

An Image to Pattern After — Christ's • Safety On the Trail • Orienteering • Feature Devotional: Little Johnnie

DISPATCH

A Royal Rangers Magazine for Men

Summer 1982



Will Macho
Messages Do
What You Intend?
Does Your Example
Fit the Pattern Christ Taught

DISPATCH

INDIAN WILLOW BED

BY JOHN ELLER

SUMMER 1982

Vol. 18, No. 4

"It's a natural!"

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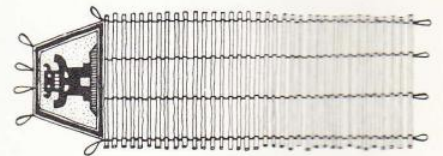
You should know some 'Flag Etiquette' before you display your flag.



Camper looking for a real wood-craft bed should consider the Indian willow bed. It is made of woodland articles, costs little, light-weight, easy to transport, and comfortable. What more could you ask? It is the willow bed of the Plains Indians.

It will take a little time to make this bed, so don't try to hurry. Once made, it will last for years with proper care. In the knowledge of this writer, it is the only permanent, transportable bed made from rustic materials.

You must visit some riverbank and cut about 100 straight shoots of willow or arrowwood about the thickness of a lead pencil after the bark has been peeled. You will also need three rods about as thick as your thumb. Trim them all to 31



inches long, and tie them in a bundle to prevent warping. Lay them on the floor until you are ready to use them. Also secure a ball of string, a spool of linen thread, and a cake of beeswax.

You make the frame on which to build your bed by placing two logs 6½ feet apart. Drive four nails in each of the logs, spacing them 10 inches apart, making the outer nails 30 inches apart. Now, cut four pieces of string each 20 feet long, and double each of these. Tie a knot at the loop end forming a three-inch loop. Then, hook these loops over the nails on one of the logs, be sure to twist the strings tightly and wrap the ends around the nails of the opposite log.

Peel the willow shoots and cut a small notch one-half inch from each end. Select one of the larger shoots for the end rod. Separate the twisted string, and push the rod through until solidly against the knots. At each intersection bind the rod to the string with waxed linen thread. Insert the second rod one inch from the first. You must alternate the ends and the butts, and continue until the bed is six feet long. Use a larger rod for the end piece.

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MACHO MESSAGES

Does Your Image Pattern Christ's?

"When those boys whom you work with look at you, they are getting all kinds of messages about what manhood means. Will you be aware of that, and will you test the messages you are sending against the example of the Christ, who loves and saves us all?"



by David Trembley

Shall we start with some controversy? Where do you stand on the Women's Liberation Movement? If you're like most modern American men, you probably have some pretty strong opinions, whether for or against. Since you're not only a modern American man but also a Christian, it is likely that your opinions about man-woman relationships are all mixed up with your religious beliefs. The Bible, of course, has a great deal to say about the matter, as it does about almost everything else. In this article, we're going to discuss the issue only with regard to its special application when working with boys, but you might want to look at the bigger picture on your own. If you do, before you start, why don't you read a couple of passages from the Bible—First Timothy 2:9-15, of course; and Galatians 3:23-29.

Now, let's narrow the focus down con-

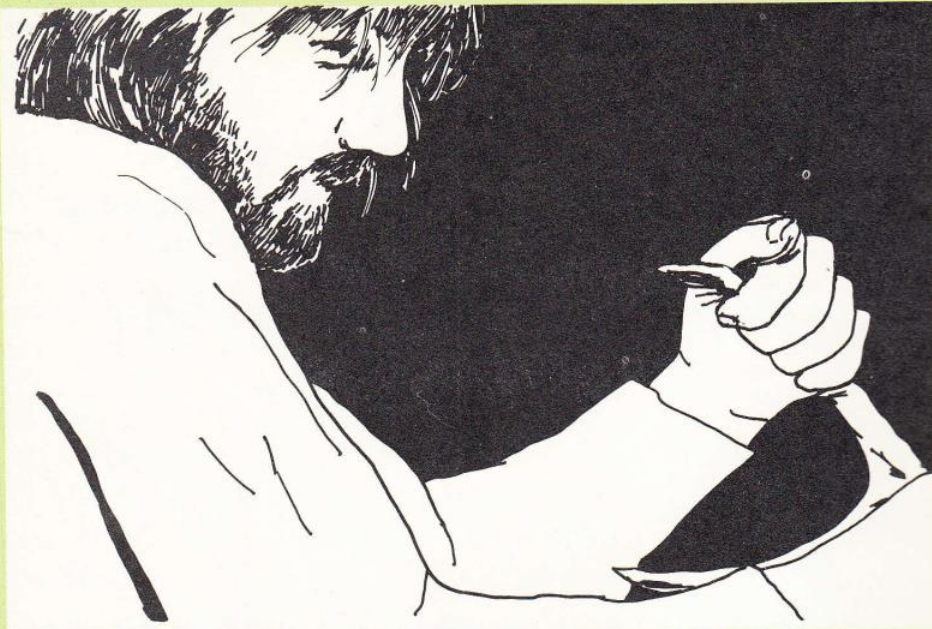
siderably. Let's think about what it means to be a man (especially, what it means to be a CHRISTIAN man) in terms of the boys we have been given to love. Depending upon how old you are, when you were a boy, you were exposed to a very wide range of the possible definitions of "manhood." If you grew up before World War II, you may well have been taught that real men always control their emotions and only sissies cry. If you're part of the post-War generation, your definition of manhood may well have been a good deal more flexible. The complication, of course, is that we grow and change (or, at least, some of us do!). The definition we were given as children is not necessarily the definition we subscribe to now.

Let's think about those children. Particularly, let us think about the boys whom we know. Are you aware what a boy is feeling? Can you remember how it is now from when you were yourself a boy? They're not very hard in their hearts; most boys aren't anyway. They yearn and wonder and get embarrassed and feel such pits of disappointment. And they hope. My goodness, how they hope and long for that which might be someday.

How in the world could it be good for a boy to keep all that emotion inside?

They learn from us, you know. If we hide our tenderness and refuse to offer loving hugs and pats on the head, they will learn that men don't show what they feel. They want desperately to be men, and they'll do whatever they think is necessary to arrive at the point of their desire. If our anger is slow, brooding rage, or if we withdrew from them when we get angry, that's how they'll learn to manage their anger too. Especially if they love us. Boys who love men will invest the men they love with almost a

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►



“Jesus Christ, how did He handle His manhood?”

Godly power and authority. Perhaps we should consider again: what do we really believe will be good for them in terms of what they are learning about how to handle their emotions?

Jesus Christ—how did He handle His manhood?

Each one of us will have to find our own answer to that question, but I suggest that there is some powerful evidence available in the Gospel accounts. There are only four basic emotions, you know: glad, sad, mad, and scared. Jesus, I think, spent a lot of time glad. It doesn't mention His laughter in the Gospels, but in most of his conversations, I experience a deep enjoyment and sense of adventure. I think He probably did laugh a lot, and when He wasn't laughing, I expect He smiled. You'll have to decide for yourself about that, of course, but that's how I read the Gospels.

When He was sad, Jesus wept. The classic time is over Lazarus. When He was mad, He said so. Turning over the tables in the Temple is only the most well-remembered example. He also had

some pretty harsh things to say to some of the Pharisees, and Peter felt the lash of His tongue at least once. After He'd expressed it, though, Jesus' anger was done. You don't see Him sitting around and brooding over revenge He is planning to take or walking away in order to begin an extended session of pouting.

The terror of Jesus is also pretty clear. In the garden, sweating drops of blood, and on the cross, crying out the agony of His forsakeness. Can you imagine a more naked kind of honesty?

Well, my position is pretty clear, and I don't want to run it into the ground, but how will you do your own deciding? At the very least, will you permit me one reminder? When those boys you work with look at you, they are getting all kinds of messages about what manhood means. Will you be aware of that, and will you test the messages you are sending against the example of the Christ, who loves and saves us all?

I guess I'd like to finish with a story about some boys I used to know. Micky Carter and Tim Shelton were

friends. Tim had spent a part of his summer at a Christian sports camp, and when he came home, Micky did everything he could in order to avoid him.

What had happened was that, when Tim came home, he had told Micky what he had learned at camp. “God really is our Father,” Tim said, “and Jesus is our brother. We can talk to them exactly as we would talk to our own family, and they not only listen; they CARE. I never knew that before,” Tim said. “I always thought of God as far off somewhere . . . up in heaven . . . beyond the clouds . . . O, I don't know. But He's not. He's just as close to you as your own dad.”

Micky's dad was dead, but that was only the first part of the problem. The second part was that, while he was alive, he hadn't been a very good father. It's not important to talk about all the things he did—and didn't do. Let's just say that he wasn't a very good dad. Micky didn't want to believe that God was like his father, and that's why he was so upset. Everybody else seemed like they'd gotten a jolt of real good news, but thinking of God as his father just got in Micky's way. Everybody else got more and more involved in their churches, but Micky just drifted farther and farther away.

The point for those of us who work with boys is simply this. We have both “Micky's” and “Tim's” among the boys that we work with. The very same image that one will receive as great good news, another will feel as a deep wound. Somehow, we must find a way to a big enough understanding of the definition of “manhood” that we can speak to the kids in both conditions . . . and in every possible slot in between.

It won't be accomplished by following a recipe, and it won't be done by learning some rules. The truth is that we are already teaching these kids how to be men, and we are doing it by being the kind of men we are. What that does to me—and, I hope, to you too—is that it makes me stop and consider: is this quality that I'm displaying right now an accurate reflection of what Jesus Christ teaches me about what authentic manhood means? ★

“We are always teaching boys how to be men, by the kind of men we are.”



You're not going to believe some of the stuff that me an Russ did when we were kids. I have to occasionally stop and ponder on the grace of God that has kept me from sure death and judgment. I declare, boys have nine lives or else I'd have been a goner for sure. Me, I'm just an ordinary little skinny guy who was chicken as all get out and not much of a thinkerupper. Somehow trouble followed me around when I was with Russ. You see, Russ was to blame for all the things that happened. He could think up more stuff for us kids to do than you could shake a stick at. Russ was always the brave one who could make a fella feel awful if he didn't take his dares. I don't know why Russ was this way, unless not being much of a scholar he was inclined to get his attention by being a bit of a show-off. Anyway, me an' Russ was into some of the craziest, zaniest things that any fellows ever were involved in. Let me load this one on you.

Russ, one day on our way home from school, allowed that he could find something to drink stronger than soda pop. He dared me to come with him to his house while his folks were working, in order to try this real powerful stuff. I may be small, but I'm not one to show to be a chicken, so I went with him. Russ opened a jar of his mother's dill pickles and proceeded to pour out a glass of juice. Russ was always willing to do it first to make me look bad. He downed a glass without stopping. I was torn up, my tonsils rebelled at the first swallow, but I had to go along, acting like I drank dill pickle juice everyday. Everyday for weeks we stopped at Russ' house on the way home and opened another jar of his mom's dill pickles and drank the juice all off. His mother found out too late the problem this caused and wondered how the juice all evaporated off the pickles in her pantry. One good thing about Russ, he wouldn't tell on me and I appreciated it.

Me an' Russ used to stop off at his house and watch some of the TV shows my old-fashioned parents considered not proper for young ones to listen to and watch. One of these had a beer commercial on it that caught my musical fancy. Imagine my deacon father's consternation when I volunteered to sing a song at children's exercises. I sang at the top of my wavering voice, "What'll you have? PABST BLUE RIBBON!!" Somehow, the Sunday school teacher sided with my folks that I hadn't done as well as I thought I had. Russ thought I did great and told me so (this made me feel a little better). That's one good thing about Russ, he was appreciative of what I did.

We were pals!

One day me an' Russ were fishing off a railroad trestle which ran over an arm of the lake near our house. Now we had done that many times and always when we heard the train, we would run off to let the train pass. This one day, Russ decided that we could slip below the cross timbers and sit on the beam below the tracks where we would be safe and enjoy the thrill of having the train run over us. Of course, my old-fashioned parents had warned me that we should remember to get off the trestle in plenty of time and no funny stuff, because that train could shake that trestle like an earthquake and shake us off there. Russ decided that no harm would come since we were on a beam that had withstood that train hundreds of crossings . . . so we did what Russ said. I confess, it was scary as that huge engine came steaming across that trestle with umpty-leven cars on behind and it shook us like a bowl full of jelly. I looked at Russ and his face was white! I hung on for dear life and for a fleeting eternity wished that I was more chicken and would forget about Russ as a playmate.

Just as it looked like the train was nearly passed, the attendants on the trail emptied the toilet water and storage contents from the rest rooms, right over the trestle. All this stuff came splashing through on me an' Russ. I'll tell you, Mom didn't need to give us a lickin' that time because we had already had more punishment than we could stand. That must have been before the ecology people found out about how trains clean out their toilets.

Russ was a bragger. He said one day, "I can hit a seagull on the fly." I didn't think he could and told him so, but Russ just pulled out his slingshot and shot a rock at a seagull who was carrying a clam on his beak. The rock broke the seagull's beak and the poor bird screamed in pain. Russ was delighted, but I was sick because I had this funny conscience about hurting dumb creatures (or smart ones for that matter). I had to ask God's forgiveness for what Russ did even though all I did was agree that he could try.

The climax of our experiences as kids, besides the fifty-eleven other times that we'd been spanked or reprimanded or got away with all kinds of innocent little things we did, came one night when me an' Russ and another friend, Joey, were in Rangers. We went to the outpost meeting. The commander was away or something, and didn't show up, so we fooled around the club house awhile and then sat out along the street talking about this



Me an' Russ Trouble followed this twosome wherever they went.

"AS TOLD TO
PHIL WAYMAN"

CORRECTION—SPRING ISSUE: In the article entitled, "Why Wear Correct Uniforms?" the statement was made, "Why center the Chaplain's Cross one-half inch above the right pocket." It should have correctly read: "The left pocket."



“I’ve found out that a ROYAL RANGER” is couragerous, he is brave in spite of danger, criticism or threats. The better part of courage is wisdom and not foolishness.”

and that. Russ began to suggest one of the zaniest ideas I’d ever heard of for kicks. He said he could lay out in the street and make the cars stop for him. I was scared, and even mildly protested, but Russ was always one to lead the way. He lay out in the street as a car came speeding up the dark street. A little old lady happened to be driving and when she saw the boy in the street, she nearly wrecked her car trying to stop. At that point Russ jumped up and ran into the woods across the street. The little old lady didn’t see me and Joey crouched on the other side of the hedge row out of sight, so she drove on shaking like a leaf. Russ came over to where Joey and I were hiding and he was laughing like a hyena. Wasn’t that fun?” he insisted. I was never one to be a party pooper so I agreed and Joey only nodded his head. “It’s your turn now,” Russ insisted, as he turned to me. For once I shook my head and admitted that I was scared to do that. “Chicken!” Russ scolded me. I wished he wouldn’t say that ’cause I wished I was brave like Russ, but I was too loyal to run away. I stayed right there and so Russ decided to show us how easy it was by doing it again.

He saw a car coming slowly down the street, so he ran out and laid down in the

road. The car came closer and when I got a good look at it from the safety of the hedge row, I saw it was a cop car. “COPS!!” I cried at the top of my voice. Now Russ didn’t do like he did the other time and run into the woods on the other side of the road. Instead he came right over to where Joey and I were hiding behind the bushes and the cop caught all three of us for what Russ had done. I could envision myself spending the rest of my life in jail.

The cop scolded us and threatened us with arrest and Joey and I both began to cry, but we wouldn’t tell on Russ because it wasn’t the code. The cop didn’t know which one of us lay in the street so he asked us to go home and tell our parents what we had done.

I’d about as soon have gone to jail or gotten a lickin’ by the cop. I’d rather face a lion than my dad about this matter. I thought and thought of what I could say. I didn’t want to tell, but I was afraid the policeman would call my father and I’d really catch it, so I told my dad what Russ had done. My dad went after my hide like he meant to skin it and hang it on a pole to dry. My dad reminded me that I had to think for myself and not allow Russ to get me into the things he got me into. It was a terrible lesson, but it

brought a little bit of coolness between me an’ Russ. Russ never told his father and the police never did call our fathers, so Russ got away with his trick.

Now, from my comfortable way of life and a few years of seasoning under my belt and with boys of my own, I empathize with the little boy who had to have someone else do his thinking and make him brave. I’ve found out that a ROYAL RANGER is courageous, he is brave in spite of danger, criticism, or threats. The better part of courage is wisdom and not foolishness. It takes lots of courage to say “no” to a fellow like Russ. I finally could, but I wasn’t real good at it. I still rue the days that I followed along like a lamb to the slaughter and never tried to get Russ to serve Jesus. I was a timid little boy without a backbone until Jesus helped me one day by washing my sins away and giving me backbone that made me into a man of God.

Me, I’m one of the Youth Directors of one of the Assemblies of God Districts, and a minister of the gospel. You would never think a chicken like me could be a leader, but it’s a matter of who you are following. I quit following Russ and followed Christ. I tell you, Jesus has never gotten me into trouble like Russ did. ★

I don't know where they dig them up. Honestly, there's only one other subject in the world that takes a bigger beating from comedians and jokesters—and that's mothers-in-law. And I wish I had a pound for every time I've sat down at a dinner somewhere and heard the fellow next to me say, "Oh, you're an *angler!* Well, you remember what Doctor Johnson said about *you* fellows—fishing is just a rod with a fool at one end and a fish on the other!"



Ha! ha!

"A fisherman is somebody who drops the fish a line but never hears from them." The first I saw *that* one was on the back of a box of matches.

But, wait! It gets worse: Did you hear about the two fishermen who hired a rowing boat to go out fishing and at a certain spot they were catching fish galore. In fact the fishing was so good they decided to mark the place and come back for more sport next day. When they landed back at the jetty, one of them said, "Now, Paddy, did you mark the spot?"

"Of course I did," said his pal. "I put a chalk mark on the side of the boat."

"You did *what?* That was a daft thing to do."

"How?"

"Maybe we won't get the same boat tomorrow."

Did you know, if I've heard that story once at annual dinners, I've heard it a hundred times.

Very funny!

I think I'll get myself invited to be the speaker at the annual Golf Club dinner and tell all those corny ones like that notice in front of the Scottish clubhouse which says, "Members will refrain from picking up lost balls until they have stopped rolling."

Back in the music-hall days all a comedian had to do was appear on the stage in fishing gear carrying a rod and a big dummy fish under his arm and that was that. He was good for twenty minutes with the hall in stitches while he nattered on about an optimist is a man who

takes a frying pan with him on a fishing trip and all that sort of thing. In fact, even today, you can hardly open a magazine at the cartoon page and not see a picture of an angler in a boat with his wife or his mother-in-law or somebody and he says this or she says that and ha! ha!

I tell you, we're getting a bit fed up with the ha! ha's!

Just do me a favour. Get one of those books that list all the witty sayings you can use at speeches. Look up the word "Football" and you'll be lucky if you see two or three funny quotations. Then look at "Horse Riding." What will you find? Maybe *one* joke. But then look up "Fishing" and it goes on for *pages*. The next Anglers' Protection Society that should be formed is one to protect us against comedians, wits and joke-makers.

"Wife Number One to Wife Number Two, 'Bert's getting ready for the fishing season.'"

"How do you know?"

"I saw him buying an enlarging device for his camera."

Did you ever in your life hear rubbish like that? And the magazines are full of them!

Why was it that George Washington never told a lie, Daddy?"

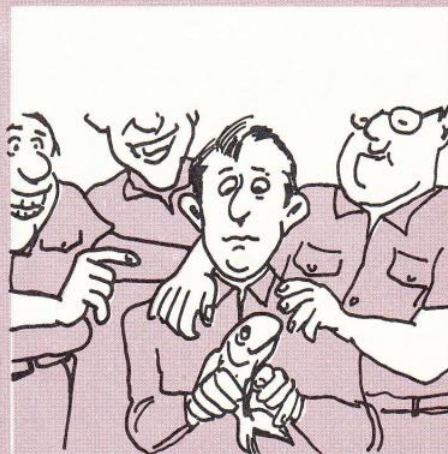
"Because he never went fishing, Son."

Well, I suppose it has its advantages. These cartoon gag-writers and after-dinner speakers and comedians—maybe they're doing us anglers a good service. According to them, fishermen never catch anything, they fall in the water, they fish where it's forbidden, they all have nagging wives, they spend all their time with their arms constantly outstretched like scarecrows. . . .



Well, I suppose it's a burden anglers have to bear. But—as I say—it *has* its advantages. It means we can say anything we like or boast our heads off about the fish we catch because nobody believes us anyway.

And *that's* why all the best stories are about fishing. *



Fishermen Are Always Good for A Laugh

By Roderick Wilkerson

YOUR OUTPOST

| | | Features | Demonstrations | Resources |
|---|-------------|---|---|--|
| JUNE 1ST Week | FIELD TRIPS | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need for clean water 2. Conservation efforts 3. Pollution and side-effects 4. Water treatments | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trip to local water plant 2. Field trip to nearest spring or creek 3. Boiling water to purify | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local water supply 2. Contact area conservation agent or hydrologist 3. Adventures in Camping |
| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire safety 2. Importance of fire department. 3. Basic duties of firemen (save lives, preserve property, put out fires) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trip to local fire station 2. Trip to local training area 3. Invite fire truck to outpost meeting | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local fire chief 2. Firemen in church 3. Local library for books of fire safety 4. Firecraft: Adventures in Camping |
| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Importance of law enforcement 2. Obey the law 3. Consequences for disobedience 4. Benefits of abiding within the law. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invite local police chief or attorney to speak 2. Field trip to prison farm or jail 3. Invite policeman with K-9 (dog) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nearest police station 2. County sheriff 3. Local policeman bring car to meeting 4. Visit police shooting range or training area 5. Have pastor speak |
| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discovery of electricity 2. Many uses 3. Industry and electricity 4. Appliances and business | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visit generator plant 2. Build model generator 3. Demonstrate how power is generated for auto 4. Show how batteries work 5. Have an electrician speak to outpost | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local power & light co. 2. Library under "electricity" 3. Encyclopedias 4. Electronic or TV repairmen 5. Invite a lineman to your meeting 6. Telephone Company |
| JULY 1ST Week | FIELD DAYS | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need for recreation 2. Physical development 3. Exercise & muscle building 4. Understanding how our bodies grow 5. Health & hygiene 6. Nourishment | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outpost jogging day 2. Cross-country marathon 3. Races: 100-yard dash, mile run, etc. 4. Local P.E. instructor or football coach to speak | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sports magazines 2. Local library 3. Articles on physical fitness 4. Books on proper diet 5. Invite local medical doctor to speak |
| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. History of the olympics 2. Involvement of youth 3. Competition as an incentive 4. Training for the olympics 5. Giving life our best effort | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local track meet 2. Demonstrate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. javelin b. discus c. broad jump d. pole vault e. hurdles f. relay races | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High school or college P.E. department 2. Local coaches 3. Athletic associations 4. Local track stars 5. Sport biographies |
| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purpose for sports 2. How to be a good sport 3. Getting along 4. Working as a team 5. Social adjustment | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up your own obstacle course 2. Plan a sack race 3. Football: kick pass 4. Baseball: hit, throw 5. Basketball: baskets, dribbling, passing | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High Adventure 2. Dispatch 3. Leader's Manual 4. Adventures in Camping 5. Check library for references on different sporting activities |
| 3RD Week | | | | |

BY JOHN ELLER

PLANNING GUIDE

| JULY FIELD DAYS 4TH Week | Features | Demonstrations | Resources |
|--|--|--|---|
| | Relationships with others 2. The give-and-take of life 3. Making the best of what you have 4. Helping others 5. Winning friends & influencing people | 1. Outdoor games: a. tag b. steal the bacon c. tug of war 2. Outdoor activities: a. hike b. backpack c. camp-out | 1. Bookstore for game books 2. Ask boys to suggest games 3. Assign each Commander to come up with new game 4. Game section of Dispatch |
| AUGUST 1ST Week FIELD & STREAM | 1. Fishing for sport 2. Fishing for food 3. Fresh & salt water fishing 4. Commercial fishing 5. Fishing for men | 1. Outpost fish-out 2. Fish fry 3. Contest for largest fish 4. Involve fathers 5. Demonstration: casting, trolling, etc. | 1. Magazine racks 2. Fishermen in church 3. Books on fishing 4. Chart showing kinds of fish 5. Local office of conservation 6. Fish hatchery |
| 2ND Week | 1. Outdoor life-style 2. Camping for fun 3. Camp procedure: a. shelter b. fire c. food 4. Camp duty roster 5. Camp activities | 1. Toolcraft 2. Firecraft 3. Ropecraft 4. Backpacking 5. Lashing 6. First Aid 7. Water safety 8. Tent pitching | 1. Adventures in Camping 2. Leader's Manual 3. Camp section of your local library 4. NTC graduates 5. Army-Navy Surplus 6. Hardware store 7. Camp supply store |
| 3RD Week | 1. God created the great out-of-doors 2. We should enjoy the outdoors 3. We should preserve and conserve resources 4. Respect what God has given to us 5. Make what we have better | 1. Plan exploration: a. wooded area b. animal habitat c. creek or river d. cave or cavern e. lake f. nature trail g. historical site h. park or old fort | 1. State Historical Society 2. U. S. Department of Interior 3. Automobile Club 4. County farm agent 5. Local parks & recreational personnel 6. Speleological Society 7. State Conservation Assoc. 8. Outdoor magazines |
| 4TH Week | 1. Boating safety 2. Rules of waterways 3. Explain how a boat or canoe is built 4. Historical importance of navigation 5. Boating today | 1. Plan a canoe trip or boat expedition 2. Demonstrate water skiing 3. Plan a swimming meet 4. Demonstrate scuba diving | 1. Boat & Canoe sales offices 2. People in church owning boats or canoes 3. Local library 4. Leader's Manual: water safety 5. Adventures in Camping |
| 5TH Week | 1. Animals in their environment 2. Observing animals 3. Bird watching 4. Animal signs 5. Learning their habits 6. Tracking | 1. Set up track molds 2. Field trip to look for animal tracks 3. Assign boys to do a page of animal tracks found in your area | 1. High Adventure 2. Adventures in Camping 3. Outdoor publications 4. Animal section in any public library 5. Paw-prints of pets 6. Bird tracks 7. Stalking game |

BY JOHN ELLER

Enlarge these illustrations
and use them along-
side your dramatic
reading of little Johnnie's
story. Don't pass up
this opportunity to
reach, teach, and keep
boys for Christ!

LITTLE JOHNNIE AND THE CAPTAIN

Little Johnnie was a nine-year-old Royal Ranger. His daddy was a Royal Ranger Commander and worked with the boys in his local church. Little Johnnie's daddy helped him earn his awards.

Little Johnnie and his daddy were very close friends. They went fishing and boating together. Sometimes they went on a picnic along side the riverbank. Everytime they went out together, it was always an adventure for little Johnnie, because his dad shared with him many interesting facts about nature.

One night they were both walking with a flashlight in the woods near their home. Suddenly Little Johnnie's dad stopped and said, "Look! Johnnie, there's a spider!"

"How can you see a spider in the dark, Daddy?"

"I'll show you, Johnnie," said his daddy. "Come over here real quietly. Look!"

"Daddy, you're right! But how did you know?" asked puzzled Little Johnnie.

"Because a spider's eyes shine in the dark when you use a flashlight."

Little Johnnie learned wonderful things about nature from his dad.

One day Little Johnnie and his dad were talking about the Lord. Little Johnnie asked, "Dad, how did you let Jesus in your heart?"

"I was in the navy and I was standing out on the deck one night. I was very hungry for God. I wondered if there was a God. I looked up at the sky, and I said, 'God, if you're really there, please give me a sign.' You know what happened, Little Johnnie?"

"No sir," said Little Johnnie. He was hanging on every word his father said. "What?"



FEATURE DEVOTIONAL

STORY BY CONNIE LANIER
ILLUSTRATIONS BY CINDY DEATON

As I stood there gazing into the sky, a shooting star fell right before me. I knelt right there on the ship deck and asked Jesus into my life. Johnnie, that was many years ago and I've lived for God ever since and I've tried to share his love with you."

"You have Dad." Little Johnnie felt a

warm feeling go all through him. The love he and his dad had was very special.

About three days after that, Little Johnnie and his friend, Troy, were playing on the docks where the large ships go by.

Little Johnnie said, "I can't play long, for that big ship coming up the river now is going to pull in for me."

"Sure," said Troy teasingly. "I just know that big ship carrying all that cargo is going to drive right up to this ladder and pick little 'ole you up."

"No, really," declared Little Johnnie. "You wait and see. It's coming this way and it'll turn and come in here to this dock and get me."

"That'll be the day! Just who do you think you are anyway . . . someone important?" sneered Troy.

"You'll see. I know that ship will pick me up!"

A few minutes passed and much to Troy's surprise and shock, the big ship going down the river began turning into the cove where the two boys were standing.

Two long blasts sounded on the ship's foghorn. Then two short blasts sounded. Troy was speechless as the large ship pulled along side of the tiny little dock and a rope ladder was thrown down to Little Johnnie.

As Little Johnnie ascended the ladder, he turned with a huge smile across his face and waved to Troy.

"But how did you know?" Troy yelled with his hands cupped to his mouth.

"I knew this ship would pick me up, because I am somebody special. For you see, my dad is the Captain on this ship!" And with that brief speech Little Johnnie scampered on board.

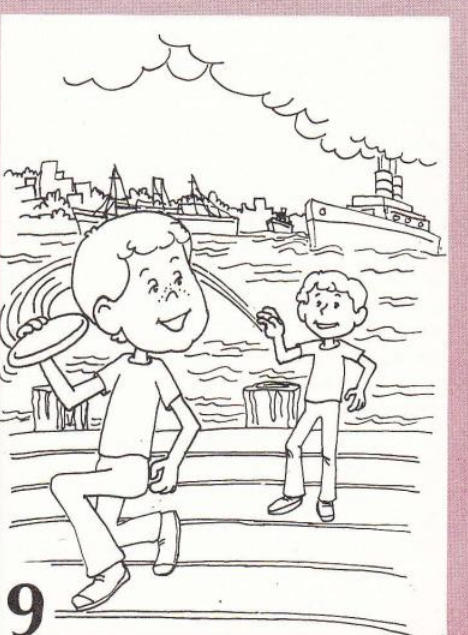
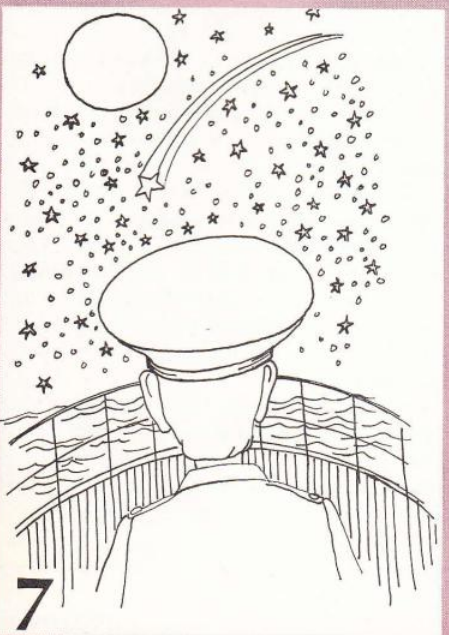
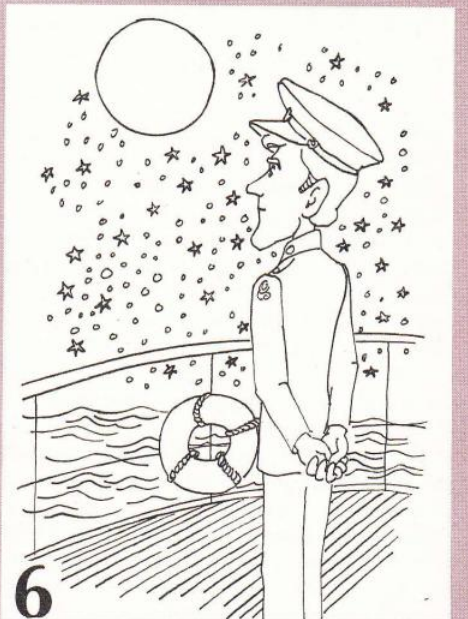
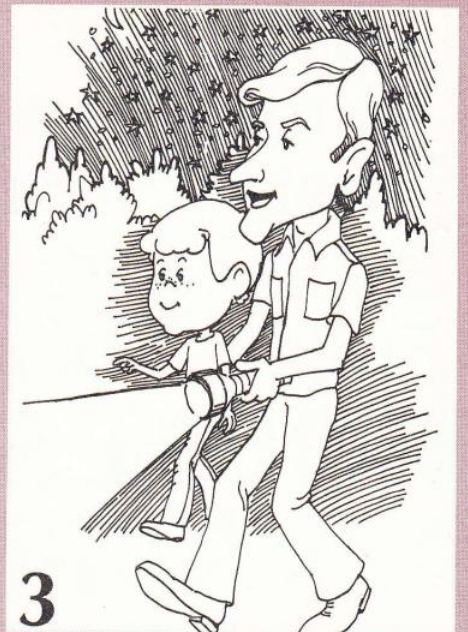
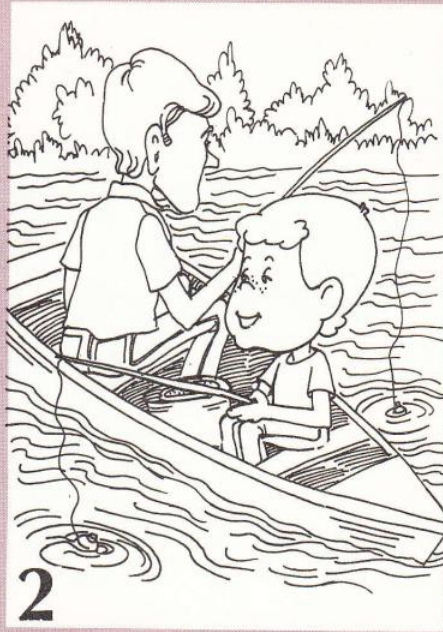
We can be close friends with our

Father in heaven, just as Little Johnnie was with his dad. The Lord will share many wonderful things with us when we fellowship with Him just as Little Johnnie's Dad did.

But as sure as Little Johnnie was that that large ship would steer its way into that tiny cove to pick him up, we can be equally positive that the Lord will come back after us one day. Little Johnnie was special, because his father was the Captain. We, too, are special for our Father is the King.

"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." John 14:3.

BEGIN
HERE ▶



Think Ahead, Master Some Skills, and Follow These **ROUTES TO SAFETY ON THE TRAIL**

BY DR. STEPHENIE SLAHOR



So often, safety is just a matter of common sense and preparedness. If you think ahead, master of skills, and use discretion, you can help yourself to safer times afield. To get you started, here are eight pointers that can be routes to safety on trails.

1. *All about you.* Whether it is a quick hike during a weekend trip, or a major back-country exploration, you have to be in good physical condition on the trail. Get yourself into shape with exercises tailored for you, good nutrition, and a balanced program of work, play, and rest. For any extended hiking trips, you'll want to have a physical exam prior to the trip to be sure you are healthy enough to withstand the rigors of the trail. If you aren't feeling well, cancel or delay your trip until you are in good physical condition to cope with the strains and rigors of hiking. If you get ill while on the trail, try to get back to "civilization" if possible, but if it's too far, you may be better off stopping and camping. This is why it's almost a necessity to have at least one trail companion with you on your trek. In an emergency you may have to depend on each other. Remember that moving on when you're feeling ill could worsen your problem through increased activity, change in weather, change in elevation, etc. So don't take chances with your health and well-being.

2. *Where you are.* Before setting off on any trek, be sure someone competent knows where you are going, how long you plan to be gone, and when you are due back. Along the way, it's a good idea to leave such word with local law enforcement/ranger agencies. That way you

will be apprised of the local weather and safety conditions too. On your maps (topographic maps are very helpful), mark the location of help available in the region (ranger stations, etc.). You should also find it helpful to make notations on the map for locations of trails, water, camps, etc. If you are in an area with trail registers, be sure to sign each one as you progress along your way.

3. *Orienting yourself.* Even in open country, you should carry a compass and maps. Learn how to use a compass from Scout manuals, field guides, survival books, etc. Study your topographic map as you proceed along your way. That helps you reconcile the "theory" of the map to the "reality" of the place. If you are going to return along the same route you are taking into an area, be sure to stop periodically along the way to glance *backwards* to get a picture in your mind of what the area will look like on your return trip. If you need help in an emergency, remember the signal of "3"—three of anything (gunshots, fire, smoke, etc.) signal "danger" and "help needed." Generally such distress signals are answered back with two responses.

4. *Emergency camping.* Anytime you are threatened with foul weather changes, fog, or fast-approaching night, stop to make camp. An immediate stop lets you maintain control and mastery of the situation by allowing you time to gather fuel, make camp, and settle down feeling "at home" while the weather or time of day is still in your favor.

5. *Protect yourself.* With so many lightweight fabrics and materials on the market today, it's practically no weight

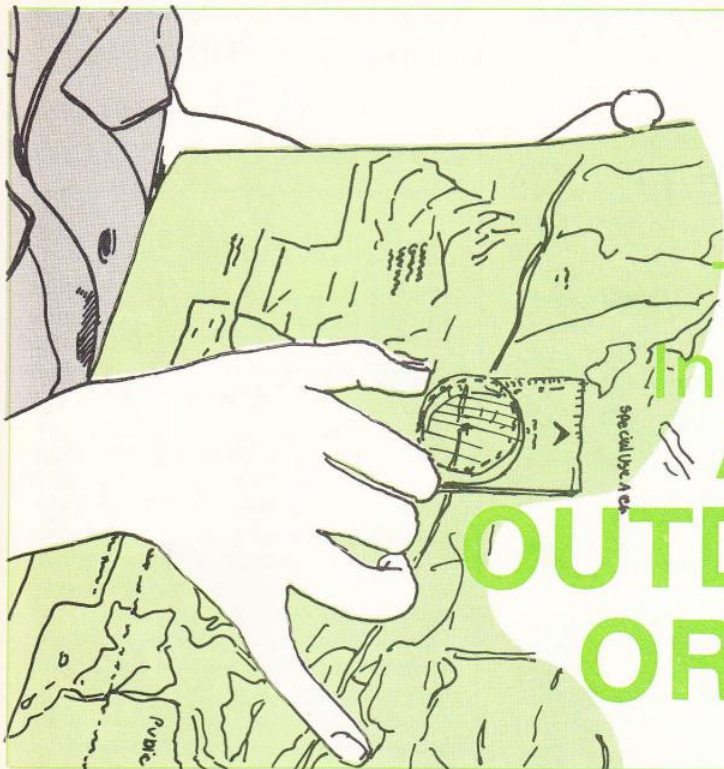
added to your pack and supplies to have along some kind of shelter. This can range from a tent to a space blanket to plastic—anything that will help to shelter you from the cold or the "wet." Carry along waterproof clothing to help protect yourself from hypothermia.

6. *Your supplies.* List all the supplies you need and want to have along on your trip. Everyone's list will differ here and there, but you'll probably want to include the following: sunglasses, spare glasses/contact lenses, first aid kit, insect repellent, snakebite kit, lip balm, sunburn/first aid ointment, any medicine needed, bathroom tissue, and other supplies you deem necessary.

7. *Poisons.* You have to do a little research at your library, museum, or in your outdoor manuals to determine what kinds of poisonous plants will be found in the area you will be hiking. Then check to determine if there are any poisonous insects or snakes common too. Learn the first aid procedures recommended for encounters with each in case of emergency.

8. *Lightning.* Even if you started off in clear weather, you may encounter some lightning while afield. Remember to stay off ridges, tops of hills, and other high spots when lightning threatens. Avoid lone trees or isolated trees. Seek shelter in low spots or under large groups of trees.

A first aid course and reading in outdoor manuals can give you much more trail sense. Get as much knowledge as you can to help yourself know all the safe ways to enjoy the back trails. ★



Do You Enjoy Getting Off the Beaten Track and Testing Your Skills in Finding Your Way Around? If So, Get

OUTDOORS WITH ORIENTEERING

BY SHARON ST. GERMAIN

The scene could be any wooded area. At spaced intervals contestants, each armed with a map and compass, strike out alone over an unfamiliar course looking for a series of three-sided orange and white markers placed along the trail. They're competing against themselves, each other, and the clock in an exciting outdoor sport called orienteering.

Unlike many other sports, orienteering offers something for everyone. It's for people of all ages and abilities who enjoy getting off the beaten track and testing their skills in finding their way around in confidence.

Although fairly new in the United States, orienteering has long been popular in Europe, especially in the Scandinavian countries. It was first introduced here in 1947 by Bjorn Kjellstrom, a former Swedish champion and inventor of the Silva compass. But it failed to catch on until the early 1970's.

"It's enjoying pretty widespread popularity now," says Bill Schmidt, outdoor education specialist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The MDNR is the only state agency of its kind that offers formal instruction in orienteering, as part of its outdoor education program.

There are competitive events, including a U. S. Championship, held throughout the country—some under the supervision of the U. S. Orienteering Federation headquartered in Athens, Ohio. Many are run by schools or area clubs. Mike Horton, a member of the Minnesota Orienteering Club, finds the sport

attractive because of its many sidelights. "It involves a lot of different skills," he says, "including compass, map, and course selection. There's so much more to it than just running around the block."

In a typical meet, orienteers have a choice of five courses, color-coded (white, yellow, green, red, blue), and ranging in difficulty. On a beginner level, the white course is a pleasant hike at your own pace through a mile of wooded terrain in search of a series of orange and white controls, or markers. Their location is carefully copied from a master map onto the runner's map. Before the meet, each contestant is given a clue sheet describing the whereabouts of the markers, such as "behind the boulder" or "the ditch." Each control point has a coded punch with which you mark your scoreboard, proving you've reached that point. The winner is the one who completes the course in the shortest time with all controls punched.

On an expert level, the blue course is a rigorous test of skill and stamina—a demanding trek over rugged terrain for a distance of five or more miles. "You have to be in pretty good shape to run that one," notes Horton. "I like to compete, but in a course that's not so long."

The sport is sometimes compared with a treasure hunt. Each marker is a clue that leads you closer to your destination—the finish line. But orienteering is not a search for hidden treasure. You use a map and compass to determine the exact location of each control, as well as the best and fastest route there.

"The challenge is that while a straight line might appear to be the shortest distance between two points, it might lead you to the edge of a lake," explains Horton. "Then you have to select the most practical route around the lake. Or you might be confronted by a hill. It's usually faster to go around a hill than over it."

At any given meet, a contestant might decide to walk a course instead of run it, with the purpose of simply absorbing his surroundings. Meets are often held in state parks and newcomers are always welcome. They're friendly gatherings, warm and low-key. After it's over, people enjoy sitting around and sharing their experiences. "It opens up a lot of communication," says Horton.

An upcoming meet is advertised in local newspapers. Old clothes—jeans, long-sleeved shirt, and running or hiking shoes—are recommended apparel. A small fee is charged to cover the cost of the special large-scale maps.

Orienteers use a Silva-type compass with a protractor, especially designed for orienteering. It has a clear plastic base that makes it easy to take a compass bearing directly from the map. A good Silva compass costs about \$6, but a novice can usually rent one at a meet.

During registration, those new to orienteering are given a short demonstration on the use of map and compass. A topographic map has symbols for roads, buildings, hills, streams, marshes, and other geographic landmarks. Maps issued by the U. S. Geological Survey use

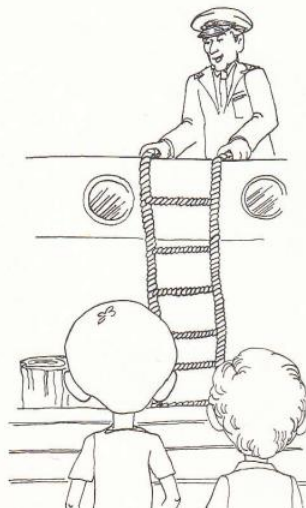
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Little Johnnie and the Captain

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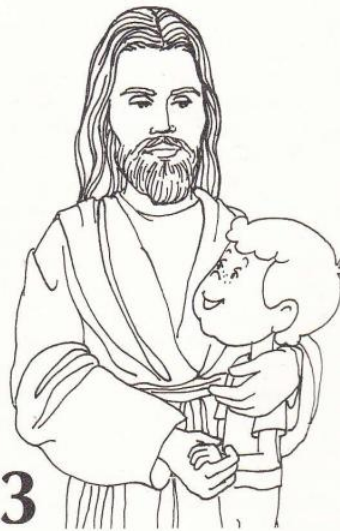
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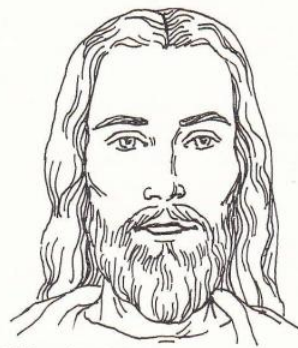
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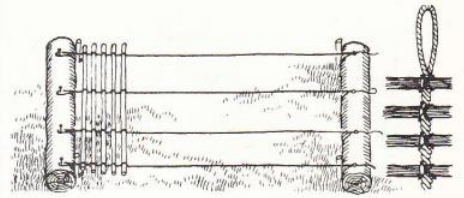
"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

14

(John 14:3)

INDIAN WILLOW BED

continued from page 2



You must taper with shorter rods to form the pillow or head piece. This is 18 inches long. End with a larger rod. Cover the head section with buckskin or brown canvas, and decorate with Indian designs. The personal totem of the owner is most acceptable.

Your willow bed is now ready for use. Lay two four-inch poles on the ground just enough apart for the sides to rest securely on them. Drive stakes in the ground at the ends to catch the loops and therefore stretch the bed tight. You hold the pillow end up by forked sticks. The rods will warp after repeated use, and to prevent this the bed should be turned over regularly.



The willow bed rolls up into a compact bundle for carrying. You can make a canvas case for it.

Research has revealed that the Indians had a slightly different manner in making their willow beds, but the method we have described here is easier and more practical under the conditions of today.

Sleep well! *



"THE SALMON LADDER IS WORKING FINE — EXCEPT FOR ONE LITTLE THING..."

Outdoors With Orienteering Continued From page 13.

green for wooded areas, brown for contours, white for clearings, blue for water, black for man-made objects and red for highways.

At the starter signal, the first destination is the master map area. Here the orienteer carefully copies from the master map a series of red circles connected by straight red lines onto his own map. The circles indicate the location of the various control points.

Invariably, before a meet, an aura of nervous excitement and expectancy hangs over the start area. Soon they will be alone, with only a map and compass to guide them. The feeling is sometimes

frightening, but more often exhilarating. And for most the fun and excitement grows with each competition.

While cross-country orienteering is by far the most popular and widely used form of competition, there are a number of interesting variations. For example, in a type called score orienteering, the object is to accumulate points by visiting as many control points as possible within a certain time. Unlike cross-country, there's no sequence to follow and more controls are placed on the course than a given time allows you to find. Controls nearest the start have a low point value; those further away are worth more.

In orienteering, participants sometimes work in pairs or groups. It's even done while canoeing or bicycling. And it's not just a daytime sport. In night orienteering, contestants carry flashlights or wear headlamps. The course is usually shorter, laid out on open country, and controls are marked either by dim lights or reflective material.

According to Schmidt, orienteering is important to anyone who spends time outdoors. It is basically an educational experience. The MDNR outdoor education program grew out of early efforts in

the field of environmental education. "Nearly 95 percent of state-owned park land is rarely viewed by the public," says Schmidt. "Most people are afraid to venture out in parks for fear of getting lost." They're missing some fantastic experiences and also causing some serious overuse problems. It would be nice if they could be spread out over a broader area. We try to fill these needs by providing information and training for operating in the out-of-doors and being adept at the use of map and compass."

The MDNR offers its training program both to the public and as a teaching unit for secondary school teachers in physical education, geography, science, or math classes. Each year, the department conducts a series of four-hour workshops on the use of map and compass and other outdoor survival skills. Information about its program is freely shared with interested parties in other states.

In a sense, everyone wins at orienteering. Aside from the fun and physical exercise, participants have a chance to learn more about themselves and others while perfecting an essential survival skill. The ability to read a map and compass gives a person a key—literally—to an outdoor area.

Old Glory: A Symbol Of Pride In America

By Robert A. Weaver, Jr.

The Stars and Stripes can never be flown at night, must always be taken in if it rains, can never be flown upside down, and each state has its own star symbolizing the order in which it was admitted to the union. True? No, all of the preceding statements are false! And in fact, they represent only a few of the most common misconceptions about our Nation's most important symbol.

Since one of the best ways of showing pride in America is to display the flag, not just on Flag Day but every day, Americans should know something about "Flag Etiquette. At first, the customs governing the display and use of the "Stars and Bars" grew out of traditions that different patriotic groups had developed through the years. These old concepts although developed with the best of intentions, were not well known and lacked uniformity in practice. So in order to standardize flag etiquette, the 77th Congress passed a "Flag Code"



designated as Public Law 829-77, on December 22, 1942. Codified in Chapter 10 Title 36 of the United States Code, the guidelines have been revised several times since their passage. In 1976 President Ford signed into law some important revisions.

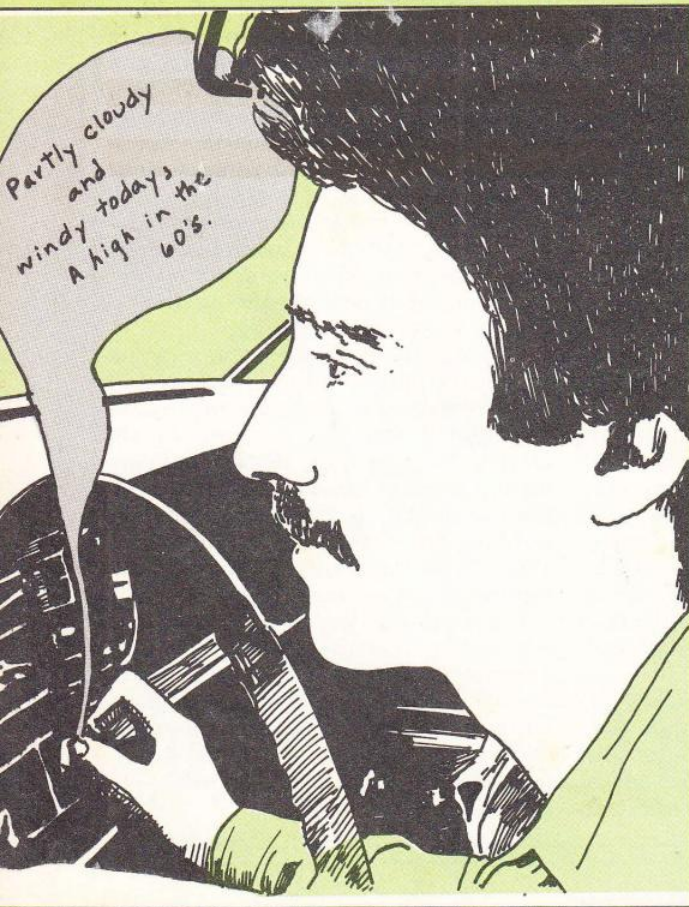
One of those revisions, had to do with the first two areas of common misconception. The original Code had stated "It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaves in the open. However, the flag may be displayed at night upon special occasions when it is desired to produce a patriotic effect. "There were, however, a number of locations such as the east and west fronts of the United States Capitol, where custom dictated the flying of the flag at night. This Capitol practice began during World War I. In addition, presidential proclamations and Congressional acts authorized the display of the flag "at all

times" at the Marine Corps Memorial (Iwo Jima) in Arlington and at the Fort McHenry Monument and Flag House, both in Baltimore. With regard to rain, the original Code also said, "The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement."

The 1976 revision to the Code permits around-the-clock display of the flag and the flying of the colors in inclement weather. These changes were a direct result of advances made in weather-resistant flag materials and the widespread use of outdoor lighting. So as the law now stands, the flag can be displayed at any time, as long as an all-weather flag is used.

One of the other 76 revisions to the Code changed the way of displaying the flag on automobiles from "affixed to the radiator cap" to "attached to the right front fender." With regard to flying the flag upside down, there is of course only one provision for such an act—the signal for a serious emergency, such as on a sinking ship.

The last star to be added to the flag, the 50th, was added for Hawaii on the 4th of July in 1960. By law, a star is added on the Fourth of July following the admission of each new state. But since that addition, people have asked again and again how can you tell which star is for which state. The answer is, you can't! The stars have no order or number, rather they stand for all the states as a whole. *



Wind, Weather And You

In the Bible, the wind is used to describe something other than the weather—the working of the Holy Spirit. Just like the wind can tell you what the weather is going to do, so the Holy Spirit's actions tell you what God wants you to do. The wise Royal Ranger will always be aware of what the Holy Spirit says to him.

by LARRY BOHALL

Did you know that you can make a pretty accurate prediction of what the weather will do by using nothing more than the wind? True, a knowledge of cloud characteristics, relative humidity and whether or not the barometric pressure is falling helps, but you can do a good job of weather forecasting just by noting where the wind is blowing from. Here is how:

In the continental United States the prevailing, or usual, wind blows out of the west. This means that the weather people are experiencing 500 miles west of you today will be pretty much what you will have tomorrow. (Keep that in mind the next time you watch a weather report on television!)

This western wind usually brings bright, clear, fair weather, except for California and Florida—where a westerly wind blows across the sea bringing moisture inland. In these two states, a west wind normally brings rain.

During the summer, a wind from the southwest is generally the hottest and driest of all. A southern wind will also be hot, but it may bring quick showers also.

East of the Rocky Mountains, a wind from the east will bring rain. The north wind will bring a quick cold, either in winter or summer. When the wind blows

from the northeast, look for rain in the summer and snow in the winter.

A wind from the northwest will bring cool weather in the summer and a cold wave in the winter. The southeast wind brings the wettest weather of all—certain rain follows this wind.

Generally speaking, the winds travel clockwise around the compass face. However, when the wind moves counter-clockwise, from southwest to southern, for example, a change of weather may soon follow. During this time, a low pressure area will enter your region. The winds will continue to move counter-clockwise, from south to east, east to north, and finally from north to west as the system moves through.

There are two good indicators of rapid weather change in your area: a sudden reversal of wind direction, and the leaves of the trees “showing their backs.” Should the wind change direction suddenly (from southwest to northeast, for example), you had better take cover! A storm will soon pass through (within the hour, usually), and it will often be short and violent.

As for the leaves “showing their backs”—trees grow in such a manner as to allow their leaves to blow in and with the wind. However, when the wind starts blowing from the opposite direction the leaves turn over—so you then

see their bottoms or “backs.” When this happens, look for rain.

In the Bible, the wind is used to describe something else—the working of the Holy Spirit. At creation, He “brooded” over the waters; at the Day of Pentecost, He came in a mighty rushing power; and in the Gospel of John, He gently breathes new life (John chapter 3). And just like the wind can tell you what the weather is going to do, so the Holy Spirit's actions tell you what God wants you to do.

Sometimes the Spirit speaks gently to your heart, telling you that an action or thought is not right. He may be asking you to pray—to ask God for forgiveness or to dedicate your life to Him. At other times, the Holy Spirit comes into your life powerfully, giving you courage to live for Jesus. Like the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit often “rushes” into the life of a believer, baptizing him gloriously.

The wise outdoorsman will always be aware of what the wind is doing. Taking notice of changes in wind direction or speed can often prevent loss of property, and even life. The wise Royal Ranger will do the same. But, more importantly, the wise Royal Ranger will also pay attention to what the Holy Spirit says to him. After all, only a foolish person would ignore the Holy Spirit when He speaks. ★