

Local Boys Staying At Ranch Which Inspired A Best-Seller



ON APACHE -- Philip Blake of Farmington is shown on his horse, Apache, in July 1967 while spending the summer at Hidden Valley Ranch near Prescott, Ariz., the setting for the best-seller "Bless the Beasts & Children."

FARMINGTON

On Tuesday, June 22, a group of Farmington boys will depart Metropolitan Airport for the Hidden Valley Ranch in Arizona and, according to a best-seller, will return men.

The best-seller, "Bless the Beasts & Children" by Glendon Swarthout, is a fictional novel about six boys who go on an all-night excursion with ecological motives during which five are transformed into men by dawn.

SETTING FOR the novel is the Hidden Valley Ranch, about three miles south of Prescott, Ariz., which is labeled the "Box Canyon Boys Camp" in the novel by Swarthout, a University of Michigan professor.

The novel which will soon be made into a movie contains, according to Swarthout, messages on the "the strangeness of our youth, our mad assault on ecology, and the increasingly stained honor of the United States."

The non-fictional stay at the camp for Farmington youngsters age 9-17 is for five weeks. The trip was arranged by Mrs. George Black of Farmington, a mother of five who has assisted with "Operation Ponderosa" for the past 10 years. She is Michigan representative for the Hidden Valley Camp.

"Going out it's not so bad, simply a matter of correlating bed rolls, sleeping poles and boys," she says, "but coming back they try to sneak their horses aboard the train."

"Two years ago, one determined dude tried to ride up the ramp at Phoenix Sky Harbor airport and offered his sorry load and Indian doll to the stewardess filled with tootsie roll pops. So far, American Airlines has remained aloof to all in documents and takes a firm stand on the 'No Big Animals Allowed' policy."

KEVIN BLAKE, her 19-year-old son, is a junior counselor in charge of a short group of young cowboys.

When asked about disciplinary problems, he drawled: "Not really, last summer I was pretty popular, my wranglers had a big bonfire one night and they asked me to be in it. Besides they've all gone through the Allen Sherman 'Dear Mudder' bit. At a horse ranch you either shape up or shove up."

During the five week \$450 stay, the boys will be kept

busy with: a horseback overnight campouts at Lynx Lake and Hassayampa Lake; Frontier Days Rodeo in Prescott; a camp olympics; hike to Havasupai Indian Reservation in Havasu Canyon; and a surprise attack.

Also: a motor caravan to Grand Canyon; a two-day horseback campout in the canyon; 60-mile boat zip on Lake Powell; a wilderness horseback trip; a pioneer day and then the awards trip before departure for home.

The real value of a wholesome camp experience is not in the amount that can be learned, but in the attitudes that develop toward the learning process itself," says Mrs. Blake.

"At Hidden Valley, the contrasting combination of planned activity and travel provides a wide scope of unusual and broadening media. Here, an environment is created whereby inquiring involves participation and problem solving becomes fun."

IN THE NOVEL, Professor Swarthout reveals the effect of animals and the west on children: "Beasts and boys considered each other. They suddenly boys of 15, 14 and 12 were children once more."

"The breath of innocent animals blessed them. An emotion filled them, a tenderness that none of them had ever known. Peace descended on them, and they were not afraid."

"For a moment, or moments, it was as if it had been in the beginning, before fear, before evil, before death, at the time of the creation, when the earth was new and living things flourished therein, when the earth was fair and all living things dwelt together as kindred."

"For a moment, or moments, beasts and children were friends, there in the sweetness and silence of the night, there in the calm and lovely fields of the Lord."



RANCHERS REPORT to the colors and after pledging allegiance are inspected by a registered nurse who checks for cleanliness and general well-being. Then the boys are given bunks for their five-week stay at Hidden Valley Camp.

Hunt Is On For Queen

FARMINGTON

Plans are underway to find the 1971 Miss Founders Festival, one of the highlights of this year's Farmington Founders Festival to be held July 29, 30, 31.

The Festival Committee has begun its search for the Miss Founders Festival and has announced that Mrs. Chris Reichardt will be queen contest chairman.

The queen and two runners-up will reign over the festival during the three days set aside for the annual activities.

During the year, the queen will have an opportunity to enter the Miss Michigan State Fair Contest and represent Farmington in parades and many other community functions.

To enter, contestants must be between 17-22 years old, never have been married and

must be a resident of Farmington City or Township since Jan. 1, 1971.

Applications will be available at the Farmington Chamber of Commerce office and at high school counseling offices.

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Rerouting Sewer Study Undertaken

FARMINGTON

An important step was taken Monday night to have a study made on the feasibility of relocating the 10 mile sanitary sewer arm from the present proposed route through the valley in the Village of Quakertown.

The Farmington Township Board voted to pay one-half for a study on the cost of an alternate route for the 10 mile arm.

THE STUDY is expected to cost about \$8,000 and the supervisor has been authorized to negotiate with the Quakertown Village council and other interested parties to contribute funds to pay for the other half of the study.

A feasibility study done about 15 years ago suggests the most economical route is to lay the pipes under the bed

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the City of Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan, will meet at 8:00 P.M. Monday, June 21, 1971, in the Council Chambers, 28800 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan, to hear all interested persons on the request for variance to the Farmington City Code, Chapter 30, Article X, Off-street Parking and Loading, by Paul Sarro, proponents for the former National Bank of Detroit building at 25334 Grand River Avenue.

All interested persons will be given a chance to express their views at the above time and place. Any other information desired regarding the above proposal is available at the office of the City Clerk.

ELIZABETH BRINES
City Clerk

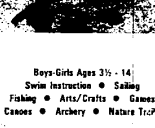
CALL 522-0900 for
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Set Exams For Athletes

FARMINGTON

Physical examinations for all Farmington Public School athletes intending to participate in 1971-72 school athletic programs have been scheduled with local doctors of Osteopathy, Athletic Director John K. Cotton announced.

Exams will be held in Farmington High School June 22 and at North Farmington June 24. Senior high athletes should report at 9 a.m. and junior high athletes at 10 a.m.

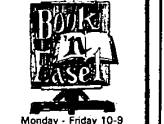
Cost is \$1. Students will receive their physical examination cards before the end of the school year Cotton said. An extra supply will be on hand in the school offices for late walkers.

The form should be filled out and signed by parents, and presented to the examining physician at the time of the exam. Completed forms will be collected at the exam and returned to building principals.

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PUTTING CONTEST HOURS ARE:
Friday, June 18, and Saturday, June 19, 12-2 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.; and Sunday, June 20, 12-5 p.m.

DOG SHOW

Over 100 dogs on display by Dog Breeders Registry of Michigan on Friday, June 18 and Saturday, June 19. Includes a dog sled team, special show by a Doberman trickster, and obedience trials.

Historical Photo Display

One hundred outstanding historical photos from the pages of the Detroit News. This is the first "open to the public" viewing of these outstanding photos.

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