



CORNVILLE COURIER

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The Old Post Office Dedication, June 24

The dedication of the old post office will take place at Windmill Gardens, 9550 East Cornville Road, Cornville, on Saturday, June 24, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

The old Post Office and Store was built by Charles S. Chick in 1909. The two-room structure was moved across the street, to the south side of Cornville Road, in 1914 and a third room was added. Over time, a breezeway and additional family living quarters were added behind it. At times the Chick family had gas pumps and public telephone service available, as well as a small convenience store. The original building was the first commercial business in the heart of Cornville.

The building served as the Cornville Post Office from 1909 until Mrs. Chick retired as postmaster in September 1961. It was then used as her personal residence until her death in 1976. It was sold to Gary Banker, of Banker Insulation, in 1978. The building remained in the same place, vacant, until Gary Banker donated it to Rainbow Acres, for their old west town in 1988. It was moved to their site, at the junction of Middle Verde Road and I17. After the old west town shut down, it was moved again in 2002, by its next owner, Van McDonald, to land he owned off Old Highway 279.

In December 2012, it was moved a fourth time, to its present location, back to where it started! Restoration efforts began in the Spring 2013.

Visit our website at:
www.cornville-historical-society.org

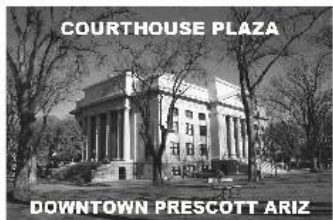
Please join us on June 24 to celebrate and dedicate this icon of Cornville history. Guest speakers will include Tom Thurman, Yavapai County Supervisor; Chip Davis, former Yavapai County Supervisor, who was instrumental in getting the old post office back in Cornville and Judith A. Miller, Past-President and Board Member of the Cornville Historical Society.

Honorary guests will include Chick family descendants; local dignitaries; the Thumb Butte and Yavapai Questers; Bob and Cindy Snyder, owners of Windmill Gardens; past and present U. S. Post Office employees; those involved with the actual move and the numerous volunteers and supporters of this project.

Public tours and light refreshments will follow the ceremony. A special commemorative postmark to remember the event will be available. We hope to see you there!

A Reminder from Our Friends, The Thumb Butte & Yavapai Questers:

ANTIQUES
On The Square



COURTHOUSE PLAZA
DOWNTOWN PRESCOTT ARIZ

Offering a variety of antiques and collectibles
Sponsored by Thumb Butte & Yavapai Questers

★ **JUNE 4TH, 2017** ★
AND
SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2017
9 AM TO 4 PM

Admission and parking are free

928-443-1862
or **928-443-8909**

Annual Meeting March 15, a Winner!

The 12th Annual Meeting of the Cornville Historical Society was held on Wednesday, March 15, 2017, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., at the First Southern Baptist Church, 11340 Circle Dr., in Cornville.

The meeting began with some business. Muffy Valley summarized the Society's activities for the past year. Janet Cassagio presented the financial report for calendar year 2016 and the proposed budget for calendar year 2017, which was approved. Cheryl Chamberlain, Veronica Moody and Cindy Snyder were re-elected as board members for a two-year term. Announcements were made as to upcoming events. The business portion of the meeting concluded.



The program featured a performance by Chris Nelson and Don Godard, reenacting the life of Martha Dunham Summerhayes, with Chris Nelson as Martha, and

Don Godard as her husband, Lieutenant Jack Summerhayes. The performance retold the Summerhayes' adventure from the autobiographical book, Vanished Arizona, first published in 1908. Chris and Don added to it information acquired through additional research into the personal history of the family and the history of the areas through which they traveled.

Wearing period clothing, on loan from Fort Verde State Park, and with large maps, used to illustrate the Summerhayes' travels, they put on an enlightening and enjoyable show. It had a wonderful mixture of historical fact, sarcastic wit and humor. The crowd of more than 75 people were very enthusiastic, and I think it was due much more to the performance than the refreshments! We are grateful to Chris and Don for a wonderful experience.

Board Members on Summer Break

The Society's Board of Directors is on summer hiatus. We will be back to business on October 11, 2017. The nine-member Board meets monthly from October through March (*except December*); and takes a summer break.

From Our Files



Thought this might bring a smile to some of our members!

An undated news clipping, from an unknown paper, labeled 1955, with a photo of Jess Self attached, given to the Cornville Historical Society by Clint Self in 2011:

Nine Races Run in First Meet Sunday

Approximately 250 spectators watched eight horse races and a matched mule race at the Cottonwood fairgrounds Sunday.

Sponsors of the affair, the Verde Valley Fair Association, said another meet has been scheduled for September 4. Race officials are the Verde Valley Rangers.

Blossom, owned by Walter Baxter and ridden by Clifford Baxter, won over Jiminy Cricket, owned by Jack Sullivan and ridden by Bill Pitts, in the first 200-yard race.

The second race was for 250 yards and was won by Colonel, owned and ridden by Ed Wright. Loser was Apache, owned and ridden by Clyde Hance. Third race winner for a quarter of a mile was Tobey, owned and ridden by Don Walters, who ran against Melody, owned and ridden by Don Dowell.

Johnny Verretto's Buster, ridden by Bill Pitts, won a 150-yard race over Wampus, owned by Don Dowell and ridden by Cliff Baxter. Walter Baxter rode Midnight Sun, owned by Frank Zalesky, to win over Purple Sage Kid, owned and ridden by Rusty Verretto.

A horse owned and ridden by Kay Boban won a 250-yard race over a horse owned and ridden by Larry Pierce. Wayne Ewing's Paint lost a 250-yard race to Marks, owned by Pierce Rhodes, and ridden by Bill Pitts.

Jess Self had the fastest mule over a mule owned by Jack Moser and ridden by Don Godard. The race was for 200 yards.

Three horses entered the free for all which was won by Bill Pitts riding his own horse. Cliff Baxter came in second and John Pendergrass last.

Cornville Historical Society 2017 – 2018 Board of Directors

Officers: *Muffy Valley* (President), 639-9558 or valley@q.com; *Don Godard* (Vice-President), 301-5160;

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

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

Directors: *Veronica Moody*, 634-9221 or wvmoody@cableone.net; *Nita Rinehart*, 963-1990 or glorylandfarm@gmail.com;

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