



Washing Out Knapsacks



The Gathering of the tribe



Time Out To Take Five

Chiefs, Papooses Galore Invade Junior League's Summer Camp

By OLIVE DICKASON

Thirty-five papooses yelped with poy and jumped gaily into the water. That meant quite a bit of work for half-a-dozen chiefs, who while encouraging the fun, kept a watchful eye on all proceedings.

It was morning and the papooses, who are the junior campers at the Junior League Camp at St. Sauveur, were having their swimming lessons.

The "chiefs" are the counsellors. "Big Chief" Mrs. Agnes Mutchler, watched youngsters frolic and explained that the chief system was not only lots of fun, but helped discipline.

"Watch me swim, Big Chief!" one of the children called, demonstrating an enthusiastic back stroke.

"She couldn't swim a stroke when she came here 10 days ago," Mrs. Mutchler said.

300 Campers

That story is often repeated among the 300 girls who attend the camp each summer. Each group of 100 girls stay for three weeks. About half of them are recommended by welfare agencies, churches or community centres; the rest apply directly to the Junior League. Children who are accepted pay \$12.50 for the three-week period and have to pass thorough medical and dental tests.

"We are much too busy to have to worry about such things as aching teeth," Mrs. Mutchler, who has been with the camp five years, said.

A quick tour of the camp the other day revealed children engaged in a thousand and one activities. Besides the swimming and routine jobs such as cleaning up quarters, campers were out hiking, painting back drops for forthcoming plays, modelling ashtrays ("See mine!" one eager young sculptor said. "I've even got a place for the cigarette!").

getting ready for over-night hikes. So much was going on, in fact, that it looked a little difficult to keep track of. "It takes a lot of organizing to allow such freedom of action," Mrs. Mutchler explained. "Everything is planned long in advance."

Mrs. Aubrey Kinsmen, a member of the Junior League, elaborated: "Even the menus are planned during the winter by a special committee. It's worked out to give the children a balanced diet with each meal."

Emphasis On Diet

The emphasis on diet is so strong that a professional chef is hired. This summer he is C. MacMichaels, who in the winter is in charge of the cooking at the Montreal High School's Cafeteria. He is quite likely to produce a cake in honor of somebody's birthday, or perhaps an elaborate salad for no particular reason at all.

Mrs. Mutchler pointed to a deep-freeze unit in the kitchen. "This was loaned to us," she explained. "It really has simplified the food problem." Supplies are brought in once a week, over a tortuous road from the village.

Each incoming group of campers, who arrive by train with some of the counsellors, are greeted by a powwow; and on the eve of departure, a birthday party is held when everybody gets a prize for something, and the campers can stay up late.

The spirit in the camp is tops, Mrs. Mutchler said, attributing it to the devoted work of the counsellors, most of whom are matriculation students.

This year 170 more applications than could be accepted were received from would-be campers.