

THE RANCHER

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

Ranch Capacity Boosted to New High of 100 Boys

It seems like only yesterday that a group of Sheriffs rode out across a rutted sand trail to a scenic but totally undeveloped site on the storied Suwannee River.

They looked at the unspoiled beauty of their surroundings and decided this was where they would build the Boys Ranch they had been dreaming about

—a place where a youngster with three strikes against him could be given a second chance “at bat” in the game of life.

This was 1957, only seven years ago, and yet in this short time the rutted sand trail has given way to paved roads, the undeveloped land has become rolling green pastures, and the once quiet

banks of the Suwannee ring to the laughter of carefree boys.

In just seven years the Boys Ranch has become one of the largest child care institutions in the State of Florida with facilities valued at over \$750,000 and its fame has traveled nation-wide.

Truly, our brainchild is growing up, and 1964 will be remembered as the year it burst out of its sometimes insecure infancy into strapping adolescence.

1964 will be remembered as the year of the building boom . . . the year that the Ranch began to acquire something that could be called a “skyline” . . . the year we launched a \$250,000 building program and boosted our capacity to an all-time high of 80 boys.

As we go to press, our fifth residence cottage is being completed and this will jump our enrollment to 100 boys.

Giving on the Installment Plan . . .

By Carl Stauffer
Field Secretary of the
Florida Sheriffs Association

I wanted to give a large gift to the Boys Ranch, but I decided I couldn't afford it—not with three sons of my own to raise and educate.

Then I talked to an insurance agent and he showed me how I could do it at a cost of only a few dollars a month.

At his suggestion I took out a life insurance policy that will give the Boys Ranch \$4,000 when I die, and the premiums amount to less than \$18 a month.

Furthermore, since the Ranch is the irrevocable beneficiary (this means I can't change the beneficiary), my premiums are deductible for income tax purposes—just the same as any donation to the Ranch.

Others have done the same thing, and the Ranch now holds insurance policies with a total value of over \$50,000.



EVER-GROWING—The Boys Ranch is growing so fast we frequently have to change the enrollment figure on the sign at the main entrance. Jimmy Pilcher recently had the honor of jumping the total from 60 to 80—and we expect to reach 100 before the end of the year.

We Called Him "The Boy Nobody Wants"

I will not tell you his real name.

But, I will tell you the title we gave him when we received his application for admission to the Boys Ranch.

We called him “the boy nobody wants” because he had been deserted by his parents and pushed around from foster home to foster home.

This had left its mark on him. He was bitter toward life. He was hostile

toward people. He was suspicious. He would have been the bottom contender in any juvenile personality contest.

He was, in fact, the most unwanted boy we had ever seen . . . but we wanted him, and we enrolled him at the Ranch.

He had nothing and we had many things to give him . . . basic things

(Continued on Page 7)

THE RANCHER

A publication of the Florida
Sheriffs Boys Ranch,
Route 3, Live Oak, Florida

BOYS RANCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ed Yarbrough
Baker County Sheriff
Chairman

Hon. Ed Blackburn.....Tampa
Sheriff Ross Boyer,
Sarasota County, Sarasota
Mr. B. E. Brice.....Bronson
Mr. Emil Bruno.....Lake Worth
Sheriff Dale Carson..Duval County,
Jacksonville
Sheriff Wade Cobb,
Santa Rosa County, Milton
Sheriff M. J. Daffin.....Bay County,
Panama City
Mr. A. D. Davis.....Jacksonville
Mr. Syde P. Deeb.....Tallahassee
Mrs. Wilbur S. Dezell.....Quincy
Mrs. Joe Diaz.....Tampa
Mr. R. P. Dunty, Jr.....Lake Placid
Mr. W. F. Edwards.....Dade City
Hon. Don Fuqua.....Washington, D.C.
Sheriff Don Genung,
Pinellas County, Clearwater
Sen. L. P. Gibson.....Perry
Dr. J. W. Hayes.....Jacksonville
Mr. Joe Henry.....Tallahassee
Mr. Gerald C. Holbrook,
Hobe Sound
Sheriff Sam Joyce,
Indian River County
Vero Beach
Sheriff Willis McCall,
Lake County, Tavares
Sheriff Duke McCallister
Suwannee County, Live Oak
Hon. Don McLeod.....Tallahassee
Mr. J. L. McMullen.....Live Oak
Colonel Robert Pentland,
Hollywood
Mr. Ed Pickerill.....Orlando
Sheriff Rodney Thursby,
Volusia County, DeLand
Hon. James W. Turner.....Chiefland
Sheriff Ed Yarbrough,
Baker County, Macclenny

Fun Unlimited

Fun is practically unlimited at the Boys Ranch.

Our youngsters swim, fish, go boating or horseback riding, pursue all kinds of hobbies, play baseball, football, basketball and other sports, read books in the library and go hunting in the surrounding woodlands.

But they also enjoy an occasional trip to break the normal routine.

During 1964 they went to Jacksonville and West Palm Beach for fishing trips; took an educational jaunt to Washington, D. C.; visited Fort Clinch State Park near Fernandina Beach, the Jacksonville Zoo, Six Gun Territory near Ocala and Silver Springs.

Several groups also took camping trips.



PLANNING FOR A PORTRAIT—Through the generosity of Walt McFadden (left), president of Southern Air Surveys, Inc., we now have the first full-length portrait of the Boys Ranch—an expensive aerial photo taken free of charge in December. Walt, whose home base is in Daytona Beach, is shown here briefing his chief pilot, Bob McWhorter, before taking off on the photo mission. Framed prints 30 x 40 inches, can be obtained by sending \$10 to Florida Sheriffs Association, P.O. Box 1487, Tallahassee.

Just in Case Y'all Would Like to Know Who Makes the Boys Ranch Go..Go..Go

You want to know who makes it go? The hard working, dedicated staff members, that's who.

All the money in the world and the finest possible facilities wouldn't make the Ranch a success without a qualified staff, and we are extremely fortunate to have such fine, professionally qualified people working for us.

To a great extent our "All-American" staff is a tribute to Harry Weaver, the Boys Ranch Administrator, who has been responsible for hiring it and supervising it in a way that brings out the greatest potential.

But each individual also deserves much credit too for loyalty and devotion to duty. Each has different aptitudes and potentialities, but one common denominator: a willingness to measure all activities with the same yardstick—"is this good for the boys?"

Here they are, the people who are responsible for making the Boys Ranch a "home"—not just an institution:

Harry Weaver, Administrator
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Schmutz,
Houseparents
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey P. Bues,
Houseparents
Mr. and Mrs. James Bailey,
Houseparents

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald C. Arnold,
Houseparents
Mr. and Mrs. James Brettingen,
Relief Houseparents
James N. (Bud) Royal,
Farm Manager
Gene R. Peacock, Director of Ranch
Life and Industrial Arts Instructor
A. A. Hurst, Cook
Mrs. Hazel H. Long, Bookkeeper
Mrs. Hazel Hicks, Bookkeeper
Mrs. Laura Cannon, Secretary to the
Administrator
Fred Bosserman, Purchasing and
Property Control
Mrs. Mollie Chauncey,
Assistant Cook
Mrs. Fred Bosserman,
Assistant Cook
Leo Ross, Maintenance Supervisor
James Strayer, Director of Social
Service
Mrs. James Strayer, Secretary to the
Director of Social Service

Pass It On

After you have finished reading THE RANCHER, please pass it on to a friend.

This will help us to spread the "Boys Ranch Story" far and wide—and you never know when a casual reader will become an enthusiastic supporter.

FACTS

About the Ranch

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

MAILING ADDRESS—Route 3, Live Oak, Florida

FOUNDED—in 1957 by the Florida Sheriffs Association.

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

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

SIZE—737 acres of rolling farmlands.

ENROLLMENT—60 boys at the end of 1964; currently increasing to 80; expected to reach 100 by 1966. Eventual goal: 400 boys.

PURPOSE — to provide a good home and a secure future for Florida's needy and worthy boys—to give them love, security, discipline and all of the essential advantages that are every American boy's birthright. The Ranch is not a "reform school" or a "correctional institution." Boys enrolled at the Ranch are there simply because they need a good home—because they are the innocent victims of neglect or lack of opportunity.

AGE LIMITS—To be admitted a boy must be between the ages of 8 and 12½. Once he is admitted, the Ranch becomes his home and he remains there through high school and college unless his home situation improves or another good home develops.

ELIGIBILITY — Each boy who meets the mental and physical requirements must also be approved by the Sheriff and the Juvenile Court Judge of the county in which he resides.

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

Constantly Trying

Our houseparents are constantly trying to improve their effectiveness.

During 1964 they attended a workshop at Stetson University; and one couple also participated in a similar group child care session at the University of North Carolina.



FIRST COLLEGE STUDENT—Wally Edwards, the first Rancher to enter college, discusses his homework with Wanda Welch on the campus of North Florida Junior College, at Madison. Wally is a sophomore and expects to major in animal science. If sufficient funds can be raised, we expect to give every qualified Rancher a college education and we anticipate that many will be following in Wally's footsteps.

"Homicidal Maniacs" with Guns Turn "Spook Walk" into a Wild Stampede

The "spook walk"—a nighttime trip down a woods trail populated by ghostly shapes and wierd noises—has become an annual Halloween custom at the Ranch.

Last year many of the boys who had been through the ordeal before, felt they were beyond being scared by the usual "stage props," so staff members put forth a special effort.

First a fake radio broadcast was aired over the cafetorium public address system during dinner warning that two homicidal maniacs were loose in the area.

Then the boys were shown a spook movie to get them in the proper frame of mind, and they started out on their traditional "spook walk."

Everything went along about like other years, with the boys making a great show of bravado, until they came upon a car parked in the woods.

One of the more adventuresome boys walked up to the car and reported, "The motor's still warm."

Just then two strange men jumped up and started firing guns, one of the housefathers accompanying the boys dropped to the ground clutching a big red blotch on his chest, and the boys

high tailed it out of there in a general stampede.

They didn't find out until they had reached their cottages—wide eyed and breathless—that the car and the strange men had been "planted" in the woods with "blanks" in their guns, and the housefather's "wound" was from a concealed bottle of catsup.

Now the boys are more determined than ever that they won't be hoaxed again, and the staff members are already plotting for the 1965 "spook walk."

The Pay-Off

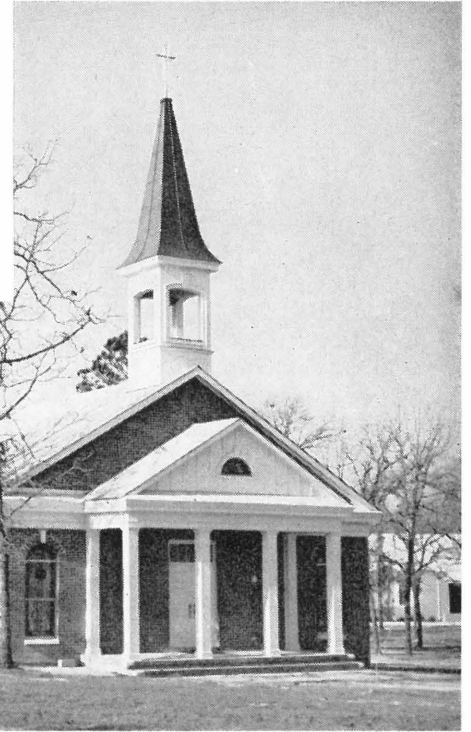
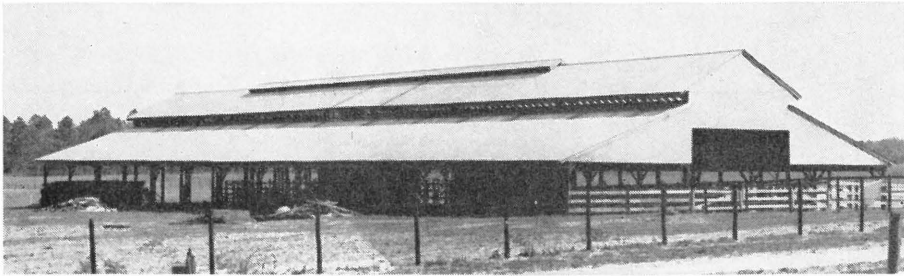
LIVE OAK—Officials of New Idea Equipment Co. wanted to pay Suwannee County Sheriff Duke McCallister after he served delicious meals to some 500 people attending a demonstration of farm machinery here.

But the Sheriff politely explained he never accepts anything for putting on his famous barbecues and fish fries.

Later the Coldwater, Ohio, manufacturers found another way of showing their appreciation. They sent the Sheriff a check for \$350 payable to his favorite charity—The Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch.



New Facilities at



ABOVE—Hugh Lewis Memorial Cottage, which is now occupied; and the cattle barn.

AT RIGHT—The All-Faiths Chapel



BELOW—Merrill Memorial Cottage; and the library which is located in the rear of the Chapel.



BELOW—Jim and Rena Swick Memorial Cafetorium



The Boys Ranch

JIM AND RENA SWICK MEMORIAL CAFETORIUM—Built as a memorial to a couple who lost their lives in Jacksonville's Hotel Roosevelt fire, this handsome \$90,000 building is the largest single construction project ever undertaken at the Ranch. It provides a central dining hall and indoor recreation facilities large enough to take care of anticipated future enrollment. Administrative offices are temporarily located at one end of the dining hall, but will be moved elsewhere in the future.

ALL-FAITHS CHAPEL AND MEMORIAL LIBRARY—This dual-purpose building was started in 1964 and completed in 1965. It was financed with "memorial fund" donations. Religious services will be held in the front portion; and the rear wing houses the library.

HUGH LEWIS MEMORIAL COTTAGE—Formerly used as a temporary dining hall, this building has been renovated as a residence for 20 boys and a married couple employed as "cottage parents." The project was completed early in 1965, boosting the Ranch capacity to 80 boys.

MERRILL MEMORIAL COTTAGE—Now nearing completion, this will be the Ranch's fifth residence cottage and will increase the capacity to 100 boys.

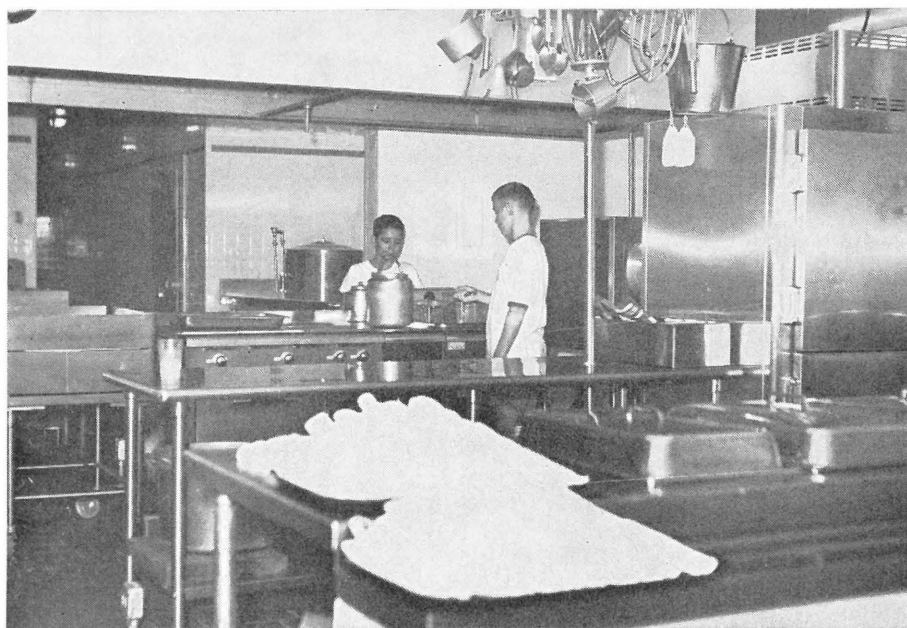
CATTLE BARN—This building is a valuable addition to the farm program. It was completed in 1964.

WATER SYSTEM—The water system was expanded through the addition of a 15,000-gallon ground reservoir completed in 1964. This was the fourth phase of a five-phase program. The next phase will be the addition of pressure pumps, and aerator and a chlorinator.

The Lucky Ones

Raymond Coryell and Jerry Stacy were the envy of their fellow ranchers last summer when they visited the New York World's Fair as members of the Suwannee High School Band.

The trip wasn't handed to them on a silver platter, however. They had to work and save to raise money for part of their expenses.



WITH PLEASURE — "Kitchen Police" is more of a pleasure for youngsters at the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch now that the new \$90,000 Jim and Rena Swick Memorial Cafetorium is in use. Tommie Williams (left) and Gordon Swisher are shown at work in the sparkling stainless steel facility.

Sunshine Sale Boosts Quality Of Ranch Herd

Polled Herefords that brought \$14,000 on the auction block during the 12th annual Sunshine Sale at the Santa Fe River Ranch of chain store executive A. D. Davis were donated to the Boys Ranch by generous bidders.

The sale was held on January 16 and, as in three previous years, it will help to "beef up" the quality of our fine herd.

The late Cecil Webb, former president of Dixie Lily Milling Co., donated three heifers to the Ranch this year. Last year he paid \$7,100 for the top-priced heifer and the proceeds were donated to the Ranch by A. D. Davis as a memorial to the late Jim and Rena Swick, former owners of Copeland Sausage Co., who lost their lives in Jacksonville's Hotel Roosevelt fire.

Webb and Davis, both trustees of the Boys Ranch, thus added impetus to a fund raising drive that resulted in the building of our Jim and Rena Swick Memorial Cafetorium.

Other donors who gave animals to the Ranch this year are Falstaff Brewing Co.; Erwin Bryan, of Center Hill; Fred Cone, of Gainesville; and State Sen. Ben Hill Griffin, of Frostproof.

Bryan and Griffin are lifetime honorary members of the Florida Sheriffs Association because of previous donations to the Ranch; and Falstaff was similarly honored last year with a lifetime membership in the Boys Ranch Builder Club.

Accurate Records? We've Got 'Em

Record keeping is a big job at the Boys Ranch.

It involves inventory control of all property, a strict accounting of all cash and non-cash gifts, and detailed records of all purchases—from shoe laces to fertilizer.

Treasurer J. L. McMullen, a Live Oak food processor, had much to do with setting up the system originally; and in recent years our internal auditor, Joe Henry, a former assistant state auditor, has refined it and made it more comprehensive. Both are non-salaried officials of the Ranch.

Once each year our accounts and records undergo an independent audit and a report is filed with Florida's Secretary of State and with the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Suwannee County.

We also make a report each year to the U. S. Internal Revenue Service to maintain our tax exempt status; and we are proud of the fact that all donations have been ruled deductible for income tax purposes ever since the early days of the Ranch.

We are proud too that the Ranch is now debt-free. Mortgages that were negotiated with Live Oak banks to purchase a major portion of the 737-acre site in 1957 were paid off in 1964.

One rule we rigidly follow in our record keeping is that every donation, no matter how large or how small, must be acknowledged with a letter or an official receipt. This makes the Ranch unique among charitable institutions.



Brothers Galore

One of the factors that helps to create a homelike atmosphere at the Boys Ranch is the fact that we have many sets of brothers. Ten sets are pictured here and we also have Mike and Wally Edwards whose pictures appear elsewhere in this issue of *The Rancher*.



OUR CHOICE — A real sharp defensive player, Mike Edwards is our choice for future All-American. A Junior at Live Oak High School, he is vice president of the student body and he was this year's winner of the Kiwanis Achievement Award given to the outstanding athlete at the Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch.

Successful Sale

Twenty-one registered Angus and Herefords sold for almost \$4,000 when the Boys Ranch held its second annual cattle sale, February 20.

Heifers and steers were sold to members of FFA and 4-H Clubs, following the pattern set by last year's sale; but this year, for the first time, bidding on five bulls was open to the public.

Birthday Gift

LAKE WALES—Two new houses donated to the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch by J. T. Crawford, of Lake Wales, were auctioned on George Washington's Birthday (February 22) and netted a "birthday gift" of \$42,500 for the Ranch.

Mr. Crawford is a Lifetime Honorary Member of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

Fire Station

Youngsters at the Boys Ranch are looking forward to the day when they will have their own fire department. It will be housed in a \$25,000 fire station and repair shop paid for by the Florida State Firemen's Association.

Boys Ranch Bequests

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

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

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

If you have any questions about making a bequest, do not hesitate to get in touch with our attorney: John A. Madigan Jr., P.O. Box 669, Tallahassee. He will be glad to assist you.

The bequest you include in your will now will help to give future security to the boys presently enrolled at the Ranch, as well as to others who will follow in their footsteps.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Boys take a hand in running the Ranch through their own elected council. It operates strictly as an advisory group under the supervision of Gene Peacock, an adult staff member, and it has been responsible for many improvements. Current council members pictured here are (from left) Raymond Coryell, Ronnie Williams, Jimmie Pilcher, Blair Slayton, Mike Edwards and James Earley.

We Believe in Physical Fitness

Physical fitness is more than a phrase at the Boys Ranch—and more than just building strength and stamina, although there's plenty of that too.

Each boy receives a complete physical at least once a year, and special check-ups in between whenever necessary, under the experienced eye of Dr. J. W. Hayes, Jacksonville pediatrician who is the Ranch's non-salaried Chief Medical Officer.

The Jacksonville Dental Society does its bit too. Members donate thousands of dollars worth of routine and specialized dental care each year.

Glasses and eye care are also provided free of charge through the Live Oak Lions Club, and the local public health nurse assists with the operation of the small medical clinic established at the Ranch.

Without the help of all these generous people, our medical and dental bills would be staggering.

Boys Ranch Milk Is Really Fresh

"Country Fresh Milk."

Although dairy advertisements have worked this phrase to death, there is such a thing—and we have it at the Boys Ranch.

Sleepy-eyed youngsters milk our six dairy cows at 5:30 every morning. They pasteurize the milk in our modern dairy and it reaches the Ranch kitchen as pure and rich as milk can be, with none of the cream removed.

The boys love it and there's no limit to the amount they are allowed to consume. They can have seconds, thirds or even fourths.

The spotless dairy is operated entirely by the boys and is inspected regularly by State inspectors. We take pride in the fact that the bacteria count is consistently low.



We Called Him "The Boy Nobody Wants"

(Continued from Page 1)

like healthful outdoor living, nutritious food, medical and dental care, a good education and a firm moral foundation.

And we had many things to teach him . . . like self respect . . . like how to give and accept affection . . . like how to feel secure.

Above all else we tried to make this boy realize he was wanted, and when we accomplished this we wiped out the

last traces of "the boy nobody wants." He doesn't live here any more. He exists only in the memory of those of us who watched the transformation.

In his stead we have a reasonably normal, reasonably well adjusted boy who knows the one thing every boy needs to know above all else . . . that somebody cares.

The Gift That Keeps Memories Alive

Nothing lasts forever.

But there is a lasting way to preserve the memory of deceased relatives and friends.

We call it our "Memorial Fund."

When you make a donation to this fund, the name of the person whose memory you are honoring is inscribed in our permanent memorial record and the money you contribute is used for some project of enduring significance like the all-faiths chapel we are now completing.

The form below can be used when making contributions to this interest-bearing fund.

Mail To:

Memorial Fund
Florida Sheriffs
Boys Ranch
P. O. Box 649
Live Oak, Florida

Enclosed find contribution of \$ _____

In memory of _____

Send acknowledgment to:

Name _____

Address _____

From (Donor's Name) _____

Address _____

Point of View

"What was the worst thing that happened when Hurricane Dora hit here?" a visitor asked one of our boys.

"The power went off and we couldn't watch television," he replied.

For the boys, riding out the big storm was pretty much of a lark, but staff members took a more serious view of the crisis.

They watched the rising floodwaters of the Suwannee River, knowing that the Ranch was isolated and the boys might have to be evacuated by boat. Fortunately the river crested before this was necessary.

The corn crop was ruined and telephone service was knocked out for several days, but all in all everyone agreed it could have been much worse—even the boys who didn't get to see their favorite TV programs.

In Retrospect

James Snow, formerly of Gainesville, was one of the first boys to enroll at the Ranch when it opened for business in 1959, and he is now in the U. S. Navy attending radar school at Great Lakes, Ill.

In a letter to present Ranch residents he reminded them they have "opportunities a normal guy would never receive."

"The Ranch is a good place, you guys," he added, "so stick with it and see it grow until one of these days you will be glad you did have the opportunity and pleasure of being there."

Adventure in Faith..

Supported entirely by voluntary donations, the Boys Ranch has sometimes been called "an adventure in faith" because its future security is based upon our faith in the kindness and generosity of the American people.

We receive our support in two ways:

- (1) Honorary Members of the Florida Sheriffs Association pay dues of \$10 a year and this money is used for the benefit of the Ranch as well as other worthy Association projects.
- (2) Many persons make direct donations which are used exclusively for the Ranch — and which are deductible for income tax purposes.

If you would like to become a part of this "adventure in faith," please fill out and mail the form provided here.

Social Service Department Latest Move To Improve the Boys Ranch "Way of Life"

A Social Service Department which will provide counseling, screen applicants for enrollment, assist houseparents and help to meet the needs of our boys in many significant ways is one of the new additions at the Boys Ranch.

James Strayer is heading this department as Social Service Director and his wife, Betty, is assisting him on a part-time basis.

A native of Maumee, Ohio, where he

grew up and worked on a large farm, Jim is no stranger to rural settings. After serving in the U. S. Navy, he came to Florida to attend South-Eastern Bible College and Florida Southern College, both in Lakeland; and he received his B.S. Degree in Industrial Arts from the latter institution.

Betty is from Lakeland, where she also attended South-Eastern Bible College and received her undergraduate degree from Florida Southern. She taught for six years at South-Eastern Bible College, served as assistant dean of women and librarian there and also had some public school teaching experience.

Both were interested in working with institutionalized dependent children, and in 1959 they joined the staff of Real Life Children's Ranch, in Okeechobee, where Jim was assistant director and both served as houseparents.

Graduate studies in Social Work at Florida State University gave them MSW Degrees in 1962, and Jim accepted a position with the Hillsborough County Hospital and Welfare Board, in Tampa. He was supervisor of the county emergency receiving home for children prior to its closing, worked with the multi-problem family caseload and the alcoholic program, and was involved in full-time research for several months.

Betty was a caseworker at the Children's Home, in Tampa, and with the Children's Home Society.

The Strayers have also had social work experience in agencies in Ft. Lauderdale and Baltimore, Md.



Social Service Director James Strayer and his wife, Betty, newcomers to the Boys Ranch Staff.

I want to participate in your "Adventure in Faith"

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Enclosed find:

- \$10 for membership in the Florida Sheriffs Association.
 \$_____ for the Boys Ranch

MAIL TO: **FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**
P. O. BOX 1487
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA