



CORNVILLE COURIER

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Join Us for the Return of our Holiday Event!**
- **Holiday Program – Photos and Info Sought**
- **Help! The Cornville Historical Society needs a Board Member, Membership Chair and a person with computer skills**
- **Reminder: Support CHS at Amazon Smile**
- **In Memoriam**
- **Once Upon a Creek (from our files)**
- **Reminder: Renew your Membership for 2022**

Join Us for the Return of our Holiday Event!

The Cornville Historical Society is pleased to announce its Annual Holiday Fundraiser Event at Oak Creek Elementary School, 11490 E. Purple Sage Rd., Cornville, AZ. The event will take place from 1 to 4 pm, Sunday, December 5, 2021, and will feature a history presentation on Cornville Schools by Society researcher Janet Cassagio.

The program will be followed by the Society's popular raffle of holiday baskets featuring gift certificates and themed items. Holiday treats and beverages will be served. The event is free and open to the public, with raffle tickets to be sold at the event.



Photo from Very Lovingly Yours, Elsie – Adventures of An Arizona Schoolteacher 1913 – 1916, by Barbara Waite 2011

Holiday Program – Photos & Info Sought

The Holiday Meeting this December will include a presentation about Cornville schools by Janet Cassagio. If you have any photos or stories you would like to share, especially from the 1950s to the current time, please contact me at (928) 649-1426 or janetcassagio@me.com.

Help! The Cornville Historical Society needs a Board Member, Membership Chair and a person with computer skills

The current Board of Directors for 2021 – 2022 includes 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.

The Cornville Historical Society also 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. Finally, the historical society is looking for someone with computer skills who could assist us with entering information using Word, Excel and on our website. 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.

Cornville Historical Society is on Amazon Smile

We have earned \$30.89 in donations from Amazon in 2021 to date. Please consider adding us to your list of donors at smile.amazon.com. 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

Frances R. Baxter was born August 27, 1933 in Winters, TX, and died on September 1, 2021, in Cornville. Frances Ruth Seitz married Clifford Carl Baxter on March 8, 1951 in Flagstaff. The couple had 2 children, Diane Metz and Walter Bob Baxter. Frances worked at the Cornville Post Office for 30 years. Frances served on the Board of Directors of the Cornville Historical Society from 2013 through 2016. She willingly shared memories and photos of Cornville residents and landmarks. She had an infectious smile and a keen memory. We will miss her!



Paul Eugene Bird, known as Gene Bird, was born on January 26, 1935 in Glendale, Arizona. He died August 18, 2021. Gene was the son of Lee and Oma Bird and the grandson of Henry and Janey Adams, known affectionately as Mom and Pop Adams, the long-term owners of the Cornville Dance Hall. Gene lived with his parents and brother, Donald, on a ranch on Page Springs Rd. from 1936 – 1945, when the family moved to Sedona. Gene generously shared his memories of growing up in Cornville during an oral history interview with the historical society on October 8, 2016. One of his fondest memories of living in Cornville was visiting his grandparents who lived across the creek and later staying with them at the living quarters they built attached to the dance hall.

We remember and honor these folks with ties to Cornville.

Once Upon a Creek in Cornville (from our files)



Cornville the Geographic Center of Arizona?

The March 20, 1880 issue of The Arizona Sentinel carried an item on page 3, under a column entitled, "Arizona News (from the Miner)," and also appearing in The Weekly Arizona Miner, on March 12, 1880, page 3, stating, "The geographical center of the Territory of Arizona, according to the latest surveys and maps, is on Lower Oak Creek, Verde Valley, Yavapai County,

about 40 miles southeast from Prescott." The area commonly known as Lower Oak Creek in 1880 became Cornville on July 9, 1885.

I am not sure when the description changed between 1880 and 1908, but in The Bisbee Daily Review, July 25, 1908, on page 8, in an article entitled, "Start on Prison Made at Florence," taking information from the Florence Blade, the reporter tells us that Governor Kirby believes the 160-acre prison farm in Florence, located at the geographical center of Arizona, will be a model for other prisons around the country. Florence Prison is about 60 miles southeast of Phoenix.

According to a description of neighborhoods contained on the City of Clarkdale website: "Centerville, the oldest development not in the historic site, along Avenida Centerville off of Arizona State Route 89A. Said to be named for its location at the geographical center of Arizona."

Wikipedia, tells us "Arizona spans about 335 miles (539 km) at its widest and 390 miles (628 km) at its longest, and has an average elevation of about 4,000 feet (1,200 m). The geographic center of Arizona is located in Yavapai County, approximately 55 miles (89 km) east-southeast of the city of Prescott." I am not sure of the source of this information, but at www.netstate.com/states/geography/az_geography.htm it says the same thing.

At Visit Camp Verde, under the tab called Geographic Center, at <http://visitcampverde.com/campverde/geographic-center/>, we find out: "As part of Arizona's 2012 Centennial, the Arizona Professional Land Surveyors conducted a study to determine the Geographic Center of Arizona. They concluded it was located just south and east of the confluence of the Verde River and the East Verde River. After making the exact determination, the APLS decided to award an official designation of the municipality closest to the center. On April 1, 2012, with a proclamation from the governor in hand, representatives of the APLS held a ceremony at Rezoninco Family Park, officially declaring and bestowing bragging rights as the center of the state to the Town of Camp Verde." A photo on the page shows the GIS coordinates as 34° 16' 31.1" N, 111° 39' 36.8" W.

I don't know about you, but Cornville seems like the center of Arizona to me!

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 Janet Cassagio at (928) 649-1426 or email at janetcassagio@me.com.

Cornville Historical Society 2021 – 2022 Board of Directors

Officers: Sharon Morehouse (President), 634-8927 or stevsharmor@msn.com; Diana Stipek (Vice-President), 639-3632

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

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

Directors: Tracey Campbell, 634-0042 or traceycampbell3@yahoo.com; Veronica Moody, 634-9221;

Nita Rinehart 963-1990; Cindy Snyder, 649-9628 or CindySnyder9550@gmail.com