

**COLORADO ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC – VANCE JOHNSON**

The Annual Western Union Local #31 Summer Picnic was held Sunday, August 10, at the American Legion Post 178, 1655 Simms, in Lakewood, Colorado. **“Fitz”** has been the cook in recent years since **Don Kelly** moved to Idaho and **Fitz’s son Craig** has been trying to take over in recent years, but got the job done this year. The Union Local #31 has always supplied the meats and beverages (including all the rolls & buns, plastic plates, napkins and cutlery). The meats were beef-burgers and brats cooked on the grill by Craig. There has never been a charge to come to the picnic, except a request to bring a casserole, chip-dip or a dessert. In recent years, there has been the need to ask for donations near the end of the afternoon to help support preparations for the coming year’s picnic.

After lunch, Bob suggested that we get all the employees of Western Union to go outside to get a good picture for the *RWUEA Newsletter*. In the photo of the group standing behind tables, they are lined up from left to right: **Harvey Rossiter, Eddie Sena, Charlie Jones, Ernie Morales, Larry Welchlen, Troy Boatwright, Irbie Fults, Ron Shearer, Bob DeVault, Herman Murrell, Joan Phares, Dennis Bergstrom, Wendell Fitzpatrick and Vance Johnson.**

The WU North America’s Territory Manager for Northern Colorado is Ron Shearer and he usually comes to our picnics. Ron gets WU promotional material given to him to hand-out when he goes to various events in his travels. He has always brought things like this to our picnic. This year he provided several items including two sponge-rubber soccer balls that he gave to the Jones’ grandchildren.

President **Bob DeVault** started the after lunch activity by remembering former WU included employees that have passed away since our last picnic – **Beverly Burbank, Elsie Bever, Eunice Butler, Grace Wiseman, Shirley Gude and Jane Quigley.** He commented on how each of these ladies had contributed to the support of our activities in the past. He asked if everybody was happy with **“Fitz”** to be the new secretary? Everybody clapped and agreed that he was doing a splendid job. Then they commenced to raffle off the clocks, and the two books (*The Western Union Story*) provided by Western Union that RWUEA’s **Jack Durkin** sent. These books were won by **Ernie Morales & Larry Welchlen.** **Karen Murrell** donated a beautiful ecru crocheted afghan with pink roses she made to be raffled at this picnic. So, at this point Bob advised that they were selling chances to win this afghan at 25¢ each or 5 for a \$1. And they sold a bunch. We plan to have the next picnic on the second Sunday in August, next year - August 9, 2009. I played my recording of **“I Guess I’ll Have To Telegraph My Baby,”** then sang it a cappella.

There were 13 WU retirees, 1 WU employee and 15 guests. Attendees were: **Dennis & Kay Bergstrom, Troy Boatwright, Bob & Carolyn DeVault, Wendell “Fitz” & Marlene & son Craig Fitzpatrick, Irbie & his adult children Bob & Debbie Fults, Vance & Dena Johnson, Charlie & Jan Jones & two grand-children, Ernie Morales, Herman & Karen Murrell, Joan & Ray Phares, Lila & Harvey Rossiter, Eddie & her daughter Caroline Sena, Ron Shearer and Larry Welchlen.** **Herman & Karen Murrell** live in Sadler, Texas, which would be 842 miles by the quickest route according to Rand McNally. They were here last year and they plan to come again next year also. **Bob & Carolyn DeVault** now live in Hutchinson, Kansas, (470 miles), but plan to return for the picnic every year.



**DENVER 2008 GATHERING**

Left to Right: Harvey Rossiter, Eddie Sena, Charlie Jones, Ernie Morales,  
Larry Welchlen, Troy Boatwright, Irbie Fults, Ron Shearer, Bob DeVault,  
Herman Murrell, Joan Phares, Dennis Bergstrom, Wendell Fitzpatrick  
and Vance Johnson