



# Autumn *in* Monroe County



THE VIEW FROM ABOVE  
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Is there anything more beautiful in nature than autumn leaves? And is there anyplace more beautiful in fall than our own Monroe County?

Well, certainly for pure unhindered forest vistas, our good neighbor Brown County gets the nod. But Monroe County has more than farms and forests; it has a stately courthouse, the Indiana University campus, monuments, public parks, and nearby lakes that in autumn are more eye-catching than ever, festooned in radiant foliage.

To capture all this beauty in a way that few of us ever see, *Bloom* turned to J. Bruce Baumann, former *National Geographic* photographer, 50-year veteran newsman, and a member of the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame—a man experienced at taking pictures while hanging out the window of a helicopter.

And we got lucky. Heeding the advice of pilot Bob Burke, we chose Tuesday, October 16, to take to the air. It turned out to be the perfect day. The last, as it happened; the rest of the week turned rainy, windy, and glum. But on that Tuesday, an early morning mist rolled away to reveal lush trees at their colorful peak under a cloudless blue sky.

The beauty of that day took our breath away. So, too, do these photographs.

—the editor

Early morning on this mid-October day, there were still a few boats docked in the Paynetown State Recreation Area on the north side of Lake Monroe.

Photography by **J. Bruce Baumann**





The heart of the IU campus, with Franklin Hall (left), the Student Building, and Dunn's Woods in the foreground.



The Monroe County Courthouse, looking toward the northeast side of downtown. "It is one of the prettiest courthouses in Indiana," says photographer Baumann. "Bloomington is very fortunate to have preserved its downtown. So many places have torn down the old buildings."





The Kalachakra Stupa and the Jangchub Chorten (top left, partially hidden), traditional Buddhist monuments at the Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center, were dedicated by the Dalai Lama on one of his many visits to Bloomington.







There are still many open fields on the west side of Bloomington.



Victor Oolitic Quarry, on the south side of Bloomington, is one of four working quarries in Monroe County. To get a sense of the size of the quarry, look for a dump truck and other large quarry vehicles in the far end of the pit.



Done for the season—the Bryan Park pool on the southeast side of the town's busiest and, many believe, prettiest park.



Few have probably ever seen this small private lake hidden away on the north side of Lake Monroe, near State Road 446.