12 Post 123 of Newton, Kansas, has taken four dad and son trips to Philmont. They have a wonderful time and make a real team of father and son. Read here what the participants have to say and you will want the same type of trip to Philmont for your dads and Explorer sons.

Says Clare O. Dunlop, Advisor of Post 123: "I had been Scoutmaster of Troop 123 from 1938 to 1943 and found upon returning from the military service in '46, our Tenderfoot Scouts were now young men, so we started Post 123 the following spring. I was keenly aware from the first that if we were to go on really high adventure camps we would need adults for transportation.

"What was more important, I felt that if we could get the dads to go along and experience the thrill and satisfaction I had known in working and camping with their sons it would be a real accomplishment.

"We began our year and plans by insisting politely but firmly that when a boy joined the Post, his dad became a committeeman. In the spring of 1949, we chose Philmont and a cavalcade as the best possible type of trip that dads would be able to participate in all the way through. It took a lot of real selling, but by the time summer rolled around we had to schedule two trips with about ten Explorers and seven dad committeemen in each group. That was such a success that in 1950 we

ON THE TRAIL

By PAUL W. MOORE
Assistant Director, Explorer Service

Dads and sons of Post 123 discover a lot of things when they ride the trail together, exploring Philmont. Perhaps the greatest adventure of all is discovering each other.

expanded and made it a complete family group going to Colorado where the women and children stayed in a resort while men and sons camped in one of the national forests. In 1951 we again went to Philmont on a cavalcade with a group of ten sons and seven dads. In 1952 it was a canoe trip. This year was no trouble at all. The men and sons were anxious to go, as many of their statements testify.

"Needless to say, this has all done much to benefit Scouting locally and Council-wide. It seems to me that the most satisfactory way of making the ideals of Scouting come alive and actually work to better the home is to give a young man the opportunity to work with his dad as a man. Mere words do not do justice to the gratitude both seem to feel."

Says dad, Robert W. Myers, MD of Newton, Kansas, Post 123: "I am sure that I am right when I say that each dad, if he's honest about it, would admit that he spends too little time with his son. This is not because we don't want to; but, as breadwinners of families, there are just too many demands upon our time and energies. However, I feel that any of us fathers could spend more than we do. It was at the time of my tour in Korea that I made up my mind that a little more time was to be spent with my family and boys and a little less with extra-curricular activities.

"The Explorers' cavalcade at Philmont was ideal for us dads to do just what so many of us like to do: enjoy the outdoors, pal with our sons and other fellows, and learn something about these great United States of ours besides.

"What did I gain from my experience at Philmont? Probably the first and greatest thing was the companionship with other dads and their sons. They had many of the same problems I have and we, as dads, discussed some of these, clarifying and crystalizing thoughts and ideas which draw dads and sons closer together."

And, son Kendall Myers says: "It is a privilege for any boy to have the Philmont experience. I was very surprised and proud of my father when he carried his share of a five-day pack trip into the mountains by horseback."

Another father, Mr. E. Grace of Post 123, Newton, Kansas: "May I say as a father that I wish it were possible for every father with a son to be able to take this trip as it is one place he will always remember. I hope I for one can take the trip again next summer."

Son, Richard Grace: "May I say, I hope there will always be a Philmont Ranch for dads and sons."

Dad, Bill Hackett of Post 123, Newton, Kansas: "We especially enjoyed the opportunity to function as father and son in a group that was responsible for their own camp activities, and to learn again that a successful camp or a successful civilization depends on how well each member does his part."

Son, Gary Hackett, of Post 123: "There is no adjective great enough to describe Philmont and the fun I had at this campers' paradise with my dad and the other fellows and their dads in the Post on our cavalcade with our two guides."

Dad, J. W. Long: "A father who passes up an opportunity of attending a Philmont cavalcade with his son forsakes an opportunity of really knowing him.

"Here he has a chance to observe how his son measures up with his companions. This also gives the boy a chance to evaluate his dad.

"In my estimation, the fellowship, cooperation, and mutual respect shown on this trip were examples of a true democracy in action.

"This experience my son and I shared together only comes once in a lifetime. When that time comes for you, be at Philmont on a cavalcade with your son."

Son, John Wayne Long: "Our father and son trip to Philmont was a great experience to me. It taught me many things I did not know.

"When we left Philmont for home, we were all tired but happy and hoping to go again sometime." *END.*

INSIGNIA and UNIFORM CHANGES

THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF THE changes authorized by the National Executive Board appeared in the December issue of SCOUTING Magazine.

EXPLORING

ACHIEVEMENT PLAN: The "Explorer Unit Rating Plan" was renamed the "Explorer Unit Achievement Plan" to disassociate it from the insignia of Explorer Rating Strips with which it has no relation.

UNIT MEDALLIONS: The ruling regarding Explorer Unit Medallions was modified as follows: "Members of Explorer Units may wear the embroidered Universal Explorer Medallion centered on the right sleeve, 2" below the shoulder seam, or with the approval of the Local Council, may design their own Unit Medallion to be worn in the same position, provided it is no larger than 2½" in diameter." It is no longer necessary to submit designs to the National Council, but approvals must be given by Local Councils before medallions are made.

FATIGUE UNIFORM: The Explorer fatigue uniform as described on page 7 of the *Explorer Uniform Book*, has been discontinued. The Explorer T-shirt, however, is not affected.

CUB SCOUTING

SLIP KNOT: After more than twenty years, the knot on the Cub Scout neckerchief was changed from a square to a slip knot. This action was taken after the illustrations for the new *Cub Scout Uniform Book* had been printed so disregard the square knots on all illustrations and use the slip knot from now on.

BOY SCOUTING

EMBROIDERED BADGES: The ruling regarding the wearing of both embroidered and metal badges of Scout rank was modified. A Boy Scout may now decide between embroidered or metal, but *may not wear both* on his uniform. This, of course, does not affect the Eagle insignia. On formal occasions the Eagle medal may be worn at the same time as the embroidered Eagle or Eagle square knot.

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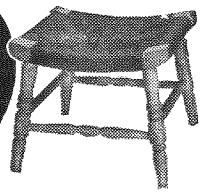

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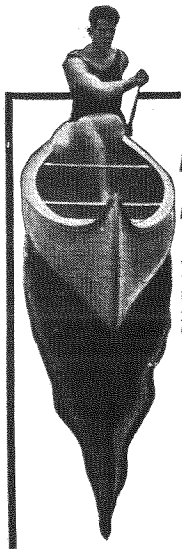

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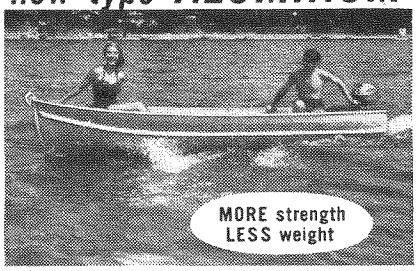

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