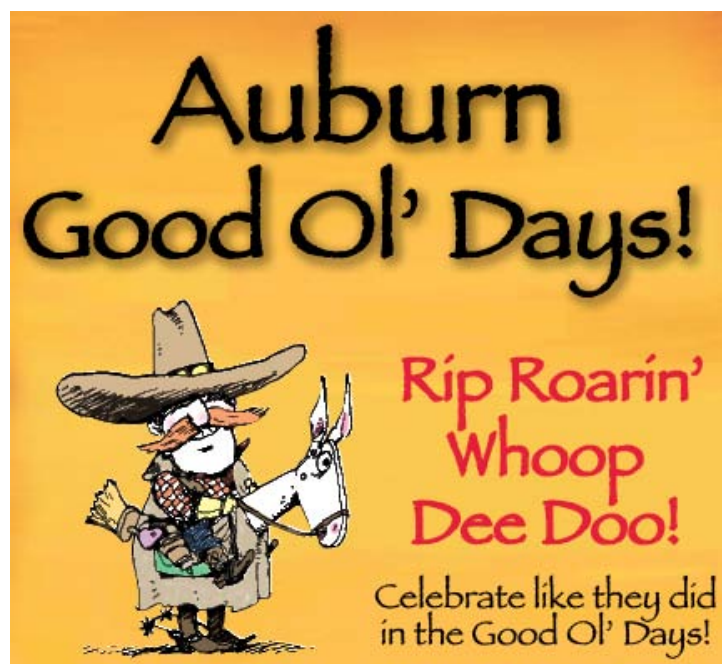


**2009 Winners
Auburn School District
Essay Contest**



August 7-9, 2009



Special Thank You to Committee Representatives:

Joy Brauning*

Ruth Fletcher*

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Jim Fletcher*

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The Auburn School District and the
Auburn Good Ol' Days Committee

* Essay contest judge



"RIP ROARING WHOOP-DEE-DOO!"

Auburn Good Ol' Days

There are many rip-roaring things you and your family can do when the power is out. My family likes to play board games the most! We light candles so we can see. The candles scare me a little, but playing board games helps me forget my worries.

The first board game we play is "Life." We like playing it because it's like real life. You get a career, and a salary, and a family. Next we play "Bingo." I like playing it because it helps me think. It also helps my little brother learn his numbers. Last we play "Monopoly." My family likes it because it is a long game. I love having rip-roaring times. When you spend time with your family you will too!

WINNER!
Grades 1 to 2

Kristina Doucette
Ilalko Elementary School

"RIP ROARING WHOOP-DEE-DOO!"

Auburn Good Ol' Days

“Yikes!” The lights went out at dark. It was 6:30 PM. I went to my mom’s room. She woke up everybody in the house. We all ran to my closet and got the flashlights.

We played flashlight tag in my room. This is how the game goes. First the tagger closes his eyes and people hide. The tagger then shines his flashlight everywhere until he finds you. You’re it until he finds you. We laughed so hard that we had no worries.

After that game was played, we played shadow puppets. I was a wolf. My brother was an alligator. We fought each other’s puppets. Guess who won? My brother! Afterwards, we played the same game again. This time Mom played. Mom was a snake. My brother was a lion. My mom won!

Dad was next, but I had made up a scary story so we stopped playing the game. I said, “Once upon a time,” and told the whole story. Finally, we went to bed. It was a rip roaring great time!

RUNNER-UP!
Grades 1 to 2

Asia Norman
Evergreen Heights Elementary School

"RIP ROARING WHOOP-DEE-DOO!"

Auburn Good Ol' Days

The lights went out at my house. It was the best time ever. I laughed so hard I almost choked for life! It was awesome. It was cool. It was the best time – a rip roaring moment! We played hide-and-go-seek at the park in the dark. We did pie eating contests and games like hopscotch, rock, paper, scissors, and game of who can find the most stars. Finally we played a game of who reads the fastest. It was awesome! Then the power came back on and that was great because everything started to become static-y and flash. Everybody went home when the lights came on.

RUNNER-UP!
Grades 1 to 2

Dina Everson
Evergreen Heights Elementary School

"RIP ROARING WHOOP-DEE-DOO!"

Auburn Good Ol' Days

My grandma is from Jamaica, and she had a blast when she was young; she loved her hometown, Kingston. My grandma is a mystical grandma an exciting one, too. When she was about 9-11 years old, she loved to tell stories, play Ring around the Rosy, and make swings for her and her friends to play on.

First of all, my grandma told stories to teach all of her friends to be reasonable, cooperative and share. I know one of her stories, for instance, a young man was going fishing for their daily catch (meal), fish. The young man packed lunch for him to eat during the long, dull, and salty smelling day. He was doing fine, and most of the fish he caught was small, so he couldn't catch any fish. He was so exhausted and exhausted he decided to eat lunch. He opened up his sack and his sandwich was spoiled from the scorching hot sun. So then he dumped that in the river. There were ants on his fruit so he dumped that in the river, too. All of that rotten food killed the fish, except for one, one big one. He got his fishing rod and reeled it in. That fish was the size of three desks put together. He thought his luck was right side up when it flipped down again. An old weak man came up who looked like he hadn't eaten in days. The young man saw the look in the old man's eyes. He knew what he had to do. No, said the old man. You caught the fish I'll cook it, we'll eat together. The young man and old man became friends. The old man taught the young man to be sharing, giving, and caring. My grandma told this story so you won't end up bitter and die alone.

My grandma always tried to have a good time even if it was something she's not into like Ring around the Rosy. You might be wondering why an 11 yr. old would play that. You know that familiar tune Ring around the Rosy a pocket full of posies, ashes, ashes we all fall down. Why would she be playing that baby game (no offense to kindergarteners and preschoolers)? She did it to make little kids happy. That's why she had a lot of friends and why my mom turned out so awesome.

Grandma loved to make swings to play on. She'd tie strong rope to a branch then her friends helped. Soon lots and lots of strangers helped then the strangers became friends. It was like a community park. Except, there were only a bunch of swings no slides or monkey bars. The wind flew in her thick black hair. She felt like a creator.

My grandma is wonderful; she still lives in Jamaica and has a Caribbean accent. Oh, and she's still fun, but with cramps, pains, and less energy.

WINNER!
Grades 3 to 5

Olivia Metcalf
Arthur Jacobsen Elementary School

"RIP ROARING WHOOP-DEE-DOO!"

Auburn Good Ol' Days

Have you ever wondered what people did for “rip-roaring” fun back in the 19th century? Well, your questions are soon going to be answered because I’m going to tell you about what they did for leisure time back then.

First, I would like to tell you what toys they played with. Kids played with mini models of toy cars and trucks. It was fun because it let them imagine what it would be like to drive in a car or truck. They would also play with toys-on-the-move. Toys-on-the-move are toys that have and may be wound-up like toy boats, for an action effect. Horse-drawn vehicles, toy trains, firefighting equipment, flying machines, cars, and trucks are also examples of toys-on-the-move. They would also enjoy building blocks. They would construct small buildings or whatever they wanted to make. Most girls and some boys had dolls. They were like an extra friend who always agreed and never fought. Kids would also play with jack in the boxes. On it, there would be a crank that you would turn. The box would play music and then the jack would pop out of the top of the box. Another thing they would play with would be a kite. It is usually a triangular shaped piece of paper tied to a string. On a windy day, you would run with the kite behind you. Eventually, it would start flying in the air.

Another thing I would like to tell you is what games they played. They would play board games that involved dice and pieces that you move from one

place to the other. They would also play tag. Tag is when one person is “it” and they try getting another person and then they’re “it”. They would also play hide and go seek. That’s when someone counts to a number everyone agrees on and then they count aloud. The person who’s “it” tries to find someone who is hiding. The person who gets found first is “it” next. It is very similar to tag, but you hide from the person who is “it”. Another thing they played is “Kick the Wickey.” The game is played with a foot long stick. One person kicks the stick, and whoever catches it, wins. Another game they played was “marbles.” Marbles is a game that there’s a string that’s in a circle. You try hitting other people’s marbles out of the circle. Whoever hits out the most marbles, wins. They would also play puzzles and card games, and they liked reading action books.

Now that you know some things kids did back then for fun, would you mind living back then?

RUNNER-UP!
Grades 3 to 5

Angela Rubakha
Arthur Jacobsen Elementary School

"RIP ROARING WHOOP-DEE-DOO!"

Auburn Good Ol' Days

In several paragraphs I will explain to you three activities my grandparents played when they were my age.

The first activity that they did was play with dolls. The first thing my grandparents would do to the dolls was make clothes for them so they wouldn't be naked. The second thing my grandparents would do to the dolls was put them in plays so they can give the dolls a personality. The last thing they would do to the dolls was to throw them around. Now you know how girls played back then.

The second activity my grandparents would do was play sports and games. The first sport they would play was baseball. Baseball is a sport where you throw the ball and catch it with a glove. The second sport my grandparents would play was football. Football is a sport where people put on padding so they can tackle people to get the ball. The most famous game back then was the King of the Hill. The King of the Hill is when three or more people play and you have to find a big dirt hill. Once you find one, everybody races up the hill to see who will make it first, but sometimes you can pull each other down. I suggest you play these games, because I've played them too!

The last activity they did back then was telling stories. Sometimes they would tell scary stories. One of the scary stories was about wolves eating children! Sometimes they would tell stories that were true. I don't know what kind of true stories they told but I think they were interesting. They would also tell legends. I don't know a lot of old legends but I do know some. Now you know what type of stories they told back then.

In these paragraphs, I have told you about the fascinating activities my grandparents played back then.

RUNNER-UP!
Grades 3 to 5

James Kisling
Arthur Jacobsen Elementary School

"RIP ROARING WHOOP-DEE-DOO!"

Auburn Good Ol' Days

A Night at the Barn Dance

“Circle to the left, and circle to the right! Right hand! Left hand! Around you go! Now back-to-back your partner in a do-si-do!”

In the cool of the night, with the moon shining bright, my great great grandparents travelled in their rickety wooden farm wagons through the fields of corn stalks rustling in the summer breeze. They were headed to the community barn dance for a rip-roaring whoop-dee-doo good time. The women brought homemade apple and cherry pies, sugar cookies, and chocolate cakes, while the men cleaned up and shaved, and brought their well-worn harmonicas, fiddles, and banjos. Neighbors brought kegs of their sweet apple cider and everyone gathered and chatted, talking of everything from upcoming births and marriages to the opening of the new general store.

Women arrived in their cotton calico and gingham dresses with bonnets and bows. The men wore overalls or buckskin pants combined with leather boots. Many men wore plaid shirts beneath red suspenders and tall cowboy hats with wide brims that they tipped to all the ladies.

As the musicians tuned up their instruments, the dance caller stepped up on a bale of hay, cleared his throat, and called everyone’s attention. Then he cried out, “Grab yourself a partner and jump right in!” The cowboys “Yee-hawed,” the fiddle sang and the banjo twanged. “Spin your partner!” the caller roared, and the whole room spun round and round. The cows swished their tails to the rhythm and

the beat and even seemed to dance as they shifted with their feet. The dancers shed their inhibitions and simply let their souls flow with the music. “Women to the center for a curtsy and a bow! Men swing your partner and show them how!”

Some people played games like bobbing for apples and they ate and ate until they were so full they felt like they’d never have to eat ever again. Everyone rollicked and frolicked and the dance rolled on into the wee hours of the morning. The music died down and the kerosene lanterns burned dim. Then one by one everyone boarded their wagons to journey home. The rooster crowed, and the sun began to rise from behind the distant mountains. Everyone went to bed with memories of a rip-roaring whoop-dee-doo good ol’ days time.

WINNER!
Grades 9 to 12

Ben Klontz
Auburn Riverside High School

"RIP ROARING WHOOP-DEE-DOO!"

Auburn Good Ol' Days

The Good Ol' Days

As time goes on, the conception of a good time definitely changes. This is especially apparent since the introduction of new technology. Today, teens version of a good time is texting their friends, playing video games, or going out to the movies. But what was it like before all this crazy machinery? How did our parents manage in a cell phoneless world? Better yet, how did our grandparents function when Velcro and silly putty were the new hot toys? Many had to resort back to the classics, such as camping, fishing, and watching games with their families.

High up in the trees, a teenage version of my grandma spent her summers camping in big tree houses with her family in California. "I can remember staying up late with my cousins and sisters while telling scary stories," she recalled. With nothing to distract them, the kids were able to spend the warm summer days running around the campsites and swimming in the lake. She remembers going around and picking the succulent, wild berries that grew on the edge of the lake. "If we picked enough, my mom and aunts would make pies for us," she said smiling. It really has changed over time. Now, many people consider it camping when you take your air conditioned RV to a nearby lake for the weekend. These families are truly missing out on the quality experience and great memories you form while going out in the woods and really camping.

Getting back to nature seemed to be a common way to have fun back in the day. My grandpa also liked to immerse himself in the natural beauty around him by fishing. He remembers, "Going out early with my dad to a lake in the gravel

pit. He had me convinced that fish like it when it's all cool and misty outside." They would make it a whole day outing by getting up at dawn and then eating lunch at the lake. After throwing a few rocks, and seeing who could make the rocks skip the most times, they would get back to fishing. Once they had their catch they would fillet the fish and bring it home for dinner. Being the only son in a family of six, he had to make sure that he and his dad caught enough fish for the whole family. In today's fast paced world, you seldom see kids going out to fish. They are too busy shopping at the mall or surfing the web.

One thing that is still enjoyed by kids today is watching sports. There aren't many kids who don't get excited to go to the local big football game. For my other grandma, it was no different. "I can remember getting all dressed up for the big rivalry games," she said. "My mother would braid my hair and put ribbons in it. I had so much fun." Her father, Gildo Rey, kept the time at the football and basketball games. My grandma often would tag along with him and help. "Sometimes he even let me push the buzzer at the end of the game," she recalled laughing. Her experience as a child led to her lifelong love for football. Today she is a huge Husky fan and goes to as many games as she can.

People's view of having a good time will always be different from generation to generation. Whether it's camping like my grandma, playing video games as we do now, or going to virtual amusement parks 100 years from now, each group will have their own conception of fun. One thing is for sure, no matter what the circumstances, kids will always find a way to have a great time.

RUNNER-UP!
Grades 9 to 12

Jeff Miles
Auburn Riverside High School

"RIP ROARING WHOOP-DEE-DOO!"

Auburn Good Ol' Days

A "Rip Roaring" Time in Korea

Fun... What comes to our mind? What did my parents and grandparents do for fun? Throughout time, "fun" possessed various meanings whether it was fishing in the river or playing hide and seek. I come from a family of Korean heritage. So I guess you could say "fun" to people there is different from people living here. According to the Korean tradition, New Year's Day and Children's Day are the most exciting days for youngsters. There are a plethora of activities they do to have a "whoop-dee-doo" time.

Korean New Year's Day is typically a family-oriented holiday. Many parents and children dressed up in a *hanbok* (a colorful, traditional dress). For dessert, many kids gathered together and devoured *ddeok* (rice cakes) and fruits. The most famous game played on this holiday is *Yutnori*. The children would come together and throw the *yut* sticks in the air with anticipation. Back then, young boys flew kites on hills overlooking the sunset. But, the most exciting part of New Year's was *sebae*. This was when children paid their respects to the elderly. In return, many would reward the youngsters with small amounts of

money. Overall, New Year's Day in Korea was a time for entertainment and reconnection. A day full of happiness and satisfaction...

Another special day in Korea for youngsters is Children's Day. This day is officially celebrated on May 5. Children were able to spend time with their parents and visit various places. Normally, parents prepared small gifts such as dolls, candies, tops, and other toys. The most popular attractions included zoos, amusement parks, and museums. Usually, kids were able to get in with discounts or even free! Overall, many children were able to take a day off from school. Children's Day was definitely a time for relaxation.

Activities and events for fun have changed over the decades. In my family, the two special days when children had fun were New Year's and Children's Day. They were a time for reconnection, happiness, and relaxation. What can I say? Sounds "rip roaring" to me!

RUNNER-UP!
Grades 9 to 12

Alice Cho
Auburn Riverside High School