

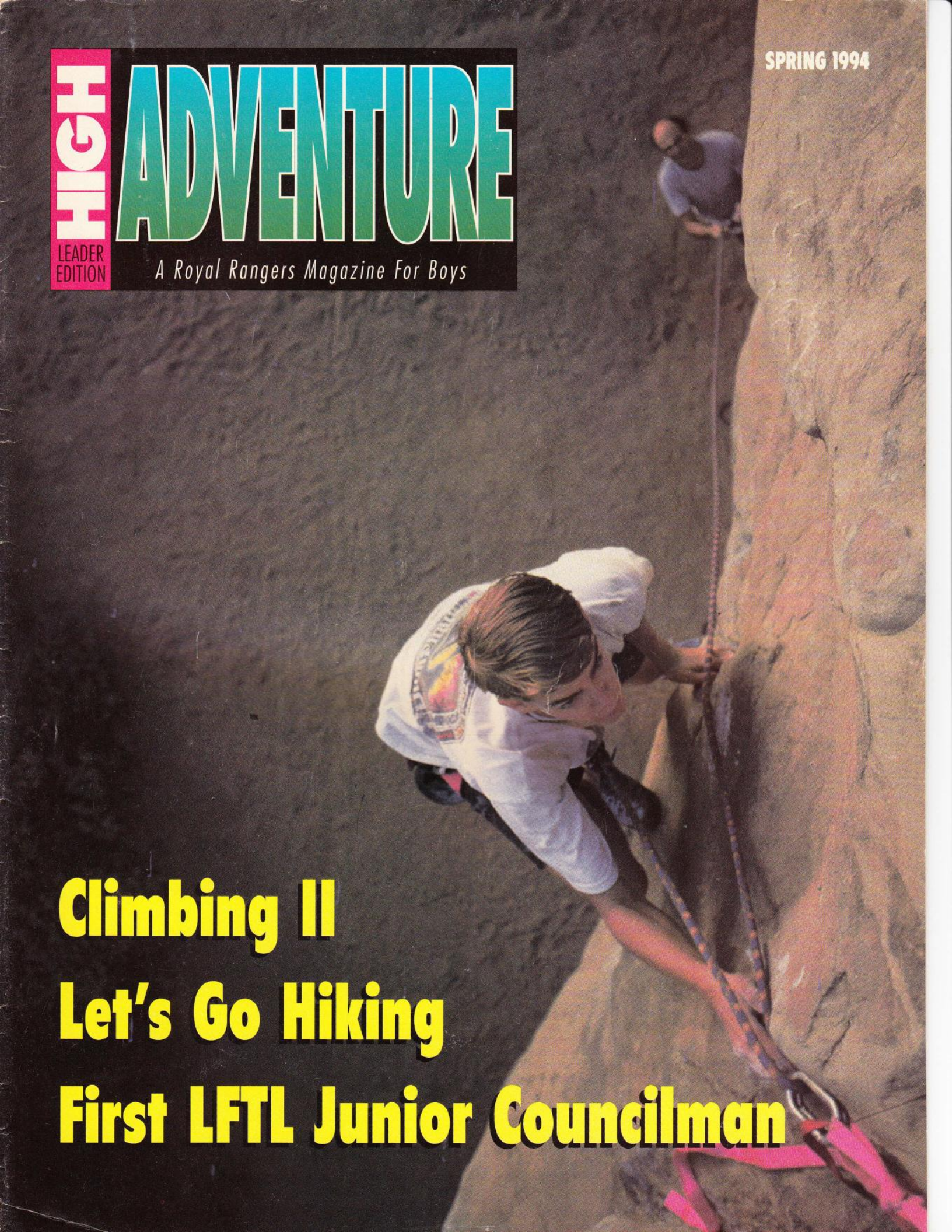
HIGH

LEADER
EDITION

ADVENTURE

A Royal Rangers Magazine For Boys

SPRING 1994



Climbing II
Let's Go Hiking
First LFTL Junior Councilman



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Cover photo by Michael Warren

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Climbing II

by Michael Warren

Rock climbing is for people who want to test their limits. Ross, age 14, knows what that's all about. He began climbing a couple of years ago. He climbs, he says, "because it's hard; it's a challenge." He climbs every other day at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, California.

Beethoven's Wall, about 60 feet of vertical sandstone, is one of his favorite climbs. He moves up the face quickly, using whatever combination of cracks and small ledges he can find. Occasionally he pauses to dip each hand into his chalk bag to soak up the sweat.

While he clings to the cliff, his father belays from below. (Belaying is the basic safety system in rock—as well as ice and snow—climbing. The belayer feeds out the rope through a braking system while his or her partner climbs. If the climber falls, the belayer locks the rope, stopping or minimizing the fall.)

Beethoven's Wall is top-roped belay, which is the safest kind of belay. The rope runs through a carabiner (a metal clip), which is anchored at the top of the climb. So



photos by Michael Warren

if Ross falls, he will be stopped automatically when his father locks the rope. The emphasis here is on gymnastic ability and problem solving, rather than risk-taking.

It's Mental

"Climbing is more mental than physical," says 15-year-old Brett, another regular at Stoney Point. "You can't get frustrated. You've got to take it as it comes." (Brett learned this only a few months ago, but his dad's been climbing for 22 years.)

Brain power may be most important, but huge forearms don't hurt, says Jeremy, a 16-year-old rock climber from Alta Loma, California. "You need strength everywhere; you even need strength in your teeth," Jeremy says. "Because when you're up there, you're using every part of your body."

Still it's the mental thrill that keeps Jeremy coming back to the rock. "Getting to the top of a rock you

thought you couldn't climb builds up your self-esteem," he says.

Learning the Ropes

Every piece of climbing equipment is respected, but the rope is especially precious. The rope is more than a safety line. It's a symbol of the sport. Buying your first rope is a right of passage—one that Ross just passed.

The rope isn't used to haul yourself up a mountain—not if you can avoid it, anyway. But using the rope to rappel is often the only way to get down a mountain.

When Ross finishes Beethoven's Wall, he sets up his rappel. He pulls up one end of the rope until he finds the middle point, which he clips to the carabiner.

Now he has a double strand of rope to rappel down. He clips onto the rope, using a Figure 8 (a braking device), and gradually backs down the cliff.

As he gets comfortable with the feel of the rappel, he pushes off and away from the rock, catching air. Unlike the labor of climbing the rock, rappelling looks effortless.

At the bottom, he says that rappelling is fun, "but I prefer climbing."

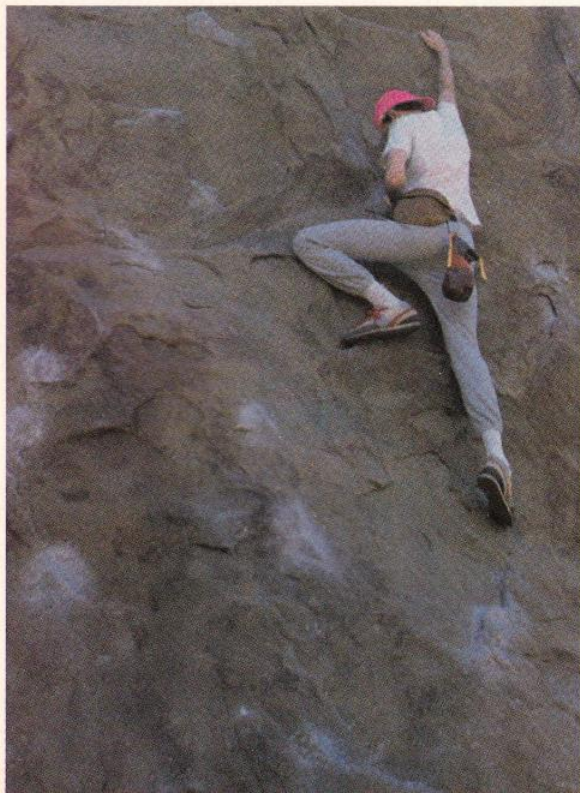
NOT A ROYAL RANGERS ACTIVITY

For more information about climbing schools near you, contact the American Mountain Guide's Association; P.O. Box 2128; Estes Park, CO 80517; or call (303) 586-0571.

Climbing—An Indoor Sport?

Artificial climbing walls have brought the outdoor sport of rock climbing indoors. The walls, developed in France, are often made of fiberglass and sand to create the feel of real rock. The handholds can be

(continued on page 14)



A Mountaintop Experience

by Darrell Smith
Camp coordinator for the
Peninsular Florida District

As summer approached everything fell into order for a grand hiking excursion—the 5-day Rangers Trail Expedition. Our rendezvous point was First Assembly Worship Center in Morganton, North Carolina. We gathered there on June 20, 1993—13 boys and men in all. We had traveled from the districts of North Carolina, Peninsular Florida, and Southeastern Spanish.

Following the Sunday evening service, we began our orientation. Then early the next morning we drove toward Mount Mitchell.

Few places in the world stand apart from the ordinary. Mount Mitchell is one of them. Rising 6,684 feet above sea level, Mount Mitchell is the highest peak east of the Mississippi.

By 10:30 a.m., June 21, we arrived at the Black Mountain Campground—base of Mount Mitchell and starting point of our hike. From there Mount Mitchell was 5.6 miles away—an elevation change of 3,684 feet. We hiked to Camp Alice and set up camp—1.6 miles to the summit of Mount Mitchell.

Hiking up a mountain is much tougher than hiking across fields and hills. The distance covered may be short, but the physical effort quite strenuous. We were hiking up a mountain, and our burning muscles often reminded us of that fact. But what a thrill. The beauty is indescribable!

When waking the next morning, we watched a speculator sunrise, had a devotion, then broke camp. Early that morning we hit the trail

with backpacks on. Then finally we arrived at the top.

At the summit we joined a park ranger, who escorted us on a nature hike. The ranger taught us about Mount Mitchell's environment as we saw the grandeur of the mountain. Following the walk we planted a Fraser Fir. Planting the tree was our small way of helping preserve this beautiful earth, which God has given us.



Then lunch time! We ate then packed more supplies and headed out on the Deep Gap Trail—3.6 miles to the Big Tom Gap trail, which descended 1/2 mile to the Buncombe Horse Range Trail. Once there we set up camp again.

The next morning we hiked to Maple Camp Bald—elevation 5,613. After the hearty hike we set up camp at Maple Camp Bald. As the evening approached, we came upon a fawn. What a "Kodak moment"! We took some snapshots then moved back to wait for its mother (called a doe).

In the hush of the day came the beautiful sight. Gracefully the doe jumped over some nearby brush and came to a halt beside the fawn. In awe we watched as it slowly disappeared behind some trees with her young. We returned to camp to leave the fawn and its mother alone.

As we ate dinner we sat under the cloud-free sky and watched the sun set over the summit of Mount Mitchell. Then, as darkness covered the camp, we sat around a campfire and stared at the star-filled sky.

Under the sparkling stars, we each shared about the hike to the summit and what the experience meant to us. The silent night was pierced by our conversation and by the calls of distant wolves and other animals. As we reflected on the trip, we shared about God's creation. The biggest blessing that night, though, was a visit by the Holy Spirit as our voices raised to heaven. An unforgettable night.



The next day we broke camp and continued our hike down toward the Carolina Hemlocks recreation area. At the day's end we set up camp at Middle Creek. This was our final night on the trail. The cool swim in the creek was welcomed after the hard day on the trail. What a perfect way to end a hike!

Then the final trek: We packed our gear and headed toward the Carolina Hemlocks. Our hike ended there. We had hiked a total of 14 3/4 mountain miles.

The trip was ended when we loaded our gear and drove back to the Mount Mitchell summit—where we held our closing ceremony.

Looking back at the hike brings fond memories. The photographs shared on these pages are not all that remain from the trip. We had experienced God's handiwork firsthand. And truly it was a mountaintop experience. Our lives were forever changed.



Major bummer!

by Robb Hawks, national programs coordinator

Jonathan walked down the trail toward the council fire site. He felt honored. His outpost had entrusted him with the task of "setting up" the council fire. With glee Jonathan set out to build the best council fire ever.

Jonathan began collecting dead, soggy wood around the campsite. The wood was wet because of the heavy rain that fell on the campsite the night before.

To ensure the firewood would burn, Jonathan went into the supply tent and carried off a gallon of lantern white gas—which is used

for fuel in camp lanterns and stoves. Once reaching the small clearing, Jonathan quickly began arranging the wood into a council fire.

Occasionally he checked his *Adventures in Camping* handbook to make sure he did it right. He wanted his outpost to remember his first council fire the rest of their lives.

Carefully Jonathan stacked the firewood. It looked great! The entire clearing was just perfect.

Hey, what about adding some neat torches, like the FCF uses, Jonathan thought. He took an old rag and wrapped it around the end of a long stick. *Now I'll just pour some of this fuel over the rag, put*

the lid back on the can, and there: instant torch!

Jonathan thought he had better try the torch before evening came, so he decided to light it. The torch was soaked with white gas. Drip, drip, drip went the fuel from the torch, forming a small, wet spot on the ground.

Jonathan pulled out a match, struck it, then lit the torch. The torch blazed into a brilliant fire. Jonathan didn't seem to remember torches burning that brightly or with such a bluish color. And he didn't notice the drip, drip, drip of the burning white gas falling to the ground.

Suddenly—with a swoosh!—the



Art by David W. Smith



**As the
can went
sailing
through
the air, it
trailed a
stream of
burning fuel
behind it.**

pool burst into flames. The fire spread along the ground, following the line of spilt gas right up and onto the can of white gas.

Well, that got Jonathan's attention!

He began to panic. Now, with flames dancing on top of the can, Jonathan just knew it would explode. So he ran over and gave the can a kick, hoping to knock it away from the flames. Unfortunately, Jonathan had not screwed down the lid tightly. As the can went sailing through the air, it trailed a stream of burning fuel behind it.

Now the fire had spread along the ground in two different directions. Jonathan raced over and kicked the can again. More fire in yet another direction. Jonathan was beside himself with fear and panic.

"Help! Help!" he began to cry. "Dear Jesus, help me," Jonathan prayed aloud. Suddenly he remembered that sand or dirt were good for putting out a campfire.

Jonathan quickly began to throw dirt onto the can. He had succeeded only to learn that the grass and brush around him were in flames.

Jonathan screamed all the louder: "Help! Help!" Then he began to stomp and kick at the burning grass, doing his best to put out the fire. By now the fire began to spread. Visions of burning down the entire

campsite raced through his mind.

Finally, bursting into the clearing, commanders and Rangers came to the rescue. Together they began throwing dirt and sand onto the fire.

It seemed like an eternity to Jonathan, but finally the fire was extinguished. Jonathan just stood there, totally exhausted from fear and effort, while covered with soot and dirt.

"What's this?" his commander asked, picking up the can of fuel.

"Oh, ugh, that's the gas I used to make the torch for tonight's council fire," Jonathan replied with a gulp.

"So that's how this fire got started," said the commander as he looked at the charred can. "Boys, that stuff is very flammable and can even explode."

Well, needless to say Jonathan again acted without thinking. He learned a valuable lesson that day though: You *never* use gas of any kind on a fire.

God was watching over Jonathan that day. Not only could he have set the entire woods on fire, but he could have killed himself in the process.

A healthy respect and fear of fire is a good thing. Fire can be a good friend or a terrible enemy. So be a wise Royal Ranger. Don't play with fire!

Other Methods of Catching Fish

by Kim Graham

Doing all your fishing with rod and reel? If so you may be missing some fun. There are several other methods of catching fish, all of which are proven fish-getters. An added benefit from these unique methods is that under the right conditions, a person can often catch more fish than with pole and line.

Fish species such as paddlefish, long-nose gar, large-mouth buffalo, and yellow suckers are only some of the fish generally not caught by standard fishing methods.

There are four proven methods for harvesting suckers. The most popular method for catching suckers is called "grabbing." It is similar to snagging, a method for catching paddlefish. Except grabbing usually involves seeing the fish before you catch it, whereby snagging is fishing blind.

Grabbers usually use a bait-casting or spinning rod with small treble hooks, with enough lead sinker to cast. The fisherman stands on the bank or sits on a tree limb overhanging the river, waiting for a shoaling sucker to swim within casting distance.

Some grabbers tie a small piece of white cloth—a foot or so above the treble hook—to help them see the hook in clear water. You should cast beyond the fish and reel the hook slowly toward the fish, so when you jerk upward the hooks and fish meet.

An excellent technique for catching catfish involves setting baited hooks on limb lines or trot lines and waiting for the fish to bite. Channel and blue catfish are most often caught on worms, cut bait, minnows, and even red-dyed balling.

Flathead catfish prefer live bait—such as goldfish or green sunfish. Lines can be checked several times during the night or early the next morning.

There are three different ways to use untended lines and all are effective.

The most popular method of catching catfish is with the trot line. This technique is good in both rivers and lakes. It involves attaching short strings (called staging) with single hooks about every 24 to 30 inches along a heavy line stretched across the river or lake bottom.

In small rivers the weighted trot line can be stretched bank to bank, or in lakes it can be set with weights on each end to keep it near the bottom and with plastic jugs to mark each end. A maximum of 33 hooks can be used on one trot line.

Regardless of which method you choose for catching catfish, remember your name and address must be attached to all limb lines, jugs, and trot line.

Another enjoyable method of fishing involves a bow and arrow.

This is most often done in the spring when carp and buffalo are spawning in shallow water, or in summer when gar are concentrated near the surface. Any wooden or fiberglass recurve bow fitted with an old spinning reel or special bow-fishing reel will suffice. Fish arrows

(continued on page 14)

KID ACTION

BOOK-PENCIL RACK

MATERIALS NEEDED....
1. PIECE OF WOOD $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 4" x 18"
2. POP CANS, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " DIAM. x 5"
4. SCREWS, $\frac{1}{2}$ " LONG
SANDPAPER, COARSE + FINE
PAINT (ANY COLOR)

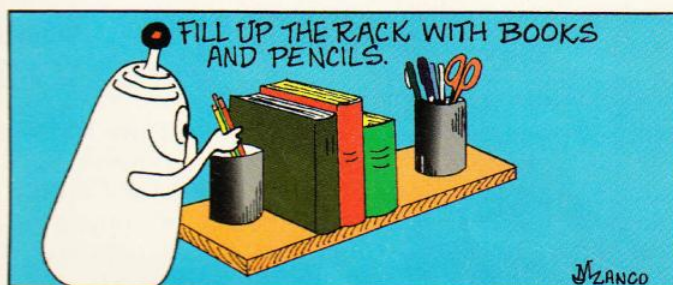
GET A PIECE OF WOOD $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 4" x 18" IN SIZE AND SAND ALL SURFACES USING THE COARSE THEN FINE SANDPAPER.



REMOVE THE TOPS FROM THE TWO CANS WITH A CAN OPENER.



PAINT THE WOOD, LET DRY, THEN ATTACH BOTH CANS TO THE ENDS WITH THE FOUR SCREWS.



KID ACTION

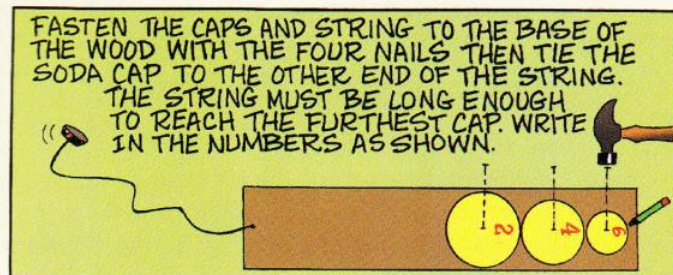
FLIPPER GAME

MATERIALS NEEDED....
1. PIECE OF WOOD $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 4" x 24"
3. JAR CAPS, 4" x 3" x 2" DIAMETERS
4. FLAT HEAD NAILS, $\frac{1}{2}$ " LONG
SODA CAP AND STRING
FELT TIP PEN

FIND THE MATERIALS AND POKE A HOLE IN THE CENTER OF FOUR CAPS WITH A HAMMER AND NAIL.

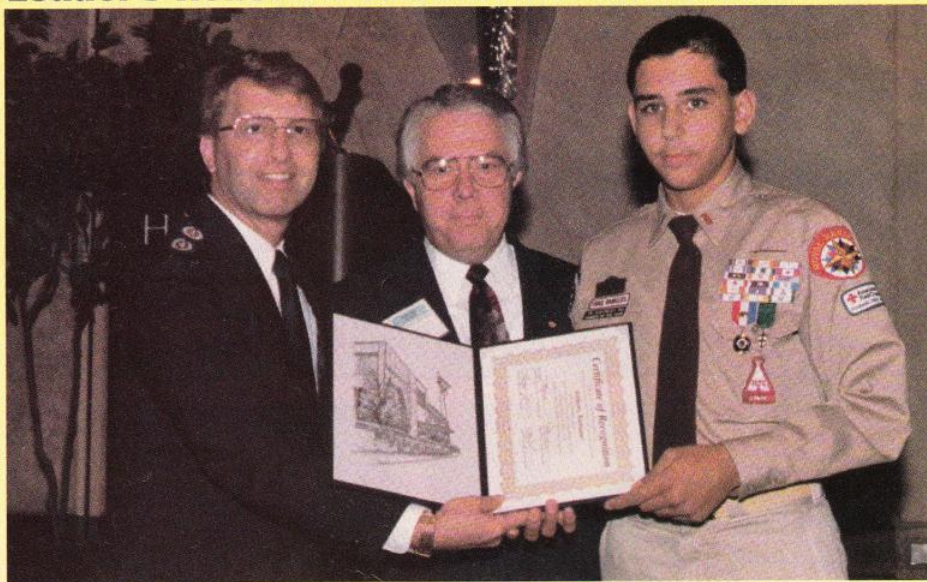


FASTEN THE CAPS AND STRING TO THE BASE OF THE WOOD WITH THE FOUR NAILS THEN TIE THE SODA CAP TO THE OTHER END OF THE STRING. THE STRING MUST BE LONG ENOUGH TO REACH THE FURTHEST CAP. WRITE IN THE NUMBERS AS SHOWN.



FINGER FLIP THE SODA CAP TOWARDS THE THREE LARGER CAPS. LANDING IN ONE OF THE CAPS COUNTS FOR SCORE. THE PLAYER WITH THE HIGHEST TOTAL SCORE AFTER 10 FLIPS WINS.

Leaders Honor First Junior Councilman



Left to Right: Ken Hunt, Benny Ferguson, Anthony Raduano, displaying Certificate of Recognition.

National leaders honored first LFTL Junior Councilman August 14 in Minneapolis, Minnesota

Anthony Raduano, of Outpost 12, Potomac District, is the first Royal Ranger to enroll as a Light-for-the-Lost Junior Councilman. Ken Hunt, national commander, and Benny Ferguson, national LFTL coordinator, honored Anthony with a certificate of recognition at the Men's Ministries luncheon, held August 14, 1993, during the 45th General Council in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Anthony qualified after completing a series of requirements, which are listed below. One step was to write a report about LFTL. In his report, Anthony wrote: "When Royal Rangers came out with this new [merit], I thought it would be an easy [merit] to earn. But I became excited and wanted to be a part of this ministry. My dad, who is the Potomac District men's director, took me to a LFTL banquet this past spring. I also decided to make my own pledge to the country of Spain and to become a LFTL Junior Councilman."

Anthony is first among the many Rangers who will participate in this exciting missions program. Here are some reports from other districts:

First Outpost With 100 Percent Involvement

by Steve McFarland

When the Light-for-the-Lost Junior Councilmen program was first announced, the Royal Rangers of Outpost 10, in Richmond, Indiana, were challenged: to become the first outpost to have a 100 percent participation in the program.

At first the boys thought this would be an impossible task. But they were determined to complete the challenge. Each boy who was eligible to become a Junior Councilman began completing all the necessary requirements.

At first four boys were eligible to join. Then two more were added to our group, who also began working on their qualifications. With much hard work and support, we achieved the ultimate: Each boy successfully completed the Junior Councilmen requirements—making our outpost the first ever to have all eligible boys involved in Light-for-the-Lost.

Outpost 10 gives all the glory to God and wishes to give thanks to the church, pastor, and parents who assisted in reaching this goal. Special thanks to National Commander Ken Hunt for coming to Richmond to present the boys their

awards. The boys were honored at a special LFTL Junior Councilmen banquet held for them.

Wisconsin-Northern Michigan District

by Brian Schmid

In August 1993 a large mailing about the LFTL Junior Councilmen program went out to all senior pastors and Royal Rangers senior commanders in the district.

Much interest and excitement have been generated as Royal Rangers become more involved in world missions. Boys are learning about and being involved in the work that missionaries are performing throughout the world.

"Boys need to feel included in the work of a missionary," stated Don Heyder, senior commander at Bethel Tabernacle in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. "Young men are the future, and it's important they understand the work of a mission-



photos by Brian Schmid

Left to Right: Dominic Manna, Tony Manna, and Dan Gokey displaying LFTL pledge poster.

ary. When they become interested at a young age, they are more likely to stay involved when they are older."

Daniel Gokey, Age 13, of Calvary Assembly of God in Wauwatosa, stated: "I became a Junior Councilman to help spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who haven't heard the good news. I wanted to do something that would please God. This program is one of the ways I can help spread His Word. Becoming a Junior Councilman has also helped me realize how much the literature helps missionaries distribute the gospel."

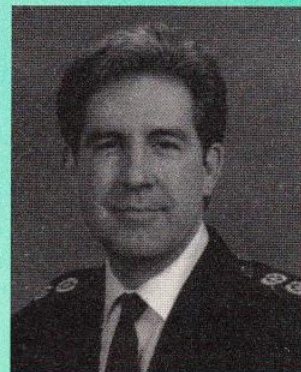
On October 11, 1993, the Wisconsin-Northern Michigan

HIGH ADVENTURE

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A Royal Rangers Magazine For Leaders

LEADER



Marshall Bruner
National Public
Relations Coordinator

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One-on-One

What Are Your Rangers Learning?

It's a novel about an oriental girl living in the United States. She once attended church regularly with her family. But now she pokes fun at Christian values and at her mother for her Christian beliefs. Her father attends church mainly to please her mother. Her brother has gone off to college and now enjoys his freedom to choose his own lifestyle.

During the short story the girl goes away to visit her relatives, who introduce her to channeling—communicating with spirits. Before the story ends the girl becomes a medium, claiming she talks with the dead. At the conclusion the reader is asked if the story has changed his/her ideas.

To say the least, I became irritated when I heard about and later read this story. But what aggravated me most was that the curriculum is being used in the local public schools. Grade-schoolers are being subtly influenced that Christianity is something outdated, something to be made fun of, while instilling concepts of spiritism.

It's alarming to realize that Christ and Father are no longer being discussed in the classroom . . . but channeling—along with sex education from a secular viewpoint—is!

Aren't we obligated the more to now share God's perspective on issues society is demoralizing?

The sad truth is that many boys must solely face issues such as racism, AIDS, pornography, occults, suicide, or sex. Some families and some churches avoid—out of fear—teaching about God's perspective on these issues. Yet isn't it our obligation to share how God feels? Doesn't the church outpost provide the perfect setting to speak about God's truth?

No longer can we ignore the fact that hurting people—boys, girls, and adults—attend our churches who need to find acceptance and forgiveness and who desperately need to hear God's perspective on life's issues. Especially since we are an evangelistic ministry—bringing boys to church who would not normally attend—we must grasp the opportunity to share God's perspectives.

This quarter we will focus on "blazing the trail." We will discuss in our outposts such adventures as hiking and camping. But let's not fail to realize the trail boys must travel while outside the church walls. They need to hear a fresh perspective—God's perspective—on what trail they should travel. In short, they need to hear the truth—God's truth. Let's be the voice to share that truth.

Marshall Bruner

Leadership's Hurdle

by Herb Meppelink

When I was a boy I had an idealistic view of life. I'm sure it was not a fabrication or imagination. My view of life had values that came from a respect of the Bible and a fear of God. It was not perfect, but had some definite principles of decency and righteousness.

That was 50 years ago. Today, however, is not as it used to be. I see the odds our youth face in their attempt to build a realistic view of life. Look at the problems they now face:

According to resources . . .

- The top problems in America's public schools are drug abuse, alcohol abuse, pregnancy, suicide, rape, robbery, and assault.

- 72 percent of young people ages 18-25 do not believe in moral absolutes.

- The average family allows immorality, lewdness, and perversion into their home for hours each day in the form of television sitcoms, laughing at the very sins for which Christ died.

- America faces a 48 percent divorce rate.

- 25 percent of all children are living with only one parent.

- Only 15 percent of the people believe in the Ten Commandments.

- An increased acceptance of homosexuality as an alternate lifestyle.

- 6,000,000 teenagers attempt suicide each year, with more than 5,000 who succeed in taking their own lives.

- By age 18, according to one estimate, a youngster will have seen 200,000 acts of violence on television, including 40,000 murders.

- A people who no longer know what is in the Bible.

Many people are busy pointing fingers at these problems . . . attempting to find out what has gone wrong. There is no time to be a part of the endless merry-go-round of problem solving. There is hope. And our youth need Bible-believing leaders who will serve them with a message of hope and change.

In the 1950s a psychologist and a psychiatrist began a 17-year study

involving thousands of hours of clinically testing 250 inmates at the District of Columbia. To their astonishment the researchers discovered that the cause of crime cannot be traced to the environment, poverty, or oppression; instead crime is the result of an individual making—as they put it: “wrong moral choices.”

In their 1977 work the *Criminal Personality*, they concluded that the answer to crime is a converted wrongdoer to a moral, responsible lifestyle. In the book *Crime and Human Nature*, the author shares that the cause of crime is a lack of proper moral training among young people during the formative years, particularly ages 1-6.

If crime demonstrates the lack of moral factors, then the solution to crime must be moral as well. It is Jesus Christ who can make the lasting difference. Wherever people are helped, it comes from the biblical message of hope and deliverance.

Two great needs exist today:

First Need: We need committed men who will bring to our Rangers the biblical message of redemption and hope.

During our church club ministry, some 32 years ago, Tom came to recite his memory verse for an achievement award. The recitation was perfect; however, the meaning of the verse was not clear. Slowly, word by word, we went through the Scripture verse to explain the plan of salvation. As a result, Tom accepted Christ as his personal Savior.

Tom trusted club leadership. His trust and confidence became strong. On a day of real trauma, he called his club leadership. Today, he pastors in Pennsylvania.

See the importance?

Take time to study the Word of God with your Rangers. Make sure they understand.

Second Need: We need committed men who will take time to have meaningful experiences with their Rangers.

I have met so many who have had bad experiences—which have produced bad thoughts, producing bad attitudes, producing bad behavior. The opposite is true. Good experi-

ences will produce good thoughts, producing good attitudes, producing good behavior.

Recently, I saw Evie and her family. Near 30 years had passed since I had seen her—a teenager then. Her husband Mike spoke up during our discussion, which centered around youth activity. He noted, “Evie says she always had something to do when you were her pastor.” She still recalls with fondness the many youth activities we had that developed her spiritually. Oh, how great those pastoral days were, providing good experiences for our young people!

Making a positive impression in the lives of young people is vastly important. Your activities can and will produce meaningful experiences for your Rangers. Remember: Good experiences produce good thoughts, produce good attitudes, producing good behavior.

Let us do more than feed the body. Let us first touch the soul of our Rangers with God's Word—in faith anticipating the grace of God to work in their lives to transform their hearts. Through faith in Jesus Christ, God is able to reach into the darkest corner of every mind to create that spark of life's values by which to live.

Faith in Jesus Christ plus Bible study will provide the moral impulse to do that which is right. Their faith will provide the power to do good. I've seen the gospel subdue the obstinate will and provide a new value system.

As leaders we need to lead the way, providing those meaningful experiences where our Rangers can practice their faith, building values and priorities by which they can excel. If we are to win, there must be the combination of personal faith in Christ and meaningful experiences. The odds can be conquered. I know. I have seen this principle work for many years.



Herb Meppelink is secretary for the national Teen Challenge Center. Teen Challenge is an Assemblies of God outreach to youth and adults with life-controlling problems.

by Rodney Davis

After church one Wednesday night, a commander approached the pastor and said, "Pastor, can I talk with you?"

Before the pastor could answer, the commander blurted out: "I've had it; I quit. This is my last Wednesday night."

Once the pastor recovered from the initial shock, he began to wonder what had happened to make a good commander want to give up. As far as he knew everything was running smoothly in the Royal Rangers outpost.

So what is the basis for this common dilemma? National statistics indicate that without training, most leaders will last only 1 year in a program. For those who are trained, the average is only 3 to 5 years. Not much better.

I used to wonder why commanders would quit working in Royal Rangers. *Was it because of the boys? Did the pressures of maintaining a home and work finally get to them? Did they go on to other areas of ministry?* I would wonder.

Then I learned that the reasons for leaving were not as important as the reasons for joining this ministry. Proverbs 29:18 illuminated why leaders will work in Royal Rangers then leave: "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Anyone who serves God in ministry must have a vision for what he or she has been called to do. In the Hebrew language, one meaning of the word *vision* is "revelation or thinking God's thoughts." To think God's thoughts would force you to stay close to Him, then you would have to see the lost as He does: needing a Savior.

Without a divine revelation Royal Rangers becomes just another program and not a ministry. Some men see Royal Rangers as an outdoor adventure that gives them an outlet for their love of the out-of-doors. Others use the rank and insignia to inflate their ego.

If it were not for their rank, some leaders would not serve. Until you, the commander, think of Royal Rangers as a ministry—to reach boys with the gospel while realizing all we do and wear are just tools to reach them—then, and only then, will you have a vision.



Had Your VISION Checked Lately?

Those who are truly committed to this work are "God called." They have heard the Macedonian call, "Come over . . . and help us," and have responded, "Here am I, Lord, send me!"

Do you *perceive*—or see—Royal Rangers as "a ministry"? Is your *focus* on reaching boys for Christ? If not, perhaps it is time to have your *vision* checked.

Leaders Attend First Rangers PTF

by Marshall Bruner

In October 1993 leaders participated in the first-ever Royal Rangers urban Prayer Task Force in Chicago, Ill. The 2-day prayer meetings were sponsored by the national Royal Rangers Office—a prototype that will hopefully be implemented by district leaders across the United States.



Those who participated in the Chicago PTF were David Plake (Illinois District men's director), Paul Ivaska (Illinois District commander), Paul Ephraim (Chicago central section commander), Don Brock and Johnny Soto (Royal Rangers Decade of Harvest Committee), David Wharton, (president, National Royal Rangers Council), Ken Hunt, Paul Stanek, and Marshall Bruner (national Royal Rangers Office).

On October 23, the PTF members met with pastors and commanders at Southside Tabernacle, pastored by Rev. Spencer Jones. The meetings began with a tour—led by Rev. Bill Walton, Southside Tabernacle—of the various inner-city structures of Chicago. The objective was to provide PTF members insight of the inner-city needs so they could better understand how to pray for and to assist the churches in those areas.



Following the 2½-hour tour, the PTF team met at Southside Tabernacle with pastors and commanders from four Chicago churches. Those members are Rev. Spencer Jones and Commander James Davis (Southside Tabernacle), Rev. Paul Dahl (pastor and acting senior commander, Maranatha Assembly), Rev. John Phillips and Commander David

Rivera (Immanuel Fellowship), and Rev. R. Steve Warner (Maranatha Chapel).

For more than 1 hour leaders discussed how Royal Rangers commanders can better evangelize inner-city Chicago. The remainder of the day was spent fasting and praying for urban Chicago. PTF members, pastors, and commanders were anointed with oil and prayed for. Communion was served as the members meditated on Christ's death, resurrection, and soon return.

The following day, October 24, the PTF team attended services in Chicago at Southside Tabernacle and at New Heritage Christian Center, pastored by Rev. Edward Peecher. The messages delivered at both services paralleled in theme: reclaiming urban Chicago for Christ.

While at Southside Tabernacle, the PTF team presented Pastor Jones with a limited commitment to provide uniforms needed to outfit the outpost's commanders and boys. (The funds to purchase the uniforms were raised by the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship. National FCF President Fred Deaver and his men had committed to generate funds during 1993 that would be channeled to Royal Rangers inner-city ministries.) Also, the team presented Pastor Peecher and his commanders a love offering.



A tour to the future site of New Heritage Christian Center followed the afternoon service. Commanders of Outpost 229, New Heritage Christian Center, took the PTF team inside the aged cathedral, nestled in the Englewood area of Chicago.

Englewood has one of the highest homicide rates in Chicago. Adjacent from the church site is the Robert Taylor housing projects. It was noted that the projects house some 30,000 people within a 13-block area. For the most part, the economic conditions coupled with a reappearing lack of family nucleus present a great need for evangelism.

Following the tour the PTF team met with commanders at New Heritage Christian Center for a round of discussion and prayer. The meetings enabled the PTF team to further learn how our ministry can assist in evangelizing urban Chicago.

Those who gathered with the PTF team at New Heritage Christian Center were Mario Jones, Reginald Blanton, Steve Shelton, and Marvin Rogers (commanders, New Heritage Christian Center) and Paul Staebler (youth pastor, Living Hope Assembly, Chicago).

The PTF team members went their separate ways October 25. But they left changed—with a renewed burden and vision to reach urban Chicago for Christ with a tool called Royal Rangers.

The Chicago PTF was one among several efforts sponsored by the national office to target urban outreach. The national office is developing curriculum and training methods that will soon be implemented nationwide.

Outpost Recognizes GMAers



Several outposts have successful Gold Medal of Achievement programs. But Outpost 151, of First Assembly of God in Chickasha, Okla., has a unique story to share. In 1991 the outpost recognized its eighth Royal Ranger to receive the GMA.

Even more significant is there are three sets of brothers within the group. Dean and Jeff Smith are brothers, and Rick Jobe is their brother-in-law. Greg and Corry Elliott are brothers and are cousins to Eddie and Geoffrey Shearer, who are brothers.

Those of Outpost 151 who have earned the GMA are as follows: Rick Jobe (awarded in 1976), Jeff Smith (awarded in 1981), Dean Smith (awarded in 1981), Greg Elliott (awarded in 1986), Shane Fry (awarded in 1988), Eddie Shearer (awarded in 1989), Corry Elliott (awarded in 1990), Geoffrey Shearer (awarded in 1991).

Gold Medalist Goes to Westpoint

by Bob Killin

David Malakowski, a top Royal Ranger in Oregon, has been accepted into Westpoint. This is a prestigious army school to which some young men only dream of going. According to David, Royal Rangers has played an important role in his becoming a Westpointer: The program has provided the opportunities and discipline, along

with God's direction, needed to develop him into the young man he is today.

David is from Outpost 108, Hillsboro Assembly, in Hillsboro, Oreg. He has been in Royal Rangers about 15 years. He has represented the Oregon District three times at regional Ranger of the Year competition.

David completed the Junior Leadership Training Camp and the Leadership Training Course and has earned the Gold Medal of Achievement, with Gold and Silver Buffalos. Also, David has been a wilderness member of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship about 4 years.

Congratulations, David, for your outstanding accomplishment! May God be with you in the days ahead as you train.

Ranger Receives National Scholarship



Bryan Sederwall

Winners in the 1993 National Youth Scholarship Program include a Royal Ranger Gold Medalist. Bryan Sederwall, from First Assembly in Carlinville, Ill., is second-place winner.

Brian received a \$1,500 scholarship to attend Central Bible College in Springfield, Mo.

Bryan graduated sixth in his class of 100 at Carlinville High School with a 3.82 GPA. He was among 12 students chosen from his school as an Illinois State Scholar.

"My desire is to be a youth pastor," said Bryan. "I felt a call to the ministry at an early age."

Building a foundation for his ministry, Bryan's involvement at First Assembly included youth council chairman, youth band and choir, church drama, church orchestra, soloist, and helping as an usher and Sunday school teacher.

Brian was an active member at Outpost 114 at First Assembly for several years. He has served as a senior guide and as junior commander, while earning the Gold Medal of Achievement.

News Briefs

• **Patrol Patches and Patrol Flags:** Have you heard? Royal Rangers can wear colorful patrol patches on their uniforms—providing they are official. The Gospel Publishing House now provides 12 colorful patrol patches. The patches are worn on the left shirt

sleeve—1/2 inch below the Royal Rangers Emblem; for guides, 1/2 inch below the guide bars. In short, patrol patches are worn where the first aid patch was previously worn.

(The first aid patch is worn centered on top of sleeve 1 inch from cuff. For Royal Rangers who have earned both the first aid patch and the LFTL Junior Councilmen patch, the patches should be worn in this order: first aid patch 1 inch from left sleeve cuff, Junior Councilmen patch 1/2 inch from first aid patch.)

Patrol Flags, having the same design as the patrol patches, can also be ordered through GPH.

• **First Aid Uniform Patches:** New first aid patches are now available through the Gospel Publishing House. These patches are 1 1/4 inches in diameter.

• **Missionary Steve Woodward** has been appointed to serve as the district commander of Tuxtia Gutierrez, Mexico. He and his wife Sheri are involved in children's ministries while endeavoring to reopen the Bible Institute there in the city of Chiapas. They also assist in coordinating church construction efforts.

• **Clip Art Now Available on Diskette:** The national office now offers 208 clip art items on DOS diskette for \$15. The clip art consists of all advanced merits plus many other Rangers-related designs. Thanks to Brian Schmid, Public Relations Committee member, for the many volunteer man-hours put into developing this product. To order call 1-800-641-4310 and request item 729-047 (5 1/4 - inch diskette) or item 729-048 (3 1/2 - inch diskette).

• **New Publications:** The long-awaited *Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship Handbook* and *Buckaroos Leaders Planning Guide* are now available through the Gospel Publishing House, call 1-800-641-4310 to order.

• **New Screening Guidelines for Prostate Cancer:** The *Hope Health Letter*, produced by the Hope Heart Institute, reported in its September 1993 newsletter:

"Men over age 40 with no prostate symptoms should have an annual digital rectal exam to screen for prostate cancer," states the publication, which reported on the American Cancer Society recommendations. "Men over age 50 should have an annual digital rectal exam and a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test."

"... Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in men (lung cancer is No. 1)," notes the article. "This year, about 35,000 American men will

die of this cancer."

If you wish further information, call 1-800-227-2345.

• **Recommended Listening:** The following audiocassettes can be ordered (\$4 per cassette, includes postage) by calling the Michael Cardone Media Center (417) 862-2781, extension 4178. For commanders involved in urban ministry, request audiocassettes 93CITY07, 93NRRC07, and 93NRRC03. To listen to an excellent message on "Leadership Management," request audiocassette 93NRRC18.

Religious Affairs Leaders Conclude 13-City U.S. Tour

Los Angeles, Calif.—The highest-ranking delegation ever sent from the People's Republic of China to study religious activities in another country concluded its 13-city tour of the United States by observing church-based social action projects in the Watts district of Los Angeles.

"They have been very impressed with the way many churches are active in their community," said Rev. Ned Graham, president of the interdenominational agency that hosted the Chinese group.

"They came specifically to study church-state relations and the impact that churches and other religious groups have on our society," Graham explained. "Their evaluation could have an influence on future policies toward religious groups in China. We hope their experiences will help them adapt some of the positive aspects of religious life to their situation."

The delegation met with former President George Bush and held discussions in Washington, D.C., with several congressional leaders—both Democrat and Republican. Also, the group met with civic and religious leaders in various cities.

—News release courtesy of East Gates International



Former President Bush (left) seen talking with Chinese delegates.

Your Outpost Planning Guide

by John, Bonnie, and J. D. Eller

Straight Arrows

Overall Approach: This planning guide will focus on Indians. Most public libraries abound with books you can use to supplement and support the theme for this quarter. Help enhance the theme and elevate excitement by decorating your meeting room Indian-style. At the end of each meeting, announce the item of interest for the coming week.

March: The Outdoors



1st Week—Camping. For many Indians daily life was a camping experience. To help the boys better understand this, do the following: Set up a simple camp situation, either inside or outside, and show how the Indians might have lived. A teepee with a mock campfire will make a good setting. Ask the boys these questions: Would you like to camp all the time, like many of the Indians? What would you like about living outdoors (look for answers like fresh air, birds, singing)? What would you miss (search for comments like hot water, air conditioning, electricity)? Did the Indian boys have more fun than today's boys? What would an early American Indian boy think of our homes today? If you had an Indian friend, what would you share with him first, and what would you ask about him?

2nd Week—Hiking. The Indians did lots of walking. This is one way they kept strong and healthy. Indian boys ran well. Relay this concept by planning some indoor or outdoor exercises. Join the boys in foot races. Plan a short hike or nature walk. Tell your Straight Arrows to observe things along the way they later can discuss. Once they return from the outing, ask them questions such as these: What is the most important thing you saw? What did you see that was funny or interesting? Did you see any animals or insects? What are they called?

3rd Week—Exploring. Several "exploring" scenarios can be created that will provide excitement and interest for the Straight Arrows. Try some of the following exercises: 1. Hide 10 objects in your meeting room or outside, and challenge the boys to find them. 2. Take the boys on a slow walk through a large room—such as a fellowship hall—or an outside area. Afterward, ask the Straight Arrows what they recall seeing. 3. If you can take the boys outside, have them search for things they can see, touch, and use. If only a parking lot is available, have the boys identify such items as car tags, makes of cars, colors of cars, and number of parking spaces.

4th Week—Campfires. Relate that Indian boys became acquainted early in life with the need for campfires. The campfire was used for cooking, warmth, and light. You can do a mock campfire indoors using sticks, colored paper, and a light bulb. You may choose to demonstrate how to build—not start—an A-frame fire or other fires as shown in the *Adventures in Camping* (1993 edition). Also, teach your boys the basics of fire safety. Note that the Indians were careful with fire to avoid forest fires. Explain the scatter-sprinkle-scatter technique for putting out a campfire. Explain the importance of making a fire ring with rocks in a cleared area. Such exercises will cause the boys to look forward to becoming Pioneers.

5th Week—Friendship. Indian boys developed friendships that lasted a lifetime. So explain some of the important aspects of friendship: faithfulness, helpfulness, and understanding. Explain that friendships should not be taken lightly. The Indians called a faithful friend "Kemosabe." Look up a Scripture verse about friendship and teach it to your boys. Follow the Bible reading with this conversation: "Who is your best friend? Are you his best friend, too? Is Jesus your friend? Jesus will be closer to you than a brother, and He will love you at all times." Close with a

friendship circle, and encourage each boy to invite Jesus into his heart.

April: Indian Dress

1st Week—Headdress. The headdress was one of the more obvious items of distinction among Indians. Tell your boys that the headdress speaks of authority. Illustrate how a chief earned his feathers, which were eagle feathers. Killing eagles or possessing their feathers or claws is illegal today, however. So show how imitation feathers can be used. During craft time supply the needed items and instructions for making Indian headbands. (Your local craft store should have kits you can purchase. The headband can be made of felt or paper and decorated with chicken or turkey feathers.) Encourage the boys to custom design their headbands with Indian designs. If possible display pictures of various war bonnets from different tribes. (Refer to an encyclopedia for photographs.) Explain how the Cherokees, for example, had both a war chief and a peace chief.

2nd Week—Bow and Arrow. Explain how the early Indians used the bow and arrow for hunting and for self-defense. Tell your boys that a real bow and arrow must always be treated with respect, just like a gun. In a controlled setting, you may wish to have your boys shoot a toy arrow—the kind with rubber suction cups. Teach this verse: "Jesus loves the little Indian boy, bow and arrow for his toy, big Filipino, little Chinese, Jesus died for all of these." Sing to the tune "Jesus Loves Me."

3rd Week—Tepees. Explain that not all Indians lived in these movable dwellings. Some lived in adobe huts or houses. Tell the boys how the teepee could be easily moved from one place to another. Ask them if they would like living in a dwelling that was moved often. Discuss some of the furnishings in an Indian home—such as blanket rolls, fur rug, and buckskin. Ask each boy to think of a favorite item in a teepee—such as jerky, maize (or corn), and wild fruit. During craft time let the boys make their own miniature tepees. Model tepees can be made from brown construction paper or birch bark. Full-size models can be made from canvas and painted or lettered with designs.

4th Week—Horses. Horses were of vital importance to the early Indians. They were tamed for uses such as transportation, farming, and war. Obtain and display several books on horses, which can be found at a local library. Tell how

horses were important for survival in the plains and in the West. Contrast the use of horses during yesteryears to today. Ask questions like these: What are some things horses can be trained to do? Did most Indians ride with saddles or bareback? Why do we put a bit in a horse's mouth? Are horses better than donkeys or mules? Why or why not? If possible arrange a tour to a ranch or a farm with horses or to a riding stable.

May: Indian Ways

1st Week—Food. Explain that not all Indians depended on hunting for food. Some tribes, like the Cherokees and Creeks, were farmers. They raised corn and other vegetables. Make a display of some vegetable crops the Indian farmers might have grown (e.g., corn, squash, and potatoes). What kind of small game inhabit your particular area? The Indians probably hunted these for food. Obtain for discussion a reference book that shows the kind of game in your state. Explain how most foods were cooked over campfires. Using your *Royal Rangers Leaders Manual*, show some different kinds of cooking fires. Explain that fire can be dangerous if not controlled properly. Tell your boys there are wild plants in the woods, but we must be careful what we pick and eat. The *Royal Rangers Leaders Manual* (1993 edition) also illustrates edible plants. Allow time for discussion.

2nd Week—Ceremonies. Indian ceremonies were generally very colorful. The Indians used costumes and paint. Some tribes built a council house for these meetings, while others met outside in a square or a circle. Drums were an important part of Indian ceremonies. For the discussion construct a drum (using a piece of a small, hollow log or a large can covered with buckskin or some synthetic material). Let the boys take turns beating on the drum. Explain that drums were used in dances—tapping to heel. Drums were also used to send signals across hills and valleys. Secure some beadwork, pottery, blankets, or rugs to decorate the meeting room. Ask the boys such questions as these: What would have been your Indian name? What would you have called your horse? Would you have hunted and fished or farmed for food? What kind of message would you like to send on a drum?

3rd Week—Rattles. Rattles, or noisemakers, were almost as important as drums to the Indians. Rattles were often made of turtle shells. You can obtain noisemakers from a toy store or make your own. For a craft let the boys make

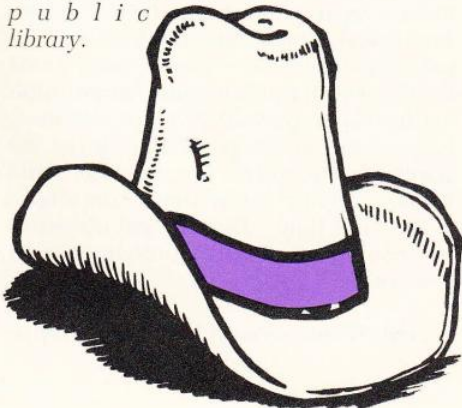
their own rattles. One can be made by placing a few dried peas or dried beans in cans or paper cups, sealed with tape. The rattles can be decorated with stickers or designs cut from construction paper and taped on. Teach your boys to use the rattles in time (or rhythm). Use the rattles as background to sing a favorite song or chorus. Tell your boys this was one of the many fun things Indian children used to do.

4th Week—Baskets. Secure as many baskets as possible. Try to find different sizes and shapes. Explain that these were the forerunners of boxes and other containers today. Next, demonstrate how baskets can be used to carry things. Display a basket with canned goods, books, toys, etc. Explain how the Indians made their baskets by hand and how durable they were.

Under adult supervision, have each boy take a basket outside. Instruct them to collect five different objects—i.e., rocks, sticks, leaves—to bring back to the meeting room for show and tell. After returning to the meeting room, show some of the items collected an Indian boy might have seen. Discuss some man-made objects found an Indian boy would not have seen. Ask these questions: Did you find objects that should have been in the trash? Do you think the Indians littered? How did the Indians get rid of trash? What is the proper way to dispose of trash in your area?

Buckaroos Program

Overall Approach: The theme this month is cowboys. An appealing aspect of the cowboy theme is that cowboys still live in the West. Some cowboys today live and work much like the cowboys of the 1800s. Build interest during previous meetings by announcing the theme. To create further interest, decorate the meeting room like a bunkhouse or a corral. You are encouraged to use supplemental material, which can be found at a public library.



March

1st Week—Hats. What would a cowboy be without a hat? The cowboy hat served as a shield from the sun, wind, and rain. Many used their hats to scoop up a drink of cool, clear water. Some cowboy hats of the Old West sported bullet or arrow holes. Here is how you can introduce and employ cowboy hats at your meeting: 1. Encourage your Buckaroos to come in uniform wearing hats. 2. Have a table to display different kinds of cowboy hats supplied by yourself, other leaders, or boys. 3. Explain the different kinds of hats. 4. Explain how the hat is clearly a distinctive mark of the cowboy both yesteryears and today. 5. Demonstrate how cowboy gear remains much the same.

2nd Week—Roping. If possible build or borrow a rope-making machine, and show how strands of rope are twisted to make the rope itself. Or obtain an encyclopedia that illustrates rope making. Show how rope can be made stronger with more strands. Demonstrate—or invite an older Ranger to show—whipping the end of a rope to prevent unraveling. List some uses of rope—examples: roping and tying cattle, training horses, shipping supplies. Demonstrate the lariat, and let the boys try lassoing a chair or another object. Using a strong rope, conduct a tug-of-war game with your boys. Introduce your boys to basic knots. An excellent pictorial of knots can be found in the new *Royal Rangers Leaders Manual*. Explain some uses of rope today.

3rd Week—Bunkhouse. Explain that most Old West cowboys camped out on the trail. However, some lived—as cowboys do today—in bunkhouses. A bunkhouse is simply a place where cowboys sleep. Some bunkhouses of the Old West were small, so the cowboys began stacking their beds. This is where the term *bunk beds* originated. Ask if anyone sleeps on a bunk bed. Bunkhouses were also equipped with simple items for cleanup—such as a water basin, towels, and a wash tub. Running water in pipes did not come until later. The bunkhouse was usually not far from the corral. Also, the chow hall was usually nearby. Cowboys lived close to their work because a ranch required constant care. In bad weather extra care had to be taken for the cattle and their safety.

4th Week—Horses. The cowboy's use of a horse was somewhat different than that of the Indian. Horses were used for roundups, trail drives, and rodeos. The use of horses remains much the same today. During the days of Buffalo Bill and Wyatt Earp, a horse was a man's

Your Outpost Planning Guide

lifeline. If his horse was stolen, he would easily die from the heat. This is why stealing a man's horse became a capital offense—many outlaws were hung for doing so. If possible bring to this meeting a saddle for show and tell. (Or if you know someone who raises horses, invite him to give a presentation.) To motivate conversation ask these questions: Do you know anyone who owns a horse? Have you ever ridden a horse? What are the best and worst things about riding a horse?

5th Week—Chuck Wagon. This was the chow vehicle for the cowboys. Cooking utensils and food were stored in the chuck wagon. It was located near where the cowboys worked, whether on the ranch or on the trail. Usually one cook was responsible for keeping the others fed, for keeping up with supplies, and for cleaning up. The cook often used a gong to alert the cowboys for grub time. The diet could consist of biscuits, meat (beef or buffalo), beans, and coffee. If cowboys complained about their meals, they could be forced to become the cook. Cooking was done mostly over open fires. Grills came later. Tripods were used to cook stew and to heat water. Set up a cowboy meal for your boys by barbecuing hot dogs or hamburgers. Offer beans, chips, and soft drinks.

April

1st Week—Singing. An outstanding part of cowboy life was singing. Cowboys sang while working and while sitting around evening campfires. Readily available in most cities are recordings of old western songs. Create a great atmosphere for your meeting by securing for and playing such a recording. Some of the songs could be used for a sing-along. If tapes are not available, perhaps someone in your outpost or church plays guitar and sings. Have someone introduce the guitar and some basics on how to play a guitar. Most boys would enjoy learning to play a musical instrument. Encourage group singing, using the *Royal Rangers Campfire Songs* book and tape available from the Gospel Publishing House.

2nd Week—Branding. Explain that as ranches and ranchers multiplied in the Old West, cattle branding became necessary. Explain the purpose for branding and how it was done. Tell how cattle rustlers sometimes changed brands on the cattle. Give each boy a sheet of paper, and ask the Buckaroos to draw five or more brands—e.g., Flying E, Rocking A, Bar B. Do a brand design for your group. For a craft project let

the boys make their own brands. Potatoes can be cut in halves then carved into brand symbols. If possible visit a ranch or a farm where cattle have been branded.

3rd Week—Roundup. During the winter months of the Old West, cattle were often turned loose on open ranges to search for food. When spring came they were rounded up for market. Roundup time was important because some cattle may have strayed farther away than others. Brands helped identify them. Cowboys would search the mountains and canyons to make their roundup complete. Any lost cattle meant a loss to the owner of the ranch. Explain that in a similar way, this is what Jesus does. He is the "Good Shepherd" who goes out looking for the ones who are lost. Also, explain our Great Commission. End the meeting with a salvation devotional and a call for salvation.

4th Week—Cattle Drives. Herding cattle was a difficult task during the Old West days. Contrast how cattle were once transported to how they are today. Explain how cowboys prepared for long cattle drives—food, extra clothing, rain gear, etc. Obtain a library book about the different breeds of cattle. Point out what type of cows may have been in the cattle drives of the Old West. Discuss stampedes and what caused them. Ask these questions: Can cattle swim? What dangers did cowboys face (Indian raids and wild animals)? Would you have enjoyed a cattle drive? Explain why or why not.

May

1st Week—Ranching. Introduce your boys to some inside activity at the ranch—i.e., cattle deals, veterinarian care, pasture management, storage of hay and other cattle foods, the need for cattle salt, ranch repairs, fitness of the working horse, and vehicle care and repair.

2nd Week—Supplies. Supplies were difficult to come by at times in the Old West. An important supply was water. Some water was not drinkable. The cowboys used canteens to carry their drinking water. Guns and ammunition were also important. Have the boys help make up a typical supply list for purchasing goods for the ranch or cattle drive. Display a few items like sugar, coffee, and flour. Display and discuss a few cooking utensils that might be seen at a ranch.

3rd Week—Pony Express. Share

about the Pony Express, which delivered the U. S. mail from 1860-1861. Discuss how the trail went from St. Joseph, Missouri, to San Francisco, California. Way stations were located about every 30 miles along the trail. The stations were used to provide fresh horses for the riders. At each station the riders would quickly change horses and keep moving. The trip on horseback took 10 days from St. Joseph to San Francisco. The most important message the Pony Express delivered was the election of Abraham Lincoln as president of the United States. The Pony Express hired mostly young men—preferably orphans because the job was extremely dangerous. They rode through all kinds of bad weather and hostile Indian territory. Share that we, too, must be brave in spite of criticism, danger, or threat. A Royal Ranger is courageous!

4th Week—Conservation. Much of the grazing lands of the Old West was destroyed because of overgrazing. Many acres once covered with grass became dust bowls. Emphasize our responsibility to conserve and to protect this great land for future generations. Discuss some ways in your area to prevent soil erosion. Tell how the placing of rocks or the planting of trees can hold the soil in place. Show how we can protect productive farm and grassland. Discuss rotating crops and rotating pastureland. Invite a county agent to speak about conservation in your county.

Pioneers, Trailblazers, Air-Sea-Trail Rangers Program

Overall Approach: Continue this quarter introducing the new merits, formerly called advanced awards, and other activities. Use this time to challenge your boys and encourage them to achieve beyond what they may think they can do.

March

1st Week—Public Speaking Merit. Review these requirements: Display a few books on homiletics. Some excellent references are *How to Prepare Sermons and Gospel Addresses*, by William Evans, and *The Making of the Sermon*, by T. Harwood Pattison. Inform the boys that to earn the Public Speaking Merit, they must be a member

of a speaking team at school and earn a certificate of participation. Recommend the book by Andrew Carnegie on effective speaking. Give a few excerpts. Describe how to present four classes on any subject to a younger age group in your outpost. Show how to prepare a 10-minute talk to a Sunday school class on the subject "The Royal Ranger Code." Demonstrate how to prepare four devotions for Royal Rangers.



Have the Rangers prepare a talk for the youth ministries or church congregation about the Royal Rangers ministry.

2nd Week—Track Merit. Review these steps: Secure a track rule book and display it. Have other leaders or helpers assist you in describing the following: 1. 100-meter dash, 2. 200-meter dash, 3. 400-meter dash, 4. 800-meter dash, 5. 1,600-meter run, 6. 3,000-meter run, 7. 1,600-meter relay, 8. running long jump, 9. triple jump, 10. high jump, 11. pole vault, 12. shot put, 13. discus, 14. javelin, 15. hammer. Draw a diagram of a track field, and show its dimensions for all the foregoing events. Assign another commander or Royal Ranger to list five Scripture verses that relate to track and field. Explain how a Royal Ranger must earn ribbons in eight track meets, or earn a junior high or high school letter or certificate of participa-

tion as a track member or team manager.

3rd Week—Journalism Merit. Introduce the Journalism Merit: Define the meaning of the word *journalism*. List four main types of publications. Have a Ranger give 10 Scripture verses that describe the Christian attitude toward this vocation. Show how to witness for Christ this way. Explain that to earn this merit, a Royal Ranger must write five 100-word articles about a Christian journalist, publisher, editor, or another individual in this business. Explain that a Ranger must interview a journalist, then write an article about this person's character, attitude, education, on-the-job training, and attitude toward the future. A boy must write four separate articles about the outpost and try to have them published in a community newspaper or church newsletter. He must also prepare three separate posters promoting Royal Rangers and post them at church. He must also write a 200-word paper about what Jesus has done in his life.

4th Week—Pathfinder Award. Introduce the Pathfinder Award. Explain that the Pathfinders are men dedicated to hands-on missionary work in various areas of the world. State its purpose: to meet a special need in Missions Abroad Placement Service (MAPS) construction by building church facilities where other teams are unable. Invite a MAPS volunteer to speak to your group this week, or have the pastor explain the MAPS program.

5th Week—Model Making. Explain the types of models made by professional auto designers, aircraft designers, and spacecraft designers. Show drawings or plans of models you can build. Show the skills in constructing, displaying, and operating a model. Demonstrate one or more of the following: Demonstrate how to build a non-operational model. Show how to finish/paint a model. Display the model in a creative and authentic appearance. Display a free-flying model—one operated by radio or utility cord control. Display a model train or railroad set. Show how to set up and operate it. Steam engines or other large non-operating models could be displayed to show creativity and authenticity.

April

1st Week—Advanced Swimming

Merit. Introduce this merit: A Royal Ranger may earn the American Red Cross Swimmer Certification or complete the following: 1. Demonstrate the following: 1. 50-yard side stroke (each side), 50-yard back crawl, 50-yard breaststroke. 2. endurance swim—crawl stroke for 200 yards. 3. Demonstrate these entries and dives: surface dives (pike, tuck), feet-first surface dive, long shallow dive, 1-meter board (jumping entry, standing dive) stride jump. 4. Demonstrate a survival float for 5 minutes. 5. Tread water for 5 minutes. 6. Swim 25 feet underwater. 7. Demonstrate open turns (front, side, back). 8. Demonstrate these safety skills: a. artificial respiration, b. release of cramps in water, c. proper use of flotation devices, d. reaching assists, e. stride jump fully clothed, remove shoes and clothing, then use shirt as a personal flotation device for 3 minutes, f. stride jump fully clothed, remove shoes and clothing, then use pants as a personal flotation device for 3 minutes.

2nd Week—Reptile Study Merit. Introduce the Reptile Study Merit: Describe in detail six poisonous snakes and the one poisonous lizard found in the United States. Demonstrate first aid treatment for snake bite. Describe the main differences between each of the following: a. alligators and crocodiles, b. toads and frogs, c. salamanders and lizards, d. snakes and lizards. Give approximate number of species of reptiles and amphibians in the United States. Explain the differences in life cycles of reptiles and amphibians. Sketch from field observations six reptiles and three amphibians, and record their habits and where they were found. Keep a nonpoisonous reptile or amphibian for at least 1 month, making a log of data observed—such as food eaten, skin shedding, color changes, and other habits. Secure photos identifying two reptiles and one amphibian. Give a talk to a small group about these. Explain the importance of insects as a food source for reptiles. Give three Scripture references that mention insects.

3rd Week—Senior Citizen's Merit. Introduce this merit: Explain how to adopt a senior citizen in your church as a grandmother or grandfather. Learn about the birthdays, anniversaries, etc., of your local senior citizens. Present them with some special remembrance on these occasions. Invite them to a special outpost activity, and recognize each adopted grandparent at that event. List six Scripture verses that tell of God's feelings toward our senior citizens. Arrange a special banquet to recognize all the senior citizens. Write a 100-word report about how the adopted senior citizen(s) has affected your life.

4th Week—Law Enforcement Merit. Introduce the Law Enforcement Merit: Tour a city, county, or state police facility. Describe the different duties and responsibilities of each agency. List the different equipment an officer uses for accident investigation, criminal investigation, making arrests, traffic enforcement, and training. Interview an officer and learn how he became involved in police work. Inquire about qualities in the officer, dangerous situations, and rewarding moments. Write a 500-word theme about the interview. Ask an officer to exhibit a police cruiser and point out the unique features of it. Write an article about the equipment, explaining its use. Write a letter to someone imprisoned about your faith in Jesus Christ. From your Bible find where a serious crime was committed. Tell how it was committed, solved, and what punishment was received. Read Romans 13:1-6, and explain its meaning.

May

1st Week—Environment Merit. Introduce the Environment Merit: Define the words *habitat* and *niche*. Describe a habitat near your community—include plants and animals. Describe what happens when a habitat is disturbed by man. Define the terms *food chain*, *threatened and endangered species*, and *storm-water runoff*. Show photographs or drawings that will describe these terms. Describe the water cycles, water table, and aquifer. Discuss surface and ground waters. Give three ways water can be conserved. Discuss mobile and stationary pollution sources. Define recycling. Weigh your family trash for 1 week and multiply by 52 to learn how much you throw away in 1 year. Pick from your trash things that could be reused, recycled, made into compost, or converted into energy. Multiply by 52 to find out how much you could conserve in 1 year. After the 2-week study, write a 300-word report on your findings. List the items your study covered. Tell what is being done in your community to conserve. Discuss products your family uses that are toxic or hazardous. Tell what could be used instead of these. This can be done alone or in a group. Plan to take part in a local cleanup or restoration effort.

2nd Week—Puppeteer Merit. Introduce the Puppeteer Merit: Boys should make their own puppet with movable mouth. They should write a paragraph on each of these puppets: 1. shadow puppets, 2. hand and rod puppets, 3. marionette puppets, 4. human

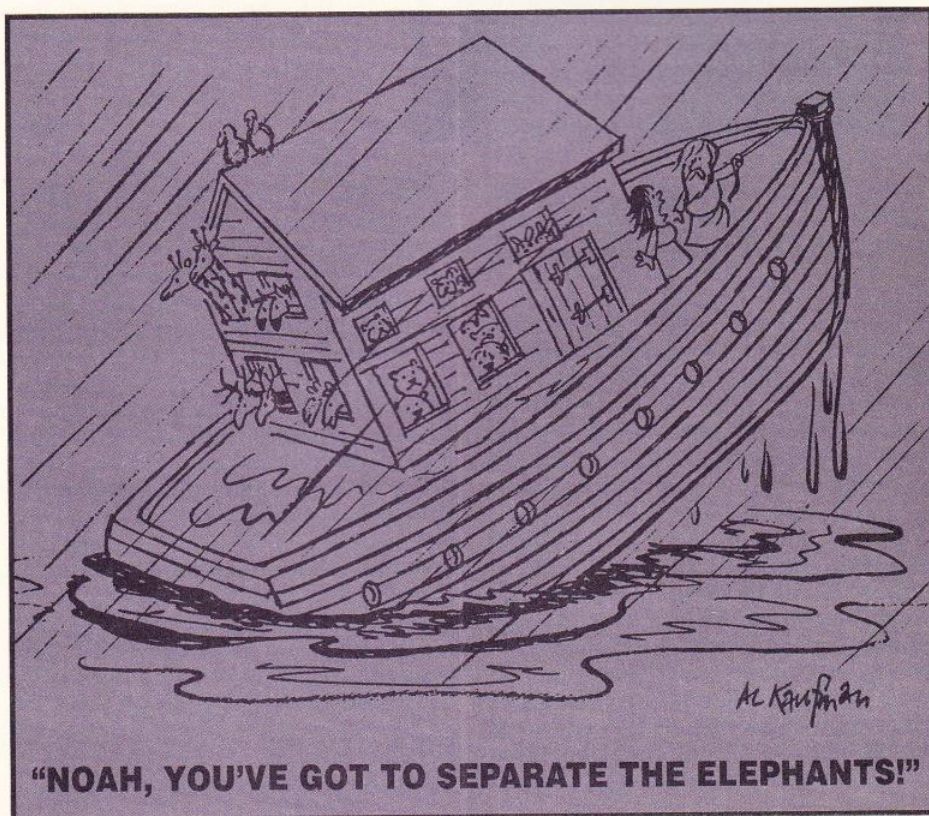
arm puppets, 5. life-size puppets. Learn the correct manipulation of a hand puppet, and demonstrate by performing a song with a puppet: 1. Synchronize mouth movements to words on a tape or a spoken script. 2. Demonstrate proper entrances and exits in puppet stage. 3. Demonstrate correct puppet height positioning. 4. Demonstrate proper audience eye contact. 5. Demonstrate hand movements, using rods or human arm puppet manipulation. Do six puppet performances either individually or with a group before an audience. Demonstrate at least three voices and explain the character. Diagram three puppet stages. Write three puppet scripts for three Bible stories and give references. Each script should take at least 5 minutes to act out.

3rd Week—Animal Husbandry Merit. Introduce this merit: Identify these breeds with photographs, illustrations, or clippings: 1. Milking cattle—Holstein-Friesian, Jersey, Guernsey, Ayrshire, Brown Swiss. 2. Sheep—Southdown, Merino, wool breeds, mutton breeds. 3. Swine—Yorkshire, Poland China, Tamworths, Berkshires, Chester White, Duroc Jersey, and Hampshire. 4. Beef cattle—Hereford, Black Angus, Simmental, Charolais, Texas Longhorn. 5. Horses—Shetland, Clydesdale, quarter horse, Morgan, Kentucky Thoroughbred. 6. Goats—Nubian, toggenburg (domesticated), Ibex, Markhor (wild). 7. Rabbits—

California White, Angora, Giant, Jack, Rex, Satin, and New Zealand White. 8. Birds—Turkey, Cornish, Ducks, and Chickens.

Choose one animal for the following: List its food and how much it needs to survive. Explain our need for this animal. Find several Scripture verses that refer to this animal. Discover how the animal is born, how much it weighs at birth, and how soon it begins to walk and see. Research its life span. If possible become involved in the care of this animal for 1 month.

4th Week—Camp Safety Merit. Introduce the Camp Safety Merit: Complete the Tool Craft, Safety, and Fire Craft Merits. List safety precautions at the campsite. Discuss campsite selection. Demonstrate how to wash dishes to prevent illness. Talk about garbage disposal and food storage. Discuss proper clothing and how to dress for camp. Construct a latrine. Explain human waste disposal. Talk about food spoilage and how to prevent it. Show how to store fresh fruits and vegetables. Explain botulism and how to avoid it in foods. List at least five foods that are poisonous when spoiled. Describe precautions when preparing and storing these foods: pork, potato salad, tuna fish, milk, and poultry. Explain how to remain safe while camping during lightning, tornado, hail, and heavy rain.



"NOAH, YOU'VE GOT TO SEPARATE THE ELEPHANTS!"

What Is Your Attitude Toward AIDS?

by Dave Batty

If I told you I have AIDS, would you shake my hand? If you have the courage to do that, would you wash your hands afterward? Would you embrace me?

What would you do if people with AIDS started coming to your outpost? Would you welcome them, or would you respond like the bumper sticker that said: "Welcome to our state; now leave!"

What would you do if your immediate supervisor was HIV positive? Would you put in for a transfer?

These may sound like hypothetical questions, far removed from reality. You may be thinking, *I'll never have to face those issues personally*. Perhaps you are right, but I would encourage you to talk to some of the nurses and doctors that attend your church. They work daily with AIDS patients.

If you live another 5 to 10 years, you will probably live in a different America. Reports today indicate that as many as 2 million people in the United States may already be infected with the AIDS virus. In another 10 years as many as 10 million Americans may be HIV positive. Every one of those statistics represents a real person—with feelings, hopes, crushed dreams, and great needs. How will you respond to those around you who have AIDS?

Let's look at three common attitudes Christians have toward those who have AIDS, then offer what I believe is a Christlike alternative.

First—Prejudice. Some Christians have been vocal and terribly insensitive in showing their

prejudice. They say, "People with AIDS deserve to die for their despicable homosexual lifestyle." They also say, "AIDS is God's judgment on their sin." Possibly there is some truth in those statements, but there are usually pounds of prejudice as well.

The fact is, we all deserve to die. All have sinned. If Jesus were here today, would He go around denouncing the homosexuals for their sins? Jesus said in John 3:17 He did not come to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved.

Our family has a record where an adult asks some children, "What is prejudice?"

Two children answer, "I don't know."

Then one little girl says, "I think it's when people are sick."

How true! It is tragic how Christians with blatant prejudice have slammed shut the message of God's mercy to the hurting lost of today.

I believe AIDS is giving the church a tremendous opportunity to show the world that Christians are radically different from non-Christians. Jesus showed compassion to the sick and the outcasts of His day. God needs His followers to put aside their prejudice and put on a heart of compassion for those affected by AIDS—both those who have the disease and their families.

Perhaps if Jesus were here today, He would update the story of the Good Samaritan and make the main character an AIDS victim. Put yourself in that story. Would you stay away from that sick person and say: "He'll die anyway. Besides, I don't want to be

I believe AIDS is giving the church a tremendous opportunity to show the world that Christians are radically different from non-Christians.

late for Sunday school this morning."

The **second attitude** we see today is fear—overwhelming fear. If I invited a person with AIDS to come to your church and sit in a seat beside you, would you feel fear?

Why are people so afraid of AIDS? That's simple—if you get AIDS, you die! It makes sense for the non-Christian to be afraid of death. But should death strike such fear in our hearts as God's children?

"Paul, we have an answer to the question you raised in 1 Corinthians 15:55: 'O death where is thy sting?' It's right here, Paul—walking down our streets; it's AIDS. Keep it away from me! Keep them out of my block! Don't let them in my school!"

But is God pleased with our paranoia—our overwhelming fear? God does understand our fears. I have them too. Last summer I was in a home where a man had full-blown AIDS. He looked like walking death. When he coughed, it wracked his body to the point it almost made me sick. Yes, I have fear to deal with. But that's the real issue. Am I willing to deal with the fear? Do I want to change?

To be like Jesus is to replace fear with love and courage. The message of 1 John 4:18 is true: "Perfect love casts out all fear"—including the fear of AIDS. In 2 Timothy 1:7 we read, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind."

Your fear of AIDS is not from God. He will give you love, power, and a sound mind so you can reach out to these hurting people.

Paul said, "I die daily." He lived a life filled with trouble and danger, yet he was where God wanted him to be—doing God's work.

God needs us to reach out to those who have AIDS—to share His love and forgiveness. People of the world will begin to turn their heads and look when they see that we Christians are not afraid to associate with these dying people. They will want to know why we are not afraid, why we love these people.

For some of you, the battle to overcome this fear will be won when a loved one comes down with AIDS. Recently a good friend of ours discovered he had AIDS. When I visited him, I found that my

fear of AIDS was not there—my love for this friend overcame the fear. God's love does cast out fear.

The **third attitude is apathy**. Many Christians don't know much about AIDS and don't want to know. "After all," they say, "you won't find me shacking up with some homosexual. I'm living for Jesus. People with AIDS deserve what they got."

Some astounding stories are told of our apathy. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia mailed out a request to 85,000 people, asking for funds to treat children with AIDS. They were treating about 20 children at that time. The total response: \$25.

One Teen Challenge center in its monthly letter told how many of the drug addicts coming to Teen Challenge today have AIDS. The financial response was only one-tenth of what it had been the previous month. Apathy.

To be like Jesus is to get rid of our apathy and to get involved in helping those who have AIDS. We need to pray: "God what do You want me to do to minister to those who have AIDS? God give me a burden for these lost people."

You may not find them welcoming your first attempts with open arms. You cannot go in with big lights and TV cameras saying, "Here comes First Assembly to the rescue!" You may be better received if you don't even say anything about being a Christian. There's no indication that the Good Samaritan shared the four spiritual laws and got the man to pray the sinners prayer before he got out his oil and bound up the wounds of that hurting man.

Persons living with AIDS and their families need your help. Don't just give a few dollars to United Way and say, "I've done my part." Get involved in helping.

I have been pleasantly surprised at how our denomination has responded to our nation's drug problem by establishing the ministry of Teen Challenge. Over the past 30 years, thousands have been helped by this ministry. But the question today is, "Will the Assemblies of God provide similar leadership in ministry to those with AIDS?" Or will we focus our Decade of Harvest

efforts only on healthy people?

What can you do? You can start in your own home—helping your family get rid of prejudice, fear, and apathy, and develop compassionate, loving attitudes toward those who have AIDS. Do the same with the boys in your outpost. You can tell your pastor, "When people with AIDS contact our church, I am ready to be a friend and help."

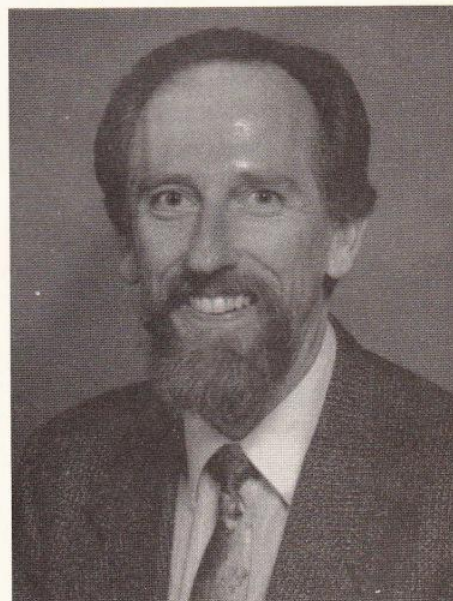
Let's plan how we can equip people in our churches/outposts to be the hand of Christ to those with AIDS.

People with AIDS don't need our attitudes of prejudice, fear, or apathy. They need our compassion, love, courage, and involvement. They need the Lord—right now. Many of them will soon be dead. Then it will be too late to help them.

Reprinted from AIDS: How Should Christians Respond, Copyright 1990, National Teen Challenge Curriculum Committee-USA, Springfield, Missouri.

This booklet can be purchased for \$4.95, student's manual, or \$6.95, teacher's manual. A video titled *HIV/AIDS Challenge to the Church* is available for \$29.95. To obtain this excellent material, given from a Christian perspective, contact the National Teen Challenge Center; P.O. Box 1015; Springfield, MO 65801.

Telephone: (417) 862-6969.



David Batty is curriculum coordinator for the national Teen Challenge Center.

Leaders' Tips on Hiking



by Dana Lemieux

A group set out for a 5-hour, 6.5-mile mountain hike. During the hike they ran out of water, and one boy twisted his ankle. The air then began to get cool and breezy. One of the boys was sent to get help. By the time help had arrived, the injured boy was in the first stage of hypothermia. The 5-hour hike took over 15 hours.

Every year many others are carried off the mountains because they are ill prepared. Already this year several tourists have injured themselves just 1 mile away from the road.

These stories are not meant to frighten you, but to serve as a reminder that you must be "ready" (prepared).

Far too many commanders take their boys on hikes without being prepared. As a leader, you are responsible for the lives of those placed in your care. Bad experiences, if not handled properly, can turn off a kid—or worse, you could lose the confidence of the unsaved parents.

No group ever plans to have problems but, rather, fails to plan for them. Problems develop even with the best of plans; they are accidents and are bound to happen. Here's what you can do to be ready.

Preparing the Way

First, do the hike yourself to test the route you have chosen. Keep in mind that the small stream could become a roaring river during the rainy season. Or the spring could be dried up during a drought.

Read any guidebooks you can find that will answer your questions. Forest rangers, hiking clubs, or other hikers on the trail can be good sources of information.

Be Prepared for the Hike

If you're going on an extended hike, be aware of alternative routes out. Remember, you must plan for the weakest boy—or, in some cases, the commander.

If the hike is a long one, keep it to a maximum of 10 miles per day. If you are preparing for a day hike, plan to spend the night. Have each hiker take the necessary equipment. Plan on taking a heating stove, too. Hopefully you will never need to use it, but you will be ready if something unexpected happens.

In other words, pack equipment for the worst type of weather possible for that time of year. Follow guidebook suggestions for gear, even though it seems a bit much. Keep in mind the type of equipment your boys own, and plan the hike around that. Don't place a financial burden on them. A comfortable pair of sneakers is better than a new pair of blister-producing boots.

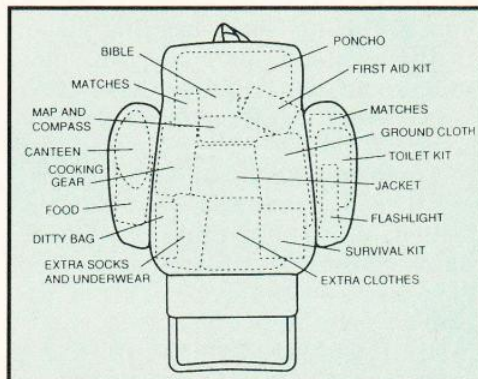
Blisters can be your biggest problem.

If not caught in time, they can become as crippling as a broken leg. During rest periods of a hike, ask the boys if they have any tender (or "hot") spots on their feet. Most will quickly say no, so ask them to concentrate on their feet before answering. Always remember: Moleskin can be applied to stop a blister from becoming a problem.

Preparedness. It is something each commander must practice to ensure the safety of boys. Your being ready will help provide a fun time for the boys ... and there's not a great deal more fun than to explore the trails of nature.

Typical Checklist for an Overnighter

- ☐ Sleeping bag or bedroll
- ☐ Ground cloth
- ☐ Poncho
- ☐ Pajamas
- ☐ Extra change of clothing
- ☐ Extra underwear
- ☐ Extra socks
- ☐ Jacket or sweater
- ☐ Cooking gear
- ☐ Eating utensils
- ☐ Food
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Toilet kit
- ☐ Ditty bag
- ☐ Small first aid kit
- ☐ Tent or shelter
- ☐ Canteen
- ☐ Ax
- ☐ Air mattress
- ☐ Moccasins
- ☐ Survival kit
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Map and compass
- ☐ Bible



Devotions for Boys

Devotions by Muriel Larson

**Scripture verses quoted from the New International Version*

Leader: Certain devotionals may need a 2-week application because of depth of subject matter.

Prayer

Have you ever asked, "Why do some people get their prayers answered and I don't?" If you have asked this question, you're not the first person. But listen carefully, and you can learn the answer.

When you have a problem, you may talk with your commander about it. "Pray for me?" you ask. If anyone can get an answer from God, you figure he can!

Actually, if you're a Christian you can too. Let's look at the conditions for getting prayers answered:

First, **repentance** is necessary.

2 Chronicles 7:14* states, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Obviously, sin keeps prayers from getting answered. But did you know that bitterness, bad temper, anger, harsh words, and resentment can come between you and God?

How can we make things right?

1 John 1:9 states, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Righteousness also helps us get prayers answered. James 5:16 states, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

"Righteousness" refers to a daily, steady walk with the Lord—trying not to let anything come between you and Him. Christ has first place in the righteous person's life, and others can see it. That's how they know who to go to when they need someone to pray.

Forgiveness is necessary for answered prayer. Jesus stated, "When you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins" (Mark 11:25).

Kelly was sorry for things he had done wrong, and he wanted to get right with the Lord. So he asked the Lord to forgive him. But when he finished praying, guess what Kelly still carried in his heart? Bitterness, anger, hostility, and unforgiveness toward the boy who had stolen his girlfriend. Then he wondered why he still didn't feel right with God!

Is it hard for you to forgive someone for the way he or she has hurt you? Sure it is! Let God help you.

Hold up those damaging, self-centered emotions to God and say (have the boys repeat after you): "Lord, take these harmful things. I don't want them anymore. Cleanse me. I want Your peace, joy, and love. I forgive [name] for hurting my feelings." Then you'll get through with other prayers.

Obedience is another requirement for answered prayer. 1 John 3:22 states, "Receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him."

God's two great commandments call for love, and they cover every relationship and every circumstance: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 22:37-39).

Agreement with others on request adds special power to prayer. Faith is also necessary. Jesus said, "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours" (Mark 11:24). Believe God will work, and He will!

Now here's a special promise for you: "Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4).

The Lord's Prayer

Do you say or pray the Lord's Prayer?

Many of us are so used to saying it that we don't actually pray it! Try this quiz to find out what you're doing when you pray. While you're at it, give some thought to your answers as to whether they're wrong or right. When you say . . .

1. "Our Father"—Do you really think of God as your Father?

2. "Which art in heaven"—Do you really believe there is such a place?

3. "Hallowed be thy name"—Do you regard God's name as holy?

4. "Thy kingdom come"—Do you want Christ's kingdom to come?

5. "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven"—Is this your wish for everything on earth, including your own life?

6. "Give us this day our daily bread"—Do you know what this means when you've never gone a day without three meals?

7. "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"—Do you really seek forgiveness on this basis?

8. "And lead us not into temptation"—Are you aware of how important this prayer is?

9. "But deliver us from evil"—Are you aware of the forces of evil arrayed against Christians? Against you?

10. "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."—Does God's kingdom mean something to you? Are you aware of His power? Do you glorify Him with your life and heart?

Give yourself 10 points for each "yes." If you didn't score 90, read on!

1. "Our Father"—Contrary to popular public opinion, God is not "Father" to everyone. John 1:12,13 states, "To all who receive [Jesus Christ], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision . . . but born of God." If God is your Father, you'll know it!

2. "Which art in heaven"—Heaven is a real place to which only God's children will go. Jesus said, "Unless a person is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Those without Christ will see the other place!

3. "Hallowed be thy name"—If we ever use God's name carelessly or profanely, we don't realize how holy it is! For the Bible states, "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses

his name" (Exodus 20:7).

4. "Thy kingdom come"—This should mean we are eager for Christ's return to earth and the establishment of His Kingdom and authority here.

5. "Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven"—Is it being done now in your life? If we're not living to please Him, how can we sincerely pray this?

6. "Give us this day our daily bread"—Note the words "give us." We're actually praying for all our hungry Christian brothers and sisters around the world.

7. "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"—If you really mean this, you have to forgive everyone who has ever hurt you and stop harboring grudges and bitterness. If you do this, you'll have peace, joy, and love.

8. "And lead us not into temptation"—This prayer helps us to be more on guard against temptation. (Read 1 Peter 5:8.)

9. "But deliver us from evil" (or the evil one)—Satan and self constantly try to trip us up, so put on God's armor. (Read Ephesians 6:11,12, 13-9.)

10. "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."—It certainly is! So let's wholeheartedly join God's winning side by daily giving Him glory and by allowing His power to work in and through us!

Self-Survey

As you ask yourself the following questions, think about your answers.

1. Whose opinion do I value most—the Lord's or man's?

2. Do I love Jesus Christ enough to suffer rejection for Him?

3. Do I compromise my Christian beliefs in order to gain the approval of my friends?

4. Do I suffer rejection from people because I am a Christ-loving Christian . . . or because I sometimes have an unfriendly attitude?

5. Does my pride in self mean more to me than being humble for Christ's sake?

6. Do I stand in judgment on people who don't believe the way I do?

7. Do I deal with rejection by dwelling on angry, hostile thoughts toward those I feel reject me?

8. Or do I meet rejection by forgiving and praying for those who reject me?

Now score yourself as a Christian by the following scriptural criteria (read the following Scripture verses and discuss):

1. Worldly Love: 1 John 2:15b

2. Take Up the Cross: Luke 9:23

3. Withdrawing From Christ: Hebrews 10:38

4. Walk in Love: Ephesians 5:2

5. Attitude: Philippians 2:5

6. Judge Not: Matthew 7:1, 2

7. Love Your Enemies: Matthew 5:44

8. Jesus Prayed for Persecutors: Luke 23:34

Royal Rangers Decade of Harvest

Earmark your calendar for the dates scheduled for the Royal Rangers Decade of Harvest prayer and fasting days. The first Saturday of every month has been designated a day of fasting and at least 1 hour of prayer for the Royal Rangers Decade of Harvest efforts.

MARCH

	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Stake A Claim

Invest in an acre or more of land for the National Royal Rangers Training Center near Eagle Rock, Missouri.

I will invest in _____ acre(s) of land for the National Royal Rangers Training Center at \$500 an acre. (A claim conveys no legal interest.)

I will pay my pledge of:

☐ \$540 per acre within 1 year
(12 monthly of \$45)

☐ \$600 per acre within 2 years
(24 monthly of \$25)

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____ Acct #001-01-035-4001

Church to receive World Ministries credit

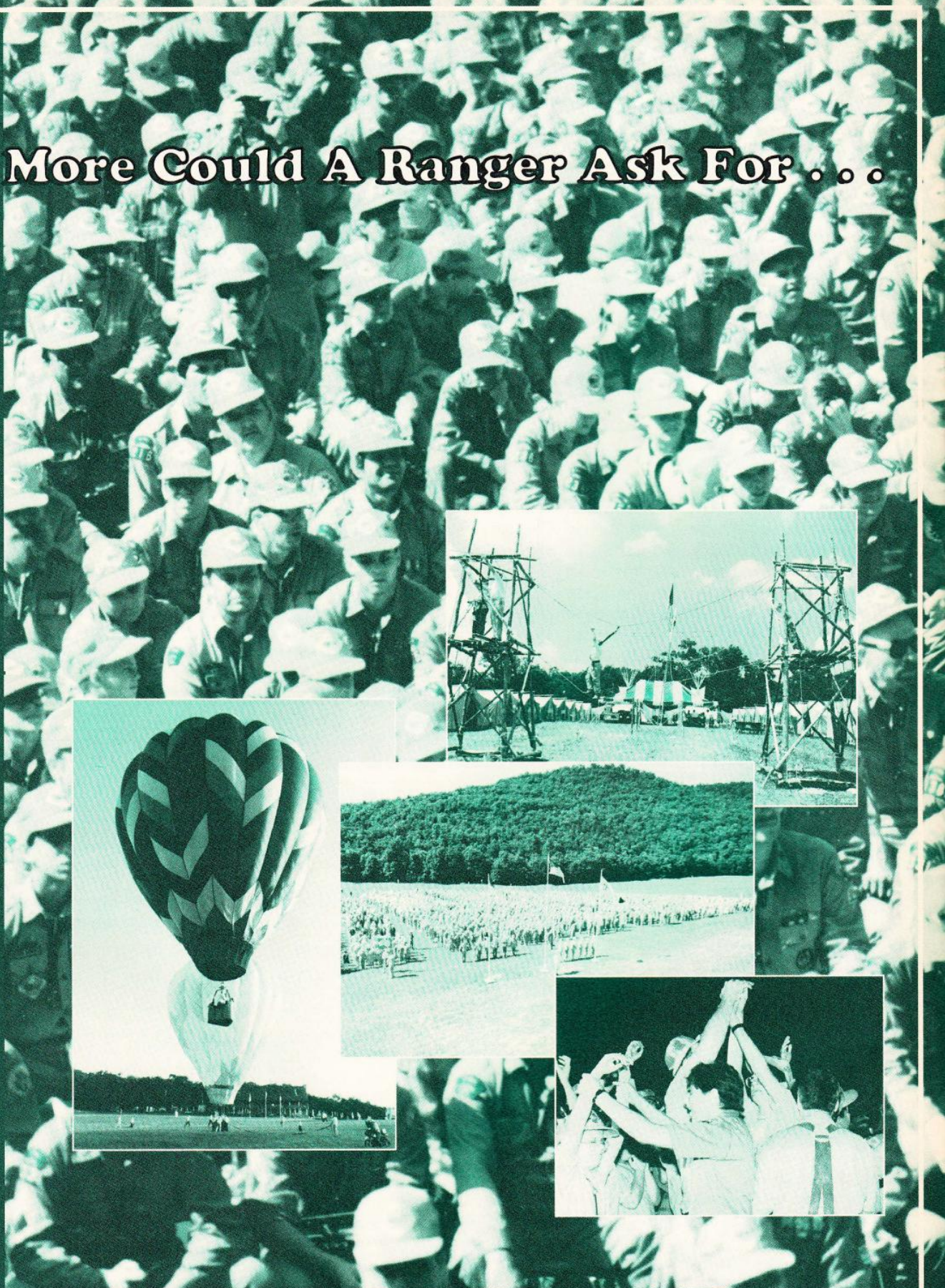
City _____ State _____

Royal Rangers STAKE A CLAIM Pledge Form

What More Could A Ranger Ask For . . .

Activities could include . . .

- Cool Water Activities
- Hiking
- Canoeing
- High and Low Ropes Courses
- Riflery
- Hot Air Balloon Rides
- Famous Guests
- BMX Bike Races
- Go-Cart Races
- Pine Box Derby Races
- Competition
- Colorful Evening Pageants
- Music
- International Guests
- Special Guest Speakers



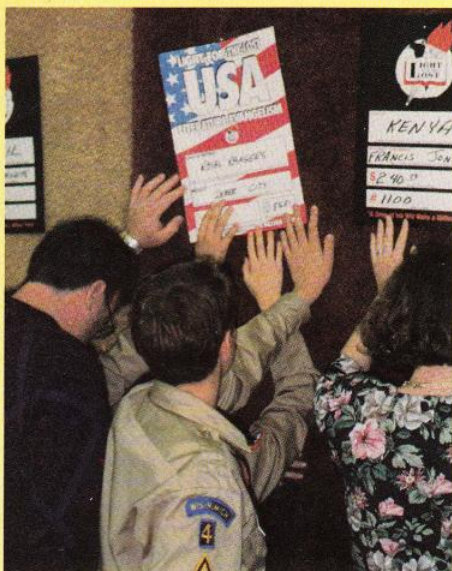
1994 National Camporama

National Royal Rangers Training Center

Eagle Rock, Missouri

July 11 -15, 1994

Cost: \$125



Rangers praying for the missions effort which they had pledged to support.

District LFTL banquet was held at Brookfield Assembly, Brookfield, Wisconsin. A group of boys and leaders from Section 10 gathered to hear a message by Dwain Jones, who recently ministered in Cambodia and Vietnam. There they learned how Light-for-the-Lost literature has helped spread the gospel throughout these countries.

At that meeting LFTL councilmen who had attended gave special recognition to all the Junior Councilmen present.

The Junior Councilmen were excited about being able to pick a project and pledging their time and money to assist their chosen missionary. The boys expressed their interest and pleasure in meeting the missionary whom they are helping. Already members of our district have discovered that the Junior Councilmen program is the ideal way for Royal Rangers to help spread the gospel around the world.

New Mexico District

by Randy Claunch

Brent Corder and Jeff Ray are the first from the New Mexico District to become LFTL Junior Councilmen, stated Marcus McClain, district men's director. The two Rangers attend Bethel Assembly of God (Outpost 49) in Hobbs, New Mexico.

One step to being recognized as a

Junior Councilman is to attend a Light-for-the-Lost banquet. Jeff and Brent, along with their outpost commanders, catered the steak and potato meal for the LFTL banquet held in their district. At the banquet the boys were presented their LFTL Junior Councilmen applications.

Boys and commanders are encouraged to sponsor a LFTL mis-

How To Become a LFTL Junior Councilman

The Junior Councilmen program introduces Royal Rangers to Assemblies of God missions at an early age. Then their missions involvement can continue on through adulthood.

Here is how you become eligible to become a LFTL Junior Councilman:



photo by Randy Claunch

Left to right: Rev. Ken George, Brent Corder, Jeff Ray, Rev. Marcus McClain. Brent Corder displaying LFTL pledge poster.

sions project while at the banquet. So Jeff and Brent chose to support—by praying and giving—the Royal Rangers inner-cities ministries.



photo by Randy Claunch

Brent Corder (left) and Jeff Ray completing LFTL pledge.

1. You must have at least the Pioneers Second Class rating and be no older than age 17.

2. View the video *Carry the Torch*.

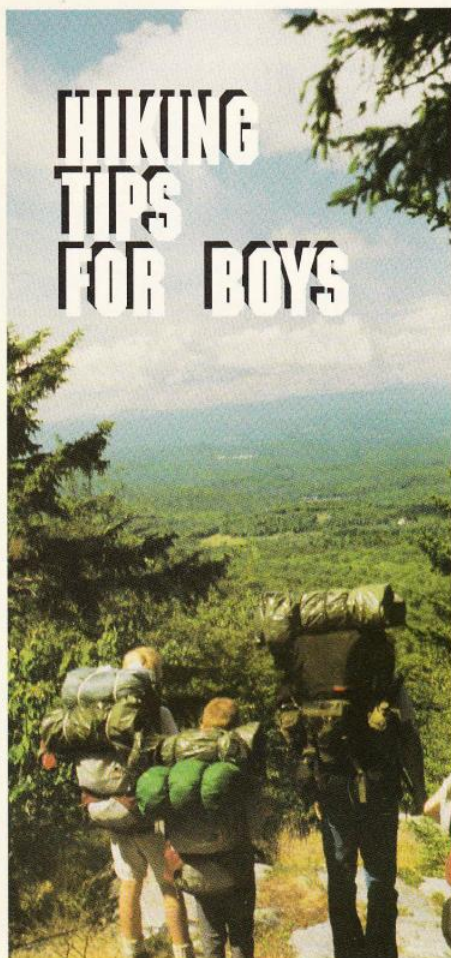
3. Complete the *LFTL Study Course*.

4. Write a LFTL report.

5. Obtain any gospel tract autographed by a missionary.

6. Attend a LFTL rally or banquet or an appropriate missions event.

Upon completing the LFTL Advanced Merit requirements, the commander can purchase the merit through the Gospel Publishing House. A LFTL Junior Councilman application will be enclosed with the merit. Mailing the completed application, along with the annual dues of \$15, enrolls a Ranger as a Junior Councilman. The Ranger will then receive his Junior Councilman patch. For more information about this exciting program, contact your district Royal Rangers commander or the national LFTL Office.



by Dana Lemieux

Only \$25! thought Sean. Not nearly enough for the hiking equipment he needed for the trip he had planned for all year. *Why that Goretex jacket alone cost over \$200—never mind the backpack, tent, and boots.*

What Sean didn't know was that he already had nearly everything he needed to go hiking. What he didn't have he could have rented for just a few dollars or even borrowed. Making what you already have work takes some creative thinking, and sometimes a change in your hiking plans. Here's what you can do:

First your plan needs some flexibility. If the weather turns bad, hike in a more protected area away from the wind-swept canyons and exposed ridges.

Staying Dry

For rain gear use a plastic garbage bag or plastic cover. You'll not stay as dry, so you should bring along

extra clothes. Keep spare clothing in a plastic bag to keep them dry. Change into the dry clothes when you stop in a sheltered place.

Shed the wet clothes until you have to go back out in the rain. Putting the wet clothes back on can be cold, but you'll soon warm up plus still have dry clothes packed away. You should also have a *complete* set of dry clothes in your car to change into when finishing the hike.

Footwear

Leather or hiking boots can also be replaced with sneakers. Boots support the ankle when really heavy loads are being carried and when the ground is rocky. But if you only have sneakers, then wear them.

When the ground gets rocky, take it easy. An extra pair of socks or pads inside the sneakers can help keep the bottoms of your feet from getting sore when walking on rough ground.

Blisters can be a big problem when hiking. The biggest cause of blisters is boots that are not broken in. Leather hiking boots can take months to break in, so your sneakers can be better at times. Pay attention to your feet. When a spot begins to get tender, put moleskin on it.

A pair of nylon socks under your dry cotton socks also helps reduce blisters. If a blister does develop, take care of it fast. Don't let it get any bigger. I've limped around for days, barely able to get my feet inside my shoes, from blisters left unattended. So remember: Blisters can be a problem at the upcoming National Camporama or wherever a lot of walking is required.

Always bring a stove, a tent, and a sleeping bag in case of emergencies—and treat all water. Be safe—carry drinking water with you.

You may get wet and tired. You may even have to turn back before accomplishing the challenge you've set out to achieve. But not having the perfect outdoor gear should not keep you from enjoying the outdoors. You just need to be more careful while outside.

But don't stay inside!

TRACKS!

by Steve Copeland

While walking along a trail, you may notice a few animal tracks. So why not try an experiment?

During your next hike, take along a notepad and a pencil. Make a drawing of the tracks you discover so you can identify the tracks once you return home. Also, take along a tape measure to measure the length and width of the track, along with the length of stride of the animal. This will help you learn how large the animal is.

Resources like the *Adventures in Camping*, copyright 1993, identify tracks and will assist you in this project.

Another way to identify tracks is to make a plaster cast of the track. All you need is water and plaster of paris—which is sealed in a container, such as a plastic jar or a tin can. Pour the mixture of plaster—water mixed with plaster of paris—into the track. (The plaster must be mixed just right. It should have the consistency of a thin batter so it can pour easily. If it's too thick it will not pour well and will not fill all the crevices. If it's too thin it will run and take forever to dry.) Wait about 10 minutes or longer, allowing the plaster to harden.

Remove the cast by digging around the edges and prying up. Then clean it using water and a light brush.

You may find a track in loose dirt or sand that's too dry to pour a plaster cast. If so, take a can of shellac, spray the track, then it will hold the track together so you can pour a cast. (Be careful not to get too close when spraying, which can blow the sand and dirt away.)

You can even cast a mold of the entire foot pattern of a small animal. It can be done by running the plaster from one track to another.

Once you get home with a cast, make a mold of the track. Spray the original cast with "mold release" or common household furniture polish. You can even use petroleum jelly. Place the original cast in a fresh mold. Let it set up then separate the two. Then you will have a mold that looks like the original track you saw in its natural habitat—a great display for the outpost!

LET'S GO HIKING



photos by Dana Lemieux

by Steve Copeland

Take a hike, whether it's across a meadow, the woods, the city park, or just down the street. You won't have to go far to see the wonders of nature and learn about it.

When you come to a tree, for example, don't just pass it by. Learn what type of tree it is. Take the time to learn how to identify its leaves. To help you identify trees and leaves, see the *Adventures in Camping*, copyright 1993.

Trees are very important to us. They, along with other green plants, release the oxygen we breathe. They provide us with building materials for our homes and furniture and the paper we write on or read.

Take a close look at the trees and you may find a nest holding baby robins. A robin is a bird about 10 inches long. Colorful drawings of birds, such as the robin, can be found in the new *Adventures in Camping*. Take the handbook with you on your next hike.

If you will observe, you can find robins and other birds searching for worms. The earthworm protects itself by burrowing into the ground—by wedging itself into small crevices and pushing aside

loose dirt and by eating away the soil. Earthworms are important because they loosen the soil, allowing the roots of plants to grow deeper into the ground.

During your hike you'll likely see tiny ants scurrying about. Perhaps they're looking for a good picnic or just looking for food to store away for the long winter. Either way these little guys are very industrious. The ant is capable of carrying several times its own weight. Ants live mostly underground, where they

have a maze of tunnels in which they continually store their food.

The ant lives with a group of ants in a colony. A colony may consist of a queen ant and the workers, which are several in number.

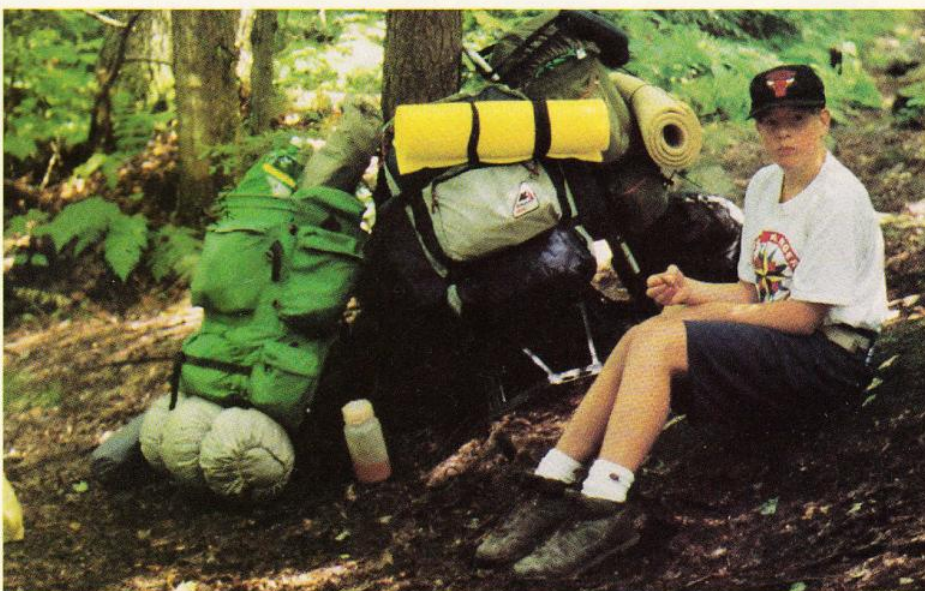
While you're investigating, look along a wooden fence or pick up an old board. There you may find a relative of the ant, known as the white ant—better known as a termite. The termite is also industrious, but very destructive. The termites can destroy a wooden building or a fence by eating away at the wood.

Termites often build tunnels from the ground up the side of a foundation wall in order to get to the wood in the building. These tunnels, made of wood fibers, help protect the termites.

A colony of termites consists of the queen, many workers, and a soldier. A soldier will stand guard outside a broken tunnel until the tunnel has been repaired. The ant is a common enemy of the termite. The soldier termite will fight the ant and give his life by remaining outside while the tunnel is sealed.

As you can see, one doesn't have to go far to discover God's creation. In some cases you wouldn't have to get out of your own yard. Just stop and look closely, and you'll be amazed at how many bugs, insects, or other creatures you can find.

Learn to identify them and how they affect the environment and other creatures in nature.





SOME TIME LATER



HEY, I'VE GOT AN IDEA.



INSTANT PONCHO!

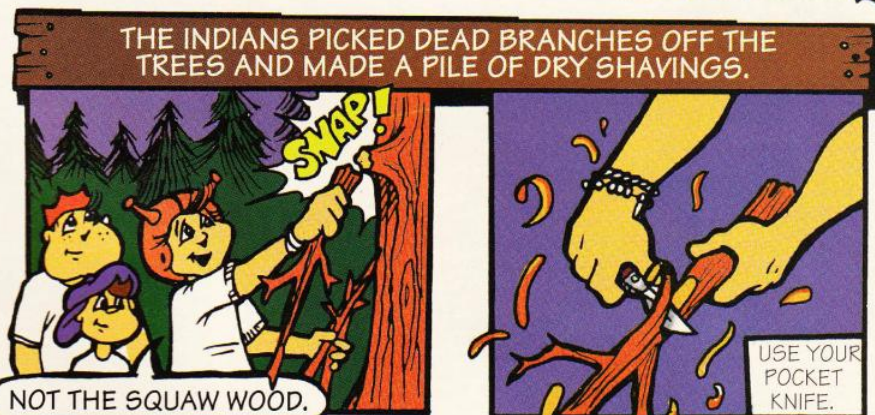


WAIT FOR ME!

YEA!



THE WOOD IS ALL WET.



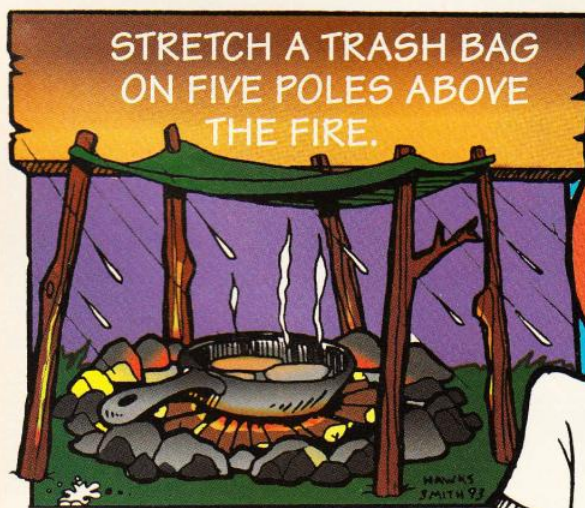
THE INDIANS PICKED DEAD BRANCHES OFF THE TREES AND MADE A PILE OF DRY SHAVINGS.

SNAP!

NOT THE SQUAW WOOD.



USE YOUR POCKET KNIFE.



STRETCH A TRASH BAG ON FIVE POLES ABOVE THE FIRE.



GOD CAN MAKE EVEN RAIN FUN!

THANKS JESUS!

THE END

Catching Fish

(continued from page 7)

are generally fiberglass with a removable harpoon-like head that allows the easy removal of a fish once it has been shot.

Bow fishing can be exciting, especially if you find a concentration of fish. Bow fishermen generally stand on the bow of a boat and use a

trolling motor to slowly sneak up on an unsuspecting gar near the surface.

Sometimes in the spring, when carp and buffalo are spawning in shallow water, they can be approached from the bank or by wading. Because of complex regulations concerning seasons and waters that can legally be bow fished, consult the current wildlife code of your state.

Bow and arrow fishing allows the harvest of fish species, such as gar,

which aren't caught in great numbers by any other means. And if not for gigging and grabbing, the large sucker population in some areas couldn't be effectively harvested.

Besides being proven methods for catching fish, many of these techniques are different and allow the angler a change of pace.

Reprint courtesy of the Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri, Missouri Conservationist, copyright 1987.

Climbing II

(continued from page 3)

interchanged to make the climb easier or more difficult.

The walls were first used in climbing competitions, but they've become a part of many trendy athletic clubs and college gymnasiums. Every REI sporting goods store in the United States has a wall that climbers can scale free of charge.

These artificial walls are so popular that a few climbers don't climb the real thing anymore. Some sporting goods stores even sell handholds for people with artificial walls at home. But real rock is *much* less expensive. All of this is part of the new trend in rock climbing, called sport climbing.

"Sport climbing is a style of

climbing that's evolved in the last few years," Mr. Gaines says. Sport climbs are very well protected, often with a top-roped belay. "These are safe climbs, but with very difficult moves," he adds. "More like gymnastic rock climbs."

NOT A ROYAL RANGERS ACTIVITY

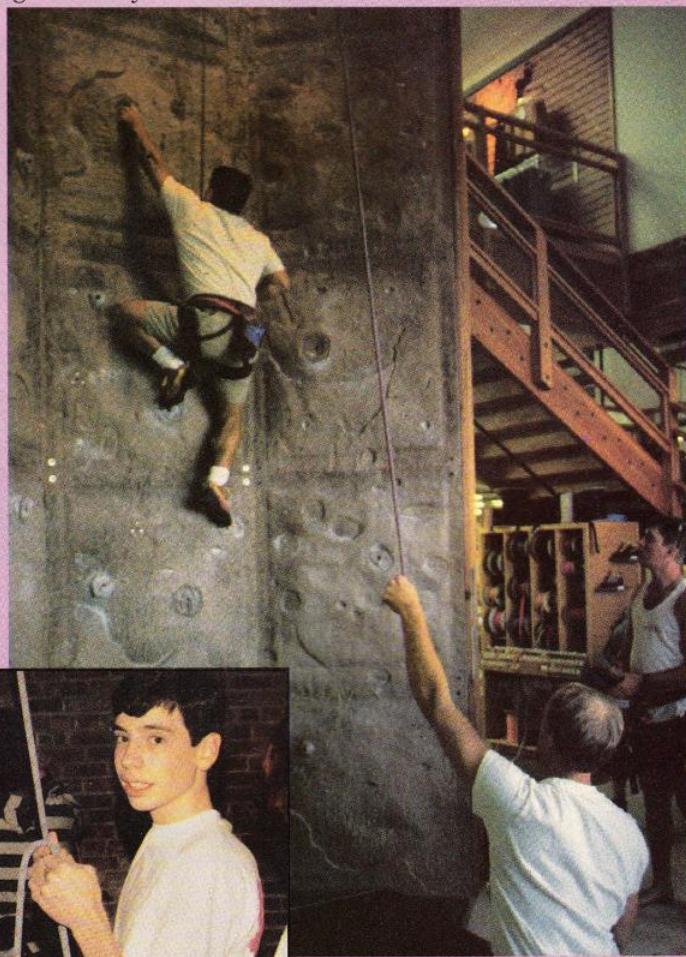
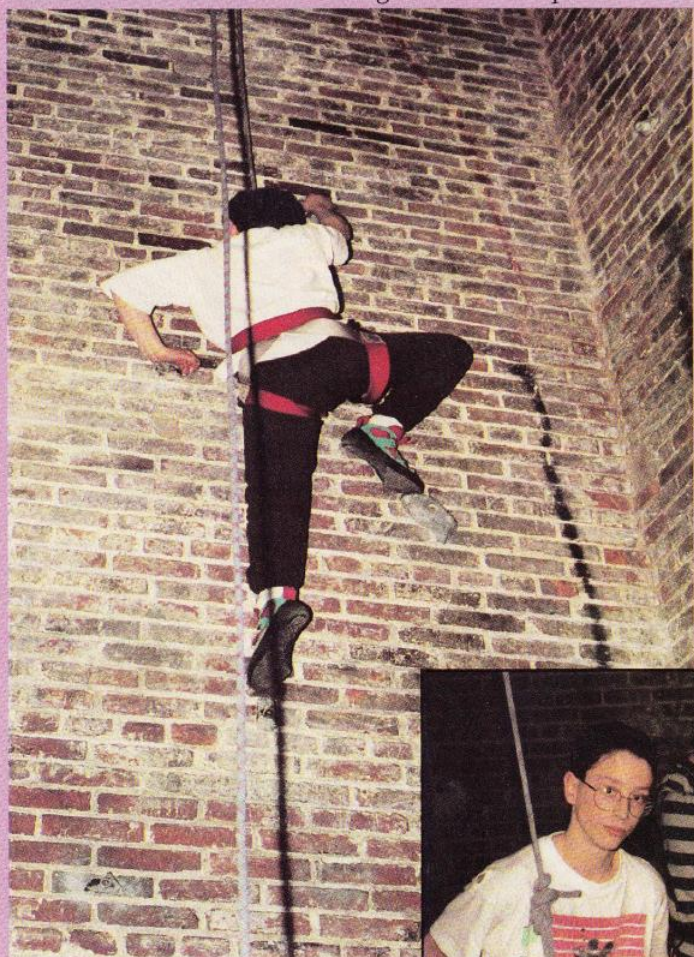


photo by Michael Warren

Comedy CORNER

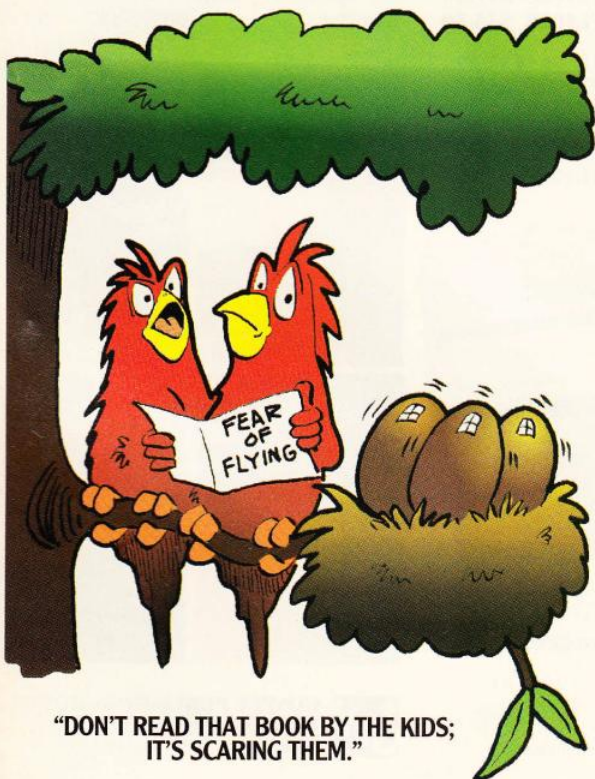
Two camel riders often amused themselves in their spare time by racing their camels. One day one said: "I'm tired of the same old race. Today let's say the camel that comes in last wins."

After agreeing they both sat down in the sand because neither wanted to start. Hours later they were still sitting when a wise man came by.

When he heard the situation, he whispered something in both their ears. Suddenly the two men jumped on the camels and raced away. What did the wise man say? Answer: "Change camels!"

* * *

The absent-minded professor came to school one morning, car-



rying two brown paper bags. After lunch, while standing before his biology class, he said, "Today, class, I brought a frog, which we will dissect."

Opening the brown bag, he pulled out a ham sandwich, then turned a little green. Faintly he was heard saying, "I could have sworn I ate that sandwich for lunch."

*Marilyn Bolchunos
Arvada, Colorado*

* * *

"Can one of you tell me who Job was?" asked the commander.

After a pause one Straight Arrow replied, "A doctor."

"A doctor!" replied the commander. "Wherever did you get that idea?"

The boy innocently replied, "Didn't you ever hear of the patients of Job?"

* * *

The commander's boy, himself a Buckaroo, watched his dad prepare his Wednesday evening meeting. "Dad," the boy began, "does God tell you what to say during devotion time?"

"Of course, Son," the father replied. "Why do you ask?"

"Oh, I was just wondering why you strike out so much."

* * *

Minister to church



deacon: "Personally, I'm against having air conditioning. I think the sweltering heat will serve as a good reminder."

* * *

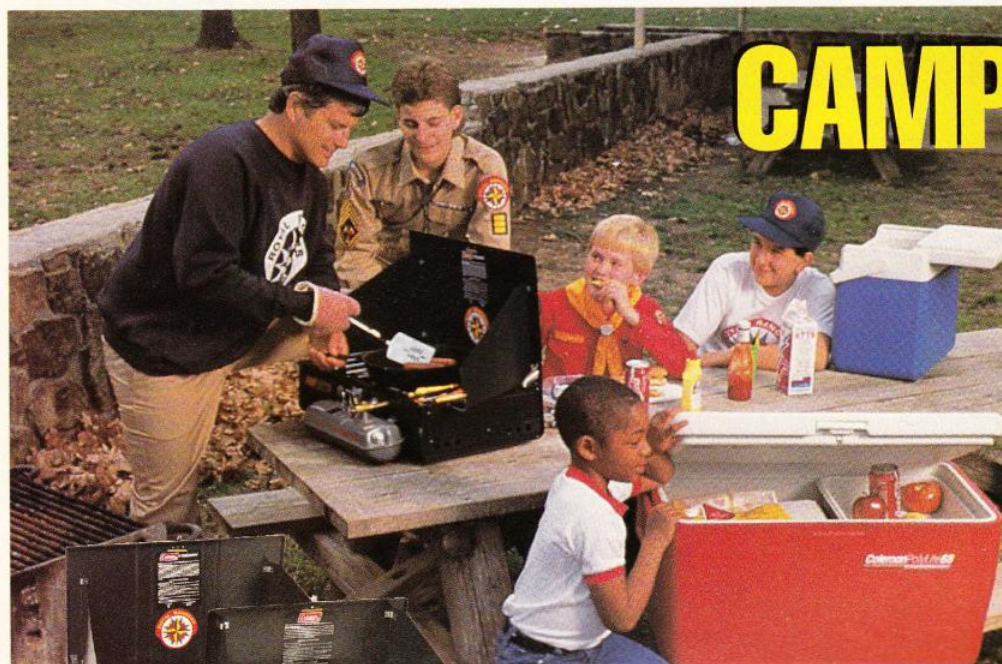
Just before the minister delivered his evening sermon, an usher handed him a note. The preacher announced that someone had left his lights on with the car locked. He added wryly, "The implication seems to be that the battery may run down before I do."

*Thomas LaMance
Prewitt, New Mexico*

* * *

The gardening editor of a newspaper received a letter from a man who asked what he could plant near the corner of his house—where the soil was exceptionally poor and stony and where a faulty gutter led onto it. The editor's instant reply: "How about a nice flagpole?"

*Martha Beckman
Littleton, Colorado*



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Flip-top Coolers

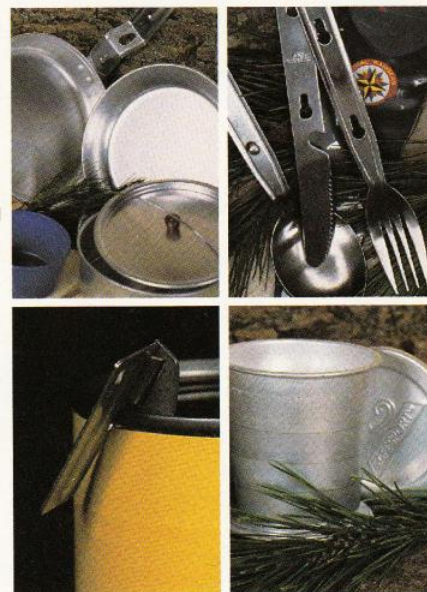
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