

Huachuca Prepares For New Era Of Famine

By LLOYD CLARK
Gazette Staff Writer

FORT HUACHUCA, April 10—This old scout of army installations has feasted and famished through 76 years of congressional appropriations and now is taking up the slack in its web belt again, preparing for an indefinite period of fasting.

The Department of the Army has ordered that Fort Huachuca be placed on a stand-by basis, which means that only a small detachment of housekeeping troops and fire guards will remain here after about July 1.

Lack of supporting post troops will make itself felt when the state's major reserve unit, the 59th Infantry, comes here for two weeks' summer encampment July 12 and also when the Arizona National Guard encamps here for two weeks beginning Aug. 30.

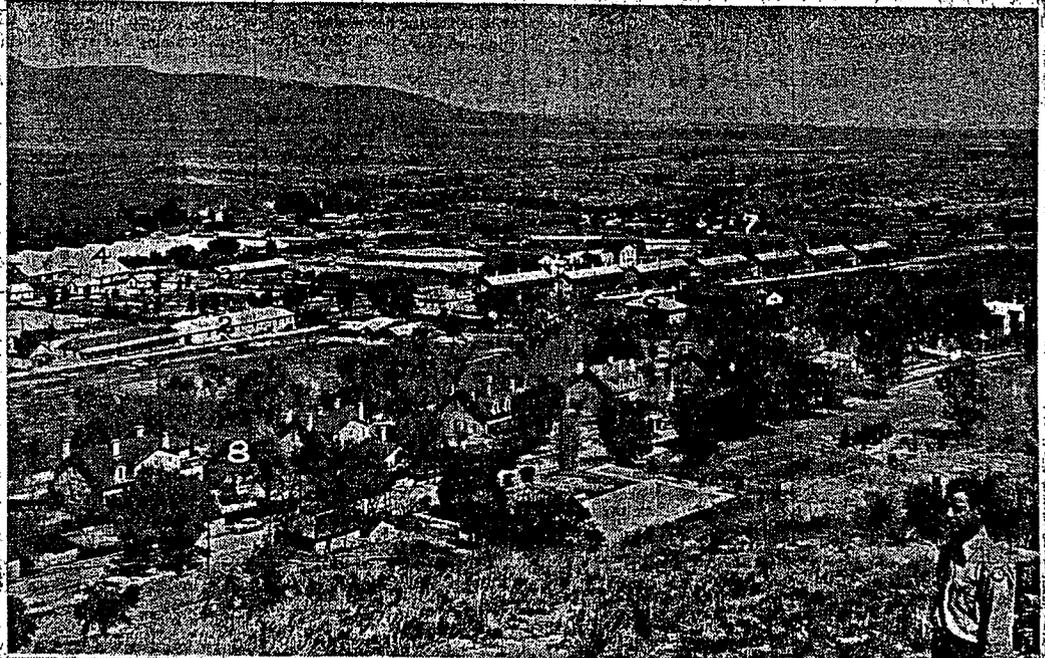
COMMANDERS OF these civilian ready units have declared that summer training is hampered when weapons qualification and tactical maneuvering instruction must be interrupted to perform services of supply and other functions normally handled by post personnel.

Arizona's congressional delegations and state legislators have sought ways to keep the installation active. In a memorial introduced in the state senate last month, Sen. Alfred Paul, Jr. (D-Coahuila) wrote that Fort Huachuca has been considered by military experts as an ideal place in which to train troops because of its location, fine climate, and the nature of the terrain; excellent for every type of military training.

Lt. Gen. Joseph M. Swing, commanding general of the Sixth Army area, has given the fort similar praise.

FORMER U.S. Sen. Ernest W. McFarland of Florence has related that when it was announced in the summer of 1952 that Huachuca would be deactivated, the Arizona congressional delegation went to work opposing the proposal.

Subsequently, Mr. Truman directed a change of plans be published by Secretary of the Army Pace, saying that the fort would not be closed. A directive to that effect was issued by the secretary on Oct. 29, 1952, McFarland recalled. He added that a 1952 investigation by the Ar-



The post headquarters of Fort Huachuca is viewed from atop the water reservoir hill by 1st Lt. Billie L. Stephens (lower right in top photo), public information officer and former student at Arizona State College at Tempe. Numbered points are (1) Post Office, (2) Post Exchange, (3) Motor Pool; (4) Quartermaster warehouse area, (5) Enlisted men's barracks, (6) Post Headquarters, (7) Civilian housing area, and (8) Officers' residences. At the base of the hill is one of the fort's three

swimming pools. In the distance to the north are the Whetstone Mountains. Twenty miles northwesterly from Fort Huachuca are the ruins of Camp Crittenden (described by the sign posted 3 miles west of Sonoita, on State Highway 82); Aurelio Duran (astride horse in picture at right below), range rider for the Crown C Ranch, pauses beside one of the crumbling buildings at abandoned camp, which closed down four years prior to the stationing in 1877 of U.S. troops at what is now Fort Huachuca.

izona delegation showed there was a definite need for Fort Huachuca and that nothing would be accomplished by concentrating all investment on Fort Ord and other California installations.

Nonetheless, "all the king's horses and all the king's men" haven't been able to get Huachuca back on active duty again.

AND THE FRESHLY painted and repaired barracks and buildings covering 40 million square feet in the cantonment areas are to stand idle. To most anyone on

the post you talk to—military or civilian—the unanswered question comes up: "Why was so much money spent on improving facilities, only to have them vacated?"

Then, there's the new 8,000-foot air strip, built last year by aviation engineer units stationed here. When the landing strip was dedicated last December to Sgt. George D. Libby, engineer soldier who was awarded posthumously the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism in Korea, the word was that Huachuca was to

remain active. Incidental to the dedication, Col. David M. Dunne, post commander, said:

"The information that we obtained a few weeks ago that this fine establishment would continue on an active basis was the best Christmas present the post and neighboring communities could have received."

NOW COLONEL Dunne, who has been post commander here since June 1951, is closing out his job, dutifully making no comment on the order to shut down.

Across the Huachuca Moun-

tains, over in the Sonoita Valley, crumbles the ruins of old Camp Crittenden and the bare remains of old Fort Buchanan. These installations were abandoned when threats of Apache raids had been subdued, and their buildings for scores of years have been beyond repair.

Whether Huachuca one day will come to a similar end remains to be seen. At present it is the only military installation of comparable size to Fort Bliss, Texas, and Camp Roberts, Calif., between those two posts.

Gazette Staff Photos

3/18/53

Army Will Close Ft. Huachuca June 1, State Delegation Told

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Arizona's historic Ft. Huachuca will be closed June 1, the state's congressional delegation was advised yesterday by the army.

The post, in Cochise county, near the Mexican border, will be maintained on a stand-by basis only.

Ft. Huachuca and five other military installations are being shut down in an economy move that is estimated will save \$6,000,000 in the first year. Strength of half a dozen other posts will be reduced.

MAJ. MILES Reber, legislative liaison officer for the army, informed the Arizona delegation of the decision at a conference in the office of Senator Hayden (D-Ariz).

An army spokesman said Ft. Huachuca is not being abandoned and that it would be placed back in service if and when the army program requires it.

"The changing needs of the army and the world situation will determine the exact use of the fort in the future," he said.

THE ARIZONA delegation said it had no plans to oppose closing of Ft. Huachuca because the army had explained the six posts affected are the least essential to its current mobilization program.

The army is closing those posts which are operating the farthest below capacity.

Established in frontier days. Ft.

Huachuca for many years was one of the major military installations along the Mexican border. It was greatly expanded in World War II as a troop training center. After cessation of hostilities it was closed, and then was reopened as a training site for aviation engineer troops.

McFarland Hits Closing

Ernest W. McFarland, former Democratic U. S. senator from Arizona, today urged the citizens of Arizona to "communicate directly with President Eisenhower to block the inexcusable closing of Ft. Huachuca."

McFarland said he contacted President Truman and Secretary of the Army Frank Pace last year when closing of the historic fort was tentatively announced and obtained firm assurances that it would be kept as a permanent military installation.

"It's not economy to spend millions of dollars and then flush it down the drain," McFarland declared. He attributed the closing to "great pressures brought on the administration by Californians who want those troops at home."

Public Lease Plan Readied For Huachuca

Nearly 25 per cent of the 50,000-acre Ft. Huachuca reservation will be made available for leasing to private interests after its return to an inactive status, sixth army headquarters announced today.

Initial word came from Lt. Gen. J. M. Swing, commander at San Francisco, and details were given by Col. David M. Dunne at Ft. Huachuca.

DUNNE SAID leases undoubtedly will go to grazing interests because of the reservation's abundant grass stands and water. He said the fort is expected to go on a stand-by basis "in the near future" and that leases will be signed for temporary private use in the meantime.

A land utilization and management survey is being conducted to determine which portions of the reservations may be leased. Upon completion of the survey, the Phoenix suboffice of the army corps of engineers will advertise for competitive bids.

Leasing will be on a competitive basis, in accordance with "good land management practices," the sixth army said.

Following are considerations excluding nearly 75 per cent of the area:

1. Protection and utilization of the natural resources of the reservation.
2. The grazing programs of the Arizona state game and fish commission, which keeps the Arizona buffalo herds.
3. Areas used by the Arizona national guard.
4. Other leased Arizona state land.
5. The post proper, including buildings and grounds.

Dunne said exact date of deactivation has not been announced. When placed on a stand by basis, a cadre of military personnel will be stationed at the post to supervise care and upkeep.

Of 350 civilian personnel, 250 will be released in the near future. The remainder will be kept for maintenance work.

Big Changes Made At Fort Huachuca Between Reactivation And Stand-By

DOUGLAS DISPATCH 9/17/53

By CLYDE LOWERY
Fort Huachuca today, abandoned by the army for the second time since it was established to protect settlers from raiding Mexican Apaches near the end of the last century, has little in common with the base this reporter visited about 27 months ago.

These cropped lawns and newly-painted barracks have taken the place of weed patches and empty concrete foundations.

Many new buildings have been added to it in the two years since it was reactivated.

Big-fenced lots hold thousands of dollars worth of earth among equipment and new paved roads. Oris-crossing the base show the results

of combining engineer training and post building.

A giant air strip, big enough to take the largest airplanes has been added to the fort's facilities.

Homes for married enlisted men and officers have been refinished and rows of neat apartments were added during the two years between visits.

Actually, the army has not announced total abandonment of the fort as they did at the close of World War II. It will be closed on a "stand-by basis" the announcement said this time. According to reports, a small detachment of men will be left on the base to take care of the permanent structures scattered over its thousands of acres.

The engineering equipment will undoubtedly be moved, and all of the stationary equipment will probably be "mothballed" until it is needed again at the fort or until the reservation is again abandoned by the army.

To look at the fort, located in the lower hills of the Huachuca mountains, one would guess that it was a brand-new army camp.

Only the huge officers' homes, constructed of stone, hark back to World War I days and before. Many tracks have been put up and the older barracks that remained after the war were sold following the last war have been refinished and painted.

In driving through the historic area that many military men say depicts the terrain of Korea and other possible battle areas of the world.

Nothing, but one of the most historic forts still standing in the southwest, a fort where the last of the U.S. Army's Apache scouts lays buried.

Nothing, but millions of dollars worth of buildings, roads, air strips and land.

Take a trip to Fort Huachuca. It's worth seeing, if just for its curiosity value.

And on your way back, take the newly-completed state highway back through Bisbee. It cost the state \$1,000,000 and it won't be used much.

Nothing, that is, except a completely-outfitted military post built by the army.

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McFarland Raps Army Closing Of Huachuca

MAR 19 1953

By The Associated Press
Criticism has been leveled by Ernest W. McFarland, former United States senator, against the Department of the Army on the recently-announced closing of Fort Huachuca June 1.

McFarland, who was succeeded by Barry Goldwater as a senator from Arizona, said the decision was a reversal of a commitment made to the Arizona congressional delegation last year by Harry S. Truman.

McFarland contacted at Florence, said:

"WHEN IT WAS announced in the summer of 1952 that Fort Huachuca would be deactivated, the Arizona congressional delegation immediately contacted the Department of Defense, objecting to the proposed action.

Following complete investigation of the plans of the army, it was established that Fort Huachuca was being subordinated to the requirements of Camp Ord, Calif. Camp Ord had, within recent months, been converted from a temporary installation to a permanent installation and had been renamed Fort Ord.

"IT WAS determined that the plans of the army were to make Fort Ord a permanent installation and deactivate Fort Huachuca. It was also learned that, in general, all army installations in the State of California were to be established on a permanent basis."

McFarland said these proposals were vigorously opposed by the Arizona delegation.

McFarland said, "I personally know that Mr. Truman directed a change of plans be published by Secretary of Army Pace in the announcement that the fort would

not be closed, which the secretary made Oct. 29, 1952.

"I NOTE THAT the most recent announcement of the army makes no mention of any plans to reduce the size of, close or deactivate installations in California.

"In my opinion deactivation of Fort Huachuca will only mean that Fort Ord itself will be made bigger. Economy cannot be the object since the investment at Fort Huachuca must be abandoned if Fort Ord is enlarged."

McFarland said the 1952 investigation by the Arizona delegation showed there was a definite need for Fort Huachuca and that nothing would be accomplished by concentrating all investment on Fort Ord and other California installations.

McFARLAND URGED the people of Arizona to rally and bring Fort Huachuca to the personal attention of President Eisenhower in an effort to obtain its permanent activation.

McFarland said Eisenhower is personally acquainted with Fort Huachuca and realizes the need of the fort as a permanent installation.

Fort Reactivated Through Efforts Of Bisbee's Chamber Of Commerce

Fort Huachuca, one of the oldest posts in the west, was reactivated last April largely through the efforts of the Bisbee Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber has been one of the leading forces in saving the post in the past when lack of funds threatened its existence and in getting the fort expanded during the early days of World War II preparedness.

Only in 1946 when the government announced that the fort would be deactivated did the chamber fail in its attempts to keep the fort going.

But it was to a large degree through the efforts of the chamber at the time the fort was being abandoned that the fort was reactivated a few months ago.

During the movement to keep the fort, a group of chamber members made a trip to Washington and it was this trip which left the fort in shape for reactivation.

Chamber Saves Utilities

Up until this time the army was going to pull out all equipment including utilities, well casings and in fact everything that had been brought in at any time by the army. However, the group of members including G. R. Michaels, secretary of the chamber, Austin Jay, Douglas Marr, John Schreiber and John W. Caldwell, got the army to agree to leave all utilities ready for use.

Without that agreement, it is doubtful that the fort could have been reactivated at the low cost that it was.

John Wood, chairman of the military affairs committee of the chamber and a former president of the chamber, explained much of the background behind the reactivation recently.

Wood went back to the late thirties when the chamber was a leading factor in having two wells drilled at the fort—a move which gave the fort enough water for the 30,000 or more troops who trained there in World War II.

Lack of Money Cited

Wood told of a time in the early 1930's when the army wanted to abandon the fort because of lack of money. But, after a great deal of effort by the chamber, not only was the fort kept open, but the 25th Infantry units at Camp Little and Camp Jones in Nogales and Douglas were moved to Huachuca.

And, it was the chamber which was directly responsible for the expansion of the fort. During 1940 and 1941, Gus Michaels, then chamber secretary, made several trips to Washington telling strategic personnel the advantages of an all year around training base. As it turned out, he was successful and Fort Huachuca won new glory with its training base for Negro troops. Other infantry outfits were brought to the fort as well as the 1st Cavalry Division going through the live ammunition infiltration course before being processed.

"Late in 1946," Wood said, "when the government started to abandon Fort Huachuca, there was a movement afoot to place the Fort Grant Industrial School for Boys at Fort Huachuca.

who spent many days seeing various government and army officials in helping the chamber. It was Hayden who sent letter after letter to key men. And, it was Senator Hayden in 1947, who led the Bisbee delegation to important army figures including Brig. Gen. Theodore Osborne, then in the Service of Supplies and Procurement Section of the War Department.

"We have had rough going," Wood said. "But the Bisbee Chamber of Commerce feels now that the government, after careful consideration, has reactivated Fort Huachuca and now that the people of the United States realize that we must keep armed and strong, Fort Huachuca surely will be a permanent installation."

Members of the military affairs committee are Wood, chairman, and W. Liddell, Folsom Moore, Austin Jay, Ed Plumb, Paul Keating, A. C. Reitenider, Mike Vucnich, S. B. Shattuck and Frank E. Thomas.



LEADING FORT WORKER

Senator Carl Hayden, senior senator from Arizona, has been a leading worker in keeping Fort Huachuca on the United States military map. After the fort was deactivated, he worked with the Bisbee Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee tirelessly to get the fort reactivated.

Major Sims Commissioned

Col. Taylor

A Top Training Site

The military affairs committee of the Chamber of Commerce took an active part in blocking the movement of any state institution to get Fort Huachuca as we realized the fort was one of the very finest of training areas in the United States and had one of the largest terrains which could be used for all kinds of training and types of equipment and weapons which the army has."

The chief reason that the military affairs committee wanted to keep the fort intact was because the members believed that it would only be a short time before the army would want it back, Wood said.

Seizing every opportunity to re-activate the fort, the Bisbee Chamber of Commerce prepared an extensive study on the area when the army announced that the Air Academy was seeking a site. On April 4, the chamber sent copies of this study to all congressmen and to Gen. Carl Spaatz, chairman of the U. S. Air Force site selection board.

Once the Korean United Nations action began and the army began to rebuild, the chamber kept in constant communication with the Arizona Congressional delegation as it attempted to have the fort restored to active duty.

It was through the influence of the chamber and Senator Carl Hayden that army and air force teams surveyed the fort for possible reactivation.

And, it was James E. Brughly II, president of the chamber, who, in his monthly newsletter early this year, announced that the fort would be reactivated. Shortly after his announcement came the army's announcement and the eventual entry of troops April 20.

Has Had Trying Times

"The chamber has had many trying times over the years," Wood said, "to hold the fort together against much opposition from eastern military installations. During this time we have had wonderful support from our senators and congressman beginning with Congressman Lewis W. Douglas (ex-ambassador to the Court of St. James, England) and down through Senator Hayden, Senator Ernest McFarland and Congressmen John Murdock and Harold Patten."

Wood indicated that without the support of Senator Hayden, the chamber might have failed in its attempt. It was Senator Hayden

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Historic Fort Huachuca to Be Closed on June 1

Governor Reports Post Will Be Maintained By Army, Guard

Historic Fort Huachuca, which played a major role in the settling of the west and the training of troops in three wars, will be closed officially on June 1.

This was announced by the army in Washington yesterday. It came with stunning suddenness as strong agitation in Arizona over the past few years had brought a promise from Army Secretary Frank Pace, in October, that the military base would be made a permanent installation.

Pace said, "After careful consideration of the facilities generally available to the army, it had been determined that Fort Huachuca will be maintained on an active status."

No Reason Given

With this announcement, army officials were quick to announce that plans for the enlargement of the fort were underway. The reasons for the change in army viewpoint were not given.

Gov. Howard Pyle told the Star the base has been ordered deactivated but a force of some 25 to 40 men will be kept on to keep the post in good shape.

He stated the fort would be "moth-balled" but ready for immediate mobilization in case the need arises. It has not been turned over to the state as on a previous occasion but will be maintained under army control.

Governor's Statement

The governor revealed that the deactivation of Fort Huachuca was part of the overall army plan to meet the budget of the fiscal year which means the reduction of 42,000,000 square feet of barracks space in the country.

Pyle stated that since November, two posts have been washed out completely, 10 more have been deactivated and six more are to be closed by the first of June.

He said the Arizona National Guard has a permanent right to the fort and therefore will not be troubled in any way by the changes. He said, too, the buffalo will remain to roam at the post.

There is a possibility, Gov. Pyle went on to say, that portions of the 76,000 acres will be leased for grazing purposes.

Indian Wars

Founded 76 years ago to stop the plundering raids of Geronimo and other Indians, the fort kept active through the years until the close of World War II, when it was turned over to the state. It was re-activated at the beginning of the Korean war and was an important base for the training of the Arizona National Guard.

Although it has been the oldest military installation in continuous use in the entire nation, the fort has always been anchored to a shaky foundation. A few times it was thought necessary to abandon it for lack of water but trouble along the border through the years kept it garrisoned, despite the climate.

The army determined to leave the fort in 1939 and after considerable haggling, the war in Europe changed some minds and when the U. S. entered the conflict, the Fort was the training base for as many as 30,000 soldiers at one time.

Closed in 1947

It was in 1947 that General Eisenhower, decided to pull the army from the post. Despite the hue and cry in Arizona, President Truman announced that he would not override his chief of staff in the decision and Huachuca was closed.

At that time Cochise county officials announced the 400-acre military cemetery would be kept up in perpetuity as an historical landmark.

When the Korean war exploded, the rattle-snake infested canyons became ideal training areas for troops and machines. Officers of the army claimed the climate and the terrain of the 76,000 acre base were much like Korea and therefore provided natural training grounds.

When Fort Began

But the history of the site really began a long time ago. It was on March 3, 1877, that Companies B and M of the 8th U. S. Cavalry under Capt. Samuel Marmaduke Whitlaid rode into the formidable Huachuca mountains looking for



This is an aerial view of historic Fort Huachuca which will be de-activated on June 1. A force of up to 40 men will be kept on the base to preserve the post, according to Governor Pyle. The Arizona National

Guard will not be affected by the order, having a permanent right to the use of the 76-year-old fort. The buffalo, too, will be allowed to roam the grounds and the lands surrounding the fort may be leased for cattle grazing.

a site that would permit easy access to the valleys of the Sonora and the Santa Cruz and still be within striking distance of Puerto de las Mulas (Mule Pass at Bisbee).

At a location well up a canyon where scouting detachments often stopped overnight, Captain Whitlaid found the site he was seeking. There were a few old adobe huts built by prospectors and suitable for storing supplies. A small mountain stream provided enough water for men and their animals.

This was the humble beginning of the great military post. On Jan. 21, 1878, it was declared a permanent camp and supplies in bulk were ordered and shipped to the outpost. The feverish building campaign got under way and the present name was permanently inscribed on Feb. 9, 1882, according to the old records.

Sherman Tides up

In the spring of that year, General Sherman visited the fort. He roared around the place, changing this and that, until he was satisfied it looked like a strong military post. But it was not long after this, the place was almost washed away. The records show the post received almost 40 inches of rain in 60 days and nearly all the adobe buildings were ruined.

New buildings and continuous changes through the years of war and peace made it by 1931 one of the most modern of U. S. military posts. It had a permanent population of 400 persons.

Construction men rolled up their sleeves again in 1940 and the present fort emerged.

There have been 129 commanding officers of the fort since its founding and the present is Col. David M. Dunne. One of the most famous commanders of the post was Gen. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing.

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Wednesday, March 18, 1953

Huachuca Placed On Standby Basis

WASHINGTON (AP) — The army training program at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., will be discontinued May 1, Arizona members of congress said yesterday.

(Earlier reports had listed Fort Huachuca among forts to be operated at reduced strength.)

The delegation said in a statement that the army has decided to deactivate the fort and several other installations whose continued operation cannot be justified on an economy issue.

Fort Huachuca has been used for training aviation engineer construction battalions since the outbreak of fighting in Korea. Training needs are leveling off somewhat.

The fort is not to be abandoned nor sold, but will be maintained on a standby basis, the delegation said. A small caretaker crew, probably civilian, will be placed on the post for maintenance.

An army spokesman said about \$2 1/2 million was spent at Fort Huachuca after it was reopened in 1950, for maintenance, repairs, construction of buildings and other work.

In Phoenix, Governor Pyle said, after a telephone conversation with Gen. Miles Reber, chief legislation liaison officer at the Pentagon, the army is cutting back 42 million square feet of barracks space within the fiscal year.

Six installations have been deactivated, starting last November, the army is now deactivating four more, and two installations have been completely washed out.

It is part of an overall reduction program required by fiscal reduction, the governor said he was informed.

Funds are being requested so that the installations investments affected by the reduction can be

preserved, and the post not washed out.

Fort Huachuca, on a standby basis, will be in a position to protect the army's investment.

The Arizona National Guard will continue to use it for annual encampments and the post at large will be available for lease only.

McFarland Scores Huachuca Closing

MAR 19 1953 by The Associated Press

Former Sen. Ernest W. McFarland issued a statement last night criticizing plans to close Fort Huachuca and depicting the decision as a reversal of a commitment made to the Arizona congressional delegation last year by former President Harry S. Truman.

The Department of the Army recently announced Fort Huachuca will be closed June 1 of this year.

McFarland reviewed investigation of the previously proposed deactivation, made last summer by Arizona congressmen, which, he said, revealed plans by the army to subordinate Fort Huachuca to Fort Ord in California.

HE SAID THESE plans were vigorously opposed by the Arizona congressional delegation and that through the personal intervention of Mr. Truman the Department of Defense decided to place Fort Huachuca on an equal basis with installations in California.

"I note that the most recent announcement of the army makes no mention of any plans to reduce the size of, close, or deactivate any defense installations in the State of California. In my opinion, deactivation of Fort Hua-

chuca will only mean that Fort Ord itself will be made bigger. Economy cannot be the object since the investment at Fort Huachuca must be abandoned if Fort Ord is enlarged," McFarland said.

THE EX-SENATOR said the investigation last summer clearly disclosed a definite need for Fort Huachuca and that nothing would be accomplished by concentrating all investment on Fort Ord and other California installations.

McFarland declared President Eisenhower is personally familiar with Fort Huachuca and that he along with others had acquainted the President with the need of the fort as a permanent installation.

"If at all possible, the people of Arizona should bring Fort Huachuca to the personal attention of President Eisenhower and obtain its permanent activation beyond question," McFarland said.

Sundt Lashes Closing Of Historic Huachuca

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

7/23/53

John S. Sundt, Tucson contractor whose company rehabilitated Fort Huachuca two years ago at a cost of \$5,000,000, expressed disappointment yesterday at learning the historic post will be abandoned by the army on June 1.

A skeleton crew will be kept on the reservation to keep up some 1,034 buildings and 20 miles of roadway that were completely modernized in 1951.

"It's a shame to close it down," Sundt said. "We did a lot of work there to put it back in usable shape. It seems a crime to abandon it."

Sundt said, "Included in the costly rehabilitation were two large swimming pools, two theaters and a modern hospital, completely equipped."

5,000 Foot Runway
Last building project to be completed at the Fort was a new airport with a 5,000 foot runway, built by army engineer aviation units.

At dedication ceremonies opening the airport Dec. 4, Col. David M. Dunne said, "Information received here a few weeks ago, to the effect that this establishment would continue on an active basis, was the best Christmas present the post and neighboring communities could have received."

Last week, army officials reversed this decision.

A force of some 25 to 40 men will be kept on to maintain the post, Gov. Howard Pyle informed the Star.

"I hope the post is kept up," Sundt reflected. "It was in terrible shape when it was rebuilt the last time."

Training Began

Reconstruction of the ancient fort began in February, 1951 and was completed just before active training of several thousand engineering troops began in August.

attach

of the same year.

The training program will have lasted exactly 21 months.

United States taxpayers spent an additional \$11,000,000 on Fort Huachuca in 1941 when it was rehabilitated to train troops for World War II.

The project included installation of a Diesel generating plant, 75 miles of sewer, water and gas lines, a steam laundry, hospital and other units.

Closed in 1944

In 1944, the post closed down and sale of war surplus equipment began. Hundreds of pounds of aluminum, copper and brass were sold as scrap. The highest bidders got 150 pounds of electric light bases, 1,250 pounds of storage batteries, 1,000 flashlights and hundreds of other and more expensive items.

Actually, closing down of the fort this June was predicted as long ago as last August when Brig. Gen. Frank E. Fraser, adjutant general of the state of Arizona, warned it might be closed by January, 1953.

The same day, Gov. Howard Pyle told newsmen that it would take a lot of pressure on Pentagon officials to keep troops at the fort. He gave the base only a 50-50 chance for survival.

"It certainly is a mark of poor business to build, disband, build and then disband again," he added. "The trouble is they don't appreciate what we have out here."