

Boys program observing
12th anniversary October 6-12

EDITOR: I notice the slogan for Royal Rangers Week is "Ready for Anything." Where did you get a slogan like that?

BARNES: The Royal Rangers motto from the beginning has been "Ready." Royal Rangers are ready to work, ready to play, ready to serve, ready to obey, ready to worship, ready to live, ready for anything.

Since the annual theme for our Assemblies of God fellowship this year is "Ready Always," it seemed appropriate that our motto for Royal Rangers Week should be "Ready for Anything."

EDITOR: It really is a diversified program, isn't it?

BARNES: Yes, Royal Rangers is a program that appeals to boys because there's lots of excitement. It includes camping, hiking, nature study, games, crafts, and emphasizes physical fitness; but it also includes Bible study and gets the boys involved in Christian service.

EDITOR: Would you say involvement is one of your goals?

BARNES: Definitely. A Royal Ranger pledges to serve God, his church, and his fellowman.

Service to his fellowman may take many forms, including lifesaving. We are very proud of the record our boys have made along this line. The National Royal Rangers Committee has awarded more than 100 Medals of Valor to boys for quick and courageous action that saved another's life at the risk of their own.

In this age of noninvolvement we need to teach our young people this type of concern for their fellowmen.

EDITOR: How are the boys involved in service to their church?

BARNES: From its beginning 12 years ago Royal Rangers has been basically church related. The program is designed to instruct, challenge, and inspire boys while they are learning Bible doctrines, Christian



service, moral conduct and the basic beliefs of our church.

EDITOR: Then it isn't just a fun program.

BARNES: It is fun combined with Christian training. The name *Royal Rangers* suggests this. "Royal" denotes the fact we are serving the King of kings. "Rangers" symbolizes action and adventure. The program is a combination that has a tremendous appeal to boys.

EDITOR: Is it growing?

BARNES: It has mushroomed. At present Royal Rangers is serving men and boys in 32 countries. Some 120,000 boys are involved in the various phases of the program.

EDITOR: What ages are included?

BARNES: We serve boys from 7 upward. Buckaroos is an auxiliary for those 7 and 8 years old. It follows a Western theme and prepares boys for the regular Royal Rangers program. For ages 9 to 11 we have the Pioneers. Ages 12 to 14 are Trailblazers. Then when a boy is 15 to 17 he can be either a Trail Ranger, Air Ranger, or Sea Ranger.

EDITOR: Do any boys stay in Royal Rangers after they grow up?

BARNES: Yes. Some of our best adult leaders are those who came up through the ranks. An outpost commander has to be 21 or older, but boys 18 years of age may be lieutenant commanders.

EDITOR: Would you say the success of Royal Rangers depends on the

laymen who sponsor it?

BARNES: Yes. The Men's Department of the Assemblies of God is the parent and sponsoring organization; and unless there are men in the local church who will stand behind the program, it will not last long. All outposts require men for commanders and councilmen. But the pastor, of course, is a key man in the situation. He is the spiritual leader of every department in the church, including Royal Rangers.

EDITOR: What do you hope to accomplish during Royal Rangers Week?

BARNES: We hope many churches will observe the week with a special Royal Rangers recognition service and by other events such as father-son banquets, father-son camp-outs and Royal Rangers open house.

If a church doesn't have a Royal Rangers outpost, this would be a good time to think about starting one.

EDITOR: You have been the national commander from the beginning. As you look back on the past 12 years, what do you consider the greatest accomplishment of Royal Rangers?

BARNES: The greatest accomplishment undoubtedly is the number of boys who have been saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. Of course, there have been many other important benefits. In Royal Rangers the boys learn to work together, to appreciate others who are different from themselves, and to develop self-reliance