

MENTONE INDIANA

HISTORICALLY, Mentone stands out! It came into being in 1882, when the small village of Yellow Creek uprooted itself and moved here to take advantage of a new railroad. The town was platted well in advance, allowing time for careful planning. The sawmill, which had provided ties for the railroad, became the area's first steam-powered grist mill, and Mentone was able to send refined flour back east over the new tracks. Ready markets and good soil were the basis for thriving agricultural endeavors. With a ready supply of grain, Mentone's economy is still largely based upon poultry and eggs, giving it the title, "Egg Basket of the Midwest."

With an abundance of creeks, rivers, and peaceful wooded areas, the community around Mentone has maintained its NATURAL BEAUTY despite the many acres under cultivation. Most of the farms can still be considered "family farms" and reflect the pride of resident owner/operators.

The outer edges of Mentone are dotted with light INDUSTRY employing much of the town's population of 912, and helping to fund tax-supported entities: an excellent school system and an outstanding library. Bell Public Library, a memorial to the parents of Lawrence Bell, maintains an up-to-date collection of over 28,000 items, serving the serious researcher as well as the patron looking for the latest novel or video movie.

Mentone, covering 1.5 square miles, is governed by a city council consisting of 3 members, serving 4-year terms. There are 399 housing units and 6 industrial firms in the town. There is a full-time police department and volunteers man the EMS and fire department. Municipal utilities include water, sewage, and trash collection.

In addition to popular burger, shake, and pizza establishments, you may expect good, country-style FOOD in Mentone. Visitors travel quite a distance for Teel's Friday and Saturday night buffets.

Lovely Mentzer PARK, a favorite Sunday afternoon retreat, features a one-mile walking path.

Mentone is proud of its BELL AIRCRAFT MUSEUM, a memorial to aeronautical pioneer, Lawrence Bell. The museum houses Mr. Bell's private collection of memorabilia and models of the aircraft his company produced.

WILD LIFE in Mentone is spelled as one word. The town is far enough removed from super highways, malls, and traffic jams to provide that quiet peacefulness most seek, but close enough to larger towns and cities for convenient access to commercial entertainment and shopping.

Mentone's yearly EGG FESTIVAL hardly resembles the Egg Show of earlier times, when rows upon rows of superior eggs were displayed and judged in the old school gymnasium. Today, the 2-day celebration revolves around talent shows, tractor pulls, a parade, and town-wide garage sales. (Although, the egg-toss is eagerly awaited!)

Mentone takes pride in its well-attended and beautifully-maintained CHURCHES, some of which date back to the very beginning of the town.

SENIOR CITIZENS meet each day in the Town Hall's Community Room, which also serves as a nutrition site.

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