

# Grapewine News



COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY MUSEUM

## DAVIS DAM



**Arthur P Davis, Director**

**Reclamation Service, 1914-1923**

The nephew of John Westley Powell, Arthur Powell Davis administered many of the plans his uncle first conceived concerning water use in the West. Born in 1861 in Decatur, Illinois, Davis earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Columbian (now George Washington) University in 1888. Through his uncle's help, Davis worked as a topographer for U.S. Geological Survey from 1884 to 1894. Davis promoted to hydrographer in charge of government stream measurements in 1895. Three years later, in 1898, he oversaw the hydrographic examination of Nicaragua and Panama Canal routes. In 1906, Davis became Chief Engineer of the Reclamation Service, a position he held until his appointment to Director on December 10, 1914. During his tenure as Director, the Reclamation Service outlined the development of the

Colorado River Basin before Congress in 1922. Davis was the first to recommend construction of multipurpose dams whose powerplants would amortize costs of total project. The name of the Reclamation Service changed to Bureau of Reclamation on June 18, 1923. Davis retired the following day. Davis Dam on the Colorado River is named for him. He died in Oakland, California in 1933.



### The Story of Davis Dam

Davis Dam and the Power Plant facility span the Colorado River in Pyramid Canyon sixty-seven miles downstream from Hoover Dam and eighty-eight miles upstream from Parker Dam.

Constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation, the site is about ten miles north of the point where Arizona, Nevada, and California meet and approximately two miles upstream from the communities of Laughlin and Bullhead City. The Reclamation Service [con't on pg2](#)

con't from pgl (now the Bureau of Reclamation) had investigated a possible dam site in Pyramid Canyon as early as 1902, but until Hoover Dam controlled the Colorado River a dam at the Davis site was not considered practicable. In 1930, as the Hoover Dam project was moving forward, the bureau made further investigations and exploration of the site, which led to the authorization of the Davis Dam project on April 26, 1941. A contract for the construction of the dam and it's associated structures was awarded to the Utah Construction company in June 1942.

The Mexican Treaty of 1944 required the United States to construct Davis Dam for regulation of water to be delivered to Mexico. The reservoir formed by the dam, Lake Mohave, is used for that purpose through integrated operations of Hoover and Davis Power Plants.

Work halted after the War Production Board revoked priority rating needed to obtain the necessary materials for construction. Work resumed in 1946 and the dam and power plant were completed in 1953.

This zoned earth-fill dam consists of concrete spillway, powerplant, and intake structures. During its creation almost 4,000,000 cubic yards of materials were gathered from the surrounding area, 23 million pounds of reinforcing steel were used, and almost 600,000 cubic yards of concrete were dispersed between the dam, spillway, powerplant and other facilities related to the dam.

The site was named in 1941 on honor of Arthur Powell Davis, director of the Bureau of Reclamation from 1914 to 1932. Davis was one of a small group of men whose courage, foresight and vision sparked the beginning of the Colorado River development.



## WORD PUZZLE

### Davis Dam

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

DAM  
HYDROGRAPHER  
POWELL  
SITE  
UNCLE  
WAR

DAVIS  
LAKE  
POWERPLANT  
TOPOGRAPHER  
UPSTREAM  
WATER

January puzzle answers: Wagons of the West

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

Hi everyone, happy February.

Things are certainly moving at the museum the educational garden is coming right along. So excited about this project

Also, on Thursday February the 16th at 5:30 will be our first mixer that the museum has ever had, and it will be from 5:30 to 7:00 at our museum. All businesses are welcome to come we will have refreshments, prizes, and people talking. Anyway, it'll be very special and can't wait for that.

Lately the museum has been seeing quite a few people excited about that every day we have enough people so we can talk about the museum, go to the Little Red School House and I have a very good staff that helps us keep everything together.

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.

Karole Finkelstein  
President

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Colorado River Historical Society Museum is seeking volunteers for all facets of our operation from docents to greet visitors, to helpers with collection management and handyman small jobs.

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.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

All events are at the museum unless otherwise stated

### COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM WINTER 2023 SPEAKER SERIES



#### BEA THOMAS

**February 22nd-Wednesday 5pm-7pm (AZ time)**  
Lifelong resident talks about what it was like growing up in the area. Born in Kingman to Amund (Shorty) Oswood and Margret Bisbee. She grew up in Oatman, where she met and married her husband, Gene Thomas. In 1952 they moved to Davis Camp where Gene worked as an electrician inside the dam.

#### RICK AND SUSAN MURPHY

**March 29th-Wednesday 5pm-7pm (AZ time)**

Join us for a discussion with Rick owner of Murphy Broadcasting and resident of the Colorado River area since 1974. Also joining us will be his wife Susan Murphy former General Manager of the Ramada Express.



#### TOM BRADY

**April 26th-Wednesday 5pm-7pm (AZ time)**

A Vietnam veteran, Tom has been a resident of Bullhead City since 1982. Working for Mohave County for 19 years, retiring in 2002 from the position of parks director. He served for 10 years as elected Bullhead City Justice of Peace before being elected in 2014 to his first term as mayor.



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

## PAST EVENTS



Pipa Aha Macav Cultural Center - Fort Mojave Tribe



Visit to Grapevine Canyon with Paul Jackson Mojave Tribe

# MUSEUM PROJECTS

Progress on the Educational Gardens project. The boulders have all been set. The Prehistoric and cactus hill displays have been started. Soon the plants will arrive!



Colorado River Historical Society Museum  
 Educational Gardens  
*"Preserving the history of the Tri-State area"*  
 \*Coming to the Community Park Spring 2023\*

## Seeking Donations

Features:  
 Kids activity center  
 Amphitheater  
 Educational exhibits

Supplies/Labor Needed:  
 Plants  
 Metal Art  
 Building materials  
 General Labor



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

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**COLORADO RIVER  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MUSEUM**

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Email: CRHSmuseum@outlook.com  
Web: [coloradoriverhistoricalsociety.org/](http://coloradoriverhistoricalsociety.org/)  
Hours of Operations:  
Tuesday—Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm  
(last admittance 3:00pm)

Grapevine News Editor - Laurie Thompson

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

*Mission Statement*

*The mission of The Colorado River Historical Society shall be to operate a museum to promote interest and knowledge concerning the history of the Lower Colorado River area, most specifically the Tri-state area.*

**\* \* \* \* 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 year, 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.

