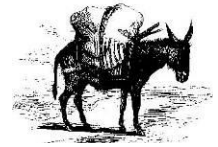
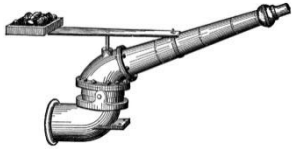


KENTUCKY CAMP CHRONICLE



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

June 2026

Unique Artifact Returns to Kentucky Camp

By John Weiss

In mid-April of this year, I received a package from a fellow in Idaho containing a most interesting item. The item was a pocket sundial watch, with fob. In an enclosed note, the sender said he had metal-detected it "35-40 years ago" in Kentucky Camp, in a gulch, in a tailing pile. That puts his discovery around 1986-1991.

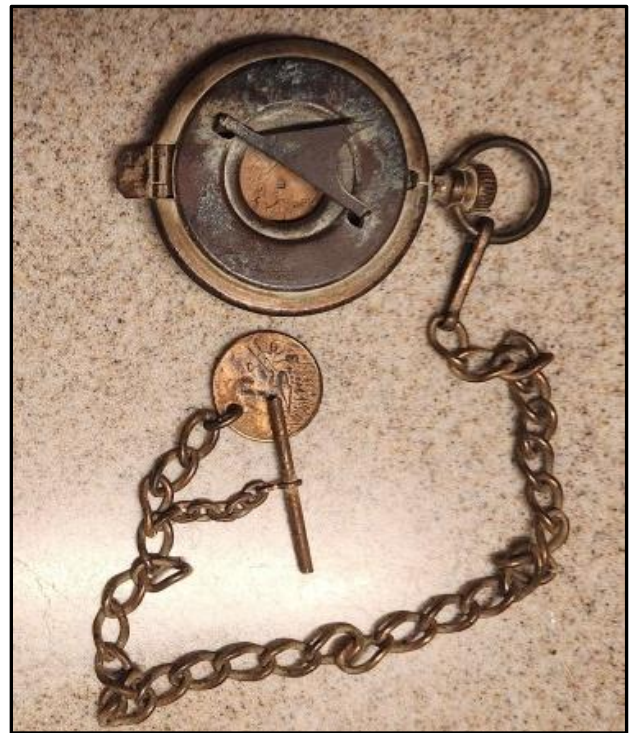


The watch is 2" in diameter; its backside is a fancy design, with no inscriptions. The business side of the watch is missing its clam-shell cover; the hinge and locking latch are still on the watch. The sundial part is a foldable thing called a gnomon (one more word to enhance one's vocabulary) which casts a shadow onto an hours-plate, to see the time. However, there are no hours or numerals inscribed on the hours-plate. It seems the hours-plate is rotate-able, but in its condition, won't move. There are no other inscriptions/engravings anywhere.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE

Unique Artifact Returns to Kentucky Camp	1
Headquarters Building Update	3
Mountain Cyclist Reports from KC	4
AZ Trail Realignment	5
IMPORTANT → Membership Renewal	7
Board of Directors Vote	



The fob is complete, about 12 inches long, which clips to the watch bow. The pendent, crown and bow (the winding/attachment pieces at the top of all pocket watches) are intact. The crown is not operable as this is not a mechanical watch. At the end of the fob chain is a metal disk (probably copper) about the size of a nickel, showing a horse jumping a picket fence. On the other side are impressions of farming tools; a plow,

shovel and wheelbarrow. Also, a stack of harvested grain.



I would suspect this watch was owned by a person who would be well-dressed and associated with horses and farming. This probably would rule out any miners/workers at the site. McAneny and Stetson come to mind as possible owners. I'm sure they brought other persons to the site who might have such a watch, like the board of directors, etc.



We've done some internet "research" on this type of sundial watch and found an image of a similar model in much better condition. (See photo below) The dark spot in the center under the gnomon is where a compass would have resided so the device could be aligned to north. The gnomon then casts a shadow onto the outer ring with numerals to indicate the time.



The fellow who returned this item also had recently visited the site and met with then-caretakers Kim and Jeff Crandell. He ends his note with a nice comment: "I met a couple of the Friends of Kentucky Camp and found them to be real and good souls. If you will please tell them I sent the watch."



Spring caretakers Mark and Matt Doll did a fantastic job of applying a sacrificial adobe coat to the rental cabin.

Headquarters Building Update

By Mark Doumas

Rehabilitation work in and around the Headquarters Building continues with splendid results!

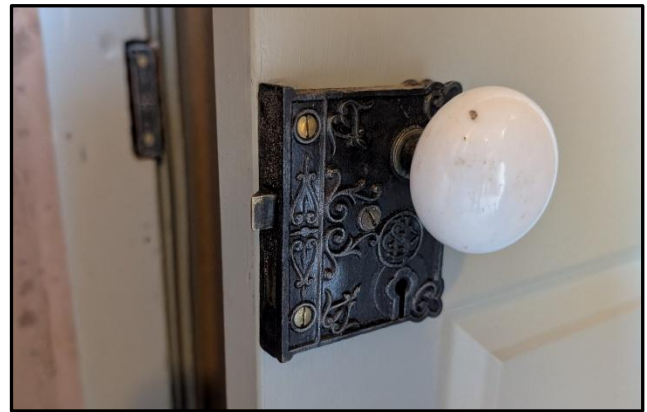
Inside the building, rehab has continued in the historic kitchen with the addition of an authentic (although non-functional) wood burning stove. Volunteer Denver Huff took the lead on cleaning-up and moving the stove from its previous storage location in the Gold Processing building. Next, he applied a coating of metal preservative that will allow this stove to last many years. This stove is an important addition to the kitchen because it helps interpret the room as it was originally used.



Volunteer Denver Huff rehabilitates the woodburning stove.

For many years, we've used the old kitchen as a storage room for tools and supplies. As a restricted area from public view, the doorway to the rest of the building had been boarded up with a piece of plywood. Now that this room is open to the public, the doorway has a real door complete with period-correct doorknob, latch and hinges. Many thanks

to carpenter and door-man-extraordinaire John Weiss for getting this project done.



Period-correct knob and latch plate hardware on the HQ kitchen door thanks to John Weiss.

Not all Headquarters Building rehab projects are indoors. Our wooden picnic tables have seen better days. Multiple quick fixes have been done throughout the years but, eventually, the Arizona sun takes its toll and the tables get too rough and "splintery" to use.

Ron Parrish took the initiative to research new picnic tables made from recycled plastic bottles. He got the team's consensus on a good design, ordered a table and led the effort to transport it and assemble it at Kentucky Camp. It is currently located between the Headquarters Building and the Gold Processing Building.



Ron Parrish and Mark Doll discuss power tools at the new picnic table.

The goal is to see how this table holds up under the Arizona sun and order more of them as the older wooden tables continue to disintegrate.

The new outdoor sink near the Headquarters Building is complete. The adobe bricks supporting the old sink were beginning to crumble.

The new sink is taller (making it easier on one's back) and has a nice wide "countertop" made from poured-in-place concrete. An internal metal frame provides support while a façade of adobe bricks helps preserve the mining-era aura.



Susan Bierer and Gail Ryser putting on the finishing touches to the outdoor sink.

Many folks with various skills contributed to this project. Chris Schrager poured the new concrete, Mark Doumas welded the internal iron support structure, Mark Doll fabricated the pour-in-place concrete countertop. Chris Schrager, Susan Bierer (Coronado National Forest Zone Archaeologist) and volunteer Gail Ryser laid the adobe bricks. Apologies to the many other folks I'm forgetting that helped on this project... it's a great upgrade to the site that will last for decades.

Mountain Cyclist Reports from Kentucky Camp

By Mark Doumas

Our winter caretakers, Jeff and Kim Crandell alerted me to a visit by Joan Meiners who cycled the entire length of the AZ Trail last Fall. Joan is the climate news reporter at The Arizona Republic newspaper.

Joan paused at Kentucky Camp long enough to conduct an interview with Matt Nelson, Executive Director of the AZ Trails Association which maintains the AZ Trail in partnership with multiple agencies. They discussed the effects of climate change on the long-term sustainability of the Arizona Trail.

The interview and Joan's travel blog can be found here:

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-environment/2025/12/01/rough-tracks-and-changing-climate-test-the-limits-on-the-arizona-trail/87340669007/>



Joan Meiners and Matt Nelson at Kentucky Camp. Photo by Mark Henle, photojournalist for The Arizona Republic.

AZ Trail Realignment

The Arizona National Scenic Trail is a non-motorized path from Mexico to Utah, stretching 800 diverse miles across Arizona to link deserts, mountains, canyons, forests, history, communities and diverse peoples.

The trail passes right through Kentucky Camp, supplying the site with a steady stream of hikers, cyclists and horseback riders.

The Arizona Trail Association is working to separate trail sections that are shared with two-track motorized roadways. These new singletrack sections improve safety and user experience.

This has resulted in a minor route change through Kentucky Camp. As one travels the trail in the northbound direction, the route formerly doubled-up with the Forest Service road up along the ridge. The new segment now passes in front of Cabin A and out the upstream gate along Kentucky Gulch.



Looking downstream in Kentucky Gulch. New single track in the foreground, Cabin A in the distance.

Friends of Kentucky Camp Board of Directors Update

Long-time member Pete Van Cleve has announced that he is stepping down from his board of director position with the Friends of Kentucky Camp. Pete and his wife Judy have been frequent on-site volunteers for over 25 years. Pete's calm and well-thought-out advice amongst the board members will be missed!



Pete Van Cleve at the Passport in Time event in July 2002.

Filling this opening in the board (pending membership vote) is Dave Mehalic. Dave recently retired from the Forest Archaeologist/Heritage Program Manager position at the Coronado National Forest. As such, he comes with a good working knowledge of Kentucky Camp. His background with our Forest Service partner will be especially helpful.

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 26" 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.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 the next page.

Did you know that Kentucky Camp has a Facebook Page? Search for us at:
@FriendsofKentuckyCamp

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 asap:

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 2027.

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: _____

Friends of Kentucky Camp Mail-in Ballot

The board of directors recommends a "for" vote on this slate of directors. The term for all positions is two years. You must be a paid-up Friends of Kentucky Camp member to vote. If you are a lifetime member and want to avoid the cost of mailing-in a ballot, email jweiss25@cox.net with your "For" or "Against" vote.

President	Mark Doumas	For _____	Against _____
Secretary	John Weiss	For _____	Against _____
Vice President	Dave Mehalic	For _____	Against _____
Treasurer	Ron Parrish	For _____	Against _____
Director At-Large	Kathy Makansi	For _____	Against _____

Friends of Kentucky Camp

4259 E. Paseo Grande

Tucson, AZ 85711

Web Site:<http://www.kentuckycamp.org/>**Facebook:**

@FriendsofKentuckyCamp

Newsletter Submissions:

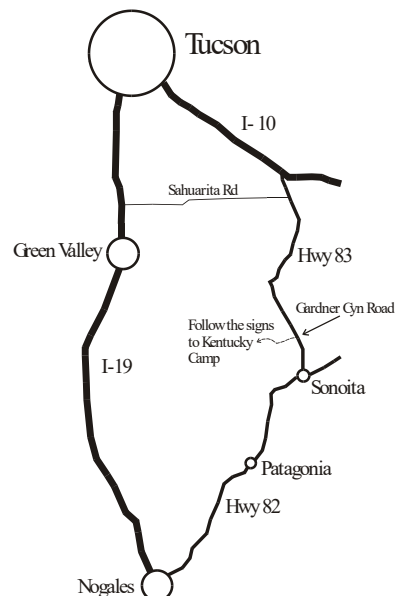
jweiss25@cox.net

Board of Directors:

President	Mark Dumas	520 990-8152
Vice Pres.	Dave Mehalic (Pending Vote)	
Secretary	John Weiss	520 323-0358
Treasurer	Ron Parrish	520 247-7004
At-Large	Kathy Makansi	520 247-5719

Forest Service Liaison:

Chris Schrager	520 820-8448
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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.