

ORIGINAL

~~96-002-021~~
SALT RIVER

RECEIVED
3-18-97

The following is transcribed from taped testimony of Kingston Smallhouse on October 8, 1996 and given to commissioner Getzwiller by Jack & Mary Smallhouse:

Kingston Smallhouse, a native of Arizona, born and raised in Phoenix, I'm 92 years old and my son asked me to tell the tale of the Salt River as I knew it as a child. Central Avenue Bridge built around 1912.

Along the Salt River near Central Avenue was a park. Well people in Phoenix, it was just a small town maybe twenty or twenty-five thousand, we all used to congregate at this park. It had a swimming pool and various recreational situations where people enjoyed themselves with picnics and so forth. As a young man, maybe ten or eleven years old, we used to go to the Salt River and we would go swimming. The water was never high, it was more or less wading areas. We would go fishing... {difficult to understand}... there were just pools of water. There was never was any water sufficient for navigation. I can't tell you where they got the idea that the Salt River was a navigable river.

Well, later in the years, about 1918 I believe it was, they had a big flood. And the river then was up maybe eight or ten feet for a day or two. In fact it washed the Tempe bridge out. Aside from that, there has never been water sufficient for even a rowboat, or a canoe.

Maricopa County, Lower Salt River
03-005-NAV

4/7/03

Evidence Item No. 021