



CORNVILLE COURIER

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Our Newsletter has a New Name

The name of our newsletter, beginning with this issue is the "*Cornville Courier*", taking the place of "*E-Mail News*". According to Webster, "*courier*" is a noun that means "messenger" or refers to a person, such as in the armed services, that "*delivers mail, information or supplies*". In light of Cornville's postal history, our Board has decided it would be a good name for the Cornville Historical Society's newsletter.

Historically, Cornville has had other community newsletters published off and on. The name "Chronicle" was chosen during a contest in 2006 when several names were nominated for a community newsletter edited by student and community activist Katie Radosevic. She published her newsletter monthly from June 2006 until November 2010. In March 1973, the Cornville Firecrackers, an active women's group who engaged in many projects to support the Cornville-Page Springs Fire Department, issued "*The Cornville Bulletin*", starting in March 1973 and as late as 1977. In 1996, Alan Kempner, a founder of the Cornville Community Association issued "*The Cornville Newspaper*" a few times. Now, the Society hopes that the *Courier* will secure its place in the community's history by sharing information and stories about both the present and the past.

Tenth Annual Meeting Coming Up

The Cornville Historical Society will hold its tenth annual meeting from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 19, 2014, at the Cornville Fire Station, 1120 S. Page Springs Road, in Cornville. Members, friends, business owners and anyone interested in local history are invited and welcome to attend. The program, "A Conversation with the McMenamins", will feature Emmitt McMenamin, along with his niece Darlene (McMenamin) Moreno and nephew Dean McMenamin.



The Society's business meeting will include progress reports, budget approval, and board elections. Continuing board members for one more year are Cheryl Chamberlain, Ann Schaeffer and Cindy Snyder. Current members running for re-election for two-year terms are Janet Cas-sagio, Judy Miller and Diana Stipek. Recently appointed candidates running for two-year terms are Frances Baxter and Muffy Vallely. One new candidate for a two-year term is Don Godard.

"This is a special anniversary year for the Society", said President Judy Miller. Support for the Society is growing considerably with the restoration of the old post office well underway; and our fundraising projects have been very successful. Now, we are emphasizing programs to obtain oral histories and to place historic markers around the community. Exciting research is going on, too." The annual meeting is a good time for members to catch up on all the activities of the Society. There will be opportunities to ask questions and to meet your neighbors. Refreshments will be served. Please join us!

Redoubling Oral History Efforts

Noted Prescott historian and author Mona McCroskey was guest speaker at the January 8 board meeting. As a contract historian for Sharlot Hall Museum for many years, she conducted scores of interviews and published two major volumes, Chasing Cattle and the Cure, followed by And We Danced. Both are collections of oral histories



Mona McCroskey

from Yavapai County. Mona holds History degrees from ASU and a Library Science degree from UofA. She offered tips and encouragement to the board in its renewed effort to document stories of Cornville old-timers. Among her suggestions: *"Do interviews in the comfort of home; ask open-ended questions; avoid controversy; don't worry about silence; don't be a perfectionist; don't interrupt; and let them stray a little."* Later in the afternoon, she joined a local team for an interview with Don Godard. Several more interviews are being scheduled this spring. Contact Muffy Vallely at 639-9558 or vallely@q.com to learn more or suggest names of people to be interviewed. Let her know you'd like to help conduct and transcribe interviews. It is worthwhile and fascinating work. Give it a try!

Membership Update

In November, dues reminder letters were sent to all members, friends and business leaders inviting them to join or renew their membership dues for Calendar Year 2014. In order to be a voting member at the March annual meeting, members must have paid their dues by February 10. We were pleased to end 2013 with 89 members in good standing, renewals are coming in, and we always welcome 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.

Marionettes Benefit Postal Restoration Fund

The "mystery marionettes", which were donated long ago by Cornville resident Carol Lungren to Oak Creek School and eventually were returned to the Cornville Historical Society by way of the Clemenceau Museum, have been sold. The marionettes and accessories brought a winning bid of \$330.55, plus shipping costs, from a purchaser in



Carol Lungren, Cornville resident and former CHS Board Member

Allison Park, Pennsylvania. The bid came in during the second week of advertising on eBay as an auction item. After shipping and fees, net proceeds of \$250.00 has been added to the Society's Post Office Restoration Fund. We are pleased with the results of the sale and extend special appreciation to Carol for her cooperation. While the marionettes were unique, they did not have a real connection to Cornville history; and storage had become an issue. The handmade school collection of 25 puppets originally belonged to Frieda Mueller, a teacher from Germany who loved puppetry and taught in Ajo, Arizona during the 1940's. She was Carol's teacher and family friend. After consideration, the Board decided and Carol agreed to the sale, with the condition that the proceeds would go to the Post Office project. We extend appreciation to Carol for her cooperation and donation of her prized collection.



All the marionettes lined up and ready to travel



Clinton Allen Self: February 25, 1929 — January 18, 2014

Cornville has lost a friend. Long-time Page Springs resident, Clint Self—cowboy, miner, equipment operator, mechanic, artist, poet, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, supporter of the Cornville Historical Society and a faithful friend to many—entered eternal life on January 18. He was laid to rest at Valley View Cemetery; and a celebration of his life was attended by scores of people on February 1. We honor Clint's memory with photos from our files and a poem he wrote for Cornville's 126th birthday. *See you later, Clint!*



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



Left: Clint showed his artwork in the living room and took a break at his work bench in the backyard during a visit on May 5, 2011.

Above: He enjoyed the company of old friends Don Godard, Chip Davis, and Emmitt McMenamin at the dedication of the post office historical markers on May 19, 2011. (Historical Society Photos)

Thank You Cornvillians ...

... for your support of the Annual Holiday Fundraiser at Oak Creek School on December 7. The event featured Cornville singer and songwriter Dan Engler, who presented a program of folk music "Simply Stated and Simply Played"; and the popular annual drawing for holiday gift baskets. Twenty-five gift baskets, including donated gift items, art, wine, and certificates, were assembled by Society members. Sincere appreciation is extended to Dan Engler and to the Cornville businesses that helped make the event a success: Cornville Mercantile, Grasshopper Grill, Harry's Hideaway, Javelina Leap Vineyards & Winery, Oak Creek Vineyards & Winery, Page Springs Cellars & Vineyards, Salon West, and Windmill Gardens. The event reaped over \$800 to support historical society activities, including restoration of the old Cornville Post Office & Store.

THANK YOU to all
who participated!



Folk Singer &
Songwriter
Dan Engler
entertains
Cornvillians
while Gift
Baskets await.



Old Post Office Restoration

You may have noticed that things are happening again at the Old Post Office, on Monday mornings, following a holiday break. In November, volunteers dug holes and placed



footers for the porch. In February, the porch deck was added. Now, deteriorated boards are being removed and repairs made before the cured rough-sawn boards are used to restore the

“board and batten” facade to look like the original structure. Old doors were recently donated by Emmit McMenemy; and others have offered exhibit items and services. Cornville artist Joan Bourque has been enlisted to paint the sign on the facade, once the time comes. To learn more about the project or offer help, contact Project Liaison Stephen Cassagio at 649-1426 or st3ph3n@mac.com. Become a part of Cornville history by sending a tax-deductible contribution to the “Cornville Historical Society Post Office Fund”, PO Box 1200, Cornville, AZ 86325. Funds will be used solely for preservation and interpretation of the historic landmark.



Our website banner

Website Renewed

The Society's website has just been renewed for the third year. The site is usually the first item that pops up when you Google “Cornville” and so far, the site has attracted more than 19,000 “hits”. Users will find a full array of information about the Society's activities and can send questions. Go to www.cornville-historical-society.org to learn about the Society's mission and goals; get a membership form; see lists of site inventories and oral histories completed; read past issues of *E-Mail News*, learn about available publications; and more! It is THE PLACE to keep up with Society activities, learn Cornville history, and e-mail comments or questions. Let us know what you think!

HELP WANTED

Computer Skills:

1. **To manage the Society's membership lists** and serve as Membership Chair, beginning April 2014, working on your own time, reporting to Board monthly.
2. **To transcribe oral histories** from digital recorders, working on your own time, intermittently, as needed.

For information, call 649-1916.

SPACE NEEDED

The Society needs secure office space to store records, hold meetings, and do research. Please let us know if you know of an office, small building, or other unused space somewhere within the Cornville-Page Springs area that would meet our needs. If you would be willing to pledge funds to defray rental costs, please let us know that, too! The Society maintains liability insurance; and only Board members and their invitees would use the space. The Society would also pay utilities, furnish and maintain the space. If you have a suggestion or space to offer, please contact any board member listed below.

Cornville Historical Society 2013-14 Board of Directors

Officers: Judy Miller (President), 649-1916 or jdymlr@cableone.net; Diana Stipek (Vice President), 639-3632;

Cheryl Chamberlain (Secretary), 639-0865 or wormworm@earthlink.net;

Janet Cassagio (Treasurer), 649-1426 or janetcassagio@me.com;

Directors: Frances Baxter, 634-4534; Ann Schaeffer, 634-5144 or bannschaeffer@aol.com;

Cindy Snyder, 649-9628 or wheelz156@msn.com; Muffy Valley, 639-9558 or valley@q.com