

Newsletter on the gold mining and ranching heritage of Kentucky Camp, AZ

September, 2013

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Kentucky Camp Booklet

By Mark Doumas

You have probably used her book "The Tucson Hiking Guide". You may have also read her book "Grand Canyon Women: Lives Shaped by Landscape". Now, thanks to the efforts of author and lifetime Friends of Kentucky Camp member Betty Leavengood, we have a new way to spread the word about Kentucky Camp.

Betty has contributed many hours and dollars to develop and print a professional glossy booklet about Kentucky Camp. The booklet is 20 pages in length, covers the history of Kentucky Camp as well as the restoration efforts over the past 25 years. The booklet is chock-full of photos and is a pleasure to read. Betty wrote a similar booklet about Faraway Ranch in the Chiricahua National Monument. So, if you have seen that booklet, this one is similar style and format.



Photo courtesy of Mark Doumas

Betty has donated 250 of these booklets to Friends of Kentucky Camp to aid in our fundraising efforts. We'll have these available to sell along with coffee mugs, post cards, etc. the next time we have an open house or similar event.

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Photo courtesy of Mark Doumas

A copy of the booklet is available to Friends of Kentucky Camp members for a handling and shipping fee of \$2. Also, if you know of an organization that would like to buy these booklets in bulk, contact John Weiss at jweiss25@cox.net.



Photo courtesy of Steve Waylett

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Looking for Gold, Found Kentucky Camp

By Martha Jo Billy

While caretaking at Kentucky Camp earlier this year, I had the opportunity to read through the visitor's sign-in sheets and make some interesting observations about who has been visiting the site. I looked through the visitor history from May 2012 through April 2013. I wanted to see who the visitors were, where they were from, some of their comments and interests. There were many more from different states and countries than I had expected.

Since Arizona is well known as a "Snowbird" state during the winter months, it was not surprising to note that on certain days there would be a large number of visitors from different states in a large group, meaning they no doubt came from a mobile home park or some facility where a number of winter visitors were staying.

I also wondered about the interest in the Arizona Trail that extends from the nearby border of Mexico north to Utah. The AZT, as it is referred to passes through Kentucky Camp. This trail is also used by mountain bikers from the nearby areas. Some stop to review the history in the Headquarters Building, but definitely pause for a "pit stop" as there is good water available and good vault toilets, also a group of bike riders will agree to catch up with everyone here.

Country:

٠	France	2
٠	New Zealand	4
٠	Scotland	1
٠	Germany	5
٠	Finland	1
٠	Austria	1
٠	United Kingdom, London	3
٠	Canada	27
٠	Mexico (Sonora)	6
٠	South Africa	1

Total: 51 people from 10 other countries

The AZT is used by local horseback riders and at least one group of Mule riders. In Kentucky Camp itself, at the south end through the passthrough gate is the Boston Gulch Trail branching off to the right which shows some of the "rich" mining history, but not gold!

United States:

Alaska	7
Arizona	571
California	15
Colorado	29
Florida	12
Hawaii	1
Idaho	6
Illinois	9
Indiana	9
lowa	2
Kansas	1
Kentucky	1
Louisiana	5
Maine	6
Maryland	6 5
Massachusetts	7
	2
	31
	7 2 31 3 2 3 9
•	2
	3
	13
	6
	6
	2
Oregon	25
	2
	2
	5
	2
	8
	5
	2 5 2 8 5 2 2 2
	2
	2
	16
	24
Wyoming	1
	Arizona California Colorado Florida Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland

Total: 288 people from 38 other states and 571 from Arizona.

Arizona Trail Hikers:

A total of 29 who mentioned the AZT were counted. Some of the comments:

 5-4-12 "Hiked through here on AZT 2000; completed trail 2004, first father and son to complete, Brad Buckhart, son Marc, Glendale, AZ

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- 7-21-12 Fish Canyon is the Center of the Universe!
- 11-10-12 AZT Stewards
- 1-31-13 Hiking Group , Green Valley
- 2-12-13 Hiker Green Valley
- 3-03-13 Patagona-Sonoita Hiking Group
- 3-18-13 Two hikers from Colorado
- 3-20-13 backpacker on the AZT to "Steve, thanks for allowing me to throw down a pallet on your floor."
- 3-23-13 Bernard Remboulet, France; AZT 1998, 1999, 2011, 2012, 2013; You do what you love. In May 2012 he wrote thanking me for food as he was running out and the next phase of hike to Vail is 38 miles.
- 4-19-13 Hiker AZT-Utah
- 4-21-13 AZT is hard!

Side note: The Arizona Republic Newspaper in 2012 ran a series of articles on a Father-Daughter team hiking the entire AZT. They were doing it in stages and when they did a stage it would be in the Sunday Travel Section. The daughter kept the journal. They may have been the first Father-Daughter team to do the AZT. There was a picture of Kentucky Camp.

Mountain Bikers:

A total of 10 mountain bikers were noted in the visitor's book, but most of them do not register. There was one comment by one for "Bike Maps".

Horse/Mule Riders:

Ten groups of horse/mule rides were noted in the comments and that was usually by someone else at the site when they passed through.

Comments:

Most comments in the visitor's book just say "cool", "great", etc..... Here are some of the more interesting ones:

- Enjoyed thunder and lightning
- Last visit early 1990's

- What amazing place in the middle of nowhere!
- What a difference from years ago
- Looking good. Nice job restoring and maintaining
- Retired Forest Service who helped on this place. Great to see it! (Tim Rollins & Ron Johnson, 12-13-12)
- Worthwhile American history
- This place is amazing! Keep it up, we will be back
- Great Care Taker. (Directed at Steve Waylett)
- Thanks to Martha Jo for great tour & allowing us to pitch our back pack tents overnight. (Couple from Florida on their way to Utah border.)
- Wonderful site, well done historic preservation. (Karla Keakes-Madin Empire Ranch Foundation)
- Andrew Wyatt Bolyard celebrated his 1st birthday at Kentucky Camp with many family members and friends over a weekend.
- Another Birthday Celebration, her 30th, who thought it was awesome! Loved it! Traveling on to Parker Canyon Lake and Bisbee to complete the celebration.
- One person thinks Kentucky Camp "needs a coffee shop". Another person thinks the Headquarters building should be made into a Bed and Breakfast.
- Eight Meditators were here on 3-20-13 from "across the USA". (I am sure they were staying at the nearby Santa Rita Nuns 'Abbey).

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Comments, Continued

- 4-05-13 The UNBRANDED FILM CO. on the way from the Mexican border to the Canadian border made up of 7 members whose names are listed.
- And Last, but not Least: Looking for Gold; found Kentucky Camp!

Martha Jo and her master, Ringo, were always around to meet and greet visitors to Kentucky Camp this spring!



Photo courtesy of John Weiss

Another Kind of Gold Mining

By John Weiss with help from Ron Loya (Mariposa Museum and History Center)

The Santa Rita Water and Mining Company was established to be a placer gold mining operation using hydraulic technology. We are most fortunate to have recovered a major piece of equipment from that time, one of the three hydraulic monitors, AKA water cannon which were used here. Other equipment used were metal grates for separating ore, metal conduits and valves to transport and control water from the upstream source. There really was not much more substantial equipment for this kind of operation.

Recently, I drove thru several dozen towns along California's Highway 49, the road that follows that state's gold mother-lode for 316 miles. Most of the towns I drove thru displayed artifacts of the gold rush days, especially hard-rock mining equipment. I've included several pictures to show some of the amazing amount of equipment required for a hard-rock mining operation.

All the following photographs were taken at the <u>Mariposa Museum and History Center</u> grounds in the center of Mariposa, CA.

The equipment is substantial, so much more required than for a placer operation! There are items for Digging/Drilling, Hoisting, Ore Reduction and Final Extraction. Each of these operations required specialized tools as well as power to run them. The power could be water, mule, man, steam, and later, internal combustion.

As you look at the photos, imagine the noise of an operation like this in Mariposa Valley, compared to the relative quiet of water cannons in Boston Gulch.



<u>Single Cylinder Hoist</u> Used to raise ore cars from mine shafts

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Water Wheel and Pump



Boilers and Pumps



<u>Whim</u>

Older technology, used to pull ore buckets from mine shafts. A mule or horse would provide the circular power.

Chilean Mill

Used to pulverize quartz ore into a slurry. The three 38 inch diameter wheels weigh 3,000 pounds each. The mortar box (saucer shaped base) weighs 6,200 pounds. A throwback to very early Spanish, Mexican and South American hard rock reduction methods; the first were hand hewn stone wheels. A related method involved the use of drag stones in an arrastra.



Five Stamp Mill Output side, showing stamps

Used to crush ore to particles of sand, releasing gold from the quartz ore. Each stamp = 1000 pounds, drops eight inches, 100 times per minute, for a weight of 100,000 pounds per minute per stamp.

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Five Stamp Mill

Input side, showing ramp for ore carriers. At this location, this mill is working, for special demos. Most stamp mills were located on steep hillsides and so were heavily reliant on gravity, with the mine preferably being located above the mill so that ore carts could easily be transported to the ore bins.

These units were so loud that they could be heard up to 30 miles away, and could be configured in gangs of five, for up to 100 stamps. Workers in the mills could become deaf in short order, and would often plug their ears with cotton or wool dipped in olive oil, and then seal them with softened beeswax.

There is a sound bite of a stamp mill in operation at: http://mariposamuseum.com/on-the-museumgrounds/our-stamp-mill/



Manual Drill Press

Not really a direct part of mining operations, but a very interesting object at this site. Two men would spin the wheel at the top, while a third man would position the work on the table and drill.

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<u>Sullivan Horizontal Compressor</u> Used to power the drill machines (below)



<u>Widowmaker jack hammer</u> So called because the dust it produced caused lung disease. And, I'm sure, ear problems!

The Friends of Kentucky Camp wishes to thank the Mariposa Museum and History Center for their permission to reproduce these photos and helping with the content.

If you are ever in that area, be sure to stop in, it's a great place, and the indoor exhibits are wonderful, too!

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The election for board of directors has completed. The following board of directors was voted-in for a two year term ending June 30, 2015:

President Vice President Secretary Treasurer At-Large Mark Doumas Peter Van Cleve John Weiss Nancy Hough Mary Farrell As of this issue, our "Friends" president and spouse are peddling their way out of Utah and into Colorado.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Become a Friends of Kentucky Camp Member

Don't miss out on the fun, the excitement, the Chronicle, and the opportunity to participate in Kentucky Camp's future! Renewing your membership is a simple way to support our ongoing rehabilitation efforts at Kentucky Camp and represents our primary source of funding. Student, Individual and Family memberships are very reasonably priced. If you'd like to give at a more substantial level, consider a Supporting or Contributing membership..... Or, even a Lifetime membership! Remember, Friends of Kentucky Camp is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization: your membership fee may qualify as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes.

To see if your membership is current, look at the mailing label on the front of this newsletter. If it says "Renew in June of 13" then your membership has expired and it's time to renew. (If your mailing label says "Renew in June of NA", then you are a lifetime member or have received a courtesy copy.) If your renewal year is in error, contact John Weiss at 520 323-0358 or jweiss25@cox.net.

On-line Membership

In addition to our annual membership newsletter, you can also renew online:

http://www.kentuckycamp.org/

Choose "Support Kentucky Camp". Using the online renewal process, you can also choose to have your newsletter delivered electronically versus hard copy.

We have an email discussion group for Friends of Kentucky Camp where we discuss current events. To join the discussion group, send an email to:

FriendsofKentuckyCamp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

If you have changed your email address recently and wondered why you no longer receive discussion group email, you need to resend an email to the above address from your new email account. To unsubscribe, send an email from the email account you want to be removed from the discussion group to:

FriendsofKentuckyCamp-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

You don't need to put anything in the subject line or body of the email. Look for a confirmation email after you send the email.... If you don't see one within a few hours, remember to check your spam folder. Additions to the distribution list are screened for spammers!

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