

## CHAPTER I

# *The Philosophy of the All Stars*

The philosophy of any organization is naturally the reflection of the philosophy of its founder, and so the All Star Organization reflects the philosophy of William Henry Kendrick, who is the father of the 4-H Club All Stars. To better understand Kendrick's idea of life, one must know of the experiences that Kendrick had in his early life to give him the basis for his thoughts pertaining to how young people should live.

William Kendrick was born of a very poor family. His father died while he was young, so he worked for another family and received his high school education. It was during the time that he was working his way through college that someone "laid his hand upon him," and he became active in religious affairs. He went to the National Sunday School Camp in Wisconsin where he met a great man—John Alexander. Mr. Alexander gave him an inspiration that lasted throughout his entire life and guided him as he became one of the great leaders of American youth. It was Kendrick's vision and determination, more than that of any other person, that has spiritualized 4-H Club work in America. He was the first person to give 4-H Club Leaders the idea of the "four-fold life," and it was largely through the All Stars that this came about. The reason for forming the first 4-H Club All Star Organization, as given by Kendrick, is that he wanted some type of activity or organized program for young people who outgrew the formal 4-H Club work. Since Kendrick had spent many years at the National Sunday School Camp in Wisconsin, and many of his older 4-H Club members were very religious folks, the All Stars took somewhat of a religious turn at the very start. He was very desirous of having a great camp where 4-H Club folk and other rural youth could find an opportunity to grow in the "four-fold way." With the able help of Director "Nat" Frame, "Uncle Charlie" Hartley, and others, but largely by his own indefatigable determination, he built the West Virginia State 4-H Club Camp at Jackson's Mill, into which the State and counties have poured more than a half million dollars and given as a monument to him. In the Morgantown Post of May 26, 1937, we find a fine biography of Kendrick. It is reprinted here so that the reader may obtain an incite to the life of a great leader. In final tribute to him, the bold headline of the Morgantown Post read:

WEST VIRGINIA'S 4-H LEADER DIES AT JACKSON'S MILL HOME,  
MAY 25

Then spread on the front page for all to read:

25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO RURAL YOUTH OF STATE: BUILT LIVING MONUMENT  
IN STATE CAMP

"William H. Kendrick, for 25 years the motivating spirit of 4-H Club work in West Virginia, died at his home, the Director's Cottage of the State 4-H Camp at Jackson's Mill, the pioneer State 4-H Camp development in the world, which stands as a living memorial to the man whose vision played so large a part in its development.

"Death came quietly on Tuesday evening, May 25, at seven o'clock following a paralytic stroke Monday night. Although his health has been in an uncertain state for some time, Mr. Kendrick was active in furthering the work he so dearly loved up until the time the thread of life snapped. Late Monday afternoon he was still discussing plans for the future development of the State 4-H Camp.

"Appointed September 1, 1913, as State Boys' Club Agent, Mr. Kendrick soon showed unusual leadership ability and on January 1, 1918, was made Assistant Director of the Agricultural Extension Service, West Virginia University, in charge of 4-H Club work. It was in this capacity that he engineered the early development of the 4-H County Camp Movement in West Virginia, which has now spread throughout the Nation as a vital part of the 4-H development program.

"Largely through his influence, emphasis came to be placed on the four-fold development of girls and boys as being the major objective in 4-H Club work, with project work—the raising of chickens, sheep, calves, pigs; growing of corn, potatoes, garden crops; canning; sewing; baking; and other constructive activities by which better practices are demonstrated—being the means to 4-H Club work, but not the end, of the 4-H Club program.

"To the 4-H idea of Head, Heart, Hands, and Health, Mr. Kendrick added the 'four-fold' plan of development as exemplified in the life of Christ and recorded in Luke 2:52. 'And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man,' which he brought from the Leadership Training School of the National Sunday School Conference conducted by John L. Alexander at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

"It was while attending one of these conferences at Lake Geneva that Mr. Kendrick so ably directed the activities of a 'misfit' farm boy that the boy came to the close of the camp as much a part of it as any of the others. Kendrick's love for children and his understanding of child nature was recognized, and he was given an Indian name, 'Wazateepi,' meaning 'the heart of the meeting place of country children.' He is known to thousands of 4-H Club members throughout West Virginia, who have been inspired by his leadership, as 'Teepi.'

"Realizing the need for leadership training as a means of extending and perpetuating the benefits of 4-H Club work to more country girls and boys, Mr. Kendrick turned the active leadership of the West Virginia 4-H Club program over to his associates and devoted the last 15 years of his life largely to the development of the State 4-H Camp at Jackson's Mill as a leadership training school.

"The success of his efforts is recorded for posterity in the pioneer development of the world's first and most outstanding State 4-H Camp, which now embraces 523 acres and buildings and equipment valued at more than a quarter of a million dollars. While this outstanding development, still growing and developing, will ever stand as a living monument to the man who gave so much of his life to it, his greatest memorial will be in the achievements of thousands of young men and women of the State of West Virginia who have been inspired by his leadership."

In appraising Teepi's life work, the editor of the Clarksburg Exponent wrote: "It can be said of few men: that they do not really die; it seems to us, as we contemplate the life work of 'Teepi' Kendrick, that this is true of him."

Few men have left a more lasting or helpful influence on the life of a state. The inspiration of Mr. Kendrick's work is engraved in the minds and hearts of thousands of the youth of West Virginia. His challenge, "Be yourself at your best all the time," will continue to influence the lives of countless more young people as it is passed on by those who have come in personal contact with him. It is perpetuated through the work of the West Virginia State 4-H Camp—his dream come true. In the words of the Morgantown Post's editor: "Far more enduring and important is the spirit of that monument which lives in the hearts of the many farm boys and girls who came under 'Teepi's' influence at Jackson's Mill and elsewhere, and who gained from him a new vision and an abiding enthusiasm." The physical heart of "Teepi" is stilled, but his

spiritual heart will live through the years in the work to which he gave unsparingly of his talents and his life. Among his many contributions to the 4-H Club program is his book, "The Four-H Trail." His spirit will never die, for the "4-H Trail" leads unceasingly onward.

The Maryland Chapter owes much of its philosophy to Mr. E. G. Jenkins, also known as "Jenks," "Daddy Jenks," or "Leni" and to Miss Dorothy Emerson who has been known as "Dot," "Big Sis," and "Tonga." "Daddy Jenks" was a personal friend of "Teepi" and received his Indian name, "Leni Lenape" from "Teepi." The All Star records reveal that through the years many of the problems confronting the All Star Organization were discussed jointly between them.

Another source of All Star philosophy is the Indian Lore as used in the 4-H camps and the All Star ceremonies. In a letter to Erna Riedel on July 12, 1941 "Daddy Jenks" expressed the reason for the use of Indian Lore as: "William Kendrick based so much of his 4-H Club work on Indian Lore, which is natural to West Virginia and which was used in the Sunday School Camp at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. It is so simple, so spiritual, and so childlike in all its ways that it fits well in the work with youth." Apart from the 4-H Club use of Indian Lore is found the "Lodge of a Thousand" with the giving of Indian names to persons who, as "Daddy Jenks" once told Earl Crouse, "Recognizes those people who are 'somebody,' but do not know it." Just as Kendrick, "Jenks," and Miss Emerson have received their Indian names around the council fire at some 4-H Club Campfire activity, so have some of the All Stars.

"Daddy Jenks," in the early 1920's, wrote the following in regards to the motive of the All Star Organization: "No greater attainment can be achieved by a 4-H Club member than to so conduct his life that he will be chosen a member of the All Star Group. The competitive principle does not enter into All Star activities. The desire to get ahead of the other fellow will get a candidate nowhere. Club members will not try to down others but will try to raise themselves. Our great 4-H Club motto, "To make the best better," is in its greatest degree exemplified by the 4-H development of one who has been selected to membership in the All Stars.

"It would be impossible for any one to lay down rules that would govern the conduct of any club member, and it is only with a hope that it may be suggestive that I point out a few of the Head, Heart, Hand, and Health precepts which will be observed by a worthy boy or girl:

- a. He will be a conscientious member of a club, carrying on a required project within the age limit prescribed.
- b. He will be helpful to his leaders and to his associates while he is a club member and to such an extent as circumstances permit beyond that age.
- c. He will feel a brotherly interest in all Club members and outstanding loyalty, not only to his own club, group and organization, but a loyalty that will carry wherever loyalty is due.
- d. It shall be said of him that he can be relied upon, that he is honest, trustworthy, and four square.
- e. He will be a happy and good-natured fellow, always cheerful and ready to smile

individually and as groups in counties (unorganized) the wholesome and helpful force behind our Older Youth Councils which meet regularly in more than half of our counties. Almost without exception the All Stars discuss with Extension Officials all sorts of problems in a way that other youth of their age and interest do not.

"At the present time, my secretary is corresponding secretary, all their material is kept in our files, all their letters go out from here and either Miss Emerson or I, or both, are consulted with reference to nearly every major move or activity. This is not because they require our help, nor because we consider ourselves in any way dictators of their activities or policies, but that we are a very definite and integral part of all the things the All Stars do and since we are always available we fit into about all the picture."

Each All Star gives to and receives something of the All Star philosophy. The Group continually receives letters from individual members who are expressing their sorrow that they are unable to be with the Group as they meet, whether it be for fun or work. Wilson Hudson's letter is typical:

Hood College  
Frederick, Md.

Dear Brother and Sister All Stars,

I would be so happy to be there at the Conference with you all—to be seeing you—to be talking with you—to be working with you—laughing with you—singing with you. I had wanted to come so badly, but other arrangements, that could not be changed, prevented my coming.

You will be thought of though—for even now I can see you as you all sit around and discuss things and plan our program for this summer. I can see faces and hear voices as I close my eyes and think of you. The Conference will be a great success, I am sure—All Stars know how to make things worthwhile and they will—and they do.

I am hoping to see you all at Club Week this summer. I will be thinking of you all and wishing that you have a wonderful time at the Conference. Consider me as one who is willing to help carry out any of your plans. Again, I am sorry that I cannot be with you at this first meeting since last summer.

Sincerely,  
Wilson Hudson

Maryland's All Star Chapter has added cultural refinement to the All Star Organization. Paul Rose, a former Big Chief of the Virginia Chapter and a frequent visitor to the Maryland Chapter, remarked one day: "The Maryland Chapter has given a 'spiritual something' to the All Star Organization." When "Daddy Jenks" was asked whether this "spiritual something" was his contribution to the philosophy of the Maryland All Stars, he gave the following answer: "The spiritual thought of this program is not my contribution. It is Bill Kendrick's—'Teepi's.' Dorothy Emerson has done more than I to refine the thinking of the All Stars, and she has spiritualized it way beyond anything we realize. Just as an example of what I mean: When she came here I was having the 4-H Club folks at all sorts of affairs sing 'John Brown's Baby Has a Cold Upon His Chest,' 'The Mule That Goes to Hay,' and 'The Monkey, He Got Drunk and Fell Down the Elephant's Trunk.' See how far we have gone from

that only those should be taken into the All Stars who were giving genuine service—losing themselves in service. I thought they should be so recognized by people from a number of counties before they are even considered for All Star membership. I have always felt they should not be the outstanding 4-H Club youth in project work, nor chosen because they are popular, nor because of their reputation as church members, nor for young people activities. I have always felt the outstanding All Stars are those who are endowed with the power of love, consecration, patience, and deeper understanding. 'He that loseth his life shall find it.' 'No greater love hath a man for his friend than he lay down his life' (the pattern of his life) 'for his friend.' "