

ROYAL RANGERS PROGRAM IS SEVEN YEARS OLD

# REFLECTING BACK

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*National Commander of Royal Rangers*



Participants in the first National Aides-de-Camp Council, Springfield, Mo., March 1968.



Camp staff for the first National Training Camp at Camp Arrowhead, Mo., March 1968, in an NTC ceremony.

LOOKED OUT upon a sea of young faces—faces standing out against a background of Royal Rangers uniforms.

Suddenly hundreds of boys in all sizes and shapes came to their feet as the leader on the stage barked "Attention!" A drum rolled, and a trumpeter began playing "God Bless America." From the back of the auditorium smartly dressed Royal Rangers appeared carrying the Christian and American flags.

Goose pimples ran up my arm as I watched these boys proudly marching down the aisle carrying the symbols of our country and our Christian faith. I could visualize thousands of outpost meetings each week where boys are taught the importance of Christian living and good citizenship.

Something welled up inside me as hundreds of hands were raised to salute the American flag. As I listened to the concert of voices pledging allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Saviour for whose kingdom it stands, I could almost see thousands of boys around altars and



A district Powwow in Alabama. Today over 30 districts conduct annual Powwows.



Puerto Rican Royal Rangers. In 1966 the "Royal Rangers Handbook" was translated into Spanish.

campfires asking Christ to come into their hearts and then pledging to serve Him.

As heads bowed in prayer and a leader prayed, "God bless these boys..." I thought of the many, many Bible study lessons, devotions, and object lessons given by leaders each week that are designed to challenge boys to be better Christians.

When the leader of the rally began to explain that the purpose of the meeting was to commemorate the seventh anniversary of Royal Rangers, my mind began to leapfrog back over the years.

I remembered—

... the thrill of sending out the first few charters and membership cards to newly formed groups . . . and the rapid growth that made it possible to report, seven years later, "It is estimated that over 90,000 men and boys are now involved in the Royal Rangers program."

... the joy of receiving the first reports of boys being saved through the effort of local outposts, and the greater joy of announcing seven years later, "This past year