

ROYAL RANGERS FROM ACROSS NATION 'ROUGH IT' DURING FCF RENDEZVOUS

BLUE EYE, MO.—Over 400 men and boys from across the nation and as far away as Australia spent days and nights "roughing it" near here in secluded Dogwood Valley of the Missouri Ozark Mountains. The campers were members of the Frontiersmen Camping Fraternity (FCF) of the A/G Royal Rangers program, an outdoor organization for boys.



Commander Johnnie Barnes calls Frontier Court to order while "Judge Hawkeye" (Fred Deaver, Riverton, Kans.) sits ready to dispense justice during Kangaroo court at FCF.

Sleeping in tepees scattered along Indian Creek and cooking on open fires and camp stoves, they gathered for the FCF National Rendezvous beginning July 27.

Unplanned adventure included a flash flood that washed through the valley, forcing partial evacuation of the campsite.

The flood was caused by locally heavy rains during the second night of the camp-out. No one was injured. According to Johnnie Barnes, national Royal Rangers commander, tragedy was avoided by quick action and close cooperation on the part of the campers.

The Rendezvous was directed by Commander Barnes and FCF President Fred Deaver of Riverton, Kansas. District and local Royal Rangers leaders, along with church pastors who are FCF members, also took part.

Activities included competition in tomahawk and knife throwing and black powder, muzzle-loading rifle shooting. Fraternity members also competed for honors in flint-and-steel fire starting and in horn blowing.

Each evening participants



gathered to enjoy frontier pageants and skits, followed by an evangelistic service in a brush arbor. Nightly events closed with singing, stunts, and fellowship around a council fire.

States and districts in all four geographic territories of the 1,500-member fraternity were represented at the outing.

According to Commander Barnes, the purposes of FCF are these: to give recognition to men and boys who have shown exceptional interest and outstanding achievement in the Royal Rangers program and campcraft; to build a brotherhood of "top-

notch" men and boys over the years who will continue as Royal Rangers and camping enthusiasts; to emphasize the advancement program and skill development; and to develop a crop of elite Royal Rangers who will strive to be the best in Christian example and leadership.

The national Rendezvous is held every four years. During interim years, FCF functions are conducted on territorial and state levels. Currently, more than 4,000 Assemblies of God churches sponsor outposts. Nationwide membership is about 150,000.