

Grapewine News



COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

FEATURED ARTICLE

Report Upon the Colorado River of the West - Explored in 1857 and 1858 by Lieutenant Jopseph C. Ives
Donated to CRHS by the Stebbins Family of Harbor Springs Michigan

Joseph Christmas Ives (1828–1868), soldier, botanist, explorer of the Colorado River in 1858.

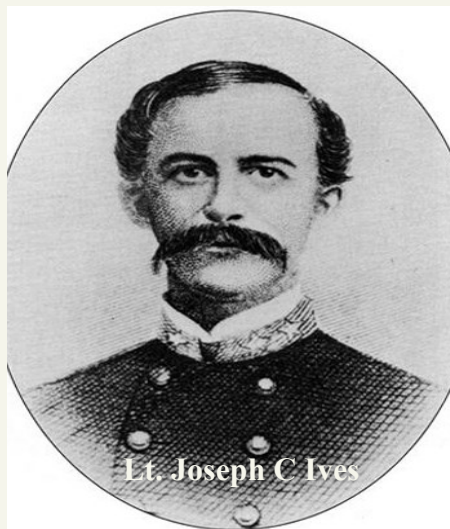
Ives was born in New York City in 1828 and was a graduate of the United States Military Academy in 1852. As a Lieutenant from 1853 to 1854 he was appointed by the U.S. Army to the Topographical Engineers as assistant to Lt. A.W. Whipple in the Pacific Railroad survey along the 35th parallel. From 1857 to 1858 Ives commanded an expedition with a small party including Dr. John Stone Newberry, physician and naturalist, and Baldwin Mollhausen, personal representative of famous scientist Count Von Humboldt to explore up the Colorado River from its mouth.

Dates: November 29, 1857 to May 23, 1858.

Purpose: To see how far and to what extent the Colorado River was navigable by steamboat.

Report excerpt:

Camp 47, head of Mojave valley, February 17. - Jose and his tribe returned on the following morning and seemed anxious that the indiscretion of the preceding night should be forgotten. They brought in a good deal of provision, and a runner presented himself to take the Port Yuma letters. These were prepared and handed to him, and he started off without delay. He made no stipulation about the payment but was much gratified at receiving in advance a red blanket and a piece of cotton. I gave Jose - letting him clearly understand that it was in payment for his services - some cloth, beads, cotton, and fancy articles, which he forthwith distributed, retaining nothing for himself but a handsome red scarf; this caught his fancy so strongly that he could not part with it, but



Lt. Joseph C Ives

twisted it about his head, turban fashion, where it excited general admiration. Their tastes are very arbitrary. Small white beads they highly prize; blue and red beads they will not accept as a gift, with the exception of a single variety of large blue glass beads, which they intersperse with the white in their necklaces; for cloth or blankets, red is the color most esteemed; white cotton and any kind of clothing they are glad to procure. Apart from their fondness for beads, their tastes are generally for things that are useful; and for paints, ribbons, imitation jewelry, feathers, etc., they have a contempt.

We left Jose and his clan looking very much pleased at the result of the morning's negotiations, and their friendly demeanor has relieved Mariano and Capitan from a load of anxiety. Their position would be a delicate one in the event of hostilities, as it might create unpleasant complications between the Yumas and Mojaves. I think Mariano, though a good-natured old fellow, would run away were there to be any fighting; but Capitan seems disposed to stand by our side. He quite surprised us by the bold and decided ground he took last night. Any outbreak would be a cause for much regret. Besides our reliance upon the Indians for provisions, our little party of twenty-four, in an open boat, half the time stuck upon a bar, could be greatly harassed by six or seven hundred men concealed in the thickets that often line the banks of the river.

On the same day that we bade farewell to Jose we passed another of the chiefs, whom they call Manuel. He was seated in state on the bank, with his tribe around him; but it was not convenient to stop, and when camp was reached at evening I learned that we were beyond the limits of his domain, and that it would not comport with his dignity to visit us.

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The next day we remained in camp. During the morning, while passing in and out of the boat, I remarked an Indian seated for a long time near the end of the plank. At last I observed that he was constantly regarding me with a half smiling, half embarrassed air, and, looking at him more intently, discovered that it was my old friend Ireteba. He had been too modest to introduce himself. He was delighted at being recognized, and at the cordial greeting he received. He told me that his chief, Cairook," lived across the river, and would soon come to see me. I at once proposed to Ireteba to accompany me on the boat, and upon the arrival of the pack train to go with us eastward; and he expressed his willingness to do so.

I judged from his appearance that he was very poor and gave him some blankets and other articles. When he and Cairook parted from Lieutenant Whipple they were loaded with enough presents to make them rich, according to an Indian's notions, for the rest of their lives; but it is the custom of the Mojaves to burn their property when a relation dies to whose memory they wish to pay especial honor, so that wealth is held by as uncertain a tenure as life.

The appearance of a great crowd upon the opposite bank indicated the presence of Cairook, and in a few minutes a messenger swam the river, and asked me to send a boat over. This it was impossible to do, as the skiff had been hauled upon the bank for repairs that were not yet completed, and there was no steam up. I was, therefore, obliged to send word that he must furnish his own transportation. The river was deep, and it was inconsistent with his dignity to make the first grand entrance into camp dripping with water; and after a good deal of commotion and delay he hit upon a truly regal method of crossing. A raft was provided, and four of his tribe, one swimming at each corner, conveyed him over. He stood erect in the centre, and the water, for an acre or two around, was alive with his swimming followers. The meeting was friendly and pleasant. Cairook is a noble looking man. He is nearly six feet and a half high, and has a magnificent figure and a fine open face. He seemed glad to see me, and laughed a great deal as he alluded to former adventures. He inquired particularly for Lieutenant Whipple, for whom he had conceived an exalted opinion. Many of his tribe remember, and have been recalling, incidents of that expedition. Among other things, they were inquisitive to learn something of the man who could carry his teeth in his hand; which brought to mind an amusing recollection of the astonishment with which they had seen a member of the party take out and replace one or two false teeth. Cairook spent the whole day with me. I gave him plenty to eat, and some tobacco, and made as much of him as possible. He was highly gratified at his reception, which he saw added to his importance with the tribe. Like the rest, he required satisfying as to the object of our coming, and desired to know how long we were to remain, and where we were next going. As both he and Ireteba are intelligent men, and quick of comprehension, I

drew, upon the ground, a map of the river and the surrounding country, and explained to them our plans, while they interpreted to the others. They seemed, for the first time, to clearly understand and feel at ease about the matter. Their countenances brightened, and there were frequent exclamations of "ahotka," (good.) I told Cairook what I required of him in regard to the trading for provisions, the rules to be observed by the Indians, and the detail of messengers to carry letters to the fort; also that I wanted Ireteba to accompany me, and that an additional guide must be selected to go with us when we should leave the river. To all of this he gave a ready assent, and delivered a speech upon the subject to his people. I now gave him some presents, which he forthwith distributed, as Jose had done, to his friends. The disposition of a few desirable articles that could not be divided occasioned him some perplexity. He made an earnest speech upon the subject, and at some one's suggestion it was decided to submit the matter to the popular vote. A deafening clamor and hopeless confusion was the immediate result of this experiment in universal suffrage, till Cairook, very sensibly, threw the objects of strife into the midst of the crowd, to be scrambled for, which had the effect, after a fierce momentary tussle, of restoring peace.

For two days Cairook, at my invitation, travelled upon the steamboat. He was accompanied, on the first day, by his wife. She is a nice looking squaw, and I allowed herself and her spouse the privilege, accorded to no other Indians, of sitting upon the upper deck. We made a good run, meeting with little detention, and they sat in dignified state, and enjoyed the admiring gaze of their neighbors, who were assembled in crowds along the banks. From the airs that were put on by Madam Cairook in consequence of being the only female thus distinguished, I am afraid that the trip turned her head, and that she must have been quite unbearable to her friends after she left us.

As we steamed away from the Mojave villages we passed a conspicuous conical peak, a few miles east of the river, which stands almost upon the 35th parallel, opposite the initial point of the California boundary.

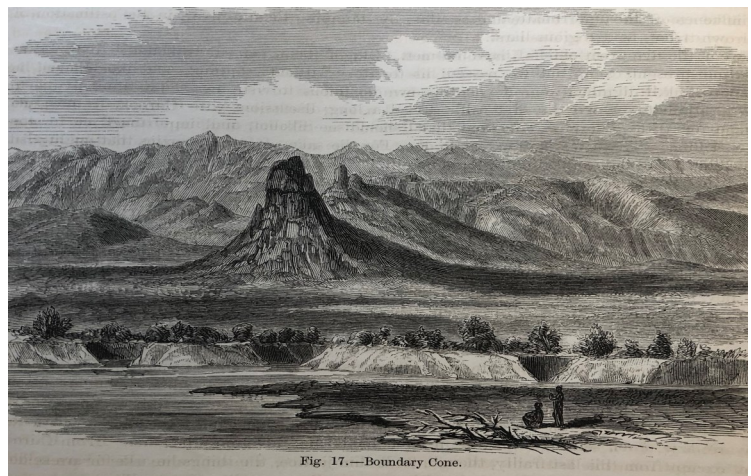


Fig. 17.—Boundary Cone.

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Hi everyone,

Happy Fall!

Here we are again and very soon all of our members will be back to our Museum from their summer trips and vacations and looking forward to seeing all again. Hopefully our membership will still be growing and our fundraising will be getting better so our new building can be built for all of our archival things. We are having our first pumpkin patch on October 1st nothing to report as yet but I am excited about the wonderful cooperation of our members and the event planners that have put this together. I hope with the election coming up that new people will be on the board and we all will work together in harmony for our coming year, many things happening new displays a lot of new volunteers which makes our Museum a very special place to go. Anyone that has anything to talk about or would like my opinion please call me at 928-219-2582. Thank you again to everyone that makes my job very easy and things coming up for future endeavors should be amazing.

Sincerely your president
Karole Finkelstein

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.

Examples of volunteer activities:

- Handyman
- Gardening/General clean-up
- Historical research
- Docents

WORD PUZZLE

Lt. Joseph C. Ives

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

BLANKETS
MAP
OBJECTS
THICKETS
TRIP

BOUNDARY
MOJAVES
PRESENTS
TOBACCO
YUMA

Last month puzzle answers: Lt. Beale

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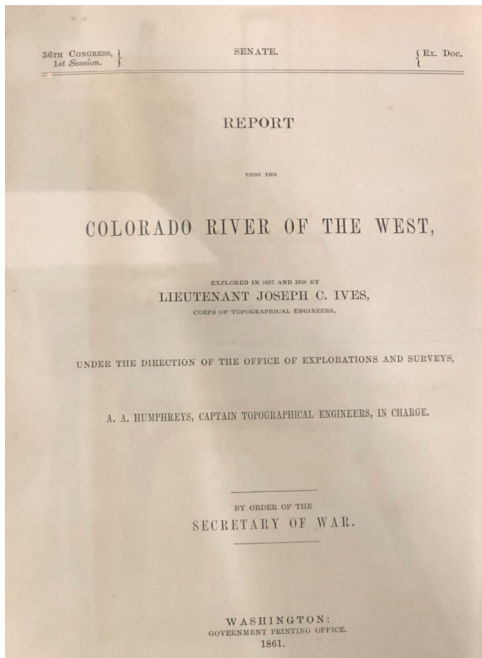
COMMITTEES UPDATES

From The Desk of Our Curator:

The Collection/Archive Committee has had a second wonderful donation of the Report Upon the Colorado River of the West by Lt Joseph C. Ives (see excerpts in this is months featured article). Our generous donor (for both copies) is the Stebbins Family of Michigan. Thank you so much!

This report is in its entirety can also be found digitally at:

<https://archive.org/details/reportuponcolor00bairgoog/>



Seeking Donations for Our Collection

We are looking for any artifact that is pertinent to our Tri-state area. This includes, but is not limited to, photographs, family histories, military activity, Davis Dam, Native Americans, steamboats, ranching, fossils, explorers, highways, historical maps, churches and service clubs, businesses, and mining.

- ◆ We cannot accept an artifact with stipulations on it such as it must be displayed in a particular way or time period.
- ◆ We do not accept loans.

Give us a call at the museum if you have an artifact or historical item you would like us to consider.

We are actively seeking local historic photographs and Mohave Valley Daily Newspapers before 2010.

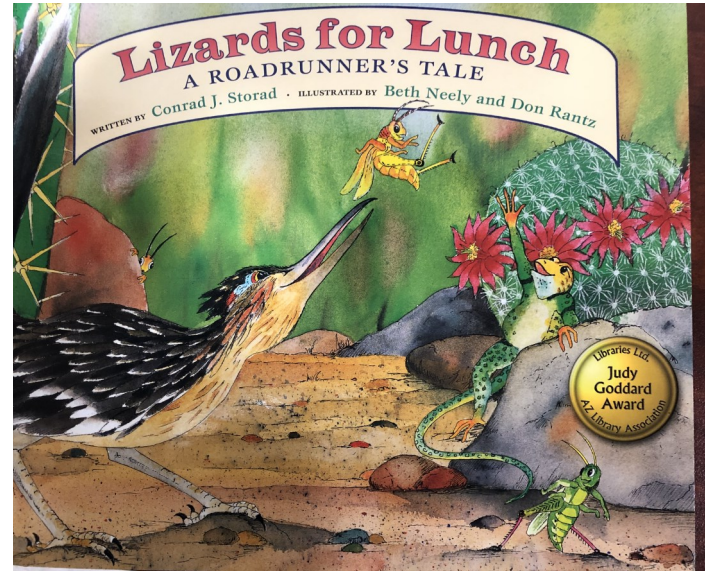
GIFT SHOP NEWS

Featured Book:

Lizards for Lunch - A Roadrunners Tale

Available in the gift shop now.

Price: \$8.00



Memberships News:

REMINDER - ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION

Deadline for nomination form return is
Wednesday Oct 5th 2022

Nomination letters and forms were sent out to our members 9/25/22 via email. If you have not received and want to a copy resent please contact crhsmuseum@outlook.com or 928-754-3399.

The Colorado River Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting and election of board members on Monday, November 14, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the museum in Bullhead Community Park. Social time with light refreshments will follow.

We have three board seats to be filled for a three-year term (our nine directors serve staggered terms of three years each.) The Nominating Committee will present a slate of nominees. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the meeting if the nominee is present. If you are interested in running for a seat on the board, contact our board secretary,

Brenda Warneka, at warneka@cox.net.

EVENTS CALENDAR

No events are planned over this summer, but keep tuned in for our upcoming events in the Fall.

Pumpkin Patch Festival: (past)

October 1, 2022 - Monday 10:00am - 2:00pm

Patron Event:

October 22, 2022 - Saturday 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Annual Meeting:

November 14, 2022 - Monday 10:00am - 11:00am

Pumpkin PATCH

Saturday Oct 1st, 2022

Our 1st Annual Pumpkin Patch event was a huge success! There were mountains of pumpkins and everyone came out to enjoy. Walter the Dog-key and Culver's Scoopie came by to visit at take part in the fun.

Thank you all so much for donations and to those that volunteered your time to make this event so wonderful.

MUSEUM PROJECTS

Colorado River Historical Society Museum Educational Gardens

"Preserving the history of the Tri-State area"

Coming to the Community Park Spring 2023

Seeking Sponsors and Donations

Features:

- Kids activity center
- Amphitheater
- Educational exhibits

Supplies Needed:

- Plants
- Concrete
- Crushed Granite
- Building materials



For more information call Laurie Thompson - 909-936-0345

Colorado River Historical Society Museum
1239 Highway 95 * Bullhead City (at Community Park), AZ
928-754-3399

crhsmuseum@outlook.com

501 (C) (3) - EIN# 86-0473992





**COLORADO RIVER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM**

1239 Highway 95 PO Box 1599
Bullhead City, AZ 86429 Bullhead City, AZ 86430

Phone: 928-754-3399
Email: CRHSmuseum@outlook.com
Web: coloradriverhistoricalsociety.org/
Hours of Operations:
Tuesday—Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm
(last admittance 3:00pm)

Grapevine News Editor - Laurie Thompson

BIOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Karole Finkelstein – President
- Ralph Patterson – Vice-President
- Brenda Warneka – Secretary
- Carla Lucas – Treasurer
- Laurie Thompson – Director
- Robbie Adams – Director
- Denise Vallon – Director
- Terry Shurte – Director

*** * * * MUSEUM FUNDRAISER * * * ***

The historical society is currently in the midst of a fundraising effort, the monies of which will be used for construction of the next phase of the museum. This addition will store our archives and collections not presently displayed in the museum.

These items are currently stored at the Davis Camp site. Mohave County has generously renewed our lease on that building for an additional, expiring in July 2023. We are in need of a new home for these artifacts, which require multiple storage racks. The Historical Society also stores various other supplies and tools in this facility.

In the coming months the museum’s Fundraising Committee will be using a variety of methods to raise money for our building fund. In the meantime if you are interested in assisting us with a donation it would be highly appreciated. Your contribution may be tax deductible, please confirm with your tax consultant.

It takes a village and we are counting on you to help us make this a reality.

