

**George Mehnert**

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**From:** Arnett, Roc [rarnett@aztrib.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 08, 2003 9:01 AM  
**To:** Streams@mindspring.com  
**Subject:** FW: NAVIGABILITY OF THE LOWER SALT RIVER

-----Original Message-----

From: Arnett, Roc  
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2003 5:23 PM  
To: Streams@mindspring.com  
Cc: 'mam@slwplc.com'; Douglas C. Frerichs (E-mail)  
Subject: NAVIGABILITY OF THE LOWER SALT RIVER

To the Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am sending this email in support of a finding that the Lower Salt River was not navigable at statehood. It was not at that time used or susceptible to being used, in its ordinary and natural condition, as a highway for commerce, over which trade and travel were or could have been conducted in the customary modes of trade and travel on water.

In support of my comments, my father in law, Walter Arnett (my wife's madden name is also Arnett) was born in the Lehi community in 1910. Walt has told my family and I many stories of how as a kid in his pre-teens, going with his buddies to the dry river bed to spend time exploring in the dead trees at the dry riverbed. The Roosevelt Dam completion in 1911, he would tell us, allowed the water to be diverted to the canal system for irrigation use. Walt told of the deterioration of the trees over the years until now there are few signs of Cottonwoods that used to line the river banks. The point is that he was aware that the trees died because of the obvious lack of water cut off after the completion of the dam.

I will be happy to answer any questions, or introduce you to additional family members should you need. Walt passed away over three years ago.

Roc Arnett, President  
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Maricopa County, Lower Salt River  
03-005-NAV  
4/7/03  
Evidence Item No. 043