



Cornville Historical Society

E-MAIL NEWS

P.O. Box 1200, Cornville, AZ 86325

Issue No. 8

November 2011

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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Cornville's 126th Birthday

*One hundred and twenty six years ago,
Near the banks of a mountain stream,
A little place called Cornville got its start.
Some pioneers of long ago
Were searching for a dream
To satisfy a longing in their heart.*

*They settled here, a peaceful place,
With beauty all around.
They raised their stock and built their homes
And tilled their fertile ground*

*I came here as a barefoot boy
And here I chose to stay.
I knew some old arrivals
And watched them drift away.*

So Happy Birthday Cornville!

*I hope you'll always be
A peaceful place for others
As you have been for me.*

--Clint Self, July 7, 2011



Clint Self, seen working in his own back yard in May 2011, is a charter member and strong supporter of the Cornville Historical Society.

The Cornville Post Office was established July 9, 1885, so Clint's poem honors our community's 126th Birthday.

Thank You Clint!



A message from the President ...

Cornville Historical Society is Seven Years Old: The Society was incorporated November 17, 2004 and held its first annual meeting in March 2005. That means we can now report seven years of progress! Since the Society was first established by Nita Rinehart, Jan Tomlinson & Robin McDowell, it has attracted 106 charter members, with 57 now in good standing (40 paid; 17 honorary).

The Society has gained visibility; accumulated oral histories, site inventories, photos and records; held at least two meetings a year; participated in community events and centennial activities; dedicated a memorial bench at Windmill Park; issued newsletters; published the *Federal Land Records* report & *Page Springs Scenic/Historic Road* brochure; and raised money through yard sales and raffles. We are governed by a Board of seven directors (*listed on page 4*) that meets monthly from September through May. Watch for news about publication of the *Cornville Postal History* report and a project to place interpretive signs at local historic sites to honor the Arizona Centennial in 2012. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the board members. We appreciate your support!

Linda Allen-Kappel

“Mischief on the Muggy Own” Holiday Meeting December 9:



Presenting our 6th Annual Holiday Event

“Mischief on the Muggy Own”

By Michael Peach

An original show of mystery, mischief & mayhem in the Verde Valley

7:00 pm, Friday, December 9, 2011

Oak Creek School

11490 E. Purple Sage Road, Cornville

Holiday Refreshments & Gift Basket Drawing

Come & Join the fun!

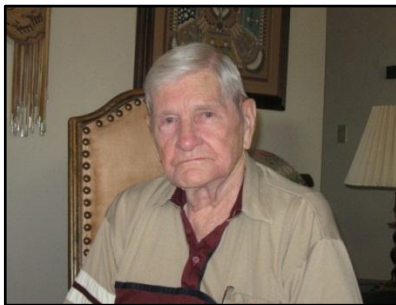
Fall Yard Sale a Big Success: A fundraiser yard sale was held October 15 at 10620 E. Valley View Drive (Oak Creek Valley) in Cornville, with net proceeds of \$591.27. Many thanks go to all those who donated items and/or gave their time to help—Jan Bass, Janet & Stephen Cassagio, Dan Derrick, Linda & Garry Kappel, Dave & Judy Miller, Veronica Moody, Sharon & Steve Morehouse, Fay Page-Mauk, Nita Rinehart, Alice Stephenson and Elaine Vallely. The proceeds will go toward a historic sign project and other needs.



Cornville Old Tyme Country Fair: The Society was pleased to participate again this year in the Country Fair at Oak Creek School, by displaying a map of original homesteaders, photos of historic sites, and a book of oral histories. The event drew a big crowd; and we met several people who had information to offer. It is a pleasure to know that people are curious and care about our area history.



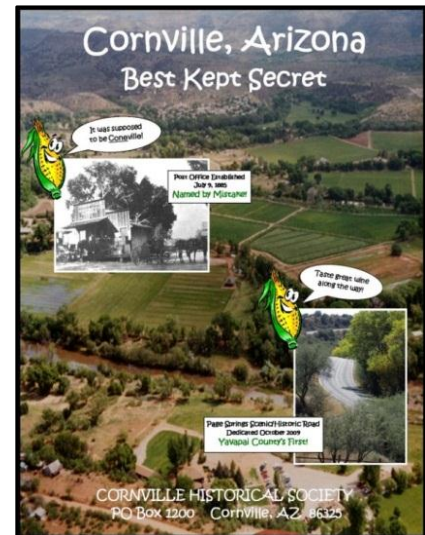
Harley Thompson Oral History: The Society is always looking for opportunities to interview long-time residents and descendants of early settlers in the area. If you know of anyone who has a story to tell about Cornville’s history, please contact any Board member.



Our most recent oral history interview was with Harley Thompson, son of Fern (Stewart) and Alvin Thompson and grandson of David Wylie Stewart, an original Cornville homesteader for whom Stewart Hill on Page Springs Road is named. Thompson was born in Bridgeport, grew up in Cottonwood, and spent a lot of time in Cornville. He later retired in Cornville and now lives in Sedona. Thompson has a phenomenal memory and is a great storyteller. He is the owner and custodian of the Stewart family gravesite on the old homestead property.

AZ Best Fest: One of three huge festivals to kick off the Arizona Centennial was held in Prescott September 16-18. The Cornville Historical Society, along with other historical societies in Yavapai County, was invited to share the County’s centennial booth to display a poster describing something “best” about the community.

The Board decided to showcase Cornville as a “Best Kept Secret”. The poster highlights the community “*named by mistake*” and as the location of Page Springs Scenic-Historic Road, “*Yavapai County’s first*”. The messages were superimposed on an aerial view of Cornville.



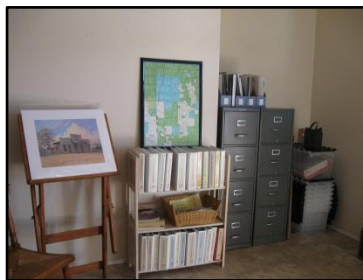
Bev's Children & Grandchildren Enjoy the New Bench

Bev Dana Memorial Bench Dedicated: On April 30, Society members, Dana family members and friends gathered at Windmill Park to dedicate a park bench in the name of Beverly Dana, who served the community and was board member of the Cornville Historical Society. It was a beautiful day for remembrance and the group enjoyed visiting and sharing refreshments.

Just Fourteen More Members Needed to Fill Charter Roster: We now have a charter roster of 106 members, including individual, family, business, and honorary (*those who have lived in Cornville 50 years or more*). The first 120 members are considered founding members in honor of Cornville's 120th birthday in 2005, the year the Society was established. Letters will be sent soon to all current and former members to renew for 2012; and membership dues are: Individual-\$15; Family-\$25; Business/Organization-\$50; Contributing-\$100 or more. Please consider joining and supporting the Society in its quest to gather information about local history. For information call Sharon Morehouse at 634-8927.

Members Visit Sharlot Hall Museum: On October 11, five Board members and their spouses visited Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott, for a morning guided tour of the Library and Archives Section conducted by Scott Anderson and an afternoon visit to the museum. The facility is impressive, with state-of-the-art equipment; and the group now has a much better understanding of the scope of the museum's collections and how to conduct research there, both online and in person.

Office and Storage Space Needed: The Society is gradually acquiring records, supplies, and historical items (see photos below) that are now kept in private homes and not as accessible as we'd like them to be. Our hope is to find a secure place where we can consolidate and store records, hold meetings; and work on projects. If anyone knows of someone who could donate a room, small building, guest house or similar space in the Cornville-Page Springs area, please let us know. The Society maintains liability insurance and would furnish and maintain the space. Only Board members and their invitees would use the space for work activities or meetings. If you have an idea, please contact President Linda Allen Kappel at 634-4698 or losttango@sedona.net or Vice President Sharon Morehouse at 634-8927 or stevsharmor@msn.com.



Centennial Countdown Series of Articles: To honor the AZ Centennial, the Society has issued four special countdown editions of E-MAIL NEWS, on topics of local historical interest & four more are planned. If you've missed one or would like to be added to our mailing list, please let us know. Here is a list:

- March 2011 – “Remembering Arizona’s Statehood Day”, by Stanley Girdner, Arizona Republic, February 15, 1987
- May 2011 – “The Story of Page Springs Road”, compiled from Scenic/Historic Road CCA nomination documents
- June 2011 – “First White Woman in Cornville Nominated for AZ Women’s Heritage Trail”, CHS nomination summary
- September 2011 – “Hidden Valley”, by Linda Allen-Kappel
- November 2011 – “Jim & Julia Page Anniversary”, an article by F. A. Gyberg, Prescott Courier, October 25, 1937
- December 2011 – “The Cornville Dance Hall”, compiled from CHS Oral History files
- January 2012 – “The Girdner Family of Cornville”, by Janet Cassagio
- February 2012 – “Cornville Postal History”, by Judy Miller

Cornville Historical Society 2011-12 Board of Directors: Linda Allen Kappel (President), 634-4698; Janet Cassagio (Treasurer), 649-1426; Dan Derrick, 634-4358; Judy Miller (Secretary), 649-1916; Veronica Moody 634-9221; Sharon Morehouse (Vice-President), 634-8927; and Diana Stipek, 639-3632
