

Viet Refugees In a Bad Spot

Ocoee, Fla.

Hoping to make them sharecroppers, a Seminole county woman put two families of Vietnamese refugees — 11 men, women and children — in a two-bedroom house trailer isolated in an orange grove without electricity, water or toilets and handed them a rifle to shoot intruders.

"If these are the kind of people who are going to do this country any good, they've got to have that pioneer spirit," Mary Kenny told reporters yesterday.

Mrs. Kenny, who leases the 20-acre orange grove, said that when she arranged to sponsor the refugees, she hoped the Vietnamese — all city dwellers from Saigon — would sharecrop hay and oranges and pay her \$166 a month in rent.

She said she gave the group a .22-caliber rifle and a box of shells and instructed them to "shoot at anybody that you think might be

trying to harm you."

Asked about the lack of toilets, Mrs. Kenny replied:

"Well, I gave them a snakebite kit and told them to wear boots . . ."

Reporters found the refugees sweltering in the trailer in 95-degree heat and arranged with the Red Cross to move the two families to an Orlando motel until they can find new sponsors.

Mrs. Kenny said she had arranged to sponsor the refugees through Church World Services, a volunteer agency. She said she had requested one family, not two.

"I just didn't have the heart to send them back, no Sir, not me," she said. "I'm not that hard-hearted."

But finally Mrs. Kenny called the affair a "big mistake" and agreed the refugees should return to Eglin Air Force Base, where they had landed with other refugees from Vietnam.

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