



COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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The Laughlin Bridge Construction in 1987

Don Laughlin opened the Riverside Resort Hotel & Casino in 1966 with eight hotel rooms, twelve slot machines, and two table games. After celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Riverside has 104 hotel rooms, more than 1,300 slot machines, 31 table games and employs more than 1,600. Don Laughlin has always been an active partner in the Laughlin and Bullhead communities.

It all began with a 30-year agreement with the Nevada Department of Wildlife to build the Fisherman's Access Park adjacent to the Riverside Resort. This community park is open to the public and has been so successful that he recently signed another 30-year agreement to maintain the park for the community. Don Laughlin also provided over 2 million dollars for the construction of the Laughlin Bridge. Development of a commercial airport in Bullhead City was crucial to the future of Laughlin. Don Laughlin used 433 acres and \$13 million to create the airport. In honor of his 50th anniversary, Don Laughlin donated his ranch in the Hualapai Mountains to Mohave Community College and his mountain top

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karole Finkelstein – President
Ralph Patterson – Vice-President
Brenda Warneka – Secretary
Carla Lucas – Treasurer
Jeanette Miller – Director
Dick Warneka – Director
Laurie Thompson – Director

HOURS OF OPERATION

WE ARE OPEN!

Our hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (AZ Time). Come in and see our new displays and visit for awhile. We are located at 1239 Highway 95 in Bullhead City, AZ.

We are closed on all major holidays. Due to staffing limitations during the pandemic it is a good idea to confirm by phone that we are open. We can be reached at 928-754-3399.

CHECK US OUT

E-mail: crhsmuseum@outlook.com
Facebook: [Colorado River Historical Society Inc](#)
Website: coloradoriverhistoricalsociety.org

retreat home to Bullhead City.

Don has now been providing entertainment, great food and support of community projects to the area for 55 years!

From the Mohave Valley Daily News October 23, 2016 edition on Don Laughlin's Lifetime Achievement award from the CAA.

DONATION GUIDELINES

What we are looking for is 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.

Please keep in mind, these are the guidelines we use if you choose to donate an artifact in your possession:

- Is it of museum quality?
- Is it pertinent to our area of interest?
- Do we already have as good or a better prime example of the artifact?
- Does the provenance of the artifact or material increase its significance?
- Is the donor the legal owner of said materials?
- Do we have enough volunteers to maintain it, i.e. clean, oil, repair it, and can we provide the correct environmental conditions to preserve the materials?
- Do we have adequate space to store it?
- Do we have adequate space to display it in the foreseeable future?
- 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!

NOTE: We are currently actively seeking Mohave Valley Daily News newspapers before 2010 in good condition. If you have editions you would like to donate to us please drop them by the museum!

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As of this date, the museum is open and getting a few visitors per day. We don't require masks to be worn, but we do encourage you to wear one if that makes you more comfortable. We provide hand sanitizer and our building is professionally cleaned weekly.

We have recently installed a payment system through Paypal that allows us to accept debit/credit cards. This is a big step up since not everyone carries cash or checks around anymore.

I want to personally thank George and Jody Barauska for the beautiful painted rocks for the museum. The first day we had them we sold \$130 worth.

On March 11, 2021 we will be at the Anderson Field House for our annual Winter Expo. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will be selling many items.

I am sending a special get well to Mary and Sam Ragusa, Paul Critz, Arlo Thompson, Barbara Brandt, Stan and Olivia Krok, Linda Morrow, and Larry Adams.

I am hoping with the newly released COVID-19 vaccine that many of our volunteers will be comfortable to return to work. To those volunteers that have toughed it through, and you know who you are, thank you so very much!

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy 2021.

Karole Finkelstein, President

SNOW IN THEM THAR HILLS



Snow at Union Pass Shell Station - 1949

Today, January 26th, the Tri-state area had a lovely showing of snow that graced the Dead Mountains and the Black Mountains. Sitgreaves Pass on historic Route 66 between Oatman and Kingman was closed to travel by 1 p.m. But this was nothing compared to great snowstorm of January 1949 that hit the entire Tri-state area really hard.

1949 has been called the year of the Great Blizzard where snowfall fell in record numbers in multiple locations across the United States. Travelers were stranded, cattle were dying, and travel was extremely slow and dangerous.

Some interesting facts from that snowstorm to our area:

Needles, CA reported a total of 13 inches of snow in a 24 hour time period that the old-timers said was the most to hit the area since it was developed in 1883 with the coming of the transcontinental railroad. All major roads were closed. Telephone and electrical power was lost, and the area was snowbound. Sitting at an elevation of less than 500 feet, that is significant and rare occurrence. Fortunately it only lasted two days and all went back to normal. However a second storm hit within two weeks west of Needles, and emergency hay had to be dropped in the Providence Mountain area for cattle stranded in the snow.

In Las Vegas 16.7 inches were recorded during that same storm.

Kingman had the snowiest year on record with 18.2 inches, but the most received there in a month was 14 inches recorded in December of 1932.

ARCHIVAL COMMITTEE

Cheryl Mangin – Archivist
Richard Dotson – Asst. Archivist
Carla Lucas – Member
Jim Lucas – Member
Laurie Thompson – Member

ARCHIVAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The Archival Committee is getting back to work in the archives as of the first of the year. We did a bit of a slowdown in December for the holidays.

Rich is continuing to sort, log and place our historical map collection in archival sleeves. This is a long process but it is coming along nicely. Laurie has developed a inventory program to transfer the map data into.

Jim and John Holt are working with Dave Heath of the Parks Department to move some of our mining equipment into the area of the Moss Mine frame head. They are also deconstructing the old outside mine display at the Archives. The rock used in this display will be reused at the museum location.

In conjunction with the development of the new Heritage Trail the archive's compound at the Davis Camp location has been greatly reduced. We will be hauling the old facades away, trimming back damaged trees, and clearing the property of all the items left behind. This does not include any artifacts as they have all been moved inside or to the museum location.

Carla and I are starting the process of re-organizing the huge amount of historical information collected over the years in paper form.

Cheryl Mangin, Archivist