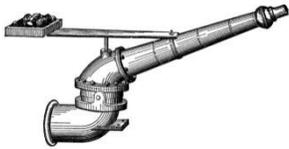


KENTUCKY CAMP



CHRONICLE



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

August 2015

Rental Cabin Flooring Project

Story and photos by Mark Doumas

If you spend even a few minutes walking through the buildings of Kentucky Camp, you realize how much wear-and-tear the wooden flooring has taken over the years. The top surface gets splintered and the supporting substructure falls or rots away. Such was the case for the bedroom in the rental cabin which had begun taking on the properties of a bouncy trampoline!

A small but stalwart team rebuilt the bedroom floor in mid-June. Here is our story.

Friday June 19, 2015

John Weiss and I pulled-up a couple of floor boards on each side of the room so we could assess where the "springiness" was coming from. We observed many joist supports that were loose or no longer touching the ground. So, we proceeded to remove all the floor boards. (For a fleeting moment, we thought we might be able to just repair the corners without tearing up the entire floor... not to be.)



Saturday June 20, 2015

John returned for the day and we were joined by Kathy Makansi and Don Marion. Don single-handedly rebuilt the floor joists to be level and

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE

Rental Cabin Flooring Project	1
Drum Haverstock	3
What's with the Burro?	4
Ironwood Tree Experience Field Trip	6
Membership Update	7

well supported to the ground. There were several different styles of supporting the joists in the earlier construction. Stacks of bricks tend to fall over and that was the problem in the two "springy" corners. Don built the joist supports using the technique that appears to have the most long-term success: a vertical treated lumber support is screwed to the joist and footer so the footer cannot slip out from the vertical support. The footer and support are pre-fabbed, and then screwed to the side of the joist. Then the excess vertical support is sawed-off flush with the top of the joist.



John, Kathy, Sandy and I spent the day cleaning and prepping the 27 floor boards. We started by brushing the boards with a wire brush, then removed 100 years' worth of grime from the tongue and grooves with a small sharp chisel. Next, all the split and broken boards needed to be glued and clamped. Finally, the boards were sanded, vacuumed and painted with an epoxy coating. (Just the top surface) We finished all but about seven floor boards.



Sunday June 21, 2015

We finished treating the remaining boards and reinstalled all of them in the bedroom. There was just one gap along the ending wall that required John to build a custom-fit set of boards to fill the odd gap. He took many measurements and then went home to fabricate these "magic" boards at his home shop.



Monday June 22, 2015

John returned for the final fitting of the remaining

"magic" boards. Mark applied the epoxy coat onto these boards after they were nailed into place. Sandy repainted the green base boards while we had them out of the building. We nailed them back into place and the room was finished! We spent the rest of the day moving tools back to the tool room and cleaning-up all the construction trash. The cabin is back on-line!

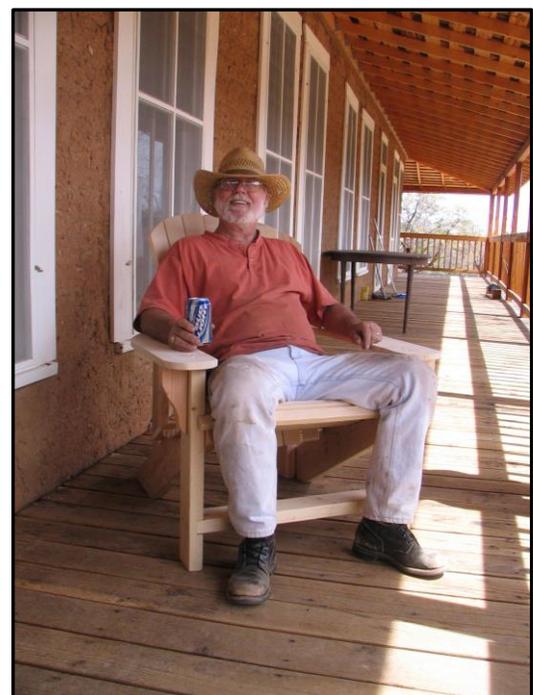


Drum Haverstock

It is with great sadness that we report the unexpected passing of one of our most stalwart and treasured Friends. Drum Haverstock died peacefully in his sleep on June 7, 2015. Drum was a proud Vietnam Veteran and hardworking employee of the State of Arizona for over 40 years. He had recently celebrated his 70th birthday.

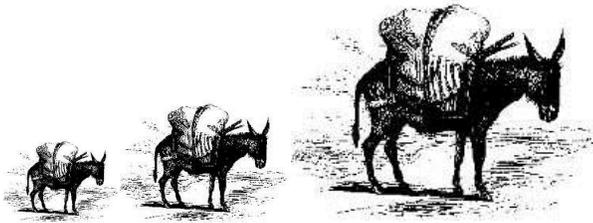
Drum was a fixture at our monthly volunteer days as well as a dedicated participant in PIT projects for the past 20+ years. Although he took part in Forest Service preservation efforts at numerous sites, he enjoyed Kentucky Camp, and the camaraderie of the Friends there, most. Drum enjoyed working on projects large and small. He was just as likely to be seen wielding a hammer, a post hole digger or a kitchen spatula. No matter how many times you had previously met him, he always greeted you with a big smile and a firm handshake.

His family has asked that donations in his memory be made to the Friends of Kentucky Camp, 4259 E. Paseo Grande, Tucson AZ 85711; or through our website kentuckycamp.org



What's with the Burro?

Story and photos by John Weiss



You've all seen the burro with the water packs on the banner of our Kentucky Camp Chronicle newsletter and on Kentucky Camp tee-shirts. And you probably know that that image represents the 'Water' part of the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company, located in the Greaterville Mining District.

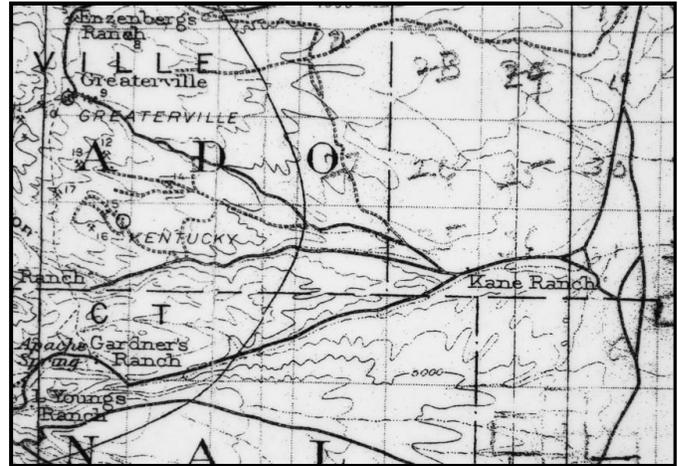
But just where exactly, did the water come from?

Gold was discovered in the region in the late 1874, and from 1875 to 1878, the placers were worked by 200 or more men. The virgin gravels are said to have been so rich that each man recovered \$10 or more daily using water packed in by burros, costing about 3 cents per gallon. The water was used in a wooden rocker, a device that separated gravel from gold. A burro could carry from 16 to 19 gallons of water. After 1886, the richer gravels had been worked over, and worked ceased.

In 1902, George McAneny hired James B. Stetson to do a survey of the region for possible hydraulic mining.

In Stetson's 1902 assessment of the Greaterville Placers, he notes that "...operations were carried on with rocker and pan and with very little water which was then procured at Kane's well about five or six miles distant, packed in to the placers and sold to the miners by the burro load."

The USGS Topo map for the 1904 Patagonia Quadrangle shows the Kane Ranch located at the confluence of the Fish, Gardner and Opher canyons, 5 ½ miles SE from Greaterville. This coincides perfectly with the Stetson report.



1904 Patagonia Quad Map

We also have Mary Gardner (1862-1937), in a Remembrance written in 1926, writing: ... "When we were married, we took up the Mary Kane Ranch at the mouth of Gardner Canyon, right where Fish Canyon, Greaterville Canyon and Gardner Canyon meet...There is just the well and water troughs now, and it belongs to Vail. It was very pretty when we were there and there were lots of big sycamores, but after we left they cut them all down."

Big Sycamore Trees! A 1913 Pima County map shows a place name of Aliso in the same spot as the Kane Ranch on the 1904 US Topographical Map. Aliso is a Spanish word for California Sycamore, which is nearly identical to, and confused with the Arizona Sycamore. And at the current stand of sycamores, there are many old large stumps cut at ground level, from which the newer trees are growing.



1913 Pima County Map

So next time you're driving, cycling, hiking or biking to Kentucky Camp on Gardner Canyon Road, ½ mile from SR83, eyes right just before the dip to see where the water came from -- you may see a burro, too!



Winter



Summer

Sources:

- * Kentucky Camp and Greaterville Ephemera, Arizona Historical Society, Tucson
- * Gold Placers and Placering in Arizona, 1981 by Eldred Wilson
- * USGS Topo map of Santa Rita and Patagonia Mountains in the Kentucky Camp Visitor's center

Membership Renewal

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 15" 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.

TWO Ways to Renew:

1) Renew online at the Friends of Kentucky Camp website:

<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.

2) Renew using the traditional mail-in form on page 7 of this newsletter.

Our next volunteer day is Saturday, September 12. We will continue working to install the new screen doors and trim the monsoon weeds. We typically work from 8AM to 1PM with a break for lunch. Contact Mark Doumas at doumas@mindspring.com if you are interested in participating in on-site activities.

Ironwood Tree Experience Field Trip

By John Weiss and Chris Schrager
Photos courtesy of Martha Jo Billy

On April 23, 2015, a group of about 20 young adults from the Ironwood Tree Experience participated in a Field Day at Kentucky Camp.

The Ironwood Tree Experience is an outdoor education program whose mission is to inspire young people to flourish by engaging with nature and becoming mindful stewards of the environment in their community.

The group participated in two activities: an interpretative hike of the Boston Gulch led by Chris Schrager and a gold panning demonstration led by John Weiss.

After a brief tour of the site to provide some background on hydraulic mining, Chris took the group on a hike over the ridge to Boston Gulch. There, the students and instructors were able to see the evidence of "tearing up the ground with splendid results" as well as ask questions about the area's history and prehistory. Some had never been hiking through oak-juniper scrub, or seen geologic deposits like those in the upper reaches of Boston Gulch, and were curious about those elements of this environment. In all, it was quite a discovery tour for group, and produced some good, thought-provoking discussions.



John panned gold bearing gravels that he had obtained from the California State Mineral

Museum in Mariposa, CA. The kids really got into this activity and were soon panning their own gold, plucking out the minute gold pieces with a tweezers and keeping the gold in small glass vials.

We were fortunate to have an amateur prospector at our site, working some gravels upstream from Kentucky Camp. He had two small sluices, powered by solar panels. The kids really enjoyed watching and learning from the process.



This day surely impressed upon the kids (and leaders) just how much work it takes to find even the smallest amount of gold and how much of an impact a mining operation can have on a site.

Many thanks to Irene, Elise, Mat and Deborah, who were the counselors.

IMPORTANT!

If you prefer to renew your membership using the traditional mail-in form, please detach (or copy) this page and return to the Friends of Kentucky Camp:

Friends of Kentucky Camp
c/o John Weiss
4259 E. Paseo Grande
Tucson, AZ 85711

Membership Renewal

Enclosed is a check for \$ ____ made payable to Friends of Kentucky Camp for membership through June 2016.

Please circle:

Student (\$5) Individual (\$10) Family (\$15) Contributing (\$25)
Supporting (\$50) Lifetime (\$200)

(If a mailing label is on the back side of this and your address has not changed, there is no need to fill this part out.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Friends of Kentucky Camp

4259 E. Paseo Grande
Tucson, AZ 85711

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FriendsofKentuckyCamp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Newsletter Submissions:

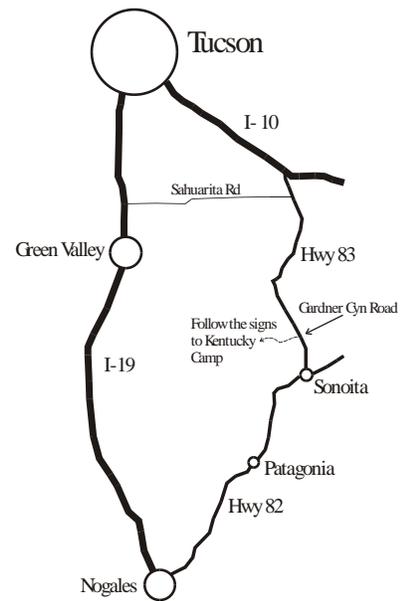
jweiss25@cox.net

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At-Large	Mary Farrell	520 979-9114

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Chris Schrager	520 591-8127
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**Memberships:**

Student (\$5) Individual (\$10) Family (\$15)
Contributing (\$25) Supporting (\$50) Lifetime (\$200)

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.