

PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH

In October, 1938 the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America gratefully accepted from Mr. Waite Phillips of Tulsa, Oklahoma, 35,857 acres and \$50,000 for its development into a campsite. Plans were started immediately for the establishment of a camp which was known as the Philturn Rockymountain Scoutcamp.

The old Five Points area was cleaned up and a base camp started. In the summer of 1939, one hundred and ninety-six Scouts camped at this site and explored the surrounding country. They were thrilled with the rugged and adventurous experience.

The development of the Philturn Rockymountain Scoutcamp progressed satisfactorily and by the opening of the 1940 season most of the camp had been completed. With the exception of the water system, excellent planning is evident. The guest house, director's house, and lodge are beautifully constructed of logs. The ranger's cabin, commissary, health lodge, showers and toilets are built of native lumber. Four Troop camping areas were developed. Splendid buildings were put up here with native rock walls. These are combination buildings with kitchen, dining room, and plenty of space for program and recreation when needed. In the summer of 1940, eight hundred and three Scouts used these facilities. Trail Camps were developed at outlying points and are used by the Troops making expeditions. In 1941 we had one thousand and forty-four campers.

The Ponil section, with its great rock rimmed canyons and high mesas, furnishes a natural setting for hiking and exploration. At several points Indian writings are plainly seen on the rock cliffs. There are many other signs of an earlier history of special interest to young men including Black Jack Ketchum's Cave, which is located in Turkey Canyon.

In the fall of 1941, Mr. Phillips gave an additional gift of 91,538 acres. This territory adjoins his original gift making a total of approximately two hundred square miles. The name, Philmont Scout Ranch, was given to the entire tract. This new gift included the ranching headquarters with the office building, barns, stables, eight residences and other buildings used in the operation of his ranch. Of this, 1,054 acres is irrigated land, with forty acres of apple orchard. There is about two hundred acres of permanent pasture land which can be irrigated, in addition to the above.

The ranch has a fine water system which Mr. Phillips developed over the years. Webster Lake located up in Cimarroncito canyon has a capacity of 1,000 acre feet of water. A ditch from this lake controls the flow of water to all parts of the farm. To supplement this lake, he built a seven-mile ditch leading out of the Cimarron Canyon. This ditch directs the flow of water from the Eagle Nest Lake where we have another 1,000 acre feet of water rights. We, also, have some water rights on the Uracca and Rayado Creeks.

The domestic water system includes a reservoir in the Uracca Canyon. Water is piped from there to storage tanks located on the south side of the Tooth of Time Ridge. From this point it is distributed all over the ranch in four inch water mains. We have a storage capacity of 150,000 gallons and our average daily use is 50,000 gallons. Standard fire plugs are located near all the main buildings including Cattle Headquarters, Camping Headquarters, Villa Philmonte, Ranch Headquarters and stables.

Villa Philmonte, Mr. Phillips' former summer home, is located on a twenty acre tract. The area is beautifully landscaped with the Villa Philmonte in the center and the swimming pool at the back. Many furnishings and trophies were left

including some valuable paintings and antiques reminiscent of the glorious days of the Santa Fe Trail and the old west.

The Horse Headquarters include a fine hollow square stable and is well equipped with corrals and branding chute. The palomino horses, which were left on the place by Mr. Phillips, were sold in the spring of 1943. It was felt that these horses were too high-spirited to be used by the campers. Three good dwellings, which are used by the employees at the horse headquarters, are near by.

The Cattle Headquarters consist of sheds, corrals, loading chute, dipping vat and scales. Three residences are, also, located at this spot. This is one of the best-equipped cattle headquarters in this section of the state. The gift included the fine herd of registered Hereford cattle as follows:

Bulls	76
Cows	<u>282</u>
Total	358

Mr. Phillips' guest quarters, known as the Carson Place, consisted of a fine residence, stables, servants' quarters and a trophy house which houses an old stage coach, covered wagon and many other articles of great interest.

At the old Rayado Ranch, three rooms of the Kit Carson house still remain. Here, too, is the old Maxwell House of which seventeen rooms are usable. At one time this was a famous stop on the Santa Fe Trail and was one of the first real haciendas (ranches) in New Mexico. The Kit Carson and Maxwell houses were built in 1847. At the time the Boy Scouts took over, this was used as the sheep headquarters. The sheep were sold in August, 1943.

On the upper Rayado near the old Abreu place is a beautiful log cabin. This is on the Rayado Creek and was used by Mr. Phillips as a hunting and fishing lodge.

Nestled in an open valley at the foot of a great rock cliff, there is a fine log cabin on Cimarroncito Creek in a center of much scenic beauty.

High on the mountain side near Fowler Pass is located Crater Lodge. The vista here is wonderful as it is located at a point where you can look out to the east and see the country for fifty miles.

Farther up the Rayado, at a point where the Agua Fria Creek joins the Rayado, Mr. Phillips built his fishing lodge. There are five attractive log cabins here which can be reached only by trail.

There were many other buildings and improvements on the property including three cow camps located back in the mountains, about eighty miles of road, two hundred miles of fence and over a hundred miles of improved trails. The foothill and plains country located along the eastern part of the mountain range furnishes fine grazing land for our livestock. The mountain area is well-timbered and is ideal territory for camping. Several streams are stocked regularly and furnish good mountain trout fishing.

The entire ranch is well stocked with game. It is estimated we have 3,000 deer. We have two herds of elk and numerous flocks of wild turkey. In the game

pastures we have two herds of antelope and one herd of buffalo. Our principal predatory animals are the coyote, mountain lion, and bob cat. Brown Bear, porcupine, and beaver are plentiful. Mr. Phillips stocked the ranch with pheasant, grouse and quail. The entire area is a paradise for nature lovers, with a great variety of birds and wild flowers.

A large part of the ranch is well timbered with a stand of western yellow pine and fir. At a higher altitude we have aspen and spruce. While the Ponil area was heavily cut some thirty years ago it is now coming back nicely with a new growth of conifers. Much of the ranch is heavily timbered and not suitable for grazing.

ADAPTATION

Development of the ranch for camping and training has gone forward slowly under great handicaps because of the building and travel restrictions due to the war. Fortunately practically everything on the ranch was adaptable for our use.

In 1942 the Boy Scouts built a bunkhouse which will accommodate 96 men east of the big house. The servants' quarters were torn out and this space converted into a large dining room which will seat 120. It is now possible to feed and quarter 100 men here. Several training sessions and conferences have been held here and with travel restrictions removed we can expect greater use of these training facilities.

The Carson Place was converted into the Camping Headquarters in 1942. The camp superintendent lives in the residence. One stable was rebuilt and is now used as a mess hall. The other stable was converted into a recreation hall with staff quarters in each end. The caretaker's house is now used as a health lodge. New stables suitable for our needs were built on the west side of this area. The Trophy house is being kept pretty much as Mr. Phillips left it.

The old Rayado ranch has been converted into a base camp used for the first week of the Senior Training Program. At the present it has a capacity for ninety Scouts. The old Maxwell house is now used for dining room, kitchen and staff quarters.

At the Abreu hunting lodge we have built three cooking shelters and converted the cowboys' quarters into a commissary. This is now a very popular camp site. A stable and corral have been built here so that we can take care of a string of horses.

At the Cimarroncito hunting lodge we have built five outdoor kitchens. We have, also, added a stable and corrals. Two horse strings are operated out of here in the summer and this is one of our most popular camp sites.

At the fishing lodge we have added three outdoor kitchens. Here we operate a pioneer program. The Scouts carry their packs in on their backs and supplies are sent in by pack horse. The entire wilderness area around this camp is utilized in the operation of a pioneer program.

Camping attendance has increased steadily since 1939 as follows:

CAMPER WEEKS ATTENDANCE

	<u>Council Camping</u>	<u>Senior Camping</u>
1939	300	92
1940	733	416
1941	870	621
1942	1,080	704
1943	616	1,137
1944	2,296	1,884
1945	794	2,521

Note the steady increase in Senior Camping.