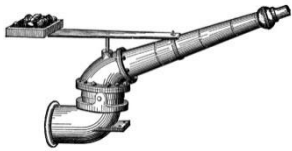
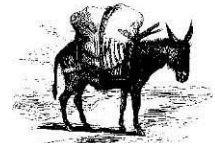


KENTUCKY CAMP



CHRONICLE



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

June 2014

Wings Over Kentucky Camp – The Jake Fenter Story

By Mark Doumas

Many wild stories have been passed-down about Kentucky Camp's longest-term inhabitants, Wert (Wick) and Flossie (Floss) Fenter. Floss was the daughter of Louis G. Hummel who acquired the property from the George McAneny estate after George's death in 1909. Flossie's mental eccentricities are probably worth a whole book's worth of story-telling.

One of the lesser-known Fenter stories involves their only child, Jake Fenter. (Jake's given name was Dale, but everyone called him "Jake".) The untimely death of Jake, his wife and infant daughter in the early 1960's is one of the saddest episodes in Kentucky Camp's past.

Jake was born on July 13, 1931 in Tucson Az. In 1936, his parents began raising cattle at the Santa Rita Ranch. (What is now called Kentucky Camp) Some of Jake's grade schooling was at the town of Greaterville, about 1 ½ miles to the northwest of Kentucky Camp. By the early 1950's, the Fenters also maintained a home in Tucson where Jake attended the remainder of his grade schooling. He then attended high school at Tucson High. He and Floss would move to the Tucson house during the school year, returning to Kentucky Camp for the summer break and weekends. (Their Tucson residence was at 539 E Speedway and that bungalow is still there today.)

After high school, Jake earned a liberal arts degree from the University of Arizona and then spent some time in the Air Force in Germany. He returned to Tucson and began working toward a law degree from the University of Arizona, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Louis

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G. Hummel who was also a lawyer. Jake and his wife-to-be, Mary Ann Gruensfelder met while they were at the University of Arizona. Mary Ann was a Tucson native and earned her degree in Elementary Education. Jake and Mary Ann came from significantly different religious backgrounds. The Gruensfelder family was devoutly Catholic, while the Fenters were very much against the Catholic religion.

As the saying goes: "love conquers all". Jake and Mary Ann were married on June 1, 1957 at St Ambrose Catholic Church in Tucson, AZ. Jake did not convert to Catholicism but agreed to have their children baptized as Catholic. Jake and Mary Ann promptly started a family, with Chris, Larry and Lori Marie arriving in quick succession.



Mary Ann and Dale "Jake" Fenter with their children. From left-to-right, the children are Lori Marie, Larry and Chris. Photo was taken in late 1962. (Photo courtesy of Linda Hummel Roslund)



Bellanca Cruisemaster similar to the one owned by Jake Fenter and Michael Gomez. (Photo courtesy of Williams Vintage Aircraft Web Site)

Jake's law career also blossomed. He graduated from the University of Arizona Law School in 1958 and joined the Gentry, McNulty and Kimble firm in Bisbee. In 1961 he was appointed deputy county attorney for Cochise County. Shortly after that he moved his family to Douglas where he continued his deputy county attorney role and partnered with Ben F. Williams Jr. to form the Williams and Fenter Law Firm. As further evidence of his growing success, he and a dentist friend, Michael Gomez, purchased a small plane for getting around the widely distributed towns in southern Arizona. The plane was a red and white single-engine Bellanca Cruisemaster that could seat four people.

On the fateful morning of November 7, 1963, Jake and his entire family loaded into the plane in Douglas. The infant, Lori (18 months old), likely sat in mom's lap. Chris (age 5) and Larry (age 3), jumped into the back seats. They flew to Kentucky Camp to visit with Wick and Floss and to help round-up cattle. Wait a minute.... Land a plane at Kentucky Camp.... Is that possible??! The Bellanca Cruisemaster was capable of landing and taking-off in less than 300 yards. We must assume that one of the ridges adjacent to the site was cleared of brush and rocks to form a basic landing strip. Maybe Jake and his parents had a signal worked-out where Jake would buzz the Kentucky Camp Buildings as a signal for Wick to drive up the road to pick them up as Jake landed and secured the plane.

The weather on November 7th was poor. Wind and rain showers made the trip a bit more challenging than usual but Jake and his family

arrived safely at Kentucky Camp. Newspaper accounts of what happened next vary slightly but it was decided that Jake would fly Mary Ann and Lori back to Douglas because of the deteriorating weather, leaving the two boys with their grandparents. This rationale seems a bit at-odds with the plan to visit and round-up cattle. Oral family history paints a different and more believable picture: when Jake and his family arrived at Kentucky Camp, Flossie's eccentricities and negative Catholic bias had her nagging at Mary Ann as soon as she walked in the door. On this occasion, the complaint to Mary Ann was "why don't you have the baby potty trained yet?!" Words flew, tempers flared and tears flowed. Jake decided to take Mary Ann and Lori back to Douglas to avoid further argument.

By that time, the weather had deteriorated with winds gusting to 40 miles per hour and light rain. The flight path from Kentucky Camp back to Douglas took them through the gap between the Whetstone and Mustang Mountains in an area known as Rain Valley. The plane was making its way through this area at about 8am when disaster struck. No eyewitnesses observed the initial cause of the crash. Jake may have been flying low to avoid clouds and clipped one of the peaks in the valley. The severe wind may have damaged the aircraft. Whatever the cause, the plane came down and came down hard. Jake, Mary Ann and Lori perished instantly. A witness at a nearby Sands Ranch saw the final seconds of the crash and called for help. A helicopter was dispatched from Ft Huachuca. The helicopter pilot was able to locate and land

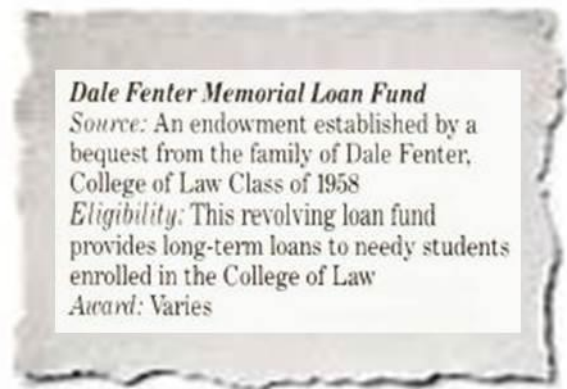
at the crash site after struggling with the wind. A ground crew of Border Patrol staff and Ft. Huachuca soldiers arrived and began sorting through the wreckage. The debris field was reported to be 3/4 mile long and 1/2 mile wide. One rescue member was quoted as saying that gathering the wreckage was like trying to "piece together 100 parts of a broken light bulb".

Two funeral services were held on November 9th in Tucson. The service for Mary Ann and Lori was at the Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church. They were buried at the Holy Hope Cemetery. Since Jake had not converted to Catholicism, his service was held later that day at Parker Arizona Mortuary. He was buried at Evergreen Memorial Park with pallbearers including his uncles Louis, Gene and Gail Hummel.

The young Fenter boys, Larry and Chris, had avoided certain death by staying with their grandparents on that day. But now they became the center of another struggle. Wick and Flossie were desperate to keep the Fenter name alive now that their only child was dead. To that end, Floss and Wick intended to provide guardianship for the boys, consistent with Jake's will. Mary Ann's side of the family disagreed and a custody battle ensued. For a while, the boys lived with their uncle and aunt, Don and Eugenia Hummel. Don had been mayor of Tucson from 1955 – 1961 and attempted to provide "neutral ground" while the battle played-out between the Fenters and Gruensfelders. In the end, the courts allowed Mary Ann's uncle, Miles Gruensfelder, to adopt the boys. The court based their decision on several factors. The boys had been baptized as Catholics, consistent with the Gruensfelder religious background. Wick and Flossie were getting advanced in years. (Both were in their 70's). Wick's physical health was failing. As a final blow to the Fenters, the court also pointed out their concern about Flossie's "poor mental health".

Wick and Floss vowed that the boys would not receive any of the Fenter inheritance if the boys did not retain the Fenter name. They stuck

to their word: Wick died in 1975 and Floss passed away in 1983. Shortly after her death, the Fenter inheritance was used to start the Dale (Jake) Fenter memorial scholarship fund at the University of Arizona Law School.



[This story is based on newspaper articles, court briefs and UofA Law School publications. Special thanks to Linda Hummel Roslund (cousin of Jake Fenter) for oral family history.]

Random Shots



Clark Spiny lizard on screen door. May 10, 2014 volunteer day. (Photo courtesy of Mark Doumas)



John Weiss prepares door threshold for new screen door. June 14, 2014 volunteer day. (Photo courtesy of Mark Doumas)



Pete van Cleve and John Weiss pour concrete footing for door threshold. June 14, 2014 volunteer day. (Photo courtesy of Mark Doumas)

Chris Schrager Receives Archaeology Award

Kentucky Camp Forest Service Liaison, Chris Schrager, was recently presented with a Governor's Award in Public Archaeology in the category of Professional Archaeologist. The award was presented by the Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office staff.

Chris was nominated for the award based on his outstanding contribution as a public archaeologist who has demonstrated his passion for heritage preservation in Arizona.

Through his constant and tireless efforts, well-known sites as the Empire Ranch, Brown Canyon Ranch, Kentucky Camp, and Fairbank are better preserved and available to the public. Many other locations ranging from Forest Service fire towers to the Hummel House Ranch have received his technical knowhow to keep them standing or restore remains. With his unusual background of archaeology combined with his professional skills in brick and masonry, Chris had made an impact on the adobe structures in Southern Arizona.



Consider Electronic Newsletter Distribution

The Friends of Kentucky Camp board of directors recently examined and discussed our longer-term financial position. We are generally in good shape with a healthy bank balance.

We did note that our fiscal year-end balance has been dropping slightly over the past few years. The cause of this decline is due to the age-old phenomenon of decreasing income and increasing expense. On the income side, our proceeds from memberships have remained stable. Our ability to raise money through on-site merchandise sales (mugs, T-shirts, etc.) has been reduced by the Forest Service's requirement of liability insurance for Friends'-sponsored events. The expense of liability insurance far exceeds income from merchandise sales and this is why we can no longer afford the annual Open House event. Additionally, we lost the ability to collect on-site donations some years ago. Proceeds from the donation tube were redirected to the Forest Service for use at the site. Friends of Kentucky Camp are not allowed to maintain an on-site donation box. (We have since added a PayPal donation button to the FKC website but visitors tend to donate on-the-spot rather than on-the-web.)

On the expense side, our biggest increase came in 2012 when the Friends of Kentucky Camp were no longer allowed to use Forest Service copiers or mail room services to distribute newsletters. We began reducing this expense by offering an electronic (email) distribution.

We have considered raising membership fees for FKC. We believe the \$10 for an individual membership is an incredible bargain. But, before we take that path, we'd like to try to significantly increase our member's electronic newsletter distribution rate. Currently, about 20% of our members have opted for electronic newsletter distribution. Our math indicates we can maintain a level bank balance if we can get a 60% email distribution rate.

So, whether you use the mail-in or on-line renewal method, please consider selecting the electronic newsletter option. If you are a life member, just email jweiss25@cox.net with a request to switch. As an added bonus, your newsletters will be in color!

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 14" 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.kenturcycamp.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 the next page.

Our next volunteer day is Saturday, July 12. We will continue painting the eaves and fascia boards on the Gold Processing Building and the Headquarters Building. 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.

Google Maps now provides higher resolution satellite views of Kentucky Camp and surrounding areas. With this new capability, you can see individual buildings at the site as well as faint lines where the water line was constructed. Give it a try!

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!

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 by July 31, 2014:

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 2015.

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: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I want my newsletters mailed electronically to the email address provided above

Friends of Kentucky Camp

4259 E. Paseo Grande
Tucson, AZ 85711

Web Site:

<http://www.kentuckycamp.org/>

Discussion Group:

FriendsofKentuckyCamp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Newsletter Submissions:

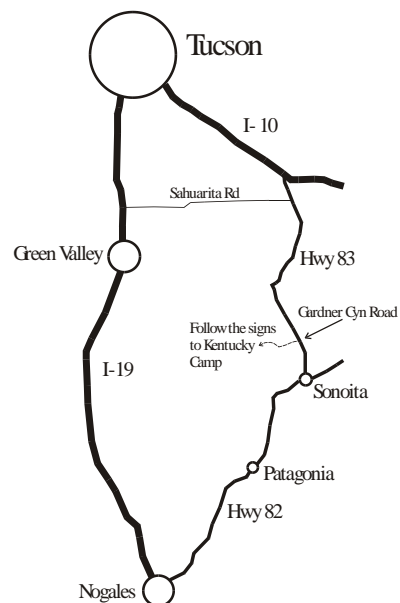
jweiss25@cox.net

Board of Directors:

President	Mark Doumas	520 299-4281
Vice Pres.	Pete Van Cleve	520 378-1955
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Treasurer	Nancy Hough	520 578-9053
At-Large	Mary Farrell	520 979-9114

Forest Service Liaison:

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.