

Sixteenth Annual Ranum Picnic.

The sixteenth annual Ranum family picnic was held at Wyalusing State Park, near Prairie du Chene, Wis. on Sunday, June 18, 1950.

The weather is a vital factor in any picnic. It was NOT in our favor, this year. Following a warm humid spell, we got a cold humid spell with gentle rains. This occurred on the very morning of the picnic. The following day, Monday, was quite ideal weather. But that was too late for us to enjoy the scenic beauty of ~~Wax~~ Wyalusing Park.

Reservations had been made for the use of a "Shelter House". It had a roof, one wall and a fireplace. In it was parked tables and seats to accomodate our group. As it was reserved, we had sole occupancy of it for the day. That helped materially. So it was not so bad as it could have been.

There was little browsing ~~ix~~ around the park. Almost everyone present remained in the shelter house or sat in their car with the heater going, to keep warm.

In fact, it was so cold that you could see your breath in the middle of the afternoon. The thermometer registered around 50 degrees all day.

Those who had top coats, sweaters or rain coats fared fairly well. But the few who came unprepared, were just unfortunate.

In addition to the weather, the distance traveled, seemed to be a popular topic of the day. There were many who said "The farther we come, the earlier we ~~get~~ arrive."

All were there and we were ready to eat at the appointed time, Noon. There was ~~xxxxxxx~~ an exception. One group had car trouble, en route. Consequently the were a little late.

It was Carl Ranum's 75th birthday. A special birthday cake was brought for him.

Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were ~~xxxxx~~ made. As ample funds were on hand to care for all expenses, no collection was needed.

A little chat here and there, and before we realized it five o'clock arrived and the group started the journey to their respective homes.

It is the desire of the Secretary to personally meet and to greet each person present. After the day is over and he glances over ~~in~~ the register, he usually finds the name of someone whom he failed to see and to greet. Even at this picnic, that happened.

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Mrs. Ella (Ranum) Johnson was elected our new President. Maurice Ranum was elected ~~xxx~~ our new Vice President. Again, brother and sister were elected to serve in these capacities.

There was a period of silent prayer for Ralph Lewis, who had passed away during the year. Also for Erhardt Schmidtgall, who had been confined to his bed for four months, with little prospect of recovery.

Martin A. Tollund and Carl Ranum were asked to speak a few words.

When the vote on place for the next picnic was taken, it was almost unanimous for Wyalusing Park, again.

After the Secretary provided another humorous story for a bit of laughter, we adjourned.

There were several who found it possible to make a personal visit to the home of Erhardt Schmidtgall. He had been brought from the hospital to his home for Fathers Day.

Peter Ranum again made the journey up from Missouri to be present at the picnic and to visit with his brothers, sisters and son.

The Secretary was forced to leave his family at home and to come alone. The measles came to Marlo. The Burlington Zepher train provided a fast and comfortable ride from Minneapolis to Prairie du Chene, where he was met by Lucille and Daniel Lewis. The train schedule was perfect for the occasion. It was 11:30 that evening when he sat down in his own home again and related his experiences to his wife. He was tired but happy that he had made the trip.

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Persons Present