

New Mexico Becomes Seventeenth Tree Farm State

New Mexico became the seventeenth state in the nation and the sixth Western Pine state to join the nationwide tree farm movement, when 80,000 acres of the Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, New Mexico, was certified as a tree farm by the Western Pine Association on August 22.

This Western Pine Tree Farm No. 117 is a part of a 200-square-mile ranch property owned and operated by the Boy Scouts of America as a national camp. Through its certification, the Boy Scouts have entered the American tree growing movement in a major way. Under the forest management program now shaping up, the tree farm promises to become not only a model American forest, but an area where the Scouts can learn more about trees, their protection, management and utilization.

Under Camp Director Bullock, Ranch Manager Bill Hack and Foreman Ira Stevens, the

outlines of a basic forestry training program are being shaped to dovetail into other camp activities. They also are at work mapping a protection program for the forest designed to stand the test of time. Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service and Western Pine Association foresters are working with the ranch people in drawing up the timber management plan. The cartographic division of the Soil Conservation Service at Albuquerque is making an aerial photographic mosaic map of the entire forested area at a scale of a half mile to the inch. This is to be used as the base for making detailed maps of the forest and in developing the plan of management.

For the present the Scouts plan to produce in the forest the wood products required to maintain the ranch properties. Its annual yield on a sustained basis can be substantially more than the volume required for home consumption, but there are no plans for further utilization. The immediate purpose is to build up the forest growth to the full productive capacity of the land.

BARK HAS VALUABLE PLASTICIZING MATERIAL

A wax-like material from the bark of pine trees, which promises to become one of the most important substances in plastics manufacture has been reported by Prof. H. Von Euler of Sweden. At the recent International Chemical Congress in London he stated that this bark product called phlobaphene, is a new and cheap softening agent or plasticizer.

Manufacture of phlobaphene from the bark which cannot now be used by the lumber and pulpwood industries would not only solve a major waste problem, but also give the plastics industry a new material. The plasticizers from bark are suitable for replacing plasticizers from castor oil and alkyd products, as well as the phthalic acid derivatives, made from coal. Up to 30% of synthetic resins produced consists of the plasticizers. Thus the volume of the bark materials needed will be large.

