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La Valle de Esperanza...The Valley of Hope....is literally that for some 40 Bolivian boys who were picked up by police for minor offences, particularly that of stealing food. Ranging in age from 8 to 18, these boys were placed in the Valley home, rather than in jail, by its founders, the detectives of the NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS

Begun some five months ago, this project immediately drew the interest of USARMIS officers and NCO's as a worthwhile off-duty and mostly personal project.

This Bolivian "Boys Town" is located high on a hillside in and around an old Hacienda overlooking a farming valley near La Paz. The young residents sleep in a nearby abandoned railroad station building. They spend their days attending school at the Hacienda, and repairing and improving the structure.

The Valley operates on about one hundred dollars a month coming from a five peso per man, per month donation from the detective bureau....and on off-duty help from the USARMIS personnel *who have also est. a fund admin. by a committee comp. of -*  
The USARMIS Officers and Sergeants first became interested in the Valley project ~~project~~ as it was beginning. They learned of it from their wives who were working on another personal time project, that of a home for crippled children.

Though the Valley is not an officially US funded project, results are already tangible enough to make it worthwhile for the Officers and Sergeants to take an active interest. ~~This, both from a personal, humanitarian stand-~~  
~~point, as well as from the higher plane of inter-country relations.~~

Volunteer, as well as material, assistance from the USARMIS personnel has taken many forms. One of the first was a bolt of unbleached muslim cloth which the Valley tailor, one of the boys, and his assistant ~~ben~~ soon had ~~xxxx~~ converted into straw and weed filled mattresses. 10 bags of cement, recently

*water system / swimming pool*  
contributed, will further repairs to the small chapel <sup>which houses</sup> ~~housing~~, among other ~~figures~~ statues, a large one of Saint ~~Martha~~ <sup>Santa</sup> ~~de~~, the patron saint of Wayward children, as well as other building repairs. (other use of cement?)

Because the Valley home has no electricity, contributions secured two kerosene lanterns; a woodburning stove to replace a corner fire pit in the kitchen is aimed at next. A collapsible kitchen table built by the boys brought on a need, soon taken care of, for screws, bolts, and wingnuts. All of these items are either bought by the detective bureau's donations, or are cast-offs, salvage, or outright donations from the USARMIS group. These items can, and have, included crate lumber now being converted into shelves and tables by the boys using donated, ~~xxxxxxx~~ or home-made hand tools. But no matter whatever raw material the boys come into, all work in putting it to use is done by themselves.

*PORRAS*

There is other practical help. On occasional visits, USARMIS personnel have offered suggestions within the scope of their own professional fields. For ~~examp~~ one example, Captain *JAMES* Adams, Corps of Engineers, has made suggestions for improvements of the projects water system.

Other practical aspects of life at the Valley of Hope include extensive garden plots where the boys, again on their own, raise a variety of basic vegetables. Though these are primarily for their own table, there are plans for possible sale of some produce. This self-help approach includes even such itmes as carefully handcarved stones for possible sale.

The educational aspect of the Valley is about to get a much hoped-for and needed boost. Representatives of other schools are being invited to visit the unique Hacienda and encouraged to study the project for a report to their fellow students. It is hoped this will encourage donations of much needed books, ~~pencils~~, and notepaper to the scholastic side of Valley.

Meanwhile, Sgt of USARMIS recently raided his own backyard for benches for the school room.

There are no fences or walls around Valley. Restriction is minimal, if at all. And of the present "estudiante", apparently only two require a bit of restraint. It may appear harsh, or even ridiculous, but it's effective.....they are simply not allowed to wear pants. And even this is ~~not~~ probably <sup>not</sup> necessary for long since life at the Valley of Hope is by far better ~~than~~ jail.

Self-sufficiency is perhaps the best lesson of the Valley. But there are obviously more practical aspects. A home is provided, a boys life begun anew, trades learned, educations continued....and maybe most important, hunger satisfied without resorts to theft. Elections of carpenters, tailors, etc, by the boys from among themselves, point to a basic democratic approach.

Questions:

1. side value...drawing various military and police forces together in sense of communications between them and US advisors.
2. Money...from anywhere beside detective bureau (cement specifically)
3. who runs it (on premises).

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