

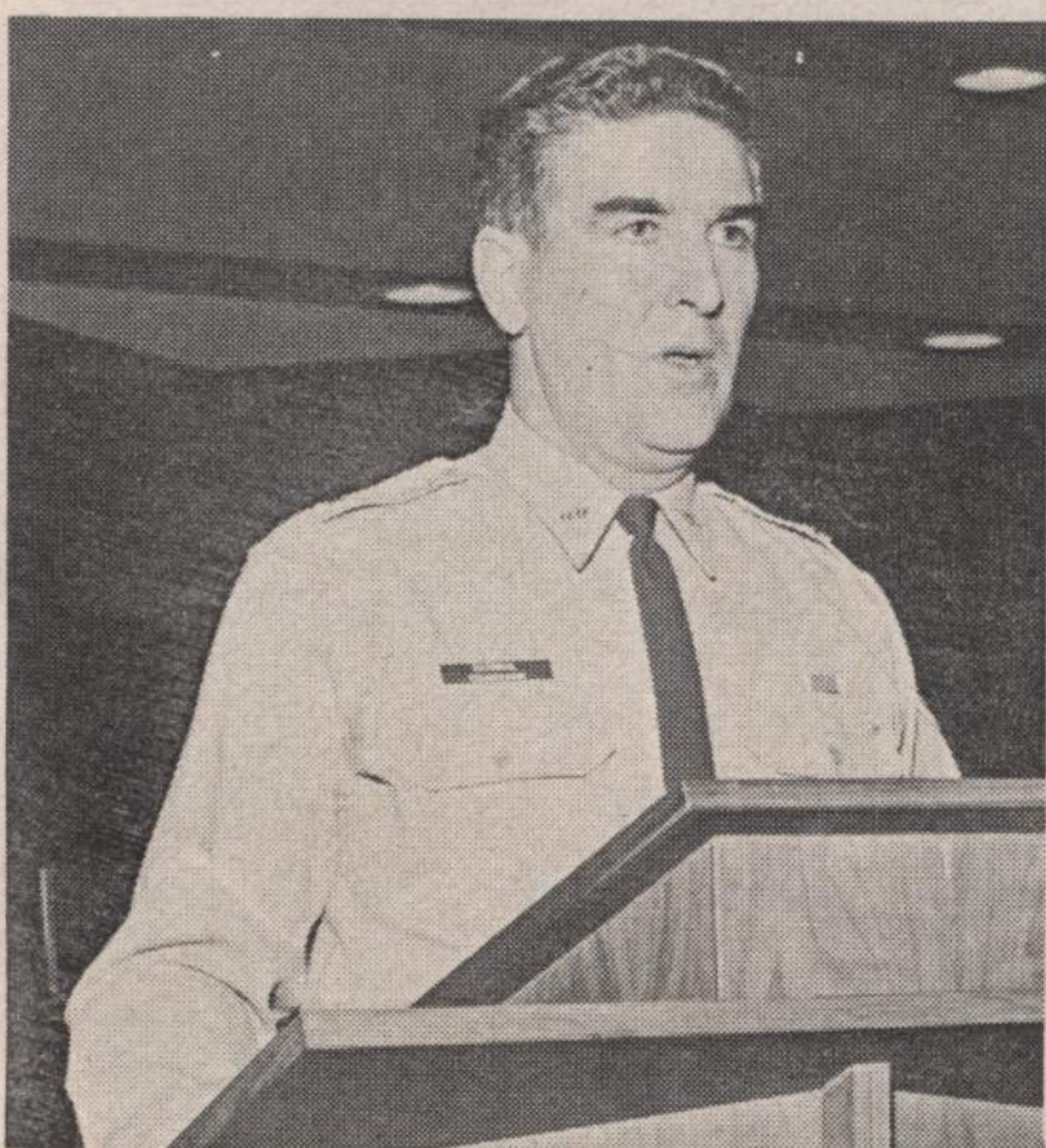
Photo at left: District Commanders repeat their pledge of office in the commissioning ceremony. Right: Warren McPherson, national councilman, leads the singing. The General Council Men's Chorus (in background) sang the new Royal Rangers song and other selections. Uniformed men on the platform are members of the national advisory council.



T. F. Zimmerman speaks at the commissioning service.



Howard S. Bush, executive director of Men's Fellowship, is ranking officer in the Royal Rangers.



Burton Pierce, national MF secretary, is a national councilman in the Royal Rangers.

# DISTRICT COMMANDERS

## Commissioned in Impressive Royal Rangers Ceremony

THE AUDITORIUM OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD headquarters in Springfield, Mo., was the scene of a historic event March 15 when twenty District Commanders were commissioned for service in the Royal Rangers. Though the new boys' organization was introduced last September, the commissioning of the District Commanders was the first public ceremony of an official nature.

Howard S. Bush gave the charge. After the district leaders gave their response in unison, Brother Bush, who, by virtue of his position as executive director of the Men's Fellowship Department of the Assemblies of God, is ranking officer in the Royal Rangers, commissioned the group and prayed God's blessing upon them.

The District Commanders will spearhead the forming of local Royal Rangers outposts in their districts from coast to coast. Already more than 100 outposts have been fully chartered. Many other groups of boys are meeting regularly but have not yet met all the requirements for chartering.

District Commanders have the rank of lieutenant colonel and Outpost Commanders wear the insignia of captains. Military titles are one of the features that distinguish Royal Rangers from other scouting organizations. The motto is "Ready." There are three divisions: the boys nine to eleven years of age are known as Pioneers; those twelve to fourteen are called Trailblazers; while the fifteen- to seventeen-year-olds are either Air Rangers or Sea Rangers.

Featured speaker at the commissioning service was T. F. Zimmerman, General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God. "This is

a historic moment," he said, addressing the new District Commanders. "You will be pioneering the Royal Rangers program in your districts. Sometimes pioneering requires hardship and sacrifice, but there is great satisfaction in being one who breaks trail as a pioneer."

Brother Zimmerman expressed great appreciation for the Men's Fellowship Department which sponsors the Royal Rangers. He commended the executive director, the national secretary, the national advisory council, and others, particularly Johnnie Barnes who carried the major responsibility for formulating the new program, selecting the uniform, designing the insignia, producing the manuals, etc.

Members of the national advisory council of the Royal Rangers include Burton W. Pierce, Everett James, Warren McPherson, Ralph Harris, and David Johnston. Johnnie Barnes is chairman of the council and Howard Bush is an ex officio member.

Music during the service was provided by the General Council Men's Chorus, who introduced the official Royal Rangers song, and a quartet of CBI students called "Men of Song."

Serving as honor guard as the District Commanders marched into the auditorium were Outpost Commander Bob Reid of the Webster Park Assembly in Springfield and Outpost Commander George Nettell of the East Side Assembly in Springfield.

(Pastors and churches desiring information about this boys' program should write to: Royal Rangers, 1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Missouri.)