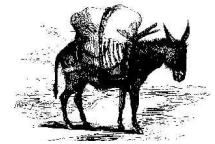


---

# Kentucky Camp Chronicle

---



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

September 2007

---

## The Origins of the Santa Rita Forest Reserve: The People behind the Creation of Southern Arizona's First Forest – Part 1

By William Gillespie

Although the authority to create Forest Reserves for the protection of timber and watersheds was given to the President of the United States in 1891, no such reserves had been proclaimed in southern Arizona prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A few large areas of ponderosa pine forests on the Mogollon Rim had been proclaimed as Forest Reserves, but no lands in the southern part of the Territory had been set aside. That situation would change soon after the election of Theodore Roosevelt in 1901. Within a year, four new forest reserves would be established in southeastern Arizona making the core of what is now the Coronado National Forest. The first of these southern Arizona Forests, and the largest, was the Santa Rita Forest Reserve proclaimed on April 11, 1902.

At the turn of the century, Forest Reserves were still under the administration of the General Land Office, part of the Department of Interior. The transfer of the Forests to the Department of Agriculture and the new Forest Service wouldn't take place until 1905. But even in 1901, Gifford Pinchot, the ambitious head of Agriculture's Bureau of Forestry who would become the first head of the Forest Service, had the ear of President Roosevelt and was lobbying for a role in the establishment of Forest Reserves. The Santa Rita Forest Reserve would be one of the first in the nation where Pinchot took an active role.

The idea for the Santa Rita Forest Reserve appears to have come not from Washington, D.C., but from Tucson. Specifically, Robert Forbes, the well-known

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

### PAGE

The Origins of the Santa Rita Forest Reserve	1
Annual Meeting and Open House	2
Everyone's Land	3
Site Progress Report	4
Saving the World – Martha Robles Update	5

head of the Arizona Agriculture Experimental Station, affiliated with the University of Arizona, evidently was the person who advocated the creation of the reserve.<sup>1</sup> Paradoxically, Forbes was more interested in rangeland than he was in forests and his proposal to create a large "forest reserve" was to withdraw a large area of rangeland rather than to protect timber resources.

Forbes was a tireless researcher involved with all aspects of agriculture in Arizona, including the grazing industry which at that time was at a marked low point. Pronounced overgrazing in the 1800s combined with severe drought in the 1890s led to severe degradation of rangeland conditions, stock losses, and increased soil erosion.<sup>2</sup>

In August 1901 the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS, then and still the publisher of Science) took place in Denver. At the time, the AAAS annual meeting was the premier meeting place for scientists and federal bureaucrats from throughout the country. Other organizations such as the Botanical Society of America and the American Forestry Association held their annual meetings concurrently. Forbes was among the speakers, addressing the attendees on "Open Range and the Irrigation Farmer" noting at a very early date the beneficial effects of fencing riparian areas to exclude cattle. In the same session, Pinchot presented a paper on the status of grazing in the forests of the Western US.<sup>3</sup>

During the conference, Forbes and Pinchot got together, along with Beverley Galloway, Director of the USDA's Bureau of Plant Industry, and Francis Newhall, soon to be the first director of the Reclamation Service (today's Bureau of Reclamation). These men realized they had mutual interests and discussed the possibility of setting aside a new reserve in southern Arizona. The possibility was greatly enhanced when Roosevelt took office in September. On October 1, 1901, Forbes wrote to Galloway, noting that:

"Since meeting you in Denver a month ago I have thought much on the subject which we discussed together with Mr. Pinchot and Mr. Newell. You remember the putative proposition then made – that we secure control of a suitable range reserve, and then organize and go to work on it along the various lines of experiment and observation so plainly available. Does not the project after further consideration seem not reasonable to you?...On this plan we would have a beautiful little range study organization, well located, with its parts properly coordinated, and working in an unusually important economic field."<sup>4</sup>

Galloway replied that "...we [Galloway and Pinchot] have been looking into the question very carefully since we came back and think the scheme we discussed a very advantageous one if it can be carried out."<sup>5</sup> A short time later Forbes traveled to Washington and met with the USDA leaders. Pinchot later recalled that soon after Roosevelt took office he authorized Pinchot to take the lead in establishing the boundaries of proposed forest reserves. "Our independent boundary work began after Dr. Forbes, of the University of Arizona, suggested the establishment of an experimental range reserve in southern Arizona and the Secretary of the Interior asked us for an opinion."<sup>6</sup>

[Editor's note: The second half of this article (including a color map) will appear in the December 2007 issue of the Kentucky Camp Chronicle.]

<sup>1</sup> See Charles Colley, *The Century of Robert H. Forbes* (1977) for a biography of Forbes, who was a major figure in Tucson for more than a half-century up until his death at age 100.

<sup>2</sup> See Conrad Bahre, *A Legacy of Change* (1991) and "Rangeland Destruction: Cattle and Drought in Southeastern Arizona at the Turn of the Century" (1996) in *Journal. of the Southwest*.

<sup>3</sup> *The Forester* (1901) Vol. 7:216ff. and 254ff.

<sup>4</sup> Forbes letter to Galloway, Oct. 1, 1901, on file, AZ Hist.

Soc., RH Forbes Papers, Box 7, Folder 2.

<sup>5</sup> Galloway letter to Forbes, Oct. 18, 1901, on file, AZ Hist. Soc., RH Forbes Papers, Box 7, Folder 2.

<sup>6</sup> Gifford Pinchot, *Breaking New Ground* (1947).

### Renew Your Membership!

To see if your membership is current, look at the mailing label on this newsletter. If it says "Renew in June of 07" (or '06 or '05) then your membership has expired and it's time to renew. Please use the renewal form in the June 2007 newsletter or contact Pat Spoerl at 520 297-7347 or patsprl@aol.com

## Kentucky Camp Open House and Annual Meeting

Don't forget the annual Kentucky Camp annual meeting and open house being held in conjunction with the Coronado National Forest. The event takes place at Kentucky Camp on Saturday October 13, 2007. The event is free to the public and we are advertising in a number of area newspapers and internet outlets. Plan on attending and bring a friend.

The Friends of Kentucky Camp will conduct their annual meeting from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Donuts will be served and the program will consist of a recap of rehabilitation efforts during the past year as well as plans for the coming year.

The open house will begin at 10:00 AM and conclude at 3:00 PM. Activities planned for the Open House include demonstrations of gold panning by the Desert Gold Diggers and making adobe bricks; hands-on participation by guests is encouraged! There will also be tours of the site and portions of the historic water system and hydraulic workings. Snacks and drinks will be available to purchase. The Friends of Kentucky Camp will be selling t-shirts, postcards and other memorabilia to support preservation programs at the site.

We are sad to report that Glenn Haslett passed away on Saturday July 7<sup>th</sup>. Jo and Glenn are life members of FKC and have contributed loads of effort at Kentucky Camp over the years.

## T'Jewedga = Everyone's Land

By Mary Farrell

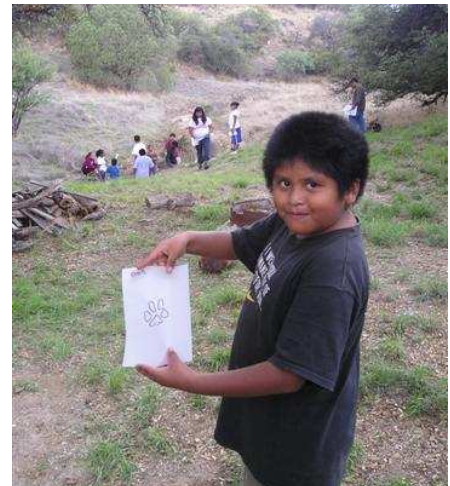
Horses and hay, thunderstorms and s'mores, mice and mud – in some ways, the thirty kids at Kentucky Camp for a week in July had a typical summer camp experience. But the *T'Jewedga* event, sponsored by the Tohono O'odham Nation's Boys and Girls Club and the Coronado National Forest, was not an ordinary campout. These O'odham kids were visiting their ancestral homeland, in the Santa Rita Mountains.



For centuries, their ancestors were stewards of the land that stretches from the Sea of Cortez to the Mogollon Rim. Today the Tohono O'odham Nation is focused on the reservation lands west of Tucson with the tribal government and the Boys and Girls Club based in Sells. But historically, the Santa Rita Mountains were an integral part of their traditional territory. To honor that heritage, the Coronado National Forest invited the O'odham children to Kentucky Camp, not far from their ancestors' mountain villages. Thanks to the efforts of the *Friends of Kentucky Camp*, the century-old site has been converted from hazardous ruins to hospitable headquarters for events like the *T'Jewedga* campout.

*T'Jewedga* is O'odham for "our land" or "everyone's land." The camping event's title is fitting – much of the land of the O'odham and their ancestors, whom archaeologists call Hohokam, was communally cared for. The public

land administered by the Coronado National Forest is also "everyone's land." The *T'Jewedga* project plans crystallized when it became apparent that the Nation's Boys and Girls Club and the Forest Service share converging goals. The Club promotes the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence. The Forest Service wants to help grow a future generation of conservation leaders by remedying the disconnect between nature and children. Both the Club and the Forest Service see hands-on learning and recreational opportunities as essential to the mental and physical well being of children and their families.



The *T'Jewedga* campers ranged in age from 6 to 17, with the older kids serving as team leaders. They came from Sells, Ajo, Gila Bend, Tucson, Ak-Chin, and other communities on and off the reservations. Silas Johnson of the Tohono O'odham Community College brought a portable corral and six horses, and provided training in horsemanship as a path to self confidence and personal responsibility. Joe Joaquin of the Tohono O'odham Nation's Office of Cultural Preservation gave talks about history and culture. The Ak-Chin Indian Community Youth Council brought some experienced camp counselors who had been leaders in a pilot project last year. The Forest Service demonstrated mule packing, fire prevention, and fire fighting – even Smokey Bear made an appearance.





The *T'Jewedga* camp would not have been such a success without the help of other partners. Club members from the Desert Gold Diggers showed the kids how to pan for gold. Biologists from the Sky Island Alliance and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service led talks, games, and demonstrations about wildlife and the environment. Patagonia Lake State Park welcomed the campers one morning, and when a big thunderstorm and flooding prevented the kids from returning to camp, the town of Sonoita provided shelter at the fairgrounds for the afternoon. The kids toured Kitt Peak National Observatory on their way back to Sells, and did science and optics activities.



But kids will be kids – when asked what about their favorite thing during the week, many said “roasting marshmallows!”

## Site Progress Report

Over the past few months, we have continued to work on the doors for the inside of the Administration building. John Weiss and Drum Haverstock continue to drive this effort and typically install one or two doors each work day. Installing each door involves thorough repair of the door frame (many old holes from previous door installations), trimming the doors to fit (not all door openings are the same size) and then drilling and fitting the door to a set of hinges. Eventually each door will be painted and a period-style door knob and latch will be installed. There are approximately 20 doors in the administration building, so this is a significant project!

The recent monsoon rains have really greened-up the site. It's a beautiful sight to see so much green after the past few dry years. Unfortunately, this also means the weeds have been quite a problem around the buildings. Thanks to the efforts of the recent caretakers and Friends, we almost have the weeds under control. At the August work day, both weed whackers and the lawn mower were being operated simultaneously! We are looking forward to the end of the rainy season and less vigorous weed growth.

The Forest Service has purchased some additional furniture for the Headquarters building. The end of the Forests Service's fiscal year provided some additional funds and we now have some additional chairs, tables and book cases.

The Friends of Kentucky Camp Board of Directors is happy to announce the results of the recent election for the Secretary and Treasurer positions. Pat Spoerl was elected as the Secretary and Nancy Hough was elected as Treasurer.

## Saving the World Along with Historic Neighborhoods

By Mary Farrell

If you've browsed the social and urban history section of the library or bookstore lately, you've probably noticed that suburbs, and the automobiles that make them possible, have come under a lot of criticism. *Asphalt Nation*, *Geography of Nowhere*, *Suburban Nation*, *The Long Emergency*, and other books foretell doomsday in their subtitles, e.g., "the rise of sprawl and how it took over the American dream," "how the automobile took over America," "the rise and decline of America's man-made landscapes." In the United States, sprawling cities are the norm, but recently (with a few notable exceptions such as *Sprawl: a Compact History*), suburbs have been blasted as economically inefficient, socially inequitable, environmentally irresponsible, and aesthetically bereft.

Our muy buena Amiga de Kentucky Camp Martha Robles, from INAH Sonora, has been looking at this situation in Madrid, Spain, where she is working on her doctorate at the University of Madrid. In some cities there are few alternatives to suburban development, as metropolitan areas must accommodate increased population. But in Madrid, there are over 175,000 vacant habitations within the city. Even there, the exodus from downtown neighborhoods continues. People, especially those with families, are choosing to live in the outskirts even when it means much longer commutes to work and less access to the central Madrid amenities of entertainment, restaurants, clubs, public transportation, and shopping. One very popular house type is the "Chalet americano," a single-family residence surrounded by its own small yard. But these chalets use up much greater land than the traditional apartments and flats.

Martha, who has in the past used her architect skills to help preserve the Kentucky Camp buildings, is now thinking about those 175,000 vacant habitations, many of them in historic buildings and historic neighborhoods. The empty habitations apparently would not meet the needs of modern families. But the outlying suburbs are not meeting the goals of the European Community to reduce air

pollution and promote only sustainable development. Further, Martha sees the new suburbs, where nuclear families live far from grandparents and cousins, as weakening family and community networks.

And vacant historic buildings are at risk for deterioration, decay, and demolition. Could those buildings be rehabilitated to make them more livable, more desirable for modern families? Could the historic neighborhoods be reused and rejuvenated to help a city maintain more sustainable development?

Martha has designed surveys and studies to find out. Instead of just assuming people flee the city because of noise, or smells, or aversion to immigrants, or are drawn to the suburbs for privacy, mobility, and yards, she will be interviewing a sample of residents from two neighborhoods, one in the city and one on the outskirts. With her data and analyses, she will be able to make recommendations to the Madrid planning commission about how older neighborhoods could be retrofitted to better meet the needs of today's families. Stay tuned—Martha hopes to have her dissertation completed by the end of the year, so that she can return to her beloved Mexico. Meanwhile, she sends *saludos* and *muchos abrazos* to the *muy queridos* Friends of Kentucky Camp. If you would like to send her a note, she'd be delighted to hear from you. Her email address is: [martha\\_mrobles@hotmail.com](mailto:martha_mrobles@hotmail.com).



**Friends of Kentucky Camp**

12250 N. Copper Spring Trail  
Oro Valley, AZ 85755

**Web Site:**

<http://www.aztecfreenet.org/fkcamp/>

**Discussion Group:**

FriendsofKentuckyCamp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

**Newsletter Submissions:**

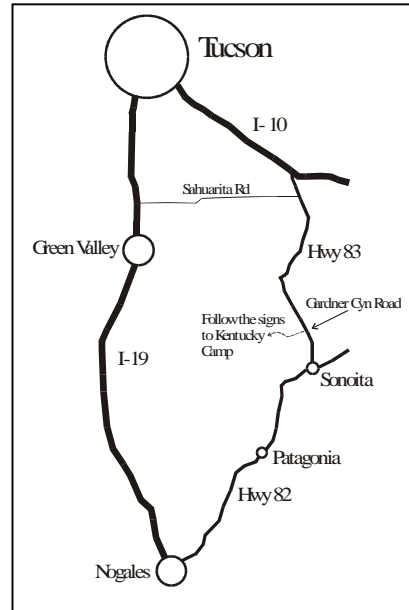
doumas@mindspring.com

**Board of Directors:**

Mark Doumas	President	520 299-4281
John Weiss	Vice President	520 323-0358
Pat Spoerl	Secretary	520 297-7347
Nancy Hough	Treasurer	520 578-9053
Pete Van Cleve	At-large	520 378-1956

**Forest Service Liaison:**

Kathy Makansi 520 760-2502



**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: all dues are tax deductible.

Friends of Kentucky Camp  
12250 N. Copper Spring Trail  
Oro Valley, AZ 85755