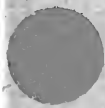


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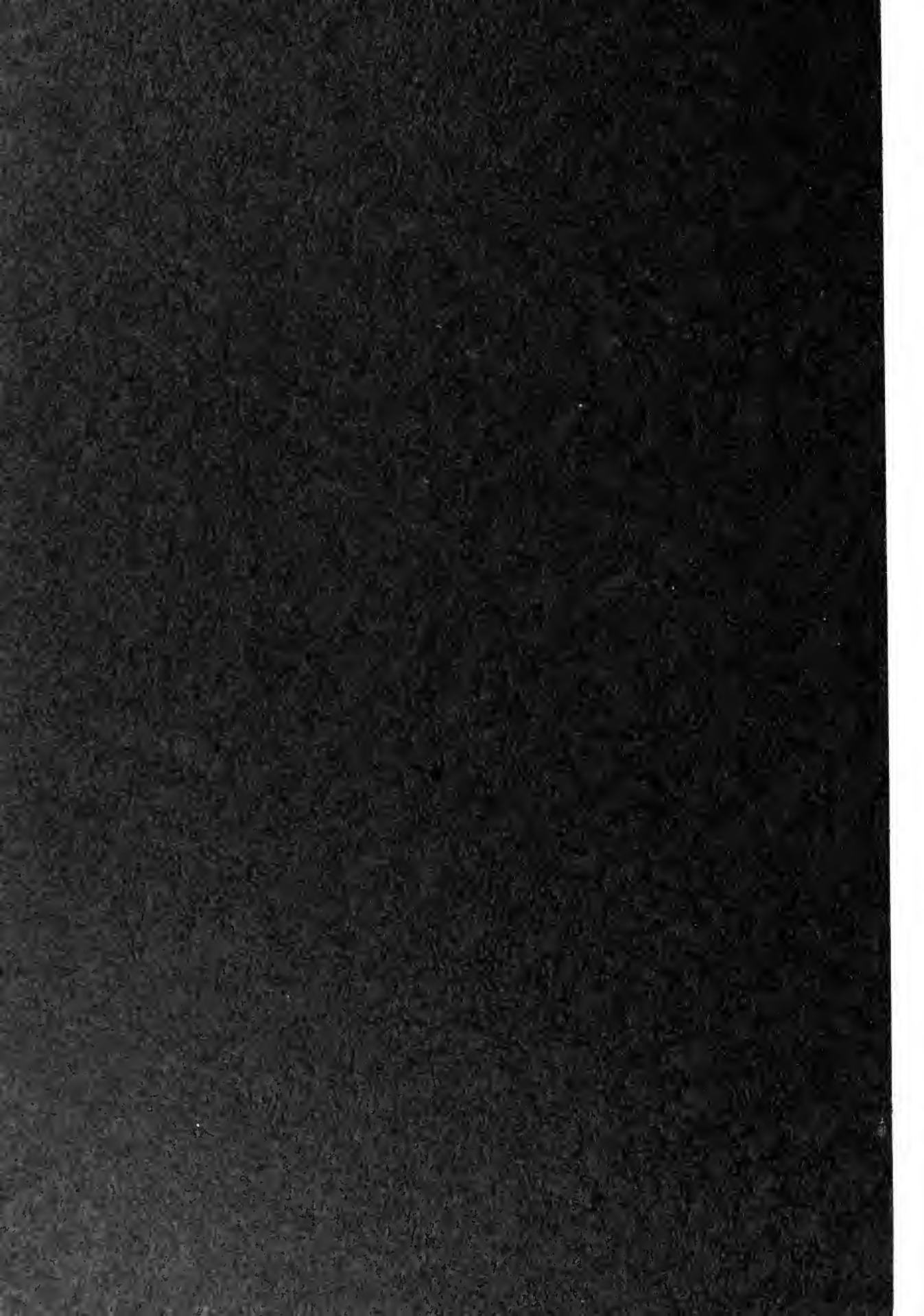


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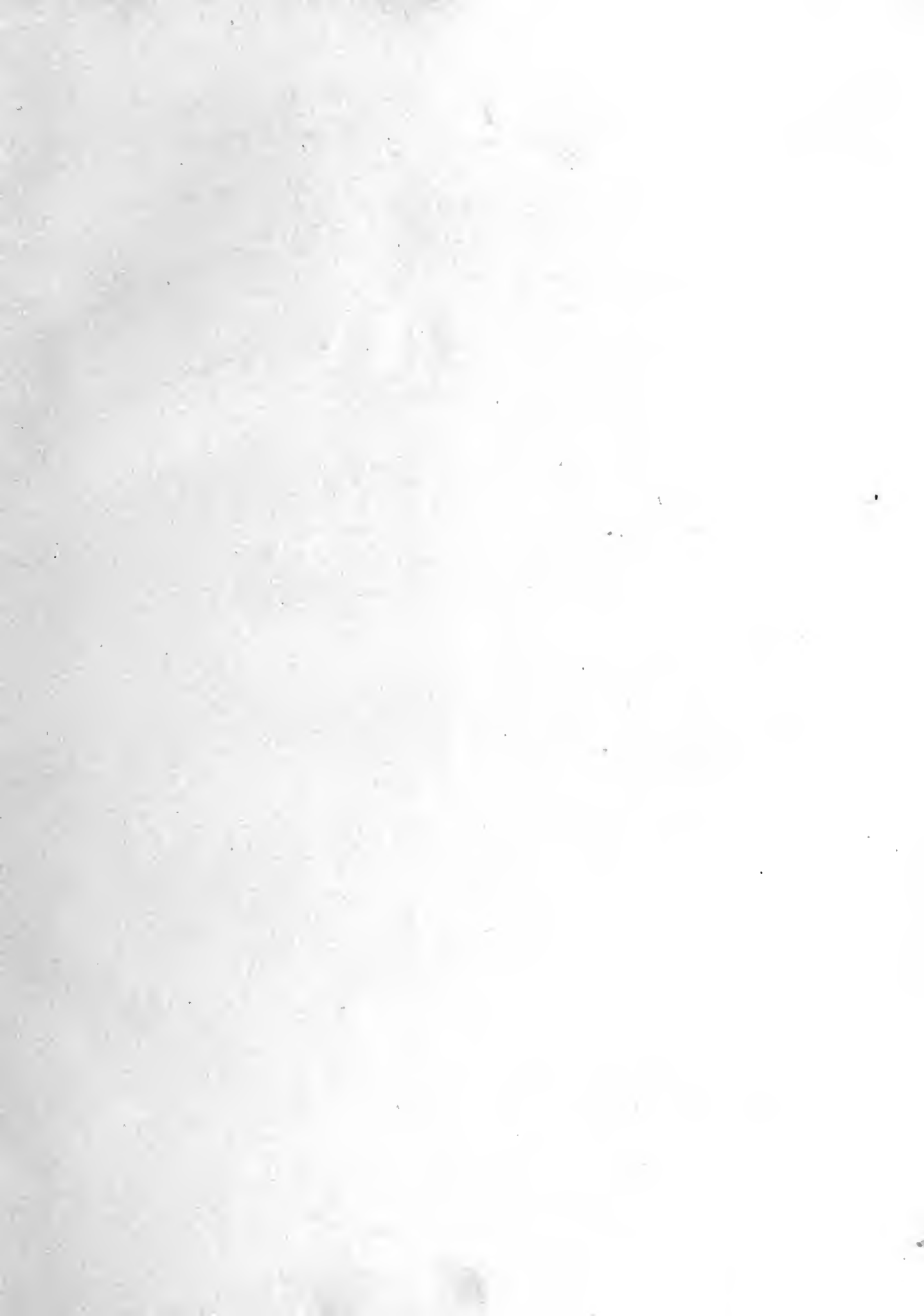
# AIR PICTURES



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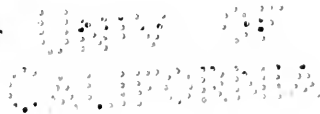
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# AIR PICTURES

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(Sign Language)

By  
CHARLOTTE V. GULICK  
(HIITENI) "



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# Introduction

**D**ID you ever want to signal an important message to a friend, in a language that would not be understood by an interfering third person? Did you ever want to talk silently, so as not to waken the baby? Look further into this book, and you will find a language for your adoption that will help you in these extremities. If you know how to give the signal for "Arise," you can tell one person to rise so quietly that her sleeping neighbor will not be disturbed. Or if you have lost your voice and must have a drink of water, you can signify your desire by giving the air picture for "drink." When you are stalking a bird or a wild animal in the woods, and a clumsy friend comes swishing through the underbrush, you can signal her to "quiet down," and your quarry will not be frightened away by your voice.

You may be away from camp, and have discovered something that the rest of the campers ought to see. You can send a silent call for them clear across the valley, telling them to come by giving the blanket sign.

Some friend may be on the point of divulging a profound secret, and you may save the day by giving the surreptitious sign to "keep it dark." Indeed, there are innumerable ways in which these can be used to good advantage, and surely there is no more fascinating way to converse than in this primitive medium used by the Indians. But we have a feeling that the most pronounced need for air pictures is in the

school room. If you and your chum know these hand signs well, you may converse silently, with disturbance to none, and do away with the old way of passing notes across the school room. For that old method disturbs a whole row of students, and annoys the teacher. Of course, we do not advocate continuous conversation in school, but there are times when you simply must impart something to your chum, something which will not wait until the end of the session. If you can only get her eye, and give the air picture for "sew," she will understand that you want her to come over after school and finish her ceremonial gown, and she will not rush off with the other girls before you can get at her.

By combining several air pictures, various sentences can be given in this fascinating language. Camp Fire Girls will want to say "Wohelo" to their comrades many times, and all that they need to know is the air pictures of work, and health, and love, which are given in this collection, in the air pictures of the Law. To show how combinations can be made sentences are given.

The drawings for this book were made by Lydia Bush-Brown and Jessie Shaw, and the descriptions written by Margaret Bradshaw.

These hand-signs, called by the Indians "air pictures," have been gleaned from "Indian Sign Language," by W. P. Clark (now out of print), and from the tenth report of the Bureau of Ethnology.

# THE LAW in "AIR-PICTURES"

SEEK BEAUTY



GIVE SERVICE



PURSUE KNOWLEDGE



BE TRUSTWORTHY



HOLD ON TO HEALTH



GLORIFY WORK



BE HAPPY



# THE LAW in "AIR-PICTURES"

## SEEK BEAUTY

- SEEK** Fig. I. Index and middle fingers of right hand touching eyes.  
Fig. II. Point same fingers toward front—the sign for "seek."  
**GOOD** Fig. III. Right hand, palm down, held against left breast. Move hand several times with quick motion front and right on horizontal plane.

## GIVE SERVICE

- I** Fig. I. Thumb of right hand placed in center of chest, fingers closed, back of hand toward right. This is the sign for "I."  
Fig. II. Right hand closed touching center of chest.  
**GIVE** Fig. III. Extend hand downward, opening it with palm upward. These two motions stand for give, and combined with Fig. I mean "I give" of myself.

## PURSUE KNOWLEDGE

- PURSUE** Fig. I. Right hand held up on level with chin, index and middle fingers pointing downward, feeling for a trail.  
Fig. II. Right hand held against left breast, palm downward.  
**TO KNOW** Fig. III. Move hand with downward sweep, turning palm up, with thumb pointing to right and index finger to left, almost in a horizontal plane, the remaining fingers closed over the palm. This combines the sign for "think" or drawn from the heart and to "know."

## BE TRUSTWORTHY

- TRUE** Fig. I. Right hand near chin with index finger pointing front. Move hand forward. This is the sign for "true" and means straight from the heart and tongue.  
**FRIEND** Fig. II. Raise right hand, place index and middle fingers against lips. This is the sign for "friend."

## HOLD ON TO HEALTH

- HEART** Fig. I. Hold right hand over heart, fingers together and curved so as to nearly touch the thumb. This is the sign for "heart."  
**KNOW** Figs. II and III. Same as Figs. II and III under "Pursue Knowledge," the sign for "know" combining "heart" and "know" means "remember."  
**STRENGTH** Fig. IV. Right hand held with back toward face, index and middle fingers pointing upward and touching forehead, thumb and other fingers closed. Move hand from right to left in spiral upwards. This is the sign for "strength." There is the idea of bravery in this sign.

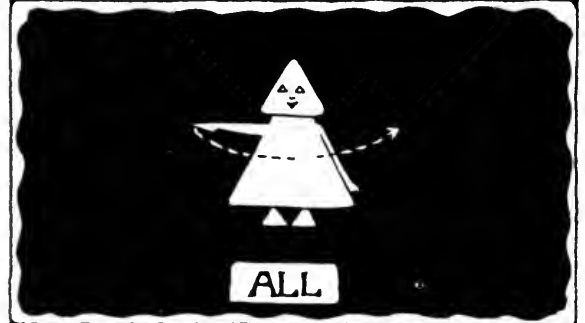
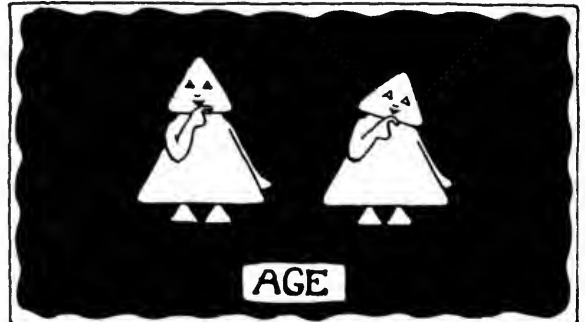
## GLORIFY WORK

- HEART** Fig. I. Same as sign for heart, Fig. I, in "Hold on to Health."  
**DAY** Fig. II. Make a circle with thumb and index finger of right hand, closing other fingers, holding hand across the body to the left. Slowly trace an upright curve from left to right, describing the daily orbit of the sun. The heart and day signs together mean "glad."  
**TRY OR WORK** Figs. III and IV. Hold closed hands near chest. Push them forward with effort.

## BE HAPPY

- SINC** Fig. I. Hold right hand, with index and middle fingers apart and upright, close to the lips, back of hand to the right and other fingers closed. Describe a horizontal circle mostly by wrist action, repeating this several times.

## AIR PICTURES



1. **ABOVE.** (One thing above another.) Hold left hand in front, elbow close to the body, with the right hand a little above, palms down and at right angles to each other.

(Heaven above the earth.) Point with the forefinger of the right hand over the head, closing the other fingers.

2. **AFRAID OF NO ONE.** (Afraid.) Point the right hand in several directions, then sweep it across to the left. Shrink back as if afraid, with forefingers pointing out and up and arms out at the side or in front. Draw back the arms from the elbow, curving the forefingers.

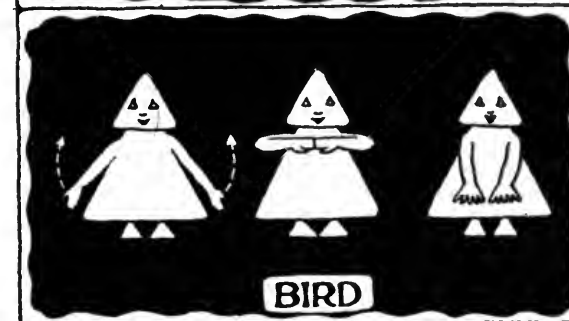
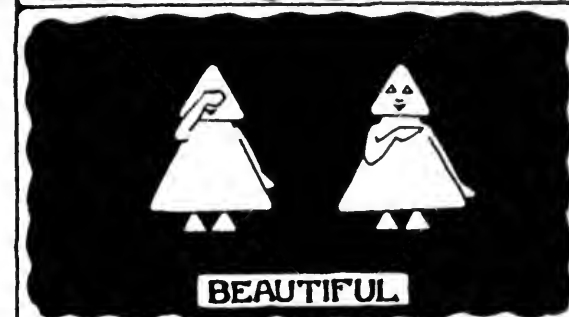
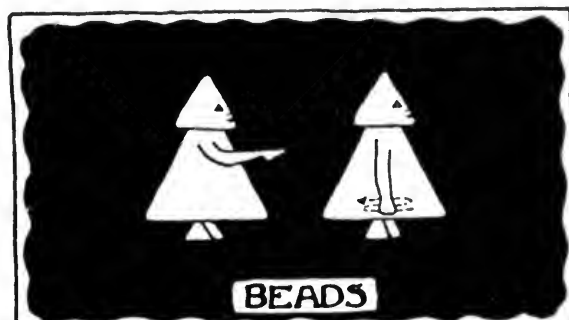
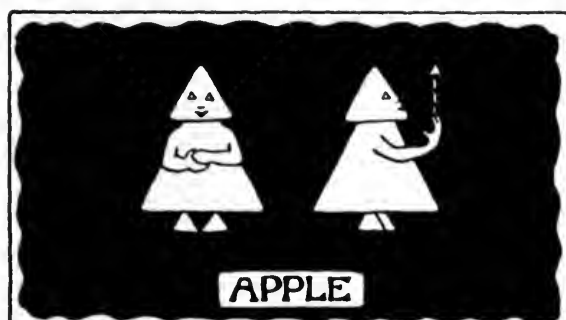
(No.) Hold the right hand palm down with fingers pointing forward, and move it quickly toward the right.

3. **AGE.** Hold the curved forefinger over the chin. Lower the head with a tremulous motion.

4. **ALL.** Extend the right arm to the side, with the palm down and fingers together. Sweep it around to the left in a horizontal semi-circle.

5. **ALONE.** Hold the right hand in front, the height of the neck, with forefinger pointing up. Then move it from left to right, turning the hand.

## AIR PICTURES



6. **APPLE.** Clasp hands together. Hold the right hand the height of chest, palm in, fingers separated and pointing upward. Raise the hand slightly upward.

7. **ARISE.** With the right elbow close to the side and right hand closed, back of hand down, point to the front with the forefinger. Then bend the hand upward from the wrist.

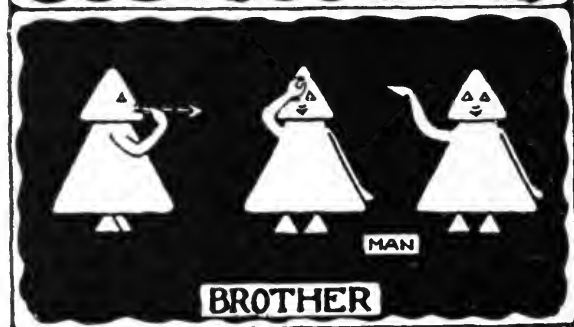
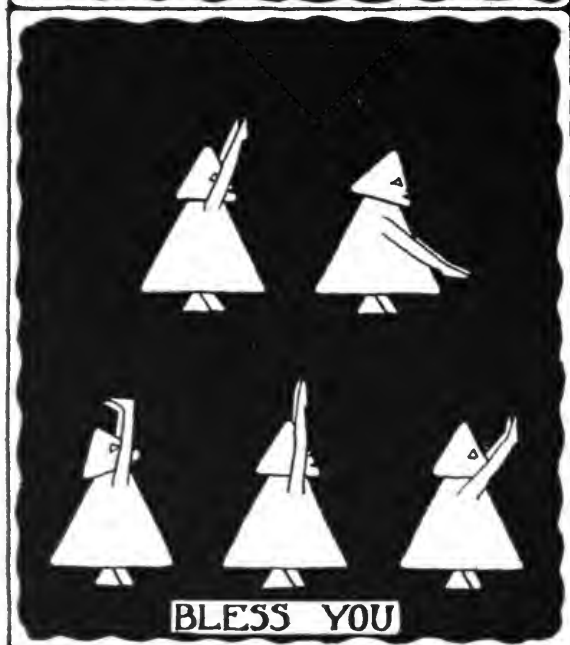
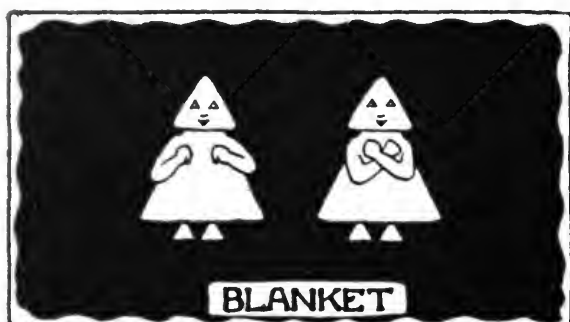
8. **BAD.** Hold the closed hands with backs toward the chest. Thrust them forward and downward, opening fingers with a snap.

9. **BEADS.** Point the right forearm forward. Drop the partly closed hand and shake it a little to represent the shimmering of beads.

10. **BEAUTIFUL.** (Looking into a mirror.) Hold the open right hand, palm inward, before the eyes. (Good.) Hold the right hand, palm down, against the left breast. Move the hand several times, with a quick motion, forward and to the right on a horizontal plane.

11. **BIRD.** Raise the open hands from the right and left, bringing them together in front of the shoulders meeting with palms out and fingers barely touching. Then move them downward and repeat the motion.

## AIR PICTURES



12. **BLANKET.** (Wrapping it about the shoulders.) Hold the closed hands opposite each other near the shoulder. Then cross the left wrist over the right.

13. **BLESS YOU.** Raise the hands toward the sun. Lower the hands toward the earth. Raise the hands, palms up, toward the sky. Then with arms straight up, turn the palms toward the front, and lower the arms a little, keeping the palms toward the front.

14. **BOAT.** (Paddling.) Hold the closed hands, right over left. Then swing the arms to the right and downward to the rear, keeping the hands touching. Bring the arms in front again, placing the left hand over the right. Repeat the action on the left side.

15. **BROTHER.** Touch the mouth with the tips of the forefinger and second finger held together. Move the hand forward a little way.

(Man.) Make a motion with the right hand as though pulling a lock of hair on the forehead. Then raise the arm to the right to show the height of the man.

## AIR PICTURES



16. CALL. Beckon with the right hand.

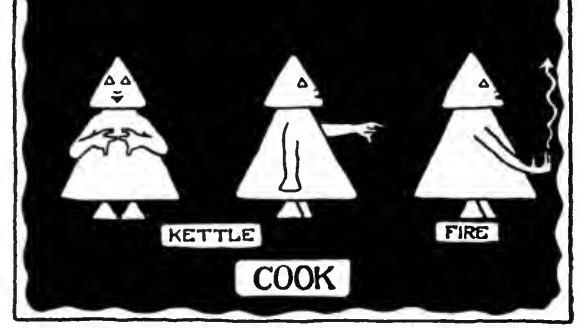
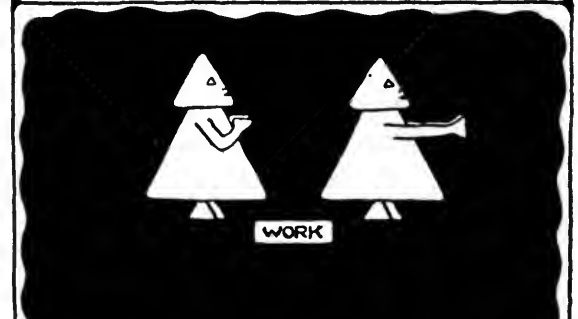
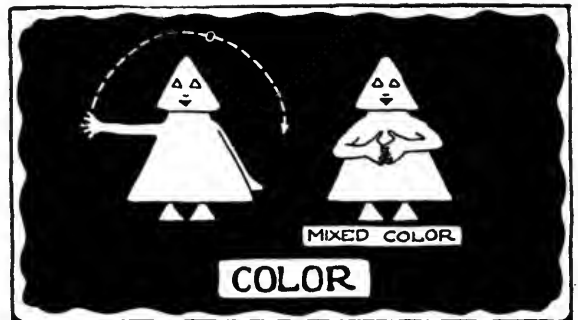
17. CAMP. Signify the pointed tepee by touching the tips of the forefingers together. Then with elbows out at the sides, wrists a little higher than the elbows, hold the hands near together in front, fingers separated and curved with thumbs and forefingers making an incomplete circle. Move the hands downward with a quick motion.

18. CAMP FIRE GIRL. (Camp.) Make the pointed tepee by touching the tips of the fingers together. With elbows out at the sides, repeat the sign for camp as given in Fig. 17.

(Fire.) Hold the back of the right hand down, with fingers pointing up. Raise the hand with a wavy motion, repeating it several times.

(Girl.) Hold the hands parallel in front as high as the top of the head, palms facing and tips of fingers touching. Curve the fingers and bring them down as though combing the hair. Then raise the right hand forward and to the right as high as the head, with the back of the hand toward the front and forefinger pointing upward.

## AIR PICTURES



19. **CANDLE.** Hold the left hand with palm to the right and forefinger pointing upward. Then with the right hand make the sign for fire, holding the back of the hand down, with the fingers pointing up, and raising it with a wavy motion, repeating it several times.

20. **CHILD.** Make the air picture for woman or man, then lower the right hand, palm downward, to show the height of a child.

21. **CLOUD.** Hold the partially closed hands as high as the shoulders, palms facing inward. Then raise the hands above the head and move them outward, describing downward curves. For *many clouds* make more curves.

22. **COLOR.** Extend the right arm to the right, and swing it over the head to the left with fingers straight and separated to represent the colors of the rainbow.

(Mixed color.) Lace the fingers of both hands together after making the sign for the rainbow.

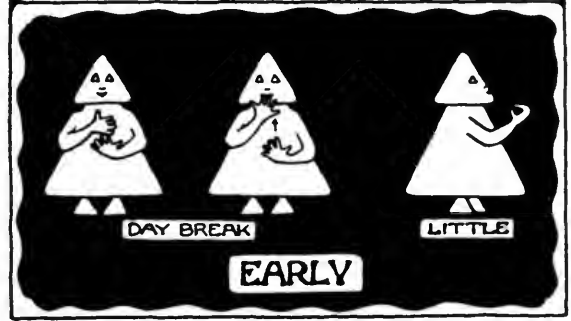
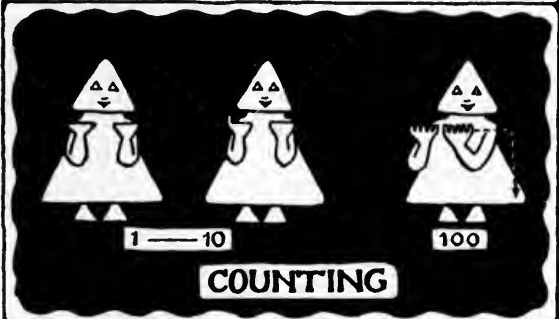
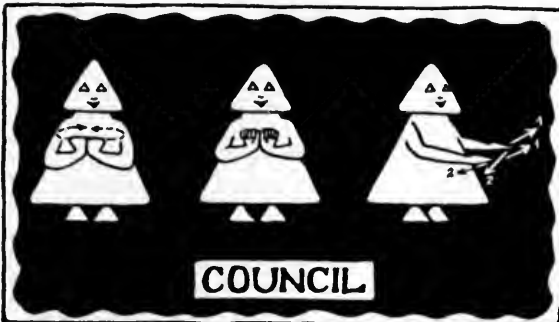
23. **COOK.** (Work.) Hold the closed hands in front of the chest, and push them forward forcefully.

(Kettle.) Extend the hands forward, forming an incomplete horizontal circle with the thumbs and forefingers, and point down with the little fingers. Drop the left hand to the side, partly closing the right hand, moving it to the right and downward as if lifting a kettle.

(Fire.) Hold the back of the right hand down, with the fingers pointing up. Raise the hand with a wavy motion, repeating it several times.



## AIR PICTURES



24. **COUNCIL.** (Sitting in a circle and talking.) Hold the closed hands with little finger edges together and palms inward. Then separate the hands, moving them outward and bringing them together with palms outward, having described a circle with this motion. Then hold the hands open with palms up and fingers pointing front, just below the chest, and move both hands by wrist action to the left and then to the right. This represents handing words from one to another.

25. **COUNTING.** (From one to ten.) Hold closed hands with backs toward the chest. Raise the fingers one at a time, beginning with the little finger of the right hand.

(One hundred.) Hold the hands toward the right, palms front, fingers pointing upward and separated. Move the hands to the left and downward, keeping them in the same vertical plane.

26. **DANCE.** With the thumbs up and fingers curved and separated, move the hands quickly up and down.

27. **DAY.** Hold the right hand to the left with thumb and forefinger forming a circle. Swing the arm to the right over the head.

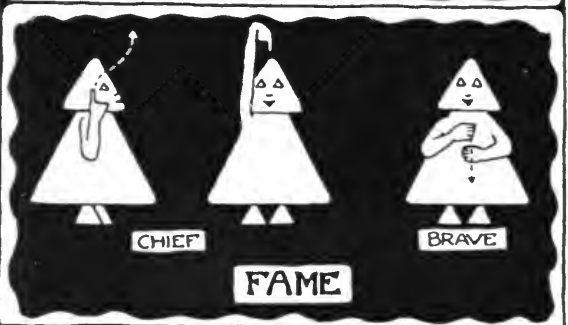
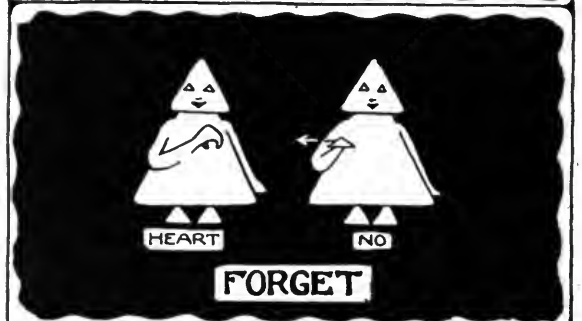
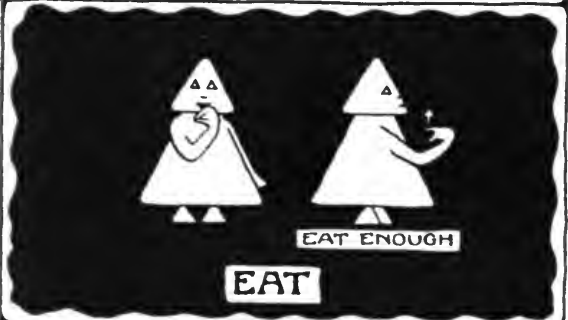
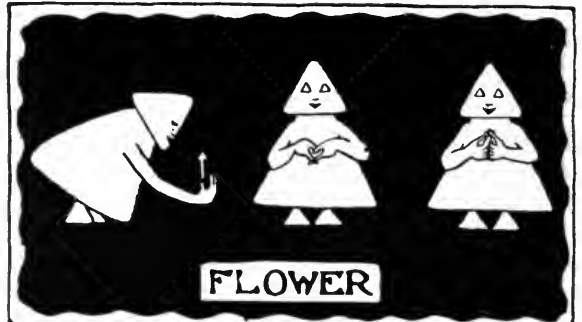
(Every day.) Repeat *day* several times.

28. **DRINK.** Hold the ends of the fingers of the right hand loosely together. Raise the hand to the mouth, then move it downward with palm front.

29. **EARLY.** (Day-break.) Hold the hands with palms toward the body and fingers open, the little finger of the right hand resting horizontally on the tip of the left forefinger. Then raise the right hand slightly to show that the night is lifting, but the sun has not yet appeared.

(Little.) Hold the right hand forward and to the right, the ends of the thumb and forefinger touching, and the other fingers closed.

## AIR PICTURES



30. **EARTH.** Point toward the ground with the forefinger of the right hand.

31. **EAT.** Hold the tips of the fingers of the right hand together, with the back of the hand to the left and front, keeping them close to the mouth and pointing slightly downward. Then move the fingers downward past the mouth.

(Eat enough.) Make the air picture for eat, then hold the thumb and forefinger of the right hand open and horizontal, pointing to the chest. The other fingers should be closed and the back of the hand to the front and left. Now move the hand up to the chin.

32. **FAME.** (Chief.) Hold the right hand at the side of the head with forefinger pointing up and the palm to the left. Raise the hand high and to the front. Then turn the hand down so that the forefinger points straight down.

(Brave.) Hold the closed left hand with back to the front and left. Bring the closed right hand above and in front of it with back to the front and right. Strike downward so that the second joints of the right hand almost touch the knuckles of the left hand.

33. **FLOWER.** (Grass.) Hold the right hand near the ground with palm in and fingers pointing upward. Raise the hand.

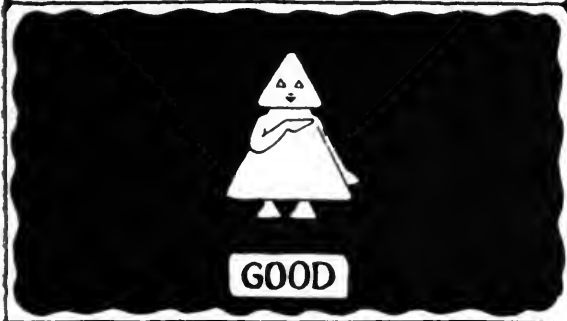
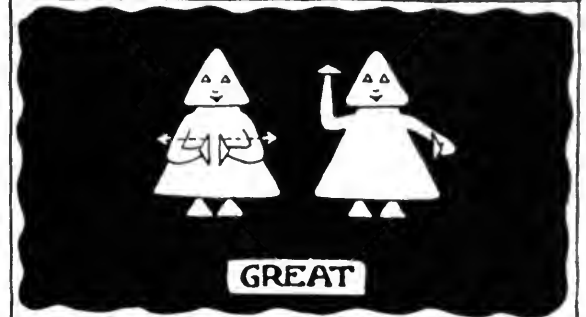
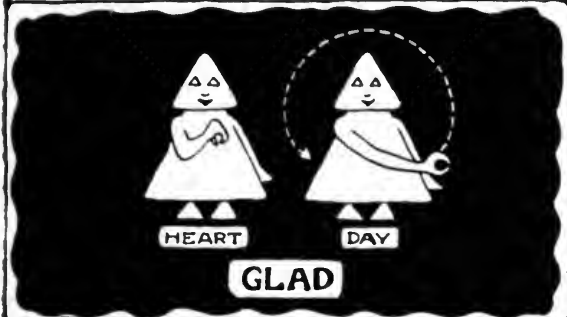
Place the tips of the thumb and forefinger of the right hand outside the tips of the thumb and forefinger of the left hand, and close the other fingers. Then turn the hands so that the thumbs and forefingers point down. Turn the hands so that the thumbs and forefingers point up and the little fingers touch underneath them. This represents the opening of a flower.

34. **FORGET.** (Heart.) Hold the right hand over the heart with fingers together and curved so as to touch the thumb.

(No.) Hold the right hand palm down with fingers pointing to the front. Move it quickly to the right.

35. **FRIEND.** Place the forefinger and middle finger of the right hand against the lips, with the palm inward.

## AIR PICTURES



36. **GIVE.** Touch the center of the chest with the closed right hand. Move the hand downward, opening it with the palm upward.

37. **GLAD.** (Heart.) Hold the right hand over the heart with fingers together and curved so as nearly to touch the thumb.

(Day.) Hold the right hand to the left with thumb and forefinger forming a circle. Then swing the arm over the head to the right.

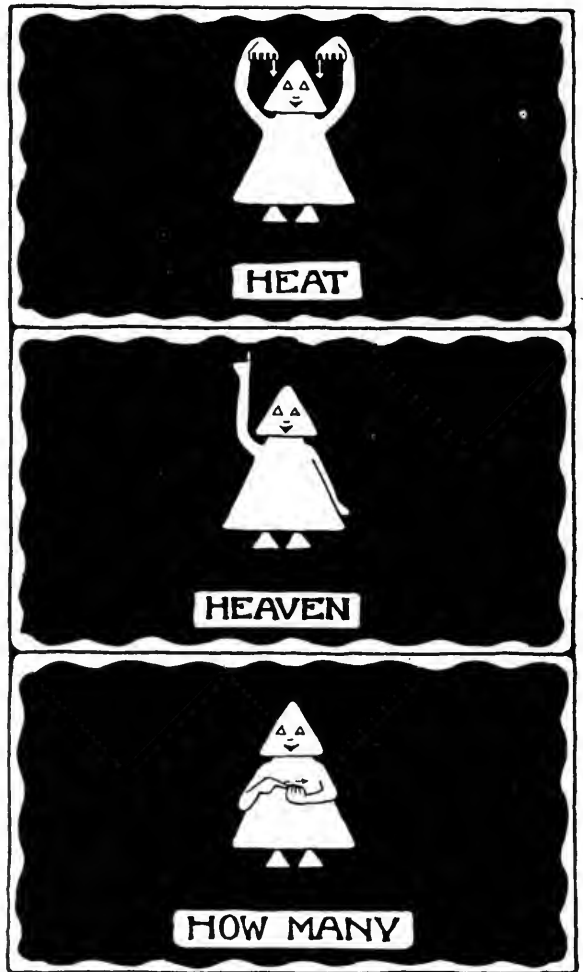
38. **GOOD.** Hold the right hand, palm down, against the left breast. Move the hand several times with a quick motion, forward and to the right on a horizontal plane.

39. **GRASS.** Hold the right hand near the ground with back toward the front and fingers pointing upward, then raise the hand.

40. **GREAT.** With palms facing each other, and fingers pointing front, move the hands apart to the sides. To show height as well as width, raise the right hand, palm down, holding the left hand palm to the right with fingers pointing to the front.

41. **GROW.** Hold the back of the right hand parallel and near to the ground. Raise it with a broken motion.

## AIR PICTURES



42. **HAPPY HUNTING GROUND.** (Die.) Hold the fingers of the left hand together and pointing to the right. Point with the forefinger of the right hand to the left hand, then move it behind and under the left hand with a downward and outward curve, barely touching the left hand as it passes under it.

(Beyond.) Hold the left hand, palm down, fingers pointing to the right, and bring the right hand, palm down with fingers pointing to the left, behind the left hand, then over it in an outward and downward curve, turning the palm upward.

(Inhabited, with live souls moving about.) Raise the partly closed right hand to the right. Open the fingers and turn the hand slowly to right and left.

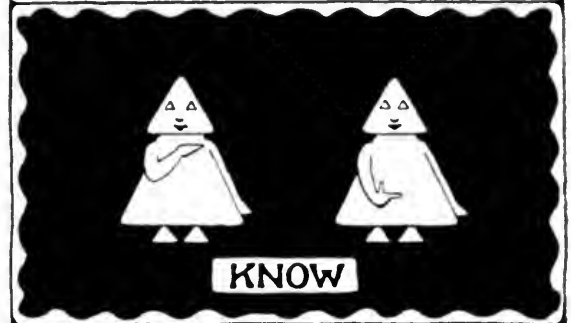
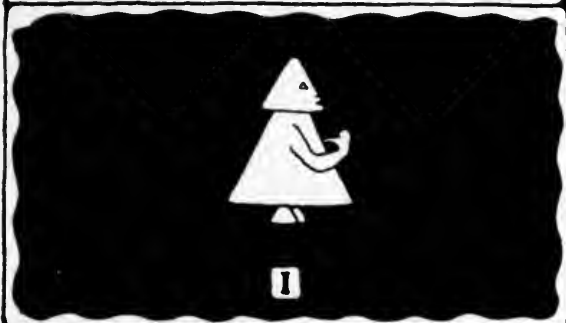
43. **HEART.** Hold the right hand over the heart with fingers together and curved so as to touch the thumb nearly.

44. **HEAT.** Raise the hands above the head, fingers hanging down. Lower the hands near the forehead.

45. **HEAVEN.** Raise the right arm upward, pointing with the forefinger to the sky.

46. **HOW MANY?** Hold the left hand in front of the right breast, palm up and fingers curled over. With the right forefinger rub the fingers of the left hand back and forth, beginning with the little finger.

## AIR PICTURES



47. **HURRY.** With arms extended forward, and palms down, move the hands quickly up and down by wrist action.

48. **I.** Place the right thumb in the center of the chest, other fingers being closed, with the palm toward the left.

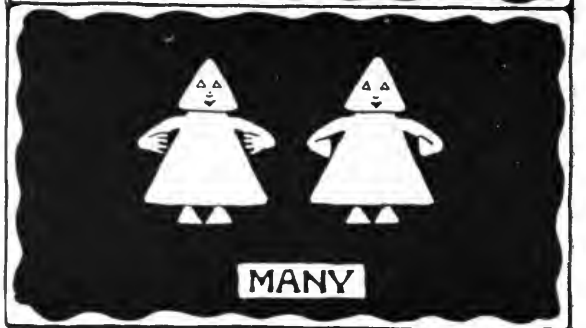
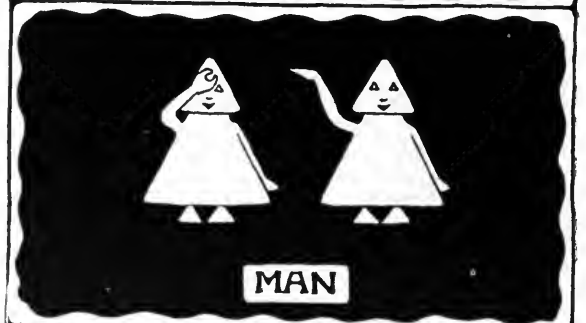
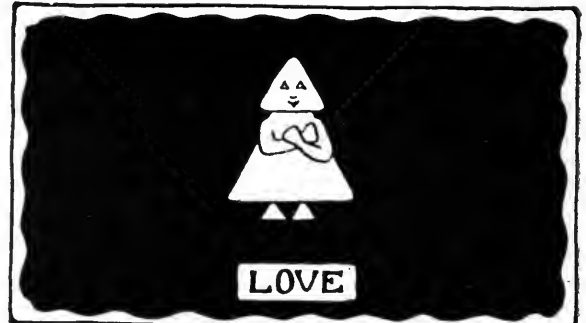
49. **KEEP.** Hold the palm of the right hand facing the left with fingers pointing front, and the left hand closed, palm to right and forefinger pointing front. Place the left forefinger vertically against the right palm, close the right hand around the finger, and move the hands slightly to the left.

50. **KEEP CAMP TOGETHER.** (Hold.) Make a circle with the arms, the right hand overlapping the left.

51. **KNOW.** Hold the right hand against the left breast, palm down. Move the hand with a downward sweep, turning the palm up with thumb pointing to the right and forefinger to the left, almost on a horizontal plane. Keep the other fingers closed.

52. **LIGHTNING.** Extend the right arm above the head with forefinger pointing upward. Bring the hand with rapid zigzag motion downward and to the right.

## AIR PICTURES



53. **LISTEN.** Hold the right ear between the forefinger and thumb of the right hand, keeping the other fingers closed. Turn the hand to the left and the right and back again.

54. **LITTLE.** Hold the right hand to the front and right, the ends of the thumb and forefinger touching, and the other fingers closed.

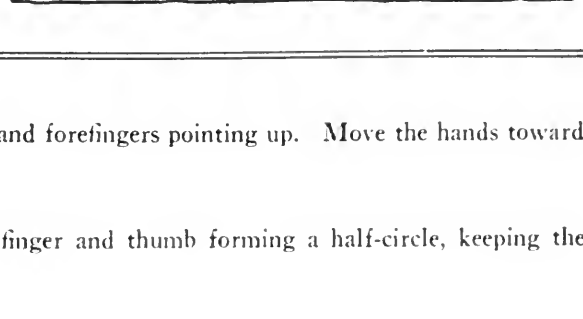
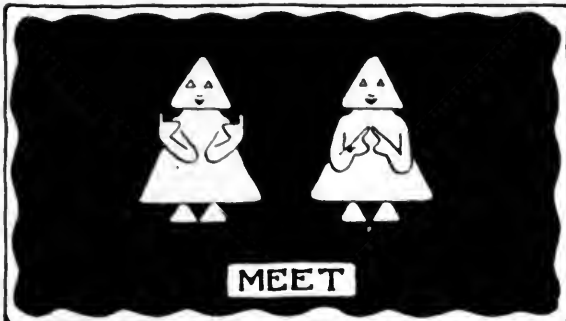
55. **LONG TIME, or BY AND BY.** Point the forefinger to the front and upward, keeping the right hand behind the left and to the right of it. Then move the right hand slowly backward. For a *very long time*, draw the right hand back to the shoulder.

56. **LOVE.** With closed hands cross the wrists over the heart, the left hand over the right.

57. **MAN.** Make a motion with the right hand as though pulling a lock of hair on the forehead. Then raise the arm to the right to show the height of the man.

58. **MANY.** Open and close the hands rapidly.

## AIR PICTURES



59. **MEET.** Hold the hands with backs to front and forefingers pointing up. Move the hands toward each other, touching the tips of the forefingers.

60. **MOON.** Extend the right arm upward, forefinger and thumb forming a half-circle, keeping the other fingers closed.

61. **MOUNTAIN.** Move the right hand closed from the chest forward, then straight up.

62. **MOVE.** Make the sign for the tepee, by pointing the tips of the forefingers together. Lower the hands in the tepee position and bend them back, so the fingers point right and left. This signifies taking down the tepee poles. (Advance.) Point the fingers of both hands front, palms facing, the right hand back of the left and to the right. Now move the hands forward with a jerky motion.

63. **MY, or MINE.** Place the closed right hand, palm to left, close to the neck with the thumb pressed against the forefinger. Turn the hand so the back of the thumb is up.

## AIR PICTURES



64. **NIGHT.** Keep the palms of the hands down and the fingers of both hands toward the front. Raise both in an upward curve until the right rests above the left, but without touching it.

65. **NO.** Hold the right hand palm down and fingers pointing front. Move it quickly to the right.

66. **NOON.** Hold the right hand over the head, the thumb and forefingers forming a circle and the other fingers closed. Place the hand so the little finger edge of it is up.

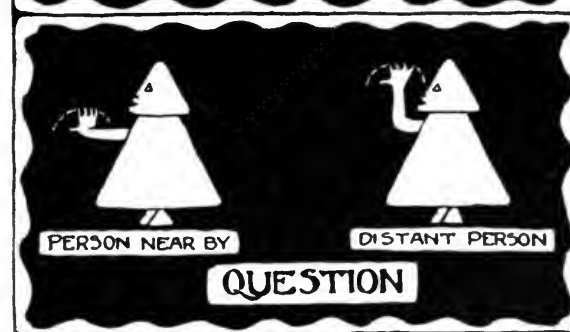
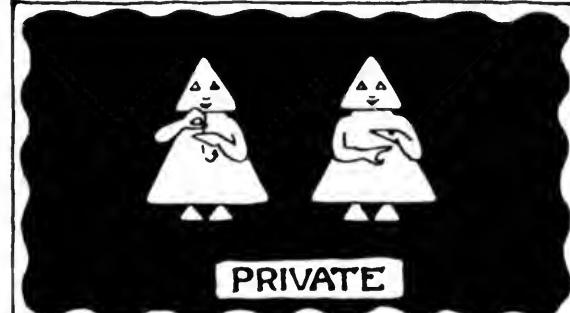
67. **NOW.** With the right hand to the right, palm to the front and forefingers closed, point the forefinger up, and move the hand forward with a quick rebound.

68. **OLD.** Hold the closed right hand about the height of the chest, and move it in a curve upward and back to the same position. Bend the body as if walking with the support of a stick.

69. **PEACE.** With fingers separated, point the hands toward each other, and move them nearer together. As one cannot grasp a weapon with open fingers, this symbolizes *peace*.



## AIR PICTURES



70. **PEOPLE.** With the palm up and other fingers closed, point the forefinger of the right hand forward and upward. Move the hand to different heights with short motions forward and to the left.

71. **POISON VINE.** First make the air picture for either a vine growing on the ground or one growing on a support. Then give the sign for kill.

(Creeping vine.) With the forefinger of the right hand make a wavy motion near the ground.

(Climbing vine.) Bend the left arm upward from the elbow. With the right forefinger make a spiral around it.

(Kill.) Bring the partly closed right hand to the height of the shoulder. Strike downward to the left and forward, bringing the hand back with a quick rebound.

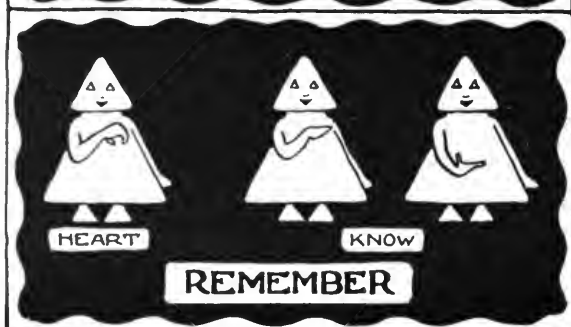
72. **PRAYER.** With arms extended downward in front of the body, raise the arms overhead with palms to the front.

73. **PRIVATE.** Place the left hand as high as the chest, with palm down and fingers pointing to the right. Pass the right hand, with tip of the forefinger touching the tip of the thumb, under the left hand and snap the forefinger under cover of the left hand.

74. **QUESTION.** (When close to a person.) Hold the right hand up in front, palm forward with fingers separated and pointing up. Rotate the hand quickly at the same time moving it to right and left.

(When the person is distant.) Hold the hand higher, making the same motion. This air picture is used for ordinary questions, such as: "What is the news?" and "Where are you going?"

## AIR PICTURES



75. QUIET DOWN. Arms extended forward with palms up are lowered slowly.

76. RACE. Hold both hands against chest, palms down and forefingers pointing front. The other fingers must be closed. Move the hands together forward.

77. RAIN. Hold the hands in front as high as the shoulders, with palms inward and fingers hanging down. Move the hands downward.

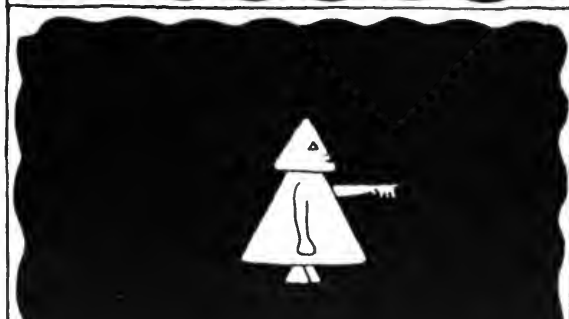
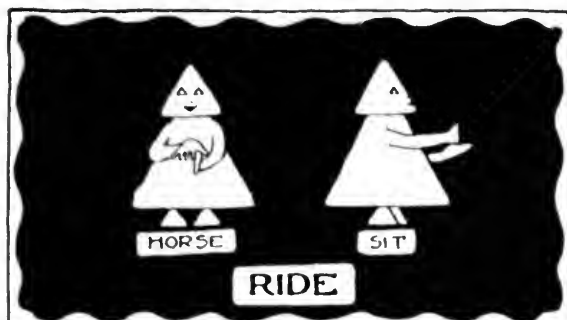
78. RAINBOW. Make the air picture for rain by holding the hands in front the height of the shoulders with fingers pointing down, and moving the hands downward. Then signify that the rain is *finished*, by holding the hands together, touching at the second joint with backs nearly front and thumbs up. Separate the hands sideways.

To describe the bow, extend the right arm to the side, palm down, and move it upward and over the head.

79. REMEMBER. (Heart.) Place the right hand over the heart, with fingers together and curved so as to touch the thumb nearly.

(Know.) Hold the right hand against the left breast, palm down. Move the hand with a downward sweep, turning the palm up with thumb pointing to the right and forefinger to the left, almost on a horizontal plane, keeping the other fingers closed over the palm.

## AIR PICTURES



80. **RIDE.** (To ride an animal—*i. e.*, a horse.) Hold the left hand with back toward left and fingers pointing front. Separate the thumb and forefinger of the right hand and place them astride the left hand, having the back of the hand toward the front. Move the hands forward in little vertical curves, to imitate the galloping of a horse.

(To ride in a wagon.) Make the air picture for horse, as above, then turn the left palm up with fingers pointing to the front. Place the closed right fist on it.

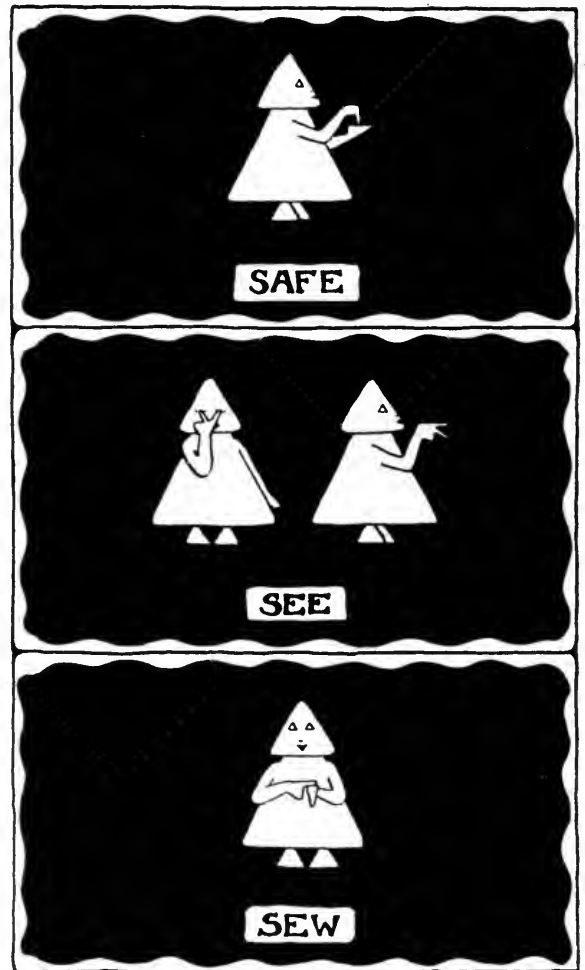
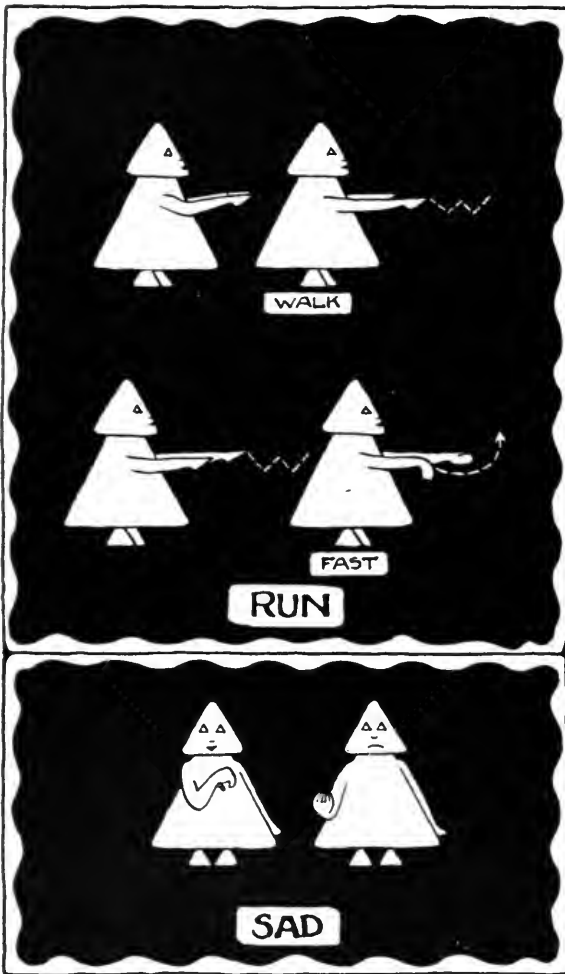
81. **RING.** Hold the left hand palm down, with fingers pointing front. With the forefinger of the right hand point to the finger on the left hand where the Camp Fire Girl's ring is placed.

82. **RISING MAN.** Point to the person, then place the hands touching each other with palms front, forefingers pointing up and other fingers closed. Hold the right hand a little lower than the left, then move the forefinger of the right hand higher than the left.

83. **RIVER.** Hold the right hand, palm down with fingers pointing to the front and left. Move it in a zigzag motion to the left.

84. **ROSEBUD.** Place the left hand, back to left, and forefinger pointing forward with the other fingers curved and slightly separated. Bring the right hand in front of the left, holding it in the same way, and pull the fingers of the left hand with the right as though picking flowers.

## AIR PICTURES



85. **RUN.** (Walk.) Hold the hands near the body, palms down and fingers pointing front. Keeping the left hand still, move the right hand forward, then up and down. Move the left hand forward similarly, at the same time bringing the right hand directly back, ready to repeat the motion.

(Fast.) With arms extended forward, point the fingers of the right hand down, then turning the fingers up, bring it in a sweep in front and above the left hand.

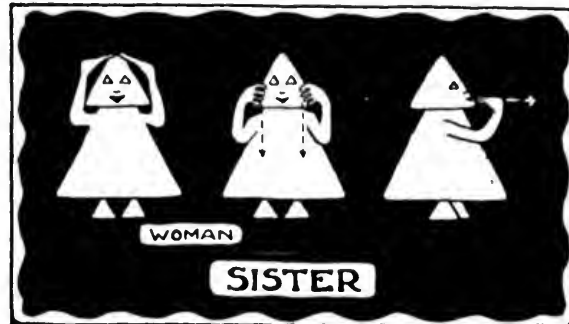
86. **SAD.** (Heart.) Give the air picture for *heart*, as in Fig. 43. Then move the hand downward and to the right, turning the palm up and partly closing the fingers.

87. **SAFE.** Place the forefinger of the right hand vertically in the center of the left palm, held with fingers pointing toward front and palm upward.

88. **SEE.** Touch the eyes with the forefinger and middle finger of the right hand, then point the fingers toward the front.

89. **SEW.** Hold the left hand with palm to the right, fingers pointing forward, and the thumb against the side of the forefinger. Place the thumb of the right hand against the side of the right forefinger, keeping the other fingers closed. Place the tip of the right forefinger on the left thumb, rolling the forefinger over until it reaches the tip of the left thumb.

## AIR PICTURES



90. **SHAKE HANDS.** Clasp the hands.

91. **SIMILAR, or SAME.** Extend the hands forward, palms down and forefingers pointing forward, keeping the other fingers closed.

92. **SING.** Hold the right hand with forefinger and middle finger apart and upright, close to the lips with palm to the left and other fingers closed. Move the hand in a horizontal circle by wrist action several times.

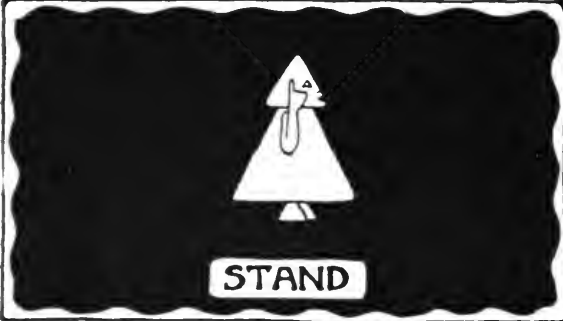
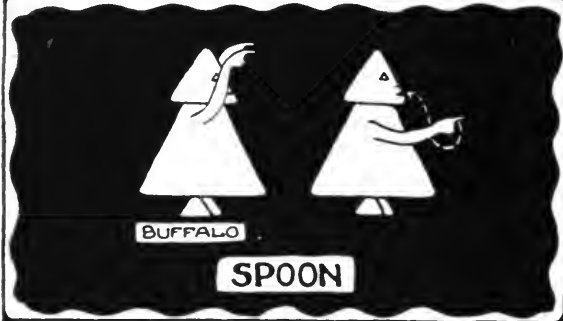
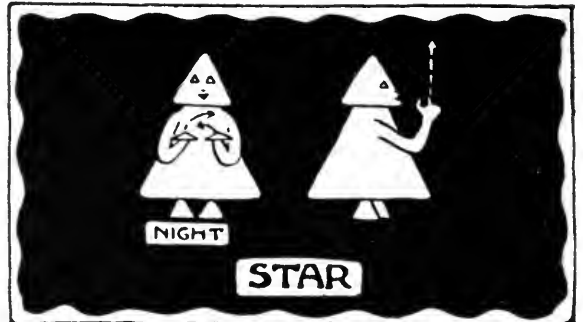
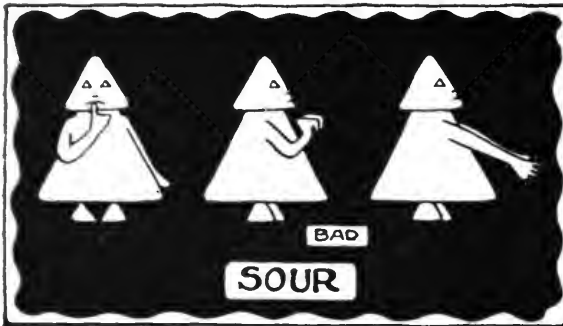
93. **SISTER.** (Woman.) Hold the hands parallel in front, as high as the top of the head, palms facing and tips of the fingers touching. Curve the fingers and bring them down as though combing the hair.

Place the tips of the forefinger and middle finger of the right hand against the lips, palm down. Move the hand forward a few inches.

94. **SLEEP.** Extend the hands forward with palms up, lower them, and turn the left hand, pointing fingers to the right. Incline the head to the right at the same time.

95. **SMOKE.** Hold the back of the right hand near the ground, fingers pointing upward. Raise the hand high and bring it back to the same place, doing this several times.

## AIR PICTURES



96. **SOUR.** Touch the tongue with the tips of the forefinger, and give the air picture for *bad*, as in Fig. 8.

97. **SPOON.** As the Indian spoons were made from buffalo horns, the sign for *buffalo* is given first. The arms are held up on each side of the head, pointing toward the front with the forefingers, representing horns. Then drop the left hand to the side, move the right hand down as if dipping from a bowl and bring it up to the mouth.

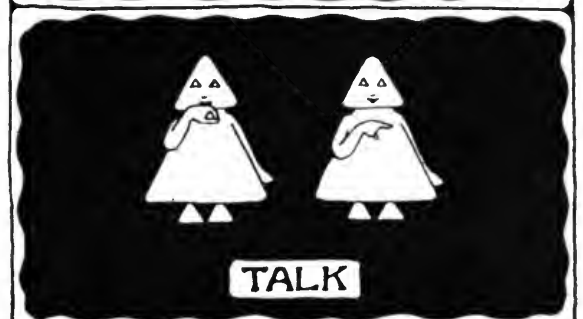
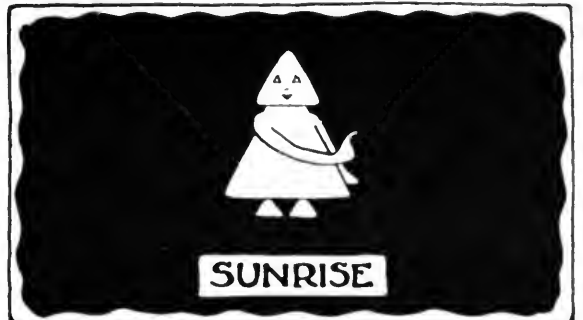
98. **STAND.** Extend the right hand upward back to right, about the height of the head, raising the forefinger and keeping the other fingers closed.

99. **STAR.** (Night.) Give first the air picture for night, as in Fig. 64. Then make an incomplete circle with the forefinger and thumb, extending the arm upward and forward. To show many stars, extend both hands in different directions.

100. **STINGY.** Give the air picture for *heart*, as in Fig. 43. Then hold the hands apart, fingers almost closed and the right hand higher than the left. Move the hands in until the right is held over the left.

101. **STONE.** Hold the left hand palm up and fingers pointing to the right. Strike the palm several times with the back of the curved right hand, holding the fingers of the right hand toward the left.

## AIR PICTURES



102. **STRONG.** Hold the closed hands, backs **upward**, as high as the shoulders, then lower them with a forceful motion.

103. **SUGAR.** Touch the tongue with the **forefinger** of the right hand.

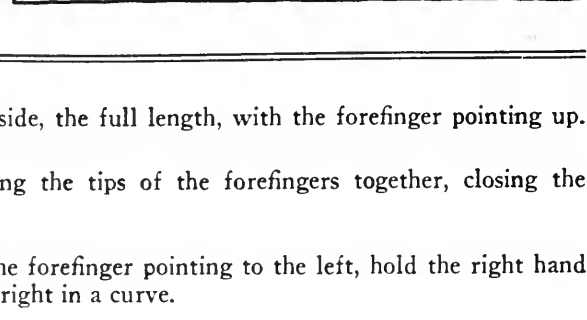
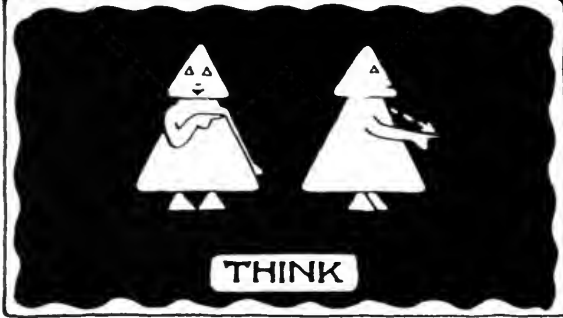
104. **SUN.** Extend the right arm toward the sky, forming a circle with the forefinger and thumb, and keeping the other fingers closed.

105. **SUNRISE.** Hold the right arm to the left, curving the forefinger to form a half circle, keeping the other fingers closed.

106. **TAKE.** Extend the right arm to the front or side, the forefinger pointing out, the others closed. Bring the hand toward the body and curve the forefinger.

107. **TALK.** Hold the right hand close to the mouth, palm down, the nail of the forefinger on the thumb, and the other fingers closed. Extend the hand forward and snap the forefinger outward.

## AIR PICTURES



108. **TALL.** Extend the right arm upward at the side, the full length, with the forefinger pointing up.

109. **TEPEE.** Make the pointed tepee by touching the tips of the forefingers together, closing the other fingers.

110. **THINK.** With the other fingers closed and the forefinger pointing to the left, hold the right hand against the left breast, moving the hand to the front and right in a curve.

111. **THUNDER.** (Bird.) Raise the open hands from the right and left, in front of the shoulders, meeting with palms out, and fingers touching. Move them downward and repeat the motion.

(Fire.) Hold the back of the right hand down, with fingers pointing up. Raise the hand with a wavy motion, repeating it several times.

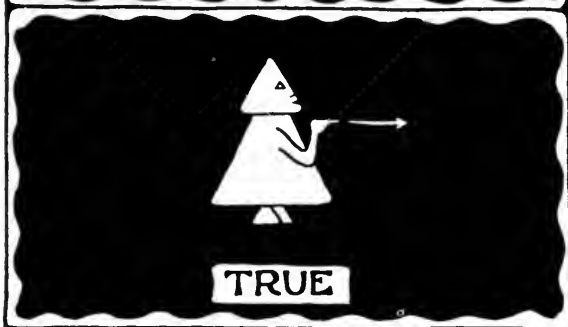
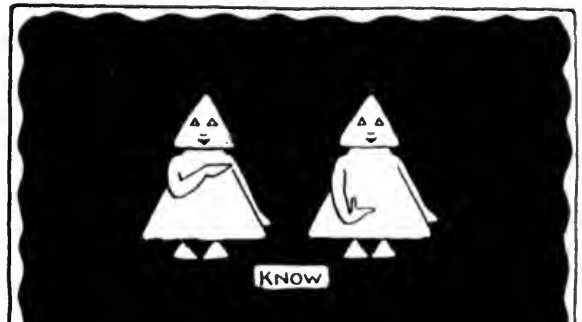
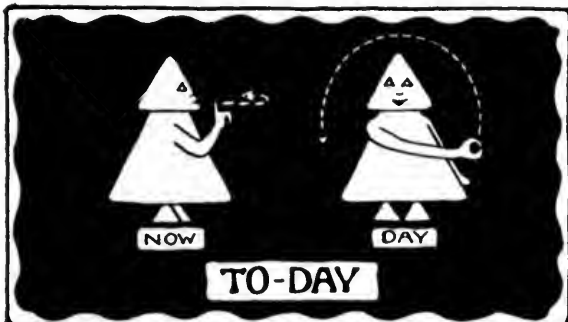
Thunder is the Fire Bird to the primitive mind.

112. **TIME.** (Age.) The air picture for "winter" represents age, or past or future time. Cross the arms on the chest with hands closed and make a trembling motion with the arms.

(Time of day.) Extend the hand in the direction of the sun at the time desired. Follow the course of the sun for the length of time desired.



## AIR PICTURES



113. TO-DAY. (Now.) Hold the right hand to the right, palm forward, and forefinger pointing up, keeping the other fingers closed. Move the hand forward with a quick rebound.

(Day.) Hold the right hand to the left with thumb and forefinger forming a circle. Swing the arm to the right over the head.

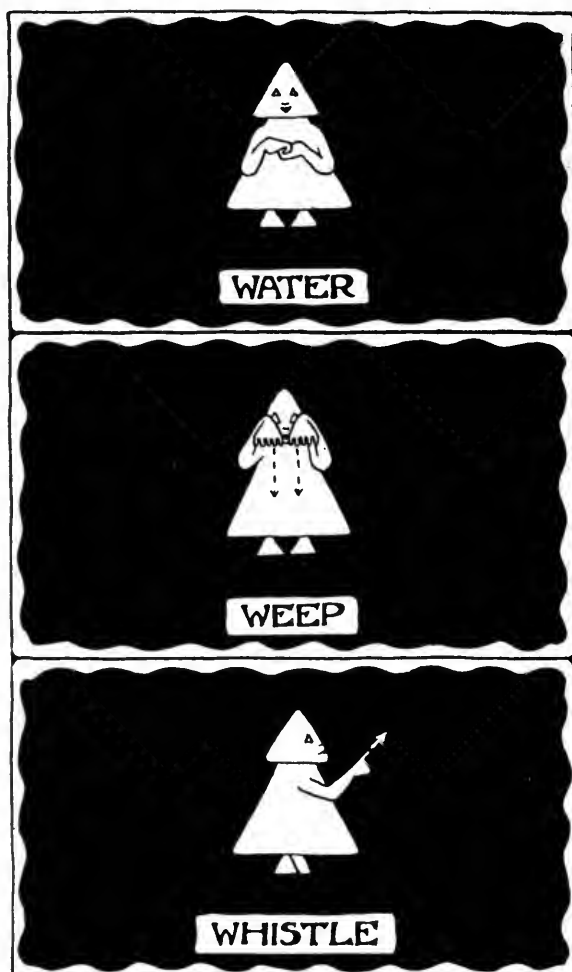
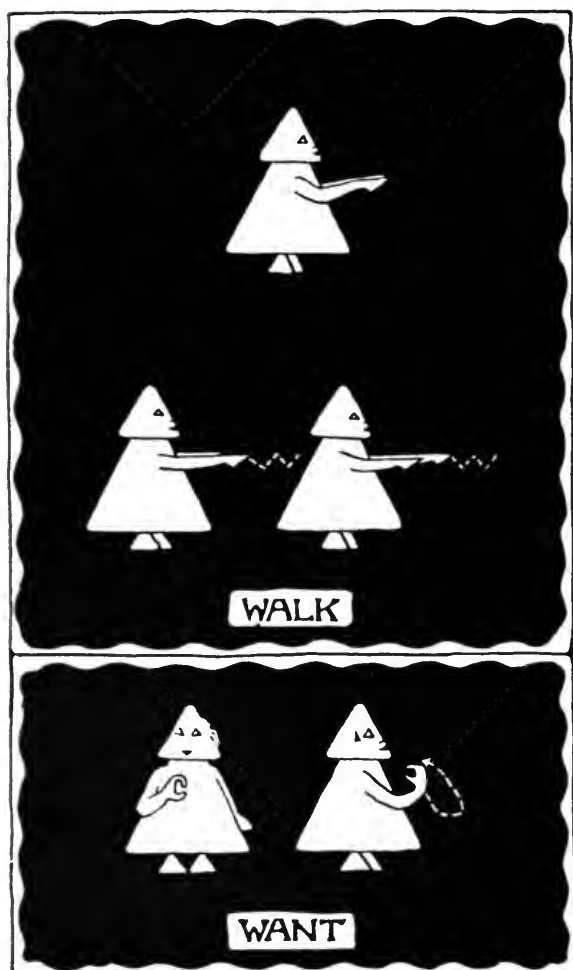
114. TREE. Hold the right hand with the back toward the front, fingers separated and pointing upward. Raise the hand upward slightly.

115. TRUE. Hold the right hand near the chin, palm down and forefinger pointing front, keeping the other fingers closed. Move the finger in a straight line forward.

116. UNCERTAIN. By combining the air pictures of *know* and *no*, as in Figs. 51 and 65, *uncertain* is signified.

117. WAITING. *Sitting* or *staying* signifies waiting. Hold the closed right hand a little lower than the shoulder and to the front. Move it downward several inches.

## AIR PICTURES



118. **WALK.** Hold hands in front near the body, with palms down. Holding the left hand still, move the right hand forward, then up and down. Move the left hand forward similarly at the same time bringing the right hand directly back ready to repeat the motion.

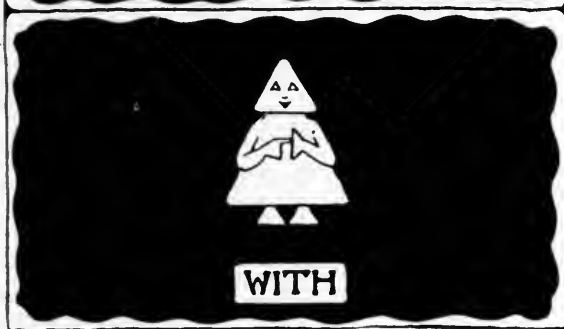
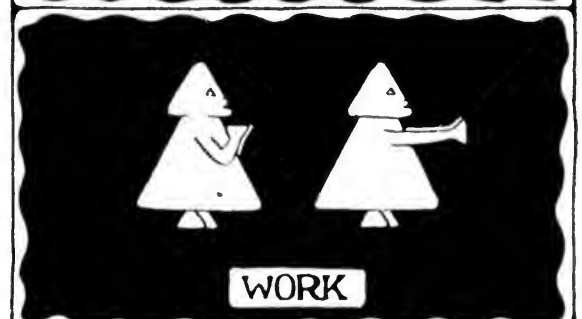
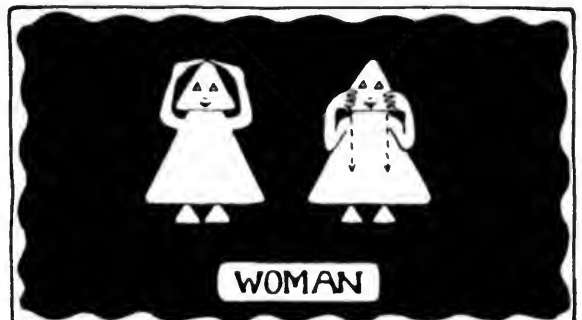
119. **WANT.** Hold the hand so the palm faces the left, near the chin, with forefinger and thumb making an incomplete circle. By turning the wrist, move the hand on a curve down, forward and up, until the little finger is nearly as high as the forefinger, and the palm is facing upward.

120. **WATER.** Place the right forefinger on the left one, the right palm facing down and the left one up, and fold them in.

121. **WEEP.** Hold the hands as high as the eyes, with fingers hanging down toward the front. Lower them.

122. **WHISTLE.** Hold the right hand in front of the mouth, palm to left, with the forefinger pointing forward and upward. Move the hand quickly in the direction of the forefinger.

## AIR PICTURES



123. WIND. Hold the hands the height of the shoulders with palms down and fingers outstretched. Move the hands with a wavy motion in the direction the wind is blowing.

124. WINTER. Cross the arms on the chest with hands closed and make a trembling motion with the arms.

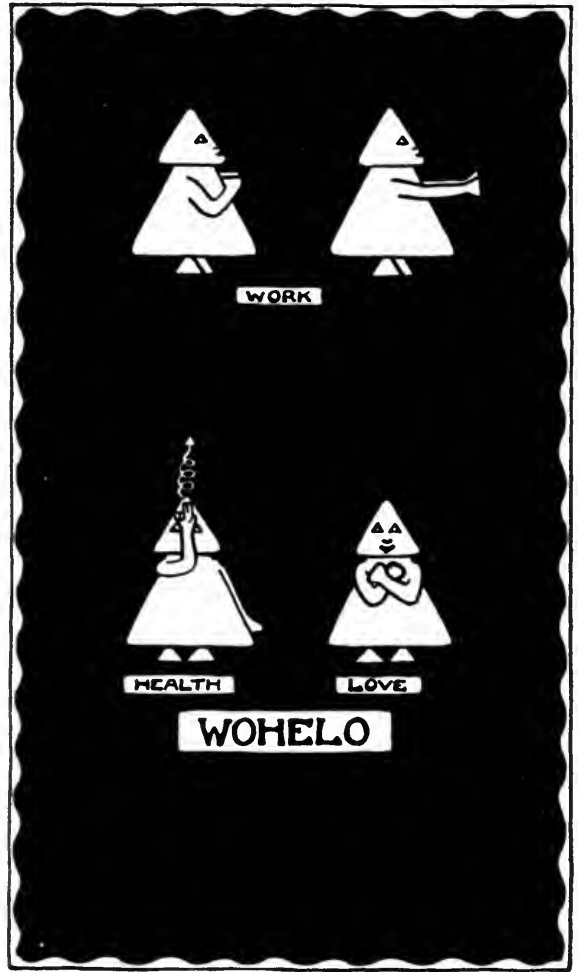
125. WITH. With the right forefinger point to the center of the left hand held palm facing right and fingers pointing front.

126. WOMAN. Hold the hands parallel in front, as high as the top of the head, palms facing each other and tips of the fingers touching. Curve the fingers and bring them down as though combing the hair.

127. WORK. Hold the closed hands near the chest, and push them forward forcefully.

128. YEAR. Move the closed right hand in a horizontal circle over the left palm held with fingers pointing to the front. Then rest the right hand on the left palm.

## AIR PICTURES



129. YES. Extend the right arm on the right side with the forefinger pointing up; keeping the arm raised, drop the hand forward and point the finger down.

130. YESTERDAY. First make the air picture for *night*, as in Fig. 64. Then, keeping the left hand in the same position, move the right arm upward to the right and downward, turning the hand with the palm up, and bring it to the same height as the left hand.

131. WOHELO. (Work.) Hold the closed hands near the chest, and push them forward forcefully.

(Health.) Hold hand, palm forward, first and middle fingers up, before face, move upward with spiral motion.

(Love.) With closed hands, close the wrists over the heart, the left hand over the right.

## Talking In Air Pictures

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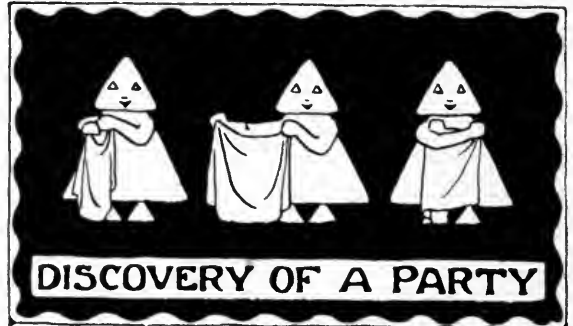
**O**N the following pages will be found, in addition to some interesting signals and sentences that can be made with blankets, a few sample sentences such as can be built up of the hand-signs that are given in this book.

Air pictures lend themselves to many variations, and one's imagination can play upon them very happily. For instance, to describe a white man's city of sky-scrapers, one can make the Indian sign for tepee, and then bringing the hand above the place where the tepee sign was made, after which another tepee sign is made higher than the first, and this repeated until one is reaching as high as he can. People are sometimes quite slow to see the air picture, but they enjoy the aptness of it when it is explained.

Local hand-signs will suggest themselves to fit occasions and subjects that are not treated of in this book, once the spirit of the sign-language is caught. Uncorking a bottle, playing a violin, ironing clothes and a hundred doings of everyday life lend themselves to air-picturing to-day just as lightning, song and other things the Indians saw and did were given signs by them.

The best way to make air pictures a part of one's self is to learn a short sentence at a time, and then try it out on someone quickly, and so fix the impression in memory while interest is warm.

## AIR PICTURES WITH SMOKE AND BLANKETS



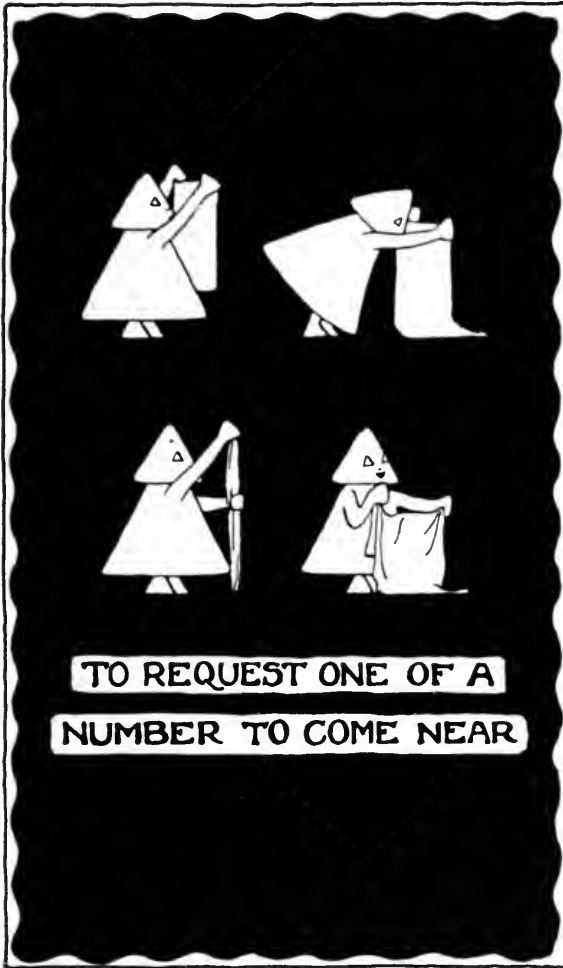
1. **TWO FIRES.** Two fires built a short distance apart, each sending up a column of smoke, announce the success of a party. It is useful in a mountainous or forest-covered country to know this signal.

2. **TO ATTRACT ATTENTION WITH SMOKE.** Build a fire of dry wood without bark, so that it will not smoke much at first. Then add to the fire brush or evergreens. By holding a blanket over the fire and lifting it at intervals, the smoke rises in puffs, and people watching from a distant point may know that you wish to signal something of importance to them.

3. **TO TELL OF THE DISCOVERY OF A PARTY.** Hold the blanket by the corners, the right hand being directly in front and horizontal with the shoulders, and the left hand being by the right shoulder. Then swing the right hand out at the side, still horizontal with the shoulder. Next bring the right hand to the left shoulder, folding the blanket to the reverse side.

4. **TO ATTRACT ATTENTION OR TO QUESTION WITHOUT SMOKE.** Holding the blanket by the corners, extend the arms forward and upward. Swing the arms in a big vertical curve to the right, so that the right hand nearly touches the ground and the left is held high. Then carry the right hand up and the left down, repeating this several times.

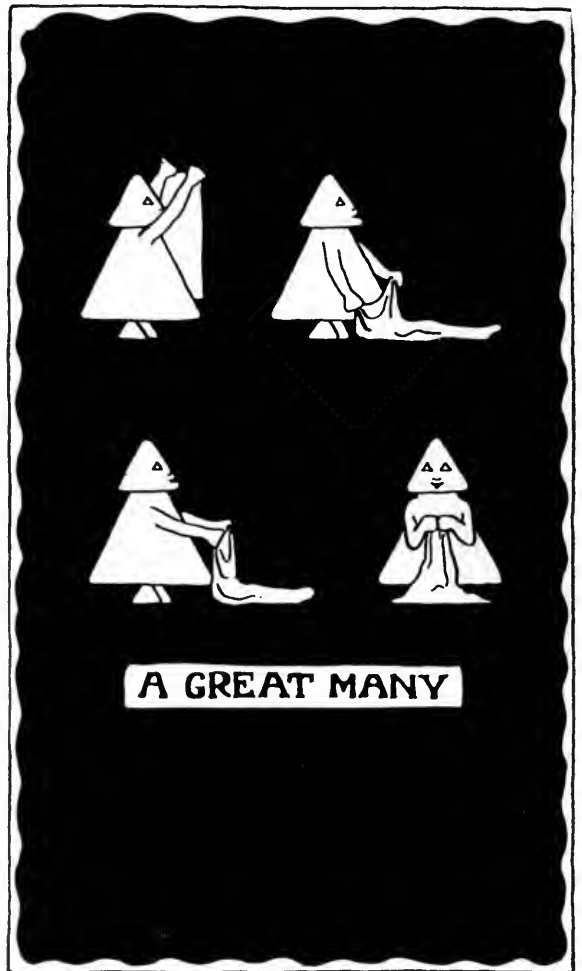
## AIR PICTURES WITH SMOKE AND BLANKETS



5. TO REQUEST ONE OF A NUMBER TO COME NEAR. Again extend the arms forward and upward, holding the blanket by the corners. Bend the body forward several times. Raise the right hand, holding one corner of the blanket and with the left hand hold the blanket together near the middle. Then give the sign for "come," extending the arms to the front, and bringing the right hand in toward the body.

6. TO REQUEST ALL OF A PARTY TO COME NEAR. Extend arms forward and upward, holding the blanket by the corners. Bend the body forward several times. Lower the arms until they are horizontal with the shoulders, bringing the hands close together. Carry the right hand in toward the body, thus signifying "come."

## AIR PICTURES WITH SMOKE AND BLANKETS



7. **DO NOT COME NEAR, or NO.** Holding the blanket by the corners, extend the arms forward, and bring the left hand to the right shoulder and the right hand beyond the left shoulder. Bring the right hand forward and to the right, keeping it horizontal. Repeat the last two motions.

8. **A GREAT MANY.** Extend the arms forward and upward, holding the blanket by the corners. Drop the hands. Then raise them a little and bring them together in front of the body.

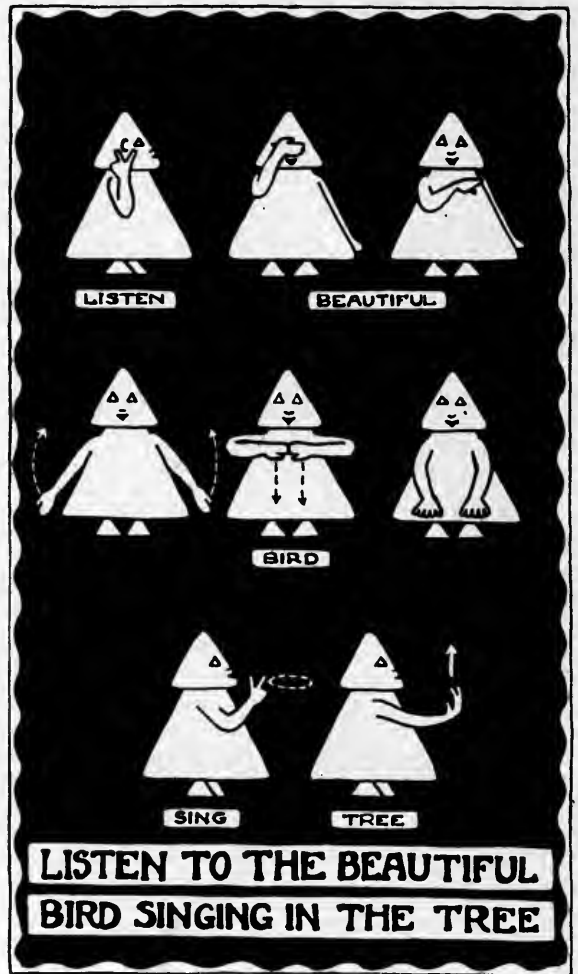


SENTENCES AND COMBINATIONS



1. Combine numbers 48, 37, 88 and point right forefinger at person addressed.
2. Combine numbers 47, 80 and 77.

## SENTENCES AND COMBINATIONS



3. Combine numbers 75, 126, 20 and 94.

4. Combine numbers 53, 10, 11, 92 and 114.

# Contents

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## Air Pictures of the Law of the Camp Fire Girls—Pages 6 and 7

1. Seek beauty.
2. Give service.
3. Pursue knowledge.
4. Be trustworthy.
5. Hold on to health.
6. Glorify work.
7. Be happy.

## Air Pictures—Pages 8 to 32

- |                           |                        |                       |
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| 1. Above                  | 45. Heaven             | 89. Sew               |
| 2. Afraid of no one       | 46. How many?          | 90. Shake hands       |
| 3. Age                    | 47. Hurry              | 91. Similar           |
| 4. All                    | 48. I                  | 92. Sing              |
| 5. Alone                  | 49. Keep               | 93. Sister            |
| 6. Apple                  | 50. Keep camp together | 94. Sleep             |
| 7. Arise                  | 51. Know               | 95. Smoke             |
| 8. Bad                    | 52. Lightning          | 96. Sour              |
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| 10. Beautiful             | 54. Little             | 98. Stand             |
| 11. Bird                  | 55. Long time          | 99. Star              |
| 12. Blanket               | 56. Love               | 100. Stingy           |
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| 16. Call                  | 60. Moon               | 104. Sun              |
| 17. Camp                  | 61. Mountain           | 105. Sunrise          |
| 18. Camp Fire Girl        | 62. Move               | 106. Take             |
| 19. Candle                | 63. My or Mine         | 107. Talk             |
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| 26. Dance                 | 70. People             | 114. Tree             |
| 27. Day                   | 71. Poison vine        | 115. True             |
| 28. Drink                 | 72. Prayer             | 116. Uncertain        |
| 29. Early                 | 73. Private            | 117. Waiting          |
| 30. Earth                 | 74. Question           | 118. Walk             |
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| 32. Fame                  | 76. Race               | 120. Water            |
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| 38. Good                  | 82. Rising man         | 126. Woman            |
| 39. Grass                 | 83. River              | 127. Work (try, push) |
| 40. Great                 | 84. Rosebud            | 128. Year             |
| 41. Grow                  | 85. Run                | 129. Yes              |
| 42. Happy Hunting Grounds | 86. Sad                | 130. Yesterday        |
| 43. Heart                 | 87. Sage               | 131. Wohelo           |
| 44. Heat                  | 88. See                |                       |

## Air Pictures with Smoke and Blankets—Pages 34, 35 and 36

1. Two fires. (The success of a party.)
2. To attract attention with smoke.
3. Discovery of a party.
4. To attract attention, or question, without smoke.
5. To request one of a number to come near.
6. To request all of a party to come near.
7. Do not come near, or no.
8. A great many.

## Sentences and Combinations—Pages 37 and 38

1. "I am glad to see you."
2. "Hurry and ride away. It is going to rain."
3. "Be quiet. The child is asleep."
4. "Listen to the beautiful bird singing in the tree."

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