

BETHEL ASSEMBLY OBSERVES 25th ANNIVERSARY

August 19th, 1987, Bethel Assembly Of God, Outpost I observed 25 years of continuous Royal Ranger Ministry with a council of achievement and a very special Council Fire.

Following is a short history of outpost 1: In 1961, the Assemblies of God Men's Fellowship department realized a need to start a program for boys. This new program, called Royal Rangers, was headed by Johnnie Barnes, an evangelist from Texas.

As Johnnie started the program in early 1962, he set up a pilot Royal Ranger program to test ideas for handbooks and teaching aids. Johnnie was approached by William Hassler, pastor of Webster Park Assembly of God which agreed to sponsor the pilot program. This outpost was mainly boys from other churches.

At the same time Pastor Charles Harris of Bethel Assembly contacted a man in his church, Ray Huffman, about starting a Royal Ranger Outpost. Ray jumped at the chance, and soon he and the pastor began making trips to Headquarters to talk with Johnnie Barnes and to receive trial materials for running the outpost. Each week, a trip was made and Commander Huffman returned with enough mimeographed new material to conduct the meetin that week.

As the trial program at Webster Park began to wind down, Bethel's Outpost continued to meet and grow, so that when charters could be applied for (in August 1962) Bethel submitted the first Charter application. It was received by the National Office on August 7, 1962. Soon after chartering, the outpost at Webster Park was discontinued. This action made Bethel's Outpost the oldest in the World.

Congratulations Bethel, may God continue to Bless your work in the years to come.