

A boy in a grown-up's body

By PATTY POERTNER

'Artists ask me how I knew to do a certain thing at a certain place which was artistically correct, and I tell them God puts it in my mind. He is my Teacher and my Agent.'



It's a pirate! No, it's an Indian! Look again; it's a cowboy!"

It is all three and more. Fred Deaver will wear varied costumes as he huddles around the campfire at a Royal Rangers powwow.

At this time his Royal Rangers "buddies," as he affectionately calls them, come to test skills learned in the Assemblies of God boys' ministry. Their eyes sparkle as he captures their imaginations. They thrill at the tantalizing tales, and their hearts are touched with the good news they hear.

When the invitation is given, boys ask Jesus to take over their lives. Over a thousand in a single year.

Wearing costumes he creates or purchases, Deaver dramatizes the gospel for these boys and their leaders. But it is not mere drama, for he is often reliving true accounts. Many are based on the Western lore he has grown to love, paint, and sculpt.

He describes himself as "the praying artist" or "a boy in a grown-up's body." A hunter and fisherman, this father has little time now to hunt for trophies of nature. Some from previous days are mounted on the walls of his rustic home.

Fred has always had a zest for adventure and is now involved in the greatest adventure of all—winning souls for Jesus. He travels often with Royal Rangers National Commander Johnnie Barnes. From coast to coast and sometimes overseas, they share the good news that Jesus came, died, and rose again to save sinful men and boys.

Fred speaks at banquets and churches to promote this cause. He has been involved in Royal Rangers ministry for over 23 years and challenges men to support it financially, as leaders, or in other ways. He remarked that many men do not realize they have skills or talents that will