

THE RANCHER

PUBLISHED BY THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES, INC. ®

Winter 2002

JOE AND FRANCES DIAZ ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



45th
Anniversary
Edition



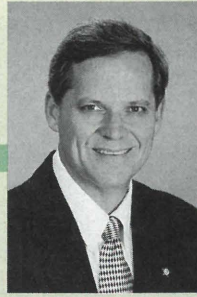
"A HELPING HAND"
Made possible through a gift from
the Family of Cecil and Lucile Webb
in memory of Helen Webb
April 24, 1910 - February 9, 2001

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF
THE SHERIFFS OF FLORIDA

October 9, 2001
W. Stanley Frazier
Sculptor

President's Perspective

A message from Roger O. Bouchard, Jr.
President of the Florida Sheriffs Youth
Ranches, Inc.



In October of 2002, we celebrated the 45th Anniversary of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. Many of our Alumni returned to the place they once called home. Whenever I meet some of the men who grew up at the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, I am reassured that our mission is a worthy calling as we work together to prevent juvenile delinquency.

These former Ranchers are remarkable...especially when you hear about the life they had before they came to the Ranch. So much of their success is due to the faithful gifts we have received from people with very generous hearts. We are so grateful for caring individuals, like you, who have welcomed our boys and girls into their family and made a special effort to support the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

As I look to the future, it is full of promise. I can say this with confidence because many of you have shared with me that you have decided to make the Ultimate Gift and include the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches in your will or trust. What a genuine expression of love and support!

Without a doubt, you are leaving a remarkable legacy as you provide for children who have not yet been born. As these gifts mature 10, 15 or even more years from now, let me assure you we will continue the tradition of high quality care based on the work, study, play and pray values established so many years ago.

With your help, we can make a difference in the lives of deserving youngsters...today, tomorrow, and for years to come. Thank you for all you have done and will do for our boys and girls. With deep appreciation and respect,

Roger Bouchard

Roger Bouchard, President

45th Anniversary Edition



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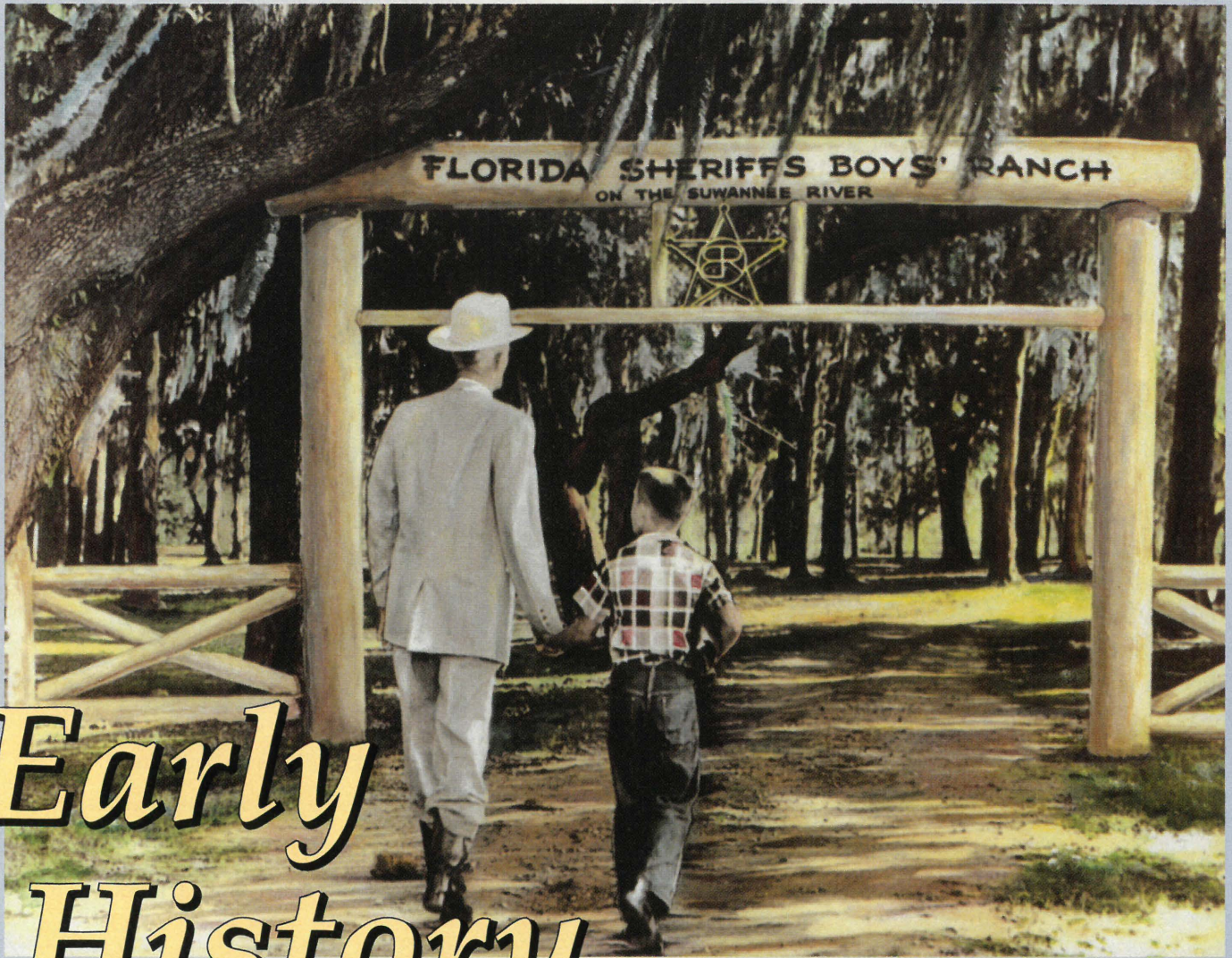
REQUIRED DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Florida Statutes Chapter 496, cited as the Solicitation of Contributions Act, was enacted by the 1991 Florida Legislature with an effective date of January 1, 1992. This law requires that organizations like the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc., furnish the following information with each fund solicitation and receipt for contributions received:

"A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE."

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc. registration number is CH954.

100% of charitable contributions are received by the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc.
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Early History

The story of the birth of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches proves miracles do happen. It tells how an impossible dream grew into one of the finest delinquency prevention programs in the nation, and how the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches came to celebrate our 45th Anniversary.

In 1955, two veteran Florida Sheriffs took a trip to Texas — a trip that would forever change the lives of thousands of Florida's troubled, abused, and neglected youngsters. Several years ago, Hillsborough County Sheriff Ed Blackburn, Jr. related the following details about that memorable trip. He and Marion County Sheriff Don McLeod made the journey to retrieve a pair of armed robbery suspects.

"It was in June of 1955 that Don and I drove to Amarillo. The drive out west was tedious and tiring. We decided to rest a day before beginning the trip back home," began Blackburn as the story unfolded.

"The local Sheriff assigned a Deputy to guide us around. He was a typical Texan, tall, high hat, cowboy boots, extremely courteous and accommodating. Since the county was far too big to see in

one day, he offered us a choice. He told us we could visit the beautiful Palo Duro Canyon or take a look at a ranch for needy and neglected boys.

Ironically, we choose to see the canyon. While that Deputy drove us around the canyon, he recounted the wonderful results of that boys ranch on the other side of the county. He told us how a former wrestler had picked up four "ragamuffins" out of the slums and alleys of Amarillo...how he gave them a home with love and discipline and helped turn their lives around. We learned how the old house he bought in 1939 had grown into a home for 200 boys. This Deputy was a supporter of this ranch and truly sang its praises.

The next day we put the two prisoners in the back seat of our car and headed home. One suspect was an 18-year-old boy. He had been injured during the get-away so he had tube draining out of his side and a cast on one foot. The other prisoner, his accomplice, was a frightened 17-year-old girl, some five months pregnant.

A few miles east of Amarillo, the seed that the Texas Deputy had sown began to germinate. What made it stir, no one knows. Maybe it was the plight of that shot-up, crippled boy and frightened pregnant girl in our back seat. They were lit-



Deeds were signed for the Boys Ranch property on October 18, 1957. Involved were (L-R standing) Suwannee County Sheriff Hugh Lewis, Florida Sheriffs Bureau Director and FSA Secretary Don McLeod, Hillsborough County Sheriff Ed Blackburn. Seated (left) Thomas Musgrove, Suwannee County Commissioner, who donated 120 acres; and Bob Tuttle, President of the Elks Lodge, which donated 40 acres on the Suwannee River. Musgrove had donated the 40 acres to the Elks earlier as a youth camp site, but it had never been developed. Loans from local banks in Live Oak enabled the Boys Ranch to purchase additional property from Musgrove.

The initial Boys Ranch site search committee included a group of Sheriffs from around the state. They were invited to meet with Suwannee County businessmen who felt the banks of the Suwannee River was the right place to build the dream of the Florida Sheriffs.



Early History continued . . .

tle more than kids, yet were in big trouble.

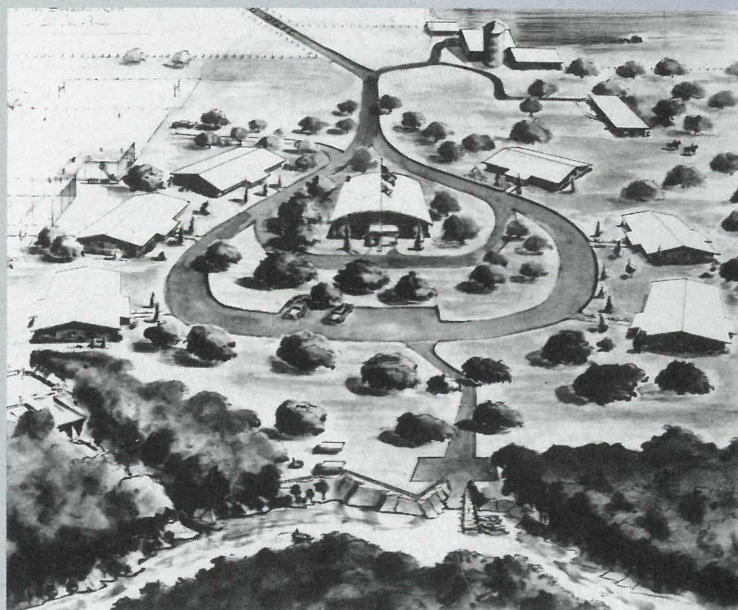
We began to talk, agreeing if a wrestler could capture the vision of helping neglected and unwanted boys...then, so could the Sheriffs of Florida.

We began talking to fellow Sheriffs about starting a Boys Ranch in Florida. Later that year, we presented the idea to the Florida Sheriffs Association Board of Directors. The idea was tabled because no money was available.

Another year passed, but somehow, miracles live on. In early 1957, the Sheriffs of Florida voted to approve the Honorary Membership program to raise funds for the Association. In less than six months, hundreds of Floridians became Honorary Members of the Florida Sheriffs Association. Now, instead of being broke, the Association had a bank balance of \$7,000. Our dream to help troubled boys was quickly revived!

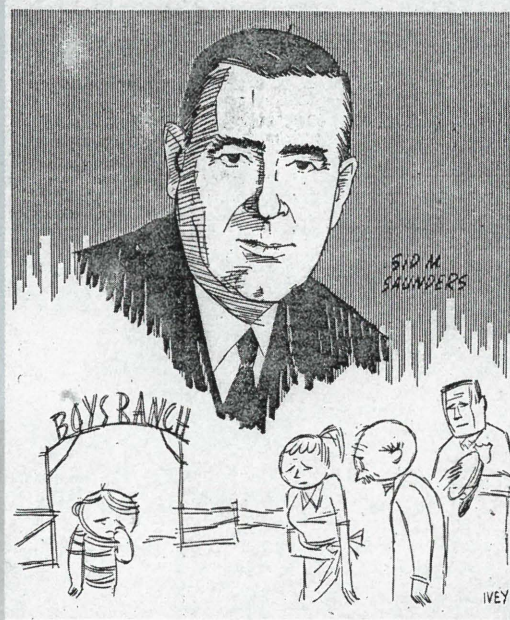
No one suggested Sheriffs didn't know how to run a Boys Ranch. No one told us about the State Welfare Department's licensing restrictions, or the State Board of Health's inspection and permitting process. Nor did we consider the formidable task of getting the Internal Revenue Service to grant us a Charitable Tax Exemption status. Least of all, no one mentioned \$7,000 wouldn't even buy a paddy wagon, much less start a Boys Ranch.

Nevertheless, at our next meeting, Florida's

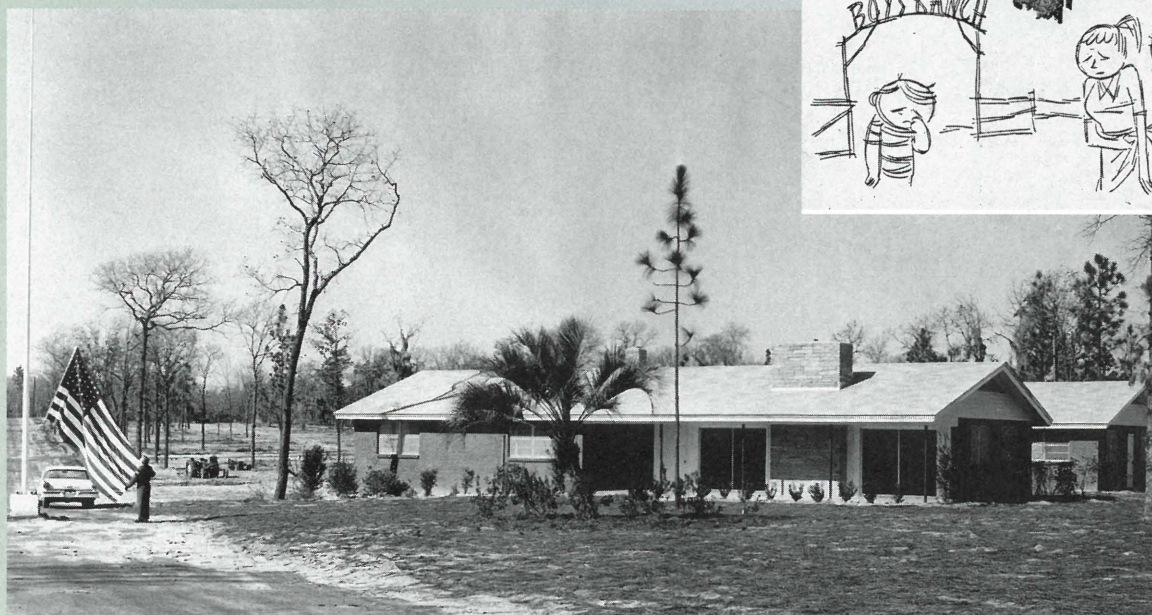


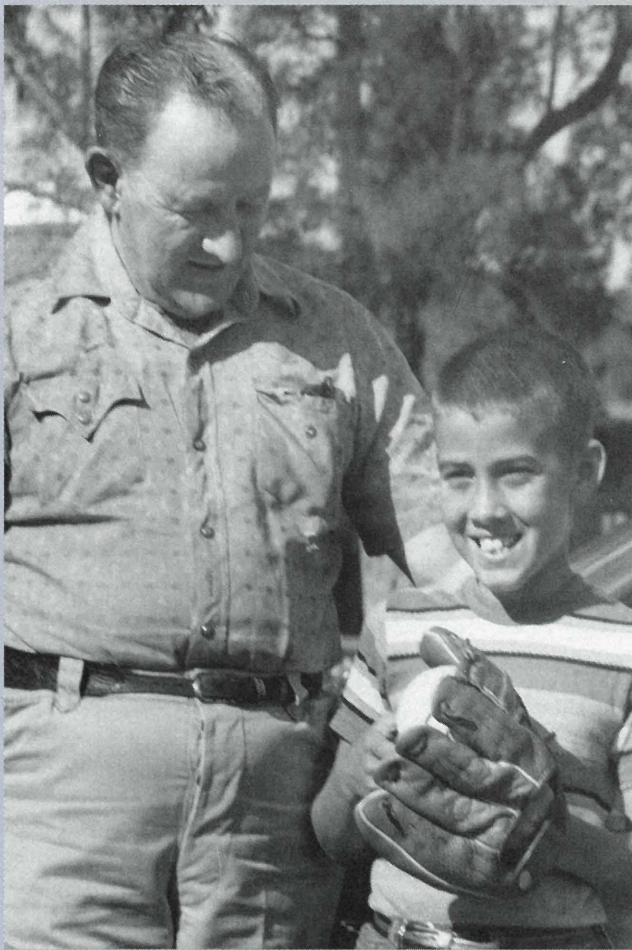
One of the first site plans for the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch

Well Done, Thou Good And Faithful Servant



The first cottage at the Boys Ranch was named in memory of Pinellas County Sheriff Sid M. Saunders. He was a charter member of the Boys Ranch trustees and President of the Florida Sheriffs Association at his untimely death.





May 1961 – Fort Pierce — Michael Senn, first Rancher enrolled from St. Lucie County received some parting advice from St. Lucie County Sheriff J. R. Norvell.

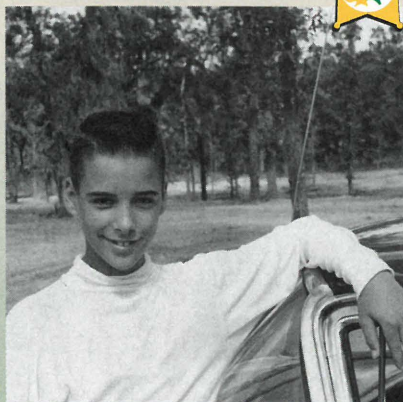
Sheriffs voted to found the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch. The Associated Press picked up the story and gave us some much-needed publicity.”

Meanwhile, Suwannee County Sheriff Hugh Lewis picked up the ball and ran with it. He knew that Live Oak businessman Tommy Musgrove had originally given some 40 acres to the Elks Club for a youth project. He also owned another 120 acres to the south of that site. Sheriff Lewis persuaded the Elks and Tommy to consider donating this land on the banks of the Suwannee River for the Ranch. Local community leaders formed a prestigious committee, spearheaded by J.L. McMullen, who helped convinced the Sheriffs to select this land as the site for its proposed Ranch. The Sheriffs officially accepted the offer during the FSA conference in August of 1957.

The Sheriffs also learned just east of this beautiful site were two abandoned farms totaling another 550 acres. They were just perfect for the project, but it would cost \$31,000 in cash to buy them both. Two local banks agreed to lend the Sheriffs \$13,000 each for a total of \$26,000 toward the purchase price of the farms. The Sheriffs added \$5,000 of their \$7,000 bank balance and bought the land. Now with only \$2,000 cash in hand, the men embarked on the task of building



Glimpses of Success



Leonard Russek

Leonard was one of the first two boys admitted to the Boys Ranch in 1958. He lived here for 3 years, while he struggled with the problems of a troubled childhood.

Leonard left the Ranch at the age of 15 and later graduated from the

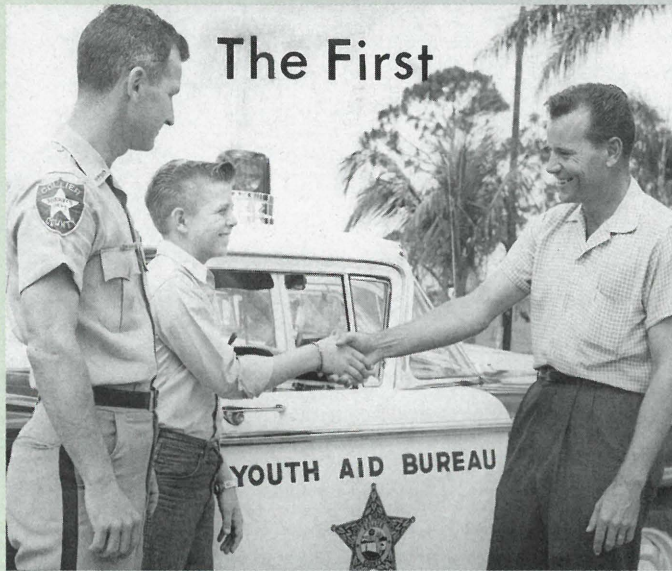
University of South Florida with a Bachelor's Degree in accounting/engineering. He also obtained a Master's Degree in Business Administration.

“Learning is such an important part of overcoming the struggles that a lot of these boys have in their lives,” Len says. “At the Boys Ranch we learned to work, we learned about agriculture and animals, but most of all, we learned about ourselves.”

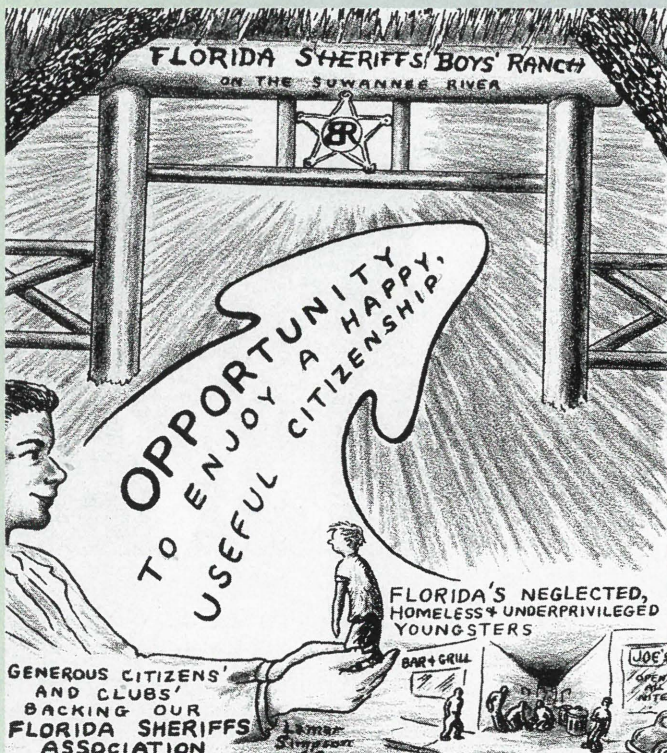


Leonard was the first Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Alumnus to serve on the Youth Ranches Board of Directors. His leadership and guidance provided an important perspective to the operation of the organization.

Early History continued . . .



Early 1961 - Naples — Casey Ballard was the first boy from Collier County to be enrolled at the Boys Ranch. Collier County Sheriff Doug Hendry is giving him a parting handshake, and turned him over to Deputy John Rogers from the Sheriff's Office Youth Aid Bureau.



the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch.

Florida's Sheriffs were undaunted by the challenges before them. They had a dream and a hope — a vision of a better life for youngsters — and they had the growing support of the citizens of Florida. As news of the Boys Ranch project spread, the Sheriffs' circle of interested and supportive friends began to grow. Floridians were learning their Sheriffs had virtues never seen before. This vision of helping boys with bad breaks get their lives back on track had appeal. The Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch gained popular support and captured the imaginations and hearts of generous people across the state and nation. Countless friends, both new and old, responded. People donated money, materials and joined with the Sheriffs in this labor of love.

Ground was broken for the first cottage in the summer of 1958 and the first boys moved to the Ranch in early 1959. The Boys Ranch Trustees voted to dedicate that first cottage in memory of Pinellas County Sheriff Sid Saunders. He died suddenly, just after helping to hire the architect for the new cottage at the Boys Ranch. Sheriff Saunders untimely death triggered an outpouring of memorial gifts for the fledgling Boys Ranch. These precious gifts of love and hope helped carry

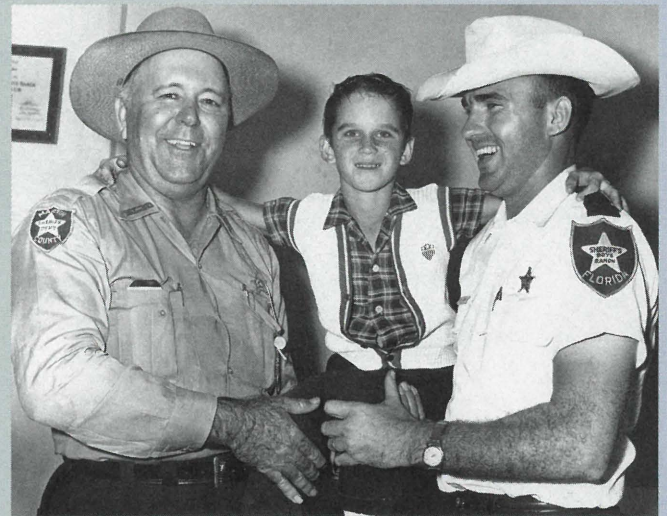




This photo of Rancher Jimmy Pilcher at the Boys Ranch entrance, was used for publicity and was featured on the cover of *THE RANCHER* and *THE SHERIFF'S STAR*.

on the vision to provide a safe home for so many deserving children.

These original donors have now been joined by countless other friends and benefactors who have helped the Boys Ranch grow into a statewide network of programs that has served over 50,000 boys, girls, and their families from across the state of Florida. Because of the leadership of Florida's Sheriffs and the ongoing generosity of our donor family, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches has truly become Florida's Charity for Florida's Children.®



December 1961 – Stuart — Timmy Fidler was the first boy enrolled at the Boys Ranch from Martin County. He is shown with Martin County Sheriff Roy Baker (L) and Boys Ranch Business Manager Wendell Lewis.



January 1961 – Fort Lauderdale — Photos of the Williams brothers, Ronnie, Albert and Tommie, with Broward County Sheriff J. A. "Quill" Lloyd and Deputy Otto Hettesheimer. This photo was taken when the boys were departing for the Ranch.

Glimpses of Success



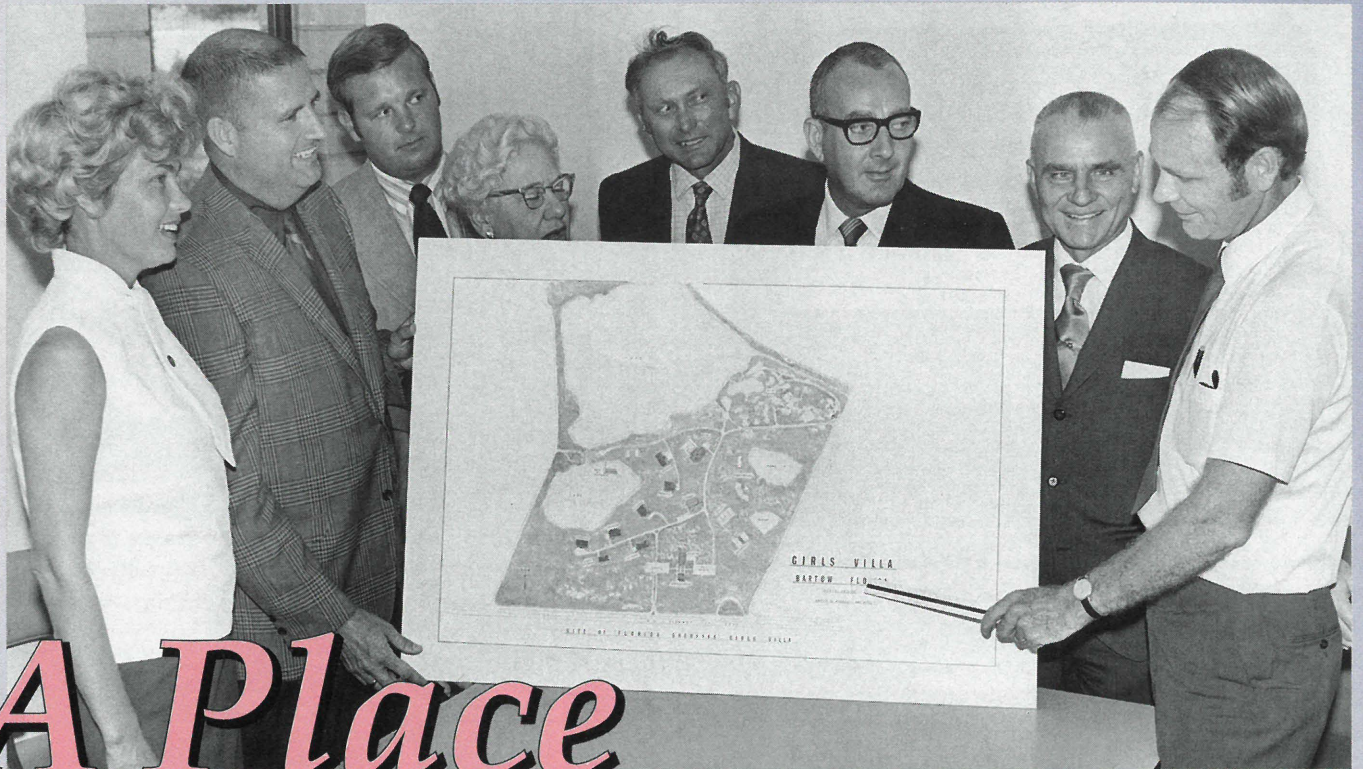
Albert (center) is now a Master Mechanic specializing in diesel engines who lives with his wife and children in Wildwood. Ronnie (left) is a barge crane operator and lives in Jacksonville. Tommie maintains phone lines for Sprint and resides in Belleview.

Albert, Tommie and Ronnie Williams

All three brothers were in desperate need of a home. Some said the only option would be to split them apart and send them away to different foster homes. The Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch offered a better solution. "Bring them to us and they will all grow up together."

That was in 1960, and we kept our word. The boys remained at the Ranch until 1969. Today each one can thankfully say they know their brothers and have a large extended Youth Ranches family.

Albert says, "I credit the Boys Ranch for all my successes. I would not trade my experiences at the Ranch for anything. When I left the Ranch I was convinced I could do anything."



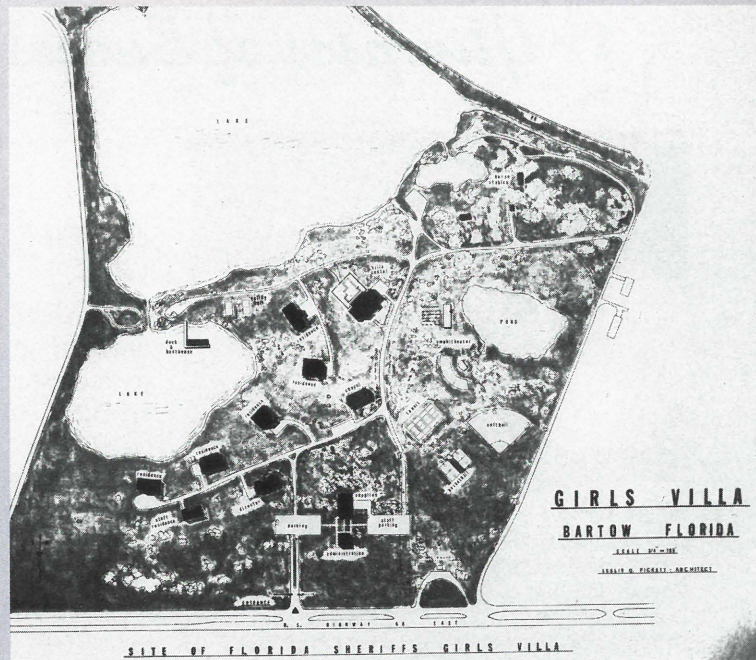
A Place for Girls

Bartow (1971) — Architect Les Pickett (R) explains proposed Girls Villa layout to some of the key players instrumental in the founding of the program. They are (L-R) Doris Hough, Boys Ranch Executive Director Harry Weaver, Villa Resident Director Bob Haag, Esther Mowry, Bill Stringfellow, Pinellas County Sheriff Don Genung, and Polk County Sheriff Monroe Brannen. The two women are members of the Sunshine State Women's Chamber of Commerce (located in Pinellas County), the originator of the Villa project. FSA later adopted it in response to urging from Sheriff Genung and Sheriff Brannen.

As the Boys Ranch grew in size and structure, praise for the success of the program spread across Florida. Everyone knew the Sheriffs' strong commitment to these deserving boys...but, what about the girls?

The need was clear, but the path was not. Fortunately, the sister of Pinellas County Sheriff Don Genung had carefully watched his efforts to help develop the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch. With his help, she approached the Sunshine State Women's Chamber of Commerce to enlist their support to raise money for a "sister" program to the Boys Ranch. The group agreed and immediately launched a focused fundraising effort to build a place for wayward girls. Their tenacity and determination soon paid off.

In 1969, the Sheriffs of Florida formally adopted the idea of establishing the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa. A search committee was formed and





The Sign went up in 1972! (L-R) Staff Member Bob Kelliher, Resident Director Bob Haag, Polk County Sheriff Monroe Brannen, and Boys Ranch/Girls Villa Executive Director Harry Weaver discuss the event and plan for the next step in the process - the construction of facilities.

by 1971, they had secured a beautiful piece of property formerly known as Peace River Park. Through the efforts of Polk County Sheriff Monroe Brennan and other community leaders, the Mobil Corporation, the City of Bartow, and Polk County Officials agreed to a 99-year lease of over 125 acres of land for \$1 per year. The local community in Bartow also responded in a very positive way through the Bartow Classic, a longstanding gala event to support the Girls Villa.

Groundbreaking for the new building began at once and soon the campus was overflowing with deserving girls in need of a good home.

Over the years, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Villa (formerly known as the Girls Villa) has grown to include five cottages, an Activity Center, Learning Center, Pool, Chapel, Towey Administration Building, IZard Barn, and other facilities to help young women become productive members of our community.

"I'll Never Be Alone"

Mommy changed her mind.
 She said she didn't want me,
 She said I'm not her kind.
 Mommy called daddy,
 He had a new wife.
 He said that I deserted him,
 He changed his whole life.
 So now I sit,
 Here all alone.
 Mom and dad are happy,
 But I don't have a home.
 They say I'm screwed up,
 I'm not a normal kid.
 I still don't understand.
 Can't they see what they did?
 They brought a child
 Into their lives.
 They played with my head,
 'Til it froze like ice.
 They told me not to cry,
 They told me not to pretend.
 I've listened to them long enough,
 And now it's time to end.

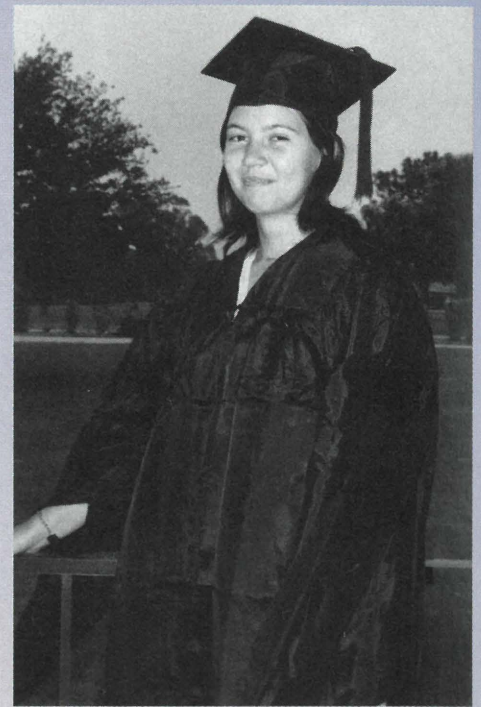
Now I'm at the Villa,
 And many things have changed.
 Now I'm not alone,
 My life is rearranged.
 I finally have a place,
 That I can call home.
 No matter what I do,
 I'll never be alone.

- Youth Villa Resident

A Place for Girls continued . . .



Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa Resident Director Bob Haag walks the first girls enrolled at the Villa to the bus stop. The girls are (L-R) sisters Liz Kleinfelder and Nancy Kleinfelder and Susan Bowe. Susan's brother, John, was living at the Boys Ranch.



Joyce Coniglio was one of the first Girls Villa residents to graduate from High School.



Glimpses of Success

Ana Nathe



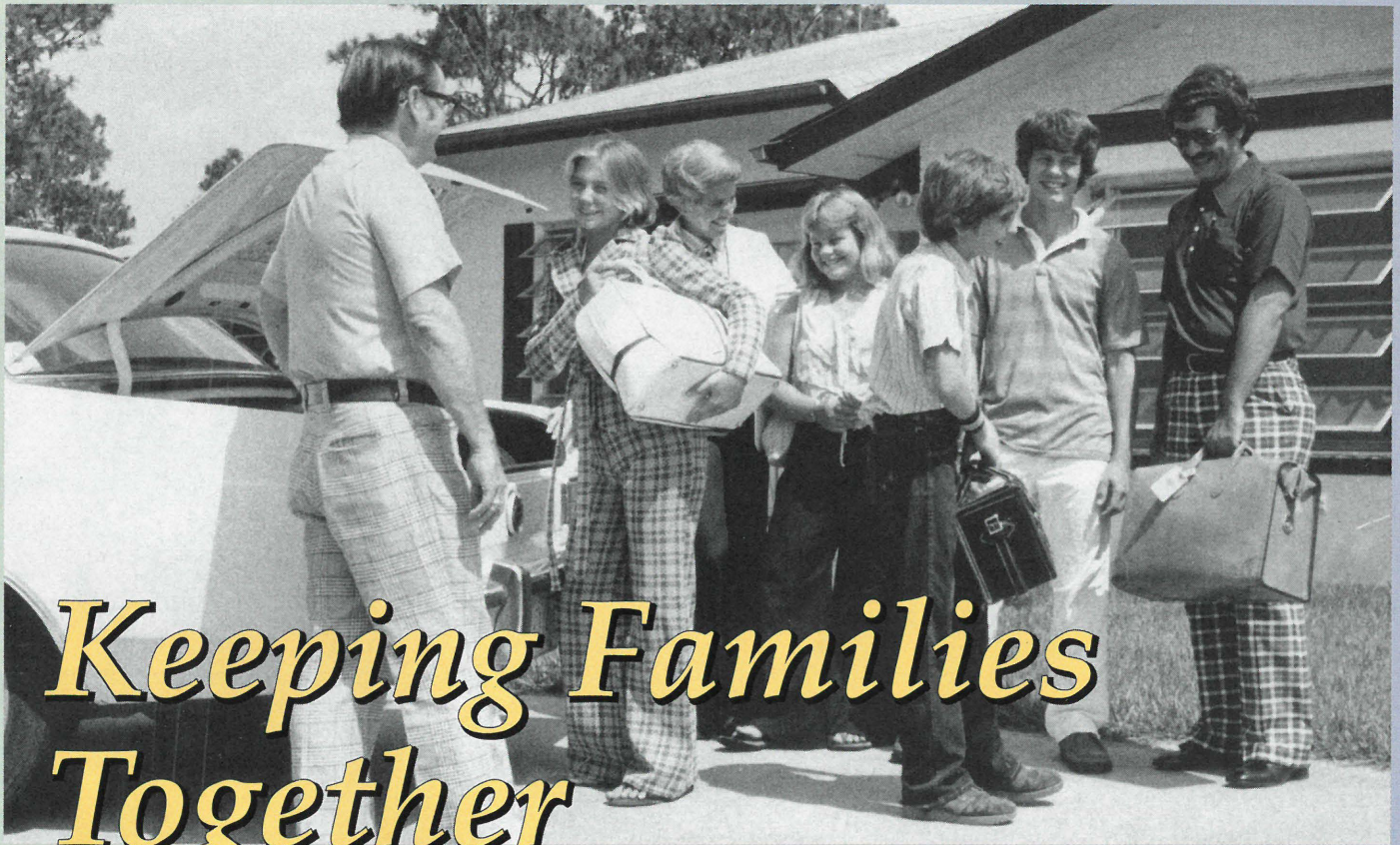
Ana was very shy and quiet girl. Her mother had some serious psychological problems and her father spent most of his time at work. No matter what went wrong at home or who was responsible, it was always Ana's fault.

At the Youth Villa, Ana found the strength to overcome this rejection and learned that life could be so very different. She made new friends and developed a new understanding of the word "family". Ana excelled in school and was selected to represent the Youth Ranches on a special trip to Washington D.C. Her confidence soared and she grew into a very responsible, poised young woman.

"The Youth Ranches plays a role in my life that a family would," says Ana. "They have given me a sense of accomplishment and belonging like no one else has."

Ana finished high school and went on to obtain her Bachelor's Degree from Wellesly College. Today, she is working on her Doctorate Degree in neuroscience at Boston University.





Keeping Families Together

Supported by the individual generosity of so many Floridians, the Sheriffs of Florida were soon ready to take another bold step – a coed program. Thanks to a life estate gift of a ranch house and property by Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Salls, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor was founded in 1976. This new Youth Ranch had a specific purpose to keep fragmented family together by serving sibling groups (brothers and sisters) on the same campus.

Since then, brothers and sisters who have come from broken homes or a troubled past have a place to live together and work through the challenges in their lives. Many times, this may be the only family they will know, the only place they will feel safe. The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor is a haven to heal the wounds of days gone by and a place to build a brighter future.

Today, the small 28-acre campus has three cottages, the Don Genung Activity Center, Chapel, Pool, Elmer and Nancy Pilcher Administration Building and other facilities to help develop healthy boys and girls.

In 1978, the first youngsters to arrive at the Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor were greeted by Resident Director Joe Spenard (l) and Cottage Parents Ron and Mary Ann Schiefen. Youngsters (in the background Debbie and David Stones) welcome sister and brother Dee Dee and Lynn Broxton who had transferred from the Girls Villa and Boys Ranch to live together at the Youth Ranch.

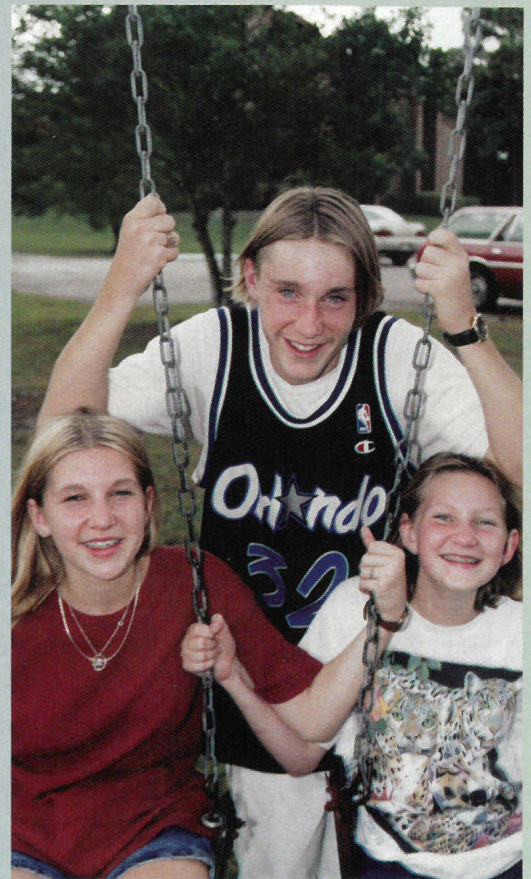


Don Genung is standing in front of the Activity Center that bears his name. He always enjoyed spending time with the kids from the Ranch.

Keeping Families Together continued . . .



One of the joys of childhood – a simple bike ride past the entrance to the Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor.



Two sisters and a brother found a safe house together at the Youth Ranch.



Glimpses of Success

Teri Marino

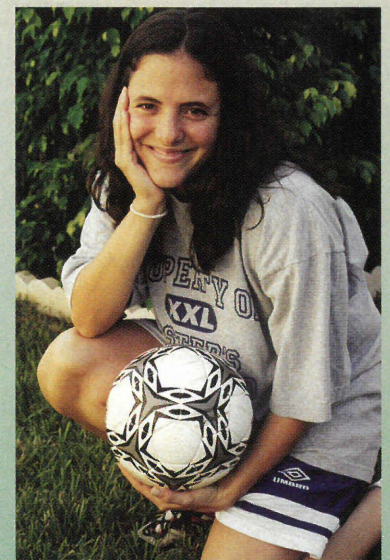


Teri found a new home at the Youth Ranch-Safety Harbor in 1991. Here, she had a roof over her head, three square meals a day and a loving cottage family to cheer her on to success.

As with most youngsters in our care, Teri just needed a chance to prove her worth. She was able to find success academically and athletically. Based on her playing ability, she earned a scholarship to Anderson College in South Carolina.

"The Youth Ranches provided direction, support, love and guidance in my life," comments Teri.

Now a young adult, Teri gives new meaning to the word "soccer mom". After the birth of her son, she returned to play the sport she loves and plays on a city league every week. She eagerly awaits the time when her son will join her on the field. We have no doubt she will consider it a privilege to be known both as "mom" and "coach".





The signing of documents to add the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches in Bradenton/Sarasota as the newest site to serve deserving youth was complete on October 1, 1991. Witnessing this great event were (seated) Sarasota County Sheriff Geoff Monge, Youth Ranches President Harry K. Weaver, Manatee River Board Member Barbara B. Smith, Youth Ranches Board Member Ben Sizemore. Standing from left to right Group Care Worker Bruce Dotson, Counselor Dale Thompson, Youth Ranches Internal Auditor Wesley Goff, VP Planned Giving Bill Brown, Board Member Dan Hagar, Staff Member Delores McKinney, Regional Director Bill Aust, VP Youth Services Jim Strayer, Group Care Worker Judy Winterton, Regional Director Bill Biebuyck and Staff Member James McKinney.

The Tradition Continues . . .

In 1991, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches had the opportunity to develop another campus site in the Bradenton/Sarasota area. The Manatee River Youth Ranch had been founded in 1984 through the joint efforts of concerned citizens, the Kiwanis Club of Bradenton and the Manatee County Commissioners. Many individuals involved in both programs supported the merger of the site into the Youth Ranches network of residential sites to help meet the needs of boys from the southwestern part of the state.

The campus is set on 62 naturally beautiful acres in the eastern part of Manatee County and currently serves 30 boys. It includes three cottages, the McCune Maintenance and Vocational Center, the Ruth Bell Learning Center, the Wilson-Wood Activity Center, Selby Barn, the Kiwanis Club of Bradenton Administration Building, Linnie Dalbeck Memorial Pool and various other recreational facilities.



Two residents of the Youth Ranch in Bradenton/Sarasota were Lacious and David. Both lived at the Ranch for several years in Sotatee Cottage.

"The Winner"

It's every boy's hope
To reach up his hand,
And find there a grip
That he'll understand.

In every boy's heart
There's a burn running deep
For a friend tried and true,
Whose love he will keep.

And should the boy win
That goal of his life,
His soul soon will lift
From its moment of strife.

But finally when passed
A trophy from above,
The real winner will be
Him who gave love!

Sheriff R. Ed Blackburn, Jr.
Hillsborough County, Florida



Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch/Live Oak



Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch/Bradenton



Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch/Safety Harbor

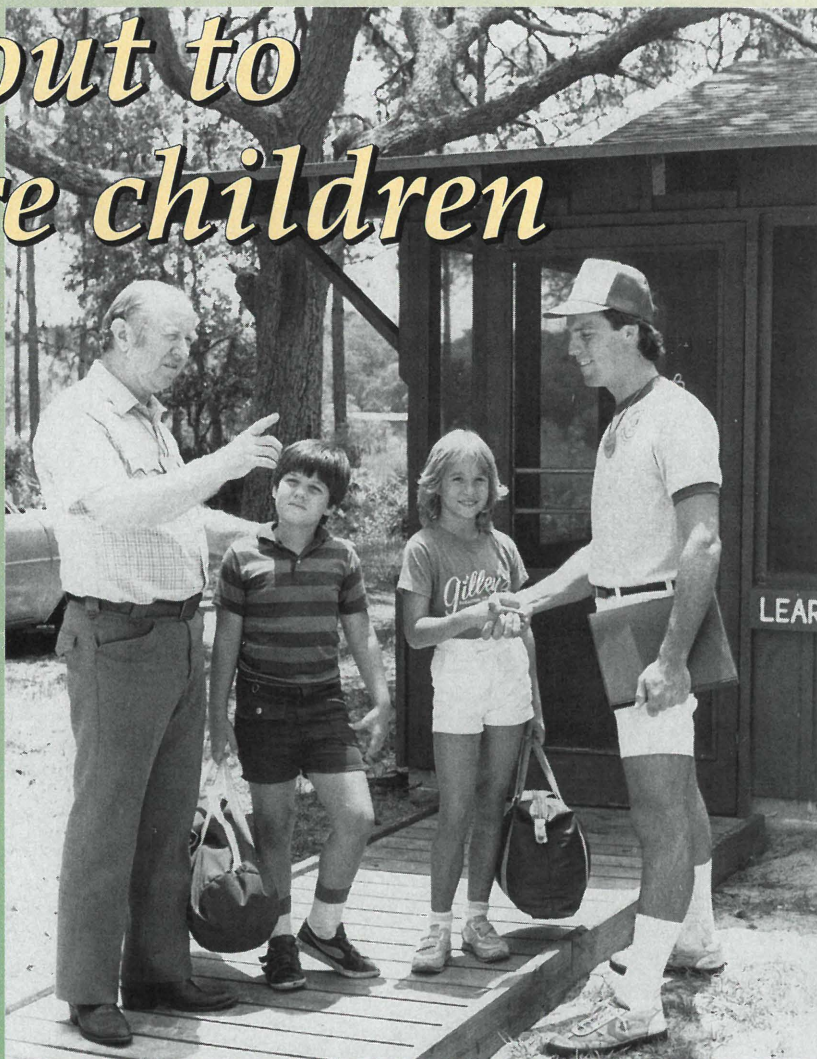


Florida Sheriffs Youth Villa/Bartow

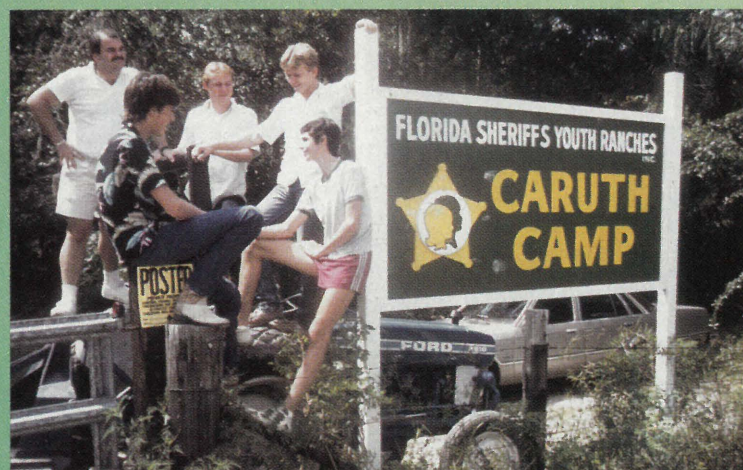
Reaching out to serve more children

In 1981, Youth Ranches staff and Law Enforcement Officers began to explore new ways to serve more of Florida's needy and neglected children. On the back acres of the Boys Ranch, they set up primitive camping facilities and invited youngsters to a unique summer camp. The purpose of the camp was to provide an opportunity for kids to have a positive interaction with the Officers and to promote the camp theme "Law Officers are Your Friends".

The program was so well received the group took the adventure on the road the following year. They rented or borrowed different camping facilities across the state to create a local connection with the Law Enforcement Officers. As they traveled the state, they found a Girl Scout Camp in Volusia County that would be the perfect setting for a permanent facility. The Florida



Camp Director Ken Edgar and Senior Counselor Monte Stevenson welcome two of the first campers to the Youth Camp in Barberville.



In 1986, Mr. and Mrs. Will Caruth (seated) leased a large piece of property to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches for only \$10 per year. Serving as a witness to this commitment to children are (l-r) Citrus County Sheriff Charlie Dean, Sr., Levy County Sheriff Pat Hartley, Youth Ranches Regional Director Mac Stones, and Alachua County Sheriff L.J. "Lu" Hindery. Ten years later as the lease was due to be renewed, Mrs. Caruth donated the property known as the Florida Sheriffs Caruth Camp.

Sheriffs Youth Camp was acquired in late 1982 and began serving children in 1983.

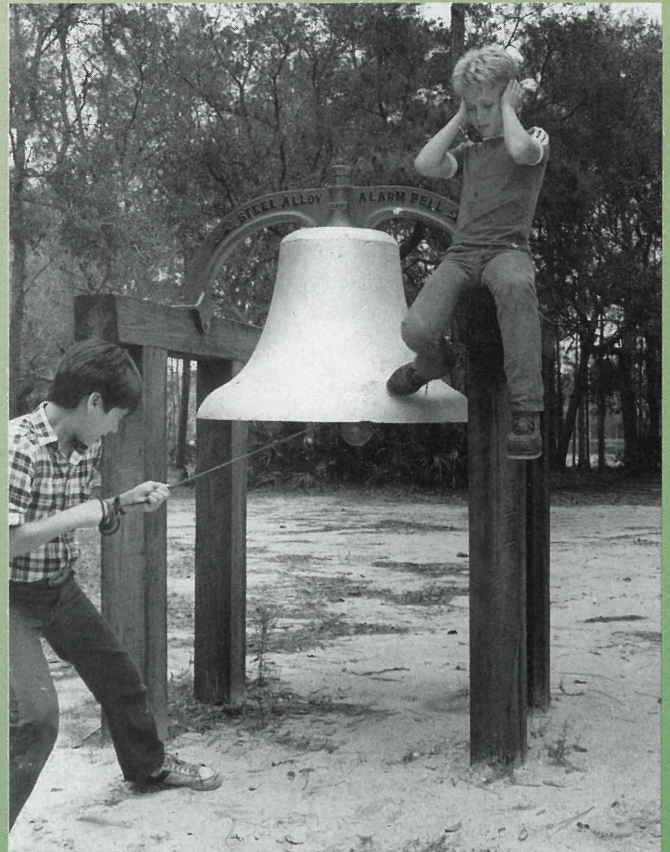
The programs offered at the nearly 200-acre Youth Camp were so popular Youth Ranches officials began to look for an additional site. In 1986, Mr. and Mrs. Will Caruth provided 182 acres of land near Inglis/Yankeetown. The Georgia-Pacific Company donated an adjacent parcel of 60 acres of land for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Caruth Camp.

Today, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Camping Services Program provides three dynamic services for thousands of Florida's kids each year. Each service teaches children traditional values through positive, healthy recreational activities and embraces the camp theme "Law Officers are Your Friends".

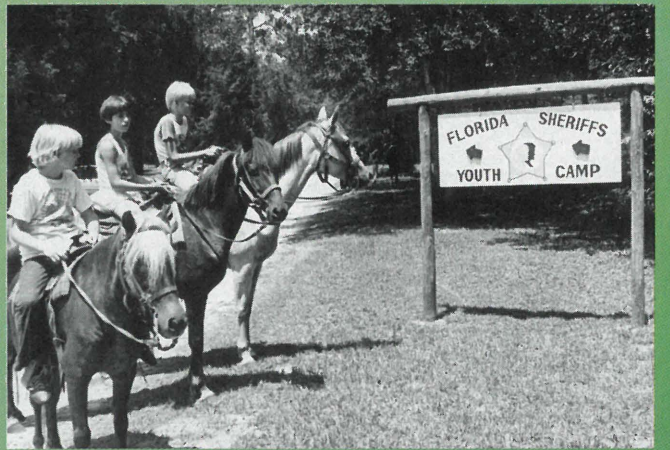
SUMMER CAMP – Boys and girls spend a week with volunteer Law Enforcement Officers enjoying a variety of educational outdoor activities. Canoeing, archery, swimming, horseback riding and many other esteem-building activities allow kids the opportunity to participate in groups as they learn about teamwork and build positive peer communication skills. The primary focus of Summer Camp is to prevent juvenile delinquency and develop healthy, positive relationships with Law Enforcement Officers.

PROJECT HARMONY® – During each school year, both camps offer the Project Harmony - a weeklong leadership retreat for middle school aged students aimed at reducing violence, racial tensions and negative behaviors. Project Harmony increases cultural understanding and builds positive leaders among today's youth. Project Harmony develops the leadership potential within each student, teaching them the necessary skills to resolve conflicts and become productive members of their schools and communities.

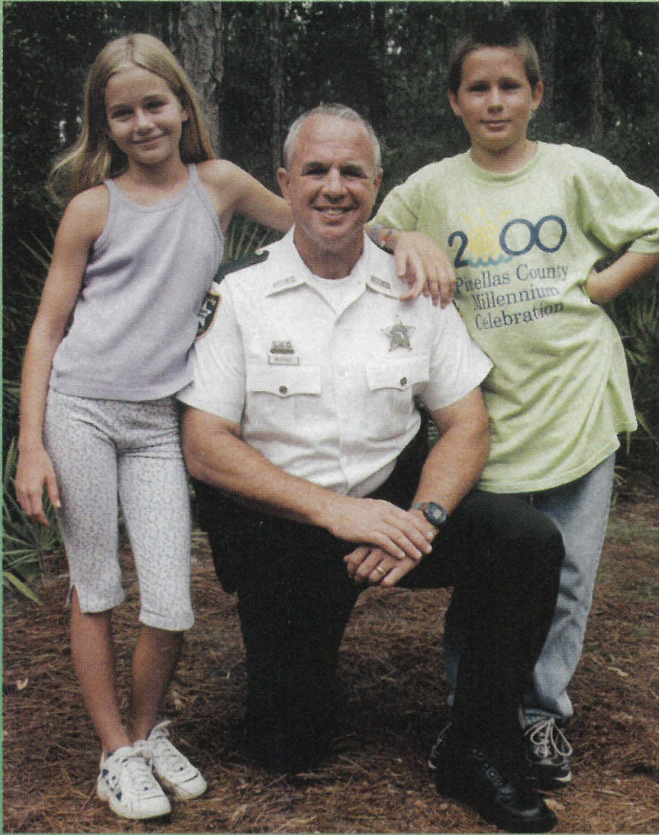
HARMONY IN THE STREETS – This mobile day camp program is a community-based service for underprivileged youth that combines the valuable lessons of Project Harmony with the exciting activities of summer camp. Camping teams spread out across the state and spend a week on site in the local community providing positive, interactive



A loud clang of the camp bell tells everyone its almost time for supper!



Reaching out to serve more children continued . . .



Promoting the camp theme "Law Enforcement Officers are Your Friends" this volunteer Deputy Sheriff enjoy spending time with the kids at camp.

opportunities for the children of families who typically have limited resources for productive summer fun. The program is designed to teach youngsters about respect, responsibility, and right behavior. Our goal is to prevent juvenile delinquency by keeping kids involved and busy in positive activities throughout the day.

All of the camping programs and services provided by the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches are accredited by the American Camping Association. Each program has also received national recognition for making a dynamic impact on thousands of Florida's boys and girls.

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches – Florida's Charity For Florida's Children.®



"Harmony in the Streets" is a mobile camping program designed to work with the children in their own communities. This proud young lady received a Certificate of Completion for her participation in the program.



As positive role models these Law Enforcement Officers build a positive relationship with the children we serve.



For many years the members of Moose Lodges located across the state have faithfully supported our boys and girls. In 1988, they pooled their resources and funded a new campsite at Caruth Camp. Many friends and dignitaries joined in the ribbon cutting ceremony.



Glimpses of Success



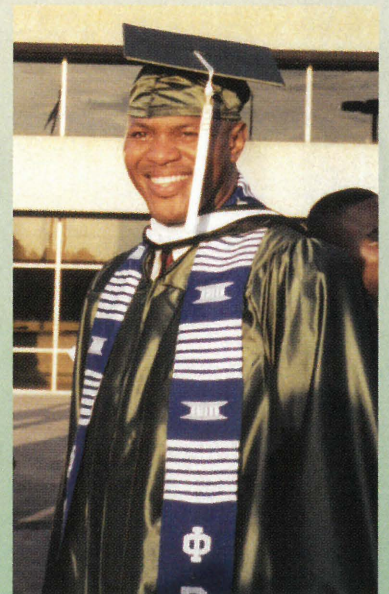
Willie Nickerson

Willie came from the poorest part of town – an area full of crime and delinquency. He knew his future would be very limited if he stayed on the street. In his mid-teens, a counselor asked him if he would like to attend a free summer camp. Without hesitation, Willie agreed.

After experiencing the Florida Sheriffs Youth Camp, Willie asked about the Boys Ranch. “Was there room for just one more boy?” The answer was yes, and he began the journey that gave him the opportunities to succeed. Gratefully, Willie knows how very difficult his life could have been.

“The Boys Ranch has supported me in everything that I wanted to do,” says Willie. “They have taught me that success is not a destination, it is a journey.”

Willie recently graduated from Florida A&M University with a Master’s Degree in Criminology. He is employed by the Polk County Sheriff’s Office and is beginning to fulfill his life long dream of serving people through a career in law enforcement.



BOB GRAHAM
FLORIDA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0903

October 5, 2002

Dear Friends:

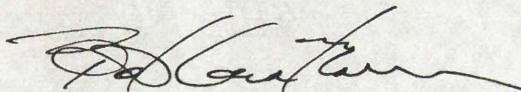
It is a special pleasure to extend congratulations to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch on the occasion of the 45th Anniversary of your founding. This is indeed a distinct milestone in the history of your organization.

I commend Mr. Roger Bouchard, president of Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch and all those who have been involved in providing direction to our at-risk young people. You have recognized the importance of the healthy development of children and a strong family unit. Through your dedication and commitment, you are providing our youth with every possibility to reach their highest potential.

Again, congratulations, and best wishes for many more years of success in this noble and worthwhile venture.

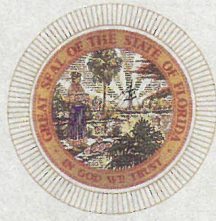
With kind regards,

Sincerely,



United States Senator

BG/slm



JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches 45th Anniversary

WHEREAS, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc. is celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches were founded in 1957 by the Florida Sheriffs Association as a working ranch and home for abused, neglected and troubled boys; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches have grown from \$5,000 and 140 acres of donated land on the banks of the Suwannee River into a statewide network of services for both boys and girls that includes residential care, camping services and family counseling services now available to the residents of all 67 counties in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches sites include the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch/Live Oak, Florida Sheriffs Youth Villa/Bartow, Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch/Safety Harbor, Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch-Bradenton/Sarasota, Florida Sheriffs Youth Camp/Barberville and the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Caruth Camp/Inglis; and

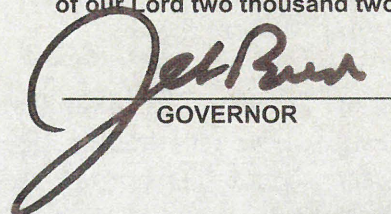
WHEREAS, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches is primarily funded through the private donations and generous bequests from caring Floridians and the strong support of Florida's Sheriffs; and

WHEREAS, since 1957, more than 50,000 boys, girls and their families have received help from the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeb Bush, Governor of the state of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing *Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches 45th Anniversary*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I
have hereunto set my hand
and caused the Great Seal of
the state of Florida to be affixed
at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
30th day of September in the year
of our Lord two thousand two.


GOVERNOR



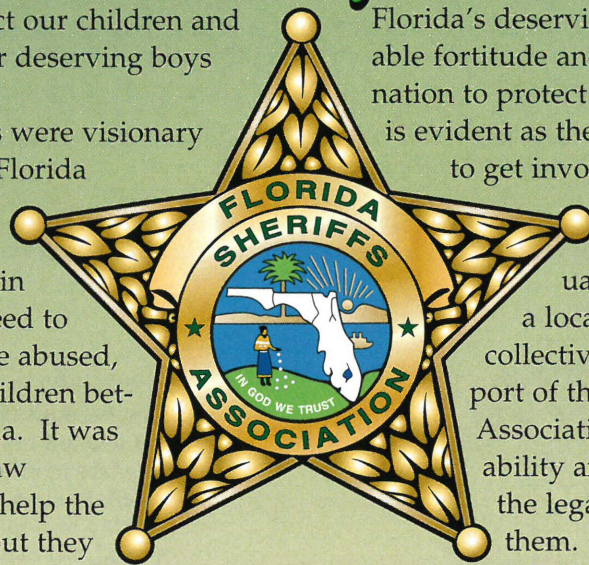
This year and every year, the Florida Sheriffs Association makes a significant cash contribution to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. Representing all 67 Sheriffs and the various citizens of Florida who help support the Florida Sheriffs Association are (l-r) Pasco County Sheriff Bob White, Bay County Sheriff Guy Tunnell, Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond, Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer, FSA Director of Law Enforcement Tom Berlinger, Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner, Suwannee County Sheriff Al Williams, Columbia County Sheriff Frank Owens, Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill, Polk County Sheriff Lawrence Crow, Youth Ranches President Roger Bouchard, Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean and Madison County Sheriff Pete Bucher.

Shielded by a Star

The Sheriffs of Florida protect our children and help provide a safe haven for deserving boys and girls.

In 1957, Florida's Sheriffs were visionary leaders as they founded the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch to help prevent juvenile delinquency. At that time, no one else in the nation understood the need to provide a safe home for these abused, abandoned and neglected children better than the Sheriffs of Florida. It was unconventional to think of law enforcement reaching out to help the community in this manner, but they proved the old saying, "Where there is a will, there is a way!"

Now, 45 years later, this faithful commitment has been passed on to a new generation of Sheriffs who continue to carry the torch of support for



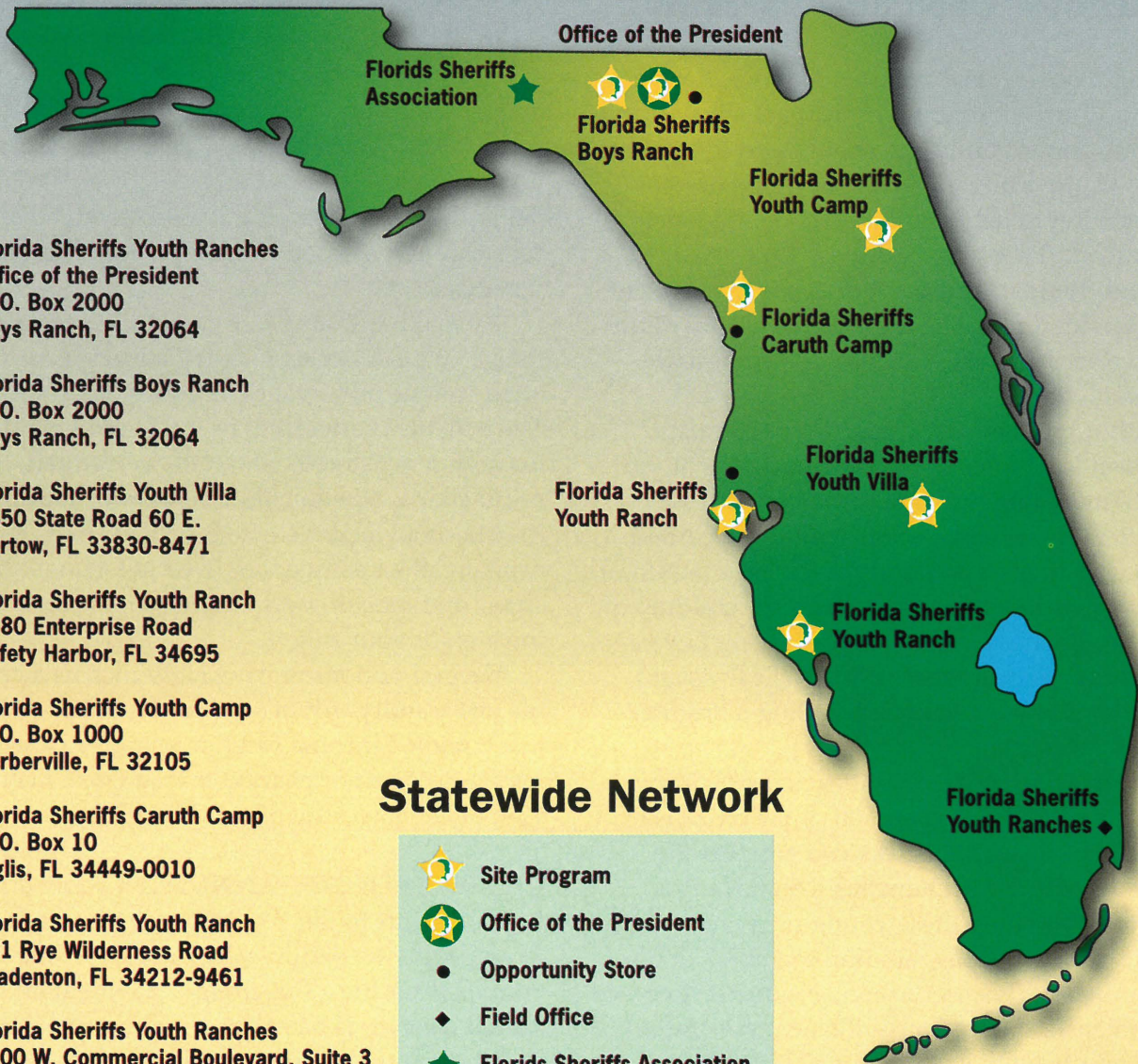
Florida's deserving children. Their remarkable fortitude and compassionate determination to protect and serve these youngsters is evident as they encourage local citizens to get involved with the Florida

Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

Whether an individual endeavor such as hosting a local fundraising event or a collective effort through the support of the Florida Sheriffs Association, each Sheriff has the ability and influence to continue the legacy built by those before them. As we begin to approach 50 years of service to the children and families of Florida, your local Sheriff can and will play a key role in the fight against juvenile delinquency.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES



Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches
Office of the President
P. O. Box 2000
Boys Ranch, FL 32064

Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch
P. O. Box 2000
Boys Ranch, FL 32064

Florida Sheriffs Youth Villa
3350 State Road 60 E.
Bartow, FL 33830-8471

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch
3180 Enterprise Road
Safety Harbor, FL 34695






Florida Sheriffs Youth Camp
P. O. Box 1000
Barberville, FL 32105

Florida Sheriffs Caruth Camp
P. O. Box 10
Inglis, FL 34449-0010

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch
751 Rye Wilderness Road
Bradenton, FL 34212-9461

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches
6800 W. Commercial Boulevard, Suite 3
Lauderhill, FL 33319

Statewide Network

-  Site Program
-  Office of the President
-  Opportunity Store
-  Field Office
-  Florida Sheriffs Association

Preventing Delinquency Since 1957.®

Florida's Charity for Florida's Children.®

Web site: www.youthranches.org

Sending out an S.O.S.

Helping the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches can be a matter of Sacrifice, Opportunity, Security

Helping those in need requires sacrifice, determination and will power. Over the past 45 years, our generous donor family has shouldered the responsibility of providing extraordinary gifts of love and devotion to help end juvenile delinquency and neglect. Thanks to countless concerned citizens and friends, thousands of needy youngsters have benefited from the therapeutic nature of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches programs and services.

Without the personal **sacrifice** of so many donors and volunteers, the boys and girls at the Youth Ranches might have turned to a life of delinquency. Instead, because of the concerned retiree who mails a generous check each month or the caring widow who remembers the children of the Youth Ranches in her will, deserving boys and girls are successfully redirecting their lives and finding rainbows of hope to building a brighter future.

By repairing broken families and providing guidance to troubled youth, all of the citizens of Florida reap the benefits. As you support the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, you have the **opportunity** to help these young men and women become productive law abiding members of our communities. This, in turn, may reduce crime and stop violence as we educate the next generation of young adults by building upon the traditional **work, study, play and pray philosophy** taught at the Ranch.

An investment in the life of a child is an investment in your own future – in our future. Those who believe in the lifesaving work of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches have several ways to further the ongoing mission to prevent juvenile



delinquency and develop lawful, productive citizens through a broad range of family-centered services.

By making sound and generous investments today, you can expect to enjoy added **security** and other unique advantages in your golden years. The benefits of investing in the lives of children through a registered, nationally accredited, non profit charity like the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches may include income tax savings, reduced capital gains tax, freedom from investment pressures, and most importantly, a reliable and stable income for your future.

Several options are available such as a charitable gift annuity, gift of stock or other appreciated asset, pooled income fund investment, charitable remainder trust or charitable lead trust, may provide benefits worthy of consideration.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES allow a donor to make a gift to the Youth Ranches and receive fixed payments periodically (monthly, quarterly or annually) for life. The annuity payment an individual receives is based on the amount of the gift and the age of the donor when the donation is made. The older the donor is, the higher the gift annuity rate. A portion of the gift is immediately tax deductible while a portion of the periodic payment is tax-free during normal life expectancy. A gift annuity may be funded with cash or appreciated securities.

THE POOLED INCOME FUND allows donors to make a gift of money or securities in exchange for a legal contract to share earned proceeds for life. The gift becomes the absolute property of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

THE CHARITABLE REMAINDER UNITRUST allows donors to permanently transfer money, securities or both to a trustee who pays them income for life. The income paid is based on a percentage of the trust assets valued annually. The trust can also provide income for a survivor (e.g., a spouse) for life. After which, the trust assets become the sole property of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

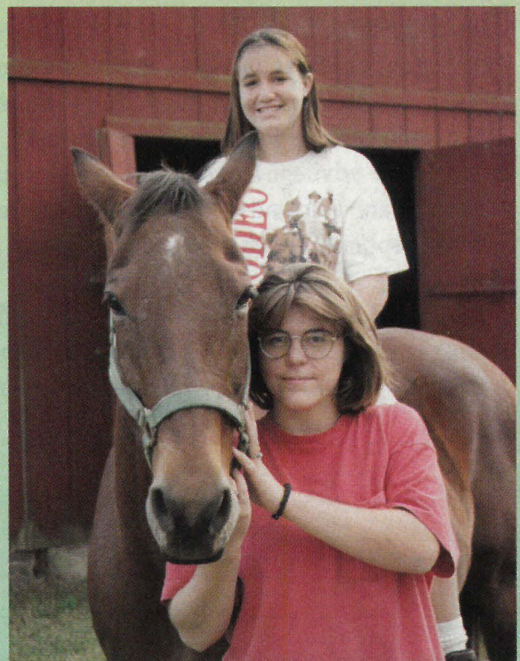
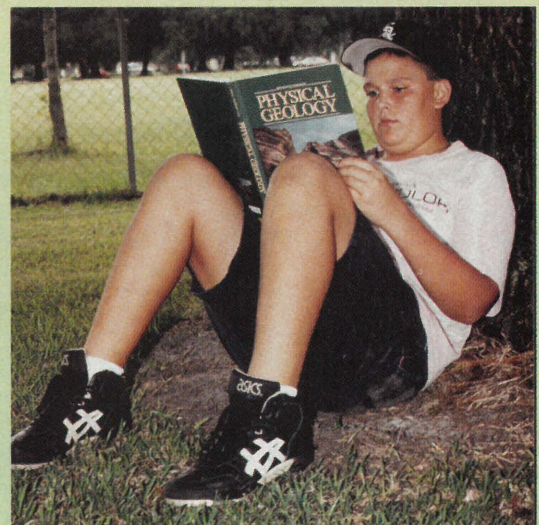
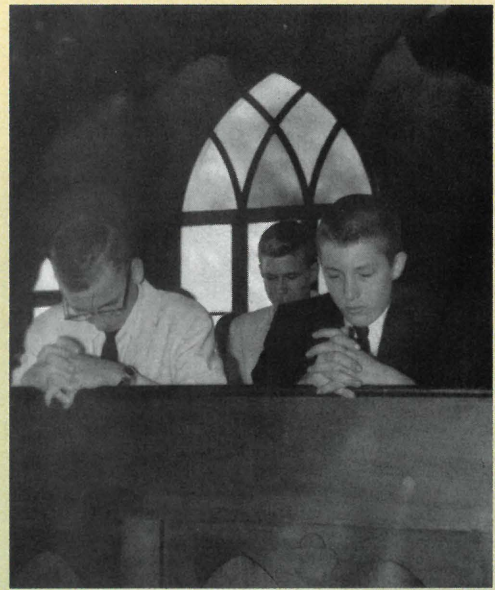
CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST allows donors to permanently transfer money, securities, or both to a trustee who pays the charity a set payment for a fixed number of years. Then the trust corpus is distributed to heirs or beneficiaries.

Cash donations, gifts of stock or other appreciated securities are outright and immediate ways that many concerned citizens help the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches save the life of a child. Your support of a boy or girl living at the Ranch makes all the difference in the world

By supporting the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches programs and services, you will secure stability for yourself and future generations of children who will need our help. Thank you so much for being a part of the miracle that is the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

Income tax deductions for life income arrangements are calculated based upon life expectancies of the income recipients and certain other factors prescribed by Internal Revenue Service regulations and current tax laws. We encourage you to seek the advice of a qualified attorney or financial planner. For additional information about one of the above mentioned options for charitable giving, please contact Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches President Roger Bouchard at PO BOX 2000 Boys Ranch, FL 32064 or call (386) 842-5501.

www.youthranches.org



The Ultimate Gift

After you have made provisions for family and friends, the Youth Ranches would be pleased and honored to accept the remainder or residual of your estate. Or you may prefer to make a specific bequest to the Youth Ranches and still name the Ranch as the recipient for whatever else may be left.

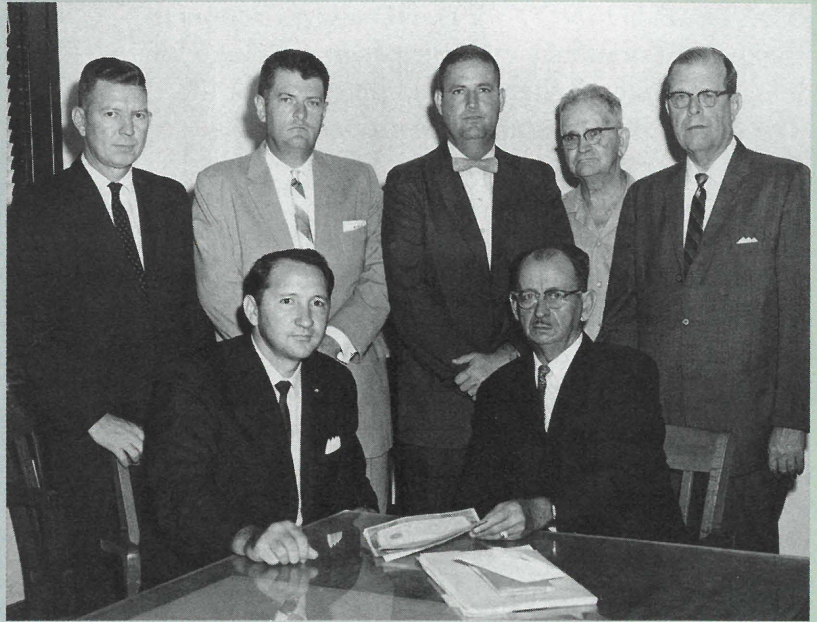
The proper way to remember the boys and girls of the Youth Ranches is to include a phrase similar to the following in your will:

"I give and devise to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc., Boys Ranch, FL 32064:

**100% of the residual amount of my estate
a specific amount of**

\$ _____

**a description of the property
a certain quantity of stocks, or
any combination of the above."**



Monticello — One of the first estate related gifts received by the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch was delivered in 1962 by Jefferson County Judge Kenneth Cooksey (standing, left) and accepted by (standing) FSA Attorney Jack Madigan, Boys Ranch Administrator Harry Weaver, Ranch Auditor Joe Henry, Florida Sheriffs Bureau Director Don McLeod; (seated-left) Baker County Sheriff Ed Yarborough and Jefferson County Sheriff J. B. Thomas.

We encourage you to contact your attorney, advisor, or the Youth Ranches to assist you in the process of making your will.

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, whichever is most practical and convenient.

If you would like to know more about including the Youth Ranches in your estate plans, please complete the coupon below and mail it in the postage-paid envelope found elsewhere in this magazine.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Telephone No. (____) _____

Please send me the booklet:

- Giving Securities
- Giving Through Your Will
- Giving Real Estate
- Other _____
- Visit me when you are in my area.



Address inquiries to:
**Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches
 Office of the President
 P. O. Box 2000
 Boys Ranch, Florida 32064
 Telephone: (386) 842-5501**

***The proper legal name to
 provide a bequest is:***

***" I bequeath to the
 Florida Sheriffs Youth
 Ranches, Inc.,
 Boys Ranch, Florida 32064 . . ."***

What An Opportunity Store!

Through the years, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches has accepted an amazing variety of non-cash gifts: cars, trucks, boats, horses, buildings, furniture, office equipment, clothing, appliances, jewelry, antiques, and the list goes on. These items may be used in our child-care facilities; however, much of the surplus is sold at the Opportunity (Thrift) Stores or during quarterly auctions at the Boys Ranch/Live Oak. Because of your generous gifts, our needy children can reach their dreams!

Today, we have Opportunity Stores in three locations - Live Oak, Crystal River and Dunedin. Each focuses on earning money to help the kids in our care. Without the generous gifts from donors like you and the many customers who shop in our stores each year, we simply could not convert these kind gifts into much needed cash for our children. Thank you for sharing your treasures with us!



All Opportunity Stores and program sites accept tax-deductible donations. If you would like more information about this unique and helpful program, please contact the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches at (386) 842-5501.

Put a STAR on your Car!

Since 1957 the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches has led the fight against juvenile delinquency and neglect. Through a statewide network of residential programs, camping services and community-based care, thousands of boys and girls have been given a new opportunity to turn their lives around.

Thanks to the generosity of Florida's citizens, at-risk youth have a better chance to become productive, law-abiding members of our community. By purchasing the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches license tag, you will be making a significant contribution to Florida's needy children. As a part of the Youth Ranches donor family, you will be restoring a child's self-esteem and repairing broken families. Contact your local tag or tax collector's office for more details.

We are counting on your help, so please put a STAR on your car!



Loren A. Wideman and his wife Ann (not pictured) have been long time friends of the boys and girls we serve. When the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Specialty License tag first became available, Mr. Wideman decided to place a special order with his initials on the tag. Pretty appropriate...given he retired from the United States Marshal's Service.

Vehicle Donations Needed!

The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches accepts vehicles in fair to great condition! Please be sure your donation has emission controls, fair tires, no major body damage, the engine and transmission in good working order and no major rust problems. Boats need to have road worthy trailers. Call 1-800-765-3797 to make your tax deductible gift of a car, truck, boat, RV or any vehicle and help save the future of a deserving child.



One Boy's Story

In the late 50's, Wally Edwards wrote an essay that changed his life. He and his brother Mike lived in a Tallahassee foster house that really didn't feel like a home. Their older brothers had already tangled with the law and the younger boys had the potential to follow in their footsteps.

Wally's essay caught the eye of Leon County Sheriff Bill Joyce. Right away, the Sheriff knew what he had to do. The newly formed Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch would be the perfect place for these two boys to call home.

Sheriff Joyce brought the brothers to his office and took a personal interest in their well-being. They were enrolled in the Boys Ranch in 1959 and soon began to feel safe, secure, and accepted in their new home. "This was a turning point in my life," said Wally. "But, the best part was knowing my Sheriff truly cared about me. I always knew I could go to him for help."

Wally and Mike lived at the Boys Ranch throughout their teenage years. Wally was the first Rancher to graduate from Suwannee High School and the first to obtain a college degree. While he was in college, he met a young lady named Joyce Hilton. They were married at the Boys Ranch in the All Faiths Chapel in 1966. His son, Clint, born in 1978 was also baptized at the Chapel on the Ranch.

Wally fully understood the call to duty and entered the Marine Corp. He served our county proudly as a soldier in the Viet Nam War. "Living at the Sheriffs Boys Ranch made me feel like I was a part of a family ...especially when I came home from the war. I am very close with some of the guys from my time at the Ranch. We are more like brothers...today, our families even vacation together."

After the war, Wally became a Deputy Sheriff in Polk County. As his career progressed, Wally developed extensive knowledge of building security systems. For the past 25 years, he has worked with Ray Willis and Associates developing and installing home or business security systems. He is currently the President and CEO of this company.

Wally is an active member of the Boys Ranch Alumni Association and serves on Board of Associates for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Villa in

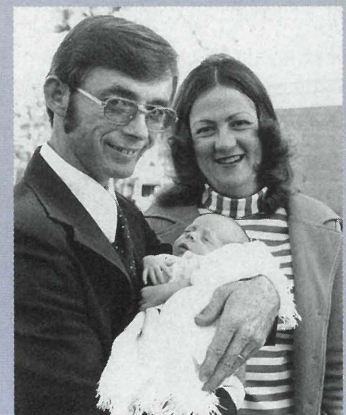


A cheering section of Boys Ranch staff members applauded when Ranch Alumnus Wally Edwards graduated from North Florida Junior College (the first Rancher to venture into higher education). Sharing in his success are staff members (L-R) Jim and Betty Strayer, John and Irene Schmutz, Jim and Helen Brettingen. The date was May 3, 1965.



Rancher Wally Edwards left his mark in the Boys Ranch record books by achieving several "firsts". He was the first Rancher to graduate from high school on June 3, 1963, and the first Rancher to attend college. In 1966, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. After basic training, but before going to Vietnam, he returned home to marry his sweetheart, Joyce Hilton. The wedding, held on November 12, 1966, was the first performed in the All-Faiths Chapel at the Boys Ranch.

On December 2, 1978, Clinton Wade Edwards was baptized in the Boys Ranch Chapel. He was the first child of an alumnus to receive this sacrament in the Chapel, thus adding another "first" to his father's long string of "firsts".



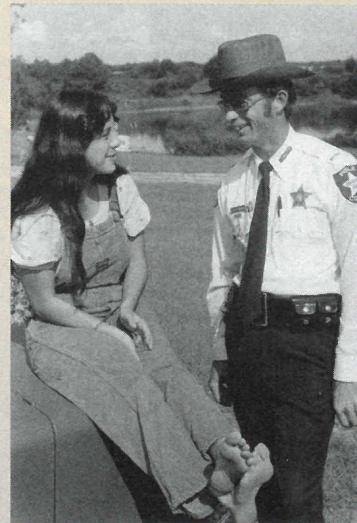
Bartow. He supports the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches as a member of the local Loyal Order of the Moose, the Moose District # 20 and the Florida Bermuda Moose Association.

Wally extends his community involvement beyond the Youth Ranches family as he invests time in the Toys for Tots Annual Chili Cook-off, helped organize the Bartow Millennium celebration, assisted in the construction of a 34 foot wide, 24 foot tall, three tier birthday cake in celebration of Bartow's 150th year and was named Bartow Citizen of the Year in 2000.

Reflecting back over the years gone by, Wally attributes much of his success to the values he learned at the Boys Ranch. "It influenced your entire perspective. The Sheriffs, donors, staff... everyone cared so much. It made you want to do good things, excel, be successful and give back. We don't often talk about the impact our donors have on the lives of the kids at the Ranch...people like Mrs. Diaz, Eddie Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Wideman...you meet them as strangers and somehow, they become like family."

Quite possibly, this "One Boy's Story" could be told time and time again. It is represented so well by the statue on the cover of this magazine, a symbol of the beginning as a boy is led by his Sheriff to the safe haven of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch.

After Boys Ranch Alumnus Wally Edwards was hired as a Polk County Deputy Sheriff, he volunteered his time at the Youth Villa in Bartow. Paula Wichterman, a resident of the Villa, enjoyed chatting with Wally about his stay at the Boys Ranch. Wally served as an excellent role model and encouraged the girls to pursue the career of their choice.



Wally and Joyce Edwards with their son Clint at the 2002 Boys Ranch Alumni Banquet



Glimpses of Success

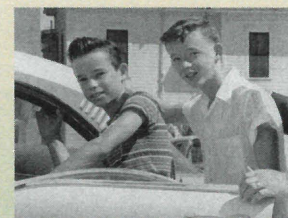
Take two unsupervised boys, add some extra time, and a mischievous nature and you have a recipe for trouble. Fortunately, the local Sheriff recognized the need for these brothers to have a stable home environment and a good education. So he recommended them for placement at the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch.

With rolling hills and wooded acres of trees, the Ranch was the perfect place for these boys to grow up. The "work, study, pray, and play" philosophy paid off. This became their home and the time they spent here changed their lives forever.

Mike (right) joined the Marines after graduating from High School. When he returned from a tour in Vietnam he went into law enforcement.

Wally (left) left the Ranch, attended and graduated from North Florida Junior College, and joined the Marines. Later, he returned to marry his sweetheart in the Boys Ranch All Faiths Chapel. After several years as a Deputy Sheriff, he is now the President and CEO of a safety/security business in Bartow, FL.

*Mike and
Wally
Edwards*



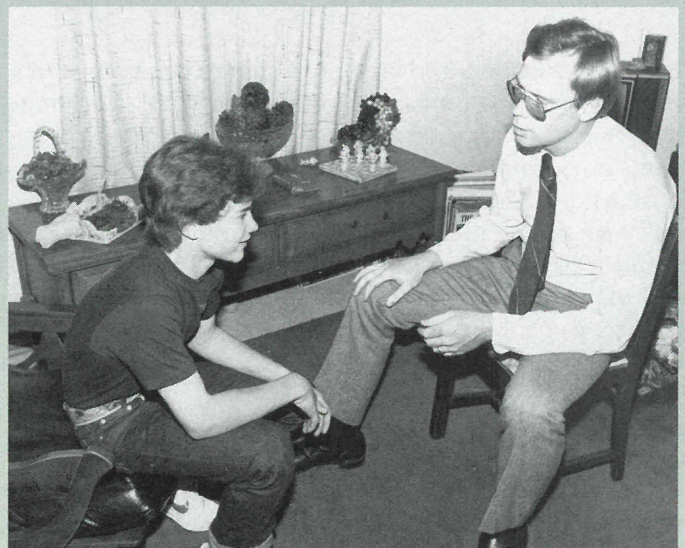
Until They Came to the Ranch . . .

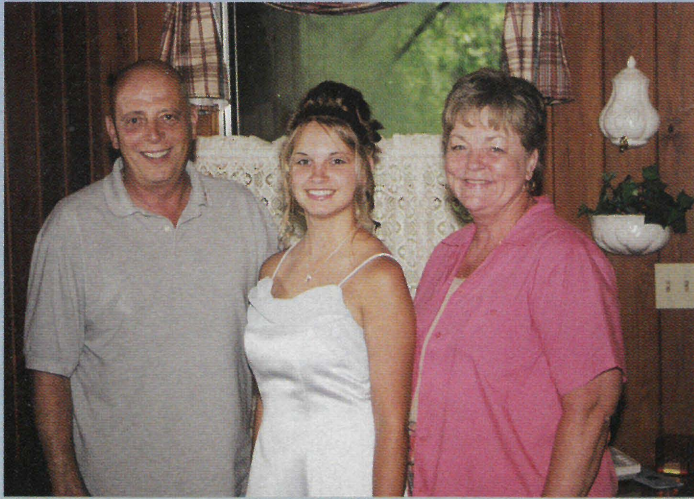
Cottage Parents and Youth Care Assistants work together with other staff members to help the boys and girls become responsible, productive members of society. Here is a glimpse of how they take care of Florida's children each and every day.

These children enter the campus for the first time and every time through an archway, it is the entrance to their future. We help them to grow up, and they keep us young.

When they wake up in the morning, we greet them for the new day. We observe their eating habits and their body language. We are alert to their struggles and celebrate their accomplishments. They have good days and bad days; the days they laugh easily and the days their shoulders are slumped. As they lay their tired heads upon a pillow, sleepy eyes can close with confidence in their assured safety. Some have never had stability, or an entire day and night without the threat of physical abuse, **until they came to the Ranch.**

We teach them to care for their belongings and to respect the items of others. We teach them to care for their room and the cottage. We show them how to separate, then wash and dry their clothes. We let them know only a "clean" bathroom is acceptable. They must wash their hands "with soap" before each meal, and we are experts at the "sniff" test. We show them how to make their own bed. Sometimes, we learn they have never used sheets or a pillowcase on a mattress, **until they came to the Ranch.**



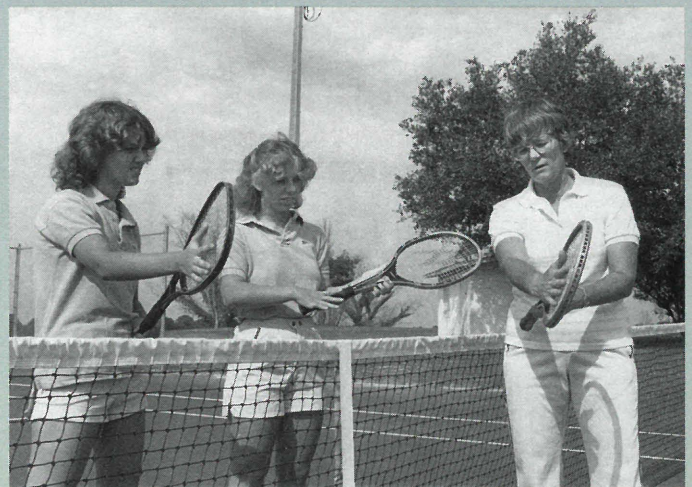


We make homemade chicken soup when they are sick. We take them to the doctor or dentist and put ice packs where it hurts. Some of them never had proper health care, **until they came to the Ranch.**

We take them shopping to get clothes for school. We know their shoe size and their favorite color. As they grow up, we light the candles on their cake and sing "Happy Birthday To You." We sometimes fight back tears when we realize some have never celebrated a birthday, seen their name on a cake, or made a wish as they blow out the candles, **until they came to the Ranch.**

We can cook for a crowd of at least ten and sometimes more. We help them pack their lunch for field trips. We are expert grocery shoppers and never run out of milk. We teach them how to cook a balanced meal for themselves and the rest of the cottage. When they put more on their plate than they can eat, we wonder about the times they went hungry, **until they came to the Ranch.**

We make sure they wear seat belts (or helmets) as required, so they are safe. They know what to do during a fire drill at school or in the cottage. We take them for haircuts or braids, depending on their culture. We respect all cultures and teach them respect for others who are different. Some have only shown disdain for anything they did not know or understand, **until they came to the Ranch.**



Until They Came to the Ranch continued . . .



We take them to Chapel on Sunday. We teach them how to dress and behave while they are there. We well with pride before dinner as we ask "who would like to ask the blessing tonight?" and every hand goes up in unison. We often realize some have never gone to Church or said a mealtime blessing, **until they came to the Ranch.**

We play sports and applaud them as they develop the skill and confidence to be on a sports team. When they are at the gym, we are their cheerleader. When they are swimming, we watch each time they call our name...one time or a hundred times, we hear "watch me" and we do. We know they may not have had praise or encouragement, **until they came to the Ranch.**



We receive calls from their teachers on campus and in town. We help with science projects, term papers, spelling words and behavior expectations. We drive them to town when they miss the bus, and ensure they complete all of their homework every day. They may have only known academic failure, **until they came to the Ranch.**

We are in daily contact with their work supervisors through notes and telephone calls. After school, they have a job. They may work in the kitchen, building maintenance, mechanics, housekeeping or at the farm. We advise them about employer - employee relationships, individual responsibility and respect. Some of them have never thought about how they will earn a living, **until they came to the Ranch.**



We hurry and we worry. If we forget, they remind us. We organize and agonize. We laugh with them and at ourselves. We pray for them on our way to work, while we are in the cottage, and on our way home.

We love what we do and who we do it for. We have never given more to a job, done anything more important, or been more exhausted, fulfilled, exhilarated, or needed, **until we came to the Ranch.**

*Written by Peggy Minter
Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch*

THE ARCHWAY PHOTO

The Archway photo was designed to depict a friendly Sheriff walking through the archway of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch with a homeless boy. It has been selected as the official symbol of the Ranch. The photo is the creative work of Carl Stauffer who conceived and designed the photo. The original black and white photograph was taken by Ken Richards, former staff photographer of the Florida Sheriffs Bureau and the final design was completed by Mrs. Artemis Jegart, a Tallahassee artist.

THE BOY

Robert Stauffer, then age 10, portrays the young boy being led into a safe haven by Sheriff Watts. Robert is the son of Carl and Louise Stauffer. Carl was the former Editor of *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher* magazines, and served as Executive Director of the Florida Sheriffs Association from 1957 to 1977.

THE SHERIFF

Sheriff George Watts served as Sheriff of Washington County from 1953 to 1965 and was selected to pose for the photograph depicting a Sheriff leading a boy through the Ranch archway. Sheriff Watts served as President of the Florida Sheriffs Association, was a member of the Florida Sheriffs Association Board of Directors, and served on the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch Board of Trustees.

"A HELPING HAND" STATUE SCULPTOR

W. Stanley "Sandy" Proctor, a native Floridian and nationally known sculptor of the highest caliber, has garnered awards and commissions across the nation. Recently, Mr. Proctor created a memorial for the Florida Sheriffs Association to honor and memorialize officers who gave their life in the line of duty for the citizens of Florida.



Carl Stauffer, his son Robert who posed in the original photograph and Louise (Mama Lou) Stauffer get a close look at the figurines.



Mrs. Nell Watts was proud to be a part of this special day. Her husband, the late Sheriff George Watts of Washington County, is forever remembered as he represented all the Sheriffs (past, present, and future) in the original Archway photograph.



Caring for this next generation of children! After the unveiling of the statue, the Sheriffs of Florida each took a young man who currently resides at the Boys Ranch to look at the statue. It is a symbolic part of their collective past and their collective future!

The Webb family surrounds the statue that was a gift from the estate of Helen Webb.



A Legacy of Love

In the early 60s, Cecil Webb, owner of Dixie Lily Milling Company, joined several other key individuals as a Trustee/Board Member of the Boys Ranch. His support and leadership was recognized by naming of the main road on the Boys Ranch Cecil Webb Place.

This year – as the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches turns 45 years old, we remember his wife, Helen, as she included the boys and girls of the Youth Ranches as a beneficiary of her trust. Part of the proceeds from her estate related gift paid for this beautiful statue entitled “A Helping Hand”. We gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the Webb children and grandchildren for this special legacy of love.

(L-R) Open House Grand Marshal and State Senator Richard Mitchell joins the Chairman of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Board of Directors Bradford



County Sheriff Bob Milner, Boys Ranch Alumnus Leonard Russek (one of the first boys admitted to the Ranch in 1959) and Chip Webb (grandson of Cecil and Helen Webb) as they unveil “A Helping Hand” statue on October 5, 2002.

**FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES
BOYS RANCH, FLORIDA 32064**

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