

# KENTUCKY CAMP CHRONICLE



Newsletter of the Friends of Kentucky Camp

December 1998

## The End of an Era

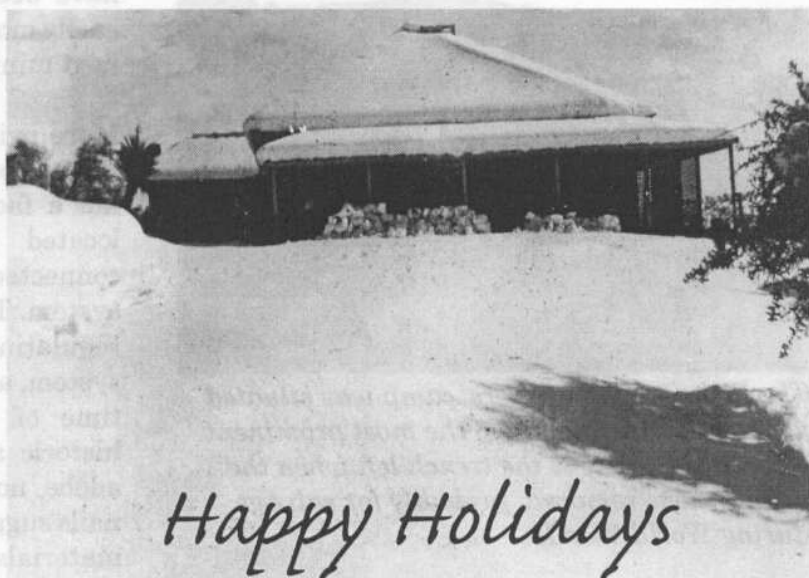
After over 6 years, Arnold Franks, "Mr. Kentucky Camp," is retiring as caretaker. Arnold first set up camp at the site with his cot and office in a tent, until high winds blew the tent up the canyon. He endured the tiny Forest Service trailer for several years, considering it a big improvement – although smaller than most walk-in closets, it was heavy enough to stay put even while the wind blew through it.

Not until the *Friends* acquired the larger trailer through the Voyager RV Resort did Arnold have warm and dry quarters, and through it all he persevered. But Arnold's not only served as caretaker – as founding member, past president, project coordinator, head recruiter, tour guide, media contact, researcher, and on-site preservation and restoration expert, Arnold has donated tens of thousands of hours to Kentucky Camp. He has done everything from fixing broken pipes to building window screens, from restoring doors and windows to trimming trees and cutting weeds, from cleaning up mouse droppings to searching the country for replacement door locks, from enduring weeks without a single visitor to starring in television news features, from discouraging vandalism to encouraging donations, from removing

rattlesnakes to discovering old photographs.

Not only has Arnold donated his own time, he has enlisted his wife, Arlene, his daughter Robin, and son-in-law Jack Mutchler to donate their time to the site. We owe the current size of our membership to Arnold, too, since his stories, tours, and contagious enthusiasm recruited so many of the *Friends*.

For his dedication, expertise, and leadership, Arnold was a finalist for the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation in 1997. The Forest Service and the *Friends* will sorely miss Arnold as caretaker, but we expect to still see a lot of him in his other roles as coordinator, chief tour guide, story teller, ace carpenter, historic researcher, intrepid handyman, and inspiration.



*Happy Holidays*

### How the Other 90% Lived

Kentucky Camp, with its substantial walls and factory-made windows, doors, and shingles, housed the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company elite – board members like primary investor George McAneny and engineer James Stetson. Where did the people who actually dug the ditches, blasted the tunnels, laid the pipe, and aimed the giant monitors live? Newspapers of the day reported some 40 to 70 men working for the company at the height of operations from early 1903 into early 1905.

Archaeological remains suggest the housing at the workers' camps was pretty ephemeral, compared to Kentucky Camp with its indoor plumbing and telephone system. At a construction camp along the water system, most of the remains are simple tent platforms, casually leveled with no sign of foundations, lumber, or nails. There appears to have been no organized layout: the tent platforms still evident are dispersed over a gentle hillslope, tucked around the edges of a broad open area. One area exhibits some rocks that may have been a foundation for a more substantial building. Although this might have been housing for some manager or supervisor, the remains of industrial artifacts in its vicinity (barrel hoops, fragments of metal) suggests it was more likely a store room for supplies.



*The Fish Canyon workers' camp was situated next to the pipeline. Now, the most prominent feature at the site is the trench left when the pipeline was removed, probably for salvage during World War II.*

Near the hydraulic workings in Boston Gulch is another camp, probably for the miners, which is being mapped by *Friend* Dave Brown. Here there is a concentration of rocks that may be the remains of a chimney. With no nails, lumber, or evidence of other building materials evident, it seems most likely that canvas was used extensively.



*Santa Rita Water and Mining Company workers may have lived in tents such as the one depicted in this early 1900s photograph taken in Pennsylvania, but the elegant dress of these campers probably wouldn't have lasted through many work shifts.*

Logically, of course, their expected relatively short use-life could account for the ephemeral habitations at the camps. Camps might have been considered temporary, and housing could have been designed or chosen to be portable, easily moved to the next construction camp or the next mining site.

More evidence of disparities in housing comes from a fourth site where longevity was probably not a factor. The "ditch foreman's house" was located near the Stetson's dam, and was connected to Kentucky Camp with a telephone system. The ditch foreman had the critical job of regulating flow from the reservoir into the ditch system, and this job would have lasted the entire time of the mining operation. According to historic accounts, the house was composed of adobe, not canvas. Window glass fragments and nails suggest the use of other substantial building materials. Unlike the buildings at Kentucky



Camp, the ditch foreman's house has melted completely (itself maybe a telling difference in the permanence of construction), so comparisons are difficult. But at the ditch foreman's house, there is no evidence of rock foundations (as are found at Kentucky Camp). Further, the house itself was pretty small, measuring 16 by 10 feet, about half the size of the smallest buildings at Kentucky Camp.

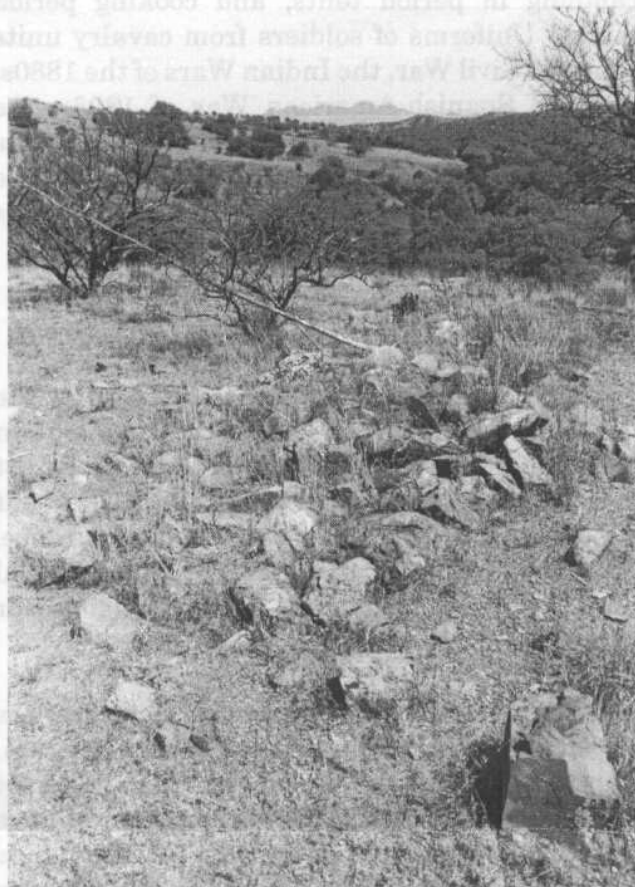
This discrepancy between the managers' and the workers' housing may seem inevitable, given the disparities between the upper and lower economic classes in our country. But next issue we'll look at another small southern Arizona mining venture, the Exposed Reef Mining Company. Although this company operated at about the same time, the settlement exhibits a different pattern, with the houses for managers and workers very similar, and all clustered in the same area. Stay tuned!

*(This article is based on a paper by Mary Farrell, Bill Gillespie, and Jim McDonald of the Coronado National Forest for the Society for Historical Archaeology meetings in Salt Lake City next month)*

### WELCOME TO PIT VOLUNTEERS!

Michael Kovach, from Stony Point, New York, has volunteered to be our Passport in Time (PIT) caretaker for December through May. Mike has long been interested in the southwest, from the time he first saw saguaro cactus in National Geographic journals and John Ford movies. His interests have since expanded to include astronomy, desert vegetation and wildlife, and the history and ethnology of the region, but his stint at Kentucky Camp will be his first visit to the southwest.

Steve Harper, a retired Forest Supervisor, will be helping to caretake the site from December 5 through January 5. In between sailing the seas and hiking the Appalachian trail which runs by his Vermont home, Steve's worked on other Passport in Time projects throughout the west, including one of the Coronado National Forest's projects at Camp Rucker.



*These rocks may have once formed a chimney at the Boston Gulch camp.*

Other PIT volunteers who've signed up as caretakers in the coming months include Mike Quigley and Bonnie Olin from Idaho, Miles and Betty Peterson from Utah, Richard Regan from Connecticut, and Connie and Pete Cathcart from the north country.

Mike will be staying in the big trailer, Steve and the others will rotate through the little trailer. Please come by and welcome Mike, Steve, and the rest to Kentucky Camp!

### GHOSTS FROM THE PAST VISIT KC

In truth, not ghosts at all, but a lively group of people from all over Arizona stepped into the nineteenth century at Kentucky Camp November 20-22. Organized by Terri Leverton from Ft. Verde Park, author Jack Stewart, and our own Arnold Franks, the 14 men and women explored Kentucky Camp dressed in period clothing,

camping in period tents, and cooking period dishes. Uniforms of soldiers from cavalry units from the Civil War, the Indian Wars of the 1880s, and the Spanish-American War of 1898 were represented. For some of the participants this was their first visit to Kentucky Camp, but we certainly hope it isn't their last – these visitors from the past help make history come alive!

## MORE BOARD MEETING NEWS

At the FKC Board meeting held during the October 10 workday, the board passed a motion to donate the Friends' trailer to the Forest Service. The switch would save the FKC about \$250 a year in property taxes and insurance. Another advantage: if the trailer is an official Forest Service facility, it will be eligible for federal funds for maintenance.

The board also voted to paint the three trailers on site, to improve the look of the storage area. This project's on hold, however, since the forest landscape architect and recreation planner have recommended against anything that would give the area a "permanent" feel. So instead, the trailer area's being cleaned up a bit. Most significantly, Tom Gordon hauled away the little trailer he had donated some years back (the little trailer served well for quite a while, but had not been used much lately).

Other decisions and discussions:

- \* Membership dues and other donations will be tax deductible.

- \* The board will request that the Forest Service do an inspection of the buildings and surrounding land, to see what we can do to reduce the potential for fire.

- \* The roof of the Office is leaking, and needs to be repaired. Kathy Makansi has volunteered to work with Mark South to seal the leaks during the Passport in Time

week, April 19-23, 1999.

- \* Outhouse/toilet – still needed, and the Friends could help build the superstructure, if the Forest Service could buy the vault. New recommended location (increased accessibility, decreased odors) is just northwest of the hitching post near Cabin A. (Note: the Nogales Ranger District has also identified this as a priority, but no funds are available. Grant writers are needed!)

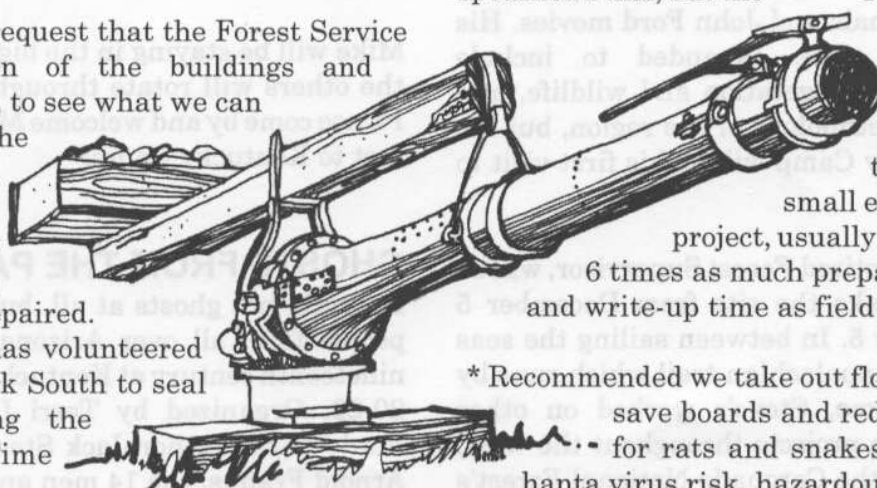
- \* Cabin C as an income source – the Arizona Trail newsletter has noted an unfulfilled demand for "bed and breakfast" establishments along the trail. Renting out Cabin C under the Forest Service's fee demo program could bring in income for Kentucky Camp restoration and maintenance projects: elsewhere in the West rustic cabins and lookouts rent for \$20 or more a night. However, some improvements would be necessary: we already plan to work on the plaster during the April PIT week, but also need a toilet on site, doors, window coverings, and basic furniture. Arnold will design a simple window prototype, so we can develop cost estimates for the materials.

- \* Concrete porch supports – plan is to try facing one of the footers with rocks, to see how it looks. This could be a workday project – we would need trucks or the district's ATV and trailer, as well as volunteers to gather rocks.

- \* Archaeological testing project to find out more about the structure near the entrance road or the barn: not possible for the Forest Service to spearhead this, but the Forest is willing to

work with any archaeologist members who are willing to take it on. Even a small excavation is a big project, usually requiring at least 6 times as much preparation, analysis, and write-up time as field work.

- \* Recommended we take out floors in Cabin A to save boards and reduce nesting area for rats and snakes. Because of the hanta virus risk, hazardous materials suits





would be needed, so this is a job for Forest Service. (This was originally scheduled for the Nov. 14 workday, but was postponed until the floor boards are needed elsewhere so we don't have to worry about where to store them.)

\* Recommended we display one of the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company water pipe sections at Kentucky Camp, since some visitors aren't able to hike along the Arizona Trail to see it. Arnold knows of a section that had already been moved from its original setting, but the interpretive sign needs to be ready before the pipe is moved to Kentucky Camp.

\* Decided to open the parlor/living room of the Headquarters Building (Building D) for public interpretation. Will require moving the tools there now into the middle room, and changing the doors.

### **COME ONE, COME ALL! SPECIAL EVENTS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH MARCH 1999**

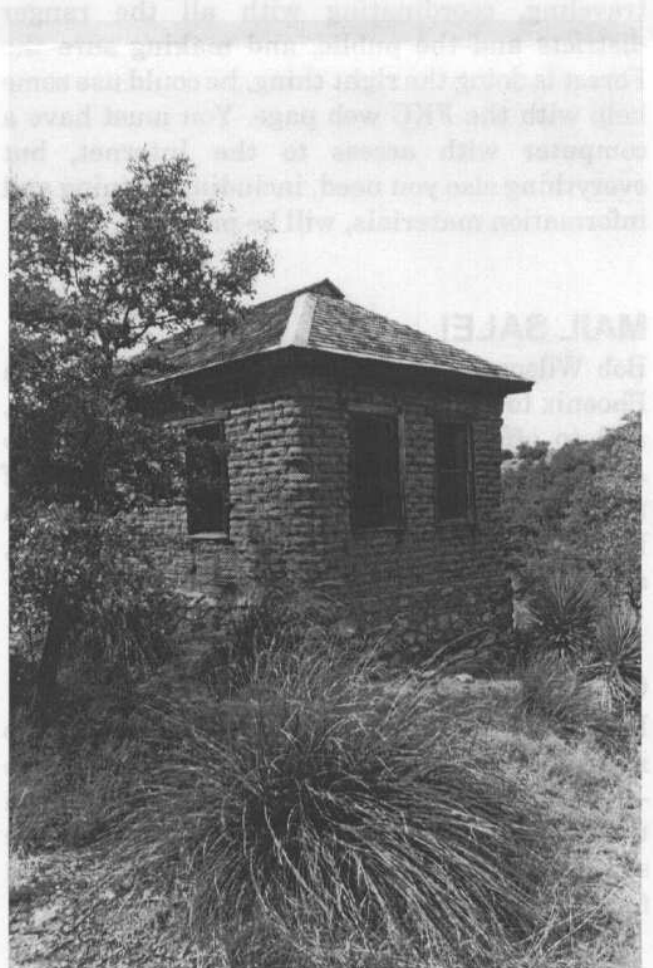
How would you like to celebrate at Kentucky Camp? Our FKC Board is planning two special events this spring. For our March 13 workday, the board has suggested an open house. We will invite the public to participate in our usual assortment of chores, with special emphasis on adobe patching. But what else would be fun? Gold panning, brick making, living history, woodworking demonstrations? Selling Kentucky Camp t-shirts and note cards? Bake sale? Hiking tours? History talks? Call Betty Leavengood, at 885-3570, with your energy and ideas.

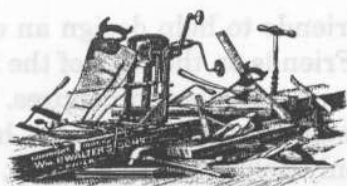
To promote the open house and Kentucky Camp in general, the Friends and the Coronado National Forest will have a booth at the 1999 Archaeology Fair, to be held at the Tubac Presidio on March 6 and 7. The fair usually hosts hundreds of visitors, who come by to see displays, talk with archaeologists, and participate in demonstrations like grinding corn, spinning cotton, or throwing a spear. Admission is free.

We need Friends to help design an exhibit, and we'll need Friends on the days of the fair to sit at our table and give out brochures. Call Mary Farrell to sign up for a day or an hour or so – you'll not only help Kentucky Camp, you will be able to meet a lot of people and enjoy the different exhibits.

### **FREE MONEY**

Money is reportedly available for the asking: dozens of foundations and companies give grants for historic preservation projects. Some foundations even give money for public toilets at historic sites! We need some diligent persons to spend time in the library of their choice, researching how to apply, to whom to apply, etc. Please call Mary Farrell at 670-4564 or Kathy Makansi at 670-4522 if you can spare a few hours to help; we have some information to get you started.





## GIVE A CABIN A DOOR!

With four doors, Cabin C will be on its way to fame and fortune as the nicest rustic lodging along the Arizona Trail! Be a partner in this upcoming venture— help restore one of the old doors we have on hand, or donate some dollars for a new old-fashioned one. Call Arnold Franks or Jack Glenn for details (numbers below).

## WEB PUBLISHER OPPORTUNITY!

Jim McDonald will be leaving his post as Forest Archaeologist of the Coronado National Forest to take on new responsibilities as a member of the Forest's planning team. Since Jim will be busy traveling, coordinating with all the ranger districts and the public, and making sure the Forest is doing the right thing, he could use some help with the FKC web page. You must have a computer with access to the Internet, but everything else you need, including training and information materials, will be provided.

## MAIL SALE!

Bob Wilson has written from his new home in Phoenix to send greetings to the *Friends of KC*, and to offer his book, *Gold Panning in New Mexico*, to FKC members for the sale price of \$7.00 including postage. Order it by mail from P.O. Box 45506, Phoenix, AZ, 85085, or by e-mail, at [Wilson602@aol.com](mailto:Wilson602@aol.com).

## CORRECTION

Last issue we incorrectly credited some of the incredible work done recently at Kentucky Camp — it was Tom Gordon who made major repairs on the FS trailer, including fixing the troublesome sewer line. Many thanks for your work, Tom, and for your patience!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next work days are December 12, 1998, and January 9, 1999. There will be all kinds of fun chores to choose from, including:

- ☛ help fetch rocks to face porch footings
- ☛ sand, paint, and install woodwork
- ☛ clean and paint molding
- ☛ patch and repair adobe walls
- ☛ plus many other important activities

*The Annual Passport in Time project is scheduled for April 19-23, 1999. Guest historical architects Martha Robles and Rudolfo de Castillo from Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Antropologia e Historia will train PIT volunteers and Friends alike in the lost art of fine mud plastering. We'll also indulge in other work activities (woodworking, survey) as personnel and funding permit. Call Mary Farrell at 670-4564 for more information.*



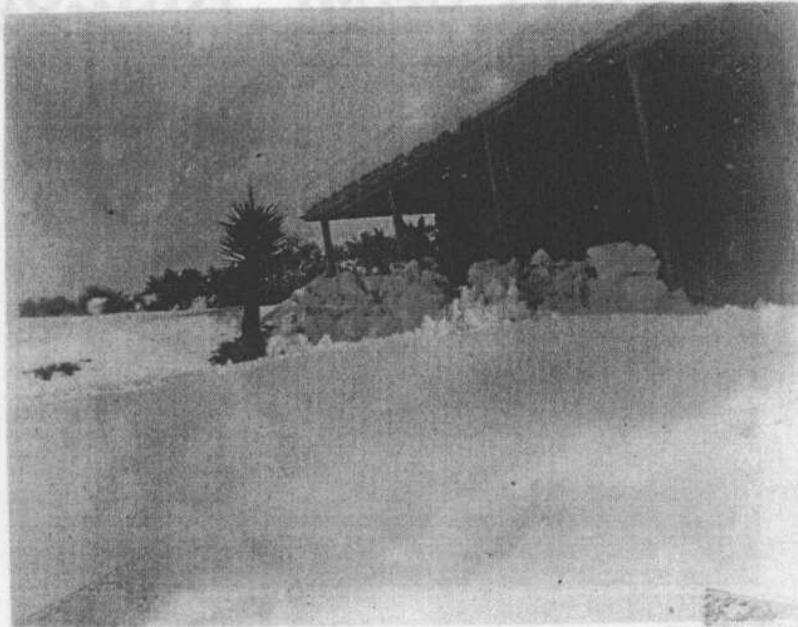
*The Friends of Kentucky Camp, a chapter of the Coronado National Forest Heritage Society, is a non-profit organization established to help in the preservation and interpretation of Kentucky Camp. Friends sponsor work days, coordinate volunteer activities, and conduct and supervise stabilization and preservation, in cooperation with the Coronado National Forest. Individual, family, supporting, and contributing memberships are available starting at \$10, with discounts for students. Send check to Friends of Kentucky Camp, 716 Calle Rita, Tucson, AZ 85706.*

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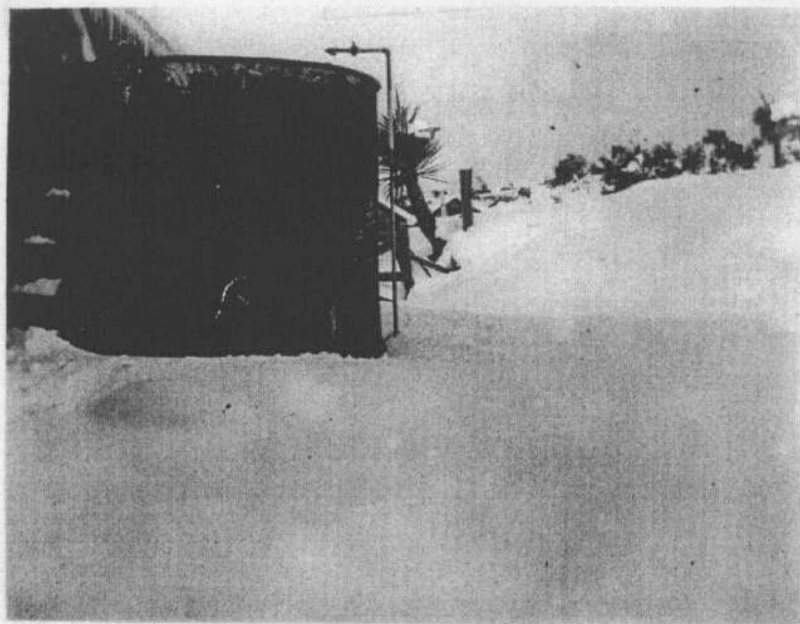
Visit Kentucky Camp on the internet at <http://www.Azstarnet.com/public/nonprofit/coronado/Intro.htm>.

See past issues of the Kentucky Camp Chronicle at <http://www.azstarnet.com/~patish/chrondx.htm>. Contributions to the newsletter are welcome; send to M.Farrell, Coronado National Forest, 300 W. Congress St., Tucson, AZ 85701.





*Heavy snowfall at Kentucky Camp, circa 1920. Photographs courtesy of Linda Peters Roslund.*



*The large cistern tank collected water from the roof of the Headquarters Building (the Hummel ranch house).*



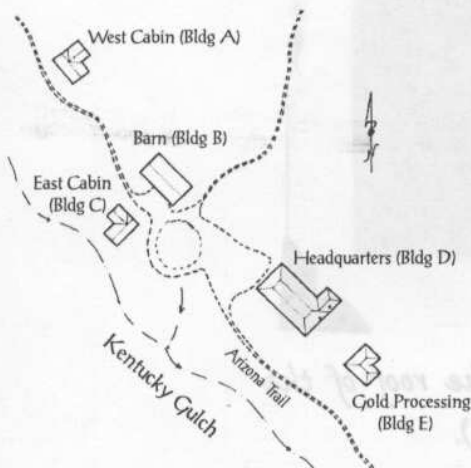
# SANTA RITA WATER & MINING COMPANY KENTUCKY CAMP ARIZONA



*Season's Greetings*



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