



# *A Short History of Winona Lake*

Did you know that when you look at Winona Lake from above it looks like the outline of an eagle? That is why it was called Eagle Lake until 1895. Then its name was changed to Winona Lake.

In 1881, the three Beyer brothers bought land near Eagle Lake. They wanted to use the natural springs to cool the butter from their dairies. In a few years, they opened a resort called Spring Fountain Park. They began having Chautauqua programs. A Chautauqua is a series of concerts, plays, and speakers.

In 1894, the Beyer brothers sold their park. The new owners named it Winona Assembly and Summer School Association. The leader Sol Dickey began holding summer Bible conferences and summer schools. He also continued the Chautauqua programs.

Many visitors traveled to the Winona Assembly during the summer for the conferences. There were other fun things to do, such as a roller coaster called a switchback railway. By 1910, Winona Lake offered year-round schools. The schools were for many people, including teachers and photographers.

In the early 1900s, many famous people performed in Winona Lake. These included Indiana poet James Whitcomb Riley, politician William Jennings Bryan, and speaker Helen Keller.

Large crowds of people came to Winona Lake. Many spent the summer in one of the cottages or large hotels. In one summer, 250,000 people came to the assembly! A special railroad was built to connect Winona Lake to Goshen and Peru. This made it easier for people to get to the assembly.

Billy Sunday was a former baseball player for the Chicago White Stockings, now the Chicago Cubs. He and his family moved to Winona Lake in 1911. He traveled around the United States preaching in large meetings. Mr. Sunday also spoke against alcohol in the Prohibition movement. His song-leader Homer Rodeheaver made Winona Lake his home as well. Winona Lake built a large tabernacle in 1921. Here, Billy Sunday and other famous people spoke. This was torn down in 1992.

The assembly had several owners in the first half of the twentieth century. In 1938, the Chautauqua ended. However, the Winona Lake Christian Assembly continued with summer Bible conferences. Other schools and organizations came to Winona Lake during this time. Grace Seminary moved to Winona Lake in 1939, and Grace College began in 1948. Eventually, Grace College bought the conference grounds.

By the early 1990s, not many conferences were held. So local investors began the Village at Winona. Today, Winona Lake is thriving as a place that celebrates the arts.

# Winona Lake Timeline

**Directions:** Cut out the boxes from the bottom of the page. Glue them along the timeline to match the years in which they occurred. You may glue boxes above and below the timeline so the boxes will all fit.



Chautauqua closes; Winona Lake Christian Assembly continues	Beyer brothers buy land near Eagle Lake	Organizations and schools such as Grace College come to Winona Lake	Famous people perform at the Chautauqua	Billy Sunday moves to Winona Lake	Village at Winona begins	The Winona Assembly and Summer School Association begins
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# Winona Lake Timeline

## Answer Key

Events in order:

Beyer brothers buy land near Eagle Lake (1881)

The Winona Assembly and Summer School Association begins (1894)

Famous people perform at the Chautauqua (early 1900s)

Billy Sunday moves to Winona Lake (1911)

Winona Lake Christian Assembly continues after Chautauqua closes (1938)

Organizations and schools such as Grace College come to Winona Lake (1948)

Village at Winona begins (1990s)

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