

ROYAL RANGERS IS GROWING!

By JOHNNIE BARNES - National Commander of Royal Rangers

THIS HAS BEEN A GREAT YEAR for Royal Rangers! The program has achieved outstanding growth in many areas.

Total Royal Rangers chartered outposts increased to 2,497. With an estimated 5,000 unchartered groups, this would make a total of approximately 7,500 units using the program. (This estimate is based on a survey which indicates there are two unchartered groups for every chartered group.)

Several groups have been organized in foreign countries. Since the Spanish *Royal Rangers Handbook* has been printed, there has been an increase of Royal Rangers groups in Latin America. A new brochure in Spanish has been designed to aid this development.

Enrollment of men and boys climbed to 29,300. With approximately 58,000 unregistered men and boys, an estimated 87,000 individuals are involved in the Royal Rangers program.

Spiritual achievements have been outstanding! Annual reports from local outposts reveal there have been 7,256 boys saved and 3,678 filled with the Spirit in our chartered outposts during this year.

The leadership training course has reached an enrollment of 5,010. Sixty-three medals of achievement were awarded to leaders who completed the course.

A new surge in district-wide Royal Rangers camping has been noted. Twenty-six districts reported outstanding results

during their district pow-wows (camp-outs).

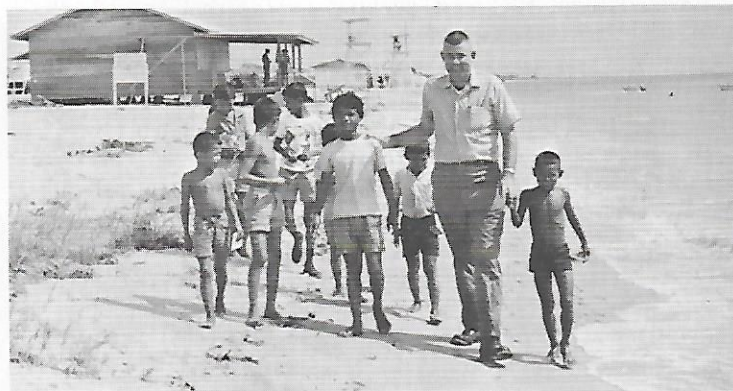
A number of districts reported the beginning of a Frontiersman Camping Fraternity Chapter, with several other districts reporting plans to organize chapters this year. This is a club for older Royal Rangers who have demonstrated outstanding ability in camping.

Launching the Buck-A-Roo program for 7- and 8-year-old boys this year has met great enthusiasm. We believe this new program with its western emphasis will become another successful thrust forward for Royal Rangers.

Another important new project is the "Ranger of the Year" program. Outstanding boys will be selected on local, sectional, and district levels as rangers of the year. This program will greatly aid in the total development of our boys.

The third week of June is "National Royal Rangers Week." Dates this year are June 18-25. Many churches plan to give special recognition to their Royal Rangers. Some events planned are father-son banquets, father-son picnics, and father-son campouts. In many places the boys will attend church as a group in uniform and be appropriately recognized by their pastors.

The outstanding growth, the evangelistic results, the contagious enthusiasm, and the development of boys spiritually, physically, mentally, and socially indicate the Royal Rangers program is meeting a very vital need in many communities.



Royal Rangers in Thailand give a snappy salute (left). The group was organized by Sgt. Loddie Bridges who saw in it an opportunity to help boys. The Rangers enjoy a hike with Sgt. Bridges (right).

Royal Rangers in Thailand

T/Sgt. LODDIE L. BRIDGES (USAF) recently organized the first Royal Rangers group in Thailand.

Loddie a former Royal Rangers commander in Texas, is rejoicing because God has opened a door for him to continue working with boys.

When the Air Force sent Brother Bridges to U-Tapao Air Base in Thailand, he immediately began to work for the Lord in his off-duty hours. Since there was no Assemblies of God missionary in

Thailand, he secured the help of a native pastor to get some gospel tracts translated into the Tai language.

He began to distribute these tracts to people in small jungle villages near the airfield, and soon he had given out thousands.

While distributing tracts in one village, he was followed by a group of boys, one of whom could speak English. The boys were curious to know what he was

doing. He explained that the tract told about Jesus and he wanted everyone to know about Him.

As Loddie talked with the boys, he suddenly received an inspiration—why not start a Royal Rangers group?

With the help of Songgan, the boy who could speak English, he began to tell the boys about Royal Rangers. The group was elated! Soon they began having weekly meetings, hikes, and out-

ings. But most important, they began to study the Word of God.

Sgt. Bridges began his group with nine boys. He states, however, this is just the beginning. With God's help he hopes to win many Thailand boys to Christ through Royal Rangers.

Before going to Thailand Sgt. Bridges served as Royal Rangers leader in the Southside Assembly, Wichita Falls, Tex., and also in Bethel Temple, Fort Worth, Tex.