



# Cornville Historical Society

## E-MAIL NEWS

P.O. Box 1200, Cornville, AZ 86325

Issue No. 2

October 2008

The mission of the Cornville Historical Society is to gather, preserve and share information about the history of rural life within the Cornville postal area from 1860 to the present.

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***In Memory—Beverly Ann Dana:*** We are saddened that Cornville Historical Society Board Member Beverly Dana passed away October 6, after suffering a heart attack and stroke. Memorial services were held October 13. Bev & her husband George moved to Cornville from Wisconsin several years ago. She was active in her church & became an enthusiastic member of the Historical Society, serving as Membership Chair & helping with society activities. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Sedona United Methodist Church Music Fund or to the Cornville Historical Society, Beverly Dana Memorial Fund. Bev will surely be missed.

***November Activities:*** The Society will be busy in November at three events: ***November 8-“Walkin’ on Main” Event*** (11am-5pm) in Old Town Cottonwood. Verde Valley historical groups will celebrate the theme “Exploring Historic 89A”. The CHS booth will feature an exhibit, Historic Cornville Quilted Wall Hanging, and handouts. ***November 12-Chili Cook-Off & Potluck*** (7pm) at Oak Creek School, hosted by the Cornville Community Association. Society members will be selling tickets for the quilt. ***November 22-Cornville Country Fair*** (10am-3pm) at Oak Creek School. Look for the CHS booth! ***NOTE: The yard sale previously announced for November has been postponed until Spring 2009.***

***“Chili Bill” Brooks to Speak at December Meeting:*** The Society’s General Membership Holiday Meeting is set for Wednesday evening, December 10, at Oak Creek School. The meeting will feature Guest Speaker Bill Brooks, a long-time Cornville resident who has many interesting stories to tell. Bill has been a pilot for 60 years and once worked for the Hearst Family and later, John Wayne. At 78, Bill still flies his own plane and regularly works at the John Wayne Museum in Williams, Arizona. He became known as “Chili Bill” when he hosted a TV cooking show that was broadcast in Sedona. He has written three cookbooks, as well as a book about John Wayne. Bill will share memories about his travels, working with John Wayne and other movie stars; and stories about life in Cornville. The audience is in for a real treat! Holiday refreshments will be served and drawings for a handmade historic quilted wall hanging, as well as other prizes, will be held.

**Win a Historic Cornville Quilt!** A "Historic Cornville Quilt", handmade by CHS Member Jan Starkey, will be awarded to a lucky winner, as part of the Society's ongoing fundraising efforts. The quilt features historic Cornville photos and may be used as a wall hanging. Tickets will be \$2 each or three for \$5; and they will go on sale in November at local events, Quilter's Quarters, The Cowboy Shop, and other locations. The drawing will take place December 10 at the Holiday Meeting.

**Annual Membership Drive:** The Society will kick off its annual membership drive in November, with a goal of reaching 120 charter members in 2009. The Society has said from the beginning that the first 120 members to join will be considered Charter Members, in honor of Cornville's 120'th birthday which was celebrated in 2005, the year of the Society's incorporation. So far, 83 members have joined, so we must maintain those memberships and add 37 more! Annual dues are just \$15 for individuals; \$25 for families; and \$50 for businesses/organizations. Members who join now will be paid through 2009. Those who have lived in Cornville for 50 years or more are welcome as honorary members. Contributions are always welcome, too! Membership benefits include a newsletter, informational meetings, fundraiser activities, and historical research activities, such as site inventories and oral histories. For information, contact Sharon Morehouse at 634-8927 or [stevesharmor@msn.com](mailto:stevesharmor@msn.com) or Fay Page Mauk at 634-4987 or [ofay@cableone.net](mailto:ofay@cableone.net).

**Land Record Project Near Completion:** The report summarizing a review of federal land records for the Cornville-Page Springs area is now complete. The study covers Townships 15 and 16 N., R. 4 E., Gila-Salt River Meridian, Yavapai County, Arizona; and all the original homesteads are shown shown on a base topographic map. The Board of Directors has decided to publish the full report, including a timeline of Federal land actions; a list of homestead, cash & desert land entry patents issued, and copies of some original documents not available on the internet. The report will be available for sale in early December (cost to be determined); and it will become a reference for further research about Cornville's "first families" and their descendents. For information, contact Judy Miller at 649-1916 or [dvnjdymlr@cableone.net](mailto:dvnjdymlr@cableone.net).

**Oral Histories Getting Done:** More oral history interviews were completed this summer, giving Board members the opportunity to test newly-developed forms. Dave Girdner, Bob Girdner and Nina Girdner were interviewed in June by Linda Allen Kappel, with Fay Page Mauk & Judy Miller, during the Girdner Family Reunion. The Girdners also generously donated to the Society a share of the proceeds from an auction of family memorabilia. Plans for more interviews are in the works. A team of at least two Society members are needed to conduct each interview, which includes completion of interview forms, tape recording, photos, and any other information the interviewee might provide. A real effort is needed to reach as many "old timers" and people who have information to share. If you know someone who should be interviewed, contact Linda Allen Kappel, Oral History Chair, at 634-4698 or [losttango@sedona.net](mailto:losttango@sedona.net).

**Welcome New Board Members:** Jan Starkey was appointed on September 18, and Patricia Taffora was approved on October 23, to fill two Board vacancies. Both have been enthusiastic members of the Society for some time, and the Board welcomes their participation.

**Space Wanted!** One goal of the Historical Society is to find a secure "meeting place" or "reading room", where historical society materials can be stored, with space for a table and chairs for small meetings and work projects. If anyone knows of someone who could donate a room, small building, guest house or similar space, please let us know. The Society would furnish and maintain the space. It would NOT be open to the public; only Board members and their invitees would use the space for Board meetings or project activities. If you have an idea, please contact Judy Miller at 649-1916 or [dvnjdymlr@cableone.net](mailto:dvnjdymlr@cableone.net).

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**Cornville Historical Society Board of Directors:** Betsy Cook, President, 634-1396; Sharon Morehouse, First Vice President, 634-8927; Linda Allen Kappel, Second Vice President, 634-4698; Cheryl Chamberlain, Secretary, 639-0865; Fay Page Mauk, Treasurer, 634-4987; Judy Miller, Publicity, 649-1916; Jan Starkey 649-9271; Patricia Taffora, 646-0157; and Jan Tomlinson, 301-2161.