



CORNVILLE COURIER

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Apache Maid
Mountain



Winter
Ranch
Entry

Happy Birthday Cornville!

This year, Cornville celebrated the 138th anniversary of the Cornville Post Office, established on July 9, 1885. To honor the occasion, the Cornville Community Association hosted a history presentation at its quarterly community meeting on July 11. CCA Director John Alvey produced a surprise "Birthday Banner" and Director Judy Miller showed a power presentation about the Society and the role that Page Springs pioneer Henry Mortimer Cone played in the naming of the community. The banner is now a special part of the Society's collection; and John, who was raised in Cornville and runs Alvey Signs in Cottonwood, is a new honorary member of Cornville Historical Society! Anyone who has lived in Cornville for 50 years or more is eligible for an honorary membership! To join, go to www.cornville-historical-society.org.



Apache Maid Ranch Here We Come

The Cornville Historical Society is pleased to announce its Annual Holiday Fundraiser Event at the Apache Maid Ranch Lower Ranch Headquarters at 500 East Cornville Road, from 1 to 4 pm, Sunday, December 3, 2023. The event will feature a "Ranching on the Apache Maid" presentation by Don Godard, a well-known Cornvillian with a wealth of knowledge about the Ranch's history. The Ranch was established in the 1880's and has long been one of the biggest ranch operations in northern Arizona, with regular camping spots for seasonal cattle drives. The Apache Maid operation spans over fifty miles eastward from Cornville to its Upper Ranch headquarters beyond its namesake Apache Maid Mountain.

The program will be followed by the Society's popular raffle of a big array of gift baskets that feature gift certificates and themed items. Refreshments will be served. The event will be outdoors by the barn, and seating will be limited, so please bring a lawn chair if you can. There will be **NO SMOKING** allowed anywhere on the property. In case of rain, the event will be moved to Oak Creek School. Let's hope for good weather, so we can all see what is behind that big familiar entry gate!

The cost of the event will be \$10 per person, which includes ten gift basket raffle tickets to be issued at

(Continued on Page 2)

Apache Maid *(Continued)*

the event. Raffle tickets will also be sold at the event for \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. Admission is limited to 120; and reservations are required in advance. Reserve your tickets by calling Karen Wilkens at 920-650-1702 or Pat Nomm at 928-821-0040. After reserving your ticket, send payment to the Cornville Historical Society, P.O. Box 1200, Cornville, AZ 86325. Tickets will be held for pickup at the event.



*Barn at
Lower Ranch*



*Old Ranch
Ruins near
Apache Maid
Mountain*



CHS Board Tours Oak Creek School

On October 18, the Board of Directors met at Oak Creek Elementary School where Cottonwood-Oak Creek District Superintendent Steve King and Oak Creek Principal Julie Tatum met with the group and led a tour of the school and grounds. The school has 240 K-8 students, along with a pre-school program. The group visited kindergarten and pre-school classes, checked out the cafeteria, admired the agriculture classroom and gardens, and saw the new bike trails. The big array of learning opportunities for kids was beyond expectations! The visit was worthwhile and the tour a real eye opener. All agreed that we often overlook the good news about our public schools! Steve and Julie welcome volunteers who have skills to share with kids. To learn more about all the action at Oak Creek Elementary, go to ocs.cocsd.us.



Society News Tidbits

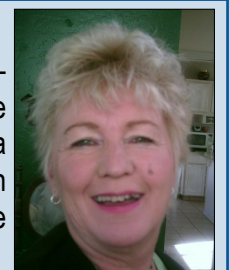
NEEDED: A Cornville History Place: Looking ahead to the future, the CHS is in dire need of a "place" to house records, conduct research and interviews, host meetings, and carry out the Society's business. Since our beginnings in 2004, records and supplies have been stored in private homes or commercial storage units, making our work awkward and ineffective. Now, CHS is seeking a grant for matching funds to lease a suitable space within the community. If you know of any available space, please contact us!

Business Memberships Available: This year, the Board is reaching out to local businesses to increase their representation in the Society. As of now, the Society has ... Individual, ... Family ... and ... Business Members. New members are ALWAYS welcome. Go to www.cornville-historical-society.org to learn more.

Volunteer Energy is Always Needed: We'd like to hear from anyone who has knowledge of local history, has information to offer, and/or is willing to gather data. Contact any board member (see page 4 or go to www.cornville-historical-society.org to offer your help.

Good Wishes for Nita Rinehart

CHS Charter Member Nita Rinehart recently moved to Colorado, leaving one vacancy on the Board of Directors. Nita was the founding president of CHS in 2004. We wish her well in her new home town of Loveland, Colorado!



IN MEMORIAM

Patricia Sobley



Patricia Jo (Greenwell) Sobley 89, passed away May 15, 2023, at the Sobley Ranch in Cornville. Pat was born July 12, 1933 in Smelter City, now part of Cottonwood, to Kenneth & Della (Purtyman) Greenwell. She was a fourth generation Arizona Pioneer Woman, whose great-great-great-grandfather was Bear (Jessie) Howard who homesteaded in Oak Creek Canyon in 1876. Her lineage includes the Purtymun and Thompson families, also early settlers of Oak Creek Canyon. Pat attended the one-room Oak Creek Schoolhouse in Cornville for grades 1-8 and graduated from Cottonwood High School in 1951 as salutatorian. A lifelong resident of Cornville, she met her future husband David in grade school. Pat and Dave operated the P&D Grocery in downtown Cornville from 1957-1968. She worked at the Cornville Post Office from 1985 to 2005. David preceded Pat in death and she is survived by her two daughters Hazel Heydorn (Vance) and Louise Badger (Duane), 6 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Karl T. Frey



Karl T. Frey, son of Ted and Arba Frey, passed away peacefully in his home November 3, 2022, at the age of 91. Karl was a lifetime resident of Arizona, born in Flagstaff and raised in Cornville. He attended Cottonwood High School and after graduating, moved to Winslow where he worked on the AT&SF Railroad. While in Winslow, he met and married Emily Hansen. They moved back to Cornville when Karl retired and made their home in Page Springs. He loved to travel and tinker. He worked on everything from small engines and autos to airplanes. Emily preceded him in death. Karl is survived by a sister, Nancy Frey Self; a brother Cal (Jeanette) Frey; three children, five grandsons, ten great grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. Karl was known as a good, kind man who lived his faith.

Back When: Old PO Move #3

Here's a great photo showing the Old Cornville Post Office when it was on its way from Cowboy Town in Camp Verde to a parcel of land on Highway 260, which is where Cornville Historical Society tracked it down and moved it "back home" in 2012. The photo comes to us by way of CHS Member Steve Schley, who met Bridgeport resident Kevin Skoch, who had the photo. Skoch said "The cost to move it was more than what he paid for it". Thank you for the photo Kevin!

CHS MEMBERS ATTEND CONFERENCE OF YAVAPAI COUNTY MUSEUMS



The Clarkdale Historical Society hosted the first annual conference of Yavapai County Historical Museums on September 17 at the Clark Memorial Clubhouse.

The conference brought together forty representatives from ten museums throughout the County from Chino Valley to Black Canyon. When participants introduced themselves, it was made clear that the group included all Societies who work to preserve history, whether in an actual museum or not. Representing the Cornville Historical Society were: Judy Miller, Sharon Morehouse, Cindy Snyder and Muffy Vallely.

The agenda featured a panel on collaboration among museums and two breakout sessions covered best practices for managing collections, membership and volunteer management. Jennifer Perry, Arizona Community Foundation, gave an informative presentation on endowment and grant programs; and Al Cornello, Cornello Media Services of Sedona, talked about media opportunities.

In all, the conference was a day well spent with opportunities to get to know one another, exchange ideas, and enjoy lunch together in the beautiful clubhouse venue.



Participants all went away with enthusiasm and a commitment to form a network for sharing information and expertise—and to meet again!



ONCE UPON A CREEK



Every now and then, someone calls the Cornville Historical Society with new information to share! That's what happened this summer when Mary Lou Evans of Clarkdale called to see if we'd like to have an article written by Henry L. Giclas, her former colleague at Lowell Observatory. Here are excerpts from a 14-page essay, which he wrote in 1995 to preserve his boyhood memories of a "story of life when it was lived more leisurely ... about a mile north of Page Springs on Lower Oak Creek" at the home of his Uncle Johnny & Aunt Hanna Love.

LOWER OAK CREEK

"On October 1, 1913, Johnny Love married Johannah Leissling, a native of Germany, who had come to Flagstaff with her older sister, Mrs. Eli Giclas [my mother] in 1909 ... By the fall of 1913, Johnny Love had Dolph Willard and his son Chester build a winter home on the five acres at the northwest corner of the Willard ranch that he had purchased from them ... The Dolph Willard ranch on Lower Oak Creek was primarily orchards; apple, pear, peaches, apricots, plums and a few pomegranate trees. Besides selling the fruit as it matured to stores in Jerome, Clarkdale and Cottonwood, Dolph would haul several loads a year by team and wagon to Flagstaff ... For many years Mrs. Love would move from her Flagstaff home on Elm Street to the winter home at Lower Oak Creek on the return of the last wagon delivery to Flagstaff ... My mother and I often accompanied my Aunt Hanna on these trips ...

"Winter life on Lower Oak Creek was always relaxed. With daily fresh milk from the cows, fresh eggs, garden vegetables, and fruit, preserved or canned, no one went hungry. I often went milking with Mr. Willard. He taught me how; but I was too slow to ever take over. There were a couple of cats that usually showed up at milking time. They would sit under the cow's belly and wait for Mr. Willard to give them each a few squirts of milk in their open mouths. It was fun to watch them clean the extra milk off their faces with their tongue and paws. Every so often a pig or calf would be slaughtered and head cheese would be made from the pig ...

"Social life on Lower Oak Creek was quite relaxed, too. Once or twice a week the Loves and Willards would have their meals together. Then there would be exchanges between the farms within walking distance down the creek ... "Every so often the ladies would walk from the Love place down to visit Fay Page ... Fay would always insist that they stay for the next meal, which was always a chicken dinner. Fay would run out and catch a couple of chickens, ring their necks, pick them and pop them in a pot to cook ...

"About once a month the ladies would visit Mrs. Gates on her DA ranch if she was in residence there. Gertrude Lewis Gates was an interesting person, a tall, statuesque lady. She was quite a religious person, and felt she had to be a missionary to the native American Indians ... I once overheard my older aunt say one time that Mrs. Gates liked to dance with the Indians wearing only a G string. ... but now the ranch is known as the "Dancing Apache". I do not know whether this name had anything to do with Mrs. Gates dancing! ... It was a long walk to Mrs. Gates' house on the DA ... and it always entailed taking off shoes and stockings to wade across the creek. Then it was perhaps a half mile from the gate to her red sandstone house ... For many years one of the nice and dependable sounds that echoed up and down in this section of the Creek was the church bell that rang at the DA ranch at noon every day ...

"Mrs. Gates also had a home in Flagstaff for many years ... right across the street from Johnny Love's place on the southeast corner of San Francisco and Elm ... Mrs. Gates was my godmother, so she was entertained often at my house [in Flagstaff] ... [Later] She wanted very much for me and my wife to own the DA ranch and in 1938 quoted us a fantastic good low price. It was not a self supporting ranch and I did not want to give up my \$100 a month job to live and work on the ranch, but I did talk it over with my boss, V.M. Slipher, only to find out a few weeks later that he had bought the ranch for himself.

"One delightful place near the Willard ranch was the bubbling sand springs at the southeast corner of the property ... at the present time this spring is called the LoLoMai Springs. By 1925 Johnny and Hanna Love had discovered the beauties of Southern California ... They never came back to Lower Oak Creek ... The last time I stayed overnight in the Love house at Oak Creek was in the fall of 1927 ... In the spring of 1929 the Loves ... signed an agreement to sell their place to Jacob B. and Aganetha Frey for \$1,250.00. Dolph & Ella Willard had sold what was left of their ranch in the early thirties ... thus ending four decades on Lower Oak Creek.

—By Henry L. Giclas, August 1, 1995

Cornville Historical Society 2023-24 Board of Directors

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Cindy Snyder (*Treasurer*), 928-649-9628 or CindySnyder9550@gmail.com; **Diana Stipek**, 928-639-3632; **Cindy**

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Karen Wilkens (*Membership*), 920-650-1702 or kewilkens500@gmail.com; and one Vacancy