

Museum now open at Jesse Owens Memorial Park

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FRONT PORCHES & BACKYARDS

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VACATION GUIDE '98

Welcome to our place!

There is much to see and lots of things to do in the Shoals area and all around the Tennessee Valley Region.

Take time to visit our front porch and explore

Fun in the sun... our backyard! Something for everyone!

A peek at the past... A glimpse of the future. From historical sites to the wonders of space travel!



NOW OPEN - The Jesse Owens Museum in Jesse Owens Memorial Park eight miles east of Moulton in the community of Oakville.

The Jesse Owens Memorial Park, located in the Oakville community of Lawrence County, Ala., contains a visitor's center, museum, replica of Mr. Owens' birthplace home, statue and gold medal court, picnic pavilions and a ball-field. Later, a track will be built on the grounds.

This 30-acre park, established to honor the late Olympic track star Jesse Owens, is about eight miles east of Moulton.

From Moulton, take Alabama Highway 157 east. Turn onto County Road 203. Watch for direc-

tional signs.

James Celvland "Jesse" Owens was born in Oakville on Sept. 12, 1913. He was the 10th child of Henry and Emma Owens. Called by his initials, J. C., as a youngster, the J. C. became "Jesse" late in life.

Like many other black families, the Owens family sharecropped for a living.

While still quite young, Jesse moved along with his family to the North.

He eventually went to Ohio State University and became a star athlete.

On one day (May 25,

1935), he set three world records and tied another. The records were in the 220-yard dash, 220-yard low hurdles and the running broad jump. He tied the 100-yard dash record.

In 1936, the Olympic Games were held in Berlin, Germany.

As one of the American athletes, Owens competed in track events. He won four gold medals.

This was before World War II, but Adolf Hitler's dictatorship in Germany was already aggressive in Europe.

Hitler's claims of eth-

nic superiority were illustrated to be quite false by the performance of Jesse Owens.

A monument to Owens at the park in Oakville is inscribed:

"He inspired a world enslaved in tyranny and brought hope to his fellow man... from the cotton fields of Oakville to the acclaim of the entire world, he made us all proud to be called Lawrence countians."

Jesse Owens died in 1980.

The Jesse Owens Museum has limited hours of operation.