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## Radio Talk on Camping Given Over the Daily News Service

Charlotte V. Gulick

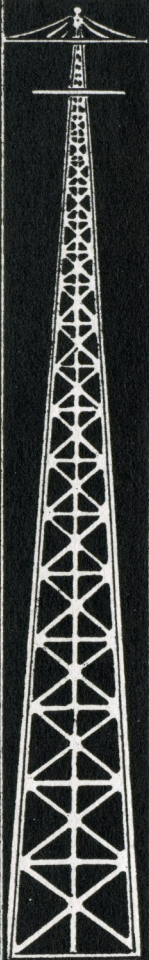
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# Radio Talk

Given Over the Daily  
News Service

*by*

CHARLOTTE V.  
GULICK

MARCH 27, 1925



By CHARLOTTE GULICK

MY camping experiences cover forty years. I met Dr. Gulick—the young man who later became my husband—while camping with an aunt and sister on Lake Erie in 1885. After our marriage—with the exception of two summers spent in Europe—we camped every year of our married life. We felt that this way of spending our summers was best for our children. Many summers we had groups of friends who camped with us—sometimes numbering seventy-five people.

My husband's work during his lifetime was in promoting the all-round development of body, mind and spirit of the boys and girls, young men and women of our country. He could not work for the body alone. It was while he was establishing the physical work of the Y. M. C. A. that he introduced the symbol of the triangle into that organization which stands for this all-round development of body, mind and spirit.

A symbol helps to make an idea concrete. One only has to think of the stars



and stripes or of one's wedding ring to realize the deep significance of symbolism. During the war the red triangle and the red cross stood for the all the work these organizations did. Dr. Gulick started a little magazine in 1893 which he called the Triangle and he had silver triangle stick pins made and advertised them in all Y. M. C. A. literature. The boys of the country bought them by the thousands. They liked the idea of working for all-round development. This was the beginning of the red triangle. It was Dr. Gulick who recognized the need of a group game to be played in congested areas or indoors, as Baseball and Football was played out of doors. Basket ball was the result. He presented that idea to his students at the Y. M. C. A. College in Springfield, Mass., and laid down fourteen conditions which the game would have to meet to be successful. Many games were presented and tried out. Basketball was the one that was found most desirable.

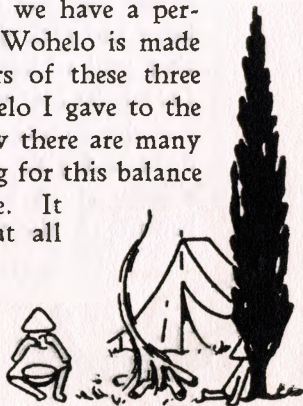
Dr. James E. Naismith was the originator of it. Dr. Gulick promoted it and wrote the





rules for it for many years. I was captain of the first basket ball team ever played by women.

Fifteen years ago the Luther Gulick Camps were started in Maine. Dr. Gulick was lecturing and writing on health problems and it was my desire that he should observe in actual practice the further development of the camping movement and for this reason I started a camp for girls on Lake Sebago. There were three things which I wanted the girls who came to my camp to have. Health was the first, for without it we are not of much use in the world. Work was the second, to learn how to make and do things with our hands and the third was Love. With Health, Work and Love, we have a perfect woman. The word Wohelo is made from the first two letters of these three words. This word Wohelo I gave to the Camp Fire Girls and now there are many thousands of girls striving for this balance of work, health and love. It is a hobby of mine that all necessary work can be made interesting





if we are big enough to make it so. In my endeavor to work out this idea the system of honors and awards of the Camp Fire Girls was started.

With this introduction I wish to tell you something about the camping movement for boys and girls. Literally thousands of them are flocking to mountains and lake and sea shores of our country as soon as the schools close in late June. It has become a very serious problem for the railroads to handle this great crowd of children. Camp Directors have to consider the dates of opening and closing of their camps to meet this unheard of congestion. Each year it becomes a greater problem for camps are growing in size and in numbers. What will the railroads do when all our boys and girls go to camp, for eventually they will all have to go because it has been found the best way for them to spend the summer months. For two months both boys and girls are happily busy learning things which are going to be of lasting benefit to them—sometimes it is called education for leisure time. It would take a long time





to catalogue all the things which the children are learning in a well conducted camp. I will try to enumerate some of them, although the greatest of them cannot be classified. They have to do with the spirit, with a certain attitude toward life. The things which we emphasize in the Luther Gulick Camps are what may be called racially old activities, those activities which when we are old we will turn to with joy and relaxation. Swimming, sailing, rowing, canoeing, gardening, horesback riding, hiking, outdoor cooking, knowing the woods and all their contents, making beautiful things with the hands, such as jewelry, weaving beautiful scarves, and working with clay. All these things are racially old. We do not play basketball or have track athletics. These are for congested areas and are used during the school year.

I am finding along with many other camp directors that it is possible to give boys and girls a deep appreciation of music and art while living this out-of-door life. Good music will be listened to





breathlessly if given at the right time and in the right quantity. Since knowing its possibilities the indoor concert during the year does not appeal to me the way the playing of the young conservatory graduate, who puts her soul into a symphony to please her young eager listeners. Sometimes this music floats out over the water after they are all tucked in bed and they are wafted off to dreamland listening either to a piano solo or it may be a violin solo or our music director may have arranged for a vocal selection. They love to serenade the campers. To me the associations of this kind are perhaps the happiest things we do for our campers. Not only is the ear cultivated by this music but a feeling floats out and as it were "permeates the atmosphere so that harsh sounds are unpleasant"—voices become subdued, screeching is never heard and it is a saying that our campers go home with lower







pitched voices and quieter ones than they had when they came to camp. This is what the love of nature ought to give to these children and we know that it does.

Along with the appreciation of music is also an appreciation of color and design silently growing among them. Some sketching and decoration of paddles and choosing of colors and design in the crafts is part of a day's program. How they love the sunsets, the soft summer rain, the starlit nights. They stand out as lasting memories of camp.

I have spoken about the growth of the camping movement but I want to tell you more about it. We have a Camp Director Associations to which all the better camps belong. There are at present three hundred and sixty-five members and there is a list of fifty-one waiting to be passed on before they can be admitted. We are trying to build up this organization in order to protect the camping movement. Every good camp helps the





movement, every bad one hurts it. Those of us who are in it feel that we are pioneers in a wonderful cause. We see what it does for the boys and girls. We are sorry to have any boys and girls miss the experience. The deans of colleges and the principals of private schools are glad to have boys and girls who have had camping experience.

It is too early to predict what this new kind of education means to our girls but I already see a new race of mothers among my old campers. Such babies as they have, sturdy, healthy and happy with proud healthy mothers and not too busy to care for them properly. It is helping the young business woman. She has learned team work. She is not afraid. She knows where and how to get recreation. Do you wonder that we love our work? Do you wonder that it pains us to have boys and girls dragged over Europe before they are old

enough to appreciate works of art which others have made? They want to create themselves. They love friends much more than dead inani-





animate things. Later they will love the old masters and they will have more bases of comparison. Let them go to camp or if they do not want to go send them for a summer. They will love it and will thank you for sending them when they are older.

Angelo Patri sums up camping for girls, as follows:

Let the girls go camping. Let them go to the mountains and stretch their bodies and minds. Let them have a glimpse of what it means to get close to the earth and know the mother feel of it. Let them get the smell of the forest in their nostrils. There is nothing sweeter, nothing cleaner, nothing that will store up finer memories than the smell of moss crushed under foot, the whiff of pine as it brushes the cheeks, the perfume of young hemlock warming in the sun, the bitter-clean smell of ferns knee-deep beside the trail, the woodsmoke of the evening fires curling towards the stars as the happily tired children roll themselves in their blankets to sleep on the bed of pine needles. Mother Nature has been spreading for just this occasion these last hundred years. Don't you know that Education is the flowering of memories? The choicest of them are to be found in the woods with friends and youth. The summer in a good camp will repay its cost a thousand times by its priceless joy. Let the girl go to camp.

I have said nothing about Sivad— Sunday services or council fires. There is no place where children will listen more attentively to divine instruction or will be guided by Christian examples as at camp.





God is all about them. He is manifest in all nature and in the best part of themselves and of their companions and they feel it.

My interest in girls make me specially interested in your drive for a Girls' Week, here in Chicago. It is a fine thing to sponsor and I hope that you give it your liberal support. Girls are of as much importance in this world as boys.

I thank you for your attention. I have enjoyed telling you about my work. And you may be interested to know that I love to do the things my girls do, to swim and dive, sail a boat and make beautiful things with my hands. I love pretty clothes and believe that we should make ourselves as attractive as possible or perhaps I should say as attractive as is reasonable.

The Luther Gulick Camps now take care of all the family. I have two camps for girls, my son has a camp for boys and my daughter has the Migis Lodge for grown ups. Migis means—"I am creeping away to rest".

Again I thank you.

