked out and the Campout was a big success.



Pictures below from Chris O'Brian's Scrap Book showing the ground full of campers and vehicles for the NCHA State Camp Out in April of 1986. In spite of the wet grounds and cool weather it turned out to be a great weekend for the Campers.



NCHA
State Campout
Apr. 18-20, 1986
Rurizen Park



This is a picture of the Spring Campout in April of 1986. As you can see the Community Bldg. was packed with visitors who were there for the entertainment and the meeting that were held there for the campers attending this big event.

Here you see the entertainers near the fireplace in the Community Bldg. and the large crowd on hand for the festivities.

