

NINETEENTH ANNUAL RANUM PICNIC

The nineteenth consecutive Annual Ranum Picnic was held in the Park at the City of Platteville, Wis., on Sunday June 21, 1953.

The weather, as always, is an important factor in the conducting of any picnic. For several days prior, the five state area had been covered with temperatures in the upper ~~nineties~~ nineties. But Saturday evening a cool front brought the early morning (Sunday) temperatures down to about 50 degrees. So, that day we were all very comfortable, whether we sat in the shade or in the sunshine.

The writer and his family arrived in town as the church bells were ringing at 10 A. M.

Our President, Norman Hilden, and his family were in the park to greet us. They had arrived at 8:30 A. M. They had a charcoal fire going to keep hot dishes "Hot" until the time of the noonday meal. They had two large coffee pots on a gasoline stove. So that, again, we were greeted with welcoming smiles, hearty handshakes, and a cup of hot coffee, or fruit nectar, if preferred. What could be nicer for the starter of a grand and glorious picnic?

The early arrival of our President and family was not one minute too early. There was but one small shelter house in the park. Others arriving at the very same time were very anxious to obtain it. But quick thinking and fast work on the part of our President awarded to us the exclusive use of the coveted spot for the day.

The ladies arranged the food on the tables, under the shelter, in true chronological order. This made it very easy for the two lines of picnickers to fill their plates.

Verna (Munson) Goldman lead us in singing the Doxology. Then we ate.

If there ever was a time when food looked and tasted "Tops", it was now.

Norman, our President, opened the meeting with a few words of welcome. He then turned it over to the Secretary.

Greetings that had been sent to us by mail were read and thereby extended to all.

Delores Schmidtgall read to us the written account of last year's Picnic, as recorded by the Secretary.

Esther (Ranum) Tollund read to us a poem on Dads Day, which Herbert Goldman thought well worth reading on this occasion. We all agreed with Herbert, completely.

Norman's Pastor, ~~again~~, co-operated, by printing for us an attractive bulletin. In it were the songs "Rock of Ages" and "In the Garden". It also contained the Father's Day narrative, "I expected so much." This is one of the classics of American Journalism.

19th Picnic continued.

The Secretary reminded us of the fact that
This is the Sabbath Day.
This is the Day of Rest.
This is the Day of Relaxation
This is the Day of Church attendance, which holds top priority for any
Sabbath ~~Day~~ Day.
This is the First Day of Summer. (Altho it seemed that we had had our
summer during a few days prior to the Picnic.)
This is Father's Day.
This is the Day of the Ranum Picnic.
This is - truly- a "Great Day" !

Gilbert M. Ranum had recovered sufficiently from his stroke of about a year and a ~~mk~~ half ago, to be with us. We were all delighted to see him looking so well, again. His appearance, his talk and his actions would lead us to believe that he was, again, that healthy and nattily attired gentleman of 65 years. His actual age is 81 plus.

He told us that when he was about 15 years of age, his brother, Ole, had been selling sewing machines, and that on a sewing machine deal he had taken in two swarms of bees from a man in Platteville by the name of France. Ole brought the bees home to Gilbert and asked him to care for them while he (Ole) was away in his work of selling. That was the beginning of the Bee Business for Gilbert. This business grew to where he and his sons maintained an apairy of around six hundred colonies.

He told us of haw in later years the City of Platteville desired to own a part of the France Farm. It was purchased at a substantial figure and converted into a park. So the very ground that Mr. France had formerly used for the growing of crops and the ~~a~~ raising of bees and the production of honey was now being used by us for the holding of the Ranum Family Picnic.

The Secretary, who is also the Treasurer, read the financial report of the Picnic Fund. The hat was passed, and \$20.00 was the count, as made by Herbert Goldman. This, less expenses, was put in the treasury for future use.

Each person wore a tag, on which they wrote their names. It was reported that 170 tags were passed out, and that some of the smallest children were noted without tags. No further record was made of those present.

By ballott vote Maurice Ranum became our new President.
" " " Edward Ranum " " " Vice President.
" " " Blue Mounds Park is to be the location ~~of the~~
of the next Picnic.

The oldest person present was G. M. Ranum , age 81 yrs.
The youngest person present was James B. Tidball, 1 month.
(grandson of Mrs Myrtle Shelmidine)
Marriages, births and deaths for the year were announced.

Ray D. Ranum

Secretary

170 ?
Persons
Present