

## **ED BRIGHT PARK**

### **PARK HISTORY**

Ed Bright donated the property plus personal belongings to the County to be used as a park. The deed from Edwin F. Bright of July 1974 states “so long as the party of the second part shall use the real estate conveyed hereby solely and only for public park and recreational purposes and shall designate said real estate by reference to the name of the party of the first part, “Ed Bright”. The donation was used as a match to secure \$39,925 Land and Water Conservation Funds for purchasing the Cody Fowler tract. This means that permission has to be obtained from the National Park Service if the property is to be disposed, replaced or used for other than outdoor recreational purposes. Mr. Bright was a noted horseman in the St. Louis Area. His home, originally a log cabin, was built around 1850. It was enlarged in 1870 and remodeled in the 1930's. Ordinance No. 8916, adopted in October of 1978, accepts the gift of Lot 504, Brightfield Subdivision (280 Brightfield Drive) from Cinco Enterprises, Inc. “to be used as access to a future park site known as ‘The Ed Bright County Park.’” The Bright property underwent major changes during the end of 1990 and early 1991. The property originally had seven buildings. Five of these buildings were demolished. The small barn and smoke house were disassembled and moved to Faust Park where they were reconstructed at a barn raising in the Historic Village. The pond was filled in and no longer exists. All of the interior fences were removed and horses are not allowed to graze at this time.

### **EDWIN FOWLER BRIGHT**

Ed Bright was born in St. Louis on July 13, 1892. He began riding horses at a young age, and showed his pony at the World’s Fair in 1904. At the age of about 16 he began driving his family’s laundry wagon. When he was 18 he joined the Calvary unit of the Missouri National Guard, and rode with the American Expeditionary Force in search of Pancho Villa. After his marriage he worked for his father-in-law in the mill business, but he eventually ended up running his family’s laundry business. After it went out of business in 1950 he began a new career selling real estate. He purchased his farm in Manchester in 1937, which at the time included 120 acres and a partially log home built around 1850. With his Missouri mule, Beulah, he became a minor celebrity, leading many trail rides across the United States.

In 1972 Bright donated \$1000 in Beulah's name for the construction of an equestrian shelter along an equestrian trail at Greensfelder Park. The Shelter is the Beulah Shelter, and the trail is now known as the Beulah trail. After selling the majority of his farm to developers, in 1974 Bright bequeathed 4.45 acres of his property, which included the house and outbuildings, and all of his personal belongings, to St. Louis County Park, for use as a park and museum. Mr. Bright died in November of 1979. Unfortunately the buildings were demolished around 1990. The small barn and smokehouse are all that remains. They were reconstructed at Faust Park. Bright Park remains undeveloped.