



# CORNVILLE COURIER

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## Holiday Fundraiser Event, December 8 – Join Us!

The Cornville Historical Society is pleased to announce its Annual Holiday Fundraiser Event at Tres Hermanas Ranch, 10647 E. Swinging Bridge



Ln., Cornville, AZ. The event will take place from 1 to 4 pm, Sunday, December 8, 2019, and will feature a history presentation by Society researcher Janet Cassagio. The program will be followed by our popular basket raffle featuring gift certificates and themed items. Holiday treats and beverages will be served. The event will be inside an open barn and chairs will be limited, so bring a folding chair if you can, to assure a seat.

Cost of the event is \$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 to 150 attendees; and reservations are required in advance. Tickets are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Reserve a ticket by contacting Janet Cassagio, 649-1426 or [janetcassagio@me.com](mailto:janetcassagio@me.com). After reserving your ticket, send payment to Cornville Historical Society, c/o Janet Cassagio, P.O. Box 1253, Cornville, AZ 86325. Tickets will be mailed (if requested and time allows) or held for pick up at the door.

## Memorial Brick Sale at the Old Post Office Complete

In response to many requests, the board agreed to open the sale of memorial bricks again for a short time this past spring. 25 new bricks were ordered and received. Watch for them to be installed on an extended pathway in the near future.

## Annual Meeting, March 20, 2019 – Done!

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cornville Historical Society was 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 included the CY 2018 Reports, CY 2019 Budget and the Election of Board members. Board members elected: Cheryl Chamberlain, Don Godard, Veronica Moody, Cindy Snyder and Muffy Vallely. Refreshments were available throughout the meeting.

Following the business portion of the meeting, we had a special program featuring Andy Groseta. Andy spoke to us about Cattle Ranching in Cornville and the Verde Valley. He is a third-generation cattle rancher whose family has owned and operated the W Dart Ranch in the Verde Valley since 1922. He presented a vivid view of cattle ranching and other topics such as water issues in the valley. A question and answer period followed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm.



## Cornville Historical Society is now on Amazon Smile

Please consider adding us to your list of donors at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/80-0598087>. By doing so, we will receive .5% of the amount you spend on Amazon, with no additional cost to you. Thank You!

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## In Memoriam

**Robert Graves Loy** was born on February 7, 1924 in Prescott, Arizona. He died December 16, 2018. Robert was the son of Edward Loy (1896 – 1966) and Priscilla Graves Loy (1895 –



1987). His father, Edward, was the son of William Loy (1861 – 1932) and Nellie Carrier Loy (1870 – 1945). William and Nellie moved to Loy Road in 1917, purchasing 80 acres of land. Their four children, including their daughter, Inez, came with them. At the time,

Inez was married to Joe Lay and the Lay family bought the 80 acres south of the Loys. Robert's mother, Priscilla, arrived on Loy Road in the same year, 1917, as the first schoolteacher for the Cornville School (1917 – 1946), located on the Loy property. Edward and Priscilla married in 1921 and had six children. Robert Loy was their eldest son. He was a WWII veteran who lived in Cornville from his birth until he went into the service in 1943. He lived in Cornville again after his service; married Virginia Greenwell, another Cornville resident born on Loy Road, in 1951. They had five children and moved around a bit before returning to Loy Road in retirement. Robert was always very helpful filling in information about the history of Cornville and answering numerous questions for us.

**Margaret Elizabeth Chick-Miller** was born August 22, 1917 in Cornville, and died on August 10, 2019, in Phoenix, AZ, just short of her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday. A life-long resident of Arizona, Margaret was the daughter of Charles Sidney Chick (1863 – 1931) and Jessie Mae Cox Chick (1891 – 1976). Her parents served as Cornville's postmasters from 1909 until 1961. Margaret grew up in Cornville until she left to attend Arizona Teacher's College in Flagstaff. She graduated and went on to get her master's degree in education from ASU. She taught school in Arizona for more than 36 years. Margaret was preceded in death by her three sisters; her husband of 59 years, Harold Miller (1923 – 2002); her son, Michael; and two infant children. She is survived by her son, Robert and his wife, Pat; her daughter Marilyn Waite and her husband, Grant; her daughter-in-law, Cheryl; 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Margaret and her family have been very supportive, both in time and money, of our efforts to move and renovate the old post office/family home, which her father built, and in which she grew up.



**We remember and honor these descendants of our Cornville pioneers.**

### Reminder: It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

Membership renewal applications are on the way. Please return them (with your payment) by February 10 to stay in good standing. Any questions contact Don Welcome at (928) 649-3340 or email at donwelcome@q.com.

## Once Upon a Creek in Cornville (from our files)



### Women Register to Vote in Cornville in 1913

2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women's right to vote. But Arizona was a bit progressive 100 years ago. When Arizona became a state in 1912, the new state constitution allowed only men over the age of 21 to vote. An extensive campaign that year for women's suffrage put an initiative on the ballot for the state's first general election on November 5, 1912. Women won the right to vote by a landslide victory.

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the suffrage movement, I thought it would be fun to share some facts about the women who registered to vote for the first time in Cornville.

As it is today, in order to vote in the General Elections, a person must register to vote prior to Election Day. In Arizona, the voter registration lists were maintained in The Great Register. Since women won the right to vote in the 1912 General Election, the first time they could register to vote was in the spring of 1913. The 1912 - 1913 Great Register for the Oak Creek District, which included Cornville, Page Springs and the Red Rock Loop area, includes the following:

#### *From the Great Register 1912 – 1913: Oak Creek District*

Total number of voters registered between August 1, 1912 and May 1, 1913:	79
Number of males registered through the end of December 1912:	41
Number of males registered between January 1 and May 1, 1913:	8
Number of females registered between March 25 and May 1, 1913:	30
Total males listing residence as Cornville:	27
Total males listing residence as Oak Creek:	22
Total females listing residence as Cornville:	4
Total females listing residence as Oak Creek:	26

The residences listed could be a bit misleading. For example, Henry and Dorette Shuerman and David and Margaret Dumas, all living in the Red Rock Loop area list their residence as Cornville, while many of those living in Page Springs list Oak Creek as their residence. You also have some, like James and Julia Page, Linc and Adda Smith and James and Nola Girdner, listing both, with the men listing Cornville and the wives listing Oak Creek. Some neighbors followed the same pattern.

Other interesting information included ages and occupations. All men listed their actual ages. Only five of the 30 females listed their ages; the other 25 listed their age as "over 21." The oldest person to register and one of the five females to list her age was Margaret Jackson Dumas at the age of 77. The men

listed their occupations as mostly farmers, ranchers and cattlemen, with a few others including carpenter, beekeeper, mail carrier, trapper, stonemason, clerk, sand picker and postmaster (for Charles S. Chick). The women were a little less varied, with 25 of the 30 saying housekeeper. The other five listed rancher (Julia Page and Gertrude Lewis Gates), teacher, one "not any," and Miss Jessie Cox, a poultry farmer, who became Mrs. Jessie Cox Chick, postmaster.

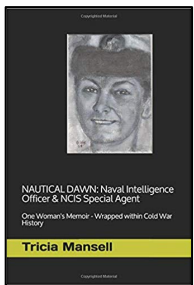
The women may have been able to keep their age a secret, but the Recorder did make note of their height, weight and ethnicity. The registrants also had to list where they were born, if they could read English, and had to sign the register. The honor for the first women to register to vote in the Oak Creek District goes to Nola Girdner, who registered on March 25, 1913. The Girdner family were long-term residents of Cornville, originally owning 49 acres on Swinging Bridge Lane.

## Books – New Releases

### Pioneer Stories of Arizona's Verde Valley

The Camp Verde Historical Society has announced the 5<sup>th</sup> printing of Pioneer Stories of Arizona's Verde Valley, copyright 2019, Glorybound Publishing. This book was first published by the Verde Valley Pioneers Association in 1933. It was updated and expanded in 1954. The last (4<sup>th</sup>) printing of this book was by the Camp Verde Historical Society in 1972. Copies have not been easy to find. If you are interested in purchasing this beautiful, updated version, visit the Camp Verde Historical Society at 435 S. Main St., Camp Verde, or call (928) 567-9560. The price of the book is \$20 for members of the Camp Verde Historical Society and \$23 for non-members.

### Nautical Dawn: Naval Intelligence Officer & NCIS Special Agent



In her recently released memoir, Cornville's very own, Tricia Mansell, provides insight into one of Cornville's early families and reveals the positive impact on a person's character from having a rural upbringing in a loving family.

Cornville's Windmill Park is on a portion of the 80-acre ranch purchased in 1935 by

Tricia's maternal grandfather Carl Fuller. Portions of this ranch stayed in the family until the early 1980's.

Tricia lived in Cornville with her mother, Evelyn (Carl Fuller's daughter), her father, Marvin, who worked for many years at the Page Springs Fish Hatchery and her brother, Robert .

Tricia, known by some at the time as Patricia or Pat, attended Cornville's Oak Creek Elementary School from 1958 to 1963 completing grades 1 through 6 in only five years. Tricia went on to graduate with honors from Mingus Union High School in Jerome. Then, after graduating from Northern Arizona University three years later, Tricia launched herself onto a career trajectory that would've challenged any man but was unheard of for a woman in 1972. Tricia's memoir takes readers from warm family life in Cornville on an amazing tour of the world and then shows them how to adventure on with family in tow.

More specifically, Tricia Mansell's memoir is a fascinating read especially for anyone interested in a first-person account of many portions of America's Cold War past. Adding to the fascination is the author herself since the account is told from the unique perspective of one of the very first women to take on the adventurous role of a United States Naval Intelligence Officer and to then advance further into being one of the very first women to work as an NCIS Special Agent. As a woman ahead of her time during male domination of the military intelligence services, Tricia's experiences were wide-ranging from shocking to humorous. Having come to these experiences in seemingly unavailable career choices from the very modest, rural background of Cornville, Arizona, Tricia Mansell gives the reader hope for both incredible personal achievement and a rich family life. This book is available on Amazon.

### **OLLI Local History Program**

The Cornville Historical Society is proud to join with five other historical societies (Camp Verde, Clarkdale, Cottonwood, Jerome and Sedona) to present classes on local history as part of the Yavapai College Osha Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). The classes will run six sessions, with each historical society presenting one of the sessions. The classes will be offered three times a year, at the Sedona Campus in the fall, the Clarkdale Campus in the winter and the Camp Verde Library in the spring. This fall classes run October 8 through November 12, with the Cornville Historical Society presenting on November 12.

### **Cornville Historical Society 2017 – 2018 Board of Directors**

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

*Cheryl Chamberlain* (Secretary), 639-0865 or [wormworm@earthlink.net](mailto:wormworm@earthlink.net);

*Janet Cassagio* (Treasurer), 649-1426 or [janetcassagio@me.com](mailto:janetcassagio@me.com)

**Directors:** *Don Godard*, 301-5160; *Veronica Moody*, 634-9221 or [wvmoody@cableone.net](mailto:wvmoody@cableone.net);

*Cindy Snyder*, 649-9628 or [wheelz156@msn.com](mailto:wheelz156@msn.com);

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