



**2012 End of a Legend
Nibbyville Closed**



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NIBBYVILLE CAMPGROUND CLOSING 20704 County Road 8 Fri. & Sat. 8 am-5 pm 10 + Yard Sales Campers, Piers, lawn furniture, ...

NIBBYVILLE CAMPGROUND CLOSING 20704 County Road 8 Fri. & Sat. 8 am-5 pm 10 + Yard Sales Campers, Piers, lawn furniture, camping items, Perennial plants and Mums, floating devices, Life jackets, picnic tables, clothes, shoes, household items, fishing equip, gas grills and more! MAP#739

Price :

Email: N/A

Location:

Author:

PhoneNumber: N/A

[Map It!](#)

On September 7, 2012, a small ad in the classified section of the Elkhart Truth announced the closing of the Nibbyville Campground outside Bristol, IN.

No fanfare, just a sale where campers sold off the goods they no longer needed for a campgrounds they would no longer have.

Although the campgrounds often were flooded by the St. Joseph River, many campers had maintained permanent set-ups there, and came back, year after year.

The campground had also been used as an alternate Public Access site during construction of the new Six Span bridge which included a new and much improved bridge-side site when it was finished in 2011, and the site at Nibbyville was no longer needed.

Classified Ad announces the Closing



Separate from the Biddle estate auctioned in Nov., 2000, the long-time campgrounds on the river's edge, was on land leased from Indiana & Michigan Power (AEP) and had been managed by an association of campers, many from Anderson, Indiana .

Indiana & Michigan Power Spokesman, David DeMayne, gave the reason why it was discontinued: He said that Indiana & Michigan Power purchased the land in the late 1960's or early 1970's. The Nibbyville Campground leased the land until just recently. I&M does its best to prepare future demand, building a (138,000 volt) transmission line to travel along that land to add a circuit to the substation near the Hydro facility to meet their customers' electricity demand. The lease was discontinued to provide proper clearance for the power lines and site to support them.

Lease discontinued to
provide line clearance



For years, the familiar Western Store sign was along C.R. 8



The property was auctioned in November, 2000.

Nibbyville, located on County Road 8 outside Bristol, Indiana (the River Road), originally nicknamed for the Niblock family, was so well-known from 1920-2000, it was listed on some maps as if it were a town. Mr. Niblock was a naturalist and animal lover, and the small glass greenhouse next to the main house (torn down when property sold in 2000) was his special place, with unusual plants, where he even kept a zoo of different animals, including a kookaburro (an Australian bird) and a small black bear, named Judy, that he rescued from a store in Edwardsburg, Michigan where she didn't get the best of care. She became somewhat of a local celebrity and many late 40's & early 50's kindergarden classes visited her. Sadly, Judy made headlines when she had to be destroyed after escaping her cage in the 1960s.



Nibbyville History told by Don Niblock in 2009

Don Niblock, who attended the 2000 auction, was the brother-in-law of the owner at that time, and related the history of the property.

Last known as the Harold Biddle Estate, it consisted of 6 parcels of land, including the historic home, barn, and former western store. The other parcels were small homes that were constructed and used a rentals for a fishing camp sponsored by Mr. Niblock.

Don Niblock's grandfather, who retired from ownership of Niblock Nash Sales and Auto Garage in Elkhart, bought the property in the 1920's and moved to the farm that had been owned previously by the Brant family.

He built rental cabins, the barn and the building that for years hosted a popular Western store. He considered the area a great fishing spot and created a recreational area where his friends and acquaintances could come to enjoy the beautiful St. Joseph River.

The property was sold to new owners in November, 2000, and the Songbird Creek Housing Development was built on the land behind the red barn.

A place where memories were made for so many people on the riverbanks, it is now just another page in the history books.







Road to Nibbyville: Closed

