

# Looking Back

## Carpathia's Big Picnic

by Marie Leverenz



*Rain, rain, go away. Come again another day.  
Carpathia's family all want to play. Rain, rain go away!*

That's the song my children were singing in the car on the way to Carpathia's Big Picnic held July 18<sup>th</sup> at the Austrian Park. It was looking a little overcast on the way to the park at noon, and they thought a little song to Mother Nature might just help. Well, I guess I should rent out my children's singing voices for graduation parties, weddings, family reunions, etc. I could make a boatload of money. The rain held off and it turned out to be a beautiful day (ok, maybe a little hot and humid, so I guess I won't get rich quick).

There seemed to be a wide range of comments about the day. Here are just a few:

- "It went great!"
- "I don't think we'll lose money on the day."
- "I miss the Jaeger girls."
- "It's just like the old picnic's used to be, when it was just us. I like that."
- "Definitely need more things for the kids to do."
- "My kids are going to be sick tonight from all the candy and ice-cream."
- "There were a few mix-ups at the beginning, but it's going pretty well now."
- "I feel like I'm in the forest, great atmosphere."
- "I miss walking the big circle at Freedom Hill."
- "I don't miss walking the big circle at Freedom Hill."
- "It's quaint and I feel like my kids are safer running around here than at Freedom Hill."

It was great seeing old friends again. During my shift in the beer booth, the business was steady, sometimes even long lines. We even ran out of pitchers for a short time. People were very friendly (remember, I was in the beer booth, generally serving people who already had some beer in them). The parking lot looked full and the dance floor was often crowded.

I brought my tablecloth and claimed my table, right next to my friends. Without the big circle to walk around, it seemed I stayed put a bit more than usual. But listening to the German music while in the woods just felt good. Being with Oma and Ota, having them beam with pride when the Kindergruppe danced, was wonderful. It was great to see the Youthgroup kids in their popcorn, water and candy booth, volunteering. I saw they even sold out of some items. I had visions of these "kids" in the future, grilling Wurst and selling Kuche. This is the way to start guys. I remember my days working in the pop booth as well. Hmm, when I used to work in the pop booth as a kid, I remember thinking how great it would be to work in the beer booth instead (it seemed quite a bit cooler to do as a kid) and actually it is pretty fun.



The dancers did a terrific job, I commend all their leaders. The cakes were delicious, thanks to our Frauen. The food was yummy, thanks to Adam, kitchen staff and choir group. And the drinks kept coming, thanks to Willi and the barstaff (oh, that's me too....). Thanks ticket-sellers as well- my husband was so happy that we were using the green tickets. Now we only have one color tickets to find in the washer.

