DECEMBER 1974

The Rancher

PUBLISHED BY THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS BOYS RANCH, BOYS RANCH, FLORIDA 32060



A Christmas Greeting From Us To You

Well, here it is—
The best we could do—
A package of gratitude,
Best wishes too,
From the Ranch and the Villa
To you, and you . . .
And especially you.

It's crammed to the brim With warm-hearted stuff, But the box that we used Was not large enough. It's a big old knocker, We'll have to admit, But we stuffed, And we stuffed, And it still wouldn't fit.

Then someone said, "Hey gang, The answer is clear, The goodies left over We'll send out next year." "That's it," said Ophelia, Who's certainly no sap, "We've done all we can, So come on, let's wrap."











The girls are learning horsemanship skills-including the finer points of stable grooming.

Founder's Gift Gives Our Credibility

A new camera donated by Mrs. Esther Mowry, of Largo, one of the original founders of the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa, has been put to good use by Ross Whitney, Resident Director of the Villa. He has been carrying it around with him most of the time, and has been supplying THE RANCHER with an excellent variety of photographs, including those printed on these pages. Thus, thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Mowry--who has a history of substantial gifts to the Villa---we are going to be able to give our readers a clearer picture of the day-to-day activities of our girls.

Driving the "convenience car" on errands in the Bartow vicinity is a privilege Laura Morrison acquired when she became 16 and passed her driver's license test.







We never skip grace before meals.

NO MAGIC – JUST AFFECTION AND CONCERN

Thousands of visitors have seen the attractive buildings, the rolling green pastures and the happy faces at the Boys Ranch—but seldom, if ever, have they seen "the view from the inside" as it was given by Executive Director Harry Weaver when he addressed a Group Child Care workshop at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Consequently, we are re-printing a condensation of his remarks to let our readers feel the pulse, and understand the philosophy that keeps the Boys Ranch going—and growing.

Weaver's topic was: "Helping a Child to Learn Self-Direction", and he began by stressing the importance of good child-staff relationships through good communications.

A Lift



Lt. Wally Edwards, a Polk County Deputy Sheriff and an alumnus of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, has been adopted by the girls at the Villa as a sort of handy-to-have-around "uncle". He is their non-paid horsemanship instructor, and he also allows them to use his swimming pool. Wally and his wife, Joyce, live about eight miles from the Villa



Up and out early in the morning to catch the bus. All of our girls attend public school in Bartow.



"I see nothing magic," he said, "about the ability to develop good relationships with children. These relationships can be fostered and nurtured when one person genuinely demonstrates to another, 'I am interested in you. I have respect for you, and I care what happens to you.' Of course, one must have the desire to develop good relationships and a commitment

to work with children. Good communication is essential in good staff-child relationships, and the process should begin immediately when a child enters our care.

"In all our relationships with people—at work, in marriage, at church—we have to work at communication. We have to communicate, communicate, communicate—constantly evaluating ourselves and attempting to see ourselves as others see us. So, in working with children, we must be constantly on the alert for what children are really saying about us, and seeing in us. Are we for real? Are we really what we say we are and who we say we are by our verbal and non-verbal actions?

"I think a major reason for relationships being most important in helping a child learn self-direction is that the children in our care must first become reasonably comfortable with themselves. This is accomplished through positive and constructive relationships. Our children come to us for the most part with very low self-esteem, poor self-identity, and social maladjustments which manifest themselves in many ways. A positive relationship can give a child the lift he needs.

"Before a child can be comfortable with himself and the self-direction process can develop, he must begin to know who he is—he must have a good feeling about himself. Children are constantly asking themselves 'Who am 1?' and often they do not like the answer they receive. What we want is for them to be saying, 'I am okay—I am somebody.'

"In good staff-child relationships, two important things should be happening. First, through all levels of communication the child should be experiencing a feeling that the staff members really like me—I am somebody—and this may be the first time the child really feels liked as a person. Secondly, the child's thought process springs into action as he begins to compare the good relationship and the good communication with what he has experienced in the past—both the good and bad past experiences. Hopefully, then he will begin to strengthen and expand his positive values within his frame of reference.

"Normally there is a period of testing in new relationships, and it is important from the onset that there be a balance between love and control—that we set boundaries of behavior, careful to permit individual personality to grow and develop. The relationship should be saturated with love and concern, and the controls should be given in a context of understanding and respect for the child. Love alone is not enough; control alone is not enough, and an absence of either is often disastrous.

"In order for self-direction in the child to evolve, the (Continued on page 8)





The riding arena, built in 1971 by the Clay Mavericks Riding Club of Orange Park, is used by Ranchers all year, but gets a real work-out the two days of the anniversary celebration and

time and equipment in

Dave Stocky (left) was made a Lifetime Honorary Member of the Florida Sheriffs Association for his contributions of

setting up an amateur radio club at the Ranch. And, he's helping still, so while the horse show was going on nearby, Stocky and former Rancher Jerry Willard supervised the sending of free radiograms for Ranchers and guests. Ranchers served as radio dispatchers. Henry Putnam was on duty when this picture was taken.

s witnessed by these two pages, the 17th Anniversary Celebration at the Boys Ranch was a colorful event. Not just because of the reds and blues and greens, but also because of the variety of activities.

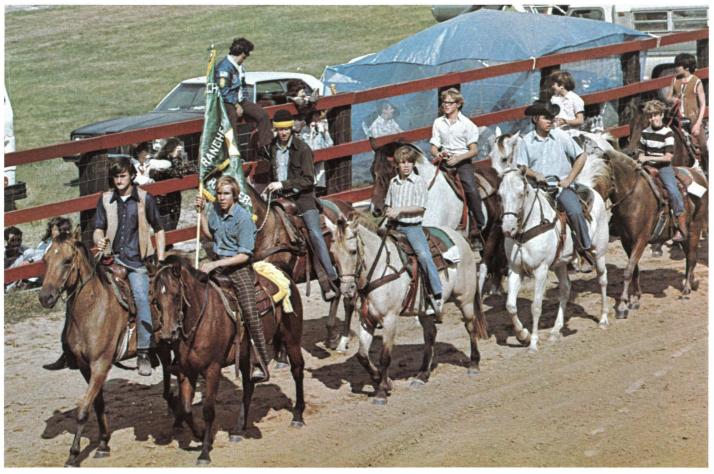
The horse show ran all day Saturday, October 5, and part of Sunday, attracting over 100 contestants and their families. Lunch on Saturday was the traditional barbeque served to some 1,500 Ranchers and guests on the banks of the Suwannee River by the Live Oak Jaycees, Lions, Kiwanis, and Rotary Clubs.

It was open house in all the residence cottages and other Ranch buildings. At the arts and crafts building, visitors saw members of the Ranch amateur radio club sending out messages to all parts of the country.

All these colorful activities got underway Friday evening with a chicken pilau dinner for the horse show contestants, followed by a moonlight trail ride. A worship service was held at the arena Sunday morning, and the last riding events finished up that afternoon.



Ronnie Williams (in black hat) is a former Rancher and has been to enough anniversary celebrations to know those big pots contain delicious barbeque, cole slaw, and white acre peas.



The Riding Ranchers paraded behind their standard.

A Colorful 17th Anniversary

Paul Hutto didn't know until a minute before Ranch Farm Manager Gary Avery presented him with the trophy that he had been selected to receive the annual Carlton F. Tweed Memorial Horsemanship award. Paul received the trophy on the basis of his riding ability, good sportsmanship, love of horses, and skilled knowledge of their care and handling.

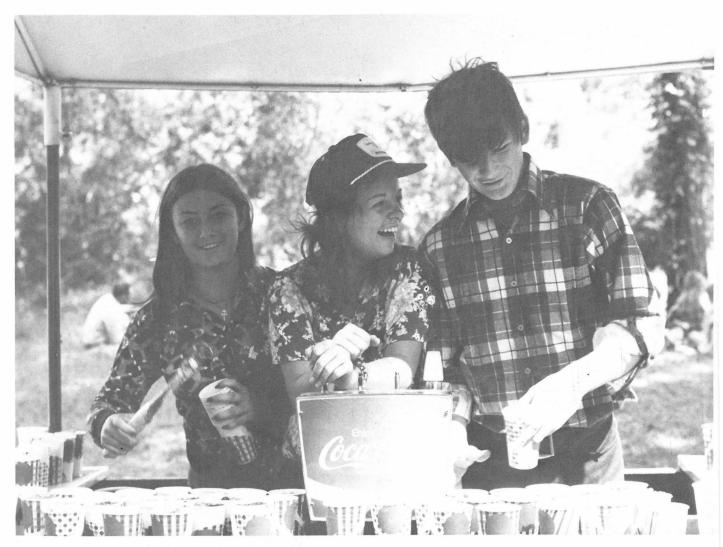




A lone Rancher awaits the start of the grand entry ceremony. In the background is the Boys Ranch water tower and beneath it the Carlton and Suzanna Tweed gymnasium.

Former Ranchers Mike Edwards (right) and brother Wally (left) have kept up their interest in riding and took part in the competition. Mike's wife Sandy (center right) and Wally's wife Joyce share their husbands' pastime.



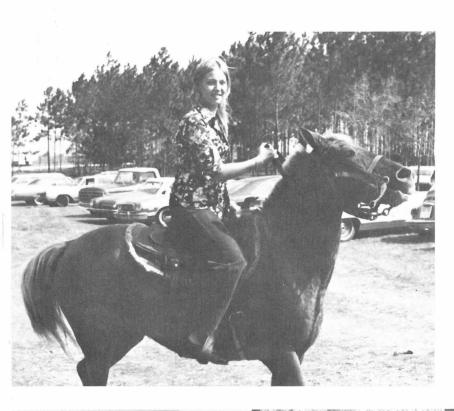




After Many Daydreams -- It Actually Happened

What if we were invaded by girls?

For many years, this has been the favorite daydream at the Boys Ranch---and it finally happened on October 5 and 6 when the Ranch celebrated its 17th anniversary. A bevy of girls from the Girls Villa, accompanied by staff members, not only invaded the Ranch, but also "camped out" in a vacant staff residence for the entire weekend. They went horseback riding, attended the anniversary horse show, helped serve soft drinks at an outdoor barbecue, ate with the boys in the Ranch cafetorium, and acquired some future pen pals. The boys had a ball, too, just looking, and talking and listening—and trying to realize that their number-one daydream had actually become a reality.









BOYS RANCH IS...

...a home for dependent, neglected and homeless boys sponsored by the Florida Sheriffs Association. It is not an institution for delinquents.

LOCATED — nine miles north of Live Oak, Florida
FOUNDED — in 1957
FINANCING — supported entirely by voluntary gifts
SIZE — 2,800 acres
ENROLLMENT — 100 boys are under care at the present time
MAILING ADDRESS — Boys Ranch,

FLORIDA SHERIFFS

GIRLS VILLA

Florida 32060 PHONE – AC 904 842-5501

IS...

... a similar institution for needy and worthy girls located near Bartow, Fla. It was founded in 1970. The first buildings were completed in July 1972; and the first girls were admitted in August, 1972.

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YOUTH FUND

*1*S. . .

... a newly-chartered convenience for donors. Its purpose is to generate, receive and disburse funds for the Ranch, the Villa, and any other youth programs that may be developed by the Florida Sheriffs Association. Donors who do not want to make a choice between supporting the Ranch or Villa can give their gifts to the Youth Fund and the money will go where it is most needed. This makes budgeting and bookkeeping more economical and more efficient.

MAILING ADDRESS — Boys Ranch, Florida 32060

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ALL GIFTS ARE DEDUCTIBLE FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES.

No Magic – Just Affection and Concern (Continued from page 3)

adults involved with the child must genuinely demonstrate love, kindness, understanding, and concern. Like a good relationship, self direction is not someting that takes place overnight. It is more often a long, slow, and sometimes tedious process that cannot be hurried.

"As we discuss relationships and the way good relationships are fostered, I am assuming that there exisits in the agency an atmosphere in which children are accepted as they are, not expecting spectacular or immediate changes in a child and realizing that the direction in which he has gone and the point to which he has come has not been the result of a sudden experience. The agency should exude an atmosphere in which mistakes are expected and anticipated; an atmosphere in which the variety of experience offers an opportunity for mistakes to occur; and, more importantly, an atmosphere in which a child experiences life without ridicule.

"I am assuming that in the climate from which these relationships are developing there is a careful balance of work, free play, organized recreation, education, and religion, and that there are opportunities to look forward to certain happy events in life, knowing that these events will happen; perhaps not all of them, but many of them. In the climate of our agencies there should also be the feeling that we make things happen; there is action—a special trip, a reunion with a lost relative, etc. The atmosphere should be filled with opportunites to excel-inferiority compensators, if you please; a chance to go horseback riding, to go canoeing, to participate in competitive sports; to learn to drive a tractor or an automobile, and an opportunity to use these skills once they are learned. All of these experiences help to build self-confidence—a very important element in helping a child gain selfdirection.

"Please note that I have said very little about physical

facilities in connection with helping a child to gain self-direction. Physical facilities are important, but they are, in my opinion, least important as a medium for fostering self-direction. The wilderness programs developed in the last few years are a good example—they have practically no physical facilities; yet children in these programs gain good self-direction. Many children are reared in poor surroundings, yet they develop great self-direction, because the circumstances from which they have come have been rich with family love, control, and communication.

"Now, if we are to have good staff-child realtionships, we must have good communication—both verbal and non-verbal. Good communication begins with respect. Respect is a two-way street. We must treat each other with respect. A staff member's constructive demonstration of his authority builds respect like no other process. Responsible and respectable children come from homes where the proper combination of love and control is present. Respect builds self-esteem like nothing else. It is important—it is vital—it must be present—it must be genuine.

"Our first contact with a child is important in communication—the way we stand, our eye contact, our tone of voice, our manner, our attention, our handshake, our grip, our dress; and yes, even our physical build and appearance—in a word, our body-language. I believe it is the combination of our verbal and non-verbal communication that is most important and essential in fostering self-direction.

"How often have I heard a child say that he or she "will not listen"—they "do not understand" referring to an adult. What the child is really saying is that we are not communicating—the child does not have our undivided attention. Be a good listener! Being a good, non-judgmental listener is difficult, but it is imperative.

"If we really communicate at all levels and build on all that has been said before in an objective and non-judgemental manner, a good relationship will evolve and self-direction will follow."

New Ranch-Villa Movie in Production



A new color-sound movie about the Boys Ranch and Girls Villa is under production at the studios of Tel-Air Interests, Inc., in Miami. It is entitled "Our Children", and it will be shown to Sheriffs and special guests during the annual Mid-Winter Conference, in Ft. Myers, January 22–24, 1975. After that it will be available for viewing by audiences state-wide. One of the pictures reproduced here was taken during filming of the movie on the Ranch. The other shows Grant Gravitt, the producer (seated) showing some of the scenes to (from left) Polk County Sheriff Monroe Brannen; Boys Ranch—Girls Villa Executive Director Harry Weaver; and Pinellas County Sheriff Don Genung.



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For further details, write to Mr. Harry Weaver, Executive Director, Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch Fund, Boys Ranch, Florida 32060.

Some of the first generation Ranchers who lived at the Boys Ranch years ago are now helping to raise the present generation of Ranchers. And, their talents are being used in a number of ways.

Boys Ranch Alumnus Robert Knight, who is working toward a degree in marketing at Florida Technological University, returned to the Ranch for several weeks recent-



Leonard Russek and son.

Former Ranchers are Helping

ly between school terms and performed a variety of staff tasks. He served as a cottage parent, drove a tractor, supervised recreational activities, took some of the boys on trips and assisted veteran staff member John Schmutz in picking up non-cash gifts for the Ranch in various parts of the state.

Scott Chenoweth, a former Rancher who was recently graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Broadcast Journalism, has been offered a job doing promotional work for the Boys Ranch.

Ronnie Williams, a Ranch Alumnus with a family of his own, has returned to the Ranch on several occasions to assist the staff, primarily in farm work. Gaston Barber, who is progressing towards a college degree, put in a successful stint as a cottage parent one summer before concentrating on his college career.

Leonard Russek, a Certified Public Accountant who is working towards his master's degree in his spare time, has a unique role in the operation of the Ranch. He is the first Ranch Alumnus to be appointed to the Boys Ranch Board of Trustees, the body that sets policy and supervises

Robert Knight in 1965 when he was living at the Boys Ranch.







Robert Knight had a "rewarding and enlightening" experience as a temporary staff member. The pictures show him relaxing with some of the boys he supervised as a relief cottage

parent; and tooling around in a tractor---one of the skills he learned when he lived at the Ranch. Robert has had considerable practice as an accountant and is doing well in the pursuit of higher education. He attributes much of his success to the help and encouragement he has received from his mother, Mrs. Louise Knight.

to Raise "Little Brothers"

the operation of the Ranch.

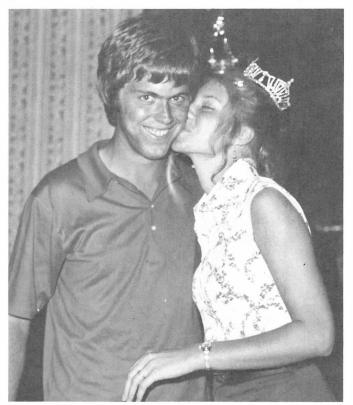
Lt. Wally Edwards, a deputy employed in the Polk County Sheriff's Department, has maintained close ties with the Ranch, his former home, but he's giving his spare-time volunteer talents to the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa. Wally lives close to the Villa, and has been serving as a non-paid horsemanship instructor there. He and Robert Knight were also involved in some of the construction work at the Villa many months ago.

Jerry Willard, a former Rancher who is carving out a successful career with the Pitney-Bowes Corporation, returns to the Ranch frequently with his wife Jeannie, whose parents, Mr.&Mrs. John Schmutz, are verteran Ranch Staff members. Jerry hasn't filled any staff positions, but he has serviced and repaired some of the mailing equipment at the Ranch. These and other former Ranchers have helped to keep the Boys Ranch going and growing in many ways, and their total contributions of time and talent are substantial. They have also helped to prove that the Ranch is attaining one of its earliest goals: The attempt to approximate as nearly as possible a big, happy, closely-knit family.



After receiving his degree in Broadcast Journalism, Scott Chenoweth receives congratulations from Harry Weaver, Executive Director of the Boys Ranch. Scott received financial aid from the Ranch the first two years of his college career; but he decided to make it on his own for the last two years—and he did. He took over a large newspaper route and soon had several students working for him.

Fred Ridley, a native of Winter Haven who is now a student at the University of Florida, receives a kiss from Patricia Knight, Miss Bartow, as one of the prizes for winning the 12th Annual Girls Villa Classic golf tournament. The win was Ridley's third in the past four years.



VILLA CLASSIC-

BARTOW-The Annual Girls Villa Classic is a unique celebration that gives this central Florida city a festive air during Labor Day weekend and the week prior.

It's a smorgasbord of fun that includes golf and tennis tournaments, parties, barbecues, a beauty pageant, a country-western show headlining George Jones and Tammy Wynette, and a gala ball that features the music of Danny Davis and the Nashville Brass. It also serves as a reminder that the long love affair between Bartow and the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa is still flourishing.

Staged as a community-wide project, the Classic involves hundreds of volunteers, and it has raised many thousands of dollars for the Villa. It has also generated much valuable publicity throughout the state.

One of the highlights of the Classic is an open house at the Villa which gives the public an opportunity to inspect the facilities and become acquainted with the staff members and the girls. The girls also attend many of the sports and entertainment events during the annual celebration.

a Smorgasbord



Because she is a fan of Danny Davis and the Nashville Brass, Debbie Dennis was given special permission to attend the Villa Classic Ball. When it was time for her to leave, her cottage parents wanted to stay a little longer to dance, so they sent her back to the Villa with an auxiliary deputy sheriff as her escort.



THE RANCHER

WFLA TV Channel 8 Sports Director Milt Spencer, left, and Villa Week Chairman Teddy Phillips present Mrs. George Harris with the Harry Richardson Memorial award during the Girls Villa Ball. The award goes annually to the person in Bartow most actively involved in youth work, and is sponsored by Channel 8.





Photos by Dan Taylor



Polk County Sheriff Monroe Brannen, left, presents to Earl Wells, of Florida Citrus Mutual, a clock he won by scoring the lowest net score during the Press Tournament, which always precedes the Classic.

One of the many sponsors of Girls Villa Week, George Harris, left, president of Bartow's Citrus and Chemical Bank, talks with State Senator Alan Trask during the get acquainted party at the Peace River Country Club.



Girls from the Villa had an opportunity to meet recording stars George Jones and Tammy Wynette along with their daughter Tina; (see photo, opposite page) and they later joined the enthusiastic audience at a benefit concert featuring George and Tammy. Pictured with the girls at the concert is Villa Resident Director, Ross Whitney.





Mr. & Mrs. G.W. "Wally" Beck enjoy fresh corn on the cob during the get acquainted party Sept. 29. Beck, manager of U.S. Steel's Agrico Plant in Mulberry, was a sponsor of Classic Week.

No Polish, but Plenty of Poignancy

The boy who played "Mary" is a better third baseman than a thespian . . . the Shepherds wore tennis shoes . . . the animals had hearts of straw . . . the manger was an orange crate . . . and all the beards combined in the cast would have left a peach feeling naked. Nevertheless, the portrayal of "The Birth of Christ" staged by the boys from Conn Cottage won first place in the 1973 Boys Ranch Christmas Program.

Much of the credit goes to Cottage Parents Beryl and Mildred Brunsun, who are pictured with the cast. But, a certain "boy watcher" who frequently visits the Ranch has a theory that these youngsters are adept at Christmas skits because the "babe in the manger" and "no room at the inn" remind them of the dark days in their own past when they too were insecure and rejected.

In any event, Conn Cottage prevailed against strong competition from second place McGehee Cottage, with its series of readings entitled "Views of Christmas"; and third place Lewis Cottage, with its portrayal of "The Best and Poorest Christmas".

These skits are an annual custom designed to build confidence, to provide entertainment, to encourage creativity, and, most of all, to focus attention on the true meaning of Christmas. The lack of professional polish is obvious; but so is the poignancy of boys acting out an event that parallels some of their own experiences.

After the pageant came the opening of presents.





Conn Cottage was judged the winner by local teachers who serve as tutors in the educational program at the Ranch.



Second place went to McGehee Cottage for readings entitled "Views of Christmas".





THE RANCHER