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OLD-TIME PICNIC THING OF THE PAST

RARE AS HORSE & BUGGY

Anyhow, It Had Its Drawbacks, and Flivver and Sandwich Have Taken Its Place; Not Mourned

"The passing of the old-fashioned basket picnic is viewed by old-timers with regret," says a writer in the July number of the Outdoors Pictorial (Washington). "Time was when the picnic was the favorite means of celebrating family reunions and of providing an outing for the office force, the club or any other organization with which one was affiliated. The annual Sunday school picnic was, of course, inevitable, as were innumerable other picnics for special occasions. The picnic was the "get-together" meeting par excellence of two decades ago.

Becoming Rare "But the basket picnic is becoming as rare as the horse and buggy-no longer to be found except in rural districts-and even there with less

and less frequency. either be wasted with many twinges frequently myself," continued Dr. of the thrifty housewife's conscience Knott. "It is interesting to see terms

sumed. Disturbing Factors

Then no one ever wanted to look at another sandwich or plate of salad so long as he lived. The once popular saying "more fun than a picnic' was never originated by the woman tending an oven full of cakes which professor stated. For the person who er usually started on the outing ex- words and figures of speech. But hausted. There was difficulty in get- slang is used to express the grotesting the crowd to agree on the ideal que and humorous and there are times picnic spot and always some misun- when it is bad taste to use it," the derstanding as to how to get there in lecturer added. "There is nothing to in time for the ice cream. No picnic better one's feeling than correct Eng-

casualties, such as lost children, a by the use of slang can be phrased fall in the creek, chiggers, snagged in good English and be just as effecsilk stockings and grass stains. Then, tive. What is demanded of the inthere was an unbelievable amount of | telligent person is that he shall be litter to be cleared up by the con- able to use correct English at all scientious. And on the way home times and not be dependent upon most of the party suffered from acute slang. The slang addict is usually of indigestion.

Beneficial Feature "Still, with all its imperfections, Professor Knott was graduated the picnic had its point, chief of from Northwestern university in 1902 which was that it got people out of and received his doctor's degree from doors. True, the accompanying bed- the University of Chicago, and served lam left little of the peace dear to as a member of the faculty for 12 the true nature lover.

"The modern successor to the old fashioned picnic embodies all the advantages with practically none of the disadvantages. The family simply decides at any time to take its supper. out of doors and, without any great a-do or very special preparation, piles whatever would ordinarily have been served at home into a basket and piles itself into the flivver and betakes itself to the nearest park or stretch of open country. No extra work, no waste, no indigestion, no confusion."

"DUMBELL" IS GOOD WORD SAYS KNOTT

Professor of English at Iowa Lectures on "Slang" at Northwestern

"Dumbell is such an expressive term "Yet the waning popularity of this it is too bad that it was not origimode of entertainment is not regard- nated by some literary genius so that ed as an unmitigated calamity by the it would be accepted as the best of mother who spent the preceding day English," declared Professor Thomas in the kitchen. The untold quanti- A. Knott, professor of English at the ties of sandwiches or salad which she University of Iowa and a member of made usually turned out to be in- the summer session faculty of Northadequate for the unpredictably large western university, in a lecture on gathering and caused whispers among "Slang" before the Northwestern stuthe neighbor women as to her stingi- dents. "I place no tabco upon slang; ness. Or her estimate would prove to in fact I am deeply interested in the be too great and the food would study of it and use slang expressions or would be brought home to be con- originated, flourish and die. I believe that most of my colleagues in the university will agree that slang should not be discarded or tabooed, but rather that it should be regarded from an objective viewpoint and a scientific study made of it.

"Slang is an exhibition of the boiswho spent a hot summer morning terous play spirit in a language," the didn't turn out as well as those of wishes to say or write the bizarre or Mrs. B., who, after all, was supposed unconventional things, it is perfectly to have brought fried chicken. Moth- legitimate for him to originate new which part of the crowd arrived just the statement that 'slang expresses was complete without a few minor lish.' Anything that can be expressed

years at the latter institute. He is at present on the faculty of the University of Iowa and this summer is teaching in the English department of Northwestern university. He is author the "Anglo-Saxon Elementary Text Book"; "Writing and Re-Writing," a college freshman composition text book; and "Minimum Essentials of Correct Composition" a high school text book. The latter two are used as text books in the educational system of Illinois and Iowa, and the Anglo-Saxon text book is selling at 10,-000 copies a year.

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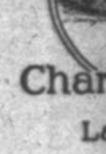
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