

# Grapewine News



COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY MUSEUM

## The Mojave Road



**T**he Mojave Road is a historic trail that crosses the Mojave Desert. It extends approximately 138 miles from the Colorado River near present-day Needles, California, through the desert to the San Bernardino Mountains. The road has a rich history, beginning as a Native American trade route and later serving as a vital pathway for explorers, settlers, and the U.S. Military. The Mojave Road originally served as a network of trails used by the Mojave people and other Native American tribes. The Mojave Indians, for whom the desert is named, were the primary users of the trail. They used it to travel between the Colorado River and the inland areas, trading goods such as shells, food, and other resources with other tribes.

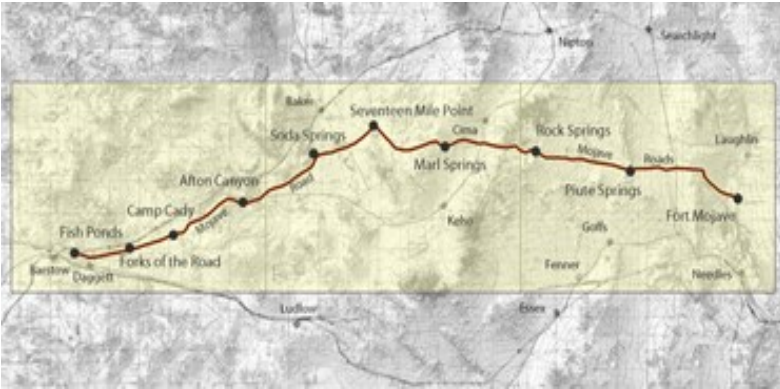
The first European to document the Mojave Road was the Spanish missionary Francisco Garcés in 1776. Garcés traveled the trail while searching for a route between the Spanish missions in Arizona and California. His journey marked the beginning of European use of the trail, although it remained primarily a Native American trade route for many years. In the 1820s, the Mojave Road became an essential part of the Old Spanish Trail, connecting Santa Fe, New Mexico, with Los Angeles, California. The trail was heavily used by traders, trappers, and settlers during this period.

During the California Gold Rush in the mid-19th century, the road gained further significance as a route for prospectors heading to the gold fields of California. The influx of travelers increased tensions with Native American tribes, leading to conflicts along the route. In response to these conflicts, the U.S. Army established a

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series of forts along the Mojave Road in the 1850s. Fort Mojave, located near the Colorado River, was one of the most prominent of these outposts. The military presence helped secure the road for travelers, making it a safer route across the desert.



By the late 19th century, the construction of railroads across the Southwest led to the decline of the Mojave Road as a primary travel route. The trail fell into relative obscurity, used mainly by local ranchers and explorers. In the 20th century, interest in the Mojave Road was revived by historians and off-road enthusiasts. Today, the Mojave Road is a popular route for four-wheel-drive vehicles, offering a rugged and scenic journey through the Mojave National Preserve. The road is now recognized as a historic trail, with many markers and remnants of its past visible along the route. The Mojave Road remains an important part of the cultural and historical landscape of the American Southwest, representing the diverse history of exploration, conflict, and settlement in the region.

*NOTE: This article was written with the aid of GPT 4*

## CURATORS CORNER

I would like to thank Mike Baldwin and his father for donating two vintage outboard motors to the museum collection. Mike and his father own Premier Sports in Needles.

Carla Lucas  
CRHS Curator



## PRESIDENTS CORNER

Hi, well here it is September, and the heat is still with us. Very happy to say on the 40th birthday of Bullhead City we were open even though it was a Sunday, and we had cookies for our visitors. Many of our volunteers came in to help us and over 60 people came in and visited with some even buying things and a couple of new memberships. Anyway, that was a wonderful day. Thank you, Bullhead City.

The museum hours are 10:00am to 2:00pm Tuesday to Saturday but if there are no more visitors at the 1:00 hour we do close as it does take almost an hour to go through the museum and longer if you want to watch the movies, Anyway, again have a great summer keep in touch and don't forget membership and volunteers are what help keep our museum going.

Also, don't forget voting is coming up. If you wish to be nominated, please fill out an application and get it in. Ellen Brown is in charge of voting this year.

If you have any questions concerning the museum please call me at 928-219-2582 or call the museum at 928-754-3399. Other than that, our projects are on hold right now as many of our members are still on vacation or out of state as they are snowbirds.

If there's anything that you have to donate or have the archival committee check it out and see if it's good for the museum, please get in touch with the museum again the number is 928-754-3399.

Sincerely your president  
Karole Finkelstein

## 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                           | Handyman   |
| Gardener                         | Data Entry |
| Teachers                         | Marketing  |
| Fundraising & Event Coordinators |            |



### *Creosote Bush*

In the sprawling, sun-drenched landscapes of the North American deserts, where the very earth seems to stretch to infinity, there stands a stoic sentinel of resilience: the Creosote bush, scientifically known as *Larrea tridentata*. This unassuming shrub is not merely a passive observer of the harsh environment it calls home; rather, it is an active participant in the grand tapestry of desert life, a veritable alchemist that has mastered the art of survival and transformation in one of the most inhospitable places on Earth.

The Creosote bush is a master of adaptation, with a root system that stretches out far and wide, tapping into the most elusive of water sources. It is known to have roots that can reach depths of over fifty feet, allowing it to tap into groundwater reservoirs that remain hidden from its less hardy neighbors. This deep-rooted network is not

only a lifeline for the plant itself but also a vital resource for the diverse array of desert fauna that rely on it.

But the Creosote's secrets do not end at its roots. Its waxy leaves, studded with three sharp points, serve a dual purpose: they deter would-be grazers and collect dew, channeling precious moisture into the plant's veins. Rainwater, too, is not wasted. The Creosote's broad, waxy leaves form a catchment system, capturing the rare desert rain and funneling it to the plant's base, where it is greedily absorbed by the soil and stored for future use.

This hardy shrub's tenacity does not come without a certain charm. When the rains do come, the Creosote erupts into a flurry of yellow blooms, a vibrant contrast to the desert's usual palette of browns and reds. These blossoms are a nectar-rich feast for the myriad of insects and birds that have come to depend on the plant's bounty, and they in turn become the unsuspecting pollinators that ensure the Creosote's lineage continues.

The Creosote bush is not just a solitary survivor; it is a social plant, forming vast, interconnected communities known as Creosote rings. These rings can be hundreds of years old, with each plant in the circle genetically identical to the next. The Creosote clones itself through a process known as vegetative reproduction, sending out new shoots from its extensive root system.

The Creosote's aromatic shrubbery produces a potent scent that fills the air, particularly after a rain shower. This fragrance is the plant's signature, a perfume that is both pleasant and pungent, a scent that is as much a part of the desert's identity as the sagebrush and the cacti. It is said that the smell of Creosote after rain is the scent of the desert itself. But the Creosote is not just a pretty face and a nice smell. It is a medicine chest for the indigenous peoples of the desert, who have utilized its properties for centuries. The Seri people of Mexico, for example, have used Creosote as a treatment for everything from skin conditions to digestive ailments. The leaves and twigs are rich in antioxidants and have been shown to have antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties. The Creosote's resin, which oozes from its branches like amber tears, has been used to treat wounds and burns, and the plant itself has been used as a natural preservative for wood. The shrub's toughness has inspired countless legends and folk remedies, and its very name, derived from the Spanish word "creosote," hints at its purported powers to ward off decay and extend life.

The Creosote bush is a silent witness to the desert's secrets, a living fossil that has seen civilizations rise and fall, and climates shift. The Creosote bush is not just a plant; it is a living testament to the power of life in the face of adversity, a botanical alchemist turning the desert's harshness into a bastion of vitality.

### **Pioneer Family Tips:**

*courtesy of the Mohave Museum of History & Arts*

#### **To Remove a Splinter:**

Children playing jacks on a wooden floor, some times get splinters under the finger nails. If this happens wrap the finger and over the nail with a piece of fat bacon. Cover with a bandage. The fat bacon will draw the splinter out.

*Fanny Woodward*

#### **For an Inveterate Sore Throat:**

One teaspoon refined borax and one teaspoon pure glycerine put into a cup, and half fill the cup with hot water, When cool, use as a gargle. Excellent in scarlet fever.

#### **Kink—In— The— Neck:**

In case of Kink-In-The-Neck, get a glass of water, 1 heaping teaspoon baking soda—put the soda in mouth and don't breath until one has swallowed all the soda. "Works Too".

*Mary Kellam*

#### **Insect Sting:**

The juice of a raw onion applied to an insect sting will remove the poison.

*Marion Stephens*

*Come see our Creosotes in the museums "Educational Gardens".*



**COLORADO RIVER  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MUSEUM**

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Hours of Operations:  
Tuesday—Saturday 10:00am - 2:00pm  
(last admittance 1:00pm)

Grapevine News Editor - Laurie Thompson

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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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.*

**WORD PUZZLE  
MOJAVE ROAD**

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| CONNECTING | DESERT    | EXPLORERS |
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| MISSIONS   | MOJAVE    | OUTPOSTS  |
| PATHWAY    | ROUTE     | SETTLERS  |
| SHELLS     | TRADERS   | TRAIL     |
| TRAPPERS   | TRAVELERS | TRIBES    |

August 2024 answers: Katherine Mine

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