

Note: This is to be re-mailed to another Ranum, or Ranum relative. Or, -if you prefer, it may be mailed back to the writer for his re-mailing. In either case, will you PLEASE act without delay ?

The Ranum Pe-union Picnic was held on June 15, 1958 as scheduled.

When a person, who lives in one place, is asked to serve as President to a Family Re-union Picnic, to be held in another place, an added, and possibly unnecessary, burden is placed upon the person who so serves.

It is for that reason that Milton O. Ranum, a Past President, volunteered to assist Daniel R. Lewis, the elected President, in the conduct of the 1958 Picnic. Milton & Family live at the site (Baraboo).

Most of those who were present at the Re-union Picnic will remember the day as being one of the nicest days of the entire month of June. There was but a trace of precipitation. That came during the very early morning hours. By mid-morning (we were there in the park at 9:30) the sun was shining, and it continued to so shine throughout the entire day. As a result, it was quite comfortable while sitting either in the sunshine, or in the shade. The tables were arranged accordingly.

There were 87 persons present, 88 of whom were directly related (by birth or marriage) to Grand-father Nils. K. Ranum.

As on previous picnics, the objective is to get to know, BETTER, those with whom one is related, and to enjoy their companionship, for the day. One of the best ways known to accomplish this objective is for Fathers, Mothers, Sons, Daughters, Brothers, Sisters, Laws & Inlaws, Uncles, Aunts, and Cousins to sit around a common dinner table.

Scarcely had the last morsel of food been devoured than began the News Session. This is tending to become one of the most interesting features of the event. It enables every person present to tell any item of interest. This tends to save repetitions and omissions, as might occur if such were to be told individually to all persons present. It, also, enables us all to get to know more of what has transpired in the family during the year.

Our President, Daniel R. Lewis, read the story, as recorded, of the previous year's Picnic (1957).

Ben A. Ranum Sr., who is one of the originators of these Re-union Picnics, read the story, as recorded, of the 1956 Re-union Picnic. (For lack of time, this was crowded out from last year's session.) This story contained some very interesting experiences of some of the relatives in connection with their attendance at that Picnic.

As far as is known, the only death in the Family during the past fiscal year was that of Olaf N. Smesrud, a retired Mt Horeb business man. His age was very close to 79 years. He lived in Mt. Horeb for the most part of his life. He is the son of Julia & Thore Smesrud. Julia was the first child born to Nils K. & Berite Ranum, soon after their arrival from Norway. One daughter survives. She is Isabelle, now Mrs. Orris McNeil of Des Moines Iowa.

Altho there may have been other marriages, the one reported was that of Mildred Drinkwater to John Slack. (Deaths, Births & Marriages must also be reported in writing, if they are to be recorded.) Both Mildred and John have been living in Madison for some time. Mildred is the granddaughter of Sena and Sever Munson. Sena was the second child born to Nils K. & Berite Ranum.

The births reported were: a son to Mr. & Mrs. Donald Knutson
 " " " " " Marvin Ellis
 " " " " " Chas Moller
 a daughter " " " Dean Myers

Recognition was given to those relatives who were present for the first time.

Greetings, sent to us by relatives who could be with us "in thought only" were read.

Of the experiences during the past year, one of presumed interest was the trip to Yellowstone National Park made by Herbert, Verna, and Lois Goldman. Lois had been asked to tell about it. But her modesty seemed to have prevented. Since Lois is a teacher in the Public School at Madison, we feel that we may have lost out on hearing a right good story.

Another experience of interest was that of our President Daniel R. Lewis. He had recently returned from Texas where he had taken a course of training for instrument flying of airplanes. He now is a qualified air pilot. He plans to accept a position as commercial air pilot. It is to be noted that this has not been at Government expense. On the contrary, he has financed his course of training entirely by himself. That evening he told of how he and his buddy (since boyhood) were in a "batch of soup" somewhere up above Ohio or Indiana. They were looking for a point where they could land, safely. They finally found it. Oh! Oh! What if they had not found it? He is the son of Lucille M. (Ranum) Lewis & Ralph Lewis.

The car that came the farthest that day, expressly for, this re-union Picnic was, again, the Knutson car. As Carl was in California, his brother Harry came alone. No, not alone. Mrs. Hanna accompanied him, as on past occasions. He reported the mileage to be 250 miles oneway. They returned home that evening. They are to be complimented for putting forth such effort to be with us. We wish to be worthy of it.

Several group pictures were taken, by five photographers, all of whom are camera fan relatives.

The Character Shot was that of Milton O. Ranum carefully, tenderly, patiently, and lovingly, escorting his aged parents to, and from, the Picnic. We would like much to see that picture in color, or in black and white. Whether we ever do see it, or whether we ever do not, the memory of it will linger long upon our minds. Question: What greater tribute could he have paid to his Father, on Father's Day, than to escort him in such manner to his Father's Family Re-union Picnic?

We should feel fortunate that we can so bring honor to our Fathers, our Grand-fathers, and our Great-grand-fathers, on Father's Day, by gathering ourselves together in a family group and sit around one big Family Table. This, with such acts of graciousness as shown by Milton, will let our fathers know that we really and truly do ~~xxxx~~ have honor for them. Question: Does such not make being a father a bit more worth while?

Carl Ranum was the oldest person present. His age is 83 years. His great-grand-daughter was the youngest person present. Her age is but a few months. She is the daughter of Delores (&Dean) Myers, who is the daughter of Freda (Ranum) Schmitgall, who is the daughter of Carl & Emma Ranum. Thus we had, present, four generations: Carl, Freda, Delores, and Kathy. Also Kerrie, Kathy's sister.

The Treasurers Report was read by the Treasurer. He called attention to the fact that, apparently, there was enough cash on hand so as to warrant the, possible, omission of the usual passing of the hat. This is the third time in twentyfour years that such has occurred. (Would that such had occurred, also, in our National, State, and City Treasuries.)

This is the result of thrift and conservatism. Credit for this goes to the various persons who have served as Host, Hostess, or President.

