



“BUT HE HAS no place to go and I have no place to send him,” might have been the words spoken by Dr. Octacilio M. da Costa, as another boy charged with larceny was brought before him.

Carlos was only one of a succession of young transgressors who had been brought into his Juvenile Court. Judge da Costa knew that there were many other boys like Carlos, abandoned by their families, ignored by the populace, and scorned by passersby, roaming the streets of the beautiful city of Livramento, Brazil.

And so twenty years ago this Juvenile Court judge, moved by the plight of these neglected, delinquent boys, founded Boys' Town in Livramento. His efforts frequently were misunderstood and opposed, but enough encouragement came from his friends to enable him to work at the realization of his dream.

Today sixty boys are being sheltered and educated in the Town two miles outside Livramento. Seventeen acres of land was purchased in 1945, and a one-story, 15-room house built. Construction of the building proceeded at a very slow pace due to lack of sustained financial support.

Livramento is the twin city of the Uruguayan city, Rivera — the border between the two countries is the main street of the town. As a result, people move back and forth across the border freely and speak both Portuguese and Spanish. The population is 35,000. It is located in the gaucho (cowboy) state of Rio Grande de Sul where meat packing is the principal industry.

The Episcopal Church of the Nazarene, which now operates Boys' Town, held its first service in 1940. The congregation first worshipped in a rented room. Twelve years later, a corner lot was purchased and a brick church of Gothic architecture constructed. It now has a communicant strength of 457 and 1,410 baptized members. The resident priest, in addition to his parochial duties, is in charge of Boys' Town as well as a commercial high school in the city.

The boys study and work preparing themselves for adulthood. After completing primary grades at the Town, they have an opportunity to attend the commercial high school in the city. There they receive basic commercial training in preparation for job placement.

Maintenance of the property is expected of the boys who live at the Town. They are

divided into twelve groups and each boy takes a turn working in the kitchen garden, in the truck garden, caring for the farm animals, and keeping the grounds in order. In addition to classes and the work detail, the boys attend Morning Prayer daily. On Sundays they worship with the congregation of the Church of the Nazarene.

Several times a year the boys join the citizens of Livramento in celebrating the national holidays of Brazil. A carnival spirit pervades the city. Rodeos, parades, folk dancing, singing, costumes, confetti, and elaborate floats all help to make these fiestas colorful and memorable occasions.

Moving down the main street with the parade, the contingent from Boys' Town always receives a happy greeting and much applause for its appearance and performance.

Boys' Town is expanding its facilities and program with support from municipal authorities, state, and federal governments. An \$8,000 United Thank Offering grant is being used to complete a dormitory which will be more than just a building. It will be a home with an environment to safeguard the lives of many boys who, like Carlos, have "no place to go."

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