

ogy from Ball State Univer., AAS in HVAC from Ivy Tech State College) and is employed by Clarian Health at Indiana Univer. Hospital. He married his wife Lynn (Yonkers) Boyer in 1998, and in May they welcomed two children into their home: Mary, who is 11, and John, who is 9. **Address:** 4601 Ashwood Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46268. **Phone:** 317-879-9414.

Linda Thate (82-85), after leaving Philmont, graduated from Oklahoma State Univer. with a degree in accounting. She took a job with EDS, travelled some, and ended up in Plano, where she married an Eagle Scout in 1993. They have three children—Courtney (14), Jacob (12) and Nicole (9)—and are very active in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. **Address:** 4409 Buchanan Drive, Plano, TX 75024. **Phone:** 972-335-0505. **Email:** thethates@yahoo.com.

1990s

Marianne Gold-Hoover (94-95) and her husband Corbet welcomed their son, reminiscent of two historic mountain men, Bridger Carson Hoover on September 27, 2009. **Address:** 136 Turkey Trail, Durango, CO 81301. **Email:** mhoover@mydurango.net.

Phil Romans (92, 94-96) got married last year (August 2008), took a new job with the federal government (January 2009) and welcomed a new daughter in May of this year. **Address:** 4306 Florio Drive, Perry Hall, MD 21128. **Phone:** 410-963-6222. **Email:** promans@yahoo.com.

2000s

Mark Bryson (03, 05-09) is doing volunteer and temporary work until beginning his work in the Peace Corps in February. He has been putting his experience with Philmont's 2009 Conservation Work Crew Kilo to good use building side-hill trail for the North Country Trail Association. **Address:** 3710 Hillcrest, Hudsonville, MI 49426. **Phone:** 610-662-9784. **Email:** mark@thelifeofbryson.com.

Dan Higham (08) is completing his term as

JOHN B. WESTFALL

John B. Westfall, author of the "Philmont Hymn" and Silver Sage recipient, passed away in May of this year in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He was eighty-one.

I met John when he was a substitute teacher for a high school class in the spring of 1998. I don't recall why I approached him, but I asked how he was connected to Scouting. He pulled out a Philmont book and pointed to his picture. I was in awe. That was the beginning of an intergenerational friendship that lasted until his death. He was rich in friends, family, and wisdom. I would be lucky if my own Duty to God would grant the kind of wisdom he possessed. He was a remarkable man in accomplishment and temperament. John was filled with stories of early Scouting in Kansas and Iowa, Philmont adventures, and men of character with whom he stayed in contact through letters and phone calls. He was an Eagle Scout, founded an Alpha Phi Omega chapter, a college class president, raised a family, was a professional Scouter, was a successful businessman with Phillips Petroleum, lived in Canada and the east coast, and traveled to Great Britain and the Holy Lands studying his favorite historical figure (Shakespeare) and his Lord (Jesus Christ). Far more than those accomplishments, I learned more from the gracious way he treated others.

Mrs. Westfall has graciously lent John's 1947 Philmont diary for transcription. I hope to share more in the coming months.

Bob Crume, Ranger '04
October 18, 2009

National Vice-Chief of the Order of the Arrow, traveling a great deal with public speaking and leadership development programs. **Address:** 430 Echo Road, Vestal, NY 13850. **Phone:** 607-321-9048. **Email:** DHigham@oswego.edu.