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# Kentucky Camp Chronicle

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

December 2006

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## History of the Hummel Ranch

By Linda Hummel Roslund

In the early 1900's what is now known as the Hummel ranch was originally called "The Cottonwoods" on the maps of the area. *[Editor's Note: The Cottonwoods site is on the other side of highway 83 from Kentucky Camp. It is at the end of the seven mile long Curley Horse Ranch road. The ranch house continues to be a working ranch at this time.]* The name came from the huge cottonwood trees that grew on the property. The old transcontinental road came within a half mile of the Cottonwoods. This land was homesteaded in the early 1900's by a man known as Lopez, His first name isn't known. He built a house behind where the water tank stands. The legend is that the "gringos" were trying to take his land and he hung himself from the cottonwood trees that were growing there. His body is buried in an unmarked grave about one fourth of a mile from where the ranch house now stands.

Meanwhile, Louis G. Hummel, his sons Louis C. and Gene (born Eugene George) came to Arizona in 1907. His oldest daughter Villette and her husband Percy Seybold were already in the state. His wife, Emma Yockey Hummel his children, 'Floss' (Flossie), Della and new baby Don followed them a few months later. Emma's mother, Elizabeth Reichmann Yockey, also came as she had been widowed several years before.

They came from Cincinnati, Ohio where Louis G. was a successful wealthy attorney. While still living in Ohio, Louis had invested in mining and a gas light company in Arizona and lost 'his fortune'. He had mining interests in Arizona so he went west.

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When he came to Arizona, Louis homesteaded a piece of land in Cortaro, west of Tucson and the family lived in a house made of an old box car. By 1910, according to the census the family was living with Percy, Villette, and their daughter Aline, in Tucson.

They next moved to the mining town of Greaterville in the foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains south of Tucson. Louis G. represented the family of George McAneny who had owned the placer mine business now known as Kentucky Camp. After George's death in 1909, the heirs made several abortive attempts to keep the mine viable but without success. When the last of McAneny's heirs died in 1928, Louis received the placer mining property as payment for settling the heirs' estate. Louis and his family moved to one of the small houses on the property. (As the years passed, Louis G. gave 1/7th of the land to each of his children and they formed a corporation. This happened in the 1930's).

The next move was to what is now known as the Hummel Ranch into a small wooden house. The house was located two miles south of the present day house close to the Santa Cruz County line. Emma, her mother Elizabeth, son Louis C., and daughter Floss had homesteaded the land and turned over the property to Louis G. The younger

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## Annual Meeting and Potluck

Glorious fall weather was in store for our annual meeting and potluck on October 15<sup>th</sup>. We had a good turn-out, and everyone enjoyed a great pot-luck picnic!

Here's who attended: John Weiss, Mark Doumas, Drum Haverstock, Nancy Hough, her grandchildren Robert and Shelbie Davis, Chris Schrager, Mary Farrell, Kathy Makansi, Caretakers Earl and Mary Ellen Edwards.



Shelbie Davis cooks hamburgers

At the meeting, we announced Nancy Hough as the new Treasurer and Pat Spoerl as the new Secretary.... Welcome Nancy and Pat!

We also agreed on the key dates for 2007. We'll continue our monthly workdays on the

second Saturday of each month. We also decided to have a PIT-like week in May and an Open House as part of our October work day rather than our usual April open house. This way, we will spread-out our planning workload more evenly through the year.

We got quire a bit done around the site before and after the pot-luck lunch. (See *Site Progress Report* on page 3.)

There was a bit of excitement when a hiker brought an injured hawk to the site. We understand they were able to get the hawk transported to a bird rehab center.

## New Secretary and Treasurer

We are delighted to welcome two new board members. Here's a chance to learn a little bit more about Nancy and Pat.

**Nancy Hough (Treasurer)** - Born in New Mexico, raised in Arizona. Wife of Robert, mother of three,



Virgil, Laurie and Eric, step-mother of two, Duane and Lorrie Hough, grandmother of three: Christopher, Robert and Shelbie. Laurie and Christopher are currently

serving in the U.S. Army Reserves.

I have a long-time interest in archeology and enjoy volunteering with several archaeology organizations. I previously worked at the Casa Malpais Archaeological and Historic Park as a volunteer, tour guide and Vice-President, helped establish the Green Valley Chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society, and served several terms as Certification Representative, Vice-president and President. I've taken various interesting classes in field work, prehistory, rock art recording, ceramic identification, stabilization, survey and mapping, through PCC and the Arizona Archaeological Society, of which I am still a member with the Phoenix Chapter. I am also proud to be an Arizona Site Steward.

For several years, I have also had many great adventures working at Kentucky Camp. It has been my pleasure to watch the restoration of Kentucky Camp and to see it grow into the beautiful, pleasant and special site to visit that it is today, and to know the people that made it all possible. It will

Please see *Secretary and Treasurer* on page 3

*Secretary and Treasurer* from page 2

be my pleasure to serve as the Treasurer for Friends of Kentucky Camp.....and all of the very, very special people involved in the project!

**Pat Spoerl (Secretary)** - I have recently finished a long career with the Forest Service, mainly serving on the Coronado National Forest. I've played a number of roles over the years with respect to Kentucky Camp although I never had sufficient time to fully appreciate and enjoy the special place that it is. As Forest Archaeologist I first visited Kentucky Camp in the late 1980s before the property was acquired by the Forest Service through a land exchange. After the site came into public ownership it was a challenge to keep the



historic buildings from further deterioration and vandalism.

Recreation initiatives in the 1990s, when I served as the Forest Recreation Staff Officer, made it possible to obtain partnership funding to begin stabilization and interpretation of the site. The Friends

of Kentucky Camp was also formed. I truly appreciated the efforts of the archeologists, recreation personnel and many volunteers during those years because without their on-the-ground presence the vast improvements to the buildings at Kentucky Camp and the interpretive programs would not have happened.

I now have the opportunity to spend more time supporting the preservation and interpretation of special places such as Kentucky Camp and am very much looking forward to working with the Friends of Kentucky Camp as a "Friend" and to serving on the Board.

## Site Progress Report

Our efforts at Kentucky Camp continue to focus on getting the large Headquarters building rehabilitated. Funds for this phase of restoration are coming from two grants from the Forest Service. (A Centennial of Service Challenge Grant and a Historic Cabin Rental grant.) Earlier this year, couches, tables and chairs were purchased with this funding.



John Weiss applies texture to the kitchenette wall.

In recent months, carpenter John Weiss completed a set of four comfortable Adirondack chairs to complement the Headquarters porch.

On recent work days, we replaced the rain gutter and completed the frame wall that divides the old shower room. One of the spaces created by the new wall is a kitchenette with refrigerator and simple cabinets.

### Upcoming Activities:

During the next few work days, we plan to finish installation of the kitchenette cabinets and baseboard trim. We'll also finish cleaning the attic and trim the room on the other side of the new wall. (This will become the office for the Friends of Kentucky Camp.)

Our last work day for 2006 is December 9<sup>th</sup>... come on out and join the fun!

*"Good volunteers aren't recruited... They are cornered!"*

## Salute to the Hasletts

The Friends of Kentucky Camp board of directors has voted to officially recognize the outstanding contributions made by long-time Friends Glenn and Jo Haslett.



Glenn Haslett

Our "Bed and No Breakfast" cabin would be pretty barren without Glenn's dedication and skills-- Glenn designed and built much of the furniture in the cabin, transforming it from empty shell to appealing showplace. Glenn meticulously measured and planned and then applied his considerable carpentry expertise so that the table, benches, kitchen cabinet, and bunks would stand the rigors of renter use and still be beautiful and appropriate for a 100-year-old building. His design and execution is evident, too, in the sturdy picnic tables that grace the area outside the Headquarters Building. Less obvious, but equally important, is the work that Glenn has done to fix and repair a lot of small items that have broken over the years.

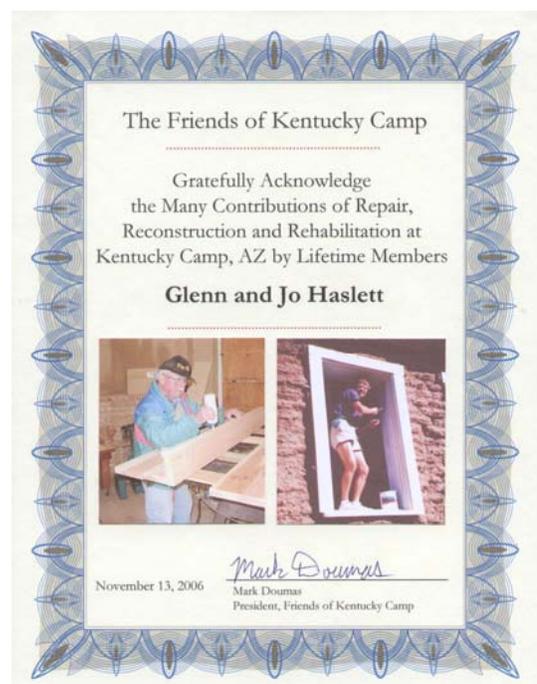
Jo Haslett has been a Jill-of-all-trades, doing everything from painting window sashes to directing traffic at the Open Houses, from recording historic artifacts to giving tours to the public. With quiet strength and determination, Jo has routinely volunteered for some of the most difficult jobs around camp, like scrubbing down

the Bed and No Breakfast and hauling off dead trees.



Jo Haslett

The Hasletts' fine spirit is appreciated as much as their work: they tackle every job with good humor, patience and wit. Glenn's calmness and Jo's energy enhanced every PIT project and workday they attend. In recognition of their contributions, the Friends of Kentucky Camp board of directors awards the Hasletts with a certificate of appreciation.



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children were too young to homestead. Louis G. had already homesteaded his share of land in Cortaro and could not homestead any more land.

The youngest son, Gail was born in that house in 1911. (Gail passed away in Dec. of 2000 and his ashes are scattered over his birth site).

Emma had a rough time in Arizona. The family had been very wealthy in Ohio. They had a city house and a summer house. She had domestic help in the home. Now in Arizona she had seven children to care for (her granddaughter, Aline, lived with them) and was cooking and baking on a wood stove, washing with a washboard, etc. The house was very small with no running water. In Ohio she had her sterling silverware made to order, and beautiful furniture. She brought this to Arizona and tried to keep the essence of

their past alive. She put cloth napkins in the younger children's lunch boxes, and the local kids made fun of their 'rags'.

Around 1911- 1912 the family started building the house that now stands by the cottonwood trees. It was made of homemade adobes. The main house had 6 rooms and an outhouse. It had a kitchen, saddle-room, living room and 3 other small rooms. The saddle room became a bathroom in the 1930's, the living room and 2 other rooms became a long living and dining room about the same time. The porches, den, bedroom and bathroom were added on in the 1940's by Gene and Alvessa Hummel. The family

had dismantled the original wooden house and rebuilt it at the ranch site. It was going to be used for Elizabeth Yockey to live in, but she passed away in Feb. of 1912. The wooden house was eventually dismantled from the present ranch site.

When Elizabeth died, she died on the ranch and the family had to prepare her body ~ her grandsons Louis age 21 and Gene age 17 had to take her by buckboard into Tucson. It was a day and a half trip. At night they slept under the buckboard. She was buried at Evergreen

Cemetery, a long way from her native country of Germany.

When Don was 9, the neighbors built a one room school house in Cienega Creek Valley, about a mile and a half from the ranch. The first teacher at that school was Burdette Rhork. Don and Aline (his niece that also lived at the ranch) would ride to school on



*The Hummel family in Arizona. From left to right: Della, Villette, Alfred Donau (Villette's 2<sup>nd</sup> husband), Floss, Gene, Louis C., Louis G., Emma, Don, Gail. Photo courtesy of the Hummel Family.*

horseback. Gail, who was five, would tag along on another horse. The school is no longer there. How long the school was in existence isn't really known.

By 1918, Louis G., Emma and the two younger children, Don and Gail, had moved to Tucson. This left Gene and Flossie to run the ranch and send money to their father. Louis C. had gone to France fight during World War I. Before that, Louis C. lived in Tucson to earn money to support the family and worked on the ranch.

They were dry farming at the time on the ranch; they also had pigs and cows. Flossie and Della married local boys, Wick Fenter and his nephew, Guy Perry.

When Louis C. returned home from the war he stayed on at the ranch, until he went back to Tucson to work.

Gene went to California and went to school to learn drafting. He was an amateur inventor. The teachers told him that he knew all they could teach him, so he went back to the ranch and never left again. During the period of time that the whole family lived at the Hummel Ranch they had the Settler's Picnics under the huge cottonwood trees. The Settler's Picnics were the beginning of the Santa Cruz County Fair.

After 1920 Gene ended up staying alone on the ranch running cattle. In 1937 he married Alvessa Ochoa from Patagonia. They bought the property from his father Louis and improved the property through the years. They had a daughter, Linda who was born in 1941 and was raised on the ranch.



*Gene Hummel. Photo courtesy of the Hummel Family.*

In the 1930's Gene hired a man named Harold Guyon (sp?) to build the fireplace in the ranch house, which turned out to be a masterpiece. Gene and Alvessa did most of the physical work on improving the house themselves. They laid the adobe for the add-on to the house, and framed it. They laid the hardwood floors. Gene paneled the redwood den and built the redwood door himself, the same with paneling the bedroom in knotty pine, for which he made a door to match. They built the bookcase in the den themselves; to fit a

vase the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Tucson had given Louis G. Hummel, who in turn gave it to Alvessa. Alvessa carved a beam of ivy for the den. Gene studied electrical manuals and completely wired the house himself. Alvessa laid the Spanish tiles in the porches. She also went to the Cienega and brought flat rocks home (over a long period of time) and laid the walkway to the front door and the patio by the back bedroom. Gene had built a gate leading into the yard in front of the house. Alvessa carved a horse's head into it.

When Gene was putting the fence around the front of their house he hit a skull with a crowbar. It was that of an Indian child, Alvessa glued it back together and buried it in the rose bushes in front of the house. In the 1950's Gene was written up in a Western Magazine because he did all of his cow-punching by jeep. He roped calves from the jeep and he herded the cattle by Jeep. In a dry year he hooked up a trailer to it, filled the trailer with feed and would feed the cattle. If he was missing a cow he would have Linda ride with him to look for it. Gene had no sense of smell so Linda became his official 'smeller' ~ to see if she could smell anything that had died.

Gene saddled-up a horse twice a year to round up for branding or selling. He would always hire a man he trusted and respected to help him, Lencho Leon. Lencho was the foreman for the Lewis Douglass ranch in Sonoita. When Gene became elderly and couldn't do as much, Lencho would ride the range for him without Gene being aware he was doing it. A true friend!

Alvessa graduated from high school in Patagonia and was lucky enough to be able to attend college for a year. Mrs. Fortune, her teacher from grade school saw that she got a scholarship to attend Sierra Madre College in California, now part of Loma Linda University.

Alvessa was a talented musician and artist. She and her brother, Pacho Ochoa, started their own band about 1927. They both played the saxophone, but Alvessa could play many instruments. Among the instruments she owned and

played were three different kinds of saxophones, a trumpet, a clarinet, many guitars, guitarrone, bass fiddle, accordion, zither, piano and others. After her brother died in 1945 she continued with the dance band with the LeGendre brothers from Sonoita. She played at local dances, weddings, and where ever she had an opportunity to.

She played both Mexican and American music. Alvessa played music until the end of her life. Her favorite instruments to play were the saxophone followed by the guitar and piano. Alvessa was known for having perfect pitch. Her playing and singing of Mexican folk songs were taped in the late 1940's and early 50's, she was told for the Library of Congress. It is known that they are now housed in the University of New Mexico and University of Arizona libraries of Mexican folklore.



*Alvessa Hummel at the Patagonia Women's Club (also known as Cady Hall) Circa 1950. Photo courtesy of the Hummel Family.*

Alvessa was also an amateur archeologist. The area of Arizona where the Hummel Ranch is located has old Indian ruins located all around. On the Hummel Ranch property Indian relics were abundant: pottery shards, turquoise, arrowheads, etc. One summer an archeological student came and lived under the cottonwood trees and Alvessa took him all over Santa Cruz County, parts of Pima

and Cochise Counties to search known ruins and find new ones.

When Linda was five, the Sonoita school board members went to Gene and Alvessa and asked if Linda could please attend the Sonoita School because they did not have enough students to keep the one room school open. The Sonoita School was in Santa Cruz County and Linda lived in Pima County. The Sonoita School needed 12 students for the 8 grades to keep it open. Gene and Alvessa agreed with the understanding that once more students came in they would not make Linda stop attending Sonoita School and go to Empire School in Pima County. She attended Sonoita School for five years when they closed the Sonoita School. She then went to Elgin school for one year. After that she was sent to boarding school to 'catch up' on her academics, then came home and graduated from Patagonia High School. She left the ranch when she went away to college and never moved back, but her heart was always in the area. She has spent the last few years doing research on the burials of Black Oak Cemetery in Canelo, Arizona and has a web site with her findings of the people buried there. Her parent's stories of people and happenings in the area prompted this research.

Gene and Alvessa raised cattle on the ranch until they sold the land in the late 1960's. They had a life estate on the house and 160 acres. Gene died in 1974 and Alvessa in 1982. Their ashes are scattered over what the family called Mt. Hummel or Hummel Hill on the ranch property. They have a memorial head stone at Black Oak Cemetery.

The huge Cottonwood trees that once stood there burned in a fire after 1982. The trees were over 100 feet tall, and the largest was 36 feet in circumference. A beautiful site for picnics, Easter egg hunts, and many memories. The end of an era.

*From personal records, recollections and help from Don Hummel's autobiography "One Man's Life - From Wagon Wheels to the Space Age".*

**Friends of Kentucky Camp**

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

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**Newsletter Submissions:**

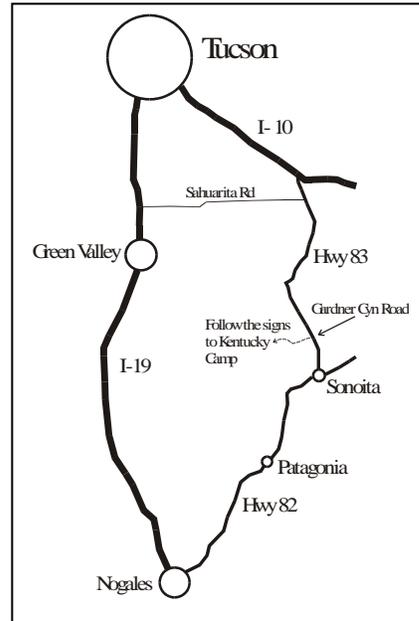
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