

FISH CAMP PROFILE

Name: Fish Camp (Originally Rayado Base Camp)

Time Period: Summer, 1927

Theme: Fly fishing and the hospitality of the Waite Phillips family and staff

Historical Significance to American History.

The history of Rayado Lodge and Fish Camp provides a distinctive insight into the recreational pursuits and social interactions of a wealthy American Family from 1922 to 1941. Fly-fishing, hunting, bird-watching, flora and fauna collecting were the main attractions of the site. The gift of the Philmont Ranch by Waite and Genevieve Phillips to the Boy Scouts of America is illustrative of their love and respect for high ideals and the perpetuation of the virtues of faith, self-reliance, integrity, and love of freedom.

Characters.

Waite Phillips – age 44, born on January 19, 1883 on a farm near Conway, Iowa. The son of Lewis Franklin Phillips, a Civil War Veteran, and Lucinda Josephine Faucett Phillips. Waite was proud of relation to Captain Miles Standish on his Paternal Grandparents side of the family. Waite and his identical twin brother Wiate left home at age sixteen and adventured across the American West for three years until Wiate died of a ruptured appendix in the Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane in July, 1902. A devastated young Waite got a bookkeepers education and eventually followed his brothers Frank and L. E. into the Oil Business in the Indian Territory that became the State of Oklahoma. Waite's love of the west and the mountains and meteoric success in the oil business led to and enabled the purchase of the Urraca Ranch and other adjacent lands, which included the Ramon Abreu Ranch and Homestead, beginning in 1922. The Rayado Lodge, established in about 1910 by George Webster, the previous owner of Urraca Ranch, was one of Waite and Genevieve Phillips' favorite places for entertaining family and friends.

Genevieve Elliott Phillips – age 40, born June 17, 1887, the daughter of John Brown Elliott and Nora Miller Elliott. Her father was a banker and attorney and her mother was well educated and considered a pillar of the community. Genevieve grew up in a loving home and was well educated in Knoxville and later in Chicago. She met Waite Phillips in Knoxville in the late summer of 1903. They were married six years later in Knoxville on March 30, 1909. In a telephone conversation with J. Glenn Cummings on January 13, 2001, Elliott W. "Chope" Phillips said of his mother –

"Mother did not go in for outside activities. She was a devoted wife and mother and a gracious hostess and had a few very close friends. She did not have hobbies. She did read. She took full charge of household responsibilities. Mother never had an enemy in the world. She was a very intelligent and strong woman."

Helen Jane Phillips – age 16, born July 1, 1911 at the Phillips home in Bartlesville, Indian Territory. *(Described as a quiet girl who was not outgoing. She was married three times, twice to the same man. Two children, Phillips and Peyton Breckinridge. In later years after her husband died she became a foster parent. She had a problem with alcohol. She died in Tulsa at age 51 on May 19, 1963 before Waite died on January 27, 1964)*

Elliott Waite "Chope" Phillips – age 9, born January 11, 1918 at the family home on Seminole in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. *(Chope was a very busy young boy and loved the Philmont Ranch and spent as much time as his parents would allow at the Ranch spending summers with the cowboys. He was sent to Culver School and then Stanford University. He served in the Army in WWII. Chope became his own man, a Rancher in Watrous New Mexico even though his father wanted him to be a businessman. He loved his parents and he and his father reconciled that difference in later years.)*

Vice President Charles G. Dawes – Age 62. Born in Marietta, Ohio August 27, 1865. Banker by trade. Vice President of the United States under President Coolidge. Vice President Dawes earned distinction as a Chief Purchasing Agent for the United States in WW I. He was an avid and skilled outdoorsman. He most likely met Waite Phillips when Waite Phillips and his family lived in Washington for five months in the winter and spring of 1926. He and Waite had much in common. Waite was a confirmed Republican. Both were men of high principles and values. Died April 23, 1951. Dawes shared a Nobel Peace Prize in 1925 for his work as Chairman of the Committee of Experts with the Allied Reparations Commission after WW I.

Mrs. Carol Dawes – wife of Vice President Charles G. Dawes. At this point we have no information about Mrs. Dawes.

Dana Dawes – late teens. Son of Vice President and Mrs. Dawes. Shown in a photo in riding clothes and boots with a shotgun in the December, 1927 *Saturday Evening Post* article. A handsome and refined young man.

Ben Ames Williams – Age 38. Born in Macon, Mississippi on March 7, 1889. Graduate of Dartmouth in 1910. Married in 1912. Prominent novelist and writer. Outdoorsman and world traveler. Lived in Chestnut Hills, Massachusetts. A gifted highly descriptive writer of historic novels (Revolutionary War and Civil War), hunting and fishing stories, mysteries, and sea stories. . A refined and worldly man with a fine sense of humor. Apparently he was a friend of Vice President Dawes as he was a part of the *Charles G. Dawes Fish, Game, and Riding Association*, (the group that visited Philmont in the summers of 1927 and 28.) A slender and athletic young man. His father was American Consul to Wales and he lived in Cardiff, Wales for a year. Died on February 4, 1953 while playing his favorite game, Curling. Two of his books were made into movies. (*Leave Her to Heaven* and *All the Brothers Were Valiant*)

Kenneth L. Roberts – Age 42. Born in 1885 in Kennebunk, Maine. Prominent writer of a series of historic novels and articles. Graduate of Cornell. He loved American History. He was outspoken as a conservative and defended conservative moral values. A member of the Dawes party in 27. Lived at Kennebunk, Maine. Wrote with a humorous “tongue in cheek” style. A tall slender handsome man with a wide smile. (*He was awarded a special Pulitzer Prize citation in 1957.*) Books included *Arundel*, (1930) *Rabble in Arms*, (1933) and *Northwest Passage*, (1937). Wrote the non fiction work *Florida* in 1925. (among numerous other works).

John T. McCutcheon – Age 57. Born outside Lafayette, Indiana in May, 1870. Famed cartoonist for the *Chicago Tribune*. He was an avid outdoorsman, hunter, and fisherman. He and his wife traveled the world extensively. We know from correspondence from Mrs. McCutcheon in later years that he had a fine sense of humor and was a practical jokester. (*Known in later years as the Dean of American Cartoonists. He won a Pulitzer for Cartoons in 1931. Married the 21 year old daughter of a friend when he was 47. Four children. Died at age 79 in 1949. Buried in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, at the old family homestead*)

Gillette Hill – Age about 45. A top Executive in Waite Phillips’s Company and neighbor in Tulsa. This man was a respected and favorite friend and hunting and fishing companion of Waite Phillips. A slender and athletic man. He traveled extensively with Waite Phillips and was at Philmont with Mr. Phillips often. (*He died in 1960.*) *Mr. Hill was Waite Phillips most constant friend – poignant question – was Mr. Hill a subconscious “replacement” for Waite Phillip’s twin brother Wiate?*

Alma Hill – wife of Gillette Hill, friend and neighbor of the Phillips. (Little is known about Alma)

Gene Hayward – Philmont Ranch Employee (Ranch Manager) (*Respected, trusted, and admired by Waite Phillips, little more known. He was a devoted employee and was one of the few to outlive Waite. Attended Waite’s funeral in Los Angeles in 1964*)

Historical Background of Camp.

This part of Philmont was at one time part of a large and famous land grant in New Mexico that was originally the *Beaubien and Miranda Grant*. It was granted to a French Canadian immigrant from Taos named Charles (or Carlos) Beaubien and a partner Guadalupe Miranda by the governor of New Mexico during the time that New Mexico was a colony of Mexico. Beaubien was a resident of Taos where he was a supplier for the fur business and had married Maria Paula Lobato (or Lovato). When the United States claimed New Mexico in 1846, Senor Miranda moved to Mexico because he was not in sympathy with the American occupation. Mr. Beaubien however stayed and continued to prosper as a result. One of his daughters Petra married Jesus Abreu, Sr., and they settled at Rayado settlement in 1858 or 1859, after Lucien Maxwell and his wife, Petra's sister Luz, moved from there to Cimarron. Maxwell bought out Miranda's half of the land grant and eventually acquired Beaubien's half by purchase. It was known then as the *Maxwell Land Grant*.

The canyons of the Rayado and Aqua Fria have been known from the earliest days for their rugged beauty and quality trout fishing and recreational opportunities. In his book *Philmont*, Laurence R. Murphy reported, that the Abreu sons Charles and Jesus Jr. decided to develop the recreational possibilities of the Rayado and secured an agreement with the *Maxwell Land Grant Company* giving them control of the Rayado all the way to its headwaters far back into the mountains of what is now Philmont.

Former owners of the Rayado Lodge site were Stanley McCormick, son of Chicago Industrialist Cyrus McCormick, and George Webster who sold the land to Waite Phillips in 1922. It is believed George Webster first constructed the Fishing Lodge at the current location in 1910. In Murphy's book, *Philmont*, it is reported that Boy Scouts from Raton, New Mexico camped at Rayado Lodge in the summer of 1916 and 1917.

Relevant Dates and Events.

Past.

1000-1700 -- Ponil People inhabit the area where the Plains meet the mountains, now Philmont. They are followed by the Jicarillo Apache, Moache Ute, and, the Kiowa, Cheyenne and Comanche peoples who hunt, camp and use the land seasonally into the mid-1800's.

1598 -- Don Juan Onate brought the first settlers to New Mexico from Mexico, then a colony of Spain.

1821--- Mexico became independent of Spain – New Mexicans became citizens of Mexico. Trade with the United States began on the Santa Fe Trail from Independence, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico. (This was the "opening" of the *Santa Fe Trail*)

1846 --- General Steven Kearny and troops arrived in Las Vegas, New Mexico, and from a rooftop facing the plaza there claimed New Mexico as a territory of the United States.

1848 -- The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo transfers New Mexico to United States and guarantees that the United States will honor Spanish and Mexico land grants. Lucien Maxwell begins Rayado settlement.

1851 -- Fort Union established on *Santa Fe Trail*; it was a major supply center for the US Army in the SW and became a large factor in the economics of the area. Forage for animals, food for soldiers, drivers and tenders of stock, etc. created jobs and market for agricultural goods.

1857 -- Maxwell moves to Cimarron River settlement.

1864 -- By this time Jesus Abreu and his wife Petra Beaubien Abreu (daughter to the original land grant owner and sister in law to Maxwell) took over the settlement at Rayado. This became a stop for traffic and travelers along the *Santa Fe Trail*. It provided safety, food, hospitality and camping. It was a ranch and agricultural operation that supported 20 or more families in the old patron/partido system in which there was a landowner and many workers-residents who worked for a share, *partido* in Spanish.

1879 -- Santa Fe Railroad completed to Las Vegas, New Mexico. The closest stop to the Abreus at Rayado Settlement was in Springer. (The practical "end" of the *Santa Fe Trail*)

1897-1906 -- Miguel A. Otero's term as territorial governor -- the only native Hispanic to be appointed to that office since annexation by the United States.

1900 -- Jesus Gil Abreu, patriarch of the family, dies. Jesus, Jr., Narciso, and Charles take over the ranching operation without great success. Times are changing.

1908 -- Rayado District School is closed -- the families who were working the land of the Abreus in exchange for a portion of the crops (the patron/peon system) had dispersed and the old system of patronage was disintegrating statewide.

1910 -- New Mexico constitution was just written and is being put to a vote as a prelude to becoming a state of the United States. In it voting and educational rights for Spanish speaking citizens were guaranteed unequivocally.

1911 -- Main Abreu Ranch at Rayado is sold to Colorado investors.

1912 -- New Mexico becomes a state. Ramon and Gertrude Abreu move upstream to the site of present day Abreu camp.

1914 -- Petra Beaubien Abreu, matriarch of the family, dies.

1922 -- Ramon and Gertrude Abreu sell their homestead and ranch to Waite Phillips.

1922 -- Waite Phillips purchased the Urraca and Rayado Tracts from George Webster (42,000 acres for \$150,000) as well as the Ramon Abreu Ranch and Homestead.

1924 -- Native Americans are made citizens by Act of Congress, but still denied the right to vote in New Mexico and Arizona until 1948 Supreme Court ruling.

1925 -- Waite Phillips sold his company to the Blair Company of New York for \$25 million in cash.

1926 -- Waite and Genevieve Phillips built the Villa Philbrook in Tulsa, the Villa Philmonte at Philmont Ranch, and four backcountry lodges on Philmont, including enlargement of the Rayado Lodge and additional buildings at Fish Camp.

Current.

1927 -- May 20, Charles Lindberg transatlantic flight New York to Paris.

1927 -- Villa Philmonte is completed and Waite and Genevieve host his brothers and families at Philmont Ranch for the formal opening of their new home, often called "the big house" by employees.

1927 -- Waite and Genevieve Phillips host Vice President Charles G. Dawes, Mrs. Dawes and their son Dana and a large party at Villa Philmonte and Rayado Lodge.

Costumes and Appearance.

Women: Fancy late 1920s western wear. Long straight or four gored skirts and "A Line" skirts made from khaki or twill. Split skirts. Shirts or blouses with collars. Soft colors white, beige, or light blue. Jodhpur riding pants in khaki or twill. Khaki or corduroy "chino" style pants. Leather belts, western or plain in design. High topped riding boots (both eastern and western were used), high top lace up boots, roper type plain toe boots. Leather or cloth plain or subtly patterned western cut sleeveless vests. Three quarter length Mackinaw Coats of canvas or khaki twill, corduroy, or wool. Cardigan sweaters.

Accessories include: Hats, broad brimmed safari style or Western; leather riding gloves, chaps, belts, handkerchiefs, scarves (large square silk, wild rags) , Very little jewelry would be wore at fish camp... wedding rings, watches.

Appearance: Neat, clean and orderly. Housekeeping is meticulous. (Domestic help was brought from the Villa Philmonte) Hairstyles of the period and class are long hair drawn back into a bun or up on top of the head or cut short in the bobbed fashion. No obviously dyed, buzzed or colored hair, ie. blue, green, purple shades.

Men: Fancy late 1920s western wear. Shirts with collars. Soft colors white, beige, or light blue. Jodhpur riding pants in khaki or twill. Khaki pants. High topped riding boots(eastern and western), high top lace up boots, roper type plain toe boots. Leather or cloth western cut sleeveless vests. Leather belts, western or plain in design. Three quarter length Mackinaw Coats of canvas or khaki twill. Khaki, wool, corduroy or twill sport coat in neutral earth colors. (per photos of Waite Phillips)

Accessories include: Hats, Stetsons, period looking were tall and wide brim felt, also Fedora, driver or golf caps, gloves, chaps, belts. Handkerchiefs, white or solid colors, bandanas, fancy silk scarves (wild rags) ; Pocket watches; Socks;. See photos and drawings.

Appearance: Neat, clean and orderly also as much as possible; dirty only as activities have made you; buildings, porches, tools, etc. in order; hairstyles of the period were short -- to the ears and above nape of the neck -- without "buzzed" or shaved areas. No obviously dyed hair colors.

Language: All characters would speak English; some employees Spanish as well. All guests are well educated and some guests speak with a northern accent or dialect if possible as appropriate. (See *Saturday Evening Post* article.) The young people may use 1920s slang on occasion. (Their parents would not approve.)

Props.

Fountain pens with the look of the period, notebooks and ledger looking books reminiscent of the period (no electric colors, plastics, etc.); tools, implements and equipment for program activities; kitchen utensils and cookware; fishing creels, landing nets, and fly rods and reels . (*The Phillips brought Domestic employees to do laundry. There was and is a hand powered mechanical washing machine at Rayado Lodge.*) 1920s magazines, books, photos, and games.

Campers "Roles": Guests who participate in fly tying and fishing. Campers as guests will be given a historic tour and interpretation of the Rayado Lodge and could be invited in for evening program featuring music, stories, dance and radio of the era.

Activities:

Entertaining friends and family; Fishing and hunting; Fly tying; Card games, checkers, and other table games; Camp chores; Reading and relaxing on the Rayado Lodge Porch and grounds; Listening to a very early battery powered radio

Staff Roles and Responsibilities as Historical Interpreters:

Greeting Crews -- In costume, in character, first person interp

Check-in -- Out of character, in costume, third person interp

Leaders of the Camp Activities -- In costume, in character as is feasible.

Lodge Tour -- In costume and in character

Fly tying -- In costume, in or out of character as feasible.

Evening Program -- In costume and in character.

This list doesn't give much opportunity to relate to campers out of character or give information that would not be appropriate to give "in" character because Fish Camp offers so many good places to be "in" character. Use them as much as possible realizing that after an "in" character presentation, you can take off a hat, change your demeanor and appear as a Philmont staff person in costume to give the information that you couldn't in character.

Thematic Goals:

- To give campers a hands-on experience with fly tying, fly fishing, streambed ecology and trout habitat.
- To share with campers on the history of Rayado Lodge
- To display the craftsmanship of the Lodge and furnishings.
- To create awareness of Mr. Waite Phillips' love of the outdoors and this site.
- To convey the generosity of Waite and Genevieve Phillips.
- To illustrate the hospitality afforded guests at Rayado Lodge.

Programs for Campers:

- Fly fishing instruction -- Fishing licenses available as needed.
- Tour and historic interpretation of Rayado Lodge
- Night program (a variety of first person depictions of Phillips family, guests, and employees; Charleston dance lessons, music and radio programs of the period)
- Souvenir handout of the *Philmont Ranch Guest Permit* (one per crew)

Positive Values:

- Generosity and Hospitality of Waite and Genevieve Phillips
- Courtesy, friendship, and appreciation of the guests
- Enjoyment and conservative use of the Rayado Lodge and area.
- Healthful good humor and personal demeanor among the characters

Relationship to Scouting Goals:

- To engender Scouts' appreciation of the values listed above
- To create understanding of how the Lives of Waite and Genevieve Phillips have positively influenced American ideals and culture.
- To illustrate Waite Phillips' Leadership by example.
- To facilitate the building of Character, Citizenship, and Fitness.

References:

Philmont: A History of New Mexico's Cimarron Country by Lawrence R. Murphy

(See Chapters 10 and 13)

Out in God's Country: A History of Colfax County, New Mexico by Lawrence R. Murphy

Beyond the Hills, the Journey of Waite Phillips by Michael Wallace.

For Good or Bad, People of Cimarron Country, By Stephen Zimmer.(pages 126-128)

Notes and Facts about Genevieve Elliott Phillips, by J. Glenn Cummings, based on *Beyond the Hills* by Michael Wallis, and phone conversations with Elliott W. Chope Phillips on January 13, 2001 and edited by Chope Phillips in a letter to J. Glenn Cummings dated January 26, 2001.

Hardships of New Mexico by Kenneth L. Roberts, *The Saturday Evening Post*, December 10, 1927.

High Country, Special Fish Camp Issue, May, 1977.

Fish Camp Director Reports for prior years. On file at the Seton Museum.

The Magic Mountains by Minor Huffman.

Philmont, An Illustrated History, by Stephen Zimmer.

One Summer by Bill Bryson, 2013. Excellent and entertaining account of the U.S. in the 1920s and, specifically, 1927.

By J. Glenn Cummings, Fish Camp Director, 2003

April 5, 2003.
Revised March 31, 2011. D. Blanche.