

OLD SETTLERS FROM SUPERIOR AND DULUTH EXCHANGE REMINISCENCES AND REMEMBER "OLDEN DAYS" IN ANNUAL OUTING AT BILLINGS PARK



YEARS AND YEARS BRIDGED AT OLD SETTLERS' PICNIC

Enjoy Hundreds of Reunions in One as Small Groups Congregate "Just to Talk."

Hands of time were turned backward 10, 15 and 25 years at Billings park yesterday as between 200 and 300 members of the Old Settlers' association of the Head of Lake Superior again solved civic and business problems, renewed friendships, fought storms on the mighty lake and otherwise lived again in reminiscences the years of a generation ago.

For the thousands of Twin Port residents who long for closer relations between Superior and Duluth the picnic was a revelation. The Duluth "old timers" predominated, but they were all just plain "neighbors" as they looked back over the petty trials of the present into those days when they toiled mightily at "pioneering."

To them the St. Louis river was one of the great things in that life of activity they shared, but now they laid it aside and it contained neither state or municipal boundary. All were at home.

Many Children There.

Except for the scores of children and grand children who were everywhere present the vision of youth returned might have been complete. The number of women, and particularly of children, was larger than has attended an Old Settlers' picnic for years.

Following out the plan of those who arranged the outing, the family groups and parties made up of two or three families united for the first time in years strolled apart from others at an early stage of the festivities "just to talk." Lunch baskets were opened at these gatherings and while the little folk played rolicking games about the park the older ones sat in quiet groups and talked and talked, always of the old times.

Even the address given by H. W. Dietrich of Superior in the pavilion, the only formality of the whole outing, failed to lure many from their reminiscences in the shady places.

"Home to a child is wherever its mother is, home to a youth is a house; but home to a man past middle age is a place, city or country,

where the active years of his life were passed," declared Mr. Dietrich.

Points Out Restrictions.

"After a certain period in everyone's life he may go to a new town and meet men, but he never forms friendships or learns to trust others as he did those with whom he became friends in the years when his mind took readily to new impressions."

"For this reason there is a feeling between you who have been together in the harness in this locality than there can be for any others. Each of you has been here at least 25 years. You will never know another home. You may go to live in another place, but this is your home for this has been the scene of your life's activity."

"Unfortunately indeed is the man who must live somewhere other than the place that is his real home. There comes a time to everyone at the ages of 45 or 60 when he cannot be transplanted readily to another home than the place where he passed the years just prior to that age. There is a sacred sentiment that clusters about the word home after one has reached this age."

Two of Many.

Among the many picturesque individuals at the picnic were John B. LaFave and Capt. Martyn Wheeler of Duluth.

Captain Wheeler is a resident of Duluth, but has been away for many years. While a tug master in 1870 he rescued a large number of boats in distress near the old Duluth breakwater and at the picnic yesterday the story of his heroism was reported in the little groups about the park every time he made his appearance.

Mr. LaFave came to Superior in 1853 and is considered one of the oldest settlers in the city. He is 73 years old and his health has been so poor for a number of years that he had never seen Billings park since it was made a pleasure ground until yesterday when he was taken to the picnic in an automobile by Henry F. Butler, a neighbor in Central park.