

High Adventure

A ROYAL RANGERS MAGAZINE
FOR BOYS / SUMMER 1987



LEADER EDITION

High Adventure

SUMMER 1987



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UNCOMMON VALOR

by John Eller

ILLUSTRATION By Johnnie Barnes

The Medal of Valor is a unique award in Royal Rangers. It is presented, on approval by the National Royal Rangers Committee, to leaders and boys who have risked their own lives in saving others.

The Medal of Valor is coveted, but not sought after. It is obtainable, but not consciously so. It is priceless and is, therefore, not for sale. No one "wins" this medal, but in the providence of God, a select few will *earn* it.

Since 1964, the National Royal Rangers Office has approved 196 Medals of Valor. These have been presented to men and boys who have displayed unusual courage, bravery and heroism when human life was at stake. These daring acts demonstrate faith in Christ and a commitment to God and our fellowman that are above and beyond the call of duty.

When a leader or boy is nominated for this award, great caution is exercised to examine all the facts. Documentation usually includes newspaper accounts, police, fire or water safety reports, as well as eyewitness accounts. References are usually required from individuals such as a commander, pastor or district leader. One undeserved medal cheapens the rest.

Most lifesaving accounts reaching the national office do not have a sufficient element of risk on the part of the rescuer to warrant the Medal of Valor. In such cases, we often issue a Certificate of Valor. However, many of these accounts are just as moving, and we plan to share some of these in future articles.

The first Medal of Valor was presented in 1964 to "Cricky" Tucker, son of J. W. and Evangeline Tucker, As-



semblies of God missionaries to the Congo. After the Simba rebels captured Jay, held him hostage at a Catholic convent, murdered him, and fed his body to the crocodiles, Evangeline called to inquire about her husband. The sister who answered the phone

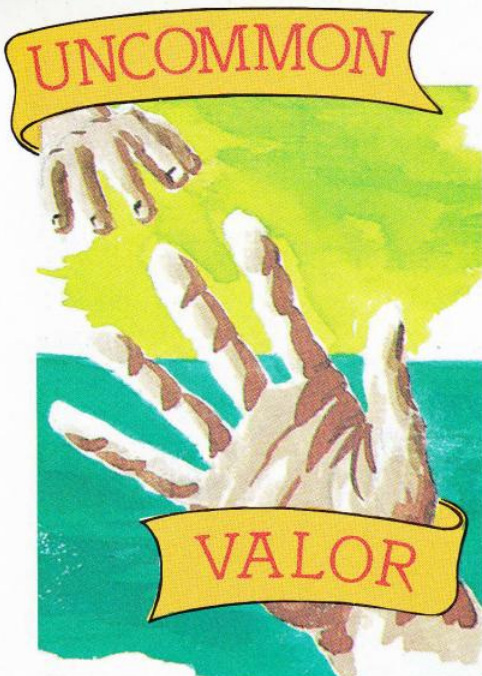
simply said, "He is in heaven." Her words became the title of a best-selling book here in the United States.

For his bravery and courage in a time of maximum stress and danger, Cricky Tucker was awarded the very first Medal of Valor.

Lt. Commander Fred Cordova of Hollister, California, saw a runaway mule and wagon heading toward a 5-year-old boy at a county fair. He ran to the boy, knocked him out of the way, then fell underneath the wagon and was dragged a number of yards. He was admitted to the hospital with multiple cuts, wounds, and bruises. He asked to see the lad whose life he had saved. It was his own son. As a grateful father, Fred was awarded the Medal of Valor.

Jason Land, a Royal Ranger from Panama City, Florida, saw a bulldog knock a neighbor's little girl to the ground and begin biting her at the throat. He yelled for help but there was no response. Jumping the fence, he attacked the animal with his bare hands, allowing the girl to escape. Jason was bitten repeatedly, often to the bone, and required some 30 stitches. For this remarkable act of courage, Ja-

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son, a Buckaroo, was awarded the Medal of Valor.

Jeffery Markant, a Pioneer from Niagara Falls, New York, saw a runaway car headed for his home. He ran to the kitchen and pulled his little sister to safety, just as the car crashed through the wall, causing thousands of dollars worth of damage. For his alertness and determination, Jeffery was awarded the Medal of Valor.

Tim Anderson, a Trailblazer from Mt. Pleasant, Texas, observed a small boy being bitten by what was thought to be a friendly coyote. Tim ran to the rescue, was bitten repeatedly, requiring some 19 stitches in his arms and legs, but saved the boy's life. For this act of bravery, Tim was presented the Medal of Valor.

Chris Jackson, a Trail Ranger in Andalusia, Alabama, rushed into a burning jail after two police officers had been overcome with smoke inhalation, unlocked the cellblock, and brought the jail's only prisoner to safety. For such uncommon courage and self-denial, Chris was awarded the Medal of Valor.

Commander Richard Allen of Oxnard, California, was successful in preventing a suicide by removing a loaded gun from the hands of a man threatening to kill himself. He then drove the man to church, where he was gloriously saved. Richard was awarded the Medal of Valor.

Commander Ken Grove of North Bend, Oregon, walked into a local convenience store one evening to buy milk and bread. He was confronted by a gunman who had already killed one person, and was threatening others. Ken disarmed the gunman, suffered a

stab wound in the neck which narrowly missed the jugular vein, but subdued the man until police arrived. For this act of heroism, Ken was awarded the Medal of Valor.

Brian Summers, a pastor's son in Channelview, Texas, found a little girl in a cow pasture who had been bitten by a copperhead. He tried to give aid, but was kept back by a German shepherd guard dog who kept circling his little master. Running to the girl's home some distance away, he fought off two more guard dogs to tell her parents to call an ambulance. For this act of bravery and determination, Brian was awarded the Medal of Valor.

Donald Spicer, Jr., a Buckaroo from Rush Springs, Oklahoma, awoke one night to find his mobile home ablaze. His mom and dad were at work. Donald rescued his 5-year-old sister, but after two attempts, was unable to arouse his older brother, age 9, who perished in the blaze. Donald was presented the Medal of Valor.

In Brooklyn, New York, a commander observed a woman being robbed in broad daylight. A man with a switchblade drew back to stab her, with his other hand on her purse. The commander yelled to get his attention, pretended to reach for an imaginary gun underneath his trench coat, while running toward the assailant. He frightened the mugger away, and the woman was unharmed. For this act of courage and quick thinking, John Vazquez, district commander of the Spanish Eastern District, was awarded the Medal of Valor.

A Royal Ranger, age 15, observed a man drowning in the Gulf of Mexico, and went to his aid with an inner tube. He discovered the man, twice his size, was intoxicated. Resisting the man's uncoordinated attempts to save himself, the Ranger pulled the man to safety from the water over his head in swelling tide. For this act of bravery and humane treatment, Jonathan Becker, who later became the 1985 National Ranger of the Year, was awarded the Medal of Valor.

Commander Paul West of Savannah, Georgia, had retired at the early age of 37 because of an extremely serious heart condition. He heard one day a neighbor's 3-year-old daughter was choking to death and had stopped breathing. He ran to the house, worked feverously to open the child's airways, and administered CPR. Just as the child revived and began breathing again, Paul fell faint, sat down on the floor, and went to be with Christ. His

family was awarded the Medal of Valor in Paul's behalf.

Commander Robert E. Missal of Fredericksburg, Virginia, a firefighter with the Fort Belvoir Fire Prevention and Protection Division, was among those responding first to a house fire in the Dogue Creek Family Housing Area. With total disregard for his own safety, he entered the burning building to search for persons reportedly trapped within. Despite searing heat and dense smoke, he located a 2-year-old girl on the second floor, whom he brought out. She was resuscitated, but later died from her injuries. Commander Missal returned immediately in an effort to locate another girl. After an extensive search, it was discovered the second child had escaped the blaze with her mother. Commander Missal received the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service from the United States Army, and the Medal of Valor from Royal Rangers.

Matthew Avila, a Straight Arrow from Phoenix, Arizona, was eating lunch at a campout when he heard someone calling for help. Running to a nearby pond, he discovered David Segoviarno had accidentally fallen into water over his head and did not know how to swim. Matthew, who could not swim either, bent down from the bank and held David by the arms until help arrived. Matthew was awarded the Medal of Valor.

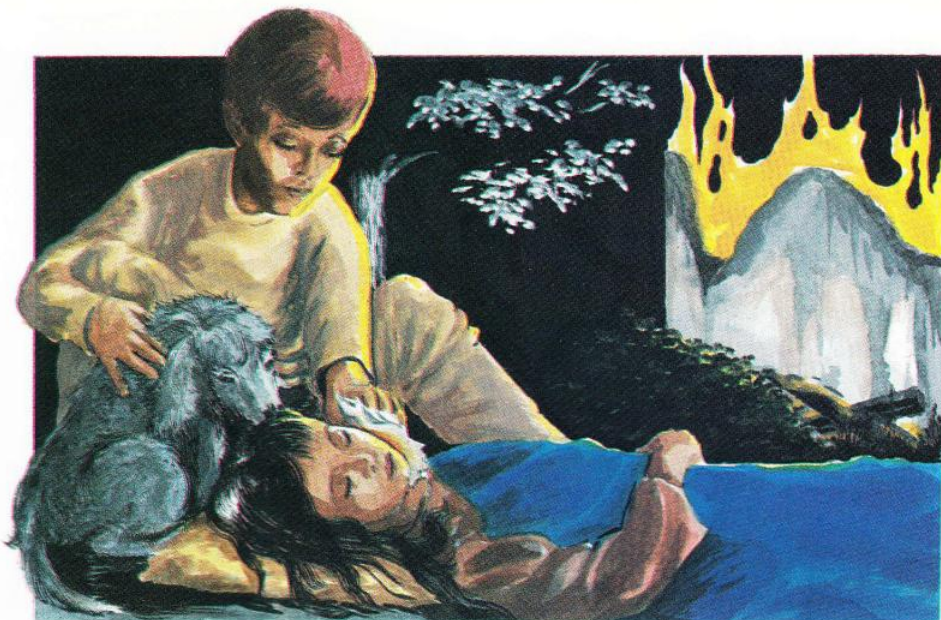
Commander Robert Hill of Tunnel Hill, Georgia, was participating in a church building project on the mission field with seven other Georgia friends. The new church was being constructed on the island of Haiti in a remote area accessible only by a four-wheel drive motor vehicle. The location was reached via 90 miles of hazardous mountain roads. Fresh water was scarce, and the only place to bathe was the ocean. The group was warned by natives of a dangerous undercurrent, but did not realize the extent until a minister in the group, Rev. Charles Rogers, was trapped by the current and carried out to sea. Commander Hill went to the minister, ordered him to lie on his back, and brought him, after a long and exhausting struggle, to safety. In a letter of appreciation, Rev. Rogers says he felt he had prayed his last prayer before the rescue, and is alive today because someone dared risk his own life to save his. Commander Hill was presented the Medal of Valor.

David Kovalcik, a Trailmaster with the Gold Medal of Achievement, from Baytown, Texas, observed a friend, David Smoker, trying to put out a fire

on an electric generator mounted on the back of a truck. Kovalcik ran to his friend and knocked him away, just as the carburetor blew up, igniting the gasoline supply. Smoker was unhurt. The fire singed the back of Kovalcik's hair. For his presence of mind and response to the situation, David Kovalcik was awarded the Medal of Valor.

Commander Floyd "Red" Seratte of Oologah, Oklahoma, was running late to Sunday school one morning, when he noticed an automobile in the opposite direction from his house that was being washed off a low water bridge. There had been an overnight down-pour which produced flash flooding, and had swollen Four Mile Creek out of its banks. The stream's unusually swift current pulled the car downstream. Trapped inside the car was Tina Griffin, age 14, from Talala. Unfamiliar with the road, she did not realize how deep the water was until she had driven into it. She managed to get out of the car, but was in water over her head. The current was sweeping her away when Commander Seratte dived into the water, swam through a fence and under brush, to rescue Tina. Just as he reached her, both were swept further downstream and under a log. Surfacing, the commander made a last-ditch effort to reach land at the bend of the creek. His family, meanwhile, stood on the banks and prayed. They all rejoiced when the two emerged from the muddy water unhurt. Commander Seratte was awarded the Medal of Valor.

On July 4, 1986, Commander James Rediker took a group of Royal Rangers from Nashville, Tennessee, on a canoe expedition to the Buffalo River near Linden. The following day, the commander, along with Andy Payne, Donnie Prescott, Tommy Ledbetter, and Shawn Follis, were proceeding downstream, preparing to shoot the rapids, when they happened upon a group of Missionettes who were also on a canoe trip. Their craft had capsized, and two of the girls, Lori Turns and Janice Cawthron, had their feet entangled in roots along the bank and were pinned underwater with only their faces at the surface. The commander and all four Rangers went to the rescue in water that was very swift and up to 7 feet deep. One of the girls lapsed into a state of semiconsciousness during the rescue, but both were finally freed. They were scared, but unhurt. Another commander, who witnessed the conclusion of the near tragedy, stated that all seven lives had been on the line



during the rescue. Commander Rediker and each of the four Rangers were recognized with the Medal of Valor.

Michael Doyal, age 9, a Pioneer Second Class from Valdosta, Georgia, was with his family on a picnic at the Grassy Pond Military Reservation. Nina Livengood, age 2, had wandered away from her parents and fell into the lake. She went down in water 4 feet deep and did not surface. While other children ran for help, Michael dived into the water fully clothed, and brought the little girl to safety. She was scared, but okay. Michael was scared, too. He didn't know how to swim. For the risk of his own life to save another, Michael Doyle received the Medal of Valor.

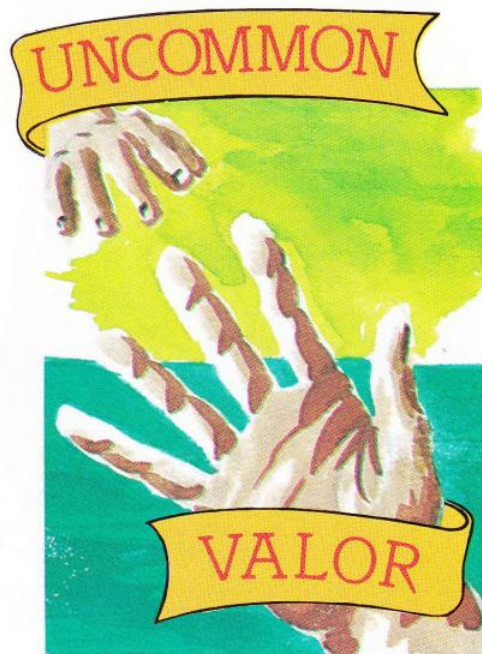
Javier Solis, a Trailblazer from Old Messila, New Mexico, joined some neighborhood friends for a baseball game in the river bottoms of the Rio Grande. Everything went well until someone missed a catch and the ball fell into the water. Some younger boys present went to retrieve it. It became immediately apparent to Javier that the kids were in danger of drowning. He rescued his younger brother, Mario, age 7, and Carlos Gallardo, age 8, but was unable to reach another brother, Jaime, who lost his life. For this daring rescue, Javier, age 14, received the Medal of Valor.

Servando Cardenas, a native of Old Mexico, was a temporary resident of Boulder, Colorado, the spring of 1985. His parents were attending Colorado University. Servando, and his cousin, Ivan Monteverde, age 5, had gone fishing at Boulder Creek, a snow-fed stream originating at the continental divide, west of Boulder. A stick Ivan was playing with fell into the water and not thinking, Ivan went after it. The river

current, swollen by melting snows and very cold, swept Ivan downstream and into the rapids. He swirled momentarily in a large pool, and was about to be swept into another rapid when Servando jumped in, grabbed Ivan by the shirt, and pulled him to a large rock where they held on until help came. Servando, a Pioneer, was given the Medal of Valor.

Commander William Stumpp is a longshoreman in Carson, California. A piece of heavy equipment had overturned, remained in a very unstable condition, and had pinned a man underneath. With total disregard for his own safety, Commander Stumpp removed the man from the rig, and discovered he was cut near his armpit with a severed brachial artery. He applied a tourniquet, and treated the man

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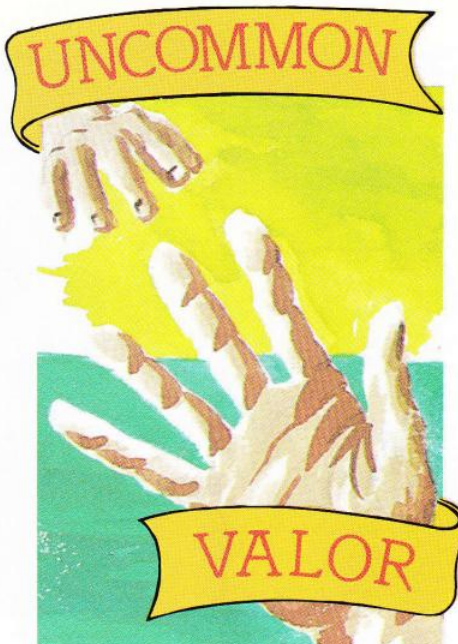


for shock. The paramedics said later the man would have probably bled to death without action and first aid by Commander Stumpp who also received the Medal of Valor.

Ronnie Thomas, an 11-year-old Pioneer in Outpost 133, Akron, Ohio, was on his way to Sunday school, when he stopped at the corner before crossing to the church. Crossing toward him was little Angela Nolan, a 7-year-old, who started into the street, decided she couldn't make it, and went back. Realizing the danger, Ronnie ran toward her, knocked her away from the oncoming car, losing his own life instead. Posthumously, Ronnie received the Medal of Valor, with a very touching letter from our National Commander which reads as follows:

Dear Ronnie:

I realize that you are no longer with us. However, if you were—this is what I would like to say to you: your act of heroism and sacrifice was the greatest ever rendered by a Royal Ranger. Your total unselfish demonstration of courage has touched my heart and the hearts of many others. Because your act will be pub-



lished in our periodicals, thousands of other Royal Rangers will be inspired by your example. Your action will be cited in years to come as the very epitome of outstanding courage. In moments of danger and crisis, many will draw courage and strength from what you did. Your response was Christianity in action. The Bible

states, "Greater love hath no boy than this, that a boy lay down his life for his friend" (John 15:13). You were a credit to Royal Rangers—I salute you! Gratefully submitted, Johnnie Barnes National Commander

Time and space will not allow us to report in this one article the leaders and boys who rescued others from burning barges, chemical explosions, and submerged vehicles. Would time allow, we could tell of the Royal Ranger who rescued the Boy Scout who had fallen to a narrow mountain ledge some 45 feet below the trail, and had broken his leg.

Perhaps we can relate sometime about the two Royal Rangers riding in the back of a church bus who yelled for the driver to stop. They jumped out the back door, ran to a house that was engulfed in flames, and rescued three women in wheelchairs.

But if you think the only heroes are the Green Berets, the Army Rangers, and the Navy Seals, think again! We are privileged to keep company with Royal Rangers who possess UNCOMMON VALOR! ★

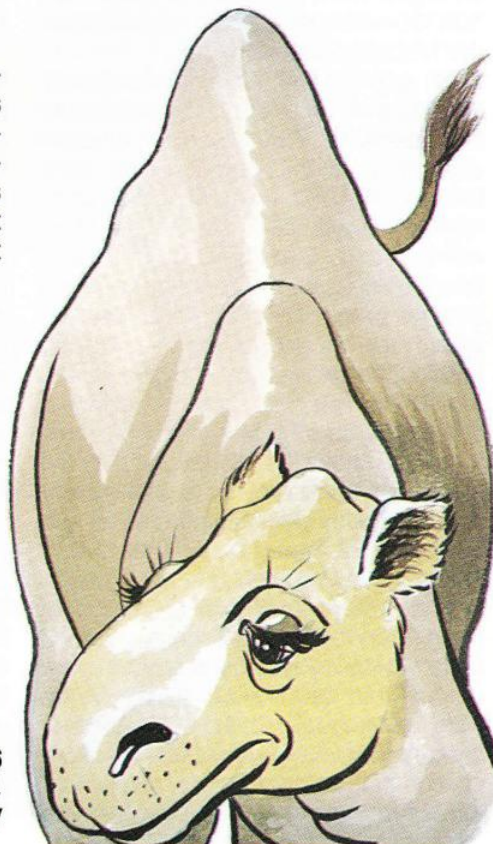
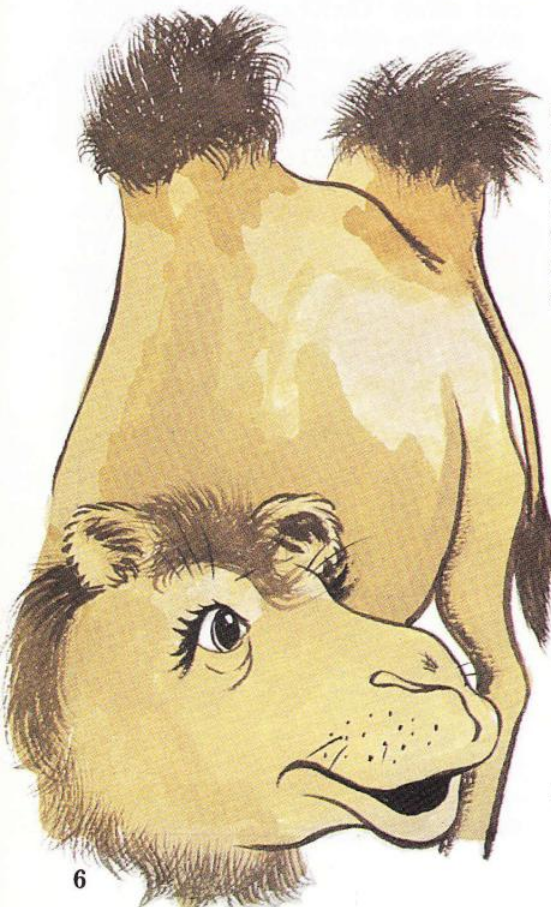
LOOK-ALIKE ANIMALS

by O. J. Robertson

Sometimes one animal has two different names. Sometimes an animal is very much like another animal. Column one lists fourteen animals. Column two names another animal that is the same or very much like the first animal named. Can you join pairs that should be together?

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Burro | A. Crawdad |
| 2. Camel | B. Rabbit |
| 3. Skunk | C. Buffalo |
| 4. Woodchuck | D. Raven |
| 5. Bison | E. Salamander |
| 6. Newt | F. Donkey |
| 7. Platypus | G. Duckbill |
| 8. Hare | H. Partridge |
| 9. Quail | I. Dromedary |
| 10. Crow | J. Alligator |
| 11. Crocodile | K. Ground Hog |
| 12. Crayfish | L. Polecat |
| 13. Ant Bear | M. Aardvark |
| 14. Dolphin | N. Porpoise |

Answers:
1.F, 2.I, 3.L, 4.K, 5.C, 6.E, 7.G, 8.B, 9.H, 10.D, 11.J, 12.A, 13.M, 14.N



HIGH ADVENTURE

THE MEANING OF ANIMAL PHRASES

by D. A. Woodliff

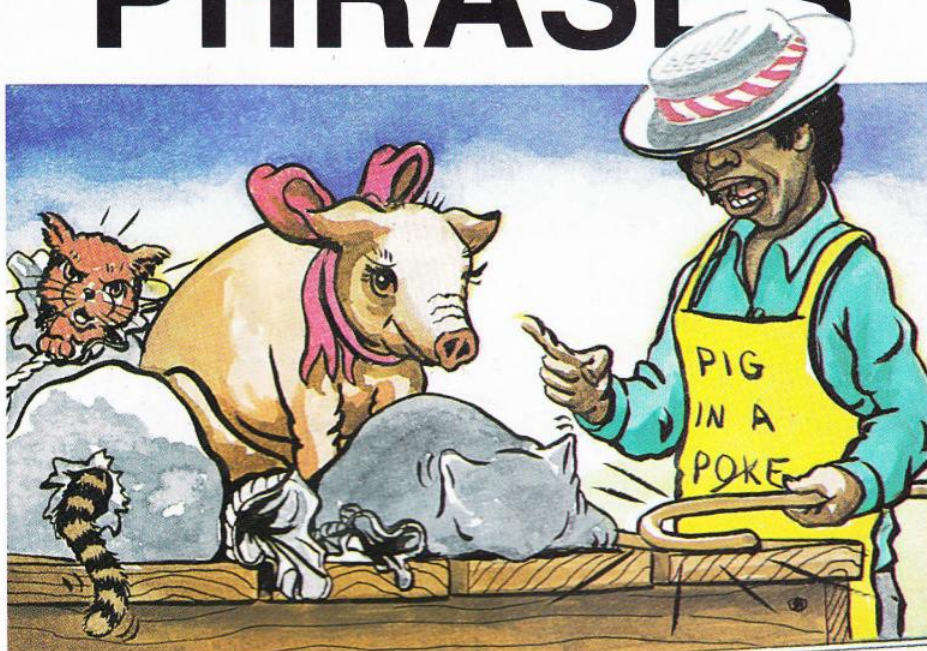
Sometimes you will see an ad in the paper that will read, "White Elephant Sale." It does not mean that someone has several white-colored, large animals for sale. Usually it will be a collection of odds and ends that the seller no longer has use for or cannot afford to keep any longer. There are other phrases common to our language that are confusing unless you know their origins. There are a few that have the names of animals in them.

* *A White Elephant.* Centuries ago in Siam when a white or albino elephant was born it automatically became the property of the king. The rare white elephant was not permitted to work. Now if it happened that the king was displeased with one of his courtiers he would give him a white elephant. The receiver of this gift could not work the animal, or sell him, or give him away. However, the elephant had such an enormous appetite that it did not take long before the receiver was ruined.

* *The Lion's Share.* This is the larger part of anything to be divided. This phrase comes from an ancient fable. Several animals went on a hunt with a lion. When the kill was divided the lion announced that as the king of beasts he should get one-fourth share. Also because of his superior bravery he should get another one-fourth share. To feed his family yet another one-fourth was due him. "As for the fourth one-fourth," said the lion, "let he who will dispute it with me!"

* *Belling the Cat* is a phrase that means doing a dangerous task to benefit others. This phrase dates back to another old fable. A cat was killing off many mice. The mice had a meeting to decide how to stop the cat. One mouse suggested that a bell be put around the cat's neck to warn the mice. That sounded like a good idea. "But who," asked a wise mouse, "was to bell the cat?"

* *Being the Scapegoat.* A person who is punished for a crime for which others share the guilt is called "a scapegoat." The phrase comes from the Old Testament. The early Hebrews would drive a goat into the wilderness. The goat, the Hebrews believed, would carry away the sins of all the people.



* *A Pig in a Poke.* When someone buys something sight unseen we say he is buying "a pig in a poke." For centuries in England unscrupulous people at country fairs would try to sell unwary buyers a cat in a burlap bag claiming that it was a suckling pig. If the buyer insisted on opening the bag before paying his money he was said to "let the cat out of the bag" . . . another common phrase meaning to discover the truth about something being covered up.

* *Dog Days* are the hot, sultry days of summer. In ancient Roman times the 6 to 8 weeks of summer were called "the days of the dog." According to the Romans the dog star, Sirius, rising with the sun added its heat to that of the sun. Today we call a hot, close day a dog day.

* *Cries Crocodile Tears* is an expression we use to describe someone who pretends to be deeply distressed when really they are secretly pleased. This expression comes from Greek and Egyptian folklore. According to legend the crocodile attracted its victims by moaning loudly. He would then shed large tears while he devoured his victims.

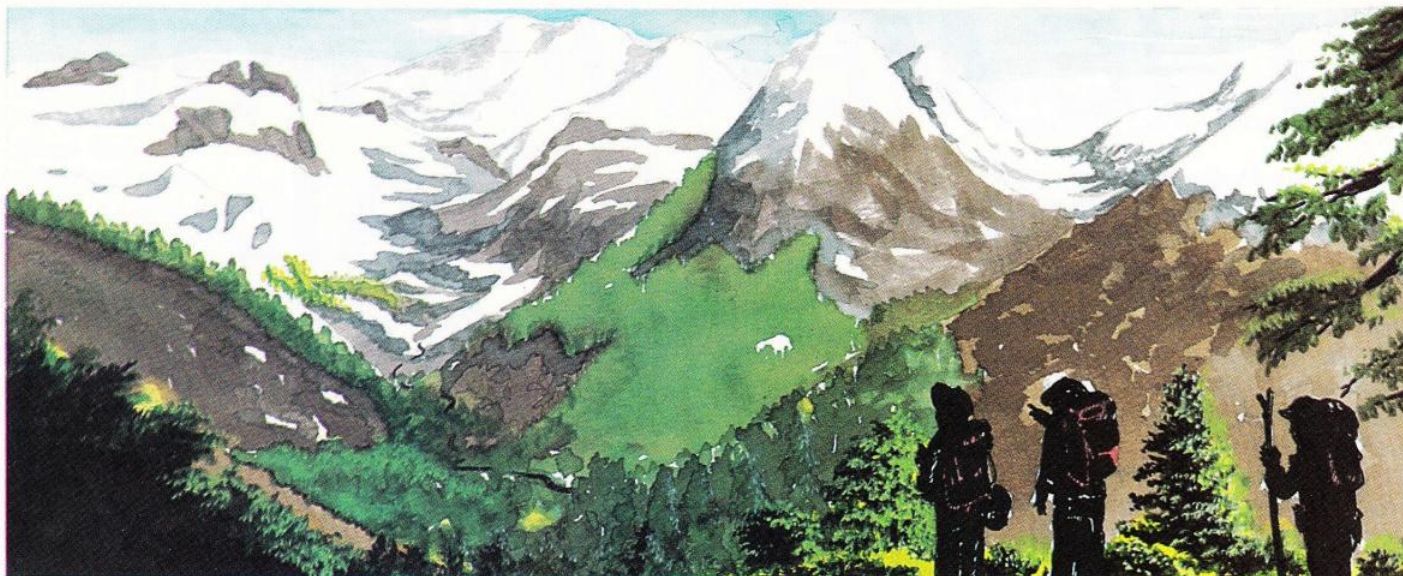


* *Don't Look a Gift Horse in the Mouth.* For centuries it has been the practice to determine the age of a horse by looking at his teeth. An old horse would be of less value than a young horse. When someone receives a gift it is considered tactless and ungrateful to judge the gift by its monetary price or value. We should appreciate a gift for itself regardless of its cost.

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HIGH ADVENTURE in Wapiti Country

by Phil Wayman

Now, you young'uns know that we Royal Rangers don't go round just looking for opportunities to be heroes. It seems like we do not have to do much to have lots of adventure. However, when it comes to a backpack into WAPITI country of the High Olympics, you are setting yourself up for adventure plus.

The Olympics, for the nonenlightened, are located between the Pacific Ocean and the inland waters of Puget Sound in the State of Washington. It isn't often that the clouds lift high enough to show the snowcapped peaks of Mt. Olympus since lots of rain gives the western part of the state the title EVERGREEN STATE.

The valleys are filled with spawning streams for the salmon and with lakes and meadows around that make ex-

cellent homes for wildlife. Higher on the slopes up to 1½ miles into the sky are the towering trees of a vast coniferous forest rich with cedar, fir, spruce, hemlock and varied kinds of deciduous trees wherever the evergreens have been harvested or fires have given them start.

**When you backpack
in the High Olympics
you are setting
yourself up
for adventure**

In the upper reaches along the tree line is the summer home of WAPITI. The AWESOME white-tailed elk with his HUGE SIZE and MAJESTIC ANT- LERS, "whistling out his territory"

against all others. Now the trail up from Soleduck Hot Springs in the northwest corner of the national park rises to 3500 feet in a little while and comes to Deer Lake 4.2 miles from the trailhead. On up from Deer Lake the trail rises to elk country within a few miles until at a little over a mile high the trail comes to Bogachief Peak. There the vast Hoh Valley lies below you. Mt. Olympus at 8,000 feet elevation glistens in the sunshine from its white snow shrouded peaks. A trip around the Seven Lake basin on a ridge where you can see forever in the clear August daylight, takes you back toward the starting point at Soleduck. The round trip with pack by foot is 21 miles in all before arriving back at trailhead. Just the scenery has been worth the trip, and the adventure of walking where black bear meet you

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...RANGER
OF THE
YEAR



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Stan Sinclair

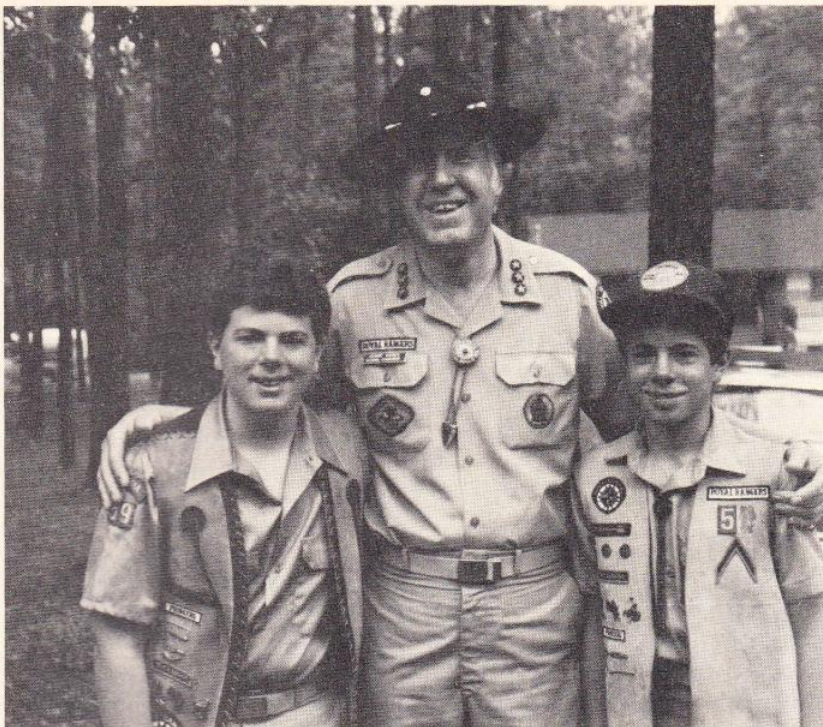
John Eller

Brad Ecklund
Stephanie Slahov
Jim Meuninck

Charles Miller

Kathryn Terrell
John Eller

National FCF Rendezvous
June 21-25, 1988
Eagle Rock, MO



OUTPOST RANGER OF THE YEAR

One of the exciting opportunities for commanders is the selection of one of his boys as "Ranger of the Year." Use the following suggestions for determining the points to be listed on the Ranger of the Year Evaluation Sheet.

Boys will be classified as Buckaroos, Pioneers, Trailblazers, Air-Sea-Trail Rangers, and will compete with boys in their own age divisions.

Advancement and Awards

- 10 POINTS for each advancement in rank.
- 1 POINT for each section passed if advancements are incomplete.
- 3 POINTS for each advanced award earned in addition to those awards earned for advancement requirements.
- As much as 5 ADDITIONAL POINTS may be earned for each advancement if a boy does exceptionally good work in passing his requirements.
- All oral requirements should be written when possible so they may be passed along to the Sectional Commander and District Commander for evaluation.

Outpost Attendance

- 7 POINTS for a boy who has not missed more than three meetings during the year. (Boys should not be penalized if absent because of sickness.)
- 3 ADDITIONAL POINTS may be given for perfect attendance.
- Attendance record should be kept in Outpost Record Book for benefit

of the Sectional and District Commanders.

Living by the Ranger Code

- Observe the general conduct of each boy in relation to his living by the code.
- If possible, list examples of how the boy has lived by the code for the benefit of the Sectional and District Commanders.
- Chart for listing points:

EXCELLENT	10 POINTS
GOOD	8 POINTS
FAIR	5 POINTS
POOR	0 POINTS

Outpost Conduct and Cooperation

- Observe the boy's conduct, enthusiasm, and cooperation during outpost meetings. (Also watch for boys who are helpful to others.)
- Give close attention to the boy's response to order or commands. List examples for benefit of the Sectional and District Commanders.
- Chart for listing points:

EXCELLENT	10 POINTS
GOOD	8 POINTS
FAIR	5 POINTS
POOR	0 POINTS

Involvement in Christian Service

- Observe each boy's attitude toward and participation in Christian Service. Is he willing and ready to work for the church and witness for Christ?
- If possible, list examples of Christian Service to assist the Sectional and District Commanders.
- Chart for listing points:

EXCELLENT	10 POINTS
GOOD	8 POINTS
FAIR	5 POINTS
POOR	0 POINTS

Spiritual Life Evaluation

- Observe the general spiritual condition of each boy. Is he saved? Filled with the Spirit? Does he attend church and Sunday school regularly? Does he respond during church services? Is he faithful in daily prayer and Bible study?
- List examples for the District or Sectional Commanders to evaluate.
- Chart for listing points:

EXCELLENT	10 POINTS
GOOD	8 POINTS
FAIR	5 POINTS
POOR	0 POINTS

Personal Appearance

- Observe each boy during outpost meetings for general pride in appearance. Are clothes clean? Is hair combed? Is body clean (including ears, teeth, fingernails, etc.)?
- List examples.
- Chart for listing points:

EXCELLENT	6 POINTS
GOOD	4 POINTS
FAIR	2 POINTS
POOR	0 POINTS

Royal Ranger Uniform

- 5 POINTS may be earned if the boy has a complete uniform with all proper accessories placed correctly on the uniform.
- The boy may earn 2 ADDITIONAL

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Give your Outpost Rangers of the Year special recognition at a church-wide event.



POINTS if uniform is always pressed and clean when worn.

Participation in Work Projects

1. Observe the boy's willingness to work on outpost or camp projects.
2. List examples.
3. Chart for listing points:

EXCELLENT	5 POINTS
GOOD	3 POINTS
FAIR	1 POINT
POOR	0 POINTS

Assisting in Outpost Enlargement

1. A Ranger may earn 2 POINTS for each new boy he has been instrumental in enrolling in the Royal Rangers program.

Completing Bible Study Courses

1. 5 POINTS may be earned if a boy has completed all of his weekly Bible study lessons.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS TO OUTPOST COMMANDERS

Brief the Rangers in advance about the Ranger of the Year program. Review with them the various points they will be judged in. Encourage them to improve and upgrade themselves in these areas. The program is not just to earn points but to encourage the development of Royal Rangers. Points should be based upon the boys' conduct and achievement during the calendar year following this briefing session.

Keep records on each boy by using the attached Ranger of the Year Evaluation Sheet. Also list as many facts as possible about each boy. Whoever is selected from the outpost will be a candidate for Sectional Ranger of the

Year. The decision of your Sectional or District Commander will be based primarily on the Ranger of the Year forms and the written data you give him.

Be fair in determining points. If you are too liberal, it may be unfair to other Outpost Rangers of the Year in the section. On the other hand, if you are too strict, it could hinder your own candidate. Therefore, be as careful as possible in making an evaluation of the various points.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The boys (one Buckaroo, one Pioneer, one Trailblazer, and one Air-Sea-Trail Ranger) selected as Outpost Ranger of the Year should be given special recognition at a church-wide event and presented with the Outpost Ranger of the Year tabs and Special Recognition Certificates.

Outpost Ranger of the Year Tabs
Special Outpost Ranger of the Year tabs have been designed for the winning boys to wear on the left pocket-flaps of their uniforms. There is a gold tab for the Buckaroo Outpost Ranger of the Year, a red tab for the Pioneer, a brown tab for the Trailblazer, and a blue tab for the Air-Sea-Trail Rangers. The tabs may be ordered from Hilton Myers, Rt. 3, Box 138-B, Magnolia, MS 39652. Please specify that tabs have white letters on solid color background, with clutch back fasteners. We suggest you submit the following sketch when ordering:

'87 Outpost '87

RANGER OF THE YEAR

Certificates

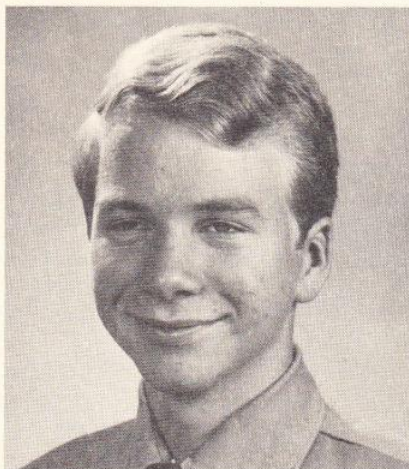
Special Recognition Certificates may be obtained from the National Royal Rangers Office.

Sectional Ranger of the Year

The winner from your outpost may also compete for the Sectional Ranger of the Year. Sectional Winners will then compete for the District Ranger of the Year. District winners will compete for the Regional Ranger of the Year.

Eligibility

1. Each candidate must first be selected as Outpost Ranger of the Year by his outpost.
2. Only boys from current up-to-date



chartered outposts may participate. A manila folder should be prepared for the evaluation form and accompanying items. The Sectional Commander can check for blank spaces on the form and correct the scores if necessary. He should verify the scoring and check it out with the Commander who prepared and signed the evaluation form. Letters from appropriate people may accompany the evaluation form in the manila folder. The letters are intended to express what that person knows about the boy's attitude, attendance, ability to speak out in class, involve-

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ment in school activities, church activities, special items of interest, awards earned and special recognition. At sectional level and above, the selection process will include scoring from 4 separate areas: OUTPOST EVALUATION FORM, SKILLS TEXT, WRITTEN TEST, and ORAL INTERVIEW. This allows some flexibility and won't eliminate a boy who may score lower in one area. Each boy is given the opportunity to show what he knows and will feel like he's been fairly evaluated overall. The oral interview allows the staff to have an input and weighted analysis to be computed into determining the "most representative" Ranger in his age category. If the uniform is not correct in some areas, this should be noted during the oral interview and adjustments made in that area of the scoring. The skills test and written test can only contain items that the boy was REQUIRED to know for full

advancement in that age category.

The oral interview should be conducted by a minimum of 5 staff members at the level of testing. Questions should concern spiritual life, church involvement, helping others, attitude, appearance, etc. (Note: A "Max" score for the oral interview would indicate that the staff are convinced that the boy is "top notch" material, capable of winning the competition. A "zero" score in the oral interview would indicate that the staff cannot accept the boy under any circumstances. The scores on the oral interviews will probably range near the upper half in most instances.

SKILLS TEST VALUE: 150 points
2 testing stations worth 75 points each, or—3 testing stations worth 50 points each, or—15 skills test worth 0-10 each, etc.

WRITTEN TEST VALUE: 150 points
150 question test, or—a 300 question test worth ½ point per question, or—a

75 question test worth 2 points per question, etc.

EVALUATION FORM VALUE: 120 points

A perfect score on this would be 100 points, prepared by the Outpost Commander.

ORAL INTERVIEW VALUE: 150 points

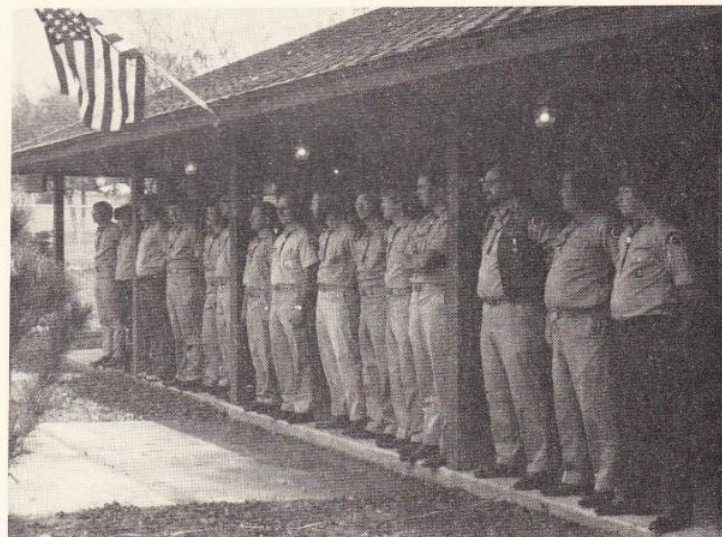
This is determined by the Sectional or District Commander and his staff. A perfect score would be 100 points—a mediocre score 50 or 60 points.

TOTAL POINTS: 570 possible maximum

ADDITIONAL NOTES OF INTEREST:

The boy will be judged in the age category of the previous calendar year for which he held the age the longest. Also, the award pins will designate the calendar year for which the boy is being judged, not the current year the testing is held. ☆

National Ranger of the Year



NATIONAL RANGER OF THE YEAR

1. A National Royal Ranger of the Year will be selected annually.
2. Contenders will be selected from the Air-Sea-Trail Ranger age boys only.
3. Each region will select a Regional Ranger of the Year from each age group. However, they will send only the name and data on the regional Air-Sea-Trail Ranger of the Year to the national office.
4. From eight names sent to the regions, the national office will select a National Royal Ranger of the Year.
5. The eight contenders will be interviewed and evaluated at a special

National Ranger of the Year Review Board. (Board members will be selected by the National Royal Ranger Committee.) If the board meeting falls on the same year, they may be held in conjunction with the National Camporama and the National FCF Rendezvous. A candidate must attend this Review Board session to be eligible.

6. Whatever district the Regional Ranger of the Year is selected from will be responsible for his expenses to the National Review Board meeting.
7. The National Ranger of the Year will be spotlighted at an appropriate

national meeting, and will receive a \$1,000.00 college scholarship.

8. Deadline for selection is as follows:

Outpost selection	January 31
Section selection	February 28
District selection	April 15
Regional selection	June 15

The name and data of the nominee for National Ranger of the Year must reach the national office no later than July 15.

To obtain Ranger of the Year evaluation sheet, please contact your sectional or district commander—or contact the national Royal Ranger Office.

MAY THE BEST BOY WIN!

ROBIN HOOD

was a Royal Ranger

By STAN SINCLAIR



Do you remember Robin Hood? There are many other stories of the archer of Sherwood Forest. Sir Walter Scott wrote about him in *Ivanhoe*. Other books, movies, and television shows have spread his fame. Like other legends, it has become hard to separate the truth from exaggeration about him but he is a well remembered hero.

Robin Hood lived in hard times in old England. Richard the Lion-Hearted was king. King Richard had organized a large army to participate in a great crusade to free the Holy Land. The loyal and able-bodied knights and soldiers were with their king. Prince John, King Richard's brother, was left in charge and he began to conspire to steal the kingdom and its wealth. Prince John appointed corrupt and cruel men such as the Sheriff of Nottingham to collect high and unreasonable taxes. He also began to steal the lands of the away from home nobles and drive the farmers and the craftsmen from their homes with the high taxes and raids.

Legend says that Robin Hood was

a knight, Sir Locksley of Robin, and his father was an earl. While he was away from home on a mission from King Richard, his house and lands were seized by Prince John's men. Upon returning home, he was accused of poaching the king's deer and was chased into Sherwood Forest.

As Robin Hood started to cross a one-log bridge, a large man came from the other side. They fought with quarterstaves and Robin after a good fight was dunked. Thus began a friendship with Little John. At another stream, he tricked a monk into carrying him across. After another dunking, a sword fight and the arrival of two large hunting dogs, he carried the fat monk back across and Friar Tuck joined the team. He met Alan-A-Dale, the minstrel, playing the lute. Will Scarlet dressed in red. There were Midge the Miller, Mercury the Messenger, and many others. As more men were driven from their homes, Robin Hood's band grew.

These men lived in the forest and from its bounty. They hid from the sher-

iff's men and built shelters from the weather. They hunted the deer and the game for food and learned to use the plants for food and medicine. They were trackers and knew who entered the forest and watched camouflaged from sight. Living in the woods, they conserved its resources.

Robin Hood also became famous for his skill with the longbow and arrow. In one story, the Sheriff of Nottingham tried to detect and capture him with this skill. A tournament and archery contest was to be held. The victor of the archery contest would be presented a gold arrow by Maid Marian. Robin Hood entered the contest disguised by a leather butcher's cloak and an eye patch. Each of the other competitors was eliminated until only Robin Hood and the sheriff's champion remained. The target was moved back and in the final round the champion placed his arrow dead center in the bull's-eye. Robin Hood quickly drew, released, and split the champion's arrow. As he was being awarded the golden arrow,

the sheriff's men attempted to capture Robin. But Robin's men removed their disguises surrounded Robin, and escaped back into Sherwood Forest.

Robin Hood and his men began to rob the dishonest tax collectors and noblemen and give the loot to the poor for food and taxes. BUT WAIT! These can't be ROYAL RANGERS! A Royal Ranger is honest. He does not lie, cheat or STEAL.

King Richard escaped from his kidnappers and hearing of his brother's treason returned to England in disguise. Passing through Sherwood Forest, Robin Hood's men captured his caravan. They treated them to a robber's banquet which usually ended in the rich being delivered of their money, weapons, and clothes or the poor being equipped with money, weapons, and new clothes. This banquet ended dif-

King Richard appointed him as Royal Ranger of Sherwood Forest



ferently. As King Richard's disguise was taken from him he was recognized. Each of the robbers quickly kneeled before him to pledge him their allegiance. Accepting their apologies, he pardoned all of their crimes. Needing loyal, trained men to support him, he appointed them as Royal Rangers to be based at Sherwood Forest. They were to serve the king as game wardens, foresters, and scouts for his army as he regained his kingdom.

Are you a Royal Ranger or would you like to be? Just like Robin Hood and his men, there is something eternally important that you must do. You must bow before and confess your crimes to the King of kings, Jesus Christ. He has already promised He would forgive all your sins. As a Royal Ranger you may take your place on the leading edge of His Christian army.



Have you ever wondered what to do with your old *High Adventure* magazines? I saved a few over the years, mainly because my name appeared in some. But I recently discovered a good use for them.

The other night, my son, John David, wanted me to read him a bedtime story. At 10 years old, he has long since outgrown Mother Goose and Goldilocks. He enjoyed the Bible story I read, but also wanted a story from "the old days."

Stuffed in the back of the bookcase were a few back issues of *High Adventure*. The first one I picked up had a story entitled, "Reduced to Grape Leaves," by Homer W. Van Scoy. Boy,

did that one make a hit!

It was a story about a boy's wild dream to reach the Belgian Congo, home of Tarzan. It finally happened for him, but only after a life of self-discovery and humbling experiences.

When I had first picked up that particular issue, I noticed the date on the cover said Spring 1982. I almost put it back. But then I realized my son had never read this magazine! He was only 6 years old when it was published, and this would have been above his reading level at the time!

Every night now, after Bible time, he keeps asking for one of those "adventure stories." And I keep going back to

that secret cache of old magazines in the very back of the corner bookshelf. I just hope that I don't run out. If I do, I may have to call one of my friends to see if they have any.

Meanwhile, ole John David is sure liking bedtime storytime. And, as a matter of fact, ole dad is too!

Don't tell anyone, but I have picked one out for tonight called, "Storm in the Sawtooths." It's about this man and his son who were driving pack animals down a narrow trail when . . . (Whoa! John David can read now, so I'd better hush and not give it away!) ☆

THE END



The day started with an air of excitement, anticipation, and of course the perpetual heat which engulfed each day at the 1986 National Camporama in Eagle Rock, Missouri. But this was a very special day—July 23—the day of dedication for the new Johnnie Barnes Lodge on the site of the Royal Rangers National Training Facility.

The dignitaries were lined up along the balcony of the lodge, officiating the opening ceremonies, including the "Passing in Review" of nearly 3,000 Rangers and leaders present.

As the ceremonies began, many different feelings began to run through my heart. On one side of the balcony stood the participants of the latest National Ranger of the Year competition. I hoped that all "My Boys" would one day stand there.

On the other side of the balcony stood National Staff members and guests. I also hoped that one day "My Boys" would be standing in those positions in our LORD's ministry. But there was one "guest" present who I had never seen before but had prayed for

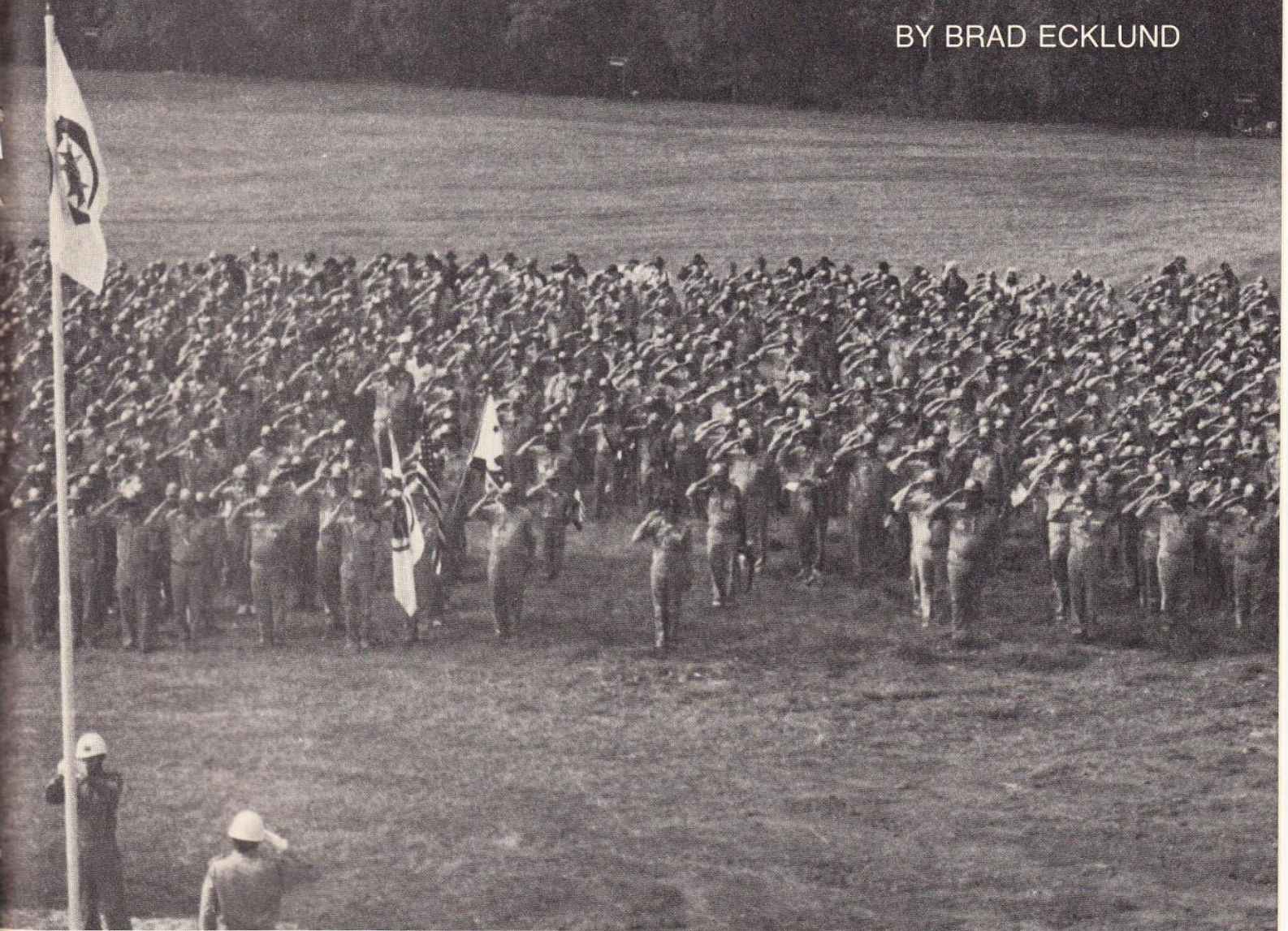
often. Her name is Juanita Barnes—wife of our National Commander.

As Mrs. Barnes was presented with a bouquet of 25 flowers, commemorating the 25th anniversary of Royal Rangers, my heart and mind began to reflect on the awesome responsibilities of a leader in a position such as Royal Rangers National Commander.

I asked myself, what if this dear sister in the LORD had said, "No" to Johnnie that day 25 years ago when he consulted her about beginning this new ministry? Would thousands of us

A Camporama Reflection

BY BRAD ECKLUND



Rangers be standing here today? Would we have worked with the thousands of boys who have passed through this ministry? Would boys have been touched by the HOLY SPIRIT in other ways if Royal Rangers did not exist?

What a responsibility it is to be a great leader, but maybe even a greater responsibility to be behind the scenes lending support, encouragement and above all LOVE as Sister Barnes has done. It is for this reason that tears of joy, respect and love flowed down my

cheeks that day as Sister Barnes received her "small token" of great LOVE on behalf of Royal Rangers. For as she was so overcome with emotion that she could not speak but a humble "Thank You," so too was I unable to speak except through the HOLY SPIRIT in thanksgiving to God for her dedication to our LORD's ministry.

In our nation as in our families and ministries, "United we stand, Divided we fall!" I offer further thanksgiving to ALMIGHTY GOD for one of the most integral parts of the Royal Rangers

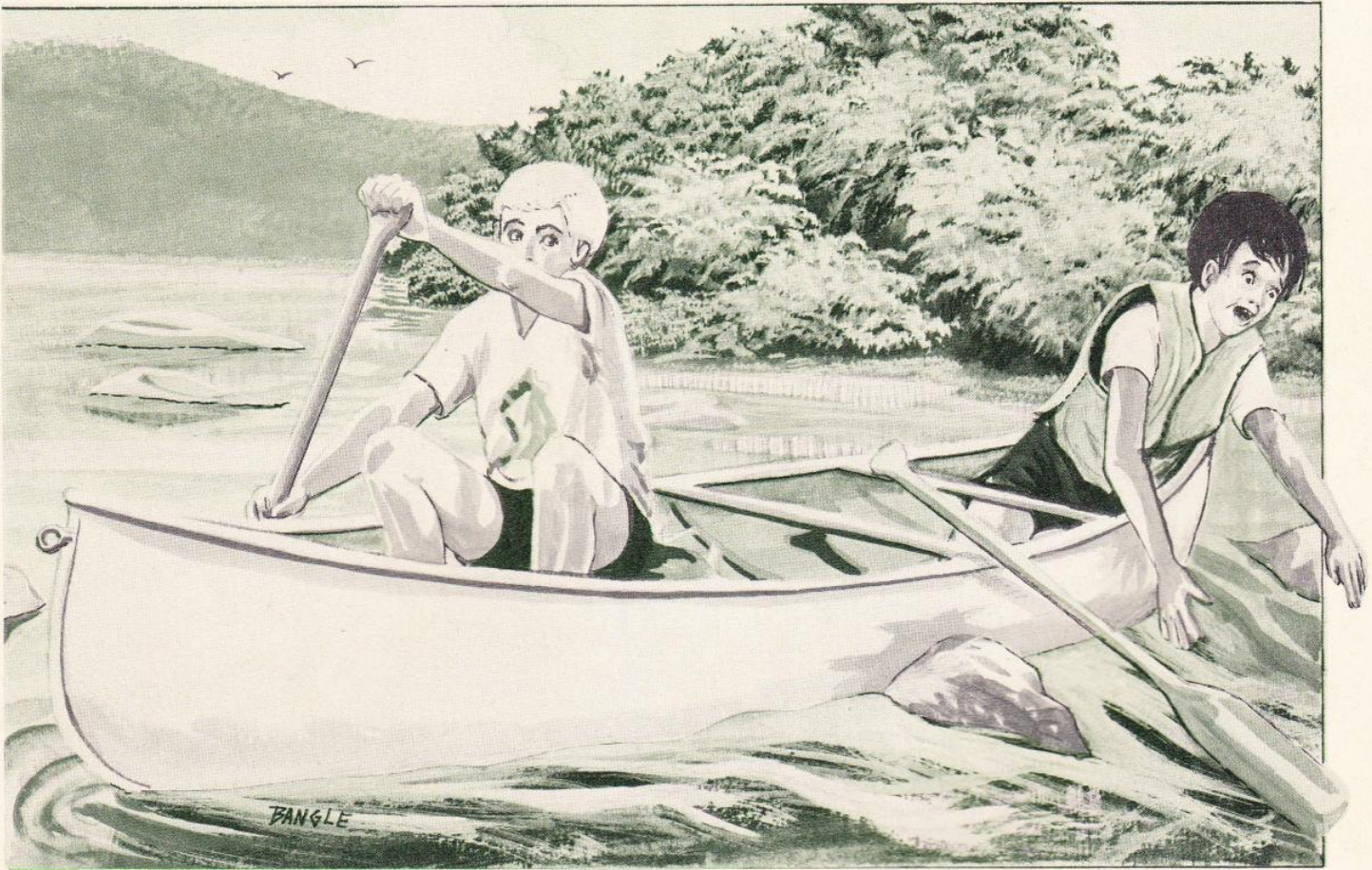
ministry—our families' LOVE!

I have taken home many memories from this Camporama—including my boys' enthusiasm on completing the Heritage Trail, the good food, the heat, the FCF Village, the rattlesnake who tried to visit our district (a fatal mistake) and many other facets of National Camporama. But my greatest memory will be the LOVE shared by ALL—even those of our families who were not physically present, but who shared Camporama in our hearts and spirits.

To GOD be the Glory!! ☆

BOATING SAFETY

BY DR. STEPHENIE SLAHOR



If you and your group are like many others across America, you probably enjoy boating. Perhaps your group even owns a boat. Let's look at some of the safety rules that keep boating fun.

The right way to load a boat is important. You want to take everything needed for your outing, but you can't overload the boat.

Items should be spread evenly in the boat so that no part of the boat is heavier or out of balance to the rest of the boat.

If it is a small boat and you are carrying such tools as axes, camping stoves, firearms or any other things which could be damaged by water, keep those items off the bottom of the boat.

Things which you might need in a hurry like the first aid kit, or things you will use often during the trip like food or drinking water, should be on top.

At least one other person in the "crew" should know how to run the

boat. This helps in case something happens to the regular "skipper" so that someone will be able to get the boat to safety.

Everyone on the boat should wear a personal flotation device of the kind that the Coast Guard has approved. Even if all the passengers know how to swim, it is important that they all wear their "life preservers" while boating.

The boat should have a fire extinguisher, and it should be checked at least once a year to be sure that it is still fully charged to fight fires.

The boat should have such emergency supplies as an anchor and line, an extra oar, signaling device and flares, a working flashlight with extra batteries and bulb and a spare spark plug for the motor.

If someone should accidentally fall overboard, turn the propeller away from the person. Flotation cushions, a life ring, an oar or a line can be used to help the person get back to the boat.

If the boat should overturn, stay with it. It is more easily seen by rescuers than a single swimmer. Tie one end of a line to the boat so that you can keep it from drifting away from you.

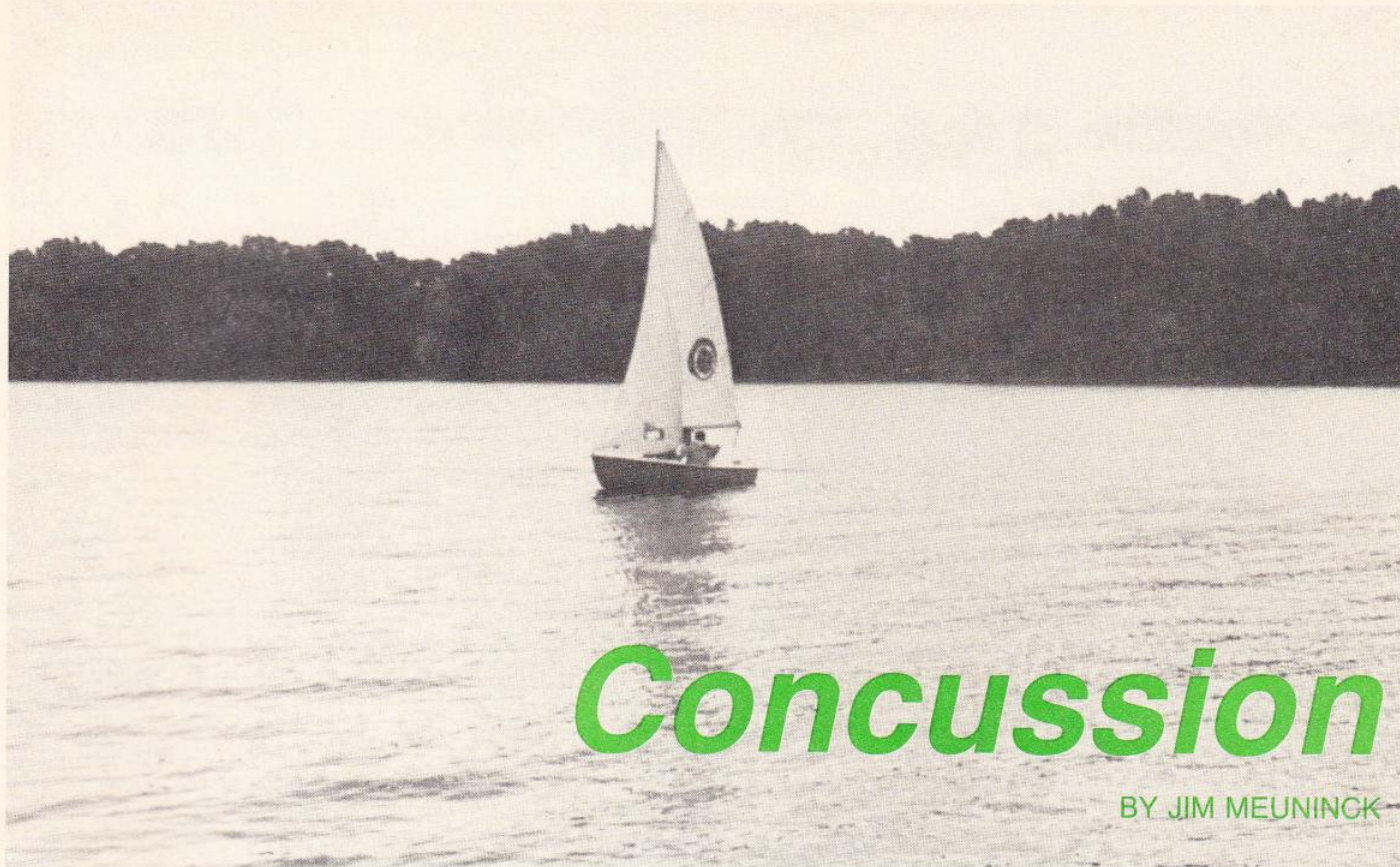
Learn about clouds and weather to know when changes or storms are near, and whenever bad weather threatens, cancel your plans and return to shore immediately.

The trailer which is used to tow the boat behind your car or recreation vehicle needs to be checked often so that its safety chains and bolts are in good condition and secure.

Your library will have many good books about safe boating. Learn all you can to be a better boating enthusiast.

And always be sure to let someone know where and when you are going boating and how long you plan to be out. Let that person know when you have returned from your trip.

Play it safe and you can enjoy your boating trip! ☆



Concussion

BY JIM MEUNINGK

YOUR SKULL IS A CLOSED BOX FILLED WITH FLUID AND TISSUE: ANY BUILDUP OF PRESSURE IN THIS BOX MAY BE LIFE THREATENING.

What do boaters, scuba divers, fishermen, campers and hikers have in common? Forget the obvious comparisons, and consider head injuries for a moment. Did you ever stop a boom with your forehead . . . or bang your skull into a piece of coral after falling off your surfboard (you get the same effect when you slip off a log, and bang your "noggin" on a rock)? A careless climber may have experienced the head splitting effect of errant rock tumbling down a mountain. This list hasn't even warmed up, but the point is made—head injuries outdoors are far too common . . . and often with final consequences.

Concussion is caused by rapid acceleration of the brain; that is, when a sailboat boom swings and hits your head, brain tissue—like a ball hit by a bat—accelerates away from the point of impact. In like manner, when your head rams a bulkhead door, the brain decelerates rapidly, experiencing similar tissue damage. Physical damage to nerves, membranes and blood vessels in the brain may be slight or nonexistent, but the head trauma is not without repercussions—**CONCUSSION IS A SERIOUS INJURY.**

(**WARNING:** Do not attempt to move the injured until you are certain there is no spinal injury. If the unconscious victim is not breathing, or if there is an absence of a pulse, begin CPR immediately. But be certain to immobilize the spine and especially the neck. To avoid permanent paralysis, prevent movement of these body parts.)

The initial result from concussion may be momentary or prolonged loss of consciousness. If the victim does not lose consciousness; does not experience blurred or impaired vision; if his balance is unaffected (he can walk a straight line and touch his finger to his nose); if he is not dizzy; then—just maybe—there is no serious injury. **ON THE OTHER HAND**, if the victim vomits, is dizzy, has blurred or impaired vision; if coordination or balance is affected; if he loses consciousness (even momentarily), or manifests a headache—**IF ANY OF THESE SIGNS IS EVIDENT**—your friend may have experienced a concussion, a very serious injury. How serious? Let's investigate the facts.

To help evaluate the damage your friend has received first lift an eyelid, then shine a light into the eye—if the pupil contracts you have one positive sign. However, if the pupil does not contract in response to the light (or dilate in darkness), if it is fixed, non-moving—or if one pupil contracts but the

other remains dilated, you have the first indication that serious brain damage has resulted from the trauma. Next, test the injured person's reflexes . . . reflex response from a tap below the kneecap, if properly applied, should produce movement in the lower leg. If reflexes are absent, brain damage may be severe.

Another way to measure the seriousness of concussion is to test for paralysis by inducing pain. The absence of paralysis may be discovered by pinching or pricking (with a needle) various parts of the body to stimulate movement.

As mentioned, carefully evaluate the victim for any spinal injuries. If conscious ask them where they feel pain. Evaluate these painful sites. If there is blood leaking from an ear, the skull may be fractured. In any event, serious head injury requires immediate professional attention. There is little you can do in the field, but the few things you do are important: 1. Be certain to maintain an open airway. 2. Do not move the injured until you have confirmed the absence of spinal injury, or have supported and stabilized the neck and back so they won't move while in transit. 3. Call or send someone for emergency help if the injuries prevent physical evacuation. 4. If the victim is conscious, responds favorably to your

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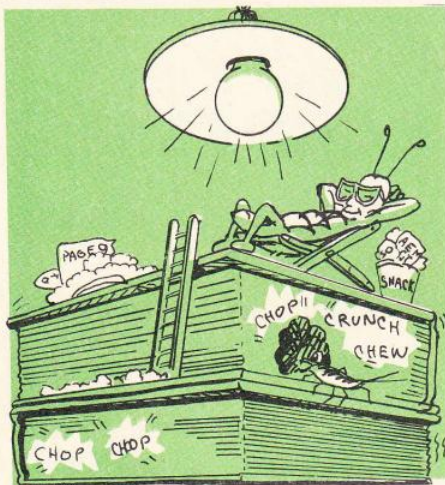
questions, then evacuate him to help. 5. Please keep him in a supine position (lying down), with his head elevated. 6. For pain avoid the use of aspirin because it may induce intracranial bleeding . . . use Tylenol for pain.

Treat all head blows as serious injuries. At first the victim may appear fine, but as pressure builds inside the skull due to tissue damage, your friend's condition will deteriorate very rapidly. Avoid big trouble, suspend your activity, and have any head injury evaluated by a physician.

Post concussional syndrome symptoms may occur for weeks, months or years after a head injury. These signs include: headache, impaired memory, dizziness, depression, apathy and sometimes anxiety after a mild head injury. Consult your physician for testing and therapy.

NOVEL ENDING FOR BOOK BUGS

BY CHARLES MILLER



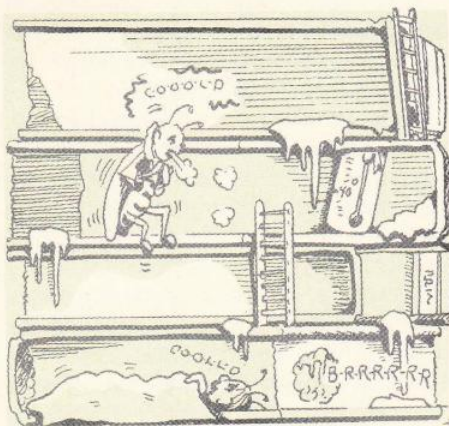
Apparently, loud talkers are not the only pests loitering in the nation's libraries, according to a recent article by Noel Vietmeyer in *National Wildlife* magazine. Real pests—the insect variety—have invaded and made mincemeat of a priceless book collection. *National Wildlife* is a bimonthly publication of the National Wildlife Federation.

The medieval illuminated manuscripts, which had been stored in an Italian monastery for centuries, were crawling with millions of strange, wingless insects. "They had started from the spines and were eating into the texts," recalled a Yale professor. "There were so many grubs that those fabulous books were turning into lace doilies."

Yale's problem, though severe, is not unique. A whole menagerie of pests—moths, cockroaches, booklice, silverfish, termites, and bookmites—thrives in library books around the world. Insects with a less literary bent also infest records and other papers in town halls, administration buildings, warehouses, and even people's homes.

In libraries, most pests live on the glue in old book bindings. Until about 1950, boiled cattle hooves were the main ingredient of that glue, providing almost pure protein to hungry bugs. Some insects prefer to graze on fungi that blossom like microscopic alfalfa on damp pages. Others eat old covers made of leather or vellum, or new covers that are commonly filled with a starchy substance. Only a few insects actually bore large holes in pages and bindings. But librarians point out that a book-loving cockroach can do considerable damage.

Such pests have been under siege by exterminators for years. Until World War II, the preferred treatment was cyanide—which, unfortunately, is also



poisonous to humans. Organic pesticides, commonly used in libraries, may pose health hazards of their own, especially in enclosed areas. Some libraries, researchers have found, contain alarming levels of pesticide residue. When Yale officials were faced with the task of debugging their rare books, they couldn't even consider using chemicals. The insects were deep inside the pages, where fumes could

damage the fragile paper or change the colors in the illuminations. In desperation, the librarians turned to Charles Remington, head of Yale's department of entomology.

"We don't usually do that kind of research," said Remington. Nevertheless, the scientist found an unidentified species of grub-like insect that was a relative of the wood-loving deathwatch beetle—so named because its mysterious clicking sounds, emanating from the timbers of old houses, were considered an omen of death in ancient times.

Operating on a hunch, Remington tried freezing several of the insects. After a day and a half on ice, they were out cold, killed by low temperatures. Encouraged, the entomologist and Yale's librarians wrapped every one of the precious Italian books in a plastic freezer bag and commandeered a freezer in a campus dining hall. They then froze the volumes for 3 days at 40 degrees below 0. A later inspection showed the embattled books to be completely bug free.

Since then, Yale has installed a large, walk-through freezer in the library and put its entire collection of more than 30,000 rare books and documents on ice. The technique is catching on elsewhere. In Illinois, a company has been established to supply libraries with book freezers. Yale's music department recently froze an infested Stradivarius violin. And the Smithsonian Institute's botanists have begun to freeze plant specimens in their vast collection.

"Freezing is intolerable for most life forms," observes Remington. "For infestations on things not living, it's the perfect pest control."

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WALKING

FOR FUN AND FITNESS

BY KATHRYN TERRELL

You and your friends are generally more active than most adults. But are you as active as you should be? Physical fitness is a popular subject today, and none of us can be fit without enough exercise. You may take part in vigorous outdoor activities at times, but are you exercising enough to stay physically fit and healthy?

You've probably heard the word AEROBIC. When you do aerobic exercises you use the lower half of your body. The constant rhythm or motion of your legs in aerobic exercise acts

as a second heart, pumping blood through your body. This assists the heart in its work. Aerobic exercise includes walking, running, swimming, and bicycling.

The opposite type of exercise is called ANAEROBIC. Sports such as volleyball, tennis, or baseball, build muscle, provide recreation, and teach coordination; but these activities are not constant enough to strengthen the heart and lungs properly. It takes the constant motion of the legs for at least 15 to 30 minutes to promote physical

fitness.

You may not feel like running a mile or more 3 or 4 days a week to increase your fitness level. Nor does everyone have access to a swimming pool as much as they'd like. Also, in order for swimming to be aerobic in nature, you must kick your legs often while doing this exercise. Many of you own bikes—if you ride daily for 20 minutes or more, you should be somewhat healthy and fit. Yet sometimes this isn't enough, as

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you may do a lot of coasting and too little pumping.

That's where walking comes in. You can walk with your friends. You could encourage your family to walk with you regularly, so they too will be physically fit. Be sure to choose a time when it's convenient for your friends or family to walk for at least a half hour. After a few months, you probably will enjoy your walks so much that you won't want to quit. Walking in the fresh air and sunshine vitalizes the whole body, and this can make you feel good all over.

Brisk walking pumps the blood through your veins and helps your lungs to expand and take in deep breaths of fresh air. The oxygen in the air feeds all the cells in your body. Your heart is strengthened and even your brain is energized. An early morning walk can help you think better.

A walk in the afternoon before supper can help a child or adult who gains weight easily to keep it off or lose it. A walk at any time can make you feel happy and contented, once you get into it. If you're upset a walk can cool you off.

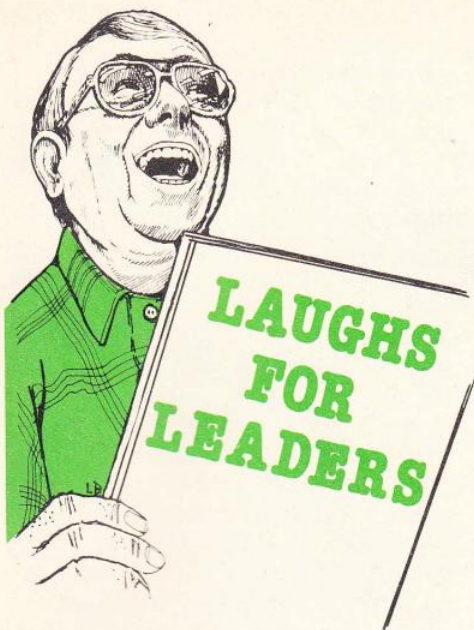
Walking is an exercise which allows you to talk to your friends, since you won't be out of breath huffing and puffing like an old locomotive engine. It's an exercise where you can enjoy the wonders of nature and observe your surroundings closely. And sometimes, while you walk, you may feel you want to meditate or pray.

There are other advantages in walking for exercise. For example, runners may get specific injuries to their legs and feet, which are rare for walking. Sometimes walking is underrated as an exercise, yet brisk walks are actually considered equal in fitness value to slow jogging. Scientific tests have shown walking to be a definite benefit for promoting health in people of all ages.

Here is your chance to teach other people a better way to live, by your example. After they walk a few months, they will thank you for giving them a chance to improve their health.

Begin your walking program at a pace with which you and your walking partners are comfortable. If your legs start to ache, slow down but don't stop. Gradually walk for longer periods and at a faster pace. This may mean starting out at the rate of 2 miles per hour (mph) and working up to 3 or 4 mph. Walking for a half hour every day is probably all you'll need to keep physically fit. Or walk for an hour every other day. You'll probably have so much fun you'll want to walk longer.

Exercise is a natural law of our Creator which may be neglected more than any other. It takes determined effort to exercise daily. Nutritious food and pure water are available to most of us, but we may need to be strongly motivated to exercise when we should. Walking is a pleasant way to do this. It isn't strenuous, and there are a number of interesting places to walk—some of them right near your home. Walking isn't just "exercise," it's a way to enjoy yourself. ☆



A university coed has been dating two students, a dairy farming major, and an English major with aspirations to be a poet. Both have proposed to her. She can't decide whether to marry for butter or for verse.

Martha J. Beckman
Granada Hills, California



WHY DID THE PASTOR SAY 'THANK YOU'? I DIDN'T VOLUNTEER FOR ANYTHING "



cartoons by
JOHN

A British commuter hopped on a train to London and told the conductor he wanted to get off at Doncaster. "We don't stop at Doncaster on Wednesdays," the conductor told him. "But I'll tell you what, mate, we slow down at Doncaster to go through the junction. I'll open the doors and you hop off. But mind you, we're going fast, so hit the ground running, so you don't get pulled into the train's wake."

At Doncaster, the train slowed, the doors opened, and the man hit the ground running. He was running so fast that his momentum took him forward to the car ahead. There another conductor opened the door and pulled him in. "You're mighty lucky," the conductor told him. "This train doesn't stop at Doncaster on Wednesdays."

Martha J. Beckman
Granada Hills, California

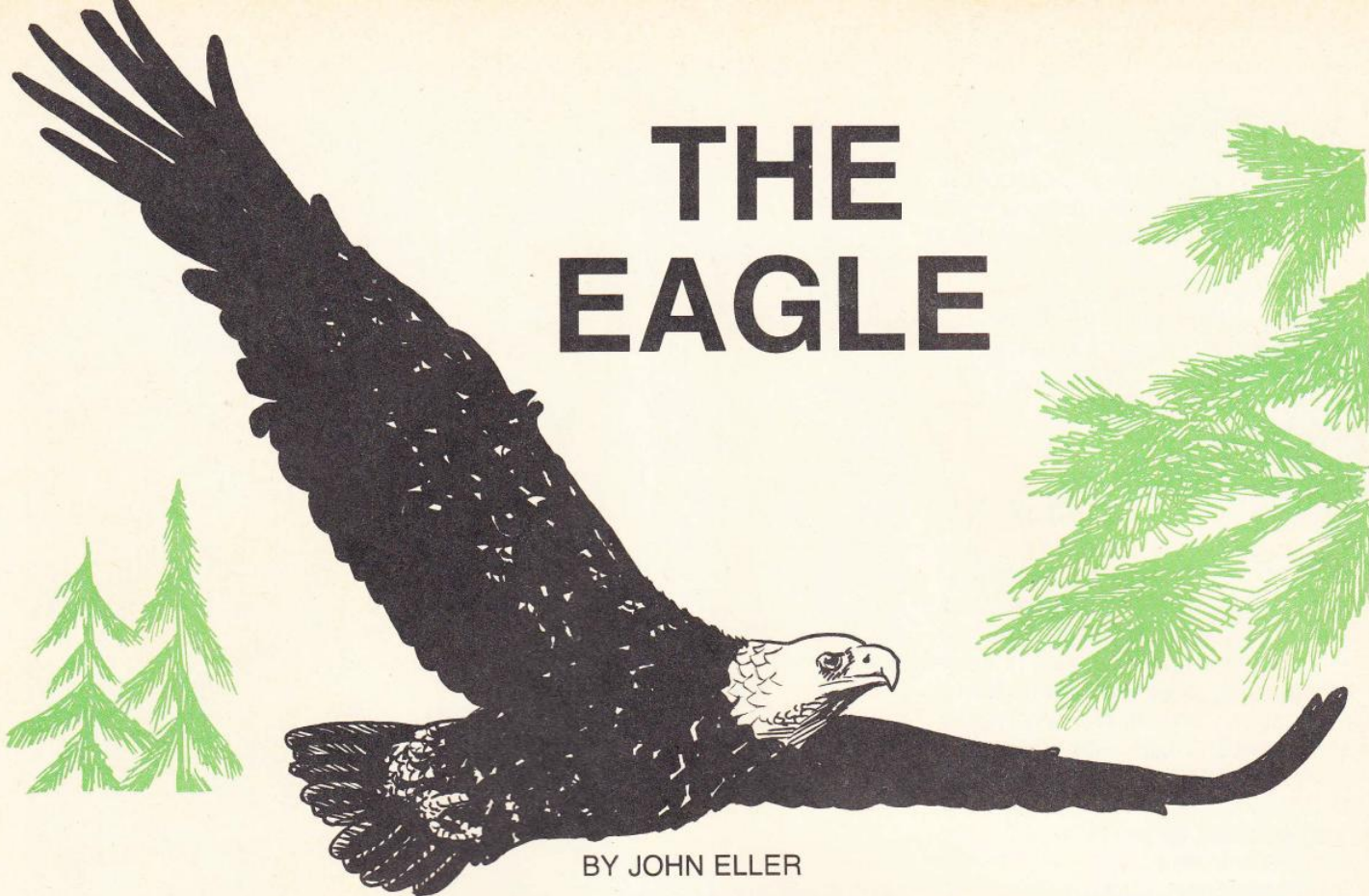
A professor in a junior college was giving a course in The American Revolution and the War of 1812. There weren't enough students signed up to start it, so he advertised for more students. He called the class "Thirteen Star Wars, and The British Empire Strikes Back." The class was soon filled.

Martha J. Beckman
Granada Hills, California

" BEEN A BRICKLAYER LONG, SPURGEON? "

THE EAGLE

BY JOHN ELLER



The most interesting and magnificent bird in American skies is the eagle. He lives longer, flies higher, and sees further. He is the class act of all born to fly. Little wonder he has become the great American symbol.

The psalmist David was acquainted with the eagle from his days as a shepherd boy. He watched as the great bird soared with grace and independence, and compared him to the child of God whose "youth is renewed like the eagle's" (Psalm 103:5).

The eagle reminds us that it is possible for us to live in a dimension where you can rise above the storms of life by faith, and devour any predator in your skies. How can you live in such victory? By renewing your strength.

The eagle is stronger than anyone else up there. He can fly at an altitude of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and see a worm stick his little head up through the sod in a dark mountain pass, and go get him!

An eagle can swoop down on a fierce mountain lion, and with one foot, crush its backbone!

He can dive into a crystal mountain lake, and fly off with the biggest catch of the day.

Have you ever wondered how an eagle sits out all night in the rain and snow and doesn't catch pneumonia? If we tried it, we'd never make it. But he not only survives, he thrives on it.

The eagle is so designed by God

that every day from the inside, he exudes fresh oil. This coats his feathers and weatherproofs him. As long as there is a flowing of the oil, he is healthy and victorious.

Oil is a type of the Holy Spirit. This oil protects us and keeps us going. No wonder Paul said, "Be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18). This flow of oil must come from the inside.

There comes a time when the eagle goes through a mid-life crisis. He gets to where he can't as easily take the prey. He is struggling to keep going. Life becomes complicated. The way you know is when you look at his feathers.

His plumage has become dry because the oil has stopped flowing. His feathers no longer bend, they break. His coat is flabby and threadbare. He is looking sick. He doesn't feel well.

At this point in life, the eagle has two options. One, he can live without surgery for about 12 months, and just enjoy it like it is. Or, he can fly off, usually to the mountaintop where he was born, and get back to his beginnings.

There, on a rugged plateau some three to four thousand feet high, he will perch on a rock and examine his coat. He will look very carefully at each plume that is diseased or dead, and he will pull it out. The eagle literally plucks himself alive!

It is painful. It is bloody. It is humil-

iating. It is gruesome. It is exacting. But it is the only way to renewal!

The eagle knows God's plan. If he removes it, God will replace it with a new one. New feathers will never grow over the top of old ones. It is off with the old and on with the fresh and new!

Paul said we should all examine ourselves, even judge ourselves, that we may put aside that which is dead or unproductive. This is how we walk in the light, have fellowship with one another, and continue under the blood covering for our sins.

The eagle is up there 3 to 4 months. No one socializes with him. He is alone. He feels the wind. It is dark. He is under pressure, and it is very lonely. But if he will just be patient, he will one day fly again, as strong as ever!

God may send you to a mountain someday. When He does, you may discover some feathers that need replacing so the oil can flow again. It is never easy to take an inward look, but the result makes it worthwhile.

If we will remove those feathers of distrust, doubt, and fear, as we are patient before God, He will replace them with faith, hope, and love.

We will then learn by actual experience the meaning of the words, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles" (Isaiah 40:31). ☆

face-to-face and WAPITI graze is worth the time.

You all hang on here just a minute, this old Ranger was fixin' to tell you about more adventure than you can shake a hikin' stick at.

As usually happens where traffic thins out and only hardy souls penetrate, there are surprises at many turns and fresh scenery at each bend in the trail.

Northwest Outpost 72 is located at Hillcrest Assembly of God in Bremerton, Washington, across the Puget Sound from Seattle on the Olympic side. Yes sir, this here outpost was fixin' to take a hike in the Olympics and chose the Soleduck trailhead to make the 21 mile trail up, around and down again to the startin' place. They chose Thursday morning, August 14, to go by bus to the trailhead with packs ready.

There were 9 Royal Rangers, 3 men and 6 boys (that would be men by the time they got back if crest trail hikes went as usual). Senior Commander Dennis Thornton, Trailblazer Commander Les Stoddard, Training Coordinator Terry Sears, along with as fine a group of boys as ever wore a uniform. There was tall, lanky Mark Stoddard, Tim Smith, a "wiry" boy with Frontiersman handle "Hummingbird," muscular Don Cole, strong Paul Sears, shy, handsome Matt Rakoczy and friendly, cheerful Pat Sears. These young men were excited as a "hound dog chasing a rabbit" to be on a pack trip into the high country.

It was getting late when the troop arrived at Deer Lake, 4.2 miles inland and of course the sweat of the day had to be washed off in the cool water fresh off the mountain's snow peaks. Devotions and bedtime were welcome after a supper of trail food. No fires were allowed due to extreme fire danger. It hadn't rained for weeks and the mountains were dry as the desert, except for retreating snow in higher levels.

Next morning the time got away from them before they knew it as they explored, fished and packed up. At Bible study they all gave their observations of truths from Ephesians and midday was upon them before going up to the WAPITI country.

A lady came rushing into their camp. "Fire!" she cried. "Where?" they all asked at once. "At the other end of the lake." They looked across and the dense, white smoke was already drifting over the water. To a man the outpost sprang into action. They grabbed

their mess gear and headed for the fire. A forest fire would wipe out millions of dollars worth of trees and devastate the homes of wildlife for years to come.

A camper unable to untie a knot around a tree decided to use his cigarette lighter to burn it off. The flame caught into the moss hanging tinder dry in the western forest. The flame raced up the tree like a squirrel, jumping from limb to limb until it reached the top 60 feet above the ground.

Outpost 72 formed a "mess gear" brigade and from the stream nearby doused the flames and coals as far up as they could from the ground. The wind began to blow and the sparks caught into the resin laden needles of the trees higher up.

Commander Les Stoddard was always a chicken when it came to heights but he never gave it a second thought as he proceeded to climb a tree throwing the water ahead of him as he climbed. The boys kept the rope going, pulling water up to him as he inched his way up the towering tree trunk. Finally he could go no further so Terry Sears sent up his folding bow saw out of his pack and Les cut the tops out of the trees and the final blaze was extinguished on the ground by the Rangers of Outpost 72.

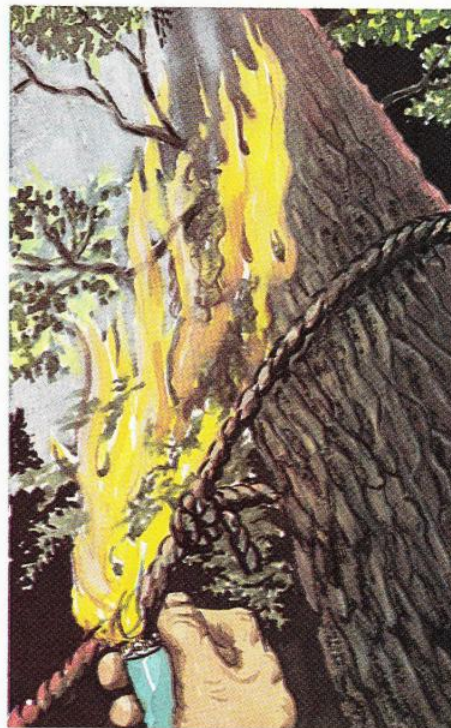
Commander Stoddard was glad to get down with minor burns and scratches, but he certainly was grateful that God helped him to overcome fear of heights to be READY to do what needed to be done for the honor of our Lord.

This old Ranger is telling you that those young'uns cleaned up as best they could, put their field packs on and climbed 5 more miles up into WAPITI country before nightfall. When they emerged 2 days later from the high country, the news of what they had done had preceded them to the Ranger Station. They came home to discover that the Bremerton Sun Newspaper wanted a picture and story of their work. Now, like I say, we Rangers don't go around looking for heroic acts, but you can't help being a hero when there is a catastrophe about to happen and a Royal Ranger is READY for anything.

The report of their courageous act got as far as to the national office and our National Commander Johnnie Barnes allowed me the privilege of making a presentation on behalf of the national office.

October 26 at 6:00 p.m., in the Bremerton Hillcrest Assembly, the place was full as little Straight Arrow

The flame raced up the tree like a squirrel, jumping from limb to limb until it reached the top 60 feet above the ground.



boys, Buckaroo boys and Pioneer and Trailblazer boys from the outpost and all their relatives and friends gathered to see honor bestowed on the hikers of the Olympic Mountains. Yes sir, Matt Rakoczy, Tim (Hummingbird) Smith, Mark Stoddard, Don Cole, Paul Sears, Pat Sears, Dennis Thornton, and Terry Sears all received Certificates of Valor from the National Commander Johnnie Barnes. Because he risked his life in a dangerous situation, thus saving the lives and countless damage to wildlife and vegetation in the Olympics, Commander Les Stoddard was awarded the Medal of Valor for his bravery.

Being an old trail man myself, I experienced the thrill of the hike and the wonder of the grace of God that has allowed us to have such a beautiful country to preserve and the privilege of knowing men who are READY to keep it that way.

In rainy season which is most of the time in WAPITI country, you can't start a fire with anything, but in dry season in our forest I agree with a wise fireman who said one time, "Oh yes, my friend, there's never a doubt: the very best fire is the fire that's out." ★

SUCH BLARNEY

by M. J. Beckman

Last March we celebrated St. Patrick's Day by wearing green and talking as if we'd kissed the Blarney Stone. Below are 17 hints, the answers to which each have the word **STONE** in them. A score of 12 is good, get 15 or more, shure an' your brains are worth a pot of gold!

HINTS

1. One of the first national parks.
2. An important section of a building.
3. A famous Confederate general.
4. A terribly painful object in the human body.
5. An admonition to do a job thoroughly.
6. Profoundly deficient in hearing.
7. Ancient English monuments.
8. A short measurable distance.
9. Senseless due to drugs.
10. An adage counseling stability.
11. An iron-containing rock with magnetic properties.
12. A childish taunt.
13. Get to work, Slave!
14. The first human culture.
15. Found in a cemetery.
16. Empty pockets.
17. An old tract house in the Northeastern U.S.

10. A rolling stone gathers no moss.
11. Lodestone.
12. Sticks and stones will break my bones.
13. To keep one's nose to the grindstone.
14. The Stone Age.
15. Tombstone.
16. Stone broke.
17. Brownstone.

1. Yellowstone.
2. Cornerstone.
3. "Stonewall" Jackson.
4. Gallstone or kidney stone.
5. Leave no stone unturned.
6. Stone deaf.
7. Stonehenge.
8. Stone's throw.
9. Be stoned.

ANSWERS



PLANT COLLECTING

by Shirley Zebrowski

Plant collecting is an easy, fun, and cheap way to make a nature collection. You can get your plants anywhere and there is very little equipment required.

A rule of nature collecting to remember—never pick a state flower, never pick a neighbor's plants or flowers unless you ask first. Also when collecting plants in the fields or forests remember to never pick a flower unless there are at least six of them and never pull out a complete plant unless there are at least ten of the same plant growing nearby. There is a reason these plants are growing where they are, so be careful not to disturb the balance of nature.

A plant specimen should show the complete plant. It should include the root, stem, leaves, bud or flower or fruit, and seed.

The most popular way of collecting plants is the herbarium. The plants are pressed, dried, and mounted on a thin sheet of cardboard.

The four rules to follow in making a

herbarium are:

1. Collect the whole plant.
2. Press them while they are drying. Dry completely.
3. Mount them on the cardboard carefully.
4. Label each plant correctly.

The longest process is drying the plants. It will take about 2 weeks for the plants to completely dry. It's a simple process but does take time.

Never pick a state flower, never pick a neighbor's plants.

Place a board (1 by 3 feet) on the table. Fold three sheets of newspaper in half and lay them on the board. Spread a sheet of newspaper on the table. Lay the plant on the right half of the sheet. Arrange the plant in a natural way; it will dry the way you arrange it. When arranging the plant, turn some flowers face-up and some face-down

so it will show the complete flower. Do the same with the leaves. This will give you a front view and a back view when the plant is mounted.

Fold over the left half of the newspaper sheet and write the name of the plant in the right-hand corner. Place this folder on the board and cover it with a layer of three newspaper sheets folded in half.

Continue making the plant folders and placing them in the press. Make sure to always place three sheets of newspaper folded in half between each folder. When you have a stack of folders about 6 inches high, place the other board (1 by 3 feet) on top of it. Put a weight, a rock or heavy book, on top of the board.

Leave the plants in this press for about 18 hours. Then replace all the newspapers with fresh dry ones. Also change the plant folders. Be sure to write the name of the plant on the fresh sheet of newspaper.

Press again for 24 hours. This time
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►

replace only the sheets of newspaper between the layers of plant folders. Keep pressing the plants and replacing the newspaper sheets every 24 hours until the plants are completely dry. It should take about 1 or 2 weeks to finish drying your plants.

After the plants are completely dried, you are ready to mount them. You can use poster board for your herbarium. A sheet cut into 12- by 17-inch pieces is the standard size most used. However, you can make your sheets any size you wish. You will glue, tape, or tie the plants on the sheet.

Gluing a plant on the sheet is a messier process but produces the neatest display. Using a paintbrush, spread a layer of glue on the bottom of a cookie sheet. Carefully place the back side of the plant into this glue. Carefully lift the plant and place it on the poster board sheet. Cover it with a piece of white paper and place a heavy book over it. Let dry completely.

To tape your specimens onto the sheet, you will need a roll of gummed

cloth tape. Cut the tape in 1/8-inch-wide strips. You will need a wet sponge handy to wet the tape as you go along. Tape the plant onto the sheet in areas such as stems, leaves, or the bottom of the flower heads.

Some plants will have thick coarse stems or large flower heads that cannot be glued or taped on. These plants will have to be tied on. Use a strong green thread or fishing line and a needle to tie the plants onto the herbarium sheet. Push the needle through the back of the sheet. Bring the thread over the plant part and push the needle through the sheet to the back. Tie a firm knot on the back of the sheet. Make as many ties as necessary to hold the plant firmly on the sheet.

Some plants that have thick stems will have to be trimmed before you press and dry them. Cut off the back part of the stem until it will lie flat. It won't show after it is mounted and will make mounting the plant a lot easier.

If your plant has seeds, you will find that after you have glued them on, they

will probably fall off. So the best method of mounting seeds is to place the seeds in a square of plastic wrap and paste this to the sheet. Or you can staple it onto the sheet.

After the plants have been mounted you must label them. You can use self-stick labels or write right on the sheet. The information you need to put on each plant includes the scientific name of the plant, the common name, what plant family it belongs to, where you found the plant, and the date you collected it.

To protect your herbarium sheet, you should cover the plant side with plastic wrap. Just cover the front side, bring about 1 inch of wrap to the back of the sheet, and glue it in place or use tape and tape it in place.

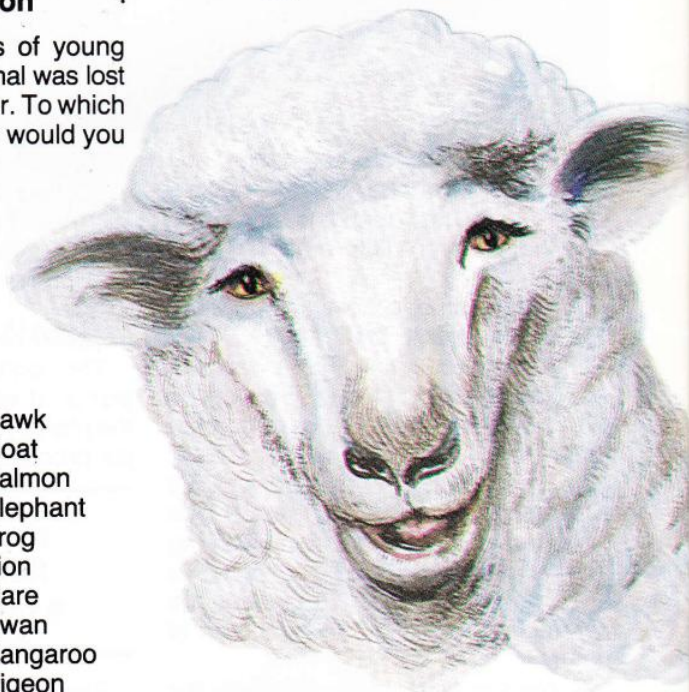
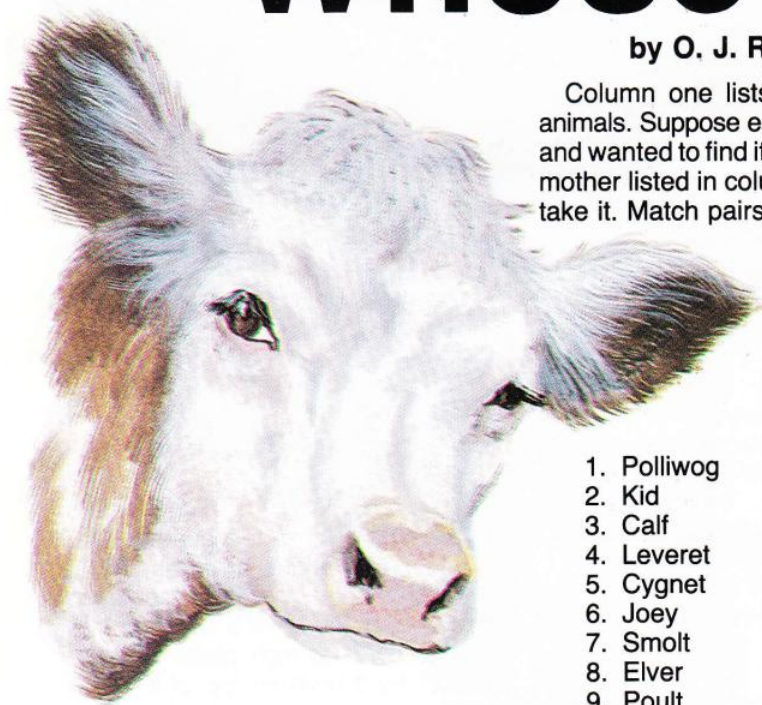
The herbarium sheets and plant collecting in any form, makes a good project for a science class. You will be surprised how many common plants you will have to look up in a library book to find the correct names of these plants!

THE END

Whose Baby?

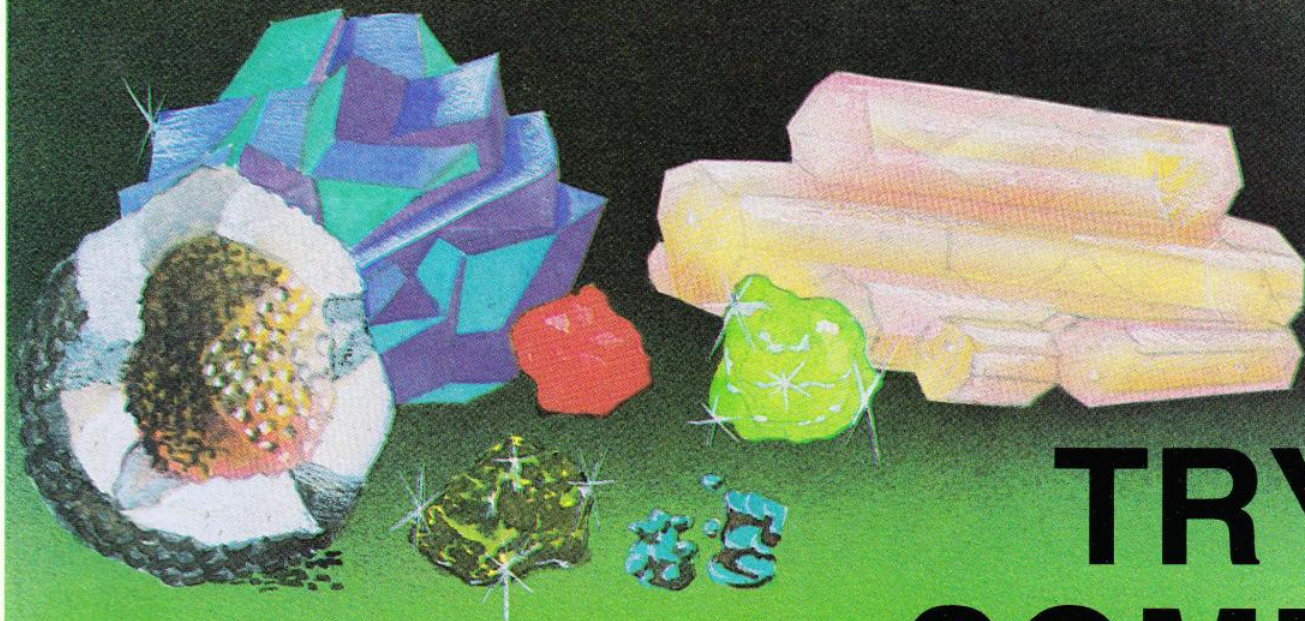
by O. J. Robertson

Column one lists names of young animals. Suppose each animal was lost and wanted to find its mother. To which mother listed in column two would you take it. Match pairs.



- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Polliwog | A. Hawk |
| 2. Kid | B. Goat |
| 3. Calf | C. Salmon |
| 4. Leveret | D. Elephant |
| 5. Cygnet | E. Frog |
| 6. Joey | F. Lion |
| 7. Smolt | G. Hare |
| 8. Elver | H. Swan |
| 9. Poult | I. Kangaroo |
| 10. Squab | J. Pigeon |
| 11. Cub | K. Eel |
| 12. Eyas | L. Turkey |

Answers: 1.E, 2.B, 3.D, 4.G, 5.H, 6.I, 7.C, 8.K, 9.L, 10.J, 11.F, 12.A



TRY SOME ROCKHOUNDING

by Dr. Stephanie Slahor

It usually starts very simply—someone gives you a pretty rock, a fancy mineral or a semiprecious stone. Or maybe you find a rock or mineral in a rock store or while you are afield. Well, that's the beginning of the adventure of rockhounding.

You won't need a lot of money or fancy equipment for this hobby, and you won't have to travel hundreds of miles from home to find good specimens. All you need is an eye for what strikes you as a pretty or unusual rock, and you're on your way.

You might want to begin rockhounding in your own area, or where you might be vacationing with your family. You can find out what kinds of rocks and minerals will be in the area by starting at your library and reading books about rockhounding.

There may be some rock and mineral shops in your area. They should have lots of information, too, and there will be someone there who can probably help you get started by telling you about good spots for rockhounding.

Your state's Department of Geology or Bureau of Mines may have many free or inexpensive pamphlets or bulletins to help you locate good places for rockhounding. They may also be able to provide you with maps of those

areas, but if not, a topographic map will give you a detailed look at what the terrain and land forms will be like where you want to search. Topographic maps are available from the U.S. Geological Survey, Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. The index map for your state is free.

A local junior college or university may have Geology Departments to help you, and they are good places when you need help identifying rocks or minerals you can't classify yourself.

If you travel afield to collect, you need to know that some places are claimed. Those mining claims are not open to people not authorized to be there. Respect other people's property and their "No Trespassing" signs. Remember that if you are in a National Park or National Monument, rock collecting is not allowed because the park is trying to preserve everything for all the visitors who will come after you, too.

In some areas which are especially famous for the particular mineral or gemstone found there, there may be some private claims open to the public for a small fee. Finding such locations can help you shorten the time you'd spend on just trying to locate a good area for your search and instead, spend

your time on finding the "biggest" or "best" example of the type of mineral you want.

You might want to try to pan for gold, too. First, be sure you aren't trespassing on someone else's claim, though. A gold pan from a sport or outdoor store, or an old pie pan will be needed. Scoop a little of the streambed's sediment and hold the pan about an inch or two below the surface of the water. Gently swish the pan sideways or in a circular motion. That sweeps away the sand and gravel. The gold, being the heaviest material, will settle to the bottom of the pan. Be patient. Once you find gold, you'll probably want to try panning again—very soon! Gold can be found in every state—not just the Western States.

Whenever you rockhound, be sure that you tell someone where you are going and how long you plan to be there.

Stay out of old, abandoned mines. Often, these have rotten support timbers, hazardous gases or dangerous shafts.

Rockhounding can be challenging and fun. There are always some new rocks and minerals to add to your collection. ★

CONTINUED FROM
BACK PAGE.

Suddenly the locker room was unbearable. He couldn't stand the sweatiness, the dreary stone walls of the old school. He slammed his locker and ran out, but not toward the gym. There was a long path leading through the woods. He could feel his heart pounding as he ran, trying to escape his own thoughts.

Bruce didn't stop running until his legs buckled. It was no use. He couldn't run away from the voice inside driving him crazy.

"Forgive me!" How his body ached, not just from the run. He had run longer distances before.

No one could hear him as he knelt under the trees, finding release in pouring out his feelings. "Lord, they couldn't even see any difference between us!" A great rush of justification came. I haven't sworn or told off-color jokes. I haven't done a lot of things they do. "No, Lord, I haven't done those things—but I've stood around and laughed and never protested. I've never said one word to let them know I'm a Christian."

It seemed like hours before Bruce leaned back on the ground. He had poured everything. "I know You've always been with me. That's what makes it even worse. I deliberately turned away from everything I know is true in order to be popular. Please forgive me. I want to be all Yours again."

Gradually his hot face cooled, his broken spirit calmed. Deep inside was a growing determination. From now on, with God's help, things would be different. There would be evidence piled up against him. Everyone would know he was a Christian, and what the Lord could and would do for anyone who accepted Him as their Savior.

"Where have you been, Kincaid?" the coach yelled in a tone Bruce had gotten used to. "Get your uniform on. We're ready to play in 10 minutes. You ought to be out there warming up right now!"

"Sorry, coach. I've been getting ready for the game." Something in his voice made the coach look up suspiciously, but Bruce wasn't through.

"Coach, at our other school our team had a custom. I'm wondering if we can do it here." Bruce took a deep breath. "Just before the starting whistle we always bowed our heads in a circle and asked the Lord to bless the game. Not so we'd win, but so we'd play a good clean game."



Pete recovered first. "You mean you want to pray, right out there on the bench, in front of everybody?"

"Yes, I do. The crowd doesn't hear it, just us. Our school respected it—and we had good games."

"It's up to the team." The coach scratched his head. "I don't have any objection." He looked at Pete and Joe and Sam and the others. "Well?"

Sam came through first. "Uh, it might not be a bad idea."

"Joe?"

"Okay with me."

"Pete?" Bruce held his breath. If anyone objected, it would be Pete. He'd never seen Pete look like that, sort of stunned, but with respect in his face.

Then Pete spoke. "Yeah. That'd be a neat thing to do." He grinned to take away the tension. "Besides, against the Tigers we can use all the help we can get!"

It was time for the game. But first the team gathered in their huddle. No one made a big deal of it. They simply bowed their heads and Bruce asked that they play a good, clean game. They did. They had never played better.

But the most exciting thing happened the night Bruce couldn't play. He was flat out with flu. Sam told him about it later—

"We all got out on the floor, just before starting time. The coach looked around and said, 'Oh yeah, Kincaid's out. No prayer tonight, I guess.' Then he added, 'Unless one of you wants to say one.'"

Bruce could feel Sam's excitement.

"There was this kind of hush, then all of a sudden someone was praying, just like you do. I sneaked a look, and it was Pete!" He swallowed hard. "That wasn't all. We played our best and won."

"When it was over and we were whooping it up in the locker room, Pete said, 'Pipe down, you guys. I got something to say. I never had much use for Christians before but I have to admit—Kincaid's different. When I first knew him, I thought he was a hypocrite, especially after finding out he was supposed to be a Christian but acted just like the rest of us. I was wrong. And I'll tell you something else. One of these days when I get around to it, I'm going to get acquainted with that Friend of his and Susan's and see whether Jesus Christ wants to take me on.'"

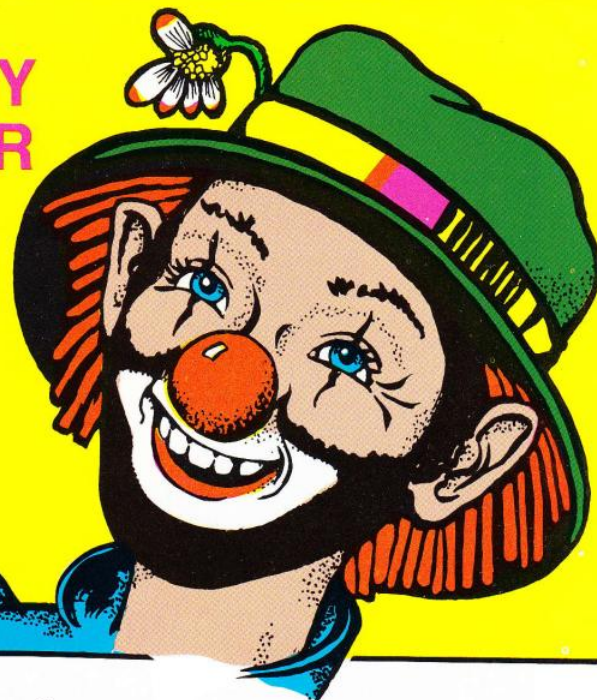
"Boy, you could have knocked me over with a feather!" Sam yawned, and crawled in bed. But when the light was out and Bruce was half asleep Sam said, "You know, maybe I'll do like Pete and check out your Friend. Think He might have any use for a bum like me?"

It took Bruce two tries before he could speak. "He has a lot of use for you, Sam, and for Pete and for all of us. But Pete was right. I was a hypocrite. I'm just thankful the Lord loves and forgives."

"Yeah. I don't suppose accepting Him as your Saviour makes you perfect all at once." Sam yawned again.

"Good night, Sam." But Sam was asleep. Bruce pulled the covers closer around him, slid down in bed a little further—and thanked God. ★

COMEDY CORNER



One snake confessed to another:
"I'm glad I'm not poisonous."
"Why?" hissed his friend.
"Because I just bit my tongue."
Warren Bebout
Atascadero, CA

What has twenty heads but can't
think?
A book of matches.
Marie Christopher
Brady, Texas

What parents allow the kids to go to
bed with their shoes on?
Answer: A horse.
John Zacco
New Port Richey, Florida

Pat: I once had to live on a can of
beans.
Matt: Wow! that's rough. Weren't you
afraid of falling off?
Warren Bebout
Atascadero, CA

What do you call a trailer that is used
to haul sheep?
A ewe-haul.
Marie Christopher
Brady, Texas

Father: Son, how did you get that
black eye?
Son: See that door, Dad?
Father: Sure.
Son: Well, I didn't.
Warren Bebout
Atascadero, CA

What did the dirt say to the rain?
I don't know. What?
Because of you my name is mud.
Marie Christopher
Brady, Texas



Why are baby girls dressed in pink
and baby boys dressed in blue?
Answer: Because they can't dress
themselves.
John Sacco
New Port Richey, Florida

What's the best way to make anti-
freeze?
Answer: Take away her electric
blanket!
John Zacco
New Port Richey, Florida



National FCF Rendezvous
June 21-25, 1988
Eagle Rock, MO

CTION

by Colleen L. Reece



"Did you ever hear anything so ridiculous? Imagine. Susan Marshall standing up in front of the class to read her theme about her best friend—and it turns out to be a sermon!"

"Yeah," Joe threw in, jerking the laces of his gym shoes. "'My best Friend is the Lord Jesus Christ.'" His voice was a perfect imitation of Susan's as she had read her theme. "If I want a sermon, I'll go to church to get it. Anyway, isn't it against the law to talk about religion at school?"

"Tell it to Susan!" There was a loud burst of laughter.

"Hey, Kincaid you're sure quiet. What did you think of Susan and her theme?"

Bruce Kincaid felt his hands go clammy. Why did this have to come up the first time he felt like one of the guys? For a moment he thought of what his cousin Sam had told him when he introduced him to the team. "Soft-pedal that religious stuff, Bruce. These are the guys at school, and they aren't too hot on church stuff."

Up until now it hadn't been hard. It

just hadn't come up. But now he was on the spot. He had to be honest. "I sort of admired her for what she did."

"You what?" Pete was startled.

"Well, she stood up for what she believed in, didn't she?" Bruce hoped it would drop right there. It didn't.

"You don't believe in all that stuff, do you—about Jesus being the Son of God and saving sinners and all that?"

He had denied the Lord, not like Peter did, out loud, but by keeping silent.

Bruce had to take a stand.

"Yes, Pete, I do."

There was a long moment of silence. But Pete couldn't let it die.

"So you're a Christian, too. Just like Susan."

"So what? Being a Christian doesn't keep me from making just as many

baskets, does it?" He might as well go the whole way. "In fact, maybe it helps me even make more!"

"Don't give us that, Kincaid." Pete's frown turned to an understanding grin. "Yeah, I guess you're right. Besides, I can't see you've been any different from the rest of us guys." He laughed. "If you were on trial for being a Christian, there wouldn't be enough evidence to convict you, anyway. C'mon you guys, the coach'll be sore if we don't get in to practice."

Bruce stood by his locker. Pete's last words rang in his brain—*not enough evidence to convict you*. He hadn't known how much words could hurt. Was this the way he repaid Jesus for saving him and filling his life with the Holy Spirit? By not even showing it to the guys so they could see what being a Christian really meant?

They were wrong. He wasn't just like Susan. She had stood up for her Lord. He had denied the Lord, not like Peter did, out loud, but by keeping silent.

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