



COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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SHAFFER SPRINGS



Shaffer Springs on Route 66

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt established the Works Progress Administration (WPA) on May 6, 1933. It was a “New Deal Agency” that got out-of-work Americans back to work, by building infrastructure across the country.

The WPA was responsible for building along Route 66, and the characteristic stone and concrete mortar can still be seen today along our longest stretch of Route 66.

During the WPA construction of the “Gold Road Section” from Gold Road Mine to Kingman, sources of water for animals, cars and humans alike were hard to find.

A worker named Shaffer (a recorded first name

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

THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Happy fall! As things improve daily, the museum too, continues to improve due to all our wonderful volunteers. I want to thank all of you for all your help and the support you have offered me throughout my presidency.

We will be holding our new elections in November. We would like to increase our board roster to 9. We sent out nomination forms, but if you need another copy, they can also be found on our Facebook page. This is for members only.

The memorial service for Vada Mercer was lovely. Held in the garden of the Lutheran Church, it was attended by fellow church members, community and museum members, and family. Vada’s ashes were led to rest next to her husband Larry. Larry and Vada Mercer were the main contributors that allowed us to build our beautiful museum. We will never forget them.

Karole

could not be found in multiple historical sources) observed water seeping from the cliff walls and built a basin made of indigenous rock and concrete to catch the precious commodity and let it pool.

This minute, secluded oasis soon became a welcome refuge for the weary travelers and parched animals passing through. Because the water stems from a consistent natural source, the bowl remains full year-round. Locals frequently keep it stocked with goldfish (leading some to call it the “fish bowl spring”), and the snails clinging to its walls help keep the algae at bay so the water stays fresh.

You might observe bees, burros, and Bighorn sheep drinking their fill at the spring.

Located near milepost 30, you will have to watch carefully for the approximate 30 small steps leading up to the spring. Be aware there are no handrails and the steps are uneven. Once you climb the steps you will see the fishbowl in all its glory. Go on a clear day as the sights along the drive are amazing.



RETURN TO REGULAR HOURS IN OCTOBER

We will be returning to our regular hours beginning Tuesday, October 5th. We will open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. We are located at 1239 Highway 95 in Bullhead City, AZ. We are closed on all major holidays.

We now have a dedicated parking lot on the south side of the museum that you can access directly from Highway 95 without turning into the park from Laughlin Ranch road. The parking is free.

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

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

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 resources to maintain/store/display it.
- 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!

OUR NEWSLETTER

We are now posting our newsletter on our Facebook page and our website for you to read and/or print. Therefore, we will not be mailing out hardcopies any longer. We will continue to send the newsletter out on email. If you have not provided us with an email address yet, please do so as soon as possible at: crhsmuseum@outlook.com

CHECK US OUT

E-mail: crhsmuseum@outlook.com

Facebook: [Colorado River Historical Society Inc](#)

Website: Our new website is up and running! Be sure to visit it at: coloradoriverhistoricalsocietymuseum.org

Museum Phone Number: 928-754-3399

DONATIONS SOUGHT

We are currently actively seeking Mohave Valley Daily News newspapers before 2010 in good condition, and any or all historic photographs of Bullhead City, any era. If you have editions of the newspaper or photos you would like to donate to us, please drop them by the museum. We can scan photographs and return them to you!

MODEL T CLUB TO VISIT

The Long Beach Model T Club will be visiting the museum on Friday, October 15, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The club's vehicles will be parked inside our designated parking area, and the public is invited to view them.

Come on out, view these wonderful antique cars, meet the club member's, and then come on inside and visit the Colorado River Historical Society Museum. We have some great new displays to see.

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

The collections committee met at the museum on August 31st to reassess our plans and goals for the upcoming months.

Carla has made great strides in cataloging our historical photo collection and organizing our historical papers.

We plan on moving them both to the museum library very soon. We have applied for a grant from the Arizona Historical Society to purchase another fire cabinet.

Laurie has her hands full just keeping track of which artifact I have moved from which display case to another. Seriously, she has developed several programs for us to use in entering data and is a huge asset to the committee.

In the upcoming weeks, with the Park and Recreation Department's help, we will be expanding the outside mining display by adding several artifacts to the Moss Mine headframe area.

The Master Gardener's Club has volunteered to lay out a plan for us to develop our outside enclosure with native plants. We plan on incorporating our two memorial benches into that area.

We continue to upgrade our signage inside the museum with professionally done printing.

At the September 13th Board of Directors meeting, we presented our ideas, and what should be included in the plans for an additional building for our collection's storage. We must vacate the Davis Camp site no later than June of 2023.