

ROYAL RANGERS

# CAMPFIRE SONGS



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# **CAMPFIRE SONGS**

Compiled by  
**JOHN ELLER**

**GOSPEL PUBLISHING HOUSE**  
**Springfield, Missouri**

05-0485

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Springfield, Missouri

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[[ PRINTED ]]  
[ IN U.S.A. ]

## FOREWORD

The light of the blazing council fire flickered on the faces of the assembled boys and illuminated the trees behind them. Suddenly the boys lifted their voices in song. The dancing crimson flames seemed to keep time to the melody. The woods in the background echoed the sound as they gave vent to their inner contentment and joy. The bond of fellowship, the smiling faces, the happy voices, the flickering flame, the crackling wood, and the darkened forest in the background all made it a night to remember.

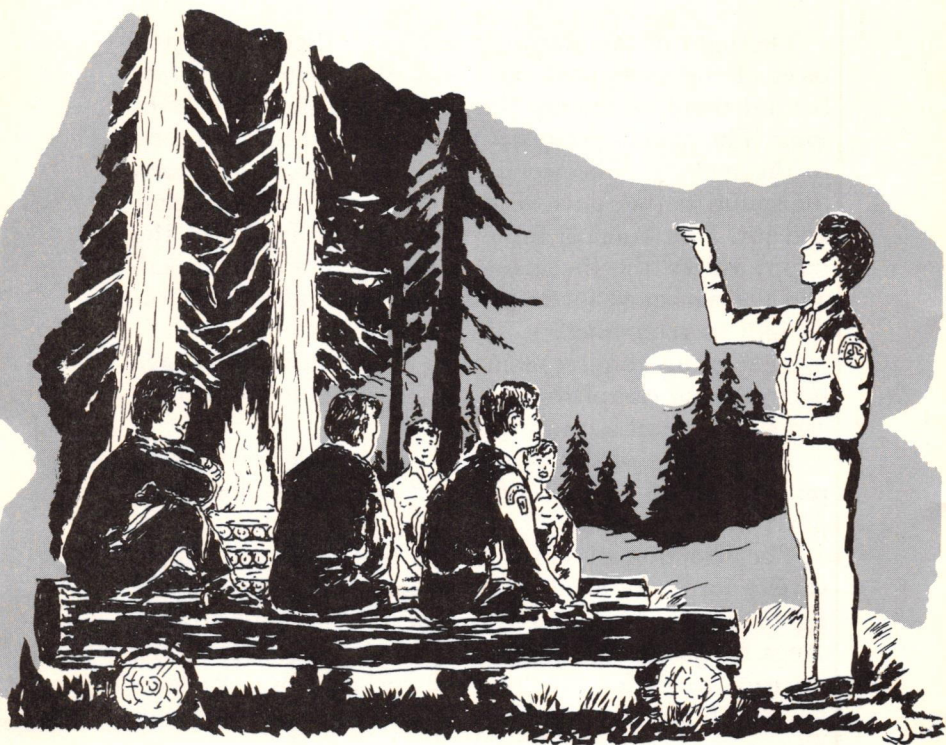
Some of my fondest memories in Royal Rangers have been blazing campfires and spirited singing. How boys can sing around a campfire!

This is one of the reasons I am so pleased by the publication of *Royal Rangers Campfire Songs*, compiled by John Eller.

The selection of songs is excellent. There is ample variety for every need and occasion—folk songs for the lighter mood, funny songs for merriment, round robin songs for patrol completion, frontier songs for F.C.F., spiritual songs for worship, and special Royal Rangers songs to build the spirit of Royal Rangers in your outpost.

We believe this songbook will make an outstanding contribution to your Royal Rangers campouts and outpost meetings.

Johnnie Barnes  
National Commander



A good plan for using these songs is to let the council fire itself set the mood for the proper selection. When the flames are high and dancing use the faster, livelier songs. When the fire begins to die down to coals and embers, use the slower, more thoughtful type songs.

# Esprit-de-Corps Songs

1

## ROYAL RANGERS MARCH

by Oren Paris

4/4

Key of F

Royal Rangers, Exploring new frontiers,  
Royal Rangers, Without a doubt or fear;  
Yes sir, we have our orders and we're following  
God's command.  
There's high adventure on sea, air and land.  
We're Royal Rangers, all READY, now and here.

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2

## VIVE L'AMOUR

6/8

Key of B flat

Let ev'ry good Ranger now join in a song,  
Vive la compagnie!  
Success to each other and pass it along,  
Vive la compagnie!

Chorus: Vive la, vive la, vive l'amour,  
Vive la, vive la vive l'amour,  
Vive l'amour, vive l'amour,  
Vive la compagnie.

A friend on your left, and a friend on your right,  
Vive la compagnie!  
In love and good fellowship let us unite,  
Vive la compagnie! (Chorus)

3

ROYAL RANGER HIKING SONG

by Johnnie Barnes

4/4

Key of C

We'll climb to yonder mountain,  
We'll hike through yonder wood.  
We'll cross yonder river,  
We'll stand where few have stood.  
We're ever, hiking onward,  
There're many things to see.  
I am a Royal Ranger,  
Come hike along with me.

Chorus:

I am a Royal Ranger,  
I know what I must do.  
I must be kind and Faithful  
I must be brave and true.  
I must be unto others,  
What I wish them to Be.  
I am a Royal Ranger,  
Come hike along with me.

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4

MOVE ON RANGER

Tune: "My Bonnie"

3/4

Key of C

Last night as I sat by my campfire  
And gazed at the stars in the skies,  
I wondered if ever a camper  
was ever as happy as I.

Last night as I lay on my pillow,  
Last night as I lay on my bed,  
I stuck my feet out of my tent door,  
Next morning my neighbors were dead.

Chorus:

Move on, move on,  
Move on you Rangers,  
Move on, move on,  
Move on, move on,  
Move on you Rangers, move on.

**5** THE RANGERS GO MARCHING ALONG

Tune: "Artillery (or Caisson) Song"

2/4

Key of D

Over hill, over dale, We will hit the camping  
trail,  
As the Rangers go marching along.

In and out, all around, You will never see us  
frown,  
As the Rangers go marching along.

Chorus:

Then it's hi! hi! hee! It's adventure for me,  
Shout out our name and shout it strong.  
Where'er we go, we will always know  
That the Rangers go marching along.



6

FCF SONG

by John Eller

Key of E Flat

4/4

The rivers and the forests, how they call!  
We're Rangers with our coonskin caps and all!  
We wear the rugged buckskin, don't you see?  
In the Frontiersmen Camping Fraternity!

We're walking in the steps of Daniel Boone.  
Like him, we're looking for some elbow room.  
We'll climb the highest mountain skies to see,  
In the Frontiersmen Camping Fraternity!

Though winter snowy weather come our way,  
We'll camp at frozen stream by night and day.  
No wind can stop the pioneer we must be,  
In the Frontiersmen Camping Fraternity!

The coyote howls across the open plain,  
The sun is setting in the west again.  
We warm by friendly campfire as can be,  
In the Frontiersmen Camping Fraternity!

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7

N. T. C. SONG

by Johnnie Barnes

Key of C

4/4

We wear the Blue Beret;  
We camp and hike each day;  
We do our best to stand each test;  
We wear the Blue Beret.

We hold our banner high;  
When we go marching by;  
We stay in step ; we're full of pep;  
We wear the Blue Beret.

We have the best patrol;  
We love it heart and soul;  
We are a team that's full of steam;  
We wear the Blue Beret.

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### THE BLUE BERET

by John Eller

4/4

Key of E Flat

Mighty deeds of valor, Knights upon the trail;  
We wear the Blue Beret o'er hill and dale! (hum)

Hiking and a-singing, Living in the wild,  
The campfire is our only cooking style. (hum)

Royal Ranger campers special force display,  
We wear the tee pee on the Blue Beret! (hum)

Stars are brightly shining , moon is high above,  
The night has settled o'er the land we love.

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9

### TAPS

4/4

Key of A Flat

Day is done, gone the sun;  
From the lake, from the hills,  
From the sky;  
All is well, safely rest,  
God is nigh.

# Patriotic Songs

10

STAR SPANGLED BANNER

by Francis Scott Key

3/4

Key of B flat

Oh say can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed, at the twilights last  
gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the  
perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly  
streaming,  
And the rocket's red glade, the bombs bursting  
in air,  
Gave proof thro' the night, that our flag was still  
there.  
Oh say, does that Star spangled banner still wave,  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the  
brave.

11

AMERICA

by Samuel F. Smith

3/4

Key of G

My country 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing,  
Oh Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrim's pride,

From ev'ry mountain side,  
Let freedom ring.

**12** AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

4/4

Key of C

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain.

(Refrain) America! America!

God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam  
Undimmed by human tears. (Refrain)

**13** GOD BLESS AMERICA

by Irving Berlin

4/4

Key of F

God bless America, Land that I love,  
Stand beside her and guide her,  
Thru the night with a light from above.  
From the mountains to the prairies,  
To the oceans white with foam.  
God bless America,  
My home sweet home.  
God bless America,  
My home sweet home.

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# 14 BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

by W. Steffe

4/4

Key of B flat

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of  
the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes  
of wrath are stored;  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His  
terrible swift sword,  
His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred  
circling camps;  
They have builded Him an altar in the ev'ning  
dews and damps;  
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and  
flaring lamps,  
His day is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never  
call retreat;  
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His  
judgment seat;  
Oh, be swift my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant  
my feet!  
Our God is marching on.

CHORUS: Glory, glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory, Glory! Hallelujah!  
His truth is marching on.

# Pioneer and Western Songs

15

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE

3/4

Key of G

In a cavern, in a canyon,  
Excavating for a mine,  
Dwelt a miner, Forty niner,  
And his daughter, Clementine. (Chorus:)

She drove ducklings to the water,  
Ev'ry morning just at nine,  
Hit her big toe 'gainst a splinter,  
Fell into the foaming brine. (Chorus:)

Ruby lips above the water,  
Blowing bubbles soft and fine,  
But alas! I was no swimmer,  
So I lost my Clementine. (Chorus:)

Chorus: Oh my darling, oh my darling,  
Oh my darling Clementine,  
You are lost and gone forever,  
Dreadful sorry, Clementine.

## 16

## LITTLE DOGIES

6/8

Key of G

As I was awalking one morning for pleasure,  
 I spied a cowpuncher ariding alone,  
 His hat was throwed back and his suprs was a  
     jingling  
 And as he approached he was singing this song:  
 (Refrain)

It's early in spring that we round up the dogies;  
 We mark them and brand them and bob off their  
     tails,  
 We round up our horses, load up the chuck wagon,  
 And then throw the dogies, out onto the trail:

Refrain: Whoopee-ti-yi-yo,  
 Git along little dogies,  
 It's your misfortune and none of my own,  
 Whoopee-ti-yi-yo,  
 Git along, little dogies,  
 You know that Wyoming will be your new home.

## 17

## HOME ON THE RANGE

6/8

Key of G

Oh give me a home where the buffalo roam,  
 Where the deer and the antelope play.  
 Where seldom is heard a discouraging word  
 And the skies are not cloudy all day.

CHORUS: Home, home on the range,  
Where the deer and the antelope play  
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word  
And the skies are not cloudy all day.

18

BILLY BOY

♩

Key of C

Oh where have you been, Billy Boy, Billy Boy?  
Oh where have you been, Charming Billy?  
I have been to seek a wife, She's the joy of my  
life,  
She's a young thing and cannot leave her mother.

Did she bid you "come in", Billy Boy, Billy Boy?  
Did she bid you "come in", Charming Billy?  
Yes, she bade me to come in, There's a dimple  
on her chin,  
She's a young thing, And cannot leave her mother.

Did she set you a chair, Billy Boy. Billy Boy?  
Did she set you a chair, Charming Billy?  
Yes, she set for me a chair, She has ringlets  
in her hair,  
She's a young thing, and cannot leave her mother.

Can she bake a cherry pie, Billy Boy, Billy Boy?  
Can she bake a cherry pie, Charming Billy?  
She can bake a cherry pie, There's a twinkle in  
her eye,  
She's a young thing and cannot leave her mother.



4/4

Key of G

I came from Alabama with my banjo on my knee,  
I'm going to Louisiana, My true love for to see.

Chorus: Oh Susana, Oh don't you cry for me,  
I've come from Alabama with my banjo on my  
knee.

I had a dream the other night, when ev'rything  
was still,  
I thought I saw Susanna comin' down the hill.  
(Chorus:)

## 20

## SWEET BETSY FROM PIKE

3/4

Key of C

Say have you yet heard of Sweet Betsy from Pike  
Who crossed the wide prairie with her lover Ike,  
With two yoke of oxen, an old yeller dog;  
A tall shanghai rooster and one spotted hog.

Chorus: Singing too-ra-li, too-ra-li, too-ra-li-  
ay.

The rooster ran off and the cattle all died,  
The last piece of bacon that morning was fried.  
Poor Ike was discouraged for things were so bad;  
The dog wagged his tail and looked awfully sad.

## 21 THE YELLOW ROSE OF TEXAS

♩

Key of C

There's a yellow rose in Texas,  
I'm going there to see,  
No other fellow claims her,  
Nobody, only me;  
She cried so when I left her,  
It like to broke her heart,  
And if we ever meet again, we nevermore shall  
part.

She's the sweetest rose of color  
A fellow ever knew,  
Her eyes are bright as diamonds,  
They sparkle like the dew;  
You may talk about your dearest girls, and sing  
of Rosalie,  
But the yellow rose of Texas beats the belles  
of Tennessee. (Repeat)

## 22 THE OLD CHISHOLM TRAIL

4/4

Key of F

Oh, come along boys, And listen to my tale,  
I'll tell you of my troubles on the Old Chisholm  
trail.

I woke up one morning on the Old Chisholm Trail,  
A rope in my hand and a cow by the tail.

Chorus: Coma ti-ya-youpy, youpy ya, youpy ya,  
coma-ti-ya youpy, youpy ya.

# Folk Songs

23

THE BLUE TAIL FLY

♩

Key of G

When I was young and I used to wait on Massa,  
handing him his plate,  
I'd pass the bottle when he got dry,  
And brush away the Blue Tail Fly.  
Jimmy crack corn, oh I don't care,  
Jimmy crack corn, oh I don't care,  
Jimmy crack corn, oh I don't care,  
Ole Massa's gone away.

24

CINDY

♩

Key of G

I wish I was an apple a hangin' in a tree,  
And ev'ry time that Cindy passed,  
She'd take a bite of me.

Chorus: Get along home, Cindy, Cindy, get a-  
long home I say  
Get along home, Cindy, Cindy, I'll marry you  
some day.

25

LI'L LIZA JANE

♩

Key of C

I know a girl that I adore, Li'l Liza Jane  
'Way down south in Baltimore, Li'l Liza Jane.

Chorus: Oh, Eliza, Li'l Liza Jane,  
Oh, Eliza, Li'l Liza Jane.

Where she lives, the posies grow, Li'l Liza Jane,  
Chickens roun' the kitchen doe, Li'l Liza Jane.  
(Chorus)

I don't care how far we roam, Li'l Liza Jane,  
Where she's at is home sweet home, Li'l Liza  
Jane. (Chorus)

26

POLLY WOLLY DOODLE

♩

Key of F

Oh I went down South for to see my Sal, singing  
Polly Wolly Doodle all the day,  
Oh my Sal, she is such a spunky gal,  
Sings Polly Wolly Doodle all the day.  
Fare thee well, Fare thee well,  
Fare thee well, my fairy fay,  
For I'm goin' to Lousianna, to see my Susanna  
Singing Polly Wolly Doodle all the day.

**27****ON TOP OF OLD SMOKY**

3/4

Key of C

On top of Old Smoky, all cover'd with snow,  
I lost my true lover, for courtin' too slow.  
For courtin' is pleasure, but flirtin' is grief.  
A falsehearted lover is worse than a thief.

For a thief, he will rob you, and take what you've  
saved,

But a falsehearted lover sends you to your grave.  
She'll hug and kiss you, and tell you more lies,  
Than cross ties on the railroad or the stars  
in the skies.

**28****SHORTNIN' BREAD**

C

Key of C

Put on the skillet, Put on the lead,  
Mammy's gonna make a little shortnin' bread.  
That's not all she's gonna do,  
She is gonna make a little coffee, too.

Chorus: Mammy's little baby loves shortnin'  
shortnin',

Mammy's little baby loves shortnin' bread,  
Mammy's little baby loves shortnin' shortnin',  
Mammy's little baby loves shortnin' bread.

## 29 SHE'LL BE COMIN' 'ROUND THE MOUNTAIN

♩

Key of G

She'll be comin' 'round the mountain when she  
comes.

She'll be comin' 'round the mountain when she  
comes.

She'll be comin' 'round the mountain,

She'll be comin' 'round the mountain,

She'll be comin' 'round the mountain when she  
comes.

She'll be drivin' six white horses when she comes.

We will all go out to meet her when she comes.

She'll be puffin' and a-blowin' when she comes.

We will kill the old red rooster when she comes.

We'll be singing "Hallelujah" when she comes.

## 30 SHOO-FLY, DON'T BOTHER ME

2/4

Key of G

Shoo-fly, don't bother me! Shoo-fly, don't  
bother me!

Shoo-fly, don't bother me! I belong to comp'ny  
G!

I feel, I feel, I feel; I feel like a morning star,  
I feel, I feel, I feel; I feel like a morning star.

### 31 OLD MACDONALD HAD A FARM

¢

Key of G

Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O!

And on this farm he had some 1. chicks E-I-E-I-O!

2. ducks

3. pigs

4. turkeys

5. cows

With a 1. chick chick here, and a chick chick there,

2. quack quack                      quack quack

3. oink oink                              oink oink

4. gobble gobble                      gobble gobble

5. moo moo                                moo moo

Here a chick, there a chick ev'rywhere a chick

quack                      quack                      quack

oink                              oink                              oink

gobble                      gobble                      gobble

moo                              moo                              moo

chick, Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O!

quack

oink

gobble

moo

### 32 WHERE IS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

3/8

Key of G

Oh where, oh where is my little dog gone,

Oh where, oh where can he be?

With his ears cut short and his tail cut long,

Oh where, Oh where is he?

**33****PAW-PAW PATCH**

2/4

Key of G

Where, oh where, oh where is Susie? (Repeat twice)

Way down yonder in the paw paw patch. (Chorus)

She's a queen of old Hawaii. (Repeat twice)

Way down yonder in the paw paw patch. (Chorus)

She can teach you how to hulu. (Repeat twice)

Way down yonder in the paw paw patch. (Chorus)

Chorus: Picking up paw-paws; put 'em in a basket. (Repeat twice)

Way down yonder in the paw paw patch.

Come along, boys and let's go find her, (Repeat twice)

Way down yonder in the paw paw patch.

**34****POP GOES THE WEASEL**

6/8

Key of E flat

All around the cobbler's bench the monkey chased the weasel;

The monkey tho't 'twas all in fun, "Pop!" Goes the weasel!

I've no time to wait or sigh, no patience to wait till by and by;

Kiss me quick, I'm off, good-bye, Pop! Goes the weasel!



# Spiritual Songs

## 35 IF YOU'RE GLAD YOU'RE A RANGER

6/8

Key of A flat

If you're glad you're a Ranger clap you're hands.

If you're glad you're a Ranger clap you're hands.

If you're glad you're a Ranger to the Lord you're  
no stranger.

If you're glad you're a Ranger clap you're hands.

2. Say amen.
3. Stomp you're feet.
4. Pat you're head.
5. Stand and shout hooray!

## 36 MY FATHER'S HOUSE

4/4

Key of F

Come and go with me,

To my Father's house. (Repeat twice)

Come and go with me,

To my Father's house;

Where there's peace, sweet peace.

2. There's sweet communion there.
3. There'll be no parting there.

by Johnnie Barnes

4/4

Key of C

I see God in the twilight  
As evening softly falls;  
I see God in the moon beams  
and a night bird's lonely call.  
I see God in the starlight  
Of heaven's milky way.  
I see God all around me;  
I see Him every day.

I see God in the mountain's  
With peaks so white with snow.  
I see God in the valleys  
where small streams quietly flow.  
I see God in the flowers  
that bloom along the way.  
I see God all around me.  
I see Him every day.

I see God in the hand clasp  
Of a friend in time of need.  
I see God in the spirit  
Of every kindly deed.  
I see God in the children  
As they run and laugh and play.  
I see God all around me;  
I see Him every day.

**38**

## BEULAH LAND

3/4

Key of C

Oh Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land,  
As on the highest mount I stand.  
I look away across the sea,  
Where mansions are prepared for me,  
And view the shining-glory shore;  
My heaven, my home for evermore.

**39**

## IF YOU WANT JOY

3/4

Key of F

If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy,  
Let Jesus come into your heart.  
If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy,  
Let Jesus come into your heart.  
Your sins He'll wash away,  
Your night He'll turn to day,  
Your life He'll make over anew.  
If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy,  
Let Jesus come into your heart.

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**40**

## GET ON BOARD

4/4

Key of G

The Gospel Train is coming.  
I hear it just at hand;  
I hear the car wheels moving,  
And rumbling through the land.

Chorus: Get on board chil'en, chil'en,  
get on board.

Get on board chil'en, chil'en,  
There's room for many a more.

**41** OH, RIVER OF GOD

Key of C

Oh River of God, flow down on me  
Oh, river of God, flow out from me  
Oh, river of God through eternity  
Oh, river of God, I long for thee.

**42** THE LION OF JUDAH  
(St. Louis style)

4/4

Key of D flat

The Lion of Judah shall break / every chain,  
And give to us the victory again and again!  
The Lion of Judah shall break / every chain,  
And give to us the victory again (repeat) & again!

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**43** STANDING SOMEWHERE IN THE SHADOWS

4/4

Key of A flat

Standing somewhere in the shadows you'll find  
Jesus,  
He's the One who always cares and understands.  
Standing somewhere in the shadows you will find  
Him  
And you'll know Him by the nail-prints in His  
hands.

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**44** FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

3/4

Key of F

For God so loved the world,  
He gave His only Son,  
To die on Calv'ry's tree,  
From sin to set me free;  
Someday He's coming back  
What glory that will be!  
Wonderful His love to me.

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**45** MY LORD KNOWS THE WAY

4/4

Key of F

My Lord knows the way through the wilderness  
And all I have to do is follow.  
My Lord knows the way through the wilderness,  
And all I have to do is follow.  
Strength for today is mine all the way,  
And all that I need for tomorrow  
My Lord knows the way through the wilderness,  
And all I have to do is follow.

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**46** WHISPER A PRAYER

3/4

Key of F

Whisper a prayer in the morning,  
Whisper a prayer at noon.  
Whisper a prayer in the evening,  
To keep your heart in tune.

**47**

## SWEET JESUS

4/4

Key of E flat

Jesus, Sweet Jesus, what a wonder you are,  
You're brighter than the morning star,  
You're fairer, much fairer  
Than the lily that grows by the wayside,  
You're precious, more precious than gold.

You're like the rose of Sharon,  
You're the fairest of the fair  
You're all my heart could ever desire  
Jesus, Sweet Jesus, what a wonder you are,  
You're precious, more precious than gold.

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**48** HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS

4/4

Key of G

He's got the Whole World in His hands;  
He's got the big, roun' World in His hands;  
He's got the wide World in His hands;  
He's got the Whole World in His hands.

He's got the little bitty baby in His hands,  
He's got the little bitty baby in His hands,  
He's got the little bitty baby in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got you and me, Ranger, in His hands,  
He's got you and me, Ranger, in His hands,  
He's got you and me, Ranger, in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands.

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## 49 STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER

C

Key of G

It's me, it's me, oh Lord, standing in the need  
of pray'r,

It's me, it's me, Oh Lord, Standing in the need  
of pray'r.

Not my sister nor my brother, but it's me, Oh  
Lord, Standing in the need of pray'r,

Not my sister nor my brother, but it's me, Oh  
Lord, Standing in the need of pray'r.

## 50 THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD

3/4

Key of F

They that wait upon the Lord  
Shall renew their strength  
They shall mount up with wings as an eagle.  
They shall run and not be weary  
They shall walk and not faint  
Teach me Lord, teach me Lord, to wait.

## 51 NOW THE DAY IS OVER

4/4

Key of A flat

Now the day is over,  
Night is drawing nigh,  
Shadows of the eveing  
Steal across the sky.  
Now the darkness gathers,  
Stars begin to peep;  
Birds and beasts and flowers soon will be asleep.

**52**

TELL ME WHY

3/4

Key of F

Tell me why the stars do shine,  
Tell me why the ivy twines.  
Tell me why the sky's so blue.  
Tell me Lord Jesus just why I love you.

Because God made the stars to shine,  
Because God made the ivy twines,  
Because God made the skies so blue.  
Dear Lord Jesus that's why I love you.

**53**

DOXOLOGY

4/4

Key of C

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**54**

OLD TIME RELIGION

4/4

Key of G

Give me that old time religion. (Repeat twice)  
It's good enough for me.

2. It was good for our fathers.
3. It will take us all to heaven.
4. Makes me love everybody



## INDEX

America .....	11	Smoky .....	27
America the Beautiful 12		Paw-Paw Patch .....	33
Battle Hymn of the Re- public .....	14	Polly Wolly Doodle ..	26
Beulah Land .....	38	Pop Goes the Weasel ..	34
Billy Boy .....	18	Royal Ranger Hiking Song .....	3
Cindy .....	24	Royal Rangers March 1	
Doxology .....	53	She'll Be Comin'	
F.C.F. Song .....	6	'Round the Mountain 29	
For God So Loved the World .....	44	Shoo Fly, Don't Bother Me .....	30
Get on Board .....	40	Shortnin' Bread .....	28
God Bless America ....	13	Standing in the Need of Prayer .....	49
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands ..	48	Standing Somewhere in the Shadows .....	43
Home on the Range ..	17	Star Spangled Banner 10	
I See God Everyday ..	37	Sweet Betsy from Pike 20	
If You Want Joy .....	39	Sweet Jesus .....	47
If You're Glad You're a Ranger .....	35	Taps .....	9
Li'l Liza Jane .....	25	Tell Me Why .....	52
Little Dogies .....	16	The Blue Beret .....	8
Move on Ranger .....	4	The Blue Tail Fly ....	23
My Darling Clemen- tine .....	15	The Lion of Judah ..	42
My Father's House ....	36	The Old Chisholm	
My Lord Knows the Way .....	45	Trail .....	22
Now the Day Is Over 51		The Rangers Go Marching Along .....	5
N.T.C. Song .....	7	The Yellow Rose of Texas .....	21
Oh, River of God .....	41	They That Wait Upon the Lord .....	50
Oh Susanna .....	19	Vive L'Amour .....	2
Old MacDonald Had a Farm .....	31	Where Is My Little Dog Gone? .....	32
Old Time Religion ....	54	Whisper a Prayer .....	46
On Top of Old			

