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Steamer "Gila" was the fastest of the riverboats. She was piloted by Captain Polhames from Yuma to Needles and return, 250 miles, in ten hours. Railroad freight cars which supplanted the picturesque river steamers may be seen in the background.

Steamboating on the Colorado

¶ *The story of early navigation on the "Red River" of the West—By J. S. Gorby*

ADLY swirling its turbidly red waters through majestic and apparently interminable canyons, then rushing with maudlin glee through arid mesa to the Gulf of California, the Colorado has been a true "river of destiny," even in its best moods, the Colorado, or "Red River," has waned and destroyed both lives and property, or

has impatiently suffered success to be whirled into the lives of those who have dared to navigate it.

The early navigation of the river was carried on principally by those with conquest as their object or gold as their goal. Later we find men venturing forth upon its turbulent eddies and currents for possibly a more material, yet incidentally a none the less colorful and romantic purpose, the

transportation of life and life's necessities to the outposts of civilization.

Some forty years before Spanish expansion aspirations suffered curtailment by the defeat of the Invincible Armada, and while the conquest of Peru under the lickerish Pizarro was beginning to bear fruit in the form of colonization, Spain, with an eye inclined toward the fabulous Seven Cities of Cibola, described from rumor by Cabeza

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