

The History Of 'The Egg'

This year marks the 35th anniversary of another Mentone legend — the big egg.

Standing on the southeast corner of Main St. (State Rd. 25) and Morgan St., the idea of the big egg was conceived by Ed Ward, then manager of the Northern Indiana Co-Op Association Inc., and some of the egg farmers in

and around Mentone.

Hugh Rickel, of Palestine, designed and built the egg. It was constructed in a building at the northwest corner of Main and Morgan Streets in early 1946.

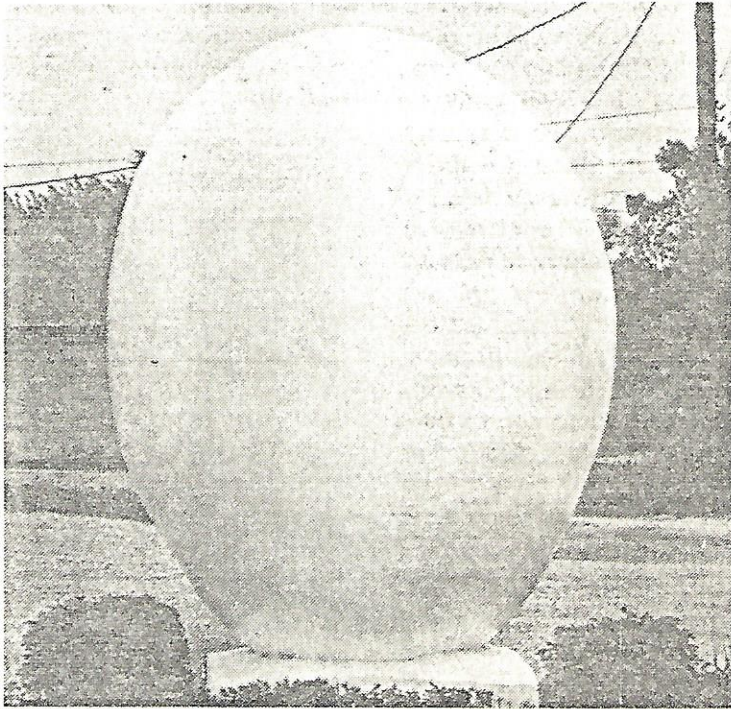
Two men who operated a sheet metal shop in Mentone at that time wanted to make the egg out of sheet metal,

but Rickel felt it would not be sturdy, so he used steel rods. The rods were welded both vertical and horizontally, with a steel rod up the middle.

The egg was painted and lettered by Harry Meredith, and once the egg was finished it was loaded onto a truck and taken to Warsaw. There it was placed on the Kosciusko County Courthouse lawn for two weeks to advertise the Mentone Egg Show.

Taking the egg to Warsaw was a big chore, for it weighed 3,000 pounds and required the efforts of 12 men. When the egg was returned to Mentone there was some question about what to do with the huge item.

The problem was solved when the Northern Indiana Co-Op Association donated the land where it stands today.



The Big Egg — Mentone Legend Since 1946