

# 3,000 Attend Mentone Park Dedication

More than 3,000 persons were on hand at Mentone Saturday to attend the dedication of the new Mentzer Park. The celebration was sponsored by the Mentone Chamber of Commerce, Mentone Lions Club and the Town Park Board.

## SERVE 770

A chicken barbecue, served by Merle Whitehead of Goshen, was served to more than 770 persons between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Members of the Psi Iota Xi Sorority served 625 ice cream cones and 1,200 bottles of cold drinks furnished by the sponsoring organizations.

## CIVIC LEADER

Dedication ceremonies at 4:30 p.m. were highlighted by a dedication speech by Denton Abbey and a speech by James Mentzer, the only son of the late Mahlon Mentzer, prominent civic leader of Mentone, for whom the park is named. He gave an interesting talk on the history of Mentone and his family's participation in that history. He showed two newspapers of Mentone, one printed in 1887 and the other in 1904, along with snapshots taken at the turn of the century. One picture showed the devastation by fire of one whole block of Mentone in 1902. That block is now bound by the Post Office and the Sinclair service station.

Dr. Orville McFadden, president of the park board, gave a sketch of the growth of the seven and one-half acre park since it was bought by the city several years ago at a cost of \$2,000. There are now well-equipped playgrounds there for the children, picnic tables, ball diamonds, etc., for the use of Mentone residents.

## FACULTY WINS

Two Little League baseball games were scheduled Saturday afternoon, in addition to a baseball game played by the school faculty and old timers. The faculty won.

There were free pony rides for children, and in the evening there was square dancing.

At the afternoon ceremonies the Junior High School band, under the direction of Kenneth Bush, played. Flag raising ceremonies were conducted by the Mentone American Legion.

The sponsoring organizations felt that the celebration was such a success that they are now planning for a jamboree at the park next summer.



**BAM! BAM!** The Muzzle Loader event drew a good crowd Saturday afternoon and saw Mike Yazel named top winner of the event.



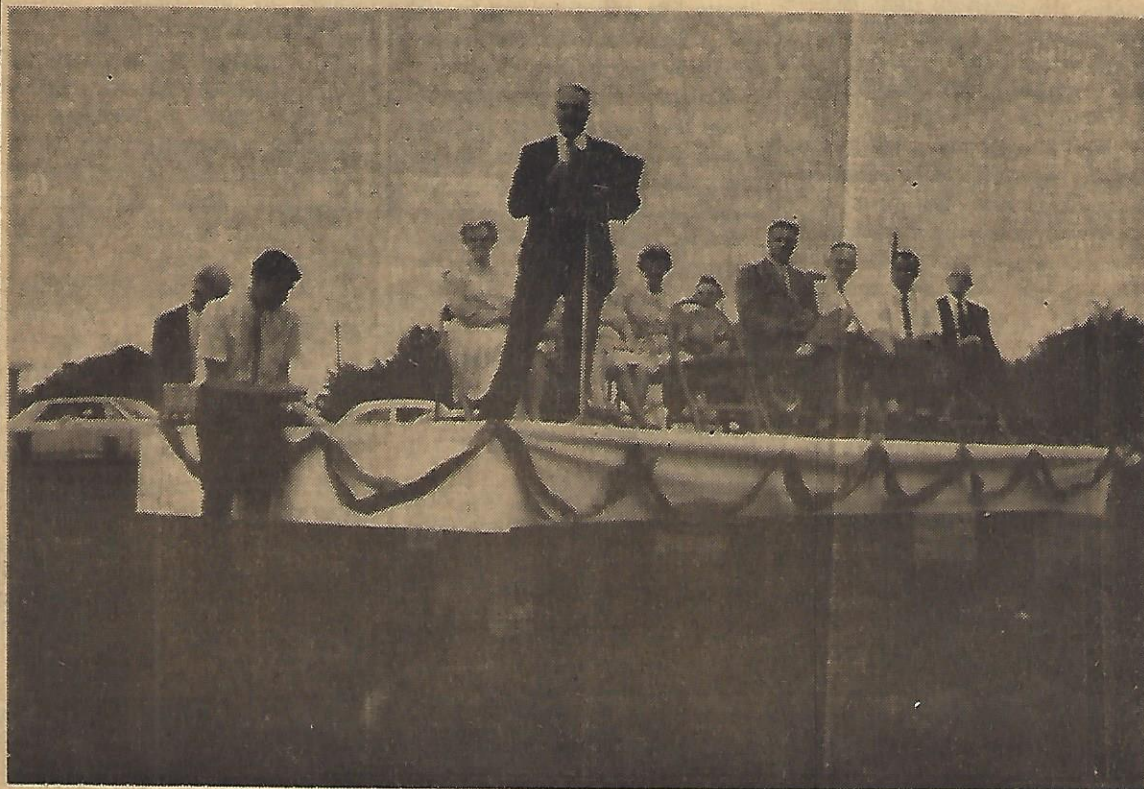
Left to right: Dr. C. L. McFadden, chairman of the Muzzle Loading event with his son, Richard Coppes of Warsaw, Representative Charles Halleck, and Mike Yazel, winner of the event. Halleck made several remarks at the event and urged all constituents to write to him and give him their opinions concerning current events. He stressed the importance of this and of all people working together for what they feel is right.



Mentone, Indiana 46539

Wednesday, July 22, 1964

# Park Dedication Brings Big Crowds



James Mentzger is shown accepting the park on behalf of his father, the late Mahlon Mentzer. (Mentone News photo)

July 18th broke bright and clear but before the early morning sun had given birth to the new day, ominous clouds scudded across the western sky giving portent of rain. But luck was on the side of those in Mentone, for the day turned out perfect for their Park Dedication and Chicken Barbecue. Before the sun had set behind the willow trees lining the creek to the west, more than 700 people had tasted the delicious chicken served by Merle Whitehead, of Goshen, and some 3,000 had tramped the grounds of the new park. Cars were in abundance as were visitors who were viewing the park for the first time.

The Psi Iota Xi Sorority reported that they had given away more than 625 ice cream cups and the free pop ran in the neighborhood of 1200. People only stopped drinking when the cola

The dedication ceremonies went off with only one small hitch. That was caused by a broken "mike" cord just as Denton Abbey was to dedicate the park. However, the interlude gave the Jr. Band, another opportunity to show their skill as they filled the void with a musical selection. Both Mr. Bush and the Jr. Band along with the Mentone Legion, are to be congratulated for their fine presentations.

James Mentzer, after accepting the park on behalf of his father, gave a very interesting 10 minute history of Mentone and his family. He had two newspapers dated 1887 and 1904, respectfully, along with some snapshots taken at the turn of the century. The pictures showed the devastation after the fire of 1902 which wiped out the whole block, now bounded by the post-office and the Sinclair Service

Dr. Orvill McFadden, president of the Park Board, gave a short sketch of the growth of the park.

Two little league ball games were played in the afternoon. Lloyd Bowerman reported that he turned over \$4.10 to the park fund from pony rides that represented 3 hours work.

After the Dedication Program the Old Timers, who were older than they thought, played the Faculty and lost 9 to 2. Square dancing was attempted on the grass with good success. The participants were members of the Warsaw Square Dance Club. Jim Tibbetts did the calling. More than a 100 spectators watched their gyrations from the bleachers.

The Mentone Chamber of Commerce, the Lion's Club, the Park Board, and the Psi Iota Xi Sorority with other individuals too numerous to mention are to be thanked for their help. So pleased were the members of these organizations at the splendid success of the day, that plans are already afoot for another jamboree.

Russ Miller and the helicopter arrived on time as scheduled but the wrong day. Just as the circus started on Sunday Russ flew over looking for the crowd. Was his face red when he was informed that the Park Dedication was Saturday and not Sunday!



## Donations To Give

*April 23, 1965*

# Mentzer Memorial Park

## Face Lifting

**MENTONE —** Mentzer Memorial Park will be wearing a new face this year thanks to James Mentzer, Chet Manwaring and the residents of Mentone.

At the dedication ceremonies of the park July 18, 1964, James Mentzer, son of the late Mahlon Mentzer, for whom the park was named, offered to donate \$1,000 to the park, if the town would subscribe a like amount. Another offer came from Chet Manwaring who said he would give \$500 if the people would raise money equal to that amount.

### MAKE GOAL IN JANUARY

The park board accepted the offer and various civic clubs were contacted and most agreed to participate in the drive. By January, 1965, the money had been raised and the check from Mentzer was gratefully accepted.

Other donations included were from Rosalind Mentzer, Annabel Mentzer, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Utter, M. O. Smith estate, Friendly Neighbors Club, Merry Mollies, Jolly Janes, Merry Mixers, Menton Home Demonstration Club and

the Royal Neighbors Club.

Also, Mothers of World War II, Legion Auxiliary, Mentone Legion, Psi Iota Xi Sorority, Daughters of the American Revolution, Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club.

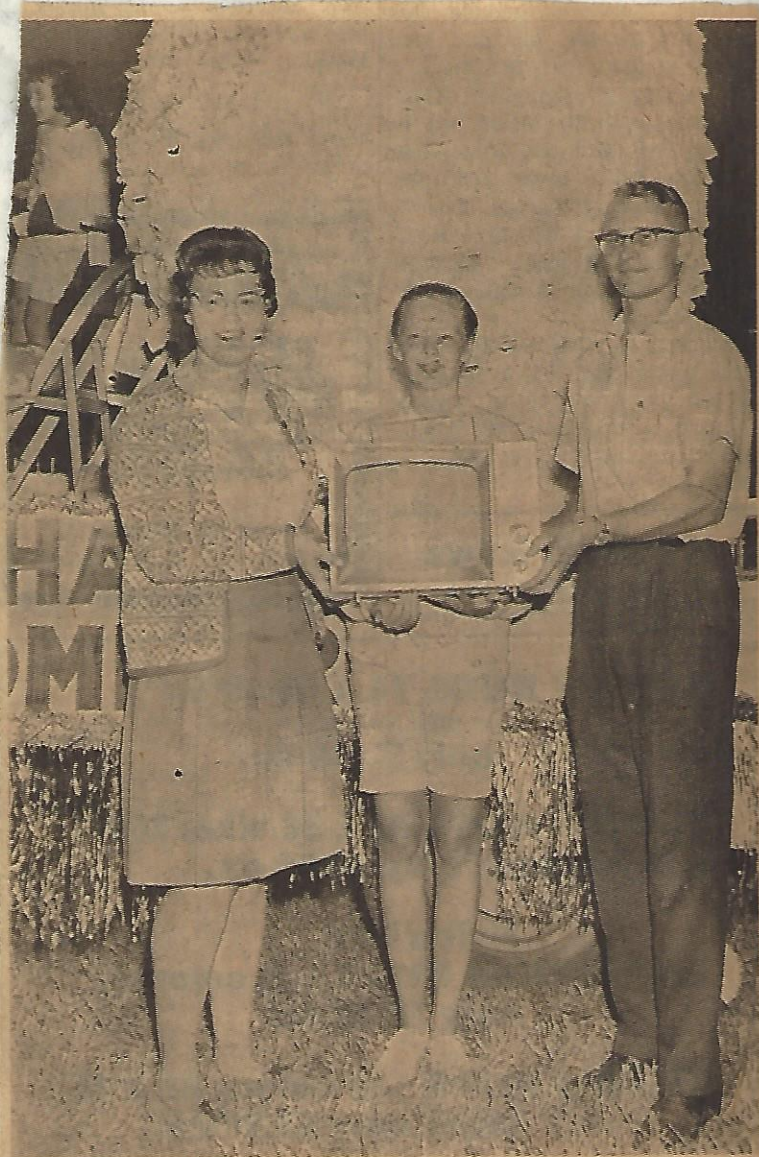
The park board is grateful for all who participated in this project.

### IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements in the park will include surfacing the skating rink, installing tennis courts, basketball hoops and barbecue grills.

It is hope that some of these tasks will be ready for the annual park jamboree, which will be held again this year under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce and the park board. It will feature a chicken barbecue, games and the helicopter, that came a day late 1st year. More plans will be announced later.

Denton C. Abbey is chairman of the board.



Rita Price, left, presents the top prize of a television set to Carolyn Boggs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Boggs, while Chamber of Commerce president Darrell King looks on. The drawing was held Saturday evening at the end of Mentone Day in the Mentzer Park. *Aug. 4, 1965*



# Mentone News

MENTONE, INDIANA 465

Wednesday, July 28, 1965



Pictured above left to right are Gerald Rommine, Dale Wallace, Jr. David Cooper, Paul Rush, all members of the barbecue committee; Wayne Baker, president of the Little League and Tim Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Smith, who is a member of a Little League team. An added attraction will be helicopter rides after 2 p.m.

## Saturday Is Barbecue Day

All roads will lead to Mentone Saturday for the big chicken

barbecue planned by the Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the board of the Mentzer Memorial Park. Committees have been working on the affair for sometime now and all seems to be in readiness.

Chicken will be served from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Other entertainment will include square

dancing, a Little League ball game, an old timers softball game, a muzzle loading event, and a band concert by the Mentone High School band.

Many valuable gifts will be awarded with the top prize being a portable TV. Merchants are donating other prizes.



No, it's not a chimney sweep. It's Darrell King rushing across the street, ladder in hand, to assist fellow Chamber of Commerce member Dave Cooper in tightening down the guy ropes of the "Mentone Day" sign. The sign has been erected earlier but had been blown down by the capricious windstorm which struck Mentone July 16.