



THE PONY EXPRESS



Winter 1996

Volume 3 Issue 2

12th GMA AWARDED!

Celebration and support rang from the sanctuary and fellowship hall at the Medway Church of God (Medway, Maine) on November 24 as our 12th Gold Medal of Achievement was awarded to Charles Till III. This hard working young man, the son of Pastor Charles Till II, was also recognized as earning the Gold Buffalo. He was an obvious source of wholesome pride as his church family filled the pews on that Sunday morning to honor him. Pastor Till remarked "When one member of the body hurts, the whole body hurts. When one member is honored, the whole body is honored." And honor was certainly due for the diligent effort and subsequent achievement of this shining star of the Ranger program.

Present for the occasion were Steve Melcher, (Deputy District Commander of Maine), Don Filena (Deputy District Commander of N.H.), Sid "Wooly Bear" Bean (FCF President), Mark A. Blanchette (Dist. Pub. Relations Coordinator) and GMA coordinator, Phil Adams. There were also boys representing outposts #25 and #3, as well as a State Representative.

The church body worked together to provide a delicious meal for all to share following the main address. As the day came to a close, despite the chill outdoors, hearts were warm with the memory of a rich day that had been set aside to say to one of our precious youth, "WE ARE PROUD OF YOU !"

When asked how he felt after his accomplishment, Charles response was, "Awesome! I knew that earning the G.M.A. was a major event, but I didn't expect all that has been done for me." Charles was simply overwhelmed by his receiving letters from everyone from the Pastor to the President of the United States! And if you were wondering what earning this award has meant to him, Charles says, "I think the biggest thing it means is that I'm supposed to be an example. I feel very happy about all the hard work I put into earning this award and now I think I can help others more effectively within Royal Rangers."

Charles found the hardest award to earn was the Bible award due to the large amount of reading, studying and memorizing it required. However, it was worth it since he recognized that he had grown closer to the Lord through this as well as all of the other aspects of rangers. His next challenge is to join F.C.F. (*Watch out Wooly Bear! You've got a good one coming!*)

The district staff is excited by what this young man has

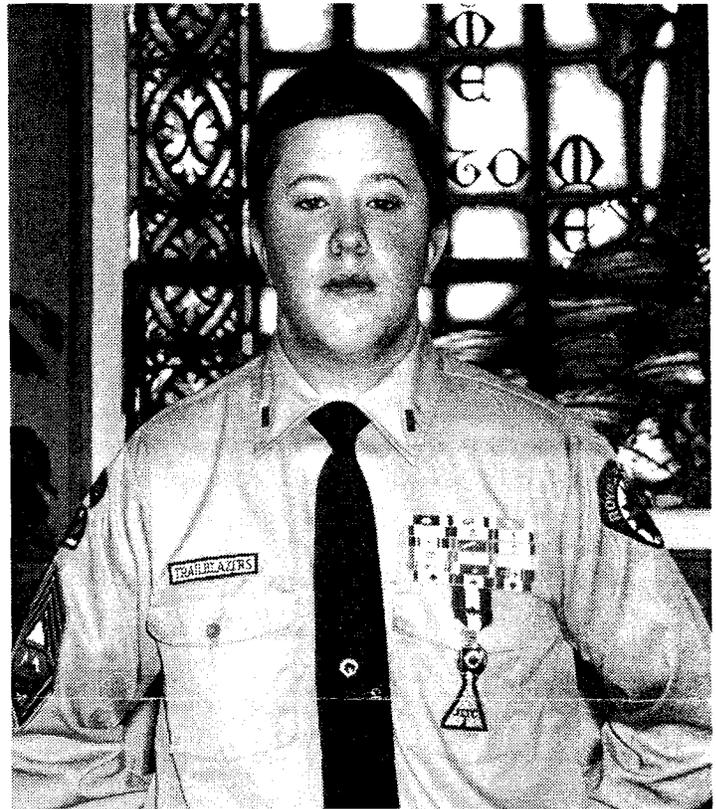


Photo by David Blanchette - Outpost 3

accomplished. His hard work will be an example to all of the other boys in the district who would hope to earn their GMA. Several years ago, in an effort to help encourage boys to earn their GMA, the district started the GMA association. This association helps raise the money to purchase jackets for each GMA recipient as well as to promote the GMA through various means. If you would like to help promote the Gold Medal of Achievement in this district, why not contact Steve Melcher to find out more about the GMA association.

- Cathrine Blanchette

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Here are just a few of the items inside!

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A Letter to all Pastors and Outpost Commanders

There has been some confusion within the ranks of Royal Rangers in regards to leadership since the resignation of Gary Cloutier. In an effort to clarify the situation, I thought it best to address each of you directly.

There is an appointment process that must be followed on the district level. Brother DiTrolio, myself, and the district presbytery must first evaluate potential replacements and then seek pastoral recommendation before asking a candidate if he will consider appointment. The candidate is then asked to come before the presbytery for an interview. It is at that time the presbytery makes its decision regarding appointment. Hopefully, this process will be completed by the end of January with an announcement of your new District Commander.

In the mean time, district Royal Ranger events will go forward as planned. Your Deputy District Commanders, Steve Melcher (Maine) and Don Filena (NH/VT), and Sectional Commanders Gary Ladeau (Southwest), Scott Carlson (Central) George Tusi (White Mountain), and Jay Hoffman (Northwest) are all available to assist you. Questions regarding chartering can be directed to Mark Blanchette, Public Relations Coordinator. Questions regarding training can be directed to Gary Besaw, District Training Coordinator. Questions regarding F.C.F. can be directed to Sid Bean, F.C.F. President.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any questions you may have about Royal Rangers. I appreciate your sacrifice and hard work. Royal Rangers is a powerful ministry that is making a difference in many young lives. May the grace of our Lord be with you all.

Gregg Randall
Director of Church Ministries

The Pony Express is a quarterly publication of the Northern New England District Royal Rangers, Gary Cloutier - District Commander. The Pony Express is an excellent way to promote what is happening in your outpost, section and district. We welcome you to submit articles, photos, etc. Please send your articles to the address found on the back page. Articles may also be sent to us via the internet at READYPGE@sover.net

While a subscription to this newsletter is sent free to the senior commander of each chartered outpost, any offerings to help defray the cost of this publication would be appreciated. If you, or anyone in your outpost would like their own copy, subscriptions are available for \$5.00 per year. Subscription requests may be sent to us at the address found on the back page. Checks should be made payable to N.N.E.D. Royal Rangers.

Choice Christian greetings to you all.

Wow!! 1996 is gone and nothing but memories (fond and no so fond). As I look back over the year I see some mistakes but I also see how our Lord has moved in my life, not only through F.C.F but in many other ways. We just had the Thanksgiving feast and it was great. I thank the brothers & sisters who were there, because without you, we wouldn't of had the fellowship. The weather did affect the turkeys cooked in the trash can & smoker but we sure didn't go hungry. I wish to thank the Elliots for the use of their home once again for this event. Next year we are moving the date to Oct. 5th we can camp and cook on top of the hill. Sort of a camping end of the camping year harvest party. We are looking at the Columbus Day weekend. Let me know if you think that is a good date.

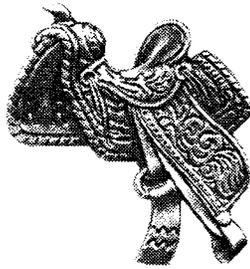
All in all the King's Pine chapter have had a good year. The Family Rendezvous, village at pow-wow, Thanksgiving feast have all grown, and because of this we have new members in our family. The Trace saw new brothers for the first time but not the last, I'm sure. I have appointed committees for a couple of things. The Trace committee is *Tall Timber, Strong Bow, Firestick, and Wooly Bear* (me) and they can be reached at Christian Worship Center, Barrington NH for any ideas you may have. The Trappers Brigade committee is *Eagle Claw, Lighting Bolt, Nightwind*, so send them your points for Trappers Brigade and they will take it from there.

There has been some hard times this year also, *Little Bear* was laid up with heart trouble, Pat (my wife) is going through the same thing, *Grizzly's* wife Norma wa

Continued on page 3 - FCF

FROM WHERE I SIT...

Rev. Gregg Randall
Men's Ministries
Director



The key to any effective ministry begins with our on going relational development with our Lord. Something is happening in ministry to men in the Assemblies of God to help men achieve all that God's wants men to be. Perhaps you have not heard - it's called **HonorBound: Men of Promise**.

HonorBound is more than a name. It is a life style. Men are to be **HonorBound...to God and His Son Jesus Christ** (John 5:23) **...to his family** (Matthew 15:4) **...to the needy** (1 Timothy 5:3) **...to those in authority** (1 Peter 2:17)

The major goal of **HonorBound** is to build **Godly men, Godly fathers, Godly husbands, Godly sons and brothers**. This new focus of men's ministry seeks to achieve a balance between the "things men do" in ministry (Royal Rangers) and "who a man becomes" (relationship with God) through discipleship.

Viable ministry occurs as growing men in Jesus Christ achieve **mindfulness** - become aware of what matters to God; **maturity** - lay a foundation for spiritual growth; **ministry** - use their spiritual gifts; **mission** - help others grow and share their faith.

HonorBound and Promise Keepers are working together in several areas with the primary focus being to improve ministry to men at the local church. If you have not yet done so, I would encourage you as a Royal Ranger leader to involve yourself in **HonorBound**. Your spiritual growth will have a tremendous impact on boys!

FCF

in the hospital for an operation *Tall Timber's* wife Jean has a pinched nerve and has trouble walking. They are all doing well, Praise God!!! (Pat is still waiting) One thing I remember is that our Lord is in control no matter what. I want to thank the brothers & sisters who prayed when I called them on this matter. Please, when you are sick let your family know so we can lift you up to our Lord. Please keep these brothers & sisters in prayers as they go through this time of illness.

The NNE District has lost it's District Commander (Gary resigned) but we are doing well. The District Staff is running the district and looking forward to the new D.C. coming on board. (Don't know who the Lord has for us yet.) The Scriptures say "wait upon the Lord" and we are doing just that. Thank you Gary for all of your hard work, that I know you have put into rangers on the district level. (Gary says he will still be involved in rangers). There you have it, so if you hear a rumor about the district (NNE) not doing anything, well we know who is the father of all lies. NNE District is going on working for Jesus and reaching out to the boys in NNE District, because Jesus has called us to do that.

I would like to pass on to all of you commanders out there who are on-line

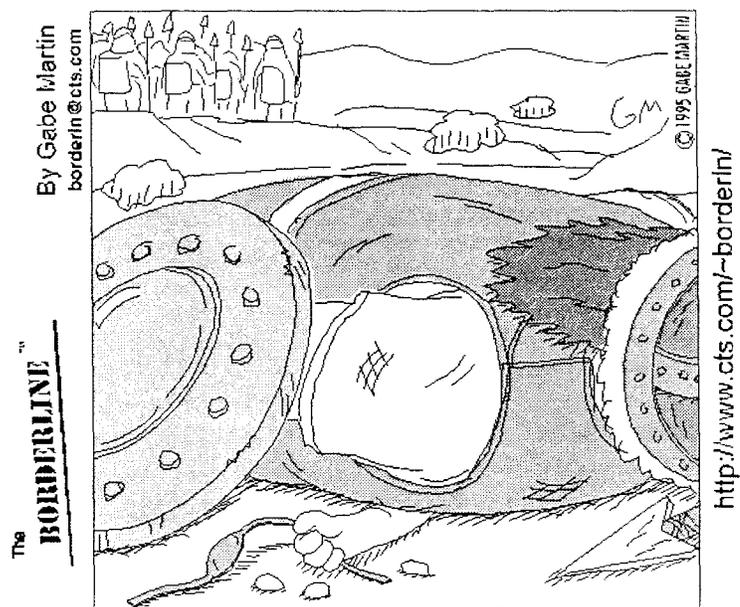
(AOL, etc) an address for rangers. This net is made up of 220 commander from all over the world and they share ideas, post devotions, FCF yarns, prayer requests, and different things. Right now they are running the very first cyber pow-wow and it's great. The events are hard but fun. All of the net is free, that includes the pow-wow unless you want a patch (\$5.00). Please contact me for the address.

The King's Pine has a full year coming up, be sure you are at the business meeting to help plan it. MARCH 8, 1997 AT 9AM CHRISTIAN WORSHIP CENTER, BARRINGTON N.H. The Ranger of the Year testing will be at 1:30 pm at the same place, bring class A and help test. We can spend Friday night at CWC also if you want to. We have room for a fire out back if the weather is nice enough. By the way don't forget that dues can be paid there also.

Some events to watch for, Family Rendezvous (Memorial day weekend) pow-wow, Phase I test, Frontier Adventure, Trace, Camping year end harvest. Hope to see all the King's Pine brothers there. As I close I want to ask you to pray for your staff (District & FCF) as we prepare for 1997. May our Lord hold you & yours in His hand and bless you forever,

Woolly Bear

Woolly Bear



935 B.C.: David becomes the first to realize that, actually, the bigger they are, the harder they fall--...on you.

When God Calls

Has God called you?...to the mission field?...to be a pastor, or a church worker? I remember when God called me to the country of Chile. It was while I was on a missions trip to build a church in the city of Iquique. While there, God gave me a promise of a future serving him in Chile. He made me aware of many negative things and obstacles that would hinder me, but He assured me to wait on Him and trust Him and He would bring the promise to pass. After 4 years of serving Him in Chile and overcoming many trials and tribulations I know I still have to wait and trust Him. All the trials are things that He warned me would happen and have happened exactly as He told me they would. I must now do my part and wait and trust Him as He instructed me.

I have been serving as a Deputy District Commander for Royal Rangers in Chile for the past 2 years. I have 4 outposts working and 3 more ready to start. I am in the process of being approved for the MAPS program and hope to continue the Ranger ministry through this organization. The Ranger ministry was very instrumental in my life as I was growing up.

When I arrived in Chile the last time from coming home, I was sick for 4 days. At the time it was thought that I just had some sort of flu but as the days went on

I became delirious and proved to be much sicker than originally thought. Another sister in the church said I should go to the hospital to be checked because a few people had died from a deadly virus. I had to have shots and medication. The doctors weren't sure whether I had this same virus or not. I had many of the same symptoms. After the fourth day, I started to feel like myself again. I had no recollection of the past 3 days of illness. I slept the whole 3 days.

One thing that stands out for me when I come home to the United States is the fact that people in Chile truly appreciate their "daily bread". Bread and tea make up a good part of their diet. When food is in short supply in Chile, one cannot go to a neighbor or friend because the situation would be the same there. As an example, for 3 months straight, I ate a small piece of bread and a cup of tea once a day. That was it! People in the U.S. truly can't understand poverty. When we in the U.S. make a pledge to support a missionary on the foreign field, it truly can be a matter of life or death! We need to make sure that our faith promises are kept to ensure these servants of the Lord are able to carry out their ministries in an effective manner.

I have had no steady financial support for the last 4 years. I basically lived on

nothing and stayed wherever people would have me. In March of this year, I felt the Lord speak to me to go a city 300 miles to the south of Iquique called Calama to the house of a RR commander. God told me I would be going to Bolivia to complete my NTC training with this brother. I arrived at the Commander's house and the following day he and I were on a train to Bolivia. This was a 2 day trip on a crowded train in which I had to sleep under the seat to get any rest. Keep in mind that when I arrived at his house, I came with only my bus ticket and my ranger uniform. No food, no money, no where to stay and no way to get back to Iquique. But God was faithful to keep His promise and I completed NTC which was held in a swampy jungle and an anonymous person bought a ticket back to Iquique for me.

You might wonder why a person would continue to serve God in these types of conditions. This is but a small price to pay, if through all of this, the Royal Ranger ministry grows in South America and boys come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The question really is...**When** god calls, what will you do?

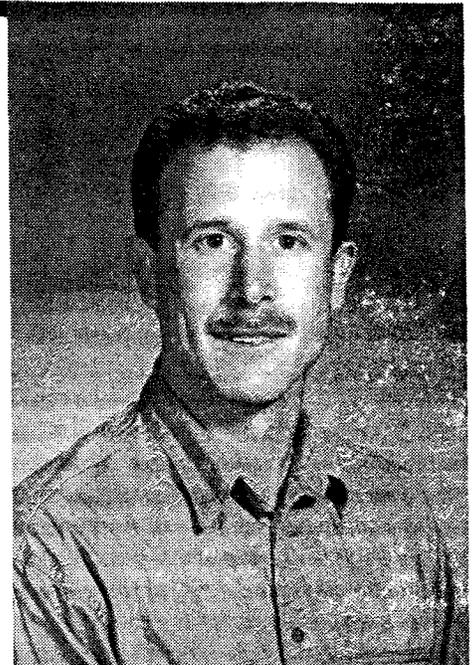
Dan Racicot, the Deputy District Commander for Northern Chile, is from Milford NH.

Pow Wow date has been changed back to August!

We heard and we listened! Based upon a limited number of responses, we thought changing the date to June was a good idea. Well, after the change we learned that not all of you agreed with it, (in fact many of you did not). Many of you expressed that we had too many items scheduled for June. The new Pow Wow date is **Aug 8 - 10**. While we have not yet determined the cost, it will be **significantly** less than last year. We want to get the cost as low as possible in order to allow everyone to participate. We are currently looking at a number of ideas to reduce the cost even more. If you have any ideas, contact the any member of the district staff!

Pathfinders

Bringing the light of the gospel to the Andes



“The People walking in darkness have seen a great light...” *Isaiah. 9:2*

In the village of Bentanzos, 12,000 feet high in the Andes mountains, there is now a great light shining from a new church building 110' long and 30' wide. For this Quechen Indian village of 3,000, this is the first evangelical outreach of its kind to be built there. The Gospel has now taken a foothold in what is one of the darkest places in Bolivia. A place where witchcraft and blood sacrifices of animals and humans are common. God has given the Pathfinders yet another victory! For all those who prayed and gave to make this trip possible - Thank you on behalf of the entire team. Mission accomplished!

Pathfinders is a special detail of 15 Royal Ranger men who are also members of FCF. The members of this national team are trained in wilderness survival and each member possesses a trade needed in raising a structure in remote areas of the world. The Pathfinder's mission statement is simple: "To Serve". They respond to building needs where no other team or organization is able or willing to go - Areas where there is no electricity, running water or roads. The Pathfinders have the unique reputation of raising an entire structure in just 4 or 5 days.

Although Bentanzos had electric, running water, roads, and flush toilets (all creature comforts we normally don't encounter), this was by far the most difficult of trips to date. To begin with, the luggage of 5 of our team members did not make it to Bolivia. That meant that they had no clothes, food, tents, sleeping gear or equipment. Right off the start we had a handicap to overcome. The next challenge was the high altitude. We felt the effects as soon as we

stepped off the plane in Lapaz, a major city at 11,500 feet. To compound these challenges, when we reached the work site we saw that the people were not ready for us to begin. We expected to find the footings poured, columns poured, and bond beams in place so that we could begin laying block and fabricating the roof etc.. We were astonished to observe that none of this was done aside from a few columns poured. There was no way we could ever expect to finish being so far behind off the start. We needed an extra week to do all we wanted to do!

Downheartedly we began our impossible task. You see we always had completed our projects up to this point. That's what sets us apart from so many other teams. Each man pushed his hardest from 5:30am till after dark welding 21 trusses, pouring tons of concrete, and laying 5,000 block. Always a few men were feeling the effects of high altitude and had to take more breaks than they wanted to. God gave me exceptional strength and though breathing was difficult, I always felt strong and energetic. We pushed toward the mark - each man feeling a bit overwhelmed but not wanting to admit defeat in any way! Finally with two days left to work, we could sense the possibility that just maybe there was an outside chance we could make it happen - with God's help of course! With renewed strength we pushed harder - getting up on our last work day at 4:00am to give us a little more time to work. I praised God as we screwed the last sheet of steel on the roof. We had done the impossible! We had completed the 110' x 30' church building!

As we prepared to leave, it became apparent that there was going to be a price to pay. The previous night the natives pre-

pared us a meal featuring meat. Ah yes meat! We were good and tired of dehydrated food and anything on four legs and barbecued had our undivided attention. Against my better judgment, I ate with dirty hands and all. One quarter of the team became sick. Our youngest Pathfinder was the sickest and we determined the need for a doctor. I was the next sickest and lost my guts as we departed the city of Sucre. While I was sick, I laid on my hotel bed and began to praise God. As I praised him, He came upon me and I had a glorious time. I gathered the men together and gave my Thanksgiving devotion as God directed me. He strengthened our spirits and we continued on. We were then given word that the Bolivian airport went on strike! What more could happen! We didn't know when we would be able to leave Bolivia. We slept on the airport floor through the night and around 3:00am we were finally able to fly to Miami.

Though I spent thanksgiving away from my loved ones, I have never been more thankful for God's unending Mercies that He pours on each of us day by day. *Glori adiosa y dios labendeges, Glory to God and God Bless You!*

Yours In Service to the King,

Jay "Maddog" Hoffman

Jay is currently serving as the Northwest Sectional Commander and very active in Pathfinders.

FOCUS ON THE STAFF



DISTRICT TRAINING

LTC Section 1 starts in Barrington, NH on January 25th and continues on 4 additional Saturdays. Also, a 3 day LTC will be held in Vermont in March and Maine in April. Call Gary Besaw at (802) 775-7391 for more details!

This issue, we will meet Meet Mark Blanchette. Mark, a native New Englander, was born on his parents tenth wedding anniversary. As a youngster his family traveled all over the world with the military. His first introduction to "scouting" was while living in Germany, where he became involved with Cub Scouts and Webelos. Mark was introduced to the Royal Ranger ministry after a move to Kentucky. He became involved as a Pioneer, and remained in rangers seven years as a boy. A highlight of his boyhood experiences in Rangers occurred in 1979. At that time, he was initiated into the Frontiersman Camping Fellowship where the National FCF President, Fred Deaver, was helping in the initiation. While Mark joined FCF in 1979, he spent many years searching for an FCF name. He finally came to be called "Snapper" after having a particularly meaningful dream.

In 1989 Mark completed the LTC training for NNED, and became actively involved with Outpost #3 (Nashua, NH) as a commander and Lt. Commander for Pioneers, Trailblazers and AST's. Shortly afterwards, he became involved at the district level of rangers. He began serving on staff as the deputy sectional commander for the southeast section. Later, he took on the job of southeast sectional commander. In 1992, District Commander Warren Clark asked him to take on an even bigger challenge as the District Public Relations Coordinator. He remains in that position today, as well as serving as a Gold Training Chief. A firm believer in the value of training, Mark has attended the National Training Camp and hopes to attend the Winter National Training Camp in 1997.

Mark says, "I love the Royal Ranger ministry and the influence that it has

had in my life. I enjoy working with the boys on a weekly basis and watching them hone their ranger skills. More importantly I love watching them mature as Godly men."

"I have been married ten wonderful years to my bride, Cathrine. We have three beautiful children, David 9, Daniel 4 and Mariah 2. We attend Christian Bible Church under the teaching of Pastor Gary Stearn. However, January we will be moving to Pittsfield, NH. We will be living on the same road that the Pow Wow site is on! When we move our family will attend Christian Worship Center."

Mark has worked in the computer industry for many years and is currently employed at Cabletron Systems as a project leader. Working in the Design Assurance Lab, Mark is responsible for several projects.



IF I -

by Richard M. "Pek" Gunn
Poet Laureate of Tennessee

If I could go back and undo
some wrongs I've done along the way,
And know that wounds that I have
caused
Were healed of all the scars today.

If steps I've caused someone to take
By thoughtless ways in which I've trod
Have led to a confused estate,
Instead of simple trust in God.

If someone else still wanders on
Who followed my unsteady track.
And lost his way for lack of light
Because my lantern globe was black.

If I could gather up and bind
The wasted years that I have spent.
And treat them as they'd never been
Today I'd be much more content.

I'm pardoned from my undone past-
But even so the hurt is done,
For out there somewhere in the dark,
A soul is lost I might have won.

A Wake up Call for Commanders...

Why Am I Doing This?

How many of us have asked this question in the last year. Maybe it was while you were driving to your weekly meeting. Maybe it was getting ready for Pow Wow. Maybe it was while you were dealing with that problem ranger for the third time that night. No matter, if you've been doing this ministry for a while, you have no doubt asked yourself this question at some point. Sid Bean sent this article to me recently and I thought it was a great answer to the question. Read it and see if you don't agree.

Several years ago a sister brought her young brother to church. They did not come from a christian home, and home was not the best place to be as it was "Lower Middle Class" to be generous. The sister fell away, but somehow the boy continued to come. Little David entered Straight Arrows and grew into Buckaroo's in time. He didn't shine and was not anything special to look at. Sometimes he gave his leaders fits as he fought or "spaced out" and caused them to wonder if he was a lost cause... but, one thing he did do was to keep coming. Rangers caught his fancy.

The church was walking distance away and it seemed he was always there. He advanced through Pioneers and began to travel with the outpost to campouts and Pow wows. Still David was not special or active, or a great achiever, he was just there.

One Pow wow, David went forward at the altar call and accepted the Lord. His life began to change, he was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he began to pray. He prayed for his family, his outpost, and friends.

Back at home, he began to quietly earn his advancements, and it wasn't long

before he had earned them all! He became a Trailblazer and joined FCF and lived for the adventure, it was his LIFE! David continued to advance until he had earned his GMA.

Last week he went for a swim with friends at a local lake. The sun was setting and David did not show up at the car. His friends could not find him! They looked and looked but he had vanished! The Police were called and they searched, and found David Falkner... in 45 ft. of water. He had been missing for 3 days when they lifted him from the bottom of the lake.

His family was shocked, and at the loss, they were overcome with grief! WHY? Why God! NOT DAVID! Not this GOOD DECENT BOY! District Commander Bob Unrue was called by David's Commander and he in turn called FCF President Chuck Stayon about the services to be held. On the appointed day at the Winlock, Washington funeral home, David was laid to rest. He was to be cremated immediately after the service and was laid into a plain wooden box, wearing his uniform. A Royal Ranger Flag draped over the end, his Outpost Banner lay in front with ribbons of events streaming all over the edge.

David's family sat in silence as the Honor Guard of GMA earners entered with the American Flag, the Christian Flag and the Royal Ranger Flag and the service started with the pledges...just as every Ranger meeting starts. David's Pastor stood and addressed the crowd, his family and friends and told them, without a doubt that David was saved, born again and with Jesus. He went on to preach, like no one had ever known and gave a stirring salvation message with the personal note that David's deepest desire was that his family would come to know

Jesus as their Lord! Pastor held up a Certificate: "Promotion to Glory", This day David Falkner is promoted, by his acceptance of Jesus Christ, as Lord and Savior into Heaven...etc." Signed by his Pastor, Commander, Dist.Commander, and FCF Pres.

His Commander stepped to the front and awarded David his GMA! The people stood and applauded! Letters were read of congratulations from the White House to the State House and letters of testimony flowed on and on of how this boy had touched lives! Then his Commander bent down and pinned Lt. Commander bars on his uniform, stood and saluted him! The Honor guard came to attention and so did the District Commander and all the people! Outside an FCF Honor guard, clad in buckskins lifted seven muzzleloaders and fired three volleys! BOOM!BOOM!BOM! It set shock waves through the walls. They folded the Ranger Flag, like a military procession and the Pastor presented it and the certificates to David's mom. In the end, the people came and passed in respect to the young man.

You see, it was an accident that took the life of Young David. He did that, and whatever happened it shortened his young life, but to every Commander, friend and relative, it was a wake-up call to what the Royal Rangers Ministry is to many boys and men. Consider how deep your feeling for Royal Rangers is, and who you can touch with your efforts and give thanks that our Lord and Savior has allowed us this time...right now... to prepare, and be... "ready, for anything."

Pioneer Commander Outpost 207
Glad Tiding Church
Portland Oregon

Don't Miss This Date!

Every year, the district staff schedules the most important meeting of the year and invites you to attend! What meeting is this? Why it's the District Wide Commanders meeting. Why, you might ask, is this the most important meeting of the year? It is the most important because it is the meeting we schedule to hear from you! We schedule this meeting so that you can tell us what you want us to be doing as a district.

During the year, we as a staff have to make many decisions directly effecting you, the commander. What events will we have for the year, who will run them, where will they be held? Each of these issues are ones that you should care about and have some say about. This meeting is your chance to do just that. Without your participation, we have to make decisions based strictly upon what we think you want. Sometimes, that decision is incorrect but if you don't participate, then who is to blame?

Once again, your staff will be holding a District Wide Commanders meeting for you to attend and participate. This year's meeting will be held in Barrington, NH on Saturday morning, April 5th, starting at 9 A.M. Besides hearing what you want to tell us, we will also be sharing with you any changes that came out of National Council as well as any other important information that you will need. Please, make plans now to attend this very important meeting. We as a district staff need your input in order to accomplish everyone's goals of reaching, teaching and keeping boys for Jesus Christ. **We look forward to seeing you there!**

Coming in the Next Issue:

- We'll be checking out the *chilling* details of a W.N.T.C.
 - Who are the District Rangers of the Year?
 - Meet the new District Commander
- All this and more in the next Pony Express...

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