

Sarah Child



All in the Family

Dog Days Remembered

Queen Anne's lace and blue chicory line the country roads now. Silky corn tassels topping green stalks wave from the dry, dusty fields beyond. Heat and humidity are upon us, making the days fit only for swimming, the nights for tossing and turning, as we wait for a lone breeze to come stealing in.

Dog days are what we kids called them. There was a nice, ominous ring to it. We had never heard the explanation about Sirius, the Dog Star, rising at the same time as the sun during this period. Instead, dog days meant the heat might addle the brain of some unsuspecting pooch turning him mad and frothing at the mouth, while at the same time the lack of rain left the creeks (pronounced cricks) dangerously low and unhealthy.

Still neither the threat of crazed mutts nor slow-moving water kept us from Fishing Creek. Before noon we would start the long walk, sometimes taking a sandwich with us so we could spend the day.

The swimming hole was not overlarge but it could hold as many as 15 or 20 kids without seeming crowded. Besides my same-age aunt Louise, my sister Thom and me, there were the Young girls and the Calkin girls and the Baxter boys and the Boyer boys and Don Petrie and Billy Hazen and Marion Treet and lots more I can't remember.

The big boys -- those in high school -- would furnish the drama, playing wild games of tag, then diving into the

deepest part to remove themselves from the danger zone. They would surface, hair slicked back, faces dripping, grins intact as they plotted strategy.

We younger ones would slide gently down the mud bank to the water, dog-paddle across the far side shaded by elderberry bushes and fern fronds and let the current carry us along for a short while until we would paddle back to the spot where we had entered. Later, drained, we would climb up to the grassy level to dry off and let the sun streak our hair and turn our bodies to smooth, shiny brown.

Late afternoon, we would wrap our towels around us and start the long trek home, wishing desperately for a drink of water but the only spring was near the hole and at this time of year the flow of water off the mountain was either only a trickle or nonexistent.

Sometimes we went back after supper, getting a ride one way occasionally. Once in a while the big boys would start a fire, digging a pit and lining it with stones then adding corn and potatoes they had confiscated from nearby fields.

The food was always raw on one side and burnt on the other, but nobody minded. Sitting in the darkened field, starry sky overhead and the lap of water and an occasionally moo from nearby cows resounding in our ears, we would sit around the fire listening to the older kids talk and laugh and take note of which boy and which girl who had squabbled during the day were now sitting tightly side by side.



Helping Hand

The Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary of Our Lady of Perpetual Help 1156 has presented a check for a wheelchair van to the Canandaigua Medical Veterans Administration Center. From left, Catherine Tedone, auxiliary treasurer; DeWayne Robertson, hospital director; Bernice Trunk, auxiliary president, and Marie Logan, auxiliary secretary.

Sister Marianna Celebrates 50th



SISTER MARIANNA

Holy Cross Schedules Blood Drive

Holy Cross Parish will sponsor a Red Cross blood drive from 3-7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 20 in the school auditorium.

Chairperson for the drive is Father Rosario LaDelfa, associate pastor.

For further information, contact Joanne Fisher at 865-0231.

A. W. BEILBY & SON Funeral Home James Rotsell Darrell O'Brian 139 Walnut St. Dial 936-9121 Corning, N.Y.

Gerould's Pharmacies S. Main St. and Church & Hoffman Elmira Delivery Service 733-6696

Are You A Group? (its fun traveling that way!) We will give your group (20 or more) a FREE presentation on "HAWAII" - "Cruises" - "Caribbean Islands" Call us for details! Our 2nd Annual Cruise Nite Sept. 25 - Wednesday. No charge but Reservations are absolutely necessary!! Europe - Oct. 4-14 We have a few seats left on our Second Group - Call now for information and reservations. Jean Brown Travel 2510 Chili Ave. 426-1892

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