

BOYS TOWN

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXXI No. 1

Father Flanagan's Boys' Home, Boys Town, Nebraska 68010

SPRING 1992

Swimming Scholarships Were Just the Beginning Rhudys' Careers Began with a Splash

On Sept. 4, 1956, the Rev. Reynolds W. Greene Jr. bought lunch for three young brothers and, with a few comforting words, tried to prepare them for a new life.

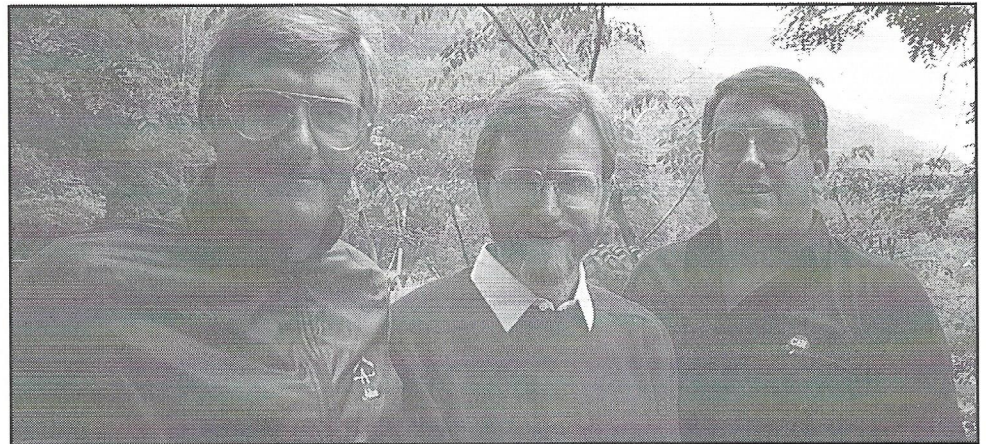
"No matter what happens," Greene said, "God has a purpose for you, and you're going to be great men some day."

Greene, the boys' pastor and longtime family friend, told **Albert "Bo" Rhudy, '60, Jim Rhudy, '62, and Ed Rhudy, '61,** he loved them, said goodbye and, acting upon the order of an Augusta, Ga., court, put the boys on a Greyhound bus bound for Boys Town.

"We sat in the back of the bus not knowing where we were going or what we were getting into," said Bo. "We were scared to death."

Two days later, the boys arrived in Omaha. A counselor from the Home met them at the bus station, piled them into the car and drove west on Dodge street toward Boys Town. "We just sat quietly in the back seat of the car looking out of the windows," said Bo. "The water tower above Boys Town was the first thing we saw of our new home."

While settling into their new environment,



From left: Albert "Bo", Ed and Jim Rhudy in 1988, 28 years after winning the state swimming championship for Boys Town in the 200-yard relay.

the boys began the orientation process. They quickly learned there was no such thing as an idle hand at Boys Town. Counselors told them they would either have to participate in athletics or spend their free time doing chores. The choice was easy.

"For three country boys from Georgia, the indoor swimming pool was really somethin'," said Jim. "It's not that we didn't know how to swim, we just never swam indoors before."

The three boys took to the water like ducks and decided swimming was the sport for them, even though the coach, Jim O'Brien, didn't think they had a chance of making the team.

O'Brien didn't know how determined the boys could be. Not only did they make the swim team, but in 1960, they found themselves representing Boys Town at the state championships.

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Former Mayors Reminisce

Boys Town's former mayors were asked to write a few words about how the Home has influenced their lives, and to whom they are especially grateful. Following are excerpts from several former mayors' responses:

"Father Flanagan's Boys' Home gave me a chance to improve my life by giving me a home and a Catholic education. It gave me a chance to assume responsibilities and to take part in activities that were important to the Home and to everyday living.

"My education and training at Father Flanagan's Boys' Home enabled me to obtain

a position with the FBI for five years. Father Flanagan offered me a position in 1946, and I accepted his offer. I worked at Boys Town for 35 years, and retired on April 7, 1982.

"I am grateful to many who were at Father Flanagan's Boys' Home during my nine years as a student. I'm grateful to the nuns, lay teachers, students and the staff. Most of all, I am grateful to Father Flanagan — 'The Best in the Business.'"

— Lawrence W. Kennedy, '37
Omaha, Nebraska

(Continued on Page 5)



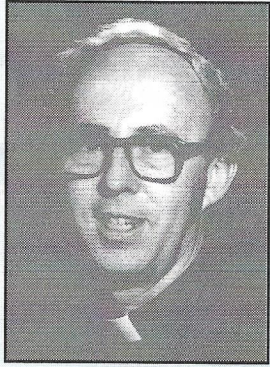
Big Bird is made an honorary citizen of Boys Town by the children of Wegner school. The event took place at a January 21 Sesame Street Live performance in Omaha.

Father Peter's Letter

Easter Joy More Than Absence of Suffering

Dear Alumni,

An alumnus who graduated from Boys Town in the 1950s wrote to me the other day. He said, "Why do you keep describing the



boys and girls at Boys Town as troubled? Don't kids come to Boys Town without troubles? They sure did in my day."

Every boy and girl at Boys Town today is on the road of suffering. There are no exceptions. They have troubles in their lives. According to this alumnus, it was different for him and some of his classmates in the 1950s.

This is Holy Week, and it is time to think of all the kids who are at Boys Town. They are on the way of the cross. They don't have

any choice. There is no other road for them to travel. How I wish that were not the case. But if we carry our cross after the good Lord Jesus, working through our sufferings and troubles, then we will come to Easter and to newness of life.

That is the key to Boys Town. Boys Town is a place of healing and hope. And I am so proud of our boys and girls who are on the way of the cross. They don't have the luxury that so many other boys and girls today do, to sit on the hillside and watch the Roman guards leading Jesus up to Calvary. Our kids are following after Him. And, of course, God willing, they will enjoy Easter with new life, with new hope, and with resurrection.

Are they embarrassed that they are on the road of the cross? Not really. Are they ashamed to be called troubled? Not really. Others may be, but they aren't. You know why? Because healing is coming their way. We are mighty proud of these kids and I hope they are a good example to you, to each one of our alumni, to look at your life during this Holy Week and take this opportunity to follow the

way of the Lord as He wants you to.

There is no Easter Sunday without a Good Friday. Easter joy is not the absence of suffering, it is suffering that has been worked through.

I pray for each and every alumnus, especially during this Holy Week. Please walk the way of the cross with the Lord Jesus. Please put your life and your sufferings and your troubles in the hands of God, your Heavenly Father, just as Jesus did. He will give you the strength to do so. And may Easter be a season of enormous joy and healing for you as well.

God bless you now and always.

Sincerely yours,

Father Val J. Peter, JCD, STD
Executive Director

Expansion Moves Forward

Boys Town Brings Hope to Nation's Capital

At a January 23, 1992, news conference in Washington, D.C., Father Peter and Washington, D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly announced the District of Columbia will be site of the next Boys Town USA. The site for a short-term residential care center is being sought, and either Treatment Foster Care or Home-Based Crisis Intervention Services are being planned.

The news conference was held at the Russell Senate Office Building and was attended by numerous dignitaries and public officials, including U.S. Sens. Jim Exon, D-Neb., Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and U.S. Reps. Peter Hoagland, D-Neb., and Bill Barrett, R-Neb.

Letters of congratulations were sent by President Bush and many others who were unable to attend.

Additionally, **Monsignor Joseph W. Ariano, '40**, has been appointed liaison for Boys Town USA in the District of Columbia.



Washington D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly welcomes Boys Town to the nation's capital at a January news conference at the Russell Senate Office Building. Seated at left are U.S. Sen. Jim Exon, (D-Neb.) and Father Peter.

Spiritual Advice Straight From the Heart

The boys and girls of Boys Town, as part of a school assignment, were asked to offer some tips on spiritual growth that would be helpful during this special Easter season. The question they were asked: **'If someone asked you for advice about how to get closer to God, what would you tell them?'** The following are samples of their answers.

"For a while, I didn't believe in God because of all my problems. I found out it was people who were hurting me, not God."

Louie, Age 15

"When I was at the lowest point in my life, I remembered when I was a little girl and going to church and how happy I used to be there. So, I turned back to God.

Plus, when I came here it helped me to get

close to others by letting some feelings out and help me find myself and who I was."

Colleen, 16

"I like to ride my bike to someplace alone and just notice the neat things around me. Today is one of the beautiful days of the year. And I thank Him for that. I get closer to God by knowing He made it."

Willy, 14

"I think love has a lot to do with becoming closer to someone. Try to center yourself. Take a hard look at what you are doing. See what you do that is good. Just because your mom says you are no good doesn't make it so."

John, 16

"I really don't know because I am trying to get closer to God myself. But what you

could try to do is what I do; pray, talk to people about it, and ask a lot of questions."

Michelle, 16

"I have to think God put me here at Boys Town for a reason. So, I need to get close to Him to figure out why."

Eddie, 15

"I had an accident about three years ago, and my life wasn't too good. If God brought me back and I didn't die, it was for something because He wants me to succeed and He and I think life is worth it. I really enjoy life. I really want to do my best."

Ted, 15

"It doesn't help you to just sit around just waiting. You should find religious leaders to guide you. If you feel you can't get closer to our Lord, ask for guidance."

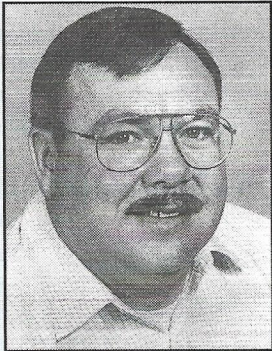
Clarrisa, 15

President's Letter

Sharing Experiences Link Alumni Worldwide

Dear Brother and Sister Alumni,

A few months ago, I was officiating a youth basketball game in Kansas City, Mo. Just before the game was supposed to start, the guy keeping the score book looked up at me. He gave me one of those "Man, I know you," looks. He



jumped out from behind the scorer's table and got right in my face.

"You're...you're..." he said, waving his finger in my face, sort of asking and telling me at the same time. Then it hit me who he was, and I blurted out, "You're Fernando Howard, and I'm Bill Bagley."

We shook hands and embraced sort of awkwardly. "Man, I ain't seen you since Boys Town. How you doing? How's your brother, Charlie?" he asked.

Meanwhile, the crowd was wondering what on earth was going on. So we told them we went to Boys Town together years ago. It was some sort of "Kodak moment."

After the game, in which his son played, we talked and exchanged addresses. He's doing well and has lived in Kansas City since leaving Boys Town.

While I was in a mall this past Christmas, a guy came up to me and asked if I was Bill Bagley. It turned out that he and I worked together on the farm at Boys Town.

I was at a free concert last summer at Crown Center in downtown Kansas City. I was wearing a Boys Town t-shirt, and a guy came up and asked if I really went there. He was at Boys Town in the early 1960s.

My favorite true story occurred when I was in the Marine Corps. I was refereeing a volleyball game on an Air Force base in Okinawa, Japan. On one team was an Oriental guy who looked really familiar to me. It turned out that he and I had shared a room in Cottage 34 in 1970.

The point of these true stories is that, believe it or not, it's a small world out there. At every convention, I've exchanged stories

just like them. All around the world, Boys Town alumni are running into each other.

I know there are a bunch of other TRUE stories out there, just like the ones I've told you. I'd like you to take a minute or two to write them down and send them to Moe Szynskie at the Alumni Office.

If we get some in, we can print them and share them with the rest of our alumni readers. We would like to hear from you about the significant events in your life - Marriage, births, etc. —the things that your friends want to hear about. This newsletter can serve that purpose, but you've gotta let us know.

My calendar says it's a little more than a year until the next convention. Will you be there? I hope so. And bring along a Boys Town classmate or friend who hasn't been "Home" in a while. Plan now, and salt a little money away for the "trip down memory lane."

See you there!

Bill Bagley

Bill Bagley
Alumni President

Birthday

Al Witcofski, '28, celebrated his 80th birthday February 1, with about 250 of his friends at a party at the Boys Town Great Hall.

Except for an eight-month period, Witcofski has lived and worked at Boys Town since he first arrived in the fall of 1919.

Over the years, he has performed a variety of tasks at the Home, including shoveling coal in the boiler room, serving as a projec-



Witcofski is honored for his bowling prowess during his birthday party at the Great Hall.

tionist for Sunday movies, butchering beef and picking up mail from the downtown Omaha Post Office and delivering it to Boys Town.

In 1951, Witcofski began working in the garage, repairing furniture, equipment and vehicles.

He married his late wife, Mae, in 1938. Mae worked as a cook in the clinic at Boys Town for about 15 years. Witcofski has two sons, Ronald and Dennis.

KUDOS

Father Isaac True, '57, was appointed business manager of Conception Abbey/Seminary College, Conception, Mo., effective January 1, 1992. Father True holds degrees from Conception Seminary College and Catholic University of America, and a doctorate in philosophy from St. Louis University. He celebrated the 25th anniversary of his priesthood in 1991 at a Mass at Boys Town.

Former National Alumni Association President Lt. Col. Andrew C. Olivo, '66, an officer assigned to the 807th Medical Brigade, was recently awarded the Army Commendation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal for his participation in Operation Desert Storm. Olivo, a Staff Judge Advocate Officer, serves as a reservist for the 807th in Seagoville, Texas. He was called to active duty in January 1991, and remained on active status until September. During Desert Storm, Olivo traveled to mobilized units, spending countless hours to render legal assistance to more than 3,000 mobilized soldiers and their families.

Geno Venegas, '91, a freshman student studying to be a physician's assistant at Central Community College-Platte Campus (Columbus, Neb.), is also a teacher. Campus President Pete Rush learned that Venegas was bilingual and asked him to fill a position as an instructor in the school's Spanish lab. He has been teaching Spanish for the last two semesters.

Annual Dues Notice

All National Alumni Association members who have not already sent in their \$15 1992 dues are urged to do so immediately.

Because the Association has ongoing financial commitments, it is necessary for all members to pay their dues in a timely manner. Please send your payment today to Moe Szynskie, Alumni Director, Boys Town, NE 68010.

Or, you can become lifetime members by using the following method of paying dues: one payment of \$200; two payments of \$100 (semi-annually); four payments of \$50 (quarterly); or 10 payments of \$20 (for ten months).

From the Auxiliary

Can you believe it is already 1992? Early planning is already taking place for the next convention. Jo Marshall is working on the grand prize for the raffle the auxiliary will sponsor during the convention. If any of you would like to donate any items for the raffle, please let your officers know. We will continue working on this project throughout the year and hope to have advance raffle tickets out before the convention.

One other item of business for you to think about is nominations for an honorary national auxiliary president. We did not bestow this honor last convention, but I think it's a great way for us to show appreciation to a woman who has helped Boys Town or its alumni in some way. If you have an idea for a nominee, please let me know.

Our checking account is now located at the Boys Town Credit Union. It was a very interesting experience getting it changed. I've saved correspondence with the previous bank to share with you at the convention. We are still trying to get special membership cards made for those members who have paid for lifetime memberships. Early samples were not acceptable.

Don't forget that dues are \$5 per year or \$40 for a lifetime membership. You may send them to Marion Waser, Treasurer, 1430 S. 58th Ave., Cicero, IL 60650.

Sincerely,

Rita Berthelsen
National Auxiliary President

1992 Boys Town Event Schedule

July

- 4 Village Independence Celebration.
- 13 Archbishop celebrates Solemn Mass at Dowd Chapel.

August

- 4 Last day of Summer School.
- 20 First day of school. Ecumenical service, Dowd Chapel, 2:15 p.m.

September

- 6 Fall Family Picnic. Boys Town students' meals compliments of Omaha Alumni Chapter.
- 19 Boys Town Special Olympics.
- 24 Art Linkletter receives Father Flanagan Award in Los Angeles.

October

- 4 Boys Town Open House.

November

- 1 All Saints Day.
- 25 Thanksgiving Mass, Dowd Chapel, 2:15 p.m.

December

- 6 Lighting of the Boys Town Christmas Tree.
- 9 Public concert at the Boys Town Music Hall, 2 p.m.
- 11 Employee Christmas Banquet.
- 12 Boys Town's 75th Birthday.
- 18 Christmas Mass, Dowd Chapel, 2:15 p.m.

Boys Town Evokes Fond Memories for Former Mayors

(Continued from Page 1)

“When I went to Boys Town, I was a very mixed up youngster — confused in so many ways. Boys Town gave me the freedom to allow my confusion to vent itself so I could gain an element of maturity. The path to maturity has been long. I doubt if I’m even anywhere near it yet.

“I am especially grateful to the good sisters at Boys Town. I never really knew a mother of my own. They sort of became a mother substitute for me, especially Sisters Electa and Bertille...”

— **Joseph A. Schrantz, '47**
Villa Park, Illinois

“When I was growing up at Boys Town, we were given an *esprit de corps* — a pride in ourselves. We were good. We had success in about every venture we got into. I never had the idea that I was some kind of troubled youth. I felt superior and I felt sorry for the people who never got a chance to experience this place like I did.

“... You can’t downplay the significance of the role Boys Town plays in your life, and not

feel like you’ve got to give something back, somehow.

“I think Boys Town does more good than any organization I’ve ever heard of or encountered when it comes to kids. And the more we can grow and the more we can pass this thing out to more kids all over the country, the better off we’re going to be.

“It’s a mythical home; it’s the place you have a great deal of loyalty and feeling for. This is a place where there are a lot of fantastic memories, and nothing but warmth.

“...I think Skip Palrang had the greatest influence on me, instilling ‘stick-to-it-ness,’ pride in accomplishment, and a no-quitting attitude.”

— **William Maddux, '53**
Chicago, Illinois

“Boys Town made me what I am today and I owe the people there more than I could ever put into words. They gave me love, stability, structure and a sense of family that I had never really known before. More importantly, they gave me my spiritual sense.

“...During my stay at Boys Town, I watched as other students, often more troubled than I,

also underwent dramatic changes as a result of the positive, nurturing atmosphere at Boys Town.

“I consider the greatest successes that I have achieved in my life to be non-material successes. I have chosen a helping profession as my career. I am an investigator who works with troubled youth — juvenile offenders.

“At Boys Town, I began to first realize my responsibility to the Supreme Being and to my fellow man. I was taught to respect the rights of all people because they are all God’s children, no matter how troubled or down-trodden they might be.

“When it came time for me to graduate from high school and leave my friends and the supportive Boys Town staff, I was asked to write a few paragraphs for “The Boys Town Times.” The words that I wrote that day represent the philosophy I learned while I was at Boys Town, and which I continue to live by, even today. I now close with those words: ‘I am not afraid of tomorrow, for I have seen yesterday, and I love today.’”

— **Kenneth Suddeth, '66**
Columbus, Georgia

Home Helped Rhudy Brothers on Road to Success

(Continued from Page 1)

During the meet, the three brothers, along with **Lester Edwards, '62**, won a gold medal in the 200-yard freestyle relay competition. It was the first time since 1951, and only the second time in Boys Town swimming history, that three brothers have won gold medals at the state meet. Bo also took home an individual gold medal in the 200-yard freestyle event.

As a result of their swimming talents, all three boys were awarded scholarships to the University of New Mexico, where they would later earn degrees.

Being a part of the swim team helped make the transition to life at Boys Town easier for Bo and Jim. But for Ed, adapting wasn’t quite as easy.

“My brothers and I were very different from one another, and still are,” said Ed. “I fought the move to Boys Town very hard the first year. I didn’t want to move away from home, even though our family was in turmoil

much of the time.”

Concentrating on school work was difficult for Ed. “I almost flunked sixth grade,” he said, “but the teacher gave me another chance. By the end of the next year, I was among the top 10 in my class. I guess I just needed a chance to prove myself. And I’m very grateful to Boys Town for giving me that chance.”

Ed went right on proving himself at Boys Town, and later at the University of New Mexico, where he earned a doctorate degree. Today, he is a professor at David and Elkins College in Elkins, W.Va.

During his senior year at Boys Town, Jim was elected mayor. He then attended the University of New Mexico, and is currently corporate safety manager for Chicago Bridge and Iron Co., in Oakbrook, Ill.

“Boys Town was a big influence in my life because I took advantage of the many programs they offered,” said Jim. “There is an awful lot going on at Boys Town. And in order to learn and grow, you have to take advantage of what they have to offer.”

Bo, the oldest of the three brothers, is president and owner of Cambo Inc., a manufacturer’s representative agency that he founded in 1976. The company sells plastic interior car parts to Ford, General Motors, Chrysler and Honda.

“The lessons I learned while living at Boys Town have helped me throughout my entire life,” said Bo. “The most important of those lessons was discipline. The rigorous discipline at Boys Town taught me to stick to whatever it was I was doing. Boys Town pointed me in a direction and gave me a goal. The discipline helped me reach that goal.”

In 1956, Boys Town gave three country boys from Georgia a chance to prove themselves and play a role in the shaping of their own lives and future. They took full advantage of the opportunity and became the great men Greene predicted they would.

The path each of those boys followed is still open to the children of today’s Boys Town. The only barriers to success come from inside, said Bo. “If I can do it, you can do it.”

1930s

Victor "Little Jack" La Rosa, '36
7995 Telephone #11
Ventura, CA 93004

During his time at Boys Town, La Rosa didn't like the strict behavior requirements. But, he said, they proved very valuable later in life. He credits Father Flanagan with instilling steadfast values in him.

When he left Boys Town, La Rosa became a singer at the Barrel House restaurant in Omaha. He also worked as a singing waiter in an Omaha cafe. Eventually, he got a job as a clothing salesman, but continued singing in nightclubs.

La Rosa's 11 children are grown and no longer live at home, but he and his wife, Pat, enjoy providing a home for foster children on an emergency basis.

Today he is retired, and keeps busy with painting, drawing and caring for foster children.

1940s

Kenneth B. Dawkins Sr., '41
P.O. Box 263
Royalton, IL 62983

Dawkins said some of the memorable moments during his years at Boys Town were seeing movie stars, being selected for the high school varsity baseball team, helping to build some of the homes on campus and talking with Father Flanagan.

"Father Flanagan always had time to talk to you, for whatever reason," said Dawkins. "He was the finest man I've ever met."

Dawkins joined the Army after leaving Boys Town and eventually became an electrician. He enjoys being a handyman at his church. He was recently elected Post Commander for the Royalton (Ill.) VFW.

Glen E. Tharp, '42
P.O. Box 934
Umatilla, OR 92882

Tharp left Boys Town in 1942 and worked at a bomber plant before entering the Army Tank Corps.



"I'll never forget the closeness that I felt with Father Flanagan," said Tharp. "Father Flanagan was very close to us boys."

Alumni News

Tharp worked as a firefighter for the Riverside (Calif.) City Fire Department for 17 years.

Now retired, he enjoys playing golf and collecting stamps. He and his wife, Betty, have two children.

Ronald W. Philleaux, M.D., '48
10246 Midway Rd.
Dallas, TX 75229

After going to college and serving in the military, Philleaux went to medical school at the University of Texas.

"Great friendships and playing sports are what I remember most about Boys Town," said Philleaux.

In his spare time, he still enjoys sports and fishing. He eventually plans to retire to East Texas.

Philleaux has three children.

1950s

Kenneth Thomas, '56
P.O. Box 773
Sacaton, AZ 85247

"If it were possible for a person to relive a life, I think I would be back at Boys Town," Thomas said. "Boys Town will be in my heart as long as I live, for it is there I learned about love, Jesus and respecting others regardless of their color, national origin or religion."

Thomas worked for 10 years at the Indian Health Service Hospital as a certified emergency medical technician. He is now a lay minister at the Gila River Indian Reservation. "I am very proud and honored to be able to pass the good word," he said.

Thomas and his wife, Carmen, have been married for 19 years and have eight children.

Richard Kemper, '57
5307 Arrowood Loup, W.
Columbus, OH 43229

Kemper is an associate pastor of the Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio. He also works for the City of Columbus as a fiscal officer, supervising accounts payable.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my years at Boys Town," said Kemper. "I recall the importance

placed upon church attendance, good education and the totally integrated society of young men of every race and nationality."

Kemper also remembers varsity football coach Skip Palrang and traveling as a member of the football team. "Boys Town showed me a great deal of care and concern," said Kemper. "The people there gave me counseling, education and opportunity."

Kemper is now working towards a bachelor's degree in theology. "I was inspired by all those successful alumni who showed me that it could be done," he said.

Eugene Szymanski, '57
P.O. Box 1000
Milan, MI 48160

After leaving Boys Town, Szymanski attended various schools and colleges, including Western Michigan University. He is now a paralegal, and has his private investigator



diploma. He hopes to contract with a law firm for investigative and research services.

"My time at Boys Town was very exciting," Szymanski said. "It was an honor to live at Boys Town, and I was thrilled

to be there. I felt like I was walking on clouds. I'd get up and get ready for school and my heart would start beating faster and faster."

Szymanski said he loved the gym, the movie theater and the good food.

"It was absolutely the greatest time in my life," he said.

1960s

Rev. Floyd Lammersfeld, '60
508 W. Main
Gleason, TN 38229

After working for Western Electric, Lammersfeld became a professional singer in a rock band. For a while, he felt he was on a dead-end road that luckily ended in Gleason, Tenn. Now he is a Southern Baptist and a full-time Evangelistic Minister.



He remembers the consideration shown at Boys Town for everyone's needs. He said

Boys Town "would strive to find out what abilities you had in certain areas of your life and bring them out in you."

Lammersfeld and his wife, Carolyn, have been married for 27 years and have one daughter.

More Alumni News

George F. Reynolds, '62
2511 Corby Dr.
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Reynolds is a psychologist at Wabash Valley Hospital in West Lafayette, Ind. He and his wife of 17 years, Karen, have two daughters.



"When I first came to Boys Town as a grade school pupil," said Reynolds, "I went to the gym and laid on the floor on my back, shooting baskets. A counselor asked me if I could shoot standing up. That was my first lesson in basketball."

Reynolds' plans for the future include doing well in life and helping his fellow man.

Jay O'Connor, '66
604 E. Granite St.
Granite Falls, MN 56241

O'Connor said Boys Town "turned me into a man." After leaving Boys Town, he attended Southwest State college in Marshall, Minn.

He is now retired from ownership of a wholesale-retail milk business and raises and sells horses.

1970s

Dennis "Opie Lee" Buckman, '72
10624 IZARD St.
Omaha, NE 68114

After Buckman had been at Boys Town for several months, he said he realized he was "in a setting that had produced many successful citizens, not only of the local community, but of the country."

He said, "it was my goal throughout my stay at Boys Town to be included in the prestigious group of individuals who had graduated from Boys Town."

Buckman is now a financial consultant at Midwest Regional Services. His interests are running, hunting and boating.

James John "Jim" Reding, '72
5539 Westview Dr.
Orlando, FL 32810

Reding said he has lots of fond memories of Boys Town, but most vivid is the dedication

and devotion of the counselors. He especially remembers Father Pat Henry, who, he said, "would not give up on me."

"I am proud to have known Father Henry, and I am even prouder when I think of how far I have come in life and in my work," said Reding. "I know Pat Henry helped me get there."

After leaving Boys Town, Reding went to Bellevue High School in Nebraska. After graduation, he married his wife, Vickie, and became a machinist. He has been manager of the shop in which he works for 16 years.

He and Vickie have two children. Reding stays busy doing yard work, gardening, bowling and deep sea fishing.

1980s

Alfredo Ramonez, '82
4426 Moonlight Ave. #3
El Paso, TX 79904

Ramonez said he has many fond memories of Boys Town. "Although I was only at Boys Town for one year," said Ramonez, "it was the year of my life."

"I was influenced greatly by Father Hupp, Father Kelly and my Family Teachers. They were always loving and caring in whatever I needed for my mind. They taught me to be a better boy."

Ramonez enjoys movies, drawing, singing and dancing. He is also a volunteer for the American Cancer Society.

John G. Carrillo, '80
1012 SE 6th Street
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

Carrillo is Banquet Captain for the Hyatt Regency Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City, Mo. He was named "Assistant Manager of the Year" in 1990.

While at Boys Town, Carrillo remembered the structured environment of the homes.

He attended college and has been married to his spouse, Yolanda, for eight years. They have two children, Andrew and Matthew.

1990s

William "Jamel" Brown Jr., '90
U.S.S. Forrestal CV-59
FPO AA 34080

Brown joined the Navy after graduating from Boys Town, and has done very well.

Among Brown's achievements is the Navy Command Award, "Sailor of the Day."

Brown said his favorite memory of Boys Town was his senior retreat. Besides being a lot of fun, Brown said it was very emotional. "A lot of feelings were poured out during my senior retreat," he said. "It was an emotional time for all of us."

Brown said the person who had the biggest influence on him while at Boys Town was Admissions Coordinator Bev Ayers. "She was always there for me, and she had an answer for everything," he said.

Brown enjoys dancing, drawing, boxing and lifting weights. After his service in the Navy, he plans to attend a police academy and eventually become a law enforcement officer.

Ben DeLaCruz, '91
455-21-4074
USF Proteus AS-19, PERS DIV
FPO AP, CA 96646-2575

After graduation, DeLaCruz joined the Navy, and is currently stationed in Guam.

Enclosed in a letter he recently wrote to Father Peter was a check for \$100. DeLaCruz said he would like the money donated to a 1992 Boys Town graduating senior who is "very punctual, has good leadership qualities and is willing to contribute something to Boys Town after he/she has left."

"It isn't as much as I originally wanted to give," said DeLaCruz, "but I hope it will do."

Scholarship Applications

The Boys Town Alumni Scholarship Board will meet the first week in May to evaluate transcripts of alumni presently receiving funds from the Boys Town National Alumni Scholarship Fund. The evaluation of transcripts will be to determine continued funding.

Alumni who have resided on campus for at least six months and are in good standing are eligible to apply for funding. Please contact Richard Watson, 2625 Maple Street, Omaha, NE 68111 or Ed Novotny, P.O. Box 2, Boys Town, NE 68010, for a formal application and guidelines.

In Memoriam

Shirley Avilla, wife of **Joseph Avilla, '52**, passed away Jan. 30, 1992, in Omaha, Neb.

Walter S. Grimes, '43 - '47, passed away Jan. 31, 1992, in Omaha, Neb. He won an award at graduation from Boys Town for his outstanding performance in the choir, his citizenship and scholastic standing. He is survived by four brothers and a sister, all of Omaha.

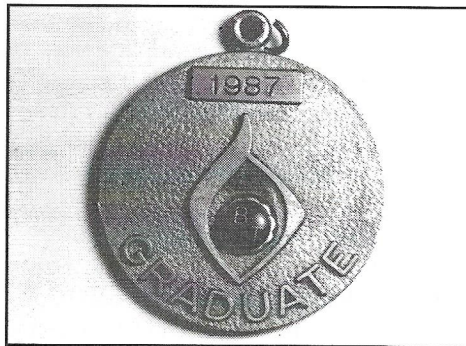
Melvin R. Neville, '55 - '59, passed away March 20, 1992, in Omaha, Neb. He is survived by his wife, Karen, and three sons, all of Omaha.

Ronald W. Noble, '52 - '55, passed away February 6, 1992, in Las Vegas, Nev. He is survived by his wife, Betty, four sons and three daughters.

James Roswell, '69 - '70, passed away November 5, 1991, in Norfolk, Neb. He is survived by wife, Liz, and a daughter. While at the Home, he was both a good student and skilled in culinary arts, winning a Chef Award in a Holiday Inn competition. He also earned a letter in wrestling and was a member of a rock band.

Where in the World?

David Aaron, '68, 1138 Wilroy Road, Bellevue, NE 68005, is wondering if anyone knows the whereabouts of **Lawrence Paquette, '68**. Please drop him a note if you know how to reach Paquette.



Lost and Found

This 1987 Boys Town graduation medal was found during the Alumni Convention last summer. If you wish to reclaim it, please contact Susan Allen, Editor, "Alumni Newsletter," 14100 Crawford St., Boys Town, NE 68010.

Editor's Notes

Correction: Our apologies to Boys Town students Rick Bernt and Aaron Timm. Rick was incorrectly identified as Aaron in the "Boys Town Today" photograph in the Winter 1991 issue. Both Rick and Aaron were student workers in the Hall of History.

Two alumni were not included in the Winter 1991 story about scholarship recipients who completed post-secondary education programs in 1991.

They are **Charles Kalule, '87**, bachelor's degree, University of Nebraska at Omaha, and **Gregory Reed, '78**, Barber and Cosmetology Licenses, Moler Hairstyling College.

Congratulations to you both!

Benedict to Retire

All alumni are invited to attend a retirement party for Dave Benedict on Friday, May 15, 1992, from 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at The Georgetowne Club, 14110 Arbor St., Omaha, Neb.

Benedict has been a physical education teacher at Wegner Middle School for the last 33 years. He has served in a variety of coaching positions in baseball, midget football, junior varsity and varsity football, and freshman and varsity basketball.

Boys Town in the News

Several stories about Boys Town were recently featured in the national news media. Some of them include:

* About 20 Boys Town youth, including Mayor Sarah Williamson, appeared with Willard Scott Feb. 6, 1992, as he gave the weather forecast from the Hall of History for NBC's "Today" show. When Willard Scott asked Williamson who ran the Village, she replied "I do, but don't tell Father Peter!"

* A very positive 75th Anniversary story in the Feb. 9, 1992, issue of "Parade" magazine resulted in nearly 2,100 calls to the Boys Town National Hotline from kids and families requesting help.

* The "St. Anthony Messenger" featured a terrific seven-page cover story about Boys Town in their February 1992 issue. (If you would like a copy of the print stories, please contact Susan Allen, "Alumni Newsletter" Editor, 14100 Crawford St., Boys Town, NE 68010).

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

The Boys Town Alumni Newsletter is published by the Public Relations Department of Father Flanagan's Boys' Home, Boys Town, NE 68010, as a service to all alumni.

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FATHER FLANAGAN'S BOYS' HOME

Boys Town, Nebraska 68010



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