

National Frontiersmen Camping Fraternity Rendezvous in Montana

Photos by Paul Stanek



Above: Some 700 Royal Rangers Frontiersmen pitched their tepees and lean-tos in the high mountain valley.

Right: National Commander Johnnie Barnes (left) and FCF President Fred Deaver.



Each night a brush arbor meeting became an old fashioned camp meeting.

Royal Rangers in

By **JOHNNIE BARNES**

The high mountain valley lay quiet and peaceful. A thin mist hugged the tall evergreens, and in the distance the sun set the snow-capped peaks of Glacier Park afire with morning light. Deer grazing in a meadow of alpine flowers lifted their heads as a ground squirrel scurried to its den. Singing birds added to the serenity.

Suddenly the tranquillity was broken by the vanguard of Frontiersmen Camping Fraternity members who had selected this valley for the site of their National Rendezvous, July 24-27. The valley became a beehive of activity as some 700 frontiersmen settled in for the 4-day rendezvous. Rest rooms, showers, trading posts, rifle and hawk ranges, and a brush arbor quickly took shape under the skilled hands of district frontiersmen and national staff members.

By the time the first dinner was served, the valley was full of tepees and primitive shelters. The authenticity of shelters and clothing took the campers back over 100 years, like a living scene out of a mountain man's journal.

After a good meal the musicians tuned up, and the valley filled with the strains of old-time music. Then National President Fred Deaver encouraged the participants to relax and enjoy themselves. Spirits were high.

A National Rendezvous is held once every 4 years. The 1984 theme for FCF was "A New Beginning." This was emphasized in devotional sessions throughout the 4-day event.

