



CORNVILLE COURIER

P.O. Box 1200 Cornville, AZ 86325

Issue No. 3

October 2014

IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Old Post Office & Store Restoration Progress*
- *9th Annual Holiday Event at D.A. Ranch*
- *Once Upon a Creek - History of Oak Creek Valley*
- *Happy Birthday Ladies!*
- *Who? What? When?*
- *Society Awarded \$1,000 Grant from YCC*
- *Annual Membership Drive Underway*

Old Post Office & Store Restoration Progress

Over the summer, still more progress was made on restoration of the old Cornville Post Office & Store. Reconstruction of the porch deck and façade was completed by the volunteer construction crew, and Log Oil was applied to the upper portion in preparation for the historic words, designed to look just like they were painted by pioneer postmaster Charles Chick in 1909! Cornville artist/muralist Joan Bourque donated her time to the project, along with Red Rock Masonry, who loaned the scaffolding. With the sign now complete, the front porch, roof & lower façade can be completed, followed by construction of frames and installation of doors and windows. Old doors donated by Emmitt McMenamin are being refinished. Historic (*over 150 years old!*) double-hung windows have been donated and received all the way from Maine. KUDOS to all for your support and hard work!



9th Annual Holiday Event at D.A. Ranch

The Society is pleased to announce its 9th Annual Holiday Fundraiser Event at **The Lodge at Historic D.A. Ranch** at 1901 N. Dancing Apache Road, near Page Springs. The event will take place from **3 to 5 pm, Sunday, December 7, 2014** and will feature a "History of the D A Ranch" presentation by Janet Cassagio, Cornville Historical Society researcher and board member. Janet has conducted interviews and extensive research dating back to original homesteaders, including Gertrude Gates, a rancher and interesting character! She will trace the



ranch history up to the present. The history presentation will be followed by the Society's popular raffle of holiday baskets that feature local wines, gift certificates and themed items. A free wine-tasting will introduce estate-grown wines and a new label based on the historic ranch brand. Holiday treats and other beverages will be served.

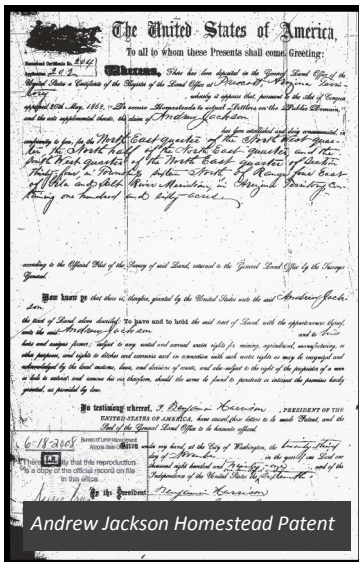
Cost of the event will be \$10 per person, including ten gift basket raffle tickets to be issued at the door. Raffle tickets will also be sold at the event. **Seating will be limited; and advance reservations are required.** Reserve a seat by mailing payment to the Cornville Historical Society, PO Box 1200, Cornville, AZ 86325, **no later than November 17.** Tickets can be mailed in advance or held for pick up at the door. They will also be sold by individual Board members. For information, contact Cheryl Chamberlain at 639-0865 or wormworm@earthlink.net or Muffy Valley at 639-9558 or valley@q.com.



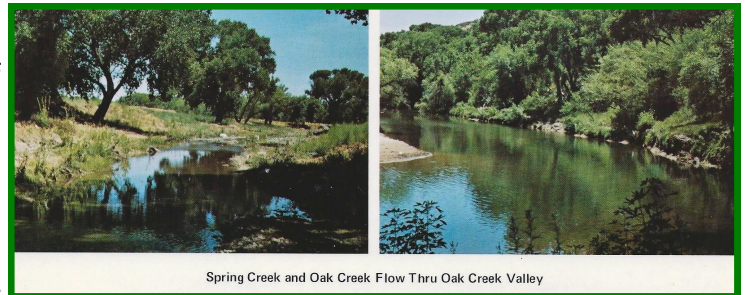
"Once Upon a Creek" is a continuing series of articles about the history of the Cornville-Page Springs area, where pioneers were attracted to the meanders of Lower Oak Creek; staked their claims and made their homes. This article is the first in the series. Oak Creek Valley is a residential area situated at the confluence of Spring Creek and Oak Creek, where Cornville's earliest settlers arrived in the 1870's. If you have an idea or would like to submit an article for publication, contact any Cornville Historical Society board member.

The History of Oak Creek Valley

In honor of the 40th Anniversary of Oak Creek Valley, a Cornville residential area at the junction of Oak Creek and Spring Creek, the *Oak Creek Valley History* brochure was published by the Society, to highlight a power point presentation by Judy Miller on September 27. The brochure tracks the history of the area from the time Captain Andrew Jackson and his wife Margaret arrived in 1875, while the area was part of

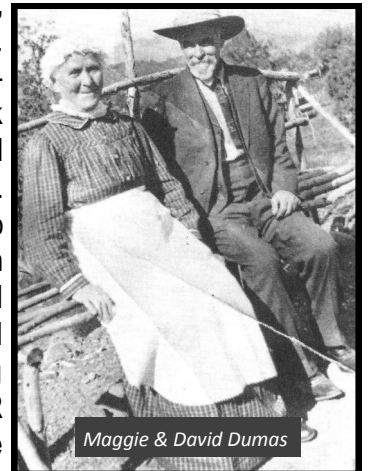


the Rio Verde Indian Reserve. The land was surveyed in 1877; and in 1891, Jackson received a homestead patent that included the "lower eighty" of what



Spring Creek and Oak Creek Flow Thru Oak Creek Valley

now is the 120-acre residential area. Margaret Jackson, who was widowed and later married David Dumas, is known as the first white woman to settle in Lower Oak Creek (now Cornville) and is credited with naming House Mountain, which at the time had a spire that resembled a chimney. After David and Margaret Dumas moved to Red Rock Crossing in Sedona in 1905, the "upper forty" acres of Oak Creek Valley was homesteaded to Mahurin in 1912 and the land was owned by a succession of ranchers and investors. Among them was Flagstaff physician William Creighton, who owned the property from 1947 to 1957. The Creighton



Maggie & David Dumas

Swimming Hole, well-known to many growing up in the Verde Valley in those years, still bears his name. In 1971, the Arizona Sonora Corp partnership acquired the 120 acres and became the "original developer" of the residential area, complete with clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis courts, community park, greenbelt, security gate and gatehouse. Later, JCR Properties became the "final developer" that sold all the lots and gave management to the Property Owners Association. Today, Oak Creek Valley is a delightful neighborhood of 150 homes and over 300 residents, who enjoy 40 acres of greenbelt and community amenities in a beautiful quiet setting, surrounded by National Forest and perennial streams, lush vegetation, dark skies, abundant wildlife and awesome views.



Oak Creek Valley in March 1979

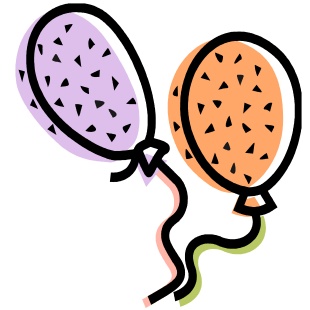


Oak Creek Valley Today as seen from Oak Creek School



Margaret Derrick—Age 94
July 19, 1920
 Celebrated with her colorful family
 in Cornville

**Happy
 Birthday
 Ladies!**



Margaret Chick Miller—Age 97
August 22, 1917
 celebrated at her home with her family
 in Phoenix



Althea Burns—Age 108
August 31, 1912
 celebrated at a party at her church
 in Cottonwood

This summer, these women,
 who have each played a role in the
 history of Cornville and Page Springs,
 celebrated very special birthdays.
 The Cornville Historical Society extends
CONGRATULATIONS
and THANK YOU
 for sharing your stories with us!



Mary Anderson Huffaker—Age 93
August 16, 1921
 celebrated in Cottonwood



Who? What? When?

In the May *Courier*, we initiated a discussion about the names of streets and roads in Cornville, with the question "I wonder how they came up with this street name?" The Cornville Historical Society is gathering a file to document streets, for whom they were named, when they were named, or simply the stories behind the names. Already, we have received these responses:

Fern Drive & Bright Way: "The roads mentioned, i.e. Fern Drive, Bright Way, were named by me when I subdivided that area many years ago, circa 1959-60." **Rattlesnake Road:** "The Rattlesnake Road was suggested by Janet Scherf, who lived at its very end. I had originally granted right-of-way across my property in order for those persons living in that area, and Mrs. Scherf asked me if I would support that name; and I stated I would, so papers were drawn up to petition the County for the name Rattlesnake Road. I signed them, along with others living in the area and the rest is history." —*Harley Thompson, Sedona*

Sugar Loaf Road: "We had a chicken farm and got feed by the truckload. There was a bad bug in some grains and a Federal inspector came to check ours, which were o.k. But he needed a named location, so since the unpaved road turned off Loy Road (then unnamed) I suggested Sugar Loaf Road, so it entered some probably long forgotten federal registry as Sugar Loaf

Road ... I don't remember the date, but it was before the controversy about paving Loy Road. **Loy Road:** "I think the leaders for paving probably named the streets that took off from now Loy Road. My guess ... is that Loy Road was named for the long-time resident Loy/Lay family rather than any specific person (*Mrs. Lay was a Loy*). I don't remember the name of anyone on the paving committee, but obviously many roads are named for family residents at that time. I told them that Sugar Loaf Road was already federally listed. —*Mary S. Huffaker, Cottonwood*

Loy Road: "I believe Loy Road was paved in two sections. The first one mile was paved just short of Derrick Lane around 1970. The rest was paved ... in the late 70's. Before it was paved it was a rough and extremely washboard road. Not fun." —*Dan Derrick, Cornville*

Among the many we'd like to learn about are: Zale Drive, Priscilla Lane, Maggie Lane, Derrick Lane, Whatever Way, Aspaas (*both North and South*), Greenwell, Mel's Road, Slipher, Baxter, Mulcaire, Manley, Koch Ranch, Mountain View, Tissaw, Lee Pasture. Every road in Cornville must have a story behind it. If you know anything about the streets of Cornville, share your information by email at janetcassagio@me.com or mail to Cornville Historical Society, PO Box 1200, Cornville, AZ 86325. We would love to hear from you and will continue to share any information in the *Cornville Courier*.

Society Awarded \$1,000 Grant from Yavapai Community Foundation

In August, the Cornville Historical Society received a welcome grant from the Yavapai Community Foundation, for \$1,000. The successful application was filed in March to help pay for "*construction materials, display items, planning, design and fabrication of window exhibits to portray postal history of the 'Old Cornville Post Office and Store', a historic structure built in 1909, moved four times, and now back on its original site in the heart of Cornville.*" The funds have been deposited in the Cornville Post Office Fund, where tax-deductible donations are always welcome to Cornville Historical Society, PO Box 1200, Cornville, AZ 86325. The old landmark was moved to its current site in December 2012; and the restoration project relies on donations and volunteer help.

Annual Membership Drive Underway

Reminder letters are on the way to all members, friends and business leaders inviting them to join or renew their membership dues for Calendar Year 2015. We are pleased to have 76 members in good standing, as of October 2014. 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. **If you are already a member, please renew; and if not, please consider joining the Cornville Historical Society!** Restoration of the old Cornville Post Office is our primary project, but 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 Don Welcome at donwelcome@q.com or 649-3340.

Cornville Historical Society 2014-15 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; Don Godard 301-5160; Cindy Snyder, 649-9628 or wheelz156@msn.com; Muffy Valley, 639-9558 or valley@q.com