

COME TO TULSA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2003

TULSA WORLD

Late Waite Phillips to be honored for gift of ranch

The late Waite Phillips was a very generous man who believed in sharing his wealth with people outside his family.

He will be honored for one of his most impressive gifts — the New Mexico ranch Philmont — at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 26 at Philbrook Museum of Art, the home he shared with his wife, Genevieve.

Former Tulsa Mayor Robert LaFortune, an active member of the Philmont Ranch committee, will be the emcee. Philmont Scout Ranch Executive Keith Gallaway will be the guest speaker.

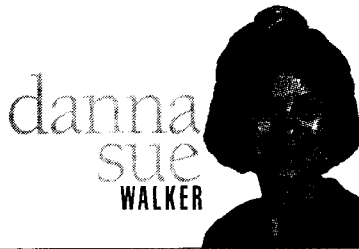
Mayor Bill LaFortune also will attend the luncheon and will read a proclamation naming Sept. 26 as "Waite Phillips Appreciation Day for Philmont Scout Ranch."

The event is open to all those interested in learning more about Philmont, as well as former Philmont Scouts and current Boy Scout supporters.

Tickets are \$35. For reservations, send a check payable to Philmont Staff Association, 2543 E. 24th St., Tulsa, OK 74114 or call Steve Ramsay at 748-5333.

The ranch has a fascinating history. Once inhabited by Jicarilla Apache and Moache Ute Indians, Philmont was the site of one of the first pioneer settlements in northeastern New Mexico. The present ranch is part of the original Beaubien and Miranda Land Grant, which was granted to Carlos Beaubien and Guadalupe Miranda by the Mexican government in 1841.

Beaubien's son-in-law, mountain man Lucien Maxwell, led



people & places

the first settlers to the grant in 1848. With the help of his friend Kit Carson, Maxwell's Rayado River prospered, despite frequent Indian raids and harsh wilderness conditions.

Maxwell moved his ranch north to the Cimarron River in 1857, the site of present day Cimarron. There it became a famous stop on the Santa Fe Trail, bringing American trade goods into New Mexico. Ten years after Maxwell moved to Cimarron, gold was discovered on his ranch near Baldy Mountain. For years afterward, the mountains and streams of Maxwell's Ranch swarmed with prospectors and miners.

In 1870, Maxwell sold his ranch to an English land company known as the Maxwell Land Grant and Railroad Co. After several years the land was again sold to a Dutch-based company that attempted several development schemes but eventually sold the land in tracts for farms and ranches.

Waite Phillips became interested in developing a ranch out of the old land grant in 1922. He eventually amassed more than 300,000 acres of mountains and plains in a ranch he named Phil-

mont, a combination of his name and "monte," the Spanish word for mountain.

The Philmont Ranch became a showplace. Immense herds of Hereford cows and Corriedale sheep grazed its pastures. Phillips built a large Spanish Mediterranean-styled home for his family at the ranch headquarters, naming it Villa Philmonte. He also developed horse and hiking trails throughout the scenic backcountry along with elaborate fishing and hunting cabins for his family and friends.

In this spirit, he offered 35,857 acres of his ranch to the Boy Scouts of America in 1938 to serve as a national wilderness camping area. The area was named Philturn Rocky Mountain Scoutcamp incorporating the Boy Scout slogan, "Do a Good Turn Daily."

After seeing the enthusiastic response of the first Scout campers, Phillips added to the original gift and included his best camping land, the Villa Philmonte and the headquarters farming and ranching operations.

Phillips said the second gift was made so that "many, rather than few could enjoy the rich and beautiful land." The property, now totaling 127,395 acres, was renamed Philmont Scout Ranch. Phillips realized that camper fees alone could not meet the cost for maintenance and development, so as an endowment, he included in the gift his 23-story Philtower Building in Tulsa.

PHILMONT STAFF ASSOCIATION