

The messages below were part of the package of material provided by Clarence Baldwin, Jr. who was Philmont staff from 1947 to 1949.

4-18-2007 (by mail)

Tom – here is the red card & menu. I have included a couple more historical items I found. The info given staff for use with campers re P/S in 1947, obviously prepared before the 1946 season attendance was available.

Re the menu, while Abreu got chicken and ham sometimes (I guess), we at Fish Camp never got chicken even once. It would have spoiled on the ½ day trip by truck to Crater, then mule string and we had no way to keep it for units either. We occasionally got a ham, which we kept in the Main Lodge “celler”, then cut off the green and mold when the staff had it for special occasions. The campers usually got Spam or Treat (the same thing), Vienna sausage or whatever other canned meat we had, rarely it was potted ham. Eggs were kept off refrigeration 4-6 weeks.

Clarence

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4-23-2007 (by e-mail)

Tom, yes, I had the good fortune to be at Fish Camp two of my three summers. 1947 as TP/Commissary man, then after a year in purgatory at Car-Max (Rayado now) as ACD for a staff of 14, back to Fish Camp as CD with responsibility for Porcupine, Clear Creek, and Black Mountain, the only staffed trail camps (one 'ranger' each) that side of Abreu (a base camp) and Cyphers (a staffed trail camp of Cito, also a base camp). We had no communications with any of them nor Camping Hq. No ranch mgt. got that far into the interior all summer! There were 5 base camps those years: Car-Max, Abreu, Rayado (fish camp), Cimarroncito, and Ponil. Car-Max and Ponil had asst. camping directors (year round profs.) as CD's. The other three had summer staff CD's.

Wagon Trains (4 weeks) stayed at Fish Camp 5 nights, Expeditions (2 weeks) stayed one night. Those units had 6-32 people each. We could sleep 5 units at sites, each with a field kitchen for 4 crews each unit, fully equipped with Dutch ovens and other cook gear for 4 crews, so none of that was backpacked. Also we had canvas tents, council-camp style, set up at each site, water lines to each site, and a big central shower/latrine for all on the south side of the Rayado. We could handle about 150 on full nights, but they were few. (All this infrastructure was washed away in 1965, along with the main lodge kitchen and butler's quarters just west of the long house.)

We had a mule string there in the corral and pasture above the barn. The wrangler was one of our staff. On MWF he went to Crater to meet the Dodge Power Wagon (complete with front bumper winch used to get up the road from Hq on rainy days), which brought all the food for us, campers, and mail, and take our mail back (our only communication

with the boss...send a message on W got answer on F!). The mules also went to Abreu as needed for Wagon Train bedrolls (pre-down etc, very heavy and not backpacked). The Expeditions traveled with burros for bedrolls and food issued at each base camp. The Abreu burro string brought their bedrolls to us, our burro string with our guide took them to Cito (then deadheaded back with burros in 1947) By 1949, each Expedition had its own burros for the two weeks and traveled with the same guide, which morphed into the Ranger program later.

So the menu was what we got from Hq to issue, but no copies were given to units. It was for my use only, but the available supplies never matched, hence my modifications. And I didn't even always follow those. The units were on their own for recipes for what I issued. I issued the food from the TP/Commissary bldg., the former butler's quarters, a two room with bath between building. The front room was public area with counter. The bath was for storing fresh eggs in their crate in the shower, the back room the bulk storage for the canned good cases, dried fruit cases, dried eggs and dried milk powder (we didn't always have fresh un-refrigerated eggs. I issued food daily, including material for trail lunch for the day's hike or trip to Cito (which included overnight stop at Black Mtn). My 'rangers' at Clear Creek, Porcupine, and Black Mtn had to come in for food and carry it back themselves (and enjoy a meal with us when there).

The P/S descriptive sheets were prepared by the ranch for staff so we had our facts straight.

Regards, Clarence