

WINTER 1978

DISPATCH

A ROYAL RANGER'S MAGAZINE FOR MEN



DISPATCH

WINTER 1978 Vol. 15 No. 2

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DISPATCH (157960) published quarterly by Royal Rangers, 1445 Boonville Ave., Springfield, Mo. 65802. Subscription price (U.S.) \$1.50 per year. Second-class postage paid at Springfield, Missouri. Copyright 1977 General Council of the Assemblies of God. Printed in U.S.A.



COMMANDER'S COFFEE CUP CHAT



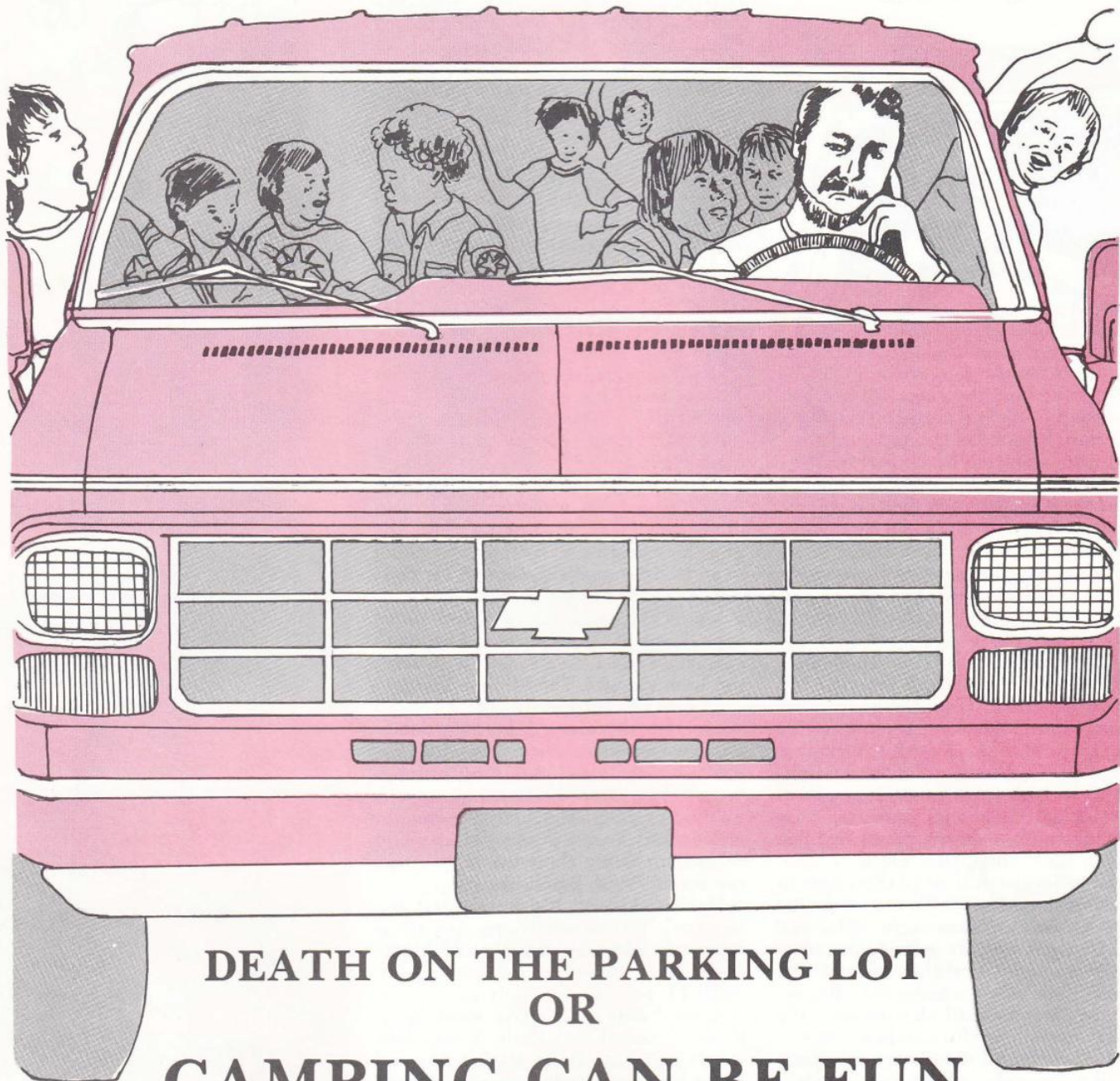
TWO WORDS THAT MEAN "MINISTRY"

BY JOHN ELLER



- R**esponsive to the needs of all boys for development of physical, spiritual, mental, and social growth.
- O**rdery in that boys learn the principals of life within a Christian framework.
- Y**outhful, seeking to develop the total boy through wholesome and exciting activities.
- A**tttractive to boys of all ages with its appeal to outdoor adventure.
- L**ively with hikes, cookouts, camp-outs, expeditions, crafts, advancements, and worthwhile things to do.
- R**elevant to today's needs of today's boy with an exciting challenge for the future.
- A**ctivated for the purpose of teaching about salvation, divine healing, the Holy Spirit, and the Rapture of the church.
- N**ecessary in that all boys want to feel a part of a winning team.
- G**ratifying for both men and boys with visible progress observed in lives.
- E**nergetic to reach, teach, and keep boys for Jesus Christ.
- R**esourceful with almost endless ideas and variations to excite and encourage creativity.
- S**ystematic from Brave to Gold Medal of Achievement; from Greenhorn to Silver Buffalo—a planned adventure trail no boy should miss!





DEATH ON THE PARKING LOT OR CAMPING CAN BE FUN

BY DON FRANKLIN

You finally rounded up all those noisy, boisterous boys. Then they laughed, scratched, kicked, hollered, and jumped on each other with reckless abandon. Unusual? Nope! Just normal boys at play.

Then you tried (gasp!) to quiet them down by stuffing donuts and hot chocolate into their bionic mouths. Somehow, by some miracle, it worked.

Then you hit the starter, but all you got was a twisted wrist. Nothing. Zilch. Ye olde battery was gone prematurely to ye olde battery graveyard. It was very, very dead.

Anxious minutes later, after endless phone calls, you finally cornered another battery, installed it, and now, once again, you're ready to start the

tired old bus. But wait—pandemonium breaks loose once again within the trembling confines of the bus. Why? The boys, with nothing to do, begin to wrestle, kick, shout, climb, leap from windows, crawl under dusty seats, and generally create mayhem—all this while waiting on the *battery that died on the parking lot*.

Just before you insert the worn old key, you again become acutely aware of a sound not unlike that of an exploding atom bomb. It's those noisy boys again! You swivel around, you glare heatedly at the boys, and get hit in the face with a wet sock. You note the unusual flavor, extract it from your mouth, and patiently lecture on the virtues of sweet silence. Long minutes later, the

boys are once again back to a low roar, something you can at least live with.

Hit the starter again! Never mind the crossed fingers—this time it works. You're on your way. But which route do we take? Where's the roadmap? Who's got the directions? Quick. Gotta stop. Call the pastor. *He* knows how to get to the campgrounds. Good old pastor.

Back again to waiting bus. Finally, you're rolling. Afternoon traffic. Irritated drivers. Slow signals. Hunger pangs. Shrunken stomachs. Noisy motor mouths. Now you've got a tension headache.

Hours later, after several pitstops to slack thirsty throats, you arrive at campsite, slam on the brakes. Boys pile out, get lost. Suddenly, it's silent. Too

DEATH ON THE PARKING LOT CONTINUED



silent. Something's wrong! You're right. Boys flew the coop. Go get 'em, somebody. We've gotta unload. Set up camp. I think it's gonna rain. Hurry.

Sound familiar? Unfortunately, you're off to a typical start. But—there's a better way, a *much* better way to enjoy camping or an annual Pow Wow. Mind if I offer a few suggestions? Since camping problems usually involve three basic areas, let's look at (1) personal comfort, (2) hygiene and sanitation, and (3) safety. Read it and weep.

PERSONAL COMFORT

Before you start, check out vital trip statistics. What? Where? When? Who? How? Route? What must you have for this particular camp-out? Check that bus carefully. Make sure extra fan belts are on board. Satisfy vital needs of bus; oil, antifreeze, tire pressure, spare tire, lugs tight, battery, spare keys, first aid kit, fire extinguisher, etc.

Get a 16-foot roll of plastic, obtainable from a contractor (he just might donate it!) or hardware store. What's it for? It makes a dandy groundcover, firewood cover, makeshift poncho (with safety pins, it's a cinch), windbreak, canopy, windshield. It's cheap. It's an all-around, useful camper's friend.

Binder twine? It's cheap, too. Useful and expendable. Use it for everything.

Build a shower. Follow Adventures in Camping directions. Not only do you get points, but a shower is five minutes of good, clean fun! Add a latrine: more points, more comfort.

Cots and air mattresses keep you dry, above wet floors. They're worth their weight in water. Think this over: You're heading into cool, wet, chigger and tick infested country. Plan ahead—bring coats and *insect repellent*. Nobody ever won prizes for scratching itches. *Nobody!*

Plastic bags? They're good for everything, even making a poncho for little squirts, in case of rain. Cut a hole for head and arms and presto! A boy poncho. **HYGIENE AND SANITATION**

Bring two 10-qt. buckets labeled, "soap," and "rinse." These are ab-

solutely essential for good camping. While hungry boys wolf down your delicious NTC-type food (write the National Office for National Training Camp Menu), you simply bring both buckets to a boil. Provide a washing dispenser with a wooden handle for soap, a mess kit cup for rinsing. Use tongs, if you like.

Remember: Cold water rinsing went out with high-button shoes. It's unsafe, old hat, obsolete, and dangerous. If mess kits and cooking gear are washed in hot soapy water and rinsed in boiling water, chances are you'll not be bothered by the "camper's revenge" caused by digestive upsets caused by unclean cooking/eating gear. Once you've experienced this common dilemma, you'll know what I mean when I say, "Hot, soapy water followed by boiling rinse water is the only way to go." *Please quote me on this.*

Lava soap cuts the mustard for everything from washing hands and clothes to cleaning cooking gear. It's great for smearing on bottoms of cooking gear, too. Keeps them cleaner, for sure. And it's great in *hard water* areas.

Some boys are allergic and don't even know it. Determine before hand special medical needs. Get it in writing from parents. Then follow through.

One outfit I know brings a retired senior Ranger along who is a dandy chuckwagon cook. He cooks while everyone else is out rambling around. When chow time rolls around, food is ready, hot, tasty. He ramrods clean-up chores and keeps things going while others are doing their thing. It works out great! Try it. You'll like it!

Homesickness? It's rough, but not terminal. Victim usually revives spontaneously when he sees the old homestead.

SAFETY

A good first aid kit is a must. Keep it well stocked and fresh. You'll definitely need it. Have flashlights and spare batteries handy. Keep knives and other cutting tools out of reach of unsure, untaught hands. Anticipate cuts, bruises, bites, scratches, butterflies in stomachs.

Suggestion: Advise boys wearing glasses to bring "spec holders," which hold glasses firmly in place in activity.

And don't forget that all-important insurance. Make sure it's current, in writing. Remember that your own *outpost public relations* is at stake. Whether you're aware of it or not, your outpost, your church, and your people suffer quite a lot when a boy arrives home sick or in bad shape. Negative PR hurts *everyone*. So why risk it? Plan everything on paper, from A to Z. Assign responsibilities to man and boy. Demand and get accountability. *Have a backup program ready. Just in case it rains.* ★

Setting up a Winter Camp

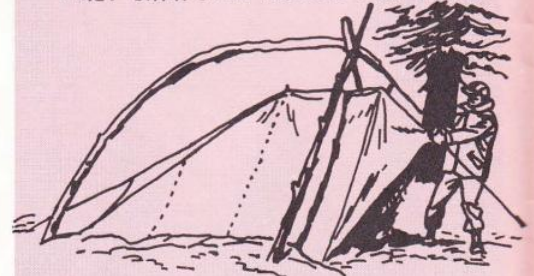
making camp

CHOOSE CAMPSITE LONG BEFORE DARK—THE SIDE OF A HILL, IN A CLUMP OF EVERGREENS—A SPOT THAT'S NOT TOO EXPOSED. NEVER PITCH CAMP UNDER DEAD TREES.

IN SNOW, TRAMPLE DOWN A WIDE AREA FOR TENTS, HARD ENOUGH TO HOLD YOU WHEN YOU TAKE OFF YOUR SKIS OR SNOWSHOES.



PITCH YOUR TENT SO THAT OPEN END FACES FIRE. BANK SNOW AROUND TENT SIDES.



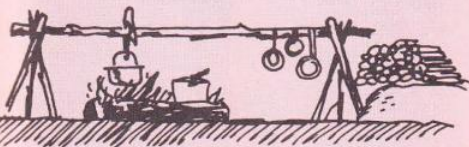
STORE UP PLENTY OF FIREWOOD. COLLECT TWICE AS MUCH AS YOU THINK YOU'LL USE.



cooking

USE A HUNTER'S FIRE. DIG SNOW AWAY TO BARE GROUND, IF POSSIBLE. PLACE A "FLOOR" OF STICKS AND BUILD FIRE ON IT. PUT LUG POLE THREE FEET OVER FIRE, SUPPORTED BY TRIPODS.

KEEP A POT OF WATER ON FIRE AT ALL TIMES. HOT STEWS, SOUPS, HOT CEREAL, HOT TEA, HOT LEMONADE, AND HOT CHOCOLATE ARE BEST FOR WINTER CAMPING CHOW. SERVE FOODS THAT ARE HIGH IN ENERGY AND FATS. CARRY EMERGENCY CHOCOLATE RATIONS WITH YOU FOR ENERGY BUILDING.



beddin' down

A SWEATSHIRT WITH A BUILT-IN HOOD AND A PAIR OF TRACK PANTS MAKE A FINE SLEEPING OUTFIT. UNDRESS IN YOUR SLEEPING BAG--FIRST FLUFF IT UP WELL--IT'S THE AIR, NOT THE STUFFING, THAT KEEPS YOU WARM.



HAVE MORE UNDERNEATH THAN ABOVE: MORE LAYERS OF BLANKETS, OR SLEEPING-BAG AIR MATTRESS, BROWSE-FILLED TICK ON TOP OF GROUND CLOTH.



IF LOST, MAKE SHELTER OF EVERGREEN BRANCHES, BENT OVER TO FORM WIND-BREAK. GATHER LOTS OF WOOD; BUILD A FIRE, KEEP IT GOING. RELAX AND WAIT-- YOU'LL SOON BE FOUND IF YOU DON'T WANDER AROUND!



PRIORITIES

BY SILAS L. GAITHER, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF CHURCH MINISTRIES

The Christian leader should be especially careful in his selection of priorities. There must be a selection and rejection and then concentration on the things of paramount importance. He cannot do everything. But there are things he must do. Emerson said, "The things that we must do are all that count, not what people think."

Priorities must relate directly to our relationship to Christ.

Setting priorities related directly to our God-given responsibility does not stifle creativity. Such action will likely bring about a surge of creative energy.

A story of an old-fashioned grocery store illustrates beautifully this point. A gentleman who was making calls on the grocery store noticed in the window there was a sign that the grocer made free deliveries as part of his service. The groceryman said, "It doesn't really make any difference as business is bad." He hadn't used his delivery truck in two weeks. The salesman challenged him. "I can give you an idea that will guarantee your making ten deliveries this afternoon." The grocer was astonished, "Quick tell me how."

The salesman picked up the telephone book, opened it at random, and said, "Pick any name you like." The grocer selected a name. "Now, call the lady of the house and tell her who you are and mention that you will be in her neighborhood this afternoon with your truck and that you will be glad to bring anything she happens to need."

While the grocer made ten phone calls and got ten orders he also learned that afternoon that his business could be just as good as he wanted it to be.

There is nothing more exciting than a good idea and a good idea is usually nothing more than a reshuffling of existing conditions to make things easier, faster, and more convenient. From time to time shuffle things which demand your time and decide what must be done. Restructure, rearrange into the priority of what you know must be done in the light of your calling and your responsibility to the One who called you.

Put your priorities in perspective!

We are constantly faced with the decision as to whom or to what we will give our time and energy. Therefore, we must plan carefully and arrange our individual priorities.

First, we should schedule those things which *must* be done.

Secondly, schedule those things which *should* be done.

Thirdly, schedule those things which *can* be done.

Money, for example, is important but it shouldn't be our priority item. Jesus said, "After these things do the Gentiles seek, but seek ye first the kingdom of God."

Money will buy a bed but not sleep—
—Books but not brains
—Food but not appetite
—Finery but not beauty
—Medicine but not health
—Amusement but not happiness

PRIORITIES CONTINUED

—A Crucifix but not a Saviour

—A temple of religion but not heaven.

There are at least three questions we might ask ourselves as we think of our priorities: How do I spend my time? How do I spend my resources? What do I allow to interrupt me?

It would seem appropriate to place your family in all the answers to the above questions. Your family is so important to your ministry to boys. The harmony and love in the home will also be evident in your association with Royal Rangers.

Another answer to the three questions would be people. Those individual boys you will reach for Christ through the Royal Rangers. The men with whom you work. The parents of the boys in your outpost. These people are worth your time, resources, and an occasional interruption.

May we remember that our priorities as Christian leaders are centered in the depths of Christ's cause. "They which live should not henceforth live unto themselves but unto Him who died for them and arose again."

Every day brings us face-to-face with a choice of priorities. It has been said each morning puts a man on trial and each evening passes judgment. Let us find our life by losing it in His purpose and will. Allow the Holy Spirit to set us apart for the work He has called us to do. What an important task—a ministry with boys.

"A boy is a bank where you can deposit your precious treasures—the hard, worn wisdom, the dreams of a better world.

A boy can guard and protect these and perhaps invest wisely with a profit—profit larger than you ever dreamed. A boy will inherit your world. All the work will be judged by him.

Tomorrow he will take your seat in Congress, own your company, run your town. The future is his, and through him the future is yours. Perhaps he deserves a little more than your attention now."

(author unknown) 🖐



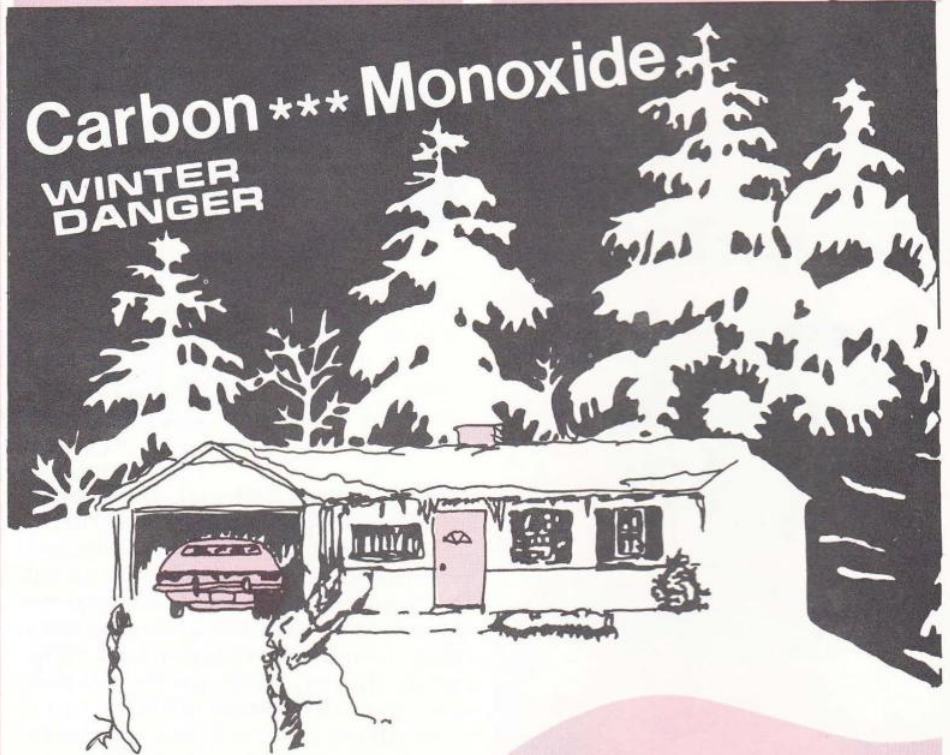
Carbon monoxide poisoning is a winter danger. Each cold season, hundreds of deaths occur. Many of the tragedies could be prevented if adults, teenagers, and even children were always conscious that such a danger exists and took steps to eliminate the causes.

Any fuel containing carbon—coal, wood, gasoline, kerosene, natural gas, artificial gas—when

- All pipes in a heating system should be checked for leaks. Major repairs should never be postponed.

- Gas fires may be lowered at night. Keep bedroom windows slightly open at the top. The fresh air that enters may be enough to prevent the accumulation of too much carbon monoxide.

- When riding in an automo-



burned with too little oxygen present will give off carbon monoxide. This is doubly dangerous because carbon monoxide gas has neither color nor odor by which it can be detected. Anyone breathing it usually falls asleep without realizing that he is being poisoned.

One part of the gas in 100,000 parts of air will produce symptoms of poisoning. One part in 750 parts of air causes death in half an hour. When carbon monoxide enters the body, the blood cannot carry oxygen which each cell needs for life.

These precautionary steps may help prevent carbon monoxide poisoning:

bile, keep a window slightly open at the top. Be especially careful when you park and leave the motor running. Never leave children alone in a parked car with the motor running. Open garage doors before you start your car.

- Anytime a room seems too stuffy, open doors and windows for a while. Check fires and gas pipes for any malfunction.

- Teach each member of the family about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. Everyone should know about and understand that there are ways of preventing accidents.

(By O.J. Robertson)



THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

by Trevor Chick

Aberaman, South Wales

THE COMMANDER'S PURPOSE: To show how precious we are to God.
COMMANDER: A dealer was finally ending his search for the world's largest pearl—having just one person left to see. Other large pearls that he had seen in his search had not appealed to him.

When finally reaching his destination, the dealer was sitting opposite an old man whose face was weather-beaten and sunburned. After showing him a large and beautiful pearl and listening to the dealer's efforts to buy it, the old man told the dealer that it was not for sale. He then proceeded to tell him why.

"My son used to dive for pearls and I used to stay in the boat. One day I told myself that he had been under water too long without coming up for air. I was telling him to hurry, although I knew he couldn't hear me. Eventually he surfaced—exhausted. I pulled him into the boat and tried to revive him, but he was dead. His right hand was clenched in a fist and it took all my strength to open it. When I eventually did manage to open his hand, I saw this pearl. My son had given his life for it."

When the dealer heard this he no longer tried to persuade the old man to sell him the pearl.

SCRIPTURE: "Ye are bought with a price—but not with silver and gold." Jesus gave his life for us, that we might be saved from sin. To God, we are all pearls—we are precious in His sight. He knows and cares for each one of us.

PRAYER: Help us Lord to be ever grateful for the gift of your Son. Thank you for the extent of your love toward us. Help us to be always grateful and mindful of that love, and keep us ever true to you. Amen.

HAVE A BALANCE

by Gerald C. Fullingim

Old Ocean, Texas

(Have a balance of some sort in plain view.)

Boys, it says in the Bible, Daniel 5:27, that one of these days we are going to be weighed in God's balances. Our weight in God's balances will be determined by our being *Alert, Clean, Honest, Courageous, Loyal, Courteous, Obedient, Spiritual* to God's teachings.

(Place a weight on one side of the scale.) Now boys, notice the weight made the scales tip heavily to one side. Remember that weight in God's eyes is all things from His teachings or Word.

(Place a heavier weight on the other side of the scale.) Now boys, when we disobey God, then the balance will be heavily shifted to the opposite side and every other bad act can add more weight to the already overweighted side.

Boys, if your life would be taken from you in this condition, then where would your soul spend eternity?

Now boys, I also ask if your life would be taken when the balances were shifted in God's favor, then where would your soul spend eternity? Fellows, you can make the decision to live and do the right things for Jesus and have the balances always in your favor.

Fellows, as we pray, let us completely give our lives to Christ and he will remove all the weight caused by sin.

MAKING PREPARATION

by Evon C. Sims

Lake Jackson, Texas

As the end of the month drew near, the Admiral of the Navy decided to pay a visit to the crew members of the ships that were docked in the harbor. So, he made plans and preparations to go. He sent word that he was coming for inspection. When word reached the sailor's ears that the Admiral was coming to pay them a visit, they got

into high gear, cleaning the decks of the ships from top to bottom, getting their uniforms starched and ironed, doing everything possible to get ready for the coming of the Admiral.

When the day finally arrived, everybody and everything was in tip-tip condition, ships and sailors looked spotless. All their efforts to get ready were well rewarded. The Admiral came and the inspection went smoothly. Everybody passed with flying colors, only because the Admiral had sent word of his coming.

Just think boys, what if the Admiral hadn't sent word to the crew members of his coming? They would have been unprepared. That's why God today is sending us word of His Son Jesus' soon return. When Jesus returns He is coming for those who are prepared and ready. That's why He wants us to live for Him every day and look for Him. He's giving us adequate time for preparation. So lets take advantage of the time we have left.

THE CAMEL AND THE TENT


by Trevor Chick

Aberaman, South Wales

The Camel and the Tent

THE COMMANDER'S PURPOSE: To show how it is possible for sin to spread, and how it can be allowed to take over the heart.

COMMANDER: Many years ago, a traveler used to journey through the desert, with his camel, pitching his tent at night just as we have done for this one night camp-out. He always lit a good fire, and cooked his supper on it before getting into his tent to go to sleep. One night, the wind was cold and strong, and the traveler tied his camel to one of the tent pegs and went to bed. He was just dozing off to sleep when he heard his camel say, "Master, it's cold out here—may I put my nose inside your tent—I'm sure I'll be much warmer then." "All right," replied the traveler, "but just your nose." And he tried to go

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15 

ON BECOMING A MAN

BY RACHEL KING

You're 14, Son, and by your definition a man. But are you?

You brag about being able to lift 100 pounds over your head, while I carry out the five-pound bag of garbage.

You put on sophisticated airs for others. I see you watch cartoons on Saturday.

You're concerned about pollution and our dirty environment, while your own room looks like the city dump.

You come out of the bathroom looking as neat and orderly as a private reporting for inspection. The bathroom looks like Hurricane Hilda spent the weekend there.

You forget other people's birthday, but begin dropping hints about yours, two weeks after your last one.

You complain about drying a dozen dishes and spend all Saturday washing and waxing your bike.



You grumble about having to walk to the corner store for me. The next weekend you hike ten miles for a Royal Rangers merit badge.

You hide your brother's baseball glove and five minutes later share the last of your candy with him.

You won't wear a dirty shirt, but your face and washrag have only a casual relationship.

You complain about girls. Yet, when one calls, you tie up the phone for hours. Yet when I ask what you find to talk about, "Nothing" is the only answer I get.

I've seen another side of you too.

You'd die rather than let your friends see you kiss your baby sister. However, when she's hurting you think no one is watching, you've tenderly picked her up and kissed her."

I've seen your skill and patience pay off as you fix "unrepairable" things around the house.

On rare moments, you've treated your kid brother as an equal, much to his surprise and pleasure.

Once when you lost \$10 of your paper route money, you made it up yourself without telling us.

On one occasion (I had to be very



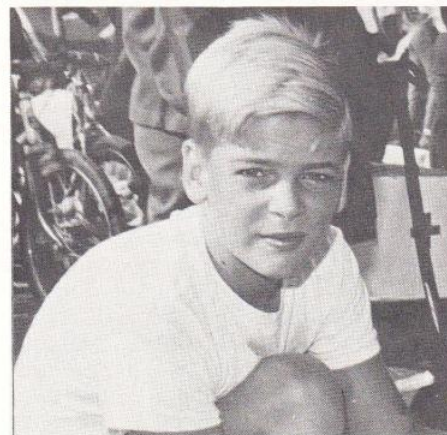
sick) you cleaned the house, cooked and baby-sat all on the same day.

You're still shocked by dirty politics, thank goodness.

When important plans of yours have had to be put off indefinitely, you've accepted it without complaint.

I will never forget when your father was in the hospital and you had to be the man of the house for a long time. Even after he came home, you continued quietly doing his chores until he was able to take them over again.

A boy? No. A man? Not yet. Rather, a very special person filled with unique ideas and expanded feelings—and I'm very proud of you.☆



IN COLD WEATHER, WEAR LOOSE FITTING CLOTHES IN LAYERS OR "SHELLS!" KEEP IT DRY!



START WITH "LONG-JOHNS" NOT TOO TIGHT.



NEXT A FLANNEL SHIRT, WOOL TROUSERS.



NEXT A WOOL, TURTLE NECK SWEATER.



WEAR WOOLEN GLOVES WITH WATER-REPELLENT SHELLS OVER THEM IN WET WEATHER.



ADD A LIGHT JACKET, WOOL CAP, HEAVY BOOTS.



FOR VERY SEVERE COLD WEATHER, OR WET, COLD RAIN, WEAR WATER-REPELLENT JACKET OR COAT OVER ALL YOUR OTHER CLOTHES; WEAR WATER-PROOF SHELLS OVER GLOVES AND GALOSHES.

Winter Wear

OUTPOST COMMANDER'S AWARD

The outpost Commander's Award is a special achievement award for Outpost Commanders who have demonstrated outstanding service in achieving the goals of the overall Royal Rangers program. The following is a list of categories in which points may be earned for this award. Except for the Leadership Training Course, National Training Camps and National Training Trails, all points earned must be earned for service rendered during the current calendar year.

Name _____ Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ District _____ Outpost Number _____

FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH THE NUMBER OF POINTS EARNED:

1. AN UP-TO-DATE CHARTERED GROUP: 25 points. _____
2. COMPLETED LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE: 25 points (or 5 points for each completed section). _____
3. ADVANCEMENT PARTICIPATION: 25 points if at least 50% of boys in your outpost received an advancement, and at least four Councils of Achievement were conducted. _____
4. FOUR OUTPOST CAMPOUTS: 10 points; 2 points for each extra campout. _____
5. OUTPOST OUTINGS: 2 points for each outpost outing other than campouts. _____
6. ATTENDING A NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP: 10 points. _____
7. ATTENDING A NATIONAL TRAINING TRAIL: 10 points. _____
8. OUTPOST PARTICIPATION IN A DISTRICT POW WOW: 10 points. _____
9. BOYS WON TO CHRIST: 5 points for each boy. _____
10. NEW MEMBERS: 2 points for each new member. _____
11. RANGER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM: 10 points. _____
12. WEARING PROPER UNIFORM: 5 points. _____
13. OUTPOST MEETINGS: 1 point for each meeting conducted. _____

REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARD

1. The outpost must have an up-to-date charter.
2. The Commander must have completed at least Sections I & II of the Leadership Training Course.
3. A minimum of 175 points are needed to qualify (150 points for Buckaroo leaders).

All Outpost Commanders who meet the above qualifications will be eligible to receive and wear the Outpost Commander's Award. Time period - JANUARY 1 of the current year through DECEMBER 31.

NOTE: Please complete your copy of the Outpost Commander's Award Evaluation Sheet and mail it to your District Commander, not the National Office. Your District Commander will supervise the awarding of the Outpost Commander's Award. Three dollars should be attached to cover the cost of the medal.

If all Outpost Commanders of one church earn this award, the Senior Commander may wear an Outpost Commander's Award also.

ROYAL RANGERS

Assemblies of God Boys Program

JOHNNIE BARNES
National Commander

PAUL STANEK
National Promotional &
Training Coordinator



1445 BOONVILLE AVE.
SPRINGFIELD, MO. 65802

Dear Royal Rangers Leader:

Choice Christian greetings!

This is your personal invitation to attend a Royal Rangers National Training Camp. These camps are designed to give you the very best of training for all phases of the Royal Rangers program, with the major emphasis on camping!

Attending NTC is one of the greatest investments you can make! We therefore, urge you if at all possible, to take advantage of this opportunity.

The attached application form lists dates and locations of the camp. Since we must limit each camp to 64 men, we encourage you to send in your application as soon as possible.

For those leaders who have already attended an NTC, you are invited to attend one or all of three additional training experiences.

On the National Training Trail you will participate in one of four outstanding, rugged outdoor adventures surrounded by some of America's most beautiful scenery. We will be on the trail for three exciting days, carrying all our gear and food in backpacks. The dates and locations: Lake Tahoe, CA--May 3-6; White River Ranch, AR--May 24-27; Riggins, ID--June 7-10; and Bakers Mills, NY--Sept. 20-23.

The Advanced National Training Camp picks up where NTC left off. One of the features will be multimedia first aid training. Each trainee will receive an official Red Cross card with instructor status. Other subjects will include pioneering, survival, search and rescue, how to succeed, emergency training, basic water safety, plus others. Dates and locations: Lake Arrowhead, CA--Sept. 5-9; Jacksonville, TX Sept. 26-30.

The National Aquatic Camp is designed to give leaders training techniques needed to provide an aquatic program for boys. Subjects to be taught are canoeing, sailing, lifesaving, waterfront management, and many others. Many of these classes will be Red Cross certified, and trainees will receive official Red Cross cards. Date and location: Lake Arrowhead, CA--July 2-7.

For further information and applications, please contact the National Office.

Here's hoping you will be able to join us for one of these exciting adventures!

"READY" in His service,

Johnnie Barnes
National Commander

JHB:dj

NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP

APPLICATION

1979

NAME _____ STREET ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 CHURCH _____ DISTRICT _____
 OCCUPATION _____ AGE _____

I am a registered Royal Rangers leader serving in the following capacity:

Position _____ Type of Outpost _____ Outpost No. _____

CAMP PREFERENCE

(Check one of the following)

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--|--------------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | South Central | Mountain View Camp, Jacksonville, TX | April 19-22, | 1979 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | North Central | Rum River Camp, Anoka, MN | May 10-13, | 1979 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gulf | District Campgrounds, Goodlettsville, TN | May 10-13, | 1979 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Southwest | (Location pending) | May 24-27, | 1979 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Northwest | American River Camp, American River, WA | July 5-8, | 1979 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | West Central | BSC Ben Delatour, Red Feathers Lakes, CO | July 26-29, | 1979 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Northeast | A/G Campground, Schooley's Mtn., NJ | Sep. 13-16, | 1979 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Northwoods | Lost Valley Camp, Gaylord, MI | Sep. 27-30, | 1979 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Southeast | Camp Euchee, De Funiak Springs, FL | Oct. 11-14, | 1979 |

You must be in good health in order to participate in the strenuous activities of the training camp. Therefore, it is required that you have a physical examination. After the examination, please sign the following statement. "After consultation with my physician I know of no physical reason that would restrict me from participating in the camp activities."

(Signature)

Medical facts we should know in case of emergency:

In case of emergency notify: Name _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Phone _____ Relationship _____

REGISTRATION FEE

Because of the limited size and the advanced cost of setting up these camps, a \$20 registration fee must accompany this application. This will be applied toward the total camp fee which will be approximately \$42. If for any reason you are unable to attend camp, you must notify our office two weeks prior to the camp to receive a refund!

Mail this form to: Royal Rangers, 1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, MO 65802

Credit to account:001-01-031-4101-000

NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT CHECK LIST

CLOTHING

1 complete Class B Royal Rangers uniform (long sleeve khaki shirt, khaki trousers, khaki Royal Rangers belt--no dress coats or ties are worn)
Please note: No cap or hat is needed. A special beret will be issued.
(Every item except emblem, nametab and district strip should be removed from uniform)
1 Royal Rangers jacket
1 Royal Rangers sweatshirt (for colder areas only)
1 pair Army fatigue trousers or other work-type trousers for casual wear
2 Royal Rangers T-shirts
Extra uniforms or fatigues for fresh change, as desired
1 pair heavy shoes or boots for camp activities and hiking
2 pairs heavy socks (navy or black)
1 poncho or raincoat with hood
Underclothing and handkerchiefs
Pajamas

PERSONAL ITEMS

Sleeping bag
Folding camp cot
Toilet kit and mirror (no outlet for electric razor)
Towels and washcloths
Mess kit (plate, bowl, and cup)
Silverware kit (knife, fork and spoon)
Canteen
Pack and lightweight pack frame (for overnight hike)
Small lightweight tent (for overnight hike)
Ground cloth (waterproof)
Air mattress or foam pad
Flashlight with extra batteries
Personal first aid kit
Pocket knife and whetstone
Hand axe
8 inch mill file
Compass (Silva style preferred)
Waterproof match container with matches
"Adventures in Camping" handbook
"Leader's Manual"
Small Bible
Pen and pencil

OPTIONAL ITEMS

Sunburn lotion	Camera
Sunglasses	Compact sewing kit
Insect repellent	Survival kit
Folding plastic cup	Small package of facial tissues
Thermal underwear (for colder areas)	Ditty bag to carry small items
Nail clippers with fingernail file	Pillow



Success in the Royal Rangers program depends on the Leader's attitude. The average Royal Rangers leader is around the 70% mark. Rate your willingness to do various jobs and activities in your outpost. →

JOB TO BE DONE	PERCENTAGE	YOUR ATTITUDE
I did	= 100%	= Feeling of accomplishment
I will	= 90%	= Determined to do it
I can	= 80%	= Knowledge of will power
I will try	= 70%	= Willingness to try
I think I can	= 60%	= Faith in self
Do you think I can	= 50%	= Lack of confidence
I wish I could	= 40%	= Desire in oneself
I can't	= 30%	= Inability in oneself
I don't care	= 20%	= Indifference to the program
I don't want to	= 10%	= Stubbornness to help
I won't	= 0%	= No desire to help

OBSERVING THE "SNEAK"

Materials needed: About 50 feet of string; 2 1/4 dia. key rings

Run string through key rings and tie both ends together.

Boys form a circle (sitting) Indian fashion. Each boy holds the string with both hands so that he may slide a hand over the string to reach his neighbor. A boy "it" is in the corner of the circle.

The object of the game is to pass the key ring to each other without the "it" detecting the exchange. When he ("it") thinks he has one spotted he calls "sneak" and points to the hand he thinks has the ring. He then exchanges places with the one whom he caught and the game continues. If he misses the game continues until he catches one or he misses three times. Then a new boy is selected.

ROYAL RANGER CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Make up a crossword puzzle relating to the Royal Rangers program. Have copies run off for each boy and have the boys find the words from a list describing them. They must fill in all squares with a letter.

Make up a puzzle of letters so that words can be spelled in a diagonal, horizontal, and a vertical direction. Run off enough copies of this puzzle for each boy and have them find the words and circle them from a list of words supplied. These words can relate to the Royal Rangers program or the

Bible. All words must be circled.

Have each boy draw a picture of the front of the church by memory. Judge them to see who has the best one.

Have a quiz using the letter "C" or any other letter in the alphabet using questions made up to add letters to the letter "C" in order to come up with the answer. For example: Add two letters to the letter "C" to get the article Joseph put in his brother Benjamin's sack. Answer: Cup.

Scramble letters of the names of characters from the Bible or books of the Bible on slips of paper. Have the boys try to unscramble them. First boy who unscrambles all the words is the winner!

"TAWAIS" (Tors) (A Comanche Indian Game)


Materials needed: 4 wooden stakes (1 1/2 inches in diameter, 18 inches long), lengths of nylon cord, a soccer ball, and a small sledge hammer.

Preparation: 2 stakes are driven into the ground 3 feet apart and then the nylon cord is tied from one stake to the other about 9 inches off of the ground. The other 2 stakes are driven in the same way but 5 yards away and parallel to the other two. Use 7 yards for the Trailblazers.

Procedure: Assemble the players on each team or patrol in a small circle behind each nylon cord tied between stakes. (The player closest to the cord must stand 3 feet from it.) He will be the

one who serves the ball first, but he cannot return it. Players must rotate in a circle behind the cord (3 feet away) after a player serves the ball. No player can hit the ball more than once while serving it or during the returning of the ball, which means that the players must rotate once one player has hit it once.

The game is started by a kick only, but in returning the ball it can be returned using the hands or any part of the body. Players are not allowed to hold on to the ball. If the ball falls between the cords while serving or returning the ball, the other team is credited with 2 points. A player will be disqualified to play if he stops or holds the ball 3 times. If the ball lands behind the opposing team's cord that is counted 2 points for that team. If while the ball is being served and it doesn't go directly over the opposing team's cord (to the right or left of it), that team loses its serve and the serve goes to the other team. If the ball doesn't go over the opposing team's cord during a return that counts 2 points for the opposing team. If the ball goes straight up in the air without going over the cord another player must hit it. Only 3 tries are allowed to get the ball over the opposing team's cord during a serve, or a return. If a team fails after 3 hits the other team gets credit with 2 points. This game can be ended in two ways—the first team who earns 26 points or the team who is leading when "time" is called will be declared the winning team.

Continued on page 15 

YOUR OUTPOST PLANNING GUIDE



BUCKAROOS/PIONEERS

DECEMBER

- 1st Week: Friendship. (What is a friend, what does the Bible state about friendship, how to make friends.)
- 2nd Week: Friendship in your outpost. (How to be a good friend to other Royal Rangers.) Arrange for boys to get better acquainted with each other. Stress the importance of including others in their activities.
- 3rd Week: Friendship in your community. (How to be a good neighbor.) Community activities that reflect concern, etc.
- 4th Week: Friendship in church. (How to be friendly in church, practical ways to show we are a friend to our church.)
Activities: Christmas party, visit a neighboring outpost.
Project: Secure or make Christmas gifts for needy

children in your neighborhood.

JANUARY

- 1st Week: Crafts as a hobby. (How crafts can be fun and beneficial.)
- 2nd Week: This is my hobby. (Sharing by boys.) If boys do not have a hobby, have them select a hobby.
- 3rd Week: Outpost craft project. (Let the boys help you decide on a project.)
- 4th Week: Techniques for working with crafts.
Activities: Conduct a family night crafts and hobby show. Give prizes, etc. Winter group activities such as sledding, snowshoeing, skating, etc.
Projects: Complete outpost craft project. Reference: (Leader's Manual pages 78, 79. Check li-

brary for books on crafts, Ben Hunt books are good.

FEBRUARY

- 1st Week: I'm an American. (Why we should be glad we're citizens of the U.S.)
- 2nd Week: America is great. (A survey of principles that made America great.)
- 3rd Week: How to be a good citizen. (Responsibilities of citizenship.)
- 4th Week: Our flag. (How to display and respect our American flag.)
Activities: Visit a historical site or monument. Valentine party.
Projects: Secure American, Christian, and Royal Rangers flags. Assign boys to color guard teams and train them on how to present colors. Let teams

alternate in presenting colors at outpost meetings.
Reference: (Leader's

Manual pages 67-70.
Check military reserves for booklets on flags.

Check library for books on citizenship.

TRAILBLAZERS/AIR/SEA/TRAILRANGERS

DECEMBER

- 1st Week: Importance of first aid.
2nd Week: First aid teamwork. (Patrol involvement, demonstrating skills, etc.)
3rd Week: Wintertime first aid and safety. (Frostbite, freezing, ice rescue, plus preventions.)
4th Week: Home emergencies. (Poison, fire, storm—develop a plan.)
Reference: (Leader's Manual pages 131-134), (High Adventure, Winter 76-77, page 6 and Winter 74-75, page 14), (Trailblazer Handbook pages 22, 23 or Air-Sea-Trail Rangers Handbook pages 120-183), (Red Cross First Aid Handbook).

Activities—First Aid Meet. Lost man first aid rescue hike.

Special project: Make or secure items for a complete first aid kit including splints and stretcher.

JANUARY

- 1st Week: Knot techniques. (How to tie various knots, give boys an opportunity to demonstrate skill.
2nd Week: Purpose of knots. (Practical uses for knots.)
3rd Week: Knots and lashing. (Combine knots and lashing together.)
4th Week: Using lashing. (Various ways to use lashing for practical and useful objects, make or show examples.)

ACTIVITIES: Knot tying contest, winter hike.

PROJECTS: Make portable camp furniture using proper lashing. Have a miniature camp furniture contest using sticks and string instead of ropes and poles.

Reference: (Adventures in Camping, chapter 5.)

FEBRUARY

- 1st Week: The importance and value of physical fitness. (List benefits.)
2nd Week: Exercise. (Staying fit through right exercising.)
3rd Week: Poor diet and bad habits. (How poor diet and bad habits can harm our bodies.)
4th Week: Developing a year-around program of good health.

Activities: Plan regular group activities that cultivate good exercise.

Project: Prepare a large physical fitness chart illustrating good health habits. Assist each boy in developing his own regular physical fitness program.

Reference: (Leader's Manual, pages 107, 108, Air-Sea-Trail Rangers Handbook pages 134-138 or Trailblazer Handbook pages 35-39.)

THE DISPATCH STAFF
REMINDS ALL THE ROYAL
RANGER OUTPOSTS OF A
FAMOUS QUOTE:

"BE STILL, AND KNOW
THAT I AM GOD."

[Ps. 46:10]



MERRY CHRISTMAS

It was close to 2 a.m. as I made my way up the path from the Idaho campsite to my tent in the headquarters area. Several men had given of their time and sleep to help calculate the hundreds of scores to determine the 1978 national sportsarama winners.

The path was dark. Many sounds came from the darkness of beautiful Farragut Idaho State Park. A most unexpected sound was a voice, "Sir, would you like to join us in prayer?" I did not expect this question at 2 a.m. Neither did I expect teenage boys to be praying at that hour.

You ask, was the national Camporama valuable? My response in one word is "Invaluable!"

As I stood on the stage of Fort Royal, the old fort we constructed and looked up the hillside, the thought occurred to me that none of these men and boys will feel they are serving God alone.

Eighteen hundred men and boys singing, praying, and worshipping together. What a sight! What a mighty army of men, some old and some young, but all marching with the cross of Jesus.

Royal Rangers from across our nation were making new friends, while others were renewing friendships which started four years ago at the first national Royal Rangers Camporama.

The togetherness was beautiful to see. Relationships were established between leaders and boys. Without this camp setting it would take months and years to see this development. There was no generation gap. The ideal father-son relationship was observed as men and boys learned, played, and prayed together.

Building these kinds of relationships requires time, association, and discipline. The value of discipline was

transmitted on a functional basis as Royal Rangers followed a rigid schedule for setting up campsites, meals, and activities. Eighteen hundred people arriving for church on time is a valuable lesson learned.

The Camporama took tremendous cooperation. Many men worked together. This was so keenly observed by those who were not deeply involved. State health representatives and the Forest Rangers at the park made special note of the super cooperation between our Royal Rangers leaders, boys, and headquarters staff.

Often during the Camporama I thanked God for the leadership that the Assemblies of God has in our Royal Rangers ministry. Seeing the national staff, Johnnie Barnes and Paul Stanek and hundreds of other Royal Rangers leaders from all walks of life pooling their efforts and working together for a



God blessed the Camporama with fun and worship-filled days that resulted in spirited competition, deep appreciation for our American Heritage, and a bonanza of other unequalled joys.

NATIONAL CAMPORAMA —

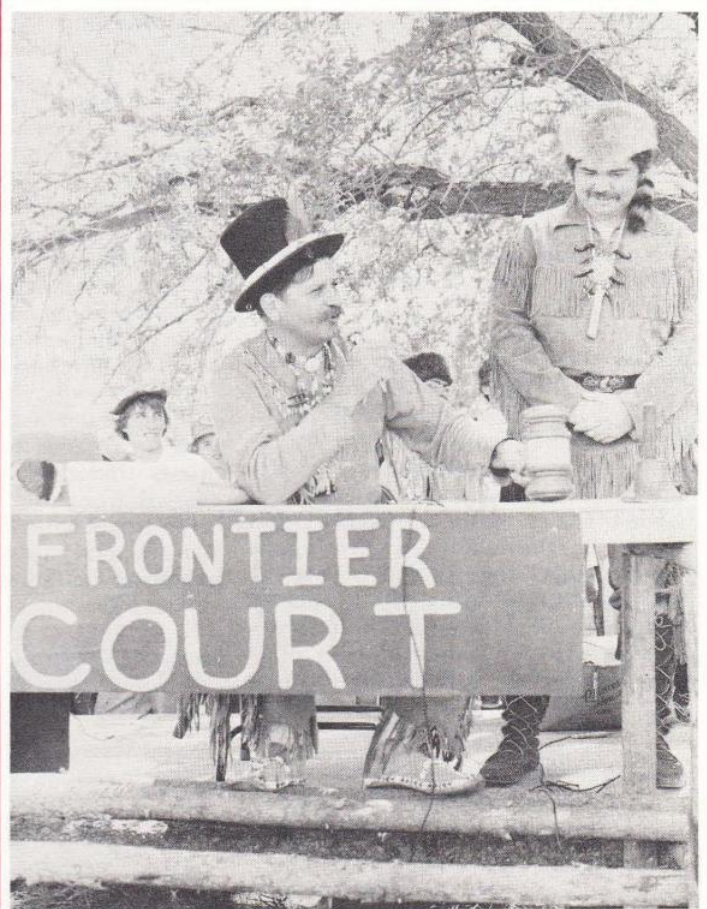


Invaluable

BY PAUL MCGARVEY



How often can you label an experience as *invaluable*?
The Christian principles shared by leaders and Rangers, alike, is what made it a time worth valuing.



common goal—boys—was tremendous. Winning and losing was shared by all the Rangers during the week. Competition was spirited. It was not easy for judges to select the best campsite, best camp entrance, and best organized camping area. But when the winners were announced, a loud applause came forth showing approval.

In the sportsarama and Bible quiz the competition was keen. The desire to win was intense. However, when trophies were awarded, the sportsmanship and Christian ethics stood tall. Pats on the back and congratulations were evident.

Some say the best thing about the

Camporama was the appreciation gained for our American heritage which was portrayed through pageantry, skits, frontier village, and other events. Understanding for the American Indians and a real sense of gratitude to God for our country was on the lips and minds of many Rangers.

Appreciation is an important value because it comes from a sensitive awareness and judgment. As one boy was loading up, a leader said, "This was worth it just to see the beautiful country that our God created."

"I didn't know I could do it," was a

remark coming from an excited young man. He had just accomplished a new skill and received recognition for it. Hundreds of boys learned new skills in the skillarama, nature, Bible, and other useful events.

Learning skills to make living in our world better was important and will have carry-over effect.

The real value of an event is determined by how the experiences of the event are applied in the behavior of the participants. If the event has a carry-over into meaningful results in Christian growth, it is valuable. That's why I describe the '78 national Royal Rangers Camporama as "Invaluable."

COPE WITH COLD WEATHER

BY STEPHENIE SLAHOR, Ph.D.

Cold weather survival is not a topic just for mountaineers and outdoorsmen. It is a topic for anyone who lives where the weather is likely to grow cold from the season or from altitude.

First, let's get familiar with some of the weather forecaster's terms used to describe cold weather problems. If you know what it is that is being predicted, you can plan how to cope with that particular problem.

Ice storm, freezing rain, freezing drizzle. Anytime these are in the forecast, it means that moisture is going to collect and freeze on surfaces. There will be coatings of ice on roadways, utility wires, trees, etc. The severity of these coatings can be so great that the tree limbs and branches, or utility wires will bend and snap to the ground.

Snow. Occasional or intermittent snow means the snow fall will be irregular over whatever time period is covered. Flurries mean visibility will be affected by the amount of flakes in the air. Heavy snow means an accumulation of at least four inches in twelve hours or at

least six inches in twenty-four hours. Snow squalls mean there will be short, but intense periods of snow usually accompanied by gusty winds. Blowing and drifting snow means visibility will be greatly affected. Blizzard denotes a condition when the wind is at least 34 mph, the temperature is 20° or less, and there is snow. There could be a severe blizzard warning too.

Cold wave. This means that there will be a rapid fall in temperature within the next 24 hours from the forecast.

Wind chill. This "factor" combines the air temperature with the force of the wind to give an equivalency of air temperature and its effect on exposed skin. Even though the temperature may be cool or cold, it can be dangerously cold if the wind is blowing. The wind chill warnings give you an idea of what the temperature is really like to your body.

Sleet. These are frozen raindrops, but unlike the freezing rain or drizzle mentioned above, these droplets bounce. They do not coat the surface as an ice storm does.

Now that you know what the weather will be like, let's see what you can do to protect yourself from it.

At home. As soon as the winter season approaches, you should take stock of your supplies on hand. You should have at least one battery operated radio or television and extra batteries that are fresh. Your fuel supply should be such that you have enough even though your fuel supplier may not be able to get to you for a time period. If you depend on utility service, have an alternate heating source, such as a camp heater (be sure you have adequate

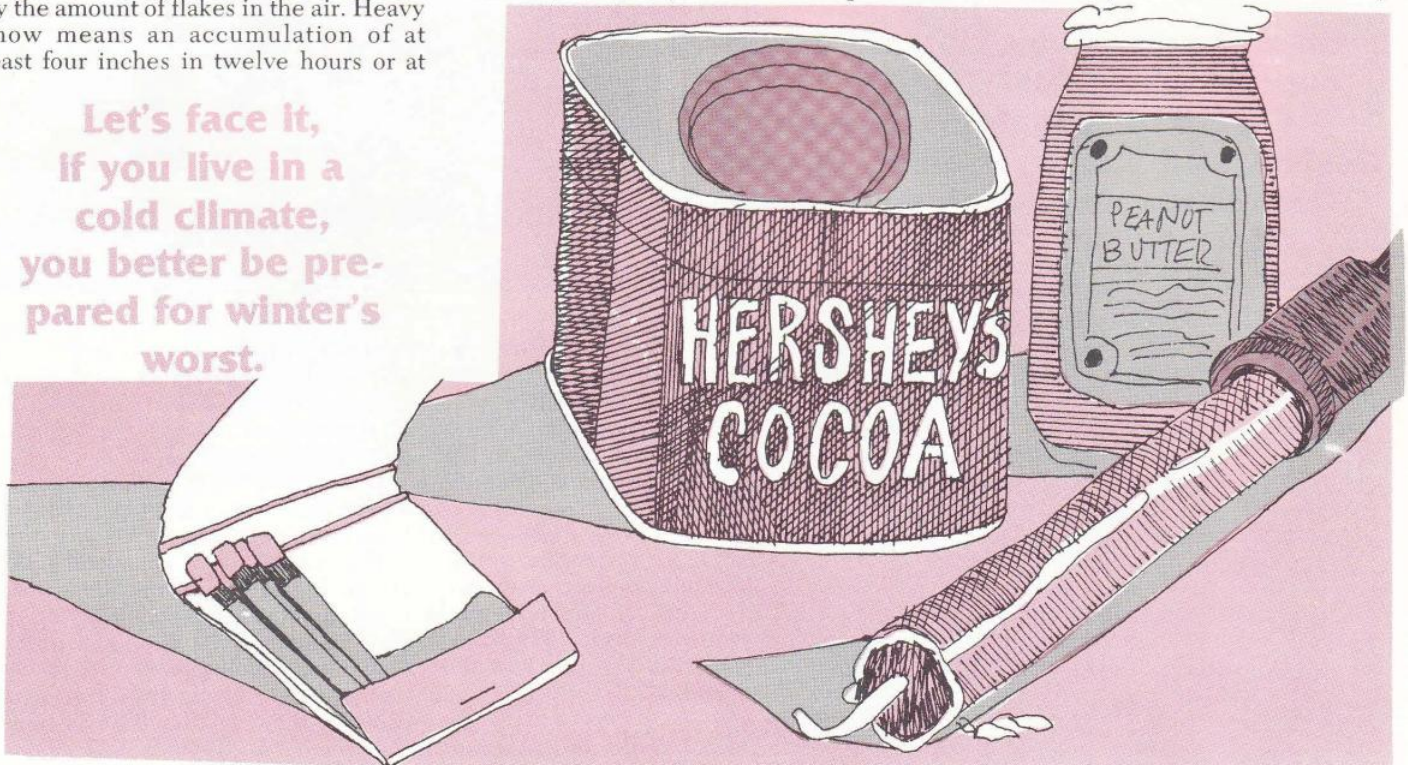
ventilation) or a fireplace along with fuel for the alternate source. Keep a goodly supply of food on hand that doesn't need cooking or refrigeration. This food should be high in nutrition since cold weather robs your body of its "stores." Keep several flashlights and spare batteries and bulbs on hand too. And you may want to have a few oil lamps and oil available for lighting too. Candles and matches round out your supplies.

In your car. If you know a storm is approaching, try to stay home if you have any doubts about your ability to make it to your destination "in time" before the storm hits.

If you must travel, be sure your car is properly serviced so that antifreeze, oil, and other fluids are at their correct levels. Top out your gas tank so that you are as near to full as possible. Keep chains in your trunk in case they're needed. (By the way, all drivers should know how to attach tire chains since a service station may not be available.)

Devise a storm kit that can be stashed in your trunk. It should contain sleeping bags or blankets, candles, matches in a waterproof container, tissue, high-calorie/nonperishable food, road maps and compass if you are away from known routes, first aid kit, knife, shovel, bag of sand, ice scraper for the windshield, flashlight with spare batteries and bulbs, booster cables, axe, tow chains, and tire chains. Keep an empty coffee can or two for personal waste. Have some type of signalling device such as flares, a "space" blanket with its orange or silver side up, etc. A portable, camp-style heater and fuel may also be carried, but be sure to use it only

Let's face it,
if you live in a
cold climate,
you better be pre-
pared for winter's
worst.



with adequate ventilation.

If the car becomes trapped in a storm, stay with the vehicle unless you know you are within *close* walking distance of help. Ventilate the inside of the car, remove the snow from the tailpipe often so that when you run the motor, the exhaust can escape, turn on the inside dome light at dark, and take turns keeping watch with your other passengers. Someone should be awake at all times so that you are not all sleeping at the same time. Don't overexert yourself trying to free the car, shovel or other work, but do some exercises in the car to keep warm and to help your circulation.

While driving in cold weather, accelerate slowly to get the feel of the road and its ice conditions. Be careful of spots along the road that are in shade—ice may still be present. Allow plenty of distance between your car and the one in front—at least three times the normal distance you'd allow. Pump your brakes to come to a stop rather than "slamming" them on. Check your tires and wiper blades more often than you do in good weather.

If you hear "hazardous driving or travelers' warnings" these will signal the dangers of blowing and drifting snow, snow, sleet, freezing rain, or wind. Heed these warnings. They are for your safety.

Livestock or Stockmen's Warnings also give you clues as to weather conditions. They'll mean large accumulations of snow or ice, a change to sudden cold temperatures, or strong wind conditions. To stockmen, it's a warning to get extra feed to the animals, to be sure water is available, and to provide some kind of roofed and ventilated shelter for the animals. But for drivers, these warnings will also serve to keep you posted on conditions that could seriously affect your ability to drive. Get to your destination, if possible, but if you can't, seek out some alternate place to wait out the storm and call ahead to your destination to tell them where you are.

Try to do your winter traveling with others in your car or in a "convoy" with at least one other vehicle so that you have help in case it is needed. Listen to the radio to keep informed of weather changes and conditions.

Personal safety. Wear loose-fitting clothes in layers so that you can remove or add layers as you need to. Outer clothing should be tightly woven and water repellent. Have some kind of head protection such as a hood, heavy scarf or ski mask. Be sure to wear some kind of protection over your mouth and nose to help heat the cold air before it enters your lungs.

These simple pointers can help you with the tasks of coping with cold weather. The steps you take to protect yourself are extremely important. 🖐

DEVOTIONS FOR BOYS cont.



to sleep again. Just as he was dozing off again, the camel said, "Master, it's very cold out here—I'm sure I'd be warmer if I could just put my head inside the tent."

"Oh, all right," replied the traveler, "but just your head, and let me go to sleep."

Once again he tried to go to sleep, and again the camel disturbed him. "Master," it said, "I'm sure I would be warmer if you would allow me to put my neck inside the tent as well, it really is bitterly cold outside."

"Just your neck then," replied the traveler, "and be quiet and let me get some sleep."

The traveler tried once again to go to sleep, but so many times during the night was this repeated that finally the camel was fully inside the tent, and the traveler was outside in the cold!

CEREMONY: Let us all, together, say one very important word—as loud as we can—"NO!" We must learn to say "no" to both sin and Satan. Sin can start as a very small seed, but inch-by-inch it can spread through our hearts until it completely takes over. Many criminals have said that they started their life of crime by doing something small. It may have been something like stealing a couple of pence, and finished up by robbing a bank.

SCRIPTURE: Jesus said, "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." Let us always ask Him to help us to resist Satan and temptation.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, help us to say "no" to Satan and sin, and keep us true to you. Amen.

CAMPFIRE SERVICE

"THERE IS A FOUNTAIN THAT NEVER SHALL RUN DRY"

Ruth Hosking, Neutral Bay

Who here tonight can find a fountain or a stream that's guaranteed to never run dry?

I think perhaps we would be searching a long time, and to no avail. There's only one fountain that does not run dry, and that is found in the love of Jesus. Jesus' love never stops, whatever we may say or do.

He loves us so much that He gave us the best that He had—Himself! I wonder who of us would give our life to save that of a friend. Let's thank Him tonight for His fountain of love, and then sing the chorus.

IDEAS FOR LEADERS cont.



CAMP IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS:

The following items are suggestions you may want to consider using:

Patrol Names

Albatross
Antelope
Bear
Beaver
Blue Jay
Bobcat
Coyote
Crow
Deer
Eagle
Falcon
Fox
Hornet
Hawk
Kangaroo
Kingfisher
Lion
Leopard
Lynx
Ostrich
Owl
Panther
Pheasant
Raccoon
Stallion
Tiger
Weasel
Whippoorwill
Wolf
Woodcock
Zebra
Robin
Gopher

CAMPSITE NAMES:

Fairplay
Gregory Gulch
Deadwood
Virginia
Cripple Creek
Rough and Ready
Eureka
Paradise
Coyote Pass
Skeleton Canyon
Dead Man's Gulch
Yellowstone
Deer Lodge
Buckskin Joe
Quicksand Crossing
Wild Cat Creek
Tombstone
Horse Creek
Dodge City
Frijole Flat
Tarryall



A Midnight Miracle

BY KEVIN FALL

I have always loved the mountains, the grand and mighty monoliths of God's creation. When I was young I used to walk among the alpine meadows and smell the summer wild flowers and intoxicating evergreen. There was serenity in the hills, silent and yet overpowering. The Lord has always given me peace of mind when I venture high into the Cascades of Oregon and Washington.

It was the third weekend in January of 1972, and a day which I will never forget. The slopes were fresh with three feet of powder snow. Mount Hood stood out high above its alpine pedestal of ridges and hills. My friend Mark and I had taken this gloriously sunny afternoon to circumnavigate a small portion of this 11,245 foot peak. We had ascended 3000 feet to an outcropping of rock known as Illumination Rock. We marveled at the creations of God, His magnanimous artistry of nature. Below us sprawled the Sandy and Reid Glaciers. Beyond rose the foothills of the Cascades, all dressed in virgin white.

I silently thanked the Lord Jesus for the grand privilege of being allowed to share in His creations. I turned and looked high unto the afternoon summit, and I knew that the Lord wanted me to be there, that this was where He would fill me with all the real blessings I could ever desire. And it was at this time that

we decided to descend to the west of our present position. Through gullies and mountain canyons we traveled. It was not until 5 p.m. that we realized that we were too far down the slope from Timberline Lodge, some 8 miles to the east. It was the beginning of not only a physical struggle, but a fight to keep up our spirit in the face of certain plight.

By the time the sun had been settled in the west, we had crawled in and out of six canyons. I was wet and cold, and chilled by the wind. I literally began to ice up. But still we kept moving. We asked God to help us reach safety. The pain and fatigue were taking their toll.

By ten o'clock we were two miles from Timberline Lodge and safety. However, I had contracted a severe case of hypothermia. That killer of weakened outdoorsmen had a death grip on me. Some foreign voice deep inside said, "You are going to die! God is going to let you die!

Just then I collapsed face down in the snow, unable to move anymore. Realizing the seriousness of my condition, we agreed that since Mark was physically able, he should make a dash around the rim of Zig Zag Canyon, and alert the rescue people at Timberline Lodge.

After digging a small snow trench and giving me a spare ski parka, Mark said a short prayer and departed.

As I laid there at 6500 feet, I cranked my head, for what I felt was the last time—toward that high and majestic summit where God had granted me a moment of conquest.

It was a clear, freezing night, and the wind had already buried me under two inches of drifting snow. I bowed my head and prayed, "Lord Jesus, deliver me from this frozen place. Please, oh Lord, stop this biting wind, and don't let me drift off into eternal sleep!"

As I prayed, the wind suddenly grew quiet. The stars appeared, and the mountain seemed to cradle me in its power. And then I pleaded with God, "Dear Jesus, please, please, let me live!"

Faintly I saw a red light far in the distance. I really wasn't sure, but I heard a "thump" beside me. I turned to see a hot water bottle and some candy bars laying beside me. Then I heard voices.

Within minutes the red rescue light of the Snow Cat was beside me. The Lord had brought me through the "valley of death" and I WAS ALIVE.

The next morning Mark and I were released from the First Aid Room of Timberline Lodge. I watched the morning sun drawn on God's mountain, and I gave Him thanks. I had lifted up my eyes unto the hills, and the Lord had given me strength. The Lord had delivered me, and performed a midnight miracle!