

KENTUCKY CAMP CHRONICLE



Newsletter of the Friends of Kentucky Camp

June 1998

OLD MINING CAMP REVIVED

by *Candy Shoemaker*

April 20-24, Kentucky Camp, an early 20th century mining camp, bustled with activity. Through the efforts of the *Friends of Kentucky Camp* and the National Forest Service's *Passport in Time Program (PIT)*, more than 40 volunteers and Coronado National Forest personnel came together to restore and rebuild this historic site. *Passport in Time* is a National Forest program in which volunteers work alongside Forest archaeologists, helping preserve heritage resources by conducting archaeological survey and excavation, doing historic research, or restoring and stabilizing historic buildings.

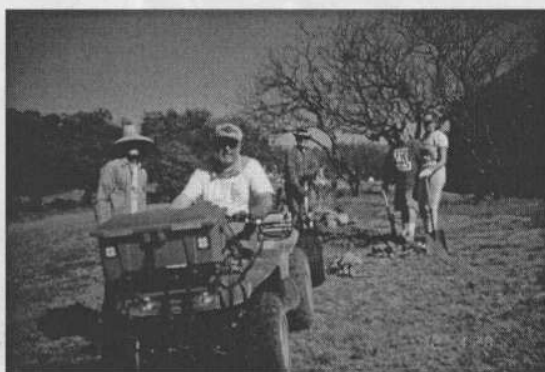
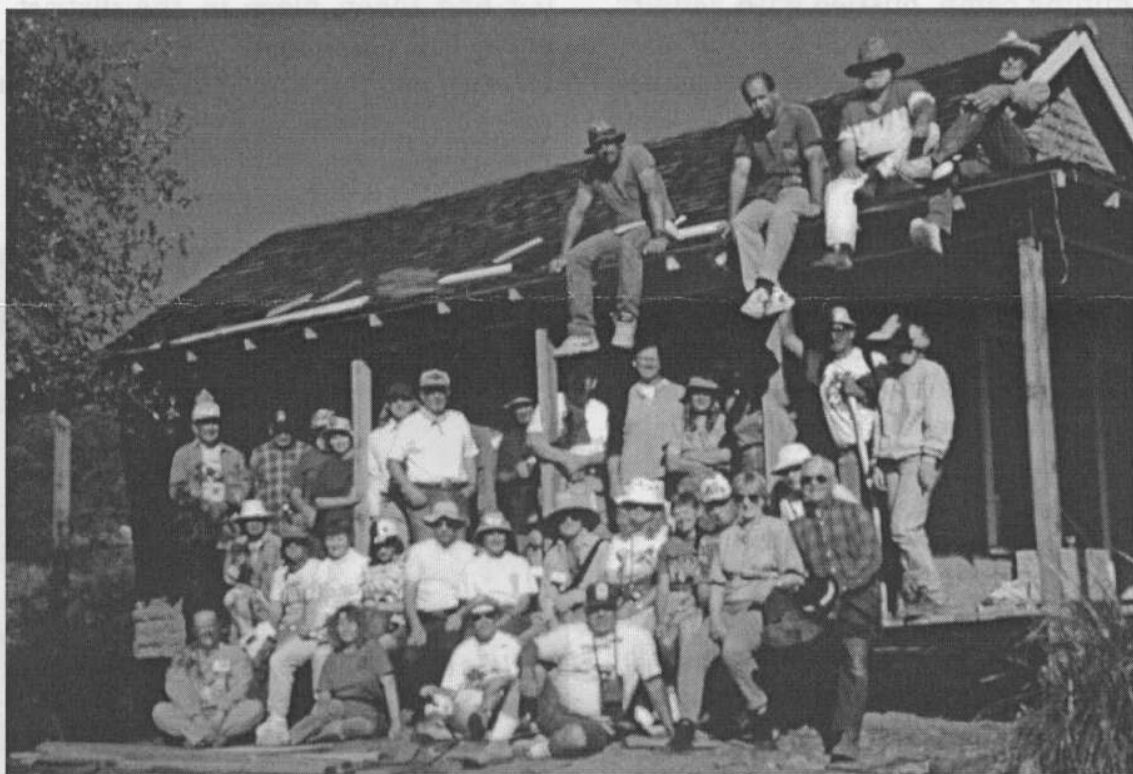
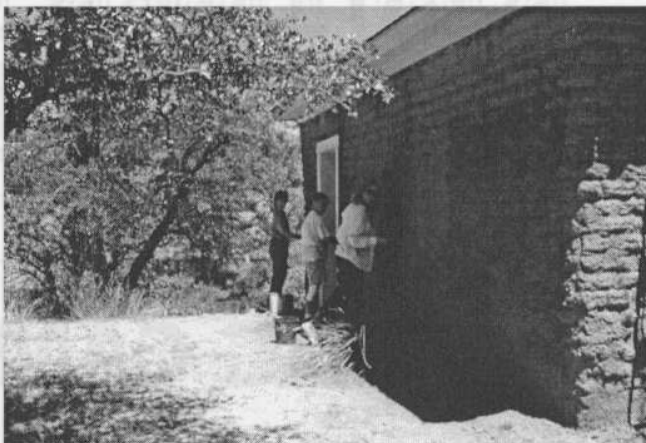
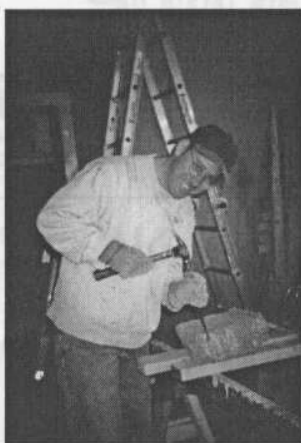
Kentucky Camp, located in the Santa Rita Mountains northwest of Sonoita, is now part of the Coronado National Forest. The site was established in 1904 as headquarters for the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company, led by James Stetson, a California mining engineer, and George McAneny, a wealthy businessman. The Company's plan was to channel runoff from the Santa Rita Mountains' spring snowmelt to the placer fields in

the Greaterville mining district. Placer mining had taken place in the district in the 1870s and 1880s with some success, but the scarcity of water forced most of the miners to move on by 1886.



Welcome to New Friends!

Ed and Nancy Buell
Don and Wanda Black
Duane and Nancy Dilley
Dennis and Candy Shoemaker



Back in 1904, the *Arizona Star* reported that the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company had more than 40 laborers at work digging ditches, laying pipe, and blasting tunnels, all to build the impressive water system that would power the hydraulic "monitors" and "giants," high-pressure nozzles that both excavated the dirt and began processing of the gold. But the mining operation, though reported to be "tearing up the ground with splendid results" didn't pan out. In 1905, the day before a meeting with stockholders, James Stetson was killed in a fall from a Tucson hotel window. George McAneny had troubles of his own, with his funds tied up in a messy divorce. The buildings and surrounding land were used as a cattle ranch until the 1960s.



The area became public land administered by the Forest Service in 1989, and the Coronado National Forest began stabilizing the buildings in 1991, with the help of volunteers in several *PIT* projects. Since 1994, the *Friends of Kentucky Camp*, a non-profit volunteer organization, has helped with restoration, research, and interpretation. The "Friends" sponsor workdays at the camp every month on the second Saturday. They make adobe bricks, patch walls, fix woodwork, repair ceilings, and even mow the grass. During the recent *PIT* week, the *Friends* prepared several of the projects, organized equipment and

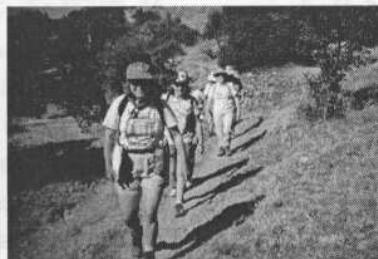
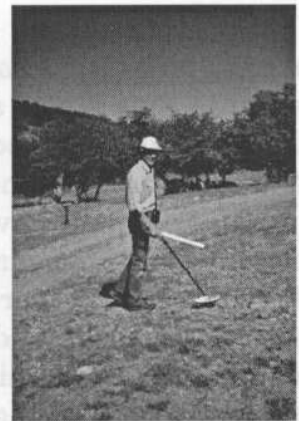
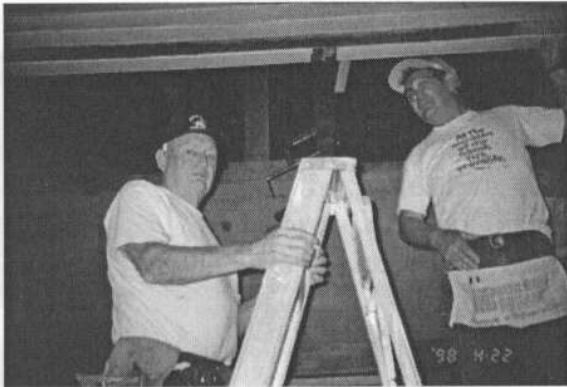
materials, headed up work teams, gave talks and demonstrations, led tours, and ensured the success of the project with their charming companionship.



1998 PASSPORT IN TIME PROJECT A HUGE SUCCESS!

Over 40 people working together for a week can get a lot done! We had 30 people from *Passport in Time*, 12 from the *Friends*, and 6 from the Forest Service. One accomplishment can be seen even from the road, the New Porch! This crew was headed by Mark South, Don Marion, Ken Haber, Cliff Bergstrom, Drum Haverstock, Jeremy Stowall, and Monte Green, aided by Esther Bergstrom, Lauren Pittas, Doris Pettigrew, and Betty Leavengood. Other products will greet you as you stroll the grounds, like the newly restored windows on the south side of the Office and the doors and other woodwork inside (many thanks to Jack Glenn, Arnold Franks, Jack Mutchler, Ed Buell, Ken LeRoy, and Glenn Haslett), the rock retaining walls to control erosion on the hill slope (Tom Gordon, Paulie Davidson, Phyllis Price, John Price, Don Post,





Dennis Shoemaker, Nancy Buell, Don Fisher, and Betty Leavengood), and the painted fascia, soffits and trim (Betty Leavengood, Jo Haslett, and Jack Mutchler).

Some accomplishments are more subtle, like the repaired ceilings or the carefully patched floors (Gerri and Ken LeRoy, Ed Buell, and Arnold Franks) and rebuilt adobe walls (Greg Maisel and Don Kimpland) inside the Office, and the elimination of basal coving at the bottom of the adobe walls outside (Ellen Post & Frank Spingola). These things not only look *good*, they look as they should, so unless you were familiar with their previous conditions you might not notice how improved they are.

Some of the work leaves no trace on the ground, but will be crucial to our future management of the site and the vicinity. Dick Pettigrew with Izzy Washburn and David Maurer produced a contour map of the site that will help with future management of the

site. Dave Brown and *his* mapping crew, Betty Leavengood, Jo Haslett, and Jeremy Stowall, worked on a map of one of the larger hydraulic pits in Boston Gulch which will be used in a display about the water system and mining operation. Nancy Hough and Mark Dragoslovich produced scale drawings of the painted wall decorations in the fancy office rooms; their detective work revealed many details of construction. Bill Gillespie and Paul Hoyt and their ever-changing survey crew (including Pete Van Cleve, Susan Jones, Greg Maisel, Dennis Shoemaker, and Lauren Pittas) discovered and recorded previously unknown prehistoric and historic sites in the surrounding countryside. Travis Pasqual provided GPS data.

Pete Van Cleve demonstrated small-scale sluicing and panning; Gerri LeRoy recovered even more money for the site, though, by giving tours and recruiting a few generous and interested visitors into the *Friends of Kentucky Camp*.

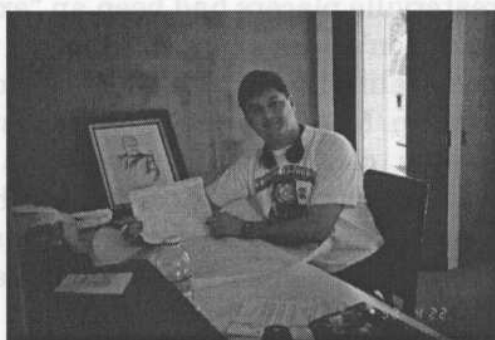
We especially thank the adobe patchers, including Eleanor Post, Frank Spingola, Joyce Kimpland, Esther Bergstrom, Doris Pettigrew, Nancy Hough, Susan Jones, Kathy Makansi, Ginny Fisher, and Lauren Pittas. This work requires not only precise scientific calculations to get the mix correct (something between brownie dough and baby poop) but a meditative patience and artistic skill to apply the mud thinly enough that it'll adhere.

Ginny Fisher not only provided an informative talk on useful plants in the region, she also kindly demonstrated the application of some medicinal plants on her own leg, injured during daring video documentation. Nancy Buell served as official nurse, and luckily didn't have many cases much more serious than splinters and sunburn to take care of.

Candy Shoemaker, Liv Post, and Lauren caught everything on print film; Candy and Liv also did the herculean and miraculous task of organizing the Forest's copious previous Kentucky Camp slides, and Candy and Lauren produced an imaginative and salubrious greeting for our missing comrade, Lew Orrell, whose open-heart surgery precluded his attendance.



Irene Bakos, with perhaps the most important job of all, was queen of the cook trailer, and kept the food group members very well-fed and happy. Special thanks also to Monte Greene, Arnold Franks, Jack Glenn, Jack Mutchler, Mark South, Don Marion, and Ken Haber for all the planning and preparation they did in the months before the project.



CLIPPINGS by Lew Orrell

One of the many fun aspects of probing the backgrounds of sites is chasing answers to the ubiquitous "whys?" The effort is akin to playing detective. The parallel has been so well recognized that years ago Winks edited a tome entitled *The Historian as Detective*. The site need not be famous nor notorious to provide a generous supply of "whys?" Even a plain vanilla (to the uninitiated) location such as Kentucky Camp offers a plethora of "detective" opportunities.

For example, who brought whom to Greaterville, McAneny or Stetson? To be able to answer this question one would possess many important details of the men's recent, relevant mining activities and of their presence in the Tucson-Greaterville region. Mason Coggin, a mining man from way back, explains that invariably it is the geologist or mining engineer who knows of the prospect and persuades the man with the deep pockets to finance its development.

Some evidence supports speculation that Stetson brought McAneny to Greaterville, but how did they meet? How did Stetson learn of the Greaterville placers? So far there's no documentation of his presence in Tucson nor Greaterville prior to 1902, the date for formation of McAneny's Santa Rita Water and Mining Company. True, tales of gold prospects traveled far and wide among mining men but it had been more than 20 years since the Greaterville placers had been an "excitement." Stetson's father owned farmland near San Jose, California, which was the closest large city to McAneny's California estate. Meaningless coincidence or was this the facilitator for the men's meeting and hammering out a partnership? A credible answer would enhance the story of Kentucky Camp.

No matter whom was the chicken or the egg in terms of who enticed whom, McAneny did

indeed arrive at the Greaterville placers and spent a bundle of money building an hydraulic system and Kentucky Camp. Of course, recognition of this immediately prompts, "where'd he get it?"

and we have another mystery. The San Jose newspapers credited him with being a successful mining man with a wealth of \$4 million. Don't scoff. These were 1900 dollars which would put him in the \$400 million class today. Not a Bill Gates, to be sure, but hardly a you or me, either.

OK, so the newspapers of that era bloated reports, particularly if they concerned mining or mining investors. But, even if they were careless about the decimal point, it's reasonable to expect that amassing \$400,000 (if not \$4,000,000) should leave some tracks. With McAneny, not a clue – no bent twigs, fingerprints nor careless footprints. Could he have inherited it? The evidence is solid and clear: no. We can conclude only that, were he alive today, he could lead the IRS on a merry chase.

Next time, let's talk about the several important gaps in the story of Kentucky Camp left by James Stetson.



George B. McAneny

Several weeks ago the writer stumbled over a pothole in life's road losing a few weeks of "active duty." During the hiatus the solicitous encouragement of *Friends of Kentucky Camp*, members of the 1998 *Passport in Time*, and Mary accelerated recovery. My sincere and hearty thanks to each of you! Lew

WORK UPDATE by Jack Glenn**PIT CARETAKERS**

April brought us Allen White, Ruth Ashton, Ken & Gerri Le Roy. May brought us Jeanine Gwilliam, Doreen Bogucki and Monroe Moore. One of the very bright spots of Mary Farrell's effort to help Arnold in his caretaker duties was that she picks only talented fun-loving people with a sense of adventure to be *Passport in Time* volunteer caretakers. Thank you, Mary, and special thanks to the *PIT* volunteers for the work and the smiles. There are too many projects to list all they worked on – they simply did all the projects in progress during their stays.

MAY 9th WORK DAY

Tony & Joan Bratosh painted soffits on the gold-processing building. This is a mean job – just ask Jack Mutchler, who put on the first coat of primer. Kathy Makansi led her loyal mudders to the Office and with the help of Don & Ginny Fisher, Candy Shoemaker (*PIT* volunteer and new member) and *PIT* caretakers Jeanine Gwilliam, Doreen Bogucki and Monroe Moore moved the visitors room closer to completion. Tom Gordon with help from Paulie Davidson cleaned up all the scrap wood and took a load of trash to the dump. Arnold as usual was all over the place doing projects, and I just tried to stay out of the way and not get into trouble.

THE NEW PORCH by Mary Farrell

Those of you not blinded by the sweat or exhaustion of hard work may have noticed that the *new* porch is not constructed exactly like the *old* porch. How can this be, you may ask, considering that our architect Monte Greene spent days and days examining historic photos of the cabin's porch and scrutinizing standing porches of the same period? And how can this be, after months and years of the Forest Service archaeologists screaming and preaching the three rules of historic



preservation, to wit: *preserve*, rather than *repair*; *repair* rather than *replace*, and only where necessary, *replace*, and *replace with like materials*.

The new porch is *not*, technically, a reconstruction. A reconstruction would indeed be constructed just like the original. Unfortunately, in Cabin C's case, it would probably fall down just like the original, too. But if longevity were the only consideration, we might be willing to risk building it the original way. After all, the original porch lasted at least 20 years, according to our photos.

The real issue is public safety. The cabin was constructed as a private, and probably part-time, residence. It was probably occupied by one or at the most two people, who would calmly and politely occasionally sit or stand

Cozy Getaway Lovely Setting

The Forest service trailer is again available for *friends* who wish to take a turn helping to caretake Kentucky Camp. Please call Mary Farrell, 670-4564, to schedule yourself for a day, a week, or a month.



or walk on the porch. Now, the cabin is part of a historic site open to the public. There could be a dozen or more visiting Scouts or hikers at once on the porch; when we're lucky, there could even be forty-some *Passport in Time* and *Friends of Kentucky Camp* volunteers posing for a group picture.

This sort of adaptation of old buildings for new uses is called "rehabilitation" in the *Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Restoration and Rehabilitation*. It's a legitimate way to treat historic buildings – the Forest Service wishes to preserve Kentucky Camp for the public, not as a private residence. The new porch was constructed to be as safe and sturdy for the new use as practical, while conforming to the original scale and overall design. And, the porch will help protect the original adobe walls from wind and rain damage. To me, longevity does figure in as a secondary concern: we have so little public money for historic preservation and interpretation, I think it would be irresponsible to build something that would require expensive, extensive repairs or replacement in a few years.

Some of the more modern aspects of the porch will be less jarring over time: for example, we hope to add fill around the north and west sides of the cabin, to reconstruct the ground contours visible in the 1920s photograph. When we do, the concrete pier foundations will be less obvious and we may be able to

remove the railings that are now being added for safety's sake.

We invite you to bring your lawn chair and sit on the porch while pondering the quandaries of accurate reconstruction vs. practical rehabilitation. But we warn you: you may be distracted by a cool breeze and the view – no matter how nice the porch looks from the outside, it's best appreciated from the inside! The porch frames the view and makes the rest of Kentucky Camp all the more lovely.

VOTE! RENEW!

Send us your ballots! Send us your money! No, we're not selling votes, it just happens to be time to renew your membership in the Friends of Kentucky Camp and time to elect our new officers.

Enclosed with this newsletter, if you are a paid member of the FKC, is a ballot with the names of those members who have graciously agreed to serve on our board. Please send in your vote with your dues.

The Forest Service is sending this issue of the *Chronicle* to all the *PIT* volunteers as a small token of our appreciation for your hard work. If you would like to keep receiving the newsletter, see more pictures of yourselves at work, and keep abreast of past and present events at Kentucky Camp, join the *Friends*! A mere \$10 a year will get you six information-packed issues of the *Chronicle*, free entry to all workdays, and a chance to vote in elections. Student discounts are available, as are more expensive (completely tax deductible) memberships for those who wish to donate a little more. Membership dues and contributions go directly to the nails, wood, and tools used at the site; all blood sweat and tears are donated. Plus, your support helps apply for grant money, which often requires matching contributions.

Small Room w/Big Skylight

Responding to popular demand, Nancy Hough has begun production of a wonderful camp shower enclosure similar to the super-deluxe model that she used during the KC PIT project. It's way easier than trying to find a tree with a branch at the proper height to hang your solar shower, it's more private than hosing yourself down at the pump, and it's even a lot warmer than standing out in the breeze or using the commercial inflatable models, which some consumers report as dangerous for claustrophobes. Nancy will be manufacturing a limited edition of the showers for sale. For information, call her at 578-9053.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next work days are **June 13** and **July 11**. There will be all kinds of fun chores to choose from, including:

- ✦ mudding
- ✦ attaching baseboards
- ✦ building steps for the new porch
- ✦ making window screens
- ✦ plus many other important activities



You Asked for It! Dress for Success!

Kentucky Camp t-shirts are finally available! Jeff Burton designed and produced the first edition, with a miner's mule logo in the front pocket area and a map of KC and portrait of George McAneny on the back. Lovely dark red ink on light tan, 100% cotton Hanes Beefy-Ts. Even at the commemorative price of \$15 (profits go directly back to the site), the first run produced for the *PIT* week has almost sold out: only one XXXL left! Should we do a second run? To vote yes, call Mary Farrell, 670-4564, with your order.



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.

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

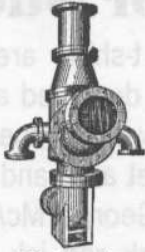
Visit the *Friends of Kentucky Camp* Homepage at <http://www.rtd.com/~arclight/fkcindex.htm>.

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

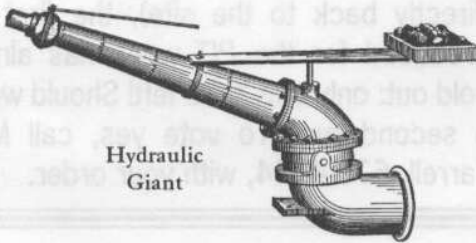


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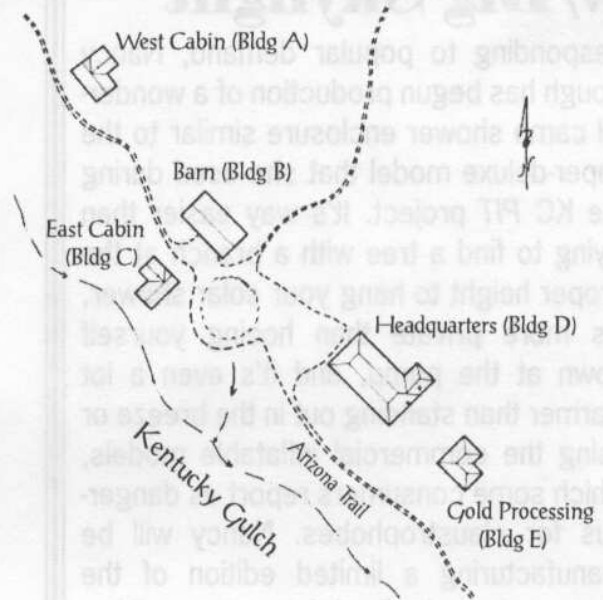
KENTUCKY CAMP, ARIZONA



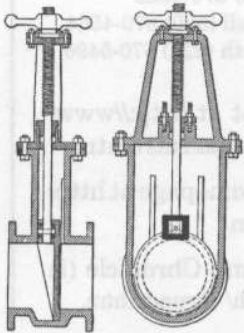
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Water Gate

