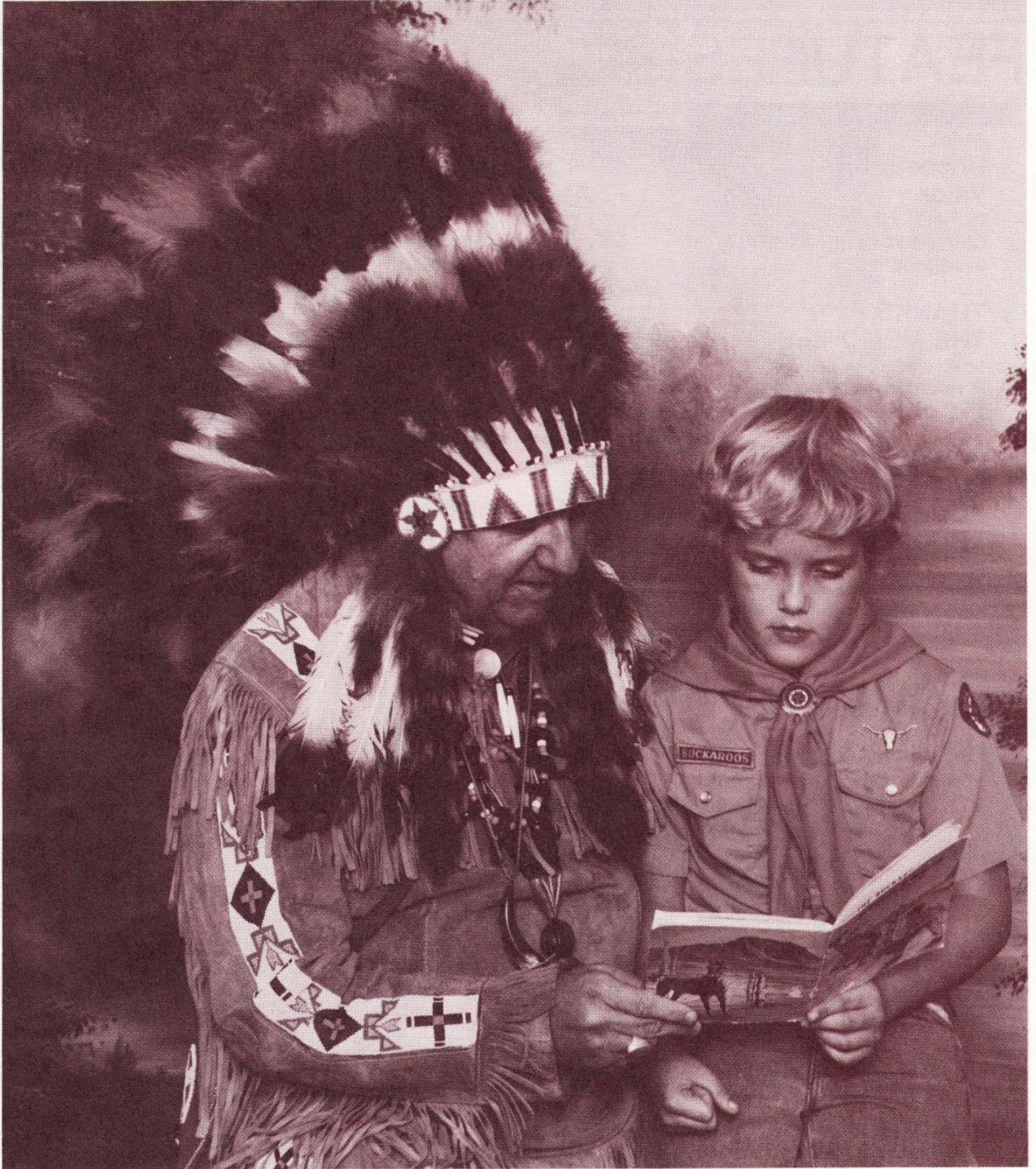


DISPATCH

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A Royal Rangers Magazine for Men

Spring 1986



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BY STAN SINCLAIR

One of the most famous of all Ranger units is Roger's Rangers. They were named after their commander and "inventor," Major Robert Rogers. However, their official unit name was the Queen's Own Rangers and the King's Own Rangers. The title "Ranger" is used for a special group of trained woodsmen sent on dangerous long-range missions. The title "Royal" means belonging to a king. These Royal Rangers served the King of England during early American wars.

Roger's Rangers were sent on missions that ordinary soldiers could not accomplish. Their jobs seldom involved fighting. They penetrated enemy territory to perfect maps and gather information. They carried vital supplies great distances and they

THESE ROYAL RANGERS
SERVED THE KING
OF ENGLAND
DURING EARLY
AMERICAN WARS

served as couriers for the most important messages. They trained the army in wilderness living. Yet, in a fight, one Ranger fought like several soldiers.

Most of the men had volunteered for the army but they were chosen to be Rangers because of their alertness and trainability. Although many were already good woodsmen and accomplished hunters, they learned the Ranger way or did not survive in the wilderness.

Ranger skills were hard lessons for Major Rogers and his Rangers. There were no books or schools to teach rangers.

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Each boy in your outpost is beyond value to our loving God. Somewhere, buried beneath those wiggles, freckles, and grins, lies hidden potential for God's kingdom. It is said that 75% of our Assemblies of God missionaries were converted before the age of twelve. It staggers my mind when I realize the potential that is buried in our Royal Rangers.

Your calling as a Royal Rangers commander should challenge you to be more than just an average worker in Christian education. **Don't just be an average commander in an average outpost with maybe average results.** Are you doing as much as possible to reach the most boys

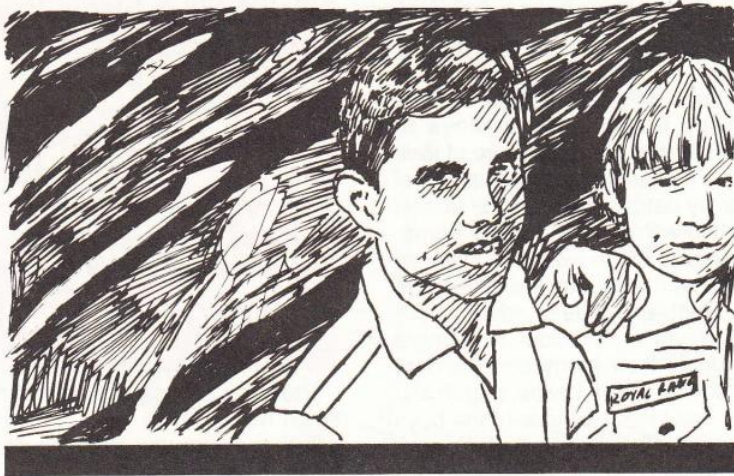
**PUT SOME DYNAMITE
INTO YOUR AVERAGE
ROYAL RANGERS
PROGRAM AND
EXPLODE INTO
EVANGELISM!**

possible? Through the Holy Spirit, you can receive power upon your ministry. Put some dynamite into your average Royal Rangers program and explode into evangelism!

As a youth pastor, I have adopted a philosophy for evangelism. In all our youth activities, our key goal is to keep the lost in mind. Our programs must be more than a private little group or club. **Our scheduled activities should always be open and available to the lost.** We should even



U N C O M M O N V A L O R



BY TIM L. HEATH

A LETTER OF APPRECIATION TO FIRST-TIME VISITORS IS 22¢ WELL SPENT!

go out and compel them to come in. Evangelism is a must.

What is your goal for a successful outpost? Do you desire a program with lots of exciting activities? Is your ideal outpost one that has an abundance of trained commanders? Maybe your picture of a successful outpost is one that is equipped with the finest facilities and materials available. All of these ideas are important but not a single one can take the place of evangelism.

As a Bible college student in Waxahachie, Texas, I learned a valuable lesson in evangelism. I was appointed the role as senior commander over an average outpost in an evangelistically minded church. Our meeting facilities were the "pits." We had little room and finances were rather limited. But we did have one advantage on our side. We had four running buses and sixteen commanders who were willing to be used and trained. Through the guidance of our bus ministry pastor, we began to personally follow up on every single visitor and absentee weekly. Needless to say, our outpost grew from an average size of thirty boys to a phenomenal growth of a hundred plus boys.

There are several outlets for evangelism available to you as the commander. Your search should begin with the most obvious, the outpost roll book. You must put your roll book to good use.

The most important thing in your roll book is not the record of attendance but the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all regular attenders, casual comers, and visitors. This is very important. In the rolls of our top 100 largest Sunday schools, you will not find a single one that will leave off any of this information. Why should your Royal Rangers outpost be any different? I want to fly with eagles not a bunch of turkeys. Effective roll taking is essential in the growth of any outpost.

Meet with your youth leaders and Sunday school teachers to weed out boys who may have slipped by you. You'll be surprised at how many boys you can pick up immediately.

Word of mouth is still the best form of advertisement. **Challenge your boys to bring their friends.** Keep a record of their efforts. Have a contest for individual Royal Rangers or by patrols. Reward the fastest growing group with a pizza party or something. The idea is to get everyone involved in getting the word out. Be sure to become personally involved in these efforts. Your action will speak a lot louder than mere words. I wonder how many commanders follow the advice of the Leadership Training Course and take a census of the boys ages 5 through 17, within a 5-block area of your home and church.

Your visitors must feel a warm and sincere welcome from you and your group. Statistics tell us that 50% of all nonreturnable visitors will return, if they receive a personal contact. That is a big "IF." On your visit be sure to take along some information concerning the Royal Rangers program. You'll find parents are much more willing to send their boys if they understand more about it. All first-time visitors should get some kind of letter of appreciation from the outpost commander or senior commander. It is a 22¢ that is well spent.

Once you have an ongoing follow-up program, be sure to stay on top of your growth by sharing statistics at quarterly outpost staff meetings. **Better communication will help everyone.**

Leadership training is vital to have a smooth running outpost. Your outpost meeting's success depends upon the commander. The student is never any better than his teacher. These men must have a balanced program of evangelism, fellowship, learning, and spiritual growth.

Do you think you can become a man of uncommon valor? Not a man of wealth, talent, or social standing. But a man who is willing. A poem from the "Living Word" describes best the uncommon man of valor:

If you think you are beaten, you are.

If you think you dare not, you don't.

If you'd like to win, but think you can't,

It's almost a cinch you won't.
If you think you'll lose, you're lost.

For out in the world we find
Success begins with a fellow's will,

It's all in the state of the mind.
If you think you're outclassed,
you are.

You've got to think high to rise.
You've got to be sure of yourself before

You can ever win the prize.
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man,
But soon or late, the man who wins

Is the man who thinks he can.

Proverbs 23:7 says "For as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he . . ." Allow God's power to make you His man of valor in a world full of perishing boys. ★



“AS A PASTOR, I HAVE ATTENDED
MANY CONFERENCES, SEMINARS,
AND MEETINGS, BUT I HAVE
NEVER EXPERIENCED
ANYTHING LIKE NTC.”

T H A N K S F O R T H E M E M O R I E S

BY REV. RICHARD L. HAMM

“Michigan! You can't be serious,” was my reply to Bill Beardsley, my senior commander, as he informed me of the change of plans for the National Training Camp (NTC). We were scheduled to attend the Mississippi NTC, and had just learned of its cancellation. Bro. Beardsley was now informing me that he, along with six other commanders just could not wait 7 months for the NTC that was scheduled to be held in our home state of Florida, and they were seriously considering making the trip to Michigan for NTC, which was to be held that very week!

I gave our commanders several reasons as to why it was impossible for me to make this trip, one of them being we were scheduled to begin revival services that particular Sunday. However, the commanders were determined to go, and to take Pastor Hamm with them! For some reason, I agreed to go with them and to fly back from Michigan on Saturday evening and open revival services on Sunday morning.

We loaded six men and all our camping gear into the church van and drove 21 hours straight from northwest Florida to northern Michigan to make the opening exercise of the NTC.

When we arrived, an unexpected cold front blew in just for us Florida boys. We

left temperatures in the upper 80s for freezing rain in the 20s and a high in the 40s. We walked with cold, wet feet for three days, but the warmth of the fellowship with other commanders and the presence of the Holy Spirit removed all discomfort and dis-

“I would encourage every pastor to become an integral part of their Royal Rangers program, and to participate in a National Training Camp at their first opportunity.”



couragement due to the unfortunate weather, and brought great sunlight to our souls.

Ray Wilson, our camp commander, and Fred Deaver, our senior guide (the man we all hate to love), reminded us in unforgettable ways that we were involved in one of the greatest endeavors of life. We learned the truth of the statement, “A man never stood as tall as when he stooped to help a boy.” The warmth and love of these very compassionate men made a lasting impression upon my life.

As a pastor, I have attended many conferences, seminars, and meetings, but I have never experienced anything like NTC. It was one of the most memorable endeavors of my 10 years of ministry.

I would encourage every pastor to become an integral part of their Royal Rangers program, and to participate in a National Training Camp at their first opportunity. I can say from personal experience, it does make you proud to wear the blue beret.

Of all the momentos on my office wall, the painting entitled, *The Commander*, painted and signed by Fred Deaver, which was presented to me during a Sunday evening service by my Royal Rangers staff, still brings tears to my eyes as I reflect back on the Michigan NTC of 1984. ★

1. Goals, short and long term for you as leader:

- a. Personal and family relationships
- b. Time management, home, job, and ministry
- c. Teaching effectiveness
- d. Personal and spiritual growth

2. Setting goals will help you meet your needs:

- a. Builds you up and gives you a sense of confidence
- b. Gives you a sense of self-discipline
- c. Makes it easier to enlist the aid and support of others for your ministry
- d. Gives leaders a sense of unity of purpose
- e. Helps you to see clearly what you are accomplishing

3. Goals of misbehavior and how to minister to boys (or why boys misbehave and what you can do about it):

- a. Notice me: This boy needs personal attention, so give it to him with set time limits. This personal attention may serve as a reward for obedience.
- b. I'm powerful: This boy has learned that he can be a powerful person among his friends and win their respect and approval. He is trying to prove that he doesn't need your approval. Make an ally of him. Discover his strengths and provide opportunity for him to show

positive leadership. This boy *will* be leader in one way or another, so let him do it in positive ways.

- c. Forget it: This boy is communicating to you that he sees himself as no good and inadequate. He needs encouragement. Give him many small successes to build upon which will give him courage to try for greater things.



- d. Service!:: This boy is the subtle manipulator who will get you, his parents, his friends and enemies, or anyone else to do everything for him. He resists responsibility. He must be *taught* responsibility by making him personally accountable. Give him *choices*. Actively teach him that when you make wise choices good things happen, and when you make

unwise choices you must face the consequences. Typically, this boy will complain that teachers or parents are picking on him, and that the rules are not fair. You must teach him that the consequence of his behavior is not a matter of someone doing something punishing to him, but that *he makes the choices himself*. Do not be quick to excuse him or to bail him out when he has made unwise choices, but instead teach him through his mistakes.

4. Encouragement (Read Romans 12:5-8, especially verse 8, on the spiritual gifts):

- a. The underlying cause of misbehavior has its roots in a lack of self-esteem, a poor self-image, and a sense of inadequacy. A sense of self-esteem has positive effects on behavior.
- b. Definition: To encourage means to put into, to cover up with courage.
- c. Exhort: This is the Bible word for encourage in the King James Version.
- d. John 16:7: The title for the Holy Spirit is in the KJV "Comforter" and in the NIV "Counselor." In this passage, God calls himself the Encourager. The term literally means "One called alongside to help."
- e. Edify: This is another Bible word for encourage. The Latin word "aedificare" has two parts: "aedes," which means house, temple, or hearth. And the second part of the word is "ficare," which means to make, to teach, to instruct. So in the original meaning of edify was this: to build up, to make a fireplace or hearth by teaching and instructing.

5. Become an encourager:

- a. A major part of your job as a teacher is to see hidden potential in boys and build on it. You will bring out the best in boys when you encourage them.
- b. You must see that boys, by virtue of the fact that God loves them, have potential and possibilities; and we must see boys this same way.
- c. Become an encourager by a renewed commitment and trust in God and by a renewed vision of what God wants to accomplish in and through you.
 - (1) Remember: You are training future family and church leaders.
 - (2) Remember: You are strategically placed and God chose you to do a part others can't do in the lives of the boys you teach.
 - (3) Remember: We are training these boys to have the qualities valuable in our missionaries, ministers, teachers, and evangelists.
 - (4) Remember: When God calls, He equips. When God gives re-

**O U T P O S T
M A N A G E M E N T
F O R R A N G E R S
L E A D E R S**

BY TIMOTHY & PHYLLIS MOORE

sponsibility, He gives authority to go with it. He has not left you comfortless, but He has sent to you the Encourager.

6. Six attitudes of an encourager:

- a. I can see what you are becoming, and I can see beyond what you are now.
- b. I will catch you in the act of being good, and I will praise you.
- c. I will care enough to lead you to Jesus.
- d. I know that misbehavior is only a symptom of a hidden inner need, and I will prayerfully minister to each need.
- e. I know that behavior problems will increase while a boy's inner needs are unmet, so I will be prompt to discipline in love.
- f. I know that if a boy's inner needs are not being met in positive ways by those adults responsible for his growth and development, *the boy will assume the responsibility for getting his needs met in inappropriate ways.*

7. An affirmation: I am God's instrument of authority in the outpost and among the boys I teach.

God has given me the responsibility and the authority to do the work of teaching. My time and talents are too valuable to let them be wasted, so I will make the best use of my time and talents, that I may glorify the Lord in my service. I will not tolerate any boy keeping me from teaching or keeping another boy from learning. Boys are a valuable asset to God's Kingdom, and I will always expect and require their best. I will use the gift of encouragement (Rom. 12:8)



to bring out the very best in all boys I teach. I will look for opportunities to encourage boys, and I will "catch them in the act of being good."

8. Assertive Discipline: The answer to outpost behavioral problems, the method by which you may encourage boys, and a workable system of outpost management.

- a. What is Assertive Discipline? It is a scriptural approach to handling discipline problems, which is both positive and effective. It is a method that gets your needs and the needs of the boys met and takes the stress out of teaching. It confronts the assumption that some boys can't be-

have. Not only is that assumption false, it is a deception of the enemy.

- b. Three types of teachers: assertive, nonassertive, and hostile.

A MAJOR PART OF YOUR JOB AS A TEACHER IS TO SEE HIDDEN POTENTIAL IN BOYS.

9. How do I become a leader?

- a. You must acknowledge the fact that you are the authority in your outpost. You are in charge.
- b. You must decide and clearly define exactly what it is you expect your boys to do or not to do, and then you must clearly communicate your needs to the boys. (Don't assume that boys know what you need from them.) When you have determined what you need from your boys in your outpost, write them down. These will be your behavior rules. Limit them to five or six.
- c. You must systematically set limits when boys do not behave properly. In other words, you should deter-

mine ahead of time and clearly define for the boys exactly what they can expect from you if they should choose to break one of your rules. Each time, the boy should be given a choice. The boy will choose at that time to comply with what you have asked him to do or not to do or he will choose to face the consequences of his behavior.

- d. Severe clause: In the incidence of severe disruption, you must have a plan to deal with such behavior immediately. An example of such behavior is fighting or swearing. This behavior severely disrupts your ability to teach and the other children's ability to learn. The child should be removed from the class immediately.
- e. You must systematically reinforce appropriate behavior. You must plan ahead and clearly communicate to the boys what they can expect from you when they behave appropriately. This is, in fact, the key to the effectiveness of the whole program. Find something praiseworthy in each boy each outpost meeting. Examples: Praise them, good notes home, stickers, others.

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POINTS TO PONDER

- 1. Consistency is worth a thousand words. Rather than nag or plead, provide a negative consequence *every* time a boy chooses to disrupt or to break a rule.
- 2. Never remove checks or names for promises, pleading, or improved behavior.
- 3. Don't carry over a list of names or checks into the next meeting.
- 4. With some boys, the behavior plan will not work effectively, so, with tough behavior problems, get tougher. For example, with some boys, standing in the corner is not discipline at all. With some tough behavior problems, it may be necessary to work out a system of loss of privileges or restrictions with the cooperation of parents.
- 5. No child should be given preferential treatment. You may be surprised to find that church leaders will be especially glad to know that you're dealing honestly with them about their boys' misbehavior or disruptions.
- 6. Don't assume that boys can read your mind and just know what you expect from them. You must make it very clear to boys what is appropriate behavior.
- 7. A good discipline plan will meet these criteria:
 - a. FIRM. Consistent, not partial or "Wishy-washy"
 - b. FAIR. Not based on your moods or who the boy knows.
 - c. LOVING. The boy will know that you have his best interest at heart and that you are teaching him what is appropriate behavior because you care enough to get involved. He will know that you see potential in him.
- 8. The boy makes choices, and that frees you to do your job, to teach.
- 9. We are engaged in teaching, instructing, and guiding boys to make wise choices.
- 10. If your needs as a leader are not being met, the needs of the boys cannot be met. ★

FEAR

P A N I C *and*

P a r a n o i a

BY JIM MEUNINCK

Panic by definition is a sudden overpowering terror. It can trigger profound dysfunction, stilling our very instinct to survive.

Panic is a personal thing. It may be a phobia. A self-limiting behavior that keeps you off a boat, or off a ski lift. Perhaps you go bananas at the sight of a snake, or your skin crawls in the presence of a spider.

Panic is also contagious. A theater catches on fire. One screaming patron rushes for the nearest door. The masses follow, one piling over the other.

Panic is universal. Evidence proves that well adjusted individuals DO panic. The key element precipitating panic—in even the most autonomous of us—is a sudden exposure to the unfamiliar . . . and unexpected.

Let's look at the hierarchy of panic: the stages of its development and our response to the surprise.

To set the scene, let's suppose you are caught in a storm at sea, or your boat has suddenly burst into flames miles from shore. Or maybe, you have bedded down for the night on a quiet island, only to discover you are surrounded by a forest fire. Hurricanes, tornados, lightning, drowning, profuse bleeding all may trigger panic. There is a typical response pattern to these wholly unfamiliar and unexpected events.

PANIC RESPONSE 1 (the pre-event phase):

Your first response, call it the lull before the storm, it punctuated by underactivity, apathy, and ineffective preparation for the impending disaster. Perhaps you feel it's an inconvenience to be prepared, to practice rescue and survival procedures. An ounce of prevention just isn't worth the time. Anyway, fate is on your side, right? You're not the leader of this expedition, it's someone else's job to protect me. This fatalistic approach to disaster avoidance is deadly.

PREVENTION:

It is important for someone to take charge, to assume leadership afield or afloat. This person should require party members to practice self-rescue procedures. Everyone should be given an opportunity to participate implosively with the possible disaster. That is, they should imagine with the help of a leader the appropriate steps to take should a particular disaster occur.

PANIC RESPONSE 2 (the event is im-



minent):

Now, disaster is moments away. If you haven't provided for Response One, everyone will be hounding you for information, and instruction. Right now—when it is too late. Truly, their fate is in the hands of God. A few believe a miracle may contain and control the impending event. Others may become overactive. Their efforts are random, ineffective, unorganized. This is the first stage of true panic. Victims are one breath away from irrational, self-destructive behavior. There appears to be only one escape route, and everyone uses it. Other avenues of safety and avoidance are ignored while bodies clog at a door, or masses become a trap in an elevator, for example.

PREVENTION:

Now a leader must emerge from the chaos! Loud, clear, orders must be issued. Advice must be specific and simplified.

RESPONSE 3 (the event):

Full blown panic. Your only efforts are to stay alive. If you are tossed from a boat into the storm, you claw for something to hang onto. You are bewildered. Confused. Others are reacting without emotion. They are docile, indecisive, withdrawn. But 75% of the group is in panic—fighting or fleeing. Their behavior is aimless. Their thought patterns are amuck. They sweat, have tremors and startle easily.

PREVENTION:

The leader or leaders must keep the victims at task. Encourage them. Give them specific duties. Physically isolate those who

have gone off the deep end—they can stir the others into maladaptive behavior.

RESPONSE 4 (post event):

The disaster is over. You have survived. Others have not. Still others, who have panicked, are strongly dependent on your stable leadership. They are childish and childlike. They will follow you, their chosen leader. They are fiercely loyal.

TREATMENT:

It is time to nurture. Administer hot soup, tea, and coffee. Explain to them the crisis is over. Stay close and support them, take care of their needs. Ensure them: everything is under control, they are safe, and in good hands.

This is what you can expect when the unexpected and unfamiliar comes knocking at your door. Fear, panic and paranoia—innate responses and learned behaviors we must learn to deal with. Successful field experiences build your repertoire of defense measures. This armamentarium gains your confidence. But you can never know too much about the activity you are going to pursue. Seek training. Make your first steps into the unknown with an expert. Model their behavior. Then visit the wilderness often, learn from the woods, learn from the sea. Have a pattern for your encounter, a blueprint for survival, count down to your adventure by practicing emergency procedures beforehand. Go over all the possible scenarios in your mind. Plan your escape . . . and stick to your plan.

★



CONQUERING FEAR

BY JIM MEUNINCK

Fear of animals, insects, water, height, fire—the list goes on and on—are human responses to lack of control. Phobics have a strong need to control themselves and their environment. People with phobias are experts at making excuses and practicing avoidance. And people with phobias are all of us. Maybe you find it fearful to stand in front of a crowd and give a speech. Or you are uncomfortable cocooned in a plane at 35,000 feet. Perhaps the sudden appearance of a mouse or spider makes you recoil. You may jump three feet high when a snake crosses your path. These are normal responses. Remember the unexpected unnerves all of us. But you can cut your losses and gain control over your fear. Here's how:

1. YOU MUST ACCEPT YOUR PHOBIA. You are not crazy. Don't fight your fear. Yes, you are uncomfortable, but the feeling will pass. The key is you are not in danger.

2. FACE YOUR FEAR. Expose yourself to the stimulus. Don't close your eyes, or bury your head. Look at it, study

that what terrifies you. First, try to experience the phobia at a safe distance. For example, go to a herpetarium in the zoo and put your hand against the glass that houses the poisonous snake. Study the snake, look at it in detail.

3. DON'T FLEE. You may back off, sure, but don't run from the supposed danger. When you have composed yourself, face it again.

4. TEACH YOURSELF TO EXPECT THE BEST, NOT THE WORST. If you are cowering in a gondola, climbing to the top of the ski lift, don't even consider that it may fall—it rarely does. But it will get you to the top of the mountain, where you can enjoy a glorious day of skiing.

Remember, in a survival situation phobias get in the way. You must defuse these fears now, so in a true life and death struggle you are unhindered by self-limiting behavior. ★

MEDICAL ADVISORY: If panic attacks continue and become more frequent you may need professional medical help.

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WHAT IS A ROYAL RANGERS COMMANDER?

by Steve Beakley

First; the commander is a Christian called of GOD into a ministry to reach, teach, and keep boys for CHRIST.

A Royal Rangers commander is a teacher; teaching the truths of the GOSPEL, the fundamentals of the Royal Rangers, contained in manuals, manuscripts, text books, and the Word of God.

The commander is a counselor; trained and ready to listen and share the burdens of boys in today's society. He is a friend to those who need a friend.

The commander is an organizer; putting together all the information required to meet the needs of boys in the Royal Rangers ministry.

The commander is a coordinator; meeting with other commanders and council members of the church and other outposts to gather ideas, and share some of his own, to improve the Royal Rangers ministry for the boys in the Royal Rangers ministry.

The commander is a master camper and woodsman. The commander knows how to survive and function in his environment. He or she is familiar with the provisions of GOD'S creation and how to use them for his or her benefit.

The Royal Rangers commander is a man or woman dedicated to the call of GOD in the Royal Rangers ministry. He or she is required to sometimes ask for monetary aid in the support of this GOD-CALLED mission to reach, teach, and keep boys for CHRIST. Sometimes the commander is in the business of recruiting other commanders who might meet the requirements.

We need your prayers. GOD will listen to any criticism you may have; but beware: GOD may call you into this ministry to follow the MASTER RANGER. I'm sure there are those who could find fault with GOD'S work. If you are a Christian, it is your work too, by praying that these commanders and these boys live by the Ranger Code and make the GOLDEN RULE their daily rule.

I am proud to be a part of this ministry that has now spread over the world. I am proud to be one of the thousands of boys and commanders in this Royal Rangers ministry, reaching, teaching, and keeping boys and commanders for CHRIST. ★



**“BELOW IN THE SPACE
USUALLY RESERVED
FOR PINCH HITTERS
AND PINCH RUNNERS,
APPEARED THIS
EXPLANATORY ASTERISK:
‘*—SILVER RAN WITH
MAUZEE IN THE NINTH.’ ”**

SILVER MAKES THE BOX SCORE



BY MEL THARP

It was in the spring of 1981 that Johnny Mauzee came out for the Aardvarks, a Youth League baseball team that I coach. His arrival coincided with our purchase of Silver, a female miniature schnauzer. As I look back in retrospect, the simultaneous arrival of Johnny and Silver seems predestined by God.

Silver quickly became an accepted member of the family. Her alert and lively

**SILVER'S PRESENCE SEEMED
TO HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT
ON JOHNNY!**

temperament made her not only a pampered darling at home, she also became a favorite of the baseball squad and was adopted as mascot.

On the other hand, Johnny had not lived a pampered life. He came from a broken

family and his mother worked hard to put food on the table. When he came out for the team, he was painfully shy, suspicious and quick to take offense at any rebuke, however slight. He proved to be a talented catcher and a good hitter, although his surly disposition made it difficult for him to make friends.

Because of his lack of affability, Johnny often found himself isolated from his teammates. There was one exception. Johnny loved animals and Silver became his friend. When the team worked out, Silver romped along with Johnny. When the team played, and the opposing side was at bat, Silver took her place behind the backstop as close to her pal as she could get without actually coming on the field of play.

Another thing, Silver seemed to understand the game of baseball. When our team would work up a rally, she seemed to catch on to the excitement in the stands. Sometimes her enthusiasm would get the best of her, and the umpire would have to get



"As Johnny neared first, he was joined by a sudden grayish blur."



her off the playing field.

As time passed, Silver's presence seemed to have a positive effect on Johnny. His bellicose behavior toward his teammates started to diminish.

Then one day after practice, I received a real surprise when Johnny asked if he might come to our house to play with Silver for a few hours. I told him we would be delighted to have him, and we invited him to stay for supper.

Before taking him home, I asked if he would like to go to church with us the following Sunday.

"We don't go to church," he replied. "Mommy works and she's always so tired, she wants to rest when she's home. I'd like to go though. Does Silver go to church?"

"No," I laughed. "That's about the only place we do go that she doesn't tag along. It's probably a good thing. Seeing the way that she gets involved at the games, I can imagine what she might do to the sanctity

of our choir."

Soon Johnny was looking forward to attending church. He took an avid interest in the Sunday school lessons and we often found ourselves waiting after church for him while he discussed some point of the lesson with his teacher.

On the other hand, the Aardvarks got off to a dismal start. Despite the fact that our team had talent, they did not play well. We lost close games by making critical mistakes late in the game. Other times, our late-game rallies fell short because we couldn't get the key hit to drive in the winning run.

It was obvious that the team needed a catalyst; a take-charge guy to instill that winning desire. Then I held a team meeting for the purpose of electing a field captain. Although I purposely abstained from being present at the voting, I learned that the voting was unanimous. Johnny was elected captain.

The Aardvarks went on a winning streak. Miraculously, on the last day of the season, we were in a dead tie for first place with the Comets. It was Saturday morning, and the Aardvarks and Comets were meeting for what would decide the League Championship.

It proved to be a hard-fought game and through eight innings, the score was knotted at 0-0. Then apparent disaster befell our team in the top of the ninth. The lead-off hitter for the Comets opened with a triple, then scored on a wild pitch. Franky Terry, our pitcher, retired the next three batters on strikes, but the damage was done. Things looked grim as we entered the dugout to start the bottom of the ninth. The pitcher for the Comets looked invincible.

Rueben Pryor, our leadoff batter in the ninth, hit a weak plop fly to the second baseman for the first out. Spectators who liked to avoid the end-of-the-game rush began making their way toward the exit gates. But the pitcher lost his control momentarily, and walked Paul Maxwell, our left fielder. The next batter was Johnny Mauzee.

Johnny got a pitch he liked and lashed into it. As he hit the ball, the crowd leaped to its feet with a roar. This aroused Silver, who was lying in the grass in front of our dugout. The ball had gotten by the center fielder and Maxwell was scoring to tie the game. Johnny was trying to stretch his hit for every base he could get.

As Johnny neared first, he was joined by a sudden grayish blur. The schnauzer, catching sight of her friend, had taken off to join him. Down to second base they went, boy and dog, running like a team. Then around second base, past the shortstop, whom Silver narrowly missed while making her wide turn.

The throw was coming in from the outfield now and Johnny was in danger of being thrown out as he neared home plate. Coaching from the third base box, I yelled for him to slide. Johnny hit the dirt and slid across the plate just ahead of the catcher's tag. Racing close behind in a cloud of dust, Silver also hit the bag. The umpire's hands signaled safe. There was a brief argument that Silver had interfered but the umpire rejected the appeal. The play was over before the dog got to the plate. Both Johnny and Silver made it home.

Even the official scorekeeper got into the spirit of the moment. In the box score, he made a place for Silver. She appeared under Johnny's name. Below in the space usually reserved for pinch hitters and pinch runners, appeared this explanatory asterisk:

"*—Silver ran with Mauzee in the ninth."

How the game ended is not really important. What is important is that Johnny's relationship with a playful little dog turned his life around. It enabled him to learn to cope with the adversities of life.

"Silver brought out the best in me and brought me closer to God," Johnny said simply. ★



THE WORLD'S GREATEST FATHER

BY MURIEL LARSON

I have the world's greatest Father! He loves me. He really cares. And He is there whenever I need Him.

Everything He does is right. But strangely enough, He doesn't look down on me when I muff up. Oh, He's not pleased when I do wrong. In fact, it makes Him sad. But He understands how fallible I am.

He's always willing to forgive me if I'm truly sorry and ask His forgiveness. And He not only forgives—He forgets! It's as if the wrong things I did were dumped into the deepest sea! But He also expects me to turn my back on them too.

Sometimes I've been so busy with other things that I didn't have time for my Father. Oh, I might say a few meaningless words to Him occasionally. But then I've gone on my way, doing a hundred other things I

consider more important.

He made up some written instructions for me on how to live so that I might have the best and happiest life possible. I keep those instructions and loving words of His in a nice prominent place in my room, so that everybody can see how much I think of my Father.

But sometimes days have gone by without my looking at them. Then I begin to wonder why my life is messing up, and why I'm not happy. That's when I check out what He has written to get some comfort and reassurance.

That's also when I run across some of His good advice for living that I forgot. Then I go to my Father and ask His forgiveness, and I have a nice long talk with Him. I finally tell Him again how much I love Him. I finally

ask for His guidance and help. And I finally express my appreciation for all He has done for me.

Strangely enough, my Father doesn't hold it against me that I've neglected Him, that I've ignored His instructions for a happy life. *I'm* the one who suffers when I do that! He's the one who is always waiting with His arms outstretched for me to come back into a loving relationship with Him.

My father is very rich. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills. He's promised He will always supply all my needs. He also said that if I delight myself in Him, He will give me the desires of my heart. Actually, nothing is impossible for Him!

My Father loves everybody, and is willing to forgive everybody. So He expects me to

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►

forgive people who offend me. In fact, He says He won't forgive me if I don't forgive others.

He expects me to love everybody, even my enemies—can you imagine? He says I am to pray for those who persecute me! When He first told me that, I couldn't see how I could possibly do it.

Then one day after somebody did something mean to me, I prayed for him. An amazing thing happened! I began feeling sorry for him! *He sure must be a miserable person to be so mean!* I thought. Then I prayed sympathetically. And suddenly I found it possible to love that person and be nice to him. Would you believe that when I was nice to him, he fell all over himself trying to be nice to me?

Yes, my Father's rules work, and they do make my life happier.

I'll level with you: He only had one child by natural birth. I'm His child by adoption. And it came about because His one true Son loved me so much that He actually died for me. Yes, His name is Jesus.

My Father loved that one Son Jesus with an everlasting love, for He was with the Father from the beginning. But there was

only one way He could adopt me (and many others on this earth), and bring me to live with Him. That was by getting rid of my sin—because like I said, He's perfect. Otherwise, I would have had to die eternally, because the wages of sin is death.

So my Father sent that perfect Son of His to pay the penalty of death for me and all others who would trust in Him as Saviour. Have you ever thought of what tremendous love my Father and His Son had for us to do that?

Now I'll tell you how I got into my Father's family. One day I realized what a great thing He and Jesus had done for me. And as I looked at myself and saw how unworthy I was, it broke my heart that they would sacrifice themselves so for me. I bowed my head and asked Jesus' Father to forgive my sins and save me for His Son's sake. Then I invited Jesus into my heart and life.

That was the day I was reborn spiritually, the day Almighty God became *my* Father.

He did a lot of other great things for me that day. He forgave my sins—and I knew it. He gave me a whole new outlook on life. I was no longer the same person. Suddenly the friends I ran around with became re-

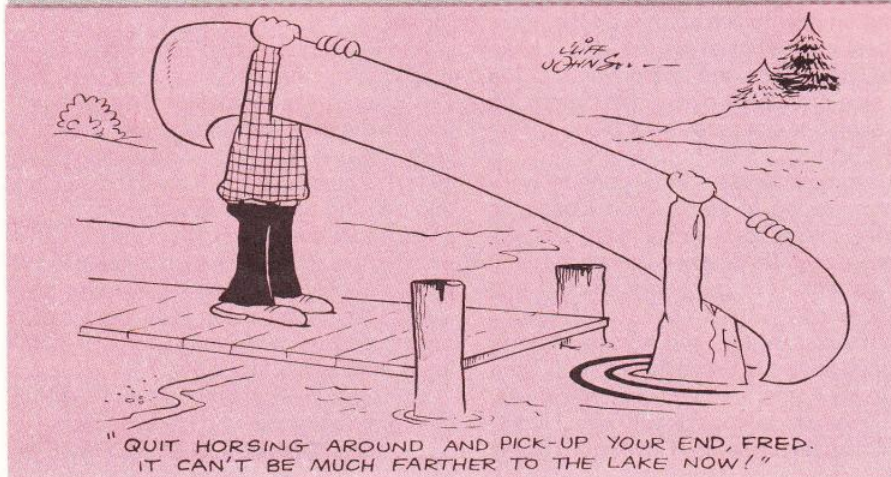
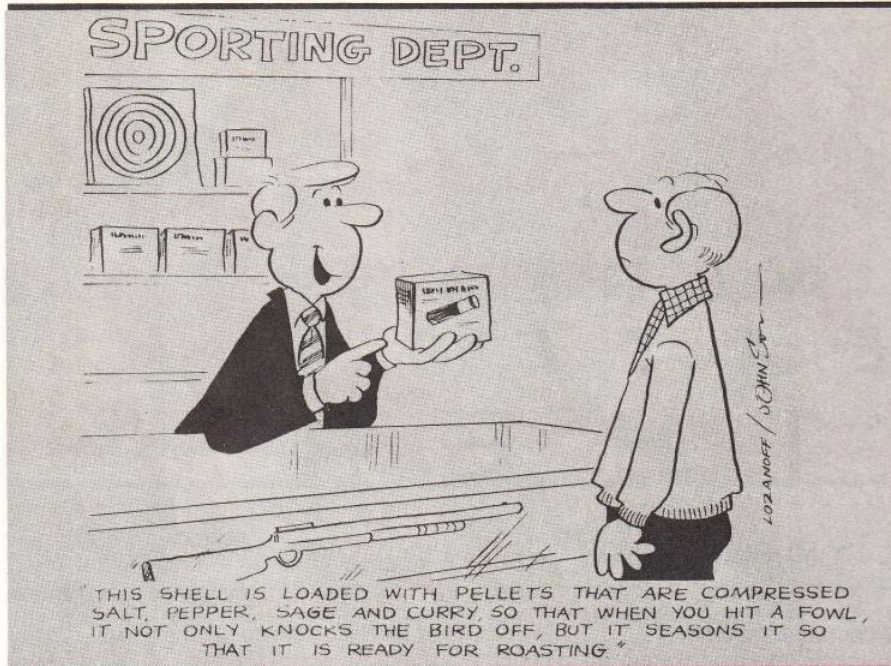
pulsive to me; I wanted to associate with my new brothers and sisters, those who had the same Heavenly Father and the same goals I now had.

It was really great to discover I had this big new family. And I've learned that wherever I go, I can find "family," people who are brothers and sisters of mine with whom I see eye-to-eye. These are most easily found at their special meeting houses called churches. They help me stay close to my Father.

After I joined my new family I walked very close to my Father and my beloved Saviour, Jesus. My new life was so exciting that I walked on Cloud Nine!

I want to walk constantly with my Father, for I know from experience that it's the sweetest way to live. I see His will in everything, because it's better than anything I could choose for myself. So whenever I slip up, I run immediately to Him and ask forgiveness. Whenever I start feeling angry and bitter, I just hold that junk up to my Father and let Him take it and dump it into the deepest sea. I don't need that junk to ruin *my* life.

All I want and need are my Father's love, peace, and joy! ★



RANGER

HERITAGE

continued from pg. 2

Each individual skill was learned by experience and observing others. They learned from Indians who were their friends and their enemies. They learned from more experienced woodsmen. Many of the things they learned were contrary to the military standards of the day. They practiced and practiced and after each mission they worked together to correct and improve their performance.

As they perfected their crafts, a standard uniform and set of equipment was developed. They wore buckskin hunting shirts and breeches dyed forest green. On their feet, they wore moccasins and for hats they wore Scottish tams, possibly resembling modern-day green berets. Each Ranger carried a Pennsylvania rifle and powder and lead for sixty shots. They carried an always sharp knife and tomahawk instead of swords and bayonets. Each man carried a canteen, jerky or pemmican, and a single blanket or buffalo robe.

"EACH RANGER CARRIED A PENNSYLVANIA RIFLE AND POWDER AND LEAD FOR SIXTY SHOTS."

They learned to march with an advance, right, left, and rear guard to prevent surprise attacks. They camped without fires and with hasty but secure shelters. They never bedded down until after dark and were up and on the move before dawn. When they were correct, they accomplished the mission and lived to serve another day.

Today, there are Royal Rangers and Royal Rangers outposts all over the United States. These Royal Rangers serve a greater king, the King of kings, Jesus Christ. They can learn Ranger skills and crafts from handbooks, trained commanders, and Ranger camps. They practice their skills and grow as young men. They no longer soldier. Now, the Ranger way is a way to live safely and fully each day and a way to live eternally.

Are you alert and trainable? Are you interested in high adventure? Are you ready to learn and practice those Royal Rangers skills to serve our King Jesus?

As I wear my Royal Rangers uniform and participate in Royal Rangers activities, I can stand tall and proud. I feel a strong Ranger heritage with those others who have gone before me and earned the title Ranger. I enjoy practicing and using Ranger skills. Most of all, I enjoy serving my King. ★

O U T P O S T

M A N A G E M E N T

F O R R A N G E R S

L · E · A · D · E · R · S

continued from page 7

- f. You must know that you have the right to assistance from parents with discipline problems. You must assert yourself with the parents of boys with behavior problems and let them know that you expect their help. Reinforce parents who support you. Give each parent a copy of your discipline plan. Tell uncooperative parents, "I need your cooperation with . . ." "I want you to . . ." "It is in your boy's best interest that we work together to help. . . ." "I believe that if this problem continues, the result will be. . ."
- g. An outline of an Assertive Discipline plan:
 - (1) 5-6 behavior rules explained and posted
 - (2) 5 consequences for misbehavior
 - (3) Severe Clause for severe disruption
 - (4) A system for reinforcing good behavior: give directions, praise two students who comply; then if one or more boys have not followed directions, write their names on a list; find something praiseworthy in each boy each outpost meeting.
 - (5) A copy of your discipline plan sent home and signed by parents. ★

1986 NATIONAL CAMPORAMA
EAGLE ROCK, MO - JULY 22, 1986

Registration deadline is
May 1, 1986

**Royal Rangers
District Commanders
have information
and registration forms.**

“Wild Bill” and “Tex” are down at the canoe pond, offering canoe rides to the few fairgoers hearty enough to brave the elements. It’s been raining all weekend as Hurricane Juan blew in off the coast of Louisiana, turning the Baton Rouge State Fairgrounds into a sea of mud as Bayou Manchac backed up halfway into Fort Royal’s Frontier Village.

Commander “Grizzly” is in the blacksmith shop making fireplace tools to be offered for sale in the trading post. His son and apprentice T. Paul cranks the forge as his father explains his craft to the knot of people gathered to watch him work. This brother Ranger has been forged in the fires of adversity this week as he battled Hurricane Juan 12 hours a day delivering air freight to New Orleans through washed out roads and flood conditions, but he’s here. “Grizzly” wouldn’t miss the annual state fair outreach for anything. He’ll probably show up the year after he’s dead. Kenny and Kevin, two of Grizzly’s brand-new Rangers compete with T. Paul for the honor of cranking the forge when they are not helping out in the camp kitchen or working at the knife and tomahawk throwing exhibition.

The other new boy, Brian, could care less. He’s spending the week learning the finer points of black powder shooting from Commanders Harold and Steve as he assists them at the black powder rifle range. One of these boys will give his heart to

Jesus during fair week this year. They will grow mentally, physically, and spiritually during the week. The height of the week comes from Kevin as he is checked out in the art of fire building by Commander Vernon, his senior commander and Grizzly’s wife, Commander Mary, who oversees the camp kitchen. Tonight he has built the cook



“FOR ‘CARNEYS’ AND FAIR GOERS ALIKE, WE ARE THE ONLY WITNESS OF JESUS CHRIST.”

fire for her and completed a part of his requirements for second class advancement.

Linda is working in the trading post. As she hands out tracts and Royal Rangers literature, telling parents about the Royal Rangers program and what it can do for their sons, she wonders how conditions are at home. Commander “Rainwalker,” Lin-

da’s husband, has left her and their two children in the care of brother Rangers to return to the flooded home in Grand Isle where he is pastor. Their people need him, and he must salvage what he can from their home. Their car is under water, and everything in their freezer has been ruined, but Linda’s mind is on her job she is there to do, bringing honor to the Master Ranger, Jesus Christ.

Overseeing the entire multifaceted outreach is Commander “Red Fox.” Fort Royal is his brainchild and a very special fellowship of brother Ranger leaders. For two weeks each year Royal Rangers leaders from all over the Louisiana District bring their older boys to Fort Royal and stage a giant Royal Rangers frontier extravaganza at the Baton Rouge State Fair. Each year the Fort Royal outreach brings in a harvest of souls and plants gospel seed that will mature at some future date. For some of the people who come through Fort Royal, carneys and fair goers alike, we are the only witness of Jesus Christ they will have in the midst of a very worldly celebration.

Fort Royal is indeed a very special fellowship of Rangers leaders. Over the years that we have worked together, there have been forged strong bonds of friendship and caring, love and loyalty. As we work and play together, pray and share with each other, the Spirit of our Master Ranger Jesus Christ becomes more and more real to us. We see Him in each other, OH WHAT A FELLOWSHIP. . . . ★

FORT ROYAL ●

OH WHAT A FELLOWSHIP!

BY MARY PITTMAN

FOR TWO WEEKS EVERY YEAR THERE’S A GIANT ROYAL RANGERS FRONTIER EXTRAVAGANZA AT THE BATON ROUGE STATE FAIR