

WINTER 1980

# The Rancher

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



## Our Voices We Raise in Prayer and Praise

Youngsters' voices were raised in prayer and songs of praise during an early morning outdoor worship service which was held in the horse show arena October 5 during a celebration marking the 23rd Anniversary of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch. The newly-organized Boys Ranch choir made its public debut. David Meszaros played a trumpet solo, and Johnny Armstrong delivered the opening prayer. Boys Ranch Chaplain Art Carter is pictured with David and Johnny.

# ...And So We Grow!

## New Residence Becomes Boys Ranch Birthday Gift



Dedication rites were held outdoors with Hauer Cottage in the background.

The dedication address was delivered by Leonard Russek, former Boys Ranch resident.



Participating in the ribbon cutting at Hauer Cottage were (from left) Sheriff Don Moreland, Chairman of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund Board of Directors; Rancher Chris East-erling; Mrs. Kathleen Garlick and her husband, Jack; and Harry Weaver, President of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund.

**D**edication rites for a \$250,000 residence cottage made possible by a generous bequest from the late Harry M. Hauer, of Miami Shores, Florida, was the highlight of a three-day celebration marking the 23rd Anniversary of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch.

The new facility will provide a comfortable, attractive home for 12 boys and a married live-in couple employed as cottage parents. It is the eighth residence cottage built on the steadily expanding Boys Ranch campus, bringing the enrollment to 96 boys.

During the dedication rites, Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund officials expressed appreciation for the generosity of Mr. Hauer, who was represented by his daughter, Mrs. Kathleen Garlick; also, appreciation was expressed to Gerald Stevens, a member of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund governing board, who provided the interior furnishings for Hauer Cottage.

Leonard Russek, who grew up at the Boys Ranch and is currently serving on the Youth Fund Board of Directors, delivered a short dedicatory address in which he not only praised Mr. Hauer's generosity, but also aimed a special message at the Boys Ranch youngsters sitting in the audience.

"You each can have a hand in shaping the todays and tomorrows for the Boys Ranch," he told them. "I am one of the boys who lived here before you, and I plan to do all I can to make this a better place."

Russek, who is a certified public accountant and has his own investment consulting firm, told the youngsters they have a responsibility to take good care of the facilities at the Boys Ranch, and he also urged them to take full advantage of the many opportunities the Ranch offers so they can make right choices about their futures.



Some 1,900 people went through four serving lines at the fish fry on the banks of the Suwannee River.



Still on the job after 23 years as "super chef" for a long succession of Boys Ranch celebrations, former Suwannee County Sheriff Duke McCallister was in charge of this year's anniversary fish fry. Used for the first time were some gas-fired fish cookers donated to the Boys Ranch.

"No one can guarantee that you will be successful," he added. "You will have to achieve success on your own."

The three-day anniversary celebration opened on Friday, October 3, when visitors began arriving for the annual Boys Ranch horse show. It continued on October 4 with open house tours of Boys Ranch facilities and a Suwannee River fish fry attended by some 1,900 guests. It wound up on Sunday, October 5, with an outdoor worship service at the horse show arena, and the Hauer Cottage dedication rites. The grand entry procession officially opening the horse show was led by Suwannee County Sheriff Robert Leonard.

Weather-wise and attendance-wise this was one of the most successful events ever held at the Boys Ranch. It also focused attention on a success story that began 23 years ago.

The Florida Sheriffs Association founded the Boys Ranch in 1957 with \$5,000 in cash and 140 acres of donated land. The land was raw and undeveloped, but it was ideally situated on the banks of the scenic Suwannee River.

The Sheriffs who founded the Boys Ranch had no experience in operating child care institutions, but they were strongly motivated to provide a place where dependent, neglected, or homeless (but not delinquent) boys could get a new start. Their enthusiasm and the generosity of thousands of beneficent donors set the pace for 23 years of uninterrupted success, and the Boys Ranch is one of the finest residential group child care programs anywhere.

This is the saga that was celebrated on a sunny weekend in October, 1980, with prayers and praise and thanks and good fellowship . . . and so we grow!



Former Ranchers Wally Edwards and Jerry Willard (wearing hat) brought their children to the anniversary fish fry.



This picture shows just a small part of the camping area at the horse show arena where visitors in record numbers camped overnight.



Here they come, the best of the best, those Riding Ranchers! They are (from left) Mike Fawbush, Juan Lawton, Johnny Taylor, Steve Meszaros, David Olton and Grady Crunkelton.

## Riding Ranchers have Won At Least Thirty Trophies

We have three kinds of riders at the Boys Ranch: good, better and best. We also have the best of the best, and we call them Riding Ranchers. These boys are the cream of the crop, and they have proven it by winning at least 30 trophies in various Florida horse shows during the past three years.

To become a Riding Rancher a boy must have good conduct as well as riding ability. He must demonstrate his concern and affection for horses on a consistent basis. He must also learn how to care for, handle and treat horses in a skillful manner. The requirements are tough and the membership is small.

Once each year, in October, one of the Riding Ranchers is selected to receive the Carleton F. Tweed Memorial Horsemanship Trophy --- the highest honor any rider can receive at the Boys Ranch. This year's winner is Grady Crunkelton, a friendly, well-mannered young fellow who wants to become a farmer so he can follow in the footsteps of his grandfather and great grandfather. Surely winning the Tweed Trophy is a step in the right direction.



Grady Crunkelton is this year's winner of the coveted Carleton F. Tweed Memorial Horsemanship Trophy.

# President's Perspective

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



Many people express an interest in the youngsters we serve ... who they are ... where they come from ... why they need special help.

There is a common misconception that we deal with juvenile delinquents. The assumption is understandable because of our relationship with the Sheriffs of Florida, but it is an inaccurate assumption. Our original program, the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, was conceived for the purpose of delinquency prevention rather than rehabilitation, and the Youth Fund has retained this policy as it has grown and developed new programs at the Girls Villa and Youth Ranch.

We do not accept youngsters who have been adjudicated delinquent by the courts. Instead, we try to identify youngsters who are headed for delinquency and turn them around before they commit unlawful acts that might result in adjudication.

Families in turmoil and broken homes help to foster juvenile delinquency, and it is from this type of environment that we take most of our youngsters.

Statistics on the last 100 children admitted to residential care at the Boys Ranch, Girls Villa, and Youth Ranch show that 41 percent came from homes in which there was a natural mother and a stepfather. We took 21 percent from single parent homes in which there was only the natural mother. There were 16 percent from situations in which grandparents had custody.

Statistics can be misleading. Interestingly, there were many cases in which one or both parents had legal custody, but the only real relationship that the youngsters had was with grandparents. When these cases are considered, it brings the number of cases involving grandparents up to well over 50 percent of the total.

The Youth Fund gets involved when the grandparents, because of advancing age, bad health, or other problems, are no longer able to cope with troubled and rebellious pre-teen or teen-aged children.

Following through with our statistics, for what they may be worth, we see that homes in which there was a natural father and a stepmother accounted for nine percent of our last 100 admissions. There were six percent that came from so-called "intact" families with both natural parents living together. We took three percent from situations in which the natural father had sole custody of the youngster, and there was a variety of

other situations which accounted for the remaining four percent.

We encounter very few true orphans these days. Medical science has eliminated most of the afflictions that once wiped out entire segments of the population and left orphaned children in their wake. More common today is what we call the "half orphan" with only one parent living. Also related to this are the factors of a higher adoption rate, the increasing use of birth control measures, and more babies being kept by unwed mothers.

As a legacy of the past, we are conditioned to think of all residential child-caring institutions as orphanages. In modern times, this is rarely the case. Most child-caring institutions are now dealing with mentally or physically handicapped children or, as in the case of the Youth Fund, with youngsters who are the emotionally troubled victims of a skyrocketing divorce rate or otherwise broken homes.

Geographically, as might be expected, most children come to us from the more populous areas of the state. Florida's ten largest counties (in terms of population) account for nearly 57 percent, or 461, of the 815 youngsters who have been served in Youth Fund residential programs since 1959.

Although the Youth Fund does not operate orphanages, neither does it serve as a handy receptacle into which irresponsible parents may deposit their unwanted children. We believe very strongly that parents are responsible for their children and, in the absence of responsible parents, that other family members should be involved.

The Youth Fund insists upon continuing family involvement. We will admit the child to one of our residential programs, and we will provide counseling to help the family work out its problems, but all of our efforts are aimed at putting the child back into his own home or a good family home at the earliest possible time. If all efforts to do this fail, the child may remain in Youth Fund residential care until his future is secure.

The average length of stay in residential care at the Boys Ranch, Girls Villa, and Youth Ranch is currently less than 14 months. This is indicative of the success we are enjoying in the achievement of our goals for the youngsters we serve.

## YOUTH FUND SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Need a program for your club, organization, or church group? We always appreciate sharing the Youth Fund story with interested friends, and we'd welcome the opportunity to speak to your organization. Call us at 904-842-5501.

## WE'RE SAVING ON SEALS AGAIN

You won't find a sheet of Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund seals in this issue of THE RANCHER, but they are available. Check page 14 to find out how to order seals.



Rear view of the activity center with the swimming pool in the foreground.

Front view of the new activity center.



State Representative Beverly Burnsed delivered the dedication address.

# The View from the Villa:

## New Activity Center Will Nurture Mind, Body & Soul

BARTOW — Dedicaton rites were held at the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa August 31 for a new activity center tailored to the needs of growing girls — one that will nurture the mind, body and soul.

For inquiring minds, it provides a library and a learning center; for searching souls, a chapel; and for burgeoning bodies, a swimming pool and a recreation center.

State Representative Beverly B. Burnsed caught the essence of this all-purpose facility in her dedicatory address. She characterized it as a holistic approach to child care — an attempt to meet the total requirements of needy and neglected youngsters. Mrs. Burnsed also declared that the Girls Villa is a leader in its field.



Dedication rites were held in the spacious recreation room.



Tom G. Clements, General Chairman of the 1980 Girls Villa Classic, gave special recognition to sponsors who have given substantial assistance in raising funds for the Villa.



Lisa Hayes, a Villa resident, delivered the invocation at the opening of the dedication program.



Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland.



Polk County Sheriff Louie T. Mims.

Mrs. Burnsed was introduced by Polk County Sheriff Louie T. Mims, who is Secretary-Treasurer of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, the agency that operates the Girls Villa, Boys Ranch and Youth Ranch.

Other Youth Fund officials, including President Harry Weaver, Board Chairman Don Moreland, and Vice President James W. Strayer, gave special recognition to various individuals and organizations whose generosity has made the activity center a reality.

Appreciation was expressed to the Bartow Girls Villa Classic, sponsor of annual benefit golf and tennis tournaments, for the recreation area; to the family of Col. Robert Pentland for the chapel; to the Sunshine State Women's Chamber of Commerce for stained glass windows in the chapel and furnishings and equipment in the learning center; to the Seagulls Coffee Club for the kitchen and lobby furnishings; and to the George W. Jenkins Foundation for generous overall financial assistance.

Chairman Moreland, who is Sheriff of Marion County, declared that the activity center was a dream come true as the result of a lot of hard work and dedication. He assured his audience that other improvements will be achieved in the same way.



Supervised by teacher Gail Taugh, these girls are cataloging the activity center library as a step toward accreditation of the learning center. They are Cathy Planer, Carol Hamilton and Diane Holmes.

The ancient game of hopscotch is alive and well.





## We've Learned to Pose with Poise

It was "family day" at the Girls Villa and some of the girls put on a fashion show to demonstrate what they had learned in classes conducted by Louella Venrick, operator of a Winter Haven charm and modeling school. Relatives attending the family get-together soon discovered the girls had not only acquired poise and self-confidence, but had also learned the proper way to apply for a job.







All aboard for a day of fun at Six Gun Territory!

## Some Things We Did Last Summer

Summer 1980 is gone, but some good memories linger on. We had a ball during the filming of a new Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund movie which will be released for public viewing in 1981. The 14-1/2-minute documentary was produced by Telair Interests, Inc., of Miami, and scripted by Sunny Fader, the same team that has been responsible for previous Youth Fund movies. It was filmed at the Boys Ranch, Girls Villa and Youth Ranch. Another highlight of the summer was a trip to Six Gun Territory amusement park, near Ocala. The trip was arranged for a bus load of Ranchers by Sgt. William Baker, a member of the amusement park security staff.



Meeting Roy L. Wilder who plays the role of Marshal Matt Cane at Six Gun Territory was a special treat for Tommy Ross, Chris Miller, Bill Blessinger and Bill Phillips.

The Lightning Bolt was one of the most popular rides at the amusement park.



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## HONOR GIFTS

A gift may be made to the Youth Fund in honor of a person and/or a special occasion, such as a birthday, anniversary, etc. If appropriate, and if a mailing address is provided, a letter of acknowledgment will be made to the person being honored. A listing of the donor and the person honored will appear in a future issue of "The Rancher" magazine, and, when address is provided, the person honored will receive a copy of the issue in which his or her name appears. In the listing below, the Honoree is listed first in all caps,

ALL THE BOYS AT THE RANCH  
Mrs. Catherine Hodges

ALEXANDER AMYOT  
Mrs. Bernadette Amyot

ROLAND & ALICE ANDERSON  
ANNIVERSARY  
Mr. & Mrs. Roland E.  
Anderson

N. V. BODIE (JUST BECAUSE)  
Mrs. N. V. Bodie

STANLEY BRONSON  
(BIRTHDAY)  
Mrs. Rose Bronson

ANN BURNS (ANNIVERSARY)  
Joseph J. Benenati, Jr.

SHERIFF ROBERT  
BUTTERWORTH  
Mrs. Olive M. Paul

JOHN R. CHAPUT (BIRTHDAY)  
Raymond J. Chaput

CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
DEPARTMENT  
Mr. & Mrs. Markus E. Schar

EDWARD C. COOK (BIRTHDAY)  
Mrs. Eleanor M. Cook

MR. & MRS. S. A. DERUGGIERO  
50th ANNIVERSARY  
Mr. & Mrs. Saverio  
Deruggiero

CAROL & ALAN DUFFIE  
20th ANNIVERSARY  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Manning,  
Sr.

EVERY BOY & GIRL IN AMERICA  
Mr. & Mrs. George A.  
Lenaghen

JOHANNA D. FLYNN  
(BIRTHDAY)  
Ms. Johanna D. Flynn

FRIENDS & FAMILY  
Mrs. Angela Zadnik

MRS. GAY (BIRTHDAY)  
Mr. & Mrs. Anderson John  
Gay

DAVID GIDDENS  
17th BIRTHDAY  
Mr. & Mrs. Sam D. Bill

GRANDCHILDREN  
Mr. & Mrs. F. S. La Londe

LINDA GRIFFIN (BIRTHDAY)  
Livingstone Garden

MR. & MRS. M. D. HARTSOOK  
ANNIVERSARY  
Mrs. Mary E. Osborne

ARTHUR HERZHAUSER  
Orange Blossom Fund

HIGHLANDS COUNTY DEPUTY  
SHERIFFS  
Rolland W. Chase

MARTHA ESTELLE HOLLY  
(BIRTHDAY)  
Mrs. Clara H. Isenberg

MRS. BETTY HORVATH (BEING A  
FRIEND)  
Mrs. Eliabeth M. Kane

SUSAN ELIZABETH IVIE  
(14th BIRTHDAY)  
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Ivie

MS. DORIS ELISABETH LEWIS  
(BIRTHDAY)  
Mr. & Mrs. David W. Lewis

JOANNA B. LOWE (BIRTHDAY)  
Mr. Sumner R. Lowe

WANDA MANARD (BIRTHDAY)  
W. H. Hertel, Jr.

MR. & MRS. DAVE MARTIN  
(FRIENDS)  
Mr. & Mrs. George W. Haynes

MR. & MRS. J. MCCORMICK  
(TWO FINE PEOPLE)  
Frank Neumann

GERTRUDE A. MCINTYRE  
ANNIVERSARY)  
Mr. & Mrs. William A.  
McIntyre

MRS. E. B. NORRIS  
Orange Blossom Fund

JUSTIN MCCELEEN NOTSTEIN  
(1st BIRTHDAY)  
Mrs. Mary McClelen

DOROTHY NYGAARD  
Harry A. Fitzgerald

FRANCIS OTTO (BIRTHDAY)  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester F. Weekes

SHERIFF B. R. QUINN  
Floral City Elementary School  
P. T. O.

MARY COLLEEN RASSBACH  
Mrs. Martha Kellerman

MR. & MRS. NELSON J. RAUCH  
54th ANNIVERSARY  
Mr. & Mrs. Nelson J. Rauch

CHIEF COURTNEY ROBERTS  
Samuel David Cox

BUNNY ROBINSON (BIRTHDAY)  
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Stott

ANN ROCHEZ (BIRTHDAY)  
Alex Rochez

SARASOTA SHERIFF'S  
DEPARTMENT  
Mrs. Lucille Jones Grey

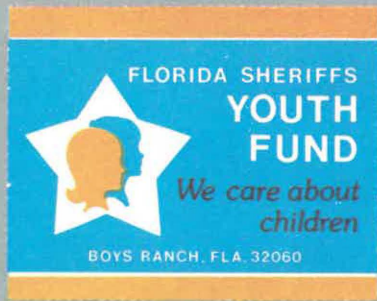
MR. & MRS. HAROLD S.  
SIMONDS  
50th ANNIVERSARY  
Mr. & Mrs. Radcliffe Morrill

MR. & MRS. FRANCIS STOTT  
ANNIVERSARY  
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Stott

MRS. JAMES VASEY  
(BIRTHDAY)  
Mr. & Mrs. John G. McKeilvie

WIFE & 6 CHILDREN - LOVE  
Lawrence M. Cooke

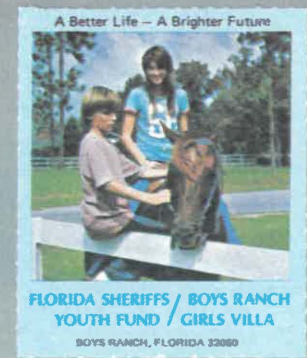
THOMAS HAMMOND WOOD, JR.  
1st BIRTHDAY  
Blaze D. Burgoon



A



B



C

## Still Saving on Seals

A year ago we announced there would not be a new Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund seal so we could use up surplus seals from previous years and save money.

The plan worked fine because many people requested and received our "Little Travelers" for use on their Christmas and year-round mail.

We still have seals available, we still like to save money and we will still mail them on request. Use the coupon provided to order the number of sheets you need for your personal use. (There are 24 seals per sheet.) If we run out of the type of seal you request, we will substitute another.

Remember, these seals are intended for year-round use.

### SEALS ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Please indicate number of sheets.*

A \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

## FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH FUND IS...

A charitable, non-profit corporation, sponsored by the Florida Sheriffs Association, to manage and operate the Boys Ranch, the Girls Villa, the Youth Ranch, and any other youth programs that may later be developed by the Florida Sheriffs Association. One of the most important functions of the Youth Fund is the raising, receiving, budgeting and disbursing of funds for its programs. Gifts and bequests can be made to the Youth Fund for the exclusive benefit of any single youth program, such as the Boys Ranch, Girls Villa, or Youth Ranch. They can also be made to the Youth Fund, without restriction, to be distributed among existing programs where they are most needed or to be used for the development of new programs at the discretion of the Governing Board.

MAILING ADDRESS — Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Inc.  
Boys Ranch, Florida 32060      PHONE — AC904 842-5501

### BOYS RANCH

**IS.....** a home for dependent, neglected and homeless boys sponsored by the Florida Sheriffs Association and operated under the management of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Inc. It is not an institution for delinquents.

The Boys Ranch was founded in 1957 and is located nine miles north of Live Oak, Florida. It has approximately 100 boys in care at any given time, and it is supported almost entirely by voluntary gifts through the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Inc.

### GIRLS VILLA

**IS.....** a similar institution for needy and worthy girls located near Bartow, Florida. 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 for the Boys Ranch, Girls Villa and Youth Ranch are the same as for the 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 were admitted in August, 1978. The Youth Ranch provides a homelike environment for brothers and sisters who are dependent, neglected or homeless.

Mailing address and phone number same as Youth Fund.

## About your will.....

Many generous friends have thoughtfully made provision in their wills for our youngsters. If you are considering a gift of this nature, we can furnish information to assist you in drawing up a new will or revising an old one. Through a bequest to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Inc., you can help youngsters at any or all of our facilities, as you choose. Simply fill out the form below and mail it in the postage-paid envelope found elsewhere in this issue or call Area Code 904-842-5501 for further information.

Address inquiries to:

Harry K. Weaver, President  
Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Inc.  
Boys Ranch, Florida 32060

Please send literature about:

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

The proper designation of legatee is as follows:

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH FUND, INC.



Margie Hill and Cindy Perry cleaned the swimming pool in preparation for the Activity Center dedication rites at Girls Villa.

### TELEPHONE YOUR GIFT

To improve our services to you, the Youth Fund now accepts memorial and honor gifts by telephone. We'll send an acknowledgment card to the bereaved party or person being honored the day we receive your call — before your gift arrives — so that the message of your thoughtfulness will not be unnecessarily delayed. Call us at 904-842-5501.

### HELP WANTED

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.

## FACTS ABOUT OUR FINANCES

Copies of the most recent Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund Annual Report are available for the asking. Address your request to Harry Weaver, President, Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Boys Ranch, Florida, 32060.

## 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 Youth Fund, Inc. For more information on how to receive a guaranteed income for life and a significant tax deduction, simply complete this coupon and mail it in the convenient, postage-paid envelope found elsewhere in this issue.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code and Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

## NEW ADDRESS ?

Americans are on the move, and keeping up with changes of address is a six-aspirin headache. Some of our subscribers (bless them) send us their new addresses. Others let the U. S. Postal Service notify us, and the Postal Service charges us 25 cents for each new address. If you have a new address, please help us to keep our budget in balance by clipping out this form, filling it out and mailing it to:

**Circulation Dept.  
THE RANCHER  
Boys Ranch, Fla. 32060**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

In this space, please attach your RANCHER mailing label with the old address and fill in the new address above. Also do the same with name changes and corrections.



Dr. Michael R. Blais examining Rancher Dan Higginbotham.



Boys Ranch Nurse Joyce Scott assists Dr. Blais by checking the height and weight of Brian O'Toole.

## Final Diagnosis:

### Dr. Blais Believes in the Boys Ranch

It was a bright, sunny day. The fish were biting, and Dr. Michael R. Blais loves to fish, but Dr. Blais was not fishing. Instead, he was spending his weekend at the Boys Ranch Medical and Dental Clinic thumping knees with his little rubber hammer, listening to hearts and lungs with his stethoscope, inspecting eyes, ears, teeth and throats, prodding abdomens, studying height and weight records.

He said he had been coming to the Ranch once or twice a year for 12 years to give free physical examinations --- taking time away from his Daytona Beach medical practice and passing up opportunities for fishing and other types of recreation --- but he declared he had no regrets.

Why not? In 12 years he had given up some 18 or 20 long weekends --- or the equivalent of at least 60 fishing trips. Was it worth it?

The answer came in bits and pieces.

Waving a medical chart, Dr. Blais exclaimed: "Here's a boy who gained 13 pounds in one year!" The doctor couldn't have been any more excited if he had hooked a 40-pound bass.

A few moments later, as he was rummaging around Rancher Dan Higginbotham's mouth with a tongue depressor, he turned to a visitor and said, "Look at this one. Isn't that beautiful dental work? I haven't seen one cavity today!"

Dr. Blais was obviously having himself one heck of a time and enjoying every minute of it. Working away with hammer and stethoscope, he sang the praises of the Jacksonville dentists who, like him, donate their services to the Ranch. He also talked about the dramatic changes he has observed in boys living at the Boys Ranch.

Newcomers are often scrawny, show signs of malnutrition, have teeth that are badly neglected, act insecure and hostile, and have bad manners, he said.

After they live at the Ranch for a while, the newcomers become "just completely different kids," he said. They fill out, become healthier and more alert. Their attitudes improve. Their manners improve. The "yes sirs" and "no sirs" come out easily and naturally.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the Boys Ranch benefits boys physically, emotionally and socially," Dr. Blais said as he poked at a boy's stomach muscles. "That's why I come here year after year," he added.

Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund  
Boys Ranch, Florida 32060  
Address Correction Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
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