



Ranch Report

Published by the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches, Inc.

Spring 2011

Our mission is to address, remedy, and prevent child abuse and neglect by creating safe, healthy, and permanent homes for children.

Ranch Enters Its 35th Year Helping Children



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Olds Cottage Page 8

Founded in 1976 as the Arkansas Sheriffs' Boys Ranch, Inc. to provide: "Exclusively charitable, educational, and the prevention of cruelty to boys, by providing a home, ranch, and training school for underprivileged boys." The organization was created to provide a non-governmental residential childcare program for children from all 75 counties in Arkansas.

The organization was officially incorporated on January 6, 1976, following more than two years of planning and organizational meetings. A group of sheriffs concerned about the plight of abused, neglected, and homeless children, asked the 75-member Arkansas Sheriffs' Association (ASA) to assist in the development of a children's home that would rely basically on the generosity of Arkansas people. The ASA membership voted to create a Sheriffs' Boys Ranch Committee to research the practicality of establishing a "home, ranch, and/or training school for boys." One of the decisions made was to involve the business community in forming such a program and rely on the 75 sheriffs for community grassroots support.

Pope County Sheriff Bill Abernathy was the chairman of the Sheriffs' Ranch Committee and Sheriff Donald Meek (Johnson County) was its secretary. These two men assured the business community



Ranch Office 2011

that Arkansas sheriffs would be unanimous in their support. Abernathy, Meek, and other members of the committee spent three months traveling to every county in Arkansas and meeting with each sheriff to gain his support. At the end of this process, an incorporation document was presented in late 1975 to the ASA containing the signatures of each of the 75 sheriffs.

In January 1976, ASA president Floyd Johnson (Craighead County) announced the creation of the Arkansas Sheriffs' Boys Ranch, Inc. The organization was incorporated in Russellville (Pope County) and the headquarters was established in Jonesboro, Johnson's hometown.

The initial 28-member Board of Directors was created with sheriffs from Pope, Washington, Franklin, Monroe,

...see 35th Year, page 3

Mileposts

by Mike Cumnock, CEO

As we travel down highways, we take for granted the little reminders of how far we have come or sometimes better yet – how close we are to our intended destination. We know these reminders as mile markers or mileposts. They were originally milestones but now are usually uniform markers setting atop a metal delineator post. They are useful for a variety of purposes – being able to identify where we are in case of an accident, or if our vehicle breaks down, they can have a critical function in case of serious injury. The original milestones date to the Roman Empire where they were true stone obelisks made from local stone. The Golden Milestone was the zero marker located in the center of Rome. It was placed by the Emperor Augustus - so all milestones along Roman roads marked the distance from or to Rome. In Biblical times “all roads led to Rome” and no traveler would escape the fact that (s)he was on a Roman road and under Imperial control.

In my own life, I know that every path leads to the furthering of the Kingdom though the exact distance, in time, is unknown. I often remind staff that we are about the task of doing God's work, and we are doing it in His time. We re-



Mike Cumnock
CEO

mind each other of that fact when we are struggling in our efforts to raise enough money and/or to meet the needs of a child or children. It seems that the work of any ministry can be difficult and is often painful. Milestones are reminders to keep our goals in mind.

As we begin our 35th year of direct service to children, I am in a better position to look back at milestones and think about where we have been and all we have accomplished...one child at a time. We just published our 35th Anniversary Cookbook which opens with a section entitled: What a difference...It begins with what a difference a day, a month, a year makes! It closes with...What a difference a child makes. There are pictures of 14 children from “the

old days” and mentions where they are now. One of them is even “retired” which makes me feel even older. Some of the children shown were kids I worked with as a volunteer, but I know the story of each and every child: stories of pain, sorrow, struggle, and joy. I was somewhat resistant to putting these children “on display” but it is a powerful reminder of all that has been accomplished in the first 34 years. It is good to stop and explore our milestones from time to time. But I also look forward to the day when all the tears are wiped away, when there is no abuse, no neglect, no hunger, no homelessness. Until we get to that Kingdom, we will strive to make this world better... one child at a time.

None of this would have been possible without all the people who dug down and made sacrificial gifts to create this program and to nurture it. There is a section in my heart whose header reads: What a difference...our supporters make and next to it is your picture. Your love, treasure, and prayers sustain us! We have come a long way in 34 years, and unfortunately we have many abused, neglected, and abandoned children who still need us.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

It's All About The Kids

Where Ranch residents tell us about themselves



Amy (Aims)

Birthday: January 6th
 Grade: Graduated
 Favorite TV show: That 70's Show
 Favorite Cartoon: Tom and Jerry
 Hobbies: Writing and Riding Horses
 Goal in life: To Succeed
 What she likes about Ranch:

"Horse riding and everyone loves me."

MiMi

Birthday: January 5th
 Grade: 10th
 Favorite TV show: House of Payne
 Favorite Cartoon: Mickey Mouse and Thomas the Train
 Hobbies: Drawing and Sports
 Goal in life: Become a Cosmetologist
 What she likes about the Ranch: "My friends and it's like a family that I never had."



Katherine (Kat)

Birthday: October 30th
 Grade: Working on GED
 Favorite Movie: A Walk to Remember
 Favorite Color: Green
 Hobbies: Drawing
 Goal in life: To work with children



Tim

Birthday: June 25th
 Grade: 10th
 Favorite TV Show: Wild N' Out
 Favorite Movie: Never Back Down
 Hobbies: Drawing, Working Out
 Goal in life: Be a leader
 What he likes best about the Ranch: "It has helped me make better choices and given me many opportunities."



35th Year...continued from page 1

Craighead, Woodruff, Polk, Prairie, Benton, Union, Mississippi, Desha, and Van Buren Counties, serving business members were chosen from Van Buren, Franklin, Craighead, Monroe, White, Prairie, Sevier, Jefferson, Polk, Jackson, Washington, Crawford, Benton, Miller, and Pope Counties.

A search committee was formed to locate a suitable piece of property on which to establish the first campus. After considering "seven or eight pieces of property," the committee chose a 528-acre site on the White River near Batesville (Independence County). The corporate headquarters was moved to Batesville in 1977. Two young boys



Groundbreaking on the office

(ages 7 and 5) were admitted to the program during construction of the first cottage, which was dedicated by Senator Dale Bumpers on October 10, 1977. In December 1977, the Ranch signed a 10-year lease on an existing facility near Harrison (Boone County) for the establishment of a girls ranch. Initially a sib-

ling group of four boys and one girl was admitted, and another of two girls and one boy. (The organization began doing business as "The Arkansas Sheriffs' Boys and Girls Ranches" in 1977, but the name was not legally changed until 1998, when the legal name was changed to: Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches.

If the founding sheriffs would have only known that 35 years later the program would have helped more than 1,000 children from all over the state! We are very proud to be a part of such a great organization and wish for 35 more years of helping kids to have a place to call Home!

Friends and Supporters - Donations

Birthday Cakes



MiMi was lucky enough to get the first cake of the year!

Once again the children at the Ranch are lucky enough to receive the special birthday cakes prepared by Connie Riggs. She has volunteered again this year to make sure all the children at the Batesville campus have birthday cakes for their special day. It also is a big help to the houseparents. Mrs. Riggs does a great job and the kids can't wait until their birthdays.

Christmas Party



The Woodmen of The World Lodge-Jonesboro hosted a Christmas party for the children at the Ranch. They had a pizza party and gifts for all the Ranchers and also brought some residents from another children's home to enjoy the good food and company. Everyone had a great time visiting with each other and getting to see the Ranchers' receive gifts. Santa even joined the party to help pass out the gifts. The kids all had smiles on their faces because they know so many people care about them and wanted them to have a good holiday.

Mason Christmas



The local Masonic Lodges joined together and prepared a Christmas dinner for all the Ranchers and staff. Their volunteers prepared and served food for everyone to come and enjoy. It was very enjoyable getting together to have good food and good company. It is always nice to know people in the community care about the Ranch children, but it is nice for the staff to know people appreciate them as well. The staff tries hard to make the Ranch a safe place for the kids to call home. A special thanks goes out to all the Masons who helped make this dinner possible. They are always doing something to help the Ranch and we cannot thank them enough.

Christmas Donations

The American Legion Post 344 of Horsehoe Bend raised enough money from their Christmas fundraiser to be able to present each Rancher with a money gift. Two of the members came to the Ranch and gave each child a card that had a surprise inside. This Post tries to do this for the children every year and are lucky enough to keep raising the amount every year. A very special thanks goes out to all the people involved in making this happen.

The American Legion Post 114 of Batesville also presented each child with a special monetary Christmas gift. We really appreciate everything this Post does to help support the Ranch. With the kindness of caring people like these, it makes the holidays easier on the children.



Friends and Supporters - Donations

Christmas Tree at the River Market

Thanks to the staff at StoneWard in Little Rock, the Ranch was able to raise awareness for our organization this past Christmas season. They put up a wonderfully decorated Christmas tree in the River Market. It had information about the Ranch and also a touch of Christmas spirit. A special thanks to Jan from StoneWard for decorating the tree with her special touch.



Mixed Martial Arts at the Ranch

Every Friday night the children at the Ranch get to participate in a MMA/exercise program. Two special volunteers, Gene Davis and Michael Pickering, care enough about the kids to give them the opportunity to do something new with their time. So far the residents love MMA and it makes them feel special to know that people care enough to take an interest in them and teach them skills to help them be healthy and learn to defend themselves.



Meet Our Staff



Judy and Steven Till

Steven and Judy Till joined our staff as Keith Hall houseparents but have moved to Gratton Hall. Both of them have worked at a girls' ranch in Arizona so they have experience working with teenagers. Steven has also worked as an administrator for a battered women's shelter so that experience can help him when dealing with abused children. Steven and Judy are both natives of New Orleans, LA. They moved to Arkansas after Hurricane Katrina. Judy and Steven have four children. We are very happy to have them as a part of the Ranch team.

Turn your Vacations Into Donations

Book your personal and business travel on our travel website:

www.arkansasyouthranchtraveler.com

Every time you do,
Arkansas Sheriffs'
Youth Ranch
will receive a portion
of the travel commissions.

*A Charitable Gift
Annuity may be one
way in which you can
benefit the Ranch
and a Loved One*

COTTAGE NEWS

Crawford County
Mulberry/Alma Ranch
Donald W. Reynolds
Campus

7401 Youth Ranch Road
 Mulberry, AR 72947

- ★ Cottage 1
- ★ Cottage 3

Clark County
DeGray Lake/Amity
Ranch

35 Youth Ranch Loop
 Amity, AR 71921
 870-342-5858

- Tours: Teresa Fortner
- ★ Olds Cottage



Independence County
Batesville Ranch Cottages

100 St. Vincent Place
 Batesville, AR 72501
 870-793-6841

Tours: Diana Holland

- ★ Caba Hall
- ★ Keith Hall
- ★ Faith Hall
- ★ Gratton Hall
- ★ Independent Living Cottage

CABE HALL NEWS

By Houseparent Rachel Stone

The residents at Cabe Hall enjoyed a lot of family time during the holidays. It was complete with “Grandma” coming over to make Christmas candy and holiday make-over with manicures and make-up kits that Sarah and Katherine received.

On Christmas evening we invited the other residents, staff and families over for snacks and caroling. Mr. James and others brought out their guitars and we all had a good time. For New Year’s Eve we joined our Celebration Recovery group at Believers Community Church for a bonfire.



Our girls have also spent many of the mild weather days learning more about the riding and care of the horses, especially when our resident expert Amy is around. We have all fallen in love with riding, even Ms. Rachel. Buddy is Vanessa’s favorite horse.

The new school year is in full swing with Katherine and Tiffney attending GED classes and everyone else working hard at school. They are all in tutoring four days a week which has really helped!



Katherine got a job at



a local restaurant and we are all very proud of her. The other girls are keeping busy with school activities and getting ready for summer break. We cannot wait for spring and the Ranch activities it will bring.

FAITH HALL NEWS

By Houseparent Cheyenne Ingram

Well Spring is around the corner. We just want to thank everyone for the wonderful Christmas we enjoyed this year. We appreciate all the ones who donated to make this a special day.



Now we are in to the basketball scene with Kaleb playing basketball. GO NUMBER 50! Gabriel received a keyboard for Christmas, and we have enjoyed all his recitals. James was a Roman Centurian this year in our church play and did a remarkable job. All the guys enjoyed a guy’s night out when they went to the boxing event at the National Guard Armory sponsored by Bad Boy Mowers of Batesville who supplied our tickets. Thanks Bad Boys!! The boys have been participating in mixed martial arts on Friday nights and really love it!



COTTAGE NEWS



Jacob and Jamey continue to be active in the Bethesda Volunteer Fire Department. Zeke and Rob, as always, continue to hike in the woods every chance they get. We want to thank Ms. Connie Riggs for all those cakes she makes us through the year; they are so great. A big thanks goes to our Women of the Faith Group, who have adopted our house. Thanks to so many Ladies! All our love goes to all of you who selflessly give of your time, finances, and support. Don't forget to recycle; good planets are hard to replace.

GRATTON HALL NEWS

Country Christmas craft fair was equally exciting and busy. All the kids were involved. Mr. John Ward gave carriage rides all day - some in the rain - but everyone had a great time, and we loved our Country Christmas.



The Christmas parade was a very big night for us since a few of the girls spent a lot of time getting ready for this event. There were 17 children and 3 adults involved. Some rode horses and others rode in a buggy or walked. Gratton Hall had a wonderful Christmas and made a lot of memories.



We welcomed our newest resident, MiMi in November and she is settling in really well. Michelle now works with developmentally disabled children at a community school as well as attending classes at a local community college.

The girls all did well on semester exams at school before Christmas break. Shawndra will be graduating in May and is thinking about attending college in the fall.



Gratton Hall can't wait for spring to be in full bloom so we can do a lot of outdoor activities like trail riding.

KEITH HALL NEWS

By Steven Till

Houseparents Steve and Judy Till have been busy cleaning and organizing the house. With hard work and persistence it is getting into shape. House rules are being fine tuned along with the musical instruments the boys have acquired. Life skills are being taught to prepare them for the future. Chandler will graduate from high school this May and Tim is working on his GED. The boys are getting lessons in cooking, especially Louisiana style.



They have also adjusted well to having new houseparents and do everything they can to help, especially their chores.

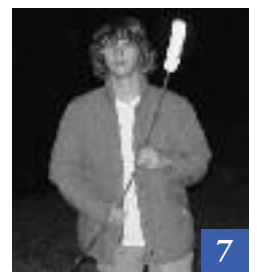
The boys really enjoyed Christmas time. Some of them participated in the Christmas parade while the rest got to be in the crowd catching candy. We received a gingerbread house from a donor this year, and it was greatly appreciated.



Life is an adventure here at Keith Hall. The boys really enjoy doing art projects and other crafts. Tim and Steven love painting gourds; Kris and Steven draw, and Steven writes poetry. Games are plentiful at Keith Hall. Video games and pool are played often. In January we had a hot dog and marshmallow roast at the spot built last summer on the river.



The boys have been going to weekly MMA classes which allow them to use up some of their youthful energy in a controlled environment and to learn self-defense. Chandler enjoys playing basketball on his high school varsity team. The boys got to attend one of his games to help cheer him on. Joy filled hearts when Steven preached a sermon at church and when Tim was baptized. We look forward to the coming months as we settle in as houseparents and learn all the opportunities the Ranch has to offer.



COTTAGE NEWS

OLDS COTTAGE NEWS

By Houseparent Teresa Fortner

We enjoyed a peaceful holiday season. The Cottage played host to the Woodmen of the World Christmas party. Mr. Obert Davis, representing friends of DeGray campus from Sheridan Wal-Mart, and Sandy Garner, representing Lake Hamilton Super Stop, brought gifts



and holiday food to share. Residents and staff were truly blessed with the outpouring of gifts and cards.



The Junior High School Band had its Christmas concert early in December and a resident participated after only 5 weeks in

the band's trumpet section.

Basketball season had two residents participating for part of the season and playing against local rivals. A heavier, regulation size basketball goal is being sought to assist the girls as they develop their skills in the sport on and off-season.

One resident's creative writing skills has begun to garner her some notoriety among teachers and staff and she received no fewer than four journals and sketch pads for Christmas.

DeGray Lodge, Chapel, and the Governor's Mansion remain busy as the rentals continue to increase. Weddings, family reunions, class parties, wedding receptions and school field trips have been part of the active schedule for this quarter at DeGray and have kept Jim, Teresa and the girls busy juggling the schedule to maintain the buildings. Volunteers to help strip and wax the lodge floors are being sought in an effort to assist in maintaining the facility.

Spring flower and vegetable/herb gardens are in the planning stages and a source of plants and heavy labor assistance are being discussed with members of the Board of Visitors. General campus clean up continues as barbed wire and extraneous "t-posts" are removed and stored. There are still major needs regarding electricity, heat and air for the Cottage and the Lodge, but these issues are under review and being addressed.



Residents at DeGray have seen many changes and will see many more in the near future. As the campus population grows, the planned programs continue to develop and community and educational support remain strong, and we think these changes will strengthen our efforts to effect positive changes in the lives of young ladies.

Sheriffs' Ranches Equine Program Expands Services

For years, the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranch has understood that horses can have a major impact on the healing process for teenagers who have struggled with personal issues that have impacted their lives. Now, due to the strategic alliance formed with Methodist Family Health (MFH), the Ranch has begun providing equine services to the children and staff of MFH.

Beginning in December, the Ranch provided an in-service to staff members of MFH who reside on the Alma campus, as well as staff from the MFH Heber Springs home. Staff was trained on the wide variety of applications that the Ranch has used horses for, which ranges from recreation to intense Equine Psychotherapy. The training was very eye-opening, with the strongest compliment coming from a Methodist Teaching Parent who summed it up by stating, "I not only learned a great deal about working with children; I learned a lot about myself today."

As a follow-up, Ranch staff have since started working with MFH residents at both their Heber Springs home, as well as the children on the Alma campus. "This has been a true blessing to be able to share something that we are really good at with a group that is hungry for that type of experience," says Ranch Superintendent David Ward. "I think that this is simply the tip of the iceberg in terms of what our two organizations have to offer each other."



David Ward with a Rancher. It was her first time on a horse.

The Superintendent's Scoop

By David Ward

The holidays are past and spring is on the way. It does not seem possible that another year has passed. Each day, I feel blessed to be part of a movement like the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches. Over the past few years there has been so much change, not only in the Ranch but in the world in general. I am thankful for the progress that has taken place at the Ranch.

I feel that between the kids, the farm, and staff, I learn something new every day. It has always been my thought that if people would process things like horses do, that the world would be a better place. Recently while doing an equine activity with some children that I had never worked with, I asked the question, "Does anyone have any horse experience?"

Two girls immediately said yes and began to brag about all of their accomplishments. The funny thing was, when we got alone with the horses, their whole demeanor changed, and it was obvious that they had only minimal experience. In fact, it took a substantial amount of coaxing to get one of the girls on a horse. If it was obvious to me that the girls had no equine expe-

rience, it was even clearer to the horses what they were dealing with. The horse that I was using that day was Applejack, a large appaloosa gelding. The young lady, wanting to put up a false bravado, began to ask Applejack to speed up. Applejack wisely declined. This infuriated the young lady, who wanted to know why he wouldn't go faster. I jumped at this teachable moment, and explained how obvious it was that she had not been completely honest about her abilities. I also explained that the horse, on the other hand, would not lie. He understood and felt her insecurity and was not willing to move at a faster speed than she could handle. Sometime a person's greatest strength can be acknowledging their weakness.

God has placed so many examples in our world, which act as models for us to pattern our actions on. Each and every day we are striving to open the minds and eyes of our kids to these models. I ask all of our friends and donors to keep us in your prayers this upcoming year and thank you for all of your support.



And the winner is...

By Dr. Fred Hueston, CFRE

How often have we stood transfixed by a decision that could perhaps radically make an overt change to our lifestyle or perhaps, to an investment we were considering? Perhaps this has been the case as we collectively watched Congress move forward in the past weeks toward some type of change — any type for that matter — as the closing date for legislative enactments approached the week prior to Christmas.

On December 17, tax law change (or reversal, depending upon how you view it!) was implemented when the President signed the new tax legislation putting into effect a lengthy list of current and estate tax planning strategies. Such as it is, the

one thing we do know is that in the coming months, we will be sharing with you these important changes and more importantly, their effect on your personal investment decisions - particularly as this concerns charitable transfers of stocks, bonds, real estate, and other investment interests.

What we do know now is that the "winner" has become the U.S. taxpayer at this time, and for all of that — this is certainly "welcome" news indeed.

For more detailed information about the new tax law, please contact Dr. Fred Hueston, CFRE, Director of Gift Planning, at 501-681-6501.

Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches 25th Annual Country Christmas Craft Fair

On December 11, 2010 the Ranch marked another big milestone, its 25th Country Christmas Craft Fair. Crafters from all over the state came and sat up booths to be able to sell their homemade crafts. There was everything from dog treats to homemade pumpkin rolls and too many crafts to name. The Ranchers and staff helped prepare and sell fresh cinnamon rolls, caramel popcorn, and homemade chili. A lot of people in the community and around the state came and helped support this event. It offered a number of items to assist folks in getting their Christmas shopping done. Ranchers had the opportunity to earn some extra money by parking cars, setting up booths, selling cinnamon rolls, and popcorn. They also helped clean up after the event. It was a great day and a big success.

These photos are a look at some of the old signs used to point people in the direction of Country Christmas.



Christmas Parade

Christmas was a busy time for all the Ranchers and staff. Between getting ready for a break at school and all the Christmas events, they also participated in the Batesville Christmas Parade. The Ranchers; decorated a wagon, buggy, and horses for the parade. Some of the children carried a banner while others walked beside the wagon throwing candy. A few got to ride on horses and carry flags. Our newest farm animals, donkeys Louis and Clark, pulled the wagon that carried some of the kids. It was a little cold that night but all the kids had a great time and are looking forward to next year's parade.



15th Annual Children's Award Dinner Sponsors

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The Chesley Pruet Foundation

Liberty Bank of Arkansas / Fowler Foods, Inc.

The Olds Foundation

Simmons First National Bank

GOLD SPONSORS

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Risk Services Insurance

Lyon College

Stone Ward

Methodist Family Health

New to the Company Store

New to the company store: Beanie Hats! They are available in pink or blue. For more information please call Judi at ext. 317.





35 Years and Counting

*By Chris Knife,
Director of Philanthropy*

In 1976, sheriffs and northeast Arkansas business people came together to create the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches. It was modeled on similar sheriff - affiliated ranches in Alabama and Florida. Its intent was simple: to help children have a safe place to call home.

This past January, the Ranches began their 35th year serving the children of Arkansas. Since then, more than 1,100 children have grown up at the Ranch. More than 60 call the Ranch home now, adding to the lives changed.

When I started working for the Ranch in January of 2003 I was excited by the mission. Mike Cumnock, the CEO, inspired me—and many others—that we could all make a difference in the lives of children. I was a proud father of a three year old boy at the time and I could not fathom that a child might not be loved and protected. In my eight years at the Ranch I've seen many children grow into young men and women—go on to college, take jobs, marry and start their own families. While I'm not directly involved with the raising of our Ranch children, I feel I'm a part—a silent part—of their upbringing.

My job at the Ranches is to tell our story and help find financial resources so the real work of raising children into healthy adults continues. That's not been the easiest of assignments in the last eight years. Sometimes, in moments of frustration and stress, I ponder that it is a miracle that the Ranch is still here doing what it does best: raising and caring for other people's children. The latest economic challenges have certainly taken a toll on the non-profit sector and some non-profits have not made it.

As an organization that is 90% privately funded, we FEEL EVERY GIFT. We appreciate the monthly gifts, the quarterly gifts, the annual gifts, the gifts in kind, and the volunteer hours and services we receive. It is all of these that make up the miracle that is the Ranch.

Our staff people work hard. We have hope and are encouraged by those who put faith and trust and their treasure in our efforts to help children have a safe home.

So, I look forward to working with every one of you as we start our next 35 years giving children a safe place to call home.

I wish you a very happy spring and I hope to meet—and thank—you at our events, golf tournaments, tours, and out and about in our great state.

If I can be of service, please get in touch by calling my cell 501-733-1194 or email me at cknife@conwaycorp.net.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Cookbook Vol. 4 (the 35th anniversary edition) is now on sale. Please contact Judi Qualls 870-793-6841 ext. 317 or e-mail judi@youthranches.com for more information or to buy yours today.

My Road to Eternity

By James H. (Rancher)

Within the darkness there I dwelt.
In sin I was engulfed.
Satan there was my master.
I was in his command for many years,
Thirteen to be exact.
I had heard that Christ was my Savior many times from my friends,
But I blocked them out.
Because I was so deep in sin I didn't want to get out.
Finally after many years I listened to one friend.
The light penetrated my sin
And I finally gave in.
Christ entered into my heart and
I was saved once and for all.
And now I praise Him every day
In prayer and in song
As I go along this road called life,
He has carried me through many trials and temptations.
I am glad He is in my life.
I hope that the rapture comes soon
I will spend eternity with Him
So see you on the other side of
Heaven's Pearly Gates.
Amen.



Two of our long-time, local volunteers, Mara Carter and Emily Ingram, have started an online business called Another Chapter Books. The business, which was started at the beginning of this year, is donating a percentage of its proceeds to our foundation. Their shop can be found online at:
http://shops.half.ebay.com/enjoy_another_chapter_books. Anyone who would like to donate books for this business can drop them off at Thrifty's, the Ranches' thrift store.



If you have any broken or un-used gold jewelry lying around - the price of gold is high - you can mail it to the Ranch to benefit the children. Collectively, we can all make a huge difference. For more information please call Diana Holland 870-793-6841 ext. 301. All donations are tax deductible.

NEW EYES

By: Miranda (Rancher)

I open my eyes to this new world that surrounds me.
At first the world seems dark, dreary, and hopeless.
But then I close my old eyes, and open my new ones,
So that I may use them to see instead.
Now I finally see that the world around me truly holds
Untold possibilities that for even me seem endless.
With these new eyes, I can see all of the open doors
that with my old eyes, seemed to be nonexistent.
With these new eyes, I can see all the worldly things
that await me; I can see the spiritual guidance that is
here to help me.
With these new eyes I see a new life that I can, and
fully intend to live.
When I close these eyes at night, I can see all of the
previous memories made by me.
I can remember all the good times, as well as the bad.
I can remember all of the dreams I have ever had.
When I wake and open my new eyes again,
I know that I have been forgiven, and I know that I
have a life to live.
I know that life will keep marching onward, and that so
will I.
Through my new eyes I see people differently, and
through my new eyes the world has changed.
These eyes see kindness; these eyes see madness.

These eyes see the truth.
These eyes see beauty.
No longer do I see a dreary and scary graveyard ahead
of me.
Instead, I see a collection of new experiences, life, and
joy waiting for me.
The road ahead is one I have waited so long to travel.
The sunrise I see is filled with pink, orange, and gold
rays.
It is a blessing that I see in front of me
It is true life.
The sunset behind me fades away; all the grays, blacks,
silvers, and reds melt away.
Just like my fear with each and every passing day.
These eyes hold a hope in them, that no one in the
world is strong enough to take away.
These eyes know pain, but these eyes also know joy.
These eyes have learned not to judge;
These eyes have learned to love.
These eyes have learned to forgive;
These eyes have learned to heal.
These eyes I will forever use to see,
And forever these eyes will make my sight real.
And with them I will surely live a life that will be,
Exactly what God intended it to be.

If you would like to receive the Ranch Report thru your e-mail, then e-mail candy@youthranches.com and she will send you a pdf of the Ranch Report for you to print off.

If I could be anywhere in the World...

By: Jacob (Rancher)

Sixteen hands, a slight sag to her back, a long well-groomed mane, and wide nostrils filled with air, eyes that glaze in the sun, a tail that flows with every motion, such beauty that no one will tire of looking at her, most of all she's all mine! Her name is Rose. The essential joy of being with her is that she brings me in contact with rare elements of grace, beauty, spirit, and fire. The sensation of fire that burns hoof prints onto my heart.

There are many wonderful places in the world, but my favorite is on the back of my horse. First I brush the dust off her coat from where she was rolling in the dirt. Afterwards I find her leather western saddle lightly dusted from our last ride, then her blanket. Back to the tack room I find her dark wine-colored reins. I slip her bit into her mouth as I pull the bridle over her head, and with care I fasten the throat latch making sure it's not too tight. Patting her gently, I reach over and grab the saddle blanket and set it onto her back making sure it's centered perfectly. I grab her saddle then walk over to her left shoulder and swing it onto her back making sure to place it in the right spot. She puts complete trust in me as I reach under her to grab her girth strap. I fasten her strap making sure not to cinch it too tight. Now she's ready to go!

I position my left foot in the left stirrup and hoist my right leg over her back situating it in the right stirrup. I grab hold of her reins and give her a slight nudge in both of her flanks. Setting one foot in front of the other we ride. My hair blows in the cold, crisp wind as the sound of hooves beat underneath me. So I give her more than a nudge, then even more in her flanks. The harder I squeeze my heels into her side the faster Rose goes. The faster the sound of hooves clapping against the ground, the tighter my hands grip the wine-colored leather reins. Rose breathes harder and harder as steam comes out of her nose from the frosty cold breeze. The taste of chilled, crisp, clean, rainy mist enters my mouth as we gallop across the field. The smell of dust and flowers carried by

a breeze fills my nose. I put my life and trust into the horse as we run across the field without any worries burdened upon us. With each long stride she takes I feel FREE! All of my fears are gone while on the back of my horse, Rose. It amazes me how a half ton animal puts so much faith in me.

She's my best friend; she doesn't care what I look like or how I dress; she likes me for who I am, and what I'm not! Most of all, I don't judge her, but give her unconditional love. I don't know what it is about horses that I love so much! Is it the smell of her body as I hug her long neck, or the scent a horse has that I can't forget? Is it the depth of their eyes as they contentedly rest? Or is it that I know at the end of the day she'll be happy to see me no matter what? It's not just one of these; it's all of these! One other reason why I love horses is: they are the most noble and beautiful beast, the swiftest and of the highest courage of all domesticated animals. Also her long mane and tail adorn and beautify her. She is of fiery temperament, but good temperament, obedient, docile and well-groomed.

If I could be anywhere in the world besides this boring classroom, it would be on the back of the most beautiful creature God has ever created, my horse.

Feature Recipes

GOLDEN PUFFS

From Cookbook Vol. 3

2 cups self-rising flour
¾ cup milk
¼ cup sugar
1 egg
1 tsp. nutmeg
Deep fryer with oil
¼ cup oil
Cinnamon & sugar
Mix all ingredients together
Heat oil in deep fryer to 350 degrees
Drop by spoonfuls into hot oil, fry until golden
Roll in cinnamon sugar

GOULASH

From Cookbook Vol. 3

2 lbs. ground beef
1 cup brown sugar
2 can Pork-N-Beans
1/3 cup ketchup
2 cans whole kernel corn
drained
1 tsp. mustard
Dash of garlic powder, optional
1-2 cans Rotel
2 cans tomato sauce
Brown hamburger, drain
Add remaining ingredients
Simmer until heated

needs List

People often ask us what kind of things we need at our campuses for the children. The following is compiled by our houseparents & staff. For more information, call Beth at 870-793-6841 ext. 300. E-mail: noncash-donations@youthranches.com

Needs List

Thrift Store

Price Gun

Farm

Polled Hereford Bull

Equine Safety Helmets
(assorted sizes)

Smooth Snaffle Bits with
Sweet Iron Mouth-
piece

Fencing Pliers

Manuel Barb-Wire
Stretchers

Cabe Hall

Silverware

DVD Player

Girls Socks

Swifter Refills

Cleaning Supplies

Shampoo & Conditioner

Gratton Hall

Blender

Mix Master

Wall Decorations

DVD Player

Clothes Dryer

Dishwasher

Throw Rugs

Faith Hall

New Cabinets

New Linoleum or Lami-
nate on Floors

New Carpet

New Counter Tops in
Kitchen

New Dishwasher

Commercial Washer and
Dryer

Trampoline

Chicken Waterier and
Feeders

Water Hoses

Lawn Mowers

Weed Eaters

Backpacks

Keith Hall

DVD Player

Sewing Machine

2 New Sofas

Food Processor

2 Living Room Chairs or
Couch

Safe or Lockable Medica-
tion Box

Olds Cottage

Gas Powered Log Splitter

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ball Goal

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Ping Pong Table

WII with 4 Controllers

WII Monition Plus Sen-
sors/Nun-chucks

Dance Revolution for
WII

Guitar Hero for WII
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Canoe Paddles

8 Sleeping Bags

Ball Gloves/ Soft Balls/
Bats

42-48 inch Flat Screen
TV

6ft Bush Hog

Small Rota Tiller

Tutoring

Set of Encyclopedias

2005 to current

College or High School

Textbooks 2005 to

current

Large, Sturdy Backpacks

Birthday and Christ-
mas wrapping sup-
plies

Non-cash donations
to the Youth Ranches
are tax deductible.

Address Change

To submit an address change, call Beth at 870-793-6841 ext. 300. You can also e-mail her at noncashdonations@youthranches.com

Want to leave a legacy for a child?

Please consider naming the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches in your will to provide abused, abandoned, and neglected children a future. Contact Fred Hueston, 501-681-6501, to discuss this further.

Memorial Request

To establish a memorial for a loved one, or to honor someone with a donation—

Send in his/her name to Diana Holland at the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches, P O Box 3964, Batesville, AR 72503. Please include: name and complete address of those to be honored so they may be notified, and the name and complete address of the person to receive the notification of a memorial.

Our Speakers' Bureau...

can provide someone to "tell the Ranch story" at your meeting or event. To schedule a Ranch representative to speak, please contact Candy Davis, (870) 793-6841 ext. 315

Would you like to receive your correspondence from the Ranch through your e-mail account? Please fill out this form and mail it to Judi Qualls, Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches, P O Box 3964, Batesville, AR 72503

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