



Cornville Historical Society E-MAIL NEWS

P.O. Box 1200, Cornville, AZ 86325

Issue No. 10

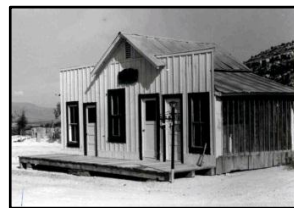
October 2012

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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Cornville's "Wandering Post Office" is Coming Home: The Old Cornville Post Office & Store was a community landmark for eighty years, from the time it was built in 1909 until it was moved away in 1989. Now, after surviving three moves, the original post office and store will soon be moved one more time, right back to the site where it was first constructed over 100 years ago. Plans call for the move to take place in November. Under an agreement with Bob and Cindy Snyder, owners of Windmill Garden Nursery, the structure will be placed on their property and restored, in cooperation with the Cornville Historical Society. Ultimately, the historic landmark will include a front porch and window exhibits for the public to see.



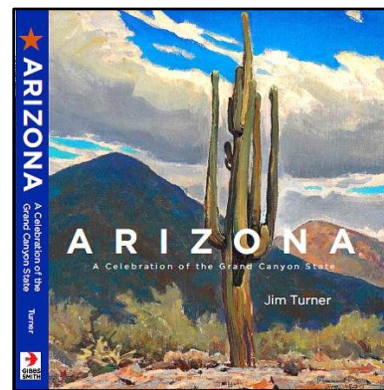
Left to Right: The Cornville Post Office & Store (left) was a two-room structure from 1909 to 1914 on the north side of Cornville Road on property now owned by Windmill Gardens; As it looked during the 1950's, with an additional living room, on the south side of Cornville Road at the junction of Loy Road; as it appeared in the 1990's in the American Dream old west town in Middle Verde; and as it appears now, a two-room structure again, ready to return home to be restored as a historic landmark.

The story of the wandering post office began with pioneer Charles Chick, who was appointed Cornville Postmaster in 1909. That's when he built Cornville's first post office and store on land now owned by Windmill Gardens. In 1914, he married Jessie Cox; and they moved the post office the first time across Cornville Road to property now owned by Banker Insulation. There they expanded the structure, raised their family, and served consecutively as Cornville postmasters for over 50 years. The property was sold to Banker Insulation in the 1980's and the old structure was donated to Rainbow Acres and moved for the second time to become part of the American Dream old west town in Middle Verde. Later, the structure was auctioned and moved for the third time across the river to Camp Verde. Now, the current owner has donated it back to the community.

The Society is sponsoring a campaign to raise \$10,000, to cover move costs of \$7,500 and \$2,500 extra to help preserve and interpret the historic landmark. Thanks to generous donations from Gary Banker and members of the Chick family, \$5,000 has been collected and more has been pledged. Now, residents are asked to step up and become part of Cornville history by sending tax-deductible contributions to the "Cornville Historical Society Post Office Fund", PO Box 1200, Cornville, AZ 86325. All funds received will be used solely for preservation and interpretation of the old post office as a historic landmark. For information, contact Janet Cassagio at 649-1426 or janetcassagio@me.com.

Become a part of Cornville history!
Send your tax-deductible donation to help bring our historic landmark home!
A donation form is attached for your convenience.

Holiday Event will Feature Historian Jim Turner on December 1: The Society is pleased to announce that noted historian and author Jim Turner, of Tucson, will be the special guest speaker at the Society's Seventh Annual Holiday Fundraiser Event at 6:00 p.m., Saturday, December 1, at Oak Creek School, 11490 East Purple Sage Road in Cornville. The event will also feature holiday refreshments and the popular gift basket raffle.



Turner took his first class in Arizona history in 1974. He taught at Canyon del Oro High School in 1976 as part of his training for a Bachelors degree in secondary education. He continued to study Arizona's past over the years and began lectures in 1998. He got his Masters degree in U.S. history in 1999 and taught Arizona history as an adjunct professor for the University of Arizona the following year. In 2001, Turner began his career as historian for the Arizona Historical Society, where his role was to support non-profit history museums throughout the state. He taught classes for docents and the general public and continued to create Power Point presentations. Turner is not a stranger to the Verde Valley or Cornville. In 2006, Turner spoke at Cornville's first annual holiday event on the subject of oral history; and has returned to the valley to conducted numerous workshops.

For his Cornville presentation, Turner's title will be ***"Arizona's Statehood's Last Hurrah: Celebrating the Centennial in the Verde Valley"***, including references to local history. It will be a good time for a "wrap up" of Arizona's Centennial year. There will also be an opportunity to get an autographed copy of Turner's centennial book, *"Arizona: A Celebration of the Grand Canyon State"*, in time for Christmas. The program is made possible through the Arizona Humanities Council. Mark your calendar for a fun evening in Cornville!

Cornville Historical Society is (Still) Looking for Space: 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 a suggestion or space to offer, please contact President Linda Allen Kappel at 634-4698 or losttango@sedona.net



Fall Membership Drive is Coming Up: It's that time of year again! All members will soon receive reminder notices to renew their dues for Calendar Year 2013. We are pleased to end the year with 75 members in good standing, but we'd like to have still more! There are four categories of membership: Individual \$15; Family \$25; Business or Organization \$50; and Contributing \$100. Those who have been in the Cornville area for 50 years or more are entitled to an honorary membership for the asking. Please consider joining the Cornville Historical Society! There is a lot going on, more to be done, and YOU can be a part of it all! For more information, contact Membership Chair Stephen Cassagio at 649-1426 or St3ph3n@mac.com.

Come to the Old Tyme Country Fair on November 17: The Cornville Historical Society is pleased to support Oak Creek School as a participant in the Olde Tyme Country Fair, Saturday, November 17, at the school. Please come out and help the PTO support Cornville's kids. Stop by the Society's booth, pick up a publication, ask questions or share information. We always enjoy hearing from people about Cornville's history. See you there!

Checkout our 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 e-mail your comments or questions. Please check it out and let us know what you think!

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*), and Dan Derrick, 634-4358



Be a Part of Cornville History!

HELP NEEDED

*Cornville Historical Society
Post Office Fund*

The Old Cornville Post Office & Store was a community landmark for eighty years, from the time it was built in 1909 until it was moved away in 1989. Now, after surviving three moves, the original structure will soon be moved one more time, right back to the site where it was first constructed over 100 years ago. Ultimately, the historic landmark will include exhibits for the public to see. The Cornville Historical Society is sponsoring a campaign to raise \$10,000, to cover move costs and help preserve and interpret the historic landmark. So far, \$5,000 has been collected and additional pledges have been received, but more **help is needed to reach the goal.** All funds received will be used solely for preservation and interpretation of the old post office and store as a historic landmark.

YES! I'd like to help. Here is my tax-deductible donation: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ **Phone:** _____

Make checks payable to: Cornville Historical Society Post Office Fund,
P.O. Box 1200, Cornville, AZ 86325

Please send information about membership in the Cornville Historical Society.