



CORNVILLE COURIER

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Holiday Fundraiser Event December 11

The Society is pleased to announce its **Annual Holiday Fundraiser Event at Iris Spring Ranch** (part of the historic El Rancho Bonito), 675 Black Hawk Drive in Cornville near Mormon Crossing. The event will take place from **1 to 4 pm, Sunday, December 11, 2016**, and will feature a history presentation by Janet Cassagio, Historical Society researcher and board member, followed by the music and singing of native Cornvillean Alvie Self. The program will be followed by the Society's popular raffle of holiday baskets that feature gift certificates and themed items. Holiday treats and beverages will be served. The event will be outdoors and chairs will be limited; so we recommend you bring a folding chair to assure yourself a seat. In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to Oak Creek School. Let's hope for good weather, as the natural spring-fed pool is not to be missed!



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. Admission will be limited; and advance reservations are required. Reserve a ticket by contacting Cheryl Chamberlain at 639-0865 or wormworm@earthlink.net. Tickets are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. After reserving your ticket, make payment to the Cornville Historical Society, c/o Cheryl Chamberlain, PO Box 1337, Cornville, AZ 86325. Tickets will be mailed in advance or held for pick up at the door.

Board Meetings are Open to All



The Society's Board of Directors meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 10 am to noon, with the opportunity to stay for lunch (*optional*) at Up the Creek Grill, 1975 North Page Springs Road in Cornville. The owners there have graciously offered space and refreshments for the meetings and the opportunity for further discussion and friendship over lunch afterward. The nine-member Board meets monthly from October through March (*except December*); and takes a summer break from May through September. All meetings are open to members and anyone interested in Cornville history. Mark your calendars and come join us!

Muffy Vallely, President

Buy a Memorial Brick for the Old Post Office



Donors are invited to purchase bricks for a memorial path at the historic Cornville Post Office at Windmill Gardens. The new path will meander from a parking lot and past an interpretive sign to the left end of the front porch. The bricks are dark red, with black letters; each can be engraved with three lines of text with up to 18 spaces per line; and the cost is \$50 per brick.

Bricks can be a unique Christmas gift and a thoughtful memorial to a loved one...to honor a person or family, support local history, advertise a business or organization, or commemorate an event. The deadline for placing orders is December 31, 2016. Orders must be accompanied by payment and one order form per brick. Forms are available at Windmill Gardens, 9550 East Cornville Road, and at www.cornville-historical-society.org. For information, call Cindy Snyder at 649-9177, or write to the Cornville Historical Society, P.O. Box 1200, Cornville, AZ 86325.

In Memoriam

Emmitt McMenamin was born in 1920 in Beaver Creek and lived his entire life in the Verde Valley, including the last 55 years in the heart of Cornville. He died on September 14, 2016, after a short illness, in the care of his nieces. As a young man, he served in WW II. Later, he worked for Yavapai County. He enjoyed telling stories about all the roads he worked on in the Verde Valley. His family says “he was a hard-headed man” and “always squeezed a dime”. He was a hard worker, loved dogs and solitude. He is survived by three children and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



Fanita (Robertson) Page was born in Wyoming on August 19, 1921. She died in Cottonwood on October 24, 2016. In 1945, Fanita proudly took on the role of a rancher's wife when she married James E. “Jim” Page, Jr. the grandson of James Page, the Cornville pioneer for whom Page Springs is named. Together, Jim and Fanita established a store, gas station and trailer park on the west side of Oak Creek north of the Page Springs Bridge. In the 1970's, the business became a restaurant (*now Up the Creek Grill*) on historic Page Springs Road. Fanita was preceded in death by the love of her life in 1969. She lived on the family homestead in the heart of Page Springs for over 70 years. She is survived by two daughters, Fay Marie (Jerrie) Mauk and Jeri Lynn (Dale) Spude, and their families.



We remember and honor their contributions to Cornville history.

Visit our Website at

www.cornville_historical_society.org



Seventy Years Ago Electricity Came to Cornville

Imagine what rural life was like in Cornville without electricity. That was the case until 1946, when power lines were finally installed. President Franklin Roosevelt had signed an executive order on May 11, 1935 to create the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) to lend money to small companies and nonprofit cooperatives to help get electricity to rural areas. But, according to Althea Burns, who lived on Page Springs Road in the 1940's, they were promised electricity within a month in 1941 when Pearl Harbor happened and everything stopped. In a 2014 interview she related, *“With five children ... I had lots of laundry to do ... we had a washer with a gasoline motor ... but I couldn't [start it]. So I would heat the water outside on a bonfire in a big wash tub and put it in the washer and so forth, and that was such a job...”* It wasn't until the summer of 1946 before REA began the construction of power lines to Cornville and Lower Oak Creek. According to contributor Derek VanDeren, it was a bonanza for local high school kids looking for summer jobs. One Cornville teenager was Clint Self, who was hired by a company that paid \$15 a month for him and his horse to install poles along Page Springs Road. *“It was a lot more [money] than it is today,”* Clint said in a 2010 interview. *“So I went ahead and worked with them and when we got all the poles on location, I helped them set the poles, and I helped them string the wire and helped them do all the work until all the jobs were complete.”* Local REA companies were later sold to APS. Now, power poles often arrive by helicopter, such as one that recently arrived to serve the Oak Creek Valley neighborhood.



Cornville Historical Society 2016-17 Board of Directors

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