Sharing is his Middle Name

Donald S. Genung, the all-time number one booster of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Boys Ranch, Girls Villa and Youth Ranch, shares his ice cream cone with Youth Ranch resident Penny Parker. For more about this thoroughly nice guy, and the super salute that is being planned in his honor, please turn to page 2.
Don Genung Activity Center will salute a Thoroughly Nice Guy

You’ll never meet a nicer guy than Don Genung. He looks like a nice guy; he smiles like a nice guy; he talks like a nice guy; and, when you peel away all of these superficial things, you find that he really is a nice guy.

Don Genung has spent a long, productive life being nice to all kinds of people, regardless of race, creed, or color. He has made a career of doing nice things for his family, for his employees, for his friends, for jail inmates, and, most of all, for needy, neglected youngsters.

Sharing and caring form the axis around which his life revolves.

When he was a young man, he cared enough about his country to go to war as a glider pilot.

When he became Sheriff of Pinellas County, he cared enough about county jail inmates to initiate many jail reforms. He also cared enough about kids to start a Junior Deputy program, a Junior Mounted Posse, a Youth Study Center to help kids in jail, and a Youth Aid Bureau to try to keep kids out of jail.

Show Don Genung a sad-faced, troubled boy or girl and he’s a soft touch. He got all fired up with enthusiasm in 1957 when his boss, the late Sheriff Sid Saunders, told him about a Boys Ranch for homeless and needy kids the Florida Sheriffs Association was going to build.

Don Genung has accumulated many plaques, certificates and awards in 30 years of distinguished public service. Among those meaning the most to him is the Boys Ranch Alumni Association “Our Friend Award” he’s showing to Penny Parker and Paul Black, Youth Ranch residents.
Sheriff Saunders died soon afterward and other early supporters lost interest in the Boys Ranch, but Don Genung never did. After he was appointed Sheriff to succeed Sheriff Saunders in 1958, he always gave a plug for the Boys Ranch in every speech he made. He also issued orders to his deputies to do the same thing, and the order held throughout his 17 years as Sheriff. Genung himself was hitting Pinellas County podiums on an average of three or four times a week, and his deputies were maintaining about the same pace.

Those thousands of "plugs" and other fund-raising promotions instituted by Genung gave the Boys Ranch a favorable and strong public image. Consequently, Pinellas County soon became Florida's number one county in giving support to the Ranch --- a position it has held for over 20 years.

After Don Genung retired from the Sheriff's Office in 1975, he went to work for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, the agency created by the Florida Sheriffs Association to operate the Boys Ranch and Girls Villa. He continued making speeches at his usual pace. He also called on prospective donors and in various ways translated the generous impulses of Pinellas County residents into Youth Fund contributions.

When the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch was established at Clearwater in 1976 as a third Youth Fund institution, Genung merely broadened his appeal and kept plugging.

Today he's still doing his thing and maintaining his status as the all-time number one booster of the Youth Fund, Boys Ranch, Girls Villa and Youth Ranch. However, he is undergoing a change of pace. On July 1, 1980, he shifted into a lower gear, cut back a little on his speech making schedule, and announced that henceforth he would be putting in fewer of those 12-hour days he's been famous for.

Although hale and hearty at 63, Don Genung is slowing down a little. A visitor caught him recently with his feet up on his desk sipping a cup of coffee. He's beginning to admit he can't keep up the hectic pace he set for himself 30 years ago when he started his law enforcement career.

The time has finally come for Don Genung to put a little well-deserved leisure into his life, and after all these many years of doing nice things for other people, it also seems that the time has come for somebody to be doing something thoroughly nice for this thoroughly nice guy.

Well, somebody is. Officials of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund have decided to build a $600,000 all-purpose facility at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch and call it the Don Genung Activity Center.

It will include classrooms, a chapel, a library, a large activity room, a kitchen, an arts and crafts center, a swimming pool and a bath house.

Great idea! But, there are a couple of hitches. Hitch number one: the $600,000 will have to be raised before the activity center can be built. Hitch number two: although this is the sort of fund-raising project Don Genung could ramrod with ease, he is going to have to sit on the sidelines as a spectator. It wouldn't be appropriate for him to head up fund raising for a facility that will be dedicated in his honor. However, having Genung on the sidelines is no big problem. A campaign chairman is going to be appointed, and before the end of summer, we expect the campaign to be off and running.

The main thrust of the campaign will be in Pinellas County, where Don Genung has given so much to so many for so long, but gifts from donors anywhere outside Pinellas County will also be welcome.

A gift to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund for the Don Genung Activity Center Campaign will help to enrich the lives of many youngsters at the Youth Ranch. Moreover, it will be a well-deserved salute to the nicest guy anyone is ever likely to meet.
No Levi Jeans at Annual Boys Ranch Awards Banquet

Top awards were presented to (from left) Bradley Smith, music; Jeff Luther, academic achievement; Juan Lawton, best athlete; Tom Higginbotham, leadership; David Olton, agriculture; and Grady Crunkelton, resident director's trophy for exemplifying the ideals of the Ranch.

Sorry, Mr. Strauss, your Levi Jeans were temporarily out of style when the Boys Ranch held its Seventh Annual Awards Banquet, May 28, 1980. For this one special night all of the Ranchers were so sharped up in suits and sport coats and dress slacks, they looked like 90 bridegrooms headed for a mass wedding.

The Ranch Cafetorium was some kind of decked out too! A lot of folks had worked a lot of hours hauling in plants, making up decorative signs, hanging banners and putting greenery on the tables. What a sight it was to see our boys sitting at linen covered tables and using their best manners, while staff members doubling as waiters gave them super service!

It seemed like — well, hey! it really was a very special occasion. This annual awards banquet is the one time in the year when we honor our graduating seniors and hand out trophies to a lot of hard-working achievers. Good athletes, good leaders and good students are in the limelight, but we also spread our trophies around in such a way that almost any boy can get an award if he tries hard enough.

We gave out 32 trophies that night. Some of them went to boys for having the “best rooms,” and that’s important, because neat, well-kept rooms cut down on cottage maintenance and repairs, and also build up morale. Others went to boys who excelled in arts, crafts, farm work, music, sports, school attendance, self-confidence, being considerate, sartorial splendor, leadership and working.

So you see, Mr. Strauss, this awards banquet was worth getting dressed up for — especially since there was home-made apple pie for dessert.

And don’t fret. All the guys resumed wearing jeans (Levis and other brands we won’t mention) the day after the banquet.
Staff member Bruce Goff presented the "Special Activities" trophy to Jay Raulerson.

Special entertainment included a duet by Dennis and Danny Carpenter.

Henry Rauch was chosen the "Most Considerate," and Chaplain Art Carter presented the trophy.

"Most Improved Academically" trophy was presented to Billy Ismer by Staff Member Stan Kuyrkendall.

Gifts were presented to two of our graduating high school seniors by Jim Strayer (left), Vice President of Youth Services for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund; and Fred (Mac) Stones, Resident Director of the Boys Ranch. The seniors are Jeff Miller (whose crutches are a reminder of his recent softball accident), and Mike Fawbush. Four additional graduates received gifts but were unable to attend the awards banquet. They are Greg Barnes, Tom Mardis, Johnny Blount and Todd Zipperer.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS

YOUTH FUND IS...

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

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

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

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

GIRLS VILLA IS... a similar institution for needy and worthy girls located near Bartow, Florida. It was founded in 1970. The first buildings were completed in July, 1972, and the first girls were admitted in August, 1972. Current enrollment is 24 girls.

Mailing address and phone number for the Boys Ranch, Girls Villa and Youth Ranch are the same as for the Youth Fund.

YOUTH RANCH IS... the newest group child care facility sponsored by the Florida Sheriffs Association. It was founded in 1976, and is located near Clearwater, Florida. The first youngsters were admitted in August, 1978. The Youth Ranch provides a homelike environment for brothers and sisters who are dependent, neglected or homeless.

Mailing address and phone number same as Youth Fund.
The View from the Villa:

Jim Grazier, Supervisor of Recreation, presented a plaque to Karen McConkey honoring her as the outstanding athlete.

Ginny Akers and Tracie Tierney were tied for the arts and crafts award. Each received a plaque from Grazier.

Awards Banquet would have freaked out a talent scout

BARTOW — Hey there talent scout! What are you looking for — a girl with brains, one with musical talent, a lass with athletic ability, artistic flair, congeniality? We have all that and more at the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa.

How about a girl who is neat and tidy, a good homemaker? Or, would you prefer the executive type? We can also recommend a girl who has the best qualities of a good leader.

There’s something about the Girls Villa that brings out a girl’s best talents. Staff members work hard 364 days out of every year trying to help every girl attain her highest potential. And then they set aside one day for the Annual Awards Banquet — a time when they can sit back and savor the results of their labors.

This year’s Awards Banquet was held on June 4. It gave special recognition to girls in many different categories, and it was also a farewell party for two girls who have graduated from high school and are leaving the Villa.

We are really going to miss Jenny Delamarter and Alisa Smith, but we also know that those two girls will certainly find success in the outside world. Alisa received our Leadership Award at the awards banquet, and Jenny received our Community Involvement Award — mostly for assisting with the Bartow Youth Fair.

We are printing pictures of some of our award-winning girls. There isn’t room to show pictures of all of them, but it’s quite a parade of talent, nevertheless. So, eat your heart out, talent scout. You should have been there when we held our awards banquet.
President’s Perspective

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

We lost a friend recently. His name was Johnny, and he died at the age of 33, quietly and peacefully, at home, with his parents by his side.

It was not a long life by modern standards, but Johnny lived every year of it to the fullest measure of his capacity. He was a caring and generous person. That is how we came to know him.

Johnny was a supporter of the Boys Ranch and a dues-paying Honorary Member of the Florida Sheriffs Association. When he died, we received many generous gifts in his memory, from his friends, and he had many friends.

Johnny did volunteer work in a community hospital for more than ten years and, just prior to his final illness, he was helping to teach retarded children in an exceptional education center for the mentally retarded by operating a teaching machine.

All of this seems commendable, but hardly remarkable until you know that Johnny, himself, was mentally retarded.

Good Friend Gone

When former Osceola County Sheriff’s Department Captain Fred Littlefield died on July 22, 1980, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Boys Ranch, Girls Villa and Youth Ranch lost a good and faithful friend.

Over a span of more than 20 years this quiet, unassuming, kindly man gave his time and talents to the Florida Sheriffs Association’s child care institutions in a variety of ways. He was effective as a fund raiser and good will ambassador. He sent Christmas and birthday gifts to many of our youngsters, and gave them fatherly advice when they had problems.

In 1978 the Boys Ranch Alumni Association gave Fred Littlefield its annual “Our Friend” award. Shortly thereafter the Florida Sheriffs Association honored him by appointing him to the Board of Directors of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund.

However, the highest and most fitting accolade was bestowed upon Fred Littlefield at his last rites, in Kissimmee, July 25, when the Rev. Harold C. Epperson, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, described him as truly “a good man.”

He was born retarded, but he rose above the handicap to become a somewhat prominent citizen in his community. That he was able to do this is a testimony to his own character, courage, and determination, but it also testifies to two wonderful parents who saw Johnny as a “special” son, rather than as a mentally retarded one. He never had to wear that label even though he knew that he was different.

When Johnny was old enough to start to school, there were no classes for children like him in the community. His parents had to go out and fight for his right to be educated, and they did. They confronted school officials, spoke to civic clubs, raised money, and eventually established a class for special children. With the coming of special education in the public school system, the class started by Johnny’s parents evolved to other purposes and has become a training center operated by the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC).

Although “The Rancher” magazine is normally reserved for pictures and articles about our Youth Fund programs and our children at the Boys Ranch, Girls Villa, and Youth Ranch, we chose to tell you about our friend, Johnny, because we think that his story is relative to our own Youth Fund philosophy.

Johnny was, indeed, a very special person, but his life and accomplishments, in spite of a serious handicap, also say a great deal about the benefits of a good home and loving parents ... things that we want for all of our children.

Johnny always sympathized with our youngsters at the Boys Ranch, because they didn’t share the blessings that he had.

We find something very profound in that ...........

The Boys Ranch Alumni Association presented its annual “Our Friend” award to Fred Littlefield in 1978. The presentation was made by former Rancher Wally Edwards (right).
Bygone days were recalled by Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund President Harry Weaver and former Rancher Wally Edwards. With them is Wally's wife, Joyce, and son, Clint. Weaver was in charge of the Ranch when Wally was a Rancher more than 15 years ago.

Aging alumni proved they still had plenty of pizazz by winning the traditional Ranchers vs. Alumni volleyball game.

Former Ranchers return for Annual Alumni Reunion

A lot of old memories and tall stories were dusted off at the Boys Ranch during the weekend of May 23-25 when former Ranchers and staff members returned for the annual Alumni Reunion.

The former Ranchers, many of them accompanied by wives and children, toured new facilities that have been completed since the last reunion, presented their “Our Friend Award” to Jim and Betty Strayer (see details in award article), competed with current Ranchers in various athletic contests, elected officers, attended a disco party and wound up the weekend with a worship service in the Ranch chapel.

Officers elected for the coming year were Albert Williams, President; Jim Barnhart, First Vice President; Tommy Bishop, Second Vice President; Vivian Starling, Secretary; and Patty Bues, Treasurer.

Named as board members were Danny Linkroum, Wally Edwards (Chairman), Tommy Williams, Leonard Russek, Jim Strayer and Bobby Malone.

The Strayers were “always there when a Rancher was in trouble”

Boys who were graduated from the Boys Ranch in the 1960s and ’70s packed their clothes, old baseball gloves, photographs, pennants, posters and all the odd mishmash of things boys normally treasure, then headed out into the world.

Many of them also carried along a mental note to “call Mom and Pop Strayer if you need help or someone to talk to.” This was a valuable piece of mental baggage, and it paid off in many ways. As years passed, calls came to Jim and Betty Strayer frequently, and the Strayers responded on their own time and at their own expense.

They floated small loans that weren’t always repaid, helped unemployed young men find jobs, tried to patch up broken marriages, spent long hours counseling former Ranchers who were in serious trouble, as well as those who simply needed someone to talk to. They also

Jim and Betty Strayer with their “Our Friend Award” plaque.
He gave us a fit, more or less, but now

our Jeff is a Big Success

"This kid has got to go," distraught staff members told Boys Ranch Executive Director Harry Weaver in 1974. They just couldn't cope with Jeff Miller, a 12-year-old orphan who had arrived at the Ranch a few months earlier. Jeff's hot temper, his hostility, and his assortment of serious emotional problems were driving him up the wall. They were ready to give up, but Weaver wasn't. Neither was Maxine Bullard, Jeff's cottage mother.

"For two years I struggled with that boy," Mrs. Bullard recalled recently, "but I didn't give up."

Mrs. Bullard said she tried everything she could think of — long nightly talks, isolating Jeff from the other boys as much as possible, taking Jeff to the gymnasium so he could work off his hostility by hitting a punching bag.

Jeff had more problems than any boy Mrs. Bullard had ever encountered, but she refused to admit defeat. She continued to practice her own special brand of what she now laughingly calls "behavior modification," and finally Jeff's behavior began to modify.

FALL, 1980
agricultural skills.

After the Boys Ranch developed a flying scholarship program in 1978, Jeff signed up for flying lessons. He soloed without difficulty and was within five hours of getting his private pilot's license when he broke his leg in a softball accident and was temporarily grounded. The cast is off his leg now, and he plans to continue his flying lessons as soon as possible.

After Jeff was graduated from Suwannee High School this year, he made such a good impression on Lions Club members from the local district that they awarded him a six-week cultural exchange trip to Finland. He's in Finland living with Lions Club members and their families as this article is being written, and he expects to return in time to enroll at Tallahassee Community College.

Jeff's long-range plans are to eventually study computer science at Florida State University, and to become a systems analyst for some big company like IBM. He has a burning interest in computers that flared up during his senior year at Suwannee High School while he was watching technicians install computer terminals. He was fascinated to discover that the terminals were connected to a Florida State University computer located some 90 miles away, and that this far removed computer was going to be used to teach basic math skills to Suwannee High School students.

Jeff bombarded the computer technicians with questions, and instead of treating him as a pest, they gave him detailed, patient answers. School officials also encouraged him by allowing him to communicate with the university computer, and by permitting him to pursue independent study in computer science.

Jeff's messages to the computer center were frequently answered by a consultant named Jeff Bauer, who quickly discovered he was dealing with a very interested young man, motivated by strong determination. The two Jeffs became friends, and Bauer stimulated his disciple's interest by giving him assignments and grading him. Soon Jeff was designing his own programs, and as he progressed deeper and deeper into the mysteries of computer science, he became thoroughly hooked. He dug into his savings to buy a minicomputer, quickly mastered it, and then began building up his savings again so he could have it upgraded to a more sophisticated level.

This is the new Jeff Miller. He's a well-adjusted achiever now, preparing to go out into the world on his own, and Boys Ranch officials are laying heavy odds that he will succeed.

If he does, no one will be happier than Maxine Bullard. "Not another boy on the Ranch deserves more than Jeff," she said recently. "I am really proud of him. I know what he has gone through, and how hard it has been for him to change."

Mrs. Bullard also knows how mature Jeff has become. When her son died two years ago and when her husband died in November, 1979, she switched roles with Jeff, and he consoled and comforted her. "He was there to lean on when I needed him," she said. "I'm as close to him as I was to my own son."

In years to come, the Jeff Miller story will be told and retold as one of the truly great Boys Ranch success stories. Future generations will know precisely how the Boys Ranch feels about Jeff, but how does Jeff feel about the Boys Ranch?

"It would have been nicer to have had my own family," he said recently as he was preparing to go to Finland, "but the Ranch has turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to me. Without the Ranch, I don't know where I'd be."
The Memorial Fund donations for this listing were received by the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund between April 24, 1980, and July 30, 1980.

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

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

Address inquiries to:
Harry K. Weaver, President
Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Inc.
Boys Ranch, Florida 32060

Please send literature about:
- Wills
- Effective Giving
- Giving Stocks
- Giving through life insurance

New Ranch Cottage to be Dedicated

The dedication of a new residence cottage will be one of the highlights of the 23rd Anniversary celebration at the Boys Ranch October 3, 4 and 5, and, of course, the public is invited.

Hauer Cottage will be dedicated Sunday morning following the outdoor worship service at the horse show arena. The new building will house 12 boys and their group parents.

Although the horse show does not go back 23 years, it has become a tradition and attracts riders from much of north Florida for the events on Saturday and Sunday.

A cook-out on the banks of the Suwannee River is also a long-standing tradition for the noon meal on Saturday. After the food is served, all Ranch buildings are open for inspection by the public.

TELEPHONE YOUR GIFT

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

HELP WANTED

If you are getting two copies of this publication, you can help us reduce our printing and mailing costs. Simply send us both labels. (If you don't want to cut up your magazines, just copy down the exact information from each label.) Mail both labels to Circulation, THE RANCHER, Boys Ranch, Florida, 32060. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

FACTS ABOUT OUR FINANCES

Copies of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1978-79 are available for the asking. Address your request to Harry Weaver, President, Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Boys Ranch, Florida, 32060.

Now you can give and receive income

Gift annuities paying up to 12 per cent annually — depending upon your age — are now available from the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Inc. For more information on how to receive a guaranteed income for life and a significant tax deduction, simply complete this coupon and mail it in the convenient, postage-paid envelope found elsewhere in this issue.

NEW ADDRESS?

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

Circulation Dept.
THE RANCHER
Boys Ranch, Fla. 32060

In this space, please attach your RANCHER mailing label with the old address and fill in the new address above. Also do the same with name changes and corrections.
Instructor Dale O'Conner explains the next "emergency" to Mark Zipperer, Mike Law and Ray Moyer, while Boys Ranch Recreation Supervisor Joe Macera stands by to keep score.

Final Exams Were Tough

Ranchers enrolled in a Red Cross Senior Life Saving Course were trying to pass their final exams when these pictures were taken at the Boys Ranch swimming pool. They wanted to qualify as lifeguards, but first they had to prove to Instructor Dale O'Conner that they could rescue panic-stricken, unconscious and belligerent swimmers. Mrs. O'Conner and her husband, Bill, posed as potential drowning victims, and although the emergencies were faked, the O'Conners put on such a realistic show that the Ranchers were hard pressed to tow them to safety. It was a strenuous workout, too, for the O'Conners, who donated their services.