

"PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR HEALTH"

Radio Program

Dec. 1, 1938

(Dr. V. W. Lapp and Mr. L. R. Perry)

Dr. Lapp

About a year ago I had occasion to go to the Junior High School of Lawrence to see Mr. Perry, who was then actively in charge of physical education in that building. Being new to this town, I had never met "Dad", as most people call him. I had in mind a bald-headed man of large proportions about the waist. I expected him to have spent 40 years in the service of the schools and to be able to get up steps by himself with the aid of a cane. If any of the audience have met Mr. Perry you can imagine my surprise when I encountered a well-built, clear-eyed, gymnastic type man who could have walked up steps not only without a cane but on his hands if he felt like it. Since my first meeting with "Dad" Perry I have had the opportunity of becoming very well acquainted with him. He has been made Director of Athletics and Supervisor of Physical Education for the entire Lawrence school system. Dad, I wonder if you would explain how you happen to have such a deceiving nickname.

Mr. Perry

It started when I was a boy about 3 years old. My grandfather came to live with us for several years. He was rather stocky of build and quite active, and we seemed to have some very similar characteristics. He was very active for his age and I guess I was just about enough like him to always be under mother's feet, so it fell to grandfather to keep me out of the way. We roamed all over the farm. My uncle, who lived just west of our place, said one day that I certainly looked and acted like grandfather, so before long everyone said - "There goes Dad and Grandad". So it started and has followed me ever since, all through high school, college, and my 18 years of teaching.

Dr. Lapp

Did I hear you say 18 years of teaching?

Mr. Perry

Yes, but only the last 13 years have really been in Physical Education. The first 5 years out of college I taught mathematics and coached athletic teams.

Dr. Lapp

Then you have really been in physical education for 18 years, because coaching is a definite part of our work. During these 18 years of teaching you have worked with a great many boys. Do you have any idea as to the number of different individuals you have had in your classes?

Mr. Perry

As near as I can estimate, it would be about 3,000 boys.

Dr. Lapp

During these 18 years of teaching 3,000 boys have you noticed any difference in their attitude toward physical education classes?