

MSU Extension Publication Archive

Archive copy of publication, do not use for current recommendations. Up-to-date information about many topics can be obtained from your local Extension office.

Evening Programs for Resorts
Michigan State University Extension
Tourism Resort Series Circular Bulletin
Robert McIntosh, Land and Water Conservation
Issued August 1946
16 pages

The PDF file was provided courtesy of the Michigan State University Library

Scroll down to view the publication.

Evening Programs

FOR RESORTS



~~33~~ 33.2 PAGE

**PLANNING
THE PROGRAM . 3**



**PARTIES AND
SOCIAL GAMES . 4**



**SQUARE
DANCING 7**



**MUSIC AND
SINGING 11**



**CAMPFIRE
PROGRAMS . . 12**



MOVIES 15

ROBERT W. McINTOSH

Department of Land and Water Conservation

MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE

Agricultural Experiment Station ★ Cooperative Extension Service

EAST LANSING

IT'S GIVING THE UNEXPECTED THAT COUNTS

Operating a resort is a very personalized business. Maintaining a close and cordial contact between you and your guests is essential. Evening social programs are one of the best means of creating these contacts. What recreation activities would your guests enjoy most? Whatever these may be, do your best to provide them. See to it that each event is conducted in a way which will bring maximum enjoyment to all. These special events are given to your guests beyond what they ordinarily expect in room, meals, or house-keeping facilities. Even if the recreation you plan is on a small scale and simple, such thoughtful expression will build good will in friendship.

Every resort has its own distinctive atmosphere. The recreation enjoyed at one place may be entirely different from that at another. Terrain and natural resources of land, woods, waters, beach, and open spaces have an important effect on the program planned. Fit the program to the resort and the wants of your guests.

What are some of the enjoyable things that you can do to surprise those whom you are entertaining? If possible try to have a program which is different from what they have in their home communities. Not everyone will want the same kind of recreation program, and having a variety of activities will more likely please everyone.

Someone must be the leader and make certain that folks know about and enjoy the program. You as manager should take the responsibility to provide the best possible program. If it is not possible for you to be in charge, one or more members of your staff should be the recreation leaders.

Every resort should have some outdoor games and facilities to round out the program of activities. The most popular ones are horseshoes, volley ball, softball, croquet, basketball hoop, ping pong, and swings for the children. Court games, such as shuffleboard and tennis, are universally appealing. Many of these games and others are described in circular R-701, "Outdoor Games For Guest Entertainment," and R-702, "Children's Games and Play Equipment," published by Michigan State College.

The enjoyment of nature and the outdoors by using nature trails is outlined in Circular R-703, "Nature Trails for Resorts."

An improved recreation program for the coming year will furnish something new for you to tell your guests about. It can be described in the current sales promotion literature and makes an important selling point.

Providing different forms of entertainment is something that does not require much capital outlay. Thus it can become a part of your operation mainly by doing some planning.

Use some of the ideas as presented herein. They have been tried elsewhere with great success and will provide that all-important spark that ignites a strong spirit of friendship between the guests and the management. Delight your guests by having an evening party or a little show. Give them more than they expected. They will love it and so will you!

ROBERT W. McINTOSH

Extension Specialist, Tourist and Resort Program

Appreciation is expressed to the following Michigan resort operators who assisted in the preparation of this circular: J. J. Bachunas, Tabor Farm, Sodus; Gerald Brian, Waldenwoods, Hartland; Carter P. Brown, The Castle, Castle Park; Gladys Condit, Sunnyslake Ranch, Glennie; Earl Johnson, Johnson's Rustic Resort, Prudenville; Larry Murray, Shady Shores Resort, Dowagiac; John Roberts, Deer Track Village, Marquette; George Selfridge, Pottawattamie Resort, Benton Harbor; C. A. Svensson, White Lake Villa, Whitehall; and Irma Walters, Hobby Crest Resort, Ludington.

PLANNING THE PROGRAM

If you can, let your guests do the planning. Ask them what they'd like to do, and many excellent ideas will be forthcoming. Even though you have in mind what will be scheduled during the week, suggestions obtained will improve the program.

Some resorts have an entertainment committee appointed each week. After using several different types of programs over a period of time, you will soon learn what folks like best. Then you can repeat this program each week or every two weeks. There should be members of your staff who are qualified to plan and lead the recreation program.

In most resorts, the guests arrive on Saturday or Sunday. In order to get people acquainted and for them to start the week off in a friendly, happy mood, have your first program on Sunday or Monday evening.

It is wise to plan the entire week's activities as a whole. If there are to be outdoor games, tournaments, evening programs, and children's activities all taking place during the week, they should be planned together as one entire program. Perhaps you will wish to duplicate copies of this program and give one to each guest when he registers. If so, you would have to have the program completed by Friday evening. Other copies could also be made available for mailing to friends.

Steps in Planning the Program

1. Decide on type and kind of program desired. Get an over-all picture of what recreation you are going to have for the entire week.
2. Choose the time of day or night for each activity.
3. Determine the length of the program.
4. Decide where the events will be held. Make any necessary preparations in advance.
5. Plan an alternative program in case of bad weather or if other reasons for change arise.

Publicizing the Program

1. Post on attractive bulletin board in a central location.
2. Use bottom of one of the menus.
3. Have waitresses inform the guests at the dinner table.
4. Duplicate the week's program, with enough copies for all needs.

Precautions

1. Spread out the activities, allowing plenty of free time.
2. Have the programs short.
3. Plan a variety of activities for the week. Make the program interesting.

SAMPLE PROGRAM

Sunday	
Evening	NEWCOMER'S PARTY..... 8:30 p. m. Your opportunity to get acquainted
Monday	
Morning	Softball.....10:00 a. m.
Evening	MOVIES AND COLORED SLIDES 8:30 p. m.
Tuesday	
Morning	Farm Tour for Children.....10:00 a. m.
Afternoon	Volleyball..... 4:00 p. m.
Evening	SHUFFLEBOARD TOURNAMENT 8:30 p. m.
Wednesday	
Afternoon	Children: Organized games..... 2:00 p. m. Ladies: Bridge Party..... 2:00 p. m. Men: Golf tournament..... 1:45 p. m.
Evening	BEACH PARTY—WEINER ROAST..... 7:00 p. m.
Thursday	
Morning	Softball.....10:00 a. m.
Evening	SQUARE DANCING..... 8:30 p. m.
Friday	
Afternoon	Splash party..... 2:00 p. m.
Evening	“TALENT NIGHT”..... 8:30 p. m. Special program presented by our talented guests

You will notice that this program is quite varied and will be of interest to persons of all age groups. The timing of events is intended to suit the needs of the guests so that they will derive the maximum enjoyment from their vacation.

Note that “talent night” is on the last evening of the week. This is recommended so that the committee which is getting this program ready can have time to contact the talent and arrange for them to rehearse before the show. Such an event is lots of fun.

This program is just an example and is not intended as a model that most resorts could use. It illustrates some of the principles of program planning which are discussed here and also the suggestions which follow.

PARTIES AND SOCIAL GAMES

If you are going to have social recreation for the coming resort season, plan to get employees who are capable of assisting you with the program. Although you know that there may be guests who can help, you should place your primary reliance upon employees. They will be key members of your staff as far as entertainment is concerned. For example, hire a waitress who can play the piano and sing as well as perform her regular duties. In other words, keep in mind your entertainment program as well as other phases of your operation at the time you are employing your staff for the season. The part which employees will play on "newcomer's party night," for example, is very important. In fact, it can be the major part of the program. What you will get from your guests is likely to be a minor part, unless you have a guest "talent night" program.

NEWCOMER'S PARTY

The following is a suggested procedure for putting on a newcomer's or get-acquainted party. This type of party is usually the most appropriate for resorts. Additional party themes are mentioned at the end of this section.

Getting Acquainted

The party idea is beneficial because guests become acquainted with each other. Each guest can be "pinned" with a badge which gives his name and home town. After the guests have participated in several of these games and particularly the musical mixers, they get to know each other quite well. This is of considerable value because during the rest of their stay at the resort, they know more people and, consequently, enjoy themselves a lot more. Strangers coming to the resort for the first time appreciate that this is really a welcoming event, planned more or less in their honor. When they leave the party, after having participated in the program, they feel that they are a part of the place and are welcomed as valued guests.

Precautions

Never have any feature in the program which may embarrass anyone or focus undue attention

on any particular person. Beware of putting anyone "on the spot." There are many activities which are lots of fun and cannot hurt anyone's feelings.

Leadership

If practical, you as manager should be the Master of Ceremonies. So doing builds friendship with the guests. Leaders of the games and other program activities should be thoroughly likable persons who can sell themselves without undue effort. A recreation leader must know the game thoroughly and be able to explain effectively how the activity is to be conducted. For background material, he should have available a number of authoritative books and booklets on various kinds of recreational activities. Also, he should have a system of filing his ideas and references such as card file system. He should also have a "workbag" of equipment of every kind for use whenever needed. Such systematic preparation for the recreation leader is the best way to insure that the program will go smoothly.

Making Preparations

Adequate preparations, made well in advance, are necessary for a successful party. The place chosen should be as cozy, colorful, and cheery as possible. Creating a pleasant atmosphere should be kept uppermost in mind. This is done by means of light, color, action, surprise, and music. Light is of major importance in creating a good atmosphere for the party. Brilliant lights outside the building will create interest. They suggest cheer and good times to be had within. Inside lights should be selected which are in harmony with the theme of the party. Subdued, well diffused lights are appropriate for most occasions. Use colored shades, reflectors and lanterns. Fit the lighting to the mood of the affair. If a program is to be included, a dimming of the lights just before the program begins will create an air of expectancy. However, continue to have exits well indicated.

Be sure that all materials used for colored lighting are non-inflammable. Also, do not use any decorations which are quickly combustible.

Talent

In getting the program organized, be sure to consider any guests who might be talented and who could participate on the program. Many excellent contributions can be made by them on a program like this or a special "talent night" program. Your employees can play an important part of the program with such activities as singing, skits, etc.

Some resorts have an individual designated as "talent scout." He is on the lookout for anyone who can do special entertaining. When such talent comes to his attention, he tries to use those persons sometime during the week.



A talented young guest sings.

Rehearsal

In order to properly prepare the entertainment program, a rehearsal of employees and talented guests should be held. A rehearsal is necessary to insure a high level of performance. Put on the program exactly like it will be in the evening. Be certain of capable accompaniment for vocal numbers. Check the timing to see how long each of the parts will be. Smooth out all rough spots and complete details during the rehearsal. The importance of this rehearsal must be re-emphasized. If the program isn't properly presented, it is better not to have it at all. Although the guests are not expecting a finished, professional performance, at least it should be reasonably adequate and satisfying.

Conducting the Party

A good time to begin is about 8:30 p.m. After the guests arrive, the first portion of the program consists of a cordial welcome on the part of the manager. Having the guests together all at one time, such as this event affords, is an ideal opportunity to express the feeling of the management in the way of thanks to the guests. This is followed by an announcement of the activities which have been planned for their enjoyment during the week.

A good way to start is with group singing. If you are picking songs that there may be some doubt as to the words, pass out song sheets. Singing is relaxing and puts everyone in the mood for a good time.

It is suggested that the program be divided into several sections. (They do not necessarily have to be presented in the order shown.)

Children's Games. Musical mixers are good, such as "Hickory Dickory Dock" and "The Farmer in the Dell."

Teen-Ager's Games. Again, musical mixers like "Musical Chairs" or "Tucker's Waltz."

Women's Games. Relays are hilarious—try one in which an egg is carried on a spoon. (Egg hard cooked, of course!)

Men's Games. To make it even, let's have the men do a relay, carrying two pails, but having a softball under each arm and a beach ball between the knees. (See picture on next page.)



A game for the men—a carry relay. He has a softball under each arm and beach ball between his knees.

Special Couples' Game. The "Pattycake Polka" or "Glow Worm" are excellent musical games and will be sure-fire hits.

Formal Program. This is the part to be presented by the talented guests and employees, which was rehearsed in the afternoon.

A way to close the party is with a little more group singing, such as "Good Night Ladies."

It is important to limit the time of the party to about 1 hour and 15 minutes. It has been found through experience that if the program is any longer, the guests begin to lose interest.

Other Party Themes

Besides the "Get-Acquainted or Newcomer's" party theme, there are others which you may like to try. Here are a few suggestions:

Cowboy or Ranch Party	Backwards Party
Pirate or Treasure Island	Hard Times
Shipboard	Paul Bunyan
Gay Nineties	Indian Pow-Wow
Circus or Carnival	Hillbilly Shindig
Funny Hat or Costume Party	Pan-American Fiesta
	Hunter or Fisherman's Party

Card Parties

If tables, chairs, and packs of cards are readily available, those who wish to play cards will join together and play. Card tournaments are always enjoyed. Incidentally, a pack of cards with a picture of the resort on the back, makes an excellent souvenir.

Books for Your Recreation Library

Dykema, Peter W., *Twice 55 Games With Music (The Red Book)*, C. C. Birchard & Co., 285 Columbus Ave., Boston, Mass. Very good selection of musical games including "Hickory Dickory Dock" and "The Farmer in the Dell." Book of piano accompaniments for these games also available.

Games for Boys and Men, National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Ave., New York 10, New York. 1938. Games for use both outdoors and in.

Games for Children, National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y. Very useful little booklet of singing games, tag and active games.

Handbook for Recreation Leaders, United States Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. 25c coin. Indispensable book for recreation leaders.

Handy—The Blue Book, Cooperative Recreation Service, Delaware, Ohio. Pocket size handbook of time tested party and game activities.

Handy Two—The Red Book, Cooperative Recreation Service, Delaware, Ohio. Folk recreation for young adults. Skillfully presented, interesting pocket-size manual.

Harbin, E. O., *Fun Encyclopedia*, Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, Nashville, Tenn. Outstanding textbook of social recreation.

Mason, Bernard S. and Mitchell, Elmer D., *Social Games for Recreation*, A. S. Barnes and Co., 232 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. A fine source of information.

Musical Mixers and Simple Square Dances, National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N.Y. Many ideas for getting folks acquainted by using musical mixers and simple square dances.

AN EVENING OF SQUARE DANCING

You will find that square dancing, if properly presented and well conducted, will prove very popular. Many people prefer square dancing to any other kind of social entertainment. Older folks, young people, and teen-agers alike will enjoy these dances. Children can also participate in the simple circle dances, grand marches, and musical mixers. People all over America are re-discovering the fun that can be had in an evening of square dancing. It is proving to be an excellent means of social recreation and can readily fit into the entertainment program of a resort.

It is a good idea to visit some place where square dancing is being successfully conducted. This will enable you to get the general idea for your own program. Participate in the dancing—get the feel of it. You will be much better able to plan your square dancing party after you have done some dancing yourself. When you are well acquainted with some of the square and round dancing, you should obtain some books and familiarize yourself with a few of the calls and dances. Consult the references at the end of this chapter for further information.

The Caller

The caller must be the best you can obtain, because a good caller is the key to good square dancing. You **must** have a competent caller—he is the number one essential for square dancing. There are several possibilities for callers. If you, as manager, can call the dances, that is best. A member of your staff is another possibility. Some of your guests may be able to call dances. Hiring a professional caller, also, can be done. Some callers have their own orchestra and some have records and public address equipment. The caller should have the personality and experience to encourage everyone, young and old, to participate. His ability to teach the initiates and the patience he displays in doing so, contribute in a large measure to the success of the program. Uppermost in his mind should be the fun which the guests will get from the square dance. Having a good caller will insure a maximum of pleasure for all.

Some callers are rather hard to understand. If you can listen to the caller perform somewhere else before hiring him, do so. You can then determine how successful he is.

Music

The best music is that furnished by an old-time fiddler who knows how to play and has the swing necessary for good square dancing. He can be accompanied on the piano or by a small orchestra. A small rural orchestra which is accustomed to playing for square dances is also good. The minimum music would be that provided by a piano player who knows the music and is familiar with square dance pieces.

If good quality live music is not available, use records. They are quite successful as accompaniment for an experienced caller. The caller should have an amplifying system, such as a public address system. The use of such a set-up is dependent upon the caller's familiarity with the records. He must know his calls well and how they fit the music.

Place

The square dance can be held indoors or out. Some resorts are having excellent results holding the party outdoors, using the tennis courts or an outside dance floor. If the location is outdoors, spraying to repel insects may be necessary. Yellow lights are strung up, adding to the decorations. Regarding decorations, it is wise to make them appropriate to the occasion, because setting and atmosphere are important to the success of the party. There are many ways to do this, and you will need to use your imagination. Make the room or dance floor look as rural as possible. One way is to have draperies sewn of material having rural scenes. Perhaps some of the guests will have ideas for a decorating theme. Some bright-colored printed cards showing rural scenes, farm animals, or farm equipment can be obtained. Posting these around the room helps a great deal to add atmosphere.

A Word of Caution

No materials, whether flame-proofed or not, should be used for decoration which would produce a quick or fast-burning fire. (Michigan's Fire Law, Act 207 of P.A. 1941.) It is unlawful to use any inflammable materials such as corn shocks, straw, hay or anything similar which might quickly catch on fire.



Waitresses and bus boy wear straw hats and bandana kerchiefs when serving dinner on square dance night.

Costumes

Informality prevails. Blue jeans and colored shirts are appropriate for the men. Comfortable shoes, full skirts and cotton blouses are favorites with the ladies.

Some resorts provide straw hats for anyone wishing to wear one. Bandana handkerchiefs can also be worn. These will help to make the party a little more colorful. It is incorrect to think of square dancing as just a rustic affair. The dances are graceful and interesting. If bright-colored costumes are chosen, the square dancing party can be a very beautiful and memorable event.

Publicizing the Square Dance

Be sure everyone knows about the party. It is important to establish the mood and get the people thinking about the square dance that evening. This can be done in several ways. Have

the waitresses wear straw hats and bandana handkerchiefs when serving dinner on square dance night. Place a notation at the bottom of the dinner menu, reminding the guests to wear calicos and blue jeans for the square dance that evening. List this program on the weekly schedule of events, a copy which is to be given to each guest when he registers. Post a notice on the bulletin board.

An idea for an entrance sign is to use a comical figure of a horse or cow which might be made in any number of ways, but which would lend atmosphere to the party.

Conducting the Square Dance Party

Begin about 8:30 p.m. Get things started by having a little group singing. Songs selected could be those which have some association with rural life, such as "Old MacDonald Had A Farm" or "She'll Be Coming Around The Mountain When She Comes."

SUGGESTED PROGRAM

Group singing	8:30
Children's dances (with adults).....	8:45
<i>Hokey Pokey</i> <i>Pop Goes the Weasel</i>	
Grand March.....	9:00
Dancing.....	9:15
Circle mixer:	
<i>Pattycake Polka</i>	
Square dancing:	
<i>Take a Little Peek</i> <i>Lady Round the Lady</i>	
<i>Red River Valley</i>	
Intermission.....	9:45
(refreshments can be served at this time)	
Couple dancing (waltz, two-step, or polka).....	10:00
<i>Progressive Dance</i> <i>Balloon Dance</i>	
Dancing.....	10:45
Contra (line) dance:	
<i>Virginia Reel</i>	
Square dancing:	
<i>Head Two Ladies Cross Over</i> <i>Dip the Oyster</i>	
<i>Hot Time</i>	
Goodnight waltz	

Instructions for conducting all of the dances in this program will be found in one or more of the references listed at the end of this section. However, the "Hokey Pokey," "Progressive Dance," and "Balloon Dance" are given here for your convenience.

Hokey Pokey

Dancers stand in one single circle, facing center of ring.

The caller sings: * (or everybody can sing the words in unison)

"You put your right hand in, you put your right hand out, You put your right hand in and you shake it all about. You do the Hokey Pokey** and you turn yourself around That's what it is all about."

Then using the same words, substituting in turn:

"Left Hand"	"Right Hip"
"Right Foot"	"Left Hip"
"Left Foot"	"Whole Self"

*Music is on a record, "The Hokey Pokey," and there is a record with call included.

**Dancer turns in place with hands above his head, shaking his own hands in time to the music.



The Hokey Pokey



The children enjoy "Pop Goes the Weasel".

Progressive Dance

One couple starts dancing. Music suggested is a waltz. Music is suddenly stopped. At this signal, each of the partners goes to the edge of the floor and selects a new partner. Thus, there are now two couples on the floor. Each time the music stops, each person dancing gets a new partner. Soon everyone is dancing. This helps to mix up the crowd.

Balloon Dance

Dance begins by having all couples out on the floor. Each of the ladies has a balloon tied to one ankle with a piece of string about 1 foot long. All of the dancers try to burst as many balloons as possible. As soon as their balloon is broken, that couple must leave the floor. The last couple remaining with their balloon intact are declared the winners.

Books on Square Dancing

Farwell, Jane, and Peterson, Arden, *Recreation for Michigan 4-H Clubs*, Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State College, East Lansing, 1951. Contains folk dances, games, and mixers especially suited to teen-agers.

Favorite Square Dances, Cooperative Recreation Service, Delaware, Ohio, 1948. Instructions and calls for 48 favorite square dances.

Ford, Henry, *Good Morning*, Austin Music Co., 2977 Parker St., Dearborn, Michigan, 1943. Instructions and music for 66 country dances.

Kraus, Richard, *Square Dances of Today*, A. S. Barnes and Co., 232 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y., 1950. Good reference book containing most of the dances given on the suggested program. Also detailed information on how to teach squares and to call them.

Musical Mixers and Simple Square Dances, National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y., 1937. Excellent selection of musical mixers and including a grand march.

Ryan, Grace, *Dances of our Pioneers*, A. S. Barnes and Co., 232 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y., 1939. A complete description of some of the more easily learned dances.

Square Dance Manual, Chicago Park District, Best Ford Company, 5707 West Lake St., Chicago, Illinois, 1951. A very useful reference manual for teaching square dancing.

MUSIC AND SINGING

"I speak through the birds of the air, the insects of the field, the crash of water on rock-ribbed shores, the sighing of wind in the trees . . . I am the instrument of God. I am music." Yes, through music, ". . . spirits immortal, speak the message that makes the world weep, and laugh, and wonder and worship."^{*}

Music expresses every human emotion and yearning of the soul. Listening to fine music can bring reverie—enhancing all the fun, romance, beauty, and adventure of a resort vacation. Such truly creative experiences can develop lifelong love for music.

Musical Instruments and Equipment

Good quality radio-phonograph equipment is quite reasonably priced and available in a wide range of sizes and capacities for reproducing music. Such equipment is ideal for your lobby or recreation room. The younger folks, especially teen-agers, really "go" for records and music. Providing this, will help considerably in keeping them occupied, especially on rainy days.

A record library should contain selections of various kinds of musical literature from cowboy songs to symphonies. Careful thought and planning of record purchases will achieve this. All of us have a tendency to confine our purchases to the music we know best. It takes courage to branch out into the unknown, but a rich reward is in store for those who dare to do a little exploring.

A piano is one of the most valuable instruments available at a resort. It is necessary if you are having an orchestra. Also, there will usually be someone who can play for impromptu singing and dancing.

Singing

Songs are as much a part of our vacation life as the wind, the sky, the woods and lakes. Music and singing are among the greatest joys and comforts afforded men in this troubled world. Songs of the campfire, songs of the outdoors, songs of America, memory songs of long ago, all fit into the everyday program of guest activities.

^{*}Source unknown, quoted in *Your Music Record Library*, by William Raymond Sur, Personal Growth Leaflet 261, The National Education Association, Washington, D. C., n.d.

It will be necessary to have a leader for organized singing. He must be familiar with the words and music of the song. A good leader likes to sing, has a clear, strong voice, and a sense of rhythm. If no regular leader is present, encourage any person to start a song spontaneously. Sometimes a leader will help "put over a song" better by giving a brief history of the song, explaining its contents and associations and how it came to be an outstanding song. Try to avoid cheap, trashy songs—they do not go well in a resort atmosphere. The greater variety of songs sung, the more people you will please and the greater probability you will find one which they particularly like to sing.

Song sheets will be handy to pass out to the group. Most of your guests will be familiar with the tunes to many songs, but they don't know the words. (See references for song sheets.)

Song Books for Your Music Library

Action Songs, National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, New York. Mimeographed leaflet with a large variety of action songs.

Dykema, Peter W., *Twice 55 Games With Music*, Red Book, C. C. Birchard & Company, 285 Columbus Avenue, Boston, Mass. Contains a world of suggestions for games with music for any social recreation program.

Frieswyke, Siebolt, H., *Forty Approaches to Informal Singing*, National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y., 1942. A large number of suggestions on how to go about conducting singing in different sizes and types of groups.

Golden Book of Favorite Songs, Hall and McCreary Company, 434 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 21st edition, revised, 1951. The old favorite standbys.

Joyful Singing, Cooperative Recreation Service, Delaware, Ohio. 1946. An excellent pocket-sized book of songs. Contains several religious songs also.

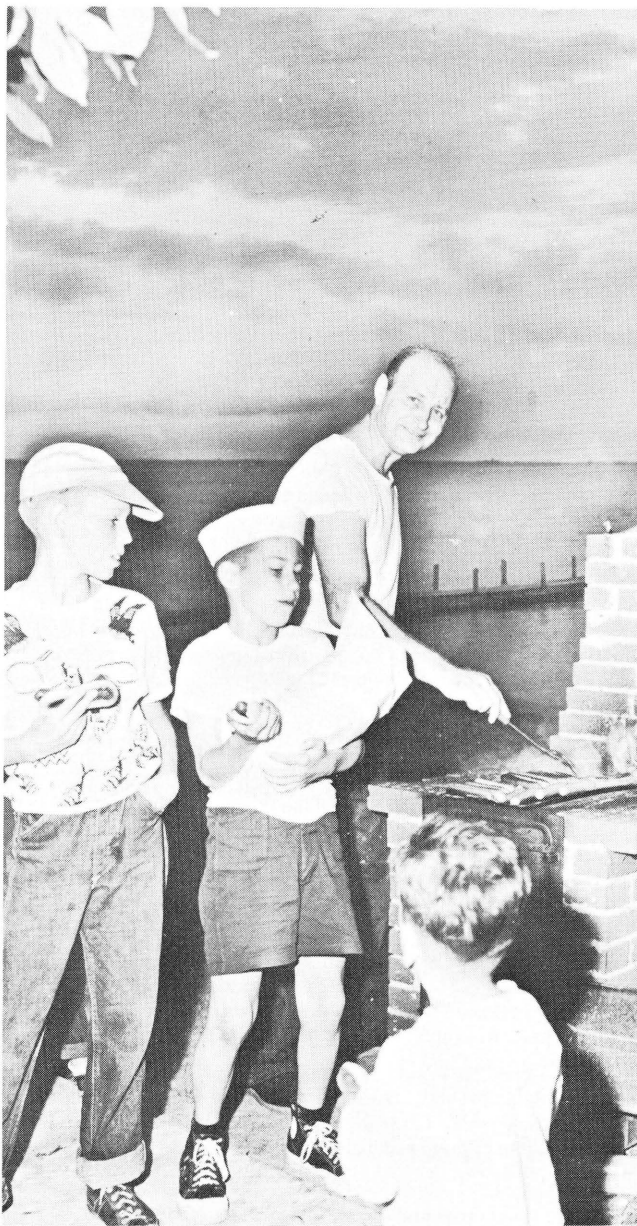
Pioneer Community Song Sheet, Carl Fischer, Inc., Kimball Hall, 306 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Ill. A small inexpensive song book containing 75 favorites you love to sing.

Zanzig, Augusta B., *Singing America*, C. C. Birchard & Company, 285 Columbus Avenue, Boston, Mass. Here are 120 songs in a comprehensive variety of fresh, lastingly, lovable music for informal singing.

CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS

If you haven't put on any type of recreation for your guests, probably a campfire program will be your beginning point. The reception and enjoyment of the beach or campfire program can be a guide as to whether they would like more additional planned recreation.

There are several possibilities for these programs. The simplest one is a bonfire built on the beach. Guests can just sit around and watch the fire and the lake. Something more elaborate such as a picnic supper will also be enjoyed by the guests.



Roasting weiners at a beach party.



A teen-ager in hillbilly costume, part of a campfire skit program.

Making Preparations

1. Get all physical preparations made in advance, such as firewood, places to sit, tables for picnic lunch, weiner sticks, buckets of ice water, etc.
2. If a picnic supper is to be served, plan the menu and decide who will furnish the various parts. It is not at all uncommon for guests to provide the meat and the resort operator to furnish the buns, salad, relishes, butter, dessert, and

beverage. Perhaps the guests could furnish everything but the beverage. Perhaps the manager could serve the entire picnic. Regardless of the arrangements, your guests will enjoy such a program. There is particular appeal to the smaller children. They like the fire and excitement of a program down on the beach.

Possibilities for picnic suppers are weiner or hamburger roasts, barbecue, fish fry, or corn roast. There is nothing like a picnic to break down reserve, stimulate real friendship and promote wholesome fun! Barbecued chicken, beef, steak, or hamburgers are delicious, especially when eaten outdoors. A fish fry is a grand way to entertain the guests (perhaps with their own fish)! Some operators grow their own roasting ears and make corn roasts a feature.

3. Anything else you are going to have after the picnic supper, such as singing, story telling,

stunts or similar program, should be arranged for well in advance.

Possibilities for the Campfire Program

Singing. People like to sing. It is relaxing and puts everyone in the mood for a good time. It is hard to describe the pleasures to be derived from a few minutes of good singing together. As the sun sets over the lake and the sky and lake light up with crimson and gold, a few songs can just make the day a little more perfect.

Stunts. It is sometimes difficult to interest teen-agers in the campfire program. They will stay for the picnic supper, but the rest of the program won't interest them. Having some stunts will hold their attention and make the program more appealing. Suggest some stunts to them in



Um-m-m-m barbecued chicken, a real treat outdoors!



A real Indian tells stories to resort guests.

advance and see them respond. Here are a few possibilities:

Mock trial Hillbilly skit
Comedy relay Local talent performance

(You can make up an entire evening's program, using talented guests and call it "talent night.")

Story telling. Most interesting will be a local character who can tell some real stories! Old lumbering days, woods and water lore, wild animal stories, Indian stories, and other subjects are possibilities. In some localities there are Indians who can be called upon to tell stories. If the Indian has a full dress outfit with feathers and all, that's even better. Lacking such special talent, you can find one of the guests who can tell stories.

Your committee planning the beach program will have other ideas to make it an outstanding event. *Try a beach program.* If you have not

already done so, schedule one. Let everybody know when it will be and what the arrangements are. Beach programs are very easy and they are a "sure-fire" form of successful recreation.

A Few References

Bibliography, Camp Cookery Literature, Tourist and Resort Service, Michigan State College, East Lansing, 1951, Free. A very complete annotated bibliography on outdoor cooking.

Moore, J. M., *Barbecued Chicken*, Poultry Husbandry Dept., Michigan State College, East Lansing, Mich. Step by step description of how chicken is properly barbecued, including how to build a pit and obtain the ideal charcoal fire.

National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Ave., New York 19, N. Y. Publishes a large number of leaflets on outdoor activities including skits, stunts, and camp-fire programs.

MOVIES

Although movies are commonplace at home, they are certainly enjoyed as entertainment at resorts. Some of the best movies are travel films, wildlife and nature films, cartoons, comedy, and feature pictures.

Equipment

In order to show movies properly, you must have a 16 mm. sound projector and screen. There are new projectors on the market which are light-weight and very easy to thread. Used projectors can be purchased which are quite reasonable in price. The projector operator should be sufficiently skilled that he can properly show the pictures without damage to the film or projector. It is wise to buy a machine which will be sufficiently powerful to accommodate the maximum crowd expected. It can always be used for smaller groups.

Selection of Films

Selection of movies should be made primarily on the basis of their entertainment value and not upon rental cost. Many travel films are available at no cost, except for payment of postage. These are usually produced by commercial transportation concerns. Airlines, auto companies, bus lines, ship lines, and railroads sometimes have such films. The advertising contained is not usually overdone. Nature and wildlife films are available from the Michigan Department of Conservation. These pictures are very suitable for showing at resorts, and there is no charge except for postage. If regular feature pictures are shown, they should be preceded or followed by cartoons and a comedy. It may be advisable to purchase a few films so that you have them on hand at all times. Then, if a film doesn't arrive as expected, you will still have a movie to show. A list of film libraries is given at the end of this section.

Some of the guests may have movie cameras and take pictures around the resort and surrounding area. These will be of great interest when shown to the guests the following year. The manager may also wish to take movies.

Colored Slides

Colored slides are 2 by 2-inch, and are taken on the 35 mm. size or the 828-size camera. Many

guests have their own cameras and take their own pictures. The slides, or color transparencies, are very beautiful when projected on a screen. A projector for such types of pictures can be purchased for about \$50 or less. Guests can be encouraged to take pictures while on their vacation and then show these slides to all of the folks at the resort the next year. Also, the manager may have many lovely colored pictures that he can show the guests. These can be of the resort and also interesting attractions in the vicinity. Slide picture showings are very popular and may be used as a main entertainment feature or combined with another kind of program.

Guest Pictures

Pictures of guests taken on ordinary black-and-white film provide good entertainment. Possession of a high quality camera by the manager can be very valuable in building good will. Pictures can be taken of the guests while at the resort. Perhaps someone has caught a big fish. Certainly a picture should be taken of that! These can be sold or given to them as a memento. During parties or on rainy days around the lobby are suitable occasions for taking these pictures. With permission, a copy of the picture can be sent to the guests' home town newspaper.

Film Libraries

- Bell and Howell Filmosound Library, 1801 Larchmont Ave., Chicago 13, Ill.
- Capital Film Service, 224 Abbott Road, East Lansing, Mich.
- Cosmopolitan Film Library, 3248 Gratiot Avenue, Detroit 7, Mich.
- Grand Rapids Public Library, Ryerson Library Building, Grand Rapids, Mich.
- Locke Film Library, 124 W. South Street, Kalamazoo, Mich.
- Michigan Department of Conservation, Lansing, Mich.
- United World Films, 542 South Dearborn Street, Chicago 5, Ill.
- University Extension Service, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
- Visual Aid Service, Department of Information Service, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Mich.

**For further information, see your county agricultural agent, or write to Department
of Land and Water Conservation, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Mich.**

Cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics. Michigan State College and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating. C. V. Ballard, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State College, East Lansing. Printed and distributed under Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914.

April 1952—10 M