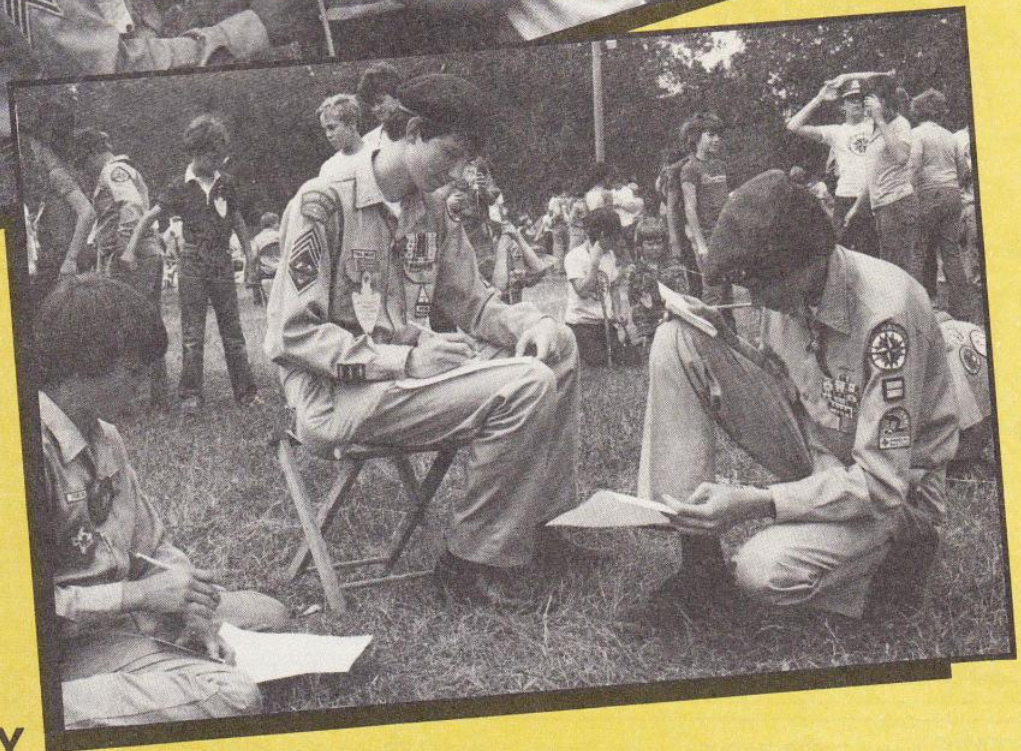

DISPATCH

A Royal Rangers Magazine for Men

SUMMER 1985



**YOUR
COMMITMENT
TO
ROYAL
RANGERS
IS A
SERIOUS
RESPONSIBILITY**

DISPATCH

Summer 1985

Vol. 21, No. 4

DON'T PANIC

BY R. P. RICHARDS



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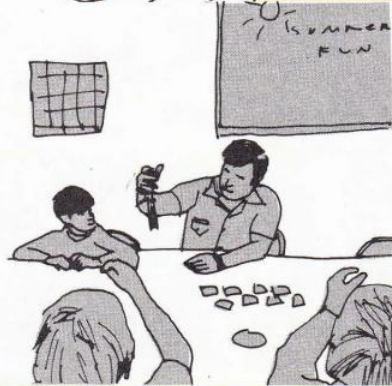
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Help for making your meeting themes.

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Summer fun and adventure.



"Whatever happens, don't panic."

The first lesson of my wilderness instructor sounded very hollow as I looked around, wondering what had happened to my trail.

"If you get hurt or lost, stay calm. Don't just wander around. If you don't meet us at the appointed time, we'll be back with the rangers. We'll find you. Just don't panic."

I closed my eyes and took several deep breaths, trying to soothe my stomach. It helped a little, but I was quickly discovering the physical effects of panic. Although the air temperature was close to zero, my hands were sweating and my neck and back were beginning to ache. Then there was my foot.

I stood with my weight balanced on my left leg and my right held stiffly out to one side. I glared at my right foot. I had been day hiking all of my life, but this was my first overnight trip into the wilderness. Now here I stood with the thrill of the trip drained away, betrayed by a weak ankle.

"If you get hurt or lost, stay calm," warned the wilderness instructor."

My group had come upon the frozen waterfall suddenly. Although there were several alternative ways around the falls, my instructor, Sam, saw it as a way to introduce us to a new skill: "Chimneying." Ten feet below the crest of the frozen falls, a tree stretched from one bank to the other. Our object was to cross with our hands on the tree and our feet on the frozen water. Upside down, you *have* to look at the trickle of water flowing from underneath the falls, 20 feet below.

My hands were sweating inside my gloves, but I made it—the first one to cross. Sam congratulated me, and sent me on up the trail, which moved up and around the hill. Elated, I jogged to the top of the hill and turned to watch the rest of the group

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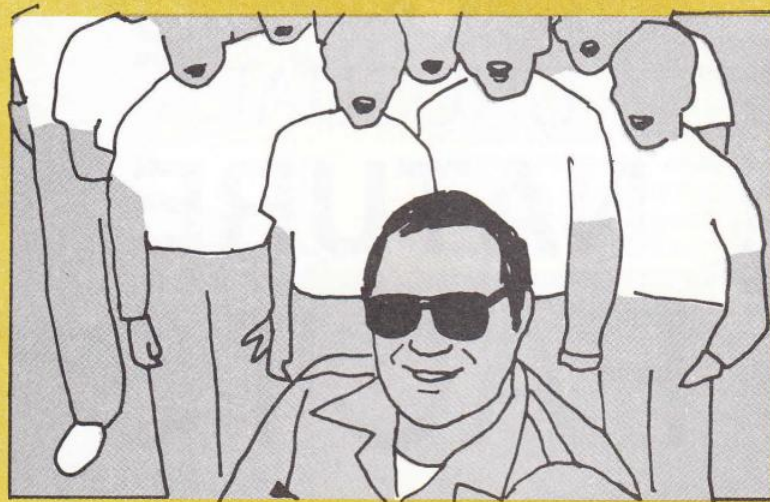
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DISPATCH

Many commanders look at
their responsibility to
Royal Rangers as trivial.
They are DEAD WRONG.
Remember that the purpose of
this ministry is to REACH,
TEACH, AND KEEP BOYS
FOR JESUS CHRIST!



A TRIVIAL PURSUIT?

BY CHARLES E. BRADSHAW

There's a new game craze spreading throughout the country. It is called *Trivial Pursuit*. It is based upon little known pieces of information and the goal is to correctly answer as many questions as you can.

Trivia is defined as, "insignificant or inessential matters." Many commanders look at their responsibility to Royal Rangers as TRIVIAL. They act like it is just a place to occupy their time, or fulfill inner dreams of unrealized hunger for power, walking around, wishing to be called "Major This" or "Colonel That." The purpose of this ministry is to REACH, TEACH, AND KEEP BOYS FOR JESUS CHRIST.

Have you ever thought about why your Royal Rangers program is not productive, why the boys seem to be dropping out faster than they come in? The answer to the problem involves you!

An experienced pastor once told me that

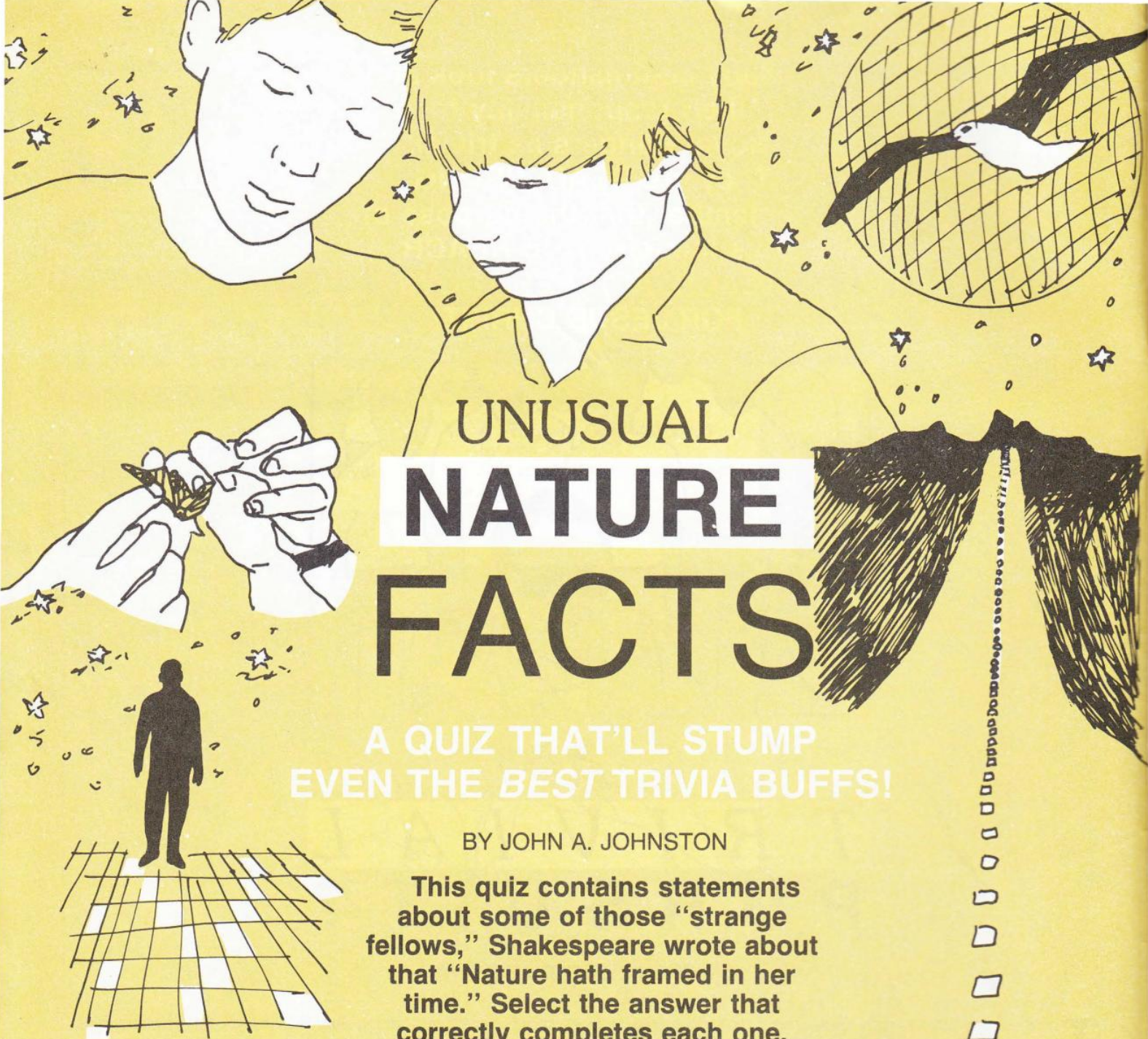
a church is an exact copy of its pastor. This can also be said of your Royal Rangers program. The first problem area to look at concerning your program, is with YOU. Are you following the guidelines set down by the Leadership Training Course? Training is not just a pin on your uniform, an insignia on your collar, it is a tool which you rely on constantly. We need to get back to basics and do THE PROGRAM like we were taught. Yes, there is always room for improvement in training, but that which has already been taught must be put into action. We cannot allow these boys to waste away their formative years. The training that you have received can be directly transferred to the boys. Whatever you have put into training will reward you and your boys a hundredfold. If you have not put much into it, don't think that you will receive an abundance from your boys.

Gentlemen, this is a ministry, not a baby-

sitting service. And if you have let your ministry deteriorate to this state, get down on your knees and ask God to forgive you and give you the determination to bring it up to the standards where it is supposed to be. This is serious business, not playtime. The time is growing short and you will be held accountable unto God for the way you handle your ministry.

There was an old saying of a past generation, "GET BACK TO THE OLD LAND-MARK." That landmark is seeing what Johnnie Barnes saw, a ministry with its prime mission to touch the lives of boys and instill in their formative years the mental, physical, social, and spiritual traits that will carry them through this life and the one to come.

Brethren, the time has come not to RESIGN, BUT TO RE-SIGN. Rekindle that flame that once blazed bright, and get a fresh viewpoint. RE-SIGN YOUR COMMISSION. ★

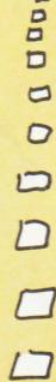


UNUSUAL NATURE FACTS

A QUIZ THAT'LL STUMP
EVEN THE *BEST TRIVIA BUFFS!*

BY JOHN A. JOHNSTON

This quiz contains statements about some of those "strange fellows," Shakespeare wrote about that "Nature hath framed in her time." Select the answer that correctly completes each one.



1. All sharks are considered dangerous to humans except the
A. lemon B. sand C. zebra D. sevengill.
2. Numbering about 1,700 living species, more than one-third of all known living mammals are
A. bats B. rodents C. marsupials D. primates.
3. A bird that can glide for six days at a time, often sleeping in flight, is the
A. sandhill crane B. turkey vulture C. red-tailed hawk D. albatross.
4. A snail can protect itself by
A. withdrawing its head into its shell B. emitting an obnoxious fluid C. changing its color to blend into the surroundings D. secreting a limestone film over its shell covering.
5. To keep itself warm in icy polar water, the walrus, under its tough, hairy hide, has a layer of blubber whose thickness is
A. six inches B. seven inches C. eight inches D. nine inches.
6. More than any other color, mosquitoes are attracted to
A. red B. white C. blue D. black.
7. The percentage of sunlight reflected by a full moon is only
A. four B. six C. seven D. nine.
8. Lightning strikes the earth 100 times every
A. second B. minute C. hour D. day.
9. The most abundant mineral in the human body is
A. phosphorus B. iron C. magnesium D. calcium.
10. The Monarch butterfly's milkweed diet
A. provides strength for long, migratory flights B. protects it from enemies C. is largely responsible for its brilliant coloration D. is a basic ingredient in pollination.

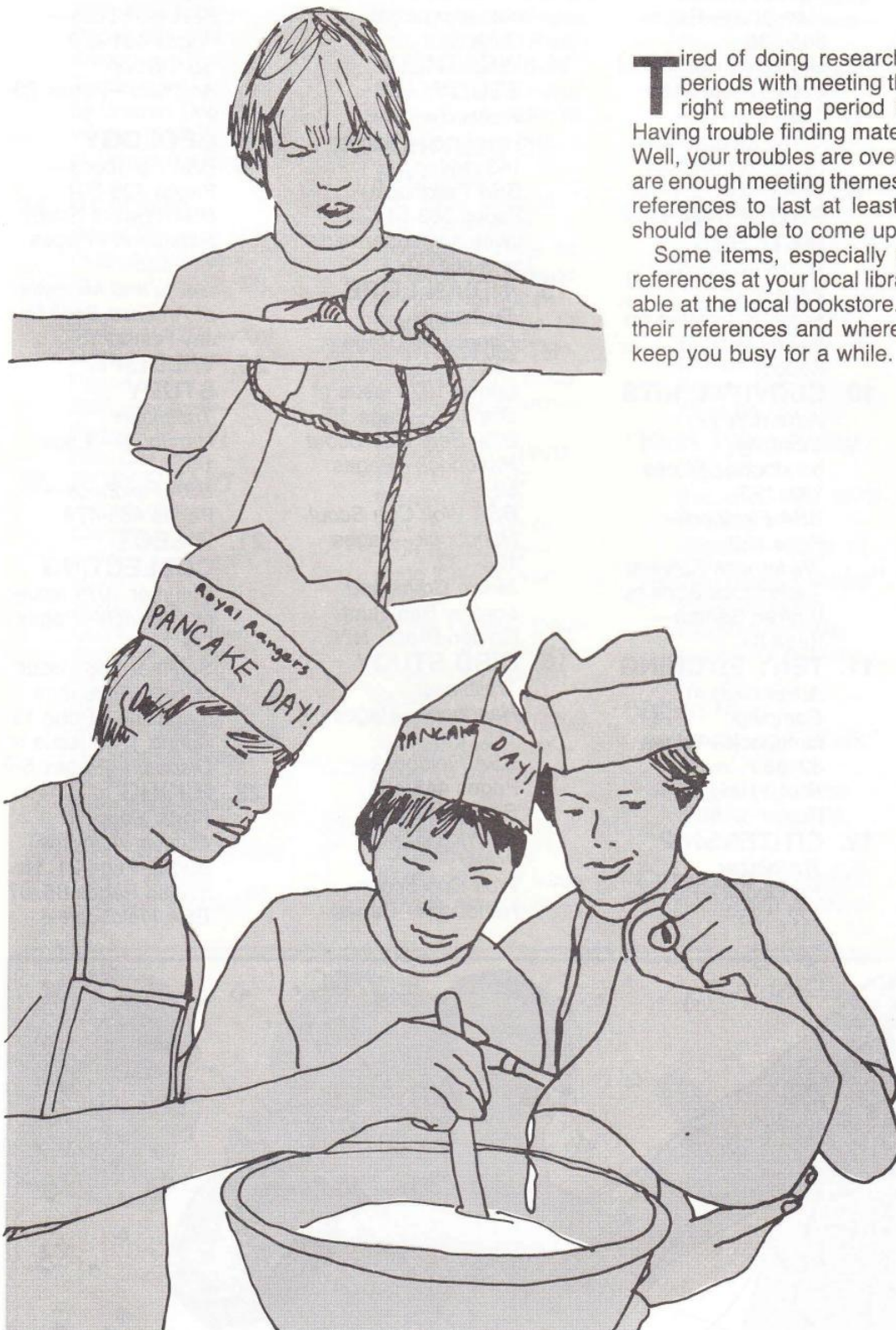
ANSWERS ON PG. 15 ►

MATCHING MEETING PERIODS WITH THEMES

BY WARREN BEBOUT

Tired of doing research trying to match up meeting periods with meeting themes? Can't seem to find the right meeting period items to fit in with a theme? Having trouble finding material to use where you need it? Well, your troubles are over, for at least six months. Here are enough meeting themes with matching meeting period references to last at least that long. By that time you should be able to come up with your own.

Some items, especially program features, have good references at your local library. Other topics may be available at the local bookstore. Here is a list of subjects and their references and where they can be found. This will keep you busy for a while.



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American Red Cross ▶

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- 12. CITIZENSHIP**
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- 13. COLLECTIONS**
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Have your boys share their collections.
Invite a speaker who has an unusual collection.
- 14. WEATHER STUDY**
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Invite a weatherman as a speaker.
- 15. INDIAN LORE**
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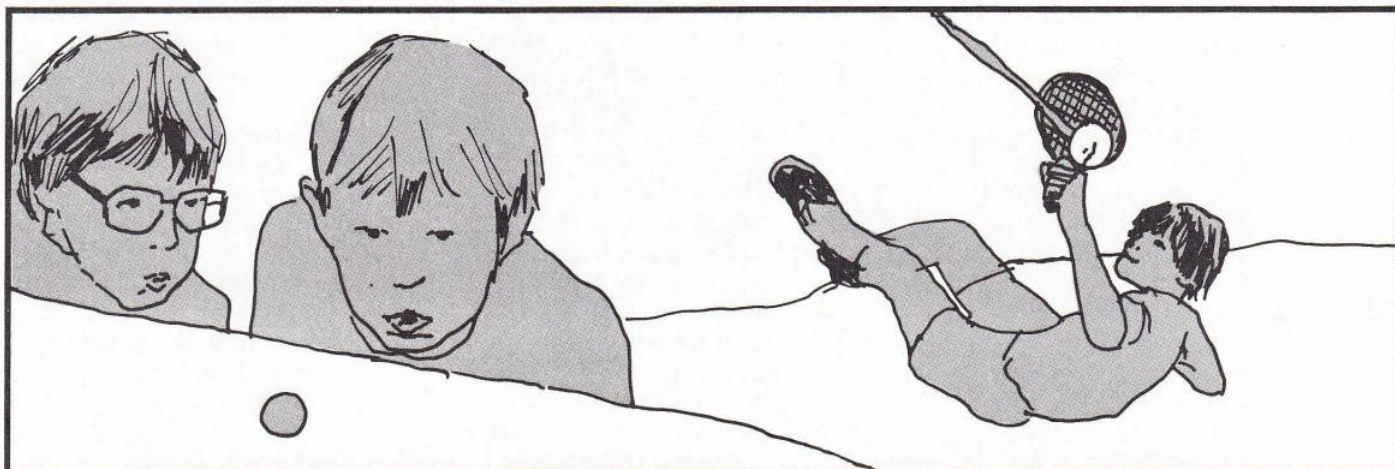
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- "Compass Change"**
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continued on page 10 ►





Y O U R
O U T P O S T
P L A N N I N G
G U I D E

JUNE

WEEK 1: Plan an **outpost swim** at the nearest rentable pool or swimming hole. Use all safety precautions as prescribed in First Aid. Employ the "Buddy System" at all times. Teach and use the Eight Point safety check.

WEEK 2: Teach **citizenship** through proper respect to our flags. Use Flag Day theme as a kickoff to inspect all outpost flags, standards, and

banners. Check positioning of flags in church sanctuary. Hold practice sessions in presentation of colors, raising and lowering, and proper folding and storage.

WEEK 3: Stress the importance of **Christian family life**. Father's Day should be a great opportunity to plan a Father-Son cookout, hike, or campout. Ask the pastor for time Sunday morning to honor the fathers. A

craft item made of wood or leather would be especially impressive.

WEEK 4: Teach the boys **fishing techniques** and tips on fishing gear. Plan a trip to the river, lake, or seashore and give the fellows some angling experience. If boats or canoes are used, be sure they are safely and properly supervised.

JULY

AUGUST

WEEK 1: Review the **outpost structure** and each person's role. Since Independence Day falls during this month, emphasize patriotism and good citizenship.

WEEK 2: Emphasize planning and preparation and needs of an **exploration trip**. Plan to explore the nearest forest, ravine, or cave. Boys of all ages are adventuresome. You can make the event more exciting by adding compass and map, search and rescue, and First Aid procedures. Added interest can be work on advanced awards.

WEEK 3: Explain the importance of **Christian service** in Royal Rangers. Compile a list of worthwhile service projects for the outpost or church. These could include cleaning the church closets, mowing the lawn, trimming the shrubs, or paint up and fix up. Work with your pastor on this to establish priorities.

WEEK 4: Emphasize the value of **nature study**. Plan a **nature hike**. Select an area of special interest for the outpost which might include variety in vegetation and wildlife. Encourage boys to take their respective handbooks along for possible advancement completions. Look for edible plants and wild fruits.

WEEK 5: Plan to **invite parents** and other family members. The outpost should be in Class A uniform if at all possible. Plan displays and demonstrations which will show the activity of outpost. Make an effort to advertise properly.

WEEK 1: Explain the importance of **outdoor recreation**, then plan a **field day**. Plan for relay races, sack races, rope pulls, tire jumps, and pole climbs. Log rolling, throwing contests, and jumping can be added with minimal effort. Make it a day for the boys to remember for exercise and fresh air.

WEEK 2: Review the basics of **good camping**. Plan for an overnight before the weather begins to turn cooler in your area. Assign each patrol certain responsibilities. Call it the "Last Rose of Summer" camp-out. Complete your detail planning with a council fire and an opportunity for unsaved boys to find Christ.

WEEK 3: Emphasize **good trip planning**. Plan a tour of your nearest zoo or amusement park. Check in advance for group ticket rates. Be sure such details as parental consent and outpost insurance are taken care of.

WEEK 4: Review summer activities and plan a **Back-to-school Roundup**. Launch your fall enlistment campaign with the school theme. Encourage the bringing of visitors to outpost meetings. Have your materials ready to instruct new boys how to become recruits. Offer rewards for each new boy who enlists. Round up the strays. Get ready for recharter.

MATCHING MEETING PERIODS WITH THEMES

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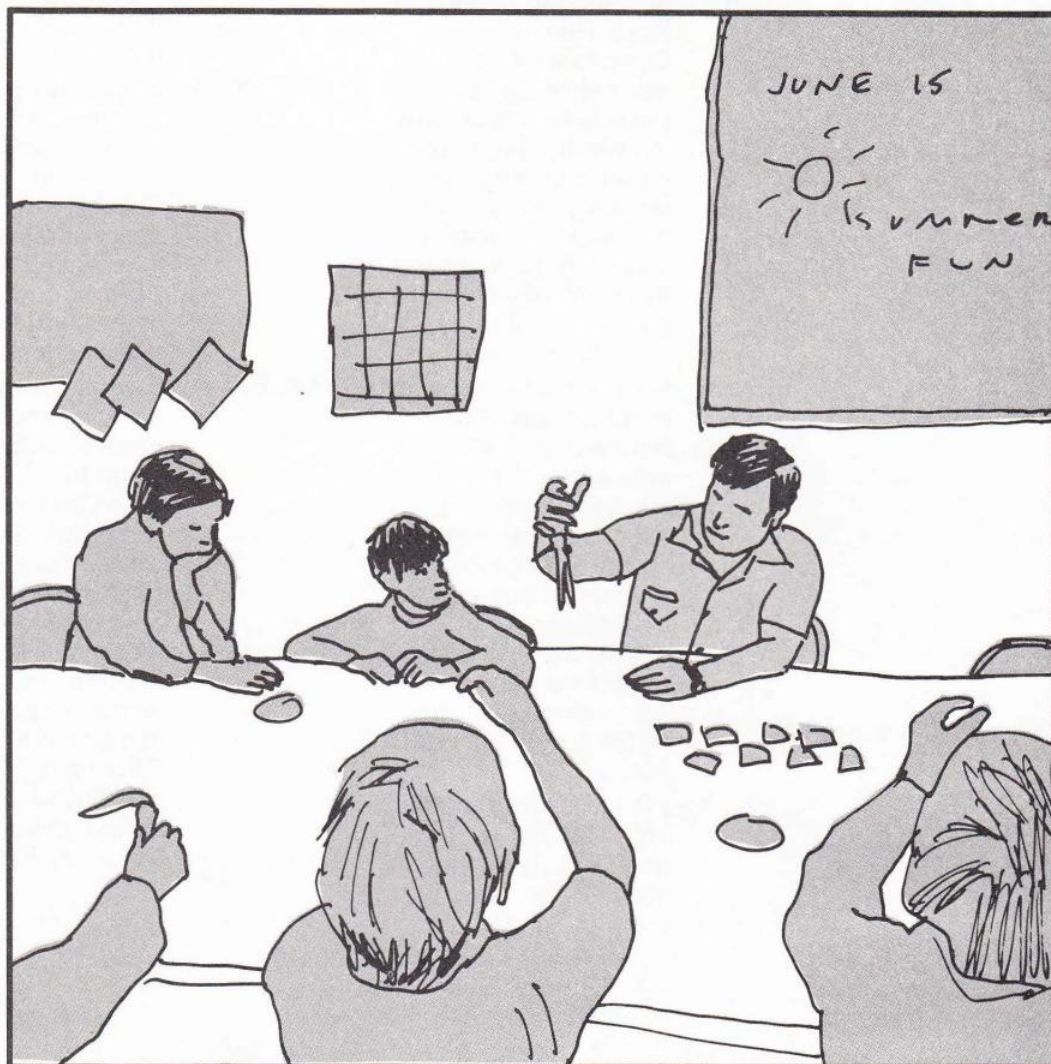
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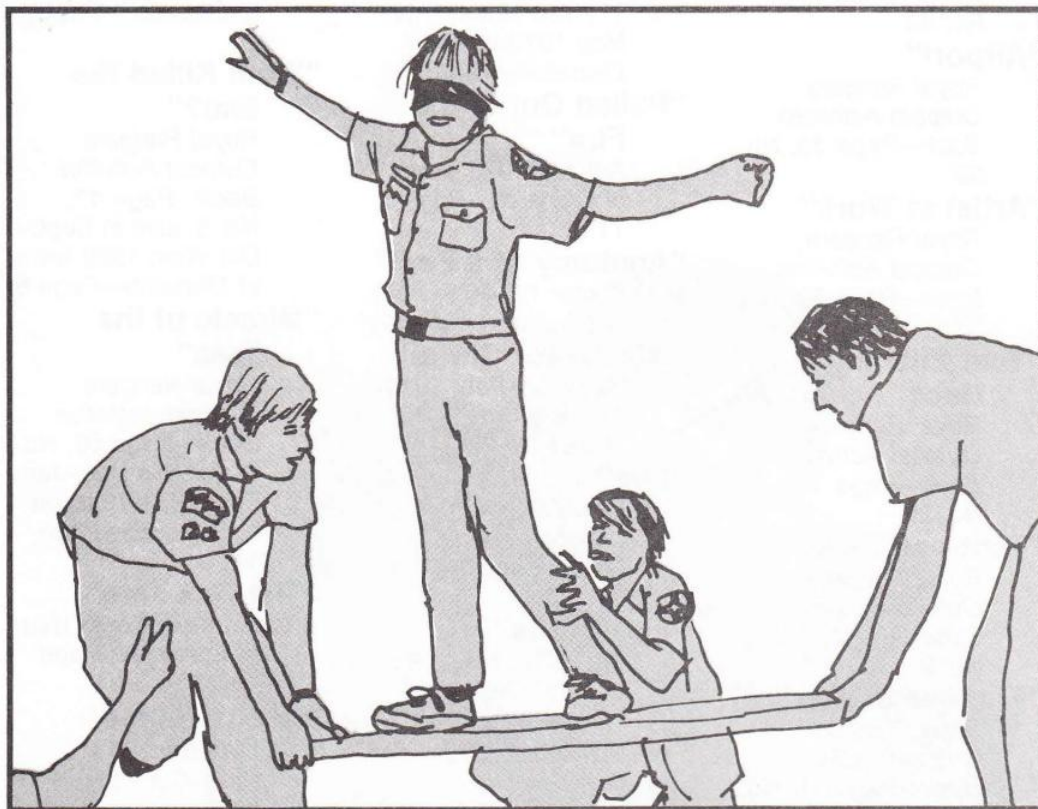
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“Red Light—Green Light”

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Hold a house-to-house

“Scavenger Hunt”

Make a list of items each boy is to collect. Try to make some lists different. Give each boy a paper sack and time this event.

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ALLERGY WARFARE

BY FORGEY & MEUNINCK

Your body's department of defense is waging an all out global guerrilla war. The invaders called allergens take the form of pollen, animal dander, dust, insect venom, drugs, and just about everything else. They gain access to your organ systems via the mouth, nose, and skin. Your body, in turn, reacts to the allergen's presence with extreme prejudice. The ensuing chemical warfare affects you for the rest of your life. Unspent antibodies, activated for battle, hang around your body for years. Sometime later, upon subsequent allergen invasions, these veteran antibodies overreact flooding you with histamines. Your skin may erupt in blisters. Your sinuses may congest. You cough, wheeze, and sneeze. And the only relief may be from a dose of the appropriate antihistamine.

In the outdoors you are most susceptible to allergens from five sources: pollen, animal dander, insect stings, and plant induced dermatitis.

POLLEN clouds emitted from pine trees descend on the allergy victims from February through March. Broadleaf trees like oak and elm attack you with pollen from April through June. Grass pollens: timothy, quack grass, foxtail, and the rest, begin releasing pollen in May . . . by the end of June the air over dry windswept fields is carrying as much as 100 pollen grains per cubic foot. Then in August, September, and October the onslaught continues with ragweed as public enemy number one.

By carefully observing what months your allergies are most active you can begin to identify the culprits that are causing the problem. Of course, it's not always that easy . . . one out of ten of us is affected across the board without regard to the sea-

son. Over-the-counter drugs like Chlor-Trimeton can provide you with relief but frequently a prescription drug will be necessary. Recent medical research has developed a family of steroid drugs that do not have the harmful effects of steroids. Your doctor can prescribe what is best for you.

ANIMAL DANDER is perhaps the most unfair group of allergen agents. Through no fault of their own your dog, cat, or horse may be making your life miserable. If you are having allergic reactions from your animal friends you can eliminate the allergen without eliminating the animal. Of course, the dog or cat will have to live outdoors with the horse. And upon returning from field trials or a day in the saddle—leave your clothes outside (occasionally an embarrassing act when you have unexpected guests). Skip quickly into the shower and shampoo . . . what is left of the animal dander will go swirling down the drain.

Most allergic reactions are more intense while you try to sleep. By trapping and eliminating allergens from your home—night hours can be spent more productively "sawing logs." To help sanctify your sleeping quarters cover your mattress in plastic thereby controlling the growth of mites. Dehumidify the air to check the growth of molds. Use a water bath vacuum cleaner to keep dust from blowing back into the room. Remove duck quill pillows and put your goose down sleeping bag in a garage sale. Buy a sleeping bag stuffed with new generation synthetic insulators like Holofill II or various other dacron polyester mixtures.

INSECT STINGS can cause serious reactions to hypersensitive victims. Anaphylactic shock can be life threatening. If

members of your party have a history of severe reactions to stings be prepared to save their lives. In severe cases a direct intramuscular injection of adrenaline may be necessary. Before any extended outdoor excursion always query your companions as to their susceptibility to insect stings.

PLANT INDUCED DERMATITIS is most frequently caused by members of the cashew family: poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac. Skin contact with the black enamel-like resin from these plants begins the following chain of events: For approximately 24 hours the resin allergen is transferred to other parts of your body by your hands. Skin eruptions appear on the second day wherever the allergen has made contact. The dermatitis does not spread from the oozing blisters.

The most severe reactions occur when the victim is engulfed in smoke from burning these noxious plants.

An immediate shower after contact with poisonous plant resins often scrubs the disease. Short term immunity is sometimes obtained from oral doses or intramuscular injections of desensitizing chemicals. Alas, this cure can sometimes cause reactions worse than the disease.

The best prevention is proper identification and avoidance. Your local bookstore or library has many field guides with descriptions and illustrations of these nefarious plants.

Naturally occurring allergens are only surpassed in toxicity by man-made chemicals: seeped into our ground water and pumped into our air. The implications of this more complex problem have us wondering hopefully, yet perched like dominoes spread around the world.



DON'T PANIC

CONTINUED FROM PG. 2



"As my pack and frame dug into the dirt, there was an odd crunching sound in my right foot."

cross. As I turned, I felt my feet slip on some loose pebbles, but I couldn't stop. I was sliding down the hill toward the stream.

"If you fall going up a hill, throw yourself forward. If you fall going down a hill, lean back." I remembered the lesson, and leaned back over my pack, trying to stop with my feet. As my pack and frame dug into the dirt, there was an odd crunching sound in my right foot. The pain that shot up my leg took my breath, and I gasped for air, waving frantically at the people who had begun to gather around me. They took off my pack and helped me back to the trail where Sam

looked at my foot. I could put weight on it, so he pronounced it a sprain. He took my pack, and we set off.

The rest of the group soon left me behind with Sam trying to maintain visual contact with me and the group. When I finally made it into the shallow ravine where we were to camp, the tents had been pitched and supper was on the fire.

I didn't eat. I crawled into my tent where one of the other students in the group helped me take my boots off. I got into my sleeping bag and cried. In the distance, I could hear the others talking softly, but I felt very alone.

I prayed silently. "God, please help me through this. I can't make it alone."

I didn't sleep much, but when I awoke the next morning, I discovered why one of the first rules of winter camping is to change your socks. During the night, the sweat from the previous day's walking had formed a thin layer of ice on my feet. My socks crunched as I struggled into my boots. I crawled out of the tent and tested my foot. It still hurt, but the swelling was down, and I could put more weight on it. It was still going to be slow, however, and I proposed to Sam that I start ahead of the group. He agreed, and I started the slow climb out of the ravine while the others broke camp.

It is amazing how quickly a trail that is perfectly visible in the dim light of dusk can disappear in bright sunlight.

I took another deep breath. Glancing around, I still could not see a trail, so I eased down on a nearby log. I was lost, hurt, and without supplies. I began to wonder what would happen if I had to spend the night alone. I conjured up the worst possibilities, and I lost faith in the few wilderness skills I knew.

"God, let them find me instead."

Around me, the trees began to stir. The pines whispered softly, as a few dead leaves that clung to their bare companions rustled. The breeze was cool, but the sky was a clear deep blue, and the sun was warm. A couple of birds traded calls, and in the distance, I could hear a squirrel madly

gnawing on some winter storage. One of the chirping birds left the safety of the tree and landed a few feet from me in a spot where the snow had melted. It looked at me a moment with its head cocked to the left. Then it took off in a burst of scattered leaves. I looked for it among the branches, but it was gone.

So was my fear. My foot still hurt, but the panic that had tried to overwhelm me had disappeared.

"Don't panic. . . ."

Until that moment, I had never understood the full meaning and power of that phrase. None of the wilderness lessons I had or would ever learn brought me the comfort that I felt on that wintery hillside. I was lost, hurt and without supplies, but not alone.

"Thank you," I said aloud.

I pushed myself up off the log. It was time to look for that trail again. I was making a slow circle away from my log when I noticed two heads bobbing up the side of the hill. I waved. They stopped, surprised to see me. Tom and Bill, members of my group, had decided to take one of the alternative routes around the falls. I was less than 20 feet from the trail!

Tom and Bill patiently escorted me as I hobbled the remaining five miles of the trail. We were the last to arrive back at the cars, over an hour behind everyone else. Sam was indeed about to call out the rangers. We all piled into the cars, tired and ready to return to hot baths and fast food. It was not yet noon.

My ankle was broken, and my doctor told me that the ice on my foot had stopped the swelling. Otherwise, I would not have been able to put on my boot. It was a fortunate mistake. Two days later, when I propped the cast up on a chair in a restaurant, a friend said, "At least you got a great story to tell."

She was right, and I will tell it to anyone who will listen. It's a wilderness adventure of excitement, pain and fear. And of an everlasting comfort.

"Be ye not afraid. . . ." ★

ANSWERS TO UNUSUAL NATURE FACTS

from page 4



"THEY'RE RATED AS THE BEST DRIVER TRAINING SCHOOL AROUND."

1. C
2. B.
3. D.
4. D. The substance crystallizes into a hard cover.
5. A.
6. C.
7. C.

8. A.
9. D.
10. B. The plant, which produces heart poisons, makes the Monarch a noxious and potentially lethal mouthful to cattle, birds, and other vertebrates.

A PROGRAM OR A MINISTRY?

BY PHIL WAYMAN

**“He said, ‘You and I are in competition.’
‘How’s that?’
He said, ‘I’m a Boy Scout leader and you’re a Royal Rangers commander.’”**

One day last winter I was invited to a church in North Seattle to introduce the Royal Rangers to a group of men. On the way home that evening I stopped at a store to shop for groceries. A gentleman in the meat market recognized me and greeted me. I stopped to chat a little with him. He was a fine Christian whom I admired as a brother in the Lord. He said to me, “What brings you up here to our store?”

I replied, “I’ve been up to a church here talking about Royal Rangers.”

He said, “You and I are in competition.”

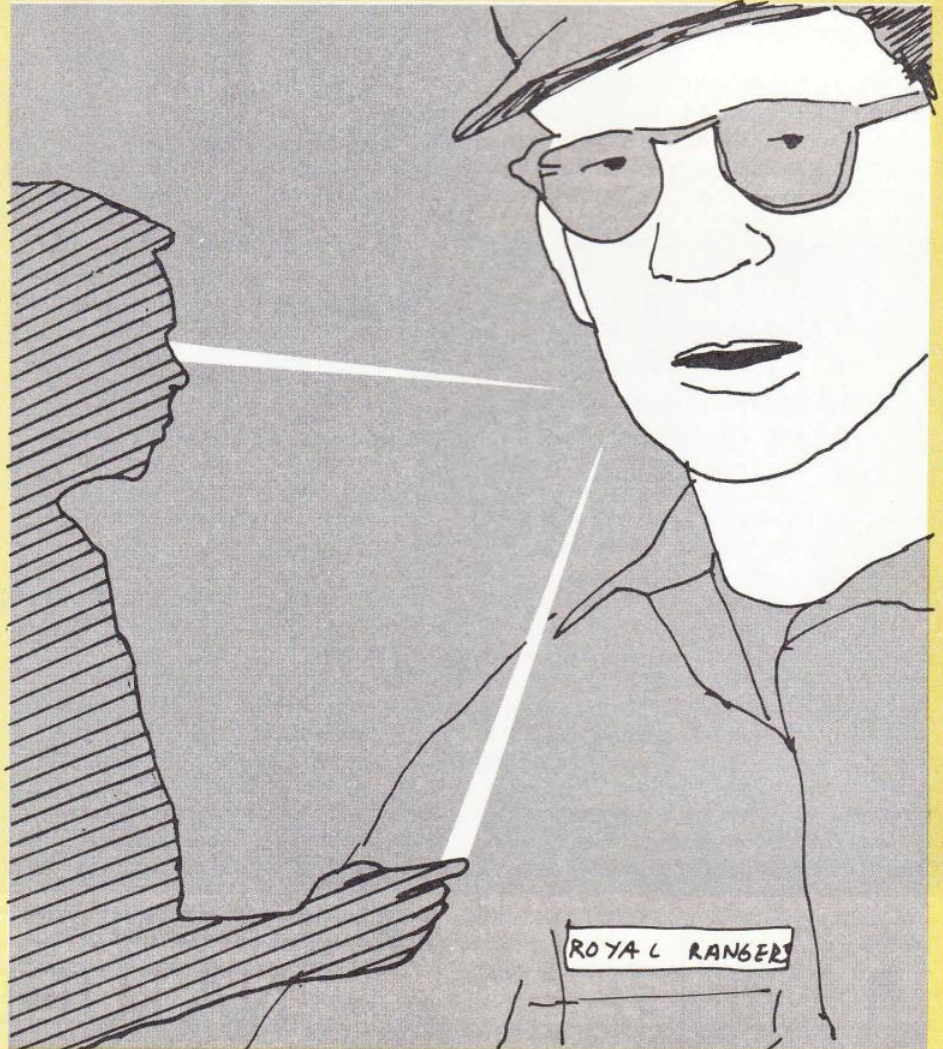
“How’s that?”

He said, “I’m a Boy Scout leader and you’re a Royal Rangers commander.”

I replied in a flash, “We’re not in competition; you’re in a program and I’m in a ministry.”

It is the spiritual dimension of Royal Rangers that sets apart this vital boys group as a ministry. Advancements up the Ranger trail involve advancements in the spiritual life as well. If you study the advancements at the various age levels, you will discover a great emphasis on knowledge of the Bible and church. This *must* become a vital part of the boy’s life if he is to excel as a Royal Ranger.

Webster’s dictionary defines the word program as “a plan of procedure.” This, of course, applies to Royal Rangers, but it is also a ministry. Ministry is defined as “the act of minister-



ing or giving service as a minister of religion.”

Jesus said, “Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant; Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Many of you commanders remember the commitment you made at the NTC Council Fire when you threw your fagot into the fire and dedicated your life in ministry to boys. This certainly

meets the qualifications Jesus gave for ministry as typified by His own life given for the service of many.

Program (plan of procedure) will wear you out. Ministry will lift you up because Jesus promised that He would give power after the Holy Spirit comes upon us. Commander, you need to believe in God for the strength and courage to meet the demands of your ministry. You can stand tall in the sight of God as you give your life in service to the greatest in the kingdom, our boys.★