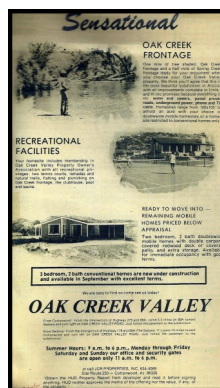


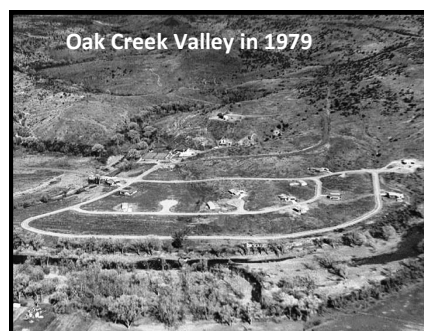
parcel. That acreage was purchased from the William T. Smith Estate by Dr. Carroll and Edith Creighton in 1947. Creighton farmed the land and the family enjoyed spending weekends there. Dr. Creighton was a “farmer at heart” and enjoyed getting away from his busy medical practice in Flagstaff. In 1957, the Creightons sold the property to Frank & Bernice Bolen. During the Creighton years, the ranch house was located where the OCV gatehouse is now. A barn, outbuildings, garden and orchards were nearby (Unit 2); the pasture was across Spring Creek (Unit 1). During those years, the swimming hole at the bend in Oak Creek became known as “Creighton Hole” and was popular with residents from throughout the Verde Valley. The next thing we know is that the property was owned by Louise Lincoln Kerr, a well-known Scottsdale patron of the arts. The land was apparently held by Kerr for several years. She also owned other property nearby, including 40 acres up Spring Creek, which became the site of the John Waddell home & studio in 1971. The same year, Kerr also sold the 120-acre parcel that was to become Oak Creek Valley to Larry Eversull and his partners.

## Planned Area Development

When the partnership, dba Arizona Sonora Corp, took over the property in 1971, the entrance road was impassable and the farm buildings were gone. The partnership is credited with the original design and development of Oak Creek Valley, a true “planned area development” before its time! In just three years, by 1974, the basic infrastructure was complete, with 185 building lots, a road system, utilities, a unique bridge across Spring Creek, security gate, gatehouse, a park, clubhouse, pool, tennis courts, a sales office (Lot 43), a couple homes and 40 acres of open space. A grand opening celebration was held in



August 1974. Despite intensive marketing efforts, the development struggled. After Eversull sold his interest, the remaining partners considered options, including a recreational vehicle time-share community, which met strong public opposition. In 1977, Jay Robertson was asked by First Federal Savings to evaluate the property and its future. Ultimately, he formed JCR Properties and purchased the land, becoming the final developer. He brought in manufactured homes and built spec homes. During his tenure, Robertson oversaw a burst of development. He lived in the community himself—in the clubhouse for a time and later in homes on Lots 18 and 176. In 1978, Robertson invited a crew of NAU students to excavate the Sinaguan pueblo behind the clubhouse. In 1979, there were 14 homes in Unit 1; and one in Unit 3. By the late eighties, all lots were sold and JCR turned the property over to the OCV property owners association.



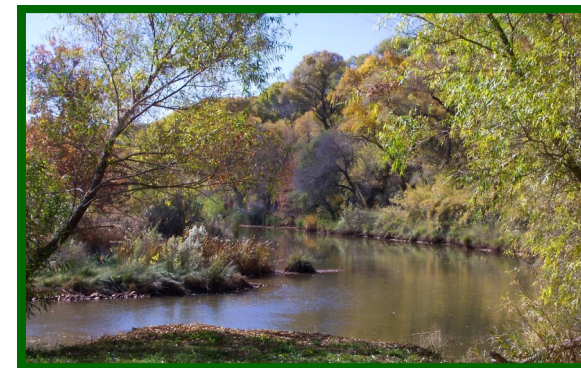
## Residential Area

The first POA president was Dave Denure, who purchased his family home on Lot 46 in 1978. The Oak Creek Valley Property Owners Association continues to administer a thriving community that has grown to 151 homes. Situated at the confluence of two perennial streams and surrounded by National Forest land, the neighborhood features beautiful green space, wildlife, dark sky, a quiet secure atmosphere, big views and amazing sunsets!



**Photo Credits:** Carolyn Creighton Stillman, Larry Eversull; Jay Robertson Family; Cornville Historical Society

# Oak Creek Valley History

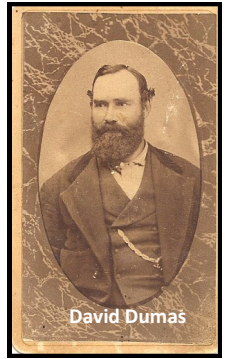


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## Pioneer Settlement

Oak Creek Valley was influenced geologically by an ancient lake and the House Mountain Shield Volcano. It was first inhabited by the ancient Sinaguans in 1150-1325 AD. When the early pioneers, Captain Andrew Jackson and his wife Margaret arrived on Lower Oak Creek in 1875, the area was part of the Rio Verde Indian Reservation. It wasn't until 1877 when it was surveyed and opened to entry. The Jacksons settled on the south side of Oak Creek, near its confluence with Spring Creek and received a homestead patent for 160 acres in 1891. Captain Jackson was a Confederate soldier and the nephew of General Stonewall Jackson. Margaret was the first white woman to arrive in Lower Oak Creek, later to become known as Cornville. Jackson often left his wife on her own to manage the farm and livestock while he was away on various business ventures. Jackson died in 1892; and Margaret continued to run the ranch until her marriage to David Dumas in 1895. Dumas helped farm the land, growing gardens, orchards, and livestock. He developed the Dumas Ditch, which was later filled in and is now Spring Creek Trail. In 1905, the Dumas' sold part of the homestead, including the "Lower Eighty" acres, now Units 1 and 2 of Oak Creek Valley, and



moved to Crescent Moon Ranch near Sedona. David Dumas was active in the community and served as Yavapai County Supervisor for a time. Margaret became known as "Mother Dumas" throughout the Verde Valley for her warm hospitality and sincere welcome and for raising a stepson. She is credited with naming House Mountain, while it once had a rock spire "chimney" that was later destroyed by lightning.

## The Ranch Years

The "Lower Eighty" continued to be fertile farmland, with two irrigation ditches, but little is known about the period from 1905-1947. In 1918, J. Earnest Mahurin homesteaded the "Upper Forty" acres of what is now Unit 3 of



Oak Creek Valley. Mahurin added no structures and apparently only used the land for grazing. At some point, 80 acres of the Jackson Homestead and the 40-acre Mahurin Homestead were merged into one 120-acre

