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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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FEBRUARY 2015

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 1

HIGH COUNTRY®

THE MAGAZINE OF THE PHILMONT STAFF ASSOCIATION®



High Country®—VOLUME 38, NUMBER 1
FEBRUARY 2015
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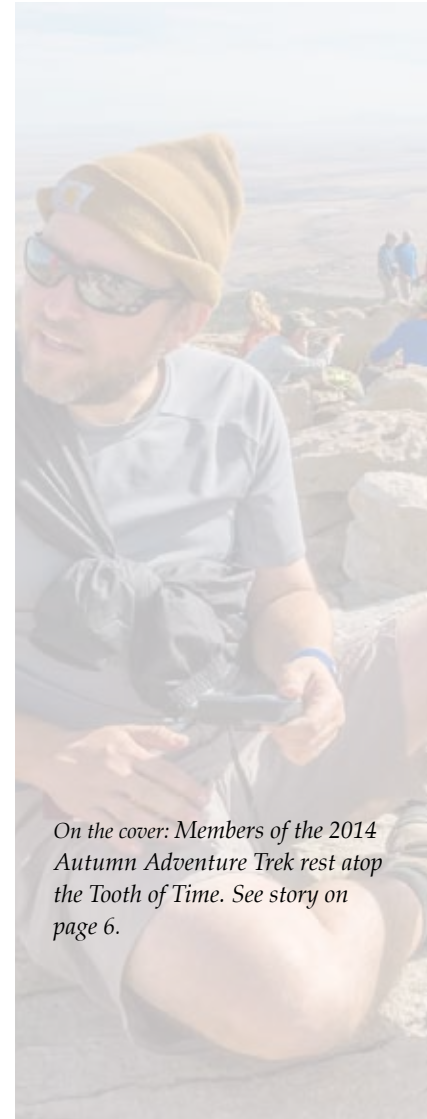
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On the cover: Members of the 2014
Autumn Adventure Trek rest atop
the Tooth of Time. See story on
page 6.

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from the president

One of the important things for any organization is to document its history. Where did we start from and what occurred back when the group was finding its identity? We have an archive of documents, but I wondered what we would learn from PSA Past Presidents as they look back now. This is a letter I received from Berne Holman, PSA Past President (1986-1990), describing how the PSA survived during those early times. Thank you Berne for this special look at the PSA in the late 1980s and your message for PSA members today.

“For those of you who have recently joined the Philmont Staff Association, you have joined a very special group of dedicated Scouters who’s love is that of Philmont Scout Ranch and the perpetuation of Philmont to future generations who come to explore the majestic Backcountry, training programs and staff experience.

As I look back on where the Philmont Staff Association has come and when I was President, the PSA has come a long, long way since that time. I am amazed. In the late 1980s we had less than 500 members. The *High Country* magazine was published on a haphazard basis. We had just begun the PSA Backcountry treks. The Rayado scholarships were just begun. We had no internet. There was no Executive Director and the Philmont management was not as supportive as today. We did not have an office on Philmont property or a mailing address at Philmont. The

PSA was a struggling young association. But, dedicated men and women within the PSA have made it what it is today.

Hopefully each and every one of you who has chosen to be a PSA Member knows that you are helping to entice generations of Scouts and Scouters who visit, train and work at Philmont. You help carry on the traditions of Philmont in your scouting interests, school, work and pleasure from what you have taken away having been a Philmont Staff member.

I encourage each and every one of you to continue to pay your yearly dues, become a PSA Life member and be active in your Regional PSA reunions. Share your stories and Philmont experiences within the *High Country* magazine. Come back to the Ranch on a PSA Trek or attend a PSA annual meeting or be a Crew Leader for those young Scouts. And if you can afford it, donate to one of the PSA projects or General Fund. It all helps the Philmont Staff Association, Philmont Scout Ranch and the Boy Scouts of America.

Yes, as I look back on the Philmont Staff Association, it has come a very long way from the fledgling days when I was President. I am proud to be a part of this organization and I enjoy reading the *High Country* and staying in touch with many fellow Staff members. Wherever I go in the United States on different Scouting experiences, some-

how the subject of Philmont always comes up. And to find out that someone else was a former Philmont Staffer and is a current PSA member makes it all very special.

Berne J Holman
PSA President 1986-1990”

The PSA has been blessed to have a lot of dedicated and visionary people give of their time to build the organization over the years. Thanks to Mr. Holman and all of you who have been a part of that team since. I hope you enjoyed that look back as much as I did.

John Murphy
PSA President

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Upcoming PSA® Events

[PSA Florida Regional Reunion – Saturday, January 31, 10:00am to 4:00pm](#)
[Paynes Prairie State Park, Near Micanopy, FL](#)
[Contact: Randall MacDonald at \[rmmmobile@gmail.com\]\(mailto:rmmmobile@gmail.com\)](#)

[PSA Weekend at the Summit – June 19-20, 2015](#)
[Summit Bechtel Reserve, Beckley, WV](#)

[PSA Summer Reunion – July 10-12, 2015](#)
[Philmont Scout Ranch](#)

[PSA Summer Trek – July 12-18, 2015](#)
[Philmont Scout Ranch](#)

[PSA Autumn Adventure – October 11-16](#)
[Philmont Scout Ranch](#)

from the editor

The December 2014 issue of *High Country* included an article based on the impact of the 1965 flood on Philmont’s South Country, and the reminder that the 2015 PSA Trek will cover much of that territory, now 50 years later. Included in the article were a number of pictures, for which we failed to give credit. We do now - to Phil Yunker, Camp Director at Fish Camp that fateful year. Thanks, Phil - and we look forward to seeing you at the Ranch this summer as we commemorate that summer and the work you and so many others did to put Philmont back on its feet.

2014 Autumn Adventure Trek

by Rick Thom

Steven and Cynthia Truemper organized the PSA Autumn Adventure again in 2014. Twenty adventurers gathered at the St. James Hotel in Cimarron for the traditional pre-trek dinner on the night before leaving for the Backcountry.

October 12: As we discussed itineraries on Sunday morning, consensus formed around a South Country trip that would include a layover day at Fish Camp, side hikes on that day, and an option to climb the Tooth of Time on the last day's hike. Although we were organized into two crews, each with

a guide, we decided to combine the crews since most people wanted to do the same trip.

Guides Colin Bowser and Sarah Burgess helped us to select our food, distribute group gear, and review our individual equipment. As we loaded our gear at the Backcountry Services dock the weather looked foreboding. Dark clouds gathered over the western Backcountry and winds gusted to 30 mph in Base Camp. Our guides reported that snow was in the forecast for that night. During lunch at the PTC dining hall a cold rain spit against the windows. This might be our last warm and comfortable meal for a while.



Rest Break At The Notch.

photo by George Segelken

Philmont Suburbans dropped us off at Zastrow Turnaround about 2:00. We shouldered packs and pushed up the trail against a windy, icy drizzle on our way to Carson Meadows. Segments of the trail between Zastrow and Carson Meadows cross soil derived from black marine shale--soil that turns slippery and sticky when wet. We slipped along as black mud accumulated on our boots with each step until it became so heavy that it broke off in big globs. Then the process repeated.

We took a break at Abreu as the sun briefly peeked through a gap in the clouds. The summer staff at Abreu plants a garden as part of its living history program. We raided that garden and harvested some tasty remnants--

zucchini, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, and parsley. The cold rain resumed as we continued our trek. We stopped at Rayado Creek below Old Abreu Camp to draw water for the night. Today's destination lay within a mile, yet we trudged this short distance with effort as our boots continued to collect and redistribute mud along the trail. As we arrived at Carson Meadows about dusk the sun again peeped through, washing the distant Tooth of Time in a magical evening glow. We set up tents at the edge of the meadow near the cabin.

Some of us gathered wood and built a cheery warming fire in the fire ring behind the cabin as Michael Riojas (with his trusty MSR Dragonfly stove), Jon Thompson, and our guides



Group photo at Black Mountain. Front: Jon Thompson, Rick Thom, Michael Riojas, Cynthia Truemper, Steven Truemper, Sarah Burgess, Colin Bowser, Mike Blocher. Back: George Segelken, Jack Person, Scott Tritt, Paul Court, Chris Cook, Carl Gebauer, James Livermore, Reif Kessler, Eric Kessler, Ed Fisher, Matt Fisher, Meredith Barnes, Tim Barnes.

photo by George Segelken



Campfire At Black Mountain.

photo by George Segelken

prepared a wonderful dinner of whole-wheat spaghetti, enhanced with fresh produce from the Abreu garden. We ate and visited around the campfire and on the cabin porch until the rain returned. About 8:30 we sought the dry havens of our tents and fell asleep to the pattering of cold raindrops.

October 13: Temperatures fell to the 20s last night as the sleety rain gave way to clear, cold skies. The frosty sheen of tent flies glistened in the sun's first rays, but soon melted away. We enjoyed breakfast on the cabin porch with a bright blue sky and a sunlit view of the Tooth of Time. Today we would hike the beautiful Rayado Canyon Trail to Fish Camp. This well-designed trail highlights the geology of the South

Country. The geology section of the *Philmont Guide* describes it well. The sun felt great on those portions of trail that it struck. The shaded areas were still cold, and snow had accumulated in patches on the shaded, north-facing slope cut by this trail. At The Notch we took a rest and photo break. A beautiful geological scene lay ahead of us--a cliff-faced canyon with many shades of rock from different eras and events. The trail seems to end at The Notch. Those of us new to this trail were surprised to discover the sharp turn around the rock face which allows the trail to continue.

An accident occurred as we hiked toward Fish Camp. Bill Matthews tripped on a rock and tumbled off to

one side, shattering a carbon trekking pole and cutting his face and arm. Scott Tritt and Colin Bowser patched up his wounds and fellow trekkers relieved his pack of some heavier items. He hiked on with us to Fish Camp, arriving about 4:30. Rayado and Agua Fria creeks had greatly increased their flow since we last saw them on the 2012 October trek. The same skilled chefs prepared Sante Fe chicken for dinner, and we again enjoyed a warm campfire near the cabin. The sun sets early in October-- especially early when deep in a canyon. It always amazes me how quickly balmy conditions turn winter-like as mountain sunlight fades. This would be another cold night.

October 14: The thermometer registered 23 degrees as we gathered around the fire shortly after dawn for hot drinks and warmth. It had been colder than that last night. My water bottles froze. But the bright morning sun quickly boosted temperatures. After breakfast a Philmont truck arrived to

take Bill Matthews back to base camp. He had decided that his balance was not quite good enough to risk continuing. We all respected Bill. At 74 years old, he had been the senior member of our crew on the last three Autumn Adventures. Right after graduating from high school in 1958, Bill served as a ranger in the second year of the Philmont ranger program. We gave him a good send-off.

After breakfast all but one of us began our day hike. Michael Riojas stayed back with his fly rod to catch dinner. With lightened packs we headed up Agua Fria Creek, crossing it many times on single plank bridges and big stepping stones. This trail tested our balance and composure-- the first of many balance challenges to come. We left the canyon to climb the switchbacks toward Apache Springs Camp. Our guides told us that we might see elk in that meadow, so we hiked the last half mile silently. Indeed there was much fresh sign of elk in the



Campsite At Shaefers Pass Camp.

photo by George Segelken

area, both tracks and scat. The first few hikers to emerge in the meadow did see a single bull elk, but it quickly vanished into the trees.

Apache Springs Camp displays a wilderness quality, a place where one expects to see impressive wildlife. We enjoyed a leisurely lunch near the cabin and rested in the sunlight. Some of us took a short walk up the Boundary Trail to the Philmont property line to look west over Garcia Park. The group returned to Fish Camp via the trail past Lost Cabins. Several of us got a good look at a dusky grouse perched in a tree on this stretch. As we neared Fish Camp we found Michael, still fishing, with a nice catch of rainbows and brookies.

The gourmet cooking team prepared another special meal for tonight, chicken and rice with zucchini, onion, and bell peppers and an appetizer of fried trout. Guide Colin Bowser admitted that this was his first taste of trout. He liked it. Fred Cribbett, head of maintenance, came up from base camp to join us for dinner. He relieved us of our trash and extra food, and dropped off a batch of chocolate chip cookies that Cynthia had baked for this occasion. We enjoyed Fred's deliveries as well as his company that evening. We had another inviting campfire before we peeled away for our tents. The night was clear, still and starlit.

October 15: We rose early and packed up for the trek to Black Moun-



Fish fry at Fish Camp .

photo by Jon Thompson



Carl Gebauer, Scott Tritt, Eric Kessler, Reif Kessler and Ed Fisher enjoying the view from The Tooth Ridge Trail (Anklebuster Trail) .

photo by George Segelken

tain Camp via Phillips Junction and Beaubien. We negotiated many tricky Rayado Creek crossings on the trail to Phillips Junction. Several of us got wet feet when we slipped off of the crossing rocks. Those of us who slipped into the creek maintain that our balance is perfect; wobbly rocks were always to blame. By exposing these treacherous rocks to the rest of the crew, we sacrificed our dry feet for the greater good. After a snack and sock-changing break at Phillips Junction we left the creek trail and ascended to Beaubien where we lunched in the expansive meadow. From Beaubien we hiked northeast to

the ridge, and then down, down, down through spruce, pine, and aspen forests to the bottom of the narrow, steep-sided valley and Black Mountain Camp. Enough sunlight remained to pitch tents and hang smellables. Dinner was a tasty new Philmont menu item, Black Bart's Chile with Beef and Beans, with a fresh zucchini side dish.

Narrow and hugging the creek, the valley floor lacks suitable locations for latrines due to proximity of the water table. A few box seat latrines are thinly scattered along the steep slopes above some of the camping areas. There are no obvious trails to these hillside two-



Mike Blocher and Ed Fisher crossing the Rayado.

photo by George Segelken

seaters, and they are fairly far from the cabin. Prudence dictated locating a latrine in the daylight for future reference. As we sat around the campfire that evening, we occasionally noticed random lights zig-zagging around on the slopes above us, as if the valley were haunted by mysterious, wandering ghost-lights. But we knew that the lights belonged to fellow campers searching for these hidden necessities.

October 16: Before departing this morning we took group pictures in front of the cabin, and pictures to commemorate the three multi-generational hiking duos: Tim and Meredith Barnes, Reif and Eric Kessler, and Ed and Matt Fisher. We then hiked down the North Fork Urraca Creek Trail. This lovely path stays intimate with the creek which cascades through narrow mini-gorges and beneath the Grizzly Tooth. We counted forty-nine creek crossings before reaching the trail junction across from North Fork Urraca Trail Camp.

Although a few of the crossings were challenging (some even had wobbly rocks), no one slipped into the creek today.

At the junction to Shaefer's Pass we would leave our last water source for the next two days. We paused here to cook dinner and to tank up at the creek. Lunch will be our evening meal in tonight's dry camp. After a hearty meal we hiked north to Shaefer's Pass Camp.

This trail camp lies within wide-spaced ponderosa pines and small meadows. Native grasses, forbs, and shrubs cover the meadows, which are interspersed with denser groves of pine. These grassy areas show little evidence of grazing by cattle or horses, unlike all of the larger meadows that we have visited. These are probably too high, small, and inaccessible to entice domestic animals. Consequently the scene better resembles my notion of what the ponderosa pine natural communities looked like before European/

American introductions of large domestic grazers. Four mule deer wandered through camp before dusk, further enhancing the natural aura of this place. I was excited to experience this landscape. Most of the West has been so dramatically altered by civilization that few remnants of true naturalness remain.

Our second accident occurred as we arrived at Shaefer's Pass Camp. James Livermore fell and dislocated his shoulder. Fortunately Scott Tritt knew how to treat this condition. Scott successfully reduced the dislocation, relieving, but not eliminating, James' pain. Our guides held a group meeting to discuss tomorrow's pack-out options. Colin would hike with James, Tim Barnes, and Meredith Barnes north to Clarks Fork for vehicle transport to Basecamp. The rest of us would hike to Basecamp via Tooth of Time Ridge Trail with optional climbs to Shaefer's Peak and top the Tooth.

October 17: The ridge trail group got up about 4:30 to break camp. We hit the trail by headlamp, our first objective being breakfast on Shaefer's Peak in time to watch the sunrise. Successful, we ate as we watched the spectacular landscape greet a new day. From Shaefer's Peak we picked our way along an anklebuster segment of trail toward the Tooth of Time. The rocks forming the surface of this trail are just the right combination of sizes and shapes to be uncomfortable and to feel unsafe. Trekking poles do not work well here; they just get jammed between the uneven rocks. Every step required careful foot

placement. We all made it safely to the bear bag cable at the Tooth of Time spur. We hoisted food and smellables, stowed our packs, and began the challenging scramble over bus-sized, randomly-angled slabs of dacite porphyry to the top of the Tooth.

I last summited the Tooth in 1969, at 20 years of age. This revisit taught me that geological processes are not always immeasurably slow from the perspective of a human lifetime. In just 45 years these jumbled boulders had grown considerably larger and steeper. At this rate, in a few more years, it may not be possible for people to summit the Tooth without technical climbing gear. (Other older members of the group also noticed this phenomenon.) But the view from the top, and the thrill of looking down from this Santa Fe Trail landmark, remained as awesome as my original memory of it.

As we looked north from the Tooth we saw a Philmont Suburban driving east past Webster Reservoir. It had to be carrying Colin's part of our crew. We tried to call them, but no one picked up. (We later learned that it was, in fact, our group on their way to Basecamp from Clarks Fork, and phones were off.)

We carefully descended from our last Philmont high point and continued the long and switchbacked trail down to Basecamp, arriving in early afternoon. After showers and snacks we were treated to a tour of the Chase Ranch home and learned of the new opportunities for historic interpretation and hiking that the arrangement

with this special place and Philmont will provide. We ended the evening at the Colfax Tavern where we celebrated the successful trek with our guides, Philmont staff, and the folks who operate the tavern (owned by PSA Life Member Roger Smith).

As we shared memories of the past few days over food and drink, it was obvious that everyone was pleased with the trip. As Philmont treks go, this one was not especially rugged or ambitious. But backpacking in mid-October always includes the challenges of short days and wild temperature swings from warm, sunny days to exceedingly cold nights. There is a feeling of racing the clock for daylight, and packs must be heavier and bulkier to accommodate cold weather gear. As we visited along the trail and in camp we enjoyed sharing our stories about Scouting and Philmont and our motivations for this trip. Trail-generated fellowship is always a highpoint and a key ingredient of every Philmont trek.

Medical Update: Bill Matthews is

working on the medical basis of this year's balance problems. He's not giving up on backpacking and hopes to be joining the 2015 Autumn Adventure. James Livermore found that in addition to the dislocation he had fractured his collar bone and tore a ligament, both of which have been repaired. He had to immobilize the shoulder for six weeks, and then do rehabilitation. He will heal. Our best wishes go out to both of these fellow trekkers as they recover.

Editor's Note: *The 2015 Autumn Adventure has already been scheduled for October 11-16. Participants should plan to arrive on October 10 and depart on October 17. Details will be forthcoming in future issues of High Country, but it is not too early to start planning now for this increasingly popular PSA program. Those who have participated will tell you that, no matter how many times they've hiked Philmont in the summer, the absolute serenity and completely different weather and color in the mountains makes Autumn Adventure a "must do" for those who love the Ranch.*

High Country Index updated

Contributing Editor Bill Cass has once again searched the texts of last year's *High Countrys* and used the results of his research to update its digital index. Available on the PSA website, philstaff.com, the index includes every issue of *High Country* from our founding in 1973 to the holidays of 2014. Our thanks to Bill for this major contribution.

PSA Christmas Party in Houston

PSA Board member Lee Huckstep opened his Houston home for a Philmont Staff Christmas Party on Saturday, December 20. With co-hosts Doug and Sharon Latimer, along with assistance from David Davis, Nicole Duran and her son Isiah, Lee provided an evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Over 30 PSAers, family members, and guests were in attendance.

The evening was kicked-off with drinks and appetizers. Then, dinner was served... the ultimate one-pot meal, a cassoulet with rice. There was also salad, too. A decadent chocolate cake was served for dessert. The highlight of the evening was a trivia contest. The answers for the contest

came from the December *High Country*, the *Philmont Guidebook to Adventure*, and the book *Beyond the Hills*. "David Romack" was the most common reply for the questions that left the audience clueless. There were prizes for those in attendance, too.

As usual with PSA gatherings, the Philmont map was brought out and a crowd gathered around to scope out trek routes. Tim Rosseisen, VP Service, came to the reunion all the way from snowy Colorado. There were current Philmont staff in attendance, too. Lee's home was well adorned for Christmas, including a beautiful tree. It was a wonderful reunion, and everyone enjoyed the event.



PSA members gather for a Christmas reunion at the home of Lee Huckstep in Houston.

New Year's at Philmont

As 2014 came to a close, Philstaff past and present gathered at Philmont to celebrate the beginning of a new year. About 80 people, including local Philstaff and their families, shared dinner at the PTC Dining Hall on New Year's Eve. There were several people that endured the winter storms to be at Philmont for the occasion, including PSA President John Murphy and his wife Elizabeth. As per annual custom, Gene Schnell drove through the night and blizzard conditions from St. Louis. Steve Nelson, Philmont's comptroller, gave a Ranch update following dinner.

The Silver Sage Staff Activity Center was the scene for the New Year's Eve festivities. There were board games,

puzzles, pool, ping pong, and TVs showing football games and the New Year's Eve programs from Times Square. The "minute-to-win-it" games were once again popular with the children at the party. There was also a spread of snack foods for everyone to munch on. Though the crowd diminished as the evening progressed (former PSA President Ed Pease, bowing out at 10PM noted that, "Hey, it's midnight in Indiana..."), about 20 people stayed around and were on hand to count down the end of 2014 and the beginning of 2015.

New Year's Day was bitterly cold – four below zero at breakfast - with another light dusting of snow. How-



Ranch management lend a hand in serving food for the other reunion participants.



New Year's Reunion participants pose for a group photo under the entrance sign at Camping Headquarters.

ever, the sun was out and the sky was a perfect blue. The PSA provided omelets for breakfast. Special thanks to our omelet crew: Randy Saunders, Stephen Alexander, Andrea Watson, and Nicole Duran. Following breakfast, there was a 5K run/walk, organized by the Philmont Fitness Committee. About 25 people participated, which helped put a lot of resolutions on the right foot. Following the run/walk, there were hot drinks on hand to warm everyone up.

From there, people participated in different activities for the rest of New Year's Day. Some went skiing, some

went hiking to Lovers Leap, some watched football games on TV, and some relaxed and took naps. Even though the weather was frigid outside, 2015 was rung in at Philmont with just as much spirit as any other year – and it's not too early to make your plans to come to Philmont for New Year's 2016.

If you shop at Amazon, please use their no cost "Smile" program to give to the PSA. Thank you.

PSA Weekend at the Summit

by Lee Huckstep with Dan Miller

We've all heard about Scouting's newest High Adventure facility, the Summit Bechtel Reserve located near Beckley, WV, but most of us don't know much about it. That's going to change.

Your Philmont Staff Association and Summit management are pleased to invite PSA members and their guests to the PSA Weekend at the Summit June 19 and 20, 2015. For those of you with children aged 11 years (for Summit activities) and 12 (for whitewater rafting) and up, this will be the most action-packed family weekend the PSA has ever offered.

On Friday, June 19, you'll get your eyelids peeled back whitewater rafting on the gnarliest section of the famous New River Gorge rapids and on Saturday, June 20, you will participate in all the activities at the Summit's Action Point and get a broad sampling of the program the Summit offers. When you leave, you'll have a good idea of what the Summit is all about.

The schedule is as follows:

- Arrive in Summit area on evening of June 18 or early morning June 19.
- Whitewater rafting, all day or half day, on New River, June 19.
- For those not rafting, or only doing a half-day trip, a VIP briefing at the Summit, afternoon of June 19.
- Barbecue dinner at Bufflers BBQ



Zip lines at The Summit

Grill @ Adventures on the Gorge, June 19.

- Scott Summit Center including Action Point, all day June 20. (It takes a whole day to do it all!)
- Gourmet dinner @ Smokey's on the Gorge, June 20, 6:30 p.m. – the view is breathtaking.
- Depart June 21.

We have procured a block of 20 rooms at the nearby Holiday Lodge in Oak Hill, WV, for \$74 per night for up to 4 persons per room, 2 queen beds per room. The rate includes a hot breakfast for up to 4 persons. The rate is good until June 10 and you will make your reservation directly with the hotel by asking for the Philmont Staff Association rate. Dial 888-885-5556. If this block sells out, we can likely get more rooms.

Camping, from primitive sites at \$15 to wall tents to cabins is available at the nearby Adventures on the Gorge. You will make your own reservation. Dial

304-461-7851.

At the Summit Center, you will have the choice of the Visitor's Pass (\$25) or the best and most fun deal, the Action Pass (\$55). You will make your choice at the Visitors Center and purchase your pass directly from the Summit on June 20.

The minimum age for Action Pass participation is 11 years old.

Whitewater rafting and meals will be purchased from the PSA. The prices are as follows:

--Rafting full day, \$85. This includes lunch on river.

--Rafting half day, \$65.

Minimum age for rafting is 12 years old.

--Barbecue dinner at Bufflers, \$26 for adults, \$13 for kids under 14. This is all you can eat. Beer and wine available for additional charge.

--Gourmet dinner at Smokey's, \$36 for adults, \$18 for kids under 14. This is all you can eat, with a million dollar view of the river thrown in for free. Full bar service is available for additional charge.



Ropes course at The Summit



Whitewater rafting at The Summit

Lunch at Scott Summit Center on June 20 will be provided courtesy of your PSA.

The cut-off date for purchasing rafting and meals is June 13. You can use the form (an insert in this issue), or register on-line at www.philstaff.org

More information about rafting, Summit Center activities and the dinners will be presented in the April edition of *High Country* and at www.philstaff.org. If you cannot wait until then to find out about the Summit Center activities, check out the Summit's website at www.summitbsa.org

The Summit is located near Beckley, WV, (limited air service) and 1.5 hours from Charleston, WV (good air service). There are plenty of nearby sites and activities which allow your visit to West Virginia to become a full-blown family vacation.

Questions? Contact:

Dan Miller at dmill112@hotmail.com
Lee Huckstep at hstp1@aol.com
PSA office at psadirector@philstaff.com
or (575) 376-1138

Mark your calendars now and get ready to check out the Summit.

2014 Annual Giving Another Big Success

Annual giving by PSA members and friends surpassed the goals set by the Association's leadership for the 2014 budget, exceeding targets in each of the component parts. Annual giving in the PSA comes from four individual parts: the Annual Fund, the President's Circle, the 19.73 Club, and Miscellaneous Support (primarily the annual Silent Auction).

Annual Giving (the total of the four components above) is one of three major sources of financial support sustaining the operations of the PSA. The other two are annual dues and income from the association's Sustaining Fund (which includes the Life Membership Fund and the Scholarship Fund). The income from these three sources pays for the entire operation of the Philmont Staff Association – *High Country* magazine, staff and staff-related expenses, program funding, direct financial support to Philmont, and financial support to Rayado/ROCS participants and current seasonal staff.

Annual giving this year totaled \$139,136. By source, those funds came from the Annual Fund (\$87,745 – which includes the monthly contributions by members of the 19.73 Club), the President's Circle (\$49,000), and the Silent Auction (\$2,391). The 19.73 Club membership continues to grow (reaching 121 in 2014), as did the total number of donors (422).

By comparison, 2013 (also a year when goals were exceeded) yielded \$133,345 from 412 donors. Thanks to all who donated to any of the funds which keep the PSA vibrant. They are listed below.

President's Circle

Anonymous	Edward Pease
Gregory Ayers	Peter Pharr
Tim Barnes	Chris Rautman
Bruce Davis	Dave Romack
Bryan Delaney	Stephen Shea
Scott Engle	Russell Smart
Keith & Lois Jean Gallaway	Robert Smith
Barry Gossett	Rowland Smith
Paul & Mary Jane Harvey	The Waite & Genevieve
Jim Heath	Phillips Foundation
Lee Huckstep	John Thomas
Bill & Jackie Lockwood	Scott & Denice Toney
Jim & Jane Lynch	Scott Tritt
Daniel Miller	Russell Tucker
John Murphy	Debra Wallace
Tom O'Brien	John Wiebke
Scott Ontjes	Philip Yunker

19.73 Club

Rick Barnes
Andee Barnett
Raymond Bartlett
David Berry
Jason Boyle
Stephen Braunlich
Eric Carlson
Gerard Case
Cary Coglianese
Angelo Coppola
Fred Cribbett
Raymond Czech
James DeLair
Dennis DuBois
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William McCleery
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Gina Rezner
Jennifer Rigdon-Teter
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Laura Rosseisen
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Mitch & Christine Standard
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Carol Wilson

Campaign4Philmont exceeds goal, cont.

Even though the Campaign4Philmont (C4P) announced in the December *High Country* that the goal of \$1.4M in pledges had been met, with more than \$1.2M collected and the balance expected in 2015 – contributions still came in after our printing deadline. The loyalty and generosity of Philmont's friends and former staff is impressive and humbling – and deeply appreciated. Those who donated since the December issue include:

Jeff Brewer
Cary Coglianese
Rod Dippe
Scott Johns

Wally Meyer
Jackie Powell
Jason Rziha
Eugene Schnell

Richard Touchette
Todd Turner
Greg Wilke

Additionally, Bruce Davis, who had already given to the campaign, made another gift, bringing his total to the amount necessary to endow a permanent scholarship for Philmont staff.

For these and all the others who helped ensure the success of the Campaign4Philmont, we are very grateful.

TREKS AVAILABLE FOR 2015

It now appears that Philmont will exhaust its waiting list for 2015 treks, leaving slots available for next summer. The available slots are primarily in August, though there will be a few in June and July. If you are interested in sending a crew to Philmont next summer, you must act quickly. Go to camping@scouting.org immediately to reserve your space.

ranch roundup

New Mexico Game and Fish Assesses Ponil project

After more than a decade of work by Philmont to remove non-native fish species from the Ponil and replace them with a native New Mexico threatened species, the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, the project is nearing a successful conclusion. Philmont, with a major assist from the Philmont Staff Association, cleared the Ponil of all fish, erected a barrier at the south end of the South Ponil so that we could control the fish population above the barrier, and New Mexico Game and Fish restocked in 2001 with the Rio Grande Cutthroats. Most of those released in 2001 died as a result of the massive 2002 North Country fire, but a second effort in 2003 was successful.

The Ponil Complex Fire of 2002 created major silting problems in the

North and Middle Ponil watersheds, but the South Ponil escaped without major damage and the fish there survived. Periodic testing since then has shown a small but healthy population, with the most recent previous survey three years ago revealing five age classes. The most recent survey by NMGF, conducted October 24, 2014 with support from John Celley, Sarah Burgess, and Katie Heiss of the Philmont staff monitored in three places: the Barrier near Ponil, Flume Canyon Camp, and Pueblano Camp. That study revealed a growing and healthy population, including more mature fish. Future monitoring will move further upstream to Pueblano Ruins to determine whether there has been migration upstream.

Reigelman new Associate Director of Program

Ranch management added a new face – but a familiar name – in December, when Grant Reigelman was appointed Associate Director of Program. Grant spent some of his “growin’ up years” at Philmont in the 1990s, when his father Frank was Philmont’s Director of Program, and he returned later as a program counselor at Apache Springs, then camp director at Baldytown, and camp director at Sawmill. And – adding to the family Philmont connection, Grant’s wife Ronnie worked as a Group Leader at PTC in 2010.

After graduation from Eastern New Mexico University in 2011, Reigelman served as a District Executive for Conquistador Council in Portales, NM, also overseeing council fundraising, membership, and camping. At Philmont, he will work with Associate Director of Program David O’Neill to staff, develop program for, and oversee the 36 Backcountry camps.



Grant Reigelman

Philmont Expands Wounded Warrior Program

Thanks to the work of PSA Vice-President Tim Rosseisen, Philmont has expanded its Wounded Warrior program to include a fall fishing weekend. In 2011 Philmont Ranch Committee member Jim MacGillivray and former PSA President Ed Pease worked with several Wounded Warrior programs and Philmont Ranch management to institute an elk hunt for severely injured veterans. Philmont provided two permits, housing, food and guides the initial year. Later, the Express UUBar Ranch partnered with Philmont, adding another two permits and taking over the housing and food responsibilities. Philmont, through private donors, continued to cover expenses for licenses, other program expenses, and the cost of processing the meat.

Last year, Rosseisen identified

Chris Werhane, Program Coordinator for Adaptive Adventures, a Denver nonprofit, as a potential partner to expand the program to include fishing. Werhane provided assistance on how to work with vets with major physical injuries, or TBI and PTSD, or in many cases all of the above. He then handpicked the volunteers to work the program a success.

Anna Fuchs, who directed Philmont's first-ever operation of the Chase Ranch, served as the professional coordinator teamed with Rosseisen as the volunteer. Together they planned a program that began with a private party at the Colfax Tavern (Roger Smith closed the venue to the public on a Friday night just so the warriors could



Participants and staff of the 2014 Wounded Warrior fishing project. Top row- left to right- Felipe, Chris Werhane, Michael, Bob Longoria, Tim Rosseisen, Ben Herman. Bottom row-left to right- J. Harvey, Robert, Doug O'Connell, Anna Fuchs, Charles with Buck the therapy dog.



Charles, one of the Wounded Warrior participants, practices his casting skills.

have it to themselves). Not only was the event "perfect in every respect", reports are that the prime rib was superb.

This year, there were four participants, four guides, and Rosseisen serving as cook. The program was centered at Phillips Junction, where a quiet evening on the back porch listening to the river can be as therapeutic as the time spent fishing through the day. So can the conversations and shared experiences and new friendships that develop as a consequence.

All costs for the program are covered by donations. Philmont has an account for its Wounded Warriors programs, so contributions can be made directly to the Ranch and designated for this account. In addition to the banquet at the Colfax Tavern and the base camp and Backcountry meals, Philmont provided fleece jackets, Waite Phillips epigram booklets, water bottles, and

the fishing licenses. Tim hopes that donations in years ahead will be sufficient for us to cover the costs of transporting the warriors to the Ranch as well.

In addition to Rosseisen, Fuchs, and Werhane, others who donated their time and energy to the project included Bob Longoria, Doug O'Connell, Ben Herman and J. Harvey. Thanks to them, to ranch management for their support throughout, and to all the donors who helped make the program possible.

Plans are already under way for a repeat in the fall of 2015. If you would like to support either this program or the elk program, checks made payable to Philmont Scout Ranch with "Wounded Warriors" on the memo line may be mailed to Philmont Wounded Warriors, 17 Deer Run Road, Cimarron, New Mexico 87714.

End of an Era Burrito Banquet Closing after 30 Years



*The Burrito Banquet in operation.
photo by Emery Corley*

by Emery Corley

After 30 seasons, Nancy McBrayer, owner of the Burrito Banquet in Cimarron, closed up shop and retired on Labor Day 2014. The iconic small white camping trailer trimmed in sky blue sits along Highway 64 where Nancy served fresh burritos and chili. Some have referred to it as "their first food truck," although the trailer hasn't moved in about 26 years.

The origins of the Burrito Banquet are rooted in the fundraising efforts of the Miami, NM Volunteer Fire Department. The fire department needed to raise enough money to get the state of New Mexico to take them seriously and provide additional state funds. Nancy, who lives in Miami, and other volunteers knew that burritos would sell.

It was 1985, and after the fire department was taken care of, Nancy, a transplant to the Cimarron area from West Los Angeles, needed a job. Her

husband, Gayle, a longtime ranch hand with the CS Cattle Company, found the trailer for sale in town. After a couple of other locations in Cimarron during the first four years of business, Nancy bought the land on Highway 64, had the pole barn built and moved the little blue and white trailer one more time. Nancy made everything fresh from scratch -- tortillas, salsa, red and green chili. It was not just a job, it was a professional restaurant operation.

There were ups and downs, of course. Business was slow at first. The Burrito Banquet became a Philmont staff favorite due to efforts of Todd Conklin. He would show up with 15 Phil-staffers at a time -- especially on the days when the dining hall was serving hot turkey sandwiches. The best day ever was a July 3 sometime in the 90s. Nancy couldn't pin down the exact year. That day she and her crew sold 130 lunches. The worst day was on the last day of the first season -- the "season" being Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Nancy took a load of chips, salsa and lemonade to the park to donate for Cimarron Days. Husband Gayle manned the trailer -- and sold nothing. No one even drove up. The halcyon days may have been the 90s when she sold 60 - 80 lunches a day. Toward the end, selling 60 lunches was a good day. And the Burrito Banquet's popularity with the Philmont Staff seemed to decline over time.

Another loyal supporter and Philmont staffer was J.J. Stevens. He commented to Nancy not long ago that there were staffers who had worked at the Ranch for four or five seasons and had not even heard of the Burrito Banquet.

Nancy usually had two helpers working with her in the tight quarters of the trailer. Anna Archuleta -- the longest-tenured employee -- worked for Nancy during high school and college. Anna was there on the historic 130-lunch day. Sadly, Anna passed away some years ago, but Nancy's favorite memories were of working with Anna. "She was so efficient," reminisced Nancy. "She learned the job quickly and could do everything but make tortillas. We just thought alike, I guess." Nancy's eyes clouded a bit as she remembered Anna. "I go home and I think about it." Julie Sanchez Martinez and Christina Romero were veteran staffers as well.

The Totale burrito was the best seller -- green chili with beef, pinto beans, onions, lettuce, tomatoes and shredded cheese wrapped up in a homemade flour tortilla. And there was humor in the menu. The second best seller was a burrito that had everything but the tortilla. So the story goes, Nancy had run out of tortillas that day and, at the time, avocados were expensive and low quality. A local cowboy came in that same day and said he would scrape the squished range caterpillars off of his boots to substitute for the guacamole (the bug's innards and the guac were the same color). And then, Gayle, dusty and dirty after a day of brand-



Nancy McBrayer, owner of the Burrito Banquet, hard at work.

photo by Emery Corley

ing cattle, stopped by. Working alone that day and needing help from anyone willing, Nancy "scraped him off" and he started serving drinks. And from that the "Range Caterpillar Special, Flavored by Ranch Hands" was born. Take heart that there were no actual caterpillars served to customers and that Gayle's impromptu cleanup surely met the local health standards.

What is Nancy going to do with all of her free time in the summer? Golf, garden and make pottery. Her pottery creations are available at Schwenk's Gambling Hall in Cimarron. She'll visit her daughter in Clayton, NM, an EMT and volunteer firefighter, who is married to the fire chief. She'll miss the people who came to eat at her

restaurant. "But I'm not going to make tortillas" was her final statement on her plans for the future.

Want to buy a food truck? Albeit one that hasn't moved in a really long time. It's for sale. Maybe you could spend the next 30 years selling burritos to generations of Philmont staffers, locals and tourists.

Emery Corley is an attorney in St. Louis, MO, a PSA Life Member and the legal advisor for the Philmont Staff Association. He visited with Nancy McBrayer on August 30, 2014, the day before the Burrito

Banquet closed for the last time. That day was cool with puffy white clouds against the cobalt blue New Mexico sky. Nancy bustled about during the interview -- rolling burritos for customers, getting supplies from the refrigerator in the storeroom, and occasionally sitting down to recount the history of her business. The aroma of simmering chili and the taste of a fresh burrito, with chips with homemade salsa, washed down with a cold RC Cola made memories that will last a lifetime. Many thanks to Joe Leisz of the PSA for introducing the author to the Burrito Banquet many years ago.

Davis Honored by International Women's Forum

Linda Davis, matriarch of the renowned CS Ranch, has been named one of nine recipients of the International Women's Forum annual honor as a "Woman Who Makes a Difference." Based in Washington, DC, the IWF identifies and connects high-achieving women in 26 countries on five continents. The 2014 awards were presented at a gala in Atlanta in October. Deflecting attention from herself, Davis said that she was humbled that the IWF had "honored New Mexico."

"There are some people who live by an inner drive and determination to live life to the fullest. Linda Davis

is the true definition of this kind of person," stated the Managing Director and Interim CEO of the IWF, Chad Flemming. "The International Women's Forum considers her to be a change-maker, a force of nature, and a legend. We are proud to honor a woman who serves as an inspiration to countless girls and young women in the US West and beyond." Among the eight other honorees were Zanele Mbeki, Former First Lady of the Republic of South Africa, Heba Morayef, Egypt Director for Human Rights Watch, and Chua Sock Koong, CEO of Singapore Telecommunications, Ltd.

Philmont's work with the American Kestrel Partnership yielded results in 2014, with the first nesting pair identified on the Ranch.

short stuff

Fourth time's a ...

Folks –

I got the October *High Country* today and found "Third Time's The Charm (we sure hope!)" on page 37. Nope -- hope aside -- number three didn't quite do it.

The correction is not quite correct. I was awarded the Silver *Antelope*, not the *Buffalo*. I'm sorry for all of the confusion.

The June issue reported Silver Buffalo and Antelope recipients. While at Philmont in July I went into the PSA office to pay my dues, and reported that I was an Antelope recipient. I suspect that was too late and the August issue with the first correction was likely already at the printers.

Thanks,

John 'Jack' Metcalfe

Old photo sparks memories

Philstaff editors

On page 8 of the October 2014 issue of *High Country* is a photo of PSATrek Crew 1. I was looking at the photo and the names on the photo and two names were familiar to me.

In 1971 I was a Kit Carson Man and the two Rangers for our crew were Randy Roth and Craig Vandell and they are both in the Crew 1 photo from the *High Country*. When I left Philmont that summer, at the end of the KCM trek I never did have any contact with either of our two Rangers until I saw this *High Country* photo. But I remembered them as soon as I saw their names. In fact I recognized Roth in the photo, although at first I did not know where or why until I looked at my KCM crew photo.

I have attached a photo of our KCM crew from 1971. Randy and Craig are in the middle of the front row - I guess as

Rangers always are. I am the tall guy in the middle of the back row, blond hair and duck neckerchief slide.

Not sure of PSA policy on giving out email addresses, so I will ask that possibly someone from *High Country* can forward my email to Randy and Craig.

As a matter of when I worked Philmont staff. In the summer of 1972, the year after my KCM trek, I was offered a job as a Ranger at Philmont. My letter came from Joe Davis offering me the job. But, for various reasons, I decided to turn it down. And then life and career moved on.

I went on treks to Philmont in 1997, 2001, 2004 and 2008 as an Advisor and brought most of my children. All 6 of my kids have worked on Philmont staff for a total of 17 summers and a few Autumns. Finally, in 2012 I retired as a Forester from the Missouri Department

Dawson, NM 2014 Annual Reunion

By Emery Corley

Dawson, New Mexico was a coal company town owned by the Phelps Dodge Corporation that was a thriving community from 1906 until it was closed and razed in 1950 and all of the residents moved elsewhere. Nothing much is left of Dawson - very few buildings and foundations, mine tailings and the cemetery. But the love of Dawson by former residents and their relatives has kept the fond memories of the town-that-was vibrantly alive for nearly 65 years.

Every Labor Day weekend in even-numbered years, the Dawson New Mexico Association holds a reunion to keep those memories burning brightly for past and future generations. The Reunion is a two-day affair with special tours of the Dawson exhibits at the Raton Museum during the weekend, a Saturday night social gathering at the Raton Elks Club and an all day picnic at the Dawson town site on Sunday.

2014 was a reunion year and was attended by Dawsonites from many states, including, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona and California. There were at least three attendees who were not "Dawsonites" but were genuinely interested in the history and people of Dawson. Myself, together with PSA Board Member Amy Boyle and her husband John joined the festivities for the weekend.

Much preparation and planning

goes into the Reunion weekend. Under the leadership of Dawson New Mexico Association President, Joe Bacca of Raton, arrangements are made for the event - permission of the landowner, getting the road graded, printing the souvenir handouts, renting out the Elks Club, publicity, portable toilets, mowing the cemetery and painting the iconic white iron crosses and pipe fencing. Together with his daughter, Bobbie Jo, and other family members who tirelessly donate their time and sweat, the event comes together.

Friday - August 29, 2014

At 8 a.m. on Friday morning of the Reunion weekend, a crew of volunteers met at the town site to set up for the Sunday picnic. The main gathering area is under a grove of cottonwood trees in the heart of town, across the 'street' from the Old Mercantile building location which was raked and flagged. Portable toilets were brought in on trailers for the anticipated crowd. The big task was to complete the cleanup of the cemetery. The Dawson cemetery contains hundreds of graves. The graves date back to the early 1900s and there are current burials as well. Two large mine explosions in 1913 and 1923 provided rows of white iron crosses (provided by Phelps Dodge) - one for each of the 388 miners killed in the explosions. Joe Bacca and family members had been working



of Conservation and I came to Philmont on staff (and also for the summers of '13 and '14) as a Visiting Forester - staying at Hunting Lodge and spending each day at the Demonstration Forest.

So, from my initial offer of a job in 1972, and my decline of that offer, it

Going the Prez one better

Sirs,

I enjoyed reading the president's letter from the October *High Country*. I thought he had taken a photo of my cup. I have carried the green cup which I got at Philmont in 1966 as a camper on more than 50 backpacking trips, including 4 to the Wind River Mountains. But I can do him one better. I have carried the metal plate that

took me 40 years, until 2012, to finally get a Philmont staff patch!!

Greg Hoss

Kit Carson Man 1971

Philmont Staff 2012, 13 & 14.

I got at Philmont for all those years. Both have my initials carved on the back of them. It's just my connection to the great trails and memories of Philmont.

Sincerely,

Terry Peterson,

1967 Ranger, 1968 Training Ranger and 1970 Headquarters Staff



Dawson as it currently looks.

photo by Emery Corley

on the cemetery for several weekends already, but there was still grass to mow. The Trujillo family was mowing a part of the cemetery that included their relatives. Once they finished, there was still about a quarter of the cemetery in tall weeds. By about noon the work crew had dwindled to four, Joe, Bobbie Jo, grandson Angelo and myself. For about three hours we ran three lawnmowers back and forth over the bumpy, weedy ground. We circled around fenced gravesites and clumps of scrub oak. Joe worked to finish painting the white iron pipe fence and the white iron crosses.

Saturday - August 30, 2014

On Saturday afternoon, Amy, John and I visited the Raton Museum. Many of the exhibits are devoted to Dawson. Museum curator, Roger Sanchez, is well versed in the history of the area and spent the afternoon giving tours to interested folks. Over 200 visitors

signed in at the museum over the weekend.

On Saturday evening, about 200 Dawsonites gathered at the Raton Elks Club. Not surprisingly, the event is like a family reunion. Many attendees have known each other for their entire lives and many are related to one another. There are still a few living former citizens of Dawson. Since the town closed in 1950, one has to be at least age 64 to have a claim of former residency. I met several Dawsonites who left Dawson while they were still children. Here was where mowing grass for a few hours paid off. Even though I was not a Dawsonite, I had met a dozen or more Dawsonites the day before. I was no longer an out-of-town stranger; I was the guy who had come out to help with the work of setting up. I spent the evening talking to people I had met during the set up. The most common sentiment that I heard expressed was how much the residents loved living in Dawson and how well the multi-cultur-

al population got along together.

Amy Boyle presented her extensive slideshow that she had assembled with historic photos of the town and its residents along with facts about the mine explosions that claimed so many lives in 1913 and 1923. Dawsonites gathered around the projection on the wall and commented on each of the pictures as they scrolled past pointing out long-gone relatives and remembering Dawson. As a geologist and a Wyoming state mine inspector, Amy has much to offer in both expertise and genuine interest in the history of the town. It might be easy to get an impression that the town of Dawson closed abruptly in 1950 and without warning. And to be sure, finding a new home in another town on 30 days' notice wasn't easy. But the demise of Dawson had been in the making for a long time. Production had steadily decreased as had the number of miners. The use of coke (produced from coal) was discontinued for smelting copper in favor of natural gas, and, perhaps more importantly, the railroads switched from coal-fired steam engines to diesel engines around 1950.

Sunday - August 31, 2014

The big event is the Sunday picnic. Joe Bacca and his reunion committee welcomed 630 attendees for the day. The gates opened at 8 a.m. Everyone had to sign a liability waiver since the event is on private property. They also handed out souvenir laminated posters. The picnic area could have been lifted from any tailgating area at a football game. Folks had tables and tents, grills,

mounds of food. And pictures. There were lots of pictures to look at.

The day is about remembrance, both the good times and the bad. There was a re-dedication of the plaque at the cemetery presented by the Italian American consulate in Los Angeles last year in memory of the Italian miners killed in the mine explosions on the 100th anniversary of the 1913 mine explosion. John DiRuggiero of Albuquerque made the presentation. Memorial services were performed by representatives of the Greek Orthodox Church of Santa Fe, a Roman Catholic deacon from Raton and, perhaps most interestingly, a Japanese religious speaker. All offered words of comfort and prayers of remembrance. And there was a raffle to raise money for the 2016 reunion. There is no charge for the reunion events - relying instead on free labor, some donations and the raffle.

We were generally free to roam the grounds. Amy and I hiked west across the valley floor to the original home site of John Barkley Dawson. In addition to researching the technicalities of the mine explosions, Amy has focused on the original owner of the ranch that became Dawson and namesake of the town, including interviews with Dawson descendants. Dawson originally purchased the ranch from Lucien Maxwell. There isn't much left of the original two story home. Just the foundation and a stacked stone retaining wall.

The Dawson Cemetery, just up the hill from the picnic site, is a highlight of the day. Families visit the graves of loved ones. The rows of white iron

crosses, one for each of the miners lost in the two great mine explosions gives one pause to think about the great loss of life that occurred twice in a horrible, tragic instant. Some graves are marked with professionally carved and inscribed monuments. Others are much more simple - a wooden cross, a small picket fence or nearly faded stone.

In the late afternoon, I took a long walk up the road through the main canyon. It's surprisingly empty. I saw only an old aqueduct, concrete supports for a bridge and a short stretch of concrete street curb that I could only imagine had been the edge of a main street at one time. After the closing of Dawson, many homes were sold and moved. Once you know the general shape of the low-pitch hipped roofed houses, you can spot them fairly easily in Raton, Maxwell, Springer and Cimarron.

Dawson isn't far from Philmont. Head out from Cimarron toward Raton

on Highway 64 and when you can see Roger Smith's Colfax Tavern ahead, start looking for the turnoff on Colfax County Road B-50 with a "Dawson Cemetery" sign on the fence just after you cross the railroad tracks and the Vermejo River. Turn northwest and go about 5 miles to the end of the road. You can visit the Dawson Cemetery; however, the remains of the town site are off limits behind locked gates. To learn more of the history of the town, the out-of-print book *Coal Town: The Life and Times of Dawson, New Mexico* by Toby Smith is a good, readable history of Dawson. If you want to be a Dawsonite for a day or two, think about attending the next reunion set for Labor Day weekend of 2016. Maybe mow a little grass or help set up the picnic area. You'll meet some fine folks who will welcome you to Dawson. I was asked more than once whether I'd be back next time. It was a compliment.



URRACA MESA IS TURNED INTO A THEME PARK

trail talk

1960s

Rich Jennings (67, 74) since leaving the Ranch has worked for the US Forest Service in Idaho, Oregon, and Alaska, volunteers as a disc jockey for the local PBS station in Petersburg, hunts and fishes a lot (it's Alaska!), and continues to volunteer for the BSA – which awarded him the Silver Beaver in 2002. Contact: PO Box 2186, Petersburg, AK 99833. 907-518-0628. richjen@gci.net.

Robert Sadler (64-68) after completing his Ph.D in physics, began a career in teaching at the university level, but also included work as a National Park Ranger. He is now semi-retired as Professor of Physical Science at Culver-Stockton College, teaching astronomy, geology, climatology, and astrobiology. Contact: 25597 State Hwy E, Monticello, MO 63457. 573-406-2070. r.sadler@culver.edu.

Bill Shriver (68-76) may have retired from employment, but he is more active than ever in Scouting. When he took over as Scoutmaster of the Scout Troop at his church, there were three active Scouts. There are now 22, and he has expanded his service to both the district and the council. It hasn't gone unnoticed. On February 21, the Muskingum Valley Council will recognize him with the Silver Beaver, the highest BSA volunteer award for service at the council level. Contact: 14282 Beckley Road, Mount Vernon, OH 43050. 740-392-9962. wrshriver@columbus.rr.com.

1970s

Philip Hertzog (75, 78) has been teaching high school biology in Tacoma, and serves as a volunteer Backcountry ranger at Mt. Rainier National Park, also serving for two years as volunteer Nordic Patrol Coordinator. Contact: 2126 MacArthur St, University Place, WA 98466. 253-460-0194. zog3@earthlink.net.

1990s

Dr. Nathan Schaumleffel (96) announces (via Amazon.com) the release of his latest book, *Cooperate – Advancing Your Nonprofit Organization's Mission Through College & Community Partnerships: A Guide for Nonprofit Leaders*. Contact: Department of Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport, Indiana State University, Arena C-09, Terre Haute, IN 47809. 812-237-2189. nathan.schaumleffel@indstate.edu.



Anna (Lundsteen) Tuohy (90-94) since graduating from Southern Illinois University, worked two years as a District Executive, twelve years as an IT manager, and 5 years as a project manager. She is married with three children (Alex – 10; Trent – 7; Kirsten – 5) and remains heavily involved with Scouting (Den Leader, WB Course Director, Sil-

ver Beaver, FOS Chair, Asst. Scoutmaster...). Contact: 2708 Berman Road, N. Aurora, IL 60542. 630-768-3947. anna@lundsteen.com.

2000s

Matt Guinta (05, 08) after graduation with a Master of Architecture from University of Detroit Mercy, spent two years in outdoor retail/marketing, and now has settled into architecture, but still chases outdoor travel goals. His newest adventure involves renovating his new house – a 1966 high-rise apartment in Detroit, looking south to Canada! Contact: 8200 E. Jefferson Ave Apt. 1603, Detroit, MI 48214. 586-945-6611. guinta@gmail.com.

2010s

Ben Feril (12-13) retired after 34 years in the United States Navy, but remains very much involved with Scouting,

most recently as a Roundtable Commissioner. Contact: 49 Alicia Court, North East, MD 21901. 410-287-8892. bengmferil@msn.com.

Sam Schoevaars (11,14) after completing his BS in Environmental Science and Management from UC-Davis decided to travel (Italy, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Germany, Netherlands...) before accepting a full-time position with Atria Senior Living at their location in Walnut Creek, CA. Contact: 112 Doris Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. 925-323-1168. sjschoevaars@ucdavis.edu.

Chris Zapple (11-14) is working as a business analyst at Deloitte Consulting in McLean, VA and driving with Uber on the weekends, while training for the Richmond Marathon and climbing Mt. Rainier in 2015. Contact: 3401 Slack Run Dr, Falls Church, VA 22042. 571-214-4328. czapple@deloitte.com.

Another Good Campsite



Rayado Valley from Toothache Springs.

photo by Dave Kenneke

Toothache Springs a surprising gem

Just below the rimrock on the southwest side of Urraca mesa, a good spring flows from the malpais rock as it has for millennia. The water is cold and clear, and tastes good. The water trickles down the mountain to an old tank where it lingers for a while before it disappears back into the mountain on its constant journey.

Less than a quarter-mile square, Toothache Springs Trail Camp is another one of those gems that make our mountains so special. Hidden from the floor of the Rayado Valley, the tiny bench is surrounded by pinon and scrub oak, and provides some of the flattest tent sites on the ranch; all it takes is a few miles and a little climb to get there!

The vistas as one might expect are anything but tiny, with commanding views of the mesas and plains to the east and south; Rayado Canyon to the west, and cliffs of Urraca to the north.

On this cold January day, only a handful of mule deer were visiting the seeps below the spring for refreshment, but a fresh dusting of snow revealed the earlier visits of bull elk and a young mountain lion. As I gazed toward the old settlement of Rayado I wondered how many early hunters, travelers, shepherds, cowboys, and hikers had quenched their thirst at this special place. I came to the sudden realization that it had been years since I had drunk from this spring and sat wondering at the views.

-Dave Kenneke

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Registration for Rafting, June 19, & Group Dinners, June 19 & 20

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Addition members in party: 1. _____

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3. _____

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Rafting, June 19:

Full-day (lunch included) - \$85 per person # people: _____ total \$: _____

Half-day - \$65 per person # people: _____ total \$: _____

Dinner, June 19: Barbeque at Bufflers, all you can eat:

Adults - \$26 per person # people: _____ total \$: _____

Kids under age 14 - \$13 per person # people: _____ total \$: _____

Dinner, June 20: Smokey's on the Gorge, all you can eat:

Adults - \$36 per person # people: _____ total \$: _____

Kids under age 14 - \$18 per person # people: _____ total \$: _____

Total \$ due to PSA: _____

Payment methods:

Credit Card (circle one): VISA MASTERCARD

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Check enclosed – make check out to PSA. Send to: PSA, 17 Deer Run Road

Cimarron NM, 87714

Questions? Contact: Lee Huckstep at hstp1@aol.com

Dan Miller at dmill112@hotmail.com

PSA office at psadirector@philstaff.com or (575) 376-1138



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