

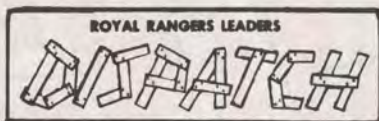


ROYAL RANGERS LEADERS

ДИСПАТЧ



WINTER 75-76



Volume XII Number 2
Winter 1975-76

SILAS GAITHER

*National Director
Church Ministries*

GLEN B. BONDS

*Secretary
Men's Department*

JOHNNIE BARNES

*National Commander
Royal Rangers*

PAUL STANEK

*National Training &
Promotional Coordinator*

JOHN ELLER

*EDITOR
National Dispatcher*

ABOUT THE COVER

The cover this quarter shows National Commander Johnnie Barnes presenting the award of "Mr. Frontiersman" to Keith Weaver of Oklahoma City. This occurred at the First National FCF Rendezvous at Fantastic Caverns, Mo., in 1972.

Excitement is already in the air for the Second National FCF Rendezvous to be held July 27-31, 1976, at Dogwood Valley near Branson, Mo. The theme will be: "The Spirit of '76."

DISPATCH is a quarterly publication issued by Royal Rangers, 1445 Boonville Ave., Springfield, Mo. 65802. Subscription price (U.S.) \$1.00 per year. Second-class postage paid at Springfield, Missouri.

DISPATCHER'S EXPRESS

How would you like to be with Daniel Boone as he discovers Cumberland Gap, or when he takes a big buck with "Tick Licker"?

How would you like to be riding "shot gun" for the Butterfield Overland Stage, or watching Jim Bowie shape a knife blade?

How would you like to be behind a tree when 3-year-old Davy Crockett bags a "bar," or with Lewis and Clark as they cross the wide Missouri?

How would you like to be Station Master for a Pony Express way station, or with a crew observing the Battle of the Alamo, Custer's Last Stand, or the Trail of Tears?

How would you like to be with the Swamp Fox as he out-wits Tarlton at Moncks Corner, or with Jedidiah Smith as he discovers the Central Overland Trail?

How would you like to be with Buffalo Bill as he keeps a train crew in bison steaks, or at the OK Corral when Wyatt Earp and Doc Holiday arrive?

How would you like to be in the funeral procession of Chief Justice John Marshall when the Liberty Bell cracks, tolling for the last time, or on a Wyoming trail ride?

It's true—these moments in history are gone forever—but they can all be relived in the books from your local library!

It is not necessary to purchase any and every book you wish to read. After all, by the time most of us have bought Royal Rangers uniforms, camping and trail gear, and FCF costumes, there's not much left for books.

But most of us pay taxes to keep the local library operating. Most librarians are courteous and well informed. Their knowledge of the shelves can be of immense value to your search.

Frequent the library during these long Winter months. Catch up on your reading. A good book by the fireside can be as warm as summer sunshine.

—John Eller, National Dispatcher

GIVE THE PATROL A CHANCE!

by Elton Bell

(1928-1975)

The patrol system is the unique possession of Royal Rangers. When it is neglected, many boys are deprived of some of the best experiences Rangers can give them. I wonder how much we understand what it has to offer!

The patrol is made up of five to ten boys. Each one has a very particular job to do for the bunch. A boy may be hikemaster, grubmaster, nature man, quartermaster, handicraft man, or what have you. The point is that he has a responsibility, and everyone in the patrol has to depend on him. The value of this cannot be overestimated. Let me illustrate.

On a hike, a weak outpost can be easily spotted. Its commander is the hero who does all the cooking. The only outpost worse than this is one whose lieutenant commander and councilmen help him. Big deal! A bunch of 40-year-old frustrated generals are running their own little army! This may be good therapy for adults, but it shows a pitiable lack of insight into what Royal Rangers is really all about!

Look at it this way: an 11-year-old joins the Rangers. He is in the stage of his life where everything in him is making a bid to move away from mama's apron strings and to be accepted as an equal by his equals. Maybe he cannot plan a meal as well as an adult, but he can *plan*.

A meal for him is an important thing. If a leader leaps in, supposedly in the interest of efficiency or intelligence, and robs him of his opportunity to plan and carry through his part, the leader is merely telling the boy that he cannot stand on his own feet yet, that he must stay tied to his mother's apron strings—in short—that he is worth little as a man!

Royal Rangers must be looked at from the boy's point of view. Each member of the patrol must have a job. The leaders must insist that the job be carried through even though they themselves might be able to do it better. A simple job for an 11-year-old seen in its perspective might be the first important thing he ever did on his own—his first bid to be great! Too often, we snuff out that chance because the boy doesn't look as resourceful as Abe Lincoln from the very start.

I realize that guiding an outpost in such a way that the patrol system is really used can be highly demanding on the commander. That reminds me of the first hike of the patrol I was in. I remember our first meal. We sat in the rain, huddled around the fire that wouldn't start. Supper consisted of passing a quart jar of peanut butter around the circle. Each one would dig into the jar with his hunting knife and lick the peanut butter like a popsicle. By any human standard, this would cry to heaven for vengeance, but the scoutmaster let us continue with the fiasco.

The next day proved better; breakfast went fairly well—by that time anything would taste good! We went through our morning program without a hitch. Lunch took longer to cook than we figured, but it too was good. The afternoon activities were filled with test-passing, clowning around, and other adventures. Supper was the best meal yet. After supper, we rushed to clean the pots and mess kits and gathered wood for the council fire. We were waiting patiently for sundown.

The heartbeat of Royal Rangers is taking place within the patrol. No real patrol, no real Rangers. In the patrol system, I feel Royal Rangers has more to offer than any youth activity.

Rangers takes a boy where he is, that is, in the process of moving out of the home emotionally and standing on his own. It offers him a program not beyond his ability. While not pushing him faster than he can move, it is not holding

(continued on page 15)

DECEMBER

WEEKLY THEME	WEEKLY PROGRAM FEATURE	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	PROJECTS & RESOURCE
HIKING (Submitted by Larry Smith of Spfld., Mo.)	<p>A. Physical benefits from walking</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep in shape 2. Proper balance 3. Stay healthy <p>B. Stay loose</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group calisthenics 2. Jogging 3. Exercise a daily routine 	<p>A. Indoor & outdoor activities</p> <p>B. Emphasize and illustrate well-balanced diet</p> <p>C. How to prepare & consume beneficial meals</p> <p>D. Show how rest periods, however brief, are good</p>	<p>A. Nature walk</p> <p>B. Hike to city limits</p> <p>C. Hike to nearest lake</p> <p>D. Explore a forest</p> <p>E. Hike to nearest stream, pond, or bridge in area</p> <p>F. Hike to nearest school or college</p>
WEEKLY THEME	WEEKLY PROGRAM FEATURE	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	PROJECTS & RESOURCE
HIKING (Submitted by Larry Smith of Spfld., Mo.)	<p>A. Longest hike on record: 18,500 mi. thru 14 countries from Singapore to London by David Kwan, age 22</p> <p>B. Hike took 1 yr., and 7 months</p> <p>C. He averaged 32 miles per day!</p>	<p>A. Assemble hiking equipment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comfortable 2. Good boots 3. Canteen 4. First aid kit <p>B. Length of hike will determine needs for food, water, etc.</p>	<p>A. See nature</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify plants and animals 2. What is harmful? 3. Study characteristics of nature <p>B. Eat regularly</p> <p>C. Cut out snacks</p> <p>D. Collect specimens of nature for outpost meeting rm.</p>
WEEKLY THEME	WEEKLY PROGRAM FEATURE	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	PROJECTS & RESOURCE
TENTS (Submitted by George R. Lopez of Covina, CA)	<p>A. List types of tents and weights</p> <p>B. Show how different sizes have advantages</p> <p>C. Emphasize a check for stakes, ropes, accessories, etc.</p> <p>D. Repair materials</p> <p>E. Tools needed</p>	<p>A. Proper selection of</p> <p>B. Preparation and area for tents</p> <p>C. Clearing of area</p> <p>D. Demonstrate tent erection</p> <p>E. Give some tips on layout</p> <p>F. Face right</p> <p>G. Weather factors</p>	<p>A. Care and maintenance</p> <p>B. Cleaning canvas, inside and out</p> <p>C. Method of folding</p> <p>D. Care for stakes and accessories</p> <p>E. Proper storage</p> <p>F. Danger of mildew</p> <p>G. Store all equipment</p>
WEEKLY THEME	WEEKLY PROGRAM FEATURE	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	PROJECTS & RESOURCE
CHRIST, THE GREAT CAMPER	<p>A. Jesus helped create outdoors (John 1: 1-3)</p> <p>B. Love of outdoors inherent</p> <p>C. Spent 40 days and nights in wilderness overcoming devil</p> <p>D. Often spent whole nights in prayer</p>	<p>A. Jesus often taught by seashore (Matt. 13:1,2)</p> <p>B. Had not where to lay His head</p> <p>C. Often used nature parables to teach</p> <p>D. Sometimes He lived off the land (Samaritan well and corn fields)</p>	<p>A. Study Jesus as a Great Camper</p> <p>B. Study Jesus as a Great Counselor</p> <p>C. Study Jesus as a Great Camp Speaker (parables)</p> <p>D. Discuss Sermon on the Mount</p> <p>E. Discuss feeding of 4,000 & 5,000</p>
WEEKLY THEME	WEEKLY PROGRAM FEATURE	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	PROJECTS & RESOURCE
GOALS FOR THE NEW YEAR	<p>A. Review accomplishments of 1975</p> <p>B. Recognize advancements and achievements in outpost</p> <p>C. Point out strengths and weaknesses</p> <p>D. Discuss needs and goals for 1976</p> <p>E. Make list of priorities</p> <p>F. Share ideas</p>	<p>A. Plan a "Testimony Time" during mtg.</p> <p>B. Divide into groups: brainstorm</p> <p>C. Encourage creativity & new ideas</p> <p>D. Discuss pros and cons of various outdoor activities</p> <p>E. Lay out a proposed calendar for 1976</p>	<p>A. Assign Lt. Cmdrs. to obtain Pow Wow dates, etc.</p> <p>B. Ask pastor for a copy of church cal.</p> <p>C. Ask Sr. Guides to obtain school schedules: opening, closing, holidays, etc.</p> <p>D. Mimeograph calendar for each boy</p>

January

WEEKLY THEME	WEEKLY PROGRAM FEATURE	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	PROJECTS & RESOURCE
KNIVES (submitted by James Yates)	A. History of knife B. Early knives were bone and flint C. Cutting tools developed over long period of time D. Knife considered the prime instrument for wilderness survival E. Uses of a knife (tool or weapon)	A. Demonstration of knife safety 1. Unsheathing a hunting knife 2. Opening a pocket knife 3. Sheathing and closing 4. Holding a knife 5. Passing a knife 6. Cutting and trimming	A. Make a display of knives 1. Pocket 2. Hunting (various kinds) 3. Fishing knives 4. Camping or Scouting knives B. Invite local knife authority to a meeting
WEEKLY THEME	WEEKLY PROGRAM FEATURE	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	PROJECTS & RESOURCE
RIFLES (submitted by Vern Harper, Seattle, Wash.) Need: 1. Rifle 2. Chalk-board 3. Cartridge	A. How rifle operates 1. Chamber 2. Bolt 3. Firing pin 4. Rifling 5. Sights a. Open b. Peep c. Scope B. Cleaning C. Respect for gun	A. Cartridge 1. Cap, shell and powder 2. Bullet a. Expandable pt. b. Armor piercing 3. Trajectory a. Muzzle vel. b. Line of sight c. Gravitational pull	A. Hunting rules 1. Never hunt alone 2. Always know where partner is located 3. Keep partner out of your line of sight B. Gun safety 1. All guns are LOADED! 2. Crossing fences
WEEKLY THEME	WEEKLY PROGRAM FEATURE	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	PROJECTS & RESOURCE
HEALTH	A. Personal hygiene B. Disease prevention C. Good eating habits D. Regular checkups E. Proper diet F. Exercise G. Vitamins H. Respect for our bodies	A. Obtain films on smoking from Am. Cancer Society B. Ask TB Assoc. for speaker C. Invite local physician to speak on venereal diseases D. Obtain films on VD for older boys	A. Show films during a Parents Night B. Distribute literature on subjects C. Encourage medical exams before camping season D. Promote body and muscle building E. Plan swimming instruction
WEEKLY THEME	WEEKLY PROGRAM FEATURE	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	PROJECTS & RESOURCE
LASHING (submitted by Marvin K. Mathis, Spfld, Ill.) Needed: 1. Sticks or poles 2. Binder twine	A. Square lashing B. Diagonal lashing C. Sheer or round lashing D. Continuous lashing E. Uses of lashing F. Proper tie-offs G. Durability H. Possible projects with lashing	A. Make a list of lashing projects for use at the District Pow Wow B. Assign different patrols their projects or responsibilities C. Set deadlines, calls for progress reports	A. Monkey bridge B. Signal tower C. Chippewa Kitchen D. Tripods for cooking and washing E. Tool racks • Adventures in Camping • <i>High Adventure</i> , Autumn, 1971 • Knotcraft, by McFarlan

FEBRUARY

WEEKLY THEME	WEEKLY PROGRAM FEATURE	SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	PROJECTS & RESOURCE
UNIFORM REPAIR	A. Importance of the uniform B. Respect for the uniform C. Attraction of the uniform to others D. Cleanliness E. Correctness 1. Proper insignia 2. Properly placed 3. Avoid "over-loading" uniform	A. Plan an "Uniform Update" night B. Invite a mom with a sewing machine to sew rips, etc. C. Stress uniform sharpness D. Use of tape measure for all patch & insignia placements E. Polish brass	A. Promote Award vests for out-dated uniform items B. Encourage vests as a craft project ● Leaders Manual ● Royal Rangers Uniforms, GPH ● <i>Dispatch</i> , June, Jul., Aug., 1970 C. Replace old uniforms
FUND RAISING (with thanks to Don Franklin for some of these ideas left in <i>Dispatch</i> files)	A. Outpost needs 1. Replacements 2. New equipment B. List in order of priority C. Discuss ways in which these items can be secured D. Enlist boy participation in selection E. Challenge	A. Car wash B. Car bash (like 25c per lick with sledge hammer). C. Pie-throwing contest D. Auction E. Garage sale F. Public rummage sale G. Candy sale H. Odd jobs	A. Local Army-Navy Surplus Store B. Mail-order catalogues C. Camping or Sporting goods store D. Newspaper ads E. Local radio swap-shop F. Assign various leaders to do pricing on certain items
FIRE PRE-VENTION (thanks to DF again!)	A. Fire as a friend B. Fire as a foe C. Tell story of "Smokey the Bear" D. Most forest fires caused by carelessness E. Fire destroys natural resource and animal habitat F. YOU can prevent!	A. Local fire chief to speak B. Plan a fire drill for outpost C. Ask to observe local fire dept. rescue drill D. Ask fireman to demonstrate resuscitator E. Stress life saving	A. Fire-fighting films may be obtained from local fire department B. Plan field trip to fire house or training location C. If possible, visit a burnt forest to examine damages D. Stress caution with all fires.
STAR GAZE Gen. 1:16; Psa. 147:4; Isa. 13:10)	A. Biblical reference to stars B. God created all stars and knows them by name C. Comparatively few are visible to the naked eye D. There are billions of stars E. Constellations	A. Secure field glasses or a good telescope B. Plan an outpost star gaze (check weather, etc.) C. Secure a chart of constellations D. Check almanac for predicted eclipses, comets, etc.	A. Obtain a moon map for meeting room B. Plan to visit a nearby planetarium ● Stars, Simon & Schuster, NY ● Encyclopedia Britannica ● <i>High Adventure</i> , Winter, 72-73 issue

THE OUTPOSTER

UNUSUAL WEATHER

THULE AIR BASE, Greenland (AP) —Weather reporting for the U. S. Air Force weathermen of Detachment 48, 5th Weather Wing here, is a little different from the usual "partly cloudy, with sleet turning into snow" variety.

It goes something like this: "Bay ice motionless. Slight ridging at shoreline with hummocks southwest-northwest with large cracks and numerous puddles from pier to Dundas Mount. Ice blocking entrance to approximately 15-18 miles out. Twenty growlers, five bergy bits in southwest quad, four growlers, 13 bergy bits and 12 icebergs in northwest quad. Water temperature minus one degree Centigrade. Air temperature minus one degree Centigrade. Visibility 25 miles."

The reports provide information for military and civilian vessels in Arctic waters. An iceberg is a chunk of ice as big as a ship, a bergy bit is as big as a small cottage, and growlers are grandpiano size. A hummock is a ridge or bump in an ice field.

AUSTRALIA NOW HAS FIVE FCF CHAPTERS

Will Thorne, National Commander of Australia, has advised the *Dispatch* office of their five FCF chapters. This is one for each of the mainland states. Their names with an explanation of their meaning follows.

New South Wales—Cobb & Co. This name is taken from an early coaching (stage) company.

Queensland—The Overlanders. This name was used to describe cattle drovers (cowboys).

South Australia—Colonel Light. This man was founder of the capital of the state—Adelaide.

Victoria—Yaraadoo. This name is aboriginal, meaning "Southern Cross."

West Australia—Koolwanna. This is also aboriginal, meaning "Black Swan."

Anyone wishing to correspond with Will should address their air mail letter to: W. R. Thorne, Commonwealth Com-

mander, 3 Norma Ave., Eastwood, N.S.W. 2122 Australia. All letters should be presented at the postal window of your receiving office as additional postage will be necessary. (Some Australian Pow Wow and FCF patches would trade well at the next Rendezvous!)



LOUISIANA NOW HAS FCF CHAPTER

Dispatch office has been advised of the formation of the District FCF chapter in Louisiana, to be known as the Jim Bowie Chapter.

District FCF Chairman is D. E. Stroud, and District FCF President is Jim Marze. They had eleven members at the beginning of 1975.

MADE TO MEASURE

(Submitted by Gene Hale of Mountain View, CA)

If you're ever stuck in the field with no ruler to check the minimum legal length of a fish, just remember that a dollar is just a shade over six inches long. Hence one, two, three or four lengths of the bill can give you an accurate reading of anywhere from six to twenty-four inches. Fold in half for three inches, in half once again for one and a half inch.

FIRST MACHINE

What was the first machine ever devised by man that worked automatically in his absence? It must have been the animal trap. Did you know there are only four kinds of such traps? They are the gravity, snare, spring pole and torsion.

DID YOU KNOW?

It's not unusual for a lightning bolt to deliver 25,000 times more current than was customarily shot through the electric chair for an execution.

How Poor Pioneer Family

"Christmas was coming. The little log house was almost buried in snow. Great drifts were banked against the walls and windows, and in the morning when Pa opened the door, there was a wall of snow as high as Laura's head."

Thus reads a paragraph from Laura Ingalls Wilder's beloved "Little Books"—true accounts of the pioneer life that the writer experienced, from her 6th to 18th years in the 1870s and 1880s; her restless father moved his family from a Wisconsin forest to Indian Territory to Minnesota and finally to the Dakota Territory.

The books were published between 1935 and 1943. A television series, "Little House on the Prairie," was aired during the 1974-75 season, and based on these books.

The family endured many hardships—bitter-cold winters as well as stifling summer heat. They lived first in a log cabin, later in a dugout by the creek, then, later in shacks—wherever fate (and Father) moved them. They went through cyclones, droughts, plagues of cicadas, yet the Ingalls family shared love and faith in each other, and they always celebrated the birth of the Christ Child.

For a Christmas in the big woods, when the house was blanketed with snow, Ma baked bread, beans, cookies . . . distilled vinegar and baked dried apple pies! They entertained relatives—Aunt Eliza and Uncle Peter and the cousins who arrived on Christmas Eve on their big bobsled, sleigh bells ringing.

Some other Ma and Pa would have thrown up their hands at the sight of them—maybe got the shotgun off the cabin wall and picked them off from a window—but not the Ingalls! They shared their good things—the children slept in a row on the floor—the grown-ups, wherever they could find space.

Christmas Eve found them aglow with anticipation, in a circle of love.

In the morning the children found gifts in their stockings: a pair of bright red knitted mittens and a stick of red-and-white striped mint candy. Their parents' reward was in the surprise and happiness expressed by every child.

For Laura, the smallest child, there was also a homemade rag doll with black button eyes, black yarn hair and a dress of pink and blue calico—a doll "so beautiful that Laura could not say a word."

On other Christmases there were no presents. The Ingalls family were lucky to have their lives. However, Ma had saved a bundle of "Youth's Companions" that had been sent them by long-delayed mail or via a passerby. While the light lasted they read the stories. Pa even managed to buy the store's last two cans of oysters, so their Christmas dinner had a festive quality.

All the "Little Books" tales are fascinating, and you can be sure that the adults who gave them to children made it a point to read them first. The stories have an ageless, timeless appeal. They contain the essence of Christmas . . . selflessness, appreciation of the simple joys, and love of family life.

In the Ingalls family the little Christ Child dwelled, not only on His birthday, but every day.

Celebrated Christ's Birth

SOME RULES FOR COACHING IN A ROYAL RANGERS SKILL

1. Be able to perform the skill well yourself.

2. Review your own experience in learning it and work out a series of steps for teaching it.

3. Keep the coaching on a personal basis by working with small groups of learners, perhaps only one to start with. Get additional coaches, if necessary, to keep the groups small.

4. Size up those you are coaching for abilities and personality traits that affect their power to learn this particular skill.

5. If a learner has acquired little or none of the skill through reading, discussion or some other method, go slowly

especially at the start. Insist on accuracy first, then speed.

6. Don't interfere with the learner trying to do it on his own, unless he bogs down or goes off on the wrong track.

7. Let him make mistakes if they impress on him the right way, but definitely point out mistakes.

8. Never make corrections sarcastically or for the entertainment of onlookers.

9. Encourage the learner by remarks on his progress, pointing out the completion of each step and the steps he has done well.

10. Urge him to practice and perhaps to coach someone else when he has mastered the skill.

SKILLARAMA EVENTS

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|--------------------|---|
| 1. KNOTS | Tie square knot, clove hitch, bowline and taut-line hitch. |
| 2. LASHING | Demonstrate square, round and diagonal lashing. |
| 3. SPLICING | Demonstrate the eye and short splice. |
| 4. FRENCH BOWLINE | Tie French bowline and test with body weight. |
| 5. FIRE LAYING | Demonstrate ability to lay hunters, teepee and council fires. |
| 6. FIRE LIGHTING | Demonstrate ability to lay an A frame fire and light with one match. |
| 7. METAL MATCH | Demonstrate ability to create flame with metal match. |
| 8. KNIFE | Demonstrate proper way to open, close, pass, use, and sharpen a pocket knife. |
| 9. AXE | Demonstrate how to pass, use and carry a hand axe. |
| 10. AXE SHARPENING | Demonstrate how to sharpen an axe with a file. |
| 11. AXE (Large) | Demonstrate how to pass, carry and chop a log with a long handle axe. |
| 12. COMPASS | Identify the direction of travel arrow, the housing, the magnetic needle and the orienting arrow on a silva compass. Demonstrate your ability to orient a compass and to set a course with a compass. |
| 13. CROSS COUNTRY | Take a cross-country hike to prearranged points using a compass. |

SKILLARAMA EVENTS

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|----------------------------------|--|
| 14. STEPPING | Demonstrate your ability to determine the length of your step and stride. |
| 15. MAP SYMBOLS | Explain what the colors, green, blue, black, white, and brown indicate on a topographical map. Identify at least ten symbols by shape. |
| 16. MAP | Using a silva compass, demonstrate ability to set a given course on a map. |
| 17. MOUTH TO MOUTH RESUSCITATION | Demonstrate with a dummy the ability to administer mouth-to-mouth method of artificial respiration. |
| 18. SPLINTING | Demonstrate how to splint a broken limb. |
| 19. BLEEDING | Demonstrate how to stop severe bleeding. |
| 20. SHOCK | Explain the importance of treatment of shock, then demonstrate. |
| 21. SUN PROBLEM | Explain the difference between sun stroke and heat exhaustion and demonstrate first aid for each. |
| 22. TENT PITCHING | Demonstrate your ability to properly pitch a pup tent (with floor), within a given time limit. |
| 23. PACK PACKING | Demonstrate your ability to properly pack a pack and to properly shoulder and remove a pack. |
| 24. NATURE STUDY | Participate in a lecture hike on a prearranged nature trail. |
| 25. OBSTACLE COURSE | Demonstrate your ability to run a designated obstacle course. |

OUTPOST DEVOTIONS



THE WONDER OF GOD

Equipment: Colorful pictures of the four seasons, wildlife, flowers, rainbow, rivers, streams, waterfalls—anything of nature that really “stands out” with beauty.

Tonight, boys, we’re going to talk about the wonder of God, His greatness around us, and how we can recognize this greatness simply by looking about us and listening, whether it be in the cool of the evening, at a campsite, or in our own backyard.

Many people have said that “God is dead” and that the corruption of the world is becoming so disastrous that, in another twenty years, there won’t be anything left worth seeing or having.

Boys, the part about the world may very well be true, but could these people be talking like this simply because they haven’t taken time to listen for the good things of God? They probably haven’t watched the leaves turn to different colors of beauty as they fall to the ground in autumn; they haven’t stood out in the snow in wintertime and let the snow fall softly on their face; or watched the ducks and geese become alive at that time of year; they haven’t absorbed the miracle of spring rains filling the streams and lakes; they haven’t wondered at the marvel of the rainbow and all of its colors and the remembrance of God’s promise to all the world.

No, boys, they haven’t taken time to absorb the birth of spring and summer when God’s greatness blossoms with magnificent color, in the trees, flowers, streams, wildlife, and many other areas. They haven’t looked up into the sky at the stars at night and wondered about the greatness of God. If they *had* done any of these things they couldn’t help but praise and worship God, just as David did in the Book of Psalms.

Boys, let’s read some of the things David wrote down about God’s wonders and greatness. (Have each boy read parts of the Scripture found in Psalm 104:1-35).

Boys, let’s praise God tonight for His

greatness and let us give thanks daily for all He’s given to us. Promise yourselves, boys, that you are going to spend a little more time looking and listening to God’s wonders, from now on. Let us pray.

THE OAK TREE

(Submitted by Howard Mulkey,
Thayer, Mo.)

Fellows, as we congregate in God’s great out-of-doors, we can marvel at how great God’s work is. We do not have to search or look very far to find out.

Look at the trees we are standing under. These trees are oaks. The oak is noted for its strength, and is very beneficial to our existence. The leaves consume the carbon monoxide in the air and give off oxygen. We are also dependent upon these trees for lumber to build homes. They also provide fuel to keep warm, to cook, and to roast wieners.

But I would like for you to compare these trees to your lives. Some are tall, straight and solid, and could take the strongest winds nature can send. Others are bent and scraggy with broken limbs. Still others appear good on the outside, but have a decaying center. A few have been uprooted by storms.

Which of these trees are you most like? The good oak is like the strong Christian, able through Jesus Christ to ward off all storms Satan throws at them. A bent and broken tree is like the professing Christian who wishes also to serve the devil. They only become more bent with each storm.

The oak that looks solid but has a decaying center represents a person who appears good on the outside, but is secretly partaking of the world. The lumberjack has very little use for the rotten tree.

The uprooted tree can represent a person that was once a Christian, but has let the devil get in, control him, and his faith has been uprooted.

God wants us to be like the tall, solid oak. We become this way by daily prayer and Bible reading, and through attending Sunday school and church.

If you are becoming bent or uprooted, let's bow our heads now and ask the Lord to restore us.

HOW THE WORLD WAS MADE

(Submitted by Les Oatridge,
Lawndale, CA)

Scripture: Genesis 1:1,2

Even before Christ was born, men were searching and arguing about the age of the earth. Some people have said the earth is 6,000 years old, while others say it is as high as 4 billion years.

To support their belief about the earth's age, scientists have equipment to probe into the layers of the earth, and examine fossils and lava.

Most Christians of our time believe the scientists may be correct in their statements of advanced age for the earth. The belief is based on the strong possibility of a wide expanse of time which elapsed between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.

As each century goes by, the scientists change their minds about the exact age. If God had wanted us to know the age of the earth, He might have written a science book. But He only wrote in His Word what we need to know. It doesn't really matter how old the earth is. The thing we must remember is that God made the earth, everything in it, and most of all, He loves us.

NOISE

(Submitted by Harold Burhenn,
Puyallup, WA)

Smog has been emphasized as one of the chief pollutants and health hazards. Now scientists are telling us that *noise* is also a pollutant and affects our health.

We are told that noise can be distressful and disturbing to the equilibrium. If the noise is loud enough, vibrations can produce permanent injury to the human ear.

Just as continued noise can disturb the organs of the body, how often the rumblings of trouble disturb the calm of the soul!

But there is a remedy for the distressing noises and anxieties of the soul. It is the Lord.

Just as Jesus calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee with the words, "Peace, be still," so He can calm the tempests that rage in our soul. He loves you. He died for you. He longs to be trusted for salvation and through every trying circumstance of life.

His Word to us is, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

CITIZENSHIP IN HEAVEN

(Submitted by Stanley Napora,
Bremerton, WA)

There are two ways of becoming a citizen of the United States. The easiest way is to be born here. Others must undergo much study and testing concerning the government and history of the U.S. before obtaining their citizenship.

When a baby is born, or someone qualifies, their names are added to the records which are kept. Americans count citizenship a privilege.

We have that same opportunity to become citizens of heaven. But there is only one way to obtain our citizenship there. Being born as infants here does not qualify. The Bible teaches we must be *born again*. We become spiritual babes in Christ. Then, we are to grow in the Lord.

In order to be born again, one must confess his sin, repent, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. When we do this, God adds our names to the Book of Life.

Wouldn't you like to have your name in God's record book?

GOD'S CONCERN

(Submitted by Steven Hastings,
Kirkland, WA)

Scripture: Ezekiel 18:20-23; 31,32; 33:11

The nation of Israel had received its warning of war, death, and captivity. The people had stopped obeying God's laws and turned to worship idols. They were living in lawlessness with all kinds of corruption and perversion.

Although the nation as a whole would be punished, God said that *any* individual who repented—gave up his evil way of life—would live. It hurt God to have to punish them.

Men today have a brooding fear that judgment is coming, and yet, they go

about their own sinful way of living. The details of last day prophecies are falling into place. Does God still care?

Indeed He does! He loved us so much that He sent His Son to die in our place. (Matt. 18:14). Christ died that you might be saved. (2 Peter 3:9).

God is warning the world with many signs of pending judgment. He is doing this because He cares for you. You can be saved right now by asking Jesus to come into your heart.

AN OFFICERS COMMISSION

*(Submitted by Stan Sinclair,
Terre Haute, IN)*

Rangers, did you know that every officer in the service of the United States must be commissioned by an act of Congress? The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard must have every new lieutenant or ensign presented before the Congress. When a man qualifies for General or Admiral, he must be nominated by the President himself!

The leaders of your outpost have also been commissioned. The representatives of this church have asked us to assume positions as Royal Rangers leaders. But beyond that, the Lord himself has called us into His service. As Christians, we have committed ourselves to the service of the Lord and the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Have *you* been commissioned? Have you appeared before the Lord, our Supreme Commander? He has a plan and a commission already prepared for you. No one can perform your special mission for you.

Let us bow our heads and present ourselves for His service.

WINNING THE RACE

Commander's purpose: To show boys the importance of keeping our lives clean from habits and sin.

Equipment needed: 2 suitcases: one empty and one filled with bricks or rocks.

Select two boys of about the same size and age. Explain that they are going to run a race. Give them each a suitcase to carry a specified distance. (The boy with the empty suitcase, of course, will win.)

Use these scriptures for your remarks:

1 Cor. 9:24 and Heb. 12:1.

Explain that just as weights in the suitcase prevented the boy from winning his race, habit and sin in our lives will cause us to lose the Crown of Life.

THE BOOK OF LIFE

*(Submitted by Jurin Tussin,
Santee, CA)*

Needed: a large telephone book.

During the day of judgment, our Lord will produce the Book of Life, and see if your name is inside. The telephone book is something similar.

God will look up your name and see if it has been recorded. Not having a telephone or having an unlisted number is like not being saved. Unless your name is written in the Book of Life, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Discussion: How can you get your name in the Book of Life? What are some of the rewards of salvation in this life? In the life to come?

Conclude with prayer for those whose names are not written in the Book of Life.

EDITOR'S NOTE

(This issue of DISPATCH catches up on a large backlog of devotions and games already set in type when we assumed editorial responsibility three years ago. Most of this issue contains new material. Please bear with us as we have a large volume of manuscripts yet to read. We solicit original devotions and games, typewritten, double-spaced.—Editor)



HISTORIANS have just found the very first treaty white men ever signed with the Indians. It says that the red man can keep his lands for as long as the river runs, the sun rises and the grass grows—or go days, whichever comes first.

FOUR



STAR



HILL DILL

(Submitted by Kenneth D. Faught,
Santa Ana, CA)

Divide the boys into two teams with one boy as "it."

Line up the teams facing each other, while "it" walks up and down between them. He points to two boys at the same time, one from each team. As they try to change places, "it" tries to tag one of the boys. If successful, the boy without a place becomes the new "it."

SAWDUST RELAY

(Submitted by Marvin K. Mathis,
Springfield, IL)

Items needed: Bag of sawdust or cornmeal, six spoons, and two quart jars.

To start, the first man in line fills No. 1 spoon with sawdust, passes it back, and each member of the team takes the spoon in turn. The last man empties the sawdust (or cornmeal) in the quart jar and sends the spoon back. Spoons are coming and going at the same time. The team to get their jar the fuller in 10 minutes wins. Play twice.

BALLOON BUST

(Neil Agnes, Dallas, TX)

Form boys into two teams. Put teams next to each other in a line. Each team will face a chair (one chair per team) about 20 feet away. Give each boy a balloon. The object is to blow air into the balloon, tie it, then when your turn

comes, race to the chair and place the balloon under you so that you can burst it. As soon as it is burst, you can race back to your line and the next boy goes to the chair to burst his balloon. First team to completely burst all balloons wins.

CHRISTIAN'S HORSE RACE

(Jimmie Kay Maples, Springfield, MO)
Equipment needed: Questions on the Bible (questions concerning the Royal Rangers may also be used.)

Instructions: On the chalkboard, draw horizontal lines equal to the number of boys present; also draw vertical lines equal to the number of questions to be asked. Next, write the boys' names on the horizontal lines, and draw a circle around the first intersection of the horizontal and vertical lines. The circle is considered to be the boy's "horse."

The leader asks a question from the list. The first boy who raises his hand has an opportunity to answer the question. If he answers the question correctly, his "horse" is advanced to the next intersection of lines; if he answers incorrectly, the leader begins again with another question.

Scoring: The boy whose "horse" reaches the last intersection first is the winner.

FEEL AND GUESS

(Steven Woodward, Amarillo, TX)

Place several objects (such as an apple, book, shoe, baseball, etc.) on a table and cover them with a large cloth such as a sheet. Give each boy a piece of paper and a pencil and have them list each object they think is under the cloth. Allow fingertips only for feel and guess. The one listing the most items correctly wins.

BIBLICAL CHARADES

(J. W. Hamilton, Albuquerque, NM)

Have boys divide into groups of two or three or four, or however many they please. Then they will think of a happening or a story from the Bible, such as David & Goliath, Samson & Delilah, etc. Then they will imitate it (act it out) without saying anything. The other boys will try to guess who they are describing or identify the story.

WATER SURVIVAL

by Gene Hale

The mountain West is often the scene for tragic experiences involving the lack of water. With a little luck and training, anyone should be able to provide himself with enough drinking water to stay alive.

There are areas, however, that require special equipment if water is to be secured. Much of the dry desert of the Great Basin is devoid of running water. The following pointers will help in locating water sources.

Dry mountain ranges usually have one steep escarpment while the other side is rather sloping. Most of the moisture will be found on the sloping side of these hills. The steep side has faster runoff and less ground area for the collection of water.

The water table is usually close to the surface and can be found by digging at: (1) the base of cliffs and rocks where an abnormal amount of vegetation is thriving, (2) in dry mud holes, sinks and riverbeds. The bends in riverbeds usually provide the easiest source of water, (3) at the base of large sand dunes on the shady or steep sides, (4) anywhere the ground is damp or muddy, (5) where patches of salt grass, cattails, greasewood, willows, or elderberries grow in low spots.

Old mine shafts and pits often contain water. Watch for ore dumps and tailings in the distance and head for them.

GETTING WATER FROM THE SOIL

1. Dig a hole in damp or muddy sink areas and let the water seep in.
2. Wring mud in a shirt or other cloth to force out the water.
3. Use an evaporation still. (See sketch.) Equipment required is a 6' by 6' plastic sheet, a plastic drinking tube and a container. These items can be included in a survival kit. The plastic sheet is stretched over a three-foot hole and held in place with dirt. This seals the hole off from the outside air. A rock is placed in the center of the plastic to weigh it down until it comes to within about two inches of the bucket. The drinking tube is fastened in the bucket and extends outside the still. Two of these stills in operation in even the driest deserts will produce enough water for one person each day. Placing green plants and sliced cactus in the pit will increase the amount of water. It is best to place the still in deep rich soil at the bottom of gullies and old riverbeds.

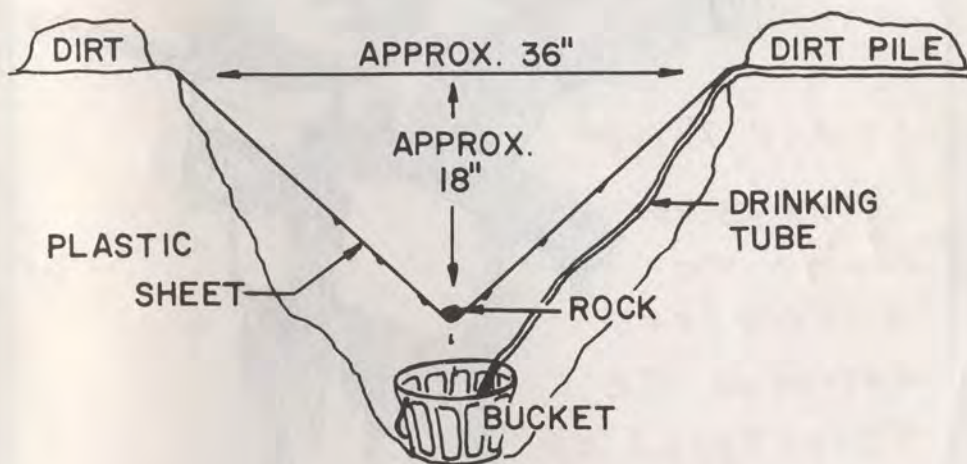
COLLECTING WATER FROM THE AIR AND FROM PLANTS

1. Mopping up dew. In many arid regions of the world, primitive peoples supply themselves with water by arising before dawn to mop up the dew from rocks and plants. It is surprising how much dew can be found in the early morning in desert areas. The easiest way to gather it is to use a handkerchief or a shirt to gently mop it up and then wring it into a container. If any of these are not available, a handful of dry grass will do the job. It is possible to mop up almost a quart an hour using this method.

2. Many plants and trees contain enough water to allay thirst, but getting it is a problem. A cactus can be cut and peeled and the moisture sucked out. This is not like running water; rather it is more like trying to drink Elmer's Glue. Larger cacti in the southwest can be a good source of water when the top is cut off and the center pulp mashed and stirred with a stick. The pulp is then wrung to obtain the water. Some vines and green plants will help allay thirst when chewed and sucked, but cannot be depended upon to sustain life. Trees at certain times of the year will yield clear sap for drinking. The tree is tapped by drilling a hole about three inches deep and inserting a hollow stem. Maples, birch, aspen, and white pine are the best trees and produce sap in drinkable quantities from February through April.

PRECAUTIONS

1. If no water is available, do not eat anything because such eating uses up the body's water reserve.
2. Store water in your belly rather than your canteen. Men have died from dehydration with water still in their canteens.
3. Water polluted by animals or mud tastes bad but is harmless if boiled.
4. Muddy water can be partially cleared by allowing it to: (a) stand overnight, (b) run through several thicknesses of cloth or through a grass filter, (c) seep through the back into a hole dug about a foot away. When doing this for brackish or salty water, remove the top six inches of salty soil between the hole and the source of water.
5. Do not travel during the heat of the day and always walk slowly, never hurry.
6. Pebbles in the mouth, small sips of water, chewing gum, etc., may relieve thirst but do not stop dehydration.
7. Drinking blood or urine only increases dehydration of the body. It is better to soak clothing in urine to cool the body by evaporation.



GIVE THE PATROL A CHANCE

(continued from page 3)

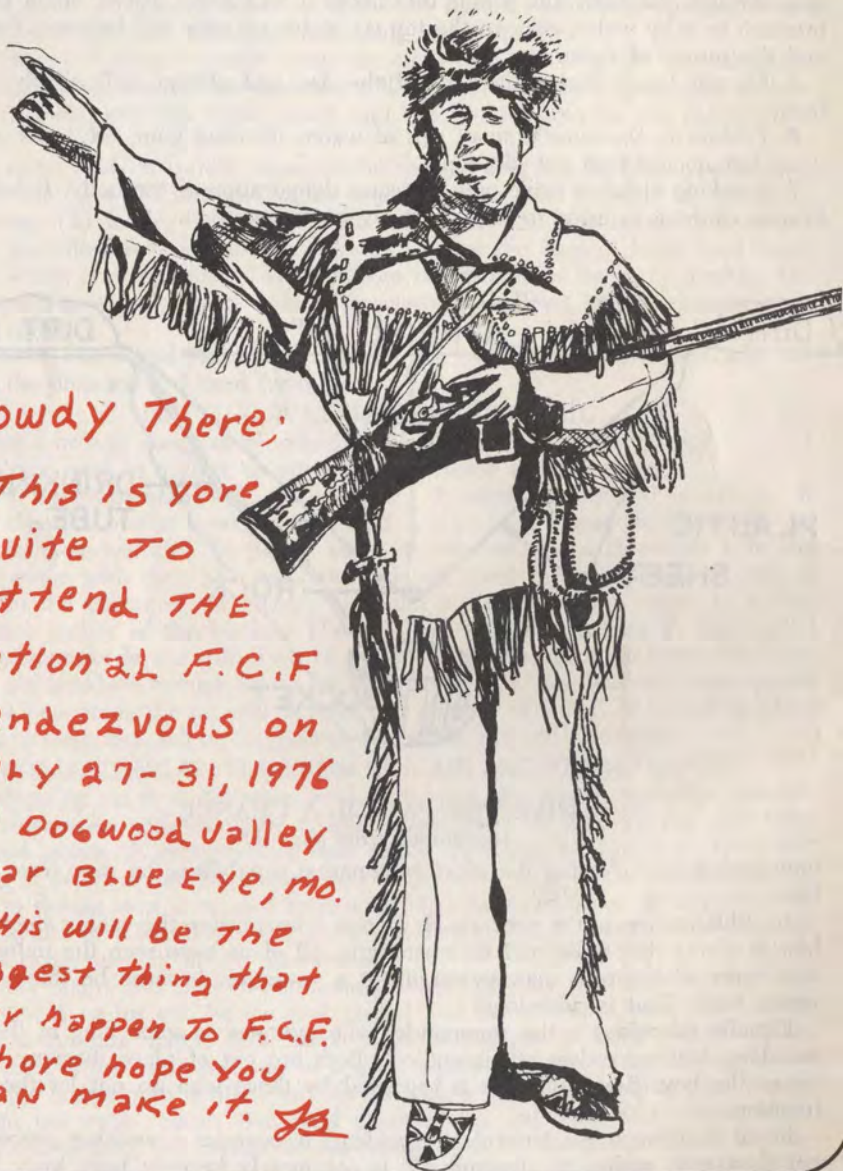
him back from following the most imaginative capabilities he may have within him.

In athletics we say a poor coach is one who pushes the young men under him in a way that is beyond their strength. All of us have seen the unfortunate occurrence of a grown man screaming at a youngster because he threw to the wrong base. That is ridiculous!

Equally ridiculous is the commander who operates as some kind of the commandoes, barking orders at his outpost. Both are out of place, because neither serves the boy. Royal Rangers is thwarted by those who do not let the patrol function.

Royal Rangers is not fruitful by accident. It contains a working process, the patrol system, within its structure. It is not merely keeping boys busy hoping that if they continue in feverish activity they will by some magic grow up to be mature men. Rangers is not essentially a recreational program, but an intelligent, well-ordered developmental process, with God as our Great Commander!

National FCF RENDEZVOUS



Howdy There;

This is yore
invite to
attend THE
National F.C.F
Rendezvous on
July 27-31, 1976
At Dogwood Valley
near Blue Eye, Mo.

This will be the
biggest thing that
ever happen to F.C.F.
Shore hope you
can make it. *JL*