

Backpacking attracts 15,000

by Robin Nutbrown

Did you know that there is an ideal backpacking resort for Boy Scouts only? Yes, Philmont Scout Ranch in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, which lies just outside of Cimarron, New Mexico has some 15,000 Scouts each summer.

Scouts from all over the United States and British Isles visit Philmont Scout Ranch each summer.

Philmont is not what you might think. Statistics only give you an idea of the setting — 137,493 acres of mountains, 280 miles of trails and 24 staffed campsites. Altitudes range from 6,700 feet to the 12,441 foot summit of Baldy Mountain. It is a dreamland for wilderness adventure.

Scouts come to Philmont in groups, with a hiking route they have planned in advance. They choose their route from any one of the 24 suggested itineraries. And if none of these satisfy them, they can design their own special itinerary. The "package" tour choices vary by the distances covered, the amount of ups and downs traversed over the mountains and the extent to which the Scout group wants a genuine wilderness trek.

Some big features of backpacking at Philmont are the stimulating programs held at several staffed camps. For example, when Scout visit Fish Camp at the southern end of the ranch, they get lessons in how to tie their own flies. They then get a quick lesson in how to cast with a fly rod. And they are able to spend as much of the day as they like fishing the streams.

At other camps, the Scouts get lessons in rock climbing, making Indian arrowheads, panning gold, log rolling, making adobe bricks, search and rescue techniques, shooting rifles, riding horses, racing burros, and a host of other activities. The programs add spice to the treks, incentives for Scouts to get on to the next camp and its activities.

Before any group can go out on the trail, all members must present evidence of a medical examination from their family doctor. All Scouts and adult leaders must have an additional medical re-check at Philmont. Mainly the leaders have their blood pressure re-checked.

The staff of 547 operate the camp with military precision. Some 152 are crack country rangers. Of these, 15 are women. They operate within tight discipline parameters and a great deal of emphasis on "esprit de corps".

Philmont is not just an experience in backpacking. It is an opportunity to learn the objectives of Scouting. What better way to learn the skills of leadership than out there on the trail!



One of thousands

It was estimated that more than 2,000 Orangemen marched in Saturday's "Glorious 12th" of July parade in Elmvale. Wor. Master Albert Magloughlin from Maple Leaf Lodge (LOL 947) of Midland was one of them. Elmvale more than doubled in size Saturday as several thousands watched the parade and later took part in some of the events scheduled to mark Elmvale Orange Lodge's centennial and the 290th anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne. Some 14 counties and between 80-100 lodges were represented during the big "do."



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4-H survival hike

by Chris Williams

The 4-H program for the summer is Outdoor Living. It taught us about how to survive in the woods and our books taught us what we should have in a first-aid kit.

The Penetanguishene I and II clubs, which are combined, have 23 members and three

leaders.

We went on a hike which was along the Bruce Trail near Collingwood. We also had a cookout where we tried the recipes in our members' books. Everyone enjoyed this project and we will be having our achievement night on July 24 in Little Lake Park.

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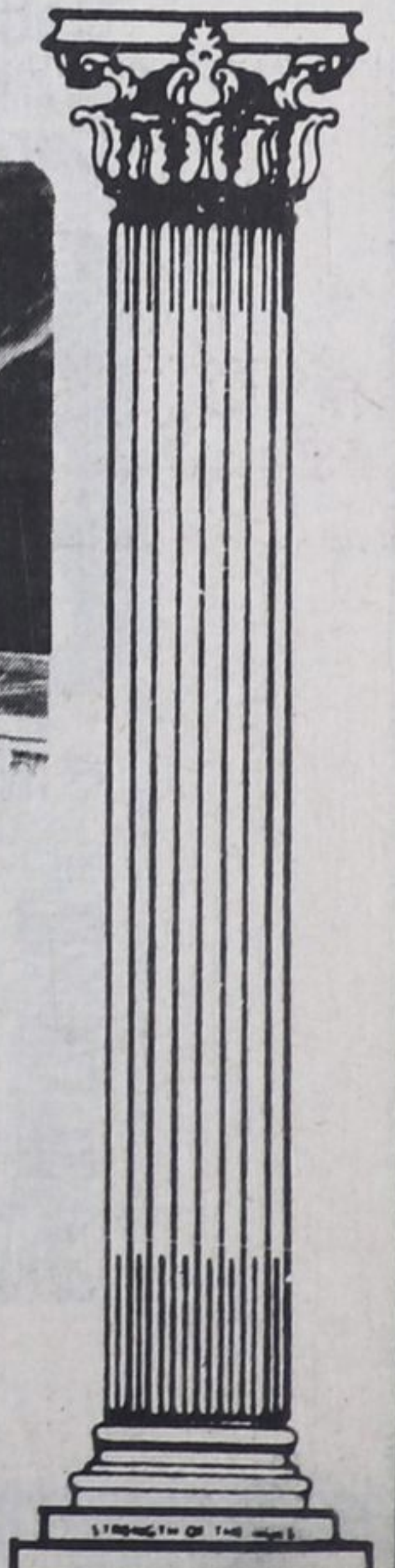


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