

DECEMBER 1976

The Rancher

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



Because...

... the good life
At the Boys Ranch
And Girls Villa
Is a constant
Reminder of our
Good Fortune,
This approaching
Christmas season
Will find us
Deeply grateful
To our many
Faithful friends
For gifts,
For prayers,
For loving concern,
And, most of all,
For giving us
A better life
And hope of
A brighter future.
May our generous
Friends also find
Their lives
Filled with
Many blessings
As they prepare
To celebrate
This joyous festival
Dedicated to
God's infinite love
And boundless mercy.



BOYS RANCH ANNIVERSARY

The 19th anniversary celebration at the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, Oct. 2 and 3, featured dedication ceremonies for the Ed Van Ness Farm and the Henry H. Beck Educational Center.

Mr. Van Ness was a car dealer in Wayne, New Jersey and in Green Cove Springs, Florida. He was also a rancher in Callahan, Florida.

A true friend of the Boys Ranch, he established a trust, naming the Ranch as the ultimate beneficiary. Since his death in 1972, the Van Ness trust has provided several generous gifts which have been used to make needed improvements at the farm and the trustees have indicated a continuing interest in this important area of the Ranch operation. Mrs. Van Ness took part in the dedication ceremony.

The Henry H. Beck Educational Center houses the Ranch learning center, library, office space for a social worker and the Ranch-Life staff, a conference room, canteen and barber shop. The Center serves the special needs of Ranchers who are weak in education skills.

Made possible by a generous bequest from the estate of Henry H. Beck, of Gainesville, this facility was discussed with Mr. Beck prior to his death and he saw to it the needed funds were made available.

A philanthropist in latter years, Mr. Beck was, at different times in his life, an attorney, an oil company executive, a diamond salesman, a real estate speculator and a world traveler. Having amassed a fortune, Mr. Beck planned his estate carefully to insure it would be redistributed through a number of worthy organizations.

Other high points during the anniversary weekend included the traditional meal of chicken pilau (pronounced per-low in north Florida) and a moonlight trail ride, to start things off Friday night, Oct. 1.

Saturday was a busy day with the opening of the traditional horse show in the Clay Mavericks Riding Arena, the free barbeque served on the banks of the Suwannee River at noon, the presentation of the Carleton F. Tweed Memorial Horsemanship Trophy to a Rancher and, finally, the dance at the Ranch cafetorium in the evening.

Several years ago, the anniversary celebration only lasted a few hours, but, in recent years, since the addition of the horse show, activities have to be carried over into Sunday. This year, there was an early Sunday morning worship service. Then, everyone boarded a bus or tractor-drawn wagons to ride to the sites of the farm and educational center dedications. The rest of the day was devoted to horse show events.

There was another highpoint, at least for the Ranchers — the arrival of the girls from the Girls Villa. It was a highpoint that lasted till the girls had to leave Sunday afternoon for the trip back to Bartow.

Ninth-grader Robert Putnam was the winner of the Carleton F. Tweed Memorial Horsemanship award which is presented to the Rancher displaying the qualities of good riding ability, sportsmanship and skill in caring for animals. It was presented by Ranch Director of Farming Gary Avery.



Horse show competition included such events as the Texas barrel weave, arena race, basket weave, personal pickup, pole bending and cloverleaf.



The Boys Ranch Alumni Association pitched in to help serve the barbeque to the hundreds of visitors. They were (from front to back) Buddy Kimbell, Mike Lockhart, Leonard Russek and Jerry Willard.

HIGHLIGHTS



The Sunday morning worship service in the horse show arena included a song sung by two Ranchers.



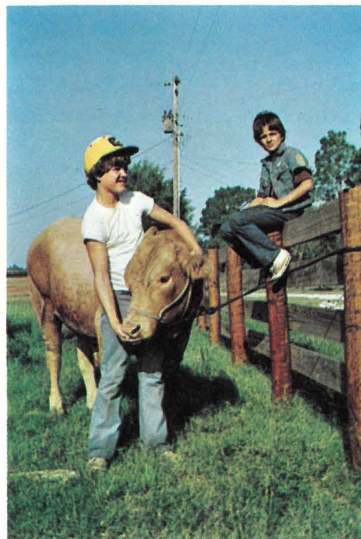
Mrs. R. H. Hall (second from right) and her daughter, Mrs. Cyd Miller, along with Boys Ranch Council President Billy Bishop and Ranch Executive Director Harry Weaver, participated in the official opening of the Henry H. Beck Education Center. Mrs. Hall donated funds for a science lab in the new building in memory of her late husband.



On hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremonies at the Ed Van Ness Farm were Mrs. Edward H. Van Ness (second from right); Ms. Muriel L. Schulz, a former business associate of the late Mr. Van Ness; Boys Ranch Executive Director Harry Weaver (left) and the President of the Boys Ranch Council, Billy Bishop.



VAN NESS FARM



Dedication
marked
beginning of a NEW ERA

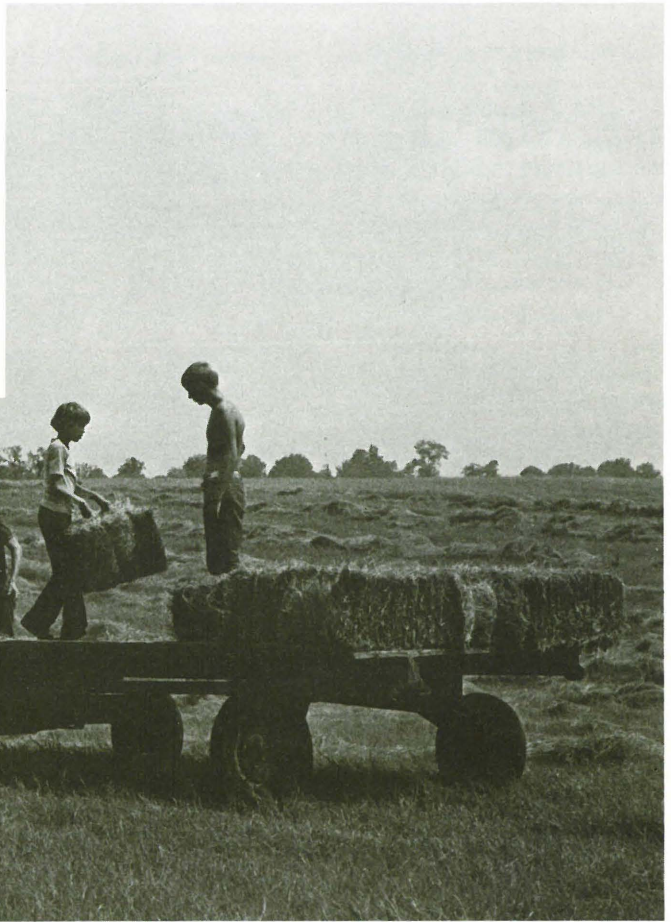
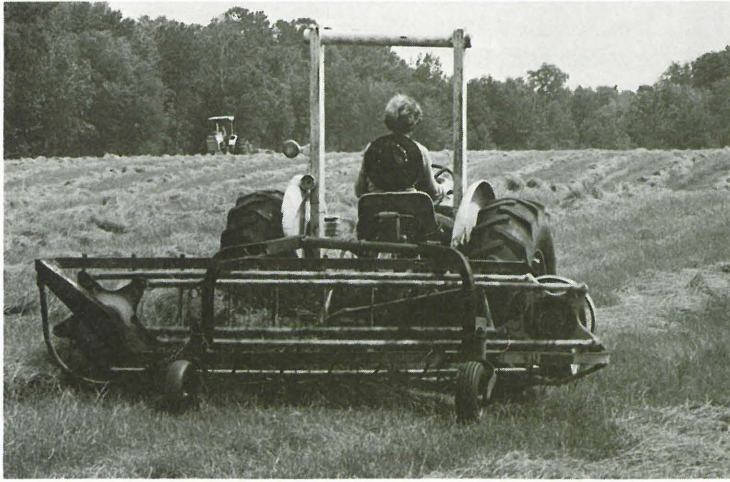
From the time when the first pasture was cleared and the first fences were built, farming has held a high priority in the Boys Ranch program.

For some 19 years, the rolling grasslands and valuable stands of timber have served as a vast, open air schoolroom where almost 500 boys have been exposed to the valuable lessons reserved for those who till the soil and become involved in the life cycles of farm animals.

Manly chores and caring for livestock have taught boys to accept responsibility. In sweat and weariness, they have come to understand both the frustrations and the rewards of toil. Opportunities to use modern farm machinery have enabled them to learn useful skills.

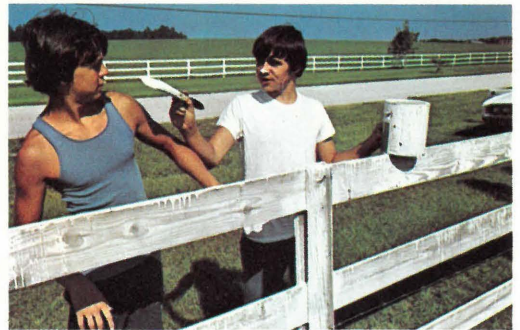
The slow turn of the seasons — spring with its new calves, summer with its watermelons, autumn with its harvest ritual, and winter with its trail rides on chilly days — have brought them closer to their Maker and closer to an understanding of His grandiose scheme.

Farming is an inseparable part of growing up at the Boys Ranch, and, thanks to the generosity of the late Edward H. Van Ness, Jr., one-time Florida rancher and auto dealer, the agricultural activities on this 3,000 acre Suwannee River showplace have received a "shot in the arm". The trustees of the estate have seen fit to help finance a continuing program of farming improvements. Ranch officials hope to put into effect a broad, 10-year plan which has been on the draw-



ing boards for months and has been developed with the help of experts in forestry, animal husbandry, soil conservation and many other specialized fields.

When the Boys Ranch celebrated its 19th Anniversary on October 2 and 3, dedication rites focused attention on the Ed Van Ness Farm Area. This marked the first step in the unfolding of a master plan. Ranch officials also looked upon it as the beginning of a new era which will eventually transform a mighty good farm into a model "farm of the future".



In addition to providing boys with work experience and useful skills, the Van Ness Farm is the setting for recreational activities, such as trail rides and hayrides. Sometimes, the work even has its lighter side.



For some 17 years, the Boys Ranch has had an evolving program of remedial education to help youngsters with scholastic handicaps, and especially those whose educations were neglected prior to coming to the Ranch.

In the early days, it amounted to staff members helping boys with their homework.

Later, it developed into special tutoring by experienced teachers, and it finally progressed far beyond the limitations of mere tutoring to become a broad-based project utilizing modern equipment, advanced techniques, experienced educators and bold; new concepts.

It became a gem of a program, but because it was housed in makeshift facilities, it was a gem without a proper setting. This was remedied recently when, with the help of a generous bequest from the late Henry H. Beck, of Gainesville, Ranch officials built a handsome education center. They dedicated it during 19th Anniversary festivities, October 2 and 3, and it is now in full operation.

Completed at a cost of over \$200,000, the new building houses a modern learning center for diagnostic and remedial purposes, a library, a conference room, a "canteen", a barber shop and staff office space.

Inside the walls of the Henry H. Beck Education Center, the dreams and plans of many years have become a reality. A gem of a program has found a proper setting, and no boy, no matter how neglected his education was before he came to the Ranch, needs to fear disgrace of becoming a scholastic failure.

The education center will function as a "fixit shop" for students in need of scholastic repairs, but it will not become a substitute for the public schools. Our boys will continue to attend the schools in nearby Live Oak, and will use the remedial program only when they fall below their grade levels in reading, math or some other important subject.

The setting is new, but the goal is the same: to help boys achieve their highest potential.

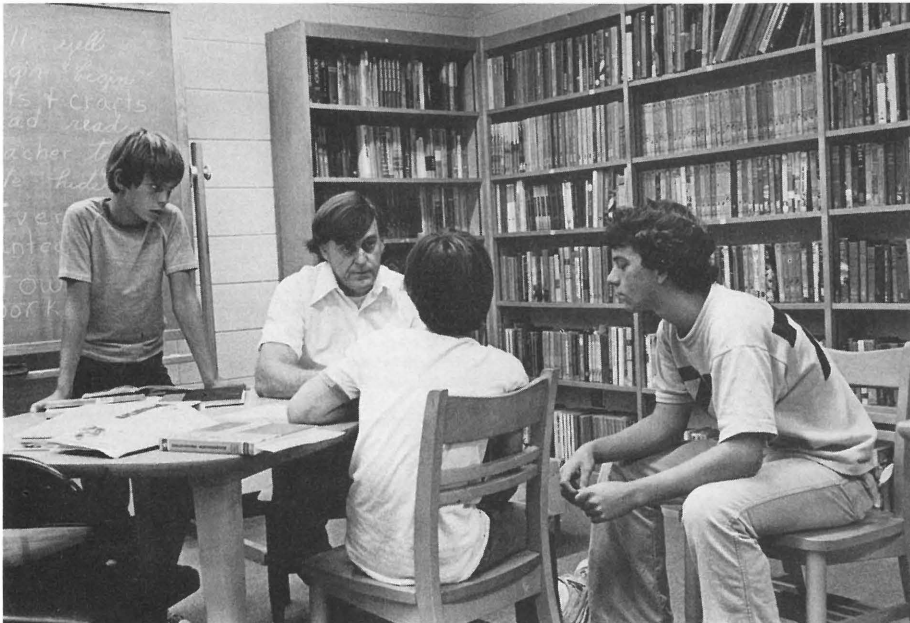


For a gem of a program,

A HANDSOME NEW SETTING

The learning center is the newest addition to the Boys Ranch campus.





Spacious, well-lighted facilities, a lack of regimentation, and a close, personal, sometimes one-to-one relationship between students and teachers make this an effective remedial program.



Frequent field trips give the students a change of pace from classroom routines. In this instance, the subject was geology, and the center of interest a fossil.



Physical education is a part of the daily routine.

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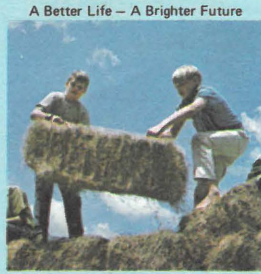
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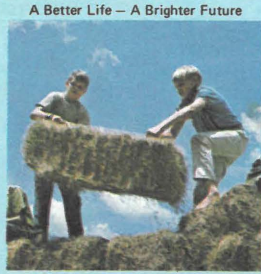
**Please Send A Seal
To Show How You Feel**

Volumes have been written about The Boys Ranch and The Girls Villa. There have been poems too and speeches, songs and movies. But all this eloquence and prose, moving sentiments and moving images can be summed up in just six words: "A better life – A brighter future". That is what we try to give to every youngster who comes to us for help. Please help us to help them by using these seals on your Christmas mail and throughout the coming year. Please send a seal to show how you feel. P. S. The stickum on the back is invisible, but it's there. Just lick'em and see.

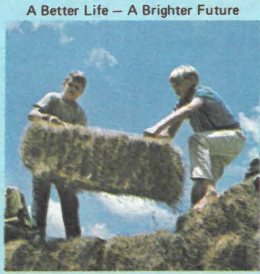
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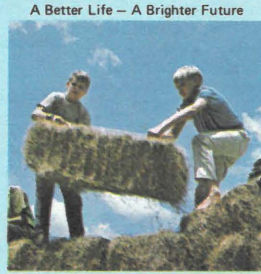
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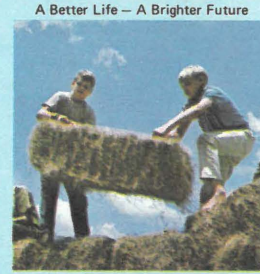
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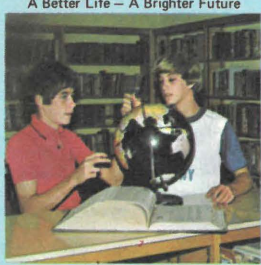
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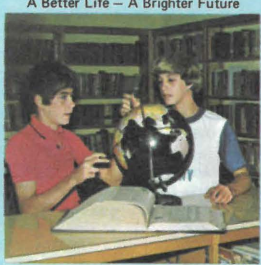
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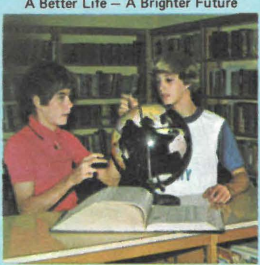
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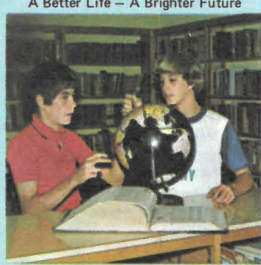
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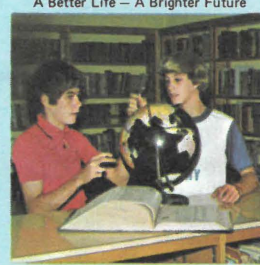
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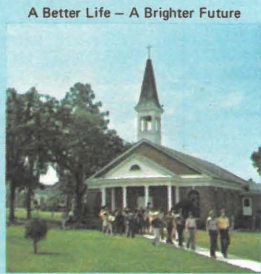
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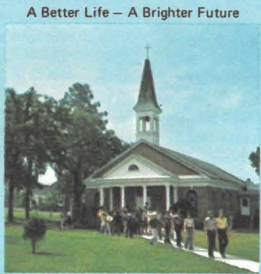
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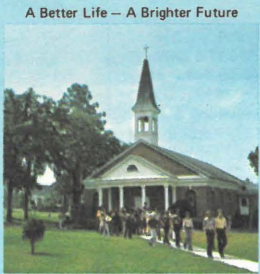
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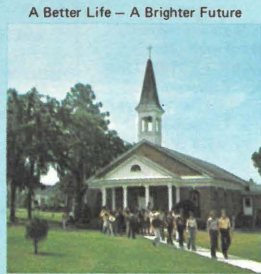
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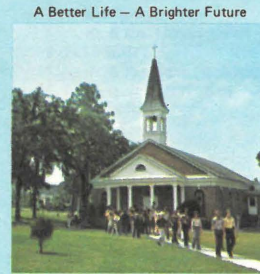
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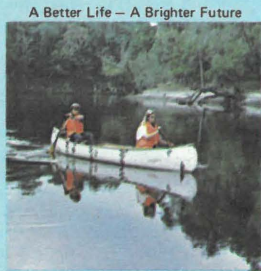
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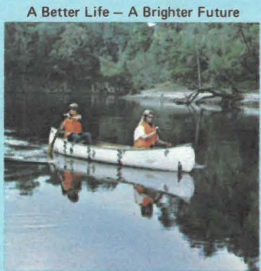
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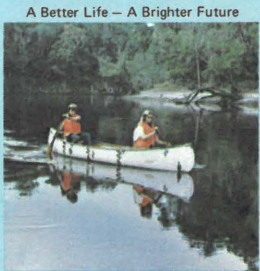
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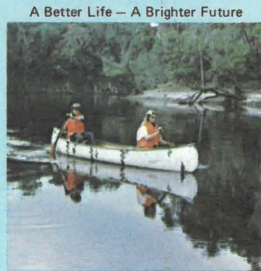
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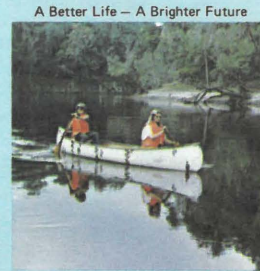
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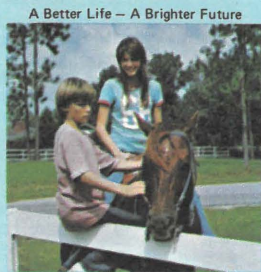
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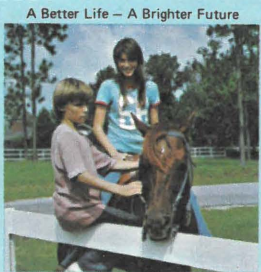
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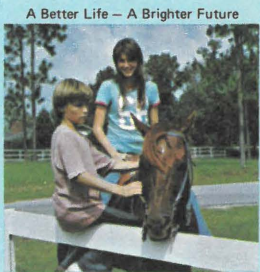
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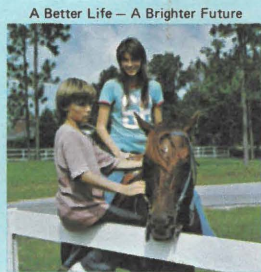
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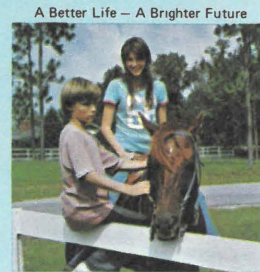
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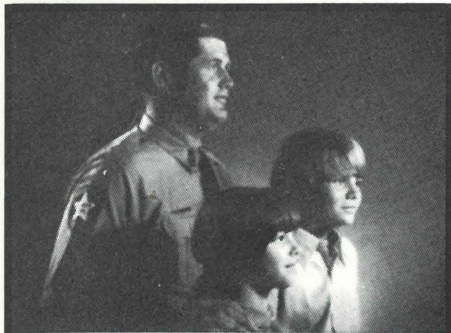
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(continued on page 15)



**FLORIDA SHERIFFS
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 32060
PHONE — AC 904 842-5501

**FLORIDA SHERIFFS
GIRLS VILLA
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.

MAILING ADDRESS — Boys Ranch, Florida 32060
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**FLORIDA SHERIFFS
YOUTH FUND
IS...**

... 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.



Canteen on the move.

**BY THE WAY,
ELVIS, WE MOVED**

Hey, Elvis!

Remember back in 1961 when your movie, "Follow That Dream" was filmed in Levy County, near Yankeetown?

Remember, too, that rustic house they built as part of the setting for the movie? It was a real boondocks classic, and, when the filming was finished, you and your manager, Colonel Tom Parker, donated it to the Boys Ranch.

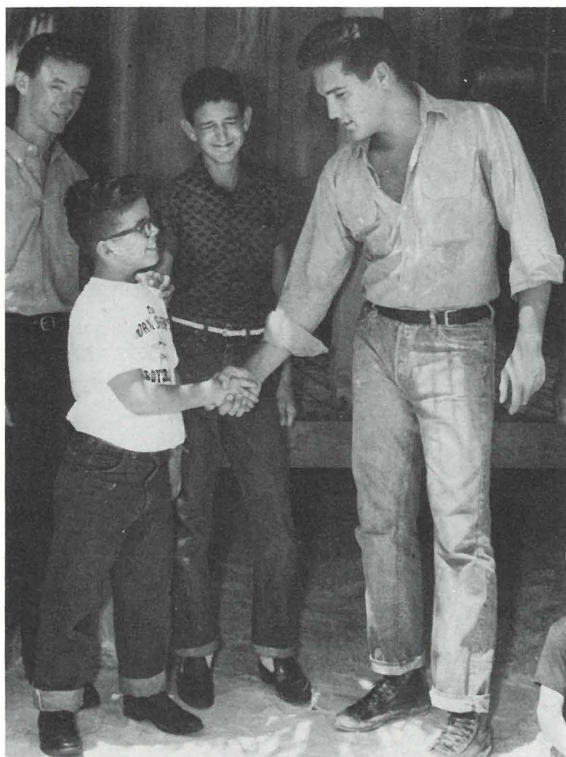
After arrangements were made to move it, you and the Colonel made a formal presentation to Sheriff Jim Turner, (who was then President of the Florida Sheriffs Association) and some of the boys from the Ranch.



Canteen in new location.



The Boys Ranch Alumni Association, which includes former Ranchers and staff members, is fixing up the Elvis Presley Alumni Center as a spare-time project.



Elvis in 1961 shaking hands with Rancher Cecil Durden. Waiting their turn are Ranchers Wally Edwards (left) and Donald Lee.

During those 15 years, over 400 boys called the Boys Ranch “home”, and, for each of them, the “canteen” held special memories because it was somewhat of a haven from regimentation and responsibilities. It was the sort of place we all dream about where a fellow can just sort of slouch around and feel natural and enjoy his friends and not be hassled about anything.

A landmark — that’s what it was, Elvis, and the gist of this article is we done moved it.

Now don’t get excited or angry, because I think you are going to like what we did with it.

You see, the Boys Ranch has been growing steadily for the past 15 years. It now covers 3,000 acres and adds up to an investment of over \$3,000,000. Every year, almost, new buildings are added, and the place where the canteen was is now hemmed in by a big cafetorium on one side, and a new education center on the other side.

Look at it this way, Elvis: Urban sprawl was crowding in, and the little old canteen just wasn’t big enough for the 100 boys, more or less, who are living here now. Besides, they just acquired a bigger and better canteen and barber shop inside the new education center building, so we hauled your little board and batten charmer down the road a piece, where it would have more breathing space and the kind of woodsy setting it deserves.

Yep, we moved it, Elvis, and here comes the best part. Your former canteen is going to become a “hangout” — an official headquarters — for those same guys you met in 1961 when you and the Colonel originally made your gift.

They don’t live here any more, of course, but they are all members of the Boys Ranch Alumni Association and they visit frequently. They also hold a reunion here each spring, and, next year when they straggle in from all points of the compass with their wives and children, they will, for the first time, have the kind of place they have been dreaming about.

The Elvis Presley Canteen is now the Elvis Presley Alumni Center, and, as in some of your movies, it looks as though we have worked out a happy ending.

YOUR CANTEEN

What a day that was!!

Elvis, you weren’t much more than a boy yourself then, and the Boys Ranch had only been in operation two years, but the boys from the Ranch — most of them fathers now with families of their own — still have bright memories of talking to you and shaking your hand.

This was the first time they had seen you in person, but you were no stranger to the Ranch. Two years earlier, you and Colonel Parker had donated two miniature ponies and a miniature covered wagon when the Ranch site was nothing more than some unpaved trails and unfinished buildings.

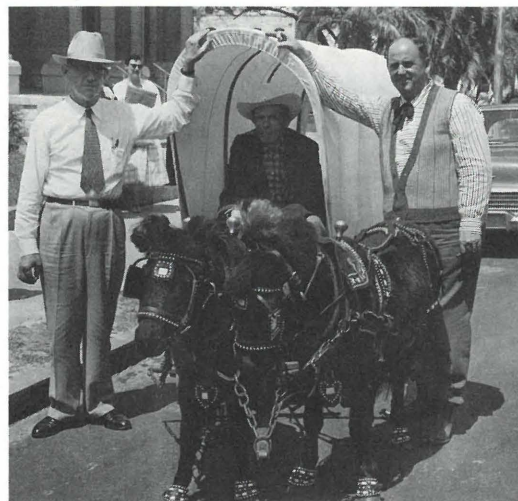
Those ponies were really something. They appeared in parades all over the state, and they raised untold thousands of dollars by letting people know about this new home for homeless and needy boys on the banks of the Suwannee River.

In return, those little rascals received more petting and pampering than you can imagine. You see, these boys who were caring for them were not ordinary boys. These kids were just aching for an opportunity to love someone or something, and to be loved in return.

You and the Colonel helped to make life brighter for a lot of sad and confused kids back in those early days, and the dividends from your generosity didn’t end then.

After the rustic little house was moved to the Ranch, the question of how to use it came up, and a lot of suggestions were kicked around. Finally, the boys prevailed. They wanted a place where they could hang out without too much interference from adults — a place where they could buy a comic book, a soft drink, a haircut or a model airplane kit.

And, so, the former movie prop became “The Elvis Presley Canteen”. That’s what they named it, and that’s what it was for some 15 years.



This picture of miniature ponies and a scaled-down chuck wagon donated to the Boys Ranch by Elvis Presley and his manager, Colonel Tom Parker, was taken in 1958 when the first Ranch buildings were under construction, and before the first boys were admitted to the Ranch. Col. Parker (right) presented the gift to the late Sheriff Hugh Lewis (left), representing the Ranch. The driver is “Pop” Barrett, builder of the wagon.

A VISIT TO THE



When seven boys from the Boys Ranch visited their six sisters at the Girls Villa, a picnic at a nearby park was one of the highlights of the weekend.



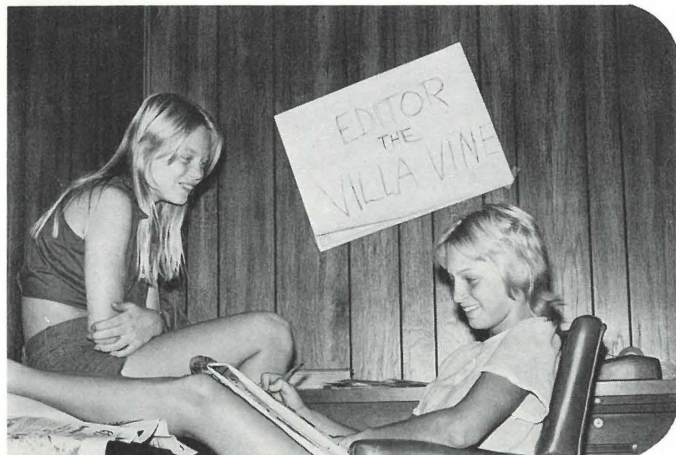
VILLA



Painting a mural kept Peppi Harris, Toni Swyck and Tammy Stickley from getting bored during the long, hot summer at the Girls Villa.



Instead of trying to cast our girls in the same mold, we give them as much freedom as possible to follow their interests, whims and enthusiasms. Consequently, pensive Tammy Stickley is allowed to share her room with her pet bird and her favorite plants.



One of the new projects at the Girls Villa is a campus newspaper called "The Villa Vine" and the editor's name, appropriately, is Rose Danforth. That's Rose (right) giving an assignment to one of her reporters, Tammy McNelly.



Enthusiasm for raising ornamental plants and flowers picked up after the Seagulls Coffee Club, Largo, donated a fully-equipped greenhouse to the Villa.





Members of the Boys Ranch Navy ROTC squad lowering the colors at twilight.

THE BOYS RANCH AT RANDOM

Now You Can Give and Receive Income

Gift annuities paying up to 10 per cent annually — depending upon your age — are now available from the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch Fund. For more information on how to receive a guaranteed income for life by giving a tax-deductible charitable gift to the Boys Ranch, simply complete this coupon and mail it in the convenient, postage-paid envelope found elsewhere in this issue.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____



A group of newcomers were on an orientation tour when this picture was taken.



A last dip in the Suwannee River before winter sets in.

(continued from page 9)

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About your will.....

Many generous friends have included bequests to the Boys Ranch, Girls Villa and Youth Fund in their wills. If you are thinking about a gift of this type, we can furnish information to assist you in drawing up a new will, or revising an old one. Simply fill out and mail the form below or call AC 904 Phone 842-5501 for further information.

Address inquiries to Harry K. Weaver, Executive Director Ranch, Villa and Youth Fund Boys Ranch, Florida 32060

Please send literature about:

- Wills
- Effective Giving
- Giving Stocks
- Giving through life insurance

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

The proper designation of legatee is as follows:

FLORIDA SHERIFFS BOYS RANCH FUND
FLORIDA SHERIFFS GIRLS VILLA, INC.
FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH FUND, INC.

A bequest to the Youth Fund will be used for both institutions.

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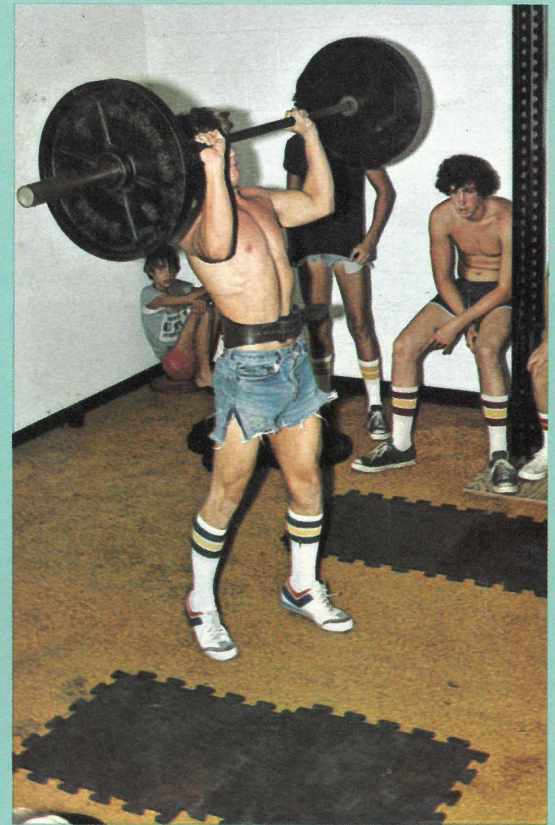
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FACTS ABOUT OUR FINANCES

Copies of the latest financial report for the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, Girls Villa and Youth Fund are now available and will be mailed upon request. Address your request to Harry Weaver, Executive Director, Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Boys Ranch, Florida 32060.

OLYMPIC COMPETITION

Sports rate high on the fun scale at the Boys Ranch, and competition reaches its peak during the annual "Cottage Olympics", one of the highlights of the summer program. Events include water sports, track events, weight lifting, a bicycle race and a tug of war.



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