

CAMPING

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The Official Journal of the Camp Directors Association

VOL. III - NO. 8

CAMBRIDGE - MASSACHUSETTS -

August 1928

CHARLOTTE V. GULICK

Founder of Camp Fire Girls and Director of Luther Gulick Camps

The name Gulick has become indelibly associated with several of the most important pioneer movements in the development of America's greatest undeveloped resource, the leisure time of her people. The late Mrs. Charlotte V. Gulick was known not only as the cooperating and inspiring influence behind her husband's distinguished contributions in this field, but also for two very positive influences in American education for life, the Luther Gulick Camps, and Camp Fire Girls of America. Through the founding of both these organizations she expressed her own philosophy which centers in the home, and in the happy relationship of parent and child within this very corner stone of American life.

Born in Oberlin, Ohio, December 12, 1865, to the Rev. John Vetter and his wife Ann Ada (Rust), she was educated in the public schools of Kansas, where her family had moved. Two years of preparatory work at Washburn College in Topeka, and two more at Drury College, in Springfield, Mo., were followed by three years of collegiate work at Drury where she obtained her A.B. degree. A year of special work at Wellesley was supplemented by a year in medicine at the American Missionary Institute in New York, as she had married Dr. Luther Gulick on August 30, 1887 and wished to share more fully in his plans for becoming a medical missionary. Their plans changed from the field of foreign missions to work here in America and, settling in Springfield, Mass., they began to teach and to practice the educational principles of spirit, mind and body symbolized in the now famous triangle of the Y. M. C. A. which Dr. Gulick originated at this time.

Mrs. Gulick established a summer camp for her family and their friends in Connecticut and there, as in her home, worked out some of the elements that later went dramatically into her husband's contributions to the Playground Association, the Public School Athletic League of New York and the Russell Sage Foundations, as well as into her own realization of ideals in Camp Wohelo, where the groundwork for Camp Fire Girls was laid.

In Springfield the Gulick family became a laboratory for the discovery and application of educational principles. Mrs. Gulick wrote magazine articles on various phases of child life, including one of the pioneer contributions on sex instruction for children, which appeared in the *Ladies*



Home Journal. Another, on a child's relation to money, resulted from a special topic assigned to Mrs. Gulick by a unique mother's club of which she was one of the charter members. Every member specialized actively in a specific field of child development. This was at a time when child study was growing into national interest under the stimulus of G. Stanley Hall, under whom Mrs. Gulick had taken a special course at Clark University. When registering for this course, Mrs. Gulick answered the question as to her profession, or desired profession in life, with the single word "Motherhood." Her intense and lasting devotion to this ideal has made the extension of her mother relation to her own family over into the mothering of large groups of girls a strikingly significant fact in the new summer education of the out-of-doors. Besides her many contributions to current journalism, Mrs. Gulick wrote *Emergencies* for Ginn and Co., as one of the famous Gulick Hygiene Series.

Friends wished their children to attend Mrs. Gulick's family camp in such numbers that she decided to establish a regular summer camp for girls in Maine. There, on the shore of beautiful Lake Sebago, it grew from a handful of girls living in tents upon some granite boulders into a community extending over a mile of lake front and including almost every form of camp activity and equipment. Here Mrs. Gulick worked out the practical principles upon which Camp Fire Girls was founded, now available in printed form in the *Camp Fire Manual*, *Symbol Book*, *Name Book*, *Shultamna* and *Air Picture Book*.

The word Wohelo was coined by Mrs. Gulick to embody the three cardinal principles of camp fire, i.e. Wo(rk), He(alth) and Lo(ve). She believed that in constructive work lay the roots of true service to humanity and the real joy of living. She believed that work should be made attractive, alluring. The first experience in doing anything good and useful should be joyful. Health, as fundamental to good work of any kind, should be the heritage of every girl. Love, as our highest law, she wished to see realized more fully through a creative educational program which would express this fundamental emotion widely and deeply in everyday life. She chose her own camp fire symbol, an American Indian symbol for the sun, and her camp fire name, Hiiteni, meaning life more abundant and the desire for attainment, in close accord with the inner meaning of *Wohelo*. *Every Girl's Magazine* today so welcome to thousands of American girls, is the daughter of *Wohelo Magazine*, which Mrs. Gulick started and edited as one of the instruments for the spreading of this gospel.

Camp Wohelo, at South Casco, Maine, became the Luther Gulick Camps in memory of Dr. Gulick whose death in the summer of 1918 left his wife and children inspired to carry on the work to which they had devoted their lives together. Frances Gulick administers the Migis Lodge, a summer camp for adults on Lake Sebago, at South Casco, Maine; Halsey Gulick for a period of years acted as director of a boys' camp at Raymond, Maine, called Camp Timanous in memory of the name given to Dr. Gulick by Wohelo girls, and meaning "guiding spirit."

During the World War, both Dr. and Mrs. Gulick went to France on a mission for the Y.M.C.A. the essentials of which are crystallized in Dr. Gulick's book *Morals and Morale*, his fourth volume following *The Efficient Life*, *Mind and Work* and *The Healthful Art of Dancing*. *The Philosophy of Play*, written against a background of Mrs. Gulick's experiments in the home life and education of children, was published shortly after Dr. Gulick's death.

Like other of our great educators, Mrs. Gulick combined a clear-eyed analytic mind which was scientific in its demand for truth with a quality of mysticism which put her into sensitive communication with the things of life and nature. The camp girls were her "children" to her always, not only by a term of affection but be-

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