

8 PM July 11, 1956

This is a recording from a tape of the Arthur Godfrey show July 11, 1956, on which I appeared, I meaning L. B. I am taking it off of the tape recording and transmitting it to the dictaphone so that it can be typed off on paper and from there we will make a mimeograph stencil of it and then have copies made to send to members of the Outdoor Education Association and to others who might be interested.

I am indebted to Squire Durr for the recording. Squire has the 11 AM program (Pike County Hour). on the local Port Jarvis Radio Station WDLC. At the end of the tape there is included a statement that he made on Tuesday morning at 11:00 on his program, in which he gave six minutes to the announcement of my appearing on the Arthur Godfrey Show.

We will not reproduce the entire Arthur Godfrey show, but cut in at places where conversation takes place between Arthur Godfrey and myself. I should say further that in some parts of the conversation you really need to see it on TV in order to get a full appreciation of what took place. Some of the comments do not quite make full sense unless you have seen and heard the whole show, but with those apologies we will proceed. The next will be the introduction of my appearance on stage, and I add further that I did not meet Arthur Godfrey until I was introduced to him on the stage. We had no rehearsal what so ever. Everything that happens was entirely impromptu and as they say on the radio and TV it was totally "ad lib".



A. G. "You folks know, I hope you didn't know because I just found it out today myself, that there are three million children attending camp in this country right now, three million kids, and they are distributed around about 15 thousand camps they say. And, we thought since we have three million children away at camp that there must be the homes of three million kids around wondering how they are doing, are they having any fun? There must be three million more families thinking whether they should send their children to camps or not, so we thought we would invite a gent over here to talk to about this, and we have, lo and behold and none of us have met him yet, the executive director for The Outdoor Association, Dr. L. B. Sharp. Doc, come on over here and join us. Very nice to see you. Very nice to see you".

L. B. Mr Godfrey, pleased to meet you, sir".

A.G. Miss Davis, Dr. Sharp. (Hello) Miss Coe, these are the Toppers, and Don Cherry. Hey you sit still now, you sit there, don't you worry. I'll sit here and the boys can sit behind us. What you got there in your old duffel bag.

L.B. Well, that's my packsack. It's been in about 25 different states, on top of mountains, in valleys, pretty close friend of mine, this packsack.



A.G. BY golly, you look like a fellow who spent his life out doors. Have you, all your life?

L.B. Well, pretty much. Born on a farm out in Kansas. That ~~g~~ gives you a good sandy start, you know. (Laughter)

A.G. Yeah, of course. This Outdoor Association, Dr. Sharp-

L.B. May I put the word education in there?

A.G. Oh, Education.

L.B. The Outdoor Education Association.

A.G. The Outdoor Education Association, who sponsors that?

L.B. Well, it is a voluntary organization, by membership and contribution, and people who are interested in helping to extend this idea of getting more American youths, boys and girls in the out of doors as a regular part of the school.

A.G. Ah, --h ---h--- .

L. B. That's kind a new twist to this camping business you know.

A. G. You mean you won't <sup>save</sup> ~~serve~~ it all for summer vacation, do something through the school year.

L. B. That's right.

A. G. As part of the curriculum?

L. B. That's right.

A. G. Now they do this/

L. B. Yeah, that's what I say too.

(Laughter)

L. B. You see, there have been so many youngersters playing hooky over the years that the educators finally woke up (laughter) The youngsters must have something in this business of playing hooky.



A. G. Now when you take these lads out, do you take boys and girls both, and you take them to these camps; what kind of camps are they? Just fishing camps or ----

L. B. No, not at all. I think a statement should be made here. It is hard to believe, that since 1940, up to now, let's take Michigan for example. About 35 to 40 thousand school youth, during school time, spend at least one week in camp as a regular part of their curriculum. Now you say, what do they do, -- well, let's look at the text books. All the way through; filled with fine information that youngsters should know and understand, but they just read about it. So 85% of what they read about exists right out in the great out of doors like here, including your poison ivy patch that you sang about.

A. G. Uh huh.

L. B. Now, so, if we believe and we know it's true, that you learn most through direct experience; first hand, dealing with a thing directly. Well, that's faster, more efficient, and they remember it longer, and they have a deeper appreciation of those things they get first hand. So what are we wasting so much time sitting in the classroom for, if that be true, you see, that's the idea. Now, California, for example, over 30 thousand youth last year spent a week in camp, teachers along, say -- and there is something -- a new uniform for teachers -- now, you have got to find who looks good in slacks now.

(Laughter)



A. G. Ohhh, I can remember one that would - - oh well, go ahead.

(Laughter)

L. B. Well, I could too. (Laughter) We'll skip that. But, now some teachers can and some can't.

A. G. Yeah, I know, I know what you mean.

L. B. In spite of the tailors.

A. G. That's right.

L. B. So it calls for a new type of teacher - - which takes us into teacher training institutions, and now we have approximately 15 or 20 teacher training institutions that require at least two weeks in a camping environment as a part of the preparation for teaching. New Jersey is very outstanding in that, so is Michigan, In fact, over the country it is growing very rapidly. So, if you want a teacher that knows, is not afraid of the woods, afraid of spiders and understands the difference between a maple leaf and poison ivy, and that is important, they've got to learn it someplace, and the best way is while they are preparing to be a teacher, and in the out of doors.

A. G. Now you, at the camps, you teach them the things like, for instance, about poison ivy and poison oak and sumac and things like that. Uh now, what else do you show them, then.

L. B. Well, you see most of the things they study in school -- when you just stop to look at the curriculum -- at any level, elementary or secondary, even college for that matter, science, nature, history, sociology, geography, agriculture, forestry, flowers, trees, animals, birds, and all that's tied up in the package of education, for the most part. So they go out and it



much better to -- oh by the way, no more of this business of we are going to study from page so and so to page so and so today. See, -- and then begin there the next day, because you may be talking about a squirrel, then a snake comes along. Or, you see a beautiful cloud come by and the curriculum isn't organized that way -- the outdoors like this, and you see, it is all tied up in one great big package. So, it requires a different kind of method in teaching.

A. G. Now, these people who are going to teach -- are they the class room teachers that go along with them.

L. B. That's right.

A. G. They stay right with their class.

L. B. Yeak stay right with them. By the way, I think, near home here, the Edgemont Schools, Scarsdale, New York is a good example. Last September, from September first until the Christmas vacation 34 hundred elementary school children, with their teachers, spent one day out in the woods as a regular part of their school curriculum -- seeing, touching, and doing the things they read about in their books. They plan their menu, cook their noon meal outdoors. It is quite a developement. There's another thing the trend is for more land around the schools. Edgemont School, they call it the scenic seventy, with seventy acres of beautiful woods right along with the school grounds.



A. G. Oh.

L. B. I don't know what we are going to do in these big cities, where they don't even have a four foot square around the building, but someday they will move to the out of doors, further out in the country.

A. G. We ought to have some way to transport the lands out there.

L. B. We should have. I think you might be interested, Mr Godfrey, in this. We go along saying this camping is a wonderful thing educationally. In 1947 we stuck our proverbial leather neck out, educationally speaking, and said well let's test this plan. So, from the New York City Schools, we took two groups of boys and girls, a fifth grade and a seventh grade; took them out to our camp for a month. We selected a corresponding fifth grade and seventh grade and they stayed in school and studied their lessons. This was under the supervision of Dr. Jansen, who is the Superintendent of Schools, and his staff. So we said, coming out to our camp, the youngsters will not have formal class instructions, nothing of reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, formally. It will all be an integrated experiences. But in school they went right ahead with their regular lessons. So both groups were tested at the beginning of the experiment, given batteries of tests, standard achievement tests, as they regularly give in schools. And so, at the end of the month when the children came back both groups were retested. So, what happened? In the majority of the tests the camp or experimental group measured way ahead of those who stayed in school and studied their lessons. I guess if it hadn't



proven out that way I'm afraid I wouldn't have ever been on your program, sir (laughter)

A. G. Well, I am glad to have had you with us Dr., and I know that the children watching us tonight are going to be delighted to hear all about this. I'm going to ask you to stand by here with me just a minute now, because there is always that bug-a-boo time. We have to be on a little schedule. We have a very lovely little girl sitting here with us from way out on the West Coast. Come over with us, What's your name sweetie.

Girl: Pat Briger

A. G. Pat, come on in here, Pat Briger. You know Virginia, Jan, Dr. Sharp, Don Cherry and the Toppers. You brought some deep magic with you. (That's right) One of our sponsors, Dr., this is for keeping the gals skin nice and clean. (At this point Godfrey gave me the bottle of lotion. I didn't know what to do with it. I unscrewed the top, well almost did, as though I were smelling it, I was afraid that if I got the darn thing unscrewed, I might spill it and that would really smear up the Godfrey show, so I didn't unscrew it entirely, but I sniffed as though it were very pleasant. That was quite a hunk of lotion sitting over there. She was really a beautiful gal. Well, let's continue with the Godfrey show.)

A. G. You know, it smells pretty good. It keeps your skin nice and soft and clean. The nice part about it is that it really gets down deep and gets the dirt out. We asked this lovely gal to come here and look pretty in the camera while we talk about it because she uses the stuff, natch. Got interesting things to talk about Dr.,

L. B. Yeah I know.



A. G. We are about to close this half hour here and we got four old woodsmen here to do it with. These toppers, look, why don't we sit right here in front of them and pretty up the place. Come on Jan, make it kind of nice. Now, with three girls in front of four boys and it will make a very pretty picture. Oh, yeah, I gotta light the fire, Doc. I got the darnedest thing here you ever saw.

L. B. How about using flint and steel. (laughter)

A. G. I wish I could. I got an old fashion match. Go ahead, you start it Burt.

Song

L. B. (Thinking) (It is really quite an experience to sit here while song is being sung. I have had many people tell me that my foot was tapping and my hands were keeping time etc.)

A. G. By golly, I can't think of a nicer thing to have in front of a camp fire than a gorgeous blonde like that. (Laughter) Boy, Oh Boy, what a --

#### FIRST HALF

(Song)

A. G. We're outdoors tonight, if you haven't been with us before. We got three very lovely gals with us here, Jan and Virginia Coe, and Pat Briger, Dr. Sharp, and Don -- Whoop and holler -- over here Don Cherry and the Toppers. We have been having a ball outside. Dr Sharp, who is executive director of The Outdoor Education Association was talking to us very interestingly about the scheme that is growing and growing all over the country to get the school kids out of doors and making



it a part of their curriculum, if you don't mind, to go camping and learn about the great outdoors, it helps their studies and I am so glad to see it happen. But you don't get much chance to open up your bag there, doc. What you got in it?

L. B. Well, a few little things. Before I forget I want to make a present to you Mr. Godfrey.

A. G. Arthur is my name, sir.

L. B. Arthur, well, all right Arthur, you can call me L. B. too.

A. G. L. B. Well, L. B. (Laughter)

L. B. Okay, Arthur, Now you must get some letters you can tell are not going to make you happy when you open them. Anticipating that, this letter opener is one that you use (rip) like that. And that takes the anger out before you read the contents of the letter.

A. G. Very smart.

L. B. So you take a hold of that. It was made to fit your hand, made out of American Chestnut, a tree that is practically extinct in this country.

A. G. Yes, I am so sorry to say. That is one thing I am sorry the children of today probably will never see, L. B. is the real old American Chestnut like they did when you and I were kids, huh.

L. B. That's right, I am afraid that shipment of conifers that landed in Boston Harbor within 10 years killed practically all the American Chestnuts in our country.

A. G. Is that what caused that blight.



L. B. That's right. The Chestnut blight came from a shipment of conifers from another country. We won't mention the country. It's a friendly country now.

A. G. I don't know about that, ruined our chestnuts.

L. B. Well - -

A. G. I thank you, sir, for that letter opener. That's a beautiful thing and a lethal thing to, you know. Isn't that beautifully done. Who carved that?

L. B. I'm afraid I'll have to tell you that I did it myself.

A. G. You did. Well, bless your heart. Thank you, sir, that's very kind of you.

L. B. That's the only one like that that has ever been made, Arthur.

A. G. Very good. I will keep that on my desk with a great deal of pride, sir. Thank you.

L. B. And if I write you a letter, please --ha, ha, go easy with it.

A. G. Go easy.

L. B. Well, these other things are just about what we make out to camp. You may not have time to see all of them.

A. G. I wish we did have, but I'm afraid we won't. What you got in there now?

L. B. Well, right quick like, here's a game that a youngster made out of bones - - just native materials.

A. G. What do you know, it's cut through a big, well, bone of a shark.

L. B. Well, after a meal you take the bones you know, eat the meat off first, then you take the bones and make a game out of it.



A. G. What do you think of that. Look what the kid made here. How do you play this game.

L. B. Well, you toss it up. Now this is very bad, but of course you can do it.

A. G. (Ohhh) I see.

L. B. It counts when you get those on.

A. G. It counts when you get those on.

A. G. Oh, when you get them on -- there we \* \* \* you play with it -- what's that?

L. B. That's a witch hazel broom. That's what our early settlers used, the only brooms they had. They're made out of witch hazel. Now let's don't pun on that, which hazel was it, but it was the witch hazel, uh - - .

A. G. Why nothing ever occurred to me like that. Take a look at the witch hazel broom. Now, you show the folks while I go over here and sell some cakes, otherwise, we'll have no air to sell them on. Phillipsbury Cake Mixes is our bet for you tonight.

End of L. B 's Part.