

# NEWS DIGEST

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## National Camporama impacts 4,000 lives

It was called the largest-ever Royal Rangers event and organizers believe it had the greatest spiritual impact. The 1994 National Camporama, held at the national Rangers campground, near Eagle Rock, Mo., July 11-15, was attended by 4,000 campers. During the nightly services more than 900 boys responded to the call for salvation and some 500 sought the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Boys and commanders from across the nation drove onto the campground in cars, church buses, and chartered buses as early as July 10 to begin setting up tents, district and regional archways, and six theme parks. About 70 representatives from 11 nations set up camp as well.

Camporama opened with a parade, which highlighted each theme park and the regional Ranger of the Year winners. The Camporama was officially under way with the firing of the cannon, which was recently purchased with funds raised by the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship.

Each day began with a cannon report at 5:30 a.m. Daytime activities were highlighted with an array of activities conducted in six theme parks. Each theme park was hosted by two regions, or a special Rangers ministry made up of various districts. The parks presented a Time Traveler's Trail for the boys to discover. Time periods featured were Old Testament, New Testament, Middle Ages, the frontier, modern times, and the future.

Water sports, chariot races, an orbitron, a water cannon,



Camporama photos by Ralph Allen

and a BB rifle range were among the available activities. The national Royal Rangers office provided hot air balloon rides, a ham radio station, acrobatic stunts with a radio-controlled airplane, a low ropes course, and a 40-foot rappelling course.

The Camporama theme, "From the Regions Beyond," was brought to life through a series of dramatic presentations in the evening services. The thrust of the entire week was to challenge boys to become today's missionaries to their communities and to the regions beyond. Anointed speakers concluded each service with an altar call, and prayer services often lasted beyond 1 a.m.

Rangers marched into the amphitheater—equipped with newly constructed stage, light-

ing, and sound—for the first service. That evening the audience was taken in time through dramatization as a father and son witnessed the sights and sounds of World War I. The drama was coupled with a call to salvation, by the main character, who was also guest speaker that evening. Terry Raburn, national director, Division of Church Ministries, concluded his message with an altar call. More than 250 boys came forward for salvation.

The story line continued the following night, July 12, with a Crusader theme from the Middle Ages. Robb Hawks, Camporama pageant director and children's pastor, Faith Assembly, Orlando, Fla., was the guest speaker. Nearly 1,000 boys responded to the altar call.

During the third evening a moved audience watched the Great Passion Play presented by the South Texas District. Praises to Christ and rounds of applause enveloped the amphitheater as the character of Jesus Christ stepped from the tomb,

His hands raised to heaven with a note of victory.

The following challenge by speaker Ken Hunt, Royal Rangers national commander, to take the gospel message to "the regions beyond," ended with an altar call answered by nearly 1,300 boys. Hundreds of additional Rangers and commanders, unable to move to the altar due to the crowd, huddled in small groups throughout the amphitheater, praising God and praying for one another.

The service with speaker Missionary Ed Corbin, planned for the final evening, was canceled due to weather. Yet God's presence was felt as small groups throughout the 4-mile span of tents met for devotionals.

On the final day the cannon was also used to fire the symbolic "mortgage release" of the national campground. The debt to the campground had been absorbed by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Yet the moneys generated

from the Camporama will enable the national Royal Rangers Office to deplete this indebtedness of \$750,000. The campground, named the National Royal



Rangers Training Center, was dedicated in 1985.

"If we are going to reach the inner cities of America, and if we are going to minister around the world, we must pass on to this generation of Rangers the vision of world evangelism," said National Commander Hunt. "As our ministry launches into new frontiers of missions, such as our new Light-for-the-Lost Junior Councilmen program, we must instill into the minds of Rangers that they too must go into the regions beyond with the gospel message."

The Assemblies of God will be recognizing Royal Rangers Week October 2-8. ☛

