

Yesterday I spent the late afternoon at one of my most favorite places – Boy Scout Canyon Camp – not far from Apple Canyon Lake. This summer’s staff had arrived and this was the first staff picnic of the year. The families of staff members were invited and a wonderful time was had by all. The picnic tables were laden with delicious foods of all kinds, everyone was happy and the weather was perfect...cool and calm. It was ‘peace in the valley!’

Denny Pratt, camp director for over 25 years, welcomed everyone and introductions were made. (He also provided three Lena Maid Hams baked with pineapple sauce.) More tables had to be brought in to hold all the marvelous food families had brought to share. Father Schwartz led the Philmont Grace and a congenial picnic began.

How did I get invited? Denny said I could represent my grandson, John Michael Vickery, who is going to be on the staff later this summer. He’s been a ‘canyon camper’ for the past two years and loves it, so this year he will be a counselor in training.

Due to a previous entertainment commitment he will serve the second six weeks of camp. Next week I’ll tell you more about what he’s doing with his Broadway Bound group, for I plan to be in the audience. They have been invited to entertain on a cruise ship, and the president of the Bahamas has asked them to entertain there, too.

Do try to visit Canyon Camp any Wednesday evening at dusk in summer. Everyone is invited and the Indian dancing and program is a delight. Most of all, there is a peace you feel at Canyon Camp. When I go there I want to stay. It is a beautiful place where God seems very near.

Now for some recipes...

PICNIC FAVORITES

Feeding lunch to a hungry bunch is no small feat. But the next time you’re serving a picnic crowd – here’s a recipe that’s sure to satisfy. And it can be made ahead – even the day before