

KENTUCKY CAMP



CHRONICLE



Newsletter of the Friends of Kentucky Camp

May 2004

Visitors to March Open House Not Deterred by Threatening Weather

By Mark Doumas



The Open House at Kentucky Camp on Saturday, March 13 was a great success despite some threatening weather. The day started off with relatively clear skies but thunderheads gradually appeared by mid-day. Little rain actually fell, however, and well over 100 determined visitors made it out to the Kentucky Camp "Centennial" Open House. The relatively good turn-out was surely due to the excellent newspaper, radio and web site coverage of the event.

As in past years, the Kentucky Camp Open House was featured as one of the AZ State Parks Archaeology Awareness Month events. Mark Doumas gave almost non-stop tours of the Kentucky Camp site. (He was hoarse the next day!) Bill Gillespie led a group of about 20 guests on his highly esteemed hike and tour of Boston Gulch. Plus, the Desert Goldiggers conducted their very popular gold panning demonstration. Sales of Kentucky Camp T-shirts, post cards and "adobe" brownies were brisk. So, we ended-up raising funds as well as awareness of Kentucky Camp!

"CENTENNIAL" Passport in Time

By Mary Farrell

How do you celebrate a 100th birthday? Sometimes, by major facelifts and minor surgery! During the April Passport in Time project at Kentucky Camp, 22 volunteers from the Friends of Kentucky Camp, 11 volunteers from Mexico, and 5 archaeologists from the Coronado National Forest spent a week searching for clues to the past, turning back the ravages of time, and preparing for the future. **Each day teams worked to:**

- ☞ Complete the contour map of the site!
- ☞ Continue electrification of the Headquarters building!
- ☞ Plaster! (the parlor was finished by caretaker Clint Waddell, who shared his secret mud recipe with Martín and Isaac from INAH);
- ☞ Install ceiling and crown molding in two rooms!
- ☞ Fix ceilings in two other rooms with original tongue-in-groove wood!
- ☞ Install baseboard molding in 3 rooms!
- ☞ Close off the bat and rat entries in the Headquarters building!
- ☞ Build a parking lot!
- ☞ Install signs!
- ☞ Build a rock step along the existing path at Cabin C!
- ☞ Repair large cracks in the Headquarters Building!
- ☞ Begin an interpretive brochure for Boston Gulch, where the ca. 1904 hydraulic mining took place!
- ☞ Begin engineering studies for a caretaker residence to replace the current trailer!

Teams led by Forest Service archaeologists Bill Gillespie, Kathy Makansi, and Chris LeBlanc and Arizona Site Steward Cherie Freeman focused on survey, recording, and relocating and inspecting sites in the vicinity of Kentucky Camp. **These teams:**

- ☞ Inspected prehistoric sites located a few miles north of Kentucky Camp in the Upper Davidson Canyon Archaeological District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places!
- ☞ Recorded a large Archaic site in Fish Canyon!

All this work couldn't have been accomplished without the logistics crews: Irene Bakos was chief chef for group dinners, architects and engineers erected solar shower enclosures, and the kids carted water and other beverages to the on-site crews. Nurses Nancy Buell and Martha Jo Billy treated a bruised ankle and splinters; and caretaker Bev Waddell performed the heroic task of cleaning the vault and chemical toilets.

To help celebrate Kentucky Camp's centennial, three of the children from Mexico performed a traditional "Fariseo" dance during the April PIT before a *cena* prepared by the Mexican volunteers. In Yaqui and Mayo tradition, men who wish to perform penance during Lent become Fariseos, who wear masks, cannot talk, sleep in a central ramada, and dance for offerings of food or coins to buy food. Martha Robles also organized a raffle of traditional craft items, including Seri shell necklaces, small souvenir Yaqui drums and masks, and an INAH reproduction of a prehispanic censor.



- ☞ Searched for a ditch segment between Cave Canyon and Sawmill Canyon! (the ditch was not found, but two prehistoric sites were discovered and recorded)
- ☞ Recorded a small historic site at the mouth of Tunnel Spring! (part of the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company water system)
- ☞ Searched for Hughes Mine, as marked on a 1915 USGS map! (This early 20th-century site was not found, but a later arrastre site was located and recorded.)
- ☞ Recorded Snyder Mine and Mill, dating from the early- or mid-20th century!

Fresco Finishes Finale

By Mary Farrell

Do you like to sit back and ponder the mysteries of the universe? Or dig in and get your hands dirty? Either way, you would be most welcome to join us for a Final Fresco Finishes Passport in Time project at Kentucky Camp, **July 26 – August 6, 2004.**

The hands-on work will include delicate lime plaster stabilization and mud plastering. INAH Conservators Rodolfo del Castillo and Jorge Morales will be returning to do any final touches to the "gold room" in the Headquarters Building, and stabilize loose plaster in the Gold-Processing Building. INAH masons/exhibit specialists Martín Terán and Isaac Romero will continue the good

work of Clint Waddell, Jim Britton, and others in the interior plastering in the Headquarters Building. Even if you don't have the patience or inclination to work on either of these tasks, there will be plenty of mud-mixing, rough-coat-plastering, sand-screening, rock-toting, and general logistical work to do.

Jim Britton will also be recruited, along with other super sleuths Susan Jones and Marie Britton, for the "contemplative" work. With Forest Service archaeologist Mary Farrell, they'll seek clues to the Gold-Processing Building's previous lives. Starting with the meticulous notes of the late Friend and metallurgical scholar Lew Orrell, we'll measure,

draw, and photograph every ghost chemical stain, mystery feature, and shelving trace to see if we can better reconstruct the work that once when on in the building. Call or write Mary Farrell at 670-4564 or

mfarrell@fs.fed.us for more information. Day-trippers and kids welcome (Rodolfo and Jorge will be bringing their families).

Bill Lord Searches for Stetson Descendent

By Mark Doumas

Friends of Kentucky Camp member Bill Lord has been hot on the trail of James Stetson. You might recall that we listed some of the Kentucky Camp volunteer projects in our last newsletter. After reading that list, Bill Lord volunteered to help with some genealogical research. The goal was to see if there are any direct living descendants of the founders of the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company.

We know from prior research that SRW&M Co. financier, George McAneny had no children. However, Bill's research has turned-up a grandson of James Stetson. (You'll recall that James Stetson was the mining engineer for the SRW&M Co. that met his untimely end when he fell from the window of his third floor room at the Santa Rita Hotel in May, 1905.) The grandson, Wesley Stetson, died in 1977 at the age of 62 in Contra Costa County, California. It's not yet known if Wesley married or had children. Bill is currently working via email with librarians at the Contra Costa Co. library to see if an obituary for Wesley will provide any further clues.

Bill has spent about 40 hours on this project so far. He's prepared a report of his findings which include many other relatives (although not direct descendants) of McAneny and Stetson. Stay tuned: perhaps Bill will locate a living descendant in time to write about in the next newsletter!

STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM UPDATE

By Chris Schrager

On May 14, 2004 a group of 54 students, half from Mexico and half from the U.S., visited Kentucky Camp accompanied by 18 adults. The visit was arranged by Coronado National Forest archaeologists and leaders of Hands Across the Border, a student exchange program for young people in southern Arizona and northern Sonora, Mexico. The visitors were given a tour of the site, then spent the afternoon doing community service work alongside CNF archaeologists: building a rock retaining wall next to the new vault toilet, patching eroded exterior surfaces on the outside of the Gold Processing building, and making adobe bricks for future restoration efforts. The project resulted in beneficial effects for the site, increased appreciation for cultural and historic preservation, and new contacts for future stabilization projects. We hope to see many of the families back soon for future visits and work days!



FAMOUS FRIEND FRAMED!

Past FKC vice-president and renowned author **Betty Leavingood** has completed a very lovely cross-stitch to hang in the Bed and No Breakfast. Does anyone know how to get this fine fabric framed? It measures about 18 inches by 11 inches. *Friends* could reimburse a volunteer framer, or frame contractor, a modest sum. Please call or write Marv Farrell if you can help.

More visitors...better facilities

By Chris Schragger

In addition to the many tasks undertaken during the recent PIT project, the site's capacity to handle the needs of increasing numbers of visitors has been enhanced by the installation of a second vault toilet. Located adjacent to the site of the Hummel family's outhouse, along the drainage north of the Administration Building, the new facility is the same model as the one below the Rental Cabin. While the toilet is already functional, plans are underway to run power (for pathway lights) and water (for a hand-washing faucet and hose bib for cleaning) to the site. The path will then be surfaced in accordance with specifications of the Americans with Disabilities Act, so that we'll have a fully accessible toilet at the site. Volunteers, including Scouts and student groups, are currently working on a dry-stacked rock wall to retain the slope on the uphill side of the toilet.

FKC Board Election in October

By Sandy Dumas

In October, our next election for the FKC Board of Directors will be held. All officers except Secretary are up for election: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Member-at-large. Board members are elected for a two-year term. Currently, these posts are held by Mark Dumas, Nancy Hough, Emily Wang, and Pete VanCleve, respectively. These officers have done a great job, and we thank them heartily for their efforts!

I encourage anyone, including these current officers, to notify Sandy Dumas if they want to run for office in October: 520-299-4281 or dumas@mindspring.com.

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