

# KENTUCKY CAMP CHRONICLE

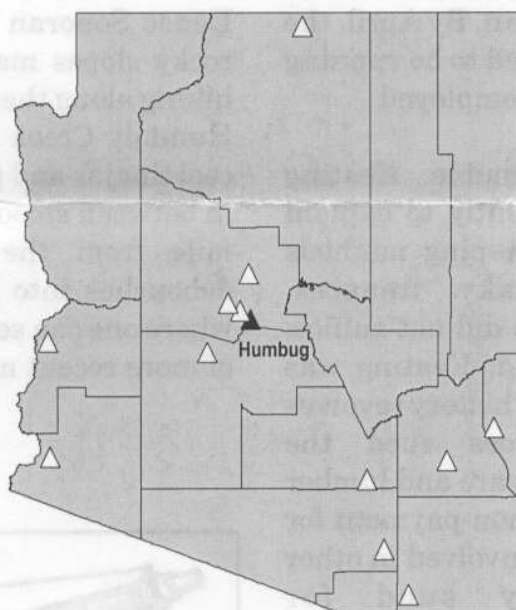


Newsletter of the Friends of Kentucky Camp

October 1998

## Hydraulicking on the Humbug

The Santa Rita Water and Mining Company's operation at Kentucky Camp wasn't the only attempt at hydraulic mining in Arizona. As part of work undertaken for the Central Arizona Project, the consulting company of Dames and Moore completed an intensive study of a hydraulic operation on Humbug Creek, northwest of Phoenix. The results are reported in *Humbug! the Historical Archaeology of Placer Mining on Humbug Creek in Central Arizona*, by James Ayers, A.E. Rogge, Everett Bassett, Melissa Keane, and Diane Douglas, 1992.



Hydraulic Mining Operations in Arizona.

First the authors review some of the other attempts at hydraulic mining in Arizona. As early as 1869, plans were made to hydraulic mine at Lynx Creek, near Prescott. Although this first project may not have gone into

operation, hydraulic mining did occur along Lynx Creek with some success from 1874 through 1916.

Hydraulic mining endeavors on the Hasyayampa River near Wickenburg ended in catastrophe. During construction of the water system, a severe winter storm caused the main dam to burst. The resulting flash flood drowned over 70 people as it destroyed everything in its path, including a secondary dam, a construction camp, and a flume.

Hydraulic mining was tried also in Yuma, La Paz, Pinal, Cochise, and Pima counties, with short-lived operations in the placer fields near Tucson at Canada del Oro, and near Sierra Vista at Ash Creek. None of these experiments was a rousing success, more often for shortage of water than lack of gold.

The bulk of the Dames and Moore study, of course, concerns the Humbug operation. Beginning in 1886, one Daniel Keating, a naturalized citizen born in England, began buying up and locating placer claims on

### Welcome to New Friends!

Joan Van Denbos & Lee Blackwell  
Daphne & Edward Madson (Old Friends, new LIFE members!)

Humbug Creek. The Yavapai Mining and Irrigation Company was incorporated in 1888. Although not listed as one of the incorporators, Keating was probably a key promoter, and in 1890 he convinced some English investors to contribute capital. That same year 70 men were reported to be working on roads, dams, ditches, and flumes.

The headquarters, "Camp Hattersley [named after one of the English investors] was reported to be a 'model camp' ... with all the conveniences of a modern town" (*Humbug!*, page 38, citing contemporary mining news accounts). Keating was superintendent. The construction work was completed in March 1891, and hydraulicking began. By April, the hydraulic works were reported to be running day and night, with 25 men employed.

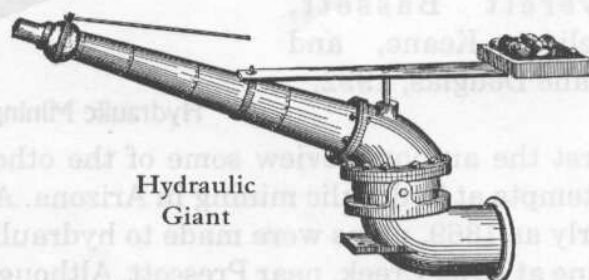
But by July there was trouble. Keating traveled to England, apparently to explain some of his unusual bookkeeping methods and the company's shaky finances. Apparently his explanations did not suffice: when he arrived in England, Keating was fired. Most of the subsequent history revolves around lawsuits. Employees sued the company for back pay; hardware and lumber dealers in Phoenix sued for non-payment for supplies; Keating had been involved in other businesses, and they sued for mismanagement of funds. Keating sued some of his investors for money he claimed they owed him. The water system developed for the hydraulic mining fell into disuse, although there were sporadic attempts to revive the claims in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The *Humbug* report describes the remains of two dams, the ditch system (including three tunnels), Camp Hattersley, a small construction camp, and a lime kiln site. Through analysis of artifacts and features, the Dames and Moore authors were able to

fill some of the gaps in the historical record, and make inferences about the people who worked the operation.

Want to see for yourself how the Yavapai Mining and Irrigation Company features compare with those of the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company? The remnants of the Yavapai company's operations are located north of Lake Pleasant, and much of the water system is shown on the USGS Governor's Peak 7.5' quadrangle. A four-wheel-drive road provides access to the dam site, and the ditch is easy to trace to the first placer fields.

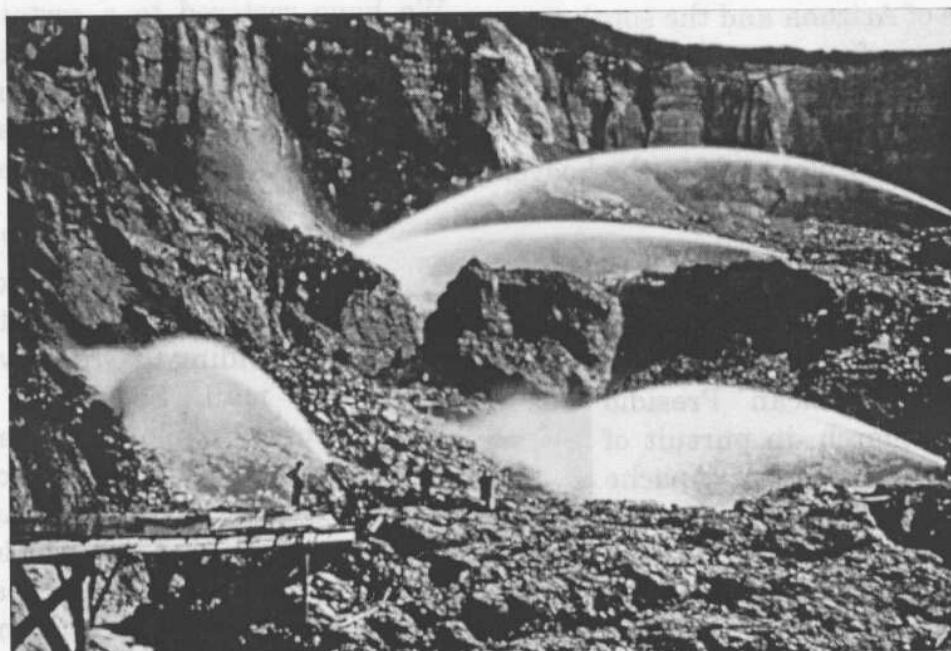
Dense Sonoran desert vegetation and loose rocky slopes make for occasionally difficult hiking along the ditch itself, but the bottom of Humbug Creek is lovely in the winter, with cool tinajas and patches of green grass tucked in between smooth bedrock outcrops. About a mile from the dam, the stream valley debouches into broad open gravel terraces, where one can see some of the heaps and piles of more recent mining activities.



"Giants" were 16-foot-long nozzles that could shoot water at 125 pounds of pressure per square inch. The nozzle was mounted on a ball socket, and a "jockey box" full of small boulders served as a counterbalance so the nozzle could be controlled with a single hand.



Giants could use 30,000 gallons of water a minute, and were capable of blasting away not only soil and gravel but also boulders and trees. An adequate water supply and sufficient head were critical for "tearing up the ground with splendid results," as a newspaper reported for the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company operations in Boston Gulch, south of Kentucky Camp. We know of no photographs of the SRW&MC operations; these photos were taken of hydraulic works in California.



So much soil and gravel was washed downstream from the hydraulic operations in California that thousands of acres of farmland in the Central Valley were covered with the waste. Over a billion cubic yards of mining debris was washed into the San Francisco Bay, impairing shipping. In 1884, flushing of debris into streams and rivers was banned in California, perhaps encouraging hydraulic miners to seek new placer grounds in other states.



## AS I SEE IT... by Arnold Franks

*Arnold Franks, past president and founding member of the Friends, has been caretaker at Kentucky Camp for some half dozen years and currently serves as coordinator. He wrote this article at the request of the Forest Service's regional archaeologist, Judy Propper, for the Southwestern Region's employee newsletter.*

Now called Kentucky Camp, it is known by various other names, "The Camp on Kentucky Gulch," the Santa Rita property, the Fenter Place, or Wick's Place. It is one of the most beautiful places on earth, on the eastern slopes of the Santa Rita Mountains....Within the breathtaking vistas from the ridge above the main building, one can see into Mexico to the south, and to Tucson, the second oldest Spanish Presidio in Arizona to the North.

From Kentucky Camp, one can look south to where Coronado's expedition entered what is now the State of Arizona and the southwest, on their journey as far east as Kansas, Texas, and the Grand Canyon to the north. As you look to the east, a large dust column rises from the vast grassy plains, from the hooves of hundreds of horses, carrying these Spaniards, the first horses to enter the United States.

One can look to the east, south, and north, and see Mexican Presidio soldiers on the march, in pursuit of the worthy foes, the great Apache Indians... Look to the south, see Captain Richard Ewell, with his Company of Dragoons, faded blue uniforms, carbines slung....Look, to the north, Captain Hunter, C.S. Army, bringing his company to occupy Tucson. Some of Hunter's men went to the Patagonia Mountains to the Mowry Silver Mine.

Here come the California Volunteers, to places such as Old Fort Buchanan, San Pedro Crossing, and exploring a road from Tubac to the East, skirting the end of the Santa Rita Mountains, looking for an easy route. Within this broad vista lie the ruins of Camp Crittenden, Fort Buchanan, Rosemont Smelter and Townsite, Greaterville, Harshaw, and oh so many more....The Empire Ranch, home of Walter Vail. He starts his large herd of cattle to market in California in defiance of high railroad freight rates.

The Santa Rita is so rich in history that it is just awesome. Military, mining, ranching, railroad and just so much more. It is all here to see, feel, and for the ones that dream, to live. Kentucky Camp started as a dream of golden riches, and still is a dream, not of golden riches, but as a place for future generations to see and enjoy.

We have restored to a certain degree two buildings. One can see the windows, doors, porches....Our goals and dreams are coming true, due to a lot of dedication and hard work by a few who love Kentucky Camp.



I ride the area with Wick, look over fences, cattle, well, and other ranch chores. I see General with three young boys, riding to Greaterville to pick up the mail. See them wander the country, exploring and enjoying. Here comes Linda, from Cottonwood, to visit Uncle Wick and Aunt Floss. Sit on the front porch, and look at the Iris in bloom at Easter, beautiful white, given to Floss by Linda's mother, Alvessa, oh so many years ago. Yes, they are there yet. I am the miner, cowboy, soldier, laborer, the teamster and railroad man. You can be all of these by only looking at yourself, and

being a part of a great endeavor to re-create Kentucky Camp as it was in 1905. As you walk the ground that all have preceded you, you wonder, is this where something happened, is this where Wick had his horse shot out from under him? Is this where rifles went to Mexico? Who was here, and when and what happened?

This is what Kentucky Camp is, and means to me. Come visit, see the wonders of Santa Rita. We are here for all to enjoy. With a little imagination you can see history unfold before your very eyes.

## PIT TRAVELER

Want to study Cretaceous fossils in Wyoming? Use your metal detector to define Civil War camp sites in South Carolina? Research a Mexican land grant in the archives of northern New Mexico? Stabilize an 800-year-old ruin in Colorado?

The winter-spring edition of the *Passport in Time* newsletter, the *PIT Traveler*, lists these and many more volunteer opportunities in National Forests all over the country. *Passport in Time* is a Forest Service program in which volunteers work alongside archaeologists, historians, archivists, and other specialists to study the past. Call the *PIT* Clearinghouse at (520) 722-2716 or (800) 281-9176 to order a copy of the *Traveler*, or see the *PIT Traveler* on the web at [www.swanet.org/jobs.html](http://www.swanet.org/jobs.html).

## GRANT WRITERS NEEDED

Working against tight deadlines, *Friends* and Forest Service prepared a Heritage Fund grant application to acquire the lumber to build a porch on the Office (also known by the romantic name "Building D"). The porch would not only restore the grand appearance of the building, it would help protect the

adobe walls and wooden windows from further weathering (good news for the mudding and painting crews).

However, competition was so stiff that the Kentucky Camp grant failed to make the cut-off for consideration. Maybe for the next round we can make the application even better: *please*, any *Friends* with grant-writing experience or a flair for phrasing or graphic design, call Kathy Makansi or Don Fisher.

## HELP WANTED

Patience and forgiveness wanted, really-- some thoughtful *Friend* was kind enough to send in an address correction, and something terrible and unforeseen occurred: it disappeared, no doubt swallowed up in the abyss of chaos that hovers menacingly near the editor's desk. It would be very much appreciated if the address correction could be resubmitted, to Mary Farrell, 670-4564, or 332 E. Mabel, Tucson, AZ 85705.



"Clippings" columnist Lew Orrell is traveling this month. We look forward to his history column next issue.





## RV REDUX

The deluxe RV donated through the Voyager RV Resort looked to be a major improvement over the little Forest Service trailer. Even with all the refurbishing and time spent on the FS trailer by the Fishers and the Bratoshes and other *Friends*, the trailer has been suffering some difficult problems, like a leaky roof and leaky sewer connections.

However, the RV proved to require more insurance and work than either the Forest Service or the *Friends* could handle, and so the *Friends* have transferred it to the American Lung Association. Now, *Friends* have taken on the task of fixing some of the problems with the FS trailer so the trailer can remain at Kentucky Camp for *PIT* volunteers and *Friends* to use.

Already, Tom Tompkins and Tony Bratosh have fixed the sewer connection, and Tom Gordon has patched the leaky roof. Feel free to volunteer your own fix-it skills and you can be rewarded with a lovely weekend stay in the cute trailer, in the beautiful Santa Ritas!

## PASSPORT IN TIME CARETAKERS:

The Forest Service has already received several applications and inquiries for the *Passport in Time (PIT)* caretaker positions. Last year, seventeen *PIT* caretakers helped with restoration and site maintenance, gave

tours, recruited new members for the *Friends*, and provided additional protection for the site. Many of these *PIT* caretakers continue their support as *Friends*.

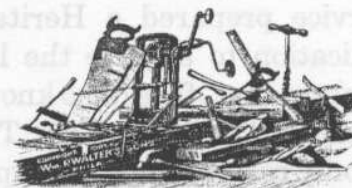
But for this program to work, we need *Friends* who are willing to welcome the *PIT* volunteers. No experience necessary! Training and orientation so that you can train and orient the *PIT*sters will be provided free of charge. Rewards are great: all *PIT* caretakers in the past have been wonderful people, a joy to meet, a delight to work with. Please, call Mary Farrell or Kathy Makansi to volunteer today!

## SPECIAL INVITATION

Don't be shy-- even if sewer repairs and roof patching aren't your particular cup of tea, there are all kinds of things you can do at Kentucky Camp, and things you can do for Kentucky Camp in the comfort of your own home! Call Kathy today at 670-4522.

## REMINDER

Don't forget, membership dues for *Friends of Kentucky Camp* are tax deductible! Remember *Friends* during the holidays, remember *Friends* when you are figuring your year-end contributions for taxes, remember *Friends* in your will! A membership in the *Friends* makes a swell gift-- where else can you give conviviality, a chance to volunteer in the mud, and a "window on the past" so economically? Call any of the board or Forest Service people listed on the back page for more information.







Dick Lord Photograph

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next work days are November 14 and December 12, 1998, and January 9, 1999. There will be all kinds of fun chores to choose from, including:

- ☞ help fetch material for and make patching material
- ☞ 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.*

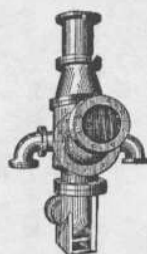
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 Forest Service Liaison: Kathy Makansi (520) 670-4522  
 Forest PIT Coordinator: Mary Farrell (520) 670-4564  
 Nogales Ranger District Contact: Mark South (520) 670-5496*

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

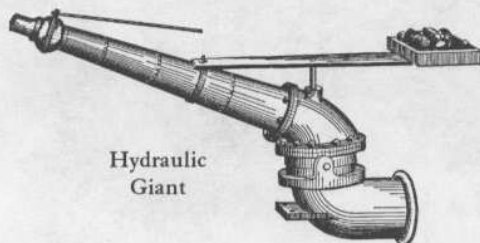
*Visit the Friends of Kentucky Camp Homepage at <http://www.rtd.com/~arclight/fkcindex.htm>.*

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

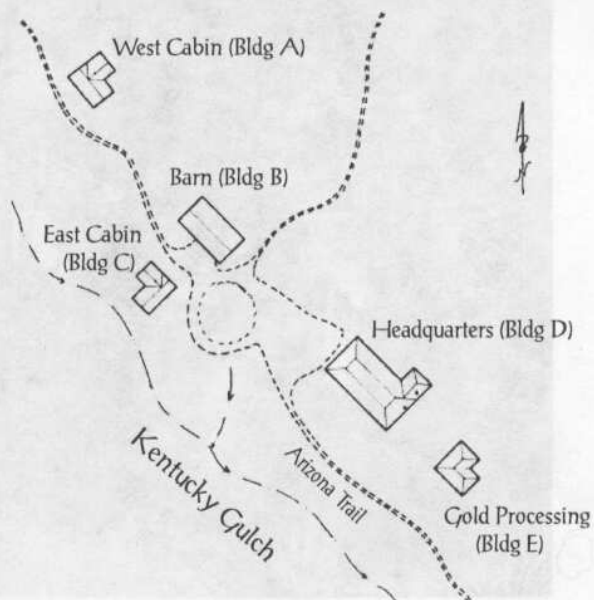
# SANTA RITA WATER & MINING COMPANY KENTUCKY CAMP, ARIZONA



Hydraulic  
Elevator



Hydraulic  
Giant



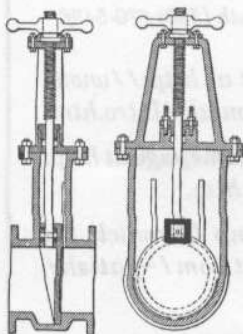
Old Land Photograph



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Water Gate