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The Philmont Staff Association (PSA) unites the Philmont staff—past and present—for the purpose of serving the adventure, heritage and experience of Philmont Scout Ranch and the Boy Scouts of America.

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APRIL 2014

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 2

HIGH COUNTRY®

THE MAGAZINE OF THE PHILMONT STAFF ASSOCIATION®



High Country®—VOLUME 37, NUMBER 2
APRIL 2014
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On the cover: Joe Leisz and his
father, Bob, pose for a photo at the
Phillips mausoleum. See story on
page 22.

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BOB BIRKBY CATHY HUBBARD KATHY LEACH
JOE LEISZ DAVID WERHANE

from the president

Reconnecting

Every once in a while, life circumstances give us a chance to reconnect with someone from the past—a long lost friend, a former co-worker or even that person you thought you would never see again, and when you do it is like stirring the ashes and finding a glowing ember.

That happened to me last year with two people I had not seen in 40 years. Ron Riesinger worked at Philmont in the early 70s as a ranger, was a really good friend, and not just because he had a car to drive on days off! We lost touch after leaving the Ranch, heading back to college and then careers and eventually families. Through facebook I searched and discovered he lived in Portland, so I wrote him a message and on a 2013 trip through Texas he arranged to visit at our home in Tyler. What a treat it was to stir up old memories.

Several months later, on a fall visit to the Ranch, I was surprised and pleased to see Kathy Leach, another Philmont co-worker I had not seen in 40 years. Kathy was one of the first women hired as a ranger, and changed life in the Ranger department for the better.

These reconnections are examples of what the PSA is all about. We belong to this group of Philmont staff alumni not only because we care about this

place, but because we can stir the ashes and rekindle the friendship fire from a couple of glowing memories. Both Kathy and Ron are PSA members and I hope to discover others from my past through the network of great people who have found their way back to Philmont.

I encourage each of you to take the chance to reconnect in 2014 by participating in PSA events—whether at the Ranch or at a regional event. We want to hear from you. Tell us what you have been up to by sending an update to Randy at the PSA office. You can see what others from each decade are doing by reading the “Trail Talk” section in *High Country*. If you run across former Philmont staffers who aren’t members of the PSA, take a minute to let them know they are missed. Our membership committee under the direction of Colleen Nutter is starting a new action plan for 2014 to expand the membership even further. She is looking for volunteers to be a part of that committee. Here is a chance to get involved for the PSA. Contact Colleen or Randy if you would like to be a part of that team. Thank you, and see you at the Ranch.

- John Murphy,
President

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Upcoming PSA® Events

PSA Virginia Regional Reunion – April 25-27, 2014
Camp Shenandoah, Swope VA
Contact: Tim Riedl at 563-451-7419 or tim.riedl@gmail.com

PSA San Antonio Regional Reunion – April 26, 2014, Noon to 3:00pm.
Casa Lynch: 13715 Bluffrock, San Antonio, TX
Contact: Jim Lynch at texaslynchs@sbcglobal.net

PSA Reception at BSA National Meeting – May 22, 2014, 5:00pm to 6:30pm.
Gaylord Opryland Resort, Nashville, TN
Contact: Randy Saunders at psadirector@philstaff.com

PSA North Texas Regional Reunion – May 31, 2014.
St. Francis Church Family Life Center, Grapevine, TX.
Contact: John Ryan at thetexaswebguy@yahoo.com.

PSA Annual Reunion – July 11-13, 2014
Philmont Training Center

PSA Summer Trek @ Philmont – July 14-20, 2014
Philmont Scout Ranch

PSA Autumn Adventure Trek – October 12-17
Philmont Scout Ranch

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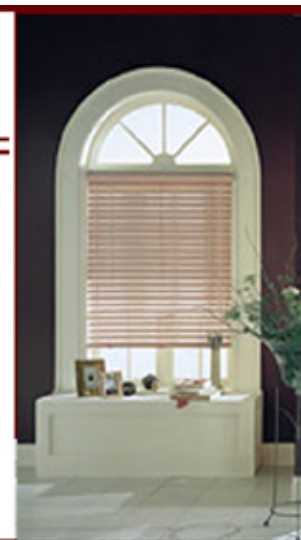
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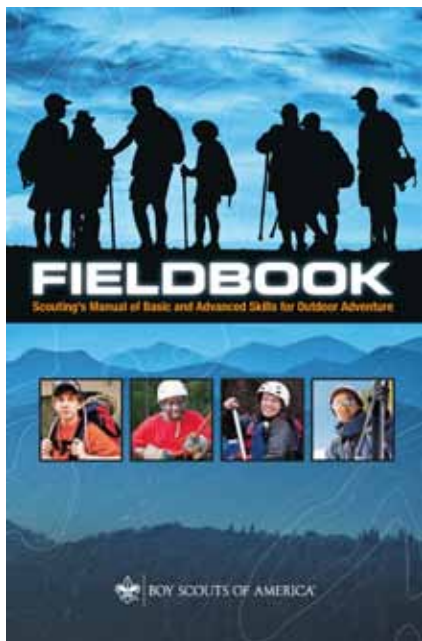
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The Philstaff - Fieldbook Connection



Cover of the new Fieldbook.

The fifth edition of the BSA *Fieldbook*, "Scouting's manual of basic and advanced skills for outdoor adventure," hits bookstore shelves this month. As with previous editions, current and former Philmont staff members played the leading roles in its development.

Work on the new edition began way back in 2009 under the direction of two Philmont veterans. Frank Reigelman, former Philmont director of program and then leader of the BSA's outdoor programs team, and former PSA president Mark Stinnett, then the new chairman of the BSA's Outdoor Programs Committee, spearheaded the project.

Their first task: securing content responsibility for the book, which had briefly been left hanging in the latest BSA national reorganization in 2008.

Over the course of a year, they developed a concept for a new *Fieldbook* that would shake things up a bit. They proposed a change in focus from a book primarily about Scouting in the outdoors to a book about the outdoors written by Scouting, with plans to market and sell the book to the public as well as the Scouting community.

"Back in the 80s, I read an outdoor retailer's review about the *Fieldbook* that called it the best all-around guide to the outdoors on the market," Stinnett said. "We wanted to make the new edition fit that definition, but also wanted to use it to help publicize (and perhaps remind people of) the BSA and its place as one of the nation's premier outdoor organizations."

Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, their proposal met with enthusiastic support in both professional and volunteer ranks. In 2011, meetings began with representatives of outdoor programs, supply, media studio and marketing groups to start work on budgets, timetables, and conceptual outlines. One of the first and biggest decisions involved how the book would be written – by assigning sections or chapters to various writers or teams, or by hiring a single author. Another involved selection of members of the *Fieldbook* Task Force – the group that would be charged with providing

technical advice and expertise, proofing both copy and illustrations for accuracy, and lending the book credibility. On both fronts, Philmont connections quickly surfaced.

Reigelman and Stinnett, by then assisted by Joe Glasscock, longtime national staffer assigned as staff advisor to the project, quickly settled on the single author concept, with a particular single author in mind. Robert Birkby, former Philmont director of conservation, emerged as the consensus choice of the leadership team. "Bob offered the perfect combination of qualities we needed," Stinnett said. "He had a deep Scouting background, terrific outdoor adventure experience, recognized environmental leadership and proven writing credentials – and the ability to put them all together."

Stinnett approached Birkby, who had authored the previous *Fieldbook* edition and three editions of the *Scout Handbook*, as well as *Lightly on the Land*, the Student Conservation Association's guide to trail building and maintenance, at a Philmont staff function in the summer of 2011. Birkby enthusiastically signed on, and by December, the two were exchanging emails on chapter outlines and content ideas. While Birkby finished writing the BSA's *Scoutmaster Handbook*, Stinnett and Reigelman set about assembling the task force.

As usual, Philmont staff experience stood out among those selected for outdoor expertise. At Birkby's suggestion, two younger Phil-adventurers, Piper Niehaus, a former Rayado trek coordinator, and Kurt Imhoff, another former ranger who had hiked the Pacific Crest Trail, were invited. Christine

Salisbury, then Philmont's chief ranger and later director of Northern Tier's Okpik winter program, joined the team. Former Philmont environmental educator Carrie Anderson, now an environmental field instructor at the University of Idaho, accepted an invitation. A 70s ranger, Jeff Marion, research biologist for the U.S. Geological Survey and a founding member of Leave No Trace, joined as the delegate from the BSA's Outdoor Ethics Task Force. Associate Director of Program Chris Sawyer represented Philmont among professionals chosen from each of the BSA's four high adventure bases.

In May 2012, Stinnett and Birkby met at Philmont for presentation of the PSA's Distinguished Staff Alumni Award to Wally Berg, and with some thoughts from Silver Sage Award recipient Rod Replogle, another former Philmont director of conservation, hammered out what eventually turned out to be about 90 percent of the concept and content outline for the book. All agreed that while the current *Fieldbook* was a beautiful and masterful work, it simply had a bit too much content and size to be a practical companion on most camping or backpacking trips. Decisions made included making the book smaller and easier to use in the field, with a brighter paper stock to make it easier to read at night and plenty of technical illustrations. The team also agreed on a more concise focus on the traditional back country activities of camping, hiking, outdoor exploration and waterway travel, with elimination of chapters on biking, sailing and similar pursuits that are often more "front-country" in scope and for

which other manuals and resources are available.

Birkby proposed including quotes and tips from back country experts with strong Scouting connections throughout the book. Such vignettes would not only provide practical advice from true experts, but would serve to highlight the role Scouting played in starting many of those on the path to outdoor adventure. Readers of the new *Fieldbook* will find that many of those quotes come from former Philstaffers.

Writing began in the fall of 2012 with first chapters delivered to the task force in October. Not unexpectedly, changes of plans popped up regularly. Birkby's draft of a chapter on risk management morphed into new chapters on hazards and emergency preparedness. The planned chapter on mountain travel merged into backpacking. Midway through the writing, the entire book outline changed with the decision to devote a completely new section to safety and survival, with totally new and detailed chapters on first aid and wilderness survival skills. Throughout the writing process, the Philmont contingent on the task force provided valuable insights, suggestions and ideas, most of which are incorporated into the finished product.

Stinnett hopes that the "new look" *Fieldbook* will be well received in both the Scouting and outdoor communities. It has already received endorsements from Jon Jarvis, director of the National Park Service, Greg Miller, president of the American Hiking Society, and Dana Watts, executive director of Leave No Trace. In yet another break with past barriers, those endorsements will ap-

pear in print on the back cover of the new book.

"The outstanding fourth edition of the *Fieldbook* was also produced by a Philmont team – Ed Pease, the project chairman, and Dave Bates, the project director, with some of the same names on the project task force," Stinnett said. "It's no surprise that Scouting's definitive guide to outdoor adventure again includes a healthy dose of Philmont experience."

As Birkby wrote in his preliminary plan back in June 2012: "The message the *Fieldbook* can convey is this: the BSA has been introducing people to the outdoors for more than a hundred years, and we're really good at what we do. We'd like to share our knowledge and excitement about outdoor adventures with you, so here's a book full of some of our best ideas. We hope you enjoy what you find on these pages and that what you read will inspire you and guide you to set off on outdoor adventures of your own."

Order a copy of the new *Fieldbook* from Tooth of Time Traders at www.toothoftimetraders.com or visit your nearest Scout shop.

Editor's Note: Fieldbook author Robert Birkby has been selected as the 2014 recipient of the PSA's Distinguished Staff Alumni Award, which will be presented at the opening staff program on May 29 at Philmont. Read about his award and achievements in the June edition of High Country.



PSA Members Honor Veterans

Every year, the National Capital Area Council (DC, MD, VA) forms an Honor Unit to salute veterans by placing wreaths at various memorials in Washington, DC on Veterans' Day, November 11. The route begins at the Boy Scout Memorial and then proceeds to the World War II Memorial, the Viet Nam Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, and concludes at the World War I District of Columbia War Memorial. PSA members participating in the 2013 Honor Unit were led by former PSA Treasurer Jack Person. Those interested in participating in future years should contact him at mmpjwp@comcast.net or 705-528-3464.



PSA members and Scouting volunteers from the National Capital Area Council honor American veterans at various memorials in Washington, DC on Veteran's Day 2013.

2014 North Texas PSA Reunion

When you walk into the PSA Reunion on Saturday May 31st in Grapevine, TX, you will walk into a Disneyland of Scouting history. "Every Patch Tells A Story" of our Scouting legacy, and every Scouter is a Librarian - thousands of patches will be on hand.

The 2014 North Texas PSA Reunion is a fund raiser to provide PSA Staff

Scholarship Funds so our finest Scouts can help bring that treasured Philmont experience to every 2014 attendee.

Date: Saturday, May 31st
Location: St Francis Church Family Life Center, 861 Wildwood Ln (Grapevine, TX)

The planning committee has



John Corpany, (right) is co-hosting the 2nd North Texas PSA Reunion that is raising funds for Staff Scholarships in 2014. As a former Philmont Ranger, John can't wait to hike the trails of Philmont with his son Elliot (left) during the summer of 2014.

designed a fun event for Philmont Staffers, their families, members of 2014 Philmont contingents or anyone who has ever dreamed Philmont:

* Philmont One Millionth Camper Patch Sets approved by PSA Director Randy Saunders and Philmont. Sales benefit Staff Scholarship Fund. There are only 30 full sets of 5 patches at \$35 each with all funds over cost benefiting Staff Scholarships. If you can't make it to the Reunion, a black border One Million Camper patch is available for \$4 each. Please email John Ryan at thetexaswebguy@yahoo.com for more information.

* Philmont Memorabilia and Philmont Contingent Patch Displays.

* PSA Reunion Luncheon 1130 A.M. (benefiting PSA Staff Scholarships). All

luncheon purchases receive red border One Millionth Camper patch.

* A FREE Collectible patch for every Scout under 18 attending May 31st.

* Youth Auction FREE Patch giveaway. Your Scout (under 18) can learn about our shared heritage, learn about value and learn about patch trading rules - and then 400 patches will be given away in a game.

* Scouts Only (18 and under) 1 For 1 Trading Table. All

Scouts can bring their own patches, and if they see something on the table they want, they can put one of their patches on the table for one patch they want from the table.

* PSA members and/or groups. We have a few side rooms we can dedicate to specific Philmont alumni who would like to meet as a group. A purple border One Millionth Camper patch is available for PSA members. Please contact John Ryan for availability.

There are still a few activities being worked on to make this an enjoyable time for you - so mark it on your calendars to swing by Saturday May 31st.

For more information on the PSA Reunion schedule, availability for the PSA Staff Scholarship Patches, or the activities available for PSA members,

<http://www.psareunion.com/> OR Contact PSA Reunion Co-Host John Corpany jwcorpany@att.net or overall event host John Ryan thetexaswebguy@yahoo.com

Note: The 2014 North Texas PSA Reunion is part of a weekend event called the Lone Star Trade - O - Ree. This event began in 1988 as a fund raiser to help OA Scouts, who would not normally be able to go to Philmont, see their dream become reality. Through the years, our annual fund raising event has helped Scouts from 20 Troops, 3 Scout Councils and 2 Countries experience Philmont on a Trek, Cavalcade, Kanik adventure or provide

a program for the NCCS Conference at the Philmont Training Center. The Staff of the annual Lone Star Trade - O - Ree are proud to join efforts with the Philmont Staff Association to provide Staff Scholarship Funds.



Florida PSA Reunion

A small but hardy band of PSA members attended the 4th Annual Florida PSA Reunion at Paynes Prairie State Preserve near Micanopy, Florida on February 1. Unofficially, the event began on Friday and extended into Sunday in this lush park. A roaring campfire helped chase away Friday night's soaking rain and cold, and good food and fellowship followed by a nature walk and geo-caching expedition rounded out the event. Plans are already underway for the 2015 reunion; everyone is welcome! The PSA extends thanks again to Randall and Susan MacDonald for their dedicated work planning this annual event.



Pictured above are our intrepid Floridians: (L-R) Bill Guglielmi, Trish Guglielmi, Jo Hentzelman, Steve Hentzelman, Steve Gamewell, Jenny Gamewell, Susan MacDonald, Randall M. MacDonald.

Major New Mexico Historical Book Donation to Seton Memorial Library

by David Werhane, Philmont Museums Director

Among the best things about working at “The Seton” is that you never know when the next great story will walk through the door. One day last August I looked up from my desk and saw an old friend, the honorable Robert A. Burns (Philmont Staff 1966, 1969, 1972, 1974-76), strolling into our courtyard. I greeted Bob at the door and after a few moments of catching up, he advised me that he intended to make a donation to the Philmont Museum-Seton Memorial Library.

Anyone who has ever had the chance to talk with Bob Burns knows he has an extensive interest in the history of the Cimarron area and its people. This wouldn't be his first donation to the Museum. As a staff member in the 1960s and 1970s, Bob began his longtime support of Cimarron and The Seton. Coincidentally, one of the first files I came across while moving into this office in 2012 was a series of letters between him and former museum curator, Ellie Pratt. They were discussing the New Mexico Fur Trade and how Bob intended to “teach it” to campers. During Steve Zimmer's tenure as museums director, Bob contributed many artifacts, tools and books to the

museum's collection and back country program. Now, as I thought of some of the great collections Bob had acquired in the 23 years I'd known him (historic buildings, furniture, architectural elements, antiques, tools and stories), my excitement to hear his thoughts was barely containable.

After some discussion about his desire to preserve New Mexico and Cimarron history and more importantly help educate future Philmont staff about it, Bob stated that he wanted to give us his entire private library of New Mexico history.

As he rattled off titles such as *Turmoil in New Mexico*, *The Historical Encyclopedia of New Mexico*, *Our Wild Indians* and *The Fighting Fool* and then elaborated on the authors F. Stanley, William Keleher, and Harvey Ferguson, it was obvious he'd been collecting books and historical documents since his summers here in the 1970s. The true surprise however, came a week later when Bob began bringing in case after case of books. While cataloging them it was obvious that not only was this one of the most complete collections of Cimarron history we'd ever seen, but that most of these books are themselves a piece of that history. Many are first editions signed by the author, but more importantly they have



Philmont staff from the 60s and 70s era.

inscriptions to local people of note such as Evlyn Shuler, Oscar E. Berninghaus and Rufus Whiteman. Often these inscriptions include the location of signing as “Cimarron, New Mexico.”

All in all, over 300 books including dozens of periodicals, pamphlets and maps have been accessioned into our permanent research collection. This collection has been given its own section in the Library as “The Robert A. Burns Collection.” It contains a vast array of important information including historic maps, New Mexico's Historic Figures Encyclopedias, early 20th century promotional literature, historic diaries, dissertations, and essays, ‘fiction based on fact’, short stories,

the 1927 City of Raton Ordinances and even the “1948 Rule Book” from the Operating Department of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway System.

While the books from this collection are to be used for research and educational purposes, due to the significance (and rarity) of many of these books, the collection is currently shelved behind locked, glass doors. By request, anyone wishing to use them may do so here at PM-SML.

If you have an interest in viewing the complete catalog it is available by request. Simply email our Librarian, Robin Taylor, at: philmont.museums@scouting.org.

Need an excuse to visit Philmont this summer ?

Looking for a great family vacation ?

NESA and the Scouting Alumni Association are hosting an Alumni Relations Seminar at the Philmont Training Center - August 10-16, 2014. You'll learn how to create and maintain a successful alumni group. Your family will have a great time in the Philmont Family program.

details: nesa.org/philmont



PS

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Staff Amigos Kicking Off for 2014

Another season at Philmont is right around the corner, and again I bring my request for former staffers to volunteer to befriend a staff group. Hiring is nearly complete, camps and trails are being prepared, and the winter moisture is being assessed (I hope it's better by the time this is in print).

Big changes at the Ranch this year include the opening of Metcalf Station Camp in the north, and itineraries that will pass through and camp on the Chase Ranch lands.

I will be taking requests for staff groups beginning earlier this year in hopes of covering more groups. I will open up on March 15 (Saturday), and will continue to fill groups until they are all taken (I hope..).

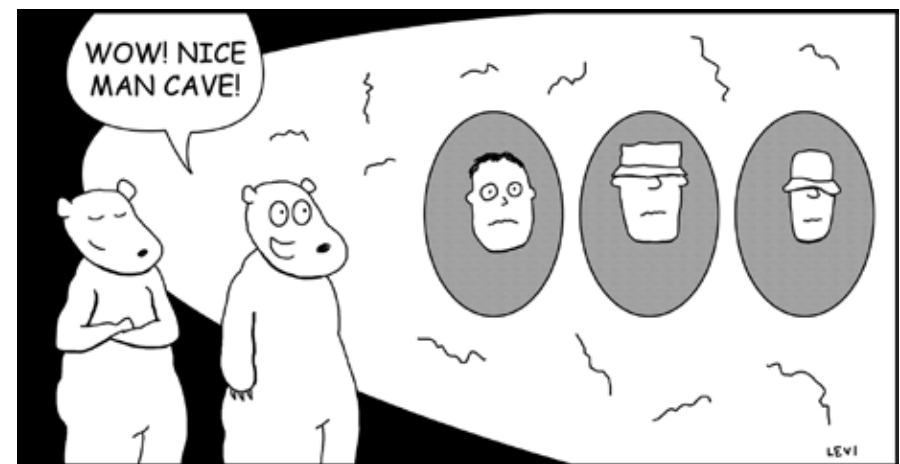
Groups available are: Ranger Training Crews, Back country Camps, Horse Department, Conservation, Base camp staff: Activities, Welcome Center, Logistics, News and Photo, Chaplains,

Health Lodge, Dining Hall, Administration and Trading Post. PTC staff: Administration, Program Staff, COPE, Philmont Museum/Seton Memorial Library, Villa Staff and Handicrafts.

If you or your group are interested please email me at cahubb@tds.net, or contact me through the Philstaff facebook page. I will need your first and second choices, an email, and any other information that you deem important. Expectations are that you connect with your staff group early in the season, and send appropriate care packages and letters throughout the summer. I will be available to you with information as I receive it.

Thank you so much for helping these staffers enjoy their summer even more!

– Cathy Hubbard
PSA Board of Directors



In Search of Waite Phillips's Birthplace

by Robert Birkby

Much is made of key locations in the life of Waite Phillips. His 127,000-acre donation of magnificent New Mexico landscape is the heart of Philmont Scout Ranch. The Villa Philmonte on that

property is lovingly preserved. So is Philbrook, his 72-room Tulsa, Oklahoma, mansion, now the Philbrook Museum of Art.

A recent Philmont Staff Association gathering in Los Angeles paid respects at the mausoleum of Mr. Phillips and his wife Genevieve (see article, page 22). It's easy to find - Westwood Village Memorial Park Cemetery, near the crypt of Marilyn Monroe.

But where is Waite Phillips's birthplace?

The Philmont website says only that Waite and his twin brother Wiate

were born "on a farm in southwestern Iowa on January 19, 1883." An Order of the Arrow online history adds that the farm was near Conway, Iowa. Search the library and internet about Mr. Phillips, and you'll find little more specific.

Up for the challenge, I set out last summer to find that last elusive landmark of Waite Phillips's story - the place where he arrived on the planet.

My first stop was the local history

museum in Bedford, Iowa, the seat of Taylor County where Conway is located. A volunteer docent told me about Lewis and his wife Lucinda "Josie" Phillips marrying in 1867 in Des Moines, Iowa, then homesteading in central Nebraska, fifty miles north of Grand Island. A grasshopper plague swept across the prairie in 1874, a year after their son Frank was born, wiping out the Phillips's fields.

"The grasshoppers ate the crops and



Frank Phillips Home collection
The Phillips Family in 1899 at their home near Conway, Iowa (Waite and Wiate Seated Far Left).



Frank Phillips's Model Covered Wagon in the Taylor County Museum.

photo by Bob Birkby

chewed the grass down to the roots," Lewis said. "When they started on the spokes of the wagon wheels, I decided it was time to try our luck elsewhere."

Elsewhere turned out to be Taylor County, Iowa, where Lewis and Josie settled down to farm and to raise ten children.

Frank went to a nearby one-room country schoolhouse, leaving at age 14 to become a barber. When he was 17 he traveled by train to Colorado and Utah in search of fortune and adventure, then returned to Iowa and married a local banker's daughter.

With help from his father-in-law, Frank became involved in finance, including investments in the newly-emerging oil business in Oklahoma. Along with his brothers Lee Eldas

("L.E.") and Waite, he formed the Lewcinda Oil Company, the name a blend of their parents' first names. It was a forerunner of Phillips Petroleum.

Just as Waite would do in New Mexico, Frank used some of his wealth to purchase and develop a ranch as a retreat from the pressures of his industry and a place to entertain business associates. He named it WOOLAROC, an acronym for the Woods, Lakes, And Rocks of its setting in Oklahoma's Osage Hills. The elaborate eight-bedroom ranch house filled with art and western items is today the WOOLAROC Museum.

The Taylor County docent showed me a 1/4-sized covered wagon with "WOOLAROC or Bust!" painted on the canvas. A plaque on the wagon reads F

P Ranch. It had been a gift from Frank to two young nephews.

On a scale much more modest than Philmont or WOOLAROC, L.E. developed a farm near his Bartlesville, Oklahoma, home where he could run cattle and raise hogs, something he



Taylor County recorder's ledger.

enjoyed doing with his son Phillip R. Phillips. They called it Philson Farms. (The Phillips brothers all became strong supporters of the Boy Scouts of America. Frank was honored with the Silver Buffalo in 1943, Scouting's highest recognition for service to youth. Wishing to avoid the limelight, Waite chose not to be considered for the award.)

I was fascinated by all these Phillips facts, but nonetheless steered the docent back to my search for Waite's birthplace. She was aware of a farm near Conway where the Phillips family had moved in 1885, but that was two years after Waite was born. She suggested the key to the location I was seeking would be in records at the courthouse.

Built in 1892, the courthouse in downtown Bedford would have been a familiar sight to the Phillips family. I climbed the creaky stairs to the second-floor office of the county recorder and

explained my quest. A helpful gentleman returned from a vault with a large, heavy ledger. He put the book on the counter and turned the pages. As his finger glided over the handwritten entries, he suddenly smiled.

"Here it is," he said.

The deed was dated January 7, 1876, seven years before Waite Phillips' birth, documenting the sale of forty acres of farmland to Lewis Phillips for \$800 (about \$17,000 in today's dollars). The property was described as "The East half of the East half of the South West Quarter of Section Seven (7) in



The Phillips's farm today, planted in soybeans.

Township Sixty eight (68) North Range Thirty two (32) West Centering Forty Acres by Government Survey." (A



The Phillips's farm house.

modern geocacher would use latitude and longitude to put that location at 40° 42' 07.03" N, 94° 34' 15.34" W, with an elevation above sea level of 1,219 feet.)

The county recorder marked the location on a road map - eight miles east of downtown Bedford on Highway 2, then

two and a half miles north on County Highway N. 64. Recent efforts to standardize addresses in rural Iowa have imposed street and avenue names on farm

roads. Thirty minutes later, I found myself standing at the intersection of Tennessee Avenue and 240th Street,

the southeast corner of Lewis and Josie Phillips's farm.

The landscape undulates with rich, black soil covered by a healthy crop of soybeans. A line of trees traces a tributary to Honey Creek that in the 1880s could well have been an inviting spot for a farmhouse and a barn. There is nothing left of that homestead and no marker or plaque to commemorate the site, but it's a good guess that the Phillips family lived on this land east of Conway when Waite and Wiate Phillips were born.

Of course, establishing historical certainty can be tricky. I've recently come across a collection of photographs organized by Lee Phillips III, grandson of L.E. Phillips. One is of a two-story



Paul Chandler examines the foundation of the Phillips' 1890s farmhouse.

home. The handwritten caption reads, "Old farmhouse West of Conway where Waite and Wiate were born. Taken about 1883."

I've found no record of Lewis Phillips owning

property west of Conway. The docent at the Taylor County Historical Society was not aware of a Phillips farm in that



photo by Bob Birkby

Phillips Family Plot in Washington Cemetery - Gravity, Iowa.

direction. Could the caption mistakenly say west when the writer meant east? Could Josie have given birth to the twins in a home other than her own?

Whatever the case, when the boys were two years old the family moved to a farm four miles north of Conway. The rising terrain becomes what could almost pass for hills, and today a modern farmhouse stands at a high point that township maps designate as once having been the Phillips place.

Paul Chandler, who has worked the farm since the mid-1970s, came down the driveway and assured me before I got out of the car that the barking dog was harmless. In the lawn a few feet from his house, Paul showed me the remains of a concrete foundation that had

supported the north side of the Phillips home.

"Down there's where the railroad used to go," Paul told me, pointing toward a shallow valley a few hundred yards away. "They say that when the twins were 16 and working in the fields it was hot and hard, so they jumped on a train and went west."

Their departure was actually more organized, bankrolled in part by their older brother Frank, who had himself gone on a similar quest as a teenager a decade earlier. The twins spent three years traveling and finding jobs in mining camps and lumber towns. The trip came to a tragic halt when Wiata died in Spokane, Washington, after surgery for appendicitis. Waite accompanied

his brother's body home for burial in Washington Cemetery near the town of Gravity, a few miles from Conway.

That was the last stop on my exploration, too. The family plot has a large stone featuring the name Phillips. To the left are smaller stones for Wiata; a sister Etta, who had died of diphtheria when she was almost seven; and his mother. To the right, flanked by a metal Grand Army of the Republic star, the stone marking the grave of Waite's father reads:

L.F. Phillips, 1844-1922

2 IA Batt.

Aug 1, 1861-Aug 7, 1865

The last lines commemorate Lewis Phillips' service through nearly all of the Civil War. At 17, an age that today is too young to work as a Philmont ranger, he had enlisted in the Union Army. His light artillery battery saw action for the next four years in Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Missouri. Of the 300 Iowa boys who marched off to war, three died in combat. Twenty-nine perished of disease. The grit and determination Lewis must have brought to his own children from his wartime experiences is a story for another time.

The cemetery is surrounded by cornfields rolling out in every direction beneath an enormous sky. Standing there, it's clear to see why Lewis found southwest Iowa a place to get beyond battlefield sacrifices and grasshopper plagues to put down roots and live a quiet life. It's also easy to understand



Collection of Lee Phillips III
Lewis Phillips, age 17, in his 2nd Iowa Battery uniform - 1861.

the impulse of Frank, Waite, and Wiata to jump a train and head out to discover the great big world beyond the horizon.

I was born in Iowa too, not far from Taylor County and I also bolted west for adventure when I was 16. I found it, just as Waite Phillips did, in the mountains of northern New Mexico at Philmont, the most famous of all the landmarks bearing the Phillips name.



Celebrate!



Portraits of Waite and Genevieve Phillips were on display at the Westwood Chapel.

by Joe Leisz

How do you say “Thank You” for a gift 75 years after it has been given? How do you express gratitude to someone who changed the lives of some million young men and women, in a very profound, deeply found way that has reverberated world-wide, some 50 years after his passing?

I’m not sure if I know how, but some 140 members of the Philmont Staff Association attempted to provide that answer when we gathered in sunny Southern California on the morning of February 1st at the Westwood Village Memorial Park in Los Angeles. The high-rises of Wilshire Boulevard and busy freeways may seem a long

way from the high peaks of the Sangres and the quiet trails of Philmont, but on a busy street-corner where my dad and I waited for the lights to change and struck up a conversation with a random couple with a camera who had flown in from Cleveland (our home town), the magic of HOmE came through as we realized we were going to the same place, for the same reason.

Walking with them, we were soon telling stories you’d expect to hear on any back country porch over advisor’s coffee, or in the RO after a hike-in. It wasn’t until we’d covered another block and were about to make a turn that we realized we should probably look at a map, and looked up to see John and Terri Nichols getting out of a cab next to

us. There were more stories and greetings and catching up to do, and six of us looking at a little map on my iPhone, trying to match the screen up with landmarks and looking at each other like we were sure the trail junction was around here somewhere...

In no time we’d figured it out, and right about then volunteers from Huntington Beach Troop and Crew 90 jumped out of their cars to mark the alley folks needed to head up to enter the “Cemetery of the Stars” and pay our respects to the Phillipses. Shielded from the noise of the traffic by the high-rises and businesses, the small patch of green was a peace-filled respite from the bustle surrounding us as we gathered, first looking for names of those

we’d heard of, seen on the screen, or listened to on the radio for our lifetimes; and then in the chapel decorated in pinks and reds with the paintings of Waite and Genevieve Phillips - who had changed our lives more than all those we’d sought out on the lawn.

John Clark, Philmont’s General Manager, welcomed the group - which had swelled to a standing room only crowd - to the chapel, and Rod Taylor sang one of Mr. Phillips’s favorite songs, “My Wild Irish Rose” (I’m hoping he includes that on his next CD). After so many years of experiencing the generosity of the Phillipses, reading about them in books, and hearing selective quotes at countless campfires, it was nice to hear of them as regular



The location of the Phillips southern California home, on Bellagio Road. The Phillips’ actual residence is no longer there.

people, parents and grandparents, from their family members. Their great-grand-daughter shared the unique perspective of someone who grew up riding to Fish Camp with her grandfather, Chope Phillips, and then working at Philmont first as a Villa Tour Guide and then as a Ranger. She talked about how much Philmont means to her and shared moving memories which I hope will one-day be printed in *High Country*, or used as a forward in a future printing of *Beyond the Hills...* until then she's hoping to maintain



Rod Taylor plays a tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Phillips.

some anonymity for a few more years as a seasonal staff member!

Julie Puckett, Chope's daughter, shared her memories of her grandparents, and of how different life seemed coming from their ranch by train to Southern California where it seemed that everyone had a chauffeur, and life was so much more formal than it is now. Images of Mrs. Phillips taking breakfast in bed to meet with her household staff, dressing late and enjoying walks in the garden. Stories of Mr. Phillips taking lunch precisely at

1pm, of getting to meet him in one of his offices in a tall building someplace in the city and getting a pencil with his name on it, and sitting for evening hors d'oeuvres before dinner. Having "her space" in the kitchen to "work" (color and play) with the staff bustling around. Stories about Christmas with the family and having to be so patient as children, waiting for her grandparents to get up (and formally dressed) before they could open their gifts. These tied into my mind's eye, coloring a deeper appreciation of how far Waite Phil-

lips had come from his modest roots in Taylor County, Iowa. It helped to clarify how remarkable his success had been, and how amazing his generosity truly was.

Ed Pease shared, with a smiling nod from John Clark about this being the "speech he had been preparing for his whole life," some thoughts which put to words the thoughts of all of us in the room – expressing our thanks and heartfelt appreciation to the Phillips family and the members of the board of the Phillips Foundation who joined



John Clark served as master of ceremonies for the event.

us for the event. He talked about the connection that Waite grew to have with Scouting and the impact he had on individuals, pointing to a letter Mr. Phillips had written in response to a then-15 year-old Charles Benoit (who was among the group gathered in the Chapel), who'd written him to learn the secrets of his success after backpacking at Philmont. It is telling that one of the richest men in America would take the time to personally answer a letter from a young boy from Toledo, Ohio, and share with him advice that would help shape his life. Ed wove together three quotes from Waite Phillips, noting the duties that come with success: "Those individuals with unusual professional or business ability have a solemn obligation, in my opinion, to use it; and furthermore, to use the surplus, beyond their reasonable requirements, for human welfare," the importance of helping others: "real philanthropy consists of helping others, outside our own family circle, from who no thanks is expected or required," and of the power of legacy: "the only things we

keep permanently are those we give away." Sitting there with my Dad, who was able to enjoy a Philmont trek with my old troop while I was a Ranger, the friends I've now known almost 30 years from Scouting and my OA experiences as a youth in Southern California, others I've known for more than two decades from Philmont, and more recent friends from PSA reunions, service projects and treks and time on staff, it became even more remarkable to me at just how impactful the gift of Waite and Genevieve Phillips truly was, is, and will continue to be.

Near the closing of the program we were asked to write some of our thoughts on a note-card, designed with a part of the Philmont topo map on the front. Mine included the area around Base Camp, Lover's Leap and Urraca Mesa. It was where my first Philmont



Julie Phillips Puckett shares here memories of visits to her grandparents in southern California.

trek started in 1989, during our 50th Anniversary Year. It was where I took my parents hiking when they visited Philmont for the first time, and where they camped with me during the big Ranger Reunion a few summers before



Descendants and relatives of Waite and Genevieve Phillips.

my Mom passed away. I was struck by how personal the gift of Philmont was to me, to my own family, and to my extended Phil-family. I was struck by how personal this gift has become to thousands of others in the PSA, others who've served on staff, and to the million scouts and scouters who've hiked her trails and gained perspective on the world from her high peaks.

When we left to join in the scavenger hunt for the memorials of the stars, Marilyn Monroe with her rose-colored marble, Dean Martin ("Everybody Loves Somebody Sometime"), Ray Bradbury, Burt Lancaster, Jack Lemmon ("in"), Natalie Wood, Don Knotts, Peggy Lee, Merv Griffin ("I will not be right back after this message"), Mel Torme, Carl Wilson, Eddie Albert, Truman Capote, and Billy Wilder ("I'm a Writer, But then Nobody's Perfect"), I had to stop and smile. It struck me

that for all the celebrities and famous folks interred at the Westwood Cemetery, the largest tomb, centered in the east toward the rising sun, belonged to what could be thought of as a couple of New Mexico ranchers. Simple people from simple roots who'd done good in the world and were now elevated above all those celebrities. A couple who, while perhaps not as famous as the stars resting around them, had a deeper impact on the world we live in today than those who entertained us. Waite and Genevieve Phillips made a gift that truly changed lives. It was not as fleeting as a performance flashing on a screen, as ephemeral as music disappearing into the air, or fragile as words on paper. Their gift was land. You can touch it and walk its trails, rising to meet its challenges. It is lasting, and it is legacy.

It was nice to pause at the Phillips's

mausoleum with my Dad and members of my Phil-family, to say thank you, and leave a simple note. It was a privilege to express my appreciation to the members of the Phillips family, and those who're guiding their continued legacy on the Phillips Foundation Board... to share the very personal impact that gift has had on me, and my family, and on so many others.

We took one last look at that small stretch of green before heading to lunch at the Skylight Gardens, swarming the place with stories that were befitting an evening at the St. James, and then made the short drive into the hills above Los Angeles to make a quick stop at 10659 Bellagio Road, the address of Mr. and Mrs.

Phillips's last home – the place where many of Julie Puckett's memories were formed. It seemed fitting that the gates there, across from the Bel Air Country Club and UCLA campus, were guarded by two magnificent New Mexico elk... Words are not enough, but thank you again, Waite and Genevieve.

And also a special thanks to the Phillips Celebration Committee for all their hard work and efforts over the past year to make this event a real-

ity: John Clark, Mark Dierker, Bryan Hayek, Lee Huckstep, Jim Lynch, Jason Mascitti, John Murphy, Ed Pease, Jack Person, Julie Puckett, Steve Ramsay, Tim Rosseisen, Randy Saunders, Greg Stice, Rod Taylor, Rick Touchette, and to the members of the Phillips Family, the Phillips Foundation, and Jolene Mason, General Manager of the Westwood

Cemetery and Mortuary.

We invite you to join those who were at the Celebration in writing a short note about what Philmont means to you, how it has shaped your life, or the impact the Phillips's gift has made on you, your family, and your friends. Feel free to mail these to the PSA

Office, or post your thoughts to our facebook page. Encourage others to do the same. These memories of Philmont's IMPACT, and the difference the gift of Waite and Genevieve Phillips has made, will be remembered as we look forward to welcoming Philmont's 1,000,000th camper this summer, and prepare for an exciting future.



Charles and Mrs. Benoit, sharing a moment with Jason Mascitti.

Year of the River Rat - Part Two



Kathy Leach, captured by the serenity of the Pecos Wilderness.

The first installment of this article appeared in the February 2014 issue of *High Country*. In this second and final installment, Gateway Ranger Kathy Leach concludes the story of a little-known piece of the history of Philmont program.

Based on responses from Dennis Gilpin, George Segelken, Dave Bates, Mick Leach, Brad Plumb, Steve Lewis, Tim Seaman, Mac McCormick, Chris Manheim, Wally Berg, Steve Harmony, Dave Caffey and Tracy Pitken.

Reality

Almost right away, the ambitious Gateway Program started hitting some rather large bumps in the road. On June 14, the Gateway Rangers learned that only three groups had signed up for the wilderness treks, to be assigned as follows: Jim Wheeler would take one, Greg Snyder would be assigned one,

and Mac McCormack would take one [from his home council in Louisiana], to be followed by 13 regular crews the rest of the summer. Regular ranger staff was being asked to give a “sales pitch” for the Gateway areas and to sign up arriving crews to that program if they could manage the additional charges. In addition, the Ranger Department was seriously understaffed when more crews than expected showed up at Philmont, causing many “cracks” and “back-to-backs” before any additional hiring could be done.

From Dennis Gilpin’s journal, “We were all sort of disappointed because we had expected that the first week would be reserved for Gateway Treks, while in reality, we had 38 crews coming in that week and only three Gateways. Furthermore, the Gateway Rangers would have to handle most of the regular crews, because the other



Truchas lake.

rangers were training that week. To add to the problem, there weren’t even enough Gateway Rangers, so second and third year rangers were taken from the training crews on about the third day, and on the last day, we even took a few of the best prepared first-year people. Ranger Office Manager Greg Goltgart found himself scheduling back-to-back crews (no day off between crews as was standard) for the whole season, with not nearly enough rangers for the peak periods.”

But as the saying goes, “When one door closes, another one opens.” To his amazement, Dennis was assigned a special group of Explorers, and recalls, “On June 15, a Friday, I was sitting on the loading dock with Roger Rowlett

and Ed Jensen when a bus pulled up. Just like old times, we ran across the parking lot while other rangers directed the bus to our location. As the bus pulled up, we realized that it was full of girls. We were about to become rangers for Philmont’s first all-girl expedition, the ‘Girl Rangers’ of Spartanburg, South Carolina. Their itinerary went from Lovers Leap to Miners Park to Clark’s Fork and beyond, with a side hike to the Tooth on their third day. Ed, Roger, and I accompanied them to the Tooth and hiked on in to Base Camp on the afternoon of June 18.”

Back at Base Camp, the Ranger Department had not been idle. Assistant Chief Ranger Dave Jung was working the phone and hiring as fast

as he could. Johanna Wilson, the adult leader for Dennis Gilpin's Spartanburg "Girl Rangers" crew, was one of a number of individuals hired off the trail that summer to take up the slack in the Ranger Program. On June 19, Tracy Pitzen, Ranger Training Coordinator, drafted Dennis Gilpin, "on-the-spot" as Training Ranger for the new ranger hires, so he heard very little about the Gateway Program over the rest of the summer.

But somehow, momentum was building with the Gateway Program and several other rangers got a chance to take a crew out. Dennis notes that Mark Brixey and Barc Hunter took a Gateway Trek to Beaver Creek later in the summer of 1973 and loved every minute of it. Roger Rowlett was lucky to get two Gateway treks, the second being to the Wheeler Peak Wilderness. There was time to organize two outings for other Philmont staff, one going to the Pecos and one to the Rio Grande. Paul Matherne and Kathy Leach co-rangered a mid-summer Gateway trek to the Wheeler Peak area. They got to the top of Wheeler Peak on a beautiful day with their crew and looked at the trail continuing on to Wheeler's three companion peaks, whereupon Paul and Kathy took off on an impromptu gut-buster without backpacks. The crew wisely went back to camp but Paul and Kathy conquered the three other peaks. Unfortunately, the only way back to camp was back down to Ditch Cabin, the trailhead, then back up to crew camp at Horseshoe Lake, much, much later! Afterwards, neither one of them

could agree on just who had the crazy idea to begin with.

Chris Manheim, in his very first month of rangership at Philmont, lucked into a Gateway trek and says "I believe it was late June of 1973 and I was still a rookie ranger. I picked up a crew from Texas. Probably in Logistics, the crew was convinced to change their trek to a Gateway Trek to the Pecos and Truchas Peaks. I took the crew out for the Philmont part of the trek along with Chris Dahlin, a seminary student from Baltimore, Maryland. When it came time to depart for the Pecos, the crew and Chris took a liking to me and asked if I could come along as a co-ranger. As a fresh-faced ranger, but with a good reference from my TR Dennis Gilpin, I was allowed to tag along."

Wally Berg, the founder of Berg Adventures International, reported in from his 52nd climb of Mount Kilimanjaro to say that "Blanca Peak (a fourteener in Southern Colorado) was the only place that I ever actually went with a crew. I remember going there at least twice, but one of those trips may have been a recon that we did in advance of going with crews. I do have very clear memories of leaving Philmont in a yellow Swope school bus and driving to Ft. Garland, Colorado, and on to Blanca at least twice. These were very exciting trips for me. Working on the Gateway Program had a tremendous and very positive influence. Perhaps it was the direction that I was headed anyway." In 1973 Greg Poulsen and Tim Seaman were the Kit Carson Men Rangers, with occasional help from Greg Snyder



Truchas peak.

and Dan Nellis. They had four KCM treks throughout the summer, gaining permission from Joe Davis for the third trek to go to the Wheeler-Latir area and the fourth trek to go to the Pecos Wilderness. Tim recalls that by the end of the summer, Davis was having second thoughts about the Gateway concept. Seaman recalls, "I believe it was because Joe felt that it was actually cheapening the Philmont experience and memory by implying that it wasn't enough, and that federal lands were needed to make it enough."

However, most crews that sought out the stronger wilderness experience had a strong positive reaction. Steve Harmony gives a captivating example, "Our crew had an excellent time. Bighorns came right into our camp at

Truchas Lakes. We enjoyed an awesome moonrise in the East Fork Rio Santa Barbara. It went from pitch black to brilliant full-moon light as we watched the moon rise over the treeless Santa Barbara Divide. Crew enthusiasm was always high."

Steve had successfully done a "base camp recruitment" of this Chicago crew with a former Ranger as one of the advisors.

Illumination

The Gateway Program seems to have ignited an even more profound love of wilderness in those individuals that experienced one of these remarkable settings. Back in 1973, Gateway Ranger and KCM Ranger Greg Snyder

related how the Pecos wilderness personally affected him, "There is a purity there, especially on the divide above the treeline. It's a far away feeling of quiet solitude. If you let it; the solitude and quietness takes you over. The vastness of the area makes you realize how small and insignificant you are as a person."

Certainly, Wally Berg and Dan Nellis readily come to mind because they each went on to have successful careers in the great outdoors. Mac McCormick says that he has spent the last forty years introducing Scouts to true wilderness in just about every state that has mountains.

Others became motivated to make deeper explorations of wilderness areas

on their own. Steve Harmony reports, "I developed a love of New Mexico, ultimately moving to Los Alamos in 1980 where I became Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 122 and advised many Philmont treks. I've returned to the Pecos Wilderness many times since."

Looking back through the years, it is very clear that the "Philmont experience" can stand on its own as a unique and valuable experience. It has been 75 years in the crafting, and has not diminished in popularity. Philmont keeps trying to find ways to "push the envelope" in high adventure with more miles, more days, and separate venues, and there was a short-lived Double H High Adventure Base managed by Philmont in southwestern New Mexico

Where are YOU showing your 87714 Pride?



As our readers are aware, *High Country* publishes occasional photos of the world travels of various Phil-gear, usually accompanied by a brief explanation - and a shameless promotion for you to buy Phil-stuff from the PSA. This photo of Andrew Miller was recently taken atop Mount Kosciuszko (Australia's highest peak).

Andrew Miller stands atop Mount Kosciuszko (Australia's highest peak).

Share your 87714 sightings with us for future use on the website, in **High Country** or both! E-mail HIGHCOUNTRY@philstaff.com with your sightings, and if for some inexplicable reason you don't have your 87714 sticker yet, contact the PSA to purchase some at eminently reasonable prices. Shop for T-Shirts (and other cool 87714 gear) at www.philstaff.com.

from 2004 to 2009. Nothing seems to stand the test of time like the "core business" of Philmont, as they say in the corporate world.

On the other hand, it has to be pointed out that Philmont is not a wilderness

experience. The relevance of a true wilderness setting is every bit as strong today as forty years ago. It offers a valuable counterpoint to the frenetic world of constant connection and instant response. One gets the sense at Philmont of "over-sched-

uling" young participants so that they never get to know the unstructured day, the contemplative moment, or the inner silence. How else will young folk know the value of such time, if the experience is not provided in a true wilderness setting?

Then there are the really stark realities inherent in a true wilderness setting. Elliot Barker recounts in his book, *Beatty's Cabin*, the story of two young hikers falling to their deaths on Middle Truchas Peak in 1947. The lingering snow packs in 1973 almost resulted in a similar tragedy. One young trekker, on the way down from Truchas Peak,

slipped while traversing a large snowpack. She rolled and tumbled down the snow, gaining tremendous speed. At the bottom of the snowpack, watching events unfold, stood the crew's ranger Mick Leach. He says time stopped for

him, except for the figure barreling his way. He vainly tried to grab a boot as she hurtled over his head but she was just out of reach. She continued flying down the slope until she collided with an outcrop of boulders. Amazingly she was able

to walk away and continue the trek the following day, her gear being dispersed among the other crew members, and she actually finished the trek.

This story is a sobering reminder that there is no easy in-and-out in a wilderness setting, even in the age of cell phones. Vehicles cannot be sent in to retrieve the sick, the injured, or the crews endangered by wild fire or flash floods. New signs, warning of other dangers, now grace the trails of the Pecos Wilderness in the aftermath of the June 2013 Jarosa fire.

In this day and age, nothing comes for free anymore. Back country rescues



US Forest Service sign warning of dangers ahead.

are now very often accomplished by incredibly sophisticated aviation equipment. On Sept 22, 2013, a video of a daring rescue was posted to the Facebook page for Mountain Rescue Aspen (MRA) and immediately went viral. The short two-minute clip showed a Blackhawk helicopter and MRA team members extracting a critically injured climber from the upper slopes of North Maroon Peak (14,014 ft). The Colorado Army National Guard helicopter is shown hovering, barely moving, just above the talus long enough for MRA team members to load up the injured climber who had fallen about 50 feet while descending from the summit.

Reality Again

Ultimately the Gateway program had one fatal flaw. Hidden program costs surfaced at the end of the summer. Rafting equipment was very expensive. New backpacking equipment had to be purchased, such as stoves and nylon tarps, not to mention special food packs. Transportation costs to distant trailheads, even back then, raised everyone's eyebrows. The Ranch Committee could no longer endorse the high transportation costs incurred in running the program.

Dave Caffey recently commented that, "Mr. Davis named me as chief ranger along about October 1973, and I don't think the Gateway Program was ever in my field of vision—I think its fate had already been determined by that time."

As luck would have it, the Ranch

was under financial strain at the end of 1973, even with the larger-than-expected camper attendance. Joe Clay's position as program director fell under the axe. The immensely popular Joe Davis moved on to the BSA National Office. His replacement, the very able Joe Hawkins, was trying to get his bearings as the new Director of Camping and in no mood to continue problematic programs. There was also a change in the general manager position, with Bill Littrell, a cattleman, taking over the reins. His non-Scouting background, combined with Joe Clay's departure, was immediately felt in the program areas.

As the sole carryover from the 1973 season, Dave Bates recalls the huge effort of getting the camp ready for another summer. "It would have been overwhelming for me to manage all of Philmont's programs plus the Gateway Program. Under the circumstances I could not be a strong advocate for continuing the program even though it seemed like a great idea. The program received lots of favorable comments from crews that participated."

It is remarkable that the Gateway program had the success that it did, given the one year it had to mature. Even forty years later, the concept of a "gateway to more adventure" is still viable. Regardless of future decisions around the concept, the best ending of this saga is that Philmont has weathered many storms, keeps coming back as strong as ever, and is still able to thrill and challenge today's youth.

1973 Gateway Ranger Staff

Mark Barber, Gateway Trek coordinator
Bruce Groves, Gateway Training Ranger
Kathy Leach*, Gateway Training Ranger
Dennis Gilpin*, Training Ranger, Gateway Ranger;
Wally Berg*, Shelton 'Barc' Hunter, Michael Salmon, Mark Brixey, Ed Jensen, Ken Schwenke, Leroy Brown, Ken King, George Segelken*, Chris Dahlin, Mick Leach*, Greg Snyder, Jerry Dennis, Mac McCormick*, Al Spaniol, Don Fidler, John Maenpaa, Jim Wheeler, John Gibbons, Paul Matherne, Eric Wunz, Steve Harmony*, Dan Nellis, James Harner, Roger Rowlett

*Gateway Rangers contributing to the article

Katherine Leach—Kathy to Philmont friends—served on the Philmont staff as Ranger and Gateway Training Ranger in 1972 and 1973. Her brothers, Jim, Bill, and Mick Leach, also served on staff in the 1960s and 70s. Along with Nancy Wells, she was one of the first two female Rangers hired by Joe Davis, Director of Camp-

ing, at the beginning of the 1972 camping season. Since that time she has enjoyed the mountain West as a hiker, backpacker, and cyclist. Kathy grew up in Laredo, Texas, where her mother was a community college English instructor and her father was with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. Both parents were great fans of Philmont, and of their family's involvement. Kathy is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas, and the St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio. Along with other members of the 1972 Ranger staff and Philmont year-round professional staff, she was involved in development of the Wilderness Gateway program. Kathy was engaged in legal practice in Houston and currently lives in Colorado Springs.

Ed. Note: Persons who have recollections, photographs, journals or other memories of the Gateway program are encouraged to share them with Kathy Leach, who is preserving the story for the Philmont Archives. kleach@pcisys.net.

High Country Index Updated

Are you a Phil-history buff? Do you vaguely recall a story or a person or an event that you'd like to know more about? Would you like to revisit your years on staff as reported by *High Country* magazine?

Did you know that the PSA (thanks to the continuing hard work of Publications Committee member and Philmont author Bill Cass) maintains an index

that includes every issue of *High Country* magazine? It does – and it has just been revised, through December 2013.

You can find it in the "Members Only" section of the PSA website: philstaff.com. Combine the index with the pending release of annual issues of *High Country* magazine dating back to our founding, and you have an invaluable resource for all things Philmont.

PTC Advances STEM Opportunities

Why STEM? The spirit of innovation can help us overcome challenges and ensure a prosperous and secure future. We live in a time of great opportunity,



and to seize this opportunity, we must position ourselves at the cutting edge of scientific discovery and technological innovation.

Yet our country is falling behind in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This is why many professionals and educators in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics believe the United States should do more now than ever to encourage students to enter STEM-related fields.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) is part of an initiative the Boy Scouts of America has taken on to encourage the natural curiosity of youth members and their sense of wonder about these fields through existing programs. From ar-



chery to welding, Scouts can't help but enjoy the wide range of STEM-related activities. To support this initiative, the BSA developed the Nova Awards program so that youth members have fun and receive recognition for their efforts.

In conjunction with this exciting BSA initiative, Philmont Scout Ranch and Training Center have three STEM experiences to choose from in 2014.

STEM – Discovering the Possibilities for your District and Council July 27-August 2

This week-long STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) conference at Philmont Training Center is designed to help you and your council integrate STEM programs and activities into your current programming. There will be many opportunities to experience hands-on activities to share with your units; these activities will be accompanied by discussion on how to implement, modify, and incorporate them into your programs. Excitement, roadblocks, funding, recruitment, training, resources and tracking will be topics addressed by this conference. Sign up to attend online at www.philmont-trainingcenter.org.

STEM Outdoor Explorations – Down & Dirty, Nitty-Gritty and Sky High (14-20 age youth only) July 27-August 2

Spend a week exploring the natural science world using RMSC as your base of operation. Daily you will travel to and from Philmont Training Center to Rocky Mountain Scout Camp at the base of the Tooth of Time exploring and experimenting in the New Mexico wild. Come out and discover the mechanics of COPE adventures, chemistry of the prairies flora and fauna, habitat of the Philmont water ways and ecosystems and climb to new heights as you challenge your skills with rock formations; climbing, rappelling and identifying the composition of the landscape. Sign up now for this intense five day adventure. Sign up at www.philmont-trainingcenter.org.

STEM Treks (14-20 age youth only) #1 – July 17-28th #2 – July 22nd-August 2nd

The STEM Trek is an exciting program at Philmont Scout Ranch for Scouts and Venturers who have an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The 12-day STEM

Trek program will offer each participant the chance to explore the Philmont back country in a whole new way! As the STEM crew hikes the ranch, they will camp in many different areas and engage in interactive lessons in the following areas: physics, chemistry, forestry, astronomy, stream ecology, wildlife management, geology, botany, watershed management and range management. In addition, "Leave No Trace" techniques and principles will be integrated into the curriculum.

STEM Trek participants will work and hike in crews under the leadership of trained Philmont rangers, many of whom have academic backgrounds in the science, engineering, math and technology, and/or years of experience working in an outdoor classroom. During the STEM trek, each crew



A crew takes part in a STEM learning activity.

will spend several days participating in diverse STEM discussions and experiments. The experience of working on such a wide array of projects will provide vital knowledge for use at local council camps and managed areas in the participant's community when he or she returns home. The fee is \$800 for the 12 day experience.

For a complete list of STEM Trek requirements and to download the application to attend, visit www.philmontscout ranch.org.

PSA Members to Receive Silver Buffalo



PSA members Mike Hoffman (Phoenix, AZ) and Toby Capps (Seattle, WA) will be honored, together with seven other outstanding Scouting volunteers, with the BSA's highest award for service to youth: the Silver Buffalo. The BSA honors outstanding service at the council level with the Silver Beaver, at the regional level with the Silver Antelope, and at the national level with the Silver Buffalo. In the entire history of the BSA, fewer than 800 people have been so honored. The PSA takes great pride in the life and work of these two members, and joins Scouters everywhere in offering congratulations for their well-deserved recognition.

1960s

Dave Caffey (65-68, 70-77) has had his latest book, *Chasing the Santa Fe Ring*, published by the University of New Mexico Press. The book is available at major online retailers now and will be available at the Philmont Museum-Seton Memorial Library this summer. Contact: 201 Wrangler Way, Clovis, NM 88101-9397. 575-769-2496. caffeyme@suddenlink.net.

1970s

Bob Cylkowski (75-76) recently moved to the St. Louis metropolitan area as Manager for Maintenance Operations with the United States Postal Service. Prior to his move, he was active in Scouting and received the District Award of Merit. As a former overseas Scout (1966-71), he would like hear from others who have been involved in BSA Scouting outside the USA. Contact: 1102 Buran Drive, O'Fallon, IL 62269. 217-778-8109. baluga538@charter.net.

1980s

Mark Dierker (84-85, 94) in 2009 moved from Joliet, IL to Dubuque, IA where he works as the Manager of Photo Acquisitions for McGraw-Hill Higher Education. He also owns a photography business and a custom jewelry design business and is active in

the local arts community. Contact: 535 North Booth Street, Dubuque, IA 52001. 563-663-5239. dierker@frontiernet.net.

Len Scheel (80-87, 89, 97, 06) taught at Crystal Lake High School (Illinois) from 1957-1994, also serving as chairman of the science department. From 1994 to the present, he has been an Interpretive Park Ranger at Bandelier National Monument (New Mexico) and has remained active in Scouting, which has honored him with the District Award of Merit, Distinguished Commissioner, and Silver Beaver. Contact: 718 Jeffrey Pl, Los Alamos, NM 87544. 505-672-0055. lgsfox@gmail.com.

1990s

Chris Bailey (96) married his wife Cynthia in September 1996, and now has a son, 16, and two daughters, 15 and 10. He served in the US Air Force Reserve until his retirement in 2012 and now works for the State of Illinois as a Medicaid consultant. He remains active in Scouting, having served as Assistant Den Leader, Assistant Scoutmaster, and most recently as Venture Crew Advisor. His son attended his first Philmont trek in 2012. Chris and Cynthia dream of being able to return to Philmont on staff, hopefully in the not-too-distant future. Contact: 32 Amber Court, Glen Carbon, IL 62034. chris.bailey63@charter.net.

Whit Culver (97-00) and his wife Tiffany welcomed their daughter, Emeline Jane, into the world on February 2,

2014 – which also happens to be Gene Schnell's birthday! She joins her older brother, Waite, who is now 5. Contact: 6100 South Yale Avenue, 1 Warren Place, Suite 1500, Tulsa, OK 74136. whit_culver@ml.com.



In Memoriam. Forever on the Trail

We learn from her grieving parents of the death of **Lori Beth "Tex" Jenkins** on December 26, 2013. She was a Wrangler in 2012 and was eagerly looking forward to returning last summer. Sadly, she became ill in February of 2013, resulting in several hospitalizations. Still, she held hope of returning to Philmont, but her health continued to fade and with it, the dream of returning to the Ranch. Memorial videos on YouTube may be found at [youtube.com/watch?v=8KEoXMTkhXo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KEoXMTkhXo) and [youtube.com/watch?v=a-kysaLB1M0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-kysaLB1M0).

Join Us for 2014 Reunion at the Ranch

The Philmont Staff Association's 2014 Reunion will be held the weekend of July 11-13 at the Philmont Training Center (PTC). You and your family are invited to participate in service, fellowship, and sharing memories. PTC, with its first class facilities, is the perfect venue for our reunion. Tents are large two-person wall canvas on wooden or concrete floors with electricity, lighting, a wardrobe, and two twin beds. Each tent city has restrooms, family shower houses, and a laundromat. Bring the family to the reunion as part of your summer vacation.

As part of this reunion, the PSA will celebrate the arrival of the one-millionth camper to Philmont Scout Ranch. Some of the activities for the weekend include: day hikes (including the Tooth of Time), conservation service projects, campfire programs, tours of the Villa Philmonte, talks from experts about Philmont topics, and the Silent Auction. The Philmont Museum will also be open and a "must see" on your weekend agenda.

In addition, we will be introduced to the Chase Ranch, now a program

partner of Philmont Scout Ranch. Starting this summer, campers will be able to hike and camp on the historic ranch and tour the house as part of their itinerary. PSAers will have an opportunity during the reunion to visit the Chase Ranch, too.

The Rabbi Zeke Palnick Porch Talk and ice cream social will be on Friday evening, and the annual business meeting will be on Saturday. The Philmont Training Center staff will offer programs for children as part of the reunion. There will be pony rides, shooting sports, crafts, games, and more for our future Philstuffers to do while adults participate in other activities.

Registration fees for the reunion are: \$100 per adult and youth ages 12 and older, and \$30 per child up to age 12. This is the best value available to experience Philmont, our HOmE. Check-in begins Friday at 1:00pm, with all activities available all afternoon.

Registration for the Summer Reunion is now available on our website, www.philstaff.com.



THE HISTORY OF PHILMONT AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF ITS STAFF.

Bound annual editions of *High Country* magazine are now available.

The PSA has begun printing books, one year at a time, which include all the issues of *High Country* (print and electronic) issued that year.

Each volume comprises "a year in the life" of the place we love and the people who made it what it is – a "yearbook" containing news, photos, history, tales and much more, of "all things Philmont" that year.

Collect them all, access the online index of *High Country* content back to the first issue in 1974, and you have a living history of the Ranch for the past forty years.

Each book retails for \$12.95 – a bargain. But – as an introductory offer to get you started on your collection, **purchases made before June 1, 2014 will be "BOGO": buy one, get one free.** Your free book can be a second copy of the book you purchase, or a different year in the series. Years currently available are 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013. We anticipate publishing the remaining years (all the way back to the first issue) at the rate of three or four books per year.

This collection is destined to become the definitive history of the Ranch as seen through the eyes of the staff.

Start your collection TODAY!

Order online at philstaff.com or call the PSA office: 575-376-1138.
