

SSS.000792

Chaplain,
New Mexico Boys' School

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the following

FOLIO #1

is being submitted for Your Excellency's attention regarding

La Hacienda de Los Muchachos

A YOUTH PROJECT

proposed by

Father Ed

March 14, 1965

The boy who is afraid may be checked,
but never corrected.

SERVANTS -6182

NEED:

After six and one-half years experience working with so-called "juvenile delinquents" it appears to me that there is a great need for another type of institution, something along the lines of a Boys' Ranch. At the New Mexico Boys' School we have had hundreds of boys who are sent here simply because there was no other place for them to go - not that they were so anti-social in their behavior, but mostly because the judge or community wanted them out of the way and for lack of a better place they were sent to the New Mexico Boys' School.

We have boys here and hundreds of other boys in and around the state that need to be put in some sort of situation where they will be taught the spiritual and social values of society before they become delinquent. When some of these boys are committed to the Boys' School we find that many of them learn, while here, more anti-social behavior than social behavior.

In talking to those in charge of Boys' Ranch type of institutions in various parts of the country I was informed by one that each year they turn away approximately 3,000 applications; and by another that for every 50 applications that they receive, they can only take approximately one boy.

It is not thought that such a Boys' Ranch would take away the necessity of the New Mexico Boys' School - would that it could - but that it would help provide a place for boys who are committed, who should not have been committed, or for ones having been committed and do not have the proper place to return.

Most institutions of this sort that I have visited do not and will not take a boy once he has been in a correctional institution - I do not intend to make any such regulation.

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BOYS:

The Boys' Ranch would be a home and school for homeless, neglected, underprivileged and rejected boys regardless of their race, creed, or color.

The ranch would be primarily habilitative, but rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents would not necessarily be ruled out.

The minimum age for acceptance (at the outset) would be a ten year old boy of average ability and intelligence and the maximum age would be sixteen. Seldom would a boy older than sixteen be accepted. It has been my experience, and that of others in this work, that once a boy has reached sixteen years of age that he is no longer interested in changing his way of life. Also a boy over sixteen would usually expect privileges which could not be granted. It is thought, that to do a boy any real good, he would have to be at the ranch at least two years.

Wants
only
boys 10-16

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PROGRAMING:

The general theme of the ranch would be based on the Spanish culture. This is not meant to mean that the boys would not be capable of taking their place in an English speaking society, but would be more capable of taking a higher place because of being trained in both cultures.

While studying at New Mexico Highlands University I recall very distinctly one of the professors making the comment that the Spanish-American people were unique in the fact that they were illiterate in two languages. From talking to teachers of various languages and from comments made by professors at the seminary, it seems that if a person knows one language naturally well it is easy for that person to learn others. Also, it seems to me that the majority of boys would be of Spanish-American heritage due to the location of the ranch.

The program, of necessity, would have to develop as the ranch does. To begin with, most of the work would be around animals: the reason for this being that a start of a swine herd, sheep flock, and cattle herd is already on hand.

As the ranch increased in size then, of course, the type of activities would also increase in the direction of trades.

It is felt that a start of about five or six boys, preferably those who already know me, either because they are at the New Mexico Boys' School or have been at the New Mexico Boys' School would be a proper start. This group of boys would be a unit for approximately six months. During the next six months it is felt that the amount of boys would double and then depending on funds, etc. it would double itself each year. At no time do I think, regardless of the success of such a project, that the number of boys should exceed five hundred.

Because - without God's help we cannot do anything --- attendance would be required of all boys, both catholic and non-catholic, at periodic religious services for their own faith. It is known that the liturgical year and Spanish n d harmonize very nicely in making the reli = catholic boys.

*Wanted
500 boys
eventually at
the Ranch*

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STAFFING:

The cottages would be set up to hold approximately 25 boys. In each cottage there would be two staff living apartment units. It is known that the pattern set by God cannot be improved on, and so it is desired to have a married couple to be responsible for each cottage and they would live in one of the apartments. The other apartment would be to house staff who are not directly connected with the cottage life but are employed elsewhere on the ranch, i.e., maintenance, shop, school, etc. Some of the similiar institutions throughout the country use only male personnel, but after visiting a few of these institutions and after visiting some that have the husband and wife combination, and because of my own personal experience with youth, it is known that the more natural setting that can be had is the one that produces better results.

LOCATION:

Naturally, the Boys' Ranch would be located within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Santa Fé to which I belong. More particularly I would like it located in the northeastern part of the state. In reality, where I could receive a gift of land or an easy payment plan on land, would actually determine the location. It is felt that at least a section (640 acres) would be necessary.

Water would also play an important role in locating such a project as two hundred fifty gallons to three hundred gallons per day per boy would be required.

If possible, a terrain where all is not flat, where there are mesas or some mountains is preferred as such a terrain by its nature is more conducive to habilitation.

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ADMINISTRATION:

The ranch would be administered by a board of directors, with the Archbishop of Santa Fé as chairman, ex officio.

It would be set up as a non-profit organization and incorporated under the laws of the State of New Mexico.

At the outset, it is deemed prudent that the board of directors be chosen from the area near the location site. As the members of the board increased, the original board would be used as an advisory committee because of their availability.

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FINANCING:

The way that such a project would be financed is both by begging, in the strict sense of the word, and by solicitation. The boys would NEVER be used for begging.

At present I do not know the legal procedure for begging, but I intend to find out. In talking to various people in various states and in various walks of life, it seems there is a good deal of interest among people who would be willing to support such a project. I am well aware that there is quite a distance between a persons intentions along these lines and the carrying out of such intentions, but I am willing to do the work that is necessary.

Also, at present, there are a few Federal Programs that are designed to help such institutions WITHOUT the usual federal interference - with federal help lessening each year as other means of support are established.

I am not interested in any federal or state programs that would give them a voice in how the "Ranch" should be run (this would be up to the Ranch Board). The most successful institutions doing this work, that I know of, do not use state or federal help because of the interference that goes along with it.

*No interest
in federal or
state cooperation*