

Riverside Camp Bicknell Park

In the summer of 1911 Gotch established a training center in Riverside Park now known as Bicknell Park

The one acre of land located on the east bank of the Des Moines River was owned by the A.D.Bicknell family who allowed the use of the land for the training camp

Thousands of people came to watch Gotch train in this location for his upcoming match to defend his world championship title against George Hackenschmidt on Sept 4, 1911

In 1928 Riverside Park was dedicated to the City of Humboldt and renamed Bicknell Park.



Humboldt, Iowa Home of Frank Gotch

Frank Gotch had many opportunities to move to the big cities. Frank loved Humboldt and was never interested in the offers to leave.

Gotch was quoted as saying:

Mrs. Gotch and I will settle down to the simple life at Humboldt, Iowa, the one little town in the world where everyone carries out the Biblical idea of loving his neighbors.



Gotch designated Humboldt as "the biggest & best town of its size in America"

He was the owner of a car dealership in Humboldt and many acres of farmland in Humboldt County

Gotch was born an Iowa farm boy, raised an Iowa farm boy and died an Iowa farm boy.

