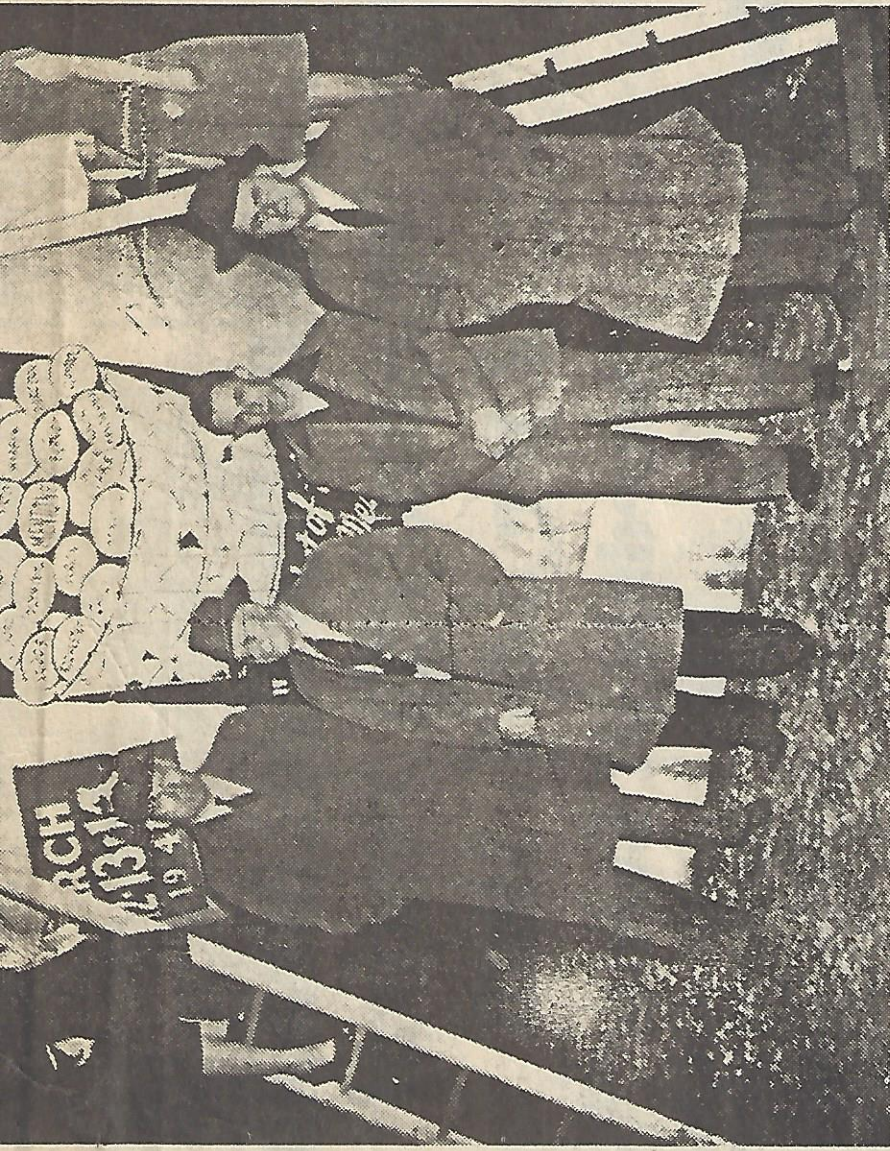


1986
MENTONE
EGG FESTIVAL



Times-Union
Warsaw, Indiana
Wednesday, June 3, 1966



PICTURED ABOVE is the world's largest egg. Sitting at the top some fifteen feet above the ground, holding a prize dozen of Mentone eggs, is Miss Phyllis Latta, of Warsaw, who was chosen Queen of the 1947 Mentone Egg Show. The four unsuccessful contenders for the crown are shown on the ladders. High on the left is Miss Gloria Jean Woods with Miss Babe Rogers immediately below her. On the right is Miss Carolyn Slack at the top and Miss Elaine Youdbulis at the bottom. Pictured standing below are Hobart Creighton, Forrest Kesler, and Richard and Charles Manwaring.

40 YEARS, A SALUTE TO THE EGG

Egg Festival Events Ready To Go

An abundance of free activities, contests and dances with an emphasis on the edible Egg are scheduled for this year's Mentone Egg Festival.

This year's celebration of the Egg, a 40-year tradition, is known as the "Salute To The Egg."

The following is a list of

planned activities scheduled in Mentone:

- A progressive euchre tournament will be conducted in the town hall beginning at 7

p.m. Friday. Entry will be \$1 per player and three-fourths of the money collected will go to the winner. Second place will receive the remaining portion of the pot.

- At 8 p.m. Friday, a 50s and 60s dance is planned in the Lake City Bank parking lot. The dance is free of charge and a disc jockey will provide music.

- The festival will climax Saturday with a number of events planned especially for children. From 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., a pedal "tractor pull" exclusively is planned for children. Kids between the ages of three and nine will pedal miniature tractors with a weighted trailer connected behind. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The kids will be divided into age categories and winners will receive T-shirts. All contestants will be awarded ribbons.

For the juvenile race enthusiasts, festival planners

will conduct a Big Wheel race at 10:30. Age categories will be used and winners will receive "Mentone Dollars," which can only be used at noted Mentone merchants.

- Possibly the most exciting event from last year returns again this year for an encore. The Money Hunt, which begins at 10:30 a.m. in the downtown area, features a pit of sawdust with \$75 in loose change thrown into it. Beginning with the youngest group, children will be allowed to search for the money and keep as much as they can find. According to one committeeman, last year's event was quite popular and amusing since people later brought metal detectors to sift through the dust for remaining coins. There is no entry fee for this event.

- Children under the age of seven can participate in the Mr. Rooster and Mrs. Chick contest.



Committee Members — Mentone Chamber of Commerce members are the committee members for this year's Egg Festival. Pictured, from left, are Jo Gamble, vice

Miller, secretary. Not pictured are Ron Secrist, president; Charlie Smith, treasurer; directors Darrell King, Jack Simpson and Jay Woodruff

Welcome To The 40th Anniversary Of The Egg

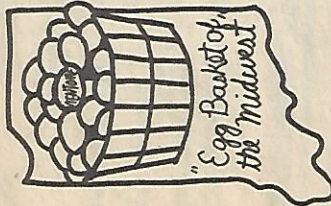
Lori Kessler-Van Treese, D.D.S.
Betty J. Koss, D.D.S.

president; Cindy Spittler, director;
Darrel Miller, director; and Lori

Myers)
PHOTO BY Michael

WILSON TIGHE, U.S.S.
and Staff

Mentone
INDIANA



Salute To The Egg, 40 Years Mentone Egg Festival June 5-6-7, 1986



“Schedule Of Events”

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

Marks Greater Shows (Rides), Uptown Mentone
Flea Markets, Uptown Mentone
Food Stands, Uptown Mentone
7:00 p.m.—NLC/TRC All Star Basketball Games (T.V.H.S.)

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

Marks Greater Shows (Rides), Uptown Mentone
Flea Markets, Uptown Mentone
Food Stands, Uptown Mentone
4:00 p.m.—Three On Three Basketball Games, Uptown Mentone
7:00 p.m.—Euchre Tournament, Town Hall
8:00 p.m.—50's & 60's Dance, Lake City Bank Parking Lot
To 11:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Marks Greater Shows (Rides), Uptown Mentone
Flea Markets, Uptown Mentone
Food Stands, Uptown Mentone
9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.—Children Petal Tractor Pull, Uptown
9:00 a.m.—Games & Races (Kids), Uptown
10:30 a.m.—Money Hunt (Kids), Uptown
10:30 a.m.—Big Wheel Race (Kids), Uptown
11:00 a.m.—Mr. Rooster & Ms. Chick Contest, Mentzer Park
12:00 a.m.—Parade, (Main Street Of Town)
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.—70th Birthday Open House At Library
1:30 p.m.—Egg Toss, Uptown
2:00 p.m.—Egg Eating Contest, Uptown
3:00 p.m.—Waterball Contest Fire Dept., Uptown
4:00 p.m.—Three On Three Basketball Games, Uptown
6:00 p.m.—Demonstration By Fire Dept. & E.M.T.'s, Uptown
7:00 p.m.—Scrambled Egg Symphony, In Street At Town Hall
8:00 p.m.—U83 Dance, Lake City Bank Parking Lot
To 11:00 p.m.—

Egg Designer Named As Grand Marshal

Hugh Rickel has never lived in Mentone, but thanks to his work of art in designing and helping construct the 3,000-pound cement egg in the heart of town, he will be forever a part of that community.

Since this year is the 40th since "The Egg" was built, Rickel is being honored by being the grand marshal of this year's Mentone Egg Festival. He will ride in the parade with Vernetta, his wife of 51 years this June 15.

The 78-year-old Palestine Lake resident was hired by the Northern Indiana Co-Op Association in 1946 to help design the huge egg as an advertisement for the egg festival.

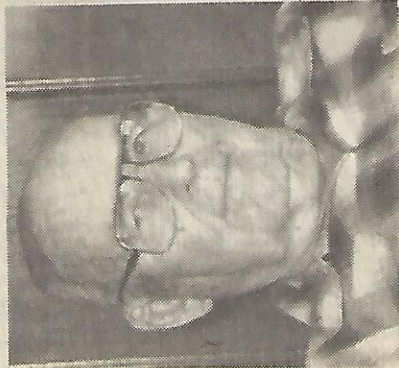
Rickel was chosen for this work because of his past designing experience. "I've worked for 50 years, half that time in construction work and the rest of the time designing buildings." He designed churches in Fort Wayne and Alton, along with buildings in Mentone and Warsaw and the Center United Methodist Church on State Rd. 15.

"I started designing after leaving construction. I worked for myself almost all my working days," he said. Some of his work in Mentone were such

choice for the designer was between Rickel and another man who was in the Co-Op. "They asked him how he would make it, and he said he'd make it out of sheet metal and they asked me and I said concrete. I never suspected anything to turn out like that."

The egg was designed by a cross-section of horizontal and vertical lines at one-foot intervals. The lines represented the three-eighths inch steel rods to be used in completing the frame of the egg.

As Rickel wrote, "By measuring the diameters, the circumference could be com-



Hugh Rickel

puted. By welding the different size circles together before erection, the egg took shape as they placed one

cumference would be. I made a circle and built it up and when done, had an egg. It was just an idea of my own."

He said the egg is smooth and true to the features of a real egg. He wasn't sure how much it would weigh when he was involved in the designing, but he knew it would be heavy with a three-quarter inch thickness.

The time for his work was not as much as some would believe. He said it was no more than three or four hours of design and then putting the rods together. "I helped put the structure together because I knew more about it."

On the concrete plaster applied to the egg, Rickel remarked, "That's why it will hold up a long time."

He listed as 35 the various types of buildings he has designed, but the construction he is most known for is the Mentone attraction. "I will say this," he noted. "I have got more publicity from the egg than from all the other work put together. It doesn't make sense, it was kind of a joke. I've done enough good work that I don't get publicity on."

On his recent attention, however, the Palestine Lake

Lake and is manager at Kimble Glass, and Jack, who resides on Shilling Road and is an electrician at Sun Metal.

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The popularity of the egg business in the 1940's was demonstrated with the shipping of eggs in wooden cases by rail to Jewish egg buyers in New York City. Pioneers of the business got together and formed an Egg Shipping Association.

Promotion of the egg business followed and the need to promote this expanding business was recognized. The result was the Mentone Egg Show organized about 1935.

When the idea for building the egg was "hatched," the

All the rods were wired together and then welded for extra strength. Over this frame was wired metal lath and two coats of concrete plaster followed by a coat of finish plaster. Pete Goble of Atwood did the base coat, but he suffered an eye injury in a plastering accident at a bank and could not finish the project. Clyde and George Reed of Mentone did the final coat.

Rickel related that he did the sketch to a scale of 10 feet and then drew lines crossways. "I figured lines crossways on how the cir-

man says, "I'm getting a kick out of it." He says, "A lot of people on the streets know me, but they don't know I had anything to do with it. (the egg)."

Hugh graduated from Burket High School and has lived in his present home since before his marriage. The Rickels have two sons, Francis, who lives on Palestine

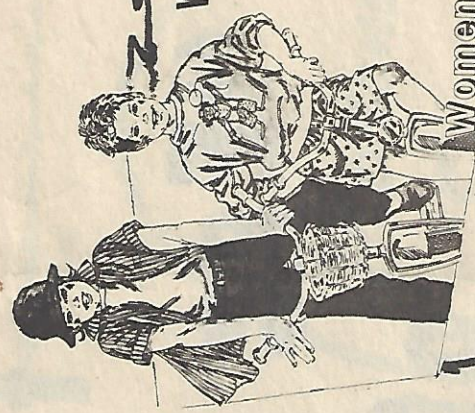
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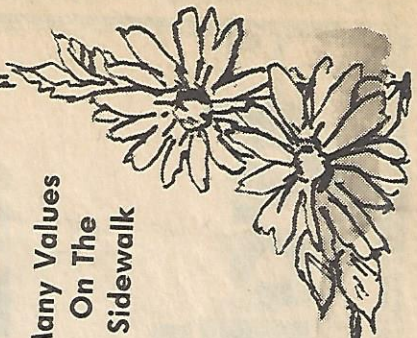
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The First Egg Queen

By JULIE KELSEY
Staff Writer

Delta Dean (Doran) Schutz, cracked the egg and established a tradition, when she was crowned Mentone's first egg festival queen in 1942.

Since then, the Mentone festival has grown and changed considerably, but the queen contest is always a highlight of the festivities.

"I remember someone asked me if I would represent Burket in the contest and I said yes and that was all there was to it," said Schutz, who was 23 years old when crowned queen.

In 1942 she was still living with her parents on a 40-acre farm in Burket where the family did have chickens. She was teaching school at Burket when asked to be a queen candidate.

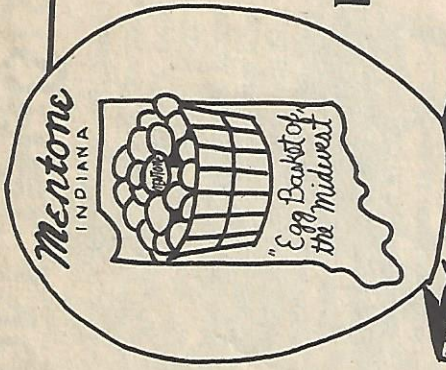
"I never dreamed I would win, in fact I was sure I would be the last one chosen," said Schutz, who now lives in North Manchester with her husband, Donald.

The first queen contest was nothing elaborate or exciting, she remembered. "I really don't recall a lot about it," she admitted. "But I do remember parading around on the stage



Delta Dean Doran Was First Queen

This year, festival organizers have invited all past queens back to the festival for special recognition. While Schutz said she would like to be present at the festival, her granddaughter's graduation in Arizona took top priority.



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Wednesday, June 3, 1986

5a

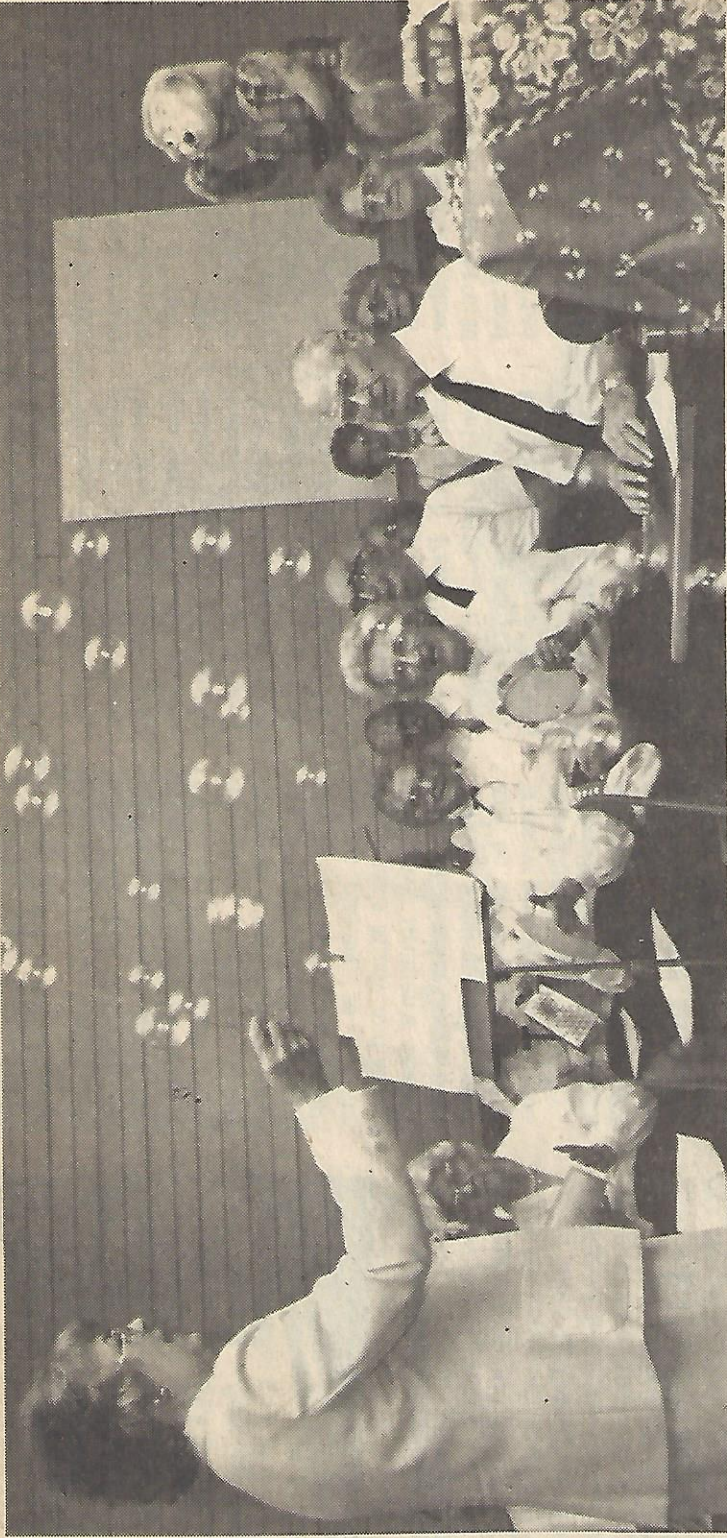
6a Times-Union New Event Is 3-On-3 Games

A new innovation this year at the Mentone Egg Festival will be three-on-three basketball games played Friday and Saturday at 4 p.m. each day on the streets of town.

"That's the unique thing," says Tippecanoe Valley High School basketball coach Robert DuBois about the street tournament, whose idea it was to start the tournament after he read in Sports Illustrated last summer about such a concept that was tried in Lowell, Mich. He thought there might be an idea from that which could help the basketball program at TVHS.

The event will be broken down into various divisions, with all the players being from the Tippecanoe Valley school district. DuBois said plans call for an elementary age division, high school, a family division by which family members make up a team, a traditional division in which players from a certain class will pair together for a squad, and open divisions broken down by age groups 20-30, 30-40 and 40-50.

The Viking coach said the event is not limited to one player per division, as players can participate in other tournaments as long as they have



Scrambled Egg Symphony to perform Saturday Night. — (Photo By Dan Spalding)

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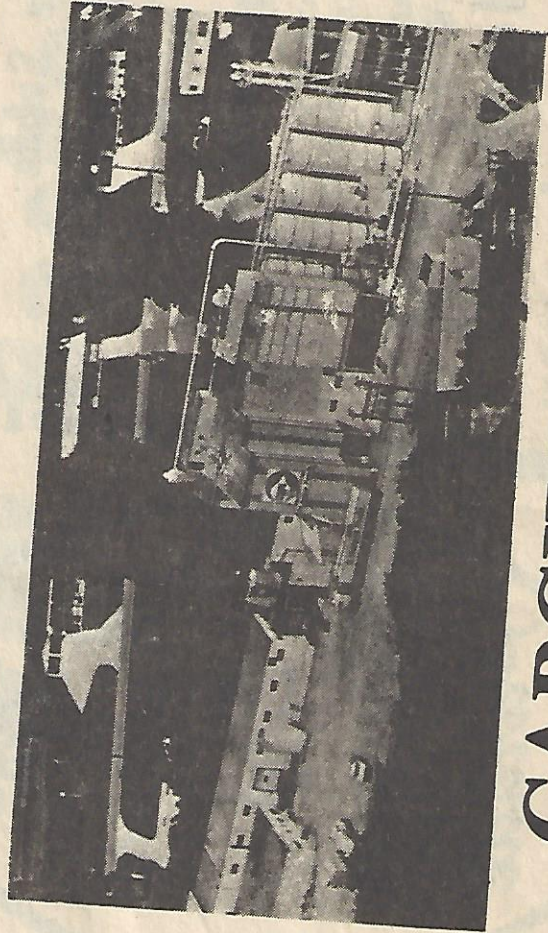
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for each tourney.
The elementary division will be the first to start, and will commence at 4 p.m. Friday. The other divisions will start when the elementary's is concluded.

DuBois remarked that the tournament is restricted to either Tippecanoe Valley High School, a graduate from a Valley district school prior to the consolidation, or if they presently live in the corporation. "This is a Valley thing, it's for Valley people," he said, adding, "I'm trying to create enthusiasm and fun for basketball. It's a matter of how to get it organized."

Still needed to be finalized are officials, scorers and volunteer help for the tournament. Late entries are still being accepted only for teams that are needed to fill out a division. Cut off day was June 2 for most divisions. Those still interested in fielding a team can contact DuBois to see if a division is filled.

There will be a running clock and DuBois explains, "By having a running clock we can keep pretty well on schedule."

Two portable baskets have been built and a third one may be added if needed. If bad weather occurs during the tourney, it will be moved to an indoor facility.

All-Star Games Bring Out Best

Fans will once again be able to see the best area senior basketball players when the Mentone Chamber of Commerce hosts the annual Northern Lakes Conference versus Three Rivers Conference boys and girls cage games.

This year's games will be Thursday at Tippecanoe Valley High School, with the girls to be in action at 7 p.m. and the boys contest to follow. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$2 and pre-schoolers will be admitted free.

This year's action features three players who made it into the top 10 in scoring at their respective schools. Tippecanoe Valley's Chad Bibler played two seasons and scored 524 points to move into eighth place on the Viking career totals.

Manchester's Matt Eckert garnered 707 points in three years of play for seventh place in Squire history.

The third member of that group is NorthWood's number seven career scorer, Scott Crist.



Joining Crist on the NLC roster is Warsaw's Mike Henn, the Tiger assist leader who also scored at a 6.8 clip, and fellow Tiger Mike Lynch; Wawasee's Bill Hutchinson (9.5) and David Kistler (8.7); Rochester's Scott King, Connor's Dwayne O'Connor and Dymon Farrer, Goshen's Ryan Sorrell, and Plymouth's Jack McCray, Warsaw assistant coach Pete Smith will lead that team.

The TRC boys will also have Manchester's Troy Silvers (6.8); Tippecanoe Valley's Rick Shepherd, Phil King (6.9) and Rusty Zimpleman; Northfield's Tim Miller; and Whitko's pair of Ty Smith (5.9) and Mark Sickafosse (6.3). The TRC will be coached by Bob DuBois.

Three key players on



Wawasee's girls state runnerup team of 1985 will be playing. Lori Galloway (13.3 points) and Michelle Harter (15.5) were both starters on that team and Becca Stiver (6.4) was a key reserve. Warsaw's Rachel Jeffreys (18.4 points) and Kristi Cole (9.8) will be playing, as well as Rochester's Mindy and Misty Shelburne, Bremen's Sharon Monhaut, Karen Oberly and Annette Feldman. The team will be directed by former Warsaw and Manchester College player Pam Shively.

The TRC will have Valley's Shellie Warren; Whitko's Kim Gregory (7.9); Manchester's Shelly Caudill; Triton's Kristie Redman (10.7); Northfield's Lynn Baber; and Caston's Nancy Townsend, coached by TVHS's Ivan Schuler.

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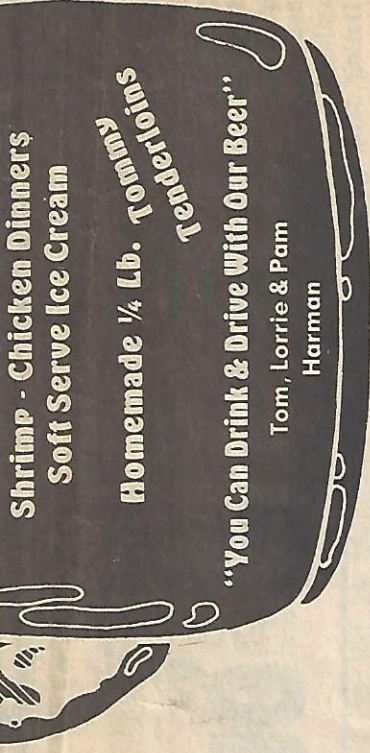
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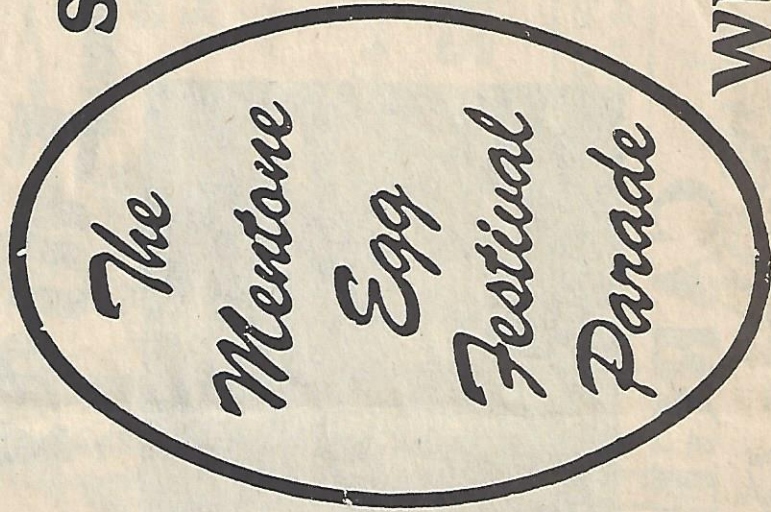
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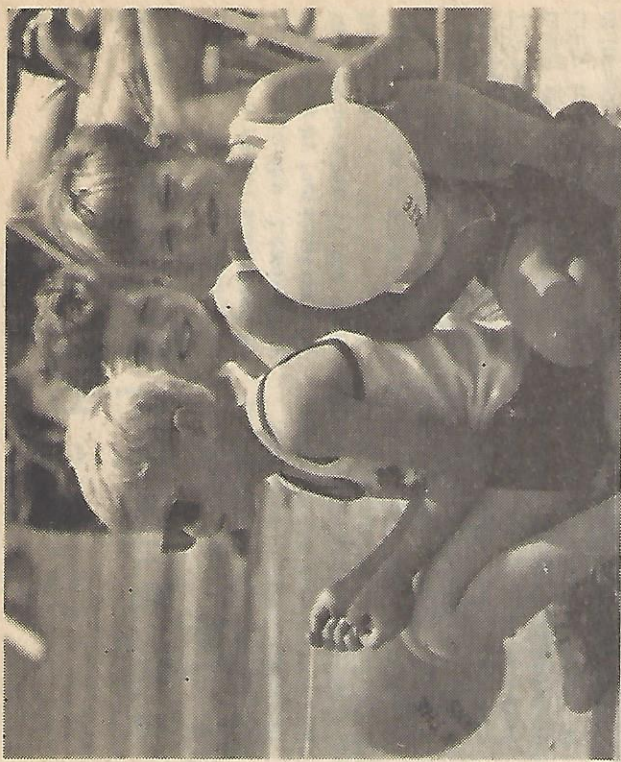
With
Rita Price

on
WRSW-FM 107.3

A Look Back To 1985



Parade Fun — Scenes from last year's Mentone Egg Festival parade included the winners of the 1984 Mr. Rooster and Miss Chick contest (top left), funny parade entrants (bottom) and local youngsters enjoying the sights (right).



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Mentone's Egg Stands For Booming Industry

Editor's Note: Following is part of a report submitted to the Kosciusko Leadership Academy by two local men on the significance of the Mentone Egg.

By **WILLIAM A. HENTHORN** and **CHARLES D. SMITH**

The Mentone egg is often misunderstood and ignored. The egg is more than an oval piece of white painted concrete. It represents the impact of the poultry industry on Mentone, Kosciusko County and the state of Indiana. According to Vic Virgil of the County Extension Office, in 1983 Kosciusko County was first in the state in poultry production, which includes the number of pullets sold and laying hens producing. Virgil also mentioned that Indiana has consistently been a leader in the poultry business nationwide but now that the figure includes ducks, Indiana may very well be at the top soon.

The poultry business, per se, did not reach Mentone as a serious means of income until the early 1900's. Even then it had a slow start, often meeting with discouragements. However, out of the hard work of some very dedicated and determined people, came local industries that have gained national and even world-wide

tention. Three of these companies will be discussed later.

The growth and subsequent impact of the poultry and egg industries in and around the Mentone area, up to 1936, led a group of hatcherymen, businessmen, feed dealers, manufacturers and others connected with the Kosciusko County area poultry business to the conclusion that some type of celebration should be held to emphasize to the community as well as the outlying areas the importance of the poultry industry. Therefore, in 1936 the first Mentone Egg Festival was held. The goal of the festival was not only to emphasize the importance of poultry and eggs upon the local area, but also to promote these high-quality industries.

The festival was held annually in the Spring during the first few years then eventually was moved to the Fall months.

The festival always concluded on Saturday evening with a banquet that was attended by the largest crowds to attend any dinner in all of Indiana. Typically the Mentone people served as hosts and hostesses to the Governor, New York egg buyers and staff from the poultry department at Purdue

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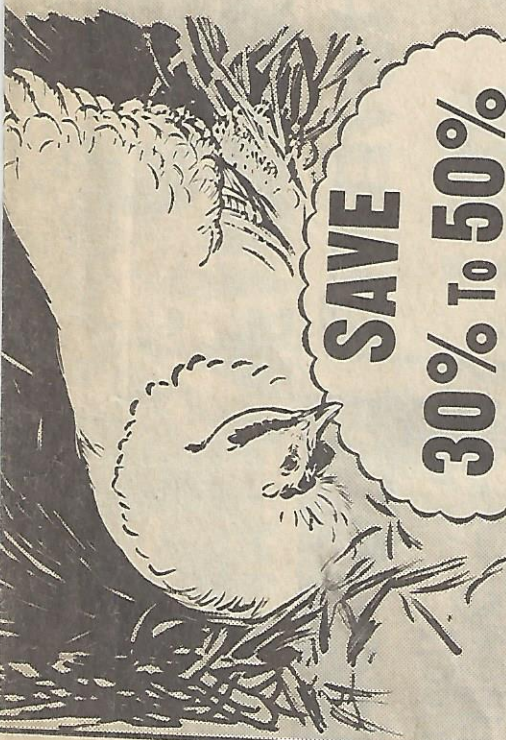
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