

Grapewine News



COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

The following is from the Mohave Parks Department website. Our former mayor, Tom Brady, who also served as the first Mohave County Parks Superintendent at Davis Camp, distributed this information when he spoke at the museum in April.



After the end of World War II, on September 2, 1945, focus on the Davis Dam project once again began. In April 1946, Utah Construction was awarded the main contract for the dam's completion.

It was at the same time the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) built the town Davis Camp to allow for housing of Davis Dam workers. Davis Camp consisted of more than 100 homes, a grocery store, gas station, post office, a recreation center with swimming pool, two churches and several service buildings.

Davis Camp-The Beginning

On April 26, 1941, the Davis Dam project was authorized under the provisions of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939. The project was named to honor Arthur Powell Davis, Director of Reclamation from 1914-1923. The contract for construction of the dam and power house was awarded in June of 1942. As part of the work on the Arizona side, a mess hall and dormitories were constructed, where Davis Camp is today. In 1943, the dam project was put on hold due to World War II. The contract was terminated, and a lot of the buildings were removed to assist in the war effort.

With the completion of Davis Dam in 1953, the use of Davis Camp began to diminish and change. Between 1959 and 1960, the BOR began the building removal process. The BOR sold the modular houses, most of the prefabricated homes and some of the permanent ones. The buildings were later moved to provide housing in the communities in Bullhead City and Kingman. In addition to the building removal, five new larger homes were constructed in 1960 and six additional homes were built in 1961, for Davis Dam employees. At its peak, in 1948, Davis Camp consisted of approximately 100 homes, by 1970, only 32 to 33 houses remained. [con't on pg 2](#)

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In the 1970's, Davis Camp again witnessed change as many of the Davis Dam employees chose to purchase homes in new neighborhoods along the Colorado River in Bullhead City. The departure of many of the Dam employees resulted in a housing surplus at Davis Camp. To compensate for the housing loss, the BOR rented out the unoccupied homes to people employed in various types of public service. Firemen, highway patrolmen, teachers and National Park Service employees were among those who lived at Davis Camp.

The use of Davis Camp for housing ended in 1982 when the Federal Government declared Davis Camp to be surplus property. As a result, most of the remaining houses were required to be moved. This included several permanent houses which had been constructed in 1946 and seven of the 11 houses were constructed in 1960-1961. The Catholic Church building remained in place, though its church moved to a new facility in Bullhead City.

In 1982, the Mohave County, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service and the Arizona State Parks Board, began the process of turning Davis Camp into a regional park. A \$300,000 grant from the Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Committee of Arizona State Parks provided funding for the initial phase of development. Six small garages, formerly associated with the original houses, were located together to form the park's maintenance yard. The BOR turned control of what was left of the original Davis Camp town of Mohave County to be operated by Mohave County Parks. Davis Camp Park opened to the public in 1983.

In the mid-1980's Davis Camp's existing RV Park area was installed. At the same time, one of the 1960-61 era homes was moved to a new entrance to the park. This home became the current Ranger Station which is still operating today. In 1988, two of the original 1946 houses were renovated and offered as rentals for park guests. The additional eight houses were renovated in subsequent years.

In the late 1980's, restroom shower buildings, a boat launch, ramada, a concession stand, and a parking area were added. The most recent addition was the park amphitheater in 2010, located at the south beach area.

P R E S I D E N T S C O R N E R

Hi everyone. May is here I'm so happy the educational garden is coming right along and almost done. So excited about this project it becomes more real everyday.

We are having an event on May 24th with the Mojave tribe youth dancer group and it should be a really fun time. We are also hoping to have a soft opening of the educational garden on the same evening. Maybe other surprises also.

The museum has been seeing quite a few more people and I am excited about that.

Everyday we have enough people coming from all over and buying many items from our retail. If anyone has anything they'd like to discuss or talk about please call me 928-219-2582. I am always available and normally I'm always there on Friday the whole day, so let's have a good month hopefully our membership is rising now we're just looking for some new fundraisers so we can complete some of our other projects with the museum.

Thank you to our new Secretary Ellen Brown for such good reports and also stepping up to the Membership Chairperson position.

Until next month Happy Memorial day.

PS: always looking for more volunteers!!

Sincerely,
Karole Finkelstein
President

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Colorado River Historical Society Museum is seeking volunteers.

If you enjoy history and want to learn more about the area, the society needs you. This is a chance to meet area visitors from all over the world and form friendships with a wonderful group of volunteers. Many of our volunteers are part-time residents and retirees.

Hours are flexible and duties are as easy or challenging as you would like.

WORD PUZZLE

DAVIS CAMP - THE BEGINNING

J V S B A E R P L O X J G N M
 L Y O S Z I J A I O H O M E S
 N A O Z M U S R M H S S X W U
 T O B P E Y Y K U A X S R W L
 J P I H C A E B N T D E C G P
 J F L T C E J O R P G A H D R
 U I A R A P V G L N A F U A U
 A L S M H M L Q A Z U U R V S
 E P O O T A A R P N A U C I S
 R G L R V L F L D O G Z H S V
 U B O O T V Z I C I L X M C S
 B M M B X N N P K E V X A J I
 A E U R F G O Q S N R M R P P
 R G J P H R P C O E P Q X T O
 I A F S T A T I O N F D E K J

- | | | |
|---------|---------|-------------|
| BEACH | DAVIS | RAMADA |
| BOAT | FUNDING | RANGER |
| BUREAU | HOMES | RECLAMATION |
| CAMP | LOSS | REMOVAL |
| CHURCH | PARK | STATION |
| CONTROL | PROJECT | SURPLUS |

April 2023 puzzle answers: William H. Hardy

T T U Z T R O E D D E C P A P
 A R N X M A I L L I W B H D I
 B A U O P E O Q S A O E A V H
 R P G Q O G R L X S S L R E S
 E P O A J L O C I E T U D N R
 C E Y I Z O A J A E N R Y T E
 A R X D T U Z S R N A T V U D
 P S X S R M J R E I T O I R A
 F C D E I A I J L O C I L E E
 X C I N M T H R U S H G L L L
 L U I O O S O R E V I R E E I
 G N S R Z A W H I T T I E R G
 G U I Z D S F V F O X D D W L
 M E S P I H S M A E T S A Z T
 S P R E S C O T T Y N L O J P

EVENTS CALENDAR

All events are at the museum unless otherwise stated

Seek peek at the upcoming Fall Event Season



Debbie Miller-Marschke does a full costume presentation of Olive Oatman, covering her life from the time the family left Illinois on a wagon train, to the massacre that took almost her entire family's lives near Yuma, her captivity by the Apache and Mojave tribes, her life among the Mojave in the Mohave Valley and Needles area, her return to Ft. Yuma, and finally her later life.

Upcoming Spring 2023 Events

Colorado River Museum Presents

THE FORT MOJAVE YOUTH DANCE GROUP

May 24-Wednesday 5pm-7pm (AZ time)

The Fort Mojave Youth Dance Group was created by the late Geneva Evanston. Her dream was to carry on the tradition of song and dance with the youth within our tribe. She started with her grandchildren and incorporated her nieces and nephews along with a few other tribal children. They also traveled as far as Fairbanks, Alaska to share and participate in the Dance Group portion of the W.E.I.O. Currently we have youth from 3 years of age to teens. We have taught many in doing so they have shared their talents at many functions within the tri-state.



Throughout the years we have decedents of the original participants. A group of the youth have also learned the game of Peon, which is a traditional hand game played throughout California.

As of today, we still go out and share when asked. Our numbers vary but we do have approximately 15 youth at present who still sing and dance as a group. Those who have aged out of the group are at present still displaying their culture that was taught to them.

Our current coordinators are Jolita Ameelyenah and Heather Rae Evanston.



Colorado River Museum
 1239 Highway 95 (in Community Park)
 Bullhead City, AZ 86429
 928-754-3399

MUSEUM PROJECT - EDUCATION GARDEN

We continue to make progress on this project. The plants we added in March are doing well, with many of them blooming through April (the Desert Willow are still blooming now).

The woodshop group from the Academy of Building Industries, under the direction of Paula DeShaw, built what we are calling the “mining table”. This is a table that will double as a gold panning table when needed. They brought it over last month and installed it in the Mining display area. The Mohave High woodshop teacher, Coach Olvera, came in on Friday the 12th and started installing the amphitheater seating which he plans to finish in the next week. We have the storyboards on site. A group from the JROTC came out that day also and got the storyboard installation project started, but we still need to finish. This we are hoping to also get done next week. The final groundwork of laying down the decomposed granite is slowly moving along. We are looking for any and all volunteers that would like to help with this (it’s a great workout)!

Richard Dotson, one of our members, also a carpenter, is building us a tool shed for all the miscellaneous stuff one needs in a garden. Thank you so much Rich!

~ Laurie



Amphitheater seating - Mohave High woodshop group



Tool Shed - Rich Dotson



Storyboard install - Maj Davis and JROTC group



Mining table - AOBI woodshop group

