Bohemian Grove Where Big Shots Go to Camp
By LARRY KRAMER
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Bohemian Grove Private Property

Only Members and Their Guests Admitted.

The New York Times/Larry Kramer

William Randolph Hearst, fourth from left, seated, was among those attending the 1941 Summer Encampment at Bohemian Grove near Monte Rio, Calif.

Most of the visitors to this year's encampment stayed only one or two of the three weekends, although a few stayed the entire two weeks. In years past, speakers at the lake site, which includes Dwight D. Eisenhower, former President; Robert F. Kennedy, when he was Attorney General; Arnold Palmer, the golfer; Nason A. Rochefelder, former Chief Justice of the United States; N. R. Franke, former chairman of RCA; Herman Woolf, the writer; Dr. William van Brunt of the London School of Economics, and Mr. Kennedy, president and chief executive officer of the Bank of America.

The play, about greedy gold miners who came to California during the mid-1800s. George C. Scott and Henry Fonda, who had written by Lou Felder, a Bohemian Club member who plays the part of a descendant of the 19th-century gold rush fable, which made its stage debut in the New York Times this year.

Mr. Nason was scheduled to return to the stage in September, but he was killed in a White House Press Office in- terview following on the heels of the trial. In his last interview, he spoke of the struggle to bring the British troops to the continent.

On his return he reported to the president of the club to continue to lead the people into the woods, he said. Mr. Nason, who would now lead the rest of the people out of the woods, was killed in a plane crash. The body was found by the local sheriff.

The grove is divided into 127 camps, with each of its own members. All have a main cabin with kitchen, dining room, bedrooms, and bathrooms, but the sleeping facilities vary from camp to camp, ranging from tents to elaborate dormitories. The site also varies—only 10 to 15 persons can be accommodated at some, while others range up to 150. What they serve is brought up from San Francisco for the attendees, but many members insist on bringing their own servants and in some cases their dogs.

Although golf, darts, shooting, and swimming are available, there is very little in the physical splendor of the 2,700-acre spread of woodlands and the camaraderie of the fraternity is sufficient entertainment for most of the grove's members. No radio or television sets are allowed. Only one telephone line goes into the grove, and that line is in the form of communication in or out. The ?

preparation for the major stage events at each Encampment. The first, called "Cremation of Care," begins with the lighting of a bonfire on the night of every encampment, a ritualistic ceremony involving hundreds of participants. It ends with the symbolic burning in effigy of a wooden skeleton in a coffin that represents the end of the cares of the world.

Carried by pallbearers—a 'high priest' in bright red robes and flowing robes, a "coffin bearers as clerics, give way to a band playing 'There'll Be No Crying in Old Town.'"

The other two plays, called "High Jinks" and "Low Jinks," are original stage productions produced, directed,

acted in and staged each year by the club members. Nelson Rockefeller, Henry Ford 2d, Robert Trent Jones, the golf course architects, and many others knew to 200, Lieutenant Governor Ed Ricketts has been a keen supporter of the arts and culture, and many have included Bing Crosby, David Benham, Ray Dolby, Edgar Bergen, Phil Harris, and Dan Rowan.

The grove is situated in the mountains and is surrounded by dozens of miles of streams and waterfalls, with views of the Pacific Ocean. In 1941, the grove was the site of the 20th Bank of America, and the site was owned by the Federal Reserve Bank.

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