



# Ranch Report

Published by the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches, Inc.

Summer 2011

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

## The New YouthRanches.com Launches

*...includes new features to keep supporters connected with life on the Ranch*



Faith Hall Page 6



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Independent Living Page 7

Throughout the past 35 years, the Ranch has introduced many resources to share its successes with those who make them possible. That capability greatly expanded in June with the launch of the new YouthRanches.com, a redesigned website using the latest in communications tools to provide an inside look at daily life on the Ranch and keep supporters more connected than ever before.

“What makes the Ranch special for our kids are the moments they share each and every day as a family,” says Ranch CEO Mike Cumnock. “It’s a whole new experience for them. You see it in their faces, hear it in their stories, and, now, through this new website, we can share these moments as they happen with our supporters,” said Cumnock.

The new YouthRanches.com features a weekly updated “News” section providing the latest stories and updates from the Ranch with accompanying pictures, videos and other multimedia. The section also includes feature profiles of current Ranchers, guest commentaries from staff members, including Cumnock, and testimonials from former Ranchers about their life-changing experiences.

“Ranchers tell their personal story at the [Arkansas Children’s] Award Dinner each year, and I’ve seen tough men break



down into tears,” said Cumnock. “It’s a powerful message, and it’s all available at YouthRanches.com.”

### *A New Look*

Those familiar with the former site will immediately notice the new layout, lighter tone and colors. According to Larry Stone, president of the Ranch’s Board of Directors and executive creative director of the site’s designer, Stone Ward, the new visual appeal represents the atmosphere the Ranch generates.

“For many the Ranch is and always will be the place they call home, so it was important that this site feel welcoming,

*...see New Website, page 17*

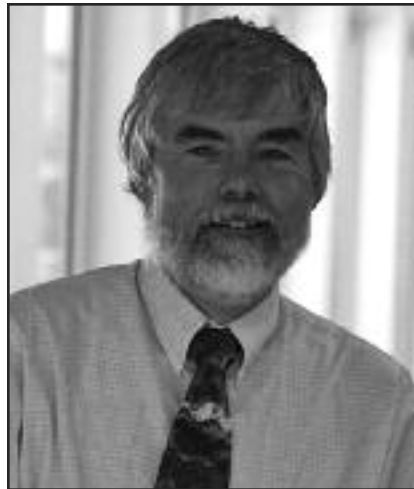
# The Kingdom: Here and There

by Mike Cumnock, CEO

I spend a lot of time driving. Like everything else in life, that can be good or bad. Since I am a “half-full” kind of guy, I give thanks for the time. I use it to pray and process the many things that are going on.

Several weeks ago, I was traveling on a Saturday afternoon to a speaking engagement several hours from home. My presentation would be part of an annual prayer service. As I listened to the radio, one of the news items was the story about the “end of the world,” which, according to the announcer, was to happen the following weekend. Even though I was confident that no one really knows the day or time, it did invite me to think about what I would do if I believed I had one week left before giving an accounting for my life. Obviously, I could come up with lots of ideas about how I could be a better person. But I started thinking about what has become my life's work and my belief in our power to create part of the Kingdom on earth. Those of you reading this message received it because you are part of this work and its power – the ability to transform lives. I have witnessed some amazing life-changing events in the lives of the children we serve.

As I arrived at my speaking engagement, I discovered that instead of a dinner to support several charities it was, in fact, a dinner to honor the work of the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches specifically. I was very moved! As the program progressed, the pastor got up and read from the Gospel of Matthew and spoke about the judgment when those who welcomed strangers, gave food to the poor, responded to thirst, clothed the naked, cared for and ministered to those in need would be welcomed into the Kingdom. “For whatever you did for one of these of mine, you did it for me.” I continued to be moved



**Mike Cumnock**  
CEO

by the outpouring of support I felt from this group. I could feel my tension melting away. I looked around and saw a whole room full of people who could have been anywhere else on a Saturday night. They chose to come and hear the Ranch story. What an honor and privilege to be there! The pastor jokingly reminded the audience that they were to rate my presentation with a number, like an Olympic sporting event. Instead of feeling pressured, I felt thankful to have the opportunity. The Ranch is mission-driven and the program sells itself. Who wouldn't want to help children who, through no fault of their own, need a place to call home? I just spoke from the heart, described the program, and shared some stories. More than one person told me, “That was a ‘10’.” It was a great evening with good food and a wonderful audience filled with people who really care.

At the end of the dinner, a young professional came up and introduced himself and shared that he had helped with the admission of two children to the Ranch. I usually avoid any in-depth conversations regarding children to protect their privacy. However, he

clearly knew almost as much of their story as I did. I thanked him for helping these kids and told him he should sleep well knowing what a good deed he had done. His response was, “I did the easy part; I want to thank you for doing all you do!” Both of us know that the “you” to which he referred is the staff, the Board, the volunteers, and all who share their time, talent and treasure to make this life-saving work a reality.

The members of that church reminded me of the awesome power of people working together for good. I received much more from them than I gave.

I left the church around 9:00 p.m. feeling really energized. One of the church members offered to put me up for the night, but I would have been too excited to sleep. My time driving back just flew by.

Children come to us hungry, thirsty, lonely, sad, and scared. They are strangers and we welcome them. I believe that when we address the many needs of the children who come to us we are, in fact, helping make the Kingdom a reality on earth. Every child presents us with an opportunity. The work is too big and too important for us to think we can do it alone. This is truly God's work! There is never any doubt that as I write this I know that you as a supporter “have our backs.” When the world does end and we have to give a positive accounting – we have done a lot of good. I expect to see a lot of Ranch supporters.

On behalf of all the children...  
...Thank you!

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



### Gabriel (Gabe)

Birthday: March 8  
 Grade: 9th  
 Favorite Movie: August Rush  
 Best Subject in School: Art and Music  
 Hobbies: Drawing and Playing Guitar  
 Goal in life: To be a musician  
 What he likes about Ranch:  
 "I get to work with horses and

be with my new brothers and sisters. I also get to go see my real family. I love you, Everybody.



### Kaleb

Birthday: January 6  
 Grade: 7th  
 Favorite Cartoon: Tom and Jerry  
 Favorite Movie: Blind Side  
 Hobbies: Playing Sports  
 Goal in life: Be an NBA or NFL Star  
 What he likes best about the Ranch: "I get to play sports

for the first time in my life."



### Kris (Slinky)

Birthday: May 30  
 Grade: 12th  
 Favorite TV show: Most Shocking  
 Favorite Cartoon: Invader Zim  
 Hobbies: Scrabble, Computers, and Drawing  
 Goal in life: To become a computer programmer  
 What he likes about Ranch:

"I like the fact that there are a bunch of people to play sports with."



### Mathew (The Kid)

Birthday: April 4  
 Grade: 8th  
 Favorite Farm Animal: Dogs  
 Favorite Color: Blue  
 Hobbies: Playing and riding bikes  
 What he likes about Ranch:  
 "All of my friends."

### Morgan

Birthday: January 30  
 Grade: 10th  
 Favorite Cartoon: SpongeBob  
 Favorite Sport: Basketball  
 Hobbies: Horseback Riding and Basketball  
 Goal in life: To be a lawyer.  
 What she likes about Ranch:  
 "All of the horses."



### Teresa

Birthday: February 2  
 Grade: 9th  
 Favorite Cartoon: Care Bears  
 Favorite Sport: Track  
 Hobbies: Running/Climbing  
 Goal in life: To have a good life.  
 What she likes about Ranch:  
 "I have a lot of friends and I am in a good environment."



### (T)

Birthday: October 30  
 Grade: 10th  
 Favorite Movie: The Patriot  
 Best Subject in School: Economics  
 Hobbies: Riding horses  
 Goal in life: To become an equine veterinarian  
 What he likes about Ranch:  
 "I get to work with my horse every day."



### Vanessa (Little 'V')

Birthday: June 15  
 Grade: 10th  
 Favorite TV show: Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns  
 Favorite Cartoon: Scooby-Doo  
 Hobbies: Swimming and Video Games  
 Goal in life: To get a job  
 What she likes about the Ranch: "That I'm free, and it helps me cope with what I need to do in my life."



# Friends and Supporters - Donations

## First Community Bank Golf Tournament



First Community Bank sponsored their annual golf tournament for the Ranch on May 18, 2011. The tournament raised the biggest amount yet. The best year yet! We are so very grateful for all the support First Community Bank gives to help support the children of the Ranch. We look forward to next year's tournament.

## Cops That Care Golf Tournament

Sheriff Marty Moss hosted his annual golf tournament again this year. Sheriff Moss is a great supporter of the Ranch and we appreciate everything he does to help support the children here. We look forward to his tournament again next year.

## Tim Helder Golf Tournament

Washington County Sheriff Tim Helder also sponsored a yearly golf tournament to help support the Ranch. We are so thankful for all the help Sheriff Helder gives along with the support of other Arkansas sheriffs.

## Nimocks

Eleven Circle 'N' market stores in east Arkansas collectively raised over \$10,000 during their annual Open Hearts, Pump Up campaign February 14-20 to benefit the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches.

During the week-long fundraiser, Nimocks Oil Company, parent company of Circle 'N', pledged to donate two-cents for every gallon of fuel purchased at each of its 11 locations. Circle 'N' customers and vendors also made donations to help reach a total of \$10,850, exceeding the amount raised last year by more than \$2,500. Nimocks Oil Company owners Mallory and Carla Nimocks presented Ranch CEO Mike Cumnock with a check on March 3rd, for the total raised during Open Hearts, Pump Up 2011.

"This year we set out to raise more money for the Ranch than ever before, and through the support of many Arkansans in the area, we did just that," Mallory Nimocks said. "We want to thank everyone who made a conscious effort to visit their local Circle 'N' to support the Ranch during Open Hearts, Pump Up."

All Circle 'N's participated in Open Hearts, Pump Up, including stores in Forrest City, Brinkley, Wynne, Colt, Cherry Valley, Lehi, West Helena, Marianna, Crawfordsville, DeWitt and Jonesboro. The donations will assist the Ranch in its effort to provide help for at-risk children.

"We are very grateful for the support shown from the Nimocks Oil Company and each Circle 'N' customer and business," Mike Cumnock, CEO, Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranch said. "It takes more than \$30,000 a year to provide comprehensive residential care for one child at the Ranch, and through initiatives like Open Hearts, Pump Up, we can continue to provide that quality care for children from East Arkansas and throughout the state."



Customers, vendors join in giving during Open Hearts, Pump Up 2011

# Meet Our Staff



A picture from their first years at the Ranch.

Cheyenne Ingram, the houseparent at Faith Hall, has been with the Ranch for 28 years. She and her husband of 34 years, Rick Ingram have dedicated their lives to what they call a true calling from God. Cheyenne and Rick have two children of their own, Seth- 31 and Emily-22, who have grown up with the kids at the Ranch and have become like brothers and sisters to everyone that lives there. Cheyenne writes: In a typical day I get up at 7a.m. and start getting breakfast ready. Around 9 a.m. the boys are all well fed and ready to start the day doing work crew. At noon we all go back inside to clean up and eat a good lunch. After work crew is over, my day usually progresses to going grocery shopping, doing laundry, or cleaning the house. Dinner gets started at 6p.m. and its free time for the boys until bedtime. All the years I have been here there have been plenty of memories but one good memory that makes me laugh every time I think of it is one of a former resident. He disliked doing the dishes chore, but one night in particular he had made the kitchen look spotless. After I had checked his work and went back to my own, one of the kids came to get me to show me something in the kitchen. He pointed out to me that every dirty dish was stacked neatly between the refrigerator and the cabinet in the very small space between. This effort had to have taken more time than it would have to have actually washed them. When I asked the resident how this had happened, he looked at me with wide, innocent eyes of disbelief and swore he didn't know how they had gotten that way. Recently when this resident, who has since graduated and is on his way to college, called to check-in, we reminisced over this story and laughed at how young and ornery he once was.



One of the great joys of living on the Ranch with lots of animals is getting to see the baby animals. Three of our horses recently gave birth to foals. Everyone enjoys seeing them every day in the pasture and watching them take their first steps running. These babies don't have names yet but you can be sure the kids will have them picked out in no time.

## Arkansas Oil Marketers Convention



This year's convention was in Little Rock instead of Hot Springs. CEO Mike Cumnock attended this event to raise awareness about abused and neglected children. The Ranch children helped him come up with an idea to decorate his booth. The children love to share their ideas.



Harold Sharp won the tickets for the Gatlinburg "Get Away" Drawing.

*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

## The Donald W. Reynolds Campus

School is out and summer is in full swing. The children are enjoying their vacations. Mr. Philip Ives, the Superintendent of Ranch/Farm programs, is working with the children and staff to expand the farm/ranch involvement for the residents. As you drive through the campus, the horses lean over the fences to greet you, and the place looks like a picture postcard. However, not everyone is a horse person. So, Mr. Philip is working to individualize the type of activities available so that everyone gets the benefit of what the Ranch has to offer. ASYR and Methodist Family Health continue to work together to provide the best that both organizations have to offer. Everyone is hopeful that the tough economic times are easing making it possible to serve more children. Unfortunately, we still have to deal with the replacement of some air conditioning systems. It was not too bad when we were enjoying a cool but very wet spring and then we woke up one day to "hot and humid." Some of the kids were beginning to think that the weatherman had gone on vacation and left the same tape to be played every day. The lake is full, the fish are biting, and it is green all around. Hopefully, this summer a lot of good memories will be made. One of the children has already noted: "Summer goes by way too fast!"

The houseparent told her. "Brace yourself; it gets faster every year."

## Faith Hall

by Cheyenne Ingram

Hi, Everyone. We hope you are all having a good start to summer. We finally got out of school in June. All the snow delayed us just a little, but we're off and running. All the guys have really enjoyed Mr. Gene Davis; he comes out on Friday nights and plays football, basketball and just hangs out with the boys. Jamey has been a camp counselor at the local Baptist camp. Kaleb and Rob are ready to start Jr. High this fall and are looking forward to football and basketball. Jacob has been working with his horse, Rose. Zeke has been busy doing lots of odd jobs around the Ranch. Faith Hall has taken on some projects this summer. We are helping out some elderly ladies in our community, doing little things around their homes that they are not able to do. We have also adopted a section of highway to keep clean. Gabe is busy writing songs and playing his guitar and piano. All the boys have been very active with their youth group at church. Jamey and Jacob are busy with the local volunteer fire department.



# COTTAGE NEWS



(Remember to check your batteries in your fire alarms.) Our chickens have been laying eggs faithfully and we are enjoying lots of omelets. As usual, we continue to recycle and encourage everyone to do the same. Thanks for all the prayers that are said in our behalf. We love you all and appreciate all you do. Cheyenne Ingram, Houseparent Faith Hall

Things have gotten hectic around Gratton Hall. A few of the girls attended a Cardinals' baseball game. Although the Cardinals lost, we still had a blast. Traveling to St. Louis was quite an adventure. Shawndra bought her first car and graduated from Batesville High School on May 20. She will be attending UACCB in the fall and is very excited. Vanessa

## Gratton Hall

loves being outside jumping on the trampoline, playing catch, and just having fun. We try to do fun things on Saturdays whether it's going to the park, going bowling, or going to the movies. We also enjoy spending time at home playing outside. The girls are becoming adept at horseback riding. One-on-one time and family time are important to us at Gratton. We are making relationship-building a priority.



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## Independent Living

Robert is continuing his education at Lyon College and even has a summer job as a lifeguard at the campus pool.

Ryan has gained employment at a retail store celebrated nationwide and is working hard.



Kayla is going to summer school at Arkansas Tech in Russellville. Having only just turned 20 this May, she is already a good role model for the girls back home at the Ranch.

James is still a student of the Arkansas Career Technology Institute and is doing great.

Tyrone is continuing his college education by going to graduate school. He hopes to get a job as a teacher very soon.

## Keith Hall

By Gina Burns

The thing that comes to mind at the Ranch is that it is truly God's country. The rains are gone, and the garden is well on its way to producing a crop of fresh vegetables. Chandler graduated from Batesville High School on May 20 and Tim has taken tests for the GED program. We are very proud of what these two boys have accomplished. Steven continues at Lyon College with the APPLE Summer Program. A writer he



may be... Jacob is on the mend from his surgery in the spring. He will be able to enjoy his summer to the fullest on horseback. Brandon continues to jump on the trampoline with his headphones on, of course. With the weather bright and dry, you cannot keep Mathew inside. He is either on the bike or playing with the dogs. Kris, the Game Boy King, ventures outdoors long enough to play baseball and, of course, he can run like a cheetah... The porch has long said goodbye to the rock salt for ice removal and has given way to fishing poles and ball gloves....aaah, summer is here, and the Ranch is alive with laughter.



## Olds Cottage News

Life at DeGray for the staff and girls has been busy and full.

The early spring rains and flooding have filled our beautiful lake to the brim! But, we did not flood – the waters have begun to recede to a normal level and the view from behind the house has been beautiful.

The end of the school year has been busy for the girls with extra tutoring, testing, school activities, band concerts and field trips. Now, with all of the activities beginning to wind down our girls are looking

# COTTAGE NEWS



forward to summer and all of the possibilities on the lake.

We all took a trip to Muskogee, Oklahoma recently to the “Renaissance Faire” held annually in May.

We spent an entire day immersed in the Renaissance with all of the noise and sights of a long past era.

The girls were fascinated by the hawks and owls displayed and demonstrated by a licensed falconer. We experienced a joust, watched maypole dancers, talked with vendors and hawkers with all kinds of ‘wares.’ Costumed characters in period dress were everywhere, from the beggars at the gate, the juggler on the corner, the Lord High Sheriff (who almost threw us in jail, but kissed Miranda on the hand instead) to the King and Queen in the castle. “Captain Jack Sparrow” was there (in fact there were several Jack Sparrows) and the girls posed with him for a picture.

He was only too happy to have a couple of pretty girls nearby! A couple of large Highland Lords in green tartan kilts,



taught “Scottish Belly Danc-ing” to passing gentlemen in the street...much to the crowds delight and the gentlemen’s embarrassment. The girls had quite a time in the shops, trying on corsets and perusing the jewelry and still found time to take a short camel ride, while street musicians, troubadours and poets wandered everywhere.

The experience was a one-of-a-kind event that we will all treasure for years to come, and are so grateful to the members of the Leadership of Clark County, Class III, for their kind generosity in making this trip possible.

We are still in need of a tiller to put in a proper garden, so this year’s garden is in pots on the back porch. During the deluge of this past month, the plants took quite a beating. But, we’ve got tomatoes, strawberries, and various varieties of herbs and flowers coming along pretty well.

Preparations for the canoe project are underway while a source of lumber is being sought. Local businesses have voiced a desire to get involved, and we are also seeking a way to get the lumber home. Mr. Jim and the girls have been busy getting the shop ready and working on refurbishing one of the canoes, along with the

many smaller woodshop projects and tasks.

A local marina has voiced a desire to host a bass tournament as a fundraising project later in the summer. The Sheriff’s Office has been a great help in contacting individuals for assistance, from sending work crews to help with yard work, making arrangements for a shopping trip with a local couple, and with networking community businesses.

We typically have local ‘drive-bys.’ Folks out for an afternoon drive, stop by to “see the place on the lake,” or “Can you show me the big dog?” It seems people like what they see at the DeGray Campus, have heard about the place and are curious and as always, Duncan, our Irish wolfhound, makes a “big” impression.



Ranch Alumnus, Joshua Meek, took his wedding vows with his wife Jennifer Michelle Meek. The couple had their nuptials in Florida. They enjoyed the summer beaches there. Unfortunately, they had to come home and return to work. Josh is studying to become an RN.

# Steve Landers to be Honored at the 2011 Children's Award Dinner October 13

Each year the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranch recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions to create better opportunities for today's youth. This year the Ranch will honor Steve Landers at the 16th Annual Arkansas Children's Award Dinner held on Thursday, October 13 at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

"Steve has always been a supporter of the young people of Arkansas, whether it's through monetary donations or his time," said Mike Cumnock, Ranch CEO. "Most importantly, though, he's an exceptional role model for the young men and women the Ranch serves, as he demonstrates how hard work and dedication can elevate anyone to the top. We appreciate Steve's unwavering commitment to give back and are proud to present him with this honor."

The event will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. outside the Wally Allen Ballroom at the Statehouse Convention Center, followed by a dinner at 7 p.m. Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe is scheduled to serve as Master of Ceremonies for the 16th consecutive year. Past recipients of the Arkansas Children's Award include:

- Charles Nabholz (2010)
- Wallace Fowler (2009)
- Stanley Reed (2008)
- Tommy May (2007)
- John White (2006)
- Pat Walker (2005)
- Jerry Davis (2004)
- Blanche Lincoln (2003)
- Doyle Rogers (2002)
- The Tyson Family (2001)
- Bill Clark (2000)
- Buddy Sutton (1999)
- Jerry Maulden (1998)
- Red Hudson (1997)

- Mike Beebe (1996)

All proceeds from the event benefit the Ranch, and tickets may be purchased by contacting Diana Holland at 870.793.6841 ext. 301, [diana@youthranches.com](mailto:diana@youthranches.com).

## *About the Honoree, Steve Landers*



Steve Landers currently serves as president of RLJ-McLarty-Landers Automotive. His dedication to business and management have helped Central Arkansas be recognized on the global level for automotive sales, but he and his wife, Sandy, have continuously been dedicated to giving to charitable causes in the state.

Steve purchased a used car lot with his father in Benton and after several successful years in business, moved into new car sales, purchasing the Jeep, GMC and Oldsmobile dealerships, also in Benton. Steve was awarded the Chrysler and Dodge franchises within two years and went on to become the largest Chrysler dealership in the world for several consecutive years. His business also earned the Gold Level Recognition for customer satisfaction from Chrysler multiple years.

In his commitment to serve others, Steve has been involved in numerous organizations, including many dedicated to serving Arkansas' youth. Those organizations include Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, The Rep, Children's Tumor Foundation, Junior Deputy Baseball League, Arkansas Education Association, Arkansas Baptist College, Youth Home, University of Arkansas Head Start Program, AETN, and many others.

Steve lives in Little Rock with his wife of 38 years, Sandy, and they are active members of Immanuel Baptist Church. They have two sons, Steve Jr. and Scott, who operate the Landers Toyota franchise along with Steve.

# BETHESDA DAY

Bethesda Day is a special holiday in our community where everyone gets together to enjoy our neighborhood. A parade is given through the heart of the community with antique cars, buggies, and floats from the local churches. A few of the kids take part in the Bethesda Volunteer Fire Department and enjoy the sense of pride they feel as the fire trucks go by in the parade. After the parade is over, everyone congregates at the Bethesda Community Center where various games and pageants take place. One event the kids always look forward to every year is the turtle races. The competition is fierce as all the kids collect turtles from their backyards and pit them against each other in a contest of speed. Don't worry; no turtles were hurt during this activity. The girls always find time to enter into the Ms. Bethesda beauty pageant and enjoy spending some time in their beautiful gowns. One of the kids even won a pig during the pig race. After everyone has had their fun at the games and pageants, the food is brought out. BBQ meat, coleslaw, corn on the cob, and an assortment of pies are set out for everyone. The kids get their fill and enjoy a nice glass of lemonade or sweet tea. All of the kids get the opportunity to see and enjoy the comfort of living in such a close-knit community.



## *“Purposeful Planning”*

*By Dr. Fred Hueston, CFRE*

A recent visit to the Horseshoe Bend home of long-time Ranch donor Mr. Vincent A. Miller provided to be a delightful time of sharing stories about his career with Pittsburgh Plate Glass (PPG) near Chicago, Illinois, and his subsequent moving, together with his wife, to Northeast Arkansas. Mr. and Mrs. Miller moved here together with other friends from the Midwest, to enjoy activities and the rural setting of our state.

Mr. Miller worked for 40 years for PPG, and – at 97 years of age – he has now been retired for 37 years! His goal is to reach 100 – and at the same time receive the distinction of receiving his retirement pension for 40 years – the exact same number of years he worked!

Thorough estate planning is something Mr.

Miller is very familiar with: He recently established a Charitable Gift Annuity with the Ranch, whereby he will continue to receive tax-free income for his donation to our annuity program. We are grateful to Mr. Miller for permitting the Ranch to be part of his “purposeful planning” since he and Mrs. Miller moved to Arkansas nearly three decades ago.

For more information about our Charitable Gift Annuity program, please contact Dr. Fred Hueston, Director of Gift Planning, at 501-681-6501.



Vincent A. Miller



# 35 Years and Counting

By Diana Holland

When my daughters started junior and senior high school, I thought it was time to get a part-time job for a little while and I started working for a new business in town – the Arkansas Sheriffs’ Boys Ranch. The current secretary couldn’t type from a Dictaphone so I was hired for that position – that was 35 years ago! I never dreamed that I would fall in love with the program and the kids we serve.

Our first office was on the second floor of an old converted hospital (North Arkansas Clinic and Hospital in Batesville) which is now a parking lot. We expanded from one room into three which provided a little breathing room. We stayed five years in that location and moved into a mobile home on the Batesville Campus where we stayed an additional five years, then moved to the basement of the Perkinson Chapel. Up until that time, there were only two office personnel and one caseworker. We handled the phone calls, admission of children, personnel, payroll and everything else in-between.

The first Christmas on the Ranch (for me as well as the children) December 1977, we got together and had a Christmas party with the kids. (By then, we had added a girl’s cottage located in Harrison, AR.) One little six-year old girl loved to be carried so we took turns carrying her around almost all day. When we were ready to leave in the late afternoon, we had to practically “peel her off of us.” She was just so needy for attention. On Christmas morning, one of the boys was given a gift and he didn’t know how to react. Apparently, he had never received a gift. It didn’t take me long to realize that I was in a job where I could contribute and see immediate as well as long-term results!

The community was a little leery about the Ranch – they didn’t know much about our kids and were afraid they would make trouble. It took a few years for our kids to be really accepted and for the community and schools to realize that we had kids that anyone could be proud of. One of our first residents, a 6-year old boy, became our first college graduate. In the ensuing years, there have been many college graduates and a host of

successful kids that graduated from high school and became responsible citizens.

The Ranch was receiving many referrals, but with only one cottage for boys, space was limited. In 1980, a cottage was built without any fundraising or capital campaign. Every spare dollar and sacrifice went into the construction and when it was completed, we could think of no better name than “Faith Hall.” The next cottage was constructed five years later and was funded by Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Keith of Bentonville. They were both elderly but were able to attend the dedication in 1985. This cottage was named “Keith Hall” in appreciation of their support.

After having been a Girl Scout Leader for twelve years, I started an Explorer Post (co-ed division of the Boy Scouts). The kids in my post were some of the early kids who came to the Ranch. We spent many weekends on outings, lake trips, Scout events, and riverbanks during the next six-plus years, adding new kids as the older ones aged out of the program. I have many fond memories of those years. Money was always tight but the kids were willing to work at our Scout fundraisers to earn the money for our trips.

Many of these kids still keep in contact with me – these “children” are now in their mid to late forties.

In 1999, we moved the office into our new administrative building where we still are today. For the first time, I actually had a private office. Over the years, we have added more office staff to streamline the duties. This complex also has a tutoring room where the kids come every day after school to study and receive help from tutors and a teacher. So I get a lot of “waves” daily as they pass my office. I have had the opportunity, and privilege, to serve as “grandmother” for several of the kids when they had a special day at school for grandparents and children. Grandparents meet the children and have lunch with them and then have a photo taken together. One such day, I was grandmother for two in 2nd grade, and then again for the 4th grade. You guessed it; that was two school lunches in 70 minutes!

Every year when we have more children graduate from high school and/or college, it reinforces my belief in our program and my decision so many years ago to work for the Ranch for “a little while!”



# The Great Easter Egg Hunt

The Ranch came together on a beautiful Friday afternoon to have an Easter egg hunt. Once everyone had a bag for their Easter eggs the hunt was on. The boys separated and searched high and low. The girls stayed in small groups and worked in teams. Once everyone had gained a reasonable amount of eggs the scavenger hunt was announced. The kids all gathered



around and started to huddle together to discuss the best strategies for achieving one of the various prizes. Clues were handed out and the hunt began. No stone was left unturned and eventually all of the scavenger riddles were solved. After the kids had



their prizes and Easter eggs everyone went inside the gym to play team building games. These games soon had everyone laughing together as the kids worked together so their team would win. Food was prepared and served

while a few of the boys played guitar and sang for everyone.

After everyone got to digest their food, more team-building games were played. Some of the kids got out their bicycles, and others started playing basketball. All in all the day turned out great for everyone who got to participate.



## Student Awards

At the end of the year the school hosts an award night for its students and two of our young people received acknowledgement for their achievements. Shawndra received the Academic Distinction Award from the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville. Jamey's History Day team won first place at regionals for their project on Japanese Internment Camps and received a special honor for this at the awards ceremony. At the state competition at the University of Central Arkansas their team came in at a close fourth place.



## Graduation

Having so many kids of such varying ages ensures that the Ranch gets to stay with some of our kids through all of their academic achievements.

Chandler Lowell and Shawndra Hastings graduated from Batesville High School on May 20, 2011.

In honor of being a vocational completer, Shawndra wore a red cord with her graduation gown. We also had another college graduate this year. Tyrone Teran (left) graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in May. He completed his college career with a Bachelor's Degree in Science and Education specializing in Science and Mathematics for Middle School children.



# Lions, Tigers, and the Gateway Arch

By Eric Williams

We had the awesome opportunity to attend the St. Louis Cardinals vs. the Florida Marlins baseball game on May 2, in St. Louis, MO. We took off around 8:00 a.m. and had the daunting task of navigating through areas of northern Arkansas and Missouri that were like swamp land. Using a GPS and cell phones with live highway closing updates, we arrived in St. Louis just after lunch time with only a few minor detours.

Since we were already in St. Louis, I felt that we should take advantage of some of the free activities that the home of the Gateway Arch had to offer. Our first stop was the St. Louis Zoo. We saw all types of animals ranging from small, ugly spiders to enormous elephants. Although the current majority of our residents are teenagers, there were so many here who have never gotten to experience the fun of going to a zoo and I believe that everyone had a great time. We read facts about many of the animals and had the opportunity to watch the excitement of feeding time with the penguins and were able to ask questions.

By the time the game began, we were all glad that we brought hoodies, raincoats, and blankets because the temperature dropped greatly. We all bundled up and sat back to watch the entertainment of live baseball action! We cheered as the Cardinals began with a good head start but yet in the end, were defeated with a 6-5 score in the last inning.

Our voyage home was a lot more complex. Roads that we used to come to St. Louis were flooded so what was supposed to be 5 hour

trip turned into 7 very long and stressful hours full of trial and error and a lot of coffee! We finally arrived back at the Ranch around 5:00 with dry cars and very pleased teenagers.

Ultimately, everyone had a blast and we hope to have more opportunities to be able to take the Ranchers into the larger society so they can experience and learn more about themselves, others, and the world as a whole.

Thank you to all who supported this trip!!!



## Feature Recipes

### FARMERS MARKET RAVIOLI

From Cookbook Vol. 4

13 oz. package cheese ravioli  
1 medium red pepper, cut in strips  
½ lb. chinese pea pods  
2 tsp. instant chicken bouillon  
2 tbsp. parmesan cheese  
2 tbsp. lemon juice  
1 medium yellow squash, sliced ½ inch  
2 tbsp. oil  
2 tbsp. fresh dill, chopped  
¼ tsp. cracked black pepper

Boil ravioli according to package directions. Drain

Sauté peas in oil, bouillon, and “splash” of water until tender. Add red pepper and squash and sauté until tender-crisp. Stir gently

Combine all ingredients.  
Makes 4 servings.

### STRAWBERRY TORTE

From Cookbook Vol. 4

½ cup margarine  
1-¼ cups flour  
3 tbsp. sugar  
1 package vanilla pudding mix  
2 cups milk  
3 tbsp. cornstarch  
½ cup sugar  
1 pint strawberries, sliced  
1 pint whipping cream-whipped and sweetener

Mix margarine, flour and 3 tbsp. sugar, cutting with pastry cutter until crumbly.

Press firmly into 8 x 11 inch baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees until lightly browned

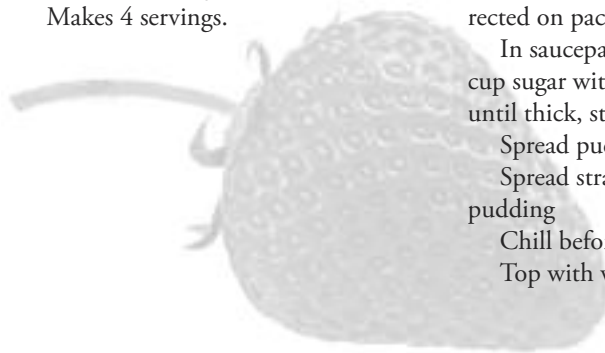
Mix pudding & milk. Cook as directed on package – Cool

In saucepan, mix cornstarch and ½ cup sugar with strawberries. Cook until thick, stirring constantly. Cool

Spread pudding mix over crust  
Spread strawberry mixture over pudding

Chill before serving

Top with whipped cream



# needs List

People often ask us what kind of things we need at our campuses for the children. The following is compiled by our housepar-ents & staff. For more information, call Beth at 870-793-6841 ext. 300.

## Needs List

### Thrift Store

Price Gun

### Farm

Polled Hereford Bull

Equine Safety Helmets (as-sorted sizes)

Smooth Snaffle Bits with Sweet Iron Mouthpiece

Fencing Pliers

Manuel Barb-Wire Stretch-ers

Shop Fans

### Gratton Hall

Blender

New Vacuum Cleaner

Dish Clothes

Plastic Cooking Spoons/utensils

Emergency Lights/ Flash-lights

Large Outdoor Grill

Weather Station/ Clock/ Thermometer

### Faith Hall

New Cabinets for Kitchen

New Linoleum or Laminat-e on Floors

New Carpet

Rakes and Hoes

New Counter Tops in Kitchen

New Dishwasher

Refrigerator

Silver ware

Commercial Washer and Dryer

Trampoline

Chicken Wire

Water Hoses

Lumber to replace deck

Paint for porch

Lawn Mowers

Weed Eaters

### Keith Hall

Food Dehydrator

New Dishwasher

Fishing Gear

Garden Tools

Blueberry Bushes to plant

Wireless door bell

Desk Lamps/ Hanging Lamps

Power Drill for house

Weather Station/ Clock/ Thermometer

Big Screen TV

Outdoor Furniture

Shaving Cream

Men's Body Wash

Volleyball and Badminton Set for 8

Air pump for Bike tires and Balls

Digital Camera

### Olds Cottage

Gas Powered Log Splitter

WII with 4 Controlllers

WII Monition Plus Sen-sors/Nun-chucks

Rock Band for WII with Instruments

6 5ft Canoe Paddles

6 New Life Jackets (adult sizes)

Encapsulated Styrofoam

Floats ( for floating dock)

Small (8ft) Trailer

6ft Bush Hog

Small Roto Tiller

Misc. Hand Tools for woodshop

Radial Arm Saw

Oxy/ Acetylene Torch Set

### Tutoring

Set of Encyclopedias 2005 to current

College or High School

Textbooks 2005 to cur-rent

Large Sturdy Backpacks

Birthday and Christmas wrapping supplies

French and Japanese lan-guage computer soft-ware

School Supplies (college-rule paper, notebooks, etc.)

Frisbees

Boardgames(Trouble,

Deluxe Scrabble, etc.)

Card Games(Skip-Bo, Uno)

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

## Address Change

To submit an address change, call Diana at 870-793-6841 ext. 301. You can also e-mail her at [diana@youthranches.com](mailto:diana@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. Con-tact 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 correspon-dence from the Ranch through your e-mail account? Please fill out this form and mail it to Emily Ingram, Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches, P O Box 3964, Batesville, AR 72503

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### *New Website...continued from page 1*

friendly and genuine as soon as you land on the homepage,” said Stone.

### **More Ways to Give**

The new YouthRanches.com also features enhanced giving options for donors. In addition to one-time donations, supporters can now safely set up a reoccurring giving plan to provide for the Ranch on a monthly basis through credit, debit, personal checking or business checking accounts.

And, if you want to show your support with the latest T-shirt, coffee mug or cookbook, the site includes an online store with Ranch paraphernalia and accessories.

“As technology has progressed, it has become easier and safer to make online transactions,” said Cumnock. “We want Ranch supporters to have these options; still, if you want to do it the old fashioned way, our phone number and mailing address are still listed. We’d be glad to take your call or receive a letter from you.”

### **Everything Online**

The Ranch is also reaching out through other on-

line channels to keep supporters up-to-date on the latest Ranch activities. The organization has launched a Facebook Fan Page ([www.facebook.com/YouthRanches](http://www.facebook.com/YouthRanches)) and Twitter account ([www.twitter.com/YouthRanches](http://www.twitter.com/YouthRanches)) to share news/campus updates, photos, upcoming events, speaking engagements and videos. The Ranch will also be launching a monthly e-blast service that re-caps all the latest news and activities.

Other information, such as the Ranch’s history, admissions procedures, driving directions to Ranch facilities and staff contacts are also still available at YouthRanches.com. Additionally, if you would like to share this or previous editions of the Ranch Report with family and friends, the site includes a full archive of publications dating back to 2008.

“The look may have changed, but our mission is still the same – to provide troubled youth a safe, family environment to call home. Take some time to visit the new site and you’ll see how supporting the Ranch is changing lives on a daily basis,” said Cumnock.



For more information about our Charitable Gift Annuity program, please contact  
Dr. Fred Hueston, Director of Gift Planning, at 501-681-6501.

## *In Honor of...*

#### **Gary Achenbach**

Mrs. Ruth Achenbach

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Mrs. Evelyn M. Hackler

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Mr. Richard Metcalf

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Health & P.E. Department.  
Arkansas Tech University  
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Joey Pierce, M.D. & Wanda  
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Fred & Jo Wegner

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Glen & Kari Zink

## Memorials and Honors received January - June 2011

### Privacy Policy:

The Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranch is very sensitive to protecting the privacy of our donors. We do not sell our list and we do not participate in any telephone solicitation schemes.

We only call donors when we have a question or wish to thank them.

## Look for our next issue of The Ranch Report coming in Winter of 2011.

### Upcoming Articles

- New Lambs
- School
- Holidays
- New Dock



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870-793-6841

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