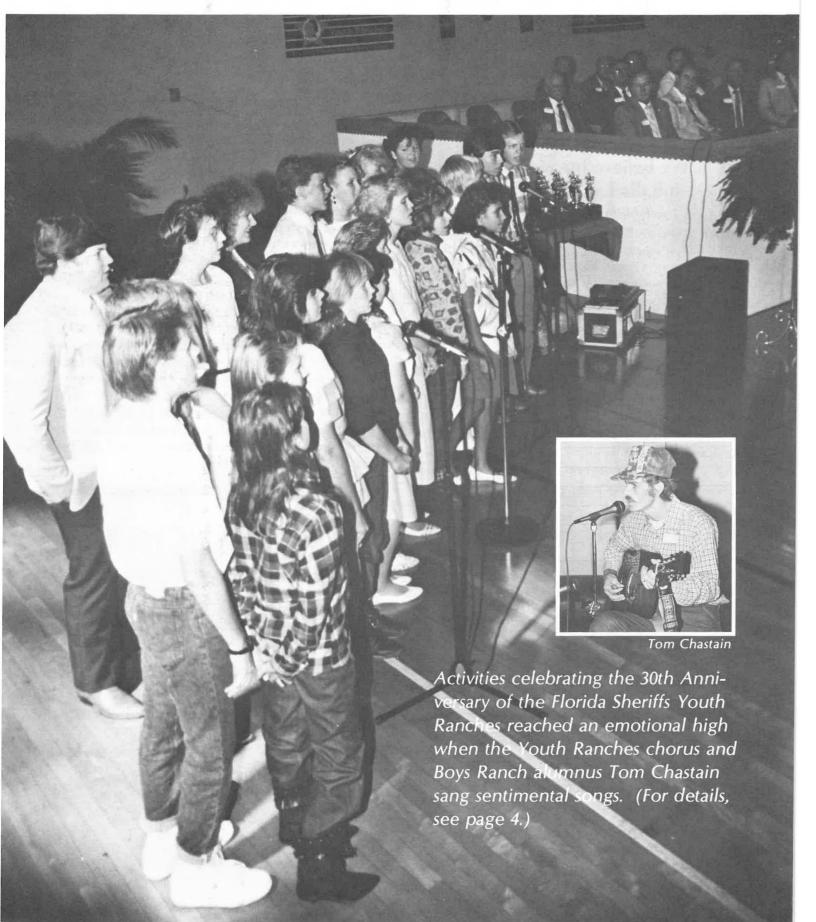


Winter 1987

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



President's Perspective

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



We believe in, and practice full disclosure of finances

Much has been written or said in recent weeks about some non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations and their lack of financial accountability to the public. The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches is a 501(c)(3) organization, as determined by the United States Internal Revenue Service, but we believe in, and practice, full disclosure of our finances.

Long before there were requirements for financial disclosure at the local or state level, the Youth Ranches began filing full financial reports that were a matter of public record.

In the beginning, we filed our annual audit with the Suwannee County Clerk of Circuit Court, even though it was not a requirement. We thought it was proper then, and we think it is proper now, to keep the public fully informed about our finances. We

A serious discussion involving Alumni Association members Lee Mullins, who is a Columbia County Deputy Sheriff; and Buddy McHenry, whose memories of life at the Boys Ranch go back almost to the beginning.

have always supported the concept of full and fair disclosure — a position we adopted long before it became fashionable — simply because we believe our supporters have the right to know how their charitable gift dollars are being used.

Florida currently requires that a financial report be made to the Department of State as part of the annual licensing procedure. The Internal Revenue Service also requires an annual financial report. These reports are enlightening and desirable, but a donor may want to look beyond the scope they offer before arriving at a decision about making a charitable gift.

When this is the case, the prospective donor should ask the charitable organization to provide a copy of its Annual Report — also a copy of its annual audit as conducted by a certified public accountant, if extensive in-depth information is desired.

If these reports fail to provide sufficient answers to donors' questions, we recommend a visit to the office, facility, or programs of the agency so that on-site information can be obtained.

Because it is our desire that donors be comfortable in their giving to us, and because we want to make it convenient for them to actually see the results of their generosity, we welcome requests for annual reports and other information, and we encourage visits.

Our "open door policy" is just one of many ways in which we try to demonstrate our gratitude for the loyal support we have received from our donors during 30 years of successful service to over 3,600 boys and girls and their families.

THE RANCHER

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Publisher, Harry K. Weaver,
President, Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches
Editor, Carl Stauffer
Art Director, Frank Jones
Production Assistant, M. Denise Dickey
Youth Ranches Coordinator, Linda Mathews

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During Washington Tour:

Gold Stars Appeared On Lawmakers' Lapels

To focus attention on the 30th Anniversary of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, a delegation of Sheriffs, staff, and youngsters went to Washington, D.C., in September to present a special briefing to Florida's U.S. Senators and Representatives.

One of the highlights of the tour was a luncheon at the Capitol which gave Youth Ranches girls an opportunity to pin commemorative gold stars on the lapels of the lawmakers. The youngsters also visited many of Washington's historical points of interest, including the Capitol and the White House.

The tour was sponsored by J.P. Hall, Ir., a Green Cove Springs banker. He inherited his interest in the Youth Ranches from his father, John P. Hall, Sr., who served a record 36 years as Sheriff of Clay County and was one of the founders of the Boys Ranch.

During Sheriff Hall's long tenure, he served as President and Treasurer of the Florida Sheriffs Association; and as the first Treasurer of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch. He was also appointed to the Florida Sheriffs Bureau Administrative Board.

Adults participating in the three-day Washington trip included Youth Ranches President Harry K. Weaver; Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland, who is chairman of the Youth Ranches Board of Directors: Lee County Sheriff Frank Wanicka; and Collier County Sheriff Aubrey Rogers.



U.S. Rep. Bill Grant (right) with the Youth Ranches tour group on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. The Boys Ranch, one of the Youth Ranches child care programs, is in his district.

When U.S. lawmakers from Florida joined the Youth Ranches tour group at a Capitol luncheon, each received a commemorative gold star lapel pin. These photos show Reps. C.W. "Bill" Young, E. Clay Shaw, Jr., and Bill McCollum receiving theirs.



Young









Anniversary Speakers Attempted to Describe It



Moreland



Weaver



Mullin.

Featured in anniversary ceremonies were Youth Ranches Board Chairman Don Moreland, the Sheriff of Marion County; Youth Ranches President Harry K. Weaver; Columbia County Deputy Sheriff Lee Mullins; Boys Ranch resident Scott Newell, who expressed appreciation on behalf of the hundreds of youngsters currently benefiting from Youth Ranches services; and Boys Ranch resident Jason Willever, who offered the benediction.

The podium parade

One said it was "miraculous." Another described it as "a vision." A third called it "a dream," and the orator who was next in line hailed it as a "saga of success." Not to be outdone, a former Sheriff pictured it as a modern manifestation of a Biblical mandate.

These speakers endeavored mightily to find words that would adequately describe the success of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, and yet their primary achievement was to demonstrate that some things simply defy description.

The date was October 3, 1987; the occasion was a celebration marking the 30th Anniversary of the Youth Ranches; and the setting was the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, a 3,300-acre parcel of Suwannee River real estate that began acquiring historical distinction in 1957 when a dedicated group of Sheriffs chose it as the launch pad for a unique child rescue mission.

This mission "is, was, and continues to be miracu-

lous," said Youth Ranches President Harry K. Weaver as he described how the Boys Ranch had evolved into a statewide network of child care facilities and services.

Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland, Chairman of the Board appointed to operate this statewide network, pointed out that the Youth Ranches project materialized from "a dream" — one that began in 1955 when Florida Sheriffs Don McLeod and Ed Blackburn, Jr., discovered Cal Farley's Boys Ranch in Texas, and became convinced that Florida needed its own version of this successful child care facility.

Lieutenant Governor Bobby Brantley, the featured orator in the anniversary ceremonies, took his cue from Moreland and described the "dream" as one that had been "shaped into reality by volunteers excercising their compassionate impulses in the best traditions of a free society."

"It is," said he, "a progressive and comprehensive concept . . . an unadulterated success worthy of our





Willever



admiration."

Columbia County Deputy Sheriff Lee Mullins, chosen as spokesman for over 3,600 youngsters whose lives have been enhanced by Youth Ranches services, called the project "a vision," and he expressed gratitude to "the Sheriffs who had this vision and made it come true;" also to the staff members "who helped us through some troubled times and gave us a sense of love and security."

Former Hillsborough County Sheriff Ed Blackburn, Jr., who served without pay as the first Executive Director of the Boys Ranch, improvised on phrases from the Bible when he described the thousands of children whose lives have been "turned around" by the Youth Ranches.

"They were strangers and you took them in," he said, "thirsty for love and you gave them love. These youngsters left with hope, new courage in their hearts, and the promise of a new life."

For almost an hour rhetoric flowed from the speakers' stand in the Boys Ranch gymnasium, and the large audience of Youth Ranches friends and supporters responded with sustained applause.

However, the day's emotional high was attained when the Youth Ranches Chorus and former Boys Ranch resident Tom Chastain presented sentimental musical selections.

The boys and girls in the chorus sang "Friends," by Michael and Debora Smith, a Boys Ranch chapel favorite that speaks of the love and friendship many youngsters discover when they receive help from the Youth Ranches.



Retired Live Oak businessman and public official J.L. McMullen, whose salesmanship helped bring the Boys Ranch to the Live Oak area, was accompanied by his wife, Kitty, when he received a Golden Star Award, the highest honor conferred by the Youth Ranches organization. Posed with him are (from left) Lt. Governor Bobby Brantley, the keynote speaker at anniversary ceremonies; Youth Ranches President Harry K. Weaver; and former Hillsborough County Sheriff Ed Blackburn, Jr. The award was presented by Blackburn, who cited McMullen's many years of volunteer service as treasurer and board member during the era when the Boys Ranch was evolving into a statewide network of child care services.

The Chorus received a standing ovation, as did Chastain when he sang and played his own composition: "Donated Love."

The ceremonial program was held midway in a three-day celebration that began on October 2. The weekend's activities also included a horse show, country—western entertainment, tours of Boys Ranch facilities, a special demonstration, a Boys Ranch Alumni Association reunion, and a barbecue.

Over 3,000 guests attended the celebration, and many of them, accompanied by over 400 horses, used the camping facilities provided at the horse show arena.

In North Florida:

Youth Camp Girls Were Hitting Historical High Spots

YOUTH CAMP — One of the year's highlights for Pioneer girls from the Florida Sheriffs Youth Camp was an educational tour through North Florida. The girls traveled by van and packed a tremendous amount of activity into ten days. Here is a summary of the trip provided by the man-in-charge, Unit Director John P. Mullins:

"We covered over 600 miles; camped in nine state parks or federal wildlife refuges; checked out 30 historic roadside signs; visited seven historic or nature museums; visited one lighthouse; swam in four springs, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic Ocean; triptrapped through four historic forts; took one ferry ride; visited the Vietnam Memorial, and the Governor's Office in Tallahassee; found a 100-foot waterfall; and returned to the Youth Camp filled with a more holistic picture of Florida's unique and rich history."



The old lighthouse in the St. Marks Game Refuge on the Gulf of Mexico was one of the stops on the tour.



How do you hold a crab? Gingerly. So much for another learning experience.



Brantley's a Believer:

Youth Ranches: "A Symbol of

America at Its Best."

"I have been reading about the Boys Ranch for many years," said Lt. Governor Bobby Brantley as he began the keynote address at ceremonies marking the 30th Anniversary of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, "but today, when I actually saw it for the first time, I began to realize what has been achieved here through the humanitarian impulses of Florida's Sheriffs and the generosity of Florida's citizens."

Variations on this opening theme will be found in the following excerpts from the October 3 address:

"I am truly grateful for the privilege of participating in this 30th Anniversary Celebration, and when I return to Tallahassee I will carry with me many good memories and an impressive array of indelible impressions.

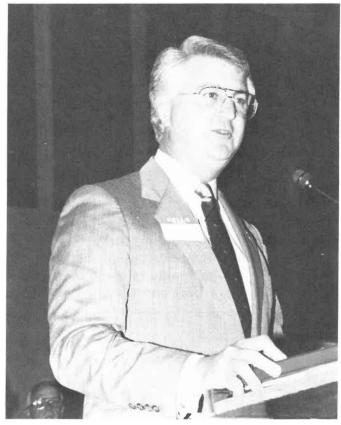
"After I arrive there, I intend to tell Governor Martinez that his recent description of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches project as an outstanding example of volunteerism was right on target.

"He visited the Boys Ranch in August to deliver a proclamation designating October 2, 1987, as Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Day, and after he returned to Tallahassee, he told me how impressed he was with the things he saw and the people he met — particularly the boys and girls.

"His enthusiasm should have prepared me for today's experience, but the reality overshadows his description so much that I am tempted to advise him to add more adjectives to his vocabulary.

"Meanwhile, permit me to share with you my perspective of this grand and glorious celebration that means so much to so many people of all ages — a perspective that was brought into sharp focus after I arrived here today and had an opportunity to see the broad green pastures, the family reunion atmosphere surrounding activities at the horse show arena, the giant gold star symbolizing 30 years of success, the attractive buildings in a park like setting, and the handsome chapel that speaks volumes about your primary source of guidance and inspiration.

"I am going to be accused of using hyperbole, but truly this place impresses me as a symbol of America at its best... a dream shaped into reality by volunteers exercising their compassionate impulses in the best traditions of a free society. No true patriot who understands the American dream will disagree with me.



Lt. Governor Bobby Brantley delivered the keynote address at ceremonies marking the 30th Anniversary of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

"Clearly, it was no accident or idle whim that caused the Freedoms Foundations at Valley Forge to present a prestigious award to the Boys Ranch many years ago.

"Since then the Youth Villa, near Bartow; the Youth Ranch, in Safety Harbor; the Youth Camp, near Barberville; and Caruth Camp, near Inglis, have been developed as successful spinoffs from the original project that Sheriffs founded here on the banks of the Suwannee River in 1957.

"I have tremendous admiration for the Sheriffs who have been sponsoring this bold, unique venture through their state association; also for the many thousands of unselfish citizens who have supported it with their cash gifts, their time, and their talents; for the dedicated staff members who have made many personal sacrifices; and for the thousands of boys and girls who have used the professional services of the Youth Ranches to build brighter futures.

"Sheriff Joe Sheppard, who is the President of the

Brantley's a Believer continued

Florida Sheriffs Association, and Sheriff Don Moreland, who is Chairman of the Youth Ranches Board of Directors, have made me aware that over 3,600 youngsters have been served by the Youth Ranches organization since the first boys were admitted to the Boys Ranch in 1959.

"Former Sheriff Ed Blackburn, Jr., whose public service includes a distinguished career in the Florida House of Representatives, once described how he and other founders started the Boys Ranch with a mere \$5,000 and a gift of Suwannee River Valley land. What an act of faith!

"And now, according to the latest available annual report, the Youth Ranches corporation owns over 6,000 acres of land and has a net worth approaching \$21,000,000.

"Absolutely amazing!

"Volunteerism — a custom that can be traced back to the earliest days of American history — has seldom produced a more impressive saga of success.

"Thanks to the generosity of the donors whose voluntary gifts have built and sustained the Youth

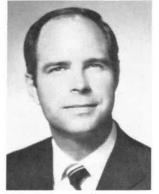
Ranches project, we have much to celebrate; and I could continue with many variations of that theme simply by working into my speech more of the background information I received from Youth Ranches President Harry Weaver several weeks ago.

"Instead, I would like to give sharp emphasis to the unbroken success of the Youth Ranches project by contrasting it with the lack of success Florida officials have experienced in their efforts to deal with the crisis created by overcrowed jails and prisons.

"When I was a member of the Criminal Justice Committee in the Florida House of Representatives and chaired a subcommittee on prison overcrowding, also when I served on a Governor's Task Force dealing with the same problem, my colleagues and I struggled mightily to find acceptable solutions.

"Unfortunately, we did not find any permanent answers, and given society's present state of turmoil, I have concluded that permanent answers are likely to remain elusive for the immediate future.

"It brings me no joy to contemplate this fiasco, or to be reminded that the resources of this state are being strained to the limit by efforts to cope with a (continued top of next page)



U.S. Rep. Bill Grant

Congressmen Commend Youth Ranches Achievements

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Three Congressmen from Florida focused attention on the 30th Anniversary of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches with remarks that were printed in the Congressional Record.

"It is a point of pride with me," said Rep. Bill Grant, "that the Youth Ranches project began in my district when the Florida Sheriffs Association established the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch on the banks of the Suwannee River.

"At that time there were skeptics who viewed the Boys Ranch as an impulsive, impractical venture because the Sheriffs Association had only \$5,000 and 140 acres of donated land, and the members of the organization were completely lacking in child care experience.

"As a former banker sensitive to the undeserved public image of bankers as hard-nosed realists, I am delighted to point out that two Live Oak, Florida, banks came to the rescue by lending the Boys Ranch sufficient funds to finance the first buildings. "This was not exactly textbook banking, and it is likely that the bank officials had some restless nights while the Boys Ranch was getting off to a sometimes sputtering and shaky start.

"However, the loans were paid off ahead of schedule, the Boys Ranch prospered, and an impulsive dream eventually developed into a statewide network of child care facilities with an annual operating budget approaching ten million dollars, real estate holdings totaling over 6,000 acres, a net worth of over twenty million dollars, and a line-up of professional services that ranges from counseling families that are falling apart to providing a good home and prospects of a brighter future for unfortunate boys and girls.

"In this year when our nation is celebrating the 200th Anniversary of one of the greatest documents

rising tide of lawbreakers.

"We have been trying to deal with this problem for many years, and yet it seems that the only solution we can offer is to lock up Florida's problem adults and keep them out of circulation.

"If we succeed, at the cost of millions or even billions of dollars, it will be a hollow achievement, and we will have nothing to celebrate.

"But, for the moment, I have pushed that depressing prospect into the background, and I am thoroughly enjoying this opportunity to associate with people who have something gratifying and inspiring to celebrate.

"Today we are saluting an agency that has achieved singular success in redirecting the lives of neglected, unsupervised, and troubled youngsters and is helping them to mature in a productive and acceptable manner.

"This agency is also providing professional counseling for fragmented families so that boys and girls will have a stable home environment to reenter after they leave the Boys Ranch, Youth Villa, Youth Ranch, or the camping programs.

"The Youth Ranches concept is progressive and comprehensive — a positive response to one of society's major problems. It also helps boys and girls to realize that law enforcement officers are their friends, and it reveals in a dramatic manner the compassionate side of law enforcement. Sheriffs in other states have recognized these virtues and have established similar youth care projects.

"The Youth Ranches project is an unadulterated success worthy of our admiration, and it deserves an appropriate response from all of us. Governor Martinez touched on this theme in his recent proclamation when he urged all Florida citizens to recognize the achievements of this amazing venture.

"That is my plea also, and it is my hope that once Floridians become aware of the many benefits their state can derive from enhanced and steadily growing Youth Ranches services, they will respond by providing strong encouragement and support. My faith in that old American custom, volunteerism, convinces me that they will."

ever devised in mankind's search for freedom, I am grateful for this opportunity to bring to the attention of my colleagues an outstanding example of free men exercising their charitable impulses within the framework of a free society.

"The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches represents volunteerism at its absolute best simply because this highly successful project has been financed almost entirely by volunntary contributions. It also serves as a dramatic reminder that gruff, tough law enforcement officers have tremendously compassionate impulses under their stern, no-nonsense exteriors.

"In 1957 Florida's Sheriffs were deeply concerned about the many boys and girls who were becoming juvenile delinquency statistics simply because bad breaks had deprived them of a stable and desirable home life. These Sheriffs responded by writing a new chapter in the history of human compassion, and now, 30 years later, I invite my colleagues to join me in saluting them; and also in expressing deep gratitude to the citizens whose generous contributions have made the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches an inspiring example of Americans helping Americans the American way."

Congressman Hutto

"I am pleased to relate to you today a story of a lesson well learned," said Rep. Earl Hutto to his colleagues in the U.S. House of Representives.

"A gentle old man walked into a Florida Sheriff's



U.S. Rep. Earl Hutto

Office who had quite a past. This 72-year-old gentleman had shot and killed a grocer in an armed robbery when he was 19 years of age.

"However, on this particular day he told the Sheriff that, because he knew he was dying, he wanted to donate his life savings of \$100,000 to help youngsters to stay out of trouble. The money was given to the

Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund (which later became the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc.). This man had learned the importance of teaching youth how not to make a mistake similar to his own.

"The reason the Florida Sheriffs started the Boys Ranch back in 1957 was to help prevent juvenile delinquency, and they have not been disappointed.

"During 30 years of operation, over 3,600 boys and girls and their families have been given assistance in solving their problems. The Sheriffs have proven to these youth that law officers are their friends.

"I join with other members of the Florida delegation today in commemorating the 30th anniversary

(continued on next page)

of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches." Congressman Ireland



U.S. Rep. Andy Ireland

U.S. Rep. Andy Ireland described the Youth Ranches statewide network of child care services and pointed out that one of the residential programs, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Villa, near Bartow, was in his district.

"The key to the Sheriffs' program is that parents of the children must be involved," he told his col-

leagues. "Boys and girls ranging in age from 8 to 18 stay with the program an average of 14 months. During that time, they are given guidance counseling and taught to accept responsibility for themselves and their surroundings.

"However, the program's philosophy is that ultimately the children should be reunited with their families. Each six months while the young person is in residential care, parents are asked to attend a Family Review Conference... which... reviews the child's progress and sets new goals as necessary.

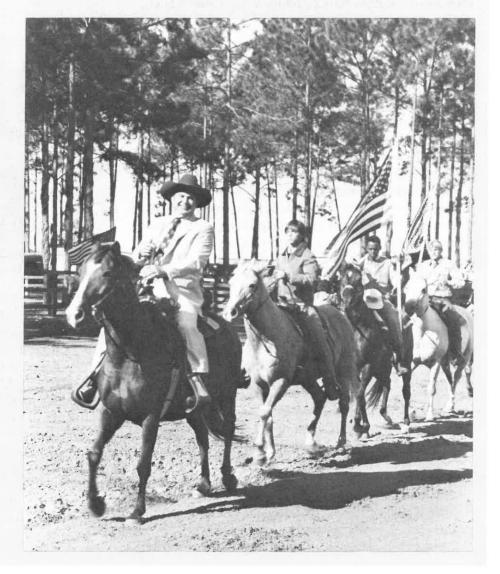
"In addition, one of the program's Family Social Workers works with the parents on an ongoing basis while the child is in care at the facility. Further, there is follow-up aftercare, and adoption services are available on a case-by-case basis.

"Sixty-five to 70 percent of those children who go through the Villa program are eventually reunited with their parents. Furthermore, this is a program which is supported almost entirely through voluntary gifts.

"I would like to commend this most admirable record and congratulate all those involved in this program over the years for its outstanding achievements."

30th Anniversary Highlights

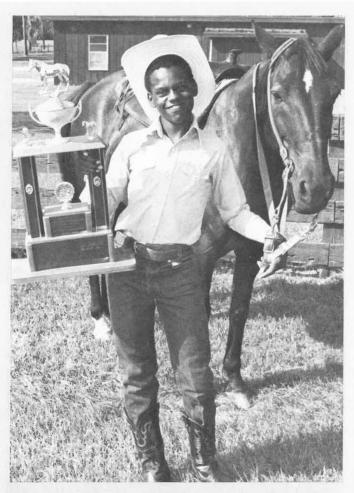
Hundreds of horses and riders participated in the grand entry parade during the Anniversary horse show, and Highlands County Sheriff Joe Sheppard, President of the Florida Sheriffs Association, led the procession as Grand Marshal. Later Sheppard introduced Lt. Governor Bobby Brantley as the celebration's keynote speaker.





A three-day schedule of horse show events resumed after the grand entry ceremonies.

Boys Ranch resident Stacy Smith was the 1987 winner of the Carleton F. Tweed Memorial Horsemanship Trophy. He was selected on the basis of his horsemanship; and because of the knowledge, skill, and compassion he demonstrated in the care and handling of farm animals.



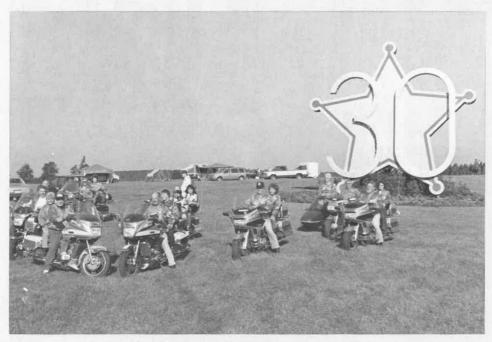






Over 3,000 visitors passed through five serving lines during the barbecue that was held in a park-like setting beside the Suwannee River.

30th Anniversary



Many visitors, including The Retreads, a group of motorcycle enthusiast, used the 30-foot anniversary symbol as a backdrop for photos. Lighted at night, the symbol was on a hill overlooking the horse show arena.







Highlights

Once again — following a custom established many years ago — THE PONY EXPRESS group and the Suwannee River Cloggers also performed.





Visitors arrived in pick-up trucks, cars, campers, trailers, and motor homes, but there was only one mule train in the procession. It traveled from Jackson-ville, a distance of approximately 80 miles, leaving on Wednesday, and arriving on Friday.

30th Anniversary Highlights continued

Former Boys Ranch resident David Meszaros played the national anthem during a "Presentation of Colors" ceremony performed by the Suwannee High School (Live Oak) Junior Navy ROTC Color Guard.



Salute to a "Hidden Hero:" The Man Who Put Boys Ranch "On The Air"

People of all ages, classes, races, and creeds support the Youth Ranches with their cash gifts, time, and talents. They are absolutely essential members of the Youth Ranches "team," but unfortunately there are so many of them — thousands upon thousands — that it is impossible to give them the acclaim they deserve. We can, however, demonstrate the caliber of their loyalty by focusing on a few chosen at random, and that is precisely what we are doing in this new series of features titled "Salute to a Hidden Hero."

During one of Dave Stocky's first visits to the Boys Ranch in 1968, he asked Ranch Manager Harry Weaver for permission to organize an Amateur Radio Club.

Weaver gave his approval, with one stipulation: "If you start it," he said, "I don't want you to drop it." Since then Weaver has discovered that Stocky is a stick-with-it kind of guy, and dropping the club would have been entirely out of character for him.

Stocky organized the Boys Ranch Amateur Radio Club in 1968, and it was licensed in 1969 with WB4PHT as its call sign. The Florida Sidebanders Club, now inactive, was the original sponsor, and its members, including Stocky, not only donated equipment, but also provided training for Ranch residents who wanted to become licensed operators. Harry Weaver, Boys Ranch Staff Member Irene Schmutz, and



In October, during a celebration marking the 30th Anniversary of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Dave Stocky was on duty as usual in the Boys Ranch "ham shack" transmitting free radiogram messages for visitors.

Rancher Jerry Drye were among the first to attain this goal.

The Boys Ranch club was dedicated in 1970 with an "on the air" ceremony that allowed amateur radio operators in other areas to participate; and it has remained "on the air" ever since in spite of the steady turnover that occurs among Boys Ranch residents.

Dave Stocky deserves most of the credit for the club's survival, although he prefers to spread the credit around among others who have been helpful such as Gary Gardner and Bill Dudley, from Crystal



The "ham shack" was in the basement of the Boys Ranch chapel when this photo of Dave Stocky was taken in 1970.

River; Ken Farwell, from Live Oak; the Clearwater Amateur Radio Society; and the St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club.

From the beginning, Stocky has been the Trustee of the Boys Ranch club, which is the equivalent of the engineer-in-charge at a commercial radio station. He supervised the setting up of the first "ham shack" in the basement of the Boys Ranch chapel. Later he designed the Radio Club's present three-room base of operations which is located in the Arts and Crafts building.

Although he lives in St. Petersburg, which is approximately 230 miles from the Boys Ranch, Stocky has averaged about 6 visits a year ever since 1968. Between 1968 and 1982, his travels as a Production Systems Manager for Florida Power Corp. brought him to the Suwannee River Valley frequently, and visiting the Ranch was relatively convenient. He retired from Florida Power in 1982, and since then his visits have involved more personal sacrifice. Nevertheless, his interest in amateur radio and his loyalty to the Boys Ranch have shown no signs of slackening.

True to form, he was at the Boys Ranch on October 2-4 when the Youth Ranches organization was celebrating its 30th anniversary, and as usual he and other "hams" were offering visitors the privilege of sending free radiograms to points far and near. This custom began many years ago as a special feature of ground breaking and anniversary celebrations, and it is only one of numerous benefits attributed to the club.

Stocky recently pointed out that young men who have gone into the military services after becoming licensed radio operators at the Boys Ranch have found their careers enhanced.

The fun side of ham radio is another obvious benefit, but Stocky prefers to emphasize the service side, and he used the "repeater" which has improved the range of hand-held and mobile radios at the Boys



Staff member Irene Schmutz was one of the first amateur radio operators to become licensed at the Boys Ranch.



For almost 20 years, Dave Stocky has been explaining the mysteries of radio communications to Boys Ranch youngsters. His audience in this 1987 photo is Mike Hester.

Ranch as an example to back up his preference.

He said amateur radio operators providing mobile communications for a recent bicycle tour in the Suwannee River Valley homed in on the "repeater" to maintain contact, and found it especially helpful when an ambulance had to be summoned for an (continued on page 27)



Joe was happiest while umpiring, coaching, or refereeing, but he accepted with good cheer some of the menial aspects of his job such as mopping the gymnasium floor or landscaping the gymnasium entrance.

So Long Joe — We Hate to See You Go

"If you last six months, you will last a long time," Boys Ranch executive Jim Strayer told Joe Macera when Joe applied for a job as a group parent in 1972.

Well, Joe obviously had the right stuff because he stayed aboard for 15 years, and spent the last ten of those years as Recreation Supervisor.

Now he's retiring and leaving behind a legacy of sports activities that will enrich the lives of many future generations.

Joe recalls that Boys Ranch sports were played on a loosely organized, pick-up basis when he was placed in charge of recreation in 1977, and it became his goal to create a more structured and competitive program.

Over the years he accomplished this by developing intramural (cottage versus cottage) competition; by splitting the boys into two leagues according to age levels; and by awarding trophies.

This restructuring produced a broader spectrum of sports activities that now includes flag football, softball, basketball, volleyball, a pool tournament, Cottage Olympics, swimming meets, and diving competition. (continued on next page)





(So Long Joe continued . . .)

The new perspective on sports also added substantially to Joe's work load, but no complaints have been heard from this man who describes his number one ambition as "working with kids."

This ambition became apparent in Bridgeton, N.J., after Joe "lettered" in three high school sports and eventually became the city's Recreation Director. It surfaced again after he returned from World War II military service and began coaching little league baseball and football teams.

It reached ultimate fulfillment at the Boys Ranch where Joe not only developed many warm and last-

ing friendships with youngsters, but also met and married his wife, Eunice.

Obviously Joe's idea of "the good life" really fell into place when he answered a newspaper ad and became a member of the Boys Ranch Staff.

And now, after all this good fortune, is there anything else for which he hankers?

"Well," said Joe, "I sure would like to improve my golf game and hit a hole in one."

It could happen. Off the tee recently on a 187-yard par-three hole, his ball stopped just about ten inches from the pin.



Albums of photos from years gone by helped to revive memories.



Villa boys — a 1987 addition — helped to serve refreshments.

Youth Villa Holds First Annual Reunion

BARTOW — The First Annual Open House and Alumni Reunion held at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Villa (formerly the Girls Villa) on September 6 drew a crowd of visitors that included young women — many of them now wives and mothers — who spent a portion of their teen-age years on the attractive campus, former staff members, friends, and loyal supporters.

The visitors toured campus facilities, which include five residence cottages, an activities center, and an administration building; viewed moving picture and color slide presentations of Villa activities; and sampled refreshments. Many revived friendships that had been allowed to decline.

Former residents who had been gone more than five years found numerous changes. The three residence cottages familiar to them had been renovated. Two new cottages had been added, and 13 boys were

now living on a campus that formerly held only girls.

Several alumni commented that the addition of boys was long overdue. "This will teach the girls to live in a brother-sister relationship," said one. "This is something the Villa has needed to do."

Other former residents praised the Villa for giving them self-respect, for encouraging them to trust others, and for teaching them thrift and obedience.

One young woman who has three children said the things she learned at the Villa will help her in raising her family. "I will understand their problems as they get older in a way my mother did not understand mine," she added.

Located near Bartow, the Villa admitted the first girls in 1972, and has served almost 400 youngsters since then. The name was changed from Girls Villa to Youth Villa in June 1987, and the first boys were admitted in July.

THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES IS . . .

A charitable, non-profit corporation, sponsored by the Florida Sheriffs Association, to manage and operate the Boys Ranch, Youth Villa, Youth Ranch, Youth Camps, and any other Youth programs that might later be developed by the Florida Sheriffs Association. An important function of the Youth Ranches is the raising, receiving, budgeting, and disbursing of funds for its programs. The Youth Ranches and its programs are supported almost entirely by voluntary gifts. Gifts and bequests can be made to the Youth Ranches for the exclusive benefit of any single program, such as the Boys Ranch, Youth Villa, Youth Ranch, Youth Camp, or Caruth Camp, or they may be made without restriction, to be distributed among existing programs as most needed or to be used for the development of new programs at the discretion of the Governing Board. Youth Ranches Central Offices are co-located with the Boys Ranch.

MAILING ADDRESS — Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Boys Ranch, Florida, 32060 Telephone: 904/842-5501

BOYS RANCH IS...

A residential group child care program for Florida's neglected, unsupervised, and troubled boys between the ages of eight and eighteen. It is not an institution for juvenile delinquents. The Boys Ranch is sponsored by the Florida Sheriffs Association and operated by the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. It was founded in 1957 and currently has approximately 108 boys in residence at any given time. The Boys Ranch is located in North Florida, about halfway between Jacksonville and Tallahassee and nine miles north of the town of Live Oak on County Rd. 795. Telephone: 904/842-5555

YOUTH VILLA IS . . .

A similar program for boys and girls located two miles east of Bartow, Florida, on Route 60. Originally conceived by the Sunshine State Women's Chamber of Commerce of Madeira Beach, Florida, the Youth Villa was adopted as a project of the Florida Sheriffs Association in 1970. The first buildings were completed and the first children admitted in 1972. There are approximately 50 boys and girls in residence at any given time. Telephone: 813/533-0371



YOUTH RANCH IS...

A residential group child care program of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. It was founded in 1976 and opened in 1978. It is located just east of the intersection of the McMullen-Booth Road and County Road 102 (Enterprise Road) near Clearwater, Florida. The Youth Ranch has approximately 30 boys and girls in residence at any given time. It provides care in a homelike environment for brothers and sisters who are neglected, unsupervised and troubled boys and girls. Telephone: 813/725-4761

YOUTH CAMP IS...

A facility which operates a Wilderness Camping Program and a Summer Camping Program for boys and girls. The 200-acre campsite is located one mile northeast of Barberville, near DeLand. Campers are normally selected from among boys and girls who have had Requests for Service submitted to the Youth Ranches on their behalf. Many of these youngsters are already on the waiting list for admission to Youth Ranches residential facilities. The camping program was initiated in 1981 and moved to its present location in late 1982. Ph: 904/749-9999

CARUTH CAMP IS...

A Wilderness Program for an eventual capacity of 54 boys and girls situated on an approximately 240-acre site 14 miles north of Crystal River, off U.S. Highway 19, near Inglis. This program was established through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Jr., of Dallas, Texas. The Caruths are the owners of The Plantation Inn and Golf Resort in Crystal River. The program began in 1986. Telephone: 904/447-2304

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About Your Estate Planning

Many of our friends have thoughtfully made provision in their estate planning for our boys and girls. If you are considering a gift of this nature or if you would just like to know more about the many and varied opportunities for sharing, we can help. At your invitation, it would be our privilege and pleasure to visit you in your home. If you prefer, you are welcome to visit us or we can furnish information by mail or telephone, whatever is most practical and convenient. Through estate planning which includes the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, you can help boys and girls at any or all of our facilities as you choose.

You can make a charitable gift and receive an income . . .

Gift Annuities are paying a fixed rate of income up to 14 percent annually depending upon the age of the annuitant. Our Pooled Income Fund pays a flexible rate depending upon both age and financial market conditions. You can protect yourself and your loved ones financially, while at the same time helping dependent, neglected, or homeless boys and girls.

For information, simply fill out the coupon below and mail it in the postage-paid envelope found elsewhere in this magazine.

Please send literature about: () Wills () Gift Annuities () Pooled Income Fund () Endowment Fund () Trusts () Other () Visit me when you are in my area.	Address inquiries to: Harry K. Weaver, President Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Boys Ranch, Florida, 32060 Telephone: (A/C 904) 842-5501
Name	
Address	
City	State
ZipTelepho	ne No
The proper form for a bed I bequeath to the Florida Ranches, Inc., Boys Ranch	Sheriffs Youth , Florida, 32060

Facts About Our Finances

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

Telephone Your Gift

To improve our services to you, the Youth Ranches 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 delayed. Call (904) 842-5501.

Youth Ranches Speaker's Bureau

Do you need a program for your club, church, or other type organization? We would welcome the opportunity to share the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches story with your group. Wherever you are in Florida, you are not too far away for one of our speakers to accept your invitation, and we have a 14½ minute color/sound film all about the Youth Ranches. Give us a call at (904) 842-5501 or write to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Boys Ranch, Florida, 32060.

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, Fl 32060

Name

City		State	Zip
m	ailing label wit	olease attach your R th the old address and pove. Also do the sa and corrections.	I fill in the



Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches



Honor Roll



Roster of Builders

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

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

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Youth Ranches are listed in alphabetical order by name of the deceased. Donors are listed after the name of the person in whose memory they contributed.

> The Memorial Fund donations for this listing were received by the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches between September 4. 1987, and October 31, 1987.

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A gift may be made to the Youth Ranches 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.

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MR. PATRICK G. KEEL Mrs. Thomas J. Kilker continued on next page

Our "Man In the Moose" Made It Happen

BOYS RANCH - Our "Man In The Moose," Ronnie Williams, was responsible for persuading Moose Lodge members and their families to hold a picnic at the Boys Ranch, and we have pictures to show that the fraternal folks had a ball. The outing also helped to sustain a long-standing relationship that has placed Moose Lodges all over Florida among the leading supporters of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. Ronnie Williams, who lives in Jacksonville, is a Moose Lodge member, a former Boys Ranch resident, and an active member of the Boys Ranch Alumni Association.



Ronnie Williams (standing, foreground) led the "March of the Moose Members" from Jacksonville to the Boys Ranch.



Pat Foley, President of District 10 Moose Clubs, presented an appreciation plaque to the Boys Ranch, represented by Youth Ranches President, Harry K. Weaver (center) and Youth Ranches Regional Director, Pat Monogue (right).



No disco stuff here. Classic country dancing and clogging were the order of the day.

HONOR GIFTS

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MRS. CLARA E. KUHR BIRTHDAY Mrs. Clara E. Kuhr

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Salute to a "Hidden Hero"

(continued from page 15)

injured rider.

Speaking of benefits, what has Stocky received in return for the thousands of miles he has traveled, and the time and talent he has contributed, during almost 20 years of volunteer service to the Boys Ranch?

For one thing, a Lifetime Honorary Membership in the Florida Sheriffs Association which he prizes highly. For another, the satisfaction of translating his lifelong fascination with amateur radio into an activity that has enhanced the lives of many youngsters.

Frankly, Scarlett, this is one "ham" who does give a darn — especially about the Boys Ranch.

Club That Built Arena is Still Contributing

The Clay County Mavericks Saddle Club, represented by President Linda Worthington (center) and Sherry Schroeder, presented the latest in a long series of cash gifts to the Boys Ranch on October 3 during a horse show featured as part of a three-day celebration marking the 30th Anniversary of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. It was accepted by Jim Strayer, Vice President for Youth Services. The Mavericks were responsible for bringing horse show competition to the Boys Ranch when they built an arena on the Boys Ranch property in 1970. They provided the labor, supplies, and equipment.



Security was Super

Security for over 3,000 visitors, including hundreds of campers, was provided by deputies, auxiliary deputies, and Explorers from Clay and St. Johns' Counties.



The St. Johns County contingent included (from left) mounted deputies James Mobley, Kathy Mobley, and Duane Munn.



The Clay County contingent included (from left) Deputy Bob Ford, Sgt. Barry Lancaster, Explorer Tracy Cogdill, Deputy Mel Gaden, Explorer Gina Framke, Deputy Mikel Amos, and Explorer Lisa McGlothlin.



Eric Horn, whose musical career began when he was a Boys Ranch resident, brought his guitar to the reunion and later entertained anniversary visitors.

Annual Reunion Draws Boys Ranch Alumni

The Boys Ranch Alumni Association, which includes former "boys" as well as staff members, held its 1987 reunion during the 30th Anniversary weekend and elected the following officers: Dennis Carpenter, President; Tom Chastain, First Vice President; Kevin Hartley, Second Vice President; Irene Schmutz, Secretary; and Harvey Bues, Treasurer. The reunion program included the traditional alumni vs. current Ranch residents volleyball tournament (won this year by the alumni), a business meeting, a dinner, and an evening fellowship session that gave Youth Ranches officials an opportunity to give the group a progress report.



A friendship spanning almost 30 years was renewed with a hug. Leonard Russek, a corporation executive, was one of the first boys enrolled at the Boys Ranch in 1959; and Mrs. Thomas Musgrove is the widow of the man whose gift of property brought the Boys Ranch to the Suwannee River Valley in 1957.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES BOYS RANCH, FLORIDA 32060

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