

Grapesvine News



COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

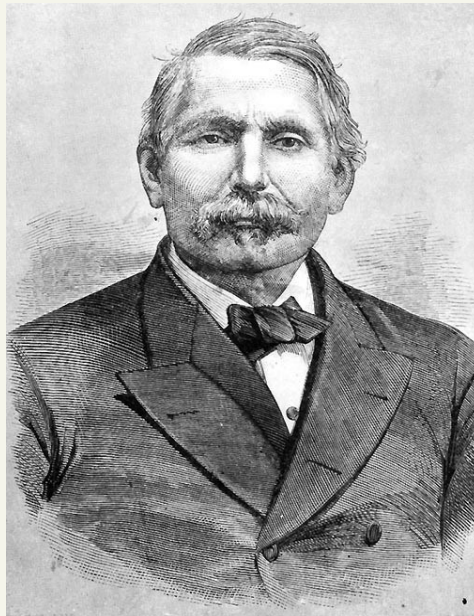
After the Mexican-American war and the annexation of New Mexico (which at the time included what is now Arizona) the U. S. Congress commissioned the first federally funded wagon road in the Southwest. Lt. Edward Beale was given the assignment of determining the feasibility for the wagon road near the 35th parallel from Fort Defiance, New Mexico to the Colorado River on the state line of California. The following is an excerpt from his daily journal, which was submitted by Lt. Beale to the Secretary of War. This excerpt is of Lt. Beale's journal entries on October 16-18, 1857 and describe the survey after having traveled through Sitgreaves Pass and descending from the Black Mountains to the valley and Colorado River.

The Journal excerpt:

October 16. The whole morning has been employed in getting down the mountain, which, though not over three quarters of a mile, was difficult to pass over, being steep and rocky. Emigrants cannot pass here until the hill is worked. I estimate the expense of making this mountain pass a good one, and a good road for emigrants, at five thousand dollars.

In coming down the mountain, the little buggy used for the carriage of the instruments upset and broke a wheel, which is the first breakage we have had since leaving. As the chronometers had been taken out no harm was done, and as it had fulfilled the purpose for which it was purchased, and our journey was accomplished, I did not care to encamp to repair, especially as the camels, with the tool chest, by a mistake of the gentleman having charge, had been carried many miles beyond the place I had intended for them; thus, to our regret, separating our party a considerable distance, as they had with them all that remained of our rations.

October 17. At daylight we were at work, and, passing down an arroyo making out of the mountains,



General Edward Fitzgerald Beale

encountered a short hill of not over fifty yards, which on account of the arroyo running through a narrow chasm, we were forced to cross, in order to get back into the arroyo again lower down. The passage of this hill which we were obliged to work down cost us nearly all the morning. Once over this, we descended the dry bed of the arroyo rapidly. Here the Indians began to pour in upon us from the Mohave villages. First, two or three, and then by dozens. They were a fine-looking, comfortable, fat and merry set; naked excepting a very small piece of cotton cloth around the waist, and, though barefooted, ran over the sharp

rock and pebbles as easily as if shod with iron. We were soon surrounded on all sides by them. Some had learned a few words of English from trafficking with the military posts two hundred and fifty miles off, and one of them saluted me with: "God damn my soul eyes. How de do: How de do."

A few miles down the arroyo the growth of a patch of cottonwoods and willows announced the presence of springs; but we did not wait to examine, though some of [con't on page 2](#)

Beale con't from page 1

The party found water there. Shortly after we left the arroyo, and coming out on the left bank, followed an excellent Indian trail leading us directly to the river. Night overtook us a mile before we reached the river. The plain over which we passed bore neither wood, water, nor grass, so that our camp was a rough one, and only enlivened by the Indians who brought some pumpkins, which we purchased, and baking them, we made an excellent supper. Weather during the day has been warm, and soil barren. The distance made today has been about eight miles, on a course nearly west.

October 18. This morning the mules were sent off before daybreak to water. We had tried ineffectually to get them to the river last night, but found it impossible on account of the brush wood.

Camp is crowded with Indians again this morning, some bringing melons, others corn, and other beans, &c., to trade for old clothes, worn out shirts, handkerchiefs, or almost anything of ours they fancy. They are shrewder at a bargain, though, than our men, whose keen appetites cannot bear the delay necessary to a successful trade. The watermelon, cantaloupes, and pumpkins, are of excellent flavor and fair size.

In the river bottom, which is several miles wide, and of very rich soil, we found grass and wood in great abundance. Trading with the Indians, in a day we had secured a hundred bushels of corn and beans, pumpkins, watermelons, and cantaloupes, to last us to the settlements. Here my journey, as far as the road is concerned, terminated. My instruction directing me, in the event of a want of provisions, to proceed to Fort Tejon and procure them there

Crossing my wagons over the river on the common air beds which I had brought for the purpose, and the use of which I recommend to others, I followed the United States surveyor's trail from the river to Los Angeles, my wagons and train taking the right-hand road, and coming from the Mohave to the Fort Tejon. Here I remained until about the 1st of January, when I commenced my winter journey homeward, arriving at the Colorado January 23, 1958.

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

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Hi everyone

Hope everyone is having a great summer. We all know it's been extremely hot and we've had less people coming to the museum. Maybe because of the heat, maybe because of the gas prices, but we still are getting some people in and we're still selling stuff in our wonderful retail store.

We have wonderful teams of people that are putting together events and fundraisers for the upcoming season at our museum. Hopefully you'll all be able to come and enjoy these events

I would like to point out the city has donated to us three beautiful picnic tables which are in our back area and if you come to the museum you can take a look at them. We've have also acquired a couple antique book cabinets which are beautiful and will be used in the museum library.

I would like, at this time, to thank you everyone that has been a volunteer this year without you it would be no Museum.

Also, the museum has been nominated for the CAA awards in community service and I have been nominated for the award for citizen of the year. Let's wish us all well whether we win or not it is an honor to be nominated.

Take care and have a happy Labor Day

Your President
Karole Finkelstein

COMMITTEES UPDATES

From The Desk of Our Curator:

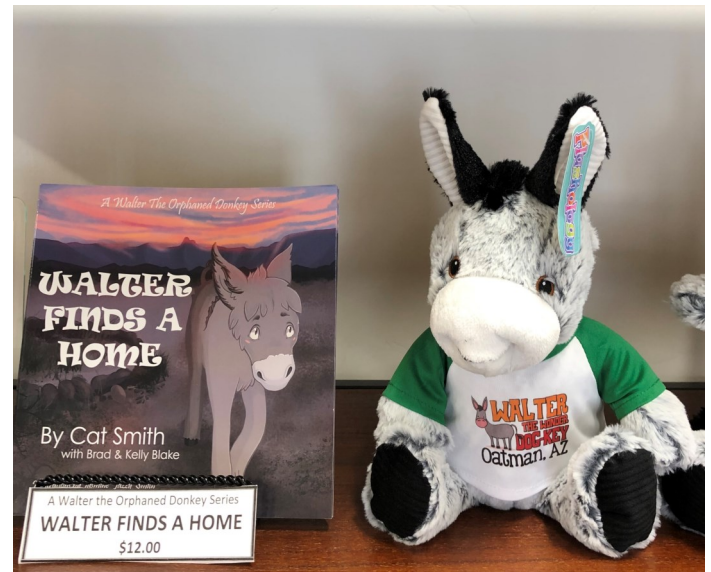
The Collection/Archive Committee was able to purchase these two beautiful antique curio cabinets from an antique store in Kingman that gave us a very good deal. They will be used in our library/archives room to store our more valuable and older books, which include a copy of Lt. Ives "Colorado River of the West" Report to Congress that we were fortunate to receive last year from a generous family from Michigan.



GIFT SHOP NEWS

Walter the "Dog-key"

The gift shop has copies of the book "Walter Finds a Home" the delightful story of our local celebrity donkey from Oatman. We also have cuddly Walter "Dog-key" plush toys that would make a great gift for young children.



Memberships News:

SAVE THE DATE - ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION

PLEASE JOIN US for 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. Full information will appear on our Facebook page and in the October newsletter. If you are interested in running for a seat on the board, contact our board secretary, Brenda Warneka, at warneka@cox.net.

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.

EVENTS CALENDAR

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

Pumpkin Patch Festival:

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



Colorado River Historical Society MUSEUM 1239

Pumpkin PATCH

Saturday Oct 1st, 2022

Colorado River Museum Presents
1st Annual Pumpkin Patch Festival
 Saturday Oct 1st, 2022
 10:00am - 2:00pm
 1239 Hwy 95, Bullhead City, AZ
 (Museum at Community park)

FACE PAINTING BY IZZY | FROZEN CUSTARD BY CULVER'S

For more information contact
 Karole Finkelstein
 (928) 219-2582




WORD PUZZLE

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
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E L A E B E C L T U C Q
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Last month puzzle answers: Tri-State

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D K H R R T R O F I W O
E Y S R W S C R V G S R
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N N W N G U S H M A N E
U W I H O M E S T A K E
A M O K R A L C M H X K
V H Z T A D A V E N S Q
    
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 Bullhead City, AZ 86429 Bullhead City, AZ 86430

Phone: 928-754-3399
 Email: CRHSmuseum@outlook.com
 Web: 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
 Terry Shurte – 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, 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.

