

Introducing—

ROYAL RANGERS



A New Division of the Men's Fellowship Department of the Assemblies of God

By HOWARD S. BUSH, *Executive Director, Men's Fellowship Department*

BOYS PROGRAMS ARE NOT NEW. FOR many years civic-minded individuals have promoted both boys and girls programs to encourage good citizenship and character building. Taking a cue from these programs, various denominations and churches have launched similar plans, feeling that churches likewise should do more for boys and girls.

Statistics reveal that many boys, upon reaching college age, lose their grip on God and are lost to the church. When we realize that approximately 15,000 young people from Assemblies of God homes are receiving a college education in secular institutions in America—where their full-gospel faith will be challenged and threatened for four years or more—we are faced with the need of offering youth a program earlier in life that will stabilize them spiritually. We dare not wait until their college days before trying to save them.

We have over 100,000 boys in our Assemblies of God churches. Our obligation is clear: we must hold these boys, and we also must enlist new boys into our ranks. Our churches need the vigor, alertness, and enthu-

siasm that boys can provide. Boys, in turn, need the warm, spiritual guidance and help of our churches.

During the last decade, the Assemblies of God has studied the growing demand for a boys program. Christian boys clubs, on a national scale, have been created to meet a need in various church organizations. Many of our alert pastors have already organized boys clubs in their churches.

Although many of our churches already have boys club activities, the Lord seemed to direct the attention of Assemblies of God leaders toward developing a program which not only would incorporate all the advantages of the regularly established national programs, but which also would include a thoroughly Pentecostal slant—with deep spiritual emphases. This accounts for the birth of the new boys program of the Assemblies of God—the ROYAL RANGERS.

The General Council Executives have selected Johnnie Barnes, former C. A. president of the North Texas District, to supervise this new division. Brother Barnes has given much thought and prayer to the new boys program which has been cleared step by step

as a part of the Men's Fellowship Department of the General Council.

The ROYAL RANGERS should be recognized as a *part* of the whole church program. It is not designed to take the place of any other part, nor to overlap any other church activities. It is intended to fill needs in the active life of a boy and to prepare him for strong, virile manhood—as a Spirit-filled Christian with a world outlook and vision.

The ROYAL RANGERS program recognizes the great potential that all boys possess, and will seek to channel that potential into avenues of leadership in the church—both at home and abroad. Another aim of the new boys program is to develop Christian leaders in the secular world—in business, industrial, and civic life.

I appeal to every member of the Assemblies of God to open your heart to our boys. They need all the help we can give them. Boys need to be understood and guided. The decade of a boy's life beginning at nine is subject to great changes in development—spiritually, mentally, and physically. His interests suffer violent changes. Often he is regarded as totally unpredictable. Hence the selection of leadership for this program is of utmost importance. Surely there are men in every local church who have a burden for the boys of their congregation.

God give us men who will lead boys, with understanding hearts and minds; men who have not forgotten the days when they were boys; men who will be willing to share their time with boys; men who will do their best to mold young lives, according to the Book; men who will recognize that the time to shape boys' lives is when they are young and tender in heart; men who will unstintingly serve God, the church, and BOYS.

Pastors, this new program will bless your church, your men, your boys,



Johnnie Barnes, wearing the uniform of a Royal Rangers leader, and his son are ready for some of the outdoor activities included in the new boys program.