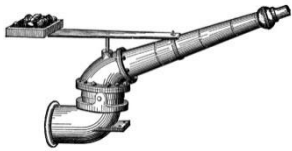
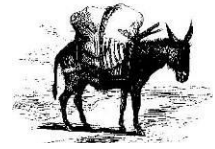


# KENTUCKY CAMP



# CHRONICLE



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

July 2016

## Rental Cabin Flooring Project – Part 2

Story and photos by Mark Doumas

In June of last year, we conducted a work week at Kentucky Camp to refurbish the bedroom floor of the rental cabin. We conducted a follow-up work week in April of this year to give the same treatment to the living room and kitchen of the rental cabin.

We found that floor joists had come loose or rotted. And we found lots of rodent evidence under the old floor. We spent the week cleaning out debris, setting new floor joists and repairing the old floor boards.



Chris Schrage, Pete Van Cleve and Bill Gillespie replacing trim around the doors.

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Ron Parrish and John Weiss finish removing floor boards in the living room.



Ron Parrish finishes placing refurbished floor boards in the living room of the rental cabin.



A Rock Rattlesnake gave us quite a scare.



The end result: solid, good looking floors!



Caretaker Steve Waylett rebuilt the porch on the caretakers trailer. The final product even has railing all the way around the porch.

We are considering another work week at Kentucky Camp late this year. (October or November) The goal of that work week is to re-roof the porch on the Headquarters Building. Contact Mark Doumas at [doumas56@gmail.com](mailto:doumas56@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating in this week-long rehab event.

### 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 16" 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](mailto: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 5 of this newsletter.

Our next volunteer day is tentatively scheduled for Friday, August 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 [doumas56@gmail.com](mailto:doumas56@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating in on-site activities.

## Astronomy at Kentucky Camp

Story and photos by Marthajo Billy, caretaker

I was expecting visitors mid-week the first week of June as visitors at Stetson Cabin had told me it was reserved. This is rare and only the second time someone has been down for a full week!

Much to my surprise, on June 1st around dusk, an SUV drove down at the same time Ringo and I were returning from a short hike on the AZ Trail. We walked up to meet Kwung Lee, an amateur astronomer from Flagstaff where he is a member of an Astronomical Society which has its meetings at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff. He said he was expecting his friend from Seattle, WA, who works for Microsoft. He was driving 11 hours to arrive a little later. I told him there might be Border Patrol on Forest Service Road 163. Kwung was keeping in touch via phone, but had to go to top of the hill to contact him.

Charles Erwin arrived 2130, tired from a long day of 11 hours traveling! He was also pulling a trailer behind his SUV with more equipment.

Kwung and Charles grew up in Seattle, went to school together and became addicted to studying the stars. Over the years they have kept in touch, and once a year meet for a week to study the solar system. This year they wanted to view the stars towards the southern hemisphere of our solar system. That means they needed a viewing point in the southern USA. After researching several southern locations with dark skies, they selected Kentucky Camp!

Thursday morning they spent some time finding a flat area to set their equipment up. Kwung's telescope was made by him. They set up in the area between Stetson Cabin and Cabin A, which seemed to be the flattest. They had brought red light bulbs to insert in the ceiling of the cabin and hung darkening material over the windows on the sides of that area.

Thursday night after getting set up, Kwung invited me to look through his telescope. He showed me Jupiter up close, Mars, the red planet, with its three moons, a galaxy of millions of stars which looked like a "fluffy" big ball in

places, Saturn with its rings, an exploding star which had diamond pinpoints in places!

I was informed by Kwung that our sun will explode like that.... in about 400 million years so not to worry!

Charles had a birthday while with us, but didn't tell his age! I found a small chocolate cake in Patagonia at Oven's of Patagonia to give him.\*:)

The rest of the time they would work from 2100-0400 using their computers. Charles said we should be able to see some of his stuff soon, but it may take Kwung a few months to get everything from his on the computer.

Charles' email address is: [erwin247@yahoo.com](mailto:erwin247@yahoo.com)

Charles and Kwung's photos of their trip to Kentucky Camp (including the stunning astrophotography they accomplished) can be found here:

[www.flickr.com/photos/erwin247](http://www.flickr.com/photos/erwin247)

Select "albums" and look for Kentucky Camp.



Amateur astronomers Kwung Lee and Charles Erwin at Kentucky Camp

## New (Old) Map of Kentucky Camp and Greaterville Found

By John Weiss

In March of this year, my girlfriend, Mary, came across a blueprint of the Greaterville Mining District from the early 1900's. She was working at WACC (Western Archeological Conservation Center, a part of the National Park Service) here in Tucson. She was with the NPS conservator from Scotty's Castle, a Park Service site in Death Valley, culling through documents from the Castle. The documents are currently at WACC for safe-keeping because of a mud flood last October, 2015, which poured thru the Castle. The castle is now closed for a few months/years for cleanup.

Serendipitously, Mary saw a blueprint among the documents, and recognized the names on the print. Greaterville, Santa Rita, and gulch names. The documents were being scanned and cataloged by WACC. The only text on the document are Greaterville, Santa Rita Company, and the name of the area gulches. No date or author. Mary has been to Kentucky Camp several times and was familiar with the area.

The collector of the documents was Albert Mussey Johnson. He was among other things, a mine speculator who lived in Ohio and Illinois. He was a millionaire, and became interested in and invested in a gold mine in Death Valley, promoted by Walter Scott, a con artist. This was around 1904.

In 1906, Johnson went to Death Valley to check on his investment. When Johnson arrived in Death Valley, Scott and his friends staged a mock gunfight to scare off the investors before they discovered that Scotty's mine was fictitious. (The Battle of Wingate Pass)

Johnson and Scott then struck up an unlikely friendship and began hanging out together in Death Valley. Together, they built Scotty's Castle, starting around 1922.

Somewhere along the way, Johnson obtained the blueprint of Greaterville, and kept it at

Scotty's Castle.

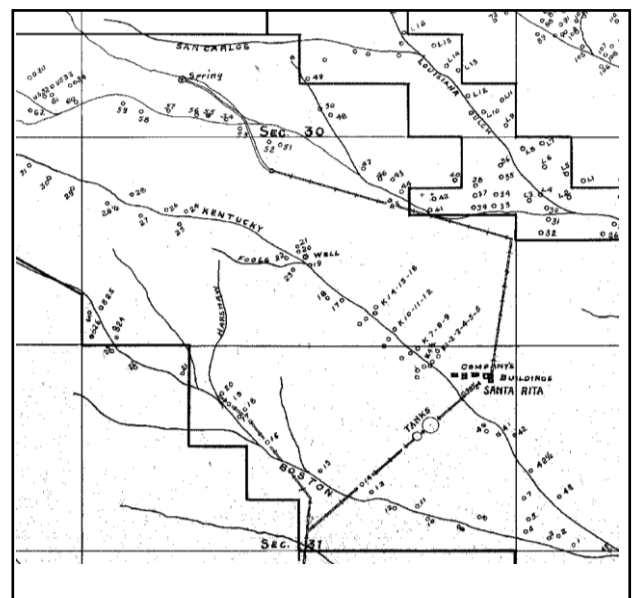
As for interpreting the blueprint, it's a bit confounding. There are small numbered circles along most of the gulches that seem to be in groups at right angles to the stream flow. Could these represent Stetson's test shafts? or diggings/hummocks from earlier miners?

The 1901 Stetson report to McAneny shows a total of 435 shafts drilled in 10 gulches. None of those numbers correlate to the numbers on the blueprint; the numbers vary gulch to gulch.

The Santa Rita Water and Mining Company (SRWMC) pipeline on the blueprint is accurate. The print also shows a secondary pipeline from the Headquarters Building going north to a spring in the upper tributary of Succor (Sucker) Gulch. Per the legal settlement documents for the SRWMC, there was indeed a secondary water supply to Kentucky Camp, described as backup fire protection.

I'm afraid we'll never know just how this blueprint got into the hands of Johnson, but who knows; the answer might be somewhere!

Below is a portion of the scanned blueprint by the Park Service.



**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 2017.

Please circle:

Student (\$5)      Individual (\$10)      Family (\$15)      Contributing (\$25)  
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(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.)

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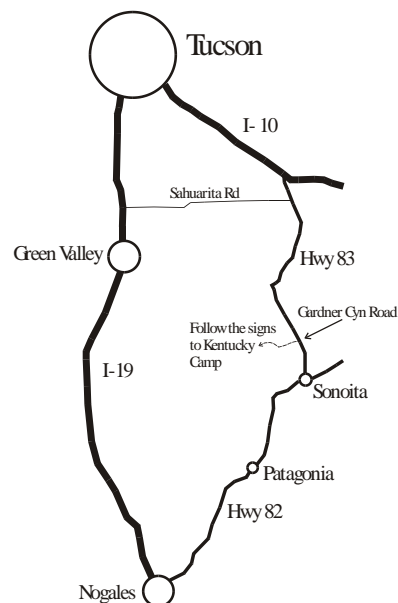
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Friends of Kentucky Camp is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization: your membership fee may qualify as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes.