

July 8, 1969

Summer Ranch Project
May Begin City Exodus.

By Robert O'Brien

DALLAS (BP)--The 13-year-old boy looked up, half suspiciously, half expectantly.

"Why do you want to talk to us? Why do you care about us?" He ignored the crowd flowing around him at the Dallas airport, squared his frail shoulders and gazed intently through strands of uncombed hair.

"In Texas, we like to make new friends," he was told, "and when that man over there told us about you guys, we knew you would be special friends."

"That man over there"--a young Baptist from San Angelo, Tex., who hopes to start a "new kind of exodus" for boys like the ones who stood in the airport waiting room--was Billy Hanks Jr., and he had a unique reason for being there that day.

American Airlines Flight 85 had just deposited the raw material for a new experiment in ranching--12 boys, ages 12-16, from a high rise apartment in New York City, occupied by more than 20,000 tenants.

But the boys, who will spend four weeks at Hanks's West Texas Ranch for Christ, near Sweetwater, Tex., this summer, are more than an experiment.

They are boys who need personal guidance; boys Hanks hopes will be the vanguard of a "mass exodus" from crowded, stifling, dehumanizing metropolitan areas to the ranches, farms and homes of Southern Baptists.

The 25-year-old Hanks explains: "I want to open the eyes of Southern Baptists to the fact that they can help solve urban problems by opening up their ranches and farms and other facilities each summer to all types of boys who have little or no chance for real life; who have never ridden a horse, seen a cow, water skied, or known the meaning of Christ or Christian fellowship."

At West Texas Ranch for Christ, Hanks, who heads his own youth evangelism team and also attends Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, has scheduled an impressive list of activities for the boys.

They'll work four hours a day at the ranch. That was part of the deal. Then Hanks's staff of college and seminary students will conduct group therapy to help the boys understand their problems; teach them to ride and sail and swim and fish; lead them in Bible study and prayer and, hopefully win them to Christ.

"We hope to send Christians back to New York," Hanks says. "Christians who will tell other kids of their new-found faith."

Don Rhymes, a Southern Baptist home missionary who accompanied the boys on the flight from New York, sees another benefit to the West Texas experiment. He lives in the same high rise apartment building the boys came from as part of a Home Mission Board project to reach the unreached in metropolitan areas.

"At least 50 percent of the youth I work with in that one apartment complex have used drugs in some form," Rhymes says. "An experience like the ranch may separate them from their drug oriented subculture long enough for us to begin lasting rehabilitation."

Hanks learned about the boys' needs while participating in Pioneer Penetration, a Southwestern Seminary project which sends 60 to 100 young ministerial students each year to assist in pioneer areas. It is directed by Roy Fish of Southwestern's Evangelism Department and is underwritten by a group of Laymen from the Texas Panhandle who call themselves "Millionaires for Christ."

"I was asked to take part because of my experience in assisting the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in some of its worldwide youth work," Hanks explains.

"When I got to New York, I saw those boys need something--and I thought immediately of the ranch," He added. He has used the ranch for Christian projects in the past. Hanks sold his idea so successfully that he was able to raise money to help finance the unique project in that he hopes will be the beginning of an exodus.

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Planning Coordinator Named
For Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)--George L. Euting, former vice-president of Bluefield College, Bluefield, Va., has been named coordinated promotion planning coordinator in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's education division office, effective July 1.

In this position Euting will work with the agencies and programs which cooperate within the inter-agency council of the Southern Baptist Convention. He will represent these programs in planning consultations with state Baptist convention staffs in cooperative promotion planning of the annual denominational emphasis.

This cooperative planning venture includes all state conventions and two state fellowship groups as they make preparation for 1970-71.

Euting is a native Virginian, and is a graduate of the University of Richmond. He also holds a master of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Before assuming the vice-presidency at Bluefield, he was program director for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, and Brotherhood secretary for the Baptist General Association (Convention) of Virginia, Richmond.

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Nixon Rules Out Naming
Full-Time Vatican Envoy

7/8/69

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Nixon has decided not to appoint a full-time envoy to Vatican City, according to White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler.

In a press conference held in Key Biscayne, Fla., Ziegler said the President thought it "highly essential to maintain close communications" with the Vatican, but that it is his intention to do this by periodically sending high level officials for meeting with the Pope and other Vatican officials.

Ziegler's disclosure of the administration's decision against naming a full-time ambassador to the Vatican was confirmed in a telephone conversation with Baptist Press here.

In March the President said in a news conference that he was considering such an appointment. Southern Baptists and other religious groups, including a number of Roman Catholic leaders, have strongly opposed formal ties between the United States Government and the Vatican.

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Archibald How Chang
To Join Baylor Faculty

7/8/69

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Archibald How Chang, a native of the China Mainland, will join the faculty of the Baylor University History Department in September.

Chang, currently a graduate assistant to the director of the Institute of Asian Affairs at the University of Oklahoma, was born in 1937 in Nanking, then capital of China. His family fled to Taiwan (formerly Formosa) with the Communist takeover in the late 1940's.

He is a graduate of National Taiwan University, holds a master's degree from Brigham Young University and is completing PH.D. work at the University of Oklahoma. He has served as an assistant on the faculties of all three schools and as an interpreter in Taiwan's ministry of national defense.

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CUTLINES:

BAPTIST LAYMEN HEAR SPEAKERS: Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Professor Kenneth L. Chafin addresses the Baptist Men's Congress on Evangelism and Lay Involvement in Nashville, telling the laymen that in too many cases regarding racial and social justice, Baptists have followed situation ethics instead of what the Bible teaches. (BP) Ph to.

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COOPER ADDRESSES LAYMEN: Mississippi Industrialist Owen Cooper addresses the Baptist Men's Congress on Evangelism and Lay Involvement, delivering a challenge for laymen to be more involved in proclaiming the gospel and personal witnessing, and committing themselves to ministering to human needs. Cooper is president of the Pan American Union of Baptist Men which sponsored the meeting as part of the Crusade of the Americas. (BP) Photo.

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