



# North Texas District ROYAL RANGERS “SIGNAL FIRE”

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January 1995

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## GOLD MEDAL OF ACHIEVEMENT 1994

**Congratulations** to the following boys for earning their *Gold Medal of Achievement* in 1994:

|                         |               |           |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| David Cameron Pickett   | Hewitt        | January   |
| David Shane Porterfield | Marlin        | January   |
| Joshua Horvath          | Waxahachie    | February  |
| Brian McDougal          | Garland       | February  |
| Bryan Mask              | Duncanville   | May       |
| Danny McElroy           | Arlington     | May       |
| David Shaver, Jr.       | Copperas Cove | August    |
| Nathan Martin           | Bedford       | September |
| Joseph Moore, Jr.       | Southlake     | September |
| Brian Turner            | Keller        | September |
| Anthony Warne           | Anna          | December  |

### Medal of Valor

|               |        |         |
|---------------|--------|---------|
| Michael Upton | Temple | January |
|---------------|--------|---------|

These boys have worked very hard and diligently to achieve their GMA. They are an inspiration to other boys in our District to press forward and earn their own Gold Medal of Achievement.

## *From the District Commander*

Commanders!!!

We are moving on. We have gotten the approval for going forward with our camp . . . the roads pavilion and Commander's Lodge have been approved with funds to start building.

Starting January 14, 1995, we will be working each weekend to get this large job done. I cannot get this task done but **WE** can! If you can come during the week, projects will be laid out that you can come do. As I have said, this is not an "I" District, but a "WE" District. We can get the job done.

Remember: We lead by example.

In His Service, Paul Patterson

### **1994 SERVICE AWARDS**

Have you earned an award for 1994??? Enclosed in the *Signal Fire* are the forms for Outpost Commander's Award, Buckaroo-Straight Arrow Outpost Commander's Award, Leader's Service Award, Junior Leader's Award, and Blue Cluster Award (for Area Commanders). **THE DEADLINE FOR SENDING THE AWARD FORMS TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE IS MARCH 1!** Please note \$10.00 for first year medals and \$2.00 for additional pins are due when you send in the forms. If you have a question, contact Margaret on Tuesdays or Thursdays, 817-284-4856.

Harley Wilcox, Palestine Sectional Commander, is a Certified American Red Cross Instructor for the Anderson County Chapter. Prices for the course range from \$2.00 to \$18.00 per person. Please contact Harley at 903-489-2787 for more information.

## THOUGHTS FROM DEPUTY DISTRICT COMMANDER

This year has been an exciting year. The year started with several new positions approved for additional staff, which has been extremely beneficial. The District Royal Rangers has been able to do more to meet the needs of many outposts and commanders. We appreciate all the extra effort these commanders have put forth to make our job easier.

The next couple of years a lot of our emphasis will be focused on the new area where the District Royal Rangers will be fixing up for camping. As most of you know, we are in the process of moving across the lake. Tentative plans have been approved for us to start building the commanders lodge, restrooms, and possibly a dining hall. I'm excited about this. Now a dream is becoming a reality. Many years ago, Ollie Henley and others had a vision what facilities were needed. It might not be where we thought it would be, but that vision is becoming a reality. The New Testament talks about someone preaching the word, someone comes along and waters it, and then someone comes along for the harvest. I can truly say, everyone has had a part in making this all come to past. Commander Henley, THANKS for pointing us in that direction.

Hopefully, with the help and efforts of all our commanders, we'll be able to have the restrooms, lodge, and pageant area ready for the summer Pow Wow. It's going to take many hours, days, and weekends to get all this ready for Pow Wow. Begin to set aside time to come and help!

1994 Camporama -- We had our largest attendance. A special thanks to Robert Johnson and the Wichita Falls Section for building the water falls entrance way. You just had to be there to appreciate all the work they did. We had over 325 attend from NTD. Many of the boys from our District received the Holy Spirit or special blessing at the evening rallies. We had a great time attending the Them Parks in the different regions. Just can't wait till 1998!

Boys training in the District has been enlarged. We are now having several camps going on at the same time. This is to help in getting a staff for these camps. Commanders, we have a camp for your boys to attend: camps for Pioneers, Trailblazers, and Air-Sea-Trail Rangers. Please contact the District Office concerning these camps.

**CAMP STAFF!!! HELP!** We are needing your help commanders. This camp will take approximately 75 men. I have contacted several of you already and can use all the help we can get. If you would like to be an instructor to teach the Blue and White Awards or help, please contact Dwain Klopfenstein.

For Sale! Attention LTC Instructors. Have you ever gone to teach your LTC and the overhead projector was not there or the lamp was burned out??? You can have control of this by purchasing your very own overhead. Don't rely on someone else to make sure all this is there. Each instructor should have his own tools for instruction. I have 10 overhead projectors and some screens. Overheads \$75-100. Screens \$15-35. Contact Dwain Klopfenstein. (817) 281-0081

One set of patches of the last 3 Pow Wows with the Ollie Henley patch in the middle, \$75. This will go towards the building of the new Lodge.

Regional Training Seminar January 28, 1995 in San Antonio. Let's make a good showing from NTD.

DWAIN KLOPFENSTEIN

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## **Founded on Courage**

In January of 1992 Royal Ranger Outpost 81, of First Assembly of God in Lampasas, Texas, was in such a state of disarray a major overhaul was inevitable. The Senior Commander was being crushed under the weight of thirty boys and only one helper.

Eight men responded to the call for leadership training. From the moment of their response a series of miracles began to take place that has transformed Outpost 81 into what a Royal Ranger Outpost is intended to be.

The miracles began with a three pound coffee can set up in one man's business. People from the city started dropping everything from pocket change to one hundred dollar bills into the can marked "Royal Ranger Fund." One individual even donated a motor home which was sold to benefit the Ranger program.

The local church had ample space for a Ranger Outpost building, but not the equipment to clear the land nor the funds to build the building. Before the LTC was completed one of the men had arranged with the county to clear the heavily wooded land at no charge. Next the city utility company sent a truck, poles and wiring to run electricity and to install lights, once again at no charge.

Before the summer was over the men had located a rustic building that could easily serve as classroom space for the outpost. The owners originally asked \$6,000.00 for the building, but after much prayer let the Royal Rangers have it for \$2000.00. After the building was in place, a local rancher donated approximately 4000, 7 ft. cedar staves to build a fence around the outpost.

The outpost command center is aptly named FORT COURAGE. Not only because of the Ranger Code, but also because it describes the men, who by faith, saw it built and the boys, who by

faith, it is producing. Fort Courage was dedicated in September of 1994. It serves in the vital role of "reaching, teaching and keeping boys for Christ" in Lampasas, Texas.

The miracles have continued to the present. In fact we have only related a small portion of the story. God has supplied uniforms for the boys, Pow Wow expenses, camping trips, chartering, etc. A Royal Ranger program near extinction just two years ago is now flying high because men of vision refused to let it die and God honored their faith and commitment. To God be the glory.

## "Fort Courage"

In the year of 1992 several Christian men had a vision. That vision was to find a way to take young boys off the streets and teach them more about Jesus. They also wanted to teach them about survival in the woods such as their forefathers had done in olden days. They had the property they needed but no building to teach them in. So they all put their heads together to do something about it.

These Christian men went for training through the Lord's word so that they might be able to teach young boys about Jesus. These men are continuously going through training to glorify God. During the last stages of their schooling they dedicated the land to God. They walked around the land seven times like they did at Jericho in the old days dedicating this 100 foot square of land to the Lord . Then they spotted an empty building that had been used to sell liqueur and a few groceries that was no longer being used and looked like an old building from the west. Since it was not being used the Christian men began to think what could be done with it to make more boys interested in coming to church and learning about Jesus . Then it happened, they thought of building a fort like was used in old days around this building . First they had to acquire the building or build themselves another. So they proceeded to contact the owners of the building to see what kind of agreement they could work out. At this time, however, the owners of the building were not interested in getting rid of the building. However, the Christian men didn't give up hope. Instead they proceeded to pray about it. They also fixed up an ordinary coffee can. On this can they painted Royal Rangers Fund and put it in plain view for everyone to see in their place of business. Of course people would see and ask what it meant and that's when these Christian men would witness to people they came in contact with.

As a result the donations started to pour in both left and right. Sometimes it wasn't just money that was donated . Why they even had someone donate a motor home to be used for the Royal Rangers program only. The lady who donated it had been touched by God to give it she said. The motor home was fixed up and sold to

bring in more money. These Christian men had a vision that they knew could only be accomplished with God's help. So even when they didn't have enough donations to make sure that every boy and leader had the required uniform they needed, they would take money out of their own pockets to buy shirts, pants, shoes, belts, and whatever else was needed. The donations didn't stop there-they had a Rancher who donated them two houses to tear down and they could have all the lumber to use as they saw fit. At first they thought they could use the lumber to build the fort and all the buildings that might be needed. They also had railroad ties donated to be used to fix the walls. Another young man who wanted to help began to cut down 7 foot cedar staves and they started to wire them together to make a wall around the place where the fort was to be built. It just seemed like God began to take over causing things to go the right way. The land was cleared off and leveled off. Then all of a sudden the people who owned the building decided to change their minds and as a result the building was finally acquired. All they had to do was figure out a way to have it moved.

Again God took over and within 2 to 4 hours they had everything needed to have the building moved where they wanted it to be. Then they began to work at getting electricity hooked up and they also had a light pole or two put up so that they would be able to see at night. They also got the water hooked up and of course the sewage pipes for the bathrooms by spirit filled men who not only used their own equipment but also donated their own time to glorify God. The fence was not an easy task because it took exactly 100 of the 7 foot cedar staves per 20 foot section. This in itself went up section at a time and as each section was finished it was as though the Lord knew we needed more and he would find a way to provide them for these hard working men. Then the boys got to help by digging the hole for the flag pole for the American flag. Places for other flags were put up and then began the process of what flags to put up. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that they would put up the six flags that had ever flown over the state of Texas. After that they then had to figure out what the fort should be named. So after a little prayer and a lengthy discussion it was decided that the fort should be named Fort Courage which comes right out of the Royal Rangers handbook.

Over a year after the fort was completed, the Christian men got all the regional commanders that they could together along with their families and all the boys and girls and all other church members of the First Assembly Of God Church in Lampasas and dedicated "Fort Courage" to God. This was done one Sunday evening after church services. They had all the boys and girls line up in front of the ribbon and told them that they were going to have a gold rush. Then the men and several of the older boys took 5,000 pennies, a few

quarters, dimes, and nickels and tossed them all around in a certain area. The boys and girls ranging in age of toddlers to about the 3rd grade were told that as soon as they cut the ribbon they could run to pick up as many coins as they could and that whatever they picked up they could keep for themselves. Of course there were rules they had to abide by and there was plenty of adult supervision. After the gold rush they had prayer and then everyone was invited to eat ice cold watermelon, ice cream, and cake and they had iced tea to drink. To this day these men are very dedicated to doing the Lord's work.

The oldest of these Christian men I'm proud to say is my father. He is respected by the boys and even the other commanders. You see in a way the Lord used him to bring all these men and women together and the boys too. He was and still is a living testimony of what God can do in your life when you least expect it. He was diagnosed with cancer in 1989 and had surgery to have it removed. While he was in surgery the doctors gave his room away because they didn't believe that he would live through the surgery. What the doctors didn't know was that this man not only had his friends and family praying for him but he also had God with him. After he got well enough, he had a visit from his young grand daughter who told him that she had loved him so much that she had asked the whole church to pray for him and that they had and that was why he was getting better. Well, she then invited him to church and he took his whole family and as a result he became very involved in the church. He's always working to help his family, friends, and especially the young boys he teaches. This man is filled with love and believe me it shows. Even the boys or even a complete stranger can see how much he loves his God and these boys. You see God gave him a second chance at life and he's prepared to use his life to do God's work no matter where it might lead him. All the men, women, and children around him see this and as a result it draws others closer to God. I just pray that whatever God has in store for him in the future that he'll never give up but continue to love God and his family. For you see, he already considers all of the young boys a part of his family.

With men like him and their love of God "Fort Courage" will continue to be a Godly fort to help bring young boys and men closer to God. Just think if it hadn't been for these inspired spirit filled men of the Lord who had a vision of teaching young boys about Jesus there would be no Fort Courage today. Every day these spirit filled men continue learning and at the same time are glorifying God by using the gift of teaching that the Lord blessed them with. To this day at least 8 or more of the young boys here have dedicated their lives to Jesus and have asked Jesus to come into their hearts. In the regional area, over a hundred young boys and men have went forth and

dedicated their lives to Jesus at Pow Wow's and other camp outs. This just shows that prayers can and will be answered when it comes to people like these men who wanted to do something for the Lord and were willing to do whatever the Lord wanted them to. For you see, that vision they had has come true and they were and still are a part of it. God bless these men and "Fort Courage."

Written By: Barbara L. Clarkston-Smith

**NOTE: This article has been accepted for publication in a future issue of HIGH ADVENTURE.**

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## 1995 District Calendar

|       |       |  |
|-------|-------|--|
| Jan.  | 7     | District Staff Meeting                                       |
| Jan.  | 27-28 | Regional Training Seminar                                    |
| Feb.  | 24-25 | FCF Basic Training   |
| Mar.  | 10-11 | FCF Brush Poppin - Lakeview                                  |
|       | 16-18 | National RR Council, Springfield                             |
|       | 25    | District Ranger of the Year Testing, Praise Temple, Burleson |
| Apr.  | 28-29 | Commander's Conference/Awards Service                        |
| May   | 13    | Work Day for Pow Wow - Lakeview                              |
| June  | 2-4   | District Pow Wow - Lakeview                                  |
| July  | 16-22 | JLTC Sarge Sellers Training Academy                          |
|       | 19-21 | Territorial FCF Rendezvous, N.M.                             |
| Aug.  | 26    | Sectional Commander's Conference                             |
| Sept. | 9     | Instructor Certification Seminar                             |
|       | 29-30 | Commander's Campout - Lakeview                               |
| Oct.  | 27-29 | FCF Family Days  |
| Nov.  | 17-18 | Winter Camps Divisional                                      |
| Dec.  | 2     | District Staff Christmas Banquet                             |
|       | 9     | FCF Christmas Banquet  |

\* PENDING: (No dates scheduled yet)

- 1) District LTC Campouts,
- 2) Buckaroo/Straight Arrow Conference, and
- 3) a second date for ICS.

### REGIONAL SEMINAR

Do not forget to attend the Regional Training Seminar on January 27-28, 1995! If you need more information, please contact your sectional commander or the District Office at 817-284-4856.



## District Ranger of the Year

This years testing will be held on March 25, 1995 at Praise Temple in Burleson. The church is located at 2915 South Interstate I-35(35W), P.O. Box 291, Burleson (817) 295-0421. We are in need for several good leaders to be a tester that day so if you can assist with testing, please call Robert Johnson. Tester will need to be at the church by 8 am for a briefing. Boys will need to plan on arriving by 8:45 am in class B uniforms. Leaders are also requested to be in a Class B uniform in order to make the boys more comfortable on the day of the test. We had a GREAT YEAR in 1994 as several hundred boys accepted the Lord. Boys lives were changed forever because of leaders like YOU! Its worth all the time, money, and prayers everyone had. We give God all the Praise, Glory, and Honor. In 1995, I would like to see thousands saved!!!! It can happen, but sometime we limit God. If I can help anyone, please let me know. Robert Johnson, 1511 Speedway, Wichita Falls, TX 76301. (817) 723-6210.

### LAKEVIEW AVAILABLE FOR OUTPOST USE!

If you were not aware of it, your outpost may use Lakeview for an outpost campout, Father/Son Campout, etc. as long as you are chartered. All you need to do is fill out the LAKEVIEW WEEKEND CAMP APPLICATION and send it to the District Office at least **30 days in advance**. A copy of the form is enclosed in the *Signal Fire*. After Commander Paul has approved it, the application will be forwarded to Bro. Savage's office. His office will send verification to you for the date requested. (If there is a conflict of schedules, you will be notified.) Ken Harris will also be sent a copy of the schedule so he knows when your Rangers will be at Lakeview.

Be sure to check with Ken Harris (214-244-9651) about a conservation good turn project! If you have a question, call the District Office at 817-284-4856 or Commander Ken Harris.

## COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE AND AWARDS SERVICE

The Commander's Conference and Awards Service is scheduled to meet April 28 and 29 at First Assembly of God in Waco. The Awards Service will be on Friday evening. The cost of the conference is \$15.00 (which includes Friday evening meal, Saturday breakfast, and lunch). Pre-registration forms will be mailed in February.

Special events are being planned by our Commander's wife, Denise Patterson, for all ladies. The emphasis is "Inner Beauty" (complete with makeovers!) Ladies, plan now on attending . . . details will be available shortly.

Rooms have been reserved at the Ramada Inn in Waco, and the cost is \$44.00 per night for a double. The rooms will be released April 14, so call early! Ask for the Royal Rangers group rate when registering, 1-800-772-9440.

Separate quarters will be available for men and ladies to sleep over on Friday evening at the church at no charge. (Showers are not available at the church). Notify Jonathan Trower at 817-848-5965 if you plan to stay at the church.

## Winter Camps

This years Winter Camps wre held November 18 and 19. In spite of the weather, we had a total of 389 with 24 saved! PRAISE GOD!!

The Division One (North Division) Campout saw a wonderful miracle take place as 4 boys gave their hearts to Jesus at the Friday night council fire. The Campout was held at Lake Lewisville State Park with the special speaker being Pastor Larry Allgood from Central Assembly in Greenville. Despite the rain and unfavorable conditions, God blessed us with a great time of fellowship and camping. The boys built a large monkey bridge on Saturday and set out for a long hike around the dam by the lake. All in all we had a great time.

As newly appointed division commander with one year under my belt, I look forward to 1995 and pray that God will continue to bless us in our ministry to boys. Plans for the coming year include the winter camp, a garage sale fund-raiser, and a divisional pinewood derby. I would also like to see the charters keep coming in and a good participation from our division at the Pow-Wow and other district events. I pray that Jesus will be with each boy, commander, and family in the Denton, Greenville, North Ft. Worth, and Wichita Falls sections and that we will come together to reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ in 1995!

Joe Watts, North Division Commander (Division One)

# RANGER SUPPLY STORE

You can now order Royal Ranger LTC award pins and Leaders Medal of Achievement Pins (Class A) in both red and blue through the Ranger Supply Store. Their prices are listed below and they guarantee you fast and courteous service. A 30 day account can be set up for each section.

## Buckaroo-Straight Arrow LTC Pins (RED)

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| 0952 LTC 4-Unit Award Pin.....              | \$3.00 |
| 1087 Organization Award Pin .....           | \$1.80 |
| 1089 Counselor Award Pin .....              | \$1.80 |
| 1090 Coordinator Award Pin .....            | \$1.80 |
| 1088 Camping Award Pin .....                | \$1.80 |
| 1231 Leader Medal of Achievement (Red)..... | \$6.00 |
| 0869 Pyramid.....                           | \$1.20 |

## LTC Pins (BLUE)

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| 0951 LTC 4-Unit Award Pin.....              | \$3.00 |
| 0867 Organization Award Pin .....           | \$1.80 |
| 0865 Counselor Award Pin .....              | \$1.80 |
| 0868 Coordinator Award Pin .....            | \$1.80 |
| 0866 Camping Award Pin .....                | \$1.80 |
| 1230 Leader Medal of Achievement (Blue) ... | \$6.00 |
| 0869 Pyramid.....                           | \$1.20 |

When order quantities of 100 or more, please call and ask for special pricing. Their toll-free number is 1-800-255-4377.

Jack Fortner, Manager  
Ranger Supply Store  
4045 North Freeway Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95834

## **BRT COMING!!**

**Mark your calendars now for BRT. This will be held February 24-25. More details will be sent soon.**

"*SIGNAL FIRE*" is a publication of the Royal Rangers Ministry of the North Texas District Council Assemblies of God.

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Dist. Commander              | Paul Patterson     |
| Dep. Dist Commander          | Dwain Klopfenstein |
| Dep. Dist Commander          | Curtis Earp        |
| Public Relations Coordinator | Robert Johnson     |
| Production Coordinator       | Steve Landers      |
| Training Coordinator         | Randy Woods        |
| B/SA Coordinator             | J.C. Spence        |
| B/SA Coordinator             | John Howard        |
| FCF President                | Gary Bierschwale   |
| Editor                       | Mark Oliver        |

**NEWS NEEDED**

The deadline for the information for the next newsletter is March 15, 1995. Please send us your information as soon as possible to:

MARK OLIVER  
8117 CLOVERGLEN LANE  
FT. WORTH, TX 76123-2018

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***Royal Rangers Ministry***  
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