

CAMP FIRE GIRLS TO PLANT SMALL FORESTS SATURDAY



CAMP FIRE GIRLS FIGHTING THE GYPSY MOTH AT CAMP KIWANIS IN SOUTH HANSON, THIS SUMMER

The Camp Fire Girls of Greater Boston are getting ready to show New England a real tree planting. On Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock, the Camp Fire organizations will mobilize their forces simultaneously at seven points, between the Cape and the Charles River. At each of these points they will plant a small forest of seedling pines.

Each of the plantings will be attended by ceremonies, symbolic, both of the forest and of the aims and ideals of this outdoor organization for girls. The seven points chosen for the planting here represents to Camp Fire Girls the seven points in their law.

They have a ritual for tree planting and a poem that goes with it. The seven separate ceremonies promise to provide a unique and picturesque outdoor afternoon which large numbers of people may enjoy. The Camp Fire members themselves will turn out in force, not only to participate in the actual tree setting, but to provide both actors and audience for the accompanying pageantry and speaking. The public are invited, too, from each section represented.

The State forestry officials are backing the movement and gladly providing the trees. Three of the plantings will be on State reservations, which have not been developed during these recent years of economy nearly as fast as the original forestry law anticipated and as the forest lovers have hoped.

May Set Out 20,000 Trees

Perhaps 20,000 trees will be set out in this one Saturday afternoon by the Camp Fire Girls. This is a considerable labor contribution to the community, an opportunity gladly seized by Commissioner of Conservation W. A. L. Bazeley and State Forester Cook. The Camp Fire leaders expect that their girls will get something of value out of it, too, beside the exercise. They will appreciate trees more, and the worth of growing things, says Miss Margaret Thomasma, new executive secretary of the Greater Boston Camp Fire Council.

Miss Thomasma has come here from Grand Rapids. Her's was the enthusiasm that arranged this dramatic piece of forest planting. In Grand Rapids, Miss Thomasma engineered the first tree-planting of the Camp Fire Girls. This is an activity that the organization has taken to with energy. They are credited with having set out 70,000 forest trees in these organized planting bees, since Miss Thomasma's Camp Fire did its pioneer planting in Michigan.

The Camp Fire Girls have planted trees along highways and in reservations and parks. As campers they love trees and want to keep them for all future outdoor generations.

Locations for Plantings

The planting parties on Oct 1 have been planned for the following places: In Middlesex Fells Reservation, both at Bears' Den and Grey Hills; in Lynn Woods, in Hammond Pond Woods, along the Charles River; in the Houghton Hill Section of Blue Hills; in the new State forest reservation in Foxboro; in Myles Standish Forest in

Plymouth, and in Andover in the Harold Parker State Forest.

At Plymouth 3500 trees will be planted by perhaps 150 to 200 girls from the surrounding communities. Miss J. Verity Smith, Camp Fire chairman of the Plymouth District, will have charge of a program dedicated to the new forest.

At Andover, Mrs. H. A. Ramsdell and Miss Zillah Wells, field secretary of the Greater Boston organization, will conduct the program. Miss Thomasma is going to Foxboro to take charge of the affair there. Miss Josephine Richardson of Boston will be chief forester at the Blue Hills planting. Miss Letta Clark, president of the Camp Fire Council of Boston will have charge of the planting in Hammond Pond Woods. Miss Alice Baker of Malden will direct the Middlesex Fells program. Charles Casson of Lynn and Miss Doris Foster, a field agent of the Boston District, will conduct the Lynn program.

A tree ceremonial to be used at each planting has been written by Mr and Mrs Casson, who have been Camp Fire guardians for a dozen years.

Ceremonials Originated in N E

The girls are to bring their own trowels, hoes, pails for the planting. If Oct 1 is a rainy Saturday, the whole affair will be off a week to Oct 8.

Camp Fire ceremonials originated in New England, Miss Thomasma reminds. She has given the Globe the following account of this now national organization whose law is to "seek beauty, give service, pursue knowledge, be trustworthy, hold on to health, glorify work, and be happy."

"Although the birthday of Camp Fire is officially the 17th of March, 1912, the idea had been taking shape for a long time before that. When W. C. Langdon of the Sage Foundation was directing a historical pageant in Thetford, Vt, he found that while the boys who were working with him were organized as Boy Scouts, the girls had no organization of their own, and very much wanted one. He talked the matter over with Mrs Charles H. Farnsworth, who was director of the Hanouon Camps for Girls in Thetford and preceptress of the Horace Mann High School girls of Teachers' College, Columbia University.

"They became enthusiastic over the general idea, and consulted James West of the Boy Scouts and Dr Luther Halsey Gulick of the Sage Foundation, who was always full of enthusiastic interest in the health and well-being of boys and girls. Mr West had received many letters and requests from girls and those interested in the happiness of girls, asking that some program of organization be planned for their benefit, such as the Boy Scouts enjoyed.

First Meeting in 1911

"Here was this keen desire arising among the girls themselves. Here, too, was a group of people whose work with girls and interest in them placed them in a position to be of valuable help in planning and launching such an organization. A meeting was called in March, 1911, to discuss the best way to meet the need.

"An organizing and executive committee was elected with full power to work out some adequate plan, with Dr organization, whose law is to "seek She was professor of household arts

education at Teachers' College and organizer and director of the Manhattan Trade School for Girls. She was in contact with all classes of girls—rich and poor, those who were self-supporting and those with abundant means and leisure—and believed that they all needed a happy, out-of-door life and some opportunity of knowing and cooperating with each other.

"Dr Woolman and Mrs Farnsworth, working often into the 'wee sma' hours' after their busy day, planned and wrote the first manual. They received invaluable and enthusiastic assistance from other members of the committee. Mr Langdon suggested the title, 'Camp Fire Girls,' and the ranks Wood Gatherer, Fire Maker and Torch Bearer. Dr and Mrs Luther Gulick had worked out for their own daughters and girls who came under their supervision in their Summer camp, a scheme of 'honors' or awards for accomplishment, which was modified and developed to form the Camp Fire honor system. Dr and Mrs Gulick are responsible also for the ideals, ritual and use of symbolism which so enrich the program. The name of their Summer camp for girls, Wohelo (Work, Health, Love), became the watchword of the organization.

Those Who Helped

"Among those specialists and enthusiasts who helped in molding the program were Dr Anna L. Brown of the Young Women's Christian Association, with her interest in the health and spiritual happiness of girls; Miss Lina Beard, sister of Dan Beard of the Boy Scouts, who emphasized the sturdy virtues of the pioneer, and Mr and Mrs Thompson-Seton, who stressed the value of primitive crafts and occupation, the love of outdoor life and friendship with animals.

"By the Fall of 1911 there were Camp Fire Girls organized in many parts of the United States. The executive and organizing committee now feeling that the work was well started elected Dr Luther Halsey Gulick as president of the Camp Fire Girls. In the following March, 1912, the movement was incorporated as a national association. Today, 15 years after the incorporation of Camp Fire, there are Camp Fire groups in 21 different countries. Six hundred thousand girls have lived the Camp Fire program of work, health, love and service, and there are today more than 175,000 Camp Fire Girls following this program."