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SUMMER 2004

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High Adventure

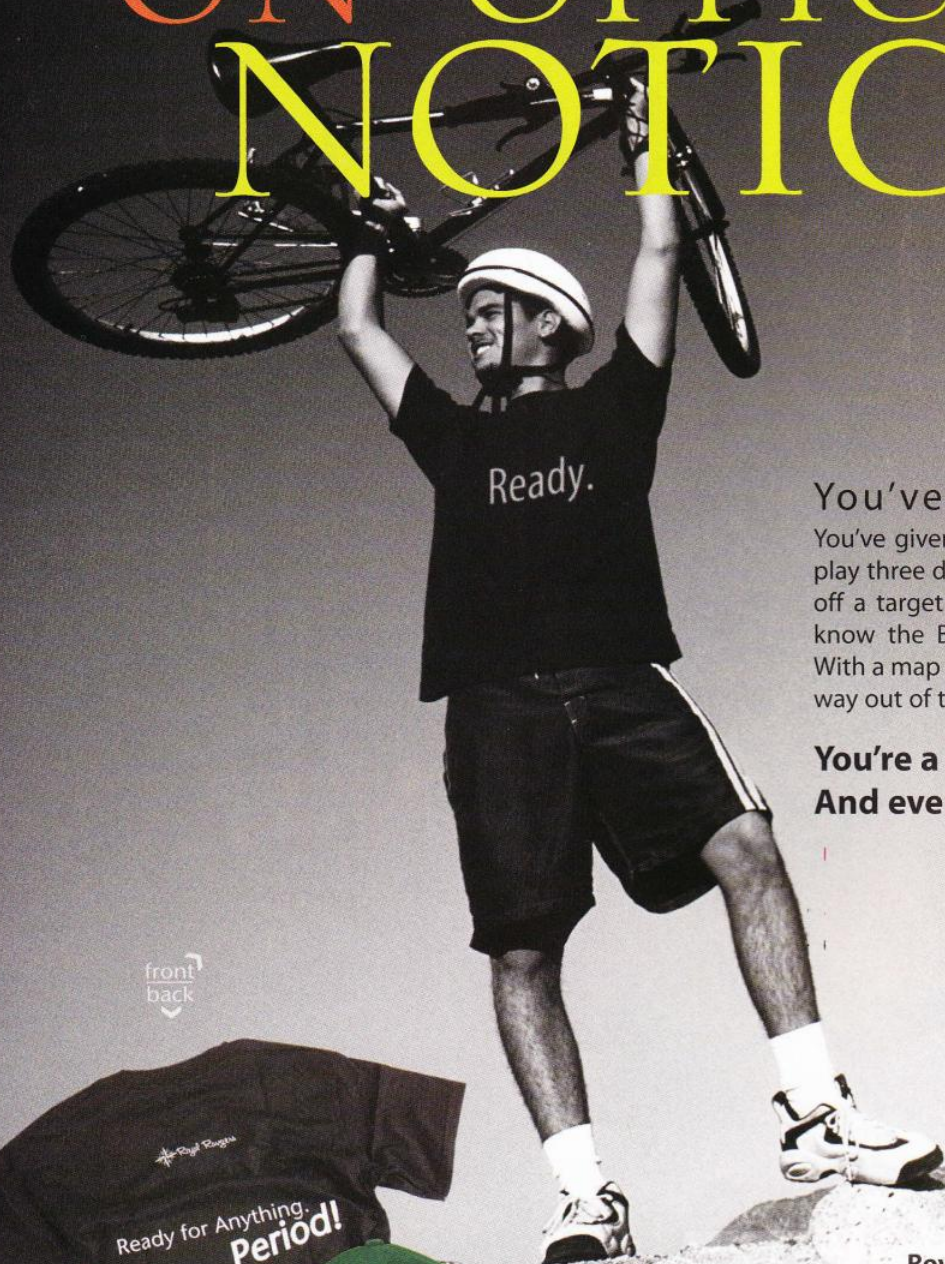
THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF ROYAL RANGERS

*Blessed is the nation whose
God is the Lord.*

Psalm 33:12



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High Adventure

ISSUE 02 SUMMER 2004

*To the man
who please him,
God gives wisdom,
knowledge
and happiness.*

— ECCLESIASTES 2:26



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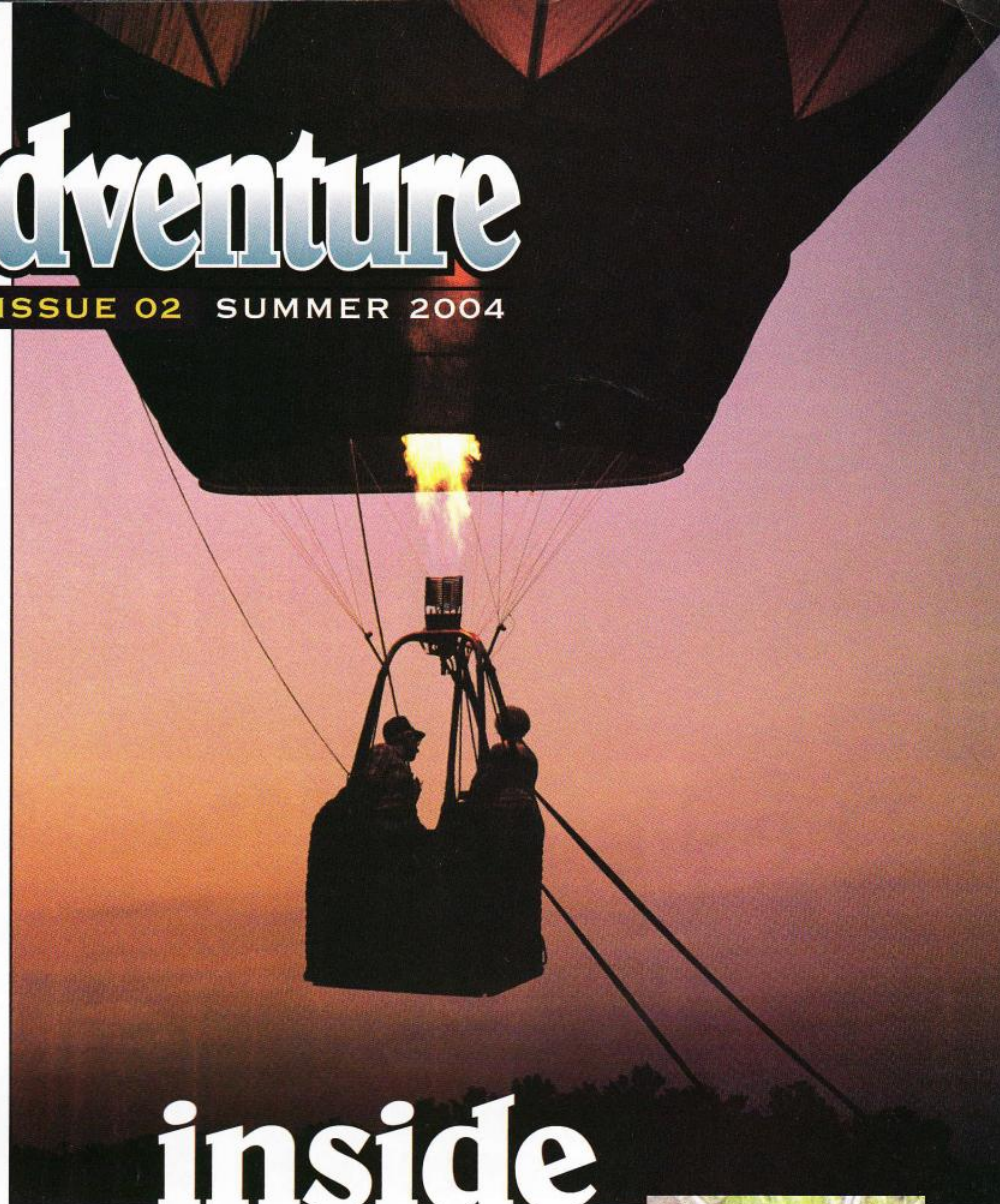
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Hope to hear from you soon!

4
**The Value of
Royal Rangers**

7
**Learning to Say
I'm Sorry**

8
Feature Creature: Elk

10
**Royal Rangers
Adventures**

12
I Spy — Mother Nature

13
Up and Carefully Away!

14
Comedy Corner





GOLD MEDAL of Achievement

The Value of Royal Rangers

by Daniel **CRONK**

OUTPOST 13—

South Tacoma Assembly of God, Tacoma, Washington

I joined Royal Rangers when I was 7 years old. I was a Straight Arrow, and I thought that being able to wear the vest was the coolest thing since sliced bread. I wanted doodads on my vest, so I went running down the advancement trail as fast as my stumpy legs could carry me. Code, motto, golden rule, I memorized them all and, much to my elation, got shiny little buttons to wear on my red vest. Though I thought I was just getting stuff, I didn't realize that I was learning things as well. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you? "What's that mean," I inquired of my dad. After the explanation, I decided that it sounded pretty good, and applied it to my daily life. I tried to be Alert and Clean, not because I was just a great guy, but I wanted to be the best there was. I wanted to have someone stand me up on a stage and say, "Daniel Cronk is the best Royal Ranger there is!" and have thousands of people clap and cheer and agree.

When I was a Buckaroo, I rejected the little white vinyl scarf slide I was issued and bought a polished-chroma-look plastic one with the Royal Rangers emblem emblazoned on the front in blue, red and gold. I stood out. I had the snappiest uniform and the best knowledge of the Buckaroos at my outpost. I did it because I wanted to be the best. But while I was striving to best the others, I was unconsciously learning. Honest and Courageous. I told the truth and was brave.

In Pioneers, I cherished my right to wear the full khakis. I polished my shoes and combed my hair. I became assistant patrol guide. I got merit badges and rank. Powder horn, bowie knife, I wanted them all. Tinsel on the uniform.

And then in 1997, my outpost commander asked me if I wanted to try for Royal Ranger of the Year. He said there was not much chance I'd get it, but it would be good experience. "Loyal and Courteous," I replied. I took my "Adventures in Camping" and "Pioneers Handbook" and made them me. I knew how big a firepit was, I knew how to lead a boy to Jesus, and I knew what to do if I was lost in the woods. I was patrol guide now, with shiny bars on my collar.

At sectionals, I walked in, blue beret at a cocky angle, polished bolo ends jingling. The long rifle glinted on my chest. I was cautious, look-

ing at the Trailblazers competing at the Pioneers level. They had more doodads than I. More merits. More stars on their sleeves. But were they Alert and Clean, Honest and Courageous, Loyal and Courteous? I knew not but went forward to do battle.

And I won. Not against them, but against my own fears and insecurities, against the lurking devil telling me I was not the best. I prevailed at the district level, and when I heard them say my name and stood on the stage, and saw 4,000 men stand and clap and cheer for me, I was fulfilled. Today, I may have forgotten how large a firepit is, though I doubt it. I may wear my uniform less, with no polished bolo slide. But what I learned over the years I strove for the top I can never forget. It is engrained in me. Alert, Clean, Honest, Courageous, Loyal, Courteous, Obedient and Spiritual. That is the value of Royal Rangers.

by Benjamin **KOUBEK**

OUTPOST 150 —

New Covenant Assembly of God, Casselberry, Florida

While I was wearing my uniform on my way to a church function, someone asked me what Royal Rangers was. A Pioneer at the time, I was surprised and taken aback by a stranger asking me this question. I said it was "some group of church kids that go camping once in awhile." I wish that I could go back and tell that person what Royal Rangers really is and how it's changed my life.

Early in Rangers, I can honestly say that I was in it for the badges. I went through Straight Arrows and Buckaroos displaying all my awards proudly. Pioneers opened up many new opportunities for me because of the merit system. I went through the book and picked out the easier merits. I also wore my tomahawk within about six months. I got a lot of oohs and aahs from younger boys as I walked down a hallway. At that time, that was all that Rangers was to me.

Paul was a good friend of mine in Pioneers and Trailblazers until he moved away. While he was in our outpost, he always had more patches than I did, and I was very jealous. He was on the Gold Track, doing the extra requirements on the advancement trail just for that little star to put on his silver hawk. I thought he was nuts. I would never do all that work just for that tiny star. I was content earning my merits

and earning respect from the other boys.

When I went into Trailblazers, I had to earn the older boys' respect. I had my Second Class in four weeks and earned the rest of the merits just as aggressively. Paul moved away and others left, so I became the most highly decorated boy in Outpost 150. It was what I dreamed of doing. Unfortunately decorating was about all my merits had done for me. I had taken the easy road. It led me straight to destruction.

My relationship with God was nearly non-existent and my attitude was rotten. I questioned my Christianity. I did the minimum to obtain the maximum. If the Lord had returned, I would have been left behind. Then problems within the outpost and lack of leadership caused the Royal Rangers program in our church to go under.

Fortunately, my grandfather was a pass and review coach in our outpost before his health declined. He and my grandmother asked if I wanted to continue my work in the program to get my Gold Medal of Achievement. At first I politely refused because I knew it was hard work with nowhere to show off my badges. When I told them I would do it, I did it more for them than for anything else.

Two things in this process changed my life. Assignment 4 in the Christian Service Merit was, "Discuss with your pastor ways you can be of service to God and your church. Then spend at least 15 hours engaged in Christian service." I went expecting to pick up trash or mow for 15 hours, but he surprised me. He told me to call Peter Odriscoll, a downtown Orlando street minister, and see what I could do for him. I completed the 15 hours at Church street on Saturday evenings. After fulfilling the time, I decided to continue and stayed another full year with Peter and those who worked with him. Being around the people in the downtown ministry increased my character and integrity. Shortly after meeting Peter I quietly, between me and God, rededicated my life to Him.

The second thing that changed me was the reading of the Bible. The Bible Merit required reading a good portion of the Old Testament and all of the New Testament. I was doing this weekly with my grandparents while I was involved in the downtown ministry, and together these requirements made me who I am today. While I was on Church street, I led my first soul to Christ. Before I began that ministry I wouldn't have even known how or where to start. However, now I can pray, read the Bible, and witness.

The last requirements needed for me to complete the GMA were things I could not do with my grandparents, like outdoor-oriented advancements. For this I went to another church's outpost. When I got there I noticed that my whole outlook was different. Instead of wearing my uniform I wore a Royal Rangers T-shirt, I think because I wanted to be one of them instead of above them. Also, instead of wanting to earn their respect, I found myself giving them my respect.

I have seen many boys get saved in Rangers. I've seen many boys changed by Rangers. But most importantly, I've seen myself changed by Rangers. Today I would tell that person that Royal Rangers is a program that goes into the world to reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ. It did this for me, and it's done it for thousands of others like me. If this GMA did not exist, I know that I would still be walking down that same easy road to destruction.

I looked back over this essay and said, "Wow, I can't believe how honest I'm going to be to people I've never met." The truth is that I didn't know I was going to be this honest with myself. I can see on paper what Jesus delivered me from, and it's kind of scary. I believe

God placed these specific events and people in my life to save me from myself. I praise Him and thank Him for what He's done and continues to do in me and for me. The Royal Rangers Basic Advancement Trail is nice, but the true challenges and experiences are in the Gold Track.

by Brandon **RAUB**

OUTPOST 46 —

Bethel Assembly of God, Savage, Maryland

Royal Rangers. Simply saying the word aloud conjures up memories. Sometimes it's hard to remember when I first began in the program. It's even harder to pinpoint a memory from when I wasn't a Royal Ranger. Even though Royal Rangers has stretched over such a long period in my life, I can clearly remember and point out distinct conversations, events, and phases that have had major impacts on my life. Most importantly, I recognize the ways that Royal Rangers has helped me mature as a young man.

Being around godly respectful men and seeing how they act in different circumstances has shaped the way I respond to adversity. The subtle ways in which commanders extend patience, understanding, and fair judgment has shown me a great deal. Without meaning to, I began to take on those characteristics. In addition, I often find myself imitating the commanders' personal traits and telling the same old, almost funny, jokes.

The lessons I've learned from Royal Rangers are numerous. By working on various merits and patches over the years, I've truly come to understand the value of hard work and determination. Working for the GMA, I've spent countless hours, often on the weekends, studying and preparing for Royal Rangers.

Another great characteristic of Royal Rangers is the making and building of relationships. I can honestly say that I will keep and cherish the friends I have made through Rangers for the rest of my

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life. I have also learned how to lead. It is true that part of this has come through watching the commanders. However, Royal Rangers still provides vast and different opportunities for boys to step up and lead, whether it's organizing a game of football, explaining how to tie a knot, or leading the patrol in formation.

I can't forget the effect Royal Rangers has had on my relationship with God. Of course there is the usual Bible study and prayer on Wednesday night, but the campouts have provided me with incredible opportunities to meet with God. Jesus began his ministry by traveling in the wilderness for 40 days. In a similar way, the campouts have provided me with chances to steal away from my often hectic life and to simply call out to Jesus.

I've also been able to share deeply personal issues, questions, and spiritual problems with my Royal Ranger commanders. Having them there, often just to listen, has been an incredible blessing to me.

I once heard that the purpose of Royal Rangers is to help young boys mature and develop into godly young men. Royal Rangers has served that purpose wonderfully in my life. I have grown in incredible ways, some subtle and some obvious.

I owe a great deal to Royal Rangers for helping me grow both spiritually and socially. As I prepare for college and a life out on my own, I feel completely confident that I'll be able to handle every challenge and confrontation.



The Value of Royal Rangers

by Michael **SUNDAY**

OUTPOST 290—

Tuttle First Assembly of God, Tuttle, Oklahoma

The Rangers program has taught me a lot about life. If I hadn't joined the Rangers program when I was a boy, there is no doubt in my mind that I would not be as good of a person as I am now.

I have been in Rangers since I was about 5 years old and been through four different commanders. Every one of them was a great teacher, and I looked up to all of them. A lot of people at my church come up to my mom and brag on me because of my behavior or the way I work with the young kids, and I never understood that. Now I realize it's probably got a lot to do with not only my parents teaching me, but with Rangers.

I am 15 years old, and as soon as I finish my GMA, I want to be a junior commander and the outpost chaplain. I think that would be really cool, and I am really looking forward to it.

A friend of mine, named Braley used to go to Rangers. He was about 15 and I was about 11 or 12. I remember looking up to him, striving to be like him and do some of the things he could do. He left about two years ago, but during the time he has been gone, I have advanced in Rangers.

The main reason that I help teach in Rangers is the boys, because I remember that I would look at Braley's uniform and say, "Man I wish I could be like him. I wish I could have all those merits and pins and know as much as he does." I guess hope the boys in Rangers now look at me and say the same things I said about him when I was their age.

The Rangers program has been so helpful to me. Just the other day I was witnessing to one of my friends at school and she said that she is a Christian but Jesus just hasn't talked to her—He just hasn't knocked on the door. Then I remembered a verse in the back of the Royal Rangers Bible that we had to quote at a recent powwow and I told her that He probably has knocked on the door, she was probably just distracted with the frustrations of the world.

I pulled my Rangers Bible out of my pocket, looked up the verse and read, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in with him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). Then I started talking about Jesus and how he died on the cross for her sins and how much he loves her. Of course she acted like she cared about what I was talking about, but then we went on to another conversation and that was about it. But that Wednesday I saw her at church and she said that she was going to go to youth, and I didn't see her for the rest of the night. The next day she came up to me and said that her life was forever changed and that she had given her life up to Christ the night before in church. She also said thanks for witnessing to her and giving her the knowledge that I did. Just as soon as she walked off I thought to myself, "Praise God and give Him thanks." I thought to myself that there can't be any better feeling than the thought that you may have had something to do with helping someone receive Christ as their personal Savior. I couldn't wait to get home to praise God for His wonders and the great love He has given to me.

God has taught me a whole lot about Him and everyday life, and if I hadn't joined Rangers as a young boy I would not have learned very much about God or outdoors or even how to cope with social, mental, and physical situations. I am glad that God is helping me stay in Royal Rangers, because now I believe that He is calling me to teach Rangers. If I had gone to youth on Wednesday nights instead of Rangers, I probably wouldn't have felt that calling.

I would encourage the boys that when they are still excelling in the program and start to think that it is too hard for them to accomplish, do not quit, it is definitely worth it in the end. You can then say to yourself, "Look what I have accomplished, look at how much I have learned about God." Also look at how you have learned to deal with everyday problems. As an added bonus you know how to survive in the wilderness if you need to. (I pray that you don't have to though.)

Well, there is my short story of the value of Royal Rangers to me. I would like to thank Brother Jim Ed Rogers, Jay Lester, my dad, Gene Sunday, and especially my mom, Lisa Sunday, for all the hard work and persistent help, and for having to stay up late or stay an hour after church to help me with the work that I didn't finish that day when I probably should have finished it earlier. Without them, there is no way I would be getting my GMA or even come close to it. Thank you, and I love you all so much.

Royal Ranger Receives South Dakota's First Gold Medal of Achievement

by Tim Anderson, senior commander, Outpost 23, Hot Springs A/G, Hot Springs, South Dakota

September 14, 2003 was a momentous day for the South Dakota Royal Rangers, particularly for one special Ranger. This day was to include the awarding of South Dakota's first Gold Medal of Achievement.

Hunter Cutchin received his GMA after five years of hard work and dedication. Hunter is part of Outpost 23 in Hot Springs, S.D.

The award ceremony took place at the South Dakota Summer Powwow near Pierre. Outpost 23 Commander Tim Anderson opened the ceremony by reading a statement issued by South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds proclaiming September 14 as Hunter Cutchin Day. District Commander Mike Glanzer presented the medal to Hunter's mother, who then pinned it on his uniform. Rick Scott, regional coordinator from Minnesota, then had Cutchin respond to the GMA charge, reaffirming his commitment to the high standards expected of him.

Following the awarding, a second ceremony took place. Guest speaker Commander Paul Scholtz, dressed in knight's armor according to the Summer Powwow's medieval theme, asked Hunter to kneel before him along the bank of the Missouri River. Drawing his sword and placing the blade on the new GMA recipient, Commander Paul knighted him and declared him to be "Sir Hunter Cutchin." With eyes as big as silver dollars, Hunter rose and extended his arms to receive the sword as his own. After a prayer of dedication, congratulations and a standing ovation were offered by Hunter's parents, friends, and fellow Rangers.

Earning the GMA was quite an accomplishment, but what made it more special is that Hunter's mother, Joanne, had received a heart pacemaker less than a week before the ceremony. Only by God's grace and numerous prayers was she alive to see the event.

It was a fantastic day. To God be the glory!





Learning To Say I'M SORRY

by Donna S. **PENNYCUFF**

There was another, and another, and another. Six brown butterflies skipped across the zinnias in the garden. They seemed to come out of nowhere. Joey wished he could be one of them and fly far away.

"Get the rakes and the gas can," Duff said. He was Joey's stepdad.

He was kneeling in front of the work truck, sharpening the blades of the push mower.

Joey frowned. He made no effort to get down from the side of the truck. He watched a butterfly land on a red zinnia and flex its wings. Why did he have to listen to him? He wasn't his dad. He would never be his dad. Some day Dad would come and take him away.

"Now," Duff ground out between clenched teeth. His pale blue eyes looked like shards of glacier ice.

He hates me, Joey thought, sliding down the truck's side. He stomped into the shadowy garage. It was the only cool place around. He dragged two rakes and a five-gallon can of gasoline into the bright sunshine.

"Get your bike out of the driveway," Duff said.

His chrome Mongoose lay in front of the truck where he'd left it yesterday. Get your bike, Joey mimicked mentally when he dumped the rakes and the gas can in the truck bed. Get the rakes. Get the gas can. Get this, get that, get, get, get! That's all Duff ever thought about was work, work, work.

A car pulled into the driveway. Joey dropped his bike beside the garage, the front wheel spinning. Was that Dad? He quickly ran to see. Duff climbed off his knees.

The man stepping out of the car was tall and had a bushy beard. That wasn't Dad. Joey hung back, his shoulders drooping. It was their neighbor.

"I'm getting a drink," Joey mumbled and went inside. He watched Duff and

their neighbor through the kitchen window and poured himself a glass of tea. He barely swallowed his first sip when the neighbor climbed back in his car and backed out the driveway.

"Let's go. We're burning daylight," Duff called into the open window.

He jumped into the cab and the truck roared to life.

What was he doing? Joey hesitated, with the glass halfway to his lips. The mower sat in front of the truck's bumper.

Duff threw the truck in gear. Clunkity-clunkity-clunk-bang! The truck climbed the mower like a Tonka on a sandhill!

It mounted the motor's crest and bounced to a halt on the other side of the mower.

Joey gawked, the glass frozen in midair. What was he doing?

Duff looked just as surprised, then his face froze like a hardened patch of ice. With tongue crushed between his teeth, he ground the gears into reverse. The truck reluctantly remounted the mower, every joint and U-bolt groaning in protest, then sagged back to the gravel in relief. Duff shifted gears again.

Clunkity-clunkity-clunk-bang! He ran over the mower again. The truck frame bounced wildly, shrieking in agony. It stopped on the other side of the now-bent mower handle.

"Duff, Duff! Stop!" Joey yelled and waved his arms.

Duff threw the truck in reverse again. "I told you to move your bike!" he yelled. He backed over the mower again. Clunkity-clunkity-clunk-bang!

Joey dropped his plastic glass. Tea splashed on his bare leg. He dashed out the door. Duff was climbing out of the truck when Joey rounded the corner. His face was red, his mouth twisted.

"I told you never to park your bike in the driveway! How many times have I told you? Now look at your—" His eyes fell on the lawn mower. He stopped in midstride and his face went white.

The top of the mower was heavily dented on one side. It looked like a square hamburger stacked with pickles and tomatoes.

"I tried to tell you," Joey said breathlessly, "but you wouldn't listen. You were so mad, you wouldn't listen. You just kept running over it. You were so mad..." His voice trailed off. Duff thought he was crushing his bike. He thought he was hurting him. Like Joey'd tried to hurt him. Duff was mad and he was mad. Was Duff feeling the same things he was feeling? Maybe it was just as hard and strange being his new dad as it was trying to be Duff's new son.

Duff laughed for the first time in a long time. The glaciers in his eyes faded into velvet. "I know, Tadpole. I know I was mad. That was wrong. Sorry. I promise I'll try harder not to get mad so much." His laughter and words soaked in like a healing balm. He ruffled his hair. "I'll get the hammer and maybe we can beat the dents out."

Joey looked at him through new eyes. He felt like the Grinch whose heart had suddenly grown two sizes. There was a bounce to his step when he followed Duff into the garage. Maybe Duff wasn't so bad. Maybe if he stopped being so mad and listened better, things wouldn't get messed up all the time. After all, chores weren't so bad with Duff there to help, and his real dad wasn't coming back. Maybe that was OK. He had Duff, and he was the best dad he'd ever known.

Joey smiled at Duff and took a hammer from the workbench. He slipped his hand into Duff's and squeezed. "I'll help you."

The top of the mower was heavily dented on one side.

It looked like a square hamburger stacked with pickles and tomatoes.

Feature Creature

by Ann M. BAUERS



ELK

GENUS: Cervus

SPECIES: Canadensis

SIZE: 33 to 44 inches long
including 15 to 18
inch tail

WEIGHT: Bulls: 600 - 1089 lbs.,
Average weight: 700 lbs.

Cows: 450 - 650 lbs.,
Average weight: 500 lbs.

Newborn calves:
20 - 45 lbs.,
Average weight: 30 lbs.

HEIGHT: 4 1/2 - 5 1/2 feet at
the shoulder

Males average 1 foot
taller than females.

Elk are enormous creatures. The bull (or male) elks are 25 percent larger than the cows (or females). They are taller, bigger boned, and more powerfully muscled. The reason for the size difference in elks is because the bulls and the cows have different jobs to fulfill in nature. The bulls spend the summer eating only for themselves in order to amplify their size, strength, and energy storage. The bulls do this to prepare for the rut and for the long winter ahead of them. The rut refers to the time once a year when the bull elk are physiologically and behaviorally capable of reproduction.

The cows eat not to enhance their size but to store nutrients and energy for the calves they will have. This

Do you know Jesus as your personal Savior?

If you haven't asked Jesus into your heart as Savior and asked Him to forgive you of your sins, it is as simple as following these steps:

A. ADMIT YOU HAVE SINNED. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).*

B. BELIEVE IN JESUS. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).*

C. CONFESS AND LEAVE YOUR SIN. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).*

If you would like someone to pray with you about your decision to know Jesus as your personal Savior, talk with your Royal Ranger commander, your pastor, or call: 1-800-4PRAYER, the National Prayer Center.



ROYAL RANGERS HIGH ADVENTURE

Leader

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SUMMER 2004

NUMBER 2

CAMP SUMMIT

U.S.A. Royal Rangers & Churches Making A Difference

by Richard MARIOTT

In the midst of a beautiful country setting is Camp Summit in Costa Rica. The camp is about a two-hour drive from San Jose, Costa Rica, depending upon who is driving.

I wanted to bring you a good report and commend the Royal Rangers, churches, and Pathfinders teams for their continued participation in helping to complete this camp.

Last year at March Council, David Boyd, director of BGMC, provided the money for a team to go to build an outdoor dining facility next to the existing facility. Using the funds provided by BGMC, I assembled a team that left in June. The team consisted of Rich Mariott, Rick Dostal, Ken Mariott, Doug Marsh, Jim Rounsville, Jim Carstens, Bernie Stringer, David Czarnecki, Mike Parker, Bob Doughtie, Jim Rounsville, Herman Geeseman, and Phil and Nathan Steinbach.

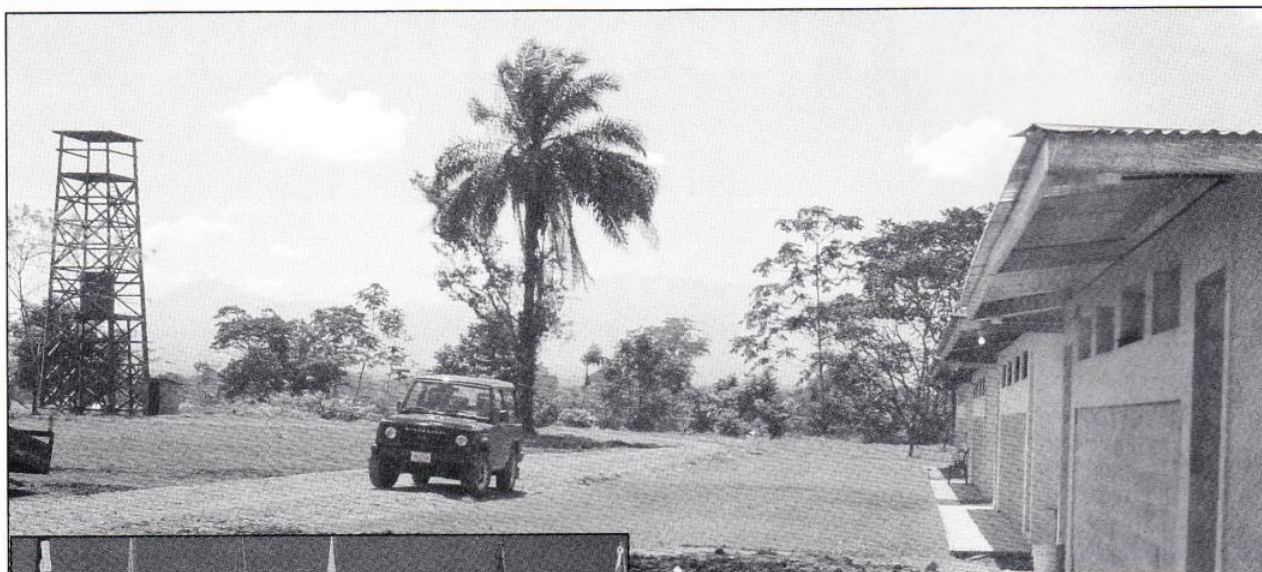
We were able to complete the building structure and the national workers completed the roofing afterwards. I've included an aerial photo of the completed building. What a tremendous blessing it was for our team to help complete the exciting campground for the Latin-America region!

The challenge in March was simple, "Royal Rangers are you 'Ready' to see Camp Summit completed and operational by the end of 2005?" Our council president, Jim Barger took pledges and commitments for teams to go. In a matter of minutes the Royal Rangers district leadership around the U.S.A. had raised ten teams, each providing \$8,000, as well as pledging an additional



\$30,000 cash for other necessary costs to help the camp. A total over \$110,000! (To give a better picture of the total money raised, you must add \$1,000 each person had to raise individually to cover their own airfare and expenses for the week. The average team is at least 12 members—at \$1,000 each that's a total of \$12,000 per team. Multiply by 10 teams, and that's an additional \$120,000 that Royal Rangers or church teams spent to help see this camp completed. In this case the total money for camp materials, travel, and expenses raised was in excess of \$230,000. I echo Missionary Doug Marsh's thanks to all of you for your commitment to excellence.

I was recently at Camp Summit for three days to review the progress of the construction and meet with eight national commanders from the region who will benefit from this camp. They wanted to express their sincere thanks to the U.S.A. teams, Royal Rangers, and churches for this investment in the future to reach boys.



I also want to express my sincere appreciation to our MAPS associate John and his wife Mary Anthony for their commitment to Costa Rica. John has done an excellent job coordinating the teams, materials, and projects to keep this moving forward. If you have been to the camp, you would agree with me that John has been a tremendous asset for Doug and Camp Summit. John will be at Camp Summit through mid-2005, then will be off to another MAPS assignment. If you have the opportunity, extend your thanks to John and Mary.

There's more! Another miracle unfolded this year! A Royal Rangers leader, Jeff Cooper, called Doug Marsh and told him that he believed God was calling him to Costa Rica and wanted to be a Royal Rangers missionary.

I can't cover all that happened in this limited space or give you all the details and answers to prayer, but I can tell you that in a short timeframe, Jeff and Dannette Cooper and their children, Zachary, Lucas and Madelin, were approved to become Royal Rangers missionaries to Costa Rica for Camp Summit. Jeff is from the Alabama district and is now itinerating to be

in Costa Rica by August 2004 to start the one-year language school before taking up his duties as Camp Summit director. Jeff is needing our help for prayer and pledges for support. If you would like to contact Jeff Cooper you may email him at jeff.cooper@agmd.org, or by telephone at (256) 268-2172 (home) and (205) 229-6519 (cell). His AGWM account number is 2937043.



We still have several projects to complete over the next 18 months. We still need additional teams from Royal Rangers and churches to help make Camp Summit a reality. If you would like more information about Camp Summit, contact Missionary Doug Marsh. You may email him at dmarsh@ag.org, or his office telephone number is (417) 862-1447, extension 4195. You can check out the Camp Summit website at www.dougmarsh.org/campsummit.php.

Rich A. Mariott

Rich Mariott, National Commander



BRONZE MEDAL of Achievement



SILVER MEDAL of Achievement



READY



GOLD MEDAL of Achievement

Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals of Achievement

Questions from the field concerning the Transition Program

by Mike LALIBERTY

QUESTION: Did the Transition GMA program end on December 31, 2003 as first planned?

ANSWER: No. It has been extended until Dec 31, 2004.

QUESTION: I've just reviewed the Bronze and Silver medal applications on the national website. I noticed that these have the Gold Bible merit or 15/30 Bible merits required. The Transition Charts on the national website did not have these. I'm assuming that boys who are using the Transition charts do not have to do the Gold Bible merit (required for the GMA only) for Bronze or Silver medals. Is that correct? Are there Transition Bronze and Silver Applications that do not have the Bible Merit requirements?

ANSWER: There were three major purposes for the transition brochure published in March 2002.

(1) To visually explain to a boy or leader how to use "merit completion" as a means for advancement using the old pins and chevrons.

(2) To indicate the equivalent advancement position (patch) the boy would start from when the outpost transitions to the new Royal Rangers program. Transitions never occurred at the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medals of Achievement. This was intentional and part of the brochure design.

(3) To visually track their advancement work to the Transition GMA.

The transition charts did not contain the 15/30 Bible merits because they did not exist at that time. Instead the Gold Bible Merit is listed in the GMA requirements column on the transition chart to indicate the need for a required Bible component for the major medals. Adding the 15/30 Bible merits to the chart would have created unnecessary confusion and requests for merits still in development at that time.

A transition application was only offered for the Gold, since Bronze and Silver Medals of Achievement are new medals to the Royal Rangers



program. The new medals require the completion of a minimum set of skill merits, Bible merit components, Christian service hours, and experience in a leadership position before they can be awarded.

QUESTION: In the Transition brochure, when Trailblazers are awarded patches based upon their current ratings in the old program, do those patches imply that they have passed a certain number of Bible merits (Those required for those patches in the new program)? Or does a boy still have to earn all the Bible merits required by the Adventure Rangers advancement trail?

ANSWER: Once the transition to the new program occurs, the Bible merit requirements become activated. This means that the boy will need to catch up, especially at the major medal steps. Although the Bible merits are designed to be completed during the Bible Study portion (10-15 minutes in length) of the meeting, the boys should be allowed to catch up by completing the Bible Study lessons on their own at home.

QUESTION: Can I apply the merits earned under the old Royal Rangers program to the new Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals of Achievement?

ANSWER: Old merits may be applied to the new Medals of Achievement as long they match the required names. You may use the merit conversion chart on our website to apply old merit names you earned under the old advancement system to new merit names required by the new medals.

For example, you may apply the old Rope Craft Merit to the GMA but you cannot apply the new Rope Craft Merit to the GMA because the new Rope Craft Merit is a red merit used by the Discovery Rangers program.

However the old Rope Craft Merit can be applied to the Gold Eagle medal because it converts to two red merits, Rope Craft and Lashing, which are required for the Gold Eagle medal.

QUESTION: It appears the Bronze and Silver Medals are approved only at the outpost level. Is that true?

ANSWER: Yes. The Bronze and Silver Medals are approved by the senior commander. He will submit them to National Royal Rangers Ministries for processing. They do not need to go to the district commander. The GMA's and Gold Buffaloes continue to go to the district commander for approval.

QUESTION: Does a commander who earned the Pioneer Long Rifle pin as a boy get to wear the Gold Falcon on his uniform?

ANSWER: No. The transition program does not grandfather leaders who had earned advancement pins or rating chevrons into the new medals. The only exception is the GMA, because it is the only medal that exists in both the old and new programs. None of the new medals existed before March 2003. The new advancements are for boys, not leaders. In today's new program a leader may earn the Bible and skill merits, but he still cannot earn the advancement awards associated with their completion.

QUESTION: Is the three month waiting period between the new Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals still required for those young men who have already earned the GMA?

ANSWER: The time limits between medals awarded are waived for those who have already earned the GMA. Please submit your Bronze, Silver Medal applications to National Royal Rangers Ministries.

QUESTION: We had three GMA recipients in our outpost during the transition period. One of the boys said they received a letter from Commander Mariott offering to award the Bronze and Silver medals as well if the boy would complete the application paperwork. Can merits earned in the old program be applied to the new Bronze and Silver Medals, and if so, what do we need to do from our end to get the paperwork submitted?

ANSWER: Yes, old merits can be applied to the Silver and Bronze Medals. Most GMA recipients have completed all the merit requirements for the Bronze and Silver Medals, including past GMA recipients who have not reached the age of 18. Usually the only items remaining to be completed by the young men are Christian service hours and time in a leadership position. Use the Old-to-New Merit Conversion Chart located on our website to convert the merits earned under the old program to the red, gold, green, and silver merits needed for the Bronze and Silver applications. Fill out applications downloaded from our website and mail them directly to National Royal Rangers Ministries.

QUESTION: Do you have any charts or guidelines that relate the new orange/brown merits to the Bible work in the old program, so we can start our boys on the merits that would most closely track their prior work?

ANSWER: No. They are completely different methods of completing the Bible requirement component. There are, however, charts listing the Bible merits by quarter for each year of Discovery and Adventure Rangers. The Bible merit listing for

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DR is located on page 11 of the "Discovery Rangers Leaders Guide" and the Bible merit listing for AR is located on page 18 of the "Adventure Rangers Leaders Guide." We recommend that the outpost allow the boys to catch up on any Bible merits that would have been covered in a previous year's work in DR and AR.

QUESTION: Does a boy who earns the Gold Bible Merit automatically get to wear the 48 orange/brown Bible merits too? Can a boy who has completed the 48 orange/brown Bible merits wear the Gold Bible Merit?

ANSWER: No to both questions. They are completely different and separate ways of earning the Bible component for the major medals.

QUESTION: Which Pioneers and Trailblazers merits should be counted to determine where to place a boy in the new Discovery or Adventure Rangers programs?

ANSWER: The leader would count all of the old merits earned under the old program to reach the transition count.

QUESTION: Does the advancement rating or the number of merits under the old program have priority?

ANSWER: Use whatever benefits the boy the most. If the boy has earned his Advanced rating in Trailblazers but only has nine merits, use the advancement as a priority. The Advanced rating gives him the new Cedar advancement step in Adventure Rangers rather than the new Long Rifle advancement step for the nine merits he's earned. To move on to the new Oak advancement step, the boy will need to catch up on his skill and Bible merits.

However, if a boy has eight merits but has only completed his Second Class rating in Trailblazers, use merits as a priority. Using the eight merits earns the boy the new Long Rifle advancement step in the Adventure Rangers rather than the new Bowie Knife advancement step for the Second Class rating.



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One Pastor's View of Royal Rangers



by Keith Butler, pastor, Assembly of God, Berryville, Arkansas

Some wonder why our church puts so much emphasis on Wednesday night ministries. My view is as follows, and I'm most happy to share why I view Royal Rangers as so important to our church.

What Jesus asked the Church to do was to go into all the world and make disciples. Many times, when we hear these words, we think of going overseas and taking the Word to those who have never heard it, but He said that we are to start in our own Jerusalem, that is what we are doing.

If we are interested in saving the sinner, we know that the ages the Royal Rangers program works with are the ages that we are most likely to have the most success. We have found that to be the case. It is our opinion that most people will be saved by the work of those working directly with the unsaved. Then they come to Sunday morning or evening services to make their public confession and be baptized.

Most of the boys that our leaders work with come to us with all the problems of third world countries. They come to us needing the feeling of being loved, care, direction, understanding, and help in improving their lives. We give them all this. We transport them, feed them, and listen to their problems. We allow them to fully participate in the program, knowing that the cost is great and that they cannot pay it.

Our leaders come to every Wednesday night service after much prayer, knowing that they are going to deal with things that only God can handle.



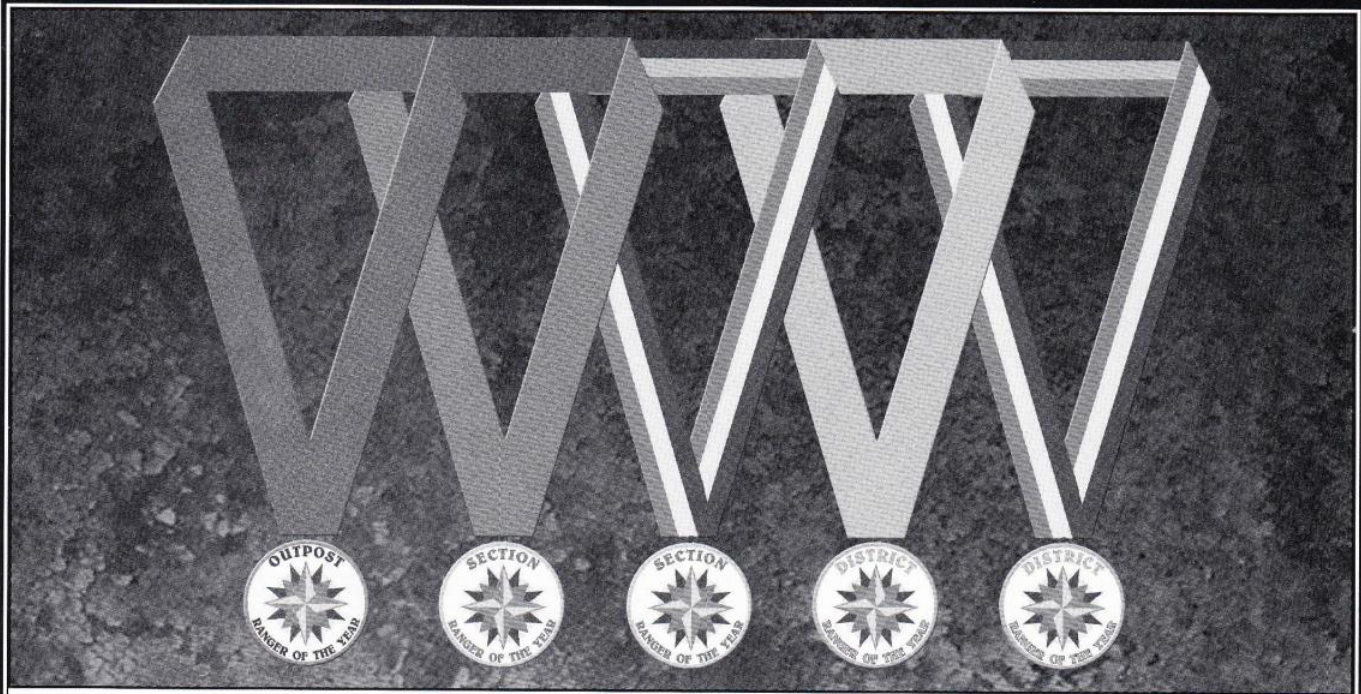
When they go on outings, they know that they are taking some boys that have never had the opportunity to do the things that other boys have done. They will be going on the outing with all the problems that they carry all the time; lack of trust, anger, envy, and a great deal of fear.

Some would say that this is a great drain on the church budget. It is! But we view it as a "Home" mission program. There is no other way to see it. If we use the Royal Rangers

program to reach every boy in our area, it is a home mission program. Just as we would not expect the very poor to be able to pay those that bring the message of Jesus to them, we cannot expect these very poor kids to pay their way.

I, as the pastor, am the leader of our Royal Rangers. I do not work directly in the program, but I back the program and talk about it every chance I get. The leaders need my prayers and those of my congregation. They need to know that I know the job is not always easy. That without the working of the Holy Spirit in their lives, they can not do the job. They and all the other missionaries that work on Wednesday night know that I am always there for them. That my door, my time, my gratitude is always here for them.

I feel that my church would not be doing the job that Jesus commissioned us to do, if we did not have the Wednesday night emphasis that we have.



Are Your Boys Ready for a Challenge?

by Brian Hendrickson

Have you encouraged your Rangers to be the best they can be for Christ? Then get ready for Ranger of the Year (ROTY)! By the end of August you should know if your boys qualify to be Outpost Royal Rangers of the Year. You can find out how they did by getting on our new website and downloading all the information about ROTY. We hope that you have set a goal of at least 30 percent of your boys earning the right to be called an Outpost Ranger of the Year.

We hope you and the boys have been working hard this past year getting ready for the new ROTY. It has been completely revised and updated to truly measure the skills of all Royal Rangers. The new ROTY program sets a high standard. It is no longer a program of boys against boys, which typically only benefits a few boys, but rather a means to encourage and challenge every Royal Ranger! Soon you

will see how ROTY pushes the boys toward earning the distinction of being a Gold Medal of Achievement earner or even becoming a national Royal Ranger of the Year.

Review the packet information to see how boys can earn the points and advancements necessary to participate in Ranger of the Year. The Ranger of the Year packet can be found on the national Royal Rangers website, <http://royalrangers.ag.org/roty>, or contact your district Royal Rangers office.

We hope you will take on the challenge and encourage your boys to participate in Ranger of the Year. The rewards they will receive will be more

than just medals and certificates but will have eternal consequences.

We look forward to hearing from your district commanders to see how your boys did! Maybe one day you will get to send a young man to us here in Springfield, Mo., so he can enjoy all the great activities associated with being a National Royal Ranger of the Year.





Where Is Your Name?

by Steve SCHULTZ

Would you like to see your name appear in "High Adventure" magazine* or on the national Royal Rangers website? How is that possible, you ask? Just take part in the 2004 National Championships! Last year we introduced this unique opportunity for boys (and men in some events) to match their skills and talents with others throughout the nation. The 2003 results are now on the national Royal Rangers website at www.royalrangers.ag.org.



Many of you are already studying and practicing to qualify for the Junior Bible Quiz Championships in Naperville, Ill., on June 10-12, 2004 or the Teen Bible Quiz Championships to be held in Palm Springs, Calif., on July 4-9, 2004, or the Fine Arts Festival in Austin,

Texas, during August 2-6, 2004. Good luck to you all. If you do not have one of these programs in your church and are interested in competing, contact your children's or youth pastor to see how you can get started.

What kind of awards can I receive, you ask? The JBQ, TBQ, and Postal Events have great awards already built into their programs. National Royal Ranger Ministries will also present special Gold, Silver, and Bronze medallions along with special certificates to the top finalists in all categories. The medallions and certificates will be mailed out after we receive the final results from each sponsor organization.

For every FCF member planning to attend the FCF National Rendezvous, start practicing with your long

ROYAL RANGERS
NATIONAL
★★★★Championships★★★★

bow and black powder rifle. These competitive events will follow the postal guidelines. Will you be the 2004 national champion in your age group?

The postal competitions may be organized and held at regional, district, sectional, or outpost levels between the dates of January 1 through October 31. The archery event is sponsored by the National Alliance for the Development of Archery, and they offer instructor classes and equipment rental so you can put on a first-class event. Have your commander contact them at www.teacharchery.org. The BB-gun, Sporter air rifle, small-bore rifle, trap shooting, and black powder rifle competitions are sponsored by the National Rifle Association's competitive shooting division. They can be contacted at Postals@nrahq.org. Brochures and information on all of the postal events can also be received from National Royal Ranger Ministries by contacting Steve Schultz at royalrangers@ag.org. As you can see there are plenty of events to choose from, so pick the ones that interest you, and let's see if you have what it takes to be a national champion. You will never know unless you try. Have you scheduled a date to compete yet?

*See the 2003 National Championship Results below.

National JBQ 2003 Results

Ten Royal Rangers placed in the top 50 at the national JBQ Championships. They will receive special recognition from the national Royal Rangers office.

Name	Place	Church
Ethan Jernigan	10	Marshfield A/G, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Santiago Continenza	13	Brainerd A/G, Brainerd, Minnesota
Billy Evans	16	Dayton Bethel Christian, Dayton, Ohio
Keenan Hauf	18	Harvestime Church, Glendale, Arizona
Scott Hengemuhle	20	Racine A/G, Racine, Wisconsin
Blake Porter	25	CAG, Dunwoody, Georgia
Stephen Hutson	26	Phoenix A/G, Phoenix, Arizona
Matthew Sinex	37	First A/G, Lafayette, Indiana
Paul Williams	44	Treasure Coast A/G, Vero Beach, Florida
James Franks	48	Glad Tidings, Omaha, Nebraska

2003 Archery Postal Results

Recurve Division

Name	Age Class	District	Outpost	Score	Place
Craig Walters	8 & under	N. Carolina	5	106	1
John Wiktorek	8 & under	N. Carolina	5	45	2
Judah Puckett	8 & under	N. Carolina	5	25	3
Brandon Douglas	9	N. Carolina	5	26	1
Josh Walters	10	N. Carolina	5	165	1
Tyler Duncan	10	N. Carolina	5	92	2
Tyler Charles	10	Penn-Del	185	74	3
Justin Huntley	11	N. Carolina	5	72	1
Chris Farley	11	N. Carolina	5	34	2
C. Hunter Cutchin	14-15	S. Dakota	23	241	1
Davis Gribble	14-15	Penn-Del	185	135	2
Travis Tyger	14-15	Penn-Del	185	71	3

NRA/ Royal Rangers BB Gun Postal Match

Place	Age	Name	City/State	Outpost	Prone	Standing	Kneeling	Total Score
1	14	Richard Reyna	Houston, TX	105	75	69	78	222
2	14	David Gribble	St. Mary's, PA	185	64	49	57	170
2	14	Travis Tyger	St. Mary's, PA	185	42	64	29	135
1	13	Rodney Reyna	Houston, TX	105	68	55	85	208
1	12	James Fink	St. Mary's, PA	102	69	26	47	142
1	11	Christopher Driver	Houston, TX	105	74	61	71	206
1	10	Justin Molina	Houston, TX	105	74	63	54	191
2	10	Tyler Charles	St. Mary's, PA	185	27	27	48	102
3	10	Eric Paulson	St. Mary's, PA	185	5	34	23	62
1	9	Joshual Cox	Houston, TX	105	76	60	64	200

NRA/ Royal Rangers Smallbore Light Rifle Postal Match

Place	Category	Name	City/State	Outpost	Prone	Standing	Kneeling	Total Score
1	Adult	LeRoy Tanner	Houston, TX	105	97	84	92	273
2	Adult	Robby Simer	Houston, TX	105	44	61	36	141
3	Adult	Eric Tanner	Houston, TX	105	65	33	36	137
4	Adult	James Laird	Houston, TX	105	38	46	39	123

NRA/ Royal Rangers Black Powder Rifle Postal Match

Place	Category	Name	City/State	Outpost	Prone	Standing	Kneeling	Total Score
1	Adult	LeRoy Tanner	Houston, TX	105	48	46	45	139



National Royal Rangers Center Camp Eagle Rock

by Rick Dostal

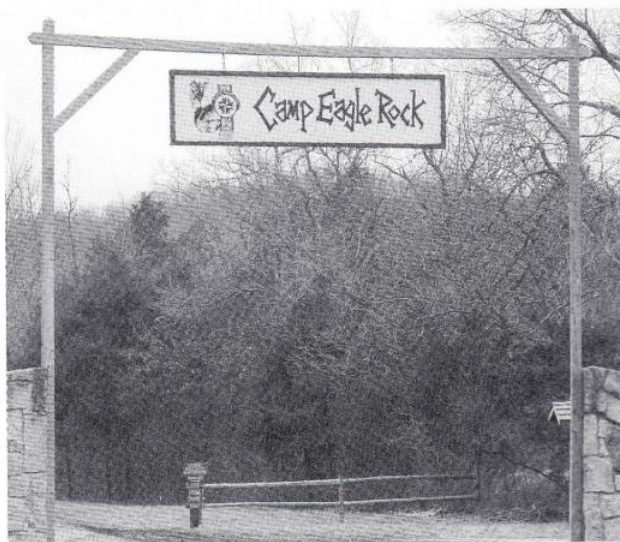
Those of you have been coming to the National Royal Rangers Center for years have noticed the changes in Camp Eagle Rock from an early 1980's cattle ranch to its transformation two years ago for Camporama. You saw the awesome improvements made for the National Camporama 2002 and said, "There's more?" Oh yes, there is more! We continued to make Camp Eagle Rock better than what you saw at that grand event. You saw better roads, more shower houses, and a lot more. For those of you who have only been there once or twice, you will see great things happening at Camp Eagle Rock too. And for those of you who have never been here, only time will tell. You won't be able to resist becoming part of the big picture after you read this, because Camp Eagle Rock has more to offer than you can imagine.

I realize that your ministry starts in the local outpost, because those of us who have the burden for boy's souls know that feeling. I have also grown to know that there is more out there when working in this awesome ministry than the local outpost. Don't get me wrong, I am positive that the local outpost is where it's at, but there is more!

It's time for the 2004 National Rendezvous, and when you come this time, you will see wider and better-maintained roads starting at the first gate. Then you will swing by the new Eagles Resort for registration at the Eagles Lodge. Don't forget to check out the seven beautiful Eagles Resort cabins.

As you drive into the campground, you will probably notice the new workshop that includes a classroom for special events and Junior Camps. Then be sure to see how great the newly painted and remodeled camp manager's home looks. As you continue along the Upper Turkey Loop, you will see many improvements at the Johnnie Barnes Lodge.

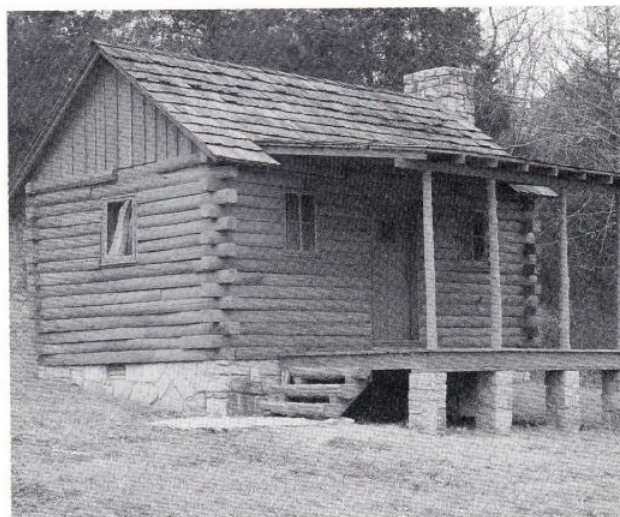
Go ahead and say to yourself, "Self, aren't these roads nicer than ever before?" It is OK to appreciate the finer



things in life. Then as you settle into your chosen campsite in the Big Lodge Meadow and decide you need a drink, go on over to one of the newly installed water faucets nearby. You can't help but notice our new shower house on the west end of the Big Lodge Meadow. It has 36 showers, as well as plenty of toilets and sinks, for your convenience and comfort.

What? You again say, "There's more?" Oh yes indeed, there is more. Be sure to stroll on down to the newest addition of our facility—Deaverton Old West Town. Yes, that is what I said, Deaverton. It is

named in honor of our respected and revered Fred and Joyce Deaver to show that we love and appreciate all they have done for the Royal Rangers ministry. True enough, words cannot say how we truly feel about Fred, our FCF president emeritus and "Mr. Senior Guide," but maybe a western town dedicated to honor and show our love for him can help. This soon-to-be historic western town, nes-





tled in the beautiful valley right next to Fort Les Hughes, has 8 bunkhouses that sleep four campers each. Each bunkhouse has its own personal storefront and a wooden sidewalk that runs the entire length of the town. Just like in the western days, a town has grown up near the old fort. It has a shaded area to lounge around in, and there are plenty of areas to explore just above and across the creek on Hawkeye Mountain. Don't forget to get your commander's permission and take a buddy.

The repelling tower is right across from the bouldering wall, just a short jaunt from Deaverton. The BMX course is just to the north and the mountain bike course is just to the south.

You can expect a lot of exciting things to happen here during the rendezvous and Camporamas in the years to come. Our ANTC and Junior Camps friends will love this place too.

The changes were funded and built primarily by our friends at Bethel Life Center in Wichita, Kan. What an awesome team! These folks came out on two separate weeklong work trips and did a fantastic job—not to mention all the fun we had together. Great morning devotions and wonderful evening fellowship were a daily treat. Mealtimes were a hoot—especially the day we witnessed Pastor's wife enjoy some of the hottest sauce we could find. Hey Sandy, don't we just love the habaneros?

The new archery range will be a hubbub of activity this year with all the new archery postal shoots starting up throughout the nation. This one will qualify for a National Postal Shoot, so don't miss out. The rifle range should look pretty good to all of you ol' black powder

purists. It too will qualify as a National Postal Shoot. After all that shooting you may even want to get on down to the two swimming pools to cool off during the warm afternoons we enjoy at Camp Eagle Rock. Then slip back into your moccasins and enjoy Traders Row. It may be the most exciting place you can imagine during National Rendezvous, with the exception of the evening council fire services.

Oh yes, there's even more! Earlier I mentioned that Rangers can become more than just working at your local outpost. Well there is more. Here is an opportunity for you to not only to come to national events like Rendezvous, Camporama and Junior Adventure Camps, but also to come with a work party and really be a part of your National Royal Rangers Center. Make your plans to enjoy that extra blessing by scheduling a trip as a volunteer with a work team coming to Camp Eagle Rock. For many it can be a Bronze Pathfinder trip and for others a MAPS trip. You can even earn Trappers Brigade points for your time here.

Deaverton is available to rent for your Rangers camps, youth camps, retreats, or day events.

There is plenty of room for district powwows and other camps. Divisional and section events could be held here also. All the other facilities are available for rent too. The Eagles Resort can handle Rangers, Missionettes, men's, women's, couple's, family, and youth camps and retreats. The Johnnie Barnes Lodge is a great place for church and camp retreats.

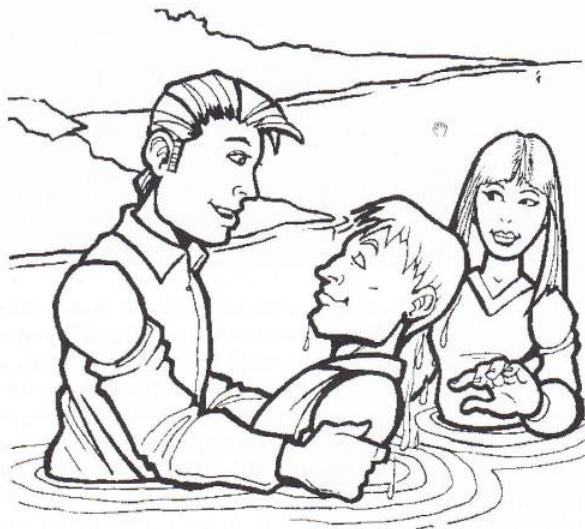
Make your plans now to visit Camp Eagle Rock for the time of your life!





True Missionary Stories

by David BOYD



Running On Empty

One day, Missionary Alfred Perna Sr. and his son traveled to a water baptism service in Mola di Bari, Italy. This city is located along the eastern coast of Italy, on the Adriatic Sea. God was moving in this area, and many people were giving their lives to Jesus. As a result, these new converts wanted to be baptized. Missionary Perna held a baptismal service in the beautiful blue waters of the Adriatic Sea.

The baptismal service was really special, and many hearts were touched. Afterwards, Missionary Perna had a Communion service with everyone there. He then preached a powerful message to all those hungry hearts who so loved their Savior, Jesus.

The people in this part of Italy were very poor. They sacrificed from the little they had in order to feed the missionary during his visit for the baptismal service. The pastor at the church in Mola di Bari was also very poor. His daughter was very ill, and he couldn't even afford to buy medicine for her.

Missionary Perna was also having financial difficulties, but he felt led to give the pastor some money. The pastor wept with gratitude upon receiving the money.

It was time for Missionary Perna to begin his drive back home. As he got into his car, he realized that he only had enough money left to buy six gallons of gas. He lived near Rome, which was 400 miles away. He could never make it on that amount of gas! What would he do?

All Missionary Perna knew to do was pray. So he and

his son prayed and asked God to help them. When they finished praying, they started the long drive home. What would happen to them? Would they run out of gas along the way in the middle of nowhere? What would they do?

As they approached the city of Naples, the needle on the gas gauge showed that the gas tank was almost empty. Missionary Perna had no money, yet they had to make it home. All he and his son could do was pray again.

They left Naples trusting God to take care of them. As they continued to drive into the night, the gas gauge seemed to be frozen on the same spot. The needle didn't move.

Finally, they arrived in Rome. As they turned the last corner, the car gave its final gasp and stopped in front of their apartment gate. God had done a miracle! They made it all the way home with the little gas they had started with.

God provided for them and took care of them. They didn't get stranded. They trusted God, and God made sure they made it home safely!

The information for this story was provided by Missionary Alfred Perna Sr., and is used with permission from Assemblies of God World Missions.



An Invasion of Ants

The bed where Missionary Murray Brown lay was on the fifth floor of a hospital in Kumasi, Ghana, a country in Africa. His hands, abdomen, and legs were heavily bandaged. He had been accidentally burned in an explosion. The burns on his right palm were so deep that the muscles and ligaments were exposed.

"For burns as deep as these," his doctor advised, "you will have to have grafted skin."

Very early one morning as Murray Brown lay there awake, he saw a procession of African army ants creep across the floor of his room. With horror he watched them come toward his bed. Up they crawled until they



reached his body. Then they crawled under the bandages to chew at his tortured flesh.

African army ants are horrible creatures. They travel in large colonies looking for food. They are carnivorous, which means they eat other creatures. These colonies will eat everything in sight, including insects, lizards, snakes, chickens, pigs, goats, and birds. They will even eat other large animals and people who cannot get away. Even elephants run from an army of these terrible ants.

Now you know why Missionary Murray Brown was terrified when he saw these ants enter his hospital room. He could not get up to run away, and he knew these ants would eat him alive.

"Help!" Mr. Brown cried. But at that early hour there was no nurse on that hospital floor to hear his cry. "Isn't there anyone to help me?" he called. But no one answered. Three times he repeated his anguished cry.

In Scottsbluff, Nebraska, it was the middle of the night. A friend of Missionary Brown's, who lived in that city, was in bed sound asleep. Suddenly, he was wakened by a cry of distress. Thinking it might be one of his children, he got up and went to look at them. But they were all sleeping soundly.

After returning to his bed, he again heard a cry for help. Once more he went to look at the children. But they were all still asleep.

The next time he returned to his bed, this friend distinctly heard these words, "Help! Isn't there anyone to help me?"

He awakened his wife. "I've just heard Missionary Murray Brown's voice," he said. "He is calling for help."

This man and his wife prayed for their friend. They had no idea what his need might be. But they prayed and prayed until they were assured victory had come.

No one came to the missionary's aid that morning in the hospital in Kumasi.

But suddenly, to his amazement, Missionary Brown saw those ants turn and leave his bed. They crawled away, across the floor, and disappeared, just as though someone had called them. Murray Brown felt peace as he knew God had heard his cries and saved him from the African army ants. Now he could sleep peacefully.

Later, when the doctor came to remove the bandages, Murray Brown told the doctor about the army ants. The doctor couldn't believe it. Because the ants had crawled under the bandages, he feared that there would be lots of damage to Murray Brown's skin and body. The doctor slowly removed the bandages and was completely surprised. He found that the skin was healing even on the right hand that had been so badly burned. Murray Brown's healing was so complete that there was no need to graft skin. Now he has only a tiny scar on one thigh to remind him of his dreadful experience. God had not only saved Murray Brown from the African army ants, but God had completely healed him and his burns.



Many months later, Mr. Brown learned from his friend in Scottsbluff how God had allowed him to hear the missionary's voice, although he was on the other side of the world. It was at the exact time that Murray Brown was being attacked by the

African army ants. Missionary Brown also learned how his friend prayed and prayed for his protection even though he didn't know what was wrong. Now Murray Brown understood why the ants had turned and crawled away. It was because of the power of prayer!

The information from this story came from Moving Mountains and is used with permission from Assemblies of God World Missions.

Continued on next page —



True Missionary Stories

— continued —



A Modern-Day Elijah

Bapa Timmy lived in a mountain village on Buru, one of the thousands of islands that make up the Republic of Indonesia. As a young boy, Bapa Timmy practiced animism. He worshiped his ancestors, and did his best to please the evil spirits he believed were in rocks, trees, and other objects.

One day, tragedy struck Bapa's family. Ten of his brothers and sisters died. In his sorrow, Bapa turned from his animism and began to search for the unknown God he believed must exist somewhere. God began to reveal himself to Bapa, who gave up his former religion and asked God to forgive his sins.

Several years later, Bapa Timmy met an Assemblies of God believer who explained the Bible to him. Bapa, who had never learned to read or write, went to a Bible school in Indonesia to learn more about Jesus. He returned to his village and won many people in the area to Christ.

Not everyone was happy about Bapa's decision to

reject the customs of his village. One day 30 men came out of the mountains and attacked Bapa. They nearly beat him to death. Within a week, however, Bapa had recovered, yet all but six of his attackers had died. Those who remained were afflicted with various sicknesses. Believing they were being punished for their evil deed, they returned to Bapa and joined him in following the true God—Jesus.

One day, the village witch doctors gathered around Bapa Timmy's house. "We want to know if your God is real," they said. "Pray and see if He will send us rain."

For nine months no rain had fallen on Bapa Timmy's village in Indonesia. All the crops had withered and died. A recent forest fire had left the land charred and barren. The witch doctors had prayed to their false gods, but nothing happened. Desperate, they challenged Bapa Timmy to pray to his God too.

Bapa Timmy knew this was the perfect opportunity to show these witch doctors and all the people in the village that the Lord Jesus Christ was the one true God. Bapa prayed and asked God for rain. Later he told the witch doctors exactly what day and time the rains would come.

On the morning of the appointed day, the sky was bright and clear with no rain in sight. The people of the village wondered what would happen. Was Bapa Timmy's



God the true God? If He was, would it rain? It didn't look like rain would be possible on this sunny day.

But at midday, the time Bapa announced, drew near, the storm clouds started to gather. The sky began to grow dark. The people of the village, and the witch doctors, gathered outside to see what was happening.

Soon rain poured down all over the entire village and the surrounding area, except for the spot where the witch doctors stood! Everything and everyone else got wet, but them. No rain touched them. It was quite the sight to see! God was teaching these witch doctors a lesson, and God was showing the people of the village that He was the true God. The crops all got water, and the



land was no longer dry. God answered Bapa Timmy's prayer. The people of the village were amazed. Bapa Timmy's God was the true God!

When Bapa visited a village called Danu Rana, more than 100 people were waiting for him. They had never heard Bapa speak, but they had already decided to accept his God. When Bapa arrived, the Holy Spirit fell. All of those present began to speak in other tongues.

Bapa Timmy lived another 35 years. He died in 1988 at age 91. But his godly influence lives on in the 13 churches that were started through his ministry. A modern-day Elijah, he showed many people the way to God.

This story came from Whosoever, 1991, and is used with permission from Assemblies of God World Missions.

Generation Rangers

by Martin W. Lotz, Sr.

Little did I know that someday I would have three generations of Royal Rangers leaders in my family. Looking back to when I first started in Rangers, God has blessed me with a Rangers family. My nephew, Roger Myers, was senior commander at Industry Assembly of God, Industry, Ill., and needed help with the large group of young fellows he had. Within his outpost were my three sons and three grandsons. I loved going camping and decided I would join the group in a campout. I was hooked! I started leadership training and became an outpost commander. My, how the Lord has blessed over the past few years!

The boys are now young men and serving the Lord in other churches. Dan Lotz is senior commander at Macomb A/G, Macomb, Ill. Dan's son, Jeff, is a Pioneer and has been a winner in sectional and divisional competition. James is the youth leader at Virginia A/G, Virginia, Ill. Joe attends Industry A/G where he teaches a Sunday school class. Martin, Jr., lives in Jacksonville, Ill., and attends Jacksonville Assembly.

I love Royal Rangers and believe every boy needs to be involved in the Rangers program to grow physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially.



(L to R) Back Row:

James Lotz, grandson;
Dan Lotz, son; Joe Lotz, son;
Martin Lotz, Jr., son;
Martin Lotz, Sr.;

Front Row:

Jeff Lotz, grandson

Church Reaches Children in Rural Community

Used from AG News #812, February 28, 2003

Sunday school at First Assembly of God in Spiro, Okla., is more than a Sunday-only event. In this community of 2,200 where families drive 20 minutes west to shop at the nearest Wal-Mart and 25 minutes east to work in Fort Smith, Ark., the church built an activity building that reaches more than 300 children and teens a week. The building is part of a church complex that includes a fenced playground as well as a Christian education building for Sunday school.

Church members arrive at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays to make meals for nearly 100 children, some of whom otherwise would have to choose between eating or going to church.

Eight church vans pick up more than 100 of the children and teens who attend. Kids play video games or air hockey or shoot hoops while they wait to eat. After the meal, the 30 volunteers become teachers.

Nearly 100 teens gather in the church sanctuary for contemporary worship, interactive games, a biblical message, and time at the altar. The children—led by Scott Harrison, a church member who joined the church staff 5 years ago—separate into Rainbows, Royal Rangers, and Missionettes for 30 minutes. Then they have children's church in their own sanctuary, which is constructed to look like Noah's ark. Meanwhile in the gymnasium, 70 adults gather around tables for fellowship and Bible study.

The focus on children, Senior Pastor Robert Hill said, comes from his belief that children are the heritage and future of the church. "We wanted to minister to our children, and they started inviting their friends, so we expanded," said Hill, 53, First Assembly's pastor for 22 years. "Fifteen years from now, they're going to be the ones having an impact on the church."

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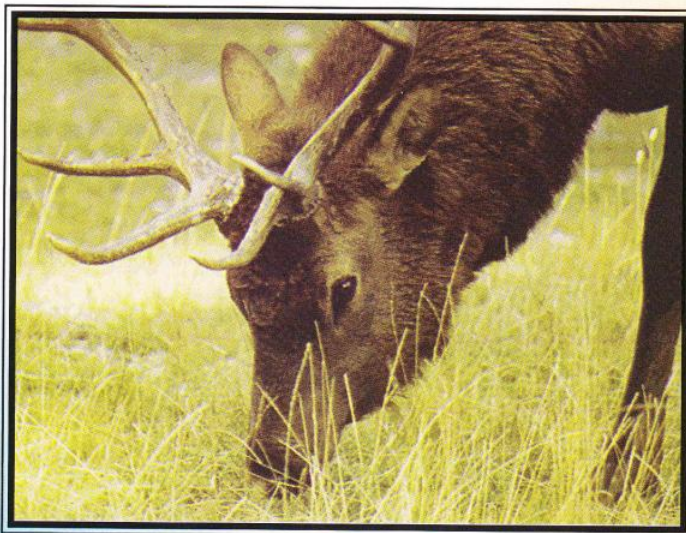
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stored energy helps the mother elk when they nurse, rear, and protect the baby elks or calves.

Elk have antlers, big ones. The antlers of a bull elk grow throughout its life. When the elk is 2 years old his antlers will be about 15-18 inches long. When a bull is mature, at about 10 or 11 years old, his antlers will be mature also. At this time the elk's antlers can be up to 5 feet long and weigh 25-40 pounds. Elk with 10 points per antler have been observed. Antlers a little over 6 feet long have been recorded. After 11 or 12 years of age, antlers weaken in quality and become smaller. Some old bulls have been observed with only spikes.

As well as having gigantic bodies and antlers, elk have mammoth voices. Elks make a sound called a bugle. Both bulls and cows bugle. There are bull versions and cow versions of these bugles. A bull's bugle begins with a low, stirring, clear note and rises to



a loud, high-pitched, shrill whistle or scream and ends with a series of short grunts. The whistle echoes and is heard over long distances. The other sounds do not travel like the whistles of the bull do. Bull bugling is heard during breeding season, especially in the evening. It is a dare or a challenge to other bulls. The louder the bugle, the more dominant that elk will be. The larger-bodied

bulls produce deeper-pitched bugles.

Cows bugle in a lower key and with a softer tone—one could think of it as a more ladylike bugle. Cow bugling is generally heard in the spring, not during breeding season.

Elk are fascinating creatures and certainly a wonder to look at in the wild. When taking their size into consideration, it is a good thing that they are buglers, because an elk playing the ukulele would be a funny sight.

Hello,

I joined Royal Rangers about a year and a half ago. It has been a dramatic help in my life. Since then, I've been making straight A's in school, I won my school spelling bee, and my outlook on life has improved. I'm in Adventure Rangers, and I am the senior guide in my outpost. I am only one gold merit away from earning my Bronze Medal of Achievement, and I need only my Fire Craft Merit to join FCF. My commanders and friends at church are just great, and they help me with everything. I am just thankful that God has allowed me to know His Son, and also to get involved with Royal Rangers.

Sincerely,

Adventure Ranger David "Long Rifle" Manley, senior guide, First Assembly of God, Winston-Salem, N.C.

ROYAL RANGERS ADVENTURES

STORY-COLOR-LETTERS: CRAIG SCHUTT
ART: TOM LYLE

Today we biked *ten miles* on the Piney Creek Trail. Has to be one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen...



Could this be any cooler? We saw so many animals today: armadillos, woodpeckers, deer--even a bobcat. But I think I liked the blue heron the best...



...but I was kinda surprised at how *interesting* trees and plants can be. Albert's our "resident expert" on such things and tried to show me how to tell the difference between a dogwood, hackberry and redbud tree. At least I can spot an oak or short leaf pine.



About halfway through our ride, we saw a kid named Preston by the side of the road. He had a flat and had **banged** his knee up a little.

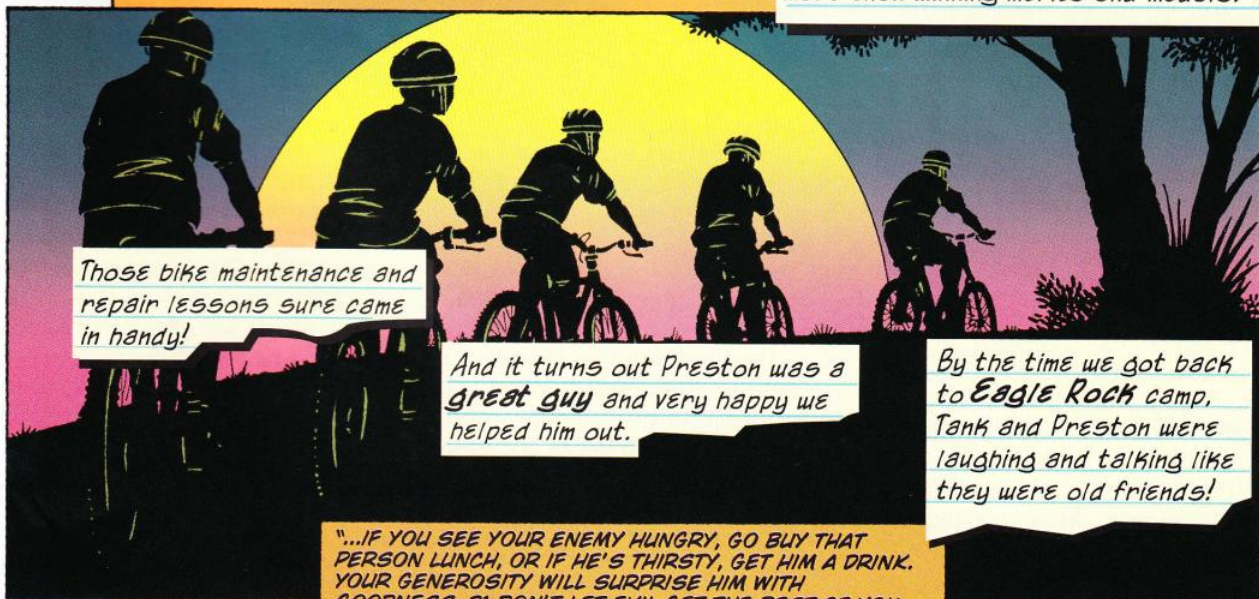
Tank and Preston have played football against each other ever since they were little guys, and I guess their schools have a huge **grudge** going.



So Tank told us not to help to just ride on by and **ignore** Preston.



We **almost** did, too. But Spitz decided to help. He reminded us about the story that **Jesus** told about the Good Samaritan and how being a **Royal Ranger** is about more than winning merits and medals.



Those bike maintenance and repair lessons sure came in handy!

And it turns out Preston was a **great guy** and very happy we helped him out.

By the time we got back to **Eagle Rock** camp, Tank and Preston were laughing and talking like they were old friends!

"...IF YOU SEE YOUR ENEMY HUNGRY, GO BUY THAT PERSON LUNCH, OR IF HE'S THIRSTY, GET HIM A DRINK. YOUR GENEROSITY WILL SURPRISE HIM WITH GOODNESS. 21 DON'T LET EVIL GET THE BEST OF YOU; GET THE BEST OF EVIL BY DOING GOOD."

--ROMANS 12:13-21 (THE MESSAGE)

"Look! Footprints," cried Jack as he held his magnifying glass over a patch of mud. "They're so small I almost missed them."

Alex looked over Jack's shoulder. At first all he could see was mud. Then he saw the little prints. "I'd say that's a frog's footprint," Alex said.

"I'd say you were right, frog breath," Jack said with a laugh. He looked the prints over carefully. "I spy faint round marks at the end of each toe."

Alex smiled as he flipped through his guidebook on animals. "I spy" was their code for seeing something they didn't see at first.

"Maybe it's a tree frog. It says they have suction cups at the end of their toes."

"That would help the frog hold on to the tree," Jack added.

Jack and Alex looked slowly up a nearby tree. But they didn't see any frogs.

"So, where a—?"

Alex stopped Jack before he could finish.

"Listen," whispered Alex.

At first they didn't hear anything. Then, quite near, they heard the croaking of a frog. They stood very still and looked in the direction of the sound. Suddenly, something jumped past them and landed on the tree. Jack slowly walked toward the tree. There sat a little frog.

"Wow, cool green!" he whispered.

Alex found a picture of a green tree frog.

"I think this is him," Alex said pointing to the picture.

"Let's find out." Jack took out his tape measure. "He's two and a half inches long."

"Check."

"There's a white stripe from his jaw all the way down to his thigh."

"Check."

"There are suction cups at the end of each of his toes."

"It's him!" Alex said excitedly. "It says here his legs are 1 1/2 times the length of his head and body. He can leap 10 feet." Alex touched the frog. It was smooth and wet, but not slimy. Suddenly the frog leaped away.

"If we find two more animals, we're done with our homework," said Jack as they walked down the path. They took turns using the magnifying glass. They followed a trail of ants carrying food to their nest, spied an orange monarch

butterfly resting on a blue cornflower, and watched a green caterpillar making his way to a nearby bush.

"I hope we find more footprints," Alex said, looking at the ground.

"Mother Nature gives clues but requires careful looking. Aha! A clue," said Jack, holding up an empty can. Alex laughed as Jack impersonated the litterbug. Just then they heard a very loud noise, followed by the sound of cans rattling.

"Let's go see," said Alex. But they stopped, not sure where to go. Then they heard the rattling again. They ran toward the noise. As they rounded the corner the noise stopped. They ran further down the path and found a garbage can on its side. The contents were spilled all over the ground.

"Whoa! What's that smell?" said Alex

holding his nose.

"P.U., I think that's skunk stink!"

"Look at all these footprints," said Alex as he pulled out the magnifying glass. "I spy a smaller-sized print next to a larger one."

Just then the garbage can moved. A small black animal with two white stripes running down its back, crept out.

"Skunk!" screamed the boys. They ran to the nearest tree and scrambled up the closest branch.

Alex and Jack looked down and saw the skunk walking toward them. It stopped and sniffed the air. Then it suddenly began to fluff its fur and shake its bushy tail.

"What's he doing? Some kind of dance?"

Alex quickly flipped through his guidebook. "He's warning us not to come any closer. If we do he'll spray us!"

They held their breath and tried not to move. The skunk stood there, looking at them, then turned and went back to the garbage. They both let out a sigh of relief.

"Well, he did spray something," Jack whispered to Alex. "Those larger prints belong to a different animal."

"I didn't get a good look."

"Me neither."

Alex and Jack continued to watch the skunk eat. It didn't seem to care that the boys were there anymore.

"Let's try to reconstruct the scene," Alex suggested. "We have a garbage can on its side and garbage everywhere. There are two different types of footprints."

"But we only see the skunk," added Jack.

"That's too big of a can for a little skunk to knock over."

"So, who did? And what happened to them?"

"Maybe it was just passing by."

"Then why did the skunk zap him?" Jack asked. "They must have fought over the garbage."

The boys watched as the skunk walked back into the forest. They looked up at the sky and at the trees around them. Then Jack noticed that the tree across from where they were was staring back at him.

"Alex, look," he said, pointing to the tree. They both started to laugh. There, clinging to a branch, was an animal with a large bushy tail and a black facemask with two white patches above its eyes.

"It's a raccoon!" cried Jack. Both boys scrambled to the ground.

"The raccoon must have knocked over the garbage."

"And just when he thought it was easy pickings Mr. Skunk shows up."

"That raccoon is just as scared of the skunk as we are." They looked up at the raccoon but he didn't move.

"I think he's afraid of us," said Alex. "Let's go."

Alex and Jack walked back to the entrance of the forest preserve. They were a little tired and hungry.

"Well, we've got our three animals," said Alex. "The green tree frog, the skunk, and the raccoon."

"Wait, I smell another clue," cried Jack, and took off down the block.

"Not another skunk," moaned Alex. "Wait for me." They ran across the street.


"There," said Jack. "I spy Johnny's Beef Café. Time for lunch."

"Do you really think that skunk would have sprayed us?" asked Jack between bites of his roast beef sandwich.

Alex joked, "Nah, you stink already, Frog Breath."

I Spy — Mother Nature

by Loretta CARAVETTE



The Ariel was the first all metal bicycle. James Starley and William Hillman patented this invention in 1870. It's front wheel measured 50 inches and the rear wheel measured 14 inches. Notice the detail of the tensioned (meaning it could be tightened) suspension wheel used on this bicycle. Line drawing courtesy of www.pedalinghistory.com

Up and Carefully *AWAY!*

by Sandy McPherson CARRUBBA

Before 1870, children did not own bicycles. Few women rode them. Why? Before 1870, men made bicycles out of wood. Imagine trying to move such a heavy thing! Men read books about how to ride their bicycles. An 1874 book titled "A Textbook For Early Riders" warned riders to expect to fall. "Balancing must be learned," the author says on page 6. "The rest comes by practice. When going down a gentle slope, do not pedal."

To get on a bicycle more than 100 years ago, riders did not just throw their legs over and ride away. The bicycles had front wheels almost taller than men. Riders had to mount them carefully. The 1874 textbook says on page 8, "Take the machine by both handles. Place the left toe upon the step (in the back). Take two or three short hops. Raise yourself on the step and drop into the saddle." The book also tells riders to have someone to help.

Then English inventors James Starley and William Hillman designed a better and lighter bicycle. Starley built the tension wheel in 1870. Today's bicycles use a tension wheel but with fewer spokes than Starley's.

Starley arranged the spokes on a slant. He fastened them to the rim of the wheel. Riders could tighten the spokes to keep the wheel from flopping. One hundred years ago, cobblestone roads made riding dangerous. Cobblestone roads had spaces between the stones. Some stones stuck up higher than others. What a bumpy ride! Loose stones made balancing on bicycles hard for riders to do. Wheels that did not stay stiff caused accidents. Starley, the inventor, solved that problem with his tension wheel.

Once on their bicycles, men enjoyed riding high above muddy, wet roads. Sometimes they fell off their bicycles by flying over the handlebars. Such accidents are called headers today, just as they were back then.

Starley and Hillman called their machine the Ariel. Men copied that bicycle for 20 years. The Ariel's metal parts made it lighter and easier to pedal than earlier bicycles. Today's bicycles contain still lighter metal.

The Ariel was known as a High Wheel. It had a 50-inch front wheel and a smaller 14-inch back wheel. High Wheels were sometimes called Ordinaries too. Ordinary people could buy them. English people also called them Penny Farthings, because they reminded them of coins they used, the big penny and the little farthing.

Larger wheels on bicycles turn faster. The farther a wheel goes around with each turn of the pedals, the more speed it makes. Starley's and Hillman's Ariel could go as fast as 20 miles per hour!

Imagine how horses panicked when High Wheels raced toward them! Speeding High Wheels frightened horses pulling carriages. Some towns would not allow bicycles in parks so the horses would not run away.

Men continued to make the bicycle better with each new invention. We can thank Starley and Hillman, among many other inventors who improved the "riding machine." They helped make the bicycle we know and ride today.

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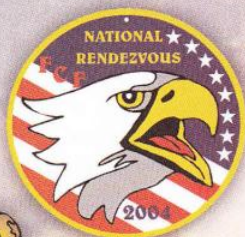
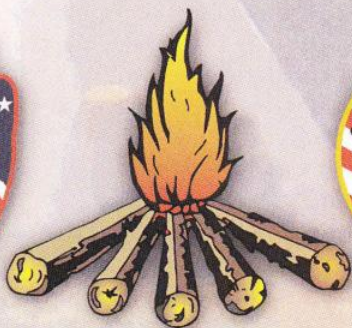
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Joseph & the Coat of Many Colors

— Genesis 37 —

Read the story of Joseph in the Bible,
then search for words from the story
in the puzzle below.

You will find words up, down, forward,
backward, and diagonal.

P	R	F	J	O	S	E	P	H	D	S	J
D	R	E	A	M	C	T	W	P	L	C	E
S	L	C	C	T	O	A	S	I	O	O	A
L	G	I	O	S	H	A	M	T	S	L	L
A	Y	P	B	T	M	E	B	E	A	O	O
V	P	S	A	R	O	P	R	L	L	R	U
E	T	O	F	L	O	C	K	S	O	S	S
R	C	D	A	S	N	T	A	H	T	O	K
Y	G	O	A	T	M	W	H	E	A	T	D
R	E	V	L	I	S	E	L	E	V	E	N
S	H	E	A	V	E	S	A	P	R	I	U
C	A	N	A	A	N	B	A	L	M	S	S

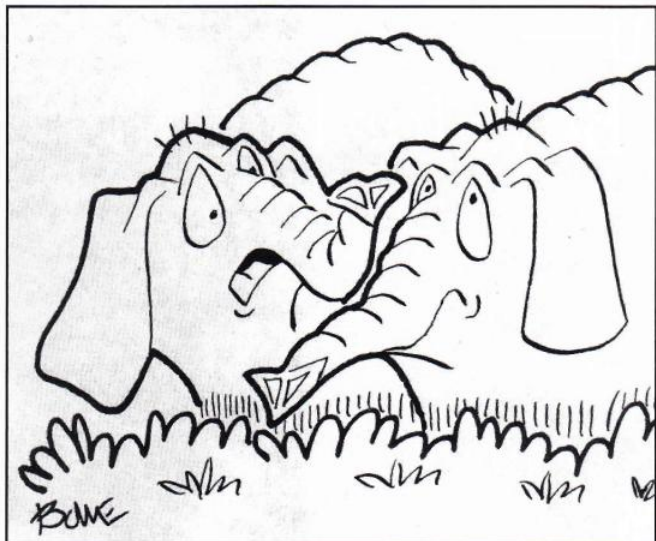
Word List:

Egypt	sad
eleven	sheaves
father	sheep
flocks	silver
goat	slavery
Jacob	sold
Joseph	spice
jealous	stars
moon	sun
pit	wheat

— Puzzle solution on next page

Why was the lamp flunking his classes? *He wasn't very bright.*

Why did the computer squeak? *Somebody stepped on the mouse!*



"Bob, how could you forget my birthday, we're twins?"

What did the dentist give the marching band?

A tuba toothpaste!

Why did the man throw the butter out the window?

He wanted to see butterfly!

Why did the man throw his clock out the window?

He wanted to see time fly!

Do you know how to make your hanky dance?

Add a little Boogie!

What kind of horse never wins a race?

A sawhorse!

What did the grape do when the fat man stepped on it?

It gave out a little wine!

COMEDY CORNER



"If you've got your heart set on fish for supper — you'd better take Monte with you."



"How come you never fix hot dogs like this at home, Mom?"

P	R	E	L	O	S	E	P	H	D	S	A
D	R	E	A	M	C	T	W	P	L	C	E
S	K	C	C	T	O	A	S	I	O	A	V
L	G	I	O	S	H	A	M	A	L	L	I
A	V	P	B	T	M	E	R	E	A	O	O
V	P	A	R	O	P	*	L	R	U	W	U
E	A	O	F	L	O	C	*	S	O	S	S
R	C	B	A	S	M	T	A	H	T	O	K
Y	G	O	A	I	M	W	H	E	A	T	D
R	E	V	L	I	S	E	L	T	V	E	N
S	H	E	A	V	E	S	A	V	E	R	U
G	A	N	A	V	A	N	B	A	L	M	S

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