

# Times Recorder

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## NEWS

# Moxahala Park was once a local attraction

### Staff report

Published 4:31 p.m. ET July 6, 2014 | Updated 10:36 p.m. ET July 6, 2014

In 1906, in an effort to attract riders to its fledgling interurban, a sort of electric commuter railroad, the Southeast Ohio Railway and Light Co. opened Moxahala Park about 7 miles south of Zanesville. The park outlasted the interurban, which folded in 1924, by another half-century off and on.

The park's builders dammed a nearby creek, creating a lake for boating and swimming, and built a Japanese-style bridge and garden as an attraction. Eventually, the park featured a dance hall, baseball field, merry-go-round and all the rides one would expect at an amusement park.

Attendance started to decline during the Depression, with the park eventually falling into foreclosure and being rented by various concessionaires until being purchased by Tim Nolan, who owned carnivals in Columbus. Nolan operated the park until 1956, when it closed down for 15 years.

The park was reopened in 1971 by Tim Nolan, of the Nolan Amusement Co. The reopened park featured a rebuilt dance hall and 22 new rides. A small zoo, an arcade, a swimming pool and a track for demolition derbies completed the list of attractions. The park lasted another six years, closing for good in 1978. The rides, equipment and other park paraphernalia were auctioned off by the Nolan company to make room for the company's road operation. The skating rink/dance hall building, while being used as a bingo hall, burned in 1998.