



The Commander Johnnie Barnes Lodge under construction.

Something special was also happening for the center's visitors. We heard one man testify in his church about his visit to the center: "While there I felt as if I was standing on holy ground."

After seeing progress on the Commander Johnnie Barnes Lodge, many people express a desire to help. Visitors, campers, and workers sense an air of expectancy everywhere on the property. Some who come merely to visit roll up their sleeves and get dirty before they leave. Others pledge to return here to work.

The FCF members I mentioned earlier, those who attended the rendezvous, wanted to help too. One morning about 60 of them saw the need to transport a pile of ceiling material out of the weather and into the lodge. Spontaneously they formed a human conveyor belt and passed the material from the ground up 10 feet into the building.

On the last morning of that rendezvous, about 135 FCF members took a collection of \$1,400 for the development fund.

Volunteers from Missouri and several other states have had a vital part in constructing both the Johnnie Barnes Lodge and the camp coordinator's cabin.

In a seeming tragedy a freak wind storm ripped the roof trusses off the lodge the day after they were raised. However, insurance coverage paid for new trusses and a crew to install the entire roof, while the original lumber was salvaged and used for interior framing.

Much remains to be done on both the lodge and the caretaker's cabin. The cabin is currently being roofed. Its inside has been framed, and some plumbing and electrical work has been done. The lodge is now roofed with cedar shakes, the inside is framed, and its fireplace is complete.

When visitors remark on the beauty of the stone fireplace, we tell them the rock came from ruins of pre-Civil War homesteads on the prop-

erty. Pioneer settlers hand hewed the stones to build their own dwellings more than 100 years ago. More of those stones were used to construct the gates gracing the center's entrance.

Besides their toil, contributors have donated kitchen equipment for the lodge, a ¾-ton flatbed truck, a 1½-ton scissors lift truck, a 1-ton dump truck, and a ½-ton pickup truck.

Besides giving, workers have received spiritual enrichment. In the beginning stages of the lodge construction, a teenage girl from a Mobilization and Placement Service crew decided to follow the Lord in water baptism. Her decision came during an on-site morning devotion. She became the first person to be baptized in the center's swimming hole, and a Ranger with the same crew was second.

One-on-one evangelism has already taken place on the property. A hired crew was busy at the lodge the week a volunteer group from Teen Challenge of the Ozarks worked at the center. The Teen Challenge group used every opportunity to witness God's love to the hired workers.

The National Royal Rangers Training Center has already been a place of inspiration to many people. But mostly the center is a place for tomorrow. As a person stands in the unfinished meeting hall at the Commander Johnnie Barnes Lodge, he or she can almost hear tomorrow's laughter, tomorrow's training sessions, or tomorrow's worship and prayer.

We know great advances will be made for the Kingdom within those log walls. And that kind of future holds relevance for every believer. Even for a mother of daughters!



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