

# NUGGETS OF BOULDER COLOR

By Elton Garrett

## EARLY BOATS IN BLACK CANYON

Seventy-five years ago hardy Mormon pioneers visualized a stream of river boating commerce on the Colorado, from the lower reaches of the stream up to a point a few miles upstream from the present Black canyon site of Boulder dam.

They saw merchandise unloaded from these boats moving over land into Utah by mule train. And they made these dreams come true. They built old "Fort Callville," so named for Anuson Call, one of the leaders of the movement. And for years this traffic by boat traveled thru Black canyon and on up to Callville, where the boats "docked" and unloaded.

But this river navigation was destined to give way to faster means of transportation, and the building of dams at various places and utilizing of the water of the Colorado for various purposes supplanted navigation.

Today the stone ruins of old "Fort Callville" can be visited

there, testimony of the transportation route which was destined to fail not long after it became established.

An interesting trip taken along about the time the death knell was being sounded to Colorado river navigation was described in the March 10, 1903 issue of the Mohave Miner at Kingman.

At that time, 30 years ago, "Captain Edgar Jadwin of the U. S. army, and Captain Jack Mellin came to Kingman and took a boat by land across the desert hills and valleys to far off Temple Bar, which is upstream even from Boulder Canyon, and there embarked for a trip down the river, thru Boulder canyon and thru Black canyon, heading for the Gulf of California.

"They had with them a number of Mohave Indians, who knew every foot of the river like an open book.

"The object of the trip was the preparation of a report covering the placing of dams, one at Bullshead, another at Mohave canyon, also at Parker and some other

places above Yuma.

"These reports are to be voluminous and full of useful information. Captain Jadwin is now in charge of the big breakwater at San Pedro," said the "Miner," in its story, "and is one of the most prominent men in the army service. It is expected that the Colorado will be condemned as a navigable stream, owing to the many dams that are to be constructed and the cost of portages.

"Captain Jack Mellin has been in navigation on the Colorado river since the sixties, being a co-captain with the other official forces of the Colorado River Navigation company. He believes that the first dam on the Colorado river will be at Bullshead and that water will be on the low lying lands within the next two years, the work on the dam to be started at once."

That was the point of view of the nearest community at that time to the present site of the Boulder dam project. Las Vegas was to spring into existence three

years later, with the construction of the Union Pacific railroad at that time, on the opposite side of the river, in Nevada.

And still later, by 27 years, Boulder City was to come into existence, the river was to be shunted thru diversion tunnels and navigation past Black canyon rendered forever impossible.