

## TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT FORMED IN 1945; HAS BEEN ACTIVE GROUP

### Cooperated With Tomlinson Trustees In Recreation Program.

The Mount Pulaski Township Park District was formed December 22, 1945, when the voters of the township in three areas approved the formation.

The first officers of the new district were John H. Tendick, president; H. J. Wible, vice president; and board members Francis Myrick, A. W. Schaffenacker and Clyde Febus.

The park board since its formation has worked harmoniously with the Tomlinson Trustees, inasmuch as both groups were striving for the same objective—recreation.

Many of the wishes expressed in Clarence Tomlinson's Will were carried out by the park board as he had suggested. While the Tomlinson trustees, George Rupp, T. A. Scroggin and H. J. Wible, purchased the old Beckman block north of the grade school in 1945 and put it in condition for use, the park board promoted and financed most of the activities that took place. This included summer playground, out of town swim lessons each summer, and other activities.

One of the reasons back of this procedure was to enable the trustees to accumulate enough money to erect suitable buildings on the block. As a result, an indoor swimming pool and community building for skating and dancing as well as a fine picnic area with tables, fireplace, swings and slides.

One of the highlights of the Tomlinson block in the early period was the construction of a soft ball field, lighted for night play. Bleachers added to the comfort of the spectators and a broadcasting booth kept folks all over the city awake later than usual. The regular league play drew large crowds for several years. Comic ball games and donkey baseball drew hundreds to watch the antics of the players.

#### Started Fireworks Displays

The Fourth of July fireworks display that we now have each Fourth, started at the Recreation Center and continued for several years until the hazards of firing

them made it necessary to move the display to the City Park.

The new Tomlinson trustees, appointed following the resignation of A. W. Schaffenacker, John Biesemeier and H. J. Wible, were Edd Dittus, Orville Downing and Ralph Blackburn. To them goes the credit for the fine indoor pool and community building that is giving so much pleasure to hundreds every week. They worked untiringly along with many other volunteers to make the money stretch as far as possible. On February 14, 1959, the trustees deeded the pool and building over to the Township Park District to maintain and operate.

The pool was opened on Sunday, Feb. 1, 1959 with the skating rink opening on March 25 of the following year.

#### Year-Round Activities

The pool and skating rink are operated the year-round with a full time director, Bill Wheeler, who is assisted by a competent group of trained lifeguards. A number of interested persons have faithfully helped with the operation of the rink in order to save as much on expenses as possible until the buildings were fully complete.

In the school months the pupils of the grades schools in the area take regular lessons with the boards of the schools paying for them. Schools participating have been Mount Pulaski, Zion Parochial, Lake Fork, Cornland and Beason. In the summer months a complete schedule for swimming lessons is maintained in the morning with open swimming in afternoons and evenings.

The present park commissioners are: H. J. Wible, president; Otto Ey, vice president; Charles W. Hanslow, Vaughn Walch and Edd Dittus. Mrs. Dorothy Hanslow is secretary-treasurer, replacing Mrs. Harold Hargrave who moved to California.

Mr. and Mrs. Wally Bertrang are the present custodians.

### FIRST SUMMER PLAYGROUND - 1947

(June 19, 1947)

Mount Pulaski's first summer playground program got a way to a flying start Monday morning

when some 70 youngsters were on hand for the morning and afternoon activities. Carroll Wood, high school coach, and Paul Huston, grade school principal, directed the play of the various groups.

Mrs. Florence Pinney will have supervision of the play of the girls during the summer and has planned a number of interesting as well as educational activities.

### TOMLINSON CENTER BUILDING DAMAGED BY FIRE IN 1952

(Oct. 2, 1952)

Fire breaking out in the basement of the Tomlinson Recre-

ation Center building about 5 o'clock last Thursday evening, did considerable damage to the building before the fire department got the blaze under control. The damage was estimated at approximately \$4,000 which is covered by insurance.

Considerable smoke and water damage was done throughout the building in addition to the damage from blaze. Girl Scouts had valuable club material involved in the fire, moved everything out.

### BOY SCOUT HOME BUILT BY VOLUNTEERS

(Feb. 2, 1905)

The Boy Scouts of Mount Pul-

aski will celebrate Boy Scout Week by holding Open House at their new home at the Tomlinson Recreation Center, during the week of February 6 to 12.

The Boy Scout home, which is a splendidly built one - room building, situated on the northwest corner of the recreation center, was made possible by the generosity of the trustees of the Clarence Tomlinson estate, which contributed the cost of the materials, while several groups of carpenters alternated in not only doing the carpentering work, but laid the concrete foundation and poured the floor. Painters also were on hand in the finishing of the building.

## AN INVITATION TO VISIT Our Recreation Facilities

THE MOUNT PULASKI TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD EXTENDS A CORDIAL INVITATION TO ALL VISITORS TO OUR CITY TO VISIT AND MAKE USE OF THE TOMLINSON RECREATION CENTER FACILITIES DURING THE SIL-TENNIAL AS WELL AS ALL OTHER TIMES.

THE Recreation Center includes: an Indoor Swimming Pool for year-round use, a Roller Skating and Dancing Floor, also used on a year-round basis, and, a Picnic Grounds, complete with all facilities. At the picnic grounds you will find plenty of shade and good drinking water.

THE official dedication ceremonies for these facilities will be a part of the Sil-Tennial Celebration activities, and this is an ideal time to express a word of appreciation to the many who have helped build and operate the recreation center.

FIRST, a note of thanks to those who donated the many hours of volunteer labor that went into the construction of the buildings. There were so many it would be impossible to list them here without missing someone deserving of credit. A word of thanks should also go to those who made the cash contributions that enabled the Park Board to complete the Pool Building and Skating Rink

ANOTHER bouquet of thanks goes to the many who have given of their services without remuneration to help handle the various activities at the rink as well as at the pool.

THE Park Board appreciates the confidence placed in them by the Tomlinson Estate Trustees in deeding the buildings to the Park District, to be maintained and operated to the benefit of the entire community in a way that would be a credit to Mr. Tomlinson's memory.

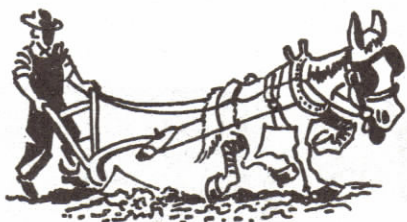
WE are certain every Mount Pulaski Township resident takes pride in these facilities and shares with us in these words of appreciation.

Youth Day and Dedication Day, July 25th

## MOUNT PULASKI TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD

PARK BOARD COMMISSIONERS—H. J. Wible, President; Otto Ey, Vice-President; Chas. W. Hanslow, Edd Dittus, Vaughn Walch. Mrs. Chas. W. Hanslow, Secretary-Treasurer.

## Remember The 'Good Old Days?'



REMEMBER back when a farmer would have to get up at 4 a.m., go to the barn to feed his horses, and then come back to the house for his own breakfast? Then he'd go back to the barn, hitch-up the team, and be ready for a day of back-breaking labor guiding the plow.

NOT SO TODAY. Mr. Farmer is able to eat a leisurely breakfast, knowing that his tractor will be ready to do his bidding the moment he touches the starter button. Other farm tasks are easier today with modern equipment, too. Modern implements and machinery make it possible for a man to handle large fields with less energy than it took his father or grandfather to work a small plot.

WE TAKE PRIDE in bringing this modern machinery to the farmers of this area, and in providing the service to keep it in top condition.

## McQuillan Implement

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MOUNT PULASKI