



CORNVILLE COURIER

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Annual Meeting, March 20, 2019 – Join Us!

The 14th Annual Meeting of the Cornville Historical Society will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., at the First Southern Baptist Church, 11340 Circle Dr., in Cornville.

The agenda includes the CY 2018 Reports, CY 2019 Proposed Budget and the Election of Board members. Board members nominated for election are: Cheryl Chamberlain, Don Godard, Veronica Moody, Cindy Snyder and Muffy Valley.

Following the business portion of the meeting, we will have a special program featuring Andy Groseta talking to us about the “Cattle Ranching in Cornville and the Verde Valley.” Cattle ranching started in the mid-1870s in Cornville and earlier in some areas of the Verde Valley. Andy Groseta is a third-generation cattle rancher whose family has owned and operated the W Dart Ranch in



the Cottonwood since 1922, almost 100 years. Andy has been active in numerous organizations both in Cottonwood, the Verde Valley and the state.

This program is free to all interested parties. Refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!

Want a Memorial Brick at the Old Post Office?

We had so many requests from people who missed buying our Memorial Bricks, the board has agreed to open the sale of bricks again for a short time. If you missed your chance the 1st time around, contact Cindy Snyder at Windmill Gardens (649-9177) for more information.

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

Holiday Fundraiser Event, December 9 – A Success!

The Society held its **Annual Holiday Fundraiser Event at the Cracchiolo DK Ranch**, at 225 S. Merritt Ranch Road, Cornville. The event took place at **1 pm, Sunday, December 9, 2018**, and featured a history presentation by Janet Cassagio, Historical Society researcher and board member. Attendees heard about the many land owners of the ranch property and the surrounding area over time, from 1877 to the present, as well as the history of the DK cattle brand, which dated back to the 1890s and was probably named for early cattlemen Drew and Kelsey.



The event was held in a barn, open at one end, but comfortable on this sunny December afternoon. Refreshments, donated by our members, were provided throughout the program and about 20 gift baskets filled with merchandise, wine and gift certificates were raffled off. The event netted just over \$1,400 to support historical society activities. Thank you to all those who supported this raffle and bought so many tickets!



Sincere appreciation is extended to University of Arizona, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Arizona Experiment Station, current owner of the ranch, Charlie the ranch manager, Mitch McClaran, Debra Pearson and Bopper Cannon, all of whom made this event possible. Also, thank you to the local businesses and individuals who donated items for the gift baskets including: Blazin’ M Ranch, Canyon Mesa Country Club, Coyote Trails Golf Course, Cornville Mercantile, DA Ranch Wines, Farm a Go-Go, Javelina Leap Vineyards & Winery, Oak Creek Winery, Out of Africa Wildlife Park, Page Springs Cellars & Vineyards, Up the Creek Grill, Verde Canyon Railway, Windmill Gardens and Society board members – past and present. Thanks to all for assisting us to make this event a success.



Once Upon a Creek in Cornville (from our files)



Cattle Ranching in Cornville

Early ranchers included some of our homesteaders: William Munds and his sons, B. F. Copple, the sons of Samuel Dickinson, William Powell, James Page, the Dickison family, the Loy and Lay families, the David Hart family, M. O Dumas (stepson of Maggie Jackson Dumas), Haydee and Lindsey Lane (stepsons of James Page) and Dolph Willard. By the 1890s, the sons of William Fain were ranching in the area and by the early 1900s Linc Smith arrived.

Excerpt from "Pharaoh's Army," subtitled "Farrow's Roundup" by Dale Girdner, (included in a family CD donated to CHS):

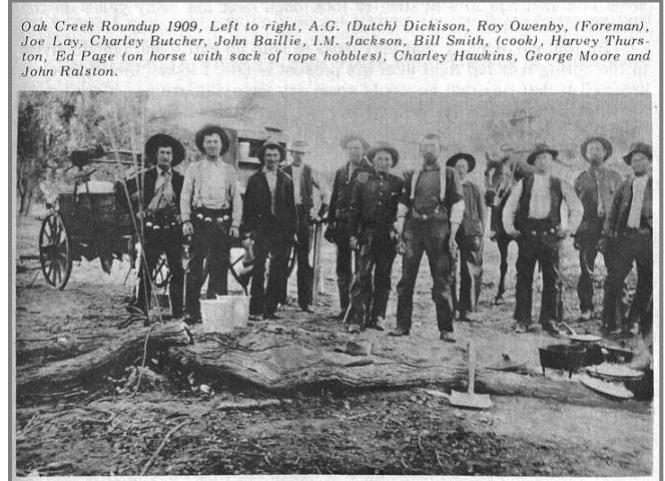
... Over in the Oak Creek Country nearly everybody had a few cattle on the range and there weren't very many fences. Everyone had his brand and earmarks and when we got the cattle rounded up for the day and ready to brand the calves, there was quite an assortment of brands – around 40 or 50.

...John Lee weighed something over 200 pounds and was riding a 1,400-pound horse. Tom Farrow, the roundup boss, asked Lee to drag in the calves to be branded. Whereupon, Mr. Lee, jokingly spoke to ol' Frank Petschauer, who was an ol' Dutchman. Petschauer was sitting on his work horse, with a blind bridle, one spur and about 15 to 20 feet of heavy cotton rope, wadded up and hanging from his saddle. Mr. Lee was saying 'Let Frank drag them in--he's got a good stout rope.' Frank said, "I would, but my rope is too short on one end." (Frank could not rope a calf if it was already tied to a post, laying down.)

Mr. Lee said, "Well, let some of these young bucks catch them--they need the practice." Then added "No, we had better not do that or we will run out of daylight before we get started." After a few laughs around, Mr. Lee says, "If you can get me the loan of a rawhide riata hanging on that greenhorn's saddle over on the other side of the herd, I'll see what I can do." Well John Lee was an expert with a riata, so he shook out a loop, rode into the herd, just past the first calf, dropped a loop around its neck, jerked the slack out and headed out of the herd. When we finished branding something over 100 head, Lee had caught each one without dragging it only a short distance.

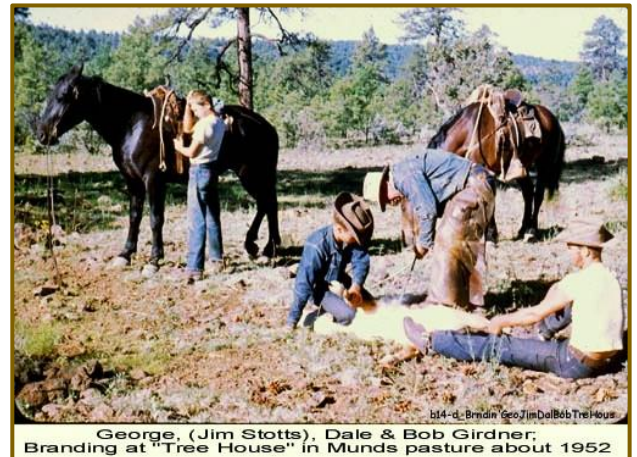
Note: John Lee and Frank Petschauer owned adjacent ranches in Cornville from 1914 – 1937, just south and east of the Girdners.

By the 1910s and 1920s Cornville ranchers included Dale Girdner, George Moore, John H. Lee, Frank Petschauer, Ed Page, Gertrude Lewis Gates and Frank Gyberg, along with second and third generations of the earlier families. Ranching families moved around a lot in the early days, aside from moving from summer to winter headquarters, they often moved around the Valley.



Oak Creek Roundup 1909, Left to right, A.G. (Dutch) Dickison, Roy Owenby, (Foreman), Joe Lay, Charley Butcher, John Baillie, I.M. Jackson, Bill Smith, (cook), Harvey Thurston, Ed Page (on horse with sack of rope hobbles), Charley Hawkins, George Moore and John Ralston.

From Images of America, Verde Valley, by William L. Cowan



George, (Jim Stotts), Dale & Bob Girdner, Branding at "Tree House" in Munds pasture about 1952

From Girdner family CD in CHS files



From Eugene Waldroup photos via Dan Derrick, (pre-1910): Dick Richardson, Bill Clift, Bill Dick, Jim Rely, Frank, Bill, Alf & Ed Dickinson, Chancy Townson, Clarence Marshall, Meritt Fisher, John Fain, Tack Gaddis, William Schroeder, Les Hart & John Lee

Cornville Historical Society 2017 – 2018 Board of Directors

Officers: Nita Rinehart 963-1990 (President), Diana Stipek, 639-3632 (Vice-President),

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Directors: Don Godard, 301-5160; Veronica Moody, 634-9221 or wvmoody@cableone.net;

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