

What happened after they became White House Boys? ? ?

Many people now have heard about the atrocities that were committed during the earlier decades of the 1900's until at least the late 1960's, especially the type of corporal punishment administered to mostly eleven year old to seventeen year old boys. This was a real life 'beat down' by adults who over the years beat hundreds of boys. These acts were considered appropriate by those 'swing the strap'. It became a way of life for the main child-beaters. It was a ritual every Saturday morning and any time at night. For the victims, it was equivalent to hiding in your fox-hole while waiting on another enemy attack. You knew it was coming; you just didn't know from where or when.

But regardless of how often and/or how bad was the physical pain (was there blood or not?; do you have scars or not?), the psychological trauma of living in those terrifying conditions have most certainly left scars on every boy that survived the ordeal. It seems nobody wants to talk about the 'brain damage' that scars every man who was once a boy at Marianna and Okeechobee. These scars are worse than remembering the physical pain because the memory of physical pain diminishes with time but the scared brain always remembers the hand that snatched us out of bed in the dead of night.

This is the part that needs to be told now. How did we live with all that baggage and manage to survive ? Yes, even thrive, as our wounded spirits and souls searched around for something solid to hold onto. It took years and special people coming into our lives at the right time to guide us through the darkest hole in Florida's history. We are at many different levels of "recovery" but these stories will contain the answers to such questions all participants will be asked... (1) What are you most proud of?... (2) What is your biggest accomplishment?... (3) If you only had one thing left in life you could do, it would be?... (4) If you only had one wish left, it would be?... (5) Your main goal now is?... (6) You want to tell the whole world?... (6) What made your life change from bad to good?... (7) info regarding family and or children you want to share.

This book will be a compilation of the men stories after they recovered from the traumas and began to piece their lives back together. It will attempt to concentrate on the success against enormous odds, how most of the WHBz eventually found happiness, some found military or corrections careers, others wrote about their experiences, there are musicians, professors, entrepreneurs and various skilled tradesmen, some became rich while others became famous. All are just proud to be alive and most, able to still take care of themselves. Many became 'normal, average joe's', surviving from one check to another.

These stories will be gathered from personal interviews with each man. If he wants to "high-light the good times of his life" to share with others this will be the chance. These interviews will be done with the approval of the Board of Directors for The Official White House Boys Organization and then approved by them. As they are approved, these individual stories will appear in their organizational news letter.

These stories will not delve into what happened before and at reform school. There's been enough said about that. These stories will concentrate on the good things that happened after reform school, what was the reason some men changed over time and became good, productive citizens. Is there a common factor? I will be trying to answer that question for myself. Is there just one thing that changed so many men from hard core to soft shell? Inquiring minds want to know. If you're not seeing it as I say it, ...feel free to contact me at mikesapp007xxx@gmail.com WHBz News Reporter Mobile phone: 407-314-2744 (I am open to suggestions and volunteers). Mike Sapp

