

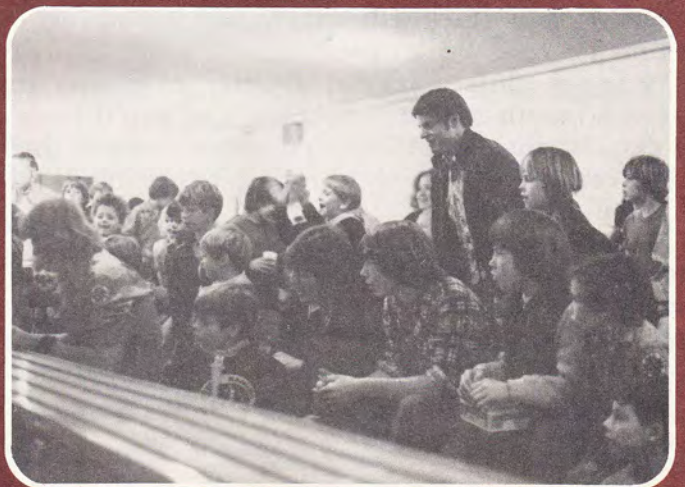
FALL 1979

# DISPATCH

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A ROYAL RANGER'S MAGAZINE FOR MEN

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# DISPATCH

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## STAFF

**Editor:** David Barnes **Assoc. Editor:** John Eller.  
**National Committee:** Silas Gaither, Paul McGarvey, Johnnie Barnes, Paul Stanek.

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## COMMANDER'S COFFEE CUP CHAT



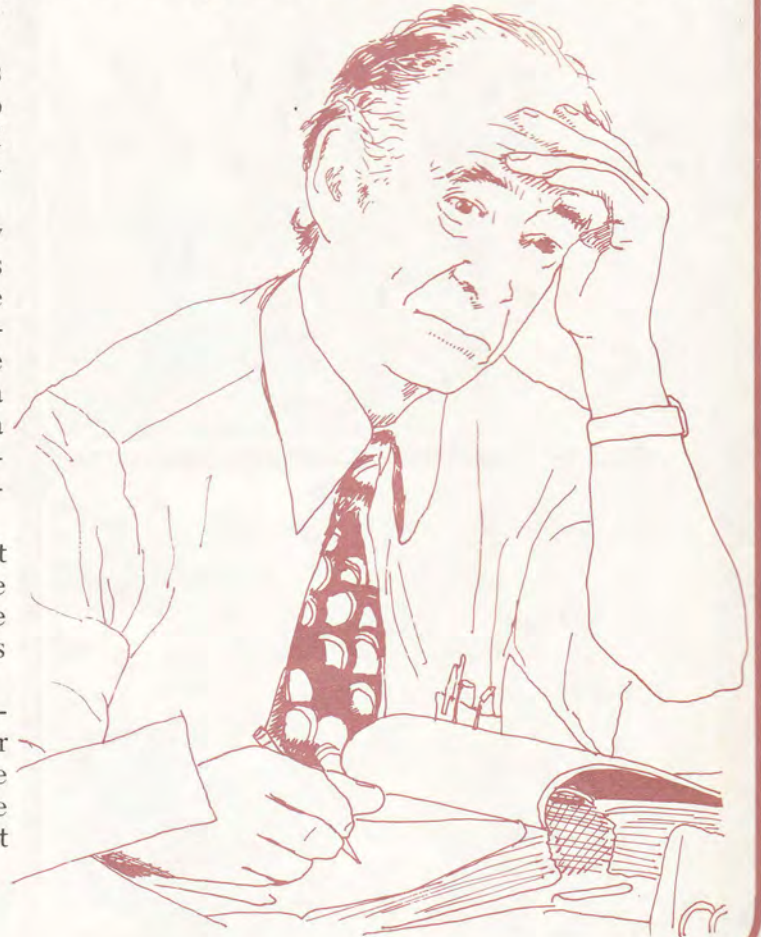
*Lonnie Selstad, district commander, South Carolina has handed in this helpful article.*

There are five P's which every Royal Rangers Commander should keep in mind if he wants to have a successful outpost. They are: **PRIOR PLANNING PREVENTS POOR PERFORMANCE.**

An item which is often overlooked in the weekly meeting is the time for all leaders (Commanders and Patrol Guides) to get together and call the signals for future meetings. The feature runs overtime, a Commander has to get right home, or some other diversion always seems to bring about a cancellation of the little planning session. As a result, one Commander (usually the Senior Commander), gets stuck with making all the arrangements for next week's meeting.

Try to schedule a special meeting or camp-out once a month without planning and you'll have a disaster instead. And you'd better believe the boys can tell when something isn't coming off as it should.

What's the upshot? Back up your Senior Commander. Attend all planning sessions, weekly or monthly, and offer your needed assistance in the preparation process. You may be surprised at the difference you'll begin to see in your outpost when *you* are really "Ready for anything."  
"READY" to serve,  
Lonnie





# HANGING IT UP

## *Your first and last Pow Wow?*

BY LARRY BOHALL

So you've just returned from your first Pow Wow. If you were fortunate, everything went perfect; your boys set up the camp, the food was prepared well, and on time, you passed inspection perfectly, and your outpost won at least a third place trophy. Sounds great, right? However, if your outpost is like most outposts, (this writer's included), the Pow Wow probably went exactly the opposite.

If your boys set up camp, you had to fight them all the way. Your meals were rarely prepared on time, your guests always had to wait, and the food was usually half-cooked. Cleanup was another battle from the start to finish, better left forgotten. The camp did not settle down until close to 1:00 a.m. and the boys were up and going by 5:00. You flunked inspection and came closer to winning

Worst Outpost award than anything else. And to top (bottom?) it all off, you got a beauty of a sunburn that will make sure you remember this Pow Wow for a long time.

So now you are ready to give it up. Never again! The old Royal Ranger shirt is being hung up for good. No more hassles with broken zippers on sleeping bags, wet matches, blisters, wet shoes or sunburns. No more cardiac arrests over boys with axes, boys with knives, boys with hatchets, or boys with bow saws. No more sunburn or stomachaches from raw food and no more deodorizing boys with "pets" they found in the woods. It will be a great life.

Why sure, think of the money you will save. No more patches, uniforms or incredible cleaning bills. No more books,

camping gear or car repairs from torn upholstery, scratched paint from branches or flat tires from thorns or nails.

Yes, it sounds like that would be the thing to do. You would have more time with your family, you could go to the Wednesday night service together, and you would save yourself some nervous disorders.

But think for a minute. Think about the night of the council fire when all those boys came forward and gave their lives to Jesus Christ. Maybe one or two of them (or more) were from your outpost. Praise God for them! What would have happened if they had not had Royal Rangers? Would they have come to know Jesus Christ? Yes or no is simply conjecture; the fact is that some Royal Rangers Commander took time out for them and ▶



## “Your outpost’s church needs you.”

they met Jesus because of it.

What about the boys who were baptized in the Holy Spirit? They have entered into an exciting new dimension in their Christian lives. Was the Pow Wow “worth it” to them?

Many of the boys that were at council fire rededicated their lives to Jesus that night. Some of them may have been ready to “forsake it all” in order to “go with the crowd.” They may have backslid and never returned, if not for the Pow Wow. Perhaps some of the boys were called into active ministry. How many preachers, teachers, missionaries, evangelists, and even commanders came out of that council fire? No one but God knows.

Then there’s Jimmy, the boy in your outpost who’s never been near a camp fire, never slept in a tent, never seen animals outdoors. What happens to him now? Do you think that after having had his appetite whetted at Pow Wow he will want to just stop? Not on your life! He’s ready to go next weekend! But who will take him? Who will teach him how to handle an axe, build a fire, pitch a tent? Who is going to teach him how to take care of himself in the out-of-doors? If you do not do it, can you be sure that anyone will? Can you be sure that your boys will receive the right kind of example and molding? Will they be reached, taught and kept for Jesus Christ?

The truth is that the boys in your church need the ministry of Royal Rangers. They need to grow into young men with balanced lives—mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. They need the chance to be in the outdoors, grow strong in body and in the Lord. If you drop out of the program, will it continue? Will the Royal Rangers outreach in your church stop? If the Outpost Council does find someone to fill your position, how many boys will drop out before he takes over? The boys in your Royal Rangers outpost need you.

And your church needs the ministry of your Royal Rangers outpost. Every year our churches lose many boys, and Royal Rangers can be an effective tool for keeping them. Many families are drawn into the church through the Royal Rangers outpost, because the activities of the

outpost are geared toward father and son participation. Often the families of your boys are not saved and do not attend any church. The Ranger ministry is an effective bridge for reaching them. Without you, the Royal Rangers ministry in your church might end. If you left it would seriously suffer. Your outpost’s church needs you.

Yes, you can go ahead and “hang it up” if you want. If the ministry of Royal Rangers is important to your boys and your church, they will find another man to fill your position. Well, maybe they will. And everyone will understand, probably. It is possible that some of the boys will drop out of the program—but that is the price you have to pay. It is true that Royal Rangers is a hassle sometimes. You plan for weeks, you work hard, you do your best—you don’t get many results, at least not immediately noticeable ones—it is easy and understandable to get discouraged. But there are three things that you need to remember. You are working for the Lord, and He will take care of your rewards. So work hard; spend your time, your money, and yourself, and you will be paid well.

Secondly, remember that your church needs your outpost. They chose you to lead the boys because they felt that you would be able to reach, teach, and keep boys for Jesus Christ. If you left, they would choose someone else, but he would be their second choice. They need you.

Finally, remember that your job is to reach, teach, and keep boys for Jesus Christ. You are molding lives everytime you see them. They are looking to you for guidance, counsel and instruction. Hopefully they see Jesus Christ through you. If you leave, the confidence and friendship you have established with them might end. They need your witness; they need you.

So your first Pow Wow is over, and it is one you would like to forget. Don’t. Use it instead. Analyze what went wrong. Decide how you can solve some of the problems. Work with your boys. As you do, you’ll find that not only does your church and your boys need you in the Royal Rangers outpost, but that you need the outpost too. ♦

John Gardner wrote a book, *Excellence*, subtitle *Can We Be Equal and Excellent Too?* He attacked the idea that it is almost undemocratic to excel in something over your fellowman.

Christians also fall into the same trap of believing that no one should be better than someone else. Uneasy with the idea of having the best, being the best, or doing that which is outstanding. If we can shift responsibility for it onto the Lord, we don’t mind. “The Lord has really blessed his ministry,” or, “The Lord really gave him great gifts.”

We show our pride when a Christian makes the big time in athletics or politics. For some reason, it’s all right to praise a man for other non-Christian things.

We seem to have confused our theology. Most of us cannot live with the Biblical paradoxical truth that God is doing it all. He is in all, through all and just as completely incomprehensible. Man is one who has not only been given complete responsibility for his action, but is commanded to act. This creates tension.

We are called to excellence.

Excellence is a measure. It demands definition and assumes a standard. It also assumes inferiority. There is a way of doing or being less than the best. Less than could be. In a field which may grow weeds may grow flowers, roses and violets.

Your position is one of Christian leadership. This involves a quality expressed in Mark 10:43-45: “Whosoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant and whosoever wishes to take first place among you must be at the call of everyone, for even the Son of Man



## THE GOAL OF EXCELLENCE,

BY SILAS GAITHER

came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

God has given you the task to initiate change in lives. Nurture Christ-likeness in individuals you serve. What an honor. You are to take faith out of theory and apply it in practical living. Put faith in shoe leather where man can identify.

To accomplish this, there are demands placed upon the Christian leader. First learn to work your faith in everyday experiences. Allow the Holy Spirit through you to love people like God loves.

What a challenge! Man cannot do a thing to make God love him more. Likewise, he cannot do a thing to make God love him less. There is no secular world for the Christian. You are a pilgrim and a stranger in this world.

Excellence assumes a goal. We must think beyond our dreams, beyond concepts and to reality in terms of what can be and what should be. There is always the possibility of beauty where there is an unsealed human eye; of music where there is an unstopped human ear; and of inspiration where there is a receptive human spirit.

Excellence has a measurement that assumes a standard of accountability. Maintain for yourself a leadership level of operation which requires discipline. Purpose that all people will be served with equal devotion and concern. How do we respond to the goal of excellence? The Lord said in Isaiah 60:15: “I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations.” You cannot do everything. You cannot be everything, and that’s not bad. You will be forced to sort out your goals. Decide which goal has priority. Let people know what comes first in your life.

Decide who you are and what you are and what God wants you to be.

Avoid magnifying your failures. We all know Babe Ruth knocked 714 home runs, but few have ever heard that Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times.

If you have any hope of reaching a goal of excellence, listening to God is imperative. The most absolutely creative thing one can do is to listen to God.

Out of that silence, motives and movements are born. It is here that we find what we must do. Jesus said, “I said go through Samaria.” Emerson said, “What I must do is all that concerns me, not what people think.”

The goal is excellence. The purpose is to bring glory and praise to God. The steps to the goal are knowledge, discernment, thoroughly mixed together with abundant love. The measurement is the fruit of righteousness.

The Lord has the same goal for you. “I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations” (Isaiah 60:15). You can reach this goal through a vital relationship with Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.



## JOHN YATES

INSURANCE EXECUTIVE  
RANGER COMMANDER

BY ALAN GELL

John is one of those rare individuals—full of vim, vigor, and vitality—never lacking for an idea. This applies not only to his successful business, but also to his involvement in Royal Rangers.

John is originally from the small town of Pampa, out in West Texas. He attended college at Southwestern Assemblies of God College and the University of Texas at Arlington. He began his insurance career with Allstate in 1969 and built his reputation on “a personal interest in the client.” He opened his own partnership, “Keeland, Yates, Ferguson Agency, Inc.,” in July 1977 in Dallas. In its first year and a half of operation, the company doubled in size and attained “million dollar status.”

John has spent most of his free time working with the Royal Rangers ministry. He approaches each and every job in Rangers like he does his business—with a personal interest in the people around him. He is currently serving as the Senior Commander of one of the largest Ranger groups in the country, while also serving as the Regional Training Officer for the South Central Region. John has

served in many positions on NTC and other training courses staffs.

He is married and the father of three sons. His office walls are lined with plaques, awards, and honors. He’s a member of the Lion’s Club and other civic organizations.

But the thing you remember about John in his interest in other people—especially boys. In his Ranger office at his church, there are two things hanging over his desk that probably say more about John than all the awards, certificates, and honors. One is a cartoon drawing of him on a weight scale, surrounded by little boys, holding a “fortune” card which says: “You are a born leader of men.” The other frame over his desk is a picture of a young boy, with a big grin on his face. It’s a picture of an underprivileged, fatherless, minority boy who found Christ thru the Royal Rangers under John’s leadership.

This is a picture of John Yates: successful businessman, active in his local Assemblies of God church, a leader of men, and a man interested in the souls of boys. ♦

# Father/Son Derby Race



Men and boys watch the derby racers zoom down the track.

Here is an idea for your church's outpost that will not only enrich the father/son relationships within the church, but throughout the community at large!

Pastor Raymond Alcorn of Sandy Assembly of God, Sandy, Oregon, introduced the concept of a "Derby Race" to the fathers and sons within his congregation. They were excited about the idea and soon established a set of guidelines for the derby racers to follow.

1. The *Boy Scout Derby Kit* is the basic kit to be used.
2. Cars must be made by father and son.
3. Regulations for building the car and track:  
Car—6-8 oz. wheels and weight uniform; Track—50 feet long.
4. "Sandy Sectional Derby Race" established with 13 churches, besides the general public invited.

On the morning of the race a "free breakfast" was served to participants. "This," says Alcorn, "is the best investment the general fund has ever made. Investing in the lives of men and boys is very important. Men in the community who were otherwise apprehensive about attending the church were eager to bring their sons to the Derby Race. Many became, surprisingly, interested in Christianity as well! Through the Derby Race many men have also become excited about volunteering to assist in Royal Rangers."

Another interesting ministry of the Sandy men is an "Oil change/tune-up Day" established on particular Saturdays throughout the year. This occasion also involves a free breakfast. And, after the breakfast, widows, the aged, and needy families are invited to bring their

cars to have free oil changes and tune-ups. (This also involves a battery, fan belt, antifreeze, etc. check-up.) The only things the public need bring are any needed parts and necessary oil. All tools for fixing cars are provided by the Sandy men. These include: a good jack, a set of ramps, a timing light, a dwell meter, a filter wrench and various regular tools.

It's exciting just how vital a church can be in reaching out to the normal, everyday needs of its community. Pastor Alcorn and his churchmen are to be commended on their ingenuity and concern in intensifying the growth of human/Christian relationships. *Dispatch* magazine hopes that their ministry can be an encouragement to yours. Let us know about any of your church's exciting, unique ministries, and we'll be glad to write up an article on you, too! ★



An eager boy lines up his racer.



This boy warns to be careful with his car.



Cars are thoroughly inspected.

## Pastor Alcorn speaks on "Men's Come Together."

It was April, 1978, the place was Camp Davidson, Oregon. Paul McGarvey, national director of Men's Ministries was leading the Oregon District MM Representatives in a three-day seminar.

I had served as rep for about one year. I hadn't done much in our section for Men's Ministries and was hoping that the seminar would give me new motivation and direction.

Some of the men had ideas I thought might work for me, but on the whole I had already tried most of them. As my mind drifted back a few years, I remembered trying what I thought was a new idea. I called all my men together and told them of a sure-fire plan for utilizing our manpower. At the end of the meeting I overheard one of our men say, "That's the same old thing our last pastor tried!"


My daydreaming was brought to a sudden halt as Paul stood and said, "Men, I have something new to share with you." I must confess, though the Bible tells us not to be of a doubtful mind, I was sure guilty right then.

"Men's Come Together" sounded different alright, but would it work for me, my church, my section? As Paul explained the principles and procedures to us, motivation and direction began to flame in my mind. The theme "Men's Come Together" touched my heart as Paul reminded us of the senseless loss of men and their potential involvement in our churches. I knew what he was saying was true, but more importantly I believed his ideas would work.

As I drove home that afternoon I dreamed of putting an end to the wasted manpower in my own church. I prayed, "Lord, help me as pastor of many fine men, to utilize their abilities."

The next day I called a few of my men and invited them to have a Saturday morning breakfast. During the morning fellowship I shared with them my desire for a "Men's Come Together." It was a delicious breakfast served without cost to our men. This has continued with beautiful success and has proven a small price for such great benefits.

That same day I called a very fine retired minister who had been worshipping with us for a number of months. I needed help on the platform (offering, announcements, and Scripture reading) in general organization of what we call "preliminaries." He accepted without hesitation. The blessings have been

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# The Ranger Trail an outpost

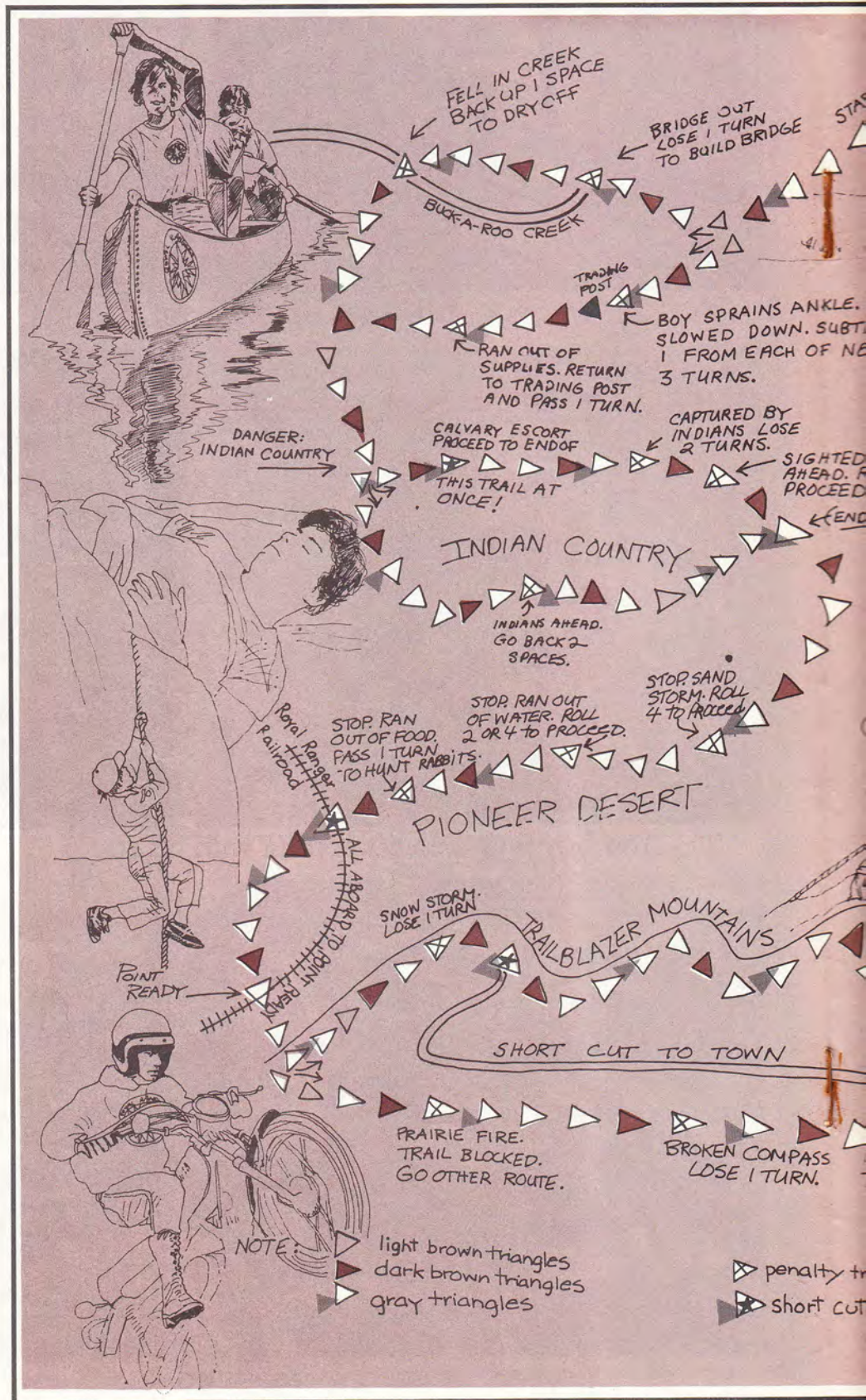
Jeff Messinger, Corpus Christi Sectional Commander, South Texas District, has submitted a sensational big board game which will add color and excitement to your outpost meetings! The instructions are simple, but pay close attention.

## ASSEMBLAGE

1. Various colored triangles are cut out and glued to a poster board of desired size (small or gigantic).
2. The dark brown triangles correspond to dark brown "remedy/hindrance" cards.
3. The gray triangles correspond to gray "question" cards.
4. The penalty triangles are marked by an "X."
5. The short-cut triangles are marked with a black star on a gray background.
6. There are also light brown triangles placed accordingly on the board.
7. Decorate your board with colorful illustrations of the Ranger Trail.
8. Make a dice containing the figures: 1-1-2-3-4 (a gray triangle).
9. Gear the game to your outpost's specific age level by changing the questions on the gray cards to meet their understanding. The sample list containing possible gray card "questions" is very basic and understandable to a wide age group.

## GAME RULES

1. Divide boys into two equal teams, numbering each player.
2. The player begins, moving the indicated number of his thrown dice. If the gray triangle is rolled, the player proceeds to the next unoccupied gray triangle and draws a question. The player continues throwing the dice until he loses his turn by either landing on a light brown, a dark brown, or a penalty triangle, or if he incorrectly





# board game



answers his question. He then must move to the end of his team's line and the next person will resume playing for his team after the opponent team has gone its full turn. "Questions" and "Route-Choosing" are the sole decision of the boy with the dice. Any help or rowdiness from fellow teammates will immediately result in default of his turn to the opposing team.

3. The two teams may never occupy the same space except for the last triangle in each trail.
4. One team may not pass the other unless:
  - a. The lead team is stuck on a penalty triangle.
  - b. The dark brown card is in his team's possession that enables him to pass.
  - c. Both teams are occupying the same route and the back team can't pass. He will then proceed as far as his roll will permit him, up to the triangle behind the lead team.
  - d. The gray triangle is rolled, and he must move to the next unoccupied gray triangle.
5. Dark brown cards are collected as the game progresses, retaining or using as needed for one's team or against the opponent team. Playing a dark brown card against another team is valid only at a fork in the road, or to a short cut from being used.
6. If one player lands on a penalty triangle and his team possesses the appropriate dark brown card (in which the Lord remedies the situation), the penalty will not apply, and he is allowed to continue his turn.
7. The first team to successfully blaze the Ranger Trail to the "Council Fire Bluffs," is the declared winner.

So proceed carefully or live dangerously, but have fun!

## GRAY CARDS (questions)

1. Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?
2. What 4 things should a Royal Ranger carry with him?
3. What are the 8 points of the Royal Rangers code?
4. The Royal Rangers motto is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What do 4 gold points of Royal Rangers emblem represent?
6. Quote favorite Scripture with memory verse.
7. What are 8 blue points of Royal

Rangers emblem?

8. What is the rapture?
9. How does somebody get saved?
10. What are 4 gold points?
11. Who baptizes you with the Holy Spirit?
12. Where is the Golden Rule found?
13. What 3 things should all Royal Rangers do? (Pray, read Bible, witness.)
14. What does it mean to be baptized?
15. Eight blue points of Emblem represent what?
16. What is the Royal Rangers code?
17. What is divine healing?
18. Repeat Royal Rangers pledge.
19. What are 4 red points of emblem?
20. What is the Golden Rule?
21. What does it mean to witness?

## DARK BROWN CARDS (remedies & hindrances)

1. He giveth meat in abundance. Job 36:31.
2. I give waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert to give drink to my people, my chosen. Isaiah 43:20.
3. Whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe. (Safe passage—any danger.)
4. When thou walkest through the fire thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. Isaiah 43:2.
5. But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Supplies) Philippians 4:19.
6. By whose stripes you were healed. 1 Peter 2:24.
7. When thou passeth through the waters I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee. Isaiah 43:2.
8. The Lord looseth the prisoners. Psalm 146:7.

(Miscellaneous)

9. Use to pass opponent.
- 10.\*Short cut blocked on mountain trail. Use this to prevent opponent from using short cut to town.
- 11.\*Train wreck. Use to prevent opponent from riding on the R.R. railroad to point ready.
12. Direct the route your opponent must take (2 of these.)
- 13.\*Indian ambush. Cavalry escort forced to turn back. Opponent unable to use short cut to end of trail.

# YOUR OUTPOST

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## PLANNING GUIDE




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## BUCKAROOS TRAILBLAZERS/AIR/ PIONEERS SEA/TRAILRANGERS

### SEPTEMBER

THEME: *Be A Naturalist*

1st Week: Using pictures, discuss poisonous snakes and plants. Follow up with a picture ID quiz. You might have sheets printed up with pictures and have boys write the names in a blank space next to each picture on his sheet. Award a rubber snake to the winner.

2nd Week: Talk about how to make a "terrarium" out of bottles. Use a large one to demonstrate. Also have smaller bottles, such as quart fruit juice bottles with skinny necks, for the boys to make their own. Have each boy "plant" a small plant in the large bottle to be left and cared for in the Ranger room.

3rd Week: Bring a large map of the US. Talk about birds and how they migrate. Draw the flyways across the US that different birds use to migrate. For a project, a simple bird feeder can be constructed out of discarded bleach bottles/containers.

4th Week: Have each boy bring from home a "good" insect—either live in a jar, or displayed dead. Have each boy tell why the insect he brought is "good" and what it does to help nature. Have several prepared yourself for "back-up."

**SUGGESTED OUTINGS:**

Visit a nature center, Natural History museum, or Audubon Club. Write to US Department of Agriculture and US Forest Service for free information and helps.

### OCTOBER

MONTHLY THEME: *Be Fire Safe*

1st Week: Discuss the importance of a Family Escape Plan. Show boys how to make one up themselves for their family. Have each boy start one and ask them to finish it at home with the help of their parents.

2nd Week: Discuss outdoor fire-safety rules (as shown in *Adventures in Camping*).

3rd Week: Discuss indoor fire-safety rules when in the kitchen, using a fireplace, etc. Also discuss again the Family Escape plan the boys should have finished by now. Give a "Fire Safety Quiz" and award a plastic Fireman's Helmet to the winner.

4th Week: Invite a real fireman to talk

to the boys. If you don't know one yourself, call or visit the closest fire station and just ask for someone to visit you that date—giving at least a week's notice. (The talk by the fireman should be given before you take the boys on a visit.)

**SUGGESTED OUTINGS:**

Visit a fire station (this is usually no problem at all.) Visit an area in town or in the country that has recently had a severe fire. Let the boys view the damage, but not in and around the area. Discuss what might have caused the fire and how it could have been prevented.

**NOVEMBER**

**MONTHLY THEME: *Be an Athlete***

**1st Week:** Invite one of the older boys in your church—either high school or college, that plays some type of athletics, to come demonstrate the “warm-up” exercises he has to do before a game. Have all the boys participate. Then the fellow can talk about having to take care of his body properly—no bad habits, etc.

**2nd Week:** Have a “Punt—Pass—Kick” contest among your own group. Award small prizes or ribbons to the winners. Or—you could use the meeting to practice the events with the actual contest held on a Saturday with all the parents present.

**3rd Week:** Discuss “dual” contests & combine the program feature with recreation to do such things as: arm wrestling, stick pull, shoulder push, duck fight, hand tussle, etc. (Consult library books or BSA books for ideas and explanations.)

**4th Week:** Have your own outpost “olympics” that all boys can participate in: Shot put (water balloon), discus throw (aluminum pie plate), Javelin (brookstick), hurdles (over pasteboard boxes), etc. Create your own games and contests. Award ribbons.

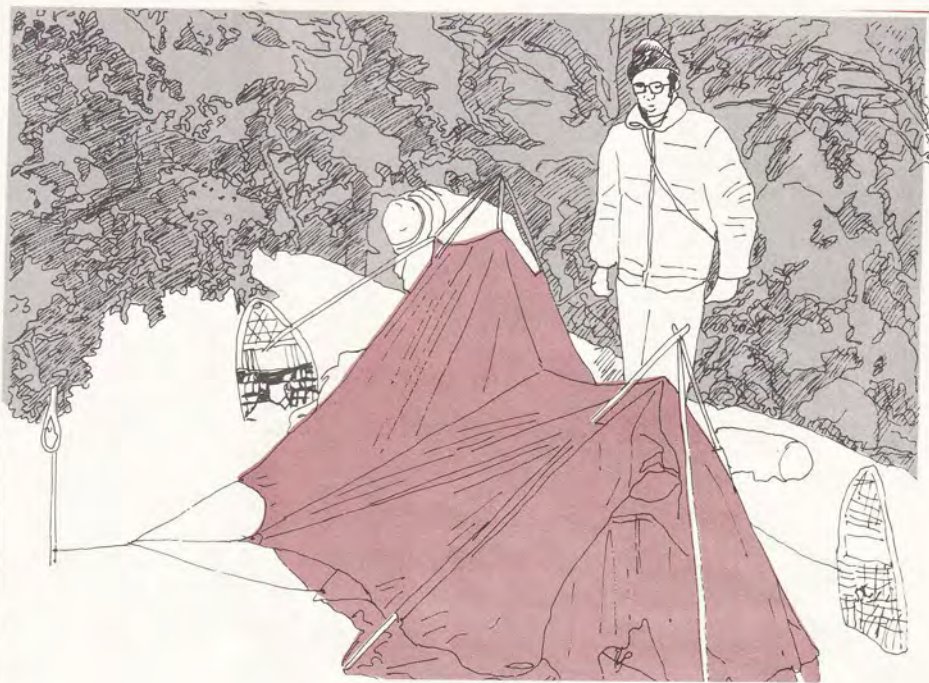
**SUGGESTED OUTINGS:**

Have all the boys wear their uniforms and visit a sports event together as a group (basketball, football, soccer, track meet, etc.—pro, college, or even a high school event.)★

# 2 GOOD REASONS TO ATTEND THE WINTER NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP

**Reason #1.** The first of the W.N.T.C. sites is located in the Rockies at beautiful Horn Mountain Lodge, Westcliff, Colorado December 6-9, 1979.

**Reason #2.** The second site unites beautiful scenery and tough training at the singing Hills Camp, Plainfield, New Hampshire, January 17-21, 1980.



Good enough? Well there are more reasons. Reason #3 has to do with *challenge*. Not that we can make an instant Eskimo out of you, but we hope that through the challenge of battling “old man winter” you might develop some new outdoor skills which will help

make you a better Royal Ranger *LEADER*. Reason #4: How about fun fellowship, and a spectacular time in God's wonderful winter wilderness? So take advantage of these winter camps and be *Ready* for adventure! For application forms write the National Office.★

# DEVOTIONS FOR BOYS



## LONELY?

by Stephen G. Fifield

Boys, have you ever been left home alone? Do you remember the first time you were left home alone? You felt very much alone, perhaps somewhat afraid; but when Mom and Dad came home you were sure glad. You felt so much more secure.

People out in this world without Christ are also alone because their father is not at home in their life. But when they allow Christ to take His place in their lives then no longer do they feel alone, because Christ never leaves us alone. Hebrews 13:5 tells us this. Also in Proverbs 18:24 the Bible tells us that there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Is there anyone here who feels alone even when at home with Mom and Dad, or even around friends? Would you like never to feel alone?  
(Wait for response)

Close with appropriate prayer (led by the Spirit).

## YOURS TO ACCEPT OR REJECT

by Bill Hanks

**PURPOSE:** To show that God has offered us salvation, forgiveness, pardon, but it is not ours until we ACCEPT it.

Two African natives were guilty of a shocking murder. They were arrested, judged and condemned to be hanged. The relatives of the murdered men felt that these two criminals were underprivileged, uneducated, accustomed to an environment of brutality and crime; the murder was not committed after deliberate plotting but was perpetrated on the impulse of the moment.

They could not bear to think that those two lives must be cut short without an opportunity to repent and reform. Letters were written, government officials

were interviewed. Every effort was exerted and at last a reprieve was signed.

The bereaved relatives naturally thought that this would be an immense relief to the murderers and that they would welcome the pardon with joy.

The officials visited the condemned cell, and showed the men the document and told them they were free, but were amazed because there was no response or gratitude.

The criminals argued, "We have done wrong and we are ashamed. We could not bear to go out and face the world. Everyone would look at us and think, 'Those are murderers. We must keep away from them.' Life henceforth would be unbearable. We prefer to die."

The case was reviewed before the highest legal authorities in the land. Their decision was, "A reprieve is only valid when it is accepted. Since these men refuse to accept it, they must die."

So they were executed.

Rangers, Jesus has obtained a pardon for my sins and for your sins. Though we are "condemned already," (John 3:18), God offers you and me free pardon. "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you LIFE AND DEATH, BLESSING AND CURSING: THEREFORE CHOOSE LIFE." Deut. 30:19.

Although pardon is offered you, it really becomes yours when you accept it. Won't you accept His pardon for your sins now?

## FOOTBALL

by Gary Bennett

Using a football, show how it can withstand abuse and still have bounce, such as a Christian being criticized by a non-Christian. Show how if thrown properly

the receiver can complete the pass without fumbling. Compare this by explaining that the Holy Spirit enables us to live the way a Christian ought.

Point to it's symmetrical seams, and that we too should present a similar image to the nonbeliever. That our daily witness should show we are Christians. Just like a football we have stitching.

Scriptures could represent stitches and the more we remember the more durable we are. While using this idea, pass the ball back and forth among the boys. This could combine spiritual teaching with physical activity. This devotion could be used outside or inside.

by Warren Bebout

Scripture Reference: Eph. 2:8; Rom. 6:23

Tonight we are going to talk about things that are considered "priceless" to people. You've probably heard of some of these things that people label as being "priceless." Let's review some of these items that have no "price tag" so-to-speak.

There are oil paintings of the rare variety that are considered among art collectors as being "priceless." There are rare coins that are considered "priceless" to coin collectors who know their value. There are also rare vintage automobiles that are considered "priceless" among vintage auto collectors. Then there are rare jewels and precious gems that have a "priceless" price tag on them. You may know or have heard of family heirlooms that families consider as being "priceless." People who own much sought after artifacts, objects, items, and other valuable articles who will not sell them at any price are saying loud and clear that these items are in-

deed "priceless." Then there are rare postage stamps. Some are known to be few in existence and are considered by stamp collectors to be "priceless." Some old rare bottles are considered "priceless." Artifacts, items, and other objects of interest in museums across the nation are labeled as "priceless" and cannot be bought at any price, so that future generations can enjoy them. The same goes for items and articles belonging to famous people in the history of our country that are on display in historical buildings in our nation. "Priceless" treasures have been found in sunken ships in times past. You could probably think of more things you know of that people consider "priceless," but we won't go into all of them now.

We have discussed items considered "priceless," but all have been "material things" (or property owned by someone or some organization.) But there are other things that are considered "priceless" that are not "material things" and cannot be bought at any price. For example, there is good health. You cannot buy good physical health at any price. You either have it given to you, or you don't have it. A lot of people take that precious gift for granted and never give GOD THE THANKS FOR IT. Another thing that is "priceless" that is not a material thing is good mental health. You cannot buy good mental health if you don't already have it. It is not for sale at any price, for it cannot be bought. It's a "priceless" gift.

Fellas, there is one other thing that is a "priceless gift" given freely that cannot be bought for any price, because it is not for sale. This is *THE MOST IMPORTANT* "priceless" gift ever given to mankind. Can you guess what that is? Here are some clues:

It is not a material or carnal thing. It is given to man from God but it is not healing or the Holy Spirit for it is far more important and valuable. You guessed—it's salvation and with it comes eternal life, and it's given *FREE* to all who accept Jesus Christ as their personal saviour. It's not available at any price. (Eph. 2:8.) God does not place a monetary price on anything, for to Him, money, riches, and wealth are foolishness. He freely gives salvation to man and asks only these things in return of you: To serve Him, and to witness to others about His saving grace, and to follow Him. That's not too much to ask! Here's a "priceless" gift to you and it's *FREE*. (Rom. 6:23.)

All you have to do is ask God for it and it's yours! If you would like to inherit this "priceless gift" here and now, then I'm going to give everyone an opportunity to do so. With every head bowed now and every eye closed, and with the up-raised hand, signal to me that you would like to accept this "priceless offer" God has made available to you now, and I will

pray the sinner's prayer with you. All you have to do is acknowledge that you're a sinner, ask Him for forgiveness, and believe He is able to save you.

by Lillian Moulton

1 John 1:7; 1 John 1:9, 10; 2:12

John was a fifth grader, and a real cutup. His work was a mess—dirty, smeared, and torn.

About halfway through the school term, he suddenly realized that he was wasting his time and decided to turn over a new leaf. He began to work harder. The teacher quickly noticed the change and encouraged him.

The last day of school arrived. John was worried. He knew his parents would be coming to look at his work and remembered how beat-up some of it was. John stayed in the background and waited for their anger, but there was none. He sneaked a look at his desk and found that the teacher had torn out all the bad pages in his notebook and left only the good work.

Are there some things in your life that you don't want anyone to know about? Some days you'd like to forget? Some words you wished you hadn't spoken?

Jesus died on the cross so that your sins could be erased; all you must do is obey Him.

Tell God you are sorry for the wrong things you have done. Ask Him to forgive you. Pray for strength to overcome temptation.

#### PROMISES

by Howard Mulkey, Thayer, MO

Fellows, since the beginning of time God has made promises to His people, the Jews. Some of God's promises have come to pass, but there are others that have not yet happened. The Bible has many promises that God has made and we know that these promises will come true. We are seeing some of these promises fulfilled today.

A long time ago God talked with a man named Abraham. God promised that He would make Abraham a wealthy man. It happened just as God said it would. Abraham was probably the most wealthy man in his day. While God was promising this He told Abraham that He would give him so many descendants they would be as sands of the earth and the stars of heaven. Just think of every tiny grain that is on the earth and of every star that is in heaven—that is a lot of people. Abraham, at that time, did not even have a son. But after a while God gave him a son who had two sons, and one of the two sons had 12 sons who became the nation of Israel.

Another great promise God made to David is that he would have a son who would reign over Israel forever. This is Jesus Christ. Jesus is not king yet but someday, very soon, He will come back to be King of the earth forever. These were great promises that God made to

Abraham and David. We are living in an exciting time because we are beginning to see God's promises come true. The Jewish people have gone back to Israel from all over the world and they are working to make their land great.

Another great promise God has made is found in John 14:2, 3. "In my father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Fellows, have you ever made a promise to someone and then you didn't keep your promise. This would cause a person to lose trust in you wouldn't it? Then if you made many promises and didn't keep any of them, then the person to whom you have made the promises would not believe you any longer, would they?

Sometimes we make a promise that we cannot keep because something prevents us from keeping it. If this is true we should tell this person and the reason we cannot keep it. Nor should we make a promise we don't intend to keep when we promise it because we will be telling a great untruth. We should never make a promise unless we know that we can keep it.

Fellows, when Jesus saved us from our sins, we promised Him that we would live for Him and obey all His rules. How many of you remember making this promise. Is that promise still true today? If not, we should ask Jesus to forgive us of this untruth and make a sincere promise that we will obey God's command. We make this promise for we love God and want's God's love. If we do not keep the promise we will live for Him—then God has a promise for us, and that promise is that we shall be cast into the bottomless pit of hell where we shall burn forever and ever. I certainly don't want this promise of the Father, do you?

Fellows, let's bow our heads and make a sincere promise to God that we will live for Him and keep His Word. Each morning when you arise you should promise God that you are going to live that day for Him and then live it. When you keep making this promise over and over and keeping it, you will notice that it is much easier to live for Jesus.

Prayer: Dear Master Ranger, please forgive me of the promise that I would live for You and didn't keep. Jesus I am sorry. I pray thee Lord that You will help me to keep my promise to You and You will help me. I love You Lord Jesus and I want my heart to show the world that You are my Saviour. Thank You Jesus. Amen.

# WILDERNESS SURVIVAL STAFF

here's a unique way to carry your survival gear.

BY WARREN BEBOUT

This is a walking staff for backpackers in survival kit form. On rugged stretches of trail it's a fishing pole or tent pole if you need it. It's a prop for your pack when using it as a back rest. It serves as a balancing pole. It helps backpacking companions up to your level when you're scrambling up steep hillsides. It can be used to test the footing ahead when the going gets soft. It checks out undergrowth and rock crevasses for snakes, and can be used to lean on. It will do all the jobs of a wooden walking staff and as a bonus it will keep your survival kit where you need it most, in your hands.

This staff is a 6' length of aluminum tubing, plugged at both ends with a light, functional walking aid, just the right diameter for a comfortable grip. But left empty more than 80 cubic inches of handy space are going to waste. This is roughly equal to a box 9" by 3" by 3". If there is anything the average backpacker needs, it's more space to put things and here it is. The packaging process is no mystery. One way or another everything winds up in a cylindrical shape. A wooden dowel of 1/4" diameter can be whittled and fitted to the bottom of the staff for a wooden plug. It can be sealed with silicone or plastic sealer which will make it waterproof. The top end must be made removable to give access to the contents and can be made by using the cap from an aluminum 35 mm film can which will fit snugly over a wrapping plastic electrical tape.

Filled, the survival staff weighs just over 4 pounds. A bit hefty perhaps, but it's nothing you wouldn't carry anyway. It's just a matter of transferring the weight from your pack to your staff. The aluminum tubing by itself weighs 16 1/2 ounces, lighter than comparable wooden walking staffs.

You may want to suit the survival gear to the kind of trip you're planning and to your liking. For example, you might substitute the snakebite kit for snare wire or replace the foil with insect repellent. Have fun with your new staff and go to it! See the attached sheet for suggested list of contents.

## SUGGESTED LIST OF CONTENTS

- \_\_\_ Topographical map
- \_\_\_ Two cell penlight
- \_\_\_ (2) Votive-type small candles
- \_\_\_ Metal match
- \_\_\_ Whistle
- \_\_\_ (2) Large sheets of aluminum foil, rolled tightly, used in reflector fires, covering food, etc.
- \_\_\_ Pocket knife
- \_\_\_ (15') Nylon cord
- \_\_\_ (35) Waterproofed matches
- \_\_\_ Snake bite kit
- \_\_\_ (6) 2" x 2" gauze pads
- \_\_\_ Several feet of adhesive tape
- \_\_\_ Small bars of soap
- \_\_\_ Water purification tablets\*
- \_\_\_ Space rescue blanket
- \_\_\_ Several small plastic bags
- \_\_\_ (6) fishhooks on leaders
- \_\_\_ (6) fishing line sinkers\*
- \_\_\_ (30') fishing line
- \_\_\_ Razor blade\*
- \_\_\_ One dime\*
- \_\_\_ Bouillon cubes\*
- \_\_\_ Space food sticks
- \_\_\_ Safety pins\*
- \_\_\_ Band-Aid strips
- \_\_\_ Small container of salt\*
- \_\_\_ Aspirin tablets\*
- \_\_\_ Antacid tablets\*
- \_\_\_ Fuel tablets\*
- \_\_\_ (3') plastic electrical tape

## COMMENTS

(Of the area you're going into—rolled tightly)

(Shaped like a pen)

(Must be small enough to fit into a 1" diameter)

(Again, must be less than 1" wide)

(Wrapped around a pencil)

(A plastic container can be used, 1" in dia.)

(Use Cutter brand)

(Roll these tightly)

(Can be rolled on above pencil)

(Trimmed down to 1" wide)

(Can fit into a 1" dia. plastic medicine bottle)

(Unfolded and rolled tightly)

(Baggies)

(Rolled tightly)

(Wrapped around above pencil)

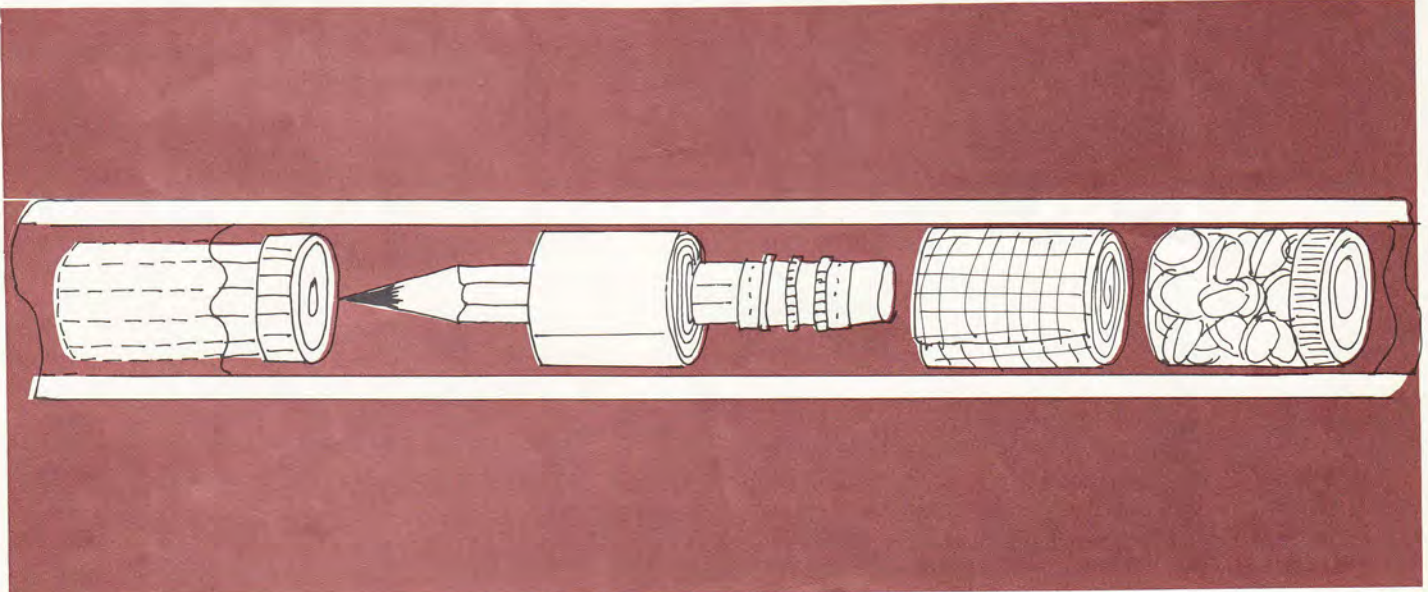
(Injector type)

(Comes in small round tube)

(Optional)

\_\_\_ (10') copper wire (can be wrapped around above pencil)

\*All these items can be stored in small plastic prescription medicine bottle less than 1" in diameter



## "Men's Come Together" continued from page 7.

numerous.

Excited, I called another fine man who was doing his best to fit into our fellowship in a meaningful way. I had overheard his need for ministry in our church body. He is now our head usher, the men love him, and work well under his leadership.

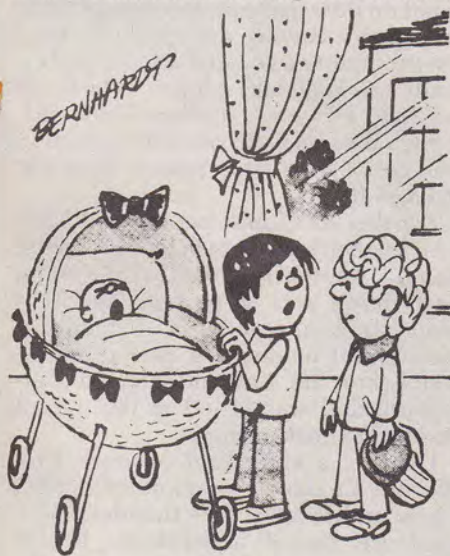
Paul McGarvey sparked my imagination and gave new direction, but my "Men's Come Together" has kept it alive. Probably my Royal Rangers Commander has said it best of all. "Sandy's outpost was rechartered in November 1976, with 12 boys and 3 Commanders. By June of 1977, we had 16 boys and participated in our first Oregon Royal Rangers Pow Wow.

"This past year, the progress has grown much stronger through the participation by fathers and men of the church. The outpost now consists of 38 boys, 3 Commanders, and about 10 who are always ready to help.

"The growth, in my estimation, is directly associated to the Saturday morning Come Together of the men. This hour of fellowship, sharing and devotion has enabled me to grow spiritually while also noticing the growth in other new Christian men of the church (Skip was born again in 1976).

"As a leader in the church, I need the input from other men on new ideas, improvements and courses of action within the Royal Rangers. As a man in the church, I need the fellowship of the other men so that we all can support our pastor in his ministry. Saturday mornings are our times to express our support, love and appreciation for each other. It is a time of prayer and devotion to our Lord." Signed Skip Walker Jr.

God has proven to me that there is a way to channel the willing lives of men.



"My Mother said he was sent from heaven. They must've wanted some peace and quiet."

# COME JOIN US IN THE STEPS OF DANIEL BOONE ALONG THE WILDER- NESS ROAD.

The Cumberland Mountains, located in Tennessee, made a beautiful backdrop for four action packed days in which "Modern day" frontiersmen will rival the "old-timers" of the past in special activities and events, such as black powder shootin', mountain music, brush arbor revival and heaps of other fun. Make plans to be there. You won't want to miss this! So, plan ahead to attend this spectacular event!



## NATIONAL F.C.F. RENDEZVOUS

July 23-26, 1980, Cumberland Mountains, Crossville, Tennessee

By Charles A. Mills

# SILENT VICTORY



The town was wrecked . . . abandoned by most of its inhabitants. Mute, half gutted cottages looked out toward the battlefield. A thick white fog filled the valley. The only sounds to be heard were the cries of the wounded echoing over the unearthly landscape. A single agonized scream quivered in the darkness, then rose into a crescendo of thousands of pleading voices in a disorganized chorus of pain. Thousands of unattended men lay dying upon the frozen field.

The day begun very differently. A cloudless winter sky looked down upon a military panorama of grandeur. The army came forward in beautiful order, a moving forest of steel, hundreds of regimental flags giving a russet tinge to the wintry landscape. Filled with thoughts of glory, the army came relentlessly onward, the wind rippling its flags and the sunlight sparkling from musket barrels and bayonets.

The unnumbered host moved steadily forward until the enemy guns began to

thunder from behind the stone wall. An avalanche of iron whistled, shrieked, and burst into the bodies of the men in the advancing columns. Glory vanished like a wistful cloud. The column shuddered, staggered for an instant, and then dissolved.

All through the night, after the battle, cries of pain and cries for water came from the rows of wounded Federal soldiers left on the frozen field of Fredericksburg. A lone nineteen-year-old Confederate soldier wrestled with his conscience behind the stone wall before which so many men had died. Sergeant Richard Kirkland, deeply moved by the anguished cries of his enemies, began collecting canteens. Kirkland's comrades warned him that there could be no flag of truce. Anyone crossing the wall would be shot by the Federal troops. Despite the warnings, Kirkland took the canteens and leaped over the wall.

Throughout the night Kirkland made his way through the writhing mass of mangled bodies. Some begged for a drop

of water. Some called on God for pity. Some with delirious, dreamy voices, murmured loved ones names. Kirkland could do little but relieve a painful posture; give a cooling draught to fevered lips; compress a severed artery; apply a crude bandage; take a token or farewell message for some stricken home. Although the acts were small the intention was great. New hope spread upon the stricken field.

For this act of heroism Richard Kirkland became known, to both sides, as the Angel of Mary's Heights. This one night, performing acts of perfect Christian brotherly love, was the most singularly meaningful moment in Richard Kirkland's short life. Kirkland served at Gettysburg and was killed at the age of twenty at Chickamauga.

Despite a short and obscure life, Richard Kirkland's example of perfect Christian brotherly love thunders more gloriously than all of the drums, bugles and cannons martialled in that or any subsequent war.