

Report on the Picnic

On August 2, Department employees and their families were treated to one of the nicest picnics of all time. For those who couldn't attend or didn't, for whatever reason, they missed a wonderful time of fellowship, relaxation, good food, and a beautiful day. The picnic began at 12:00 noon with the arrival of several families. Their children immediately went into the pool and the grownups either went in, lounged around the pool or spent their time socializing at the table in the shade of the tall trees that give Monrovia Nursery a parklike appearance. The Social Committee had been there for some time, had set up all of the tables and chairs, had iced down the soft drinks, and were busy preparing all of the goodies that were to be consumed at 2:30 p.m. Dr. Hamilton Williams caused the only near crisis of the day, when, at 2:15 p.m. he still hadn't shown up with the hotdog and hamburger rolls. However, he did get there, and the first call for "hotdoggies" went out on time. We suspect that Mr. Wakeman must have been a barker on the midway of a carnival the way he entreated everyone to partake of his chili dogs. The chili, which went over so big, was made by Dr. Williams, and we've heard its made from a secret recipe that he won't readily divulge - unless asked! A delightful lunch with plenty of food, and second helpings if anyone wanted, included hamburgers, chiliburgers, hot dogs, chilidogs, milk for children, olives, pickles, potato chips, two kinds of baked beans, lettuce, tomatoes, coffee, soft drinks, and ice cream cups.

Lunch was followed by the drawing for prizes that many employees won. A Grand Prize was won by Gerry Patten - a 9 transistor AM-FM portable radio with ear phone attachment, and another Grand Prize of a beautiful original watercolor painting was won by Carlos Jaramillo.

Although I'm certain there was no colusion, it seemed peculiar that Lee Wakeman's daughter drew her mother's ticket and won a 3 lb. can of coffee, and that Joe Erby's daughter drew her mother's ticket and won a fifth of Ballentine's Scotch. Charlie Potthast won the canned ham. More than 40 other gifts of plants and soil amendments, etc. were won by other members of the staff and their families.

After the drawing, all excess food was auctioned off. "I have 45¢, do I hear 50" was the call of the day, as Frank Simerly and Lee Wakeman auctioned off values at 25% to 75% below cost. All purchasers of auctioned goods seemed quite happy with their buys.

Of course the events of the day, as far as the children were concerned, were the games played and the pinata provided by Bob Vargas who, as usual, came through with a most wonderful array of goodies.

A three-legged race, busting balloons pinned to beautifully made pastboard clowns, and finally the breaking of the lion pinata with the pouring out of its candy, culminated a wonderful day. Anyone for a Coke or a Chilidog next year?

Youth Education Section

Summer classes closed last Friday at Descanso and at the Arboretum. Tak Niiya reports 101 registered youngsters in 9 classes with total attendance for the month of July 799. The Children's Section at the Arboretum broke the monthly attendance record with a total of 1,540 due to interested parents attending an exhibit of their children's work in the Plant Adventure and Art Class work. 15 classes had registered 163 students.



1964. "Report on the picnic [August 10, 1964]." *Delascan* 1964, 1.

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