

SEPTEMBER 1994

PRICE: \$10.00 YEAR

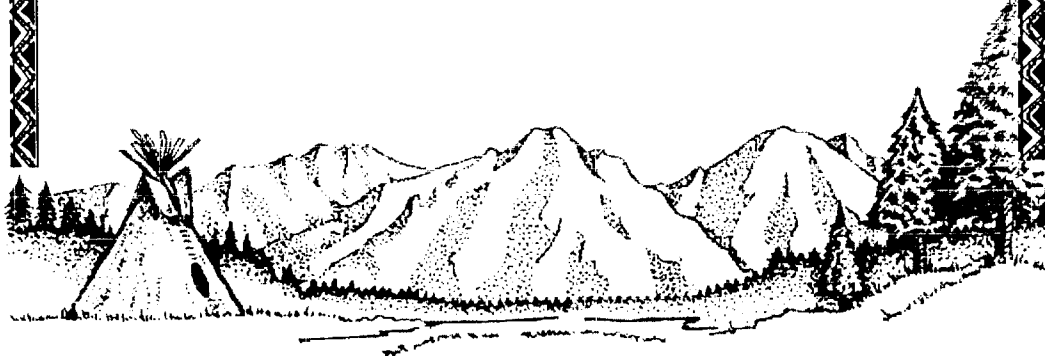


T·H·E L·O·N·G T·O·M

Life and times of the North Texas District Shawnee Trail Chapter

MEET THE STAFF

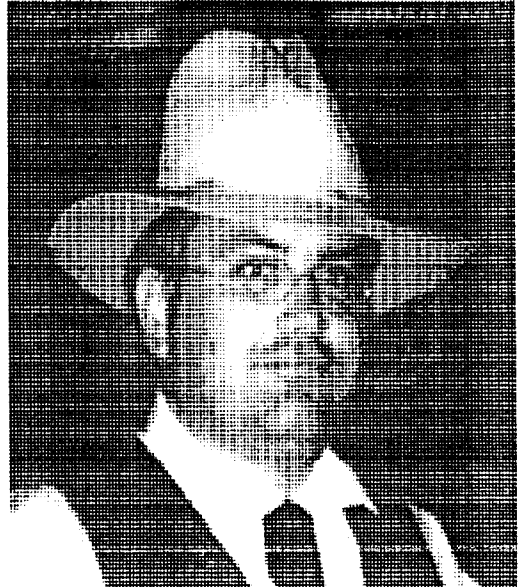
FAMILY DAYS IS A COMMUN'



From Gary Bierschwale, President

Choice greetings,

I want to thank all of you who voted for me in the recent FCF election. I am comitted to the ideals and quality of our FCF Shawnee Trails chapter. I promise you my staff and I will do all we can to further FCF here in the North Texas District. I want to take this opportunity to thank Sherman and his staff for all they have done for the past 6 years to keep our group alive and well. Sherman has poured his heart out for the Shawnee Trails chapter in order to assure its success and has well earned the respect of all of us. We will be relying more than ever on Sherman's insite and knowledge in order to make our chapter the best!



Our main goal, here in the Shawnee Trails chapter, is to assure the success of the Royal Ranger Program in North Texas and to support our District commander in all his endeavors. Currently our district commander is trying to organize work groups to improve our new camp grounds on the west side of the lake at Lakeview Camp. This is the first time in the North Texas District we have had the chance to totally design and build our camp grounds the way we want it and permanent! Paul Patterson has some great ideas and plans for our future camp. The blue prints have already been drawn by professtional architects and we have began work! In future letters I will be sharing idecas and plans we have for our new FCF village. I will also be soliciting your ideas. This is our chance to make FCF village a showcase! I'm excited!!

As you know our charter in FCF is "service". Yes, we are a service organization. So when work is to be done at our new camp grounds you will be called. Paul should never have any problems getting a work crew together as long as FCF is alive... Right ?? The highest percent of work done at the new camp grounds should be done by FCF members. I will not let you down... so please... don't let me and the district down. I will need all the support and help I can get from you guys because YOU are FCF... the ELITE!!!

My staff and I along with Paul Patterson will be meeting, August 20, to discuss future activities within the chapter. I have some ideas I think you will be pleased with and I am sure my staff will have some great ideas too! I want to see our families involved more with our primitive camping. I would like to see more Young Bucks involved at activities and service projects. I would also like to see more and better gifts at competitions for our Young Bucks. I was very pleased and excited over the gifts we had at the last Brush Poppin'. There was some very nice and expensive gifts we gave to our boys. All the Young Bucks that showed up received 2 or 3 gifts each! Every boy there was a winner! Now thats exciting!!!

I love each and everyone of you and you will be in my prayers. With you're help we will see the Shawnee Trails chapter become all it was meant to be!

Awaiting His return.

Mike Vance, Trappers Brigade / Wilderness Representative

I don't have time to do anything else. It's just another pin for my uniform. I sent in an application and never received my pin.

Hi. I'm Mike *Bearfoot* Vance. I am the Shawnee Trail Trappers Brigade Rep. I have heard these reasons in the past, and many more, about Trappers Brigade. I don't intend to try to talk you into doing anything. I do, however, deserve a few moments of your time to explain what the Brigade is all about.

Out of all the auxiliaries of the Royal Ranger Ministries, the Trappers Brigade is the only one that is 100% service for God. The only way to earn points is to do service work for our Lord. Most of us are already doing the work; we just haven't been keeping track of it.



The manual tells what can be counted and how to compile the points. The application is then filled out and mailed to me. I will mail your pin back to you if you desire, or will see that it is presented to you at the next Royal Ranger activity. Some may ask why it is necessary to fill out the application, and/or wear the pin. When another Ranger sees the pin and knows what it really means, then he may be encouraged to do more for God and become a member of the Trapper's Brigade. In this day and time, we need all the tools we can get to fight the battle for Christ. We have had three members to advance since June and they are listed at the end of this letter.

Let me encourage you not only to do your part, but to display the pins and achievements so you may be encouraged, and so that the Lord is always lifted up before all men.

David *Stringbean* Lowry--Free Trapper #3

Danny *Rev* Price--Bourgeois

Danny *Bobcat* Price, Jr.--Free Trapper #3

[Mike is also Wilderness Rep, so if you're passed Buckskin and wondering what's next, ask him...he'll tell you.]

From Steve *Big Crow* Norcross, Buckskin Rep

Greetings fellow Frontiersmen,

This is Big Crow talking to you (Steve Norcross to all you pilgrims). Let me tell you a little about myself. I started Royal Rangers when I was 8 years old, beginning with Buckaroo's and climbing the advancement trail. Along the way I was accepted into FCF, I earned my GMA (Gold Medal of Achievement, to all you pilgrims), was elected as the district scout, completed a JLTC camp, and finished my boyhood in Rangers as a Jr. Leader. Add to that a Gold and Silver Buffalo and you can see I know about achievement. Nuff Said... now its your turn.

As your new FCF Buckskin Representative, I want to encourage all Frontiersmen to: *Begin, Continue, and Complete your Buckskin rank*. In case you have forgotten, here is the requirements to advance to Buckskin:

- Boys - Complete one more step in advancement or earn the GMA
- Men - Complete Buckskin prereq Study Course and tutor a boy into FCF
- Men and Boys:

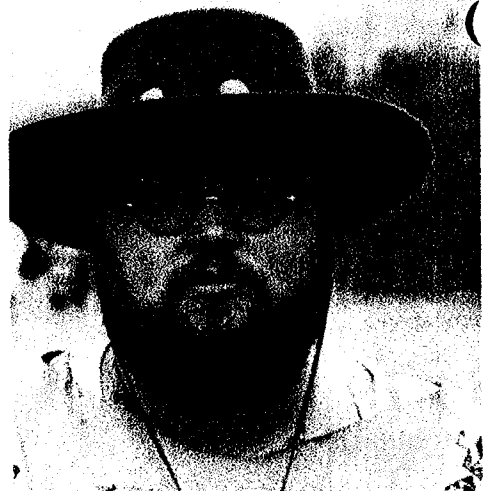
- 1) Participate in one Frontier Adventure and be active one year
- 2) Have a complete FCF outfit and wear it at FCF functions
- 3) Recite the FCF pledge
- 4) Explain the meaning of the FCF symbol
- 5) State the purpose of FCF
- 6) Make an FCF ID staff
- 7) Make your stalking stick into an FCF necklace
- 8) Select and *work* on a frontier related craft
- 9) Select a name you can relate to scripture

I know that getting an outfit can be the hardest and most expensive part, but it is also very rewarding to complete your outfit. It doesn't have to be leather, it can be cloth pants, muslin shirt, moccasins, leather belt, and an old flat crown hat and you are very South West! This is what I am here for, to assist you in your quest to complete these requirements. Here is my address and phone #: 4252 East Hwy 80, Apt # 2147, Mesquite TX 75149, (214)288-5530.

Please get in touch with me and let me know how I can help you. I can give you ideas or refer you to someone who knows more. I can even send you to other FCF members who make and trade items you may need.

Well, Watch your Topknot,

Big Crow



From *David String Bean* Lowry, VP

Stringbean, a servant of Jesus Christ chosen to be FCF VP by the brethren. To the membership of the Shawnee Trail, think about this. "Brothers if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load.

"Anyone who receives instruction in the Word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at that proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." (Galatians 6:1-10, NIV)

String Bean, His Mark



[Editor's note: 'Bean is a little modest, so I'll toot his horn some. Fact is, the Pres asked him to write something, and he sent me this, plus an explanation that anything he'd done that was right was because of Jesus anyhow. He's a pretty fine blacksmith, has been in FCF for about 37 years, and is always around if you need an ear. For a fact, he says little, and writes less.]

Classified Ads

STRING BEAN IRON WORKS David "StringBean" Lowry is an old time black smith that makes all sorts of iron ware the way it used to be done at a very reasonable price. Call for his free catalog @ (903)498-7245.

BUSHWACKER'S Mike & Helen Murdock Proprietors. *Things of Old.* Custom gun work and buckskinning accessories. (817)763-5058.

Tall Tales & Free Advice

Concerning Family Days

Yep. Last weekend in October it'll be this year, too. Only we've decided to do a few things differently. We, the staff, our wives, and a herd of children (mostly the Scribe's) met at the Bierschwale's and talked over a set of problems and events that had to do with Family Days and other events. October 28-30, Fri-Sun is the date (we're trying to get District approval to extend the camp over to Sunday) of the camp. Here's what we're planning.

We're camping near the Assembly area (flag poles), where there are (check it out, ladies) **FLUSH TOILETS AND SHOWERS!** You won't mind that too much, will you? And there's a stand of trees on the North to break the often chilly wind. As usual, there will be selected a family winner, based on a variety of "points", for primitive camping, participation, first-time to be in attendance, bringing guests, wearing proper Pioneer clothing, and scores from the games. Cost for the camp will be \$7.50 for members, \$5 for non-members, and a maximum of \$25 for each family group. Visitors who camp with your group count as part of your family. Little kids are free.

Friday, nothing is formally planned, and it's not required that you get into Pioneer clothing at all. You're welcome to if you wish, but the first order of business is to set up the homestead, so don't worry about it. Do see the Scribe, though and get your name listed so we can register you and give you your score sheet.

Saturday morning, we'll have a Family Trace, which will involve men, women, and children shooting, throwing, setting traps, making fires, etc. If you don't have a knife, hawk, or rifle, don't worry. It will be easy enough to borrow one, and the fact is, we don't really want folks running all around with firearms, not in the crowded area we will be camped in. If you don't have a wife, Young Buck, well, there's likely to be a few eligible Young Does around to choose a partner for the event, and if you need a child to round out your "family" feel free to borrow one of those, too. The whole point is to have fun, and we'll figure out who "wins" afterwards.

On Saturday, all the ladies, young and younger, who want to do so will remove to the Staff HQ building, rain or shine, and work on sewing up the FCF quilt. (This year at the banquet, we're going to have the quilt finished. The new Pres wants to tell you more about that, so I won't.) We're looking

forward to seeing some of your dandy needlework, girls. While you're quilting, men and boys will keep track of the children and head up the games and activities for the little ones. Ladies, you've put in your time doing that at the camps, and this time we want to take over. Some of the games we will be playing with the boys and girls is Corn Cob Darts, Hoop and Stick, Wheel Barrow Run, Marbles (bring your marbles and see if you can add to your poke!), Stilt Walk, Pinata's, Sack Races, Three Legged Races, and more! As you can see, the kids and men folk will be busy, ladies! We'll keep good track of them, and probably won't let too many get lost in the woods.

At all times, we need folks who aren't doing something else to be working with their craft or trade, or making the rounds and looking at the work other folks are doing. Trading and selling are encouraged. New members should consider what they will be working on when they advance to Buckskin. Trades we lack are tinsmith, glazier, weaver, knitter, cobbler, and tanner, to name just a few. As far as I know, these slots are not presently filled, and would be wide open territory for anyone who chose those trades. I'd buy hand woven cloth for making shirts, etc. if anyone made it...and everybody needs shoes.

Saturday night will be a fellowship and potluck dinner, with songs and fun and a devotion by our speaker. The men will be cooking for the whole camp and there will probably be a cooking contest of one sort or another, details to follow. And, of course, on Sunday morning, there'll be church/Sunday School, taught by our members to each other (many of us, of course, are Sunday School teachers or something like that back at our home churches) so there should be no lack there. A staff member may well call you and ask for help in some area, like adult or children's games or helping with church. Please be helpful and cooperative if that should happen. We all need each other to make this camp work.

I hope to see a crowd at Family Days and my Staff and I would like to get some ideas from you of what we can do to help make future camps more fun and exciting for everyone! The camp will be open Thursday night so come when you can.

With Jesus as our Captain!

David *Jeremiah Tailor* Wills & Gary *Wild Wind* Bierschwale

From Jerry *Five Stones* Atkinson, Historian

Greetings in the Name of the Lord,

Hello North Texas District, this is "Five Stones" Jerry Atkinson. I'm the new District FCF Historian. I attend First A/G in Jacksonville, and serve as Senior Commander of Outpost 105.

I feel FCF is still a great tool to teach boys for Christ, but like any other tool, it needs to be sharpened to stay useful. If we as a group of men and boys want to use this theme to attract boys and teach them about Christ, let's do it 100%. If we show a boy that we do things half way, he may think he can live for Christ half way. Is this the message we want to send out?

So as I walk through camp, I'll be looking for authentic setups and outfits to photograph. If you looked at pictures of Jim Bridger's camp, you wouldn't see cola cans or Igloo coolers, so let's hide the comforts we can't live without. We're supposed to be representing an era of our country's history. Our camps need to reflect that idea, so let's be careful.

The pictures I plan to take are slides. This will ease the filing and recording of the pictures, and make possible slide shows at FCF promotional banquets and similar functions.



Later, I plan to try my hand at sepia tone and tintype photographs.

Awaiting the return of the Lord,

Five Stones, His Mark.

Gal 6:9 says, *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.* [editor's note: Looks like he and 'Bean been reading the same Book...]

From David Jeremiah Taylor Wills, Scribe

) Well, this is the first newsletter out since I was appointed Scribe. But I didn't exactly put it out, since there were hardware/software mixups, which all the staff can appreciate, even if nobody else can. We're still learning new tricks, old dogs that we may be....

First, a word about the Staff. At the last District Camp, this old dog could be heard to say on various occasions (prior to installation) that "tomorrow I'll be Staff, today I'm just a stick." But the more I thought that over, the more I realized how true that was. See, a stick is just a piece of wood that has some potential use, while a staff is something that a traveler leans on for support. Well, I was tripped up by my own words, as usual.

Still, that's just what we are: a group of guys that fellow travelers can lean on. That's where YOUR part comes in: we need to hear from you in ways that are constructive, in ways that make the whole organization better, or if that's too hard, well, we need to hear from you in any way at all. We are all grown up enough that we can take a bit of abuse...don't walk on eggs, folks, if you have a gripe, come tell us. We may not know you're rubbed the wrong way if you don't. Most likely, we won't shoot you if you disagree.

As Scribe, I'll need to hear what you're Outposts are doing with regards to FCF. If you're not doing anything, and want ideas, there's a whole mess of things that CAN be done. About every town has some kind of historical or civic outing that would be a place you can organize an FCF outdoor display. If your town doesn't, probably the next one down the road does. We've had a great time around Austin, doing just that: setting up tipis, wall tents, and working with outdoor fairs, and similar kinds of events. Some of the time, we can have opportunities to talk to folks about Jesus. And other times, we've MADE opportunities to wedge ourselves into outdoor meetings. It's not too hard to do, as it turns out, since most of the folks organizing these events are all too happy to get volunteers to show up and make a larger group. You might find out that there's other Christians out there, and you'll discover how few folks have heard of Royal Rangers and FCF. That's our fault. So, repent, and tell 'em.



) Any money that you owe for back dues, or for new dues, or whatever you need to catch up on, is to be mailed to me at the below address. I'm getting caught up on the database of membership, including those who owe, and will be writing or calling or both to try to get less active members to become more active, and active members to get paid up. It's a dirty job, but I'm just the one for that. If you've camped in the dirt with me, you know that's true. So if you owe, send in the money, and I'll update your files.

Staff members, and any others who send writings to me should put their totem on a plain white piece of paper so we can add your "signature" below your writing. It'll look better than what's below here....

In Jesus,

J.Taylor, His Mark

Look What's Happening . . .

EGF Family Days

Family days is right around the corner! The doins will be Oct. 28-30. We have some really neat stuff planned for this camp. There will be a family trace, games for the critters, the lady's will be quilting the quilt for the banquet, and there will be plenty of fellowship for everyone! This will be the first camp planned by the new staff you just elected. Come see what you have voted for!! The men will be keeping the boys and girls busy Saturday afternoon while the women folk quilt. The men will even cook supper Saturday Evening for our the camp (it will be a pot luck, so bring something good to cook men!!). There will be a post card sent out closer to camp with more details on the activities of Family Days. See you at the doins!

Winter Pow Wow !!

The Winter Pow Wow is coming up and looks really exciting!! There will be a Pow Wow in several Divisions. The Pow Wow at Lakeview will be hosting a Frontier Adventure or a phase II. There will be a letter going out to all eligible phase II people. There will only be one Frontier Adventure and it will be at the Lakeview Camp, November 18-19, 1994. Lets make plans now to have a great time at camp!! See ya there!!

Wilderness Vigil

There will be a Wilderness Vigil October 21-22, 1994. This is a tentative date and could change. Each person that has a Wilderness application in will get a letter a few weeks before the Vigil takes place. If you have a little bag dangling from your belt, you need to be there! (What's in that bag, anyway?)

DIRECTORY SHEET

Anybody who has a skill of some kind that they would like to advertise, or an item they want to sell or buy, just let the scribe know, and we'll fix you up in the next newsletter. If you want to make suggestions of any kind for the Long Tom, please send them to Jeremiah Taylor, Rt 2 Bx 75-H, Manor, TX 78653.

The item we are working on is a District FCF Directory, which will be made available to all members who want one, for a nominal fee. To this end, please send in corrected information about yourself, your family, when you entered, etc., as listed below. We may be able to have this booklet out by the December banquet if we get sufficient responses. This directory is for YOU, so don't hold back the information that will make it complete.

Name: _____

First

"FCF Name"

Last

Address: _____

Street

City

State

Zip

Phone #: (____) _____ - _____ Wife's Name: _____

List children(s) names and ages:

Year Entered FCF: _____ FCF Rank: _____ FCF Name: _____

Trappers Brigade Member? Yes No Rank? _____

FCF Skill or Trade: _____ Shooters Card? Yes No Active? Yes No

Section: _____ Church Name: _____

Outpost #: _____ Position: _____

Other interests, suggestions, etc....:



Calling all non-current FCF Members

COME HOME

*David "Jeremiah Tailor" Wills
NTD FCF Scribe
Rt 2 Box 75H
Manor, Texas 78653*

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED