

BOYS GOVERN THIS NEBRASKA TOWN

Its Name Is Boys Town, and Its Guiding Star, Father Flanagan, Has Given 4,000 Homeless Urchins a Fair Chance in Life.

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

TEN miles west of Omaha, Neb., there is a community with the romantic name of Boys Town. It is just as romantic as its name, for, with the exception of a handful of supervising oldsters, it is peopled entirely by boys of sixteen or less. It has a boy mayor, a boy chief of police and it is governed by an elected commission of boys who live there.

Boys Town! It sounds like something manufactured in a dream! It is.

"Upon entering Boys Town, a boy realizes that he is stepping into a new world," says its high school sophomore mayor, Dan Kampan. "And," His Honor adds, "that boy realizes that this new world will be just what he makes of it."

The dream that became Boys Town had its beginning some twenty years ago, in the mind of a young Catholic priest, Edward J. Flanagan, then newly ordained.

He became interested in the derelicts and misfits who were inmates of the Omaha city jail and, with the spirit of the true humanitarian, practiced such kindnesses upon them that they began to confide in him. In the city of their life stories was born the mission to which Father Flanagan has since committed himself.

Fed Hungry Misfits.

He visited more sinners against society in the police courts, until he decided to help the miscreants keep out of jail by providing them food and shelter in the cold winter months and trying to steer them back to the ways of righteousness and happiness. It was an overwhelming task, for many of them were hopeless drunks and dope fiends and some even criminals.

"But in our working men's shelter, a hungry man was just a hungry man," says Father Flanagan. "We asked no questions. At times we sheltered and fed as many as 500 of them in a single night. The accommodations we were able to give them were pitifully inadequate. There just wasn't the money. Humanity so easily forgets that men are their brothers' keepers. It was discouraging work, but with the aid of God we persevered. Funds to carry on were scraped together wherever we could get them."

The priest and his friends began to study their guests, in an attempt to discover the causes that lay at the bottom of their troubles. Complete case histories were kept on 2,000 of them, until it became apparent that most of them were the result of neglected or homeless childhoods. Father Flanagan and his associates concluded that if they were to save men of this type they must begin with the grass roots and save them as children. That was the beginning of the dream of Boys Town.

With a borrowed capital of \$90 the first month's rent was paid on a house in Omaha, and in it to live went Father Flanagan and five boys, two of them newsboys who had been sleeping in the working men's shelter and the others boys who had been entrusted to his care by the juvenile court. With amazing quickness the news of the new haven for homeless boys spread and in practically no time it was filled beyond capacity.

Donations Finance Work.

It was hard going in the early days, for Father Flanagan's Home, then as now, was supported entirely by the donations of friends and sympathetic persons. Then, as now, it admitted boys regardless of race or creed, and gave them the best it had. The best, on the first Christ-

Only half of these boys were Catholics. They came from 38 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Alaska, China and Mexico. The boys are taught trades or business pursuits or farming, as their abilities and ambitions dictate. Tennis, baseball, football, track and other sports, as well as sanitary and hygienic education, en-



Boys Town Makes This City Wail's Dream Come True

able them to grow into healthy, vigorous men. The average efficiency of health maintained over a period of years is 98 per cent.

Mayor Tells His Story.

Only 18 months ago, the unusual community was incorporated as a village. It has a second-class post office, and if you write a letter to anyone there, your reply will come postmarked "Boys Town, Neb."

The mayor of Boys Town faces problems daily that few mayors in the land become acquainted with very well in an entire term. You would expect Mayor Dan Kampan to know as much about the town as any of its 217 inhabitants. I have invited him to tell about it as he knows it:

"First," says Dan Kampan, "let me call your attention to the spirit of the homeless boy, best portrayed by the athletic teams which are trained by coaches at Boys Town."

"Every instructor at Boys Town realizes the spirit of co-operation involved in the making of good athletic teams. Last year this spirit was brought out by the splendid

veloped into an institution made up of 10 large buildings, amongst which are a modernly equipped gymnasium containing a swimming pool, handball courts, boxing ring, stage, and an auditorium which has been rated as one of the best in the Middle West.

Many Help Work Farm.

"Our farm, of 320 acres on which four barns are located, produces partial upkeep of the boys. It is equipped with machinery to plant and harvest its produce," Dan continues.

"The print shop, which is part of the office building, contains enough machinery to publish 110,000 copies of the 16-page magazine published monthly by the boys. All other printing necessary for the maintenance of our Home is done by the boys."

"The recreational section of Boys Town

is composed of a football field, tennis courts, baseball diamond, and a cinder track. Upon these fields 200 homeless boys build strong bodies and strong minds by participating in various sports. Amongst these sports we find that the most popular are football, baseball, tennis, basketball and all water sports.

Jan. 15 Is Election Day.

"The band, which is known all over the United States, is made up of 50 pieces, all boys under the age of eighteen. The popularity of our musical organizations is proven by the invitations for personal appearances in our neighboring states, such as banquets, picnics, parades and sport programs."

"On January 15, 1936, Boys Town held its second annual election, for the purpose of electing a governing body."

"In the voting booths installed, each boy voted a straight ticket for one of the two parties, the Help Boys Town and the Build Boys Town. After this the votes were counted in the presence of both candidates for the mayoralty. When the results were announced it was found that the Help Boys Town



Mayor Dan Kampan of Boys Town (Holding Paper) Presides Over a Meeting of the City Council.

mas day, that of 1917, was a barrel of sauerkraut. Together they all knelt and prayed that a nation would forget the hatreds and excitements of war long enough to help them to live a real, American life.

Their prayers must have been answered, for shortly afterward Father Flanagan was successful in financing the purchase of 160 acres of farm which had lain idle and neglected for years. The farm had a few flimsy frame buildings, but they promised shelter, and food could be secured from the land.

Today, through Father Flanagan's untiring efforts and the financial help of thousands of friends, who gave what they could, however little it was, there are 10 fine, modern buildings and the well-operated farm covers 360 acres. Nearly 4,000 boys, once homeless and friendless, have been built into good American citizens with every prospect of a fair deal from life.

records our teams established, often having to overcome odds that were thought invincible. Our football team often came from behind in the last minutes of play to overcome their opponents.

Boys Are Happy Lot.

"The boys in general are a happy and very appreciative group of boys. They, at all times, are willing to jump at the opportunity of helping their friends and boys who have no friends."

"From all parts of the United States homeless and abandoned boys receive shelter and food at Boys Town." Dan goes on. "In this manner they are brought together and after spending a few months at Boys Town they understand some of the boys, and learn many facts of that part of the country that this or that boy came from."

"When Father Flanagan rented a building for his first Home, it was a simple structure located in Omaha. Through the past 18 years it has de-

party was the victor by nine votes! The party consists of a mayor and six commissioners, each having his various duties and assignments to fulfill.

"Among the most important of these duties is that of disciplining the boys, which is accomplished through the City Council and a Board of Advisors headed by Father Flanagan, which meets twice a week to discuss various points concerning the welfare of the boys. This is but one of the chief duties of the governing body. Other duties are taking care of minor infractions of rules and boys who cause disturbances by fighting and continuing disobedience."

Father Flanagan and Boys Town insist "there is no such thing as a bad boy." They have seen too many youngsters, once characterized as "bad boys," grow, after given a home, friends and a fair chance in life, into men who have become leaders in the business and social world.

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Tall Tales

As Told to:

FRANK E. HAGAN and ELMO SCOTT WATSON

THE RETURN OF PETEY

A CARRIER pigeon can be relied on to do the spectacular.

Glenn Butcher, doughboy of the Sixth infantry, after serving his country in France, established a pigeon farm near Lockport, Ill. Liking all pigeons, his greatest affection was reserved for a carrier named Petey.

Petey demonstrated once that Butcher's love was reciprocated. It was when an unidentified fiend visited Lockport, committed a score of crimes and concluded by stealing Petey and taking him to Chicago.

Butcher learned later the thief climbed to the top of the tallest building in Chicago, unfastened Petey and threw him overboard. Then, to show his fiendish nature, the kidnaper threw a wooden box at the falling bird.

The pigeon broke a leg in his 600-foot fall but retrieved the box, which landed nearby, and hobbled toward the river. There he produced a swagger stick Butcher had used in France, climbed on the box and, steering a winding course by means of the stick, started home.

Bulletins told of the pigeon navigator's progress, but Petey was too proud to accept aid. He negotiated the 45 miles of river channel alone in seven days, limping into Butcher's yard one morning, swagger stick under his wing. It not only gave him a jaunty appearance but served for a crutch as well.

AN 8-INCH TALE

SHELL games are not the only activity wherein the hand may be quicker than the eye.

So ruminates Buck Pyle, once of Clarendon, Texas, when he recalls the famous hunting trip undertaken by two of his father's ranch hands.

The cowboys, Sam and Henry, found buffalo tracks almost immediately. They spied two buffalo, and each fired at a different animal. Henry's buffalo sped over a mountain range with Henry in close pursuit and was lost to view. Sam wounded his game and the injured buffalo charged. His pony wheeled, slipped into the deep grass and unseated the rider.

Sam rose to a sitting position, terrified at the approach of the huge animal. He ducked just as the charging buffalo hurtled past, then he straightened suddenly, grasped the wounded buffalo by the tail and hung on.

He could not hope to subdue the maddened beast, but neither could the animal attack him. So Sam clung to the buffalo's eight-inch tail until just before the wild runner crossed the Mexican boundary. Then he reached out with a poplar tree he'd gathered en route, tickled the buffalo's nose and turned him back.

When Sam had guided the buffalo in this fashion until they reached Donley county, Henry rode up and rescued his friend.

The regrettable effect of the incident, says Pyle, is that Sam won't accept a buffalo nickel now, even if you offer him three for a dime.

THE EXTENDED PALM

A GREATER number of extended palms can be found in the state of Florida than in all of France.

One of them, a royal palm, grows in front of the ninth green of the De Leon Springs golf course, its foliage frequently catching balls pitched toward the green.

That happened to John H. Fisher of Chicago the first time he stepped on the De Leon Springs links to try for his usual 76. The ball lodged in the tree and only the gift of a 59-cent dollar persuaded his colored caddy to retrieve it.

Climbing to the top of the tree the caddy gave one vigorous shake and Fisher's ball and 376 other golf balls dropped. It was the first time the royal palm had been shaken.

The golfer was astonished to discover that thirteen of the balls had his name printed on them.

"It was my initial visit to Florida, all right, but that was no reason my entire name should have been printed on the balls," Fisher said later. "I didn't discover why until four months afterwards."

"I play the Tam o'Shanter course at Chicago. On the fifth tee I invariably slice my drive, frequently losing the ball. Well, I began to analyze my shots off that tee, employing a compass and other research equipment."

"And I discovered a most interesting thing—every one of my sliced shots off that fifth tee moved in a curving line directly toward De Leon Springs from Chicago."

Early Strikes in America

The first recorded strike in America took place in 1741, when New York bakers quit work as a protest against a municipal ordinance regulating the price of bread. The earliest known strike for higher wages took place in 1786, when the Philadelphia printers ceased work as a means of enforcing their demand for a minimum weekly wage of \$6. The first organized strike in America took place in 1799, when the shoemakers belonging to the Federal Society of Journeymen Cordwainers, were compelled to lay down their tools in order to aid the bootmakers who were seeking an increase in wages.

A Charming Sports Frock

Trim modish raglan shoulders, no sleeves to set in, make this attractive dress easily fashioned by even an amateur sewer. And the neckline is extremely flattering and youthful. Equally lovely



for office wear or busy shoppers, it answers perfectly, too, for general daytime functions.

You'll appreciate the two roomy pockets, and the back yoke will enable you to "bear your burdens" lightly. Try making it in tub silk, shantung, printed crepe or linen. Whichever fabric you choose gives a silhouette that is universally flattering and a touch of sophistication.

Barbara Bell Pattern No. 1857-B is available in sizes: 14,

16, 18, 20; 40 and 42. Corresponding bust measurements 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42. Size 16 (34) requires 3 7/8 yards of 39 inch material plus 1-4 yard for the belt. Send 15 cents in coins for the pattern.

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The Mind Meter

By LOWELL HENDERSON

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Syllables Test

In this test there are two columns of syllables. Take a syllable out of the first column and unite it with one in the second column to form a word. When you are finished, you should have ten complete words.

First Column:	Second Column:
1. ser	1. lot
2. cul	2. tion
3. con	3. due
4. pi	4. prit
5. pre	5. geant
6. ac	6. sune
7. lo	7. duct
8. ex	8. gain
9. pro	9. cal
10. bar	10. pert

Answers

1. sergeant.	6. action.
2. culprit.	7. local.
3. conduct.	8. expert.
4. pilot.	9. produce.
5. presume.	10. bargain.

Three Things

Write your name in kindness, love, and mercy, on the hearts of thousands you come in contact with year by year; you will never be forgotten. Your name and your deeds will be as legible on the hearts you leave behind you as the stars on the brow of evening.—Thomas Chalmers.

It Is Well Most of the illusions we recover from; and we're glad of it.

Costly Compliment There is nothing so expensive as an undeserved compliment.

Mayonnaise may be kept for several weeks in refrigerator if a tablespoonful of boiling water is added to it before bottling.

Sandwiches may be kept moist for 24 hours if they are wrapped tight as soon as made, in waxed paper, then placed in a box lined with a damp cloth and covered with a cloth. Keep in a cool place.

Never put hot foods in your refrigerator or ice box. Wait until they have cooled.

Chamois wet in cold water and wrung dry will polish mahogany furniture that has become cloudy.

Always strain hot fat used for deep frying through a piece of cheese cloth each time it is used and set in a cool place. Treated in this way fat may be used many times.

A little garlic rubbed over the broiler on which steak is broiled gives steak a delicious flavor.

DOLLARS & HEALTH The successful person is a healthy person. Don't let yourself be handicapped by sick headaches, a sluggish condition, stomach "nerves" and other dangerous signs of over-acidity.

TAKE MILNESIAS Milnesia, the original milk of magnesia in wafer form, neutralizes stomach acid. Each wafer equals 4 teaspoonfuls of milk of magnesia. Thin, crunchy, mint-flavor, tasty, 20c, 35c & 60c at drug stores.

HEARTBURN? Its surprising how many have heart burn. Hurried eating, overeating, heavy smoking, excessive drinking all lead to heartburn. When it comes, heed the warning. Your stomach is on a strike.

Lack of exercise and injudicious eating make stomachs acid. You must neutralize stomach acids if you would sleep soundly all night and wake up feeling refreshed and really fit.

Milnesia, the original milk of magnesia in wafer form, neutralizes stomach acids, gives quick, pleasant elimination. Each wafer equals 4 teaspoonfuls of milk of magnesia. Tasty, too, 20c, 35c & 60c every where.