



NEWSLETTER

FATHER FLANAGAN'S BOYS' HOME, BOYS TOWN, NEBRASKA 68010

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Alumni Executive Director Named

Boys Town's National Alumni Association (BTNAA) has a new executive director—Michael M. Pyykola, a 1965 graduate of the Boys Town High School and an active member of the Alumni Association for many years.

Pyykola was selected through the combined efforts of Boys Town's Executive Director, Rev. Robert P. Hupp, and the National Alumni Association Board of Directors.

"We all have that common bond, the feeling that Boys Town is our home and we're all brothers," Pyykola says, "and that's one of the strengths of the Alumni Association."

Pyykola says many alumni he has talked to would like to see the chapters be of more help to alumni and recent graduates who are in need. One of his goals is to build the alumni chapters all over the nation into a network of services for Boys Town alumni.

He says he would also like to see the Alumni Office do more job referrals, both for alumni and graduating



Mike Pyykola in Alumni Office with notebooks containing BTNAA Board of Directors', minutes and official business.

seniors.

Besides serving as BTNAA executive director, Pyykola continues in his position of senior assistant to Continuing Care Director Charles Caldwell.

Pyykola came to Boys Town from

Chicago. After living at the Home for three years, he attempted to go to college but found it "too tough" and joined the United States Air Force in 1966. In the Air Force, he was trained as a motion picture camera man and technician and received a medal for

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Board Sets Two-Year Goals

The newly elected Board of Directors of the National Alumni Association plans to increase membership in the association and build a stronger network of chapters to help graduates and alumni who may be in need of assistance.

The Board met on Jan. 30 in Las Vegas for its first meeting and set goals for the next two years.

The members of the board are:

President, Frank Kerns '48, Elmwood Park, Ill.; Vice President, James Shores '49, Stephenville, Tex.;

Secretary, Samuel J. Breci '41, Columbia, S.C.; Treasurer, Tom Finn '47, Omaha, Neb.; Robert Keeder '63, West Columbia, S.C.; Samuel Pinkney '48, Los Angeles, Calif.; John Miller '62, Brookfield, Ill.; Ken Morris '46, Omaha, Neb.; Mike Christopoulos '25, Des Plaines, Ill.; Robert Rose '49, Denver, Colo.; Joe Rohlinger '43, Redondo Beach, Calif.; Robert Curtin '58, Osawatomie, Kan.; Pat Dodge '50, Warwick, N.Y.; Teddy Swaim '49, Silver Springs, Md.; Joe Santistevan '56, Englewood, Colo.

Attention Alumni

The Board of Directors of the Boys Town National Alumni Association would like you to mark your calendars well ahead of time so that you can plan to attend the next **Boys Town Alumni Reunion**. It will be held on **July 29, 30, and 31st, 1983, at Boys Town, Nebraska**. Please plan to attend and renew your old friendships and make new ones.

Father Hupp's Corner

Dear Alumnus:

Our Youth Care Program keeps getting better and better. During the past year, we have helped nearly 1,000 youth on any given day. And more than two-thirds of those were on campus here at Boys Town while the remainder were located in homes scattered in 18 states—homes that operate as an extension of the Boys Town campus.

Most of these youth live in one of the more than 50 homes at Boys Town and go to one of three schools and two chapels located here. But many others live in the "extended campus" homes for which Boys Town provides the training and evaluation of the family teachers that lead these homes.

1982 marks our 65th year of caring for youth from throughout the nation. We have taken in more than 15,000 kids, including yourself, since our founding by Father Flanagan in 1917.

Despite the increase of youth-related problems in our society, Boys Town has worked hard and stayed abreast of the latest trends in caring for those youth. We feel our current program is the best available today. And many other experts agree.



For instance, contained in a report I received from Youth Care Director Dr. Elery Phillips are several letters from youth care professionals throughout the nation. Here is just a sampling of what they say:

—Montrose M. Wolf, Professor of Human Development, University of Kansas: "With the exception of Boys Town, youth care treatment in the United States is a mess. Boys Town is an island of quality in a sea of tragedy. In my opinion, Boys Town is the best in the nation and I have seen or read reports about nearly every in-

stitution in this country that cares for kids."

—James K. Whittaker, Professor of Social Work, University of Washington: "...my very strong impression is that Dr. Elery Phillips and his staff at Boys Town are providing youth with a safe, humane, challenging and caring environment; no mean task and no small accomplishment in a period of history rife with exposes of institutional abuse and neglect."

—William A. Serrette, Superintendent of Schools, Port Angeles, Washington: "The schools of Boys Town would be a model that many schools could adopt. They are the type of schools that you would like to have an opportunity for your own child to attend."

We are far from perfect at Boys Town. We still have progress to make in many areas. But we never want it to be said that we aren't constantly trying to improve.

God bless you all and have a happy 1982.

Father Hupp
Executive Director

A Message From Mike Pyykola:

Dear Fellow Alumni:

As the newly appointed Executive Director of the Boys Town National Alumni Association, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to all my fellow alumni of Boys Town. You are what Boys Town is all about—the great opportunity for a youth to have a *chance* to turn his life around and become somebody.

I would like you to know that Boys Town is continuing in many ways, not only at Boys Town, but throughout the country, to provide a *chance* at success for thousands of boys. In these most difficult and trying times our country is going

through, I thank God there is a place like Boys Town that can give those kids the same chance you had at Boys Town. Today, more than ever, there is a strong need for Boys Town.

Just recently I had the opportunity to meet with the Board of Directors and the Las Vegas Chapter. I was very pleased with their interest in Boys Town. It is my sincere hope that we alumni can work together to help Boys Town in its youth programs. We need to activate our local chapters as support groups for our alumni. You shall be hearing more from me as I formulate some fresh ideas.

All I would ask of you today is that

you do whatever you can to support and show interest in Boys Town, and tell others the positive things Boys Town can do for the youth of our nation. You can do much to support Boys Town - even if it is nothing more than a kind word, or taking the opportunity to attend an alumni chapter meeting to make new or renew old acquaintances.

Fraternally yours,

Michael M. Pyykola,
Executive Director
Boys Town National
Alumni Association

KRBT Gives Boys Radio Experience

Boys Town's new youth-operated radio station, KRBT, was dedicated in December in the memory of the man whose bequest made it possible, the late Patrick J. Norton.

Norton, nephew of Boys Town founder Rev. Edward J. Flanagan and the priest's longtime working associate, died in 1980 at the age of 81. He had joined his uncle in helping develop Boys Town in 1920 after coming to the United States from Ireland. A major figure at the Home for more than half a century, he was Boys Town's historian when he died.

Most of the construction work for the production and broadcast studios was done by members of the Boys Town Vocational Career Center construction classes. Electronics students will aid in the operation and maintenance of the radio equipment.

Enthusiasm has been running high in the basement of the rectory, where the KRBT studios are located. For months, Boys Town students had been training to be disc jockies, sports broadcasters, news announcers and engineers. Local radio professionals donated their time to train the youths.

Station Manager Rev. James Kelly says KRBT's AM signal only reaches the buildings on the Boys Town campus



KRBT's Jim Gill demonstrates new equipment.

and that programming includes music, sports, news and features about Boys Town people. A special treat for KRBT listeners will be reruns of radio talks Boys Town founder Father Flanagan gave 40 years ago.

Releases Needed From Alumni

Quite often, the Alumni Office gets calls from alumni who would like to contact former classmates or friends. The Alumni Office, however, cannot release this information without your authorization.

By signing the release below, you are giving permission to the Alumni Office to give out the information on the release to anyone requesting it. Typically, only fellow alumni would be interested in this information, but on occasion we do get calls from others.

Membership Directories are available to National Board members and chapter members upon request, whether you sign this form or not. However, if you desire to be reached by your friends who may call the Alumni Office, please fill out the form below, cut it out and send it to: Michael Pyykola, Executive Director, Boys Town National Alumni Association, Boys Town, Neb. 68010

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

I, _____, as of this date, _____,
(Please Print)
give my permission for the release of the following information:

1. Name: _____

2. Address: _____

3. Telephone No.: _____

Signature: _____



New Greenhouse—

Members of Boys Town's Horticultural Club discuss the construction of the new Vernon F. Dale Memorial Greenhouse with Mr. Dales's widow, Mrs. Earline Dale. The greenhouse was built by the youths and made possible through a donation from the late Mr. Dale, an Onalaska, Wis., businessman. It is located by the Staff Training building on campus.

President's View

Fellow Alumni:

Hello again from a very cold and snowy Chicago. I hope that all had a very Merry Christmas and are enjoying a healthy and happy new year.

At my last writing, you were informed that the National Alumni Association board of directors were in the process of selecting a new executive director to carry on all alumni business and to help form a larger and more workable organization.

The new executive director is Mike Pyykola, a graduate of Boys Town and former family teacher at the Home for several years. Mike is based at Boys Town and is already working to help build our organization. But Mike is going to need the help of all of us to make the Alumni Association what it should be. Contact Mike at the Alumni Office at Boys Town, let him know your present address. He can handle any questions about forming chapters and he will give you

names and addresses in cities that already have working chapters. **Please contact Mike.**

I would like to thank Father Hupp and Charles Caldwell for all their help and cooperation in the selection of a new executive director.

Also, a very large thank you to Kenny Morris, Pat Render and the past Board of Directors. As a result of their efforts the new regional director program was developed and the by-laws of the National Alumni Association were revised into a more condensed and workable set of guidelines.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of all the efforts by so many fellow alumni to help put the Alumni Association back on its feet. Let's not let it go in vain. Please get involved. Let us hear from you.

**Yours in Brotherhood,
Frank Kerns '48
7920 Cressett
Elmwood Park, Ill. 60635**

Auxiliary Wants to Hear From Wives

Greetings from your Auxiliary President!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the Auxiliary members and their husbands around the world a very blessed and prosperous New Year.

We, the newly elected officers, are anxiously waiting to hear from everyone. We would like very much to know if you could give us some ideas on what you would like to do at the July 29, 30, and 31, 1983 Alumni Convention. We would like to see the large crowd of Auxiliary members take an active part in our National Organization the way it used to. This is **your** organization!

Anyone interested should send their National dues of \$2 to our National Secretary, Angie Barela, 4817 South 39th St., Omaha, Nebraska 68107. Until I hear from you, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,

Pat Kuhn, President
Boys Town National Alumni
Association Auxiliary
3515 Hawthorne Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68131

Father Hupp Receives Nebraskan Award

Boys Town Executive Director Rev. Robert P. Hupp recently accepted the 1981 Distinguished Nebraskan Award, saying it was a tribute to his staff at Boys Town. He said the dedicated work of his staff in behalf of youth has made Boys Town a leader in the country in youth care.

Father Hupp was presented the award by the Nebraska Society of Washington, D.C., last Oct. 15 at the Congressional Country Club in

Scholarships Are Offered To Alumni

If you are an alumnus of Boys Town (and every man who has lived at the Home is considered an alumnus, regardless of whether he stayed a short or long time), you may be eligible for scholarship aid.

The Boys Town National Alumni Scholarship Fund offers several scholarships annually, varying in amounts depending on the need of each recipient. Several thousand dollars are awarded each spring to young men who are attending college or technical school. Scholarships are awarded for the following school year. Deadline for application is May 1, 1982.

To be eligible for one of the Father Edward J. Flanagan Scholarships, one must be an alumnus of Boys Town, must have completed one year of college or technical school, and must have maintained at least a 2.0 (C) grade average. If you are interested in applying, you may write for an application, or for more information to:

Mr. George Pfeifer, Sec.-Treas.
Boys Town National Alumni
Scholarship
Boys Town, Nebraska 68010
Telephone: (402) 498-1823

"Often, it has been said that youth is the nation's greatest asset. But it is more than that—it is the world's greatest asset. More than that, it is, perhaps, the world's only hope."

—Father Edward J. Flanagan,
founder of Boys Town.

Bethesda, Md. In presenting the award, Nebraska Senator J.J. Exon described Father Hupp as a "man of peace, a man of love and friend of all people, especially the youth of America."

Father Hupp has been Executive Director of Boys Town since 1973. For three years prior to his Boys Town appointment, Father Hupp was Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Omaha and Pastor of Christ the King parish in Omaha.

Then and Now —

Boys Town Career Center Progressive

When Father Flanagan began his boys' home in 1917, he believed strongly that the troubled youth in his care needed to be taught a trade. In 1921, as soon as he could, he established accommodations for a trade school as well as academic classrooms on his 160-acre farm, the nucleus of today's Boys Town.

The idea that work with one's hands is as valuable as any intellectual pursuit is still an important part of the Boys Town philosophy.

"We want every boy to have a trade," says the principal of the Vocational Career Center, Ed Novotny.

"Father Flanagan was always way ahead of his time," Novotny says. "He wanted a trade school when trade schools weren't even heard of. He used to say, 'I want my boys to have an academic education and a vocational education because the two go hand in hand. Those who want to go on to higher education can. But those who want to make their living with their hands should have an equal opportunity.'"

Novotny, himself a Boys Town alumnus, says the goal of the staff at the Career Center is to teach the entry level skills in the basic trades.

In order to keep up with the ever-changing climate in industry, teachers at the Boys Town trade school meet



at least twice a year with an advisory group of representatives from the trade they are teaching. This insures that the students are kept abreast of the latest advances and also helps in linking students with jobs upon graduation.

The array of vocational classes taught at Boys Town is also unique, Novotny says. Classes offered include: auto body repair, auto mechanics, bakery, barbering and hairstyling, construction, culinary arts, drafting, driver education, electricity and electronics, general mechanics, graphic arts, industrial arts, metals, welding and air conditioning and heating.



Playoffs a Source of Pride

Cowboys Finish Football Season 7 and 2



Joe Gray, a Cowboy center, watches with dismay as the Cowboys go down to defeat in the state playoffs.

After finishing the season with a solid record of seven wins and two losses, the Boys Town Cowboys varsity football team qualified for the state playoffs for the second year in a row. The team's impressive two-year record stands at 16 wins and two losses.

Although Boys Town was defeated in the first round of the Class B single elimination by Waverly High School, 20 to 6, there was tremendous pride in reaching the playoffs.

School was let out early for the Nov. 3 game held in Lincoln, Neb., and a caravan of teachers, family-teachers and youths followed their team and cheered as the Cowboys and Waverly battled on a muddy field.

The aggressive Boys Town team showed its ability to move the ball by scoring 206 points this season while allowing its opponents only 37 points. The team's offensive output per game was 278 yards compared to 142 yards for its opponents. Opponents were

kept scoreless in five of the season's games.

Under the direction of Head Coach Jim Spencer, Boys Town football athletes piled up some impressive statistics: Ken Reed, who rushed for 1,000 yards for a 7.4 yards per carry, scored 11 times for a total of 66 points; Mike McGruder rushed for 572 yards, scoring seven times for 42 points; Ron Brown rushed for 498 yards and Max Tapia passed for 327 yards, completing 22 of 68 passes and four touchdowns; Tony Moore caught 12 of Tapia's passes for 148 yards; on defense, Ben Ferrell had 45 unassisted tackles, 20 assisted, five quarterback sacks and one fumble recovery; Eddie Campos had 40 unassisted tackles, 21 assisted, nine quarterback sacks and one recovered fumble; Jim Lyons had 36 assisted tackles, 22 assisted, four quarterback sacks, two recovered fumbles and three pass interceptions; and David McClinton had 34 unassisted tackles, 16 assisted and one quarterback sack.

Coach Spencer is in his 23rd year as a football coach at Boys Town. He started as an assistant to the legendary Skip Palrang, considered by his peers as one of the best high school coaches of all time. Spencer was named Head Football Coach when Palrang retired in 1972 and in 1979, was appointed Athletic Director.

Construction Is Begun on Urban School

Just 14 blocks from where Father Edward Flanagan founded his original home for boys in 1917, groundbreaking was recently held on a new Boys Town high school for inner-city youth.

The Rev. James Gilg, director-principal of the Boys Town Urban Program High School, told a crowd of nearly 250 at the Nov. 5 ceremony in Omaha's inner city: "Today's action testifies to the faith of Father Edward J. Flanagan, who saw goodness in the eyes of every young man who came his way, even though habits of behavior may have brought them into conflict with others.

"This new school speaks to the goodness and success that lies within every young man and woman, even though they may be trapped by debilitating conditions not of their own choosing," Father Gilg said.

The new school is scheduled for completion in 1983. It will replace Dominican High School, an alternative educational high school that became part of Boys Town in 1980 when freeway construction threatened its future. Boys Town officials hope that the new school will serve as a model to other cities in dealing with the needs of inner-city youth.

The school's emphasis is on keeping students in school and off the streets. Many of the nearly 200 students have had problems in other schools that stemmed from drugs, alcohol, poverty, family problems or teenage pregnancy.

The new building will include 19 classrooms, administrative offices, an auditorium, kitchen and cafeteria, nursery care facility for 16 infants of school-age parents, a gymnasium, football field, baseball field and track.

News About Boys Town Alumni

JOSEPH J. MILLER '28 wrote the Alumni Office to say he is living in Corpus Christi, Tex., is married and has one daughter and two grandchildren. He is employed by the city of Corpus Christi as a construction foreman.

ROBERT J. MATUSKI '50 was featured in an article in *Philadelphia* magazine in October of 1981 for his leadership role in "the Philadelphia Grotto," a local chapter of the National Speleological Society. Bob is a spelunker, or caving enthusiast. Bob's address is 2101 Chestnut St., Apt. 711, Philadelphia, Pa., 19103.

MICHAEL A. CRUMBY '58 offers his alumni brother some advice: "Keep close family ties and share life with others," he writes, in light of the current economic situation. Michael said he was unemployed due to a plant shutdown by Ford Motor Co. and was waiting to hear of a transfer to another plant. He can be reached at Box 4539, Toledo, Ohio, 43620.

CRAIG WUERTH '63 has a new address and is looking for any alumni in either San Antonio, Tex. or Austin. Craig says he enjoys his work at a nursing home. His address is: Box 161, New Braunfels, Tex., 78130.

DENNIS M. LEJEUNE '64 sent a new address also. He is employed as a service manager for a television and appliance store. He and his wife, Kathy, recently had a son, Joshua James. Dennis' address is: 808 White Road, Fremont, Ohio, 43420.

RON MILLER '68 was married in July to Rita Bickert of Germany. He works for Metropolitan Life in Boise, Idaho.

BRUCE R. DOLAN '68 is employed as a flour miller in Denver, Colo. He is married and has three children. He is currently living in Ft. Lupton, Colo.

JIM ROSWELL '70 and his wife, Liz, recently moved to Grand Island, Neb., where Jim is a restaurant manager. There is a new addition to their family, Kelyn Anne, born Oct. 15, 1981.

KENNETH W. KLISH '70 is a machinist at Martin Sprocket and Gear, where he has worked for the last five years. He and his wife, Debbie, have three children and live in Arlington, Tex. He would like to know the whereabouts of Mark Sanders, '69. Ken's address is 2220 Lori Circle, Arlington, Tex., 76010.

JUAN JAIME WOODARD '72 lives in Joliet, Ill., and is a member of the carpenters and joiners union. He and his wife, Norma, have four children. He attended Weber State College in Utah for three years, studying anthropology, Spanish literature and art. He requests information on Stanley T. Kurgan. His address is 1705 Willow Bridge Rd., Joliet, Ill., 60435.

DON BATLINER '74 was married last June in Kansas City, Mo. He and his wife, Michele, are expecting their first child and Don writes that if it is a boy, the child will be named Edward Joseph after Father Flanagan. His new address is P.O. Box 5163, Kansas City, Mo., 64123.

HAROLD A. MORGAN '75 is planning to be a minister and will attend Missouri Baptist College. He is currently living in Omaha.

In Memoriam

ROBERT CHARLES REEDER '38 died Nov. 10, 1981, at the age of 60. He was living in Sepulveda, Calif. and was a native of Interior, S.D.

NICK LONARICH '40, president of the Golden Gate Chapter of the Boys Town Alumni Association, died Jan. 2 of this year. He was 61 years old. He is survived by his widow, Patricia, at 11482 Silvergate, Dublin, Calif. 94566.

Sympathy to **JACK HARKREADER '53** and his wife, Patti, on the death of their seven-year-old daughter, Mary Jane. The Harkreaders live at 1022 W. E., North Platte, Neb. 69101.

THOMAS A. OTTO '68 an Oklahoma City, Okla., pharmacist, was killed in an automobile accident in December. He was 32 years old. Tom is survived by his widow, Margaret, and their two children.

GERALD MALCOLM ROWE '77, 23, was killed in an automobile accident Jan. 17, 1982, at Fort Gordon, Ga., where he was stationed in the United States Army. At Boys Town for five years, Malcolm was a member of the varsity football team his senior year.

KEVIN SEITZINGER '81 died on Oct. 14, 1981, as a result of injuries from an automobile accident in Kansas. The 16-year-old youth had lived at Boys Town for two years before returning to his mother's home in Ellis, Kans. He had earned an Outstanding Student Award for his metals shop work in the Vocational Career Center while he was at the Home.

"Christian charity does not consist in the shedding of tears, or in mere preaching, but rather in the doing of that which we preach, and in the actual alleviation of the conditions that bring about those tears."

—the Rev. Edward J. Flanagan

Alumni Have New Director

Continued from page one.

Bravery in Combat. Four years later, he returned to Boys Town because "I wanted to give back some of what Boys Town had done for me." He was hired as a counselor in 1970. Then, he and his wife, Betty, became family teachers in 1975.

Pyykola says as a family teacher he felt closer and more committed to the youths in his home than he did as a counselor.

"You can provide a greater amount of service to the youths and teach them more," he says of his six and a half years as a family teacher.

When Pyykola accepted the position with Continuing Care, he and Betty moved to a home off campus. Along with their own two sons, they became foster parents to two of the youths that had been in their Boys Town home.

Last year, the 35-year-old Pyykola, called "Py" by friends and associates, completed his Bachelor's Degree in human services from the College of St. Mary's. He has served eight years on the board of directors of the National Alumni Association and has been president and secretary of the Omaha chapter several times.



Driving the Lane—

Boys Town forward Bennie Ferrell goes high for a bucket against top-rated Lincoln Pius in a Centennial Conference game Feb. 5 at Boys Town. Pius, ranked number one in Class B, was held to a 26-26 halftime tie before pulling away and winning 61 to 50. The Cowboys were 9 and 5 as the Alumni Newsletter went to press.

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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

Alumni Director: Charles Caldwell

Executive Director, National Alumni Association: Mike Pyykola

Editor: Cindy Murphy, Public Relations Department

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BOYS TOWN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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