



# CORNVILLE COURIER

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### Board News – We are still here!

The Coronavirus caused the cancellation of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cornville Historical Society on Thursday, March 19, 2020. The board did not meet again in person until March 31, 2021. As a result of this unplanned hiatus, the board did take some steps to ensure to continuance of the historical society.

Since the election of board members could not be held at the 2020 annual meeting, the continuing board members appointed the nominated board members for two-year terms. Appointed members included: Tracey Campbell, Janet Cassagio, Sharon Morehouse, Nita Rinehart and Diana Stipek. Because we were still unable to schedule large gatherings in March 2021, we once more did not hold an annual meeting. For a second time, the continuing board members appointed those whose terms were expiring to additional two-year terms. These appointees included: Cheryl Chamberlain, Veronica Moody and Cindy Snyder. Unfortunately, Don Welcome had to resign his board position. Don served on the board and as Membership Chair since 2014. We surely regret his departure and wish him well in his new adventures.

After all these appointments and departures, the current Board of Directors for 2021 – 2022 consists of Tracey Campbell, Janet Cassagio, Cheryl Chamberlain, Sharon Morehouse, Veronica Moody, Nita Rinehart, Cindy Snyder and Diana Stipek. There is one vacant board position.

The board generally meets five times per year in October, November and January to March and organizes the Holiday Meeting and the Annual Meeting. If any member reading this is interested in filling this vacancy and serving on the board, please contact Sharon Morehouse at (928) 634-8927 or [stevsharmor@msn.com](mailto:stevsharmor@msn.com).

At its March 31, 2021 meeting, the board elected the following officers for 2021 – 2022: Sharon Morehouse, President; Diana

Stipek, Vice President; Cheryl Chamberlain, Secretary; and Janet Cassagio, Treasurer.

### Help! The Cornville Historical Society needs a Membership Chair and Membership News

With the regrettable departure of Don Welcome, the Cornville Historical Society needs a Membership Chair. While a bit hectic at membership time, the overall job is not very time-consuming and is simplified through the use of Excel. If you would like to know more about what is required and would like to volunteer to help the organization with this task, please call or email Janet Cassagio at (928) 649-1426 or [janetcassagio@me.com](mailto:janetcassagio@me.com).

Speaking of membership... because we have not held any meetings since February 2020, membership renewal letters were never sent out. For those of you who automatically sent in your 2021 dues, THANK YOU! For those of you who would like to support us and continue your membership in the society, I have attached a copy of the membership form to this newsletter. Hopefully, for 2022 we will have a new membership chair to take care of this task.

### Old Post Office Update

A big thank you to Bob and Cindy Snyder and their employee, Janice, for decorating the old post office for every holiday! After a long break, work is continuing on the interior of the post office. The exterior has just been painted and the roof repaired, thanks to Patrick Shamrell. The strong, hot Arizona sun does take its toll and painting needs to be done every few years.

The memorial brick pathway has been extended and the additional bricks that were ordered and delivered in early 2020 are installed. The concrete is curing. Make sure to visit and check out the additional names added.

### Holiday Meeting – Watch for an Announcement!

The board is hoping to hold its Holiday Meeting this December with a presentation about Cornville schools by Janet Cassagio. If you have any photos you would like to share, especially from the 1950s to the current time, please contact me at (928) 649-1426 or [janetcassagio@me.com](mailto:janetcassagio@me.com).

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

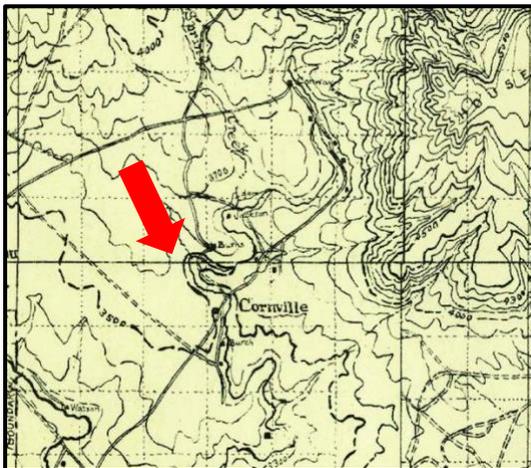
### Cornville Road



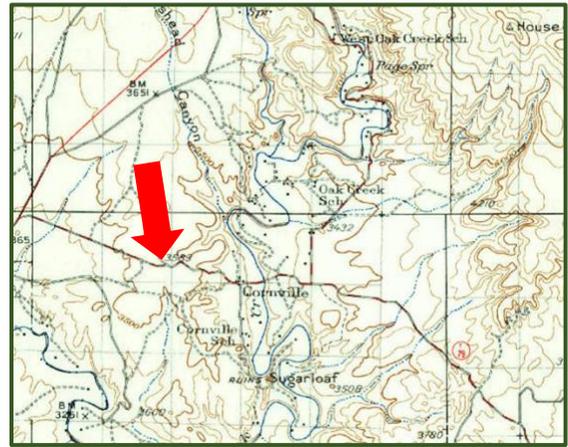
Almost 100 years ago, the November 11, 1921 issue of The Coconino Sun carried an item on page 5, entitled, "New Cornville Road Will Bring Lakes Closer." The story, verbatim, stated:

"Construction of a road from Cornville eastward to the Camp Verde-Flagstaff highway is now under way, according to C. S. Chick, postmaster of Cornville, who was in town on business today. Two of Yavapai county's road crews are engaged in this work. One crew is camped just across Oak Creek from Cornville. This is under the direction of Foreman W. E. Jones. J. H. York is in charge of the other party, which is encamped near where the highway crosses Dry Beaver creek. Altogether about ten miles of road is to be built. It will cut 22 miles of the distance from Cottonwood to the Stoneman lake and Apache Maid country. The new road will be important to the Verde district in many ways. For one thing, it will make the fishing and hunting of Stoneman and Mormon lakes much more accessible. It will vastly reduce the cost of bringing lumber and fuel wood from the forests of the lake country. At present little lumber and wood is brought from that section to this district because of the high cost of transporting it around by way of Camp Verde. According to Chick, the Cornville route should be open practically all the year, with the exception of February and March when high water makes the Oak Creek crossing unfordable for weeks at a time. Throughout the remainder of the year the crossing is an easy one, except for freshlets which never last more than a few hours. Eventually, of course, it is hoped to have the creek bridged at Cornville. – Jerome News."

An excerpt from the 1923 USGS Map, which was an amended version of the 1877 survey map, does not show a road located where Cornville Road was routed:



But by 1932, the USGS Map, updated to a new version, clearly shows Cornville Road:



Apparently, things worked out well in terms of the hoped-for bridge, as announced in The Coconino Sun, on April 13, 1923, on page 9, in item entitled, "To Celebrate Opening of the Cornville Bridge," which reported: "Cornville is going to have a big celebration on the occasion of the new Oak Creek bridge for traffic, which will probably be about a month hence. A meeting of Oak Creek farmers has already been held and a committee composed of C. S. Chick, John Girdner, John Hurst, Fred Berman and John Lee was appointed to make arrangements for a celebration that will throw into the shade the one that was held at Bridgeport on the occasion of the completion of the Verde bridge. People from all over Yavapai county will be invited and, if possible, some state official will be persuaded to deliver the principal address. Just when the bridge will be completed is still problematical but rapid progress is now being made and it should be finished by the end of this month. Possibly the celebration can be held on May day. – Jerome News."

An article in The Coconino Sun, page 8, dated September 25, 1925, entitled, "Much Damage Done by Recent Storm in Valley," describes a storm that reportedly dumped eight inches of rain in Bridgeport. After describing in detail damage done all over Cottonwood and Clemenceau to numerous individual's property, it adds, "Major W. W. Midgley of the board of supervisors came down to Cottonwood and passed on out into the country to ascertain the damage done to the country roads and found that there will be much of the road to be virtually rebuilt. Every culvert and dip are gone or damaged and the east approach of the bridge at the Verde crossing is badly washed and in rather dangerous condition. The Cornville road was under water for half a mile from the forks of the road toward Cornville and the dip first to be encountered beyond the bridge was almost completely carried away by the force of the water. A portion of it weighing approximately three tons was carried almost 150 feet from its place in the road and left half buried in the sand. Midgley could go no further on account of the condition of the road. South of this badly washed dip there was a veritable lake embracing a great deal of farm land. For miles along the highways the capping is damaged and in places entirely carried away. So great was the havoc wrought that the major phoned the county engineer to come over and plan on some means of making the roads passable... the

roads must be repaired and ... the approaches to the bridges that washed out and the threatened tearing out of the east approach of the bridge at Bridgeport must be done... Reports from Spring Creek are that the ranch occupied by M. W. Cross was almost entirely washed away is found true and Joseph Hofer suffered several hundred dollars loss in tools, land and implements on his homestead above Cross' ranch."

It seems the bridge over the Verde River in Bridgeport was carried almost 150 feet from its place in this article, but the Cornville bridge was damaged over the years as well. The Major Midgley mentioned is W. W. Midgley, best remembered for Midgley Bridge. He owned 160 acres of land at the intersection of Loy Rd. and Cornville Rd., going ½ mile south and east, from December 11, 1917 until he sold the north half (west of Oak Creek) to Joseph and Katherine Greenwell on March 23, 1921. He sold the south half to Frank Gyberg sometime after WWI.

Gene Gyger shared a story from his mother Evelyn, about his grandfather, Cornville homesteader Jules Warlop: "During one of the occasional floods, the Cornville bridge across Oak Creek was moved about 100 feet downstream. It was a two-lane concrete slab bridge about 20 feet wide and about 300 feet long with 2-inch pipe railings. The bridge had concrete footings, but they were not set in rock, just in sand. Some engineers ... determined that the bridge could not be salvaged... Somehow, Jules convinced the lead engineer that if the county would pay for a couple of crews of men and a couple teams of horses, Jules would set the bridge back in place... They gave him what he wanted... Once stabilized, the bridge never again moved until it was replaced with a new bridge." A photo, courtesy of Eugene Waldroup via Dan Derrick, labeled "Cornville Bridge – flood," shows flood damage in 1935.



An interesting note to add about the name of Cornville Road is a survey filed in 1938 referred to the road as Beaver Creek Road and dozens of deeds filed as far back as 1949 and as recent as 2018 referred to it as Montezuma Castle Highway. Jeff McNeice, from Yavapai County Public Works explained that the road was officially made a county road on May 5, 1938 and at that time the county named it Beaver Creek Road from 89A (then highway 79) to Dry Beaver Creek, about a mile before the I17 intersection. He added, prior to 1938 it was called the Bridgeport – Montezuma Castle Highway. He also said the original road built in the 1920s was done so using funds from the Federal Aid to Secondary Highways project. In 1938, the last mile between Dry Beaver Creek Road and I17 was called Montezuma Highway.

Jeff believes in 1938, the road was not paved but had a similar base as Highway 79, a 2" oil cake. County records show the 1923 bridge was replaced in 1962 with some modification as to where it was placed. It was not until 2001, when the county passed Resolution #1276 that the official name of the road became Cornville Road from 89A to I17. The resolution was passed to end the confusion as to the name of the road. Unfortunately, Jeff was unable to find a record indicating when the road was paved for the first time.

### Cornville Historical Society is on Amazon Smile

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#### Cornville Historical Society 2021 – 2022 Board of Directors

**Officers:** Sharon Morehouse (President), 634-8927 or [stevsharmor@msn.com](mailto:stevsharmor@msn.com); Diana Stipek (Vice-President), 639-3632  
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:** Tracey Campbell, 634-0042 or [traceycampbell3@yahoo.com](mailto:traceycampbell3@yahoo.com); Veronica Moody, 634-9221;  
Nita Rinehart 963-1990; Cindy Snyder, 649-9628 or [CindySnyder9550@gmail.com](mailto:CindySnyder9550@gmail.com)

# Cornville Historical Society, Inc.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Cornville Historical Society, Inc. was established in 2004 to communicate the history of Cornville through inventory, preservation and presentation. In honor of the community's 120th Birthday celebrated in July 2005, the Society established a membership base, where the first 120 members are considered founding members. The Society filled its 120-member "Charter Roster" in March 2012. Families who have been in the Cornville area for 50 years or more will be given an honorary membership for the asking. Please join the Cornville Historical Society and be a part of this historic moment in time for Cornville, Arizona! Tax- deductible donations are also greatly appreciated.

Dues are payable on January 1 for each calendar year and become delinquent on February 10. categories, with applicable annual dues, are as follows:

Check Appropriate Items:

### RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP

### NEW MEMBERSHIP

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$15)

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$15)

\_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$25)

\_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$25)

\_\_\_\_\_ Business/Organization (\$50)

\_\_\_\_\_ Business/Organization (\$50)

\_\_\_\_\_ Contributing Membership (\$100 or more)

\_\_\_\_\_ Contributing Membership (\$100 or more)

\_\_\_\_\_ Tax-Deductible Donation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Comments?    Interests?    Services to offer?    Contributions?    We welcome your ideas!

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Please send this application and payment to:  
Cornville Historical Society, P.O. Box 1200, Cornville, AZ 86325  
For information contact:  
Janet Cassagio, Treasurer, 649-1426 or [janetcassagio@me.com](mailto:janetcassagio@me.com)