THE RANCHER

PUBLISHED BY THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES - SUMMER 1993

Fishing on the Suwannee

I never took the time, To fish for life, And look for love... When I found you, I found me.

(see story on page 3)

President's Perspective

A message from Harry K. Weaver, President of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches



The Youth Ranches is --- in the truest sense of the words --- an extended family. Over the years I have watched us grow --- our boys and girls, our donor family, and the staff and facilities to support the Youth Ranches goal of salvaging young lives.

We have been giving troubled boys and girls the tools and guidance to overcome seemingly insurmountable odds, to become happy, productive, law-abiding citizens in their communities for over 35 years. For the majority of that time, I have helped to oversee that progress and growth. Now, as in all families, it is time for a new chapter.

A new chapter that includes my official retirement on October 1, 1994, and a new President for the agency. I am extremely pleased with the deliberate care and caution exercised by our Presidential Task Force Committee in the selection of C. T. O'Donnell as our President-in-Transition.

Mr. O'Donnell will be joining the Youth Ranches in August of this year. Chosen from dozens of qualified applicants, Mr. O'Donnell's expertise as the Chief Executive Officer of the Florence Crittenton Home and Services in Wheeling, West Virginia, makes him uniquely qualified to head up the Youth Ranches programs. His years of experience in the child-care field and national contacts should serve us well.

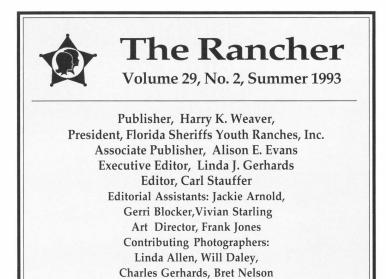
Let me assure you, my decision to retire, announced last year, in no way means I will be ending my involvement with the Youth Ranches, its youngsters and donors. In fact, to assure a smooth and orderly transfer of authority, Mr. O'Donnell and I will be working side-by-side during the upcoming year of transition. In these times of tight economy, we are also indebted to the Jessie Ball duPont Fund whose special grant defrayed the costs associated with this selection process, and is funding a portion of the transition.

It is encouraging to know by sharing our detailed search and selection process with you, that you, too, have peace of mind about this transition period we are about to enter. Even after my announced retirement date, a little over one year from now, I will be available to Mr. O'Donnell and the Youth Ranches whenever the need arises.

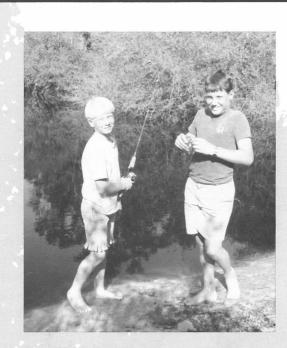
The Youth Ranches has become my family, and I am extremely proud and somewhat humbled to have been a part of its wonderful work for 32 years. I am also thankful for the heartfelt letters of support from our donor family regarding my retirement.

It is with real joy that I reflect on what a special family the Youth Ranches has become to thousands of boys and girls, staff, and donors. We have seen miracles in the lives of children and in our own lives over the years.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the unfailing support of loving, generous people throughout Florida and the nation. Thank you for the past, and the promise you will be by our side as we face the challenges of the future.



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Down on the Suwannee River Ranchers net more than good fishin'

When I came into your house, I was tired and I was sore. I was sad like a funeral And angry like a war. I never took the time. To fish for life and look for love. My heart was firmly held, In an icy leather glove. But you opened your arms, To a boy you did not know. You gave him love, And taught him how to grow. So here is to you, You clearly see, What needs to be, For setting this prisoner free. When I found you, I found me. (author unknown)



(At right) Fishing on the Suwannee River has been a favorite of Ranchers since the Boys Ranch opened near Live Oak over 35 years ago. To hurting, troubled, and neglected boys --- fishing is a special treat, especially when "Pop" comes along for the afternoon.

Recently, Nathan, Jeff, Travis and Warren, (shown on the front cover), took a break after finishing up a "tough" day of school and chores to play hooky down by the river.

The fish the boys caught were too small to keep and were returned safely to the water. However, they'll keep the memories of the love and attention they got from their Cottage Pop Jim Powers and others here at the Boys Ranch for the rest of their lives.



"If in our lifetime we can help save just one child... We'll consider our lives well spent."

...Frank and Mae McCune

A vision is what launched the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches programs over 35 years ago --- a vision nurtured by heartwarming tales of the thousands of youngsters whose lives have been forever changed and special friends who believe hurting boys and girls deserve their help.

Frank and Mae McCune are such people. The McCunes heard of the Youth Ranches special mission to help salvage young lives just four years ago.

"We were looking for an honest charitable organization that we could help," explains Mr. McCune. "We wanted to share our good fortune with others while leaving a lasting tribute to Mae's mother. Most of the groups we contacted wanted our money, but wouldn't say how it was going to be used. The Youth Ranches was willing to deal in specifics. The deciding factor was learning the Youth Ranches was run almost entirely on voluntary contributions making it distinct from so many of these other organizations."

Recently, during Open House ceremonies at Youth Ranch - Bradenton/Sarasota, the dedication of the McCune Maintenance/Vocational Center highlighted their generous involvement. In 1991, the McCunes provided a similar building at the Florida Sheriffs Caruth Camp near Inglis/ Yankeetown.

The McCunes believe that every youngster has a potential for growth, development and individual production. The



funding support for two maintenance/vocational centers emphasizes the McCunes belief that youngsters should have the opportunity to succeed.

"I think working with your hands should be part of every youngster's life unless they don't enjoy it," states Mr. McCune. "Getting your mind and body working together to produce



something you can take pride in building, fixing or painting is important.

"No matter what variety of problems or diverse backgrounds these youngsters bring here, we've learned they all suffer from low self-esteem," explains Mr. McCune. "Mae and I wanted to help the Youth Ranches provide the

facilities to train these boys and girls to become self-sufficient, --- to give them the abilities and skills to support themselves and succeed.

"New and bigger buildings aren't really the answer to these youngsters problems," concedes Mr. McCune. "What makes the Youth Ranches unique among child-care agencies is their utilization of these buildings. The combination of staff people who really care teaching these young ones how to use the tools safely and skillfully turns

mere concrete into fertile ground for growth and vocational exploration."

Frank and Mae McCune's interest in the Youth Ranches is not limited to financial support. They give of themselves in a myriad of ways. Visits to several Youth Ranches programs statewide and their regular correspondence with some of the youngsters has given them a unique insight into the lives of these boys and girls.

"We really enjoy the newspaper published by the boys at Caruth Camp," admits Mae McCune. "It's wonderful to read about the things they make in the center and the trips they take. Frank even writes each boy a personal response to their letters in the paper."

"I use my computer to send notes to the boys," admits Frank McCune. "I've gotten



The McCune Maintenance/Vocational Center at Youth Ranch-Bradenton/Sarasota marks the second such building donated by the McCunes. In 1991, a similar building was dedicated at Caruth Camp.

to know so much about these youngsters through what they write. I can usually tell you who wrote the story without looking at the name."

Their willingness to give of themselves was further emphasized when they also donated Mr. McCune's entire collection of tools to the Youth Ranch.

"You know, I'm 87 now, and they tell me I'm supposed to take it easy," concludes Mr. McCune. "I'll wait until they get an organized shop program going before I come out and (At right) During a recent visit, Mr. McCune found himself surrounded by a captive audience as he demonstrated some of the many fine tools he donated to equip the Youth Ranch's new maintenance/vocational center.



show the boys how to use some of these tools."

The McCunes moved to Florida in 1969. The Manatee County residents active life-style belies their off-hand remarks about getting old. They are avid golfers and play at least twice a week. In addition to an active community life, the McCunes enjoy traveling year' round.

Without the dedication of thousands of supporters like the McCunes, the Youth Ranches would have remained just a vision. Instead, thanks to their generosity and love the Youth Ranches is a thriving reality --- a statewide network of six child-care programs serving over a thousand troubled boys and girls each year.

William G. Selby Staff Residence

The recent dedication of the William G. Selby Staff Residence marks yet another chapter in the Selby Foundation's efforts on behalf of Florida's troubled children.

The late William and Marie Selby were residents of

Sarasota. Since they had no children of their own, Mr. Selby set up a multi-million dollar trust to help young people in 1954. The work of the Selby Foundation centers on two major areas: capital grants for Floridabased charities and scholarships for outstanding students.

The Selby Foundation has been a long-time supporter of the former Manatee River Youth Ranch and now the Youth Ranch-Bradenton/Sarasota. The Selby Livestock Pavillion was one of the first buildings constructed on the campus in 1989. Special thanks go to Selby Foundation Executive Director Dr. Robert E. Perkins who helped expedite the funding and construction of the staff residence. The William G. Selby Staff Residence honors the Selbys' enduring devotion to helping Florida's troubled children.

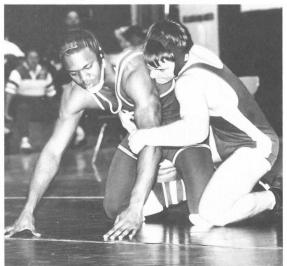




WILLIE.... graduates from Suwannee High School this year as an honor student. He came to the Boys Ranch 3 1/2 years ago. His interview below reflects his desire to improve his lot in life and share his accomplishments. He leaves the Youth Ranches as a productive, energetic young man with a bright future. His plans include college and a career in law enforcement.

RANCHER: Share with us why you came to the Ranch?

- <u>WILLIE:</u> Real tough problems at home and a need to get away from the negative peer pressure of the gangs and street life of my neighborhood. I didn't want to end up like some of my friends, shot or worse.
- RANCHER: How do you feel the Ranch has helped you?
- <u>WILLIE:</u> It's helped me in so many ways. They've given me a stable home and love. I've learned how to respect others, the importance of being honest. Above all, I now have a faith in God and myself.
- RANCHER: What were your goals when you came here?
- WILLIE: To graduate from high school. Being here made that possible. Yes, I've had my share of ups and downs but someone's always right there to help me get back on track.
- RANCHER: How are you doing in school?
- WILLIE: Great! I have been on the A and B honor rolls all year. I have maintained a high grade point average and been active in sports. This is my second year of wrestling. I've been on the swimming team and track team for two years. The Ranch's support helps me to compete in sports. The guys and cottage parents come to some of our competitions. It's like having my own cheering section.



Willie's athletic build and drive to excel have won him spots on his high school's track, swimming and wrestling teams. Above, he's shown competing in this year's District Wrestling Championships.



Willie jokes with fellow Ranchers on the steps of the Smithsonian Institute --- just one of the many Washington landmarks the youngsters visited during their whirlwind tour of the Nation's capital.

RANCHER: Tell us about your other interests.

- **WILLIE:** I sing in the youth choir at my church. I'm also a member of the Suwannee County Sheriff's Explorers group, a member of the drama club and President of FHA at my school. My hobbies? Meeting new people and learning what they think and feel.
- **RANCHER:** You credit the Youth Ranches with broadening your outlook on life. In what way?

Well, last September I was one of the lucky Ranchers chosen to represent the Youth Ranches on a trip to Washington, D. C. It was awesome seeing government in action. It really hit me, if I don't get involved now, ask questions and work for a better future... who's going to do it? It made me realize we are all responsible.

- **RANCHER:** You say your goals have changed. How?
- WILLIE: Yes, my long-term goal is to go into law enforcement, possibly the Florida Highway Patrol. In preparation for my career, I plan to enter junior college next fall. I have a scholarship to Indian River Community College. After I finish my associate degree, I hope to attend Florida A & M University in Tallahassee.
- **RANCHER:** What would you tell a youngster about to enter a Youth Ranches program?
- WILLIE: I'd warn them not to come if they don't want to accept the guidance and help that is offered, because nothing will change. I came here wanting to make a change and get a better chance at making something of myself. So it's been the greatest for me.
- **<u>RANCHER:</u>** Finish this sentence, "My time here has helped me...
- WILLIE: ...Grow both in maturity and spiritually. My attitude's changed. The example the Youth Ranches has set for me of love, caring, respect and trust will be with me for the rest of my life. I thank God for my time here.

A Tale of Two Ranch Gentlemen



AARON...

... also graduates from Suwannee High School this year as an honor student. He came to the Boys Ranch about three years ago. He candidly admits he was headed for trouble in school and in the community when he entered the Youth Ranches program. His interview below speaks of the hard choices he's already made to get his life on track.

- **RANCHER:** What events led to your coming to the Boys Ranch?
- **<u>AARON:</u>** Family conflicts with my parents that just got out of control.
- RANCHER: How has the Ranch helped you?
- **<u>AARON:</u>** I have become more responsible. I've learned to work out differences with my father and step-mother. It's also taught me how to respect myself and authority figures.
- **RANCHER:** Tell us about the big difference it's made in your school work.
- **AARON:** Well, I wasn't doing well in school at all. In fact, I failed the 8th grade just prior to moving here. Now I have a 3.5 GPA and plan to enter junior college in Lake City in the fall. If all goes well, I'll transfer to Tampa Tech after two years and get a degree in electrical engineering.
- **RANCHER:** What are your hobbies what do you enjoy doing in your spare time?
- **AARON:** I go to school and work so I don't have a lot of spare time. I like books, so I read to relax. I enjoy going to the gym here at the Ranch and playing some basketball, working out with weights, or swimming. On home visits I like going to the beach and surfing.
- **RANCHER:** Where would you be today if not for the Youth Ranches?
- **<u>AARON:</u>** I can't really say, but I don't think it would have been good.

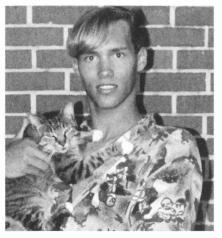


Aaron takes his job at Live Oak's Pic N' Save seriously. His manager says he's great with customers and a hard worker. He's not a spendthrift either, he's saving his earnings to finance his plans for college and a car.

RANCHER: You work off campus, tell us about your job.

- **AARON:** I've worked at Pic N' Save for about three months now. The responsibility I learned to accept at the Ranch has paid off well in my job. Before that I worked on the Ranch at the Arts and Crafts Center, the cottage crew, and other areas when they needed help.
- **RANCHER:** Do you participate in any extracurricular activities at school?
- **AARON:** When I was a freshman and sophomore, I took karate and worked on drafting projects after school. Now that I work, there isn't much time for hobbies. I don't mind, it's a good feeling to know you've worked hard to get ahead. I doubt I would have been able to find a job and save money for college and a car if it hadn't been for the help, love, support, and guidance I've gotten at the Ranch.

RANCHER: What advice would you have for a youngster



just coming into a Youth Ranches program?

<u>AARON:</u> The cottage parents and staff here will help you out a lot if you let them. So will the Youth Ranches as a whole. It can be hard or easy, it just depends on what you want to make of it. For me, it's been great.

A harbor in the storm Counseling and Love Help Youngsters Cope with Crisis

How do you convince a hurtingboy or girl that you love them? Youth Ranch / Safety Harbor Resident Director Joe Ballard says words are never enough if they aren't backed up with action.

"The boys and girls we see today are much more sophisticated than they were a decade ago," explains Ballard. "The days are long gone when adults can tell a child what to do without them asking why."



Listening and loving go hand-in-hand. Here Dawn, (at left), talks over plans for the day with her "Cottage Mom." She says the love and attention everyone shows her, makes life at the Youth Ranches "seem like a wonderful vacation."

The Youth Ranches special brand of caring and counseling is the cornerstone of its residential and child-care programs' success. In a sense, every staff member is involved in some form of counseling.

"We have Family Social Workers, Unit Social Workers, cottage parents, peer counseling, a campus council," explains Ballard. "Counseling starts with the first phone call about a youngster. Very often counseling continues long after a boy or girl returns home or goes out on their own.



The two boys above got carried away with the practice of lending a helping hand to their cottage friends. However, the peer counseling sessions and close living quarters do help teach the boys and girls to rely on each other and work as a team.

do; my cottage parents are here when I need them. They care about me and my problems.

"Despite this wealth of

counseling, we are only as

effective as the one-on-one

relationships we develop

with these youngsters,"

explains Ballard. "These

boys and girls work with

us because they can see

we stand by what we say,

and our actions show we

are genuinely concerned

great," agrees 14-year old

Dawn. "Before I came here,

I had lots of counseling,

but the people really didn't

care about me. Here they

"The counseling here is

about them as people."

"I feel safe here, people say what they mean," she adds. "I know what to expect when I get home from school ---there aren't any surprises, no yelling or criticism when I haven't done anything wrong. They keep telling me I'm not on vacation, but it's a vacation to me."

This love, attention, and stability is paying off for Dawn at school, too. She is especially proud of being moved out of classes for the emotionally handicapped and back into mainstream classes where she's doing very well.

"I am ready to move out and get my life started," admits Brian, a graduating senior who's been at Safety Harbor for three years now. "I will definitely stay in touch because I love these people."

This energetic 18-year old honor student may be eager to move on but not away. Brian turned down an opportunity to attend the University of South Florida in Tampa his freshman year, opting for a nearby junior college. He'll master the art of living on his own with the safety of knowing his "family" is nearby if he needs them.

"I was doing terrible in school when I came here. I didn't think it was important," Brian admits. "The Youth Ranches didn't make me a better student as much as help me change my attitude. Counseling from my cottage parents helped me see that if I wanted to make something of my life, I had to start making some changes. "Peer counseling helps, too. Discipline is just part of living here. It's tough sometimes when someone twice your age is telling you what to do. But when your cottage parents, counselors and friends are all saying the same thing, it's time to get your act together. I did."

Brian made some tough decisions this past year. He gave up playing varsity baseball to take a job. He's saving for college, he's already bought a car and has big plans for the future.

"The Youth Ranches has given me everything I didn't get at home, everything I've needed. Support and love --- people teaching me freedom is earned through

responsibility --- learning you fight for what you want in life and that takes hard work." Pausing Brian adds, "I owe the Youth Ranches everything."

Everest is a newcomer to the Safety Harbor campus and its counseling programs. He says he has hope for his future thanks to what he's seen in his first few weeks on campus.

"Anger and frustration bred by the street life of the inner city took its toll on me," stated Everest. "At first I was rebellious, but now I see these people care what I do with my life. You know, if I listen to them, they're going to help



Cottage Parents and their youngsters get together once a week for a "family conference." It's a time to discuss problems and make plans for the week ahead.

me make something out of my life. It's going to be hard, but it's nice here. I can make it."

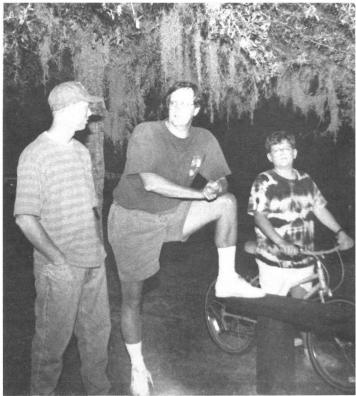
Ballard and the Youth Ranches staff know troubled youngsters desperately want and deserve a chance to get their lives on track. They believe caring and counseling help boys and girls take that first step.

"I'll walk a mile with any child here," concludes Ballard. Judging by the dozens of calls Safety Harbor receives from alumni and parents of former youngsters in residence, it's a mile worth walking.



(At left) A majority of Safety Harbor's students made the honor roll at least once this year. Thanks to after-school tutors and daily progress reports from teachers, students having problems with school work get plenty of help catching up and counselors are able to track their progress.

(At right) Anyone with a big family knows, parenting and counseling are not 9 to 5 jobs. Youth Ranch/Safety Harbor's Resident Director Joe Ballard often finds himself in conversation with youngsters long after the sun has set on his "normal workday."



One week of "Operation Blanding" produces memories for a lifetime

Wearing real military uniforms...eating Army chow... bunking in a barracks ...rapelling ... and marching...were just some of the experiences offered to Caruth Camp youngsters when they spent a week at Camp Blanding, the site of the Florida National Guard Military Academy.

Planning for "Operation Blanding" began in August 1992, after St. John's County Sheriff Neil Perry told Youth Ranches officials the National Guard was offering to play host to some Youth Ranches kids. Perry holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Guard, and is a member of the Youth Ranches Board of Directors.

Six months later, on February 15, 1993, two vans packed with 17 excited Caruth Camp lads and their leaders rolled through the Camp Blanding gates. What happened thereafter is described in the following article by one of the leaders.

"Our boys were blessed with positive experiences they will remember for a lifetime."

By Bill Frye

First stop was a barracks where there were huge boxes of uniforms and other gear — webbing, canteens, compasses, flashlights, etc. Sergeants helped the boys to get outfitted, and explained that the uniforms were theirs to keep. There was constant chatter and laughter as the boys checked and rechecked their gear.

Arriving at the chow hall for lunch, the boys were greeted by a platoon of soldiers marching down the street and singing a welcome message in cadence. The boys fell in line, and as they marched into the chow hall, you could tell this was going to be one terrific week.

During the days that followed, the Caruth campers participated in rapelling, overnight bivouacs, and visits to post museums. They learned to read maps, how to recognize various types of terrain, as well as how to use a compass and coordinates to avoid getting lost.

Talk about learning experiences! Before the Camp Blanding visit, I couldn't even imagine finding my way in the wilderness at night with only a compass, a map and coordinates.

The importance of teamwork became apparent on overnight bivouacs. Each youth had half of a shelter,



Caruth Campers pose in their National Guard issue uniforms and rapelling gear as they await they turn at the rapelling tower.

and if you didn't have a buddy, you couldn't make a complete tent. No teamwork, no tent.

Many challenges were faced by the Guardsmen and the Caruth campers. At times both groups struggled to communicate, but it was also clear that both were having an enjoyable experience. Smiles, laughter and the inquisitiveness of the Caruth kids signified one thing — that "Operation Blanding" was a complete success right up to the final event, which was the presentation of a commendation certificate to each youngster.

The Florida National Guard reached out a helping hand to Youth Ranches youngsters, and the children as well as the adults benefited. Caruth Camp youth were truly blessed with positive experiences which will be remembered for a lifetime.

— Bill Frye is the Summer Camp Director at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Camp near Barberville. He interrupted preparations for 1993 summer camp sessions to participate in "Operation Blanding."



"I was still shaky, but I did it anyway"

The Caruth Camp newspaper carried the following article by Michael after "Operation Blanding": "When I rapelled off a 34-foot tower I was

scared at first, but after I did it the second time I was not scared as much. What scared me the first time was the fear of falling and I could hurt myself. I was still shaky, but I did it anyway."



"The best tank that was ever made." Chris writing about what impressed him most:

"We saw the best tank that was ever made. It was called the M-1 and goes over 60 MPH. It weighs over 56 tons (and get this) the pounds per square inch of one track is 14!

"We got to sit in the tank simulator. It looks just like the real tank, although it is only a real tank turret. And the top of the M-1 tank turret weighs 26 tons. Just the turret. Imagine that!"



Marching was the thing Matthew liked best. Here's what he wrote for "Caruth Camp Capers":

"We learned to march. We started off with left, left, left, right, left. Then we went into cadences. Marching is fun. Some of the cadences are very funny and make you want to laugh. I enjoy marching. It looks cool when you look at a big group marching. I think it is very organized."



Some of my favorite things... Letters from Youth Campers

Can an eight-day summer vacation change a young boy or girl's life? During the past decade, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Camp near Barberville has seen miraculous changes in the lives of thousands of youngsters participating in its summer camping sessions.

Youth Camp offers a wholesome alternative for unfortunate youngsters facing an otherwise bleak summer dealing with unmanageable family or behavioral problems. Others just don't have the money to get away from tough neighborhoods where they run the risk of being led astray.

This summer nearly 600 youngsters from throughout Florida will again converge on the Youth Ranches Youth Camp for one of its six sessions. Many of these youngsters have never had a real vacation. The special words they use in their letters to thank the generous donors who sponsor their time at camp tell the story.

"Dear Sponsor,

Thank you for sending me and everyone else to camp this summer. My name is William from Keystone Heights. I have learned to have fun."

"Thanks for your support and being able to send kids like me to a wonderful camp like this. Your friend Jason."

"I really appreciate you sending us kids to camp. I will miss it 'till next year if you send me again. I hope so, camp helps you work out some of your problems and gives you people who care."

"Thank you for caring about me. I'm Steve from Tampa. I've learned to like being myself."

Youth Camp is a special blend of fun activities like swimming, horseback riding, archery, canoeing and volleyball. Boys and girls from throughout the state are treated as special people. Caring camp counselors and volunteer Sheriffs' Deputies help boys and girls work through problems in a relaxed and caring atmosphere.



Every year the boys and girls write letters to the sponsors thanking them for making their visit possible. As you can see, these two boys are in deep thought about how to express their gratutude.

The Camp's motto, "Law Officers are Your Friends" is reflected in the close bonds and friendships formed between the Deputies and the boys and girls.

> "My name is Amanda from Astor. The horses and swimming were fun. I learned how the cops feel and that they are really special."

> "Thank you for sending me to camp. Myname is Jenny from Miami. I like arts and crafts best. I have learned to respect and like law officers here."



"My name is Joey from Daytona. Horseback riding is fun. I have learned to have more respect for adults at camp."

"Thank you....My name is Renee from Live Oak...I've learned to stay out of trouble."

Sheriffs' Deputies agree volunteering is time well spent. Their goal is to keep from meeting these youngsters back in their home towns under very different circumstances. Youngsters at camp learn to trust and respect law officers and themselves.

"Dear Sponsor,

Thank you... My name is Mignon and I'm from Johnson. I've learned to trust others...thanks again."

"My name is Jessica from Sebring. I've learned that you can trust people like my friends here at camp."

"I'm from Vero Beach. I've learned to accept people the way they are. Thank you, your pal, Cindy."

The disadvantages many of these boys and girls face in their daily lives are also reflected in their praise for what many of us take for granted. Letters by youngsters about mealtime give clues to some of their hardships and deep appreciation of the fellowship and food experienced at camp.



"Thank you for sending me to camp this summer. My name is Elizabeth from Daytona Beach ... my favorite activity is getting all I want to eat."

"My name is Carry from Jacksonville. I have learned you can gain a lot of weight in just 10 days of camp."

"My name is Anthony. My favorite activity at camp is the food. I learned more manners, too."

Youngsters under the watchful eyes of the Youth Camp's compassionate staff and the guise of fun take home memories and lessons that will last a lifetime.

> "I'm Karen from West Palm Beach. I've learned patience at camp. Thank you."

> "My name is Mustafa from Clay County. I've learned to share at camp."



"My name is Desirae from St. Augustine. I've learned that you must treat others the same way you want to be treated. I also learned a lot about people I had never met."

"I'm Marcy from Punta Gorda and have learned you can work and have fun at the same time. All it takes is teamwork."

"My name is Matt from Lake City. I learned how to be kind."

"My name is Greg and I like the hikes at camp. Thank you for helping me learn how to make friends. You're my friend too, right?"

It's not too late for you to join the loving list of sponsors who make these youngsters' trips to camp possible. This year, as in the past, sponsors make it possible for youngsters to attend the camp free of charge. Please use the form at the bottom of this page to make certain your gift is properly identified.

It's not too late... Gifts are still being accepted to sponsor boys and girls who want to attend the Florida SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES SUMMER CAMP. PLEASE USE THE FORM BELOW TO MAKE CERTAIN YOUR GIFT IS PROPERLY IDENTIFIED.

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DEFERRED GIFT ANNUITIES MAY BE FOR YOU ... By Wesley Goff, C.P.A. Youth Ranches Vice President

Internal Auditing/Tax Matters

If you desire to share your resources with the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, the **Deferred** Gift Annuity Program enables you to make a significant gift to its future financial stability. If you are under 60 years of age, employed fulltime, have higher than average earnings and are in a high income tax bracket—**Deferred** Gift Annuities could be for you.

The **Deferred** Gift Annuity Program allows you to invest in troubled children's lives and provides you with annuity payments after you retire, even if you retire before you're 65. The **Deferred** payment contract provides for periodic payments to begin at some future date, usually five to ten years after the contract date.

Periodic payments will continue for the lifetime of the individual or individuals. The individual funding the contract also may use a substantial part of the contract amount as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes on the tax return for the year the contract is written.

The immediate tax benefit reduces the investment in the contract, enhancing its total return. The deferral period increases the annual

payment available from the contract due to the tax-free accumulation of interest at compounded rates.

Gift Annuity contracts with the Youth Ranches are administered and accounted for in a separate fund from all other resources.

Funds are invested and reserves maintained according to the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commissioner of Insurance, State of Florida and the Internal Revenue Service.

For additional information about the **Deferred** Charitable Gift Annuity contract or specific examples tailored to your facts and circumstances, please fill out and mail the coupon below in the self-addressed postage paid envelope provided in this issue.

> You are encouraged to consult your attorney or other professional advisor for advice and assistance.

The following table provides examples of the annual payment amounts, annuity rates and charitable deduction for the indicated ages. Amounts are based on a \$20,000 singlelife contract dated January 1, 1993. (These figures assume a discount rate of 7.6 percent.)

CURRENT AGE	AGE AT FIRST PAYMENT	FIRST PAYMENT DATE	ANNUITY RATE	INUAL YMENT	 ARITABLI
50	62	3/31/05	13.4 %	\$ 2,680	\$ 10,703
50	65	3/31/08	16.2 %	\$ 3,240	\$ 11,944
55	62	3/31/00	10.1 %	\$ 2,020	\$ 9,529
55	65	3/31/03	12.3 %	\$ 2,460	\$ 10,861
60	65	3/31/98	9.2 %	\$ 1,840	\$ 9,597

YES. I am interested in receiving additional information about the Deferred Gift Annuity Program of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. I would like to receive calculations showing the income and tax benefits a deferred gift annuity will provide. Please base the calculations on a potential agreement in the amount of \$_____ (minimum of \$1,000) and a starting first payment date of ____/ (month/day/year).

First Annuitar	nt			Second Annuitant			
	Month	Day	Year		Month	Day	Year
Your Name				Telephone		717	
Your Address							
City			5. 	_State	Zip		

Charitable Gift Annuity . . . A Gift That Gives and Provides Payments For Life

What is a charitable gift annuity?

A charitable gift annuity is a gift to help troubled boys and girls in Florida while providing a guaranteed lifetime annuity for the donor.

It is an irrevocable agreement by which you make a gift to a qualified charitable organization and receive fixed payments for life. It is also a gift since part of the payment is given for a charitable cause. Charitable gift annuities are recognized by state and federal authorities as a way to make a gift, and they have been around for many, many years.

The annuity payment one receives is based upon the amount of the gift and the age of the donor. The older the donor, the higher the gift annuity rate.

A portion of the gift is immediately tax deductible and a portion of the periodic payment is tax-free during normal life expectancy.

Organizations issuing gift annuities are required by Florida law to meet precise financial standards and be registered. The Youth Ranches was the first organization in Florida to be issued a permit to write charitable gift annuities. The Youth Ranches permit number is DAAP-74-1. The Committee on Gift Annuities meets every three years to set the uniform rates and the Youth Ranches is a sponsoring organization of this group.

You are encouraged to consult your attorney or other professional advisor for advice and assistance.

*EXAMPLE:

A \$10,000 charitable Gift Annuity agreement with the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc. will give a <u>70-year-old</u> person the same after tax cash payment each year for their remaining life as a \$10,000 Certificate of Deposit or similar fixed rate investment that yields 9.18% assuming a 28% marginal tax bracket.

A Fed	tations Assume leral Discount ite of 8.4%		NT FULLY TAX	
AGE	GIFT ANNUITY RATE	MARGINAL TAX RATE 15%	MARGINAL TAX RATE 28%	MARGINAL TAX RATE 31%
60	7.00%	7.46%	8.01%	8.17%
61	7.00%	7.47%	8.03%	8.19%
62	7.10%	7.59%	8.17%	8.33%
63	7.10%	7.59%	8.19%	8.36%
64	7.20%	7.71%	8.32%	8.49%
65	7.30%	7.82%	8.46%	8.64%
66	7.40%	7.94%	8.60%	8.78%
67	7.50%	8.06%	8.75%	8.94%
68	7.60%	8.19%	8.89%	9.09%
69	7.70%	8.31%	9.03%	9.25%
*70	7.80%	8.42%	9.18%	9.41%
71	7.90%	8.55%	9.33%	9.55%
72	8.00%	8.67%	9.47%	9.70%
73	8.20%	8.91%	9.75%	9.99%
74	8.30%	9.14%	10.04%	10.14%
75	8.50%	9.26%	10.18%	10.43%
76	8.70%	9.49%	10.44%	10.71%
77	8.90%	9.73%	10.74%	11.01%
78	9.10%	9.96%	11.01%	11.30%
79	9.40%	10.32%	11.42%	11.72%
80	9.60%	10.54%	11.68%	12.00%
81	9.90%	10.89%	12.10%	12.43%
82	10.10%	11.25%	12.51%	12.74%
83	10.40%	11.72%	13.07%	13.17%
84	10.60%	12.08%	13.51%	13.48%
85	10.90%	12.68%	14.24%	13.94%
86	11.10%	13.15%	14.79%	14.25%
87	11.40%	13.75%	15.50%	14.70%
88	11.60%	14.35%	16.24%	15.03%
89	11.80%	15.09%	17.13%	15.39%
90	12.00%	15.80%	17.97%	15.70%
91	12.00%	15.82%	18.01%	15.74%
92	12.00%	15.85%	18.07%	15.81%
93	12.00%	15.88%	18.17%	15.91%
94	12.00%	15.89%	18.18%	15.93%
95	12.00%	15.92%	18.22%	15.97%

I am interested in receiving additional information about the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches charitable gift annuity program:

single life

two lives

I would like to receive calculations showing the income and tax benefits a gift annu	ity will provide.
Please base the calculations on a potential agreement in the amount of \$	(minimum of \$1,000).

First Life		S	econd Life			Telephone	
Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year	Area Code	Number
Your Name			λ.				
Your Address							
City			State			Zip	

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc., Schedule of Comparative Returns Gift Annuity vs. Taxable Investments



TALLAHASSEE — I was winding down a tough week at the office and daydreaming about the upcoming weekend when the unthinkable happened. It was 3 p.m. on Friday afternoon when Leon County Deputy Sheriffs came to haul me away to jail. After handcuffing me, we eventually arrived at the booking desk at the new Leon County Jail. In a flash, I saw my plans for the weekend disappear, and it became clear my life would never be the same.

"We finally got you where you belong, Berlinger," barked Leon County Sheriff Eddie Boone. As I passed into the jailhouse, Boone warned, "You're going to be in for a rough night." Something told me, he wasn't joking.

Inside my apprehension grew at the dizzying sight of

black and white uniforms as far as my eyes could see. My palms were wringing wet as I suffered through the indignities of fingerprinting and mug shots. I begged them to let me go.

"Maybe someday," said the guard as I was locked into Cellblock 6. My cellmates were no ordinary criminals. I was shut-in with the likes of lawyers, lobbyists and elected officials. Would I make it out alive?

I learned Friday afternoon's round-up had netted over three hundred local residents. We were dubbed rebels....rebels with a cause!

Was it just a terrible nightmare? Naaah! Just a great fund raiser for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. It was also the anxiously awaited "shakedown" of the new 1,000 bed

jail facility in Leon County. For the past two years, Sheriff Eddie Boone and members of his Jail Transition Team had overseen every detail in the construction of this new facility. We "volunteer inmates" were helping the jail staff test the new facility before the real "bad guys" started coming through the doors.

My "arrest" was part of that dry-run coined a "Lockdown." This was a benefit to raise funds for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, just one of many activities throughout the year sponsored by Florida's Sheriffs on behalf of the Youth Ranches programs.

Appearing before Circuit Judge Charles McClure, we were required to pay a \$30 "bond" for our eventual release. We all paid with a smile, and over \$14,000 was collected to help support the Youth Ranches statewide network of five residential child-care facilities and a youth camp. The Youth Ranches is in the business of salvaging young lives, turning troubled youngsters away from crime. Boys and girls in the Youth Ranches programs aren't bad kids or criminals; they are youngsters who have had bad breaks and need help sorting out their lives.

Meanwhile, back at the jail, our hopes of an early release were dashed. We were in for the night. Dinner proved to be the highlight of the evening. Our menu included fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans and a tempting dessert.

After dinner, we "prisoners" were marched into the jail courtyard and lectured by Sheriff Boone about the "evils of our ways." After the grilling by Sheriff Boone, my cell mates and I watched TV, played basketball and bragged

> about our lives of crime. At midnight guards enforced the lights out and everyone got some shut eye.

> Saturday morning arrived before the sun. The aroma of freshly-brewed coffee and a hearty breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausages, grits and juice coaxed us from our cells.

> While we ate and discussed our impending release, the reality of the jail's true purpose was brought home to us. Inmates from the "old" jail had prepared and were serving us our breakfast. They wouldn't be going home today.

> As the sun started peeking through the morning fog, we walked out the front door — free once again. In the damp morning air, I could almost hear the giggles

and see the faces of the "Ranchers" who will benefit from this mock stay behind bars.

If you happen to live in a county where a new jail is under construction and one of these "Lockdowns" is scheduled — sign up for an evening of fun and a chance to help give troubled boys and girls a second chance at a normal life. The Youth Ranches fund-raising "Lockdowns" are an experience you'll never forget!



"How could he arrest me, his own wife?" asks Melanie Boone, the wife of Leon County Sheriff Eddie Boone. She displays her mock surprise at being rounded-up for the Leon Lockdown.



A Weekend Adventure

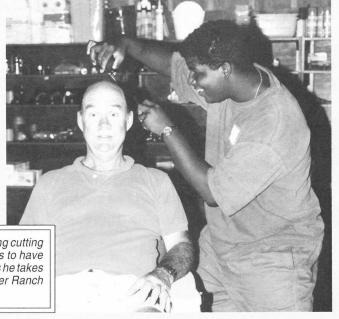
River Ranch plays Host to Ranchers

Recently, the Boys Ranch was contacted by employees of the River Ranch saying, "We want to do a little something special for the boys." That something special turned out to be an all expenses paid weekend extravaganza for nearly 20 boys and several Youth Ranches staff members.

As hosts, River Ranch treated the boys to three fun-filled days of rest, relaxation, games, food, and entertainment. There was skeet shooting, a cruise down the Kissimmee River, a pizza party and dance. The boys even picked up some tips on line-dancing and the two-step. Add a rodeo and hayride, archery, rides in an ultralight, and mini golf and you have the makings of a super weekend.

Between activities, the boys could be found at the local ice cream parlor eating a double-dip of their favorite ice cream. Topping off this extraordinary weekend, was a dinner at the Asian Adventure Dinner Theatre where the boys took part in the show.

Recently, another group of boys from the Boys Ranch was given the same treatment and came back with the same funtastic report... super people, super place, and super time. Thanks for the adventures.



seems to have his act together. "Look ,Mom, no hands."

(Left)Demonstrating for "Mom" Dennington (back row), Lance

> (Right) Keith, who is enjoying cutting up with "Pop" Knight, seems to have Pop's undivided attention as he takes a little off the top in the River Ranch Barber Shop.

A Labor of Love...

"There's only one way to make love grow," contends Youth Ranches supporter B. L. Pittman, "by giving it away to someone who needs it."

Pittman takes his philosophy literally. He recently donated over 50 handmade tables, bookcases and birdhouses to the Boys Ranch in Live Oak. This unique furniture crafted from cuts of wood normally reserved for firewood took him over two years to complete.

"I learned woodworking from my grandfather and by working on boats," he explains. "The odd shaped final cuts from trees processed by lumber yards are really the prettiest. I love taking these pieces and turning them into one-of-a-kind furniture. These tables are made from cypress, walnut, pecan, pine, almost any wood."

Pittman says the average table from sanding and polishing to a final



(Above) Mr. Pittman lovingly polishes one of his donated tables. From start to finish some 60 hours later, they truly are a labor of love.

coat of epoxy glass takes 40 to 60 hours to complete. He has even developed an epoxy finish he claims will resist almost any abuse. A good thing when you consider the tables and bookcases are destined for cottages full of active, healthy youngsters.

Now living in Kansas, Pittman says he first got involved with the Youth Ranches when the Boys Ranch was still in the talking stages. Years of living in Tampa and a friendship with former Hillsborough County Sheriff Ed Blackburn, who was a catalyst in the Youth Ranches founding by the Florida Sheriffs Association, nurtured Pittman's interest in these youngsters.



(Above)Youth Ranches President Harry Weaver gives Mr. Pittman a special thank you for the handmade furniture and the long drive from Kansas to get it here.

The idea of making the furniture for them came while working in his shop. "I thought, here is wood people throw away ..just like some of the youngsters you help. Why not give them a gift of love?"

Why not, indeed! The boys and cottage parents at the Boys Ranch send Mr. Pittman a hearty thank you.

Youth Ranch/Safety Harbor

Plant Sale --- a Blooming Success

Spring is a time for planting, a time for growth...which is exactly what the community of Safety Harbor had in mind by supporting the10th Annual Youth Ranch Plant Sale.



Plants were donated by local businesses and citizens of Safety Harbor. The plant sales were brisk, putting smiles on the faces of all involved. (At right) Rose and Isadore are shown assisting a happy customer with her spring purchase. Total sales netted about \$2,500.



Volunteers "Spread the Word"

STUART — The Youth Ranches Volunteers of Stuart were taking time out to celebrate their second anniversary when this photo was taken, and it was quite unusual to find them momentarily immobilized. Most of the time they are on the move doing fund raising and "missionary" chores for the Youth Ranches.

Organized by Youth Ranches Vice President Planned Giving Bob Haag, these goodwill ambassadors are now in their third year of "spreading the word." Their goal is to make it practically impossible for anyone in the Stuart area to say they haven't heard about the Youth Ranches.

When copies of the four-issues-a-year Rancher magazine arrive in Stuart, the volunteers help Bob Haag distribute copies to the offices of doctors, dentists, attorneys, and real estate agents — places where they will be seen and read by prospective donors.

Haag's helpers assist with fund raising activities such as benefit golf tournaments and cookouts. They also report for duty at the Stuart Opportunity Store where donated merchandise is sold for the benefit of the Youth Ranches.



To get firsthand knowledge about "Florida's Charity for Florida's Children" they visit the Youth Ranches facilities around the state.

Each year during the first weekend in October they invariably show up at the Boys Ranch near Live Oak to participate in the traditional Boys Ranch Open House celebrations.

These are dedicated supporters who not only do a great public relations job, but also support the Youth Ranches with personal contributions. They share their time, talents and treasure.

Ranchers Have "Berry" Extraordinary Weekend



Strawberries were ripe for the pickin' and eatin' as evidenced by the smile on Jamie's face (below) as he samples strawberry shortcake

during Plant City's Annual Strawberry Festival.

Boys Ranch youth and staff were the guests of Mr. Al Berry (no pun intended), President of the Strawberry Festival. The boys were treated to a host of activities during the three-day festival. Mr. Thomas, their personal guide for the weekend, made sure the boys didn't miss a thing. They attended a country and western concert, a performance by the Tomb of the



Unknown Soldier's Honor Guard from Washington, D.C., and, of course, ate all the strawberries their stomachs would hold.

St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church provided meals for the boys as did Flint's Kitchen. The boys had a wonderful weekend and send a special thanks to everyone who made their visit "berry" extraordinary.

(At left) Ranchers happily pose with their hosts during the Plant City Annual Strawberry Festival.



Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches

HONOR ROLL

To protect our donors from receiving unwanted solicitations and junk mail, we have discontinued printing home towns when we print names. This became necessary after we learned that certain organizations of questionable legitimacy were adding our donors to their mailing lists. As long as the home towns are not revealed, this will be extremely difficult to do. We want our donors to know that we have never permitted another organization to use our list of supporters, and we will continue to do everything possible to preserve their privacy.

The Honor Roll gives special recognition to generous supporters of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches and its six child-care programs: the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, Youth Villa, Youth Ranch/Safety Harbor, Youth Ranch-Bradenton/Sarasota, Youth Camp and Caruth Camp. Those who give \$100 or more receive a Builder Certificate, and their names are printed in The Rancher. Those who give \$1,000 or more receive a Lifetime Honorary Membership in the Florida Sheriffs Association, and their names and pictures may be printed in the Sheriff's Star, official publication of the Florida Sheriffs Association. A large wall plaque is awarded each Lifetime Honorary Member, and gold stars are added when the person's total gifts reach \$5,000 (one star); \$10,000 (two stars); \$15,000 (three stars); \$20,000 (four stars); and \$25,000 (five stars). For gifts of \$50,000 or more, there is the Golden Star Award. Donors of \$100,000 or more receive the Grand Star Award.



JENSEN BEACH - (left to right) Youth Ranches President Harry K. Weaver smiles as Mr. Leon LaRoche is presented with his Grand Star Award by Martin County Sheriff Robert Crowder.



MARTIN COUNTY - (left to right) Sheriff Robert Crowder (left) presents the Grand Star Award to Mrs. and Mr. Andrew Riess.

Check Presentations

LAKE CITY - (left) David Roundtree representing Oxy Chem Employees through the Suwannee Valley United Way presents a check to Youth Ranches Vice President Planned Giving Linda Crews.

INVERNESS - (left to right) The Citrus Alliance for Sheriffs Employees (CASE) President Selisa Beville and Vice President Martha Crosier present a check to **Citrus County Sheriff Charles** Dean and Stephen Feldstein on behalf of the Youth Ranches.





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(Left to Right) PANAMA CITY — Bay County Sheriff Guy Tunnell presents Builder Certificates to Mrs. Joyce Robertson and Al Vaughn, sales representative for Tommy Thomas Chevrolet. DOWLING PARK — Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Nix proudly display their Builder Certificate. LIVE OAK — Mrs. Greg L. Taylor, and Mary E. Gray and her daughter Mary Beth smile after accepting Builder Certificates on their family's behalf.

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(Left to Right) LIVE OAK — Mr. Russell Pope, General Manager, receives Builder Certificate for Farm Credit of North Florida. Youth Ranches Vice President Planned Giving Linda Crews presented Builder Certificates to Principal of Suwannee Middle School Mr. Wyman Harvard, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gill. PUTNAM COUNTY — Putnam County Sheriff Taylor Douglas presents Builders Certificates to Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Wilson and Mrs. William Stockton.

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YOUTH RANCHES CALENDAR OF EVENTS, JUNE - DECEMBER 1993

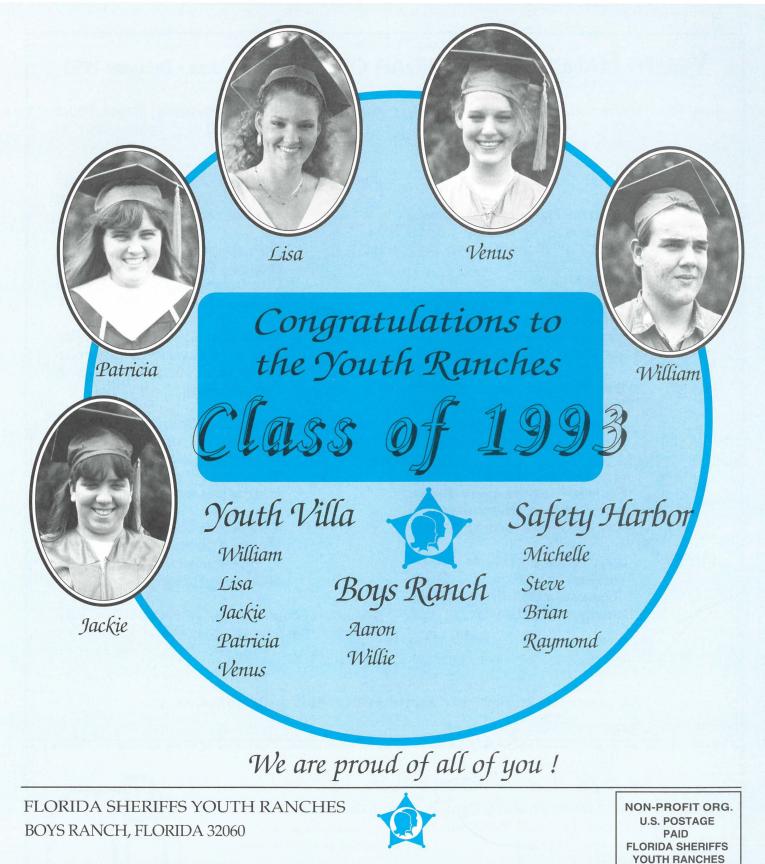
- JUNE 18 CENTRAL FLORIDA WIDE OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT, WALT DISNEY WORLD'S PALM GOLD COURSE, SHOTGUN START 1 P.M., LAKE BUENA VISTA.
- JULY 3 COUNTRY BARBECUE AND DANCE SPONSORED BY MOOSE LODGE #1213 OF BARTOW AT THE IMC PARK.
- JULY 17 CARUTH CAMP BOWL-A-THON SPONSORED BY LOCAL BUSI-NESSES IN THE INGLIS/YANKEETOWN AND CRYSTAL RIVER AREAS.
- JULY 25 2ND ANNUAL WALTER C. HEINRICH YOUTH INVITATIONAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT AT SUMMERFIELD COUNTRY CLUB IN RIVERVIEW.
- AUG. 7 QUARTERLY AUCTION AT THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS BOYS RANCH NEAR LIVE OAK. DOORS OPEN AT 8 A.M. AUCTION BEGINS AT 9 A.M.
- AUG. 27 3rd Annual Okaloosa County Sheriff's Posse Golf Tournamentat Ft. Walton Beach Municipal Golf Course.

- SEPT. 4-6 FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH VILLA CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT IN BARTOW.
- Oct. 1-3 FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES 36TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND BOYS RANCH OPEN HOUSE.
- Nov. 6 QUARTERLY AUCTION AT THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS BOYS RANCH NEAR LIVE OAK. DOORS OPEN AT 8 A.M. AUCTION BEGINS AT 9 A.M.
- Nov. 6 3rd Annual Johnny Leverock Fish Fry at Leverock's Seafood House from 12 NOON to 4 p.m. IN PINELLAS PARK.
- Nov. 26 PRIME TIME SERTOMA CLUB GIFT
- THRU DEC. 24 WRAPPING BOOTH AND THE SERTOMA CLUB OF CLEARWATER ANNUAL CAR DRAWING, BOTH AT THE COUNTRYSIDE MALL IN CLEARWATER.
- DEC. 5 8 SUNBANK FLORIDA WOMEN'S OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT AT THE PLANTATION INN AND GOLF RESORT IN CRYSTAL RIVER.

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