



wine

Richard
Watson

Clearing processes aid visual appeal

The growing presence on store shelves of wine with labels marked "unfiltered" or "unfined" suggests it would be a good idea to explain these terms.

Once wines have been fermented they are ready for storing (aging) in large tanks prior to bottling. During this time they accumulate a number of particles.

Some of these are from the residual growth materials and some are clear tartrate crystals, harmless but undesirable. The wine at this time is less than the crystal-clear product we Americans have come to expect.

Prior to bottling, one of three steps may be taken to clarify the wine, to take out the tartrate, yeast particles and pulp residual.

A wine may be centrifuged, a highly complex operation requiring an expensive piece of machinery. Centrifuging accelerates the natural process of gravity, forcing the particles down where they may be sloughed off. Most small wineries can't afford this kind of investment.

The second means is fining, where larger particles are added to the wine. A substance having special properties attracts the smaller particles electrostatically. When the smaller have adhered to the larger, they both fall rather cleanly to the bottom of the tank through gravitation, leaving the wine

at the top clear and ready for bottling.

THEN THERE IS FILTERING. In this process wine is pumped from its storage container to another via filter pads.

Depending on the size of the holes the winemaker chooses, the filtering can be extreme or loose. The pads may contain such small holes that virtually all sediment, even the most microscopic, may be eliminated.

With all three of these finishing processes, some of the life, excitement and character of the wine is lost. The presumption behind selling unfiltered or unfined wines is that they will be heartier, bigger and more flavorful wines. And, to an extent, this is true.

Now to the essential point of all this. If a label boasts that the wine in the bottle has not been fined or filtered (and it will probably never boast the absence of both processes), the other may have been done.

Both are discreet steps. In all probability, if a wine hasn't been fined it probably has been filtered or centrifuged. Wine not finished in any of the three ways would, in most cases, not be visually satisfying to the buyer.

So what does it mean to say that a wine is unfiltered? Essentially all that has been indicated is telling the customer which one of three alternative finishing processes hasn't been used.

Scouts return from backpacking trip

Six experienced Boy Scouts spent part of their summer backpacking better than 100 miles at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N. M. They experienced adventure, friendship, challenge and the beauty of the southwest.

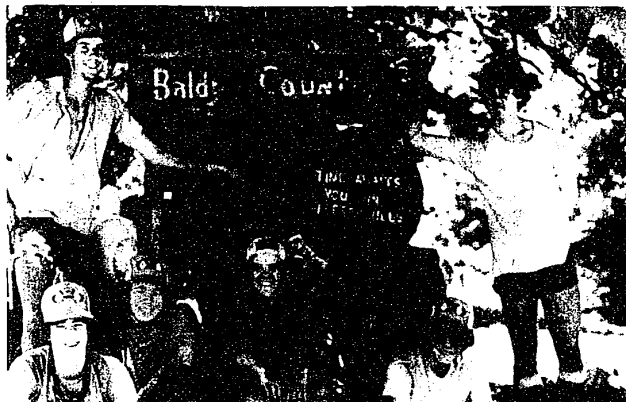
The scouts, all from Troop 389, led by Scoutmaster Paul Harvey, were Alan Babcock, Matt Cashin, Terry Finafrock, Mark Kubat, Paul Ligenza and Jim Nelson.

High point for the scouts was a 4 a.m. trek to the summit of a western landmark, The Tooth of Time, to see the sun rise. During the trip, the boys built trails, climbed mountains 1,200 feet high, and learned to deal with problems along the trail, such as a scarcity of water.

Troop 389 provides a full program of activities for boys age 11-18, including swimming, camping, canoeing, leadership training and service to the community.

Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays in Nardin Park United Methodist Church, on 11 Mile Road, west of Middlebelt Road.

The scouts invite newcomers to join them by calling John Green, 478-5187.



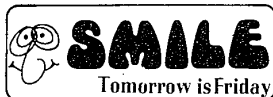
Backpackers along the trail in Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico this summer were Alan Babcock (standing at left), Jim Nelson, Matt Cashin, Paul Ligenza, Mark Kubat and Terry Finafrock.

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AGBU youth to host dance

The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Youth Chapter of Detroit will sponsor a dance at 8 p.m. Oct. 4 at St. John's Cultural Hall, 22001 Northwestern Highway in Southfield.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the Five Fingers.

There will also be dancing, an open bar and buffet, raffles and door prizes. Participants must be 18 years of age or older.

Tickets are \$13 per person in advance and \$15 per person at the door. For further information or tickets, call Diane Margosian at 626-9561.

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