

# Eleanor's Vignettes



Following is another story about the establishment and history of an early camp. Jean McMullan provided much of the material for this column.—E. E.

by Eleanor P. Eells

From letters, camp logs, and early documents in her possession, Jean McMullan, the present camp director, tells of the founding, in 1907, and the early days of Alford Lake Camp.

For as many years as the letters go on, it was evident that Dr. Susan Kingsbury and her partner, Florence M.

Marshall (MA)—principal of the Manhattan Trade School for Girls in New York City—started Alford Lake Camp with the intention of proving that girls could indeed work and achieve together in a camp situation. During the first years they had about 15 girls with the enrollment increasing to about 30 girls in 1912. They gave many scholarships in order to get started, and, at first, professed to open doors to any who "would partake of the stimulating climate of the state of Maine." There was, however, soon the realization that private enterprise would work only if bills were paid, and greater attention was paid to just who would "be acceptable" in the camp community. The women told of "working 24 hours a day to get the camp going, and still fulfilling professional duties at their colleges."

The letters stretch back to 1907 and tell of Miss Kingsbury's world travels and many interests in international politics, law, women at work in Russia and England. In 1914, one letter from Miss Kingsbury said, "Don't misunderstand—I'm not a warlike person, only I'm inclined to feel that God permits war to bring us back to a sense of realities. And, awful as it is, it seems some far better than the gross materialism and superficialities of our times. In camp, we can teach the simplicity of living and self-sufficiency of girls. I'm reminded so often of 'it needs be

offenses must come, but more to him by whom the offense cometh.' Can we know, with our little finite viewpoints, what part camp plays in the Creator's great plan?"

A Smith College student wrote Miss Kingsbury in 1911 asking for subjects on research in camping "as the spectacle of girls living in the open was a unique one, and certainly to be studied."

In 1913 men were employed to teach riding and swimming assisted by young counselors, an apparent retreat from the early plan of self-sufficiency and wilderness survival. Miss Kingsbury considered camps of great importance for "the cooperation and growth of tomorrow's women leaders."

Equally important to her was her career as author and distinguished professor of social economy at Bryn Mawr College and later head of the School of Social Work. It was fascinating to this writer to discover the degree to which she kept her two careers separate, by arranging to have a partner run camp in alternate summers while she traveled, lectured, and wrote. No reference to the camp could be found in any of the general biographical references or in the Bryn Mawr archives. The camp was her home and her pride and there was never any doubt as to who was in charge—setting policy and maintaining high standards.

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ities, returning to the dispensary during the day and perhaps "sleeping at night. Many antibiotics require specific times of administration and a real problem is when the camper returns to the living unit but still requires treatment. To provide for this the nurse and cabin counselor may operate as follows: one dose packet given with the rising bell, the second and third to be delivered during the day by the nurse at the dispensary, the fourth and final dose for the four period to be delivered when the counselor retires. In this way attention is made for the required hour or two hours after eating that the drugs require, and also provides approximately the needed six-hour intervals specified. If a urine analysis or throat culture is required, the nurse often obtain these at camp, eliminating another trip to the doctor.

**Actions should be recorded**

Every action by the nurse, treatment, and needs to be recorded in ink in the log book. Included should be the patient's name, the time, complaint, and position. If a medical opinion is required, a brief summation of the advice should be entered. Conversations with the nurse on personal matters are considered to be privileged, and as such should only be recorded as a consultation. This must be kept in mind that the day is a legal record and as such must be retained for a specified period. The nurse must remember that she/he is the advocate for not only the patient, but the employer, and act in accordance with the benefit and protection of both. Before camp closes, the nurse should take an inventory and a written report, including a summary of trips to the clinic, hospital, or dentist. All supplies should be packed and labeled and in need of purchase for the next year should be noted. Bills for use of a rental car and receipts for cash expenditures should be submitted. It is

advisable to keep duplicates of any correspondence.

Being a camp nurse is a responsibility tempered with fun and satisfaction. Having a successful camp experience demands maturity, education, resilience, and a willingness to accept an awesome responsibility. Between the acceptance of a camp position and the realization of its rewards at the end the nurse will have made a meaningful contributions to many individuals. □

(New President continued from page 7)

ing professional different from others who conduct camp operations. The ACA has programs, such as Certified Camp Directors, which strengthen competency through director education. But also competency must extend to the whole staff, and again, the ACA through its leadership programs endeavors to meet needs of a variety of staff.

There must also be credibility of the ACA as a camping movement leader, so that when the association "speaks" the "power structure" listens. To speak with credibility requires an information base of facts, insights into the role of camping in society, and understandings of structural frameworks and operational technicalities. The ACA must be a forum for discussion and direction—internally we must exercise self-examination; externally we must be united. The diversity of the membership of the ACA is also its strength in that it can more effectively be attuned to the varied interests of those engaged in camping.

**Accountability** is an attribute which the ACA has been concerned with for many years, as exemplified in the Standards program. The accredited camps represent an accountability in operations to campers, parents, and to the public. The Standards protect against others by being able to provide to the public a guideline for quality camps. The Standards also enable each camp to strengthen itself. There is no

substitute for quality performance. As an association, we must give greater attention to the performance. This is evidenced in programs of legislation, staffing is a primary goal for 1980, studies concerned with financial/economic consideration, and continued updating and improvement of the Standards (such as risk management, services for special populations).

These three—catalyst, credibility, accountability—are the cornerstones of image. No amount of publicity can bring us image. Others must "experience" us to believe in us. It is not as we "are" or as we say we are to each other within our own group—but it is as others perceive us that we gain our stature.

There is an important fourth element which is for ourselves. The ACA provides an opportunity for sharing. It begins with you as individuals within the Sections, and then wider opportunities through inter-Section, Regional and National efforts. While persons must give of themselves, the leadership is vested in the Section Boards, the task forces, and the association staff. However, it is only when there is communication one with another that those in official leadership positions can create the opportunities for sharing and respond to the needs or interests of the membership. There must be openness and responsiveness.

Together we must go forward with positiveness and expectations "to become," for only then can there be full utilization of the dynamics of camping and meeting the challenges of the '80s. □

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campers are at risk, it stresses the need for well-controlled aquatic programs. Additionally, this finding emphasizes the need for close supervision in general, since some of the drowning deaths occurred because the campers involved swam at unauthorized times and locations. □

(Ells continued from page 9)

It is to be hoped that Mr. and Mrs. Andrew McMullan, who became the owners in 1964, will continue research on the life of this remarkable woman and will write the full story of Alford Lake Camp over its 75-year span. □

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