

WHO WRITES THOSE HISTORICAL ARTICLES?

My ties to Fort Stanton span nearly 100 years. My father, Daniel Kusianovich, was born in 1898 in the village of Mokosica (where my brother and I still own inherited property) near Dubrovnik. After World War I he became a merchant seaman, developed tuberculosis, and made his way to Galveston where a cousin, a shipping company executive, helped arrange for his admission to the U.S. Marine Hospital in Fort Stanton, where he arrived on Jan. 2, 1923. My mother, Marguerite Blankenship, was born in 1904 on the family farm in Tukewila, Wash., became a Registered Nurse after training at Seattle General Hospital, and joined the Public Health Service, which assigned her first to Panama and later to Fort Stanton.

They married, and by the time I was born in 1934 my father had recovered his health and been given a job as a clerk in the hospital administrative offices. He built a house on the hill in Capitan, where I lived for the first four years of my life. In 1938 they qualified for quarters at Fort Stanton and we moved into an upstairs unit in Bldg. #13 (the Pershing Building). For the first time we had indoor plumbing instead of an outhouse, steam heat, and a "gas" (white gas) stove, which my mother would gladly have traded for the big black wood stove we had in Capitan. A few years later my father was promoted to chief clerk and we moved into larger quarters on the ground floor, reportedly those in which General Pershing had lived. Ultimately we moved to Bldg. 37, the single-family home now occupied by Mike and Barbara Bilbo. My father also was a noted artist and his paintings and drawings can be seen in various homes and such places as the Capitan High School offices.

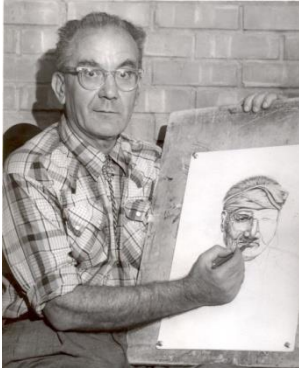
I attended the two-room Fort Stanton School through eighth grade except that my mother and I spent my second-grade year in Miami. I entered Capitan High School in 1947, graduated as valedictorian of my 13-member class in 1951, enrolled at the University of New Mexico (total student body 3,000) and graduated in 1955 with a degree in journalism and a minor in archaeology. I went to work as a reporter on the *Albuquerque Journal* (salary \$40/week), learned to fly at the long-gone West Mesa Airport, and in 1959 accepted a job as a research assistant to U.S. Sen. Clinton P. Anderson and moved to Washington, D.C. A year later, realizing Capitol Hill was not where I wanted to be, I went to work for American Aviation Publications, beginning a 50+-year career as an aviation journalist.

I married, had daughter Lisa who is a regular visitor to Fort Stanton as is grandson Jesse, and in 1980 my husband took early retirement from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and we moved to Albuquerque, where I continued writing/editing for *Air Transport World* magazine as an early telecommuter (I finally retired for good in 2011!).

In 1999 childhood friend Claire Boyd Fluharty, whose father had been hired as Expert Farmer at Fort Stanton in 1928 and ran the farm and ranch operation, contacted me and persuaded me to attend a Capitan High School reunion. We took a side trip to Fort Stanton, then a women's prison. I had avoided returning for more than 40 years and it was depressing to see it, but it inspired Claire and me to start finding and contacting other "Fort Stanton Kids" and asking them to write down their memories. We also dug through old photo albums and asked "Kids" to share their photos.

The next year we went to another CHS reunion, discovered the "little museum" in our old Community House at Fort Stanton, and were told about Jim McBride, who was writing the master's thesis that later became his book *Interned*, the story of the Fort Stanton German Camp. We were able to meet with Jim in Albuquerque that winter, shared our photos and stories, and talked him into turning our history into two wonderful photo books: *Fort Stanton Marine Hospital* and *Children of Fort Stanton*. In 2005 (I had moved back to Maryland in 2003), Claire put together a fabulous reunion attended by more than 60 Fort Stanton Kids and their families. Sadly, many of those who attended have since passed away, but a few continue to return for Fort Stanton Live each year.

Although they carry my byline, the real authors of the following articles are the Fort Stanton Kids who lived there between the early 1920s and 1953. We hope that we have entertained you with these glimpses of Fort Stanton's history and been able to correct some of the myths and misinformation about our hometown's Public Health Service era.--*Danna Kusianovich Henderson*



Left to right: Dan Kusianovich with one of his drawings, done with a graphite pencil. Marge Kusianovich in her nurse's uniform. Alice and Clarence Boyd on their 25th wedding anniversary on July 9, 1950



Above left: Enjoying a Fort Stanton Kids reunion are, left to right standing, Ethlyn White Agnew (deceased), Danna Kusianovich Henderson, Eva Howard McCollum (deceased), Tom (Skipper) Gould and Claire Boyd Fluharty. Kneeling, Pat Gould Fletcher and John Kusianovich. Photo at right above is from our big 2005 reunion. Below are assorted reunion photos.

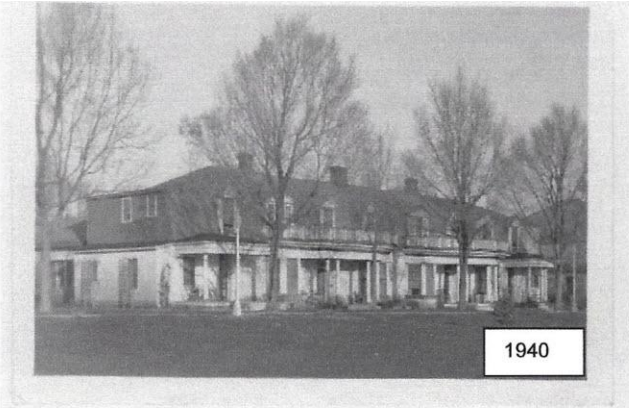


FORT STANTON NEWSLETTER JULY 2011

BUILDING #13, THE OFFICERS QUARTERS

Those of us who have known Fort Stanton for only a few years - in my case fifteen - usually call the buildings on the parade grounds by their names used in the military years. One example is the officers' quarters, or building #13 on the map. But the Fort has had a long history, and for the majority of its life was used as a hospital. Building #13 housed the staff and their families for some of that time period. Looking at the CD that the Fort Stanton Kids provided me, there are some interesting photos both inside and out of building #13. Here, courtesy of the Fort Stanton Kids, are a few of those old photos as well as a recent one taken by Joe Arcure.

JAN SAWYER



#13 back steps



#13 Upstairs



Our #13 front porch (Pench cousins visiting from Galveston)

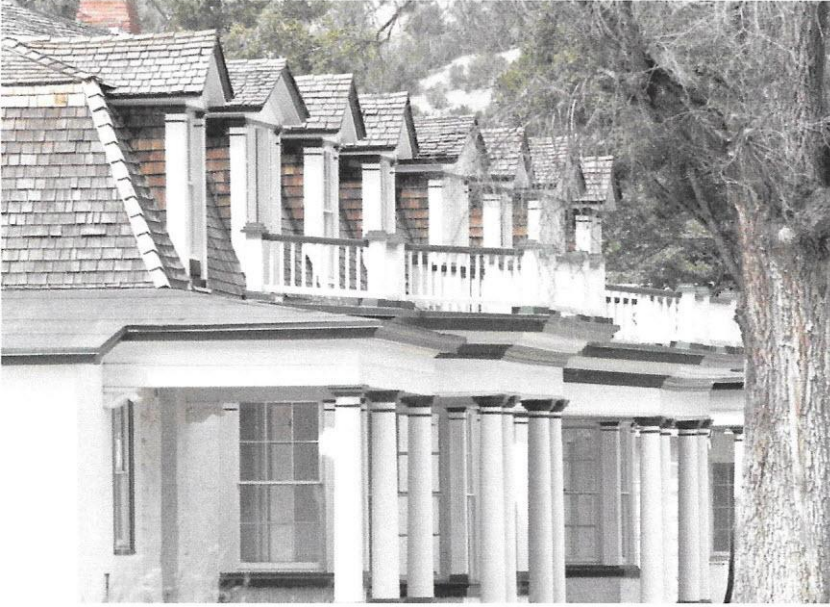


Photo
by
Joe Arcure

THE FORT STANTON THEATER

Hiding behind the boarded-up windows on the second level of what was the Amusement Building in Public Health Service days and now is the maintenance shop is an empty, floorless space that once was an auditorium and 174-seat movie theater. The Fort Stanton Kids have fond memories of attending the twice-a-week movies, which cost a nickel and later a dime. There usually was a cartoon, a Pathe News reel, and then the feature. If the movie was especially good, some kids would climb into the projection booth or onto the roof of the back porch (no longer there) to watch it a second time on “patient nights”—movies were shown to employees one night, hospital patients the next. The stage in the theater also was used for performances by the Fort Stanton School orchestra and other events like school Christmas plays.

The auditorium existed for many years before the July 1930 purchase of “sound equipment for moving pictures apparatus,” and that purchase indicates silent films were shown earlier. A structure was built on one end of the Amusement Building to house the carbon arc projectors, and in August 1931 Medical Officer in Charge Dr. R. L. Allen proudly reported that “we now have sound motion pictures.” In January 1932 it was reported that “now we have two projection machines.” With one machine, there would be a short intermission while the projectionist switched reels; with two, he could place a reel on each projector and splice them together to run the movie from beginning to end.

Though the theater is long gone, a number of its seats were rescued and are in storage. The Kids hope that someday perhaps they can be restored and used in a mini-theater in the Administration Building museum.

DANNA KUSIANOVICH HENDERSON



The Fort Stanton School orchestra performing on the stage in front of the movie screen. The door at right leads to the stairs down to the first floor; the door at the left led to rooms used as dressing rooms.



The theater curtain, painted in the 1930s by artist Dan Kusianovich, who later was hospital administrator.



The Amusement Building in the 1920s or earlier, with Bldg. 10—one of two hospital buildings no longer in existence—to its right.



The Amusement Building plainly showing the projection booth added to the second floor.

THE OLD NURSES HOME DIDN'T BURN DOWN

What the Fort Stanton Kids knew as the Old Nurses Home was a lovely three-story building that stood next to the Commanding Officer's quarters in the area now occupied by the cafeteria building. Its function during the military era is somewhat unclear, but records seem to indicate that it was used primarily for entertaining and as guest quarters for distinguished visitors like Governor Lew Wallace while he was writing *Ben Hur*. The earliest maps of the Fort show the C.O. quarters where it is today and don't identify its neighbor.

After Fort Stanton was transferred to the Marine Hospital Service in 1898, the building was remodeled into quarters for the hospital's nurses. In 1936, a new hospital was built, the old hospital in former barracks buildings between the Amusement Building and the Pershing Building was demolished, and the pueblo-style New Nurses Home was constructed in 1940 on part of the old hospital site. The Old Nurses Home was essentially abandoned--except by the ghosts we children could see in the upper windows.

When some of us returned to Fort Stanton around 2000, we were surprised to see postcards of the Old Nurses Home saying that it had burned down because we knew that it simply had been demolished as unsafe after the end of World War II.

So why did latter-day historians think it burned down? We concluded it was because of the building numbering system created in the military days. The Commanding Officer's quarters naturally had to be Building #1, so the Old Nurses Home was #2 instead of vice versa. The duplex officers' quarters on the other side of #1 was #3 and the numbers continued around the Parade Ground to #13, the Pershing Building. In the 1920s the small house next to #13 was built and became #14. There were several residences and other buildings to the southwest of the Parade and their numbers started with #15, which was the engineer's quarters. In the late 1920s there was a fire in those quarters, and according to Willett White, who lived there, the building was reported erroneously to Washington as destroyed.

So it appears that someone put two and two together and came up with six: Because the C.O. quarters was #1 and the "little house" was #14, they decided the Old Nurses Home must have been #15, which was listed incorrectly as burned. Wrong!

DANNA KUSIANOVICH HENDERSON



Old Nurses Home in 1901, before remodeling

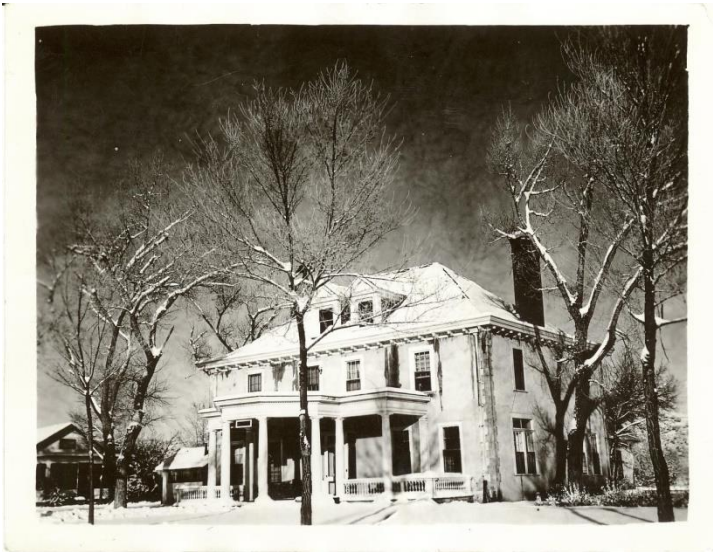
1912, with Commanding Officers quarters to its right.



In the 1930's, with nurses



Another view, probably after the nurses had moved.



Haunted house—see the ghosts in the third-floor windows? Bldg. #14 at left.



Bldg. 15, Engineer's House, Willett White in yard.

FORT STANTON'S CHURCHES

When the Marine Hospital Service took control of Fort Stanton at the end of the 19th century, it remodeled two former military barracks into hospital wards. One, located on the site of today's pueblo-style nurses' home, had three wings extending away from the Parade Ground and a Catholic chapel was installed in the center wing. There was an entrance at the rear with a bell tower and cross. A photo taken after New Mexico was granted statehood in 1912 shows the altar adorned with two 48-star flags, while another photo depicts a somewhat different altar configuration and also shows the pressed tin ceiling found in all of the barracks. A young priest conducting a Christmas service probably "rode the circuit" to various churches in Lincoln County.

In May 1936, a new modern two-story hospital was completed on the opposite side of the Parade Ground. By May 1937, demolition of the old hospital was well underway as evidenced by the photo of Max Duran standing in the ruins with Bldg. 13, the Pershing Building, in the background. But as can be seen at the far left of the photo, the wing containing the church was left standing. A new stone front was installed by the Works Progress Administration and the free-standing church continued to serve parishioners.

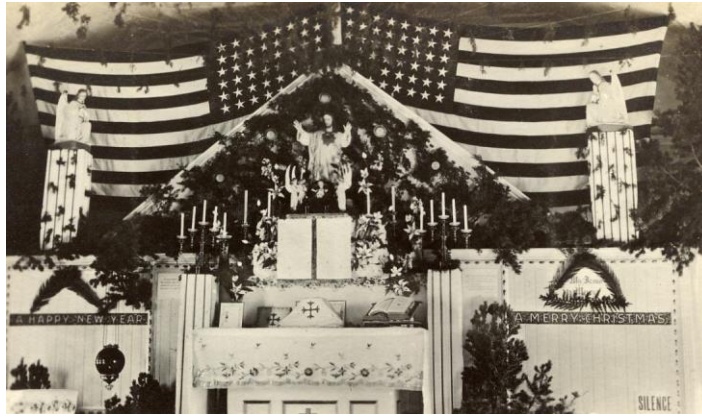
In preparation for a massive construction project in 1939-40, a new Catholic church was built in its present location next to the Fort Stanton School. The stones on the front of the free-standing church were carefully removed, numbered, hauled to the new church and reinstalled in the same locations on its front. By then the church had a fulltime priest so the new church included quarters for him. This work, incidentally, was completed in 1940, well before the German internees arrived at Fort Stanton in March 1941, so the Germans were not involved in the church's construction.

There was a second church at Fort Stanton, the Episcopal Church of Our Redeemer. Like the first Catholic Church, it was located in a rear wing of a former military barracks, this one adjacent to the new hospital. The portion of the building fronting on the Parade Ground became the hospital dining hall and the rear wings housed kitchens and some apartments for kitchen staff and other employees, along with the chapel, the entrance to which is still visible to those who know where to look.

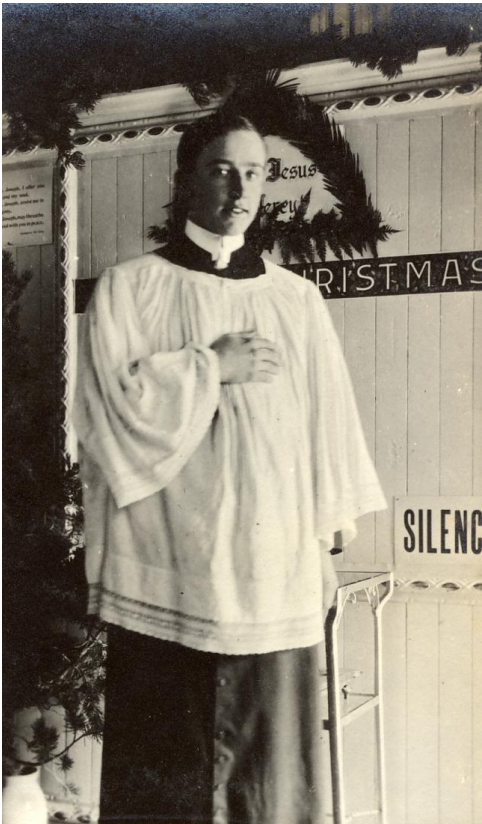
DANNA KUSIANOVICH HENDERSON



The entrance to the first Catholic church



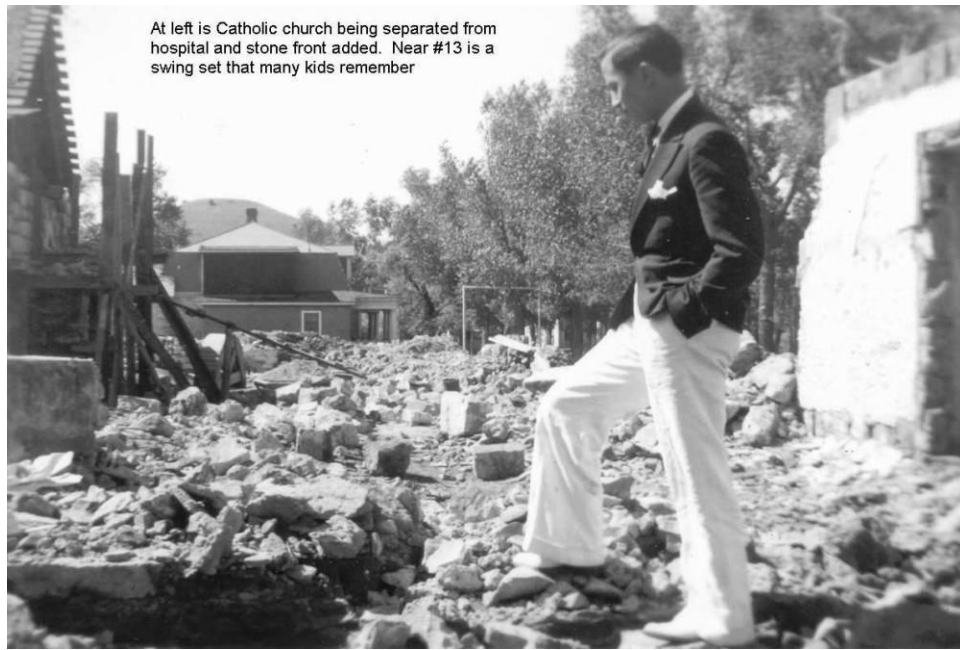
The altar in the old church decorated for Christmas



Priest celebrating Christmas



The altar in the old church—note the tin ceiling



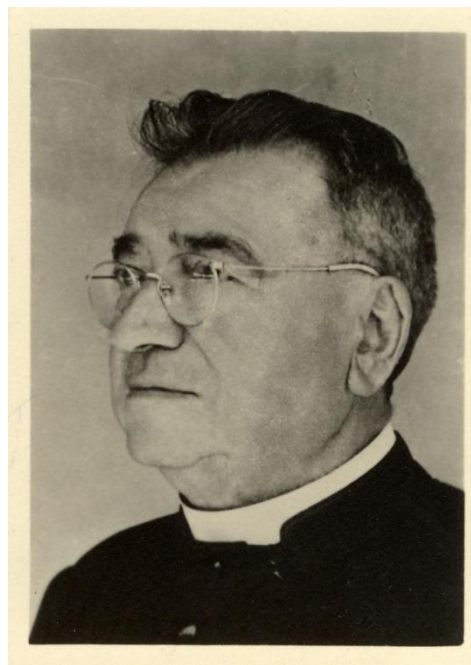
The church wing is left standing as the old hospital is demolished. The Pershing Building is in the background.



The old church with its new stone front.
The building at right, which is still standing, was the Materiel Office.



Young parishioners in front of the old church
Father O'Hara.



Father Jules Molinie, who lived in the church parish
house for many years and was known for his love of wine and
garlic.



Interior of the Episcopal Church of Our Redeemer.
Note the tin ceiling.



Entrance to Episcopal Church

BUILDING NO. 6, THE DINING HALL

Building No. 6, now known as the Chavez Building, is the last of three large barracks that fronted on the Parade Ground in the military era and in many ways is little changed from those days (the other barracks, remodeled to contain the original Marine Hospital, were demolished after the new hospital was completed in 1936). Military drawings show two long, narrow wings extending from the rear of the building with a freestanding structure between them.

Beginning in the 1920s, Bldg. 6 served as the main dining hall for patients, and some staff also took their meals there. The center structure was joined to the main building and housed the kitchens. The long wing nearest the Administration Building contained a small room for a seamstress who mended patients' clothing, then the Episcopal Chapel, and at the end a rather large apartment in which one of the Fort Stanton Kids, John Sellars, was born in 1925 when it was occupied by his grandfather, Mike Cavanaugh, the head dairyman and a former cowboy who had worked for John Chisum and known Billy the Kid. Later, that apartment was converted into a dormitory for the single male employees who previously had lived in a two-story structure that had served the military as a hospital but in Public Health Service days was known as "the Boar's Nest" and was demolished (probably as a health hazard) around 1930.

The wing of Bldg. 6 nearest the hospital contained the bakery and butcher shop, and the Kids have fond memories of being sent to pick up their families' allotments of hot, freshly baked bread and snagging a few bites (sometimes more than a few) on the way home. If they were very polite, baker Sam Cox (whose son, Dick, lives in Nogal) might allow them to take a cookie from a large barrel near the ovens.

The butcher shop, presided over by "Heavy" Stewart, provided copious amounts of steaks, roasts and ground beef for patients, staff and employees. Carcasses of cows and hogs were hung to age in a walk-in cooler on the lower level of the power plant and carried to the butcher shop as needed. There also was a small structure behind the kitchen in which garbage was separated. Food scraps were re-cooked and became feed for the hogs. Kitchen fat was recycled into soap.

DANNA KUSIANOVICH HENDERSON



The Dining Hall around 1940, as shown in a postcard.



The Dining Hall decorated for Christmas. The Parade Ground is through the windows on the right. Note the tin ceiling; similar ceilings were in all the military buildings.



The kitchen staff ready to serve Christmas dinner.



The staff and serving area; meals were cafeteria style.



Are they making biscuits or cookies? Loaves of bread fill the rack at far right.



Mixing dough.



Cleaning up.



Building #16, "the Boar's Nest," dominated this 1920s view of Fort Stanton. Like the housing units in the foreground and the old power plant with its four smokestacks, it was demolished in the 1930s.

THE TENT COTTAGES

Established in 1855, Fort Stanton was decommissioned in 1896, its mission accomplished. In the 19th century tuberculosis was the leading cause of death in the United States. New treatments were being sought. It was determined that maximum exposure to the benefits of the dry, sunny Southwest air was one step. Fort Stanton was considered an ideal location for a Tuberculosis Sanatorium. The area had low humidity, primarily sunny days, and nearly forty-five square miles of land, as well as numerous buildings. In April 1899, Fort Stanton was transferred to the Marine Hospital Service to treat its many sailors infected with tuberculosis.

Dr. P. M. Carrington, Commander of the facility, was credited for his experiments in providing the patients with as much exposure to open air as possible. He and J. Ross Thomas designed the Tent Cottage for ambulatory patients. The tents were built with wooden sides three and a half feet from the ground. The remainder of the sides and the roof were constructed from canvas. The tents were furnished with cots and a stove. One hundred of these cottages were built on the east side of the parade grounds in an area called "the Hill." The following years brought many changes to the Fort Stanton facility. Breakthroughs in the treatment of tuberculosis brought the infection under control and the Sanatorium was no longer needed. On June 30, 1953, it was turned over to the State of New Mexico and the state continued treating patients until 1966. This second chapter of the history Fort Stanton had lasted sixty-seven years.

In memory of these years, a Tent Cottage was built on one of its old sites on the Fort. It stands across from the museum on Kit Carson Drive. (See the photo on page 1.) Similar to the originals, it is equipped with two cots and a chair. Our thanks to Nick Skogland, Ira Ribkie, Larry Pope, Jim Wright and Dennis Klinger for their outstanding work. Come by and see this memorial of the large role Fort Stanton played in curbing tuberculosis.

CHARLOTTE ROWE

Note: The following photos and commentary were supplied by Danna Kusianovich Henderson.

The first two photos are extracted from a 1902 Surgeon General's report and show the actual tents that housed patients at the very beginning of the Marine Hospital years. As you can see, these are true tents. The big building in the first photo is Bldg. 16, which in our day (Danna lived on the Fort as a child) housed single kitchen workers and other staff members and was known as "the boar's nest." It was torn down at the beginning of the 1930s. The next photo shows how the shacks were improved by 1912. The fourth photo shows that they were completely replaced in probably the late 1920s.



TENT VILLAGE, FORT STANTON SANATORIUM.



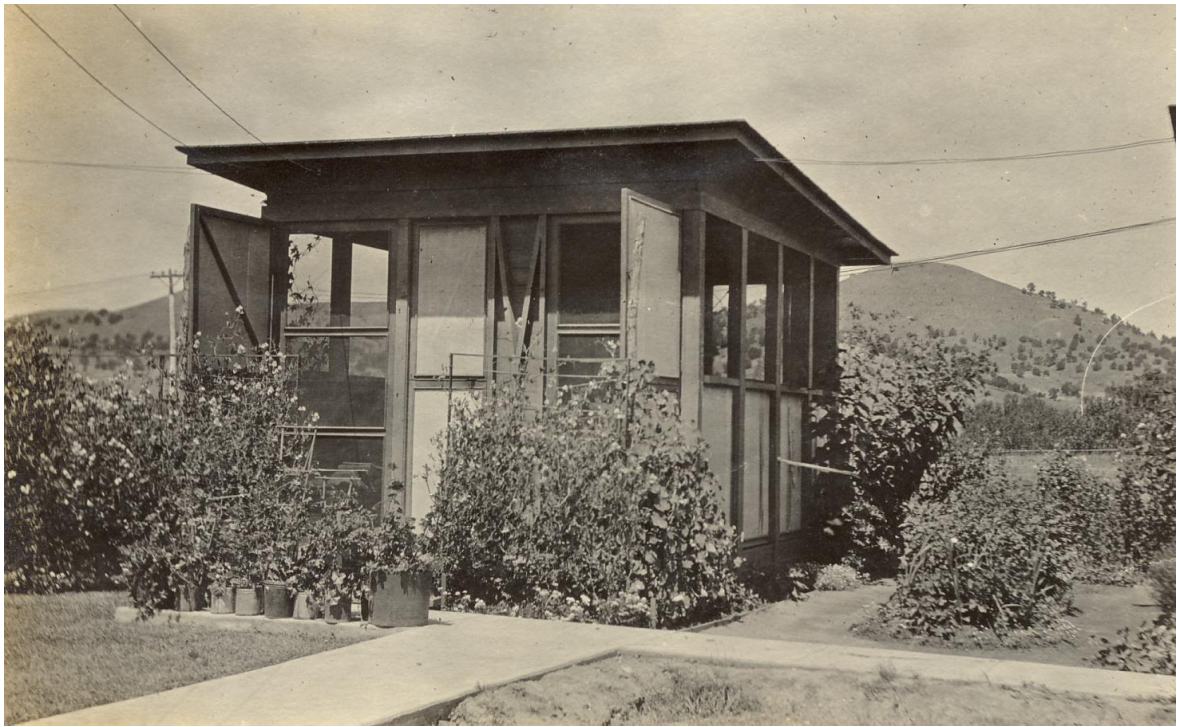
TENT OCCUPIED BY CONSUMPTIVES, BOXED AND HEATED FOR WINTER, FORT STANTON SANATORIUM.





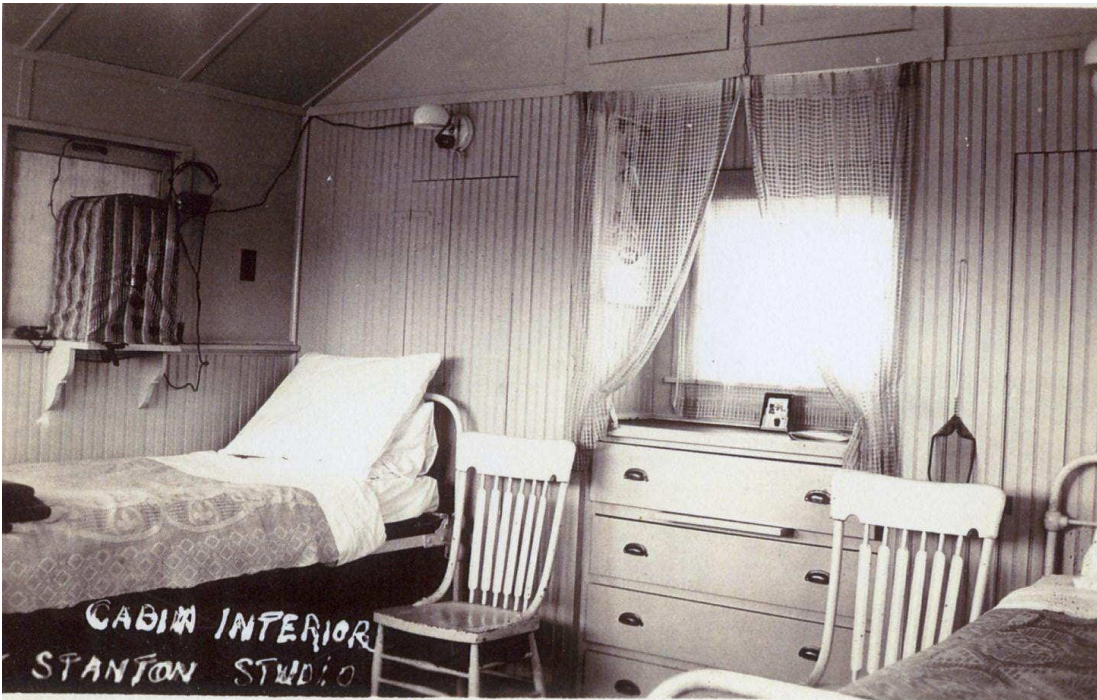
The first two photos are of "license row" in the early 1920s. These shacks housed patients who help licenses such as ship's engineer, electrician, etc. They were a notch above the "ordinary seamen" in the other tent houses. Some of the patients embellished their quarters with gardens--I especially remember the hollyhocks. The third photo is from 1934, and the fourth and fifth are from the late 1940s or even early 1950s. Notice the woodpile and garden in the fifth photo--the shacks were heated by wood stoves. The final photo shows the interior of the shack occupied by Carl Ness, the patient who ran the little Fort Stanton store for many years. He died only a few years ago and is buried in the Fort's cemetery.







A "tent" on the hill in the late 1940s or early 50s



CABIN INTERIOR
STANTON STUDIO

FORT STANTON'S RANCH AND FARM OPERATIONS

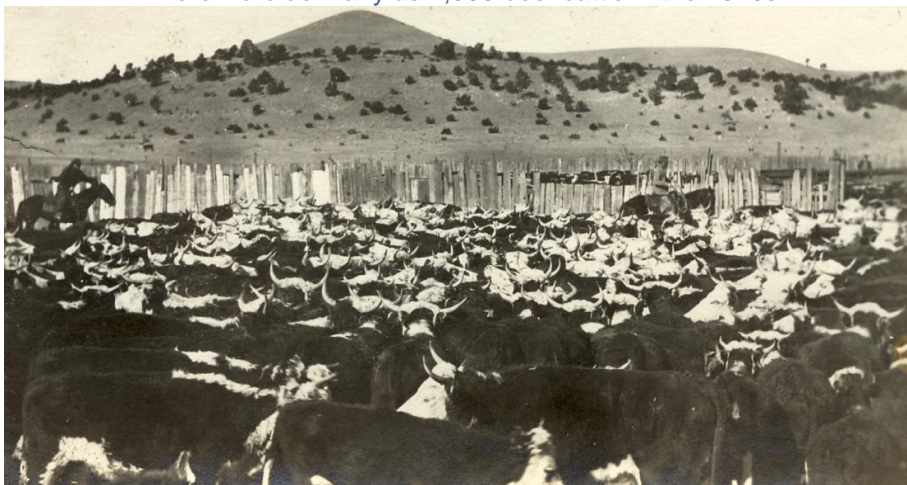
The Marine Hospital Service inherited 27,000 acres of land from the military and one of its first actions, in 1899, was to build "corrals for horses and cows." By the early 1920s there were about 2,000 head of cattle and the hospital also was raising sheep, pigs, chickens and turkeys along with horses and mules. The ranch was divided into five large pastures plus a couple of smaller ones and was supplying cattle to other Marine Hospitals such as the National Leprosarium in Carville, LA., shipping them by train from Carrizozo. Residents and other staff were allotted milk and beef, and according to a 1928 order, "families not allowed to exceed 35 lbs. of beef per month."

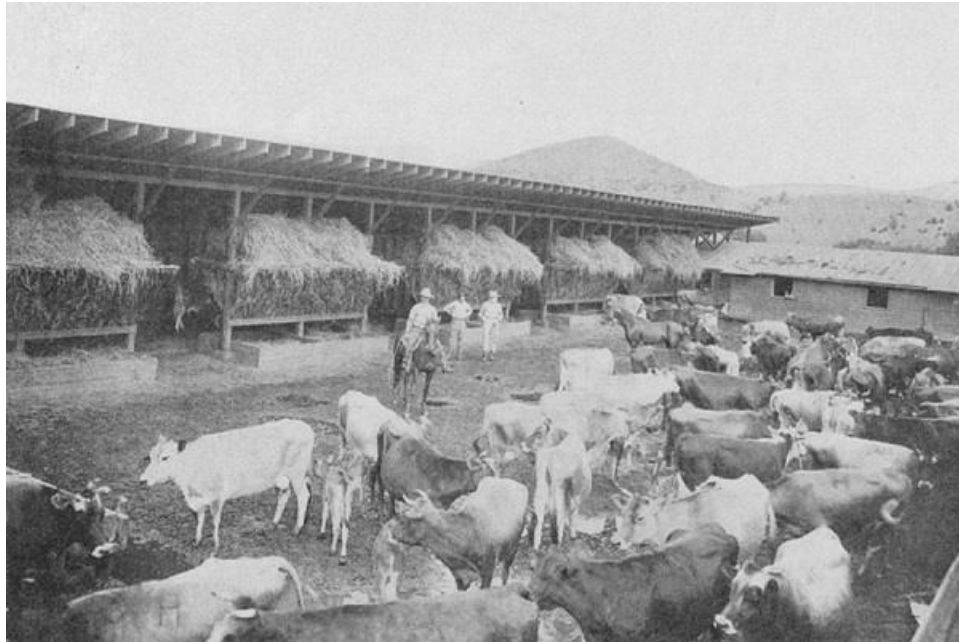
The Great Depression and a severe drought in the summer of 1934 forced Lincoln County ranchers to destroy about half of their herds, but Fort Stanton was able to ship excess cattle to other Public Health Service farms. Interestingly, the ranch produced as much beef with half the cattle, indicating it had been severely over-grazed earlier. An inventory on July 1, 1935, listed 127 dairy cows, 903 range cows, 414 hogs, and 18 horses and mules tended by 18 cowboys and dairymen. The turkeys and chickens and sheep were gone by then.

The dairy operation was important as milk was considered a vital part of the treatment for tuberculosis. A new milk house was built in 1930 and a pasteurization plant was added in 1936. Corn was grown for silage and alfalfa for hay and 1930 also saw construction of the two hollow-tile silos that still stand. There were efforts to grow vegetables, and orchards were planted, but the climate didn't lend itself to these activities, though residents had their own garden plots, especially during World War II. All cattle, horses and hogs were sent to other government facilities or sold when the U.S. Public Health Service departed in 1953.

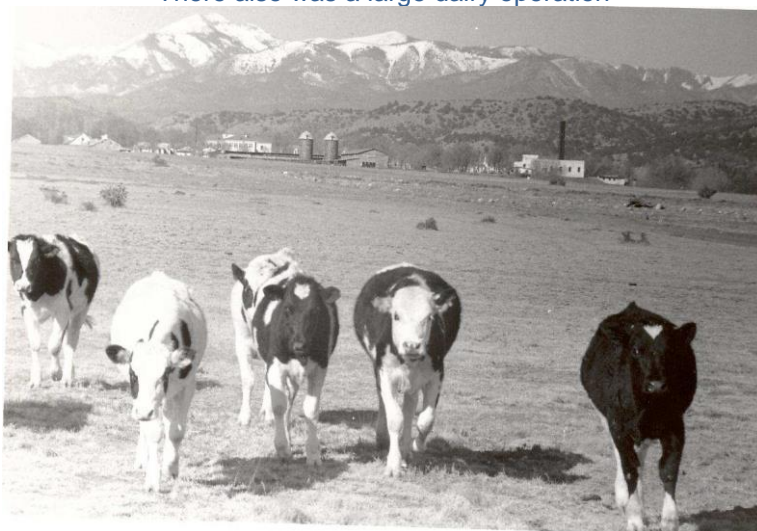
CLAIRE BOYD FLUHARTY AND DANNA KUSIANOVICH HENDERSON

There were as many as 2,000 beef cattle in the 1920s





There also was a large dairy operation





A new milk house had been completed by 1934



For a while in the 1920s there were sheep



And there were hogs from the early days through 1953



Hauling hay from the alfalfa fields was a big job



Mules were used to haul coal from Capitan



Machinery made harvesting easier in the 1940s



Cowboys prepare to brand calves in 1938. Claire's father third from right



Branding day



Horses getting their daily oats



The Public Health Service bought a registered quarter horse stallion, Prince Chief, to breed its own colts. Horses were available for staff and residents to ride for pleasure.



Out for a ride



Danna and brother John behind the Pershing Building.

THE FORT STANTON FOURTH OF JULY RODEO

Before World War II put an end to it, the July 4 rodeo at the Fort Stanton rodeo grounds was one of Lincoln County's premier events, drawing contestants and spectators from far and wide. John Sellars, who was born at Fort Stanton in 1925 and now lives in California after a long career in aerospace, has fond memories of those celebrations:

The Fourth of July was anticipated and talked about for weeks. We could buy real firecrackers if we could scrape up the nickels. The main celebration was held on the north side of the Bonito a little east of the Fort. Down by the river there were booths with games of chance, such as a wheel with numbers on it that one could bet on... These games were usually run by enterprising patients out to pick up a little money on the side. They were fascinating to us kids although we usually didn't have any money to spare, but we could watch the grownups waste their money.

It cost fifty cents to get into the grounds. One could come by automobile by driving up the north side of the river, or one could walk, as most of the kids did. If you walked, the money was collected on the path by a stile where you had to cross over a fence... We always got there plenty early to savor the joys of seeing all the booths and to meet with our friends.

At noon there was a giant meal which had been prepared through the night before in the main hospital kitchens. Usually we had roast beef, mashed potatoes and rolls, plus a vegetable, and for dessert we had ice cream! People came from all over the county... everyone circulated through the crowd and then sat down on car running boards (remember them?) to exchange news.

At about 1:30 PM, everybody walked or drove up onto the mesa to see either a baseball game or a rodeo. The baseball game was the Fort Stanton team against some other small town. The rodeo was a later innovation. There was a small grandstand and pens and chutes for the cattle used in the rodeo. Cars parked all around the field and most people either sat on the fenders or hoods of the cars or watched from inside them. There was bulldogging, calf roping, and cow milking among other events. In cow milking, the cow was given a head start, and then two ropers started after her. After they caught her, one tried to hold her still enough for the other one to get enough milk into a pint bottle so that it would slosh back and forth. Then the one with the milk had to get it to the judges, either by getting on his horse and racing back or by running back with it. The object was to accomplish this in the shortest time. These cows weren't from the dairy; they were regular range cows from the Fort Stanton herds and they resented being roped and milked...The cowboys came from all over. The prizes were modest, \$25 or \$50 paid for out of the entry fees. But \$50 was a month's wages. I imagine most entered for the sport of it rather than for the money.

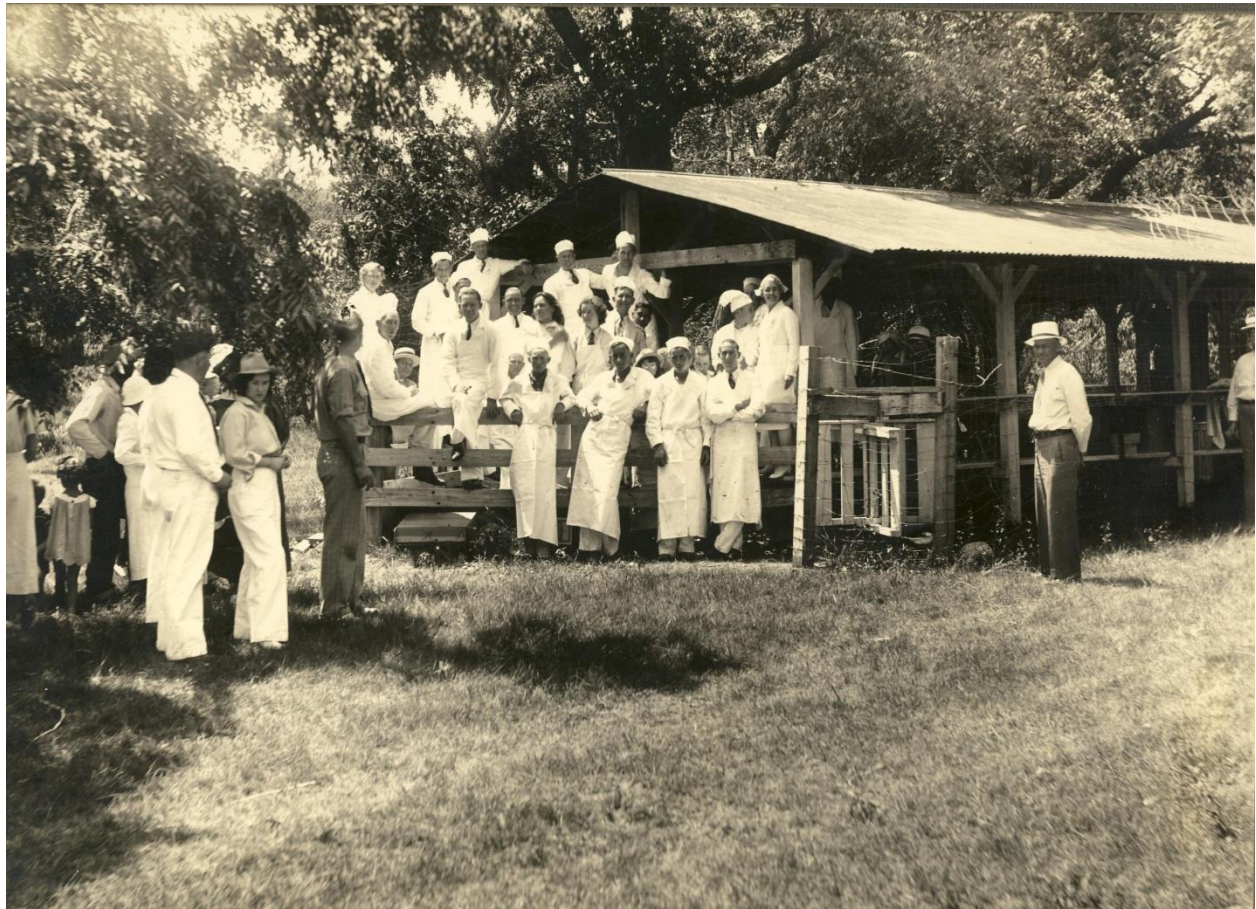
July was in the midst of our rainy season and frequently there was a thunderstorm in the middle of the day. If we were lucky, it came after we had finished lunch... One time during the rodeo there was a terrific thunderclap although it wasn't raining at the time. It turned out that lightning had struck in the middle of a group walking towards the rodeo grounds and knocked several of them out. A baby being carried had its shoes blown off its feet. The people were friends of ours, the Warners, who had come from their farm on the Ruidoso. All of them recovered, including the baby, but they were all rushed to the hospital.

After the war, the July 4 rodeo was revived at a new rodeo arena just off the Capitan Gap road, now also just a memory.

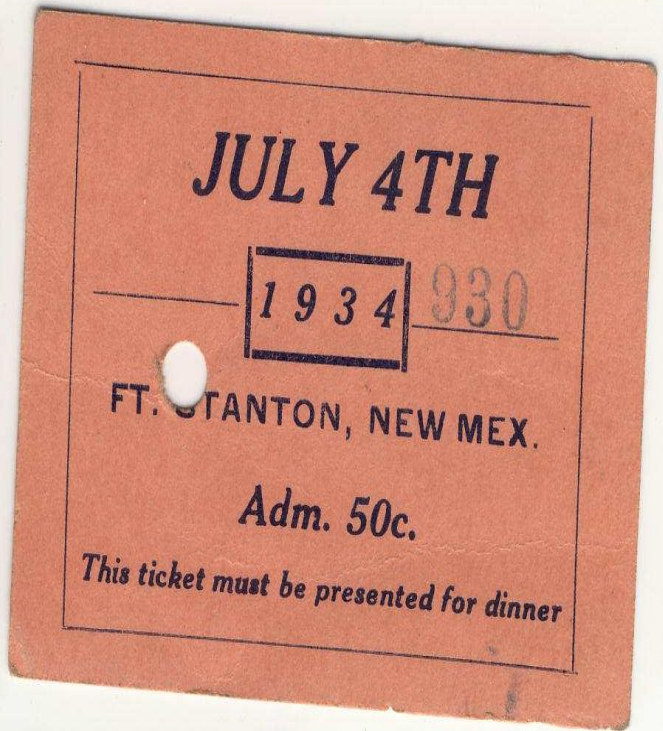
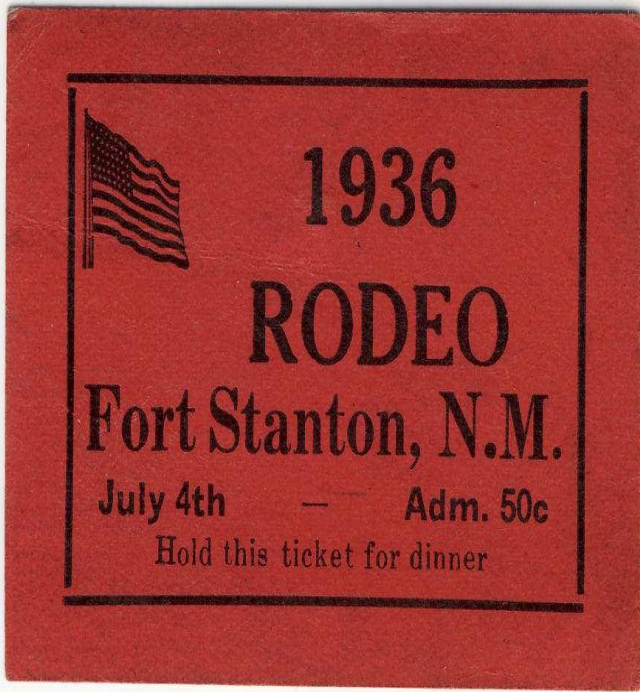
JOHN SELLARS, submitted by DANNA HENDERSON AND CLAIRE FLUHARTY



July 4, 1937. Fort Stanton is visible in the background.



Fort Stanton's kitchen staff prepared and served the noon meal that was included in the price of admission.



SPORTS AT THE FORT STANTON HOSPITAL

For staff members working at the U.S. Marine Hospital at isolated Fort Stanton and their families, sports provided a welcome break from the daily routine. There were tennis courts on the Parade Ground, a nine-hole golf course in the area beyond the patient shacks (tent cottages), a baseball team that enjoyed great success playing against teams from other towns, a women's softball team, a clubhouse, and of course plentiful outdoor activities like hiking, camping, hunting and horseback riding.

Tennis: Tennis courts were located in front of the amusement building in the 1920s. New courts were built in the summer of 1930, but they did not see much use when the Fort Stanton Kids were growing up in the 1940s.

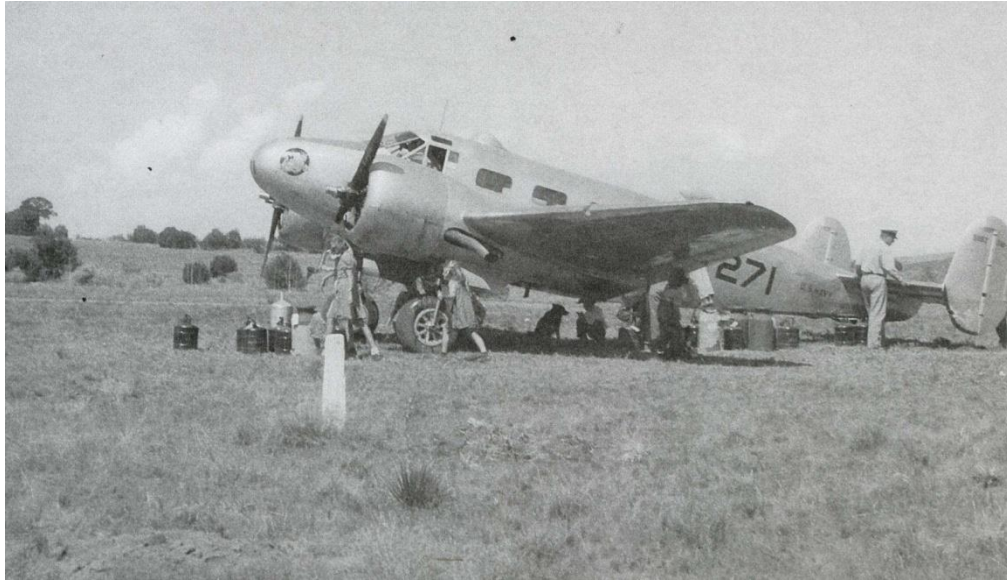


Tennis costumes in the 1920s weren't quite the same as those today.



The 1930 tennis courts (left) were surrounded by a high fence. By the late 1940s the fence was gone (right) and the courts were seldom used.

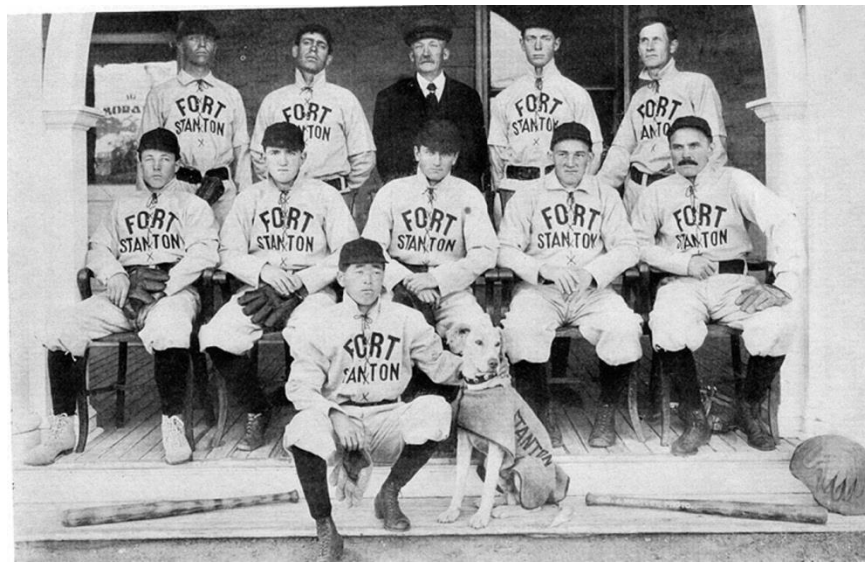
Golf: Some of the greens and tee boxes can still be discerned on the old golf course if one knows where to look. The only golf course photo in the Kids archive is of a Navy C-45 whose crew lost their way in 1944 and, seeing the American flag at Fort Stanton, landed on the golf course, drawing crowds of patients, staff, and of course families, kids and dogs. Takeoff seemed problematic so the aircraft was dismantled and trucked to Walker AFB in Roswell.



Baseball: Like many towns in New Mexico and elsewhere in the 1920s and 1930s, Fort Stanton fielded a formidable baseball team that played teams from towns as far away as Roswell and Artesia. A number of men were given jobs and quarters at the hospital primarily because of their prowess on the diamond, like Sam Cox, who became the hospital baker; Percy Parker, a painter; Walter Pitts, a mechanic whose wife Charlotte taught for many years at the Fort Stanton school; Ennett Womack, who eventually became head dairyman, and Manuel Second, a Mescalero Apache who worked in the dairy. A ball field complete with grandstand was located on the western side of the hospital grounds, just west and across the road from what is now Mike Bilbo's house.



A baseball game at Fort Stanton in the horse-and-buggy days drew a good crowd.



Three of the Fort Stanton teams. Perhaps readers will recognize their fathers or grandfathers.



The ladies formed their own team.

Hunting: An activity that not only was enjoyed by many, including the ladies, but that put food on the tables of many families was hunting for deer and wild turkeys. In the fall, deer carcasses were hung alongside beef in the cold storage area of the Fort Stanton power plant.



Dancing: Although perhaps not really a sports venue, the clubhouse built along the Rio Bonito west of the hospital under the direction of Medical Officer in Charge Jerry Kunkel in 1940 saw lots of dancing, along with picnics and other activities. The large stone barbecue at right in the photo below was still standing the last time I was down there a couple of years ago, and portions of the clubhouse foundation also remain.



BUILDING NO. 3 - 1883 OFFICER'S QUARTERS

Now being renovated to serve as the headquarters for the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area, this large adobe building next to the Commanding Officer's quarters on the Parade Ground dates from the military days, when it served as quarters for high-ranking officers.

In the Marine Hospital/Public Health Service era, Bldg. 3 was a duplex containing two spacious, mirror-image quarters that usually were occupied by two doctors or a doctor and the post dentist and their families.

Claire Boyd Fluharty lived in one of the quarters for two weeks as a teenager baby-sitting the two toddler daughters of a doctor who was off on a trip with his wife. She recalls a large living room facing on the Parade, a dining room, a big kitchen at the rear, a bathroom, and two or perhaps three bedrooms, all large and nicely furnished. There were stairs leading to what she presumes was an attic, but the door at the top of the stairs was locked and she never ventured up there. One of her main memories is washing diapers daily (no disposables in those days!), which made her "think about getting married and having kids."



Building No. 3 is at far right in this 1902 photo, with the Commanding Officer's quarters in the center and the Old Nurses Home (and a horse) at left.



The large size of Bldg. 3 is evident at left in this photo of Fort Stanton circa 1920, which also shows the Commanding Officer's quarters, the Old Nurses Home, and in the background the old hospital to the right of the Amusement Building (No. 9).



Bldg. 3 is at left, with Bldg. No. 4 and the old power plant at right.



A closer view of Bldg. 3 in 1920. Note the side-by-side doors leading to the two separate quarters, and the open porch shared by the two families.



This photo is probably from the 1940s and the porch has been screened; we don't remember if there was a divider to create two porches. The Fort Stanton School can be seen at far right.



Walking to school behind Bldg. 3, perhaps in the early 1930s (left), and the building in 1950.

DANNA KUSIANOVICH HENDERSON

- **(Note:** Jack Kunkel, whose father was at Fort Stanton as a doctor (and patient) in the early 1930s and later returned as Medical Officer in Charge in the 1940's, adds that he was a toddler when the family lived in Bldg. #3 around 1928 -1931. "I remember the bath room; it was long with doors on each end. One Christmas my folks had set up a train & tracks around the tree, in the morning it was gone - little Jack had moved it during the night to the bath room where it was warmer.)

THE PERSHING BUILDING'S 'ATTIC'

It takes sharp eyes to make sense of the top picture below, a portion of a photo taken in the 1870s from outside the Sutler's store at Fort Stanton. But if you look closely, you can see two of the buildings that surrounded the Parade Ground in that era, one of them still gracing the Parade today though much modified since then.

In the center of the picture is Building No. 13, now known as the Pershing Building, its four chimneys topping an attic similar to the one you can find in today's Administration Building/Fort Stanton Museum, which is shown below as it looked in the early part of the 20th Century. At the bottom of Building 13, which served as officers' quarters, you can spy one of the small wings that still extend out from the rear today.

At the right is Building No. 12, of similar construction but with a smaller attic, also topped by chimneys serving the fireplaces used for heat. This structure, probably the quartermaster's storeroom at the time, was remodeled to become the Marine Hospital's Materiel Office before being demolished around 1930 after a new Materiel Office was built behind Building 13.

Early Marine Hospital documents report that some staff members lived in "attic rooms" in the Pershing Building before 1920, and the second photo below shows that windows had been added to the attic space by 1902. The upstairs porch, conversion of four of the windows into doors and remodeling of the entire building into seven spacious quarters (apartments) for high-level staff came somewhat later. Renovation of the old military buildings was an ongoing activity until World War II intervened.



The Pershing Building with its high attic and four chimneys is at center while Building 12 with its less lofty attic is at right. *The Apache wagon in the foreground is parked at the side of the Sutler's store.*



In this 1902 photo, eight windows have been installed in the Pershing Building attic and one of the chimneys apparently has been removed. Building 12 seems also to have lost its chimneys. Patients are performing their mandatory daily exercises.



This photo of the Administration Building before 1920 gives an idea of what the Pershing Building's attic looked like from the Parade. It clearly is tall enough to accommodate second-story rooms. Two long-gone buildings, No. 11 and No. 10, which formed the early hospital, looked very much like this as well.



Bldg. 12 at left sat so close to the Pershing Building that when it was demolished, parts of it penetrated the roof of the latter.

FORT STANTON'S POWER PLANTS

Construction in 1935 of an alternating current (AC) power plant alongside Fort Stanton's northeast entrance road was the essential first step in the extensive modernization program that brought several new buildings to the Fort in the late 1930s. Completion of the plant allowed demolition of the old direct current (DC) power plant on the east side of the Parade to make way for the state-of-the-art hospital that was completed in May 1936.

The late Willett White, son of longtime Chief Engineer Ed White, wrote the following description: "The first power plant was built in the old Army Armory Building in the middle of the east side of the Parade. In the engine room area were three steam engines each with a large power takeoff wheel [from which] a direct current generator was driven. Behind and below were four boilers. Directly behind the boiler fireboxes were the coal bins. Farther along was the ice plant, a chlorine type."

Of the new facility, Willett wrote: "The new power plant had on its engine floor three engines, two diesel and one steam, with directly attached alternating current generators. Each of these engines had a 500 pound flywheel. I recall this because the company engineer, a big man, could set the flywheel in place by himself. Behind the engine room and below it was the boiler room. The layout was similar to the old plant, with the coal bins behind the boiler firebox. The coal delivery trucks only had to dump the coal from above into the coal bins through manholes. . .

"To the east of the engine room and boiler area was a large cool room in which the beef carcasses were hung. It was in the shape of a U, so that by the time a beef worked its way through the cool room, it would have hung for the correct amount of time. On the floor above the cool room, a new laundry was built. Instant hot water was provided by the boilers in the engine room. Steam heat for many of the buildings at Fort Stanton was provided by the boilers at the power plants. Most of the buildings on the Parade were steam heated and in particular, the hospital."

Willett noted further that the swastika on the rear wall, regarded at the time as an Indian good luck symbol, may have been placed there by his father in recognition of Willett's student status at New Mexico A&M (now New Mexico State University), which had the swastika as its symbol.

"Fort Stanton Kid" John Sellars remembers that there were problems activating the new plant and residents were asked to conserve electricity while they were worked out. I remember the red-hot flames in the boilers, and the beef carcasses (and deer in season) in the cool room. I also recall that at some point in the 1940s, Rural Electrification Administration lines reached Fort Stanton and began supplying our electricity, although the power plant continued its other functions and its generators provided standby power.

DANNA KUSIANOVICH HENDERSON



Old power plant next to Bldg. No. 4



Ed White, left, at construction site of new plant



The new power plant, date uncertain.

Photo at right shows the swastika on the rear of the building today.



The power plant today. Photo at right shows remnants of the apparatus used to move beef carcasses into the cool room where they aged. The laundry was on the second level above the cool room.





Little remains of the equipment that provided lights, heat, ice and laundry service to the Public Health Service hospital and other buildings at Fort Stanton. The piping at left was part of the steam heating system. At left on the previous page is the boiler room and at right the engine/generator room. The current photos are courtesy of Dave Tremblay

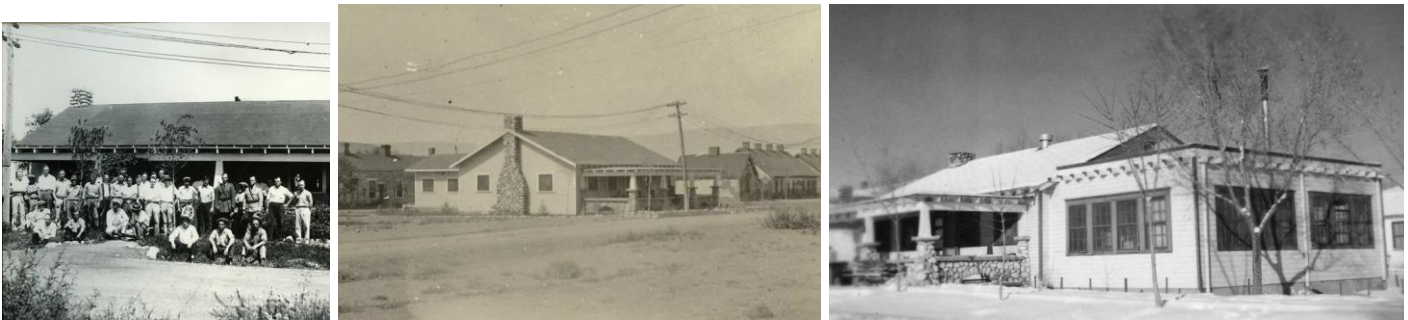
THE SEAMAN'S SOCIAL CLUB

(and a mystery)

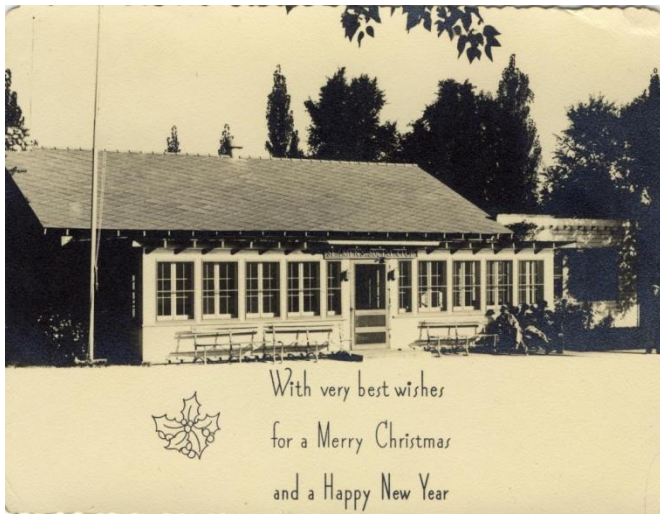
The Seaman's Social Club of Fort Stanton, an affiliate of the Seaman's Church Institute of New York, was formed in November 1919 with a membership of 140 of the 235 patients at the Fort Stanton Marine Hospital. A letter in the November 1922 issue of the Institute's publication, *The Lookout*, reported that club members had built a 16-by-20-ft. clubhouse "without the aid of the government" or any other outside help. The letter reports that the club was attempting to raise \$1,000 to construct a 16-by-30-ft addition and had accumulated \$750 so far. It also was seeking the donation of some recreational equipment such as pool tables. By September 1923 the addition had been completed and pool tables installed. A protestant chaplain, H.K. Stanley, was assigned to the club in 1924 and successive chaplains continued to manage it, along with the Protestant chapel nearby.

A couple of Fort Stanton Kids had pleasant memories of the Seaman's Social Club. John Sellars says, "The patients gathered there for cards or pool or just talk. They had a little counter where they sold candy, as well as soft drinks that they kept in ice water. Once in a while, if I got hold of a nickel, I would tiptoe into the clubhouse, buy a soda and quickly run out." The late Jack Brooks wrote, "You could go there to buy candy and pop but could not stay, eat, drink or hang around. The patients played pool and all types of card games including poker for money. On paydays one of the pool tables was converted to a craps table for that one night."

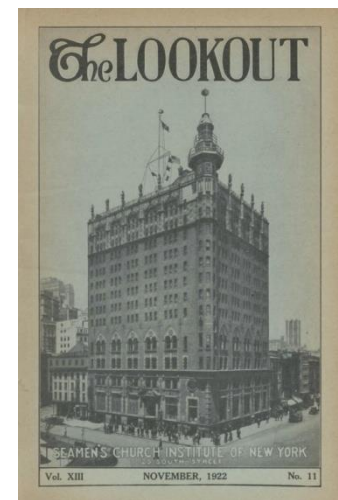
The writer has been unable to determine what happened to the building and would like to hear from any readers who know the answer. Reportedly it burned down, maybe in the late 1950s. Do you know? If so, email me at dannahenderson@compuserve.com



The photo at left from the Hubbard Collection is identified on the back as "Seaman's Social Club, 1920s," and may have been taken to celebrate completion of the building's first phase. Center photo shows the Community Center and Laundry Row at far right and the wing of Building 6 that housed the Protestant chapel in the background. The small structure behind the clubhouse is not part of the club. Photo at right shows the 1923 addition. The large windows, which John Sellars recalls were made of special glass," allowed the patients to absorb a maximum amount of healthy sunshine.



The Christmas card was created by patient Carl Ness, who operated a store in the Amusement Building for many years and is buried in the Fort Stanton cemetery. At right, patients enjoy a card game in the Seaman's Social Club while others chat in the background.



The photo at left was taken in the 1950s; the open front porch apparently had been removed by then and the street paved. The Community Center is at right. A structure erected many years later that served the women prisoners as a cantina now occupies part of the site. At right is the cover of the November 1922 issue of the Seaman's Church Institute of New York's publication that told the story of Fort Stanton's Seaman's Social Club.

DANNA KUSIANOVICH HENDERSON

Note: Danna has provided a pdf copy of this issue of THE LOOKOUT for our archives.

THE FORT STANTON STORE

Due to Fort Stanton's isolation and rudimentary transportation options, enterprising patients at the hospital early on established a small store on the ground floor of the west end of the Amusement Building below the theater, stocking it with canned goods, tobacco and other staples. The nearest "real" store was George Titsworth's General Merchandise in Capitan, seven miles away over a dirt road, the remnants of which can still be seen on the north side of the Rio Salado. During World War II, everyone pooled their gasoline coupons and shopping lists and sent a few people off to Roswell for a major shopping spree.

In the 1930s, according to the late Jack Brooks, the Fort Stanton storekeeper was an ex-patient named Mr. Smith. The storekeeper most Fort Stanton Kids remember was Carl Ness, who came to Fort Stanton as a TB patient in 1941 and purchased the store a few years later. After World War II, when goods were again plentiful, he filled the store shelves with all manner of things including candy and toys. He maintained hand-written credit ledgers and patients and residents settled their bills at the end of each month. After the Public Health Service closed the hospital in July 1953, he and his family moved to Alamogordo. He died in 2003 at the age of 89 after an eight-year battle with Alzheimer's and is buried in the Fort Stanton cemetery.

Earlier, in 1951, Carl sold the store to Alice Boyd, Claire Boyd Fluharty's mother, who operated it until 1953. Mrs. Boyd hired Carl's stepson, Jimmie Thompson, to help in the store and Claire also worked there. She recalls that while slicing bologna for a customer she managed to slice off a small part of a finger and was rushed across the Parade to the hospital. Carl Mankinen, son of the Medical Officer in Charge, rescued the finger part and took it to the hospital with the thought that it might be reattached. "Unfortunately," she says, "everyone laughed at him...now every time I hear about reattachments I feel that Carl was justified in his action and clearly was way ahead of his time."



Left: Carl Ness inside his well-stocked Fort Stanton Store, circa 1948. My favorite purchase was little wax bottles filled with red or green syrup; you drank the syrup then chewed the wax like gum. At right, Coca-Cola makes a delivery. There was a porch on the rear of the Amusement Building back then and kids could climb on the porch roof to watch movies through the windows.



The store evolved over the years (photo dates unknown). John Sellars remembers "buying candy bars whenever we got a nickel, which wasn't often. Three Musketeers [was] a bar with three separate bars, each with a different flavor. Once I got fifty cents (!) and I went to see if I could buy a toy. Since it wasn't Christmas time the meager left-over toys were all stored away. I finally was able to buy a large, eight inch diameter, top with a handle in the top. When you pushed the handle up and down the top would spin. It wasn't a very satisfactory toy but I had to buy something; the fifty cent piece was burning a hole in my pocket."



The Sigsworth Co., located at the east end of Capitan, sold everything from groceries to jewelry to clothing, shoes and piece goods. At right, Jefferson Rock, said to be a profile of Thomas Jefferson, was a prominent feature along the old road on the north side of the Salado between Fort Stanton and Capitan and I remember the sound of the wind whistling through the car windows as we rounded the bend below the rock, which since has succumbed to time and erosion.

DANNA KUSIANOVICH HENDERSON