

THIRTIETH RANUM RE-UNION PICNIC.

The thirtieth Annual Ranum Re-union Picnic was held at the Ben A. Ranum Sr. Farm, south of Arena Wisconsin.

It was held on Sunday, June 14, 1964 - 1964

It looked as tho a drizzly rain might spoil, ~~xxxx~~ or dampen, the day. But, it failed to arrive. At least, it failed to arrive during the hours in which the Re-union was being held.

It is possible that this condition MAY have prevented a few from coming who, otherwise, MIGHT have come.

But, the eighty-one persons, who did come, were well rewarded for their efforts in coming.

The skies were "sun-less" (of course), and the temperatures were comfortably mild.

The Re-union was held NOT at the home, but rather, on the school house grounds, which were just across the road ~~from~~ from the ~~xxxxxx~~ residence.

These grounds had, formerly, been a part of the farm. They had, recently, been ~~xxxxxxx~~ re-purchased, and, again were a part of the farm.

This farm is the place where Ben and his brothers and sister grew up.

The grounds consist of an acre or two of land. Part of it was in the open, and part of it was in the shade (were the sun to have shined).

The school house, and the well, were just as they were when ~~it~~ they were being used for school purposes, except that the seats and desks had been removed.

The hand pump, just outside the door of the school was used a great deal. It provided clear sparkling water such as might come from a hill-side spring.

The hill-sides, surrounding the area, were covered with trees, shrubs and grass. They were scenic as well as ~~king~~ being useful.

The road leading to the secluded area is a beautiful winding country road, which one can really enjoy traveling on at reduced speed.

The Hosts (the Sherman Ranum sons and ~~daughters~~ their wives, also the daughter, and the off-spring of all) brought tables and chairs a plenty into the newly mowed area, for our use.

There were facilities, and ~~x~~ equipment, for various games.

The air was filled ~~x~~ with fragrance from the foliage.

That served to whet our, already, GOOD appetites.

Coffee was cooked on the electric stove in the school house.

It was served on tables covered with white paper table cloths.

In fact, it seemed as tho the hosts had "thought of everything", and provided it for our use.

As usual, the dinner was at noon.

This was followed by the meeting.

Ben (the host) was requested to serve, also, as Master of Ceremonies.

The various reports were read.

One of these reports was the passing away of Della (Mrs. ~~St~~ Karl N. Knutson) of La Crosse, Wis. Altho the duties of life had necessitated her remaining at home on many Re-union days, she had a keen interest in each and every one. Special ~~xxxxx~~ recognition was paid to her because of this interest. She will be missed by her husband and many of us who knew her so well.

The following marriages were reported:

1. Donald L. Ranum (son of Rupert Ranum) to Sharon Kaye Hirschman.
2. John E. Ranum (son of Ed & Gertie Ranum) to Karen Kay Henderson.
3. Jean Ranum (daughter of Maurice & Evelyn Ranum) to Wayne Wilken.
4. Dean R. Millard (son of Alden & Mary Millard) to Joann Brimmer.

The following births were reported:

1. Rebecca Ann to William & Margaret Ranum (William is son of Sherman)
2. Michael Alan to Roger & Joan Lloyd. (Joan is daughter to Ed & Gertie)
3. David to Kenneth & Ruth Melby (Ruth is daughter of Ed & Gertie)
4. Lori Ann to John & Karen Ranum (John is son of Ed & Gertie)
5. Donna Jean to Dallas & Rita Millard (Dallas is son of Alden & Mary)
6. Denee Marie to Donnie & Jan Millard (Donnie is son of Alden & Mary)
7. Dana Marie to Dennis & Joan Millard (Dennis is son of Alden & Mary)
8. Craig Lowell to Lowell & Barbara Ferris (Lowell is son of Durena)

Joyce Ranum (daughter of Maurice & Evelyn) flew in to Chicago from California. Her parents met her at Chicago. She read the report of the Secretary. She, then, told us that she was planning to visit ~~Ma~~ Norway this summer. We hope that she is well brushed up on her Norwegian language. It helps one to enjoy the trip ~~more~~.

On the morning of the Picnic, Edith (Ranum) Wilcox called Ben A. Ranum Sr. on the telephone, from her home in Jacksonville Florida.

Her mother, (Aunt Annie) is living with her. They had quite a conversation, and sent greetings from all of them, to all of us. Things like that have helped to make the thirtieth to be the thrilliest one yet.

Norman Hilden was present, again, this year. Because of a stroke, he had been NOT present for the two previous Re-unions. It was a thrill just to see his smile ~~and~~ once again.

His brother Reuben was reported to be improving from the same condition.

The following persons were given special recognition for having come a considerable distance in order that they might ~~attend~~ be in attendance:

Lowell Faris & Family	-	Byron, Illinois
Joyce Ann Ranum	-	STANTON - California
Wayne & Jean Wilken	-	Decorah Iowa.
Nora & Lloyd Olson	-	Goldfield, Iowa
Melba Dunnagen & children	-	Terra Haute, Indiana
Ray Dorothy & Marlo Ranum	⊕	Minneapolis, Minn.

It had been noted that there seemed to be some added attraction over in the school house. Investigation revealed that inside, on display, was a group of patch-work quilts which Aunt Josie (Mrs. Sherman Ranum) had made. They were beautiful, and were well worth while seeing.

After nearly all of the relatives had left, there was time for a bit of relaxation and meditation. Cousin Ben asked the Secretary if he and his wife would like to take a trip up on the ridge.

We had no idea as to what a trip up on the ridge would ~~mean~~ mean to us, but we were willing to go almost anywhere Ben would take us.

Once we were up there, he showed us The Hills of Baraboo, as they lay about thirty miles to the north of us, as the crow would fly.

Looking in the opposite direction, he pointed to an even higher hill (on his farm) where, he said, it was possible (at times) to see the lights of four towns to the south of us. They were Mt. Horeb, Barneveld, Ridgeway and Dodgeville.

Then, he took us over to the model new barn which Paul and he had built. They had done almost all of the work themselves. He, also, showed us the modern new milk house where Grade A milk is readied for

the Chicago trade.

This was all built on land that had been recently purchased. The neighbor had wanted to sell, and he wanted that Ben and Paul should buy the place to add to what they already had. The combined acreage is now 209 acres.

Credit was due, and credit was given, to Ben, Bill, Bob, and their wives, and to the off-spring such as Melba who lives in Indiana and who arranged her visit to coincide with the Re-union.

They all worked hard in order to provide us with the very best place that was possible to provide for such an event.

Judging from the smiles on their faces, one would say that they enjoyed putting forth the effort almost as much as we enjoyed receiving the benefits therefrom.

And, so, in reality, the Thirtieth Re-union was one of the thrilliest ones, ever.

May there be another at the same place real soon ?

Milton Ranum invited us to come to Baraboo (not to the hills of Baraboo, but to Oschner Park in Baraboo) for the next Re-union to be held in 1965.

Ray D. Ranum
Secretary.