

THE RANCHER

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS BOYS RANCH, LIVE OAK, FLORIDA

It's Not Just a Home — It's Also a "Boys Town"

Harry Weaver stood on his front porch looking out over the rolling acres of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch.

Then he turned to the visitor beside him. "Running this place," he said, "is just like running a small municipality. We have the same problems - - - financial and otherwise."

A staff member driving a Jeep interrupted briefly to tell the Ranch Administrator about some mechanical difficulties at the sewage disposal plant.

"You see," Weaver explained as

the Jeep moved on, "we have our own sewer and water systems. A telephone system too - - - street lights - - - fire hydrants - - - even our own fire department."

Later, as they were driving around the Ranch, some deep rutted sand that had washed over the pavement brought up the need for storm sewers and curbs and gutters.

When they passed the handsome medical and dental clinic, Weaver mentioned the difficulty he was having in finding a full-time registered nurse

to staff it.

Personnel problems came up again when they stopped at the new administration building - - - the "city hall" of the Ranch complex. Weaver explained that one whole wing of the building had been set aside for the Social Service Department which helps boys with their emotional problems, interviews potential Ranchers, keeps in touch with parents and relatives outside the Ranch, and places boys in good homes when the opportunity arises; but staffing it with qualified professionals had been difficult.

More and more, as the Boys Ranch grows, Weaver talks the language of city managers. Raising boys is still his number one priority, but each day brings him reminders that the Ranch is no longer just a home for boys - - - that it is also a "town for boys" with its own laundry, airport (a landing strip for single-engine planes), newspaper, industries (such as farming, livestock raising and bee keeping), maintenance department, transportation system, hospital, educational opportunities, library and recreational facilities.

The Ranch Administrator points out all this to his visitor as the tour ends at the All Faiths Chapel. Then, looking at the high spire, he makes a comment that identifies the Boys Ranch as something more than just a small municipality.

"God is involved in all that we do. I know this and I also know that we could not be successful without His guiding hand."

MOVIE AVAILABLE

"There is a Place", a new 14 1/2 minute color sound movie about the Boys Ranch is available for showing to groups and organizations throughout the state. To make arrangements, contact your Sheriff or the Boys Ranch.



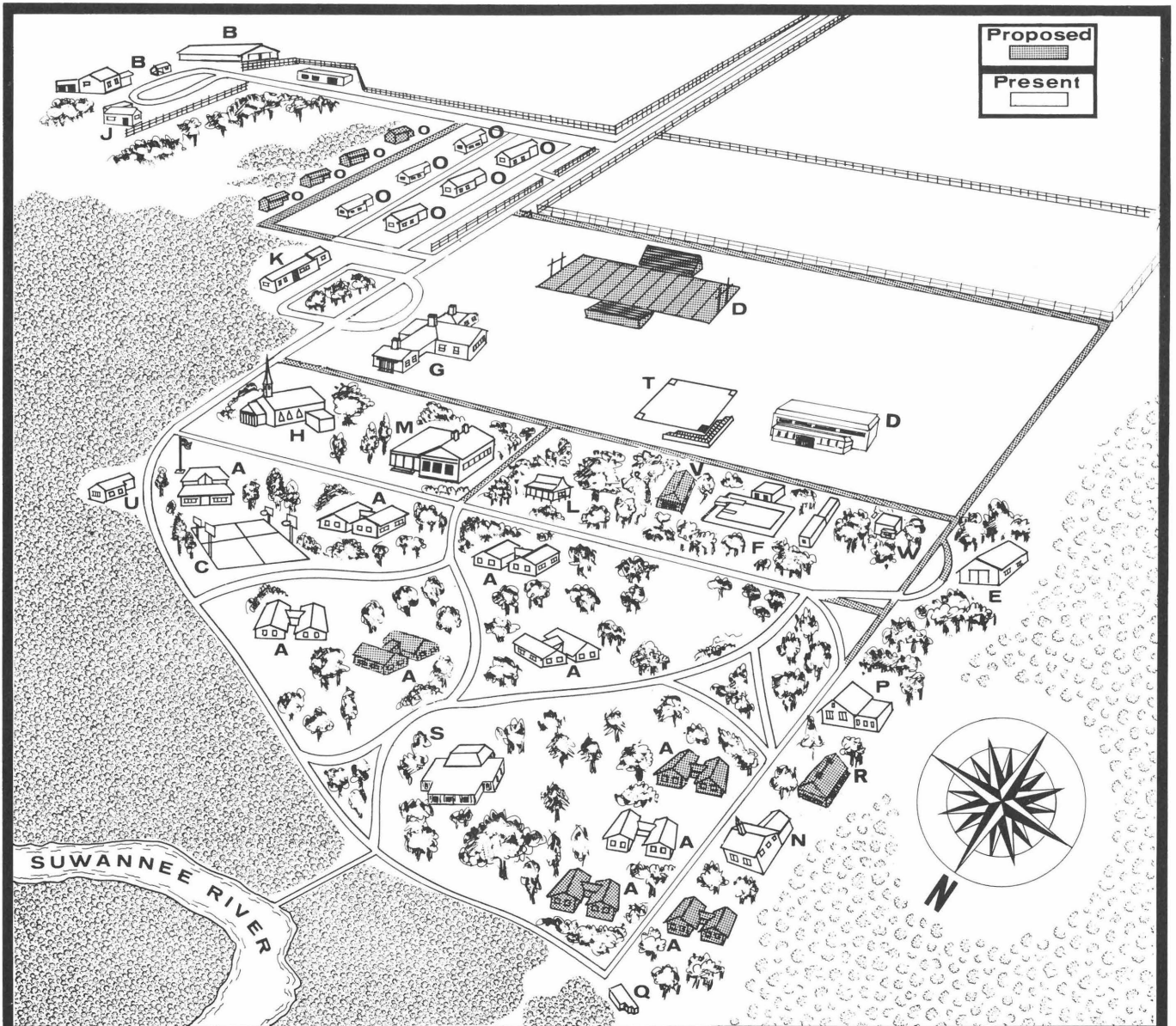
THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Over 200 needy and worthy boys have found a brighter future by traveling down the road that leads to the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch. During the past 10 years many of them have also left the Ranch to become law-abiding, self-supporting citizens. Some are in college, some have become successful in business and some are serving their country in the armed forces.

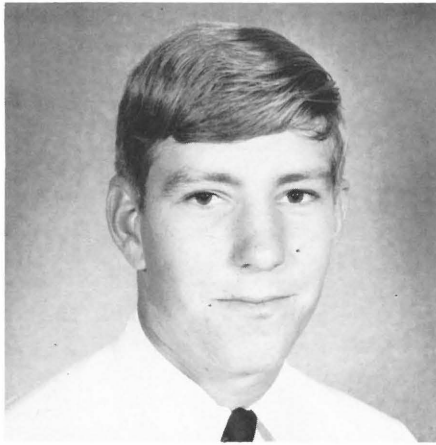
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THE GREATEST YEAR FOR GROWTH

1968 was the greatest year for growth in the history of the Boys Ranch. Projects completed during the year included a \$35,000 fire house; a \$100,000 administration building, the first \$50,000 phase of a new sewer system, a \$50,000 medical and dental clinic, and a \$20,000 guest house. Construction was also started on a \$90,000 residence cottage and a \$170,000 gymnasium. The map below shows present and proposed facilities.



- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| A—Residence Cottages | G—Administration Building | M—Cafetorium and Administrator's Office | Q—Sewage Plant |
| B—Farm Buildings | H—Chapel and Library | N—Fire Station and Repair Shop | R—Arts and Crafts |
| C—Paved Playground | J—Farm Manager's Residence | O—Staff Residences | S—Medical and Dental Clinic |
| D—Gymnasium and Playing Fields | K—Ranch Administrator's Residence | P—Laundry and Supply Storage Building | T—Baseball Diamond |
| E—Vocational Training Center | L—Snack Bar and Barber Shop | | U—Guest House |
| F—Swimming Pool | | | V—Recreation Building |
| | | | W—Telephone Exchange Building |



MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

LIVE OAK—Mike Hampton, who lives at the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, was selected as the "Most Valuable Player" on the 1968 football squad at Suwannee High School. He also received the "Most Valuable Defensive Lineman" award.

She Sold Her Ring

Volumes could be written about the heart warming sacrifices made by generous Boys Ranch contributors - - - and one of the chapters would be about Mrs. Raymond G. Swigart, an elderly resident of Memorial Home Community, Penney Farms, Florida.

A few months ago she wrote a letter to Carroll M. Wright, Vice President and Treasurer of Memorial Home Community, in which she said: "I have decided what I think Ray and I want to do with my diamond ring. When he put that ring on my finger 51 years ago, it was with the hope of a future Swigart family, and we did have a very happy family by adopting two lovely, otherwise homeless, boys.

"Now I feel we would both like to have the ring continue its work by helping some other homeless boys. Please sell it and, when you get a chance, send the money to the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch. There is no need to wait until after I am gone."

Mr. Wright complied with Mrs. Swigart's wishes by selling the ring for \$170 and sending the money to the Boys Ranch.

THE RANCHER

March, 1969

Published annually by the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, P. O. Box 520, Live Oak, Florida.

Pinellas County Still the Leader

Pinellas County, with Clearwater as its County Seat and Don Genung as its Sheriff, is leading all Florida Counties in contributions to the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch - - - a position it has held for many years.

Lake County (Tavares, Sheriff Willis McCall) is leading the medium size counties; and Clay County (Green Cove Springs, Sheriff Jennings Murrhee) is out in front among the small counties.

Here are the three leading counties in each population bracket, according to totals for the period from October 1, 1967, through September 30, 1968.

LARGE COUNTIES

Pinellas.....	\$429,293
Dade.....	145,376
Hillsborough.....	70,558

MEDIUM COUNTIES

Lake.....	\$19,528
Leon.....	17,423
Sarasota.....	17,128

SMALL COUNTIES

Clay.....	\$9,403
Indian River.....	5,074
Collier.....	4,687

These totals include cash donations, non-cash donations, wills and bequests.



HE'S "MR. FIXIT"

Leo Ross is "Mister Fixit" at the Boys Ranch, and therefore a man of many skills. He was a licensed plumber and electrician when he came to the Ranch five years ago, but the endless variety of jobs handed to him day by day takes him far beyond these trades. Sometimes he is asked to make automotive repairs, oversee construction work, repair guns, keep up the pumps and motors used in the water and sewer systems, or cure ailing heating systems. He even works on broken toys. In fact, anytime anything breaks down the first question is: "Where's Mr. Ross?"

Boys Ranch Board of Trustees

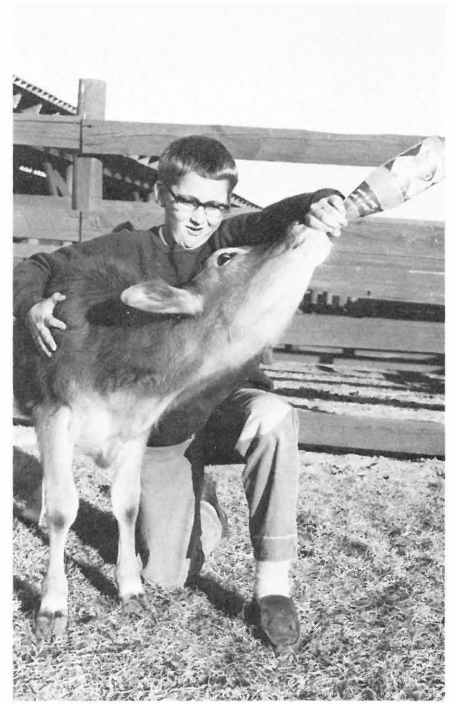
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Farm Manager Jimmy Lamb (left) was tattooing an identifying number on the ear of a newborn calf when the mother tried to get into the act. Helping the farm manager are Howard Kornegay and Wayne Fidler.



Wayne Fidler is proud of the calf he won in the calf scramble at the annual Suwannee County Fair.



The ever-growing Boys Ranch Library now has over 8,000 volumes as well as a variety of periodicals and magazines. It is well stocked with encyclopedias and is a busy place on weekends or in the evenings when boys are catching up on their homework.

Arley Can Really "Dish It Out!"

Sometime during the current year Arley Hurst will dip a big spoon into an oversize pot and start serving the 500,000th meal he has prepared at the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch.

We don't know exactly when he will hit this milestone - - - apparently around the middle of August - - - but one thing we do know: Arley can really "dish it out" when it comes to filling boys with tasty, nutritious food.

Visitors from all parts of Florida and many other states have praised his meals. Youngsters living at the Ranch express their appreciation in the silent but eloquent language of smiling, healthy faces.

Arley, whose seniority rates him the title of "Old Timer", came to the Boys Ranch in 1959 when there were four boys, two staff members and one \$60,000 building. He worked over a small



four-burner stove, bought groceries at the corner store and kept left-overs in a small family-size refrigerator.

Today there are 100 boys, over 30 staff members, and 28 buildings valued at around \$1,000,000.

Arley, assisted by several helpers, labors over large restaurant-size ranges in a modern cafeterium preparing food that comes to the Ranch in wholesale, truckload quantities.

Many changes have taken place, but one thing remains unchanged: the mouth-watering quality of the odors that drift out of the Boys Ranch kitchen when Arley is at work.

NOW THERE ARE FOUR

The Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch was the first institution of its kind in the nation when it was founded in 1957.

Since then the Sheriffs of Georgia, Alabama and Minnesota have followed Florida's lead by establishing similar Boys Ranches for needy and worthy youngsters.

Sheriffs in other states - - - including Ohio and New Jersey - - - are seriously considering the idea.

SWEETEST SOUND

The ringing of the old dinner bell is the sweetest sound a boy can hear at the Boys Ranch. That's Buck Wiley pulling the chain. The Jim and Rena Swick Memorial Cafeterium, which serves double duty as a central dining hall and an auditorium, is in the background.





ABOVE—Completed in the early part of this year, the Joe and Frances Diaz Administration Building provides modern office facilities for the business, administrative and social service staffs at the Boys Ranch.



AT LEFT — The long-awaited Boys Ranch gymnasium is now under construction and plans are being made to dedicate it in the fall. Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Tweed, of Coral Gables, donated \$140,000 toward the cost of the new facility, and it will be named in their honor.

BELOW—Feeding hay to the beef herd is a daily chore in the winter time. The Boys Ranch raises and feeds all its own hay and usually ends up with a surplus.





Sometimes there just isn't room

Hundreds of Boys Desperately Need Your Help

It's difficult to say to a homeless boy: "Sorry, we don't have room for you." But, we do have to say it frequently because the Boys Ranch is filled to capacity.

Hundreds of troubled boys desperately need the good life and the secure future the Boys Ranch can give them. Many are already on our waiting list.

Won't you help us to help them by mailing a contribution today? Any amount you can afford will be greatly

appreciated.

If you want to make a contribution to the Memorial Fund in memory of a deceased friend or relative, fill out both the top and bottom portions of the form below. The name of the person whose memory you are honoring will be inscribed in our permanent memorial record, and the next of kin will be notified.

All contributions to the Boys Ranch ARE DEDUCTIBLE FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES.

FACTS

About the Ranch

LOCATION—11 miles north of Live Oak, Florida, on the Suwannee River and about midway between Jacksonville and Tallahassee.

MAILING ADDRESS—P. O. Box 520, Live Oak, Florida.

FOUNDED—in 1957 by the Florida Sheriffs Association.

BEGAN OPERATION—in February, 1959, when the first boys were admitted.

FINANCING—supported entirely by public donations. (They are deductible for income tax purposes.)

SIZE—737 acres of rolling farmlands.

ENROLLMENT — 100 boys.
Eventual goal: 400 boys.

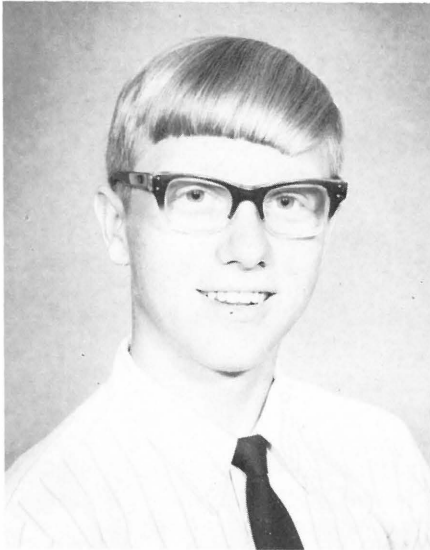
PURPOSE—to provide a good home and a secure future for dependent, neglected and homeless boys who might otherwise drift into a life of delinquency or hopeless futility. The Ranch is not an institution for delinquents.

AGE LIMITS—at admission a boy must be between the ages of 8 and 16. Once he is admitted, the Ranch becomes his home and he remains there through high school and college unless his home situation improves or another good home develops.

ELIGIBILITY—each boy must be of average intelligence and in good physical condition. He must be declared a dependent child by the Juvenile Court and approved by the Sheriff of the county in which he resides.

SOURCE OF BOYS—applicants are referred to Sheriffs by interested citizens; and also by welfare, school and juvenile court officials.

<p>MAIL TO:</p> <p>Florida Sheriffs</p> <p>Boys Ranch</p> <p>P.O. Box 520</p> <p>Live Oak,</p> <p>Florida</p> <p>32060</p>	Donor's Name _____
	Address _____
	Amount of contribution \$ _____
	Fill in Below if this is Contribution to Memorial Fund
	In Memory of _____
Send acknowledgement to:	Name _____
	Address _____



NEW EDITOR NEW LOOK

Rodney Heffern is the new editor of "Ranch Doin's", the Boys Ranch newspaper. "Ranch Doin's" will also have a "new look" this year because it will be printed for the first time, rather than mimeographed. Rodney said he's planning to print editorials, cartoons and pictures. Another sign of progress at the Boys Ranch.

Basketball is only one of many types of recreation at the Boys Ranch. There's also boating, fishing, hunting, camping, swimming, baseball, football, horseback riding, arts and crafts projects, movies and special entertainment programs.

Boys Ranch Bequests

"I am including a bequest to the Boys Ranch in my will. How should I designate the legatee?"

This question is asked frequently and the answer is: "The Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch Fund."

Bequests are a major source of income. Some are designated for specific uses such as scholarships or new facilities. Others not earmarked go into our endowment trust fund which is administered by a large Florida bank, under supervision of the Ranch trustees.

If you have any questions about making a bequest, do not hesitate to get in touch with the Ranch Administrator's office, Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, P. O. Box 520, Live Oak, Fla.

\$3.50 PER MONTH FOR CLOTHING

Could you clothe a healthy, active boy for \$42. a year?

Bet you couldn't - - - but the Boys Ranch can.

Donated clothing, valued at about \$30 per boy, per year, helps tremendously to keep the cost down.

But there are other factors such as patching and mending, (which keeps one staff member busy full time); buying clothes in quantity; and using hand-me-downs.

If a boy turns in a used piece of clothing in good condition at the Ranch clothing store, he gets a cash credit toward the purchase of another piece of used or new clothing.

The used clothes that are turned in are cleaned and reconditioned for resale. Each boy has a monthly clothing allowance and he can really stretch it by purchasing good, used clothes for work and play.

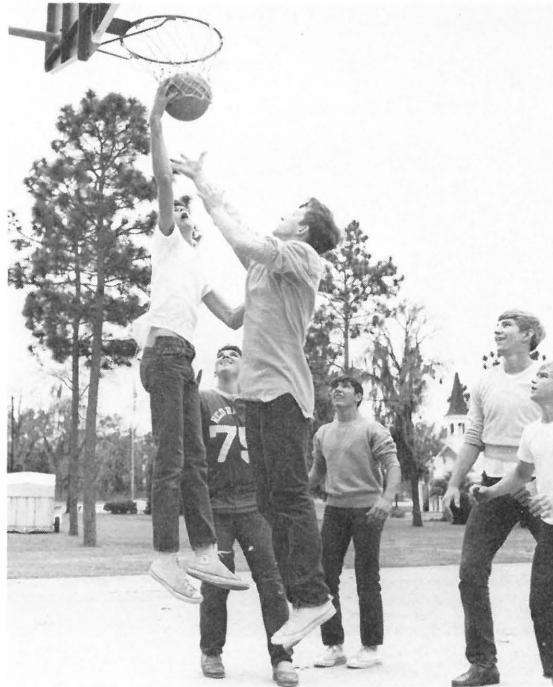
FROM BROKEN HOMES

Approximately 65 per cent of the youngsters at the Boys Ranch are from broken homes.

Only three of the boys living there at the end of 1968 were orphans with both parents deceased.

Twenty were "half orphans" with one parent deceased. Nine of these were motherless; and 11 were fatherless.

Only 10 boys had both parents living, and living together.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS
BOYS RANCH
P. O. Box 520

Live Oak, Florida 32060

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

