



*Photos by Ernie Statuto*

**Amby Ocanas (center) received the Urban Royal Ranger of the Year Award of the North Dallas section at an awards ceremony held Saturday, Feb. 28, 1998. With Ocanas are (left) Commander Ernie Statuto and Commander Mike Schmeltz. Ocanas is a fourth grader at Lagow Elementary School.**

## Lagow Elementary student takes award

By **MARY FREEMAN**

*Suburban Tribune Editor*

Amby Ocanas, a fourth grade student at Lagow Elementary School, received the Urban Royal Ranger of the Year Award at an awards ceremony held Saturday, Feb. 28 and is the first student of the North Dallas section to receive this honor.

In the competition, contestants (about 40 participants in the North Dallas section) must perform a combination of skills: a written test, oral exam, uniform

inspection, skills test (how to tie knots, first aid, CPR, etc.) and Bible studies.

All of these skills are taught in the weekly meetings held on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the Balch Springs Recreation Center. Other activities include social skills, Christian values, flag courtesy and history, color guard procedures, and outings such as camping and fishing.

The Royal Rangers were founded by Johnnie Barnes on Jan. 1, 1962 for the Assembly of God ministries for young

boys "to reach, teach and keep boys for Christ."

Royal Rangers have several levels: Straight Arrows, 5-6 year olds; Buckaroos, 7-8 year olds; Pioneers, 9-10-11 year olds; Trail Blazers, 12-13 year olds; Air-Sea Trail Rangers, 14-18 year olds; Urban, all age groups in an urban setting (outside the church).

For more information on Royal Rangers, call Ernie Statuto at 972-286-602 or Mike Schmeltz at 972-287-4117.



**Other award winners at the Royal Ranger Award Ceremony held Saturday, Feb. 28, 1998 included: Straight Arrows - Tucker Masten, first, Robert Lambert, second, Anthony Wadsworth, third, David Wilson; Buckaroos - Jeramie Brooks, first, Arron Hutson, second, Marco Manalong, third; Pioneers - Jared Wilson, first, Matthew Lones, second, Joshua Brackin, third; Trail Blazers - Dan Dillow, first, Clinton Bennett, second, James Percival, third; Air-Sea Trail Rangers - Jimmy Brooks, first; Amby Ocanas, Urban Royal Ranger of the Year; Trail Blazer, Stephen Whitehead; Pioneers, John David Webb, Gabriel Williams, David Swink.**