

Scotch Plains Times

...and Fanwood Independent

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Picnic Attracts Record Crowd

Two Thousand Enjoy Food And Fun At Brookside Park!

Last Saturday's skies may have been overcast with the promise of rain-to-come, but no spirits were dampened at Brookside Park as the 36th Annual Family Picnic got underway. This annual affair, sponsored by the Scotch Plains Republican Club and remembered for its food and fellowship from one year to the next, broke all previous attendance records with two thousand picnickers showing up during the afternoon.

Mayor Russell P. Patterson and his fellow Republican candidates for Township Committee, Philip F. Lucia and

Rudolph J. Anderson, Jr., and Mrs. Patrena Thinnies who is seeking reelection as Tax Collector, were the distinguished guests of honor at the picnic. While helping to cook and serve the multitudes of hungry participants, they also had an opportunity to meet and greet their fellow township residents.

Food was naturally the first order of business, with relaxation and games to follow, and food aplenty there was! Most found the robust clam chowder the logical place to start and many buckets of the steaming soup were ladled out during the afternoon. Next came hot

dogs or hamburgers or both, depending on one's capacity, these being cooked to perfection over glowing charcoal barbecues. Topping these off was everybody's favorite, corn-on-the-cob. Husked and cooked by the bushel, it couldn't have been more popular, judging from the mountain of corn that was consumed. For the grown-ups, ice cold cups of brewer's gold were dispensed by the keg under a bright red canopy set up for the occasion.

Although the baseball field got a workout with many children playing softball and touch football, the big attraction lay nearby in pony rides for the young-

sters! Five ponies were kept busy all afternoon as the kids lined up in orderly fashion and awaited their turn for a trip around the field. Teenage attendants were in charge of guiding the ponies and seeing to it that the younger riders kept a firm hold on the reins.

Mayor Patterson expressed his satisfaction over the complete success of the picnic, stating that it offered such an excellent opportunity for Phil Lucia, Rudy Anderson and "Chuckie" Thinnies to meet and mingle with so many of their fellow Scotch Plains neighbors. It will be an afternoon well-remembered by all who turned out.



The Guests of Honor take over the Food Department at the annual Republican picnic held at Brookside Park last Saturday. Pictured left to right is Mayor Russell Patterson and his fellow Republican Candidates for Township Committee, Republican Campaign Director, William H. Burke; Mrs. Patrena Thinnies, Philip Lucia and Rudolph Anderson.

Dems See Township Pool As Answer To Teen Problem

Scotch Plains Democrats this week said a town swimming pool would pay for itself, cost no taxes, earn a profit, teach 500 children how to swim every year, and at last cope with one of the major problems in town - the lack of teen-age recreational facilities.

"We urge every voter in this town to vote yes on the swimming pool referendum November 2," the Democrats said. The Democrats are candidates for Township Committee, Mrs. Edith Powers, Ray Waterkotte, Remo Grimaldi and candidate for tax collector, Mrs. Natalie Kaplan.

Democrats cited the success of pools in Springfield, Millburn, Cranford, South Plainfield and Livingston as backing their state-

ment of major benefits to be attained by a pool in Scotch Plains:

1. "Learning to Swim." This is one of the greatest benefits to be derived from a pool because it can someday save lives. In Livingston, special classes are held for adults and teenagers who never learned to swim. Even handicapped children have a learn-to-swim class. South Plainfield reports that in its first year of operation, more than 400 youngsters learned to swim. Democrats estimate that 500 children in Scotch Plains would learn to swim.

2. "Making a profit." State records show that all municipal pools operate at a profit. Statis-

tics on pools in Springfield, Millburn and Livingston bear this statement out and are on file at Town Hall.

The Scotch Plains pool would cost \$225,000, to be financed by a 10 year bond issue to be paid for out of membership fees of between \$50 and \$60 per family. The pool would be open only to residents of Scotch Plains, and persons who don't want to join don't have to.

3. "Solving a teen-age problem." The Recreation Department has totally failed the 13-18 age group in this town. The recreation department's last major commitment for money was for a golf course which serves only a handful of adults, and Town Hall's last major commitment

was \$68,000 for land on which to build a million dollar tax-supported library.

The pool would give teen-agers a place to meet their friends, and profits from a swimming facility could be channeled into establishing teen-age facilities here.

The Democrats pointed out that four surveys conducted in the town - the last by the Mayor's own appointed committee - prove that citizens want this pool.

The idea of a Township swimming pool was conceived by Ray Waterkotte and carried door-to-door last year by Mrs. Edith Powers who netted a shade better than 49% of the vote. The man who bested her resigned shortly after the election.