

Boys' Ranch

US : 1946 : dir. Roy Rowland : M-G-M : 97 min
 prod: Robert Sisk : scr: William Ludwig : dir.ph.:
Jackie "Butch" Jenkins; Sharon McManus; Skip Homeier; Darryl Hickman
 James Craig; Dorothy Patrick; Ray Collins; Minor Watson; Geraldine Wall; Arthur Space;
 Robert Emmet O'Connor; Moroni Olsen

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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*Sharon McManus and "Butch" Jenkins – delinquents just don't come any ornier.
 Source: The M-G-M Story*

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"A remake of **"BOYS' TOWN"** but in a Western setting. Craig assembles a number of abandoned boys around him. Jenkins was at that time a well-known and popular boy actor who a few years later was obliged to leave the film industry because he began to stutter and was unable to overcome it. ** "

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

"A baseball player persuades Texas millionaires to finance a ranch where deprived city youngsters can learn life's true values. Predictable sentimental hogwash without much pace or star value."

The M-G-M Story review:

"James Craig, a glutton for punishment, coped with Metro's scene-stealing youngsters singly and in bunches. Survivor of two Margaret O'Briens and one Jackie "Butch" Jenkins, he took on two more with Butch in rapid succession. **"BOYS' RANCH"** was "Son of BOYS' TOWN" in a Western setting, with Sharon McManus and Skippy Homeier, Darryl Hickman, Dorothy Patrick, Ray Collins, Geraldine Wall, Minor Watson, Arthur Space, Emmet O'Connor, Moroni Olsen. Roy Rowland directed and Robert Sisk produced the William Ludwig screenplay."

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89
review:

“Highly recommended for the youngsters is this cute story about delinquents who are given a chance to reform by working on a cattle ranch. **1/2 ”

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Radio Times Guide to Films", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. The expressions “deprived city youngsters”, “abandoned boys” and “delinquents” are not exactly interchangeable, unless one proceeds from the conviction that every inner city hoodlum is only a damaged boy in need of a hug. **"BLESS THE BEASTS AND CHILDREN"** (71) covered rather similar territory, as did Disney's **"A BOY CALLED 'NUTHIN' "** (67) with Ronny Howard, while the TV series **"Father Murphy"** featured a whole herd of candy-box cuties in a makeshift orphanage set up and run in the Old West by a bogus priest. The Soviet Union produced a number of films about youth reclamation projects of one sort or another.

Jackie "Butch" Jenkins (**"OUR VINES HAVE TENDER GRAPES"**, **"MY BROTHER TALKS TO HORSES"**) was 8, Darryl Hickman (**"THE GRAPES OF WRATH"**, **"MEN OF BOYS TOWN"**, **"GLAMOUR BOY"**) was 14, and Skip Homeier (**"TOMORROW THE WORLD"**, **"MICKEY"**) was 17. Sharon McManus was 9, seen the previous year in **"ANCHORS AWEIGH"**, and in 1948 in **"CITY ACROSS THE RIVER"**.

See subject index under **CRIME / DELINQUENCY**, [ORPHANS / ADOPTION / CHILDREN'S HOMES](#) and [WESTERNS](#), as well as the original **"BOYS' TOWN"** (38) and its 1941 sequel.