

Grapevine News



COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL
SOCIETY MUSEUM

Bullhead City - Then and Now



Bullhead City is by historic standards a relatively new town. Founded and laid out by two men (Long and Lee) in 1941, it was anticipated to provide housing for employees working on the construction of Davis Dam. Although the construction company was housed across the river and the government workers were housed at Davis Camp, there were 21,000 workers; many who needed housing. As the dam construction wound down in 1952, the town settled into a sleepy little fishing, vacation location.

About 1964, as Don Laughlin first discovered the possibility of establishing a gambling center across the river from Bullhead City, other opportunity seekers were looking at Bullhead City as another possibility for expanding tourism. With improved highways, travel from southern California became popular. Between 1960 and 1980, the city grew to accommodate demands for housing and water sports. Subsequently, skilled service workers were also in demand.

Expanding into the local environment, the area is full of fascinating historic landmarks and events whether the visitor is interested in natural wonders, Native American culture, or exploring beautiful, wild, country. A visitor can find petroglyphs left by ancient cultures which today are

parts of two tribes: the Mojaves and the Hualapai. Davis Camp has one of the finest collections just inside the gates. Driving west on 163, Grapevine Canyon is another good location to see petroglyphs and also incredible natural rock formations. Hiking in this area is rigorous, but very interesting. This area has recently been designated as a national historic site which will serve to protect the entire Spirit Mountain area from mining and damage due to trespassing.

Water sports are very popular during the warmer months. Fishing goes on all year. Hunting has its season. The river provides a multitude of entertainment possibilities.

The city hosts numerous sports events throughout the year: baseball, pickleball, soccer, softball, golfing, etc. Thousands take advantage of these activities. Having Laughlin across the river makes this area an even greater destination because it provides the support Bullhead City needs to provide services for the many visitors.

Gold and silver mines, ghost towns and old buildings all have stories to tell. It is no wonder that hundreds of snowbirds choose this area to spend their winters.



WORD PUZZLE

Bullhead City - Then and Now

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

BASEBALL	DAM	DAMAGE
DAVIS	EVENTS	FISHING
GHOST	HISTORIC	LANDMARKS
LEE	LONG	NATURAL
NEW	SEEKERS	SOCCER
TOURISM	TOWN	VISITOR

April 2024 Crossword Puzzle answers: Grapevine Canyon

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

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

It's May. Can you believe it?

Well, guess what, our mission was accomplished with a couple of our special members stepping up and we now have a beautiful stainless steel, 28 cubic foot refrigerator. I'm not telling you their names right now because I'm going to mention them May 22nd event.

We have been very lucky as five different groups of 2nd to 4th graders participate in our Educational Program at the museum, not only in the Educational Garden, but the also the Museum and our Little Red School House. We are so lucky to have several docents that have spent their time with these groups educating them about the history we have in our beautiful city of Bullhead City Arizona.

We hosted a very interesting group called Triscom, which consists of several of the different museums from the Tri-state area. We get together about once every three months; each meeting is at a different museum. We talk about all the different things that our museums are doing and share ideas. Also, we were very happy that Mary Ragusa gave a special presentation about how our streets were named and all kinds of really interesting things concerning Bullhead City, so we thank her very much for her presentation.

Coming up on May 16th is the Chamber of Commerce Mixer with several of the different chambers from the area at our Museum from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Also on May 22nd will be the presentation of Olive Oatman from 5:00pm to 6:30pm, so come on down and enjoy this presentation it is very special. At the same event will be the people that run the Goffs Museum and they'll be talking a little about their museum.

We are hoping to bring up our membership. Come on out everyone and try to get people to join, businesses or corporations also. Such a wonderful experience to be a member.

And if you know anyone that wants to volunteer. Send them our way, we need volunteers!! Anyone over 18 is welcome.

Also, welcome to our new volunteers and members. Thank you for being a part of our museum family. We have grown quite a bit and the people that volunteer are special with everything that they offer to our museum and the community.

See you next month!

Sincerely
Karole Finkelstein
President

NEWS FROM THE CURATORS DESK

The collections committee is introducing a new feature for the CRHS newsletter in which we will present a wish list for one of our four collections. These requests will appear periodically in the newsletter to provide funding opportunities for members to donate select items from the collections wish list. This month we will feature requests for the library. As cataloging of the library collection continues, there are additional books we would like to add to the collection. If you would like to purchase one of these books, to avoid duplication, please contact the Collections Curator - Carla Lucas, with the title of the book you wish to donate.

Email: crhsmuseum@outlook.com

We would like to ask that donated books be in new or like new condition (free of any damage). We would also appreciate hardback copies, if available, they tend to have a longer shelf life. Donors will be acknowledged in the newsletter and noted in the library catalog system, (soon to be available online through the museum's website). Thank you for your interest in working with us to create a library collection of books focused on the rich history and culture of the Tri State area. We look forward to having this collection available to all members in the near future.

~ Carla

For your convenience, if ordering books online, you may have them mailed directly to the museum, if doing so, make sure that your name and address are noted as buyer as well.

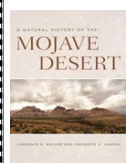
Colorado River Historical Society Museum

Attn: Carla Lucas

PO Box 1599

Bullhead City, AZ 86430

A Natural History of the Mojave Desert, by Lawrence R. Walker and F. Landau, 2018, ISBN: 978-0-8165-3262-9



About this book:

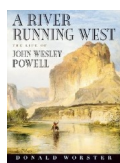
The Mojave Desert has a rich natural history. Despite being sandwiched between the larger Great Basin and Sonoran Deserts, it has enough mountains, valleys, canyons, and

playas for any eager explorer. Ancient and current waterways carve the bajadas and valley bottoms. This diverse topography gives rise to a multitude of habitats for plants and animals, many of which are found nowhere else in the world.

A Natural History of the Mojave Desert explores how a combination of complex geology, varied geography, and changing climate has given rise to intriguing flora and fauna—including almost 3,000 plant species and about 380 terrestrial vertebrate animal species. Of these, one quarter of the plants and one sixth of the animals are endemic.

The authors, who, combined, have spent more than six decades living in and observing the Mojave Desert, offer a scientifically insightful and personally observed understanding of the desert. They invite readers to understand how the Mojave Desert looks, sounds, feels, tastes, and smells. They prompt us to understand how humans have lived in this desert where scant vegetation and water have challenged humans, past and present. *A Natural History of the Mojave Desert* provides a lively and informed guide to understanding how life has adapted to the hidden riverbeds, huge salt flats, tiny wetlands, and windswept hills that characterize this iconic desert.

A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell, by Donald Worster, 2022. ISBN: 978-0195156355



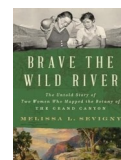
About this book:

John Wesley Powell, intrepid explorer, careful scientist, talented writer, and dedicated conservationist, Powell led the expedition that put the Colorado River on American maps and revealed the Grand Canyon to the

world. Now comes the first biography of this towering figure in almost fifty years—a book that captures his life in all its heroism, idealism, and ambivalent, ambiguous humanity. In *A River Running West*, Donald Worster, one of the leading Western historians, tells the story of Powell's great adventures and describes his historical significance with compelling clarity and skill. Worster paints a vivid portrait of how this man emerged from the early nineteenth-century world of immigrants, fervent religion, and rough-and-tumble rural culture, and barely survived the Civil War battle at Shiloh. The heart of Worster's biography is Powell's epic journey down the Colorado in 1869, a tale of harrowing experiences, lethal accidents, and breathtaking discoveries. After years in the region collecting rocks and fossils and learning to speak the local Native American languages, Powell returned to Washington as an eloquent advocate for the West, one of America's first and most influential conservationists. But in the end, he fell victim to a clique of Western politicians who pushed for unfettered economic development, relegating the aging explorer to a quiet life of anthropological contemplation.

John Wesley Powell embodied the energy, optimism, and westward impulse of the young United States. *A River Running West* is a gorgeously written, magisterial account of this great American explorer and environmental pioneer, a true story of undaunted courage in the American West.

Brave the Wild River: The Untold Story of Two Women Who Mapped the Botany of the Grand Canyon, by Melissa L. Sevigny, 2023, ISBN: 978-0393868234



About this book:

In the summer of 1938, botanists Elzada Clover and Lois Jotter set off to run the Colorado River, accompanied by an ambitious and entrepreneurial expedition leader, a zoologist, and two amateur boatmen.

With its churning waters and treacherous boulders, the Colorado was famed as the most dangerous river in the world. Journalists and veteran river runners boldly proclaimed that the motley crew would never make it out alive, but for Clover and Jotter, the expedition held a tantalizing appeal, no one had yet surveyed the plant life of the Grand Canyon, and they were determined to be the first. Through the vibrant letters and diaries of the two women, science journalist Melissa L. Sevigny traces their daring forty-three-day journey down the river, during which they meticulously cataloged the thorny plants that thrived in the Grand Canyon's secret nooks and crannies. Along the way, they chased a runaway boat, ran the river's most fearsome rapids, and turned the harshest critic of female river runners into an ally. Clover and Jotter's plant list, including four new cactus species, would one day become vital for efforts to protect and restore the river ecosystem. *Brave the Wild River* is a spellbinding adventure of two women who risked their lives to make an unprecedented botanical survey of a defining landscape in the American West, at a time when human influences had begun to change it forever. The riveting tale of two pioneering botanists and their historic boat trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon

EVENTS CALENDAR

All events are at the museum unless otherwise stated

Chamber of Commerce Mixer - Garden Party:

Joint Bullhead City, Laughlin and Needles Chamber of Commerce. Come by and enjoy the fun.

May 16th 2024 - Thursday 5:30 pm-7pm(AZ time)



Debbie Miller-Marschke - Olive Oatman:

We will be hosting Debbie Miller-Marschke characterizing Olive Oatmans history and stories. We will also have a representative from the Goffs Museum in California. **May 22nd 2024 - Wednesday 5pm-6:30pm(AZ time)**



FUNDRAISING ACTIVIES

Raffle Item: *If My People* by Jack E. Dawson

We are giving you the chance to win this beautiful print. We are selling tickets from March 15th - May 22nd at the museum. You can use cash, debit, or credit card to purchase.

\$1.00 per ticket

\$5.00 for 6 tickets

\$10.00 for 12 tickets

\$20.00 for 25 tickets

You need not be present to win.



Plate Inscription at bottom

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land.

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 the types of volunteer we need:

Docent

Gardener

Teachers

Handyman

Data Entry

Marketing

Fundraising & Event Coordinators

AROUND THE HOUSE



The Palo Verde Tree

Every year we point out that we should be celebrating the palo verde (*Parkinsonia florida*) blooming season like they celebrate the cherry blossoms in Japan. They bloom during that wonderful time of year when so many plants are waking up from the winter dormancy. That time of year when it's absolutely beautiful outside. They bloom at the same time as many ragweeds, Bermuda grass, and other allergenic plants and because they're big and yellow, get blamed for allergies. But since their pollen is sticky (they are pollinated mostly by native bees so the pollen has evolved to stick to those bees) they're not likely to be the culprit for your suffering. Medium, deciduous tree growing to 30'. Full sun, low water, hardy to 10°F. Plants bloom March to May and occasionally again from August to October following summer monsoon rain and are followed by legume seed pods. Flowers provide nectar for bees, butterflies, important nesting plant for birds, seeds attractive to granivorous birds, several moth and beetle species depend on this species as adults and larvae, the mistletoe important to phainopepla birds and is also a larval host for the great purple hairstreak (*Atlides halesus*). Because this tree typically grows along washes there is likely to be deep sandy soil nearby for the digger bees (there are many species). These bees create long tubular nests in the sand with pollen and nectar gathered from palo verdes. Flushing its new foliage in late May, the tender shoots of blue palo verde are attractive to adult leaf beetles of the genera *Cryptocephalus* and *Saxinus*. This is a larval host for some noctuid moths. Palo verdes are the favorite host for the larvae (grub worm) of the palo verde beetle (*Derobrachus hovorei*). Though they are blamed for the demise of palo verdes, these beetles mostly eat dead wood and these species have evolved together for thousands of years. Desert mistletoe is also hosted on palo verdes and gets blamed for killing them. Usually, the real demise of blue palo verdes is the dropping water table caused by humans. This tree provides edible flowers and pods for humans.

Come see the Blue Palo Verde in our backyard "Educational Gardens".

Pioneer Family Tips:

courtesy of the Mohave Museum of History & Arts

To Clean a Light Cloth Gown

Lay the gown on a table, spread out smoothly and cover with powdered fuller's earth shaken through a sieve. Hang, without shaking, in a dark closet for twenty-four hours, then shake and brush in the open air.

Cleaning Hair

Cleaning hair - Beat the whites of four eggs to a froth. Rub well into the roots of the hair, leave it to dry. Wash the head clean with equal parts rum and rosewater.

For Ant Bites

For ant bites or other insects dab plain old laundry blueing - takes the fire right out of a bite.

Recipe Corner

Easy Pickled Peppers:

Contributed by Karole Finkelstein

4 cups peppers banana, jalapenos, serrano ,etc. cut into 1/4 inch rings
2 cups vinegar
2 tablespoons sugar
2 teaspoons kosher salt

1. Place pepper rings in a sterilized quart jar. Set aside.
2. Place vinegar, sugar, and salt in medium non-reactive saucepan, stirring until salt and sugar is dissolved. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Pour over peppers, leaving 1/2 inch headspace in jar. Seal the jar.
3. Refrigerate the peppers up to one month or process in boiling water bath for 15 minutes if you live in altitude below 6000 feet or 20 minutes if above 6000 feet.
4. Allow at least 24 hours before opening peppers for the best flavor.



COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

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(last admittance 3:00pm)

Grapevine News Editor - Laurie Thompson

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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.

VOLUNTEER SHOUT-OUTS

Volunteer Bill Heckethorn



Great job of teaching the school kids all how to pan for gold. You really looked the part for this exercise of the Educational Program.

Volunteer Mary Ragusa



Thank you Mary for the wonderful presentation on Bullhead City - Then and Now at the Triscom conference!