

## *Despite Warm Weather, Picnic Great Success*

The 1948 Ecusta Picnic will be remembered in different ways by different people, but foremost in all of our memories will be that of scorching hot sun that played no favorites as it beamed down on the crowd estimated at 4,000.

Even under these slightly warm weather conditions and amidst a rumor of polio, Ecustans and their families, along with invited guests, came early and stayed late—munching popcorn, quenching their thirst with lemonade, and cooling off with ice cream. They took part in the many contests, proudly paraded their babies, and heard a stirring, straightforward speech by Mr. Harry H. Straus. This talk, one of the best Mr. Straus has ever made, was easily the highlight of the day.

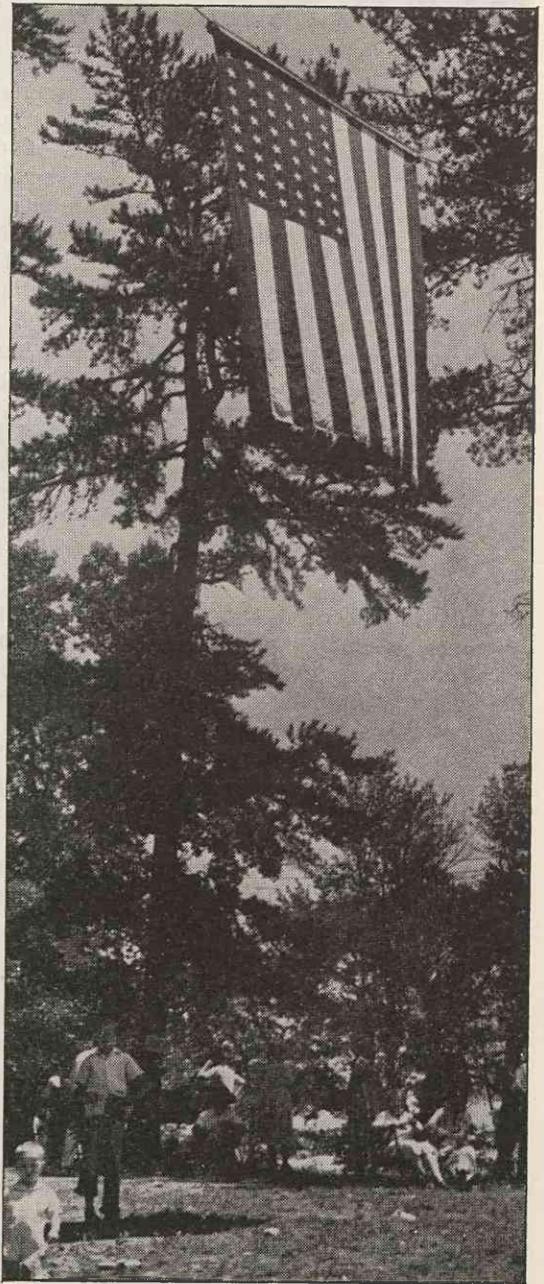
The Ecusta Band opened the celebration at 10 a.m. and then the various races and contests moved along in an orderly fashion. Mrs. Harry H. Straus presided over the baby parade and as usual, attractive gifts awaited the children at the conclusion of the parade. This year the girls received lovely dolls while the boys beamed over their assortment of colorful rubber balls. More than 400 gifts were distributed to the children.

After Mr. Straus' talk, more boxing matches were held and then most of the crowd moved to the Ecusta field to see our team lick Sayles 13 to 3 in a WNC game. Those who still weren't too sunburned—and they were many—were on hand at the high school field to see the Ecusta softball team whip the strong Greenwood, S. C. team, 5-4. The sound of square dance music by the Ecusta String Band beckoned to that last bit of energy and it was out to the street dance for a funfilled climax to almost 13 hours of continuous activity.

At the conclusion of the baby parade, it was lunch time for the huge crowd. Tables and other places to spread lunches were at a premium, but everyone seemed to find a suitable place.

The distribution places for ice cream, lemonade, and pop corn were located at convenient points over the grounds, and they did a rush business all day and particularly during the lunch hour. As usual, many of our cafeteria personnel worked on this holiday in order to make it a more enjoyable day for all of us.

The crowd enjoying the square dance was largely composed of youngsters, but many adults also took part in the fun. The Ecusta String Band was really "on the beam," no doubt tuning up for the big Mountain Folk Festival in Asheville, August 5, 6, and 7.



*Hanging majestically over the large crowd at the picnic was Old Glory. Here a youngster is shown with one of the small flags given to the children at the picnic. It was a day long to be remembered by the children as well as the grownups.*

