



# COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

JUNE 2020



100 LB Steamboat Anchor

Discovered by scuba diver Doug Darrah (year unknown), he gave two such anchors to the Colorado Belle Casino. They in turn generously donated one to our museum. Used on the steamboats that plied the Colorado River between 1852-1916, this type of anchor was used not only to hold the boat in place, but could also be used in conjunction with the capstan to get the boat out of shallow water, off a sandbar or turn the boat completely around. This fine example sat in our outdoor compound for many years. The anchor has recently been gently sandblasted and restored by John Holt, a volunteer of the museum and is now part of our indoor steamboat display.

## VOLUNTEER

The Colorado River Historical Society and Museum is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the history of Bullhead City and the Tri-state areas. We are staffed entirely by volunteers, and we are always looking for a few more reliable volunteers. If you are interested in helping in any way, please give us a call at 928-754-3399 or email us at: [crhsmuseum@frontier.com](mailto:crhsmuseum@frontier.com). We would love to have you on our team.

## HOURS OF OPERATION

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak and the restrictions placed by the Governor of Arizona, we have chosen to keep the museum closed to the public throughout the summer months for the protection of our volunteers and the general public. We will tentatively reopen sometime in September with some great new displays and exhibits. We will keep you informed as we draw closer to the time we will reopen. We wish you a fun and safe summer. We hope to see you in September!

## ARCHIVE NEWS

The newly formed Archival Committee has been hard at work during this down time developing new displays, restoring some of the artifacts and conducting a major inventory of all our holdings. It is a daunting task, but very necessary, and very rewarding. We have laid out some new guidelines for the donation of artifacts called our Collection Policy. While we would love to accept any and all of your wonderful donations, we simply cannot take everything. A huge problem that all museums' encounter is space. Space to display, and space to store.

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.

There are exceptions to every rule, and we will certainly take that into consideration on a case by case basis. Give us a call at the museum if you have an artifact or historical item you would like us to consider!

## THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

I think we can all agree it has been an interesting spring here in Bullhead City. We had a great event planned and scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup> featuring Bob Boze Bell, which unfortunately had to be canceled when Covid-19 came into our midst. We have every intention of rescheduling this event for the fall season.

Progress is continuing in the museum during this down time. We have ordered the bookcases for our new reference library, a beautiful stained glass piece has been installed in the Gift Shop area, more on this next month, and our great outside lighted marquee, surrounded by native river stone has been completed.

To all of our dedicated 'snowbird' volunteers, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all of their time and energies spent with us over the winter months. We hope to see you all back next fall.

The Board of Directors will be holding a meeting on June 29 to continue planning our fall re-opening and conduct other business of the museum.

Be safe everyone!

Karole Finkelstein

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karole Finkelstein – President  
Elsie Needles – Vice President  
Carla Lucas – Treasurer  
Brenda Warneka – Secretary  
Jeanette Miller – Director  
Ralph Patterson – Director  
Dick Warneka – Director

## A LITTLE HARDYVILLE HISTORY

Hardyville's post office was established January 17, 1865 and discontinued February 19, 1883. Hardyville was one of the many Colorado River towns that ferried people across the river, served as a freight depot, and also happened to be Mohave County's first seat. At the most, Hardyville had about 20 permanent residents, but more were there at any given time due to people passing through. William Harrison Hardy, for whom the town is named, is credited with the invention of the riveted mail sack. Hardyville was struck with two fires, but it was the railroad crossing at Needles that finally doomed the town.

As a local stagecoach driver, William J. Tuttle's absurd death is still remembered. Tuttle carried passengers to the Colorado River, where it was his responsibility to summon a ferry by firing his gun into the air. In 1867, one of his passengers thoughtfully decided to save Tuttle a bullet, firing the signal for him and accidentally shooting Tuttle in the back of the head.

In April 1866, Brevet Brigadier General James Fowler Rusling visited the settlement and described it:

"Hardyville itself was then more of a name than place, consisting chiefly of a warehouse and quartz-mill, with a few adobe shanties. Near Hardyville, some ten or twenty miles away in the outlying mountains, there were several mines—gold, silver, and copper—of more or less richness, and the mill was located here to take advantage of the two great essentials, wood and water. The mill, however, was standing idle, like most enterprises in Arizona, and but little was doing in the mines."

Hardyville received a boost in 1867, when it became the county seat of Mohave County and the mills at Eldorado Canyon began operating stimulating trade up river again. Hardyville had a population of 20 in 1870. The 1870s saw a population boom in Hardyville as mining became more profitable. With the end of hostilities with the Native Americans in Mohave County, mines in the interior boomed again and the small town later grew with the addition of the construction of a general store, a saloon, a blacksmith shop, a billiard hall, and a respectable public hall.

## OTHER NEWS

We are preparing the 2020-2021 Arizona Historical Society's Small Grant Application for monies to be used to purchase archival protective sleeves, stiffeners, boxes and binders to preserve and protect our historical photographs and printed materials.

The following volunteers helped to clean up the property at our old museum location and set up the newly formed archives. Many, many thanks to Carla and Jim Lucas, Richard Dotson, Laurie and Arlo Thompson, John Holt, Greg Thompson, Bob Siebert, Bob Simkins, Stan Krok, and Cedric Wilson. Over a period of several months these volunteers worked tirelessly to haul trash, cut up dead trees, trim, mow and weed eat. They also assisted in moving artifacts, running errands, setting up shelving units, and repairing and clearing the building of defunct display cases. Thank you, great job!

We hope you have enjoyed our little newsletter. It has been a while since one was done and we thought it was a good way to keep in contact with you, our loyal members. We hope to make it a monthly endeavor and if you have something to contribute, please email me at [ldynithawk@citlink.net](mailto:ldynithawk@citlink.net) or call me at 760-326-4008.

## ARCHIVAL COMMITTEE

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