

Enjoys "I Was There" Series

I've been with the Assemblies of God for more than 40 years. I love the *Evangel*, and I want to tell you how much I'm enjoying the "I Was There" series. I hope it will continue.

MRS. W. LEWIS
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Ten Strikes Against Gambling

I was glad to see the articles against gambling in recent issues of the *Evangel*. We live in a day when many people are compromising on lines like this. My opinion is that people who gamble are not Pentecostal and are not needed as members of our churches.

Gambling has at least 10 strikes against it:

1. Gambling is selfish. One cannot love his neighbor as himself while scheming to get his money (Matthew 22:39).

2. Gambling is based on covetousness. It is wrong to covet anything that belongs to another (Exodus 20:17).

3. Gambling is an effort to get something that belongs to another. Any winnings from gambling are the "wages of unrighteousness" (2 Peter 2:15).

4. Gambling is a waste of money. Christians are stewards and must answer to God for the way they use their finances (1 Corinthians 4:2). Gamblers lose more than they gain.

5. Gambling makes enemies and

may lead to violence. The servant of the Lord shall avoid strife (Romans 13:13).

6. Gambling is a bad example to non-Christians. We are told to "abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

7. Gambling may become a habit that is hard to break. If we pray, "Lead us not into temptation" (Matthew 6:13), we will not gamble even for fun.

8. Gambling is definitely worldly by its very nature and the Bible says, "Love not the world" (1 John 2:15).

9. Gambling is the sport of unsaved Gentiles and God's Word says, "Walk not as other Gentiles" (Ephesians 4:17).

10. Gambling is a work of the flesh and we are bidden to abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul (1 Peter 2:11).

On the basis of these and other considerations it is well to take a stand against all forms of gambling, saying, "I will set no wicked thing before me" (Psalm 101:3).

TED STEPHENS
Pastor, Kaufman Street Assembly
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Saved Through the Evangel

We appreciate *The Pentecostal Evangel*. It has been a blessing to us and to our relatives who have been saved through it.

OLIVE M. KELLNER
Batavia, New York

WAY DOWN UPON THE SUWANNEE RIVER

A QUIET FLORIDA RIVER was chosen as the title for a song by one of America's best-loved songwriters, Stephen Foster. This song became one of America's favorites, and the gentle stream, with its canopy of live oak and Spanish moss, became famous.

The Suwannee River area has become a symbol of the South and a beautiful memorial has been erected in Foster's honor. Thousands visit the Stephen Foster Memorial every year and stand on the river beneath moss-draped trees, attempting to capture the mood that inspired him.

In June 1966 visitors of a different type came down this river. They came not just for inspiration, but for fun and adventure. The Royal Rangers from Eagle Lake Outpost No. 6 headed the bows of their canoes down the Suwannee River on a 100-mile float trip. The launching point was a large spring on the Santa Fe River, a tributary to the Suwannee. Director for the trip was Trailblazer Commander Ralph Palmerton, assisted by Sea Ranger Commander Robert Murray. Seven canoes accommodated 12 boys and two leaders.

After the exertive task of unloading, packing, and launching the canoes, the boys dived into the crystal-clear waters of the spring for a brisk swim. Then it was time to head down the river. Commander Palmerton stated, "It was quite a sight to see the canoes, with 'Royal Rangers' painted on each side, heading down the stream."

Every turn of the river brought new adventure. The quiet canoes made it possible for the group to approach very close to large num-

bers of birds and other wildlife. A moment of intense excitement occurred when they startled a herd of wild hogs in the jungle-like growth on the shore. "It was a real adventure in nature study," commented Commander Palmerton.

Several crystal-clear streams feed the river. These were used for lunch stops and "swimming breaks," providing refreshing interludes in the trip.

At overnight stops the Rangers put camp-craft training—such as fire building, cooking, and tent pitching—into practice. They camped at such places as Rock Bluff and Piney Point. Cooking food on a blazing fire brought a happy climax to each exciting day. It took little encouragement for the boys to "hit the sack." Bodies tired from paddling all day, combined with a lullaby from the murmuring stream and a wildlife chorus, soon lulled the boys to sleep.

After getting underway in the morning, the commanders devised a unique way of conducting morning devotions. The canoes were pulled side by side and held together while the commander led the entire group in devotions. The boys were inspired and impressed by the reading of God's Word and praying together as they floated downstream.

After four active, stimulating days the Rangers terminated their trip at Manatee Springs State Park. Reflecting on this event all the boys agreed, "It was one of the most exciting trips we ever made."

The Royal Rangers of Outpost No. 6 belong to First Assembly, Eagle Lake, Florida, and Simon Lynn is their pastor.

Twelve Royal Rangers and two leaders from First Assembly in Eagle Lake, Fla., took a 100-mile canoe trip on the Suwannee River.



ROYAL RANGERS

is a Christ-centered program for boys, ages 9-17. It is designed to develop them in four areas—physical, spiritual, mental, and social.

1. Physical development is encouraged through participation in active games, vigorous hikes, body-building exercise, plus a general emphasis on physical fitness.

2. A strong emphasis on evangelism, Bible study, prayer, and Christian service creates a climate which encourages boys to accept Christ and grow spiritually.

3. Diligent study is required to advance in rank and to master various skills. The Advanced Award section not only stipulates required study, but in many cases challenges boys to probe for deeper knowledge of the subject.

4. Participation in exciting outpost meetings, camp-out activities, nature study, robust games, and interpatrol projects and competition gives boys the opportunity for social development in its highest form.

The Royal Ranger program, sponsored by the Men's Fellowship of the Assemblies of God, is an exciting, consistent method of assisting in the total growth of our boys. Every church is encouraged to use this Christ-centered boys program.