

But my fondest memories are the movies. Our sole entertainment back in the '40s and '50s was radio. The park commission would present outdoor movies several times during the summer evenings. Neighbors would walk to the park, find a seat on the old park benches, and eagerly await an old movie with Joe E. Brown, Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Abbott and Costello, and other old timers. The park would be given a gentle spraying beforehand to keep the mosquitoes down, and those who were adventurous would pick cattails in the swamp and light them to keep the insects away. I can still hear the whirr of the old projector. Occasionally, the film would snap and we would have to wait for the film to be put back on the reel. We all waited patiently--rowdiness was unheard of then.

It was an evening of sheer enjoyment for us. After the movie, we walked home, laughing and talking--neighbors enjoying an evening out. It was such a simple pleasure.

