

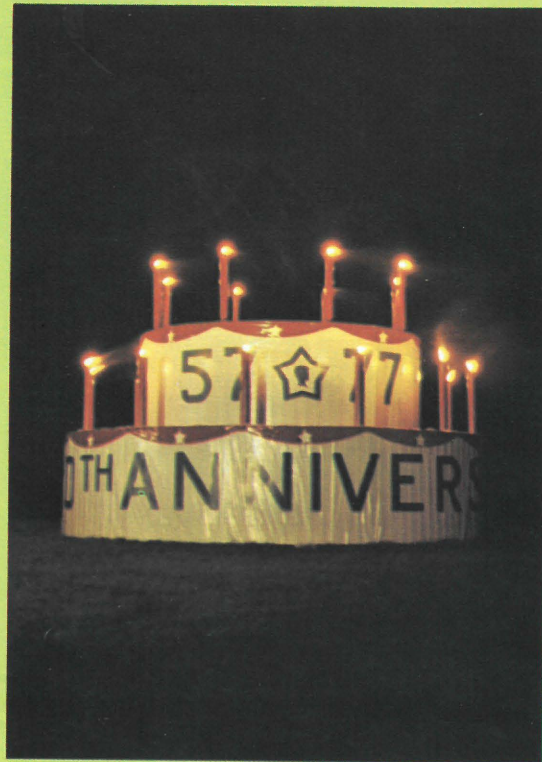
WINTER ISSUE 1977

# The Rancher

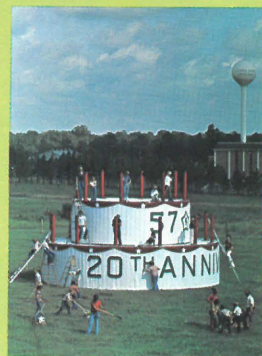
A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH FUND, BOYS RANCH, FLORIDA 32060.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS BOYS RANCH  
CELEBRATES  
20TH ANNIVERSARY

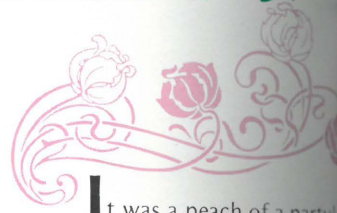




Final preparations for the 20th Anniversary of the Boys Ranch included sprucing up the giant birthday cake pictured on our cover. Later the birthday candles were lighted to greet visitors arriving for the anniversary celebration, October 1, and 2. Although inedible, the birthday cake was a symbol of something incredible — the amazing success of a bold dream conjured up by Sheriffs in 1957, and financed entirely by voluntary contributions.



# BOYS RANCH CELEBRATES 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



It was a peach of a party!

Over 2,000 visitors of all ages ate Suwannee River barbecue; rode in a three-day horse show; listened to emotional speeches about the amazing success of the Boys Ranch; worshipped outdoors in the long shadows of an early Sunday morning; dedicated a new residence cottage that will soon shelter needy youngsters; and meditated about man's generosity to man in the flickering candlelight of a bigger-than-life birthday cake.

It was a family reunion, a super picnic, a sentimental pilgrimage and a fun festival all rolled into one.

It was the 20th Anniversary celebration at the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch.

Many visitors arrived Friday night, September 30, to enter the first events of the anniversary horse show, which opened under newly-installed floodlights, and continued through Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2.

After setting up their tents, campers, motor homes and horse trailers in fields near the arena they were invited to partake of simmering pots of chicken pilau — a traditional greeting at Boys Ranch anniversaries.

On Saturday, October 1, there was an open house tour of Ranch facilities, an anniversary address by State Representative Ed Blackburn, Jr., of Tampa, and a free Suwannee River barbecue. (Blackburn's speech is printed in full in this issue.)

Leonard Russek, a Certified Public Accountant from Tampa, who was one of the first two boys enrolled at the Ranch, and also the first Ranch graduate to be named as a Ranch Trustee, followed Blackburn to the podium as a spokesman for, and current President of the Boys Ranch Alumni Association.

He praised the effectiveness of the Ranch in its efforts to give a better life and a brighter future to deserving youngsters; and he described the Ranch philosophy thus: "If you are going to help a child, don't give him a fish, teach him to fish."

Will Coffman, who is currently living at the Ranch, was introduced as a spokesman for his fellow Ranchers. "It takes a

(Continued)  
THE RANCHER

Florida Sheriffs Association President Jennings Murrhee led the grand entry to open a three-day anniversary horse show which drew hundreds of riders.



Scenic was the setting for anniversary ceremonies preceding the barbecue.





Horse show participants came in all sizes and ages representing numerous riding clubs.



Rancher Chip Petrie was the winner of the Carleton F. Tweed Memorial Horsemanship Award presented annually in recognition of riding ability, sportsmanship, and skill in caring for animals. The presentation was made by Gary Avery, Boys Ranch Director of Farming.



## 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*(Continued)*

while to appreciate the Ranch," he said. "Sometimes it gets down, but it also prepares you for life. We are all grateful. We all owe a lot to the Ranch."

Florida Sheriffs Association President Jennings Murrhee reminded the audience that the voluntary gifts of the people of Florida have made the Boys Ranch possible. "And now," he added, "with the beginning of our third decade we ask for your friendship and your prayers as we continue to care for and care about needy youngsters."

Program highlights for Sunday, October 2, included an outdoor worship service at the horse show arena and dedication rites for Jellison Cottage, the newest residence facility. It was financed by a bequest from the late C. U. Jellison, of St. Augustine, and named in honor of him and his brother, the late Capt. L. S. Jellison.

The Boys Ranch was founded in 1957 by the Florida Sheriffs Association, and the first boys were admitted in 1959.

Since then it has developed from one residence cottage, a barn and a pump house, into a self-contained community with its own fire department, laundry, water, street, sewer and communications systems.

Its facilities include an administration building, a large farming layout, an all-faiths chapel, a cafetorium, a swimming pool, gymnasium, firehouse, medical and dental clinic, auto repair shop, warehouse, education center and arts and crafts building.

Over 500 boys have been given a helping hand by the Boys Ranch during its first two decades, and there are 100 boys enrolled at the present time. The campus covers 3,200 acres of farm and forest lands on the banks of the Suwannee River; its facilities represent an investment of millions of dollars—all from voluntary gifts.

Since 1957, Sheriffs in six other states have followed Florida's lead by building similar institutions; and the Florida Sheriffs Association has also expanded its group child care activities by sponsoring two additional institutions: The Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa, near Bartow; and the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch near Clearwater.



Visitors arriving Friday evening, September 30, were greeted by steaming pots of chicken pilau, a Boys Ranch tradition.



Will Coffman was spokesman for the boys currently living at the Boys Ranch.



Members of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch Alumni Association in distinctive vests manned one of the serving lines during an anniversary barbecue attended by almost 2,000 guests.

# 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

(Continued)



State Rep. Ed Blackburn, Jr., delivers anniversary address.

## AFTER 20 YEARS

"What we celebrate here today is the anniversary of a miracle...."

*An address by State Representative Ed Blackburn, Jr., of Tampa, was one of the highlights of the 20th Anniversary celebration at the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, October 1 and 2. Blackburn, a former Sheriff of Hillsborough County, was the first Executive Director of the Ranch and also served on its Board of Trustees. Here is the full text of his address:*

"We are met here this day to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, — the actual occasion when the deeds were signed and the title of the land was transferred to the Ranch trustees.

"And we'll do just that.

"But, turning back to look down memory's lane, — the seed of inspiration for this Ranch was sown some 2 years earlier than that. It was June, 1955.

"And if this bit that I would try to do here today were to have a title, it might be plucked from one of the verses of St. Matthew, — the one that illustrates the story that 'you can never tell where a seed might fall,'

"Or, we could maybe better entitle it, 'How miracles are made.'

"For what we celebrate here today is the anniversary of a miracle, — for, can you, in your wildest fancy, imagine how 60 Florida Sheriffs could have the ability, the knowledge, the expertise, required to evaluate the psychological and sociological needs, to sort out and even begin to correct the problems of dependent, homeless or neglected boys?

"How in the world could they have the audacity to even try to dream up the financing of even the physical plant that such an undertaking would require?

"But, behold it now. Look around at all these buildings that rise out of the woods today, — every one of them a monument of love for another, — long gone, — or the physical expression of love and hope for the future of nameless boys.

"And, if this seems like woods today, you should have seen it in October, 1957.

"But, the Sheriffs and their friends forgot to take counsel

...fears. — back to the miracle, — its beginning, — and where the seed was first sown.

"It was in June, 1955 that two Florida Sheriffs drove out to Amarillo, Texas, to return 2 prisoners captured there, who were charged with an armed robbery in a town in Central Florida. The drive out there was tedious and tiring, so they rested a day before beginning the trip back home. The Texas Sheriff had assigned a deputy as a guide for the Florida Sheriffs, — a typical Texan, — tall, high hat, string tie, navy blue suit, cowboy boots, extremely courteous and accommodating. He was their host for the day, and offered to show them around as they rested. He told them that the county was too big for them to see it all in one day; — told them that on one side of the county was the beautiful Palo Duro Canyon, — and on the other side was a ranch for needy and neglected boys that had been started by an ex-wrestler.

"The Florida Sheriffs chose to see the canyon, so the Texas Deputy drove them all about it and showed them one of nature's real grandeurs. But, as he drove them that day, he told and recounted the results — the boys that had been helped — he told them of the lives that had been turned around by that ex-wrestler, Cal Farley. He told how Farley had started Farley's Boys Ranch when, in 1939, he picked up 4 ragamuffins out of the slums and alleys of Amarillo, got an old house, gave them a home, — how he loved and disciplined these kids. This Boys Ranch was by this time known nationwide, had grown and was now the home of over 200 boys. This deputy was a real supporter of this Ranch and truly sang its praises.

"The next day the Florida Sheriffs picked up the armed robbers, put them in the back seat, and headed back home. One of the prisoners was an 18 year old boy, — a tube draining his side, — a cast on one foot that was broken when he tried to escape.

"The other prisoner was his accomplice, a frightened 17 year old girl, some 5 months pregnant.

"A few miles eastward from Amarillo, the seed that the Texas Deputy had sown began to germinate. What made it begin to stir, no one knows — maybe a shot-up crippled boy, or a frightened 17 year old pregnant girl.

"For the Florida Sheriffs began to talk, wondering why — an ex-wrestler could capture the vision of turning around the lives of neglected and unwanted boys — why could not the combined determination of Florida Sheriffs do the same thing?

"Law enforcement officers saw then, and see now, young people getting into trouble every day, not loved, unwanted, neglected, really through no fault of their own. For these, troubles begin as juveniles, but every law enforcement officer knows that these same boys are sometimes tomorrow's felons.

"The ex-wrestler's Texas Ranch example was informally passed around by various Florida Sheriffs and when the next Board of Directors met in Tallahassee in late 1955, the idea was presented to the Association's Directors. It was turned down, no funds, no money was available, the cupboard was bare.

"The Florida Sheriffs Association was broke. Another year passed, but — somehow miracles live on. For at the Sheriffs' January 1957 Winter Meeting in Key West, the Sheriffs voted that an Honorary Membership Program be made available to a selected group of good citizens in each county. These good people responded.

"Six months later, the 1957 Summer Conference of Sheriffs was held in Sarasota, and, would you believe that as a result of the Honorary Membership Program, the Association had a bank balance of \$7,000.

"No one suggested that the Sheriffs didn't know how to run

a boys ranch, no one told them that all sorts of licensing restrictions had to be overcome from the State Welfare Department and also permits had to be granted by the State Board of Health. Not one thought was given that an Internal Revenue Charitable Tax Exemption from Washington was just about impossible to get. No one mentioned that their \$7,000 wouldn't even buy a paddy wagon, much less start a Boys Ranch.

"So, in Sarasota the Sheriffs Association voted to establish the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, and they went on to appoint a committee to inspect sites they said were already under consideration, or any additional sites that might be offered.

"The Lord must have forgiven that misrepresentation, for actually no sites were under consideration, for none had been offered.



Surprise guest Curtis Travis (center), former deputy sheriff from Texas, was credited with "planting the seed" of the Boys Ranch in the minds of former sheriff Ed Blackburn, Jr. (left), and the late Don McLeod in 1955. Wrestler Eddie Graham (right), a trustee of the Boys Ranch and a long time friend of Travis, arranged for the Texan to attend the Anniversary celebration. Blackburn, in his anniversary address, recounted the role Travis played in the birth of the Boys Ranch. Later Sheriff Jennings Murrhee, President of the Florida Sheriffs Association, presented Travis with a Distinguished Service Certificate.

"But the Associated Press picked up the story and Sheriff Hugh Lewis, of Suwannee County, picked up the ball and ran with it. Tommy Musgrove had earlier given this site, some 20 acres, 1/4 mile on the river, where we meet today, to the Elks Club for a youth project; he still owned the 120 adjacent acres to the south. So Sheriff Lewis persuaded the Elks and Tommy to give this 140 acres for the Ranch.

"Suwannee County civic and business leaders got together a prestigious committee, headed by J. L. McMullen, to lobby and persuade the Sheriffs to name this as the site for the proposed Ranch.

"This committee made the formal proposal to the Sheriffs Directors in St. Petersburg in August, 1957. The Sheriffs accepted, and the idea mushroomed. Adjoining this land to the east were two abandoned farms that were in estates, about 550 acres in all, and \$31,000 cash would buy them both.

"Well, it doesn't cost any more to have big dreams than it does just ordinary two-bit dreams, so with the help and advice

(Continued on next page)

Early Sunday morning a worship service was held in the horse show arena.



## AFTER 20 YEARS...

(Continued)

of the local committee, together with the help of the two friendly Live Oak banks, the Sheriffs bought these farms for cash.

"The banks each lent the Sheriffs \$13,000 for a total of \$26,000, the Sheriffs added \$5,000 of their \$7,000. So the two farms were bought for cash and the Sheriffs, with only \$2,000 cash left in hand, light hearts and no sense, began what you see here today.

"And, if you don't believe in miracles, you simply haven't been listening!

"And so, the real drive began. The Sheriffs had 710 acres of land, some of it so poor it was just holding the earth together, \$2,000 cash, \$26,000 in debts; but most importantly, they also had hope, and they found that they had something new in the way of friends. Sheriffs, of necessity, have lots of friends or the badge of authority and honor that they wear wouldn't be theirs, but all of a sudden they found themselves surrounded by a host of new friends who were attracted when they learned that Sheriffs had a virtue they had never before seen; sort of like a news story, 'Man bites dog!'

"They were actually trying to find a way to keep youngsters from getting into trouble and to later become just another criminal statistic.

"Countless friends, both new and old, responded. Money, materials and labor were donated. Committees were formed here, in service and civic clubs and churches all over Florida. Fraternities from the University of Florida, Florida State University and the University of South Florida came up on weekends and cleared much of the land.

"Ground was broken for the first cottage in the summer of 1958. A labor union from Fort Lauderdale came up and donated their services; they put the roof on that first cottage.

When complete, that first cottage was dedicated in memory of Pinellas Sheriff Sid Saunders, the President of the Association, who died suddenly just after the Ranch architect was employed.

"President Saunders' untimely death triggered a chain of events — memorial funds were sent in his memory — as you go

out, look at the All Faiths Chapel, built a few years later from the accumulation of monies started by that Memorial Fund.

"Names and stories of generous benefactors flood my memory, and I'll not try to call any names for, surely, I'd forget and leave some out.

"But there is one poignant story I believe you'll agree is worth telling. There had been much publicity about the Sheriffs' new venture, and much mail followed.

"An envelope, my name scrawled in pencil, with a return address of a state road prison camp just out of Callahan, over in Baker County, came to my desk in Tampa. When I opened the letter, a penciled note and a United States money order for \$100 fell from it. It read like this. 'Dear Sheriff, I've a long time more to spend here for something I did in Florida. I was raised out in Oklahoma, not too far from Father Flanagan's Boys Town, and I believe if I would have had the chance to go there, I wouldn't have been in this prison now. So, I'm sending this little bit and hoping this will help some boy to have a better chance than me.' And when he signed his name, he put his prison number by it.

"Now that the first cottage was under construction, Sheriffs and their friends started a campaign to get the necessary funds to complete that cottage and employ the first Ranch manager and the first house parents.

"The first four boys were admitted in January, 1959. I recognize one of these boys who, with his wife, is with us today. Leonard Russek, a Certified Public Accountant, and also a member of the Ranch Board of Trustees. Incidentally, he made a great speech at the Sheriffs' last Conference in July.

"The word that Florida Sheriffs had established a Boys Ranch and had it going excited the nation's law enforcement community. So, when the National Sheriffs Association had its 1959 Conference in Philadelphia, a Florida Sheriff was the guest speaker, so that Sheriffs across the nation could see what was being done in Florida.

"And as we meet here this morning, five other states have gone going Sheriffs Boys Ranches of their own; so you can never measure the might of a seed when planted in fertile soil. Indeed, it will bringeth forth its own fruit in season — and the new fruit itself has seeds.



Dedication rites for Jellison Residence Cottage, the newest addition to the Boys Ranch facilities, was one of the final events on the anniversary program. Involved in the ribbon cutting were (from left) Rancher Tony Garza, Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund Executive Director Harry Weaver, St. Johns County Sheriff Dudley Garrett, Jr., Rancher Lee Mullins and Rancher Matt Sigears.



"As we meet here this morning, we really are in nature's own classroom, for each of these giant trees that surround us had as its own beginning a seed that dropped in fertile soil.

"I'd ask you to look over that gentle rise and you'll see the fruit of the seed sown in Texas many years ago. And, where has the seed from that fruit been planted?

"Turn your mind's eye to the southeast — just a few miles east of Bartow you'll note there the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa.

"And if you'll let those same eyes swing about 80 miles westward to Pinellas County, you'll see there the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch in the final stages of preparation to open before the year 1978 bumps the horizon.

"As we look about us here this morning, it's easy for us to dwell or even be awed at the magnitude of the physical plant.

Over two dozen buildings, the cafeterium, the medical building, the fire station, the laundry, the Olympic size swimming pool, the Joe and Frances Diaz Administration Building, the Towey building, the cottages, all of the land. What you are seeing are physical assets approaching some 3 million dollars.

"But, if that's what we are seeing, and if that's what impresses us most, if our vision stops at the outer edge of the walls of these buildings, let's look deeper.

"For these physical assets that we see represent a fulfillment of love. As you go about here today, you'll note that the buildings, the whole lot of them, are here as someone's expression of someone's love. The donors had a genuine affection and concern for boys; they wanted to help the less fortunate.

And on many of these buildings you will also note there are plaques dedicated to a loved one long gone. These same gifts also express a love for boys.

"But the really most important thing for us to remember is the 500 or so boys who have grown up here, gone out into the world, and are now good citizens. I constantly recall to memory that at least 50 of them volunteered for the armed services. Our alumni are literally scattered all across this country.

"The pages of that memorial memory book glow with the names of thousands who were put there by friends that possibly might be reminded that someone cared for them — and for boys.

"There is simply no way to even half-way pay tribute to the countless friends of Sheriffs and friends of boys who have so generously given, and continue to give, who have made this miracle a reality.

"Before I close, I would be remiss if I failed to thank Harry Weaver for what he has accomplished in putting this whole thing together, for the leadership he has demonstrated, and for the inspiration that he has been to all who know him. I would also like to thank all of the members of his staff and their families for the love they have shown, all the dedication that all of them demonstrate every day.

"As we celebrate this anniversary, I recall a line given by some long forgotten poet: 'Backward, turn backward, oh time in thy flight.'

"And as I looked backward to the very end of memory's lane where all this began, I saw there the names and faces of the ten Sheriffs who were the original Trustees for this Ranch. Five of them have passed on; they are joined somewhere not only by other Sheriffs, but also by many other friends and generous benefactors — generous souls like Joe Diaz and Jim Towey, whose widows honor us by their presence today.

"I can't help but believe that as we meet here today to help commemorate their efforts, —

"They're out there somewhere, they're watching over, possibly hanging over the Balcony of Heaven — or wherever Old Sheriffs hang from; but, wherever they are, they're in that part of the universe where the gentle breeze begins to blow — the breeze that scatters the seeds to be sown — and the place where miracles are born.

"I can see their wistful smiles and hear their voices joined in chorus — 'Carry On'."

— Editor's footnote:

Modesty prevented Ed Blackburn, Jr., from disclosing that he was one of the "two Florida Sheriffs who drove out to Amarillo, Texas, to return two prisoners." The other one was the late Don McLeod, who in 1955 was Sheriff of Marion County. Blackburn is a former Sheriff of Hillsborough County.



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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

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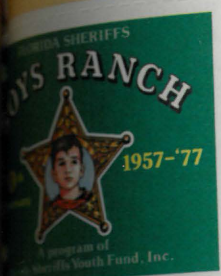
The proper designation of legatee is as follows:

- 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.

MAIL A SEAL TO SHOW  
HOW YOU FEEL

To help us celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, please use these seals on your packages and letters, not only during the holiday season, but throughout the whole year. When you mail a seal it shows how you feel about the Boys Ranch — and naturally all of us have many reasons to be proud that the Ranch has completed 20 successful years of caring and sharing. We can take pride in the hundreds of needy youngsters who have been given a helping hand; in the modern facilities that make the Ranch a showplace; and in the many accomplishments made possible by the gifts, prayers, and sincere concern of our loyal friends.





## Now you can give and receive income

Gift annuities paying up to 12 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.

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If you are getting two copies of this publication, you can help us reduce our printing and mailing costs. Simply send us both labels. (If you don't want to cut up your magazines, just copy down the exact information from each label.) Mail both labels to Circulation, THE RANCHER, Boys Ranch, Florida 32060. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

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## FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH FUND IS...

A charitable, non-profit corporation sponsored by the Florida Sheriffs Association to generate, receive and disburse funds for the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, Girls Villa, Youth Ranch and any other youth programs that may be developed by the Florida Sheriffs Association. It will also be responsible for the operation and management of all these youth programs. Gifts and bequests can be given to the Youth Fund for the exclusive benefit of any single youth program such as the Boys Ranch, Girls Villa or Youth Ranch, or they can be given to the Youth Fund to be distributed where most needed. This provides freedom of choice for our donors, plus economy and efficiency for us.

MAILING ADDRESS — Boys Ranch, Florida 32060

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### BOYS RANCH

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

The Boys Ranch was founded in 1957 and is located nine miles north of Live Oak, Florida. Funds to care for the 100 boys currently enrolled come almost entirely from voluntary gifts.

Mailing address and phone number same as Youth Fund.

### 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. Current enrollment is 24 girls.

Mailing address and phone number same as Youth Fund.

### YOUTH RANCH

**IS....** The newest group child care facility sponsored by the Florida Sheriffs Association. It was founded in 1976, and is located near Clearwater, Florida. The first youngsters are expected to be enrolled in 1978. It will provide a homelike environment for brothers and sisters who are dependent, neglected or homeless.

Mailing address and phone number same as Youth Fund.



This is "how it was" in 1959 when the Boys Ranch facilities consisted of a pump house, a barn and this first cottage standing alone and seemingly unprotected on 702 acres of newly-cleared land.

## THE WAY IT WAS

### A symposium of memories

**A**fter the Boys Ranch was founded in 1957, it was not an instant success. For at least the first five years of its existence, there were mounting problems that led Sheriffs to occasionally despair — and to even briefly consider the possibility of turning the project over to some other agency or the State of Florida.

These were lean, precarious years and they are as far removed from the present success of the Boys Ranch as the horse and buggy era is removed from the present space age.

To say that they were lean and precarious years is not to imply that they were bad years. Many good things happened then that are still producing good results two decades later. Boys who were enrolled in that era have carved out successful futures. Those were good years, but they were also years of uncertainty when the success or failure of the Ranch seemed to be in the balance.

To remember "the way it was" from 1957 through 1962 is important because only those who saw the raw land unbroken by roads, fences or buildings — occupied to a great extent by blackjack oak trees, a legendary 12-foot alligator, birds, snakes and woodland creatures — can fully appreciate the paved streets, broad pastures, painted fences, impressive buildings and landscaped lawns on today's picturebook campus.

Only those who lived or worked at the Boys Ranch during the nervous, insecure years can grasp the miraculous changes that have been wrought in professional staffing, programming, financing and planning.

Therefore, a considerable portion of this issue commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Boys Ranch has been devoted to articles about people who were involved in the Boys Ranch story during its early chapters — people who remember "The Way It Was."

## For John and Irene: Great memories

**J**ohn and Irene Schmutz can laugh about it now, but their introduction to the Boys Ranch fifteen years ago was anything but funny at the time. After 10 years on the staff at Glenview School for Boys, near Cincinnati, Ohio, they had been hired to work as cottage parents at the Boys Ranch. They were going to live in a residence cottage with 20 rambunctious boys, and they faced the prospect without fear and trembling.

In fact, they were so eager to get going with their new adventure that they drove all night on the final leg of their 800-mile journey from Cincinnati. After checking in at the old Suwannee Hotel, in Live Oak, they planned to sleep awhile, drive out to the Boys Ranch, take a leisurely look around, and gradually get into the routine of their new job.

But, they had barely gotten settled in their hotel room when the telephone rang. It was the moving van driver. He had arrived ahead of schedule; and so, off they went to supervise the unloading of their furniture.

It was mid-afternoon by the time they got the furniture squared away, and, just as they were preparing to sit down and relax, 20 boys arrived home from school. At about the same time, Harry Weaver, the Executive Director of the Ranch, dropped by to greet them. They chatted for a few moments, then Weaver said, "Well, here it is." And there it was, the job they had expected to ease into gradually had started off with a bang.

It was a bit of a shock treatment, but ten years at the Glenview School for Boys had toughened them to the stresses and strains of child care work, and although they continued on around the clock duty for six weeks without a day off, they toughed it out.

"We decided we were here to stay," John explained. "We had our income cut in half when we went to work at Glenview School, and it was cut in half again when we came to the Boys Ranch, but we were determined to make child care our life."

And they have. Currently they are rounding out their 25th year in group child care work, and they are quick to declare they have no regrets.

If John had remained in his old job as a service manager of a scale company — on the road weeks at a time — he would be much better off financially. But, it's a safe bet he and Irene would not trade their Boys Ranch experiences and memories for any amount of money.

To watch them being greeted and hugged at a reunion of the Boys Ranch Alumni Association is to simmer with secret envy. They are still close to the "boys" they raised in the early days of the Ranch — and closer to one of them than they ever expected to be.

This certain fellow, Jerry Willard, took a fancy to their daughter, Jeanne, who was 11 years old when they arrived at the Ranch. Jerry was a strapping 8th grader, and Jeanne was a diminutive 7th grader.

Jerry's first overture was, "What grade are you in, little girl?" As the years passed their friendship produced more serious



John and Irene Schmutz brought puppeteering to the Boys Ranch as a new hobby in 1962 and found that it not only fascinated some of the boys, but also helped them to work off their hostilities.

questions, and eventually, Jerry popped the big question. Now they're married.

"Does Jerry have your stamp of approval?" John and Irene were asked.

"He sure does," said John. "We raised him didn't we?"

After almost five years as cottage parents at the Ranch, the Schmutzs moved on to other positions. Irene advanced from Ranch librarian to the important position she holds today as secretary to the executive director.

John worked for a while as a relief house parent and was also in charge of the shop program, including woodworking and arts and crafts. Currently he is the Field Representative for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, and he travels the state in a large truck accepting non-cash gifts that range from horses to ducks, pool tables to motorcycles.

Today John and Irene are not directly involved in raising boys but they have spare time activities that serve to keep them in touch with Ranchers and former Ranchers.

When former Ranchers have weddings, Irene is often called on to decorate a wedding cake — a job she does in a very professional manner.

She is a member of the amateur radio club at the Ranch and holds an advance class license. John holds a technicians's license and both of them are active in the Boys Ranch Alumni Association.

In these ways and many others, John and Irene remain involved with Ranchers; and — true to their decision 25 years ago — child care is still their life.

(Continued)

## For Don: Sad memories of a boy who didn't make it

**A** 10-year-old boy whose name has been forgotten through the passing years motivated Don Genung to become the most enthusiastic promoter and fund raiser in the 20-year history of the Boys Ranch.

The boy came to Genung's attention when Genung was the chief deputy in the Pinellas County Sheriff's office. "That boy's mother was a mental patient and his father was an alcoholic," Genung recalls. "Every Friday night he would call us and ask for help because family quarrels were getting violent. There wasn't much we could do to help him. We could go out to his house and calm the family down, but there wasn't anywhere we could send him to give him a decent home life."

Genung and his boss, Sheriff Sid Saunders, were concerned about this boy and others like him who were ending up in the juvenile cells at the county jail because there were no alternative programs to keep them from drifting into delinquency.

The picture was bleak, but it changed one night in the early fall of 1957. Sheriff Saunders had just returned to Pinellas County after a trip to Live Oak, Florida. He called Genung and suggested they meet at Johnny Leverock's seafood restaurant.

The Sheriff seemed excited, and when Genung arrived at the restaurant he discovered why. Saunders, who was President of the Florida Sheriffs Association, had just returned from looking at the proposed site on which the Florida Sheriffs Association was talking about building a Boys Ranch for homeless and needy boys.

He was enthusiastic about the project and the site, and as he told Genung about his trip, Genung kept thinking about the 10-year-old boy with the mentally ill mother and the alcoholic father. The Boys Ranch was exactly what that boy needed.

That night sticks in Genung's memory, because the very next day Saunders began getting the Boys Ranch project into motion. He called a meeting of the Sheriffs Association which was held at the Suwannee Hotel, St. Petersburg, on October 3, 1957.

Saunders' enthusiasm must have been contagious, because the board quickly approved the proposed boys ranch project, and voted to accept 140 donated acres of land on the Suwannee River as the boys ranch site.

Construction of facilities got under way in 1958 and the first boys were admitted in 1959, but sadly Sheriff Saunders did not live to see his dream become a full reality. He died in October, 1958, and Genung was appointed to succeed him.



It's a safe bet that Don Genung has made over 2,000 speeches in the past 20 years, and he has never failed to mention the Boys Ranch.

Fortunately, Genung's excitement about the Boys Ranch project was equal to, or even greater than, Saunders', and therefore, fund raising activities in Pinellas County never missed a beat.

Genung had an outstanding 17-year career as Sheriff before he retired in 1975 to become a Development Officer for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund. His current job includes estate planning, gift annuities, fund raising and assisting Sheriffs with fund raising.

But, in many ways, Genung is simply continuing the fund raising activities he was involved in as Sheriff. He estimates he made at least 1,700 speeches while he was Sheriff, and in each one he either devoted the entire speech to the Boys Ranch, or put in a strong plug for it.

His enthusiasm is still strong and he works hard, but he also considers himself well compensated when he looks at the results the Boys Ranch has produced.

"My greatest thrill," he said, "is to attend a meeting of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch Alumni Association, to break bread with these former Ranchers, to discuss their problems with them, and to learn about their accomplishments."

And what about the 10-year-old boy with the mentally ill mother and the alcoholic father — did he ever make it to the Boys Ranch? Unfortunately, Genung lost track of him and by the time the Boys Ranch was open for business, his whereabouts were unknown.

Nevertheless, that boy's tragic home life helped to inspire Saunders and Genung, and it was a factor in getting the Boys Ranch project off to a running start.

## For Harry: A weakness for new horizons

**H**arry Weaver's weakness is not booze, women, gambling or expensive sports cars. He gets his kicks — and sometimes hard knocks — from chasing after new horizons.

He was in hot pursuit of a new horizon in 1961 when he left his job as a federal court probation officer to become Executive Director of the Boys Ranch.

In the federal court system he had demonstrated a special talent for working with probationers and parolees, but the business of trying to repair shattered lives after heavy damage had already been done no longer satisfied him.

He wanted to switch over to the preventative side — to work with young people who were not delinquent, but were in danger of becoming delinquent. He was looking for new challenges and he found them exploding like land mines all over the Ranch — in the laundry, in the kitchen, on the farm, and in the residence cottages.

The Ranch was understaffed; morale was low; some of the staff members had not had a day off for six months. Consequently, the Executive Director's office chair gathered dust while the Executive Director alternated between washing clothes in the laundry, cooking meals in the kitchen, running the farm, and playing temporary foster father in a residence cottage alive with the energy and mischief of 22 boys.

Weaver functioned as the "relief man" for anyone who needed a day off, and he managed to stave off a staff mutiny with one hand while reaching out with the other in search of additional personnel. Eventually the staff was brought up to the desired level and the Ranch developed a pattern of progress that is still continuing today.

Looking back, Weaver recalls that the boys themselves became a source of strength during these trying times. "They organized a Ranch Council, and many of the good things we are doing today evolved from suggestions the council made back then," Weaver said.

The youngsters on the Ranch Council also drew up a profile of what a cottage parent should be, Weaver said, and it is still useful today.

For his first four or five years at the Boys Ranch, Weaver was kept so busy meeting each day's new challenges he didn't have time to look around for new horizons.

But once his job settled down to an efficient routine, he began to get restless. He admits now this was a time when he began to have doubts about the desirability of his job. He wasn't sure the results justified his efforts. Extensive business trips all over the state kept him away from his family. He was working seven days a week.

This was a low point in Weaver's career, but two things happened to build his enthusiasm back up to its usual high level.

One of them was that he began to see favorable results in many of the youngsters who had graduated from the Ranch. The other was that the Florida Sheriffs Association was talking about sponsoring a similar institution for needy and worthy girls, and this gave Weaver a new horizon to focus on.



Much of Harry Weaver's travel is by air. Ever expanding new horizons demand it.

When the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa became a reality in 1970, Weaver became its Executive Director while continuing to function as the Executive Director of the Boys Ranch, and he gave both institutions his usual brand of drive and energy.

Other challenges followed.

The Florida Sheriffs Association created the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund and Sauls Youth Ranch as additional child care agencies, with Weaver as the Executive Director. His responsibilities continued to broaden and gain weight, but this did not stop his restless mind from wandering off in new directions.

During one of his "thinking attacks," he pondered the future of child care institutions all over the nation, and his thoughts weren't very comforting. Some child care institutions had failed miserably; some were not giving quality care; many were under attack; and all were vulnerable.

Weaver saw the need for a national organization that would help child care institutions to improve — to become more responsive to the needs of children — and, typically, it was Weaver who became the prime mover in organizing the National Association of Homes for Children (NAHC).

Although only two years old, this organization already has an impressive magazine, a growing membership and ambitious plans for the future.

Recently during a national convention of NAHC, Weaver received a plaque honoring him as the founder and first President. "It was a moving experience," he said.

It also illustrates what can happen when an incurable horizon chaser sits down for a few minutes of quiet meditation.

# THE WAY IT WAS

(Continued)

## For J.L.: "Truly a labor of love"



he accounting division in the Boys Ranch Administration Building takes up almost an entire floor. The hum and whirr of a high speed computer plays a counter melody to the clatter of typewriters and comptometers.

Accountants, programmers, business managers, clerks and secretaries perform their daily rituals with skill. You can almost smell the modern efficiency.

But — down the road a piece, in Live Oak, there's a cramped, cluttered office that once served as the Boys Ranch business office, and now serves as a reminder of the way things used to be.

This office is the home base of J. L. McMullen, a successful food processor who 20 years ago was a sort of latter day Moses chosen to lead the Boys Ranch out of a wilderness of financial uncertainty.

The year was 1958. Dollars were scarce, dreams were dime a dozen, and J. L. was the newly-appointed Treasurer of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch Fund. He was also chairman of the building committee for the first two residence cottages.

Almost from scratch, and without the benefit of a computer, he had to develop an appropriate record keeping system in an office suite that was as cramped and cluttered then as it is today.

He also had to sign receipts for cash and non-cash gifts, approve invoices, sign checks, make deposits, attend all meetings of the Boys Ranch Trustees, write letters of appreciation to donors, keep an eye on construction work at the Ranch and pay the construction workers.

Playing nursemaid to a sometimes faltering, occasionally stumbling Boys Ranch project was a demanding responsibility, without pay; and every once in a while, J. L. had to dash out to the food processing plant behind his office to make sure the peas were still cooking and the country hams were still smoking.

Those were hectic days, but somehow J. L. survived without blowing up the pea cooker or burning the hams.

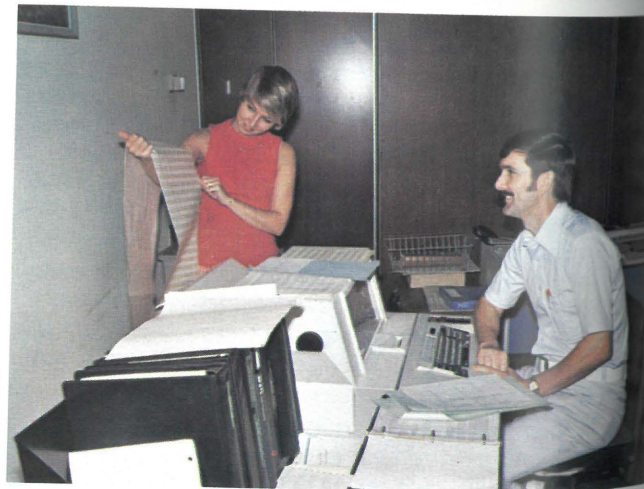
Eventually the accounting and record keeping functions were transferred from J. L.'s office to the Boys Ranch Administration Building where many hands now perform the tasks J. L. and his harried bookkeeper, Mrs. Hazel B. Hicks, formerly handled.

However, the transfer of the business office did not make J. L. a free man because the treasurer's job continued to carry many sobering responsibilities. The Ranch and its sister institution, the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa, took on the dimensions of a big business, with a more complex financial profile. There were reports to prepare, important decisions to be made and those inevitable meetings to attend.

Furthermore, J. L. was involved with the Ranch in many



J.L. McMullen digs into the dusty contents of small filing drawers that once held the earliest financial records of the Boys Ranch.



Today the financial records are being computerized at the Boys Ranch Administration Building.

other ways. One of the treasured pictures in his family scrapbook was taken during a backyard cookout at his home with boys from the Ranch as guests.

He served on the Boys Ranch admissions committee for many years and carefully evaluated every application. He made speeches on behalf of the Ranch, and traveled to many out of town meetings at his own expense.

Because parcel delivery trucks and truck lines do not make deliveries at the Ranch, J. L.'s place of business has served for many years as a transfer depot. Shipments are dropped off

there by the truck lines, and picked up by Ranch trucks. J. L.'s personnel and fork lift are sometimes used in the unloading and loading.

He has attended hundreds of Boys Ranch and Sheriffs Association meetings in all sections of the state at his own expense. He has also maintained strict and accurate accountability for millions of dollars in Boys Ranch funds.

And yet, he has never received any remuneration for the use of his offices, or for his own labor, which, on the basis of \$10 an hour (a bargain for the services of a successful businessman), would amount to well over \$50,000.

By strictly business standards, the time and effort J. L. has invested in the Ranch and Villa over the past 20 years has not been a profitable venture; but when he retired from his duties as Trustee and Treasurer on October 1, 1977, he called it "a rewarding experience . . . truly a labor of love."

And that's what you would expect from a man whose favorite sayings include this one:

"He who takes and never gives,  
May last for years, but never live."

## For Tommy: A gift of land on the Suwannee



Thomas Musgrove, a successful farmer who lived on the far north side of Suwannee County, heard a car in his driveway one morning late in the summer of 1957, and stepped outside to shake hands with his old friend, Sheriff Hugh Lewis.

They passed a few pleasantries about the weather and the tobacco crop, then the Sheriff got down to business. "Thomas," he said, "the Florida Sheriffs Association is planning to build a ranch for needy and neglected boys and they are looking for a site."

"I know," said Thomas. "I just read about it in the Times-Union."

"Well," said the Sheriff, "Bob Tuttle and me was talking about that 20 acres of land over there on the river you offered to the Elks Lodge. It don't look like the Elks are going to be able to build a youth camp on it, and Bob talked like the Elks would be willing to give up their claim to it if you was interested in offering it to the Sheriffs Association."

The Sheriff paused, then added, "This boys ranch could be a big thing for Suwannee County."

"I know," said Musgrove, "that's what I was thinking."

"Well, do you think you would be interested in making the Sheriffs Association an offer?"

Musgrove nodded, and later agreed to add an additional gift of 120 adjoining acres.

Thus in one short conversation between two old friends, the machinery was put in motion to bring the Boys Ranch to Suwannee County.

The Sheriffs Association lost no time in accepting Musgrove's offer, and in a few short months Musgrove was able to sit on his front porch and hear the rumble of road grading machinery building the first roads at the ranch site.



Thomas Musgrove beside a sign that identifies a Boys Ranch street named in his honor.

The Association immediately took steps to acquire some adjoining farm land and extended the ranch property to 702 acres. Over the years additional purchases brought the total acreage to 3,200, much of it valuable income producing timberland.

In the early days of the Ranch, both Sheriff Lewis and Musgrove were actively involved in its development, but, sadly, Sheriff Lewis did not live to see its present pinnacle of success.

Musgrove donated his time and expertise to the farming operations as well as administrative matters. He was a good neighbor, but eventually he retired from farming, sold his home and surrounding property to the Ranch, and moved to a location near Live Oak.

Nevertheless, he has continued to follow the progress of the Ranch, and, because he is a man of few words, he summed it up this way: "I am proud of it."

## FACTS ABOUT OUR FINANCES

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

## THE WAY IT WAS

(Continued)

### For Jack: Guilty of fraudulent cynicism

**H**undreds of Boys Ranch graduates who have never seen Jack Madigan or heard his name are living better and happier lives today because of the way Madigan practices law.

He is not your everyday ivory tower attorney. To remain aloof and detached — merely handing down learned opinions to his clients — would give him a migraine headache of colossal proportions.

Madigan just isn't built that way. He's a mixer . . . a scrapper . . . and sometimes pushy as hell. The Navy gave him some stripes or bars or stars or whatever they handed out to aggressive young officers in World War II, and personality-wise, he has never left the command post.

Professionally, he has also made a name for himself in legal circles, and during the past 25 years he has become widely known as the able general counsel of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

Sheriffs like Madigan's straight-from-the-shoulder approach to legal problems, human relations and life in general; and, being the kind of guy he is, he manages to get much involved in their day-to-day problems.

When, for instance, the Sheriffs Association decided to create the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, Madigan didn't say: "Call me if you have any legal problems." Instead he was as much caught up in the big adventure as any Sheriff.

He attended the first meeting of the Boys Ranch Trustees; debated policy matters with Sheriffs even though he was as naive as they were about residential child care institutions; and remained active behind the scenes helping them to make tough decisions when it came to firing a key executive or developing fund raising plans.

In the early days of the Boys Ranch, there were precarious times when staff problems, money problems and boy problems caused Sheriffs to doubt the wisdom of getting into the child care business.

In private, Sheriffs sometimes wondered out loud if the State of Florida or some other agency would be willing to take the Boys Ranch off their hands. This idle musing born of desperation never got translated into official action, but it was a symptom that Sheriffs were suffering some pretty heavy doubts — and Madigan was suffering along with them.

The point is that Madigan was not merely a legal advisor. He was deeply enmeshed in all sorts of non-legal matters, and because he has the kind of rapier mind that goes straight to the heart of any problem, his sharp perceptiveness was a viable, al-



Ranchers — this is Jack Madigan. You may never get an opportunity to meet him, but he deserves your gratitude nevertheless.

though not always visible, factor in plotting the stormy course of the Ranch, a course that eventually led to fame and success.

Youngsters who have benefited from living at the Ranch have no way of knowing all this — but they are indebted to him nevertheless.

The Boys Ranch and its boys are also indebted to him for quality legal services which ran the gamut of corporate law but which brought him no extra legal fees. This sweetheart of an arrangement continued for ten years until the volume of work dealing with estates, real estate and government regulations demanded a change.

Today Gayle Swedmark, one of Madigan's law partners, is the legal-counsel-with-pay for the Boys Ranch, Girls Villa, Youth Ranch and Youth Fund, and is doing an outstanding job.

But the fact remains, it was the old master who drew up the trust instrument that created the Ranch; who sweated out the lean years; and who performed all the rituals of legal midwife.

All this for the Boys Ranch, but what has the Boys Ranch done for Madigan? Well, in a way it has exposed him as a fraud who goes around wearing the mantle of a cynic.

Would a cynic give away ten years of legal fees? Would a cynic give substantial cash gifts to the Ranch to qualify as a Lifetime Honorary Member of the Sheriffs Association? Would a cynic take a Rancher into his home for the Thanksgiving holidays? Would a cynic get sentimental about a pair of cufflinks the Rancher sent him later on?

"I still wear them," Madigan admitted recently.

The prosecution rests and moves for a directed verdict that plaintiff is guilty of fraudulent cynicism.

### For Arley: Cold cuts by candlelight

**M**any years ago the U.S. Army taught Arley Hurst how to cook, and he has spent most of the past 18 years feeding a hungry army of youngsters at the Boys Ranch.

Arley began working at the Ranch as a one-man kitchen crew in 1959 when the total population consisted of seven perpetually hungry boys and a handful of staff members.

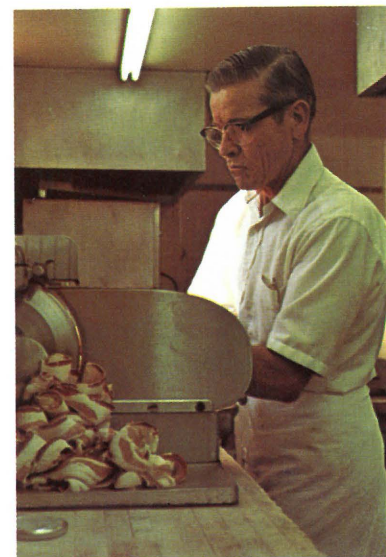
The newly-cleared acres had a windswept look moderated only slightly by two residence cottages that had just been completed. The boys and a couple employed as cottage parents lived in the first cottage. The second cottage had been converted into a temporary dining room and kitchen.

Cooking was very elementary then — a far cry from the present day cafetorium where food is stored in walk-in freezers, menus are planned by a professional dietitian, and meals are produced with the help of modern restaurant equipment big hotels would envy.

On school days Arley and other members of the kitchen crew are up long before dawn and on the job at 4:30 a.m. to start preparing breakfast. The work load eases toward midday, then reaches another peak as the dinner hour (out here in the country we call it supper hour) approaches.

The best available estimate is that Arley years ago passed the one million mark in meals prepared, and is well into his second million. His career total of hamburgers dispensed ranks second only to the famous McDonald restaurant chain.

From his little kingdom of pots and pans and dirty dishes, Arley has watched many changes take place at the steadily growing Boys Ranch, but one thing remains constant. Ham-



Eighteen years ago bacon was a luxury at the Boys Ranch and Arley Hurst had to slice it by hand. Today it's a regular item on the menu, and the slicer is powered by electricity.

burgers and spaghetti were the favorite items on the Boys Ranch menu in 1959, and they still are today.

Preparing untold tons of food for the bottomless tummies of growing boys has not been an easy task. There have been minor crises too, such as when a hurricane passed through knocking out power lines and the menu turned out to be cold cuts by candlelight.

Supervising kids assigned to kitchen chores is not exactly a cream puff way to make a living either, but Arley's army background enables him to run a tight ship and a spotless kitchen.

And then there are some fringe benefits too, like long lasting friendships with boys who have graduated from the Ranch. When they grow up and return with their wives and children they invariably head for the cafetorium to tell Arley how much they miss his hamburgers and spaghetti.

### For Clara: The great wrinkled shirt crisis

**S**omething had to be done. The laundry room at the Boys Ranch was full of wrinkled shirts, but no one was available to iron them and the public schools were opening.

Harry Weaver, the newly-hired Resident Director, had tried to iron some, but they had looked worse when he finished than they had before he started.

Weaver was desperate.

Someone told Weaver Clara Jones could swing a mean iron, so he found her and hired her. Enter Clara Jones, a heroine of this laundry soap opera.

"I ironed 270 shirts that first day," Clara recalls, "and I also ironed some jeans."

Next day the Ranchers went to school looking neat and presentable, and Clara has been around ever since to prevent a recurrence of "The Great Wrinkled Shirt Crisis of 1962."

Weaver never got involved in shirt ironing again, and eventually with the advent of permanent press shirts and jeans, Clara



Clara Jones, heroine of the Boys Ranch Laundry Soap Opera.

dispensed with it too. Instead of chief ironer, she became superintendent of the laundry. Today she and her co-workers turn out hundreds of pieces of clean laundry daily, and once in a while if Clara sees a permanent press shirt that doesn't suit her, she reaches for her iron again.



At Lakeland's Child Development Center, all three girls were visibly touched by their first experience as volunteers working with handicapped children. In the pictures above, Shelly is on the left and Dee on the right. Cindy is pictured at the top of the opposite page.

# YEARNING FOR LEARNING

Girls assigned to the new learning center at the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa never know exactly what to expect from day to day. Life for them has become a kaleidoscope of interesting experiences, and there are signs this unique program developed by Mrs. Judy Ongley is creating a yearning for learning.

There is considerable classroom work to develop reading skills, math skills and other basics, but there are also frequent field trips that broaden educational horizons and give the Villa girls an opportunity to explore future vocational opportunities.

During one week recently our photographer followed Dee Bryant, Shelly Hartung and Cindy Norman during a series of visits to the Bartow Public Library, a ceramics studio, and the Child Development Center operated by United Cerebral Palsy in Lakeland.

The library intrigued them, the ceramics studio entertained them, but their visit to the Child Development Center where they were given an opportunity to get involved in therapy sessions for handicapped youngsters was the most gratifying. They were reluctant to leave and agreed to return on a weekly basis as volunteer helpers.

Mrs. Ongley said she wants to motivate the girls toward future careers, but this is only one facet of the learning center program she is setting up in a Villa building formerly used as a temporary administration office.

She plans exercise classes, sex education, tutoring and conventional classroom sessions involving a variety of subjects. Modern audio-visual equipment will also be used in a Developmental Learning Lab to help girls who have academic, learning or social difficulties.

It's remedial; it's therapeutic; and, because of Mrs. Ongley's creative approach, it's also interesting.

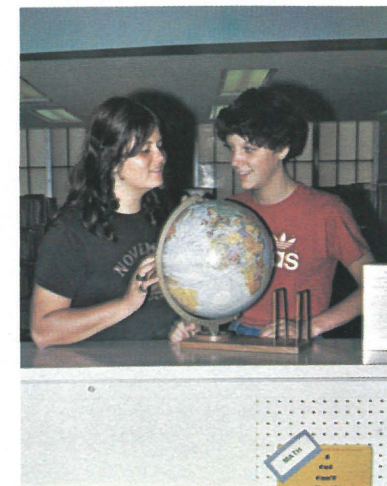
The girls work on their own ceramics projects one afternoon each week in a Lakeland ceramics studio.



At Bartow Public Library, Cindy Norman (left) and Shelly Hartung were given instructions on how to use the card catalog by Mrs. Judy Ongley.



Dee Bryant gravitated to the library's collection of popular records.



Cindy became intrigued with a stuffed version of "Jaws."



# HISTORIC MERGER

During an historic meeting of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, Girls Villa and Youth Fund trustees on October 1, the three agencies were merged into one legal entity, The Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Inc., to mark the beginning of a new era of efficiency and expansion in the child-care activities sponsored by the Florida Sheriffs Association.

The Boys Ranch, Girls Villa and Youth Ranch programs will continue to operate as before, but they will no longer exist as separate and individual entities.

They are now a part of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Inc., but their identities have been preserved through appropriate court action and their names will be reserved with the Florida Department of State.

All gift checks should be made payable to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Inc., but those who wish to designate their gifts to the Boys Ranch, Girls Villa, or Youth Ranch may do so by simply making their wishes known.

The central office of the Youth Fund is located at the Boys Ranch, and the mailing address is Boys Ranch, Florida 32060.



The signature of Sheriff Sam Joyce (Youth Fund Chairman) made the merger official. Witnesses were Gayle Swedmark, Youth Fund attorney, and Sheriff Jennings Murrhee, President of the Florida Sheriffs Association.



Present at the merger meeting of trustees were: (from left) Doris Hough, J. L. McMullen, Sheriff Frank Cline, Eddie Graham, Gayle Swedmark (attorney), Harry Weaver (Executive Director of the Youth Fund), Sheriff Sam Joyce (Chairman), Sheriff Jennings Murrhee, Sheriff Don Moreland, Sheriff John Whitehead, Sheriff Robert Leonard, Sheriff Dolph Reddish and Leonard Russek.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS  
YOUTH FUND  
BOYS RANCH, FLORIDA 32060  
Address Correction Requested

