

It's Picnic Time and Birmingham People Are Having Their Share!

There is no "easy way" to achieve enduring happiness . . . and, too, it may be well to remember that happiness, once in part obtained, requires the tenderest, most watchful care in order to retain it.

"PICNIC:

"A pleasure party the food for which is usually provided by members of the group and is eaten in the open air. (Slang) An easy, pleasant or amusing time or experience." (According to Webster's.)



YOUNGSTERS LIKE the three Bushy children, Ronnie, Jeannie and Skipper enjoy picnics even if they are no more than eating in the yard.

Story and Photos by
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Summer time is picnic time and a wonderful time it is.

But, have you ever stopped to put some deep thought on these picnics of ours?

Get you anything they started back in the days when hunters, explorers and trappers stopped under a ledge, broiled a rabbit over some coals, baked a batch of sourdough biscuits and boiled some tea.

GRANDPA and grandma wanted all the children home once in a while and during the summer, the logical thing was to feed them out of doors. They'd get the saw horses, scrub up a few long boards and the tables would blossom out in the yard.

Then came the automobile and going to grandpa's for the day was too tame.

THEY'D LOAD the picnic boxes into the car, don their dusters and drive 10 or 15 miles to eat beside some cool stream. It was great stuff and put the picnic on the road again.

Those families who did not yet have cars but lived in the city, wanted their outings, too. They began going to wooded areas within walking distance of home. These spots became popular, and before you knew it, the city found itself with a hunk of property occupied by some trees and a lot of bugs. It was called a park.

As soon as the "woods" became a "park" the good citizens began to howl for "picnic grounds" and the city fathers had to make like bricklayers and carpenters getting fireplaces and tables ready. The mobs came and officials patted themselves on the back for the wonderful idea they'd had.

PICNICS WERE going great guns again, but other complications reared their heads. There wasn't enough room.

Folks got tired of battling for a table or waiting long hours for a family to

move on so they could move in. The picnic began going back home again.

Businessmen, always looking for new fields to conquer saw the coming events and the new grills began to blossom.

The popular American fare seems to be the hot dog and the hamburger. The former is one of those items which can be eaten though barely warm or when done to a crackling blackness.

THE COMMON usage of the word today can describe almost anything that gives one pleasure. It's used to tell how much one enjoyed a visit with old friends, a trip to the zoo, a movie, a journey, a sports event or "what have you".

Youngsters can have a picnic on the swings, the slides, teeter boards or in the sand box when they go to the park. They can have a picnic just playing around a table with some papers and books.

ADULTS CAN have their picnics on the golf course, tennis courts, off a fishing dock or swimming in a cool lake.

But be this as it may, there's still the lure of food to make the picnic turn out to be a picnic.

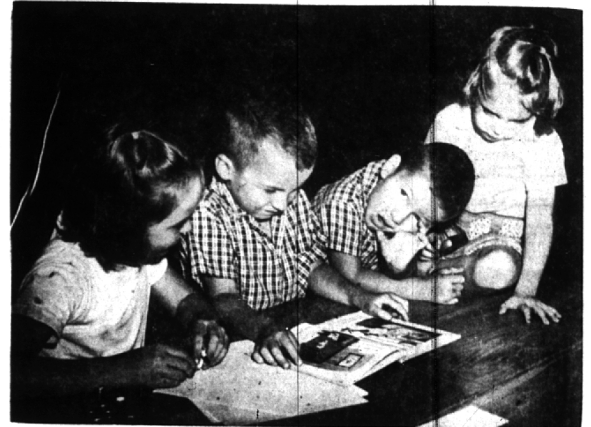
Young mothers gather in small groups, each bringing her own lunch, and while the small fry struggle with bottles and their own brand of foods, enjoy an hour of rest and pleasant company.

Another favorite form here is the trip to Springdale park, where two or three families band together for a picnic.

MOTHERS AND children enjoy the quiet of the wooded area while fathers play golf. When the game is done the table is set, the fire started and soon the evening air is tantalizing with the aroma of broiling meat and simmering coffee. Everyone's hungry.

Come to think of it, so are we. How about a picnic? Say a nice, juicy slice of ham, cooked to a golden brown over a bed of glowing charcoal.

'Bye now, we're off to the butcher shop!

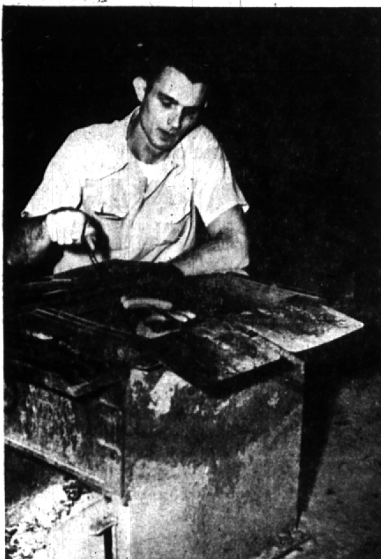


THE FAUTECK girls, Jo and Julie, and the Schmid boys have a picnic making "paper hair" and reading their story books, or just having fun in the park. The girls are daughters of Springdale Supt. Robert Fauteck.



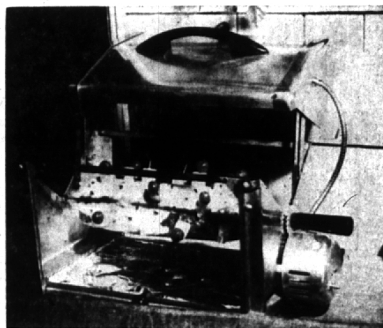
SWINGING IS picnic in itself is the declaration made by the Palms children, David and Kathy, Terry and Susie. It's a special treat at the park.

Cooking Can Be Simple or Elaborate

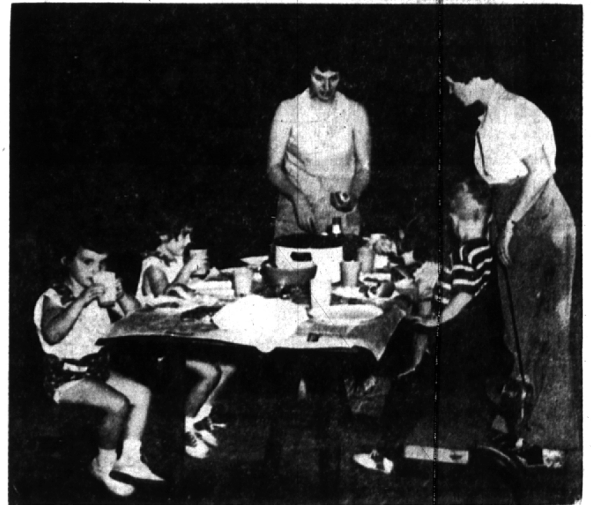


TRADITIONAL hotdogs hold the attention of Carroll Voorheis (left) as he cooks for the William McCulloch family and his own at a "joint picnic".

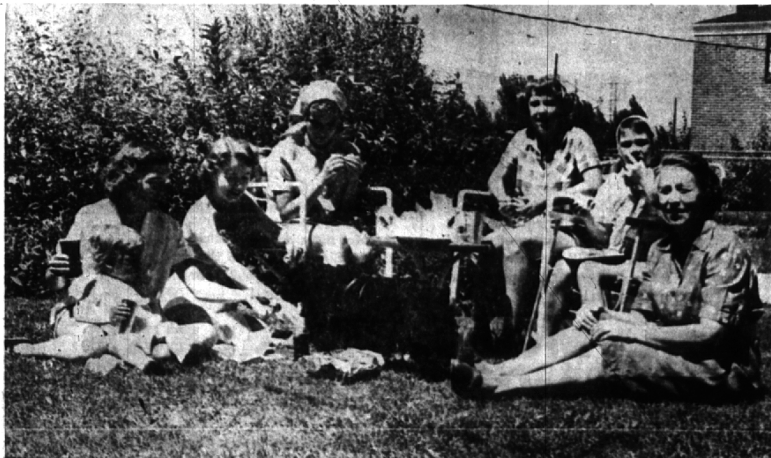
FANCY FOODS can go on picnics, too. This Canadian bacon with pineapple and cherries will serve Robert VanderPyl guests at a pool party.



FAMILIES like to cooperate on picnics, each bring its own special picnic fare, building the menu around one special item such as the great American hotdog. The Voorheis and McCulloch children are digging in.



AT GRAEFIELD Terraces (left), housewives enjoy a social hour at noon, each bringing her own plate of lunch and meeting together for eating and chatting. Here a group, aided by a neighbor's dog, finishes off a typical cooperative picnic in a typical backyard setting. Try it, they advise.



TOM STINSON (right) is the young lad getting ready to send the ball soaring off the first tee as he has his own brand of a picnic at Springdale.

