



209. Moon's Ferry Over the Sacramento River

In the early days streams that could not be forded were crossed by ferries in place of bridges. Those ferries were flat barges large enough to hold one or more vehicles. They were propelled back and forth across the stream by the use of poles or the force of the current. Usually they were attached to cables stretching across the stream. Since the Sacramento River was navigable, a cable placed across the stream would obstruct river traffic; so a pontoon system was used. The ferry here has just pushed off. If the front of the ferry is pointed up-stream the current will carry it across to the opposite bank.