

'Ranger fever' in Argentina

By RALPH HIATT / Missionary to Argentina

THE ROYAL RANGERS program of the Assemblies of God has been well received by the youth of Argentina. Calling themselves "Explorers of the King," dozens of Rangers units have been springing up across the country.

I was recently invited to the inauguration meeting of one of these units in Pacheco. The group had been started by the 17-year-old Christ's Ambassadors president, Juan Lara. He learned of the Rangers program in a nationwide retreat for CA leaders and recognized it as a means of reaching the boys in the neighborhood around his church.

One of the first things Juan did was inspire Oscar Tisera, a layman from the local church, to become the official commander of the unit.

Then they gathered seven boys and helped them learn the code, the promise, the Scripture verses, and the meaning of the Rangers emblem.

The boys worked hard, attended the group meetings faithfully, and enrolled in Sunday school. After three months of training they were ready to form an official Royal Rangers unit.

My sons Ron and Tim went with me to Pacheco and provided music for the service with guitar and trumpet. We taught the boys the chorus, "We Are More Than Conquerors,"

and presented a membership card, a cap, and an emblem to each one.

To climax the service we dressed one of the Royal Rangers in a suit of cardboard armor, and I spoke to them from Ephesians 6, giving special emphasis to Paul's comparison of the well-equipped Christian to the battle-ready soldier.

When I gave the invitation at the close of the service, one of the mothers, who had come to church to see her son become an official recruit, came forward with him and both accepted Christ as their Saviour.

Juan Lara, Oscar Tisera, and their Rangers are bringing other boys to hear about Jesus. And all over Argentina new units are being formed as "Ranger fever" rages.



ABOVE: Juan Lara, initiator of the Pacheco Royal Rangers unit and youth president at the local church. BELOW: Missionary Ralph Hiatt stands with his two sons and the leaders and members of the Pacheco Royal Rangers unit.



threw a flaming torch of tar paper over the fence onto the tent. The canvas ignited and burned rapidly.

Within 10 minutes the fire department arrived, but they could only spray water on the ruins. The canvas was completely destroyed leaving only the metal framework of the tent.

Included in the loss was a pulpit, 30 chairs, the electrical system, and a table laden with evangelism literature. The public address system was damaged, and the benches were badly charred when the flaming canvas fell on them.

As the congregation gathered for

their usual meeting, they were dismayed to find the smoldering ruins. Kneeling beside the ashes they prayed that God would forgive those guilty of burning the tent.

The crusade in San Juan was in its fourth month and had been singularly blessed of God. Many had come for salvation, and Christ had manifested His healing power. All three San Juan radio stations had given time for the sons of Missionary Ralph Hiatt to play their musical instruments and sing to advertise the meetings. Apparently the widespread impact of the gospel stirred opposition

forces to resort to burning the tent.

The estimated cost of replacing the canvas and restoring the equipment is \$3,500.

Missionaries working in Argentina urgently need a tent to help open new areas to the gospel. The Paul Brannans are beginning a new work in Jujuy, and the Lynn Petersons have gone to Tucumán. A crusade in the Good News tent was planned for both cities.

Please pray that funds to replace the canvas will come in, so that the Good News Crusades can continue in Argentina.