

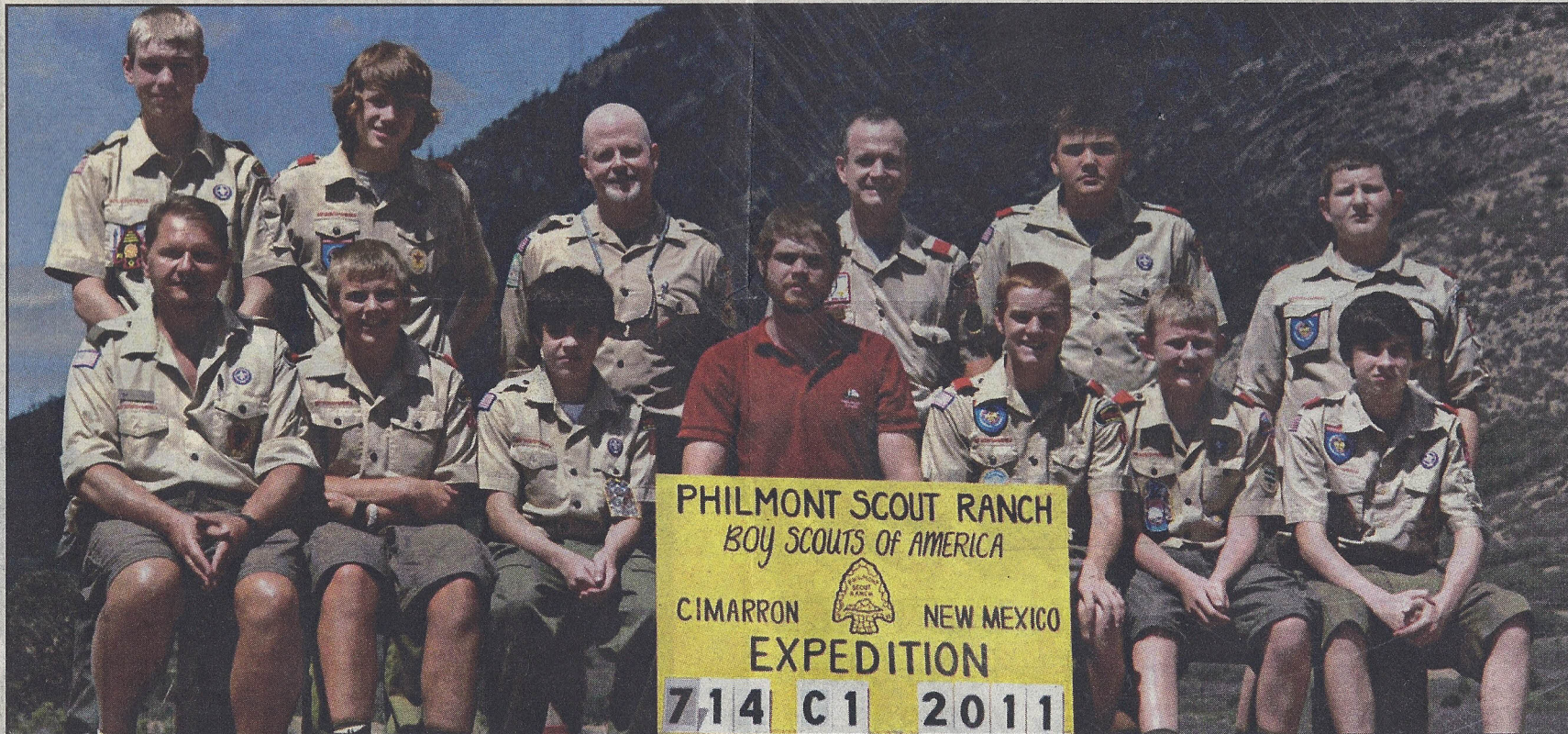
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A crew of eight Boy Scouts and three advisors from Troop 75 in Cranford, has just returned from 12 days of hiking near Cimarron, New Mexico. The crew hiked and backpacked more than 100 miles while at the Philmont Scout Ranch where elevations ranged from 6,000 to 12,000 feet. In addition, the crew panned for gold and learned how to brand and blacksmith while at Philmont. Troop 75 often sends up to two crews at a time to test their mettle at Philmont, which is considered the pinnacle of high adventure scouting. Prior to reaching Philmont, the crew enjoyed a tour of the USAF Academy and the Garden of the Gods, both in Colorado Springs. The scouts also climbed Pikes Peak and went whitewater rafting on the Arkansas River. Philmont is every Boy Scout's dream, and this summer, scouts Kieran Grant, Michael Grossi, John Hollier, Kean MacLelland, Chip Pipala, Alex Smith, Matthew VanPelt and Christian Wurzbarger, got to enjoy "God's Country" under the guidance of their advisors Steve VanPelt, Mark Smith and Jim Pipala.