

The Philnews

A black and white photograph of a young man with long, wavy hair, smiling broadly while reading a book. He is wearing a dark polo shirt with a small logo on the left chest that says "PHILMOUNT STAFF". The book he is holding is a Harry Potter book, with the title "Harry Potter" clearly visible on the cover. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**Meet the Backcountry's
life support
Forge Off in the Backcountry
Alien Phil-SARS**

July 27, 2007 Issue #8

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Photo by Conrad Stoll, Ranger

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Philnews is a staff newsletter published weekly by Philmont Scout Ranch.

On the Cover

Bucko Cowden: Basking in the glory of his first PhilNews cover.

Photo by Margaret Hedderman

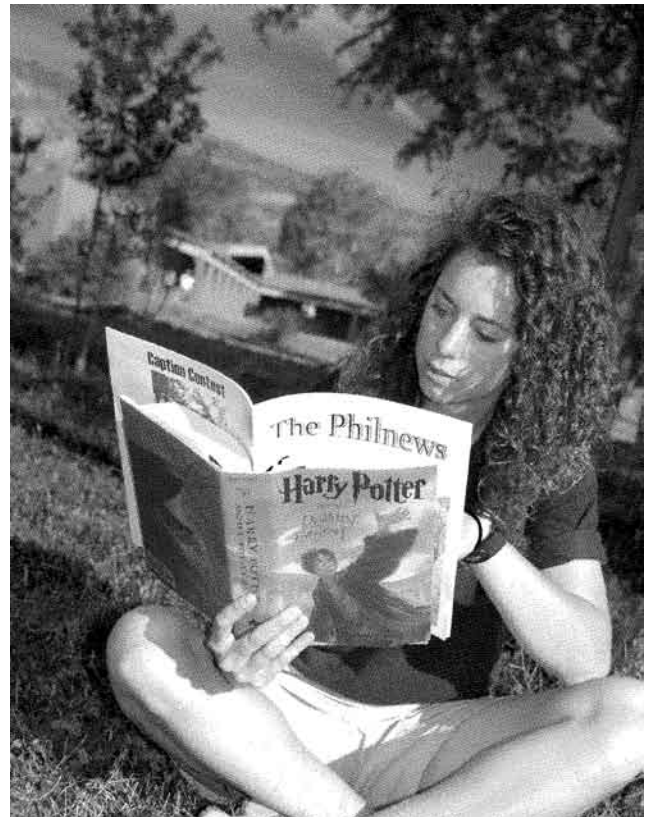
Open the Cage

By Margaret Hedderman, Philnews Manager

Work is a major distraction when it comes to reading the new *Harry Potter*. Fortunately, none of the PhilNews writers are as enthused as I am about finishing the book in an all-night, red-eyed marathon – an event saved exclusively for writing this week's articles.

Back in early July on the eve of the Roswell crash anniversary, staff writer Jordon Shinn traveled to Ring Place hoping to find the supernatural. On page 06, Jordon finds that, and possibly more. Also this week, Jennifer Peters asks the age-old question: if Black Mountain, French Henry, and Cypher's Mine got in a fight, who would win? 'Epic' is the only word to describe the forging competition that may have well solved the riddle (page 12.) And, though Bucko Cowden is featured on (his first) PhilNews cover reading the most popular book of the summer, that didn't stop us from catching up with him and the rest of the backcountry managers during their hectic work schedule for some quick interviews (page 16.)

Once the *Harry Potter* madness subsides and our normal level of sanity returns, the sadly forgotten PhilNews will triumph at once again being the most widely read publication at Philmont. Until then, enjoy catching up with your old friends Harry, Ron and Hermione, but remember that the PhilNews writers have worked as hard as J.K. Rowling this summer.



Margaret Hedderman demonstrating the cool way to read the PhilNews.

Photo by Rory Chapman

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Gear Review

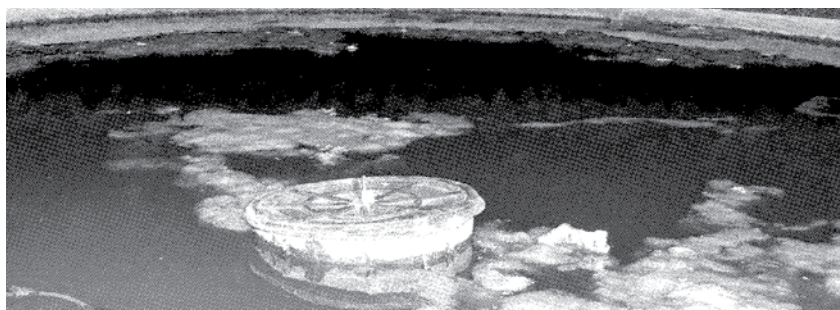
Potentially on-sale next year at the Tooth of Time Traders, the Vario was put to the test at Double H last week.

I'm not dead yet. Though, Chris Davis, the Double H paramedic, said it could take a few days for the symptoms to set in. Generally, it was probably a pretty bad idea to debut the Katadyn Vario microfilter in a cattle water trough. But, the algae was just too tempting not to give it a go.

The Vario features a combination of three different water filtration systems. Allowing you to choose from a glass fiber filter which pumps water faster and a ceramic filter that is heavier duty, the Vario also decreases odors by administering active charcoal.

The Vario weighs in at a little over a pound and takes up a good deal of space in the pack, but pumps quickly at a rate of 2.2 liters per minute using the glass fiber filter and 1.1 liters per minute with the ceramic. Although it is not a purifier and doesn't guard against viruses, it protects from cryptosporidia, giardia, and bacteria. When pumping from a fairly chunky water supply at HH, the filtered water was clean, clear, and, thankfully, chunk-free.

Alright, so here's the sitch. The Vario is not designed for ultralight backpacking – it's heavy and takes up a ton of room. What's cool, though, it screws directly onto a wide-mouthed Nalgene (no more hassling with multiple tubes,) and the quick pump-rate makes water filtration a cinch instead of a chore. Although we do recommend finding a cleaner water supply than a water trough, it's good to know that as of today no side-effects have occurred thanks to the Vario.

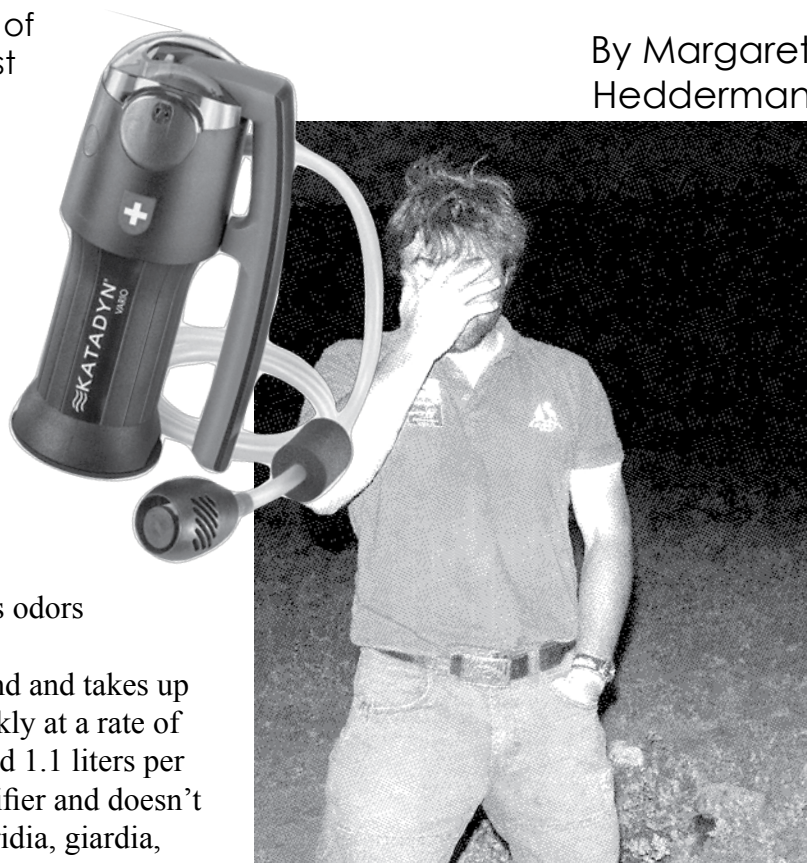


The tasty looking water sample used for testing the Vario. Photo by James King

05 The Philnews - July 27th, 2007

The Katadyn Vario Microfilter

By Margaret Hedderman



A classic reaction from Chris Davis (top) while James King (bottom) tests the filtered water.

Photo by Jamie Thorpe

Abducted in the Valle Vidal

On July 7th, 1947 a UFO crashed in Roswell, NM. Now, 60 years later, Jordon Shinn is out to uncover its secrets, or discover his own...

Dozing off, I awake with my head banging against the tinted passenger-side window, to the rhythmic vibrations of the truck riding over gravel waves. Most days, this black, bed-covered Nissan just sits outside the NPS (News & Photo Services) office.

"How can anyone sleep on this road?" NPS Manager Dave Counts asks from the driver's seat, looking over through dark aviators. "Aw, it ain't too bad," I reply, straightening up in my seat.

From Philmont, the trip into the Valle Vidal is a solid hour-and-a-half, give or take, on a public road that cuts through Ted Turner's 800,000-acre Vermejo Ranch.

Still groggy, I look out the window and spot a herd of horses down in the meadow to our right. "Look, horses!" I exclaim, turning to face a smug expression on Dave's face, halfway covered by his bug-eyes. "Those aren't horses," he cautiously replies; thin lips savoring the moment. "Those are elk."

Today is an odd day. Not just because horses are turning into elk right before my eyes, but also because it is the 60th anniversary of the Roswell, NM UFO crash. Sure, I wanted to go to the annual festival, but all I could get out of those more

fortunate to have vehicles was, "I ain't goin' to no dang hippy-fest."

So I'm on my way to Ring Place, where star-gazing is the main program. And who knows, maybe I'll see something a bit out of the ordinary, something to fuel my imagination, flying high above in the starry night-sky.

Arriving at the camp just before sunset, Dave parks the truck in the staff parking lot. We gather our stuff and make our way to the cabin, crossing a field and passing a large white yurt. Anticipation sets in; they don't know we're coming.

At the cabin, two staff members are busy supply-

ing a crew with meals from its commissary. "You two staying the night?" one asks with a hint of enthusiasm. Not many visitors come up here. "Yes," I reply, and they invite us in.

I enter a dimly lit room, and put my stuff against the far wall, next to a fireplace in the corner. This is the "Camper Lounge." From the ceiling pokes a propane light socket-

-no electricity. In the center of the room squats a large wooden table, surrounded by wooden benches, at which two advisors sit, sipping coffee and picking at doughnuts from a plate on the table.

Waiting till they leave, I try a doughnut and am told they are homemade. "That's why our advisor's coffee is [one of] the best, because every night we either bake something or have left over meals, which include chicken-fried elk," P.C. Jeff Erber said. "[Once] we Captain-Crunch-fried chicken. Another time we fed the advisors supreme pizza. It was comparable to Outback Pizza," he said. "Nobody comes to Ring Place and doesn't eat. We do things differently up here."

A welcoming thought.



At 9:45, an hour later, we leave the room to stare at a clear, black sky, glittered with the cosmos. Pointing out constellations with a green high-powered laser, P.C. Clayton Brostowin explained the Greek myths behind them. It was like listening to gossip or hearing a soap opera over the radio. That night, I learn more about Greek mythology, than about scientific facts.

I do, however, get to look through a telescope. There are three at Ring Place, all of which are at least 10 years old. Two still work.

Looking through the larger of the two, I stare at five blurry dots: Jupiter and its four moons.

No UFO's tonight.

But there are other interesting objects that can be seen out here, not including the nightly display of meteorites and satellites. "We saw the International Space Station just as the space shuttle was departing," Jeff said. "They were following each other real close. They are obviously much bigger than any satellite up there." The staff has already seen the ISS twice.

It was a chill evening, and so I wrapped my-

self up in a blanket to ward off the steady breeze that was trying to steal away my warmth. I couldn't go inside; there was so much to see in the sky not covered with clouds, light pollution or city smog.

The Next Day:

I am the last one to crawl out of my sleeping bag to leave the yurt for breakfast. And with the sun up, I take a good look around.

Many of the structures on "Ring Ranch" were built in the 1890's, when Timothy Ring bought the land from the Maxwell Land Grant Coop., before he died in 1906 of tuberculosis. His original cabin, which still stands today but is boarded up, contains six bedrooms. Surrounding it are other remnants of an age gone-by, including the remains of an old chicken coop and a dried-up well.

However, the staff cabin to its left and the corral behind it, which Mr. Ring didn't build, are still

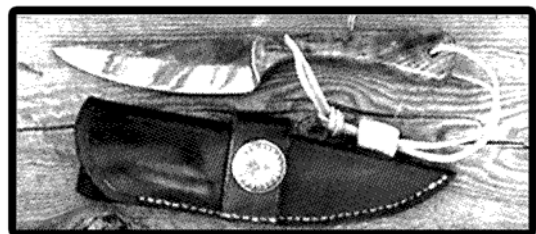
continued on pg. 30



Decoration at Ring.

Photo by David Counts

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*Hi Everyone, just a quick reminder about the
really swell*

“Roaring Twenties Party”
*we've got planned for you at the Villa this Sat-
urday, July 28.*

Here's the line-up of events:

7:00 - 7:45 p.m.

- Live, 1920's music in the living room.
 - Feel free to dress in razzle dazzle (fancy stuff) or lean on us to help you come up with a hotsy totsy, gem-studded bow-tie or headband.
- Bring your camera for a 1920's Photo Op! (You'll look really spiffy!)
- View Phillips Family home movies in our “outside theater.”

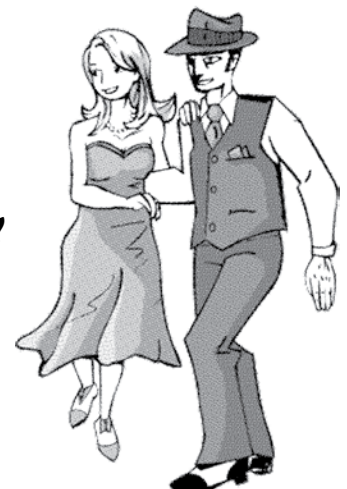
7:45 p.m.

- Enjoy anniversary cake.

8:00 p.m.

- Learn the Charleston, the Swing and dance your hearts out!

*****This evening will
be The Berries, so
don't be a Flat Tire!
Join us and have
fun!*****



*We'll have a divine time with all of you
fellers and flappers,*

The Villa Staff

A Mountaintop Experience

Submission by Ron Morris,
Protestant Chaplain

“A mountaintop-experience” is a term frequently used to talk about days spent at Philmont. However, it does not apply only to Baldy’s 12,441 feet above sea-level, or Mt. Philip’s 11,711, or Trail Peak’s 10,250, but also to a high spiritual-experience where people feel the presence of God. Nor is a mountaintop-experience limited to the grandeur and majesty of God’s creation; it can also be people that create it.

It had been half-a-century from the time I received my Eagle, that I finally came to Philmont (summer 2006). I was invited to serve as a Protestant Chaplain.

My first mountaintop-experience happened when I was assigned to health lodge. After rounds, I visited with two young men sitting at the same table. One was going home to “rehab” a knee injury to get ready for football season. The other young man wanted to get back on the trail as soon as his blisters could be treated and he could find proper hiking boots.

To my amazement, the boy going home began to unlace his hiking boots, and then handed them over to the guy he had never met before.

“Here, take these, I won’t need them now,” he said. “It is a gift from me; and have a great trek.”

That was the first of many mountaintop-experiences I have had; and that’s what Scouting and Philmont are all about...helping someone in need.



RECYCLE

Don't be mean. Be GREEN. Recycle your old Philnews.



“Padre” Returns

Submission by Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger

You many not recognize the name or the chaplain to whom it refers.

Once you see my full name you will understand and welcome the shorthand abbreviation.

My name is Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Evansville in Indiana. To make it easier for all, please simply call me “Padre.” If it is easier for you “Chaplain” will do just fine as well.

It is my great joy to return to Philmont yet another year. My first was the summer of 1998. As bishop liaison to Scouting in the Catholic Church and to the BSA I participate annually in relationships week.

Following my presentation during relationships week in 1998, I hiked the St. George Trek 1998, the first of five, the last being St. George Trek 2006. I hiked as a co-advisor for two treks and hiked as a senior chaplain for the next three treks.

To put this in perspective, I hiked my first trek at age 63 and age 70 last year. In other words, when you think you are getting too old to enjoy Philmont.

In the summer of 2005 I was privileged to serve as a Catholic Chaplain for about ten days until the close of the season. This summer, I am able to serve as Chaplain again, this time for two weeks from July 21-August 4, 2007.

As you, I have developed a passion for sharing with other hikers what we come to call the “Philmont Experience” in the inestimable beauty of God’s Country!

The experience takes on a spiritual character because it so totally reflects God’s relationship with us and ours with Him. It is inclusive of aches and pains, hopes fulfilled and disappointments endured and the emotional high evoked by the sign on the pasture gate: “We made it!

“Duty to God” comes easy in such an awe inspiring place if we are intentional about our personal relationship with God and with each other. Reverence for God and for each other will flow as freely as the clear waters of the Philmont mountain streams!

Light the FORGES

Three
camps
battle
tongs, an-
vil, and
hammer
to find the
ultimate
black-
smith.

By Jennifer Peters



Mark Emde of Cypher's Mine fueling the fire.

Photo by Jennifer Peters

Red-hot metal, loud hammer strikes against an anvil and a cranking forge are the sights and sounds that make up the blacksmith's shop. The term blacksmith comes from the word smite, or to hit, it is defined as smiting black metals.

Philmont has three different blacksmithing camps that all offer participants and staffers the opportunity to visit an authentic blacksmith shop. A trip to Cypher's Mine, French Henry, and Black Mountain may leave the sounds of loud hammer strikes ringing your ears.

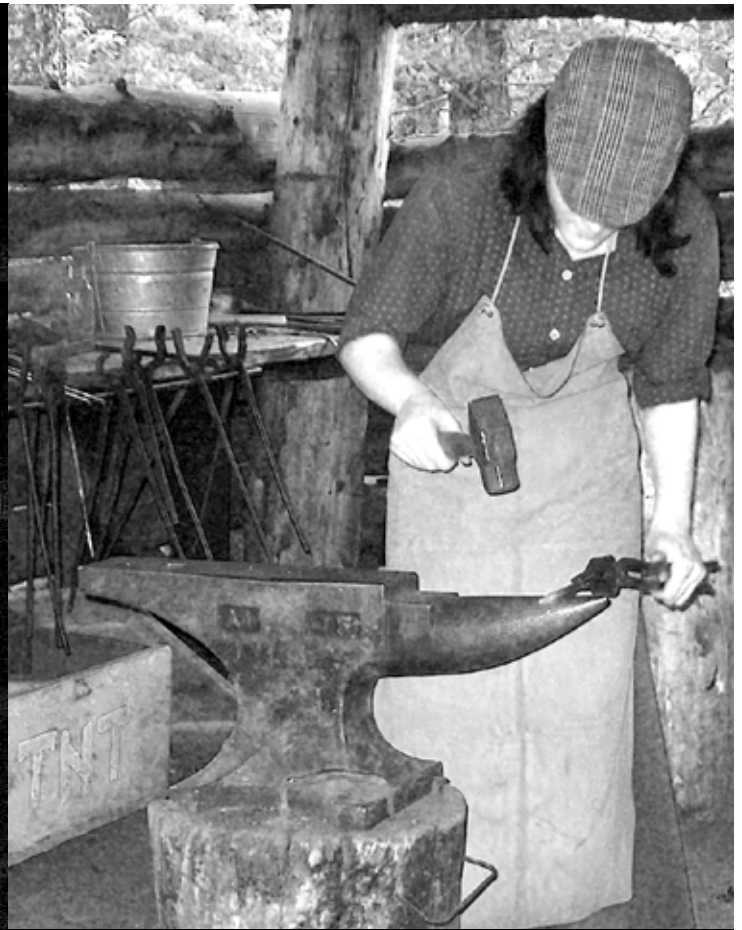
The art of blacksmithing has been around for thousands of years, but in most places around the world it has become almost obsolete only to be replaced by a larger more commercialized forging press. Forging is the process of creating tools or weapons by heating iron and then hitting the iron against an anvil.

This week's Philnews competitors will be judged on their ability to create the fastest and most artistic looking j-hook. The winner will have the honor of working at the Best Blacksmithing Camp at Philmont.

Meet the competitors: Mark Emde and Slim Uribe from Cypher's Mine, Clayton Shotwell from French Henry and Jordan Blouse from Black Mountain. With the exception of Shotwell, all of the competitors are relatively new to forging.

The rules set forth by the NPS office are: the iron can be pre-cut. Only one person can actually forge the metal, but there can be another person cranking the forge. The j-hook must have two twists. The clock starts with the first strike of the hammer and stops when the finished j-hook is dropped into the water for the last time. All j-hooks will be judged on speed as well as overall appearance.

Cypher's Mine starts us off with Slim cranking the forge and



Jordan Blouse (left) from Black Mountain and Slim Uribe (right) from Cypher's battling it out. *Photo by Stephen Bush*

Mark hammering away at his glowing piece of iron. Hot coals shoot from the forge as she turns the wheel faster and faster and the whole shop lights up in a fiery red-yellow radiance. Mark finishes up his j-hook in 4:40 minutes. Slim decides to test her skills and sets the bar high with a really impressive time of 3.39 minutes.

French Henry's Clayton Shotwell is up next. Shotwell, an Indiana native has been forging for three years and he just recently made his grandfather a campfire set. He takes his time paying close attention to all of the details and ends up with a very nice-looking j-hook. Shotwell completes his j-hook in 6.32 minutes.

Last but not least, at Black Mountain, is Jordan Blouse. Jordan makes two different j-hooks and both are faster than all of the others. Jordan times are 2.32 and 1.57, but his overall quality is not as good as Shotwell's.

The results of the forging competition are: Jordan Blouse from Black Mountain with the fastest time of 1.57 minutes. Clayton Shotwell from French Henry had the best appearance. Slim Uribe from Cypher's Mine had the most artistic looking j-hook with the fastest time.

The decision did not come easy, because all three of the camps competed well. However only one camp can be the Best and both categories must be considered when picking a winner. The winner of this week's Philnews competition is Slim Uribe, who had the best overall quality with the fastest time.

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Hike of the Week

Submission by Jill Parker

Never as popular as Super Black Death or the Ranger Marathon, the series of trails that lead from Sawmill to Base by way of the Tooth is challenging enough to fulfill any psychopathic thrill-seeking needs, but not hard enough to leave your limbs wobbly and mind numb.

After waking up to one of the best sunrises on the Ranch at Sawmill, head east through Sawmill Canyon toward Lower Sawmill Camp. It's an easy hike along a stream to get you warmed up for the day. Turn south before reaching Lower Sawmill - the trail will take you through Webster Parks and eventually down to Hunting Lodge. Now it really starts to get fun.

From Hunting Lodge, take a short side trip to

Cathedral Rock for a nice lunch spot or head straight south to Clark's Fork. Up until this point, the trail has been mostly downhill, though long, but it's uphill all the way from here on out.

800 feet over the course of a mile from Clark's will find you at the top of Shaefer's Pass. From here, hike along Tooth Ridge until you make your way back to Base.

Roughly fourteen miles from start to finish, this day hike is thoroughly rewarding with expansive vistas, nice down hills, and really, really nice uphill. Make sure to start early from Sawmill; otherwise you'll end up on Tooth Ridge in a hail storm.



*Cathedral Rock photo by
Conrad Stoll, Ranger*

Taking care of the backcountry

By Jennifer Peters

Backcountry managers and the backcountry warehouse staff are the life support for the backcountry camps. There are four backcountry managers and two backcountry warehouse managers. Bucko Cowden, Andrea Gibson, Martin Gibson and Gene Schnell make up the backcountry managers and Julie Vigil and Johnny Ulibarri are the backcountry warehouse manager and assistant manager.

They work to help supply the backcountry with all of the resources that the camps may need.

"We provide direct support to the backcountry for the delivery of the programs," said Schnell.

Backcountry camps will request equipment or instructions and the backcountry managers will do what it takes to get it to them.

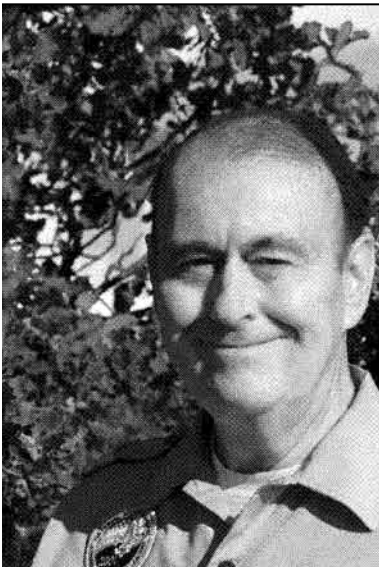
They start off the day by discussing the goals that need to be accomplished at the 7:45 a.m. meeting and they also make a list of the staffers that need a ride into the backcountry. After loading the Phil-burbans they drive around the backcountry, dropping off and picking up staffers, replenishing supplies, and making sure that the staffers at each camp are doing well. They also pick up the trash and deliver mail.

The backcountry warehouse staff keeps the warehouse stocked with all of the program elements in addition to taking care of some of the camps. Ropes, shooting and archery accessories and cleaning supplies are all an important part of the backcountry camps.

"I order all of the supplies that the backcountry camps use during the summer," said Ulibarri.

Making Philmont a successful experience for the participants and staff takes a lot of hard work. The backcountry managers and backcountry warehouse managers are just one part of Philmont, but without them we would not be able to have such an awesome place to live, work and play.

Meet the Managers



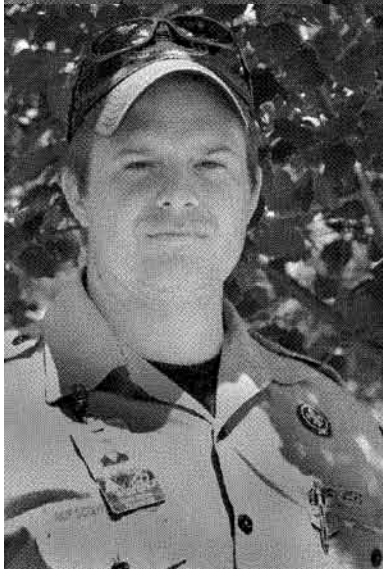
Gene Schnell

is from St. Louis, Missouri where he is the Dean of Students at Trinity Catholic. He also teaches tech classes and is the male track coach. He started at Philmont 23 years ago as the director at PTC. "I grew up in scouting," said Schnell, "(I) had been on 11 treks (at Philmont)." His best memories at Philmont would be, "watching the young men grow and develop in the backcountry." His favorite hikes are all of Philmont and Valle Vidal.



Andrea Gibson

lives in Topeka, Kansas where she has one year left in nursing school for a nurse practitioner. She came on a mountain trek in 1996 while her dad was training at PTC for the Army. She came back to attend Rayado in 1998. Her proudest moment at Philmont would be, "Surviving Mountain Challenge." The water bladder for her trek busted and they only "had two quarts of water for the equivalent of Super Black Death," said Gibson. Her favorite hike at Philmont would be Greenwood Canyon.



Martin Gibson

is from San Angelo, Texas and he is married to one of the other backcountry managers, Andrea Gibson. He has been working at Philmont for nine years. He started out as a program counselor at Urraca. He came on a trek in 1995. "My hometown troop came out, and my dad and my brothers. After the summer he lives in Topeka, Kansas with Andrea. He is a fitness trainer in the off season. His favorite hike is North Fork up to Black Mountain. Martin and Andrea met in 1999 when she was a ranger and he worked at Urraca. They started dating in 2003 and got married at the Rayado Chapel by the Kit Carson Museum in 2005.



Julie Vigil

is originally from Tennessee, but now she is now the Cimarron High School math teacher during the school year. This will be her 23rd summer here at Philmont. She started as the camp director at Santa Claus and she is now the Assistant Backcountry Warehouse Manager/ Backcountry Manager. "I grew up in a scouting family, my father and brother were both active," said Vigil. She is staying here at Philmont, but after the summer is over she will move back to Miami, New Mexico. Her favorite hike at Philmont would be "from French to Copper." Her proudest moment at Philmont would be, "Becoming the Camp Director at French Henry. It was the first year females were there," said Vigil.




Bucko Cowden

grew up in a small town in Ohio's Amish country. This will be his sixth summer here at Philmont, but he has also been working here in the off season as well. He worked through two fall Autumn Adventures and one Kanik season. He worked fall fire rehab after the Ponil fire in 2003. His proudest moment came in 1996 during one of his mountain treks. "I did mountain treks when I was a kid because my dad was a chaplain and I didn't hike Baldy until the last mountain trek in 1996. We hiked over Baldy with packs and a kid in our crew couldn't make it up with his pack on, so I strapped his pack on my pack and I hiked Baldy with two packs on for the last 500 yards," said Cowden.



Johnny Ulibarri's

best Philmont memory is "sitting on top of Baldy with the first crew I took. They all made it." Ulibarri was born in Las Vegas, New Mexico. He started working for Philmont after he retired from Sandia National Labs, the nuclear weapons complex. "Around here they call me the rocket scientist," said Ulibarri. He likes to fish after the summer season at Philmont. When asked how Ulibarri became involved with scouting and Philmont he replied, "I grew up in scouting and my mother was born at Baldy Town and Doug Palmer is a very old friend, I knew him long before I worked here." His favorite view of Philmont is, "the view of the electrical storms in the East from the Zastro porch."



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The World News

Rovers in danger on Mars (7/21)

Dust storms that have raged for the last month on Mars are threatening to kill the batteries on Opportunity and Spirit, the two NASA rovers, perhaps permanently putting them out of operation. Each rover, powered by solar energy, is rapidly losing energy from lack of sunlight. The storms are blocking nearly 99% of the sun's rays. NASA fears if the rovers are not able to heat themselves, their electronics may freeze and break.

Flood waters reach record high (7/23)

The River Severn and Thames are threatening to overflow as flood waters in the U.K. reach record highs. Already 15,000 homes are without electricity in Gloucestershire and 350,000 people without running water. According to Environment Secretary Hilary Benn, the situation is "far from over." It is estimated that some rivers will become 20ft higher than normal. The flooding far exceeds the record set in March of 1947 when severe flooding damaged the Midlands, East Anglia, and North Yorkshire.

Australian conference confronts HIV/AIDS (7/23)

5,000 delegates from 130 countries met in Sydney, Australia for the 4th International AIDS Society conference on Monday. Dr. Anthony Fauci, President Bush's HIV/AIDS adviser, said that "we're losing [the] game" against the disease. Although major advances are being made in treatment and prevention, the conference hopes to encourage nations to dedicate more resources to research.

EU action for Darfur (7/23)

Military forces from members of the European Union may soon be deployed to Chad and the Central African Republic to help the United Nations in their peacekeeping effort in Darfur. EU foreign ministers have authorized their military staff to draft deployment plans. In the last four years an estimated 200,000 Sudanese have died and two million have left their homes due to conflict between rebel groups and Janjaweed militia.

Starbucks – now 9 cents more (7/23)

Less than a year after raising prices on freshly made drinks, Starbucks is increasing prices by 3% because of increased dairy, energy, and fuel prices. The price hike has investors worried that shares will drop even farther below the 20% decrease already witnessed this year.

Boy saved from rattlesnake by Chihuahua (7/23)

While playing in his grandparent's bird bath in Colorado, Booker West was attacked by a rattlesnake. Just as the snake struck at the 1-year old toddler, Zoey the Chihuahua lunged between them and took the bites. After hospitalization and a scare that she wouldn't make it, Zoey was released from the veterinarian.



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Sports

Six-year extension for Tillman (7/24)

Charles Tillman and the Bears agreed to a six-year extension. The quarterback will now be under contract until 2013. Since 2003, Tillman, who was a second-round draft pick, has started 49 games. The Bears will begin practice on Friday at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais.

Biggio to retire (7/24)

Craig Biggio, the longest-tenured player in the Houston Astros history, will retire at the end of the season. He announced his retirement after he became a member of the 3,000 hit club on June 28. He wanted to go out on a high note and he has already been inducted into the Texas Baseball Hall of Fame.

Tour de France Update (7/25)

Stage-15 was a day of miraculous comebacks and merciless attacks.

After Sunday's punishing stage-14 in the French Pyrenees, in which Alexandre Vinokourov lost almost 30 minutes, he performed a miracle Monday, winning his second stage in the last three days.

The pre-race favorite to win the tour, he was considered to be out of contention after a stage-four crash

required over 30 stitches to his right knee and elbow. He came back, however, to win Saturday's stage-13 time trial by over a minute.

After his second miraculous comeback Monday, he tested positive for a homologous-blood transfusion, resulting from a post-stage-13 drug test. As a result, his team, Astana, suspended him from the race only to dropout altogether.

But stage-15 was also a battle between the race's top leaders, yellow jersey holder Michael Rasmussen of Rabobank and second place Alberto Cantador of Discovery Channel. Throughout the stage, Cantador continued to attack his rival, but could never lose him. In the end, Cantador finished with Rasmussen tight on his wheel, but still more than five minutes behind "Vino," who had broken away early on in the stage.

Bonds Tracker (7/25)

Barry Bonds is still two hits away from tying Hank Aaron's homerun record. Bud Selig, the commissioner of San Francisco and also a close friend of Aarons watched from a front-row seat. Even though Bonds celebrated his 43rd birthday on Tuesday, the Giants still lost 7-5 to the Braves in the 13th inning.

Tour de France

Top 10 after 15 Stage	Country	Team			
Michael Rasmussen	Denmark	RAB	2,750.4 km	in	69h 52'14"
Alberto Contador	Spain	DSC		at	2'23"
Cadel Evans	Australia	PRL		at	4'00"
Levi Leipheimer	USA	DSC		at	5'25"
Andreas Kloden	Germany	AST		at	5'34"
Carlos Sastre	Spain	CSC		at	6'46"
Haimar Zubeldia	Spain	EUS		at	7'27"
Andrey Kashechkin	Kazakhstan	AST		at	7'54"
Kim Kirchen	Luxembourg	TMO		at	8'24"
Mikel Astarloza	Spain	EUS		at	9'21"

Baseball Stats

As of July 24th

American League

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Boston	60	39	0.606		Won 4	6 to 4
NY Yankees	52	46	0.531	7.5	Won 4	8 to 2
Toronto	49	50	0.495	11	Won 3	5 to 5
Baltimore	44	53	0.454	15	Won 1	6 to 4
Tampa Bay	38	60	0.388	21.5	Lost 3	4 to 6

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Detroit	59	39	0.602		Lost 1	6 to 4
Cleveland	58	41	0.586	1.5	Lost 1	5 to 5
Minnesota	51	48	0.515	8.5	Lost 2	5 to 5
Chicago Sox	44	55	0.444	15.5	Won 1	4 to 6
Kansas City	43	55	0.439	16	Lost 1	5 to 5

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
LA Angels	57	41	0.582		Lost 1	4 to 6
Seattle	54	42	0.563	2	Lost 3	4 to 6
Oakland	47	52	0.475	10.5	Won 1	3 to 7
Texas	43	56	0.434	14.5	Won 1	5 to 5

National League

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
NY Mets	55	43	0.561		Won 1	6 to 4
Atlanta	53	47	0.53	3	Won 1	5 to 5
Philadelphia	50	48	0.51	5	Won 3	6 to 4
Florida	48	52	0.48	8	Lost 1	6 to 4
Washington	42	56	0.429	13	Won 2	6 to 4

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Milwaukee	55	44	0.556		Lost 1	6 to 4
Chicago Cubs	51	46	0.526	3	Lost 2	7 to 3
St. Louis	45	50	0.474	8	Won 1	5 to 5
Pittsburgh	42	57	0.424	13	Lost 1	3 to 7
Houston	41	56	0.423	13	Lost 1	2 to 8
Cincinnati	42	58	0.42	13.5	Won 1	5 to 5

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
LA Dodgers	56	44	0.56		Won 1	6 to 4
San Diego	53	45	0.541	2	Lost 4	4 to 6
Arizona	53	48	0.525	3.5	Won 3	5 to 5
Colorado	50	49	0.505	5.5	Won 1	5 to 5
San Francisco	41	56	0.423	13.5	Lost 2	3 to 7

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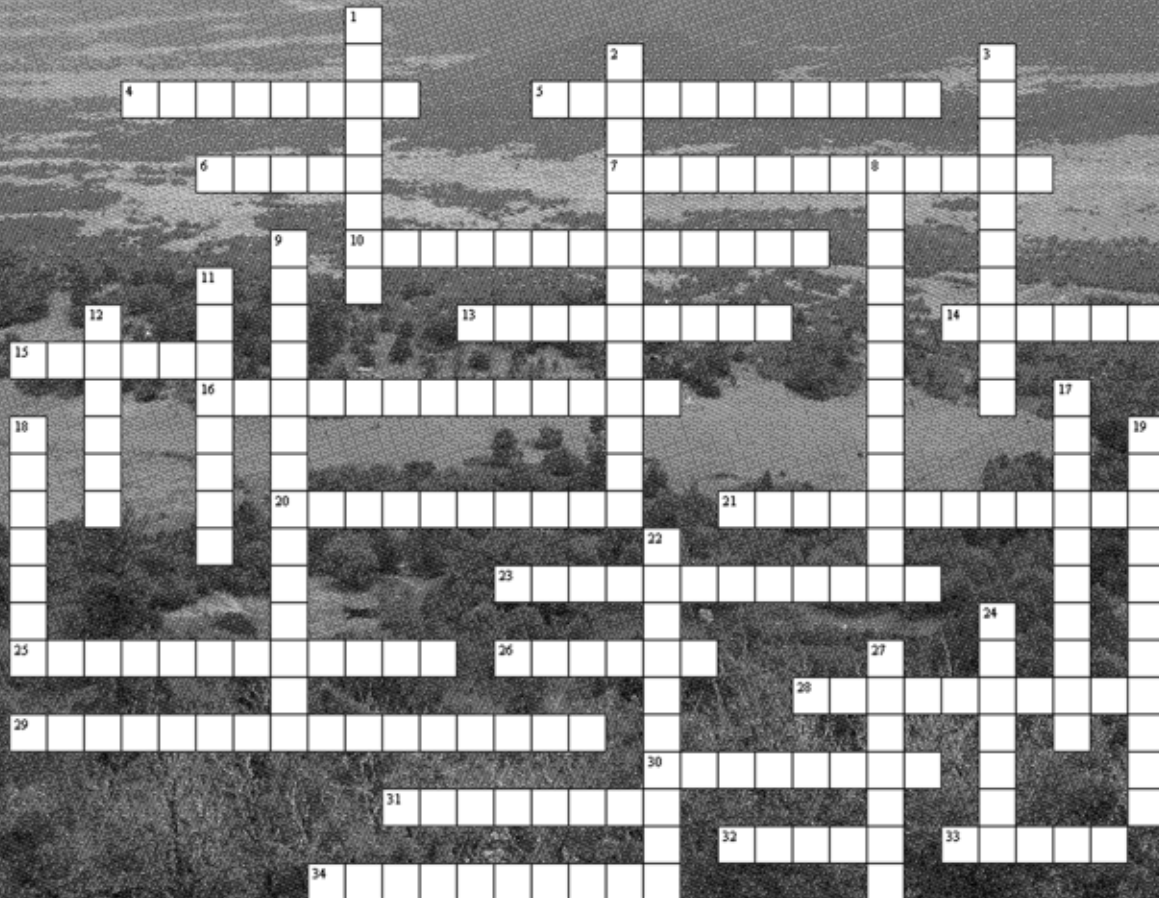
Between PTC Dining Halls

PTC Sun Room

Logistics Radio Room

Trading Post Snack Bar

A little bit about the Philmont backcountry.



ACROSS

- 4 After riding horses, enjoy the western lore program and brand your boots.
- 5 Sleep in an Adirondack shelter rather than the tent you packed.
- 6 A Mexican Cantina on a working homestead.
- 7 Working homestead beyond the reach of a road.
- 10 Philmont's newest staffed camp.
- 13 Home of the 30K, the only Red Roof with a guestbook.
- 14 Kit Carson's trading post on the Santa Fe Trail.
- 15 Dust clay pigeons with your own handloaded shells.
- 16 A camp garrisoned by Company B, Second Colorado Volunteers.
- 20 The original Rich family homestead.
- 21 Tour one of Waite Phillips' original cabins.
- 23 Search and rescue north of the ranch.
- 25 Mountain biking through the Valle.
- 26 Land navigation and a Dutch oven feast.
- 28 A performing Moose and Bear at the same lumberjack campfire.
- 29 Pick up trail food and take a shower.
- 30 Frequented by the Vice President of the United States.
- 31 Challenge undefeated lumberjacks to a game of loggerball.
- 32 Breakfast and commissary in the same camp.
- 33 Mining boom-town from the early 20th century.
- 34 A southern outpost of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company.

DOWN

- 1 Commissary, but not much else.
- 2 Camp based on the lifestyle of the Jicarilla.
- 3 There is rock climbing here too, but it sure is a long way from the main cabin.
- 8 Philmont's indoor bouldering gym.
- 9 Study the cultural history of early New Mexican peoples.
- 11 Challenge course in a fire blackened canyon.
- 12 A cabin built on the side of the famous haunted mesa.
- 17 View of Little Costilla from the longest porch on the ranch.
- 18 The highest climbing wall on Philmont.
- 19 Oldest building on Philmont property.
- 22 Take a mountain trail ride before your chuckwagon dinner.
- 24 Mountain men collect your burros.
- 27 Blast wildlife silhouettes with Philmont's smokeless rifles.

Sudoku

						4	9	2
			8	5	3			
	1	7		9				5
3			6			7	8	
		1	4		9	6		
	6	8			2			1
1				2		3	4	
			9	6	1			
8	9	5						

Provided by Daily-Sudoku.com

	5	9		6				
						2	6	3
1			8	4	3			
6	8	4						
			1		9			
						3	7	5
			3	1	5			9
2	7	1						
				7		6	8	

Provided by Daily-Sudoku.com

Last Week's Crossword



	9	4						7
						5	1	
			6	3	2			
	7	2						
4			5		9			2
						6	8	
			4	7	1			
	5	8						
6						3	2	

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PSA Scholarship 2007

This year the PSA will give out five \$1000 scholarships. The purpose of the scholarships is to assist current staffers coming back next year that might need more money for school than what a Philmont salary provides.

Requirements

1. Must complete the application and the rest of the requirements by August 21. In the application, the selection committee is specifically looking at the two short answer essays and the recommendation from the applicant's current Philmont manager.
2. Must be a current PSA member. If the applicant is not a member, please see the information on page 21 of the *PhilNews*.
3. Must be a current 2007 staff member.
4. Must turn in a 2008 Philmont Staff Application before leaving the Ranch for the summer.
5. The selection committee meets September 15-17 to make the decisions
6. The scholarship goes directly to the educational institution, usually in October.
7. If the applicant is working in the backcountry, he or she can I-camp the PSA to request an application.
8. Previous winners can apply if they meet all of the above requirements.

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Philmont Fall & Winter Staff Opportunities

Don't want to leave? Why not work at Philmont through the year!

Camping Headquarters is currently accepting applications for positions with the Autumn Adventure Program Staff, Philmont Training Center Staff, Program Staff, Trading Post Staff, Dining Hall Staff and Kanik Winter Program Staff. Applicants must be over 21 years of age at the start of their contract. Application forms are available at CHQ and should be **completed and returned by Friday, July 27, 2007.**

Staff for **Autumn Adventure** will need to be available from approximately September 1 through October 31. Autumn Adventure is a Fall program that allows crew to plan a customized itinerary and hike the backcountry with a staff guide. Staff applicants who are also available to work the winter Kanik program are preferred.

Staff for **Kanik** will need to be available for training November 1 through 7, and for staffing the program from December 27 through March 31. Kanik is Philmont's cold weather camping program and includes ski touring, snow shelter building, snow camping, winter ecology, hiking, use of winter tools and equipment.

Additionally, staff is needed for Tent Crew (August 22 through 31,) Trading Post, Dining Hall, Training Center, Photo Archivist, and Wrangler.

This is a great opportunity to be a part of the "behind the scenes" action that makes the Philmont magic come alive. Applicants should understand that they will be expected to perform many different duties if hired for these positions. Please contact Barbara Garcia or John Van Dreesse at Camping Headquarters for an application or for more information.

Leaving Early

"If I leave earlier than my contracted last day, does it hurt my chances of getting hired next year?" Yes, it very well may hurt your chances of being rehired, depending on the reason for your early departure and whether or not you followed Philmont's procedures. If you must leave earlier than specified in your Terms of Seasonal Employment, you must provide written documentation from your school or employer. Leave early requests must be submitted by July 31 for consideration. Legitimate reasons for an early departure include: education, dormitory responsibility, school activity or job.

Any staff member who wishes to depart Philmont before August 10 is required to write a letter of resignation to accompany the Early Leave Request form. Such request may jeopardize chances for re-employment, job choices, or recommendations, depending on the reasons given. Because the person you rode out here with is leaving early is not necessarily a valid reason for you to leave early. There are over 1,000 staff currently employed at Philmont and they come from all parts of the country... so look into sharing a ride with someone else or check into the availability of public transportation through our Logistics staff before you request an early leave. Early Leave Requests forms are available through the personnel office at Camping Headquarters.



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Activities Schedule

July

27 Soccer Tournament, 8:00 p.m.

28 Basketball Tournament, 8:00 p.m.

29 Movie Night, 8:00 p.m.

30 Ice Cream Social, 8:00 p.m.

31 Tie Dye, 8:00 p.m.

August

01 Volleyball Tournament, 8:00 p.m.

All sporting events will be held in the field in front of the Health Lodge. Ice Cream Social and Bratwursts will be served in front of the Activities Building. Movie Night will be held in the Advisor's Meeting Room. Coffee House will be held at the Welcome Center.

Philmont Photo Contest 2007

Sponsored by Activities

All photos must be from 2007 and related to Philmont. The winner of each category will win a prize from the Trading Post. The overall winner will receive a gift certificate to the Trading Post or Texas Red's.

Good luck!

Deadline: August 1st

Philmont Photo Contest 2006 Entry Form

Name _____

Department _____

Photo Title _____

Category (Circle One):

Landscape

Animal Wildlife

Staff Activity

Sunrise & Sunset

Humor (no vulgarity)

Digital Creations

Storms & Rainbows

Plant Wildlife

Camper Activity

Double H

Black & White

(One entry per category.)

Bring or send your photos to the Activities Office. Each photo must be labeled with your name, department and the category in which you are entering it.

No DIGITAL ALTERATIONS (except for Digital Creations category).

Important! Payroll Info

YOUR LAST WORK DAY AND FINAL PAY-CHECK

WHEN YOU SIGN FOR YOUR PAYCHECK, CHECK THE STOP DATE (YOUR LAST WORK DAY) PRINTED BY YOUR NAME.

IF THIS IS NOT THE DATE YOU HAVE ON YOUR CONTRACT OR REQUESTED ON THE EARLY LEAVE REQUEST FORM, YOU NEED TO SEE BARBARA AT CAMPING HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL OFFICE.

TELLING YOUR SUPERVISOR OR FILLING OUT THE EARLY LEAVE FORM DOES NOT ENSURE THE CHANGE HAS REACHED THE PERSONNEL OFFICE. FAILURE TO HAVE THE CORRECT LAST WORK DAY MAY CAUSE YOUR LAST PAYCHECK TO BE DELAYED BY AS MUCH AS 30 DAYS.

THE DAY ON THE PAY ROSTER IS YOUR LAST WORK DAY.

IF YOUR LAST WORK DAY FALLS BETWEEN:

JULY 16 THRU JULY 30
AUGUST 1 THRU AUGUST 14
AUGUST 16 THRU AUGUST 30

YOUR FINAL PAYCHECK WILL BE MAILED TO THE ADDRESS ON YOUR CHECK. THIS SHOULD BE A PERMANENT ADDRESS, NOT A SCHOOL ADDRESS. YOUR W-2 WILL ALSO BE SENT TO THIS ADDRESS.

FOR ALL OTHER STAFF, PAYDAYS WILL BE:

WEDNESDAY JULY 31
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 13
FRIDAY AUGUST 31

IF YOUR LAST WORK DAY FALLS ON ONE OF THESE DATES, PICK UP YOUR CHECK AT YOUR WORK PLACE OR THE PAYROLL OFFICE, CHQ.

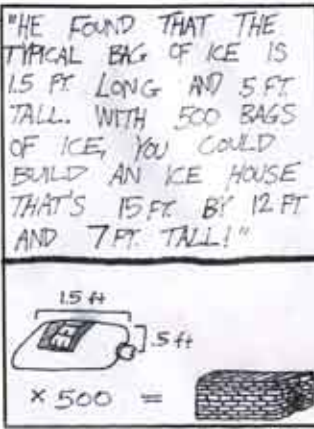
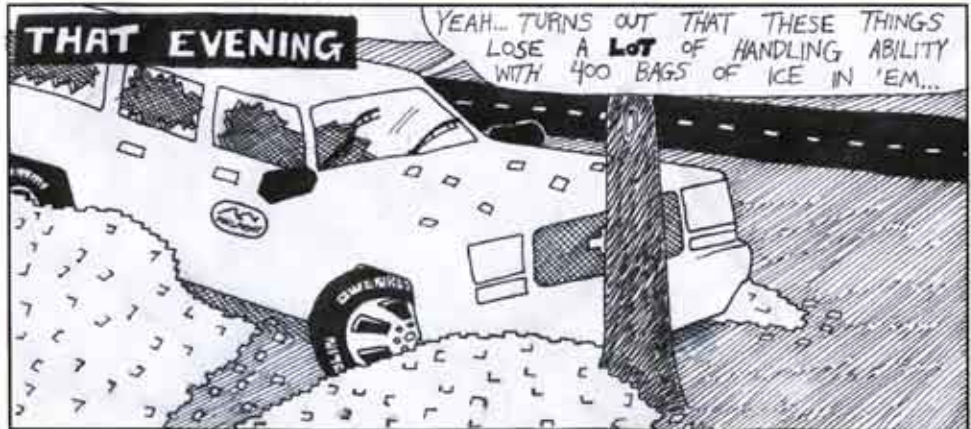
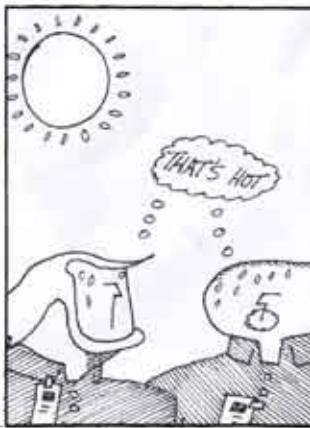
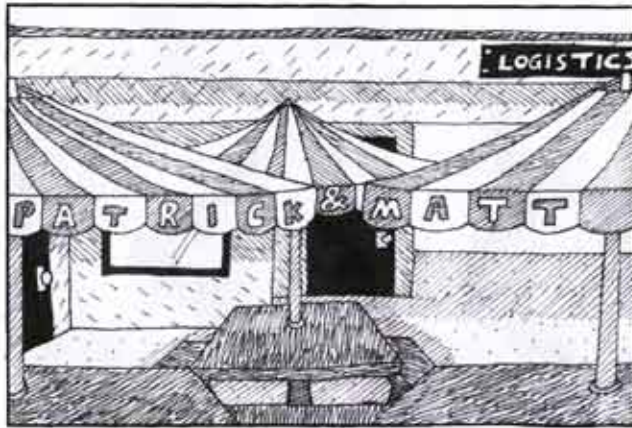
REMEMBER, ALL STAFF (CAMPING AND TRAINING CENTER) MUST CHECK OUT THROUGH THE PERSONNEL OFFICE AT CAMPING HEADQUARTERS. FAILURE TO FOLLOW CHECK OUT PROCEDURES MAY RESULT IN A DELAY IN PROCESSING YOUR FINAL PAY-CHECK.

Notice

PTC holds its daily flag ceremony from 8 to 8:30 in the morning and from 5 to 5:30 in the afternoon. Please do not drive vehicles on Orchard Circle at that time. It is really distracting for the people that are trying to enjoy the ceremony. We are sorry for the inconvenience, but we would really appreciate it if you would wait just a little while.

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Contribute to the Philnews. We accept feature stories, short stories, cartoons, and poetry by i-camp, in person at the NPS office, by phone ext. 246, or email at philnews@gmail.com!



Welcome staff & guests to Philmont's 69th season.

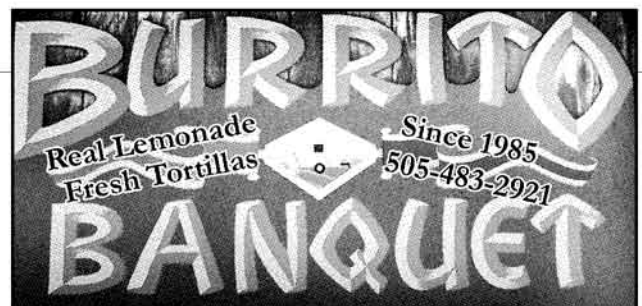


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continued from pg. 07

used today.

The “staff cabin,” built by W.J. Gourley on 1945, is perhaps the newest standing structure in the Valle. Because everything is a historical artifact (including the buildings), being untouched for over 50 years, nothing more can be built on the land, for fear of destroying it. And so every summer, Philmont rents Gourley’s cabin from the Carson National Forest.

So while the staff at the other Valle camps (Seally Canyon, Whitman Vaga) live in their yurts (or shanty) and sleep in tents, the staff at Ring Place live in Gourley’s cabin and sleep in their yurt. But it isn’t all luxury. Having the most storage space also makes them the Valle’s commissary, with every crew that comes through the Valle stopping here to restock.

At the same time, the Valle Vidal Grazing Association uses the coral in the beginning of the summer to hold 200,000 head of cattle, though not all at once. After the cattle are dispersed into the 110,000-acre Valle, where they graze for six months out of the year, all that’s left in the coral are four horses and a donkey. Theses belong to cowboy Heath Smith, the one man who cares for the cattle, all by himself.

“You got a job to do and your cow-punch is just the pride to get it done,” Smith told me.

Together, Smith and the Philmont staff live on “Ring Ranch” until August, when Philmont ends its summer program and Smith moves to another location in the Valle.

Some other, lesser artifacts; shards of glass, pottery and nails, powder the trail to the 30K. Dully glinting in the sun, they catch my eyes as I wander to my destination a stone’s-throw away from the cabin. Turning off the main trail, I follow a short pathway lined with twisted logs bleached by sunlight, inhaling a deep breath of sun-warmed breeze, soaked through with sweet-smelling ponderosa-pine. It is a kingly entrance to the best toilet in the backcountry.

Exactly why this outhouse cost 30 thousand dollars to make, I do not know. Nor does it matter. For the six staff members at Ring Place, though, it is serious bragging rights. Built upon on a concrete

foundation, and with ventilation flowing air through the underground storage pit, it does not smell like a red-roof. In fact, once inside, it does not smell at all.

I made sure to sign the guestbook.

“The reason why there’s a 30K here is because it’s an archeological site, so they didn’t want to build a bunch of cat-holes,” C.D. Christian said. “So Philmont had to pay to build the 30K. There’s broken glass, old broken nails, there’s pieces of broken china, as well; the whole place is an archeological site.”

Besides artifacts, luxury and a magnificent landscape, however, another thing the Ring Place staff has a lot of is “down-time,” which also applies to the other two Valle camps. But they always find ways to keep themselves busy.

Being the only camps in the Valle, their friendships are, perhaps, a little stronger than Philmont back-country camps. So other than frequently visiting each other, the Valle staffers also share.

“I read a lot. I have enough books to keep me busy (20+),” Ring Place P. C. Thomas Geyser said. “We sort of have a book-exchange program out here in the Valle. Well, us and Seally Canyon; we exchange books a lot.”

And this friendship has other benefits too.

“I don’t really know much about it now, but we are planning on having an all-Valle Phil-fiesta, instead of just doing individual ones,” Christian said.

But when it comes to “shooting-the-breeze” in the Valle, there is nothing like good ‘ol “porch-talk.”

“I’d eat a coyote but not a dog, because it’s domesticated,” Geyser said.

“I bet a coyote would taste real bad,” Clayton disagreed.

The day was ending and I had enjoyed my stay, but not quite found what I was looking for.

It took longer than expected for Dave and I to head-out, and we ended up leaving about the same time we had arrived the day before. Originally, we were hoping to make it back in time for dinner, but then, as time dragged, decided to stay. Now, it was a race against the sun; it was setting fast, and by the time we reached the truck we had lost all haste: we still had an-hour-and-a-half’s drive back to base-camp.

In a matter of minutes, we had passed Whitman Vega, about a mile down the road and to our left.

Then, with the sun still peaking over the horizon, we pass some more “horses” on our left in that same

meadow which sat on our right as we were coming in. They are all cows, or young'ns still with the herd.

"I wish I could see a bull," I say to Dave. I've seen plain herds of elk before.

Reaching down into my day-bag, sitting at my feet, I pull out some papers my mom printed out off the internet about the Roswell, NM UFO crash, 60 years ago.

Clearing my throat, I begin to read aloud to Dave, helplessly driving along; a prisoner in his own vehicle. With over 20 pages of conspiracy theories to read in little more than an hour's drive, I'm not sure I can make it, but I'm going to try.

Suddenly, the truck skids to a halt. "Was my reading really that bad?" I think.

Dave backs it up and rolls down his window. "There's your bull," he says, craning his neck back over his left shoulder. We spot it down in the meadow, with a full-rack; it must be three-feet high. And it isn't alone either. There are others, a small group of them, but having lesser racks.

Proud and majestic, the bull raises its tall neck high, staring in our direction. We are all staring at each other, paused, like deer in headlights.

They are a sight worthy of praise, and I wonder what they think of us.

After several minutes, Dave slowly starts to pull away. Just then we spot two more; as majestic and stately as the first one.

Again, the truck stops and we continue to gaze; something deep down inside us being touched by something else too beautiful for words: a rich fulfillment only raw emotions can describe.

Time slows down. Days go by, until we finally break our gaze and drive on.

Reshuffling the UFO papers in my hands, I find my place, clear my throat and once more break the silence

But it wasn't the same. We had just had been touched by something supernatural, something spiritual, out in the Valle Vidal.

By Jordon Shinn

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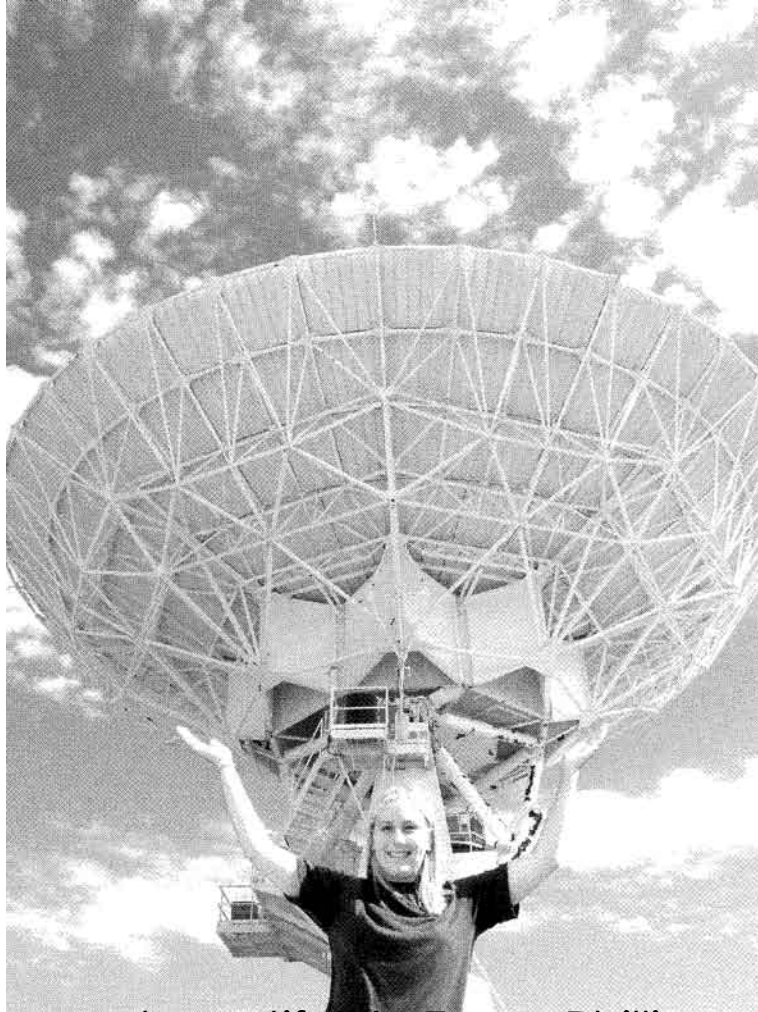
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Caption Contest



"You are beautiful!" - Tyson Phillips,
Tooth of Time Traders.

PhilNews staff writer Jennifer Peters holding up a V.L.A. dish.

Photo by James King