



Cornville Historical Society

E-MAIL NEWS

P.O. Box 1200, Cornville, AZ 86325

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

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Left: Cornville Post Office & Store 1909-1914; and Right: Circa 1960's

Dedication of Cornville Post Office Historic Markers: On Saturday, May 19 at 1 pm, Yavapai County Supervisor Chip Davis will dedicate two historic markers placed on the original sites of the Cornville Post Office. The signs are being installed on properties now owned by Windmill Gardens and Banker Insulation. Postmaster Charles S. Chick built his post office in 1909, on land now owned by Windmill Gardens. In 1914, he married Jessie M. Cox; and they moved the post office across the road to property now owned by Banker Insulation. There, they expanded the structure to include a residence. Charles and Jessie Chick served consecutively as Cornville Postmasters for over 50 years. The structure was sold and moved in the 1980's. The dedication will be held at Windmill Gardens; and Chick family members will be honorary guests. Refreshments will be served; and the public is invited. The Society hopes these markers will be the first of a series of historic markers to be placed, over time, in the Cornville/Page Springs area.

Eighth Annual Meeting Highlights: The Society's Annual Meeting was held on March 20, with 33 members and guests present. The business meeting included an annual progress report by Linda Allen Kappel highlighting the year's activities and accomplishments. The Society had 69 members in good standing (*those who have paid 2012 dues, honorary and business members*). Minor changes to Society bylaws, the 2011 Financial Report, and 2012 Proposed Budget were approved. The Society ended calendar year 2011 with \$6,283.82, due to successful fundraisers and increased membership. Board members Janet Cassagio, Judy Miller and Diana Stipek were re-elected for 2-year terms. Linda Allen Kappel and Dan Derrick will continue for one more year through March 2013. Guest speaker Bill Cowan, Verde Valley Historian and Author of *"Images of America: Verde Valley"*, gave an excellent presentation, tracing the history of the Verde Valley from prehistoric times. The program was followed by a book signing opportunity, refreshments and socializing.

Charter Roster Now Complete: Cornville was established on July 9, 1885, with the naming of the community and its first postmaster; and the Cornville Historical Society was established 120 years later in 2005. As a result, the Society's founders decided that the first 120 members to join would be considered "charter members". This year, the Society reached its charter goal; so the Charter Roster will forever acknowledge the first 120 members who helped make the society a reality. Thanks to all for your support!

"History of the Cornville Post Office" Report Now Available: Facts and possibilities about Cornville's name, post office establishment, locations, and postmasters have all been compiled in a new 44-page report that includes both old and new information, stories, and photos that tell the story of Cornville's postal history over time. Included is the "most likely story" of how Cornville got its name; and early postmasters are featured in short vignettes. Since 1885, Cornville has had twelve postmasters who provided service from at least eight locations. A fascinating story of the oldest and longest-used post office and store, built by Charles Chick, is featured as Cornville's "Centennial" Post Office. From government records and other sources, research for the report was conducted via internet, mail, telephone and personal contacts. It included a trip to the National Archives in Washington, DC and interviews with former postal employees and others with memories to share. Still, the Cornville Historical Society always welcomes information that will clarify and add to its postal history. To order the report by mail, send \$10, plus \$2 for postage, to Cornville Historical Society, P.O. Box 1200, Cornville, AZ 86325. To comment, ask questions or add information, contact Judy Miller at (928) 649-1916 or jdymir@cableone.net.



Historical records and supplies are piling up!

Cornville Historical Society Needs a Home! The Society's records, supplies, and historical items 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 would 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 or space to offer, please contact President Linda Allen Kappel at 634-4698 or losttango@sedona.net.

Help Wanted: Do You Remember Sancho? The Society has heard that there are several ties to Walt Disney Studios and Cornville. For example:

- “*Sancho, the Homing Steer*”, that aired in 1962, was filmed at Sheepshead Crossing.
- Al Niemela wore Dale Girdner’s jacket and hat in the 1966 “*Run Light Buck Run*”.
- Al lived and did some of his animal training for Disney in Cornville.

If you have any information or can share any memories, experiences or photos relating to these or any other ties between Disney or Hollywood and Cornville, we’d like to hear from you. This won’t take much time. Just let us know what you remember. We would love to hear from you! You can contact Janet Cassagio at 649-1426 or at janetcassagio@me.com with any information you can share. Thank you!

Society to Participate in 3rd Annual Cornville Merchant Showcase: The Cornville Historical Society is pleased to support the Cornville Community Association as a participant in this year’s “showcase”, set for Wednesday, May 9, from 6 to 8 pm, at Oak Creek School. The successful event is celebrating its third year; and it’s a good time to get out and learn more about businesses and activities going on in our local community. Stop by the Society’s table to learn more, pick up a publication, ask questions or share information. See you there!



Check Out our New Website! The Society now has a website at www.cornville-historical-society.org which includes information about the Society’s mission and goals; membership form; lists of site inventories and oral histories completed; highlights of activities; past issues of *E-Mail News*, including the popular “Centennial Countdown” series; available publications; and more! It’s a good place to learn more about Cornville and to e-mail your comments or questions. Please check it out and let us know what you think!

Are You a Member in Good Standing? The Society is now updating e-mail lists, which include past and present members, groups, community leaders, and many others who have expressed interest in the Society at one time or another. In order to manage the lists better, only members who are in good standing will be kept on the official membership list; and lists of cooperating groups and friends of the Society will be maintained separately. In other words, **only individual, family and business members who have paid their dues for Calendar Year 2012 AND all honorary members will remain on the official list to receive newsletters as a member benefit.** So, if you’d like to receive our newsletters, please check and be sure that you are a “member in good standing”. Thank you!

Summer Break Ahead: The Board of Directors suspends monthly board meetings during June, July and August. However, please feel free to contact any Board member if needed, at the phone numbers shown below. Meanwhile, **HAVE A HAPPY SUMMER!** The Board will get back to work in September.

Cornville Historical Society 2012-13 Board of Directors: Linda Allen Kappel (*President*), 634-4698; Diana Stipek (*Vice President*), 639-3632; Judy Miller (*Secretary*), 649-1916; Janet Cassagio (*Treasurer*), 649-1426; and Dan Derrick, 634-4358.