

***Journal #4838 from sdc 12.24.20***

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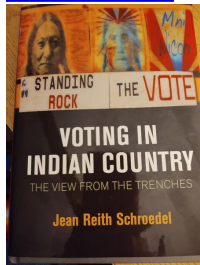
**from the Hubble Telescope**



## How Juneau, Alaska Is Becoming an Epicenter for Indigenous Art

The city is on a quest to solidify its standing as the Northwest Coast arts capital of the world

Read in Smithsonian Magazine: [https://apple.news/AIV3YYFT\\_T6S09YxMcj\\_11Q](https://apple.news/AIV3YYFT_T6S09YxMcj_11Q)  
**da Martinez**



Just received this book last week from Jean Schroedel. There's a lot of information on voting rights in Indian country. The most interesting section is on her interview with cousin Johnnie Williams Jr. on his time in Vietnam. He signed onto the lawsuit that our Tribe filed against the Secretary of State in 2016, along with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

Chapter 9

Johnnie Williams Jr.

n a seventy-five-year-old man, living on the Walker Reservation. I am semi-retired although still ranching and I, grow alfalfa and ship it all over. Right now going to Reno and another one maybe to L.A. And, since I have been retired, I work harder than I had been about it. I have four kids: three girls, one boy. I have many grandkids, and how many great-grandkids. The only one that doesn't have any kids is my youngest. The oldest girl has two boys and a foster daughter. The second girl has a girl and a boy, and the third girl has two boys. When we have relatives all over. So, it's a big family. I grew up here in Schurz and have lived here almost my whole life. When I was a kid, it was all sagebrush. The dog and the cat were left years ago. And, I rode horses a lot with my cousins. My

## Colorado River tribes seek approval from Congress to put water on the market in Arizona

[Ian James](#)

Arizona Republic



**PARKER** — On the Arizona-California border, where the Colorado River pushes against Headgate Rock Dam, churning water pours into a wide canal and runs across the desert, flowing toward the farmlands of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

This tribal nation is the largest single user of Colorado River water in Arizona, with rights to divert about 662,000 acre-feet per year, more than double the amount of water diverted for the state of Nevada.

But unlike other tribes elsewhere in Arizona, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, or CRIT, are legally barred from leasing water to growing cities and suburbs. The reasons go back to a 1964 decree by the U.S. Supreme Court that established the tribal water rights, and to a law enacted in the 1790s that limits tribes' authority to make such deals without congressional approval.

Now tribal leaders plan to ask Congress to pass legislation that would allow them to put some of their water on the market by leasing it out. They say their water can help Arizona endure shortages as drought and climate change reduce the river's flow.

They're already leaving some farmlands dry in exchange for payments, helping Arizona deal with cutbacks under an agreement aimed at boosting the water level in Lake Mead. The reservoir has declined to 39% of full capacity and is approaching the threshold of officially entering a shortage.

Chairman Dennis Patch said the tribe can do more to help as the Southwest grapples with declining water supplies, and in turn would benefit by leasing some of its water. He said it's also time the Colorado River Indian Tribes gain the ability to use their water as they choose.

"We did this as a tribe because we wanted to claim our own destiny with our land and our water," Patch said during a virtual meeting on the proposal earlier this month. "Our water is critical to the state's water security as the drought continues and possibly worsens."

And because CRIT holds the most senior first-priority rights, its water likely won't be at risk of cuts during shortages.

"It can be used by others in Arizona to lessen the impact of shortages if Lake Mead continues to drop," Patch said.

Leasing some water would also generate funds to repair and upgrade the aging irrigation system on the reservation, helping its farms use water more efficiently, Patch said. He called the plan "a win for Arizona water users, for the river and for our people and the reservation economy."



CRIT has about 4,500 tribal members. In January 2019, members voted in a referendum to endorse the approach of seeking federal legislation to lease a portion of the water for use off the reservation.

If Congress agrees and passes a law, the legislation would be the first of its kind in Arizona and could clear a path for other tribal governments along the river to seek authorization for similar water deals.

The tribal community's pursuit of water-leasing is occurring alongside an upswing of discussions in the Colorado River Basin about ways the established rules of the system could be made more flexible to allow for a variety of deals, including leaving some farmland dry and fallow, to send water to cities as scarcity worsens.

The Colorado River and its tributaries provide water for about 40 million people and farmlands from Wyoming to the U.S.-Mexico border. The river has long been chronically overused and its reservoirs have declined dramatically over the past two decades during a stretch of mostly dry years, which research shows are being [worsened by rising temperatures](#).

Patch and other tribal leaders agreed to a request by state officials to present their proposal this month at two online hearings.

Amelia Flores, who on Dec. 5 was elected to take over as CRIT's chairwoman, said during one meeting that she plans to work with members of Arizona's congressional delegation to introduce the bill.

“The Mohave people are known as the Water People, the Aha Makhav in our language,” Flores said. “We have always lived on the Colorado River and the river has always supported us. It has religious, cultural, as well as life-sustaining and economic importance.”

The Colorado River Indian Tribes' reservation was established by the federal government in 1865.

Its members come from four tribal affiliations. The Mohave have lived along the river [for thousands of years](#). They were joined by Chemehuevi people, some of whom were [displaced by flooding on their lands](#) when dams were built. Later, in the 1940s and 50s, the U.S. government encouraged Navajo and Hopi families to move to the reservation to farm.

**CHECK OUT:** [How researchers hope to preserve and restore 'biocrust,' the desert's protective skin](#)

The reservation includes nearly 300,000 acres in Arizona and California, with the river running through it.

On the Arizona side, the federal government owns the system of irrigation canals, which is operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and carries water to about 79,000 acres of farmland.

The water serves as an economic engine for the tribes, supplying large farming operations that produce hay, cotton and wheat, as well as smaller amounts of crops such as potatoes and carrots. The market value of the crops grown in 2020 was estimated at \$95-\$100 million.

The crescent-shaped expanse of farms along the river covers an area about one-fourth the size of Phoenix. But each acre of fields planted with alfalfa or cotton, when compared with the water needs of suburban homes, consumes significantly more water.

The farms are flood-irrigated. Water flows with gravity through canals and ditches, saturating the fields. The farmland soaks up a portion of the water that's diverted, and the remainder drains off the fields, flowing back into the Colorado River.

Along the river, the tribes maintain the Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, a wilderness area stretching across more than 1,200 acres where they've planted stands of native mesquite trees, which hold spiritual significance for tribal members. At a nursery in the preserve, workers water mesquite saplings and other native plants to use in environmental restoration projects.

Leasing a portion of the water would generate proceeds that the tribal government could use for various purposes, including supporting its coronavirus response and its efforts to improve services from education to law enforcement.

The [legislation](#) would enable CRIT to lease water in Arizona to an entity such as a city for up to 100 years, with the possibility of renewal, and would also allow the tribes to exchange and store some of their water off the reservation.

Other Native nations in Arizona with congressionally approved water settlements already have the ability to lease water, and have been making deals to send water to cities and suburbs that are searching for supplies.



These tribes, which receive Colorado River water through the Central Arizona Project Canal, include the Gila River Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, among others.

In contrast, CRIT has no congressionally approved water settlement. It's one of five tribes whose water rights were decreed by the Supreme Court in 1964 after justices ruled in the landmark case *Arizona v. California*, settling a dispute over claims to water from the river.

“This legislation is about our self-determination,” said Tommy Drennan, a member of the Tribal Council. Drennan pointed out that CRIT didn't participate in the litigation that led to the Supreme Court decision.

“It was the United States that asserted our water rights. It was the United States that leased much of our reservation for the development of non-Indians for a dollar an acre for 50 years or more,” Drennan said.

It's only been during the past two years, he said, that the last of those long-term farm leases have expired and the tribe has been able to lease the lands on more favorable terms.



*Computer faeries grabbed the rest of the story....*

[Compliments of Carole Wright:](#)



*Back row:* Clayton Townsend, Rolph Brown, Standley Tom, John Chandler, Donald Ridley, Harry Yazzie.  
*Front row:* Charley Jones, Dale Malotte, Billy Coffey, Lee Raye, David Lee, Freddie Williams.

#### THE BOXING TEAM

Each boxer this year had an average of nine or ten fights more than any other year.

In the Golden Glove tournament at Reno Stewart took the senior class honors. Winners were David Lee, 118 lb. Sr.; Fred Williams, 126 lb. Sr.; Rolf Brown, 135 lb. Sr., Norman Snooks, 147 lb. Sr.; Ivan George, 160 lb. Sr. In the Novice class winners were Donald Ridley, 118 lb.; Junior Calvin, 135 lb.; Dale McNair, 175 lb. Trophies were awarded all winners of this tournament. Dale Malotte, although he lost his fight, received an award for the gamest fighter of the tournament.

These boys were under the coaching of Ned Crutcher, a former student and boxer of Stewart.

## News from the National Archives

*If you've finished all of your pre-holiday chores:*



# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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## **Explore over 18,000 Photographs from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Record Group 75)**

Use this finding aid to explore digitized photographs from this record group

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EXPLORE PHOTOGRAPHS BY

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### **Explore Tribal Nations**

Explore featured Tribal Nations and the topic areas that they cover in the BIA photograph record group.

### **Explore Photographs of Notable Native Americans**

Explore selected photographs of notable Native Americans throughout history.

## **Welcome to the IDA Treaties Explorer**

<https://digitreaties.org/>

[utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=yearinreview-dec2020](https://digitreaties.org/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=yearinreview-dec2020)

While treaties between Indigenous peoples and the United States affect virtually every area in the USA, there is as yet no official list of all the treaties. The US National Archives holds 374 of the treaties, where they are known as the Ratified Indian Treaties. Here you can view them for the first time with key historic works that provide context to the agreements made and the histories of our shared lands.

### **374 Ratified Indian Treaties visible for the first time**

Thanks to an anonymous donation, the US National Archives conserved and digitized the Ratified Indian treaties in its holdings. Here you can see the original documents spanning more than a hundred years.

Most are now available, and more will be added as the National Archives completes preservation and scanning.

### **Visualize some of the documents signed**

The lack of an official list of treaties between the US and Native nations inevitably led to confusion. In the 1890s-1900s, government clerks attempted to get a handle on all the agreements that had been made regarding land. In a series of publications they mapped out the land transfers and called them “cessions”. Here you can see the historic maps and what agreements and tribes relate.





## About Treaties Explorer

The National Archives Office of Innovation partnered with the [Indigenous Digital Archive](#) project of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe, to provide context about and connection to the National Archives' holdings of the Ratified Indian Treaties, newly conserved and scanned for the first time thanks to the generous gift of an anonymous donor.

The [Indigenous Digital Archive](#) is a two time IMLS National Leadership Grant project of the [Museum of Indian Arts and Culture](#) in partnership with the [New Mexico State Library](#), and the [Indian Pueblo Cultural Center](#). Additional support has been provided by the Knight Foundation, the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board, a Mellon Foundation Council on Library and Information Resources Digitizing Hidden Collections grant, and the Santa Fe Community Foundation.

## Presidential Libraries

<https://www.archives.gov/findingaid/presidential-library>

*Ed note: Most early presidential inaugural and state-of-the-union addresses contained reference to Indian affairs.*

0.245% As of December 2020, there are **1,592,525** scans online representing **0.245%** of the estimated total number of textual pages across all Presidential Libraries.

**650,042,550** estimated total textual pages across all Presidential Libraries ([Learn more about these numbers](#)).

Volume of Textual Records

% / # Textual Records Scanned

Records Online (No Textual Records)

## About the Presidential Library Explorer Numbers

The Presidential Library Explorer data visualization is based on a count of the scans of textual pages available through the National Archives Catalog and an estimate of the total number of textual pages currently in Presidential Library holdings. Numbers will be updated monthly to reflect new additions to the Catalog and future iterations of the Explorer will provide additional data on records types other than textual records.

## How Presidential Library Explorer Numbers are Calculated

The number of **scans online** uses file counts accessed via the [National Archives Catalog API](#).

The **estimated total pages** in each Library is calculated by taking the volume of textual records (in cubic feet) and multiplying by an average of 2,500 pages of records per cubic foot. The 2,500 page average coming from historical capacity estimates for a Federal Records Center (FRC) box used to store archival documents.

The **percent of scanned textual pages online** equals **scans online / estimated total pages**

[See the numbers](#)

Presidential Library Explorer Tools

Show number of scans online

[Switch to list view Give our Presidential Library Explorer a try! We'd love to hear your feedback about how you may find this tool useful, and how we can further improve it.](#)

The data powering the Presidential Library Explorer will be updated monthly, so check back to see what we have added and any changes we've made. Also stay tuned for future next-generation finding aid projects in the works!

### **About Record Groups**

NARA arranges its holdings into numbered Record Groups, each of which comprises the records of a major government organization such as a bureau or an independent agency. For example, National Archives Record Group 29 (or RG 29) is the "Records of the Bureau of the Census." Most Record Groups also include records of any predecessors to the organization named in the title. The number assigned to a record group reflects the order in which it was established by NARA

A few Record Groups combine the records of several small or short-lived agencies having an administrative or functional relationship with each other. An example of this type of record group is Record Group 76, Records of Boundary and Claims Commissions and Arbitrations.

Several Records Groups have been cancelled or retired and are no longer in use. These records may have been merged with another Record Group or reappraised as temporary (and thus no longer retained by the National Archives as permanent records).

Looking for records from a previous citizen archivist mission?  
Wondering what types of records we've featured in transcription  
missions recently?

Check out our new [Mission History](#) page to see what our  
community of citizen archivists have been working on lately!

### **History Hub**

[Have a question? Find your answer on History Hub](#)

History Hub is our support community for researchers, genealogists, history enthusiasts, and citizen archivists. Ask questions, share information, work together, and find help based on experience and interests. Researchers can ask—or answer—questions on [History Hub](#), or search to see if a question has been asked before.

## **New !**

We love patents! Thousands of [new patent drawings](#) were added to this series that consists of patent drawings illustrating proposed inventions of various types of equipment containing mechanical components.

### [Utility Patent Drawings, 1837 - 1911](#)

We are sure to have some aspiring citizen archivist inventors out there! Do these patent drawings inspire your creativity?

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### **Lawsuit challenges Trump's lifting of roadless rule in Alaska's Tongass forest**

A coalition of Alaska Native tribes and environmentalists filed suit on Wednesday challenging a new Trump administration policy that opens vast swaths of the largest U.S. national forest to logging, mining and other commercial development.

Read in Reuters: [https://apple.news/AeEA8F90jTxankD51P\\_QtMw](https://apple.news/AeEA8F90jTxankD51P_QtMw)



[newyorker.com](http://newyorker.com)

[Yes, Mason, There Is a Santa Claus](#)

[And while I have you, Mason also believes that whole-grain spelt wafers are “cookies.”](#)