

Riverfront

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THE DECATUR DAILY

Touched by an oak tree

It wasn't as easy to determine which tree was the Olympic gold medal tree — an English oak planted by Jesse Owens at Ohio State University following the 1936 Berlin Olympics — as one might think.

Ohio State officials said there are no existing records, photographs or newspaper articles depicting the event.



**You
Don't
Say**

Ken Retherford

During a search for the Owens tree in 1978, officials mistakenly searched for a white oak, the same type of tree that will be planted at the Jesse Owens Museum dedication Saturday.

Dr. Phil

Kozel, professor of horticulture at Ohio State, said in 1978 that the English oak Owens planted was growing on the south side of the main library. Kozel died in 1979.

The best guess is that he was correct. Tree borings 10 years later show that English oak would be the right age. Before his death in 1980, Owens said the tree was planted on Varsity Row near the football stadium. That tree was transplanted to the library site in 1948 to make way for parking lots and a service building.

There will be no question in years to come as to the site of the white oak tree planted at the Oakville museum in Lawrence County by the Owens family. This time, it will be properly marked.