

Ladies of the Lake – August 2019

The Ladies of the Lake had a special celebration on August 7, 2019. Hostesses, Kay McKinley and Laura Jennings, prepared a Carnival Luncheon to bring back so many fond memories of carnivals from days gone by.

The carnival theme was presented with cherry red table clothes with carnival dishes. The tables were painstakingly decorated with the exquisite china carnival items Kay McKinley has in her personal collection. Some of the carnival figures were horses like the Merry-go-round horses everyone likes; others were more exotic like tigers. All the knick-knacks were designed to tap into precious memories and the memories were shared.

The luncheon buffet was also carnival style. Laura and Kay worked diligently to make the Carnival live! The hot dogs and tamales were piping hot and delicious, especially when accompanied with the typical toppings—onions, mustard, ketchup and mayo. A unique orange Jello was transformed into circus style with circus marshmallow “peanuts” arranged on top. Salads and scrumptious hors d'oeuvres were also savored by the ladies. Imagine Apple Taffy Salad! What's not to like? The most unusual item was banana wrapped with bacon and dipped into chocolate! Yummy!

Thank you, Laura and Kay, for such an extensive range of delicious dishes on the Carnival Menu! And there were also the best “snacks,” like popcorn, popsicles, ice cream and even animal crackers. The ladies were asking for recipes, a sure sign of wonderful items!

The desserts were cupcakes with frosting that never stopped and a circus banner to boot! The Carnival Luncheon was super, but perhaps the next part was even more enjoyable.

Kay asked the ladies to share their memories of carnivals. She began with her own memory of the Prime Beef Festival, where the ferris wheel broke down while she was on it! Still, Kay survived to ride another ferris wheel, this time with her sister at the carnival in New Orleans, and the kids.

As Kay was speaking, the ladies were recollecting their own stories, but before anyone else shared her story, Kay was asked about her magnificent carnival collection. She replied, “Friends gave me many!” Kay even has a metal carousel from a friend. The reason for the “outing” was plain and simple to Kay, who explained “The horses needed a cleaning!” But, the real shocker was hearing Kay announce, “I have every animal on carousel!” Yes, Kay has them all and she shared some with the Ladies of the Lake.

Barb Potter shared her love for the ferris wheel too, explaining maybe it was also because she was with her boyfriend, while in high school in Minnesota!

Trisha Kuster, a new member of the Ladies of the Lake, was introduced to everyone by name and description of where we live. Welcome, Trisha! Trisha remembered fondly her experience in Peoria, where she was in kindergarten. It was the Peoria Fair, where the prize on the Cake Walk was a WHOLE cake. Trisha never forgot!

Elizabeth Hiel announced that the best in clean and good carnivals is Boden Entertainment, in Bushnell, but she had an extra special memory of “Circus Peanut.” She and Janet, her friend, were driving home from the circus in a farm truck, which was not too clean! There was an opened bag of “Circus Peanuts” in the vehicle, so Elizabeth and Janet helped themselves to some. When Elizabeth arrived home with the truck, her father asked her about the “Circus Peanuts,” which were opened because they had fallen on the floor of the truck. Yuck! When Elizabeth looked aghast, her Dad started laughing. He was just teasing.

Barb Dunlap remembered all the kids going to the carnivals together. The ferris wheel was her favorite, that is until the guy left the ferris wheel going when he was gone, How about almost a HUNDRED rides!

Pam Gaskill remembered the “Bonanza” stars coming to their little town. Yes, for the carnival, Michael Landon and Dan Walker were visiting!

Cora Lee Douglas reminisced about the Avon Fat Steer Show, where her Dad gave each child so much money, no more, with the caution to remind them to save, because “some people were freezing their a_____ in winter,” while other were toasty in Florida.

Patty Anderson, the oldest of six, lived in Minnesota and loved the Tilt-a-whirl from childhood. She took her own children with her husband to enjoy this ride.

Sandy Morrow had the other side of the Tilt-a-whirl ride. Sandy lived in Southern Arizona and went to the occasional carnivals. She wanted to ride the Tilt-a-whirl, but she suffered from motion sickness, which is very unpredictable. Her poor sister was forced to accompany her!

Barb Jonckheere lived in Southern Ohio, where there were no carnivals, but a huge amusement park. It was there that her grandma, who was a beautician, took her to "play the horses" with her money from tips. Barb loved the harness racing.

The Ladies enjoying the Carnival Luncheon were Nona Kempton, Bev VerSteeg, Sandy Morrow, Sharon Butler, Judy Brown, Pam Gaskill, Kay McKinley, Trisha Kuster, Denise Thomas, Marti Dallmeyer, Barbara Galvin, Barb Dunlap, Cora Lee Douglas, Laura Jennings, Barbara Jonckheere, Barb Potter, Elizabeth Hiel, Karol Tranhe, Linda Gregory, Cindy Hanning, Patty Anderson, and Jane Stevens,

The luncheon wasn't over yet! After delicious food and memories shared, there were games! Remember: "Fish", "Throw the Ping Pong Ball into the Jar", "Dunking for Ducks", "Throw the Ring around the Bottle", "Clown Darts", "Carnival Toss" and more. The ladies had them all courtesy of Laura and Kay. Thank you, lovely ladies!

The ladies had a wonderful afternoon and then Laura had another surprise. Popcorn bags were distributed, but they did not have popcorn, Instead, ceramic figures, attached to a stick to become a plant decoration, were given to each lady. Some received bunnies, others received squirrels, and even birds on a stick. Thank you, Laura.

Our next meeting will be on September 4 at the pavilion. Hostesses will be Patty Anderson and Sandy Morrow. Please join us for meeting and greeting some really special ladies.