

# KENTUCKY CAMP CHRONICLE



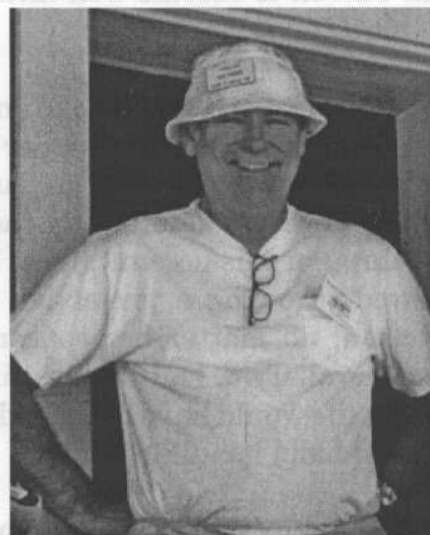
Newsletter of the Friends of Kentucky Camp

August 1998

## Don Fisher New FKC President

July 11, 1998, marked the last meeting of the Friends' 1996-1998 board of directors and the first meeting of the 1998-2000 board. The new board elected Don Fisher as president, Betty Leavengood vice-president, Arlene Franks treasurer, Jack Glenn secretary, and Tom Gordon, director at large. Arnold Franks will continue his full-time job as caretaker, as well as be the Coordinator for the Friends.

Don's presidential duties have already included working on the grant proposal initiated by Mark South and Kathy Makansi and making sure the title to the donated RV is properly transferred to the American Lung Association. "I'll be doing my best for the Friends of Kentucky Camp, and will appreciate the help of all our members," says Don. "One of my goals is to help improve communication—I am open to ideas and input from anybody. If everyone does a little, it won't be a hard job for anyone."



The Coronado National Forest extends its thanks to the "old" board—according to Forest archaeologist Mary Farrell, "the *Friends* have accomplished amazing things in the last two years, with everything from repaired rock work, gorgeous windows and doors, patched and mended walls, floors, and ceilings, and the design and construction of the comfortable and lovely porch now gracing Cabin C. Other 'behind-the-scenes' jobs, like the time-consuming accounting and record-keeping, have also been critical to the restoration efforts. Our Kentucky Camp Passport in Time projects these past two years would have been impossible without the *Friends*. In fact, *all* the ongoing restoration work at Kentucky Camp would be impossible without the *Friends*!"

### Welcome to New *Friends*!

Martha Jo Billy  
Molly Jo Britt  
Jim and Marie Britton  
Adella Chidester  
Pauli Davidson  
P. J. Eaton  
Mary Edwards  
Don and Joyce Kimpland  
Florian Proski

**CLIPPINGS by F. L. Orrell**

This month, as per promise, we ruminate about James B. Stetson and the question marks he scattered throughout the saga of the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company. In 1902 he quietly enters the scene, stage left, as the youngish General Manager for the SRWMCo. He moves to center stage where he occupies the spotlight for three years tending to business in Greaterville while at the same time managing sufficient presence in Tucson to become well-liked and respected there.

From stage right he leaves the scene on May 20, 1905, in a tragic fall from an upper story window in the Santa Rita Hotel in Tucson. Two things will become abundantly clear as we process through this account. One, Saint Rita eschewed throwing a protective cloak around Stetson, no matter her concern for miners in general. Two, had he lived in our time, his adult life would have been fodder for supermarket tabloid headlines.

1. The post-McAneny era puffery promoting investment in or sale of former SRWMCo. holdings credit Stetson with being a capable mining engineer who contributed importantly to the company. At the same time the fluff ambivalently touts input from Eastern engineers. However, there is no evidence to substantiate diluting credit to Stetson for engineering and constructing a successful hydraulic mining operation.

2. Now, for some Stetson "mysteries." The undersized reservoir at Stetson's Dam could have been a McAneny financial decision, arguably not a Stetson engineering choice. Certainly, there is evidence from newspaper accounts that Stetson knew early on that the reservoir was woefully inadequate and anticipated building a larger, second one. Aside from that, the hydraulic system was so

well planned as to make Stetson appear to be the graduate of an engineering school.

Born and raised in Oakland, a logical choice for matriculation would have been the University of California at Berkeley, home of one of the earliest and best mining schools. Alas, there is no record of his attendance there. Question: did he take a degree elsewhere or gain his competence in the School of Hard Knocks?

3. James B. was apparently the black sheep of the Stetson family. He was named to honor an uncle who became a very influential and wealthy business man in San Francisco. His brother was a prominent attorney in Oakland. However, the obituaries of both brother and uncle ignored his existence. Upon his demise, James left a 15-year old son who was being reared in Oakland by his grandparents. No reference to the boy's mother has ever surfaced. Another tragedy?

4. Perhaps nothing better illustrates the changes over the last century in perception of time and use of time and pace of living than the frequency with which Stetson visited Tucson from Greaterville (a trip of one to two days). And the duration of his visits which enabled him to make close friends and to gain membership in two fraternal organizations, the Eagles and the Elks. Application for joining the latter was by invitation only. Initiation was possible only upon a successful investigation of character and physical condition. Although never referred to as "Brother" in the minutes of Lodge #385, B.P.O. Elks, Stetson was elected to membership just two months before his death.

On Stetson's investigative committee were prominent Tucson citizens Drachman and



Santa Rita Hotel, Tucson, about 1905 (courtesy Arizona Historical Society).

Ziegler. Initiated a month before Stetson's election was Linda Ronstadt's grandfather. Months later, Buffalo Bill began visiting his mines in the Catalina Mountains which afforded him fraternal visits to the expensive cigars and bar of Lodge 385. Stetson was in very good company.

5. Although Stetson's fall was publicly accepted as an accident, the official investigation was cursory and the finding ambiguous. Here are some of the circumstances of the last three years of his life—you be the judge.

There is much reason to believe that the early relationship between Stetson and McAneny was one of mutual respect and trust. A good hypothesis is that McAneny would finance the venture in the event that other significant investors did not materialize. Upon successful operation of the company, as majority owner, he would find his reward in dividends and increased market

value of the company's common stock. To show good faith and his confidence in ultimate success of the operation, apparently Stetson agreed to draw no pay. For three long years, then, he would have supported himself from prior savings. There was a handshake agreement that at some time the company would issue 120 shares of stock to him. (Each member of the Board of Directors already held 100 shares, however.) It is noteworthy either as an indicator of McAneny's duplicity or his failing health, that Stetson's widow had to resort to litigation to force McAneny's compliance with the verbal contract.

6. Although not one of the original incorporators of SRWMC., in 1905 G. R. Comings surfaces as a resident of Greaterville, a member of the Board of Directors, owner of 100 shares of SRWMC. stock and a mining engineer. In spite of having provided the technical input and operational management to SRWMC. for three years, when McAneny went to Mexico

in Spring of 1905 to evaluate his copper claims, he took along as advisor Comings, not Stetson.

7. About a year after arriving in Tucson, Stetson married Ida B. Kane of Baltimore, Maryland. The ceremony took place in the San Augustine Hotel with Judge and Mrs. S. L. Kingan as witnesses. The Judge was a successful mining attorney, Officer and Director of SRWMC., and, later, noted artist and generous benefactor of the University of Arizona. How Ida and James B. met and courted is not known although she was a frequent visitor at the Empire Ranch, an hour or two on horseback north of Kentucky Camp— not much of a challenge for a man who dashed into Tucson without hesitation. On the other hand the minutes of the Tucson Elks Lodge business meetings make note of a Brother Kane from Oakland. Coincidence or mystery?

7. Where Mr. and Mrs. Stetson made their home following the wedding is also not known. However, at least by late 1904, Ida was again residing permanently in Baltimore. After the successful prototype run of the hydraulic system in August of 1904, Stetson went to Baltimore to visit Ida. He did this in lieu of beginning construction of the new dam and tunnel which he reported had been justified by the successful results of the prototype run. He returned to Tucson from Baltimore on December 22, 1904. A happy couple does not spend Christmas together?

8. After the inquest following Stetson's death, an offer was made to Mrs. Stetson to delay the funeral until her arrival in Tucson, if she wished it. She did not wish it; neither did she claim the body for burial. However, a bit later she did appear in Tucson to claim Stetson's effects and property. One suspects the marriage was not a howling success.

9. The final irony in this account is that Stetson's estate came to the grand total of \$22.25. And this for a man who willingly paid the Elks a \$50 initiation fee! Whatever one concludes about the nature of the "accident," it is inescapable that poor Stetson could not win for losing.



## PRESERVATION & ETHICS

Professor Ray Nadolny of Cochise College and 15 or so students in his Ethics class plan to help at the September 12 workday. Adobe mudding, as *Friends* know, provides plenty of opportunity for contemplation and discussion, and the students will be considering the ethics of historic preservation while they practice it. We need *Friends* to help train the students in mudding techniques; come to the workday and share your expertise and your own thoughts about historic preservation.

## KC GOES INTERNATIONAL

The perfectly smooth, flat mud plastering that covers the interiors of the KC buildings is a lost art, according to renowned adobe preservation specialist David Yubeta of Tumacacori National Historical Park. An art lost in these days of dry wall and mass production in the U.S., but not, apparently, south of the border.

Thanks to Señor Yubeta's help, Coronado Forest archaeologists have been working side-by-side with specialists from both sides of the border in preservation workshops. Continuing in the spirit of international cooperation, historic architect Martha Robles, of Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, has offered to train us in repairing the mud plaster at Kentucky Camp during the next PIT week, April 19-23, 1999. We also hope to recruit INAH's Rudolfo de Castillo, who is an expert with painted plaster, to help

in the restoration of the painted designs on the walls of two of the rooms.

Rudolfo speaks English fluently, and Martha, studying furiously, may be fluent by next April. But both are very patient with the most mangled attempts at Spanish, so if you want to practice your español while learning the lost art of fine mud plastering, mark next April 19-23 on your calendars.

### WORK UPDATES by Jack Glenn

There was more painting, adobe patching, and rock work done at the June 13 work day, thanks to Tony and Joan Bratosh, Tom Gordon, Pauli Davidson, Arnold and Arlene Franks, Jack Glenn, and Kathy Makansi. Nogales Ranger District's Don Marion dropped by while on his area security trip.

Much of the 11 July work day was spent in board meetings, but some members, including Susan Jones and Evalyn Neuhaus and new members Jim and Marie Britton were able to accomplish a lot of good adobe repairs, including fixing some basal coving.

The Friday crews have been making real progress on the windows and doors, and Arnold has completed the rail and screen on Cabin C.

The new board of directors decided to stagger elections to ensure continuity from one board to the next— Treasurer Arlene Franks and Secretary Jack Glenn volunteered to serve just one year so that their replacements could begin their terms in 1999, and the entire board wouldn't be new in the year 2000.

The *Friends* owe a big thanks to past president Arnold Franks, who has guided the Friends through the past two years, and to his Board of Directors. Fortunately Arnold has volunteered to be our Coordinator and

Caretaker for at least the next year and maybe longer.

Our founding president, Billee Hoornbeek, and her husband Frank have left Green Valley and moved to Oregon. Billee and Frank were our adobe brick and mud leaders for two years. They are fondly remembered and their leadership and company are sorely missed.



### MONUMENT TO BROKEN DREAMS by Billee Hoornbeek

*(Editor's note: this is the third in our Kentucky Camp 2004 series, in which individual Friends describe their vision for Kentucky Camp on its upcoming centennial. We lifted this from an essay Billee wrote for Jack Glenn's Partners in Preservation booklet last year.)*

I returned today to my favorite mining town in Southern Arizona. I turned from Highway 83 at Gardner Canyon Road and followed the signs to Kentucky Camp. It still amazes me that this "golden dream" existed so far off the beaten track. As I walked down the road to the Camp I could hear voices, as I turned the corner and looked down on the buildings I was amazed - what a transformation, the buildings were alive again! The windows sparkled, the woodwork around the windows and doors was all freshly painted, the doors were open to welcome those who came to watch and learn while history was recreated.

I was first drawn to the "hotel," the building that served as the center of the dream. Clustered at one end of the porch were 20 or 30 people, I joined them. There seated in a rocking chair was an elderly man who told us about his dream about coming to Arizona Territory, buying the land and building the headquarters to attract others to share in his vision of wealth. His voice lowered and his face grew grim as he related what had befallen him because of his belief and his unfaltering dedication to his dream. He invited us into his house—reconstructed just as he had left it some 90 years ago. We looked in wonder at the modern conveniences, running water, complete kitchen, indoor bathroom, painted adobe walls—the home of a professional that could have graced the upscale district of any city.

A younger man joined us and volunteered to show us the rest of the buildings. We started at the assay house—built and furnished to test and validate the richness of the ore that was mined. From there he took us down to the dry stream bed where a weathered miner had a small open pit. He was digging out the sand above the bedrock, placing it into a primitive "rocker", and with a small amount of water was trying to extract some "color."

Our next stop was the Stetson Cabin; the

artifacts collected in the area were displayed and interpreted within the three rooms. Our last stop was at an unnamed cabin that had been roofed, but then left to face the forces of nature as best it could. The phrase that came to mind was "dust to dust," its adobe walls were slowly slumping, sinking, seemingly eager to rejoin the earth from which it had been constructed.

The crowd grew as we went along, everyone was quiet, intent upon learning about the past of this anomaly. As we headed back to the "Hotel" a rancher strode up to us, and regaled us with tales of the ranching years after the "dream" had died. He was weary and beaten as he told us about his "dream" of becoming a cattle baron and how that too had died.

How did this all happen? It was because of a group of local citizens who had their own "dream," a dream that was shared by the Coronado National Forest. They looked at the decaying buildings, read of the rich history and were determined that this would be shared with not only the local residents, but with all who wanted to learn more about the diversity of the mining operations in the Southwest. They rolled up their sleeves and started to work: they did historic research, they refurbished the buildings, they furnished

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## LAST CHANCE TO RENEW YOURSELF!

Annual dues for 1998-1999 are now past due— we need your support, so please renew your membership!

If you need a membership form and didn't receive one with the last newsletter, call Mary Farrell at 670-4564 or Arlene Franks at 294-9783. Or, you can send a check directly to the *Friends*, care of Arlene at 716 W. Calle Rita, Tucson, AZ 85706.

A mere \$10 individual membership gets you a subscription to this newsletter, free entry to all KC workdays, a chance to vote in elections, and the satisfaction of helping a worthy cause. Other membership categories are available, including \$15 family, \$5 student, \$25 contributing, or \$50 supporting. Or, save yourself the trouble of annual renewals and sign up for the \$200 life membership.

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Meet us at Kentucky Camp ...

the houses, they developed living history scenarios. The public came: Kentucky Camp, a monument to broken dreams, flourished as it never had before, finally one of the dreams came true.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next work days are **August 8, September 12, and October 10.** There will be all kinds of fun chores to choose from, including:

- ☛ patch and repair adobe walls, with help from Cochise College Ethics class on September 12
- ☛ sand, paint, and install restored doors
- ☛ clean and paint ceiling molding
- ☛ plus many other important activities



Moving? Name or address wrong on your mailing label? Please send corrections to Mary Farrell, 332 E. Mabel, Tucson, AZ 85705, or call her at 670-4564.



The *Friends of Kentucky Camp*, a chapter of the Coronado National Forest Heritage Society, is a non-profit organization established to help in the preservation and interpretation of Kentucky Camp. *Friends* sponsor work days, coordinate volunteer activities, and conduct and supervise stabilization and preservation, in cooperation with the Coronado National Forest.

President: Don Fisher, (520) 294-9783  
 Vice-President: Betty Leavengood (520) 885-3570  
 Secretary: Jack Glenn (520) 625-5102  
 Treasurer: Arlene Franks (520) 294-9783  
 Director at Large: Tom Gordon (520) 325-2973  
 Coordinator: Arnold Franks (520) 294-9783  
 Forest Service Liaison: Kathy Makansi (520) 670-4522  
 Forest Service PIT Coordinator: Mary Farrell (520) 670-4564  
 Nogales Ranger District Contact: Mark South (520) 670-5496

Visit Kentucky Camp on the internet at <http://www.Azstarnet.com/public/nonprofit/coronado/Intro.htm>.

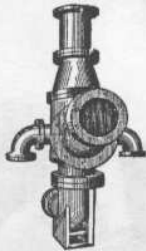
Visit the *Friends of Kentucky Camp* Homepage at <http://www.rtd.com/~arclight/fkcdindex.htm>.

See past issues of the Kentucky Camp Chronicle (in color!) at <http://www.azstarnet.com/~patish/chronidx.htm>.

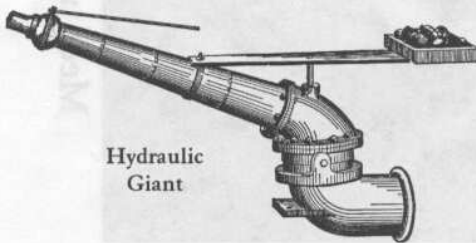


# SANTA RITA WATER & MINING COMPANY

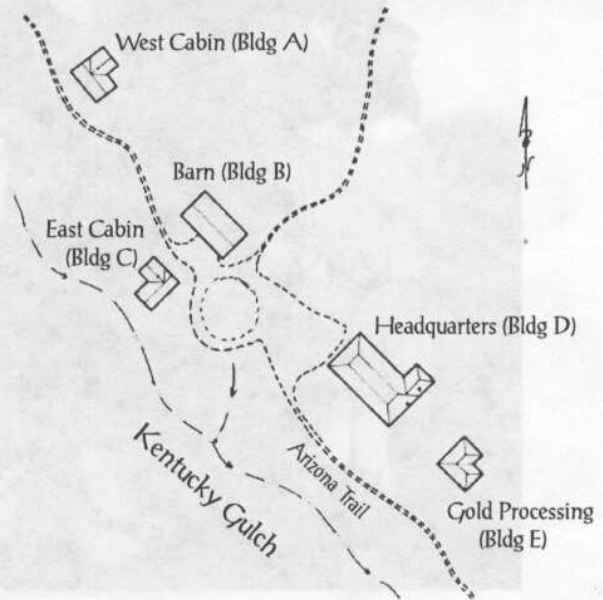
## KENTUCKY CAMP, ARIZONA



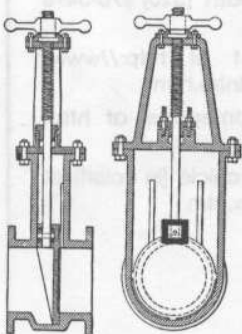
Hydraulic  
Elevator



Hydraulic  
Giant



Coronado National Forest  
Supervisor's Office  
300 W. Congress St.  
Tucson, Arizona 85701



Water Gate

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