# KENTUCKY CAMP CHRONICLE





Newsletter of the Friends of Kentucky Camp

December 1999

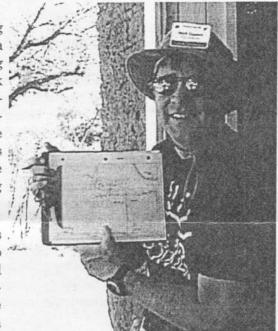
# CISTERN OR SEPTIC? There is a Difference!

by Mark Doumas

Just so we are all "reading from the same page" here: a cistern is a tank for storing rainwater runoff; a septic tank is for storing... well, uh... "human runoff." I got an opportunity to re-learn the difference between the two earlier this year while investigating the Building "D" "cistern" during the April PIT.

I became interested in this structure on my first visit to Kentucky Camp. Arnold Franks showed me a spot behind building D where a hole in the ground had been plugged with concrete. Arnold suggested that this might be a cistern. This really got my in-

terest because we have a modern day cistern at our residence in Tucson. Rain water from our roof is collected in an underground tank that we had installed years ago. During our dry season, we water our outdoor landscaping with water from the tank.



Mark Doumas displays feature map near scene of investigation.

#### WELCOME TO NEW TRIENDS!

Candace & Rich Allen
Carol "C" Charnley
Marilyn Coates

Margie Parra Frank Spittle

Santa Cruz Chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society

I have also inspected some older cisterns at the Illinois farms of my in-laws. Some of these structures are contemporaries of Kentucky camp dating back to the turn of the century or earlier. These underground cisterns are real works of art: they are cylindrical in shape about 6-10 feet in diameter, and 10-20 feet deep. The insides are plastered over with a fine glaze that holds water even 100 years later! So, I was interested - would a Kentucky Camp mining era cistern be constructed the same way as the old Illinois cisterns? How big was the Kentucky Camp cistern? Would it still hold water? Could it be restored to

operation and hold rain water from the roof of Building "D"?

At the April 1999 PIT, I got a chance to answer all of these questions. Don Kimpland and I investigated this structure over a period of several days. We started by performing a detailed field survey of the area. (That is, we looked around and decided where to pile up the dirt!) Next, we removed the thin layer of dirt over the concrete opening and we began to realize that the top of the structure was a rather large expanse of flat concrete.... nothing like the old cisterns in Illinois. When we were done clearing the top soil, we had exposed an oval concrete slab about 8 feet wide by 12 feet long. One interesting feature of the slab was the discovery of a rather small handprint made while the concrete was still wet.

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No names or dates though, so we can only speculate as to the age of the structure.

By digging around the edges of the concrete, we were able to see that the concrete cap was covering a rectangular concrete tank about 6 feet wide by 10 feet long. We found where the drain pipe from the kitchen in building "D" entered the tank from the South and where the sewer line from the building "D" bathroom came in from the West. At this point in the investigation, we were convinced that this was not a cistern: this isn't the type of effluent you put into a cistern!

Finally, we chipped out the concrete plug to inspect the inside of the tank. Some folks got a real chuckle when I stuck my head through the hole in an effort to see inside better. Inside the tank, there was the usual partitioning wall that extends part of the way down into the tank. (This is to skim off the floating scum so that only the liquid drains out of the tank into the leach field.) We did not locate the outlet pipe or leach field. The tank was partially filled with a fine dirt-like material - presumably very well aged human waste. We left a detailed analysis of this material to future researchers! We drew up a map, plugged the hole with concrete and covered the septic tank with soil.

Although this was not earth-shattering research, it does help us piece together the water supply and sanitary facilities during the various periods of Kentucky Camp history. (See table, below.) Looking back, it makes sense that a cistern was not employed during the camp's mining days: back then, they had all the water they needed from the ditch that supplied water to the hydraulic mining operation. The collapsed water tank on the ridge between Kentucky Gulch and Boston Gulch would have provided the temporary storage for that purpose.

After the mining operation was abandoned, the water ditch quickly fell into disrepair. We know from personal recollections from the Hummel children that water had to be hauled in during the Camp's ranching days. Since indoor toilets (and our septic tank) required plenty of fresh water for operation, the transition to hauled-in water would have also forced sanitary facilities to an outhouse. Later in the ranching era, an on-site water well may have allowed the indoor facilities and septic tank to be reinstated.

Now we have a thoroughly modern latrine near Cabin "C" and a soon-to-be-new water well. Will future generations be able to figure out their intended use in another 100 years?



Period	Approxi- mate Dates	Water Supply	Septic System
Mining Era		Piped in from Casa Blanca Canyon and stored in tank on hill.	Indoor facilities coupled with the septic tank adjacent to Building "D"
Ranch Era (Early)	1908-1950's?	Trucked-in from Louisi- ana Gulch?	Outhouse East of Building "D"
Ranch Era (Late)	1950's- 1960's?	On-site well	Outhouse East of Building "D" or a return to indoor facilities coupled with the septic tank
Kentucky Camp "Dark Ages" (No occupation)		n/a	n/a
Modern Era	1990 - Present	On site well	New latrine near Cabin "C"

## CLIPPINGS by Lew Orrell

# ఈమిత్తు⊸ In Memory of Lew Orrell ఈమిత్రు⊸

Our dear friend and historian F. Lewis Orrell, Jr., passed away November 7, 1999, from complications of Hodgkins Disease. Lew, a retired metallurgist, bioengineer, and university professor, explored the history of mining all over Arizona, from the depths of the state archives to the slopes of the waste dumps. Lew's interests were eclectic, but he was no dilettante: his science degree from the prestigious MIT was followed by a masters in metallurgical engineering from the University of Kentucky and a PhD in metallurgy from Ohio State University. Lew's academic career extended from a metallurgy professorship at the University of Kentucky to an appointment as professor of medicine at the University of Southern California.

In industry Lew continued his focus on research, working on the development of atomic fuels, metallurgical processes, and artificial human organs. In retirement he studied everything from genealogy to geology, from the history of the military to the history of mining.

In his regular "Clippings" column for this newsletter, Lew provided *Friends* his unique perspective, putting the story of Kentucky Camp within the broad context of historical developments in southern Arizona. Lew's curiosity and scholarship encompassed not just the drier side of mining and technology, but also human nature: comedy and drama, intrigue and passion. He entertained audiences as diverse as our Passport in Time volunteers to the members of the Mining History Association's national conference. In upcoming issues, the *Chronicle* will publish some of the informal reports Lew wrote about his investigations concerning Kentucky Camp.

The *Friends* are indebted to Lew Orrell for his sharing of his time, knowledge, and tools. But it's the personal side of Lew that we will miss the most—his dry wit, the twinkle in his eye, the questions on his mind, his kind and generous spirit.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in his memory to the Arizona Historical Society 949 E. Second Street Tucson, AZ 85719.

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## PROGRESS REPORTS

Mark and Sandy Doumas, with the help of caretakers Ron Kisselburgh and Joan Chianese, have nearly completed the electrical installation for Cabin C, digging trenches, pulling cable, and installing removable woodwork which will be used to anchor the outlets and overhead light fixtures. In fact, all the electrical work will be completely reversible, which is the preferred method of making even small changes to historic structures. If we decide some day to remove this "newfangled" improvement, it will leave no marks or damage to the original building fabric.



Jim Britton and Mark Doumas installing electrical cable.

## "Rooms with a View" Update:

The grand opening of Cabin C as a cabin rental will be postponed until the well is up and pumping. However, Jim and Marie Britton have spent days working on interior plastering of the cabin, and Jim's smooth finishes now rival that of our experts from Sonora who first showed us the art at our April 1999 PIT project. Jim's experiments with different mixes of the local dirt and imported sand has yielded a recipe that resists cracking and peeling.

Tony Bratosh continues painting woodwork in the cabin, Joan Bratosh has designed curtains that she will fabricate on site. Glenn Haslett repaired the table and chairs that will go into the cabin

#### Stuff Wanted: Used but nice furnishings for Cabin C:

ш	rugs
	rocking chairs
	lamps
	microwave
	coffeepot
	hot plate
	pots and pans
	dishes and utensils
	near-new twin-size mattresses
	small love-seat or easy chairs
	barbeque grill or picnic table

If you can donate any of these items, please call Betty Leavengood at 885-3570 or Don Fisher at 722-9224. It's tax-deductible!

and began a design for a small open sideboard for the kitchen, to store pots and pans (and, for the nonpurists among us, a future microwave and coffee pot). Caretakers Ron Kisselburgh and Joan Chianese along with other Friends continue the interior and exterior adobe patching, and Joan and Ron's kitchen floor repairs beautifully match the original. What we need most now are furnishings – see inset.

The Arizona Forests' cabin rental board has developed a sample rental agreement and rental information, which details rental amenities and renter responsibilities. The *Arizona Republic* ran a story about the rental program, and the Forest Service has already received several calls asking about the Kentucky Camp cabin.

## Other progress reports:

Over 50 kids and adults from Cub Scout Pack 115 of Tucson came to the October 9 workday to help do adobe work and learn about the history of the site. On the November 13 workday, "Loners on Wheels" members held their second annual "Howard Cearfoss Memorial Volunteer Day." The very friendly "Loners" patched adobe, cleaned up trash, and prepared a vandalized fence for repairs. Arnold Franks did some sleuthing to match historic photos with the current landscape to estimate where additional

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buildings might have been located. These buildings were listed in some of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century records, but appear in our historic photos only as obscure or blurry facades, or tips of roofs hidden by other buildings or vegetation.

Ron Kisselburgh continues to host numerous tours at the site, regaling horse groups and bikers and hikers with history he's gleaned from studying the files compiled by Jack Glenn and Arnold Franks. November 21 Bill Gillespie took members of the Arizona Archaeological Society, Cochise Chapter, on a tour of the camp and the mining features of Boston Gulch.

#### Where there's a will there's a well:

With the help of Duane Thwaits, Nogales Ranger District range staff officer, Kathy Makansi has found more money, and a cheaper cost estimate for the new well. In fact, we're close enough now that Forest Service engineer Walt Keyes has begun the well design and contract specs needed. Next step is to run the project through the State Water Resources Board for review. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we might have a well soon after the first of the year.

#### Meanwhile, both caretakers and Nogales Ranger District folks put in extra effort under tough circumstances:

A new well for the new millennium will not be any too soon for the caretakers, Ron Kisselburgh and Joan Chianese, who have been bringing in their own drinking water and making the long trip to the vault toilet to save water. Nor for the beleaguered Nogales Ranger District staff, who have found it difficult to make weekly water buffalo deliveries—the district has lost 3 key employees in a Forest-wide reorganization, and the remaining folks are having a hard time keeping up with the work across the district, which stretches from Sasabe to Sonoita, from Nogales to Madera Canyon.

It would be impossible to list all the things Mark South, Don Marion, and Steve Goldman have done for Kentucky Camp without expanding this newsletter to encyclopedia size. Mark South has

#### HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING IDEAS:

A Friends' membership, starting at only \$5! A Friends' T-shirt, only \$10 for members!

And as you think about your 1999 taxes, remember, FKC donations are tax-deductible!

served as the district-Kentucky Camp liaison for 10 years, and has worked on the site from top to bottom. Mark's done everything from fixing sewer lines to repairing the roofs to building trail, from finding funds to writing the environmental assessments needed to do projects. Don Marion has been one of the most regular links between the caretakers and the outside world, bringing supplies and information and helping with any problems that arise. Mark, Don, and Steve Goldman first started working at Kentucky Camp as soon as the Forest acquired the site, making our first adobe replacement bricks, repairing the collapsed Building D wall, and reroofing the buildings. Mark and Don spearheaded the porch-building and toilet projects, doing the preparatory work, getting materials, and leading crews during the 1998 and 1999 PIT weeks.

Kentucky Camp wouldn't be where it is today without these folks. We wish them the best of luck and happiness in all their future endeavors.

## HELP WANTED:

- Do you like to visit yard sales or thrift stores? We need help finding furnishings for Cabin C! See list, page 4, and call Betty or Don.
- We need New Board Members! Many terms will expire this spring, start thinking about how you could participate!
   □ PIT project leaders:
- For lots of woodworking projects, small to large, from repairing floors to installing door trim to constructing window screens
- For adobe work
  For grounds maintenance

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next work days are December 11, 1999, and January 8, 2000. There will be all kinds of fun chores to choose from, including:

Find furniture for Cabin C

Help clean and seal cabin floor

Help Arnold set up artifact photos

Help paint woodwork in Cabin C

F Help install window covering

Patch and repair adobe walls

Buy a Kentucky Camp T-shirt

Plus, many other fun tasks.

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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.

Student (\$5), individual (\$10), family (\$15), controuting (\$25), supporting (\$50), and lifetime (\$200) memberships are available. Send checks to Friends of Kentucky Camp, 716 Calle Rita, Tucson, AZ 85706.

President: Don Fisher (520) 722-9224

Vice-President: Betty Leavengood (520) 885-3570

Secretary: Sandy Doumas (520) 299-4281 Treasurer: Arlene Franks (520) 294-9783

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Forest Service Liaison: Kathy Makansi (520) 670-4522

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Nogales Ranger District Contact:

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 Mary Farrell, Coronado National Forest, 300 West Congress Street, Tucson, AZ 85701.

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