



# THE PONY EXPRESS



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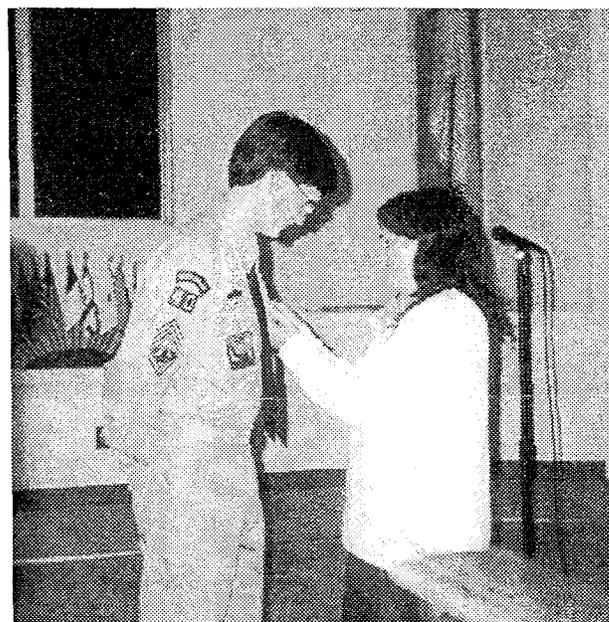
## STEVE CORUM AWARDED DISTRICTS 13TH GMA

On November 1, 1997, a ceremony was held at the Plymouth Assembly of God church honoring Steven L. Corum for receiving the Royal Ranger Gold Medal of Achievement. This was a wonderful ceremony and was preceded by an excellent turkey banquet. The Disciples in Christ Youth Group from Plymouth helped in serving the meal, and they also sang a special song for the ceremony.

Since 1962, more than a million boys have been active in this ministry, but only a select few have pursued the gold and earned the right to wear the "Gold Medal of Achievement". Steven is the 13<sup>th</sup> Ranger in the Northern New England District and the 3,322<sup>nd</sup> Ranger nationally to have achieved this honor. Steven has gone above the basic requirements to not only receive his GMA, but also has received a Gold Buffalo.

Steve would like to thank everyone who attended the ceremony. The honor guard was made up of the White Mountain Sectional Staff's George Tusi, (Sectional Commander), Ken Hatch (Deputy Sectional Commander), Kevin McCullough (Area Commander) as well as Jerry Love (Senior Commander of Outpost 36, Tilton, NH). Mark Blanchette (District Commander), Steve Melcher (Training Coordinator) and Anthony Weed (District Scout) were present to represent the District Staff. Sectional Presbyter Shane Ball and Rev. David Baker were also present. Commanders and boys from Outpost 2, Outpost 7, and Outpost 36 joined Outpost 40 in honoring Steve. In addition, 2 prior Gold Medal recipients were also able to attend. Tim Corum from Outpost 40 who is now attending Zion Bible College in Barrington, RI., and Nathaniel Medeiros from Southern New England District's Outpost 82 (Fall River, Mass) who attends college at Lyndon State College in Lyndon, VT. Of special note is that Anthony Weed will be having his own Gold Medal of Achievement ceremony in January of 1998.

Steven's mother, Ruth Corum, presented him with the Gold Medal of Achievement and his brother presented him with the Gold Buffalo. Next, Mark Blanchette and Don Filena presented Steven with a set of Junior Commander Bars. Steve Melcher then presented him with the Gold Medal of Achievement Association jacket with his name and number 13 on it. Anthony weed presented Steve with a paining from National FCF President Fred Deaver. Steve was truly blessed with the many gifts from his church as well. Steven



was also honored with letters from various dignitaries, including President Bill Clinton, Senator Bob Smith, Governor Jeanne Shaheen, District Superintendent Rev. Samuel DiTrolio. These letters were read by the district staff. A declaration of recognition from the state House of Representatives was also presented.

Truly this was a very special night in the life of a special young man. - Don Filena (Don is the Deputy District Commander for New Hampshire as well as Senior Commander of Outpost 40. He too would like to say thanks to all who helped make it a very special ceremony).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Here are just a few of the items inside!

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## A Note From the D.C.

Mark A. Blanchette - District Commander

### A Note From the District Commander

Greetings to all of you fellow commanders. The 1997 year has drawn to a close and as I sit and reflect upon it I can smile and say that our God is so faithful. I remember that God told me the year would be a very good year but a very difficult one, hence Mission Possible. There isn't anything that was done by our strength and efforts. It was the Lord Jesus that made *all things possible*. We have a lot to be thankful for, new staff members, new outposts, boys saved and filled with the Holy Spirit, rededication of lives, young men finishing the Gold Medal of Achievement, deliverance and many more accomplishments and blessings from God! We need to thank the One that made this year what it was.

In 1998, This years theme is *Hidden Treasure*. The scripture's tell us to hide God's Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him. We can only do that by spending time in the Word and bending our knees in prayer. It is the "Treasure" in our hearts that we should share with others. The main objective of Royal Rangers is to reach, teach and keep boys for Christ. How much reaching are we doing? How much do we witness? Only you and God know the answer to those questions. Let's make this year another year with God's anointing and blessing.

I take my hat off and salute you men and women for spending countless hours of working with the young boys in our district. You have no idea what impact you are having on their lives. It is because of your dedication and walk with our Lord that this ministry is such a success. I look forward in meeting with you during the course of the year and if there is anything that I can do to help please do not hesitate to call. Until then, peace be your journey.

His bondservant,  
Mark A. Blanchette  
District Commander



Choice Christian Greetings to all of my brothers & sisters in Christ!!

Well, the weather says the bears should be in their dens for a long winter nap, but the Lord's work goes on. I would like to bring you all up to date on what has been happening in the King's Pine chapter.

In Oct. some of the King's Pine brothers went down to New Jersey for the Territorial Rendezvous. I would have to say that if you missed it, you really missed a great time. What a blessing we received from the fellowship and the guest speaker, Sonny Green. The site that the rendezvous was held on was one of the best yet. We set up in the middle of some trees with a small clearing. We were right next to our Spanish Brothers and they provided a Hawk target for us (not them!!!). Of the 10 brothers attending the Rendezvous, 5 of them were going for the first time. They all had a great time and I know they are waiting for the next one so we can get together with some of our brothers (from different chapters).

I have to admit, the King's Pine chapters new brothers can compete with the best of them. *Tiny Bear* entered the Hawk throwing and took first place (\$50.00). Steve Tusi took third place in Black Powder shooting, and Flint & Steel (\$25.00 each). Just think what they will do after being in for a couple of years. Of course a couple of the brothers "earned" their FCF names there also. Kevin sounds just like a dog and has become "*Crazy Dog*", (he is a little crazy, at least around a Trading post). Jeremy found out that brothers care about each other no matter what chapter they are from. The FCF is a special part of God's children and it shows when they get together. A brothe

The Pony Express is a quarterly publication of the Northern New England District Royal Rangers, Mark Blanchette - 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 send to us via the internet at [READYPGE@sover.net](mailto: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.

Continued on page 3 - FCF

# FROM — WHERE I SIT...

Rev. Gregg Randall  
Men's Ministries  
Director



In 1967, "Doc" Miller, my high school football coach took over a winning tradition of which I had been a part. In the nine years that I played the sport, only one year did I and my team mates have a losing season - our very first year together in the local Pee Wee league. As a team, we played together on and off the field. We remained friends, as well as team mates, throughout grammar school and high school.

During "Doc's" first year as our coach, we lost our first three games. Following our third loss to our arch rival, he walked into a quiet and very discouraged locker room of players, and said ever so softly but forcefully, "I have shouldered the blame for the first two losses saying it was poor coaching and poor planning. But, I will not carry the blame for this game." I will never forget those words or his thundering words that followed, "NO MORE!!!"

We went on to win the next six games that season, finishing with a 6-3-0 record. We won an additional 5 games the next season before our 11 game winning streak came to an end. That senior and final year together, we finished the season with a 7-2-0 record.

The point of my story is this, Doc knew we were a better team. He knew that we also knew it. As a man thinks, so he is. Sometimes, we concentrate on our mistakes, our failures, our blown opportunities. We replay in our minds the dropped pass, the missed block, the foolish penalty, the bad play call. We do the same thing in our spiritual walk. We replay in our mind the time we looked foolish; the word we wish we had not said; the slight that should never have been spoken; the missed opportunity; the botched plan. God says, the past is past. **"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow"** (Isaiah 1:18).

All that matters is the future. God delights in taking people who are disappointed with themselves and helping them

FCF

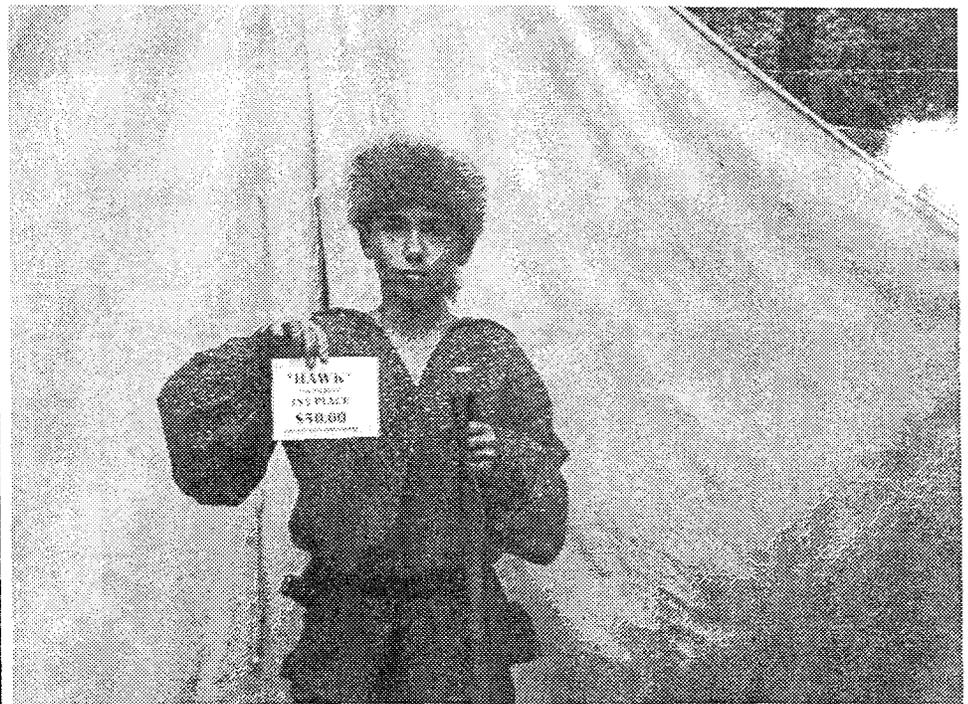
from Penn-Del made him a gift of a great possible pouch all because it was his first rendezvous, (really because he was a FCF brother). *Two Feathers* tested some of the brothers going for Wilderness, he had to go check on them in the rain. Of course it rained, it was a "Ranger Event" :-) I know every brother that went, (whether it was the first or one of many), came away with more than the gifts or prizes. We came back with a blessing from our Lord and a warmer feeling knowing we were part of a special family. We are all a little bit closer to each other now, and it still warms my heart to see some one attend their first rendezvous.

Thanks to *Eagle Claw* (my Vice-pres), *NightWind*, *Snapper* (District Commander), *Crazy Dog*, *Tiny Bear*, *Two Feathers*, *Sure Foot*, *Tenderheart*, *Steve Tusi*, (forgive me Steve, I forgot your name, old age :-)) for making this rendezvous a

great one for me. Oh yes, we learned that if you use something to blow on the coals to get a the fire going, it should be something not made of plastic, right *Crazy Dog* ? :-)

In March 1998 the King's Pine brothers will be getting together to plan the upcoming year. We will be electing some new officers also, so plan on attending and have a say in your chapter. Now is the time for all wishing to join FCF to begin studying and making contact with me. The King's Pine Family Rendezvous is the first event for us and it is in May (Memorial Day weekend) so we need to plan it at the meeting. Bring your ideas along with what you would like to have for food. May our Lord bless you and yours as you walk with him, & may He lift you up out of the trials you go through. Just remember the trails are the Lords way of strengthening us. God Bless,

*Woolly Bear*



*Tiny Bear* with his 1st Place Hawk Prize.

get hold of themselves and make a bold, new beginning. This new year is an opportunity for us to allow God to take us to a new level in our spiritual walk with Him.

"Doc" Miller was a good coach, not a perfect coach. It was my privilege a

few years later to be at his bedside with several other former students and players to hear him pray the sinners prayer. A few months later, he crossed the eternal goal line...



# 5 ATTEND N.T.T.

at sun down. After camp setup, we had a great time of worship and fellowship around a camp fire.

The next morning, following a breakfast of pop tarts and breakfast bars, we set out for our destination of Siamese Ponds. After being on the trail for a short while, we encountered three bear cubs up in a tree just off the trail. We did not see the mother and did not stay around to find her! It was quite a thrill to see three bears in the woods.

Upon reaching the ponds, we set up camp and left for what was to be a short hike around one of the ponds. There was no trail around the pond and we bushwhacked through the woods around the pond. However, we missed the connection of land between the two ponds and ended up going around both ponds. As can be imagined, this took much longer and caused much confusion. We all learned a valuable lesson to al-

ways take a minimum amount of survival gear on any hike, even a "short one". We did make it back to camp before dark, barely.

Saturday was spent on more hiking and training in backwoods medicine, camp stoves and backpacks. We spent Saturday night in lean-tos on the NTT grounds with a huge fire in the fire place.

The entire event was a real blessing. We were able to fellowship with men from other districts in a great natural area. We received excellent instruction from knowledgeable men. Chaplain Dan's devotions were excellent as he was able to relate them to common things found on the trail. His devotions were around Isaiah 55:8-11 and as we learned to see God's hand in his creation, we should also learn to see it in our lives. - James Spaulding (Jim is the Senior Commander of Outpost 7, Canaan, NH)

National Training Trails (NTT) was held September 25 through 29, 1997 in Bakers Mills, in the Adirondack Mountains of NY. The NTT manual describes the purpose as follows: "To give leaders training in backpacking and trail camping, plus the opportunity of outstanding fellowship and a rugged outdoor adventure. Also, to inspire men to see the great potential of the Royal Rangers program and to become involved in service and training." NTT fulfilled all of these goals.

A total of twenty two trainees attended, five of them from Northern New England. The Northern New England trainees were Randy Hutchins of Outpost 15, Ken Hatch of Outpost 2, Ken Bustard of Outpost 29, Pete Ebner of Outpost 16 and Jim Spaulding of Outpost 7. John Benda, Sr. was the camp coordinator; John Benda, Jr. was the Trail Director; both of them from the New Jersey District; Dan Gingerich of the New York District was the Chaplain and Bill Sisolak of the Penn-Del District was the Health and Safety Officer.

The trainees were broken up into four man trail teams which were further broken down into two man trail partners. The teams hike together and camp together, with partners sharing the same tents. Our first day consisted of lectures and training including training in camp cooking. In the afternoon, we hiked a good distance into the woods. We were required to construct a stretcher and carry an injured person out of the woods. The person wasn't really injured, but was real and became real heavy. Following supper, we set off on the trail, setting up camp



Pictured left to right: Pete Ebner, Randy Hutchins, Ken Bustard, Ken Hatch and Jim Spaulding

# THE BENEFITS OF CHARTERING

When a district leader goes to a church to discuss beginning a Royal Rangers outpost, he will naturally need to explain chartering procedures with the outpost leaders. One of the most frequently asked questions at this point is, "Why should I bother to charter my group?" Here are some important reasons why.

Your outpost will receive national recognition in the form of an attractive 9- by 12-inch charter certificate to display in the outpost meeting room. Your outpost will be added to the national mailing list to receive important information from time to time.

- Boys and leaders will receive official membership cards and will be authorized to wear the Royal Rangers uniform.
- All Royal Rangers leaders in the outpost will receive a quarterly publication called *High Adventure Leader*. This magazine contains up-to-date information, new ideas, announcements of national events, additional devotions, a quarterly planning guide, and other information vital to a commander.
- Each boy will receive a subscription to *High Adventure*, nationals exciting Royal Rangers magazine for boys.
- Your chartering dollars are also used to further the development of the overall Royal Ranger ministry all over the world.
- The outpost will receive a complimentary catalog, order blank, and other helpful materials and brochures.
- First time outposts will receive a complimentary copy of the *Royal Rangers Bible Study Lessons*, Volume 1. This course, containing 43 lessons, is a very valuable aid in teaching boys about the Bible.
- The leaders of each chartered group will be eligible to participate in the leaders award program.
- The boys will be eligible to participate in district events, such as Pow Wows.

This coming April is the annual chartering month for Northern New England. We invite you to become a part of our district and enjoy the benefits and fellowship among the Ranger brothers. If you have any questions about chartering your Royal Rangers Outpost please contact District Commander, Mark A. Blanchette.

## The Challengers Program

We are anticipating the new Challengers Trail Rangers Handbook will be published around the end of February 1998. The Advancement Trail enables the Trail Rangers to complete their GMA course that appears in the *Pioneers and Trailblazers* handbooks in the event a Ranger did not finish up all the requirements as stated in the "Trailblazers Handbook." Otherwise, there are now additional requirements for the GMA program in the "Challengers Trail Rangers Handbook," other than enabling a Ranger to earn the Silver and Gold Buffalo.

A Ranger on the new Advancement Trail can actually earn his GMA as early as age 12, though he would have to work around the clock to do so. The "Challengers Trail Rangers Handbook" contains a new Advancement Trail that offers advancements based on earning merits. The entire Challengers program offers "special interest studies" with "required merits," "elective merits," and steps to complete in *The Spirit Challenge*—a handbook with youth issues, Bible-based studies.

There will be three Challengers programs introduced at first: Trail Rangers, Air Rangers, and Harvesters. The additional Challengers programs to follow will be: Sea Rangers, Computer Rangers, Law Science, and Mechanical Science.

This article was email correspondence from Marshall Bruner, National Public Relations Coordinator to Mark A. Blanchette, District Commander.

The district is the process of celebrating Anthony Weed and his earning of the Gold Medal of Achievement. This young man has exemplified the determination and hard work the Ranger program strives to build in boys, and we would like to make this a time of special remembrance for him.

We will be presenting Anthony with a book containing letters of congratulations from distinguished leaders, friends and commanders, such as yourself. I'd like to invite you to participate in the celebration of this milestone in Anthony Weed's life by sending your own letter of congratulations to him. Please send your letters to me at the address below (no later than January 10, 1998). I'm sure it would have a great impact on this boy.

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Ken Hatch	White Mountains Deputy Sectional Commander	(603) 444-1230
Kevin McCullough	White Mountains Area Commander	(603)-768-3437
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Ken Bustard	Northern Sectional Commander	(207) 825-3595
Scott Carlson	Central Sectional Commander	(207) 490-6698

## HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE ELLIOTTS

**To my brother's in Christ I would like to share this message from a Christian friend.**

God be with you all and bless in the coming NEW YEAR! God Love You and So Do I! New Year's Resolutions It's that time of year when everyone makes "New Year's Resolutions"—things that you and I plan to do to make this year better than last. That list can include any number of high-sounding promises to ourselves like "eat better", "exercise regularly", "be more active in church", "stopping yelling at my kids", "be debt-free by December", and any number of other things that we think will make not only ourselves better, but life in general. But, if we want to be realistic, we know in our hearts that we'll fail at one or all of our resolutions. Why? Because our motives are wrong. Our goals are wrong-minded. Our walk is out of sync. In reality, there is only one resolution that any of us needs to make in order to cause all of the other things we desire to fall into place. That resolution is stated perfectly in God's Word: Deuteronomy 6:5: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.'

Okay. That sounds like something you'd like to do, right? But how does that have anything to do with eating right, or exercising regularly, or being debt-free, or yelling at our kids? It has everything to do with all of these things — and with everything in our lives.

If you love God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength, you will spend more time studying His word, wanting to know what He would have you do in every situation, no matter how seemingly trivial. If you study his word, you will eat right and exercise regularly, because food will not be the idol you have made it, and exercise will become something you really want to do. You will realize that your body is a temple of God, and that you want that temple to glorify Him. You will learn that "If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple" (1 Corinthians 3:17). If you study His word, you will want to be debt free, because "the borrower is servant to the lender" (Proverbs 22:7). If you study His word, you will learn to discipline your children with love, because "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1), and "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

If you love God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength, you will teach your children God's Word. If you love God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength, you will put Him first in all things, "...and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).

Judge the success of your New Year's resolution by how much your heart, soul and strength increase in the love the have for God I pray that I may carry good things into the year ahead. I pray that I may carry on with Faith in my Heart, with Prayer in my Soul, and with Hope and Strength in doing Gods Work for the coming Year. Happy and Prosperous New Year to all Fellow Christians and Non Christians for them to find and accept Our Lord Jesus Christ !!!

God Bless You and Guide You in your Christian Walk Today.

## Why Am I Doing This Report?

Another year is coming to a close and you have had boys in your outpost come and go. Some have been achievers and others have been a challenge, to say the least. As you go through your weekly, monthly and quarterly records you begin to tally points for your boys and figure out exactly who earned what award. While doing this your careful not to miss anyone. Once the points have been tallied and checked over twice, maybe three times, you send in your completed Quarterly reports to your district commander. The BIG question is why am I doing this and what is this doing for me?

Each year at the District Awards Night we have fellowship and some fun. We also recognize the hard work you have put in by awarding Outpost Commanders Medals, Leaders Service and the like. During this ceremony the Outpost of the Year is announced. There are two categories; Under 25 and Over 25. The under and over is those outpost that have under 25 chartered rangers and over 25 chartered rangers. You get to become the Outpost of the Year by filling these reports out. You receive points for

sending them in on time and more points by what events you've had as an outpost and your participation on sectional and district sponsored events. Points are earned for the number of advancements that the boys earn and the number of boys and leaders you have. Did you remember to tithe or send in an offering to district Royal Rangers? Most importantly, are you reaching the lost? Have any boys received the Lord as their Savior? Each section on the report bears some weight. It all boils down to what impact is your outpost having in your community and what impact are you having in the lives of the boys. There are other ways to earn points but you don't know how to earn them. There is no paper to fill out and no money can buy. They are given by my discretion.

I want to thank you for your diligence in serving the Master Ranger in your local outpost. You men are on the front lines and every week and have the challenge of "Reaching, Teaching and Keeping Boys for Christ". Continue to press on toward the mark!

Mark A. Blanchette  
District Commander

## What Are YOU Missing?

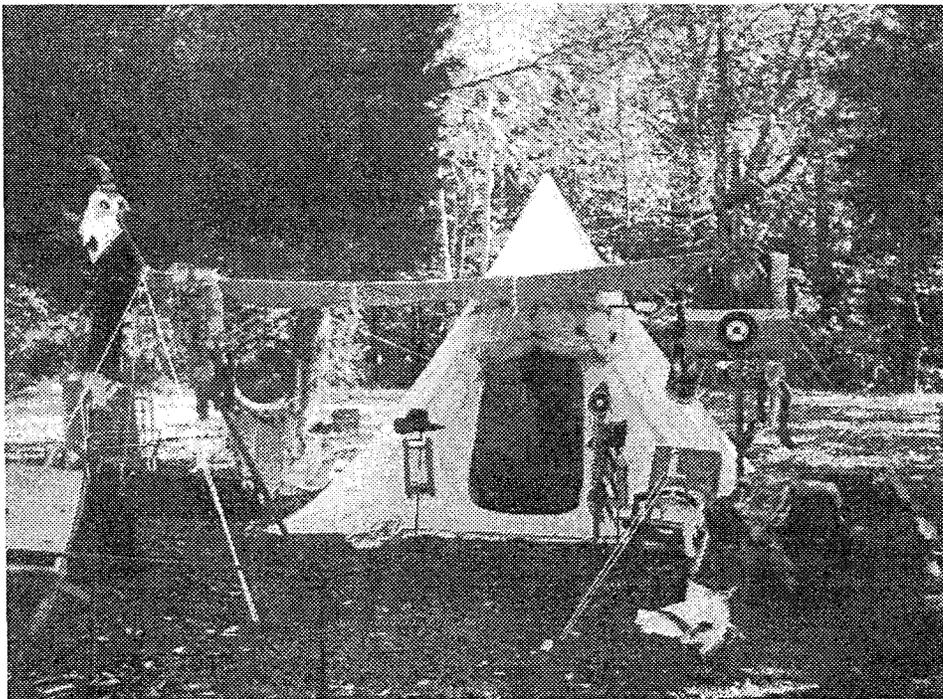
A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was all he wanted. As Graduation Day approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car. Finally, on the morning of his graduation, his father called him into his private study.

His father told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and told him how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box. Curious, and somewhat disappointed, the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible, with the young man's name embossed in gold. Angry, he rose his voice to his father and said "with all your money, you give me a Bible?" and stormed out of the house.

Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and a wonderful family, but realized his father was very old, and thought perhaps he should go to him. He had not seen him since that graduation day.

Before he could make arrangements, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away, and willed all of his possessions to his son. He needed to come home immediately and take care of things. When he arrived at his father's house, sudden sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search through his father's important papers and saw the still gift-wrapped Bible, just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. His father had carefully underlined a verse, Matt. 7:11, "And if ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father which is in Heaven, give to those who ask Him?"

As he read those words, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words PAID IN FULL. How many times do we miss God's blessings because we can't see past our own desires?



Seen at Territorial...

*Bullseye's* Home from the Spanish Eastern District

Subject: Kids know how to minister to us.

## FROM A MISSIONARY IN THE MIDDLE EAST: "A Little Ice Cream is Good for the Soul"

Last week I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, "God is great and God is Good. Let us thank Him for the food, and I would even thank you more if mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And Liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

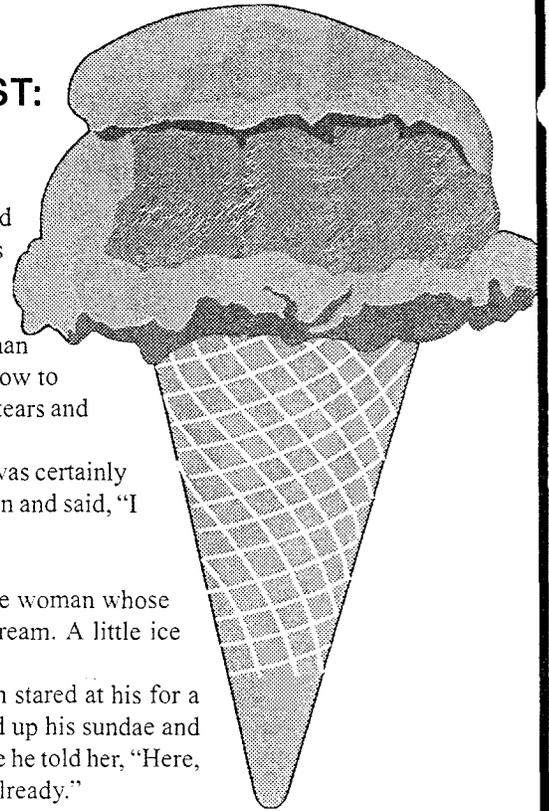
Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby I heard a woman remark "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why, I never!" Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?"

As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer."

"Really?" my son asked.

"Cross my heart." Then in theatrical whisper he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and without a word walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes and my soul is good already."



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**THE PONY EXPRESS**

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