STAFF MEMBERS Wayne Smith, Judy Mac-Donald and Ruth Hargreaves show good riding

style as they head off for the round-up chapel service at the Peoples Church Ranch.

In Nassagaweya

BOUND FOR CHURCH: This sleigh packed with hay and youngsters isn't headed for a barnyard. The children are being transported from the corner of Fifth Line and No. 15 Round-up chapel services draw crowds to Church Ranch

favorite pair of jeans or coveralls and riding bootsthen head for chapel services near Rockwood.

area, these individuals would be looked upon with some degree of repugnance for entering a house of God in such casual attire.

Ranch-located one mile south of 15 Sideroad on Fifth Line-what a person wears to worship the Lord is not important.

All that matters is that they have taken the trouble to make their way into the country so early in the morning-and that they are anxious to learn more about the gospel and spread the word of God to non-believers.

"Round-up" Though chapel services don't get underway until about 11 a.m. Ranch director Bruce Chapman, his wife Chris and their four children are up and about by 4.30 a.m. to begin preparations for the fellowship horseback riding

. Some of the staff members (who attend high school or warming the youngsters college during the week) spend Saturday night at the the bare beamed floor to sing Ranch and are up helping the songs and hear Bible stories.

Chapmans by 6 a.m. arrive at the Ranch between 7 and 8 a.m. to do whatever they can to help the Chapmans bef re the congregation starts to show up for the Sunday "round-up.

The "Round-up For God", as it is called, begins about 9.30 a.m.

Like informality people choose to park their cars a mile north of the Ranch and either hop a horsedrawn sleigh or hay wagon or. mount one of the waiting horses as a method of transportation down the rugged

road to the Ranch. "We really enjoy going out to meet the people coming in for chapel services," Mr. Chapman said. "It warms . them up to the informality of the Ranch and is something they all look forward to."

Right now the Ranch has about 45 horses and several

round-up during the coming son Dave and staff member people appreciate the oppor-

Many of the horses have been given to the Ranch by friends or neighbors who At most churches in the wanted to be sure an aging mare had a good home-or by members of the congregation who felt a desire to contribute

something to the round-up. Others have donated such But at the Peoples Church items as bales of hay which ean be put to use at the Ranch during the course of the year.

"We never take up collections," Mr. Chapman explained. "People give as they

Sunday school

Ranch with rustic wooden cabins dotting its rolling hills, members of the congregation break into small groups according to age and riding ability.

younger children receive Sunday school instruction inside the log building known as the "Chuck House" while the teenagers and adults enjoy a period of along the trails of the Ranch.

A fire roars on the hearth, gathered in a semi-circle on

Two staff members-Paul The other staff members Hubert and John Hewittgive riding safety lessons to other newcomers inside the

"Chuck House." Cocoa and cookies

After about an hour, everyone is re-united on benches around the crackling fireplace as hot cocoa, coffee and a variety of home-baked cookies are served by Mrs. At this time, many of the Chapman and some of the other women.

Sometime between 11 and 11.30 a.m. the round-up chapel service begins inside the "Chuck House"

(Incidentally, the "Chuck House" is only used for prayer meetings during the winter months because it has the best heating facilities of all the buildings at the Ranch. During the summer, chapel services are either held outdoors or in the nearby antiquated tin chapel.)

The Service Mr. Chapman conducts the



LINDA AND DON CUTHBERT of Campbellville enjoy a walk in the snow before round-up chapel services at the Peoples Church Ranch. Parents to seven children (aged five to 15), the Cuthberts appreciate the opportunity to have this quiet time together while their children learn Christian values at Sunday school class.

Every Sunday morning others have been promised to western round-up chapel ser- on the part of children as well from September to June some Mr. Chapman for use in the vices, aided by his 19-year-old as adults, and it appears the

> Dale Redford. The men wear blue jeans as the Sunday worship. they read passages from the Bible and interpret them for the congregation.

A group of 10 young musaccompany churchgoers to such tunes as "Oh! What a Beautiful Morning", "The Round-Up For God Is On" and "The Lord Is My Shepherd.

An overhead projector is always used during services where lyrics to songs are made visible for the congregation to follow and important points to remember from

Draws parallel Another special feature of

chapel services at the Peoples Church Ranch is that Mr. Chapman strives to explain complicated Biblical passages in everyday terminology-and gives examples of how the stories told by the Apostles apply to daily life. The prayer meeting is

indeed a live service just as it is intended to be. Participation is encouraged

tunity to take an active role in

This is evidenced by the fact that between 100 and 130 individuals turn out for services at the Ranch on a regular basis today compared to just 50 when the chapel services began three years ago. "Spiritual home"

According to Mr. Chapman, the Ranch is the "spiritual home" of many of those who attend the Sunday services. "A lot of the people who

come here made their firsttime decisions to receive Christ while attending camp Upon arrival at the 200-acre the day's sermon are jotted here during the summer months or during round-ups in the past," he explained.

Mr. Chapman said 105 campers made first-time decisions to accept Christ as their personal Savior during the 1975 summer season at the Ranch. And 37 others openly admitted they had drifted far from God but came back to Him during that

loneliness, frustration and

rebellion were prompted by the Holy Spirit to approach some trusted staff member for counsel, Mr. Chapman

from parents," he related.

in the years ahead."

A 10-year-old camper expressed much the same

"Now I really do believe in God and am a Christian," the letter went on. "I'm going to need Him a lot to help me in my school work. I'm going to Still others experiencing a start reading my Bible more variety of problems such as often so I won't slip away from God at all."

Sideroad to the Peoples Church Ranch a mile down the road. There they ride horses, attend Sunday school classes and

"Even before the summer session was over, we were receiving letters of gratitude

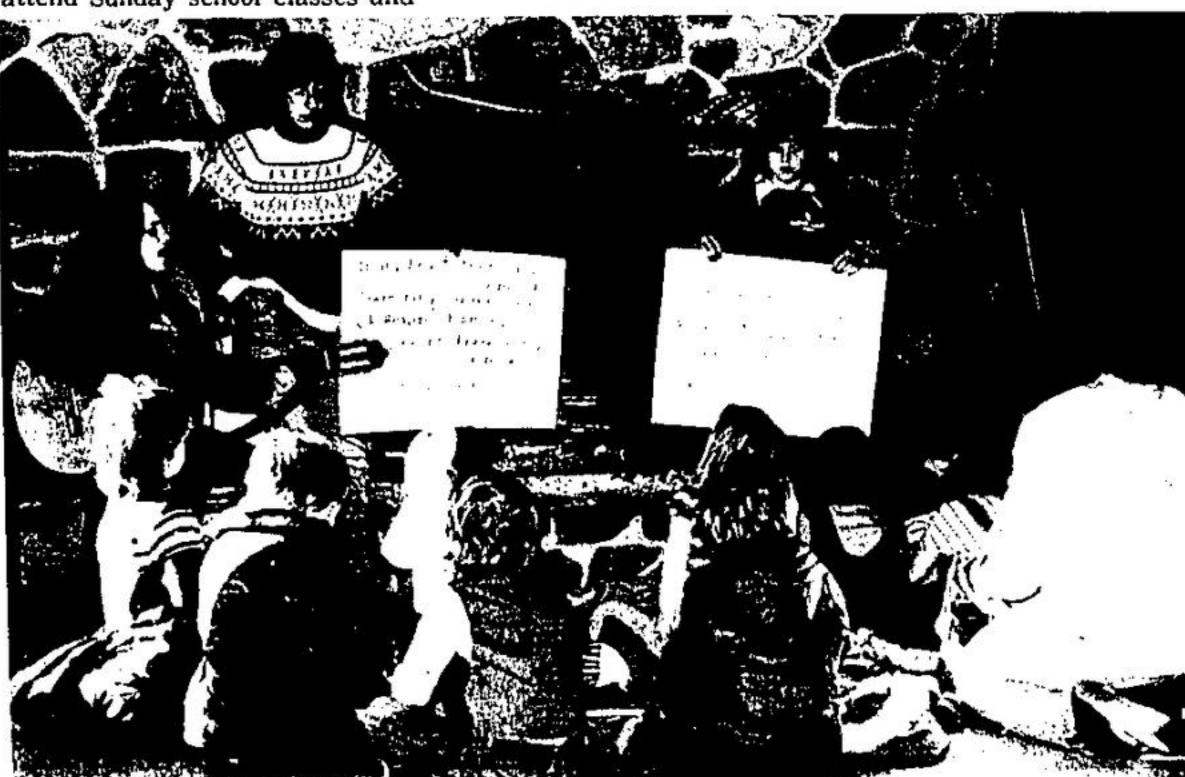
One father wrote, "There is so much pressure here in the city, it is difficult to direct young people. What God has done for my son this year at The Ranch, I know will influence his life and guide him

"Before I came to The Ranch I didn't really believe in God," the child wrote. "But after I read the Gospel and saw Christ in you (Mr. Chapman) and your staff members, it all added up. There's got to be a God!'

fireplace during a Sunday School session inside

participate in roundup chapel services together. A team of horses usually pulls the hay wagon down the road to the ranch, but when it's snowy or slippery a chain-tired tractor is used instead.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: Nancy Redford leads primary students in a sing-a-long by the

the "Chuck House". Holding up the lyrics for the children to follow are staff members Tim MacDonald and Brenda Ralph.

Bruce Chapman

Director of Peoples Ranch heads up 'family ministry'

Bruce Chapman has been director of the Peoples Church Ranch since 1972 and considers it "a real privilege" to be involved in

a ministry of this nature. A third generation elder of the Peoples Church of Toronto (which is committed to reaching the unsaved for Christ and turning Christians from worldliness to spirituality) Mr. Chapman said it was "a very natural move" for him to take over the Ranch ministry when the original director left five years ago.

"My wife Chris and I have always been interested in helping people-particularly young people-and our job as directors of the Ranch provides us with an excellent opportunity to do this," he said.

Had own business

Prior to the opening of the Peoples Church Ranch in Rockwood in 1969, the Chapmans had been busy operating their own business and raised horses in the Nobleton-Schomberg area.

But, upon hearing of the newest outreach of the church's missionary work at the 200acre Ranch, they decided to offer their service free of charge and on a part-time basis.

Then, when the former Ranch director left, Mr. Chapman was asked to take over the duties of full-time director assisted by his wife and their four children.

Family ministry A close knit family, the Chapmans believe it is vital that every member of the family be involved in the ministry of the church at the Ranch.

"We feel it's a privilege to be a family upholding Christian values today," Mr. Chapman said during a recent interview. "Our children are well-rounded, solid individuals who contribute a great deal to community life as well as to the ministry of

the church." "Upholding Christ's teachings hasn't hurt them in any way," he added. A brief resume of their accomplishments is evidence of this.

Honor students Their oldest son Bill, 21, Is a third year honor student at the Forestry School at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. A qualified horsemanship instructor, he helps

out at the Ranch whenever home from his studies.

Dave, age 19, graduated from Acton High School just over a year ago, and is involved in playing junior hockey in the area. His father says he "draws people to him like a magnet" and is a favorite counsellor of the children at the Ranch. Dave is also Program Director for the camping season and assists in the round-up services.

The Chapman's only daughter is 16-yearold Karen, a Grade 11 honor student at Acton High.

Athletic champ For the past two years, she has been

named the outstanding female athlete at the school. A certified swimmer, Karen is on the pool staff at the Ranch and is active in other camp projects there as well. She is also a qualified horsewoman and, according to her father, is one of the best counsellors at the Ranch.

The youngest is 12-year-old Rich who attends Brookville Public School where he is known as "the Christian boy". A lot of his friends and classmates attend round-up chapel services at the Ranch with him.

An adept guitarist, Rich also sings and is a talented ventriloquist. He is a keen horseman and offers stiff competition to the older boys at the Ranch during barrel races, his father said.

Help one another On Sundays the family is up and about by 4.30 a.m., at which time they give the horses the first of their four daily feedings. They then pause for breakfast at 6.45 a.m.

prayer and Bible study. Most of the Ranch's 30 volunteer weekend staff members arrive by 8.00 a.m. to get last-minute preparations ready for the round up chapel service.

followed by a period of family devotion,

Everyone works together. Mr. Chapman explained why.

"You see," he said, "communication is vital to our ministry and it's very easy for people to communicate while doing chores together or riding the trail or enjoying a hot cup of coffee by the fireplace."

"That's why we do these things as part of western round-up," he said.

New concept Though the Ranch has existed since 1969. Mr. Chapman said the round-up chapel services are still a relatively new concept and only came into being two and a half vears ago.

That is, chapel services had always been held during the summer months so campers could attend Sunday worship while on vacation at the Ranch. But when the summer ended, so did the chapel services. However, out-of-town vacationers were not the only ones who attended the special

summer prayer services. Many of the Chapman's neighbors also enjoyed taking part in the lively servicesand it was at their request, Mr. Chapman decided to continue them year-round.

The first round-up chapel service was held in September. 1974 with only about 50 participants. Attendance figures today for the round-up services constantly top the 100 mark.

· Everyone welcome

(They are now held every Sunday throughout the year, however religious instruction classes and horseback riding sessions are suspended during July and August because the Ranch staff is so busy with the campers.)

"Quite a cross-section of denominations come here to worship on Sunday," Mr. Chapman noted. "We never turn anyone away."

"We're here because the people like our services. They feel a genuine sincerity in the way the Gospel is presented to them and appreciate being encouraged to develop a personal relationship with God through a child-like faith in Him," he sald.

"Here at the Ranch, Christianity is much more than just church on Sunday," he smiled. "It's living it."

Apply teachings "That is," he continued, "we stress every avenue of Christian life right from cleanliness to obedience to unquestioning

faith in the Lord." "We're concerned with the individual as a whole and deal with the total character of the person in addition to reading the Gospet for them."

"It is our hope that they will then be able to apply the teachings of Christ to their daily lives," Mr Chapman said.



BRUCE CHAPMAN is director of the Peoples Church Ranch in Rockwood which serves as a year-round campground and as a place for Western round-up chapel services on Sundays.

Feature

by Ann Hauprich-Nielsen