

Something to do this Summer



herbs from the garden and make a potpourri; fresh lemonade and a lavender sachet

August 3 – Weaving – Complete a simple weaving project to take home

August 4 – Ice cream social – use the hand crank ice cream freezer to make a delicious dessert

Summer vacation in the old days wasn't really vacation for kids. The reason why kids had summer off from school was so they could help on the farm. Days were filled with chores. Kids worked hoeing in the garden and in the fields. Sometimes they helped collect rocks to clear the fields. They were busy in the hot summer bringing in hay to the barn. There were peas to pick and shell. Berries to pick and make into jam and jelly. By the Fourth of July, there were new potatoes. Wheat and oats were ready for harvest. And there were always fences to paint. A day of swimming in the farm pond was a welcome time – although I was always afraid of snapping turtles. Maybe there was a game of croquet on the front lawn – that is if someone used the push mower first. There was tag and hide and seek. When we would visit my cousins on the farm, we would jump in the hay mow – before my uncle had a baler. Playing in the creek was fun. Making dams and channels and floating boats of sticks through the channels. And I was never afraid of snakes, so my cousins couldn't scare me – although I never liked the milk snakes that lurked around the old foundation. My dad had a bb gun that we would take out every so often. Never shot animals – just targets on the fence. Lazy days we made boondoggle lanyards and bracelets. When I was real little, my mom would bring out some milk bottles filled with water and then put a couple of drops of food coloring in them. That seemed to occupy an afternoon. I guess it was a simpler time in the old days.



Penitentiary on South Avenue was great after the offices were closed. Then there were expeditions up to Highland Park and racing to the top of the Children's Pavilion – long since gone – as too the Penitentiary. There were two weeks of Girls Scout day camp at Genesee Valley Park. There was no soccer or baseball. I remember one week of "History Trails" at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. We took the bus to the Erie Canal, the Campbell Whittlesey House, Vallentown and the Susan B. Anthony House.

This summer, LeRoy House is once again offering 8 programs for kids. All classes are \$5 and are held in the afternoon from 1 to 3 pm at LeRoy House. Students should have completed third grade and it is not limited to kids from LeRoy. Class size is limited so make sure you register early. We will keep a waiting list for all classes, so if there is enough interest we can offer a second class. All classes are listed in the Summer Recreation booklet

that will be coming out soon. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call 768-7433.



July 18 – Make a small utility splint basket that can be used to collect eggs

July 19 – Candles – This is a favorite class and children will make beeswax candles and dipped candles

July 20 – Wood carpentry to make a small wooden tool box with handle

July 21 – Pioneer day – Play old fashioned games; churn butter; work on a quilt pot holder and other fun projects

August 1 – Baskets – Make a small decorate key basket

August 2 – Herbs – Collect fresh

by **Lynne Belluscio**

When I was a kid, growing up in Rochester, I don't remember too many summers with planned activities. We just hung out most of the time. Sometimes it was a long long summer. My dad would take a week from work and we'd go camping in the Adirondacks or up to the Thousand Islands, but days at home were spent riding my blue Columbia bike with friends. The huge parking lot behind the Social Services building and the