



# COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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## We Are Seeking Information

As most of you already know, our time at the Davis Camp location is short. We must be moved completely out by June of 2022.

As of June of 2019, the old location has been turned into our Archives. We have moved almost all of the outside items that we kept to the Museum back compound area. With one exception. The old wood frame structure that was known as a store. Before taking on the task of shoring it up for a major move, and tallying the cost to move such a structure, we have set out to establish what the provenance of the building actually is. It came to the museum in 1991 from the back corner lot of 4<sup>th</sup> and Highway 95. The museum curator at the time stated he believed it to be Bullhead City's first Post Office. We believe that Bullhead City's first Post Office was a brick building on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Highway 95 that was built in 1946. But what we believe, and without proof, is pretty much worthless.

We have contacted Bea Thomas, who is 90 some years young and grew up in Oatman and the surrounding area, who told us that this building was a Post Office but that it was moved from near the LeClair Ranch in Ft. Mohave. I contacted the United States Postal Service Historian in Washington, D.C. and he advised that the only Post Office in that area was the one at Mohave City and that it closed in 1938 with all of the mail then going to Oatman. Could this building be from Mohave City, AZ? Mohave City was a little town that was built right next to the Ft. Mohave Military installation. If so that would make it a truly wonderful

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karole Finkelstein – President  
Brenda Warneka – Secretary  
Carla Lucas – Treasurer  
Jeanette Miller – Director  
Ralph Patterson – 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 will be closed on Christmas and New Years Day so our docents can celebrate with their family and fiends.

## OTHER NEWS

If you haven't already, please begin using our **NEW** email:

[crhsmuseum@outlook.com](mailto:crhsmuseum@outlook.com) as we will be discontinuing the former email very soon.

historic artifact. But, we still need more proof of our findings. Do any of you know more about this building? Do you have photographs? We would love to hear your input. We have not been able to locate a written history of the building most of the people that would have a firsthand account of it are no longer with us. If you think you can help, please give us a call!

## 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!



## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our members, volunteers and my fellow board members! I don't think anyone will disagree that we are all more than happy to see this particular year come to a close and look forward to a much more stable and "normal" coming year. I wish everyone a healthy and happy 2021!

We have received a very generous donation from the Punto de Vista Property Owners Association that we will use to purchase two new computers and a printer for the museum. We are most grateful for this gift. Thank you so much!

Laurie Thompson has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the Colorado River Historical Society. Her term will run through November of 2021 at which time we will hold elections. I am very pleased that Laurie has come on board and feel she will be a big help to me personally. Laurie is very industrious and has completed every task assigned to her on the Archival Committee with efficiency, professionalism, and has done so cheerfully. Laurie also serves as our Membership Chairperson.

We held a small Christmas party for our volunteers on Monday, December 14 at the museum after our monthly board meeting. While practicing social distancing, we all still had a good time talking, snacking, singing carols, and I even read them "Twas the Night before Christmas," one of my favorite Christmas stories.

Karole Finkelstein

## MOHAVE-MILLTOWN RAILROAD

The Mohave and Milltown Railway was a narrow gauge private railroad built in 1903\* to serve the Leland Gold Mine near Oatman, Arizona. The railway was incorporated in 1903 and construction of the 17-mile line was completed that same year. The railway started on the Arizona side of the Colorado River, across the state line from Needles, California. From the Colorado River the railway went northeast through Milltown and terminated at the Leland Mine, Vivian Mine and the Midnight Mine (near Oatman). The railway hauled ore from the mines near Oatman to the mill at Milltown.

The railway was operating for only one year when several washouts in September and October of 1904 damaged six miles of the railway and led to its abandonment. The rails were removed in 1912, the same year that Arizona became a state.

Large sections of the rail bed, water reservoir and mill foundations can still be observed today.

Under the protection of the Bureau of Land Management, you can gain access to visit this historic site by traveling east on Willow Drive in Mohave Valley, AZ.



*\*The narrow gauge Calico line was constructed in 1888 to reduce transportation costs of ore from the Waterloo and Silver King mines to the Oro Grande mill in Daggett. With the falling price of silver and the closure of the Waterloo (1892) and Silver King (1896), the rail line saw sporadic use until 1903, when all but a one mile section of rails were taken up and, along with the locomotives, sold to the American Borax Company and Mojave Milltown Railroad.*

## ARCHIVAL COMMITTEE

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

## ARCHIVAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The Archival Committee has continued its efforts to keep our inventory of the museum's collections current.

Beginning after the first of the year, we will be starting to sort through several file cabinets of historical information that has collected for many years. We will also begin to inventory our photograph collection.

If you have visited the museum recently and haven't seen a favorite item, the reason may be as simple a fact that we cannot possibly display them all at once. Some of the old written and photographic displays are, or will be redone professionally and are not currently on display.

When we first began the task of inventorying the museum's collections we had some hard decisions to make. First and foremost was it pertinent to the area, and could we establish provenance? Artifacts are usually considered antiques, but not all antiques qualify as artifacts.

We strive to present a well rounded history of Bullhead City and the surrounding areas. Each and every donation of an artifact is important to us, and they all deserve equal time. We will continue to make every effort to make the Colorado River Historical Society Museum a thing to be proud of.