



Royal Rangers



A Great Adventure

By JOHNNIE BARNES

National Commander of the Royal Rangers

TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE FAST-MOVING, FAST-growing Royal Ranger program over the past two years has been like participating in a *Great Adventure*.

Since 1962 we have seen Royal Rangers mushroom from a vision into a nationwide boys program. There are now over 3,000 Royal Ranger groups. (Over 1,100 of these are chartered and approximately 1,900 unchartered.) There are over 34,000 men and boys participating in Royal Rangers (over 12,000 registered and approximately 22,000 not registered). Coordinating such a rapidly growing program has been an exciting experience.

The spiritual impact of Royal Rangers has been thrilling! Pastors have reported large numbers of boys being won to Christ. Some have reported entire families being won as a result of the program. One pastor in Tennessee reports, "We have won seven new families into our church through Royal Rangers."

Happy parents have told us what Royal Rangers has done for their sons. Thrilling testimonies have been shared with us by R. R. leaders who have found a fruitful field of service they never thought possible. We have looked into the shining faces of boys who accepted Christ for the first time in a R. R. meeting. We thank God that the R. R. program is making an impact for the Kingdom of God.

The contribution of R. R. activities to the total growth of boys has been gratifying. In company with Royal Rangers I have fought yellowtail tuna in California, hiked in the deep woods of New York, climbed mountains in Oregon, cracked lobsters in Maine, bivouaced on a ranch in Texas, shared a steak fry in an Indian hogan in Arizona, flown by plane over Hurricane Ridge in Washington, back-packed to a lake under the continental divide in Colorado and camped in the Ozarks of Missouri. As a result of these experiences I have sensed the development of the following among Royal Rangers: A strong bond of fellowship between men and boys; experiences in democratic living in its highest form; training in cooperation and the give-and-take of life; better understanding among boys with different family, economic or cultural backgrounds; lessons in self-reliance and the consequences of our actions; good physical and mental health; and a sense of fair play. Royal Rangers is helping boys to develop physically, mentally, and socially as well as spiritually.

We have also seen rapid strides forward in our training program for leaders. In addition to a number of dis-

trict leadership training seminars, we have made available to our leaders a Royal Ranger Leadership Training Correspondence Course. This course is free of charge to all outpost commanders, lieutenant commanders, outpost councilmen, and prospective leaders. The course now has an enrollment of over 1,400 leaders.

In reviewing the tremendous progress of Royal Rangers we have a deep conviction that this program was begun in the providence of God and that it is being blessed of God. We feel sure that the future will see many more of our churches beginning this exciting program designed to reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ. <<<

REFLECTIONS

by MOONLIGHT

Meditations of a Royal Ranger Commander

I HAVE JUST SLIPPED AWAY FROM THE SLEEPING CAMP. Moonlight is bathing the valley. My heart is full; I feel I must get alone with God and thank Him for the experience of the past day. As I look down from the hilltop through the doors of the assembled tents I feel a deep compassion for the boys contained in the distorted bundles of bedding.

It all began yesterday when we gathered at the church for our camping trip. It was a scene of excessive excitement, noise, and confusion. Twenty boys yelling, running, and scurrying about at the same time. There I was in the midst of the turmoil trying to get boys and equipment loaded into the church bus. There were more boys coming out than I was getting in. Trying to remember if we had everything, I was at the same time being besieged with a dozen questions from a half dozen overly excited Royal Rangers. At last we had everything loaded.