

ACCOUNTS OF HISTORICAL GILA RIVER BOATING

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JE Fuller Report on Upper Gila (June 2003), Pages 3-27 through 3-30

Gila Enterprise
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DATE	ACCOUNT
1 December 1846 – January 1847	Captain Philip St. George Cooke and the Mormon Battalion floated supplies via a raft constructed from two wagon beds down the Gila River from Gila Bend to Yuma during the Mexican War. (<i>The Gila: River of the Southwest</i> , 151-54).
2 1849	The Edward Howard party constructed a boat and floated the Gila River from Gila Bend to Yuma. (<i>The Gila: River of the Southwest</i> , 175-76).
3 1850	An unsigned letter from a traveler at Camp Salvation reported that the “expedient of lightening down teams by building small boats on the Gila” had been tried and succeeded and that many Gila Trail travelers had thus reached the Colorado River. (<i>New York Daily Tribune</i> , February 18, 1850).
4 1867	Henry Morgan operated Morgan’s Ferry near Maricopa Wells for 25 years beginning in 1867. (<i>Arizona Magazine</i> , December 9, 1984).
5 February 1881	Two men, Cotton and Bingham, reported to be planning a trip to Yuma via the Salt and Gila Rivers in an 18-foot skiff, flat-bottom boat. (<i>Arizona Gazette</i> , February 17, 1881).
6 November 1881	Three men, including William “Buckey” O’Neill, departed Phoenix for Yuma in a 20 foot long, 5 foot wide boat called “Yuma or Bust.” (<i>Phoenix Gazette</i> , November 30, 1881 and December 3, 1881).
7 March 1891	Straus, Dallman & Co. operated a ferry crossing the Gila River. (<i>Arizona Sentinel</i> , March 28, 1891).
8 January 1895	G.W. Evans and Amos Adams boated down the San Francisco River from Clifton, then down the Gila River to Riverside. (<i>Graham County Bulletin</i> , February 22, 1895, p.3; “Four Hundred Miles Down the Gila River—Incidents of the Trip,” J.W. Evans, <i>Arizona Sentinel</i> , March 9, 1895).
9 February 1895	Upon reaching Sacaton, Evans and Adams hauled their boat overland via train and then boated down the Salt and Gila Rivers to Yuma. (<i>Phoenix Herald</i> , February 18, 25, 1895).
10 1905	Two new ferry boats began operating on the Gila River. (<i>Arizona Blade Tribune</i> , March 18, 1905). A month later a new ferry, The Gila King, began operating. (<i>Arizona Blade Tribune</i> , April 1, 1905).
11 March 1905	A new model boat that had hand-driven side-propellers failed to cross the Gila. (<i>Arizona Blade-Tribune</i> , March 18, 1905).
12 December 1905	When the Phoenix railway bridge was washed out, a boat was used to cross the Gila. The launch of the boat failed because “the current was too swift.” (<i>Phoenix Enterprise</i> , December 9, 1905).
13 1909	Stanley Sykes canoed the entire length of the Gila River (Granger, 1909).