

# KENTUCKY CAMP CHRONICLE



Newsletter of the Friends of Kentucky Camp

February 2000

## Fabulous Opportunities Edition!

In 2000, the Friends are kicking into high gear with plans for the new millennium – not only do we need volunteers for the open house, check out other stories inside on the “Room with a View” cabin rental, the April 10-14 Passport in Time project, and an Arizona Heritage grant application for building the porch on the big building. We have opportunities for everyone!

## Help Wanted for Open House March 25

by Betty Leavengood

The Kentucky Camp Open House will be Saturday, March 25, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Already some events are scheduled to expand on the success of last year's event:

- ★ Parking coordination and shuttle service, courtesy of Joan and Tony Bratosh and Don Fisher
- ★ Gold panning demonstrations, courtesy of Dave Steimel and maybe the Desert Gold Diggers
- ★ Miniature adobe brick making, with Marie Britton
- ★ Adobe wall repairs, demonstrated and taught by Ginny Fisher
- ★ Interior plastering, with Jim Britton and Clint Waddell
- ★ Tours of Boston Gulch with Bill Gillespie.

Plus, Kelly Tighe will be on hand to sign the book she co-authored with Susan Moran, *On the Arizona Trail: A Guide for Hikers, Cyclists, and Equestrians* (see book note, page 7). But more folks are needed to help with all kinds of jobs. Please e-mail me at [HikerBetty@aol.com](mailto:HikerBetty@aol.com) or call me at 885-3570 if you can do any of these:

- ☐ Give tours of Kentucky Camp
- ☐ Help demonstrate mudding techniques.

- ☐ Be in charge of the adobe brownie/soft drink or lemonade sale, including finding folks to make butterscotch brownies and other bake sale items, set up tables, and take turns staffing the table.
- ☐ Sell raffle tickets (see “Room with a View” story inside) and Kentucky Camp T-shirts.
- ☐ Sit at the gate and hand out brochures and get people to sign a mailing list
- ☐ Prepare forms and help people make adobe bricks (we need a few for the April Passport in Time project).
- ☐ Make directional signs and event labels or banners.
- ☐ Take photographs, or write news releases and invitations.



Gold-panning demonstrations at the 1999 Open House.

## Friends to rescue 2000 Passport in Time

This year we plan to celebrate Kentucky Camp's bi-cultural heritage at our second international *Passport in Time* (PIT) project, set for April 10-14, 2000. Just as the original builders combined traditional Mexican adobe construction with Anglo-styled wooden architectural elements, we hope to combine the diverse talents and skills of our volunteers from the U.S. and Mexico in a productive, educational, and fun work week.

But the Forest Service's resources have been so strained by cuts in the Nogales Ranger District's recreation budget and the unplanned costs of the new Kentucky Camp well, the project was threatened with drastic reductions or even cancellation, until the board of the Friends of Kentucky Camp offered to take an even greater role in the PIT, providing major logistical, technical, and financial support.



Friends Joan Bratosh and Joyce Kimpland repairing baseboards at the 1999 PIT.

Our Mexican partners from the Instituto Nacional de Anthropologia e Historia (INAH) plan to return to help us repair adobe walls and continue the fine mud plastering in Building D. Any Spanish/English bilingual folks would be especially helpful, since this year we hope to have more translators so more volunteers can work directly with the Mexican experts.

The Friends have come up with an excellent list of suggested work projects, including carpentry, trail-maintenance, photography, and handy-

person chores. All would lend themselves particularly well to Friends' leadership. Our goals are to finish preparing Cabin C for the rental program, to train as many Friends and PIT volunteers as possible in INAH's mud plastering techniques, to continue work on Building C, and to do a variety of tasks to improve the grounds. **Call Arnold Franks or Jack Glenn for more details about these projects, and call Mary Farrell @670-4564 to sign on!**

**Carpentry:** install baseboards in the hallway of building D; make screens for exterior transoms and windows; buy and install screen doors; use salvageable floor boards from the hall to repair other floors; consolidate work tools and rearrange interior doors to open the parlor to the public; make step for kitchen door.

**Mud:** exterior wall repairs, foundation repointing; with INAH's help, interior plastering and cracked wall repairs.

**Trail work:** maintenance and possible extension of Boston Gulch trail; installation of numbered posts.

**Art work and graphic design:** Development of an interpretive brochure for the Boston Gulch trail, and production of an exhibit for the water pipe, maybe finishing or incorporating the geology exhibit Gina Michl began last year.

**Miscellaneous handy-person stuff:** Trim grass all around buildings to reduce fire hazard; reseal gutter on Cabin C; refinish table and chairs for Cabin; install shades and curtains in Cabin; cut down dead tree by pump house, take trash behind shed to dump.

**Photography:** we need both still and video recording of work as it progresses, and may also use photography to document historic artifacts found during survey and recording.

We will also have an archaeological survey and mapping crew, led by Forest Service archaeologist Bill Gillespie, and possibly an instrument surveying crew, led by Dick Pettigrew. Since the hard-working PIT and Friends crews will deserve more than just the

intrinsic reward of jobs well done, we have planned some evening events:

**Tuesday, April 11:** Western singer Tom Chambers will entertain with his songs about "those green Sonoita hills."

**Wednesday, April 12:** Ken Graun, who has just published *What's Out Tonight? a 50 Year Guide to the Skies* will set up his telescopes to let people look at the stars.

**Thursday, April 13:** Martha Robles and Janeth Angulo, the INAH architects who provided tortilla-making demonstrations at our last PIT project, have offered to do a full Mexican dinner for us this year, complete with Mexican piñatas and other games.

The Forest Service is also working with Tucson High Magnet School to bring some bilingual students to the PIT project one afternoon and evening. In fact the Tucson High music director may be able to schedule the Mariachi band to come. Students would have the opportunity to help us with translations and to learn about historic preservation, and we'd have the opportunity to hear some great music!



## Changing of the Guard

Ron Kisselburgh and Joan Chianese are wrapping up their KC caretaker stint and will be moving on to work on their own old house in Tombstone. They have endured the coldest, and without a well, the driest months at Kentucky Camp with amazing aplomb and grace. Ron and Joan dug ditches for the electrical line, cut grass to reduce fire hazard, cleaned the cabin and Building D, and even accomplished that most difficult, most heinous, and most dangerous job, cleaning and organizing the tool shed. Ron has become a local celebrity for his colorful tours of the camp, and he's been in great demand by hiking groups and others passing through. Many thanks to them both!

Clint and Bev Waddell joined Joan and Ron for the month of January. With Clint's professional plastering experience, the Waddells have nearly completed the fine interior plastering of Cabin C. We hope they can return in March. Meanwhile, Steve Harper, retired Forest Supervisor and trail crew leader extraordinaire, will be returning to caretake in February.

## WELCOME NEW FRIENDS!

Linda Cross

Sally Hansen

Jim Click

Motorola Foundation

## Fine Mud Plaster Tips

by Jim Britton

(As regular readers know, Jim and Marie Britton have spent many days working on the interior plastering of the cabin. Jim's experiments with different mixes of screened local dirt and imported sand has yielded a recipe that resists cracking and peeling. Here he provides some guidelines to help other Friends try the interior plastering.)

### Recommended tools:

- 1) Sponge float (the one I had is 8" and I just bought a 12" - in some cases bigger is better),
- 2) Metal cement rectangular trowel - 12" (I round corners off with a grinder).
- 3) Flat nose repoint trowel - 5" long and about 1.5 " wide (There are 2 in the shed).
- 4) Spray bottle (There are some in the tool shed at KC, but most don't work well).

### Formula:

Using a plastic cup of any size, I have been mixing 5 parts soil (sifted with window screen) to 2 parts silver sand. Buckets of both materials are "hidden" behind the metal storage shed.

Don't get confused with the buckets which contain "rough coat" soil which has been screened through the 1/8" mesh. There are also buckets of "sacrificial coat" soil, which is screened through 1/4" mesh for use on exterior walls. The "rough coat" is used on damaged wall surface to make a rather smooth surface on which the "fine coat" can be applied. The final



"fine" coat should be only 1/8" or less in thickness, just enough to cover existing flat surface and to bring damaged surface to equal level.

## Techniques:

- 1) Wet surface to be plastered several times before applying mud. Be careful not to over-wet each time because it will run down and ruin any surface below.
- 2) Spread on fine plaster using heavy pressure against wall in an upward/side motion.
- 3) Use long WOOD FLOAT to see if application is flat and even. Do this by moving wood float over surface and note any high or low spots. Try to smooth by rubbing with wood float.
- 4) When surface is fairly smooth, and after it has dried to a certain point (experience is important here) use a wet SPONGE FLOAT in a circular motion to smooth surface.
- 5) Let dry slowly by spraying light mist over area a couple of times during the day.
- 6) Step back and admire your beautiful "new wall."

## To Repair Cracks:

Check the areas worked previously. If there are any cracks, they should only be "hairline" and you can close them by doing the following:

- 1) Spray crack and small surrounding area with LIGHT MIST (too much will make surface run and ruin it) Use the SPONGE FLOAT in circular motion over crack until it closes, usually only 3 or 4 swirls will do it.


Good Luck!



"Cabin C" at the 1999 Open House.

## Win a Night at Historic Kentucky Camp!

Win a night at historic Kentucky Camp's "Room with a View" cabin! Raffle tickets go on sale at our March 25 Open House to help raise money for site restoration. You can also buy them after March 25 from any board member. The prize includes transportation from Tucson to Kentucky Camp and back, dinner and breakfast, and lodging in the furnished adobe cottage for 1 to 4 persons. Buy lots of raffle tickets for yourself, your family, and your friends and get a volume discount: tickets will be one for \$3, two for \$5, and 5 for \$10.

Nº 0750	<b>Win a Night at Historic Kentucky Camp</b> Nº 0750
 <p><b>Friends of Kentucky Camp is a 501C3 Organization</b></p>	<p>Win a night at historic Kentucky Camp in the beautiful Santa Rita Mountains. Relive the glory days of the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company. <u>Includes:</u> transportation from Tucson to Kentucky Camp and back, dinner and breakfast, and lodging in a furnished adobe cottage for 1-4 persons.</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Price: ONE \$3.00 - TWO for \$5.00 - FIVE for \$10.00</p> <p>Drawing: Fall 2000</p>

## "Rooms with a View" Update

Thanks to all who have been helping to get the Kentucky Camp cabin "C" ready to rent in the Forest Service's "Rooms with a View" program! The cabin is beginning to look very cozy and cute, and besides the bunk beds and kitchen table, we now have a rocking chair, an easy chair, and kitchen utensils (thanks to generous donations by Friends). We still need a few things, including rugs, mattresses, and other furnishings. Call Betty Leavengood or Don Fisher if you can help scare up some donated furniture.

The Forest Service's Cabin Rental Fee Demo Board plans to visit Kentucky Camp mid-February. The Board has developed some formats for brochures and reservation forms, but if any of the Friends are interested in graphic design or writing, we could use some help customizing the standard forms for Kentucky Camp.

**STUFF STILL WANTED:***Used but nice furniture for Cabin C:*

Rugs (to keep splinters out of feet!)

Lamps

Microwave (or someone who can fix a broken timer on a microwave)

Coffeepot, hot plate

New or near-new twin size mattresses

Small love-seat or futon couch

Plus, how about another rocking chair so people won't fight over the lovely one we have!

**Not all KC days are Work Days***(Some intrepid campers braved the cold, the drought, and potential Y2K bugs to bring in the New Year at Kentucky Camp. Betty Leavengood provided this report to reassure the editor that all survived the expedition.)*

New Year's Eve at Kentucky Camp was a ball. Don and Ginny Fisher, Linda Cross, Sally Hansen, and myself camped out. Caretakers Ron and Joan were there too, of course. We had a big fire, cooked dinner, and then launched into Trivial Pursuit in the trailer. Ron and Joan had shrimp, cheese and crackers, smoked oysters, and champagne. We played Trivial Pursuit for four hours. Ginny would say, "I don't know anything about that subject," and then promptly answer the question. Sally, a librarian, is a walking encyclopedia. The winning team - Linda, Sally, and Betty - defeated the other team (Joan, Ron, Don, and Ginny) by 10 points. At the stroke of midnight we sang the world's worst rendition of Auld Lang Syne. A fun time was had by all.

**Forest Recognition**

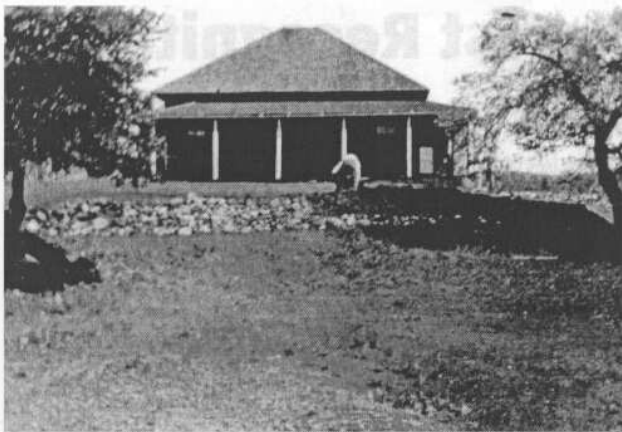
Do you get the impression from visiting Kentucky Camp, or from reading this newsletter, that the Friends have done a tremendous amount of work the past few years? The Coronado National Forest recognizes that fact, too. **Forest Supervisor John McGee** has nominated the Friends of Kentucky Camp for the Forest Service's National Volunteer Award 2000. In his nomination letter, Mr. McGee wrote that the Friends deserved National recognition, citing the quality of the Friends' work, the breadth and diversity of their skills, their innovation in dealing with problems and opportunities, and their generosity in contributing to the preservation and interpretation of the Coronado National Forest's heritage resources. Way to go, Friends!



Friends demonstrate how dirt is screened for adobe patching material at the 1999 Kentucky Camp Open House.

**HELP WANTED:**

- ☐ We need **New Board Members!** Many terms will end this spring, so there will be several vacancies. Start thinking about how you could participate!
- ☐ **PIT project leaders** for adobe work, grounds maintenance, and lots of woodworking projects, small to large, from repairing floors to installing door trim to constructing window screens.
- ☐ Do you like to visit yard sales or thrift stores? We still need **help finding furnishings** for Cabin C! See list above and call Betty or Don.



Northwest elevation of the Kentucky Camp headquarters building ("hotel") in the 1920s, showing the porch we'd like to reconstruct. Photo courtesy of Linda Peters Roslund.

## Ask and you shall receive...

At least the corollary seems true: if we do *not* ask, our chances of receiving are a lot less! So we still need *Friends* who might be interested in looking for money.

Mark Doumas will be working on a grant to submit to the Arizona State Heritage fund to provide funds to rebuild the porch on the big building; Mary Farrell is shooting for a Forest Service grant to help with the PIT project. But there are many more opportunities going begging. Ken Haber has found references for all



Southwest side of headquarters building, 1920s, showing long porch view. Photograph courtesy of Linda Peters Roslund.

kinds of grant money, free for the asking! We don't expect to get every donation or grant we ask for, but the more we ask for, the better our chances will be. Plus, we'll be honing our skills, and our spiels, to be more polished and more convincing each time. Call Betty Leavengood if you'd like to find out more.

## Some fund-raising efforts to date by Betty Leavengood, Friends of Kentucky Camp Vice President

Back in March I decided to try my hand at fund-raising. The first attempt was at the 1999 open house during archeology month. We baked adobe (butterscotch brownies) and sold soft drinks. The sale and donations netted about \$250.

Next came the "be the first to use the new toilet" drawing during PIT week. We took in \$25 for that auspicious event. Then I thought that it would work to sell raffle tickets for a night in the soon to be opened Kentucky Camp Bed and No Breakfast. Summit Hut agreed to sell tickets. The tickets were at the printer when I received word that a little known Arizona law prohibited non-profit organizations from conducting raffles until they had been in business for 5 years. Stop the press! I told Pima Printing. However, the *Friends* will be 5 years old by the end of March, just in time for the 2000 Open House!

Next came the "Letters from the Register" campaign. I'd go through the guest register at Kentucky Camp, get names that I thought I could find in the phone book, and send them a friendly letter asking for donations. So far \$320 has been donated this way! I plan to continue sending letters from the register every month or so. Then I hit up my son, Rodney Graham, and Jim Click. Both came through for a total of \$450.

Finally I have a short slide show about Kentucky Camp that I will be happy to present to organizations. So far, I've had no takers. So, if you know of any group that would like to hear more about Kentucky Camp, give me a call (885-3570) and I'll be happy to put in an appearance.



## BOOK NOTE

### *On the Arizona Trail: A guide for Hikers, Cyclists, and Equestrians.*

By Kelly Tighe and Susan Moran, Pruett Publishing Company, 1998.

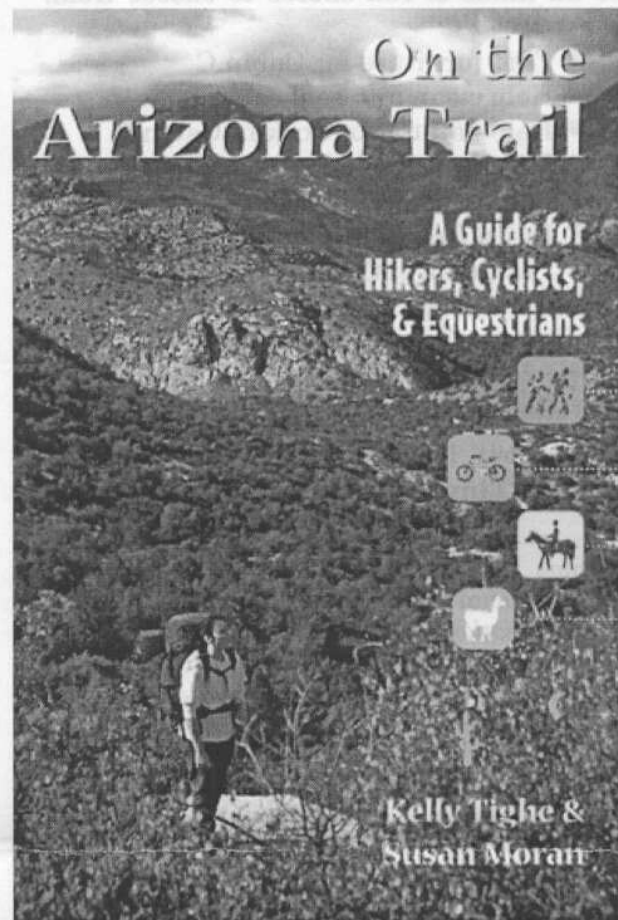
Once completed, the 780-mile-long Arizona Trail will traverse the state from Mexico to Utah, crossing a diversity of climate, land forms, geology, and vegetation zones unparalleled in any other long-distance trail in the nation.

Bravely published even before the Arizona Trail is finished, Tighe and Moran's comprehensive guide not only provides detailed descriptions of the completed sections, but also overviews of the sections proposed. The book is an invaluable aid for casual day hikers who want to explore parts of the trail as well as for serious backpackers intent on completing the whole route.

The introduction includes information about the history of the trail itself (including how volunteers have been important in every aspect of its development), the biotic communities of Arizona, and critical safety tips. An overview of Arizona's history adds the breadth and depth of time to the landscape: the discussion encompasses the land's earliest Paleoindian hunters up to through prospectors, cowboys, and even Forest Service rangers.

The trail is divided into 42 "passages." Where feasible, the authors divide the passages into logical trips from 3 to 18 miles long. Each trip description includes a brief overview, a list of pertinent maps, difficulty rating, length, elevation gain, water availability, and directions. Potential hazards, or places where the trail may be difficult to follow, are highlighted and explained. Good camp areas and livestock facilities are also identified. Especially handy are descriptions of alternate routes for bicycles where the Arizona Trail crosses wilderness areas, and notes about other trails that could be used to make day-hike loops.

Kentucky Camp is featured with both a photograph and some history, and all the book's trail descriptions include enticing vignettes of natural and cultural features that may be seen along the trail.



Kelly Tighe will be at the March 25 Open House to sell and sign copies of *On the Arizona Trail*.

Over a decade ago when the Nogales Ranger District was planning the Santa Rita Mountain Passage, there were two viewpoints about bringing the trail through Kentucky Camp. One view held that the camp was a safety hazard, and that increased visitation could accelerate deterioration of the site, so the Arizona Trail should be routed elsewhere.

But it was the other viewpoint that prevailed: that hikers, cyclists, and equestrians should be encouraged to enjoy Kentucky Camp and the traces of the historic Santa Rita Water and Mining Company. Thanks to the dedication of the Nogales district and our volunteers, Kentucky Camp has become a popular destination and trailside attraction. *On the Arizona Trail* shows that Kentucky Camp is in most excellent company.

-MMF

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next work day will be **February 12**. There will be all kinds of fun chores to choose from, including:

- ☛ Find furniture for Cabin C
- ☛ Help clean and seal cabin floor
- ☛ Help paint woodwork in Cabin C
- ☛ Help install window covering
- ☛ Patch and repair adobe walls
- ☛ Buy a Kentucky Camp T-shirt
- ☛ Plus, many other fun tasks.

There will be no work day March 11, because instead we want everyone to come to the **March 25, 2000 Kentucky Camp Open House!** Come and bring your friends! Also remember the **Passport in Time project, April 10-14.**



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), contributing (\$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  
Director at Large: Arnold Franks (520) 294-9783  
Forest Service Liaison: Kathy Makansi (520) 670-4522  
Newsletter Editor: Mary Farrell (520) 670-4564  
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.



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

Pete and Judy Van Cleve  
4858 S. Whitewing Rd.  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650

