

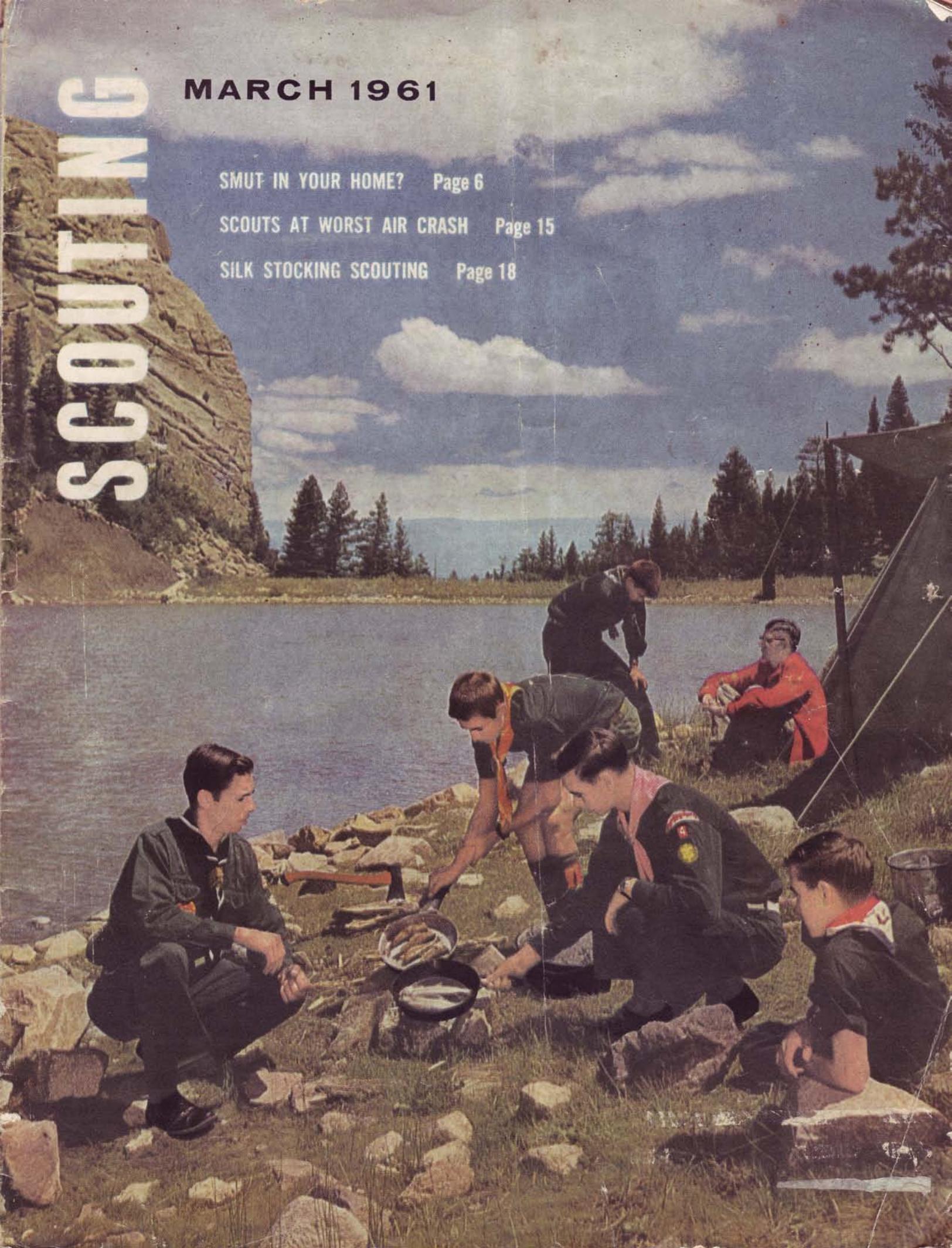
# SCOUTING

MARCH 1961

SMUT IN YOUR HOME? Page 6

SCOUTS AT WORST AIR CRASH Page 15

SILK STOCKING SCOUTING Page 18



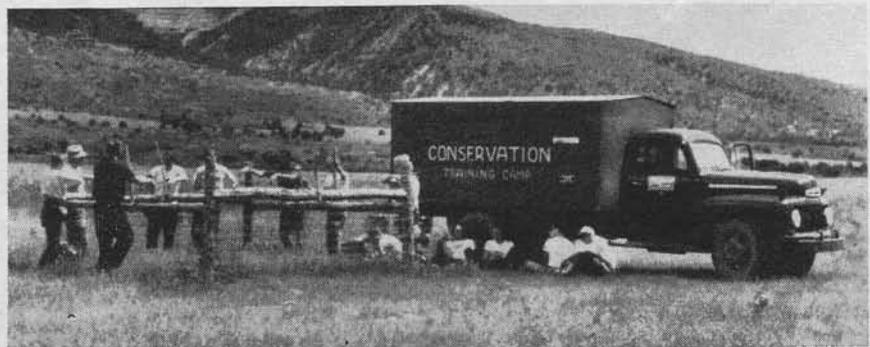


*Two Explorers wield charged nets to harvest trout for study without harm under the supervision of fishery biologists in conservation training camp.*



*The glamor of conservation may have a strong resemblance to work but the stimulus is the purpose the ditch is to fulfill; the boys know why they blister their hands.*

*It's necessary to fence in a small plot of range grass to compare with the grazed areas to regulate grazing to prevent excessive damage to grass crop.*



**By Walter Wenzel**  
Assistant Director of Conservation

# TREATMENT FOR FISH



**T**WO BOYS IN RUBBER BOOTS are slowly wading up the fast-moving Rayado Creek, just above the old Rayado Lodge. Each holds in the water a metal hoop on a pole and carries a fish net. Their eyes scan the water.

Behind them six boys are moving along the banks earnestly searching the water around the two waders. A hundred feet downstream is a gasoline motor driving a generator with insulated wires running to the hoops the boys are carrying.

Suddenly someone on the bank yells, "There's goes one!" and, "there's another!" Amid frantic splashing, one wader holds up his net with a seven-inch rainbow trout which he deposits in a bucket.

These boys are not poaching fish with Flash Gordon equipment. They are Explorers and older Scouts learning about trout at the conservation training camp at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Downstream another group is taking oxygen tests, stream temperatures, and trout food samples.

Our gang is shocking trout—stunning them with electricity passed through the water between the two hoops. Then they collect the fish to weigh, measure, and release. Some are tagged, while from others scales are collected to determine age. A few are killed to make stomach analyses. All of these techniques are everyday work for a fisheries biologist to gather data about fish and to improve stream conditions for fishing.

The boys learn how and why to use techniques under the guidance of two fisheries biologists from the New Mexico Game and Fish Department. Similarly they learn about wildlife, soil and water, range management, and forestry, all from professionals in the field. The boys are permitted to use the equipment that the experts use.

To apply some of the techniques learned, the boys carry out on-the-ground projects. They erect a soil erosion structure, for example, learning where to place it and how to build it properly. All this, of course, after

they learn what caused the erosion and figure out the ways to alleviate it at its source.

The same with forestry—how can we apply conservation practices here on Philmont or anywhere in the country? What can we do to protect our water sheds? How can we improve the quality of our timber?

For two days and one night eight to ten boys at a time board the conservation mobile unit and head for the back country of the ranch. Here they do special projects such as deer population studies, stream improvement, riprapping dam spillways, and range and wildlife plots.

Late afternoons, evenings, and Sundays are optional time, but with plenty of activities to keep a teen-ager's interest riding sky-high. On Sunday the boys can tour the ranch house, the museum at Carson-Maxwell, and the conservation demonstration area. They learn fly tying, then go trout fishing in the Rayado. There's shooting and gun safety, skish with fly and spinning rods, field archery, caged animals of all kinds, conservation and nature "gimmicks," movies and slides, campfires, and, of course, a horseback ride.

Two weeks of a conservation program with something on the "docket" all the time. Yet plenty of time to cook their own meals, clean up, write a letter home, and keep that field notebook up to date. A chance to bring a lot of information and know-how back home with them.

The Philmont conservation training camp is for Explorers and older Scouts who want to learn more about this field, perhaps for a career. Three camps are scheduled in 1961: June 24 to July 7; July 27 to August 9; August 12 to August 25.

Requirements for participation are the same as for all Philmont camping. Detailed information is available at your council office. All applications must be submitted through the council. A place may be reserved with a \$10.00 registration fee as part of the total \$50.00 fee for two weeks.

Sorry—no adult registrations taken for the training camp. But let a boy you know have the chance.