



CORNVILLE COURIER

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Annual Meeting: “Cornville Life in the 70’s”

John Alvey & Buddy Rhodes grew up in Cornville and are still here! Both shared their memories of “Cornville Life in the Seventies” at the Society’s Annual Membership Meeting held at Cross Church at 11340 E. Circle Drive on Saturday, March 23. John & Buddy were introduced as officially “historic” since it’s now been 50 years since the 1970’s!



L to R:
Buddy
Rhodes
and
John
Alvey

Buddy was born in 1954 and is a third generation Cornvillian. His grandmother was part of the Tissaw family. Buddy owns a construction company, Building by Rhodes. He and his wife live in the family home that was built in 1924.

John was born in 1959 and moved to Cornville with his family at the age of 12 in 1972. His mother was born in Jerome. Today, John owns Alvey Signs in Cottonwood and lives on property that was part of the family ranch.

Both speakers recounted their experiences as young men in Cornville with plenty of back and forth humor. Many would be the day they would go exploring early on, not to return until dinner. Chores after school were always a part of life. Wisely, not all adventures were revealed. Both heartily agreed that the whole community looked out for each other, providing help and even discipline if needed. The presentation was recorded for the Society’s oral history files. Thank you Buddy & John!



L to R: Judy, Pat, Cheryl, Karen, Cindy S, Cindy T, and Ginny

New Board Members Elected

A new Board of Directors was elected at the March 23 Annual Meeting; and met immediately after to select officers for the 2024-25 term.

Cheryl Chamberlain will serve as President; **Pat Nomm**, Secretary; and **Cindy Snyder**, Treasurer. **Judy Miller**, **Ginny Rench**, **Cindy Traverso**, **Muffy Vallely** and **Karen Wilkens** are Directors. Karen will continue as Membership Chair; and Judy will serve as Newsletter Editor & Website Monitor. There is one vacancy. The Board takes a summer break and will resume monthly meetings in October. In the Fall, the Board will begin a project to rehab the Old Post Office, with funding from the Arizona Historic Preservation Commission. Planning will also get underway for the next annual Holiday Fundraiser in December.



Help Needed to tell the Story of Page Springs

The Cornville Historical Society (CHS) is interested in gathering information to tell the full story of the history of Page Springs.

Since the 2004, CHS has been a part of several projects:

- Nomination & designation of Page Springs Road as a Yavapai County's first Scenic/Historic Road in 2006, with an accompanying brochure.
- Publication in 2008 of the *Federal Lands Records Review*, showing all original Cornville homesteads.
- Oral histories from Clint Self & Harley Thompson
- Placement of interpretive markers at the Hatchery and Up the Creek Grill in 2014 to mark the original Page Homestead and the historic Gas Station and Store.
- Research of DA Ranch, presented at a Holiday Fundraiser at their lodge in December 2014
- Historic Timeline on display at the AZ Game & Fish Page Springs Hatchery Visitor Center installed in 2015
- Receipt of an excellent article in 2023 by Henry Giclas about his memories of Lower Oak Creek, including Page Springs.

Callers inquire about archeology, old structures, ditches and schools in the area. Sometimes we don't have the answers. There is also interest in learning more about the history of Spring Creek Ranch "over the hill".

Now, a small group is being formed to meet together and figure out how to compile existing information, fill in gaps, and end up with a more complete record, and perhaps a publication and/or audio/visual presentation. We'd like to document the rich history of a this special area where Cornville was first settled along the meanders of Oak Creek—dating from the time it was part of the Rio Verde Indian Reservation, through early settlement and a post office in the late 1880's, cattle ranching, farming, orchards, the coming of electricity, telephones and improved roads, up until today's growth of viticulture, tasting rooms, and tourism! If you have interest or information to share, please join the process! Contact Judy Miller at 928-649-1916 or jdymlraz@gmail.com.

News Tidbits

A Cornville History Center: The Society continues to watch out for an affordable place to house records, conduct research & 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 slow and awkward. Now, CHS has established a special History Center Fund, to lease suitable space within the community. A grant application for \$5,000 has also been filed with the OneAZ Community Foundation for a community impact grant. If you would like to help, send tax-deductible donations to the CHS Future Facilities Fund, P.O. Box 1220, Cornville 86325

Volunteer Help is Always Welcome: 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 2) or go to www.cornville-historical-society.org to offer your help. THANK YOU!

Business Memberships Available: The Society is reaching out to local businesses to increase their representation. As of March 23, the Society had six Business Members. More are welcome! For more information and a membership form, go to www.cornville-historical-society.org.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Happy Birthday Cornville!

Cornville celebrates its 139th Birthday on July 9, 2024.



Cornville Historical Society 2024-25 Board of Directors

Cheryl Chamberlain (President), 928-639-0865 or wormworm@earthlink.net; **Pat Nomm** (Secretary), 928-821-0040 or patnomm@hotmail.com; **Cindy Snyder** (Treasurer), 928-649-9628 or CindySnyder9550@gmail.com; **Judy Miller**, 928-649-1916 or jdymlraz@gmail.com; **Ginny Rench**, 928-300-4899; or rench8@gmail.com; **Cindy Traverso**, 623-337-6332 or fentazme@aol.com; **Muffy Vallely**, 928-639-9558 or vallelylc@gmail.com; **Karen Wilkens** (Membership), 920-650-1702 or kewilkens500@gmail.com; and one Vacancy

CY 2023 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT



OLD CORNVILLE POST OFFICE: The historic original Post Office continues to attract visitors almost daily. Sometimes, people stop there to send their mail! The landmark has become a significant community attraction since it was moved to Windmill Gardens at midnight on December 2, 2012, followed by years of restoration work before it was dedicated June 17,

2017. Remember, you can walk up on the porch and look through the windows at the exhibits inside. As you walk to the porch on the Memorial Brick Walkway, note the names of friends and neighbors. Patrick Shamrell, Dan Derrick and Bob Snyder are the Society's caretakers of the structure.

ANNUAL MEETING: The Society's Sixteenth Annual Meeting was held March 16, 2023, at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church. Following the business meeting, a program featured guest speaker Allen Montgomery, representing the Wyoming Division Historical Society, a model railroad club that has an amazing HO gauge layout right here in Cornville! The business meeting included annual reports, budget approval and election of officers. Refreshments and social time followed.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS: The Society now has 18 individual, 35 Family, 9 Honorary, 1 Contributing and 6 Business Members for a total of 69. New members are always welcome. Find a membership form on the website!

BOARD TEAMWORK: The Board chose to work as a team this year and rotating the role of Presiding Officer and other chores, on a need basis. The Board meets monthly from October through March. Since November, monthly board meetings have been held on the first Wednesday at the home of Board Member Cindy Traverso. Cheryl Chamberlain has continued to serve as Secretary, with help by Pat Nomm. Cindy Snyder is Treasurer. Karen Wilkens is Membership Chair.

CORNVILLE'S BIRTHDAY: At the July 11 Cornville Community Association quarterly meeting at Oak Creek School, Judy Miller presented a "Once Upon a Creek" power point presentation about the Society, focusing on the history of Page Springs and how Cornville got its name. John Alvey of Alvey Signs presented the Society with a surprise Happy Birthday Banner honoring the establishment of the Cornville Post Office on July 9, 1885. The Society furnished refreshments.

APACHE MAID RANCH HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER: The Twelfth Annual Holiday Fundraiser was held on December 5, 2023 at Apache Maid Ranch. The program featured long-time Cornvillian Don Godard, who spoke to a sold-out crowd who came to enjoy the afternoon at the Ranch. Also featured was the popular raffle of holiday gift baskets, along with refreshments. The event raised \$2,000 to help the Society. **Thank you** to everyone who came and supported the Society.

LIFE IN LOWER OAK CREEK: A significant contribution to the Society's records came from Mary Lou Evans of Clarkdale, who donated an article written by Henry L. Giclas, her former colleague at Lowell Observatory. His 14-page essay, written in 1995, offers a wealth of information in his "*story of life when it was lived more leisurely ... about a mile north of Page Springs on Lower Oak Creek*". It was highlighted in the November 2023 issue of the Cornville Courier.

NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE: Three *Cornville Courier* newsletters were issued in 2023: February, May and November. They can be found on the Society's website at www.cornville_historical_society.org. Browse the website sometime for a wealth of information and background on the Society.

BOARD MEMBERS AT WORK: Board members attended the first annual Conference of Yavapai County Museums in Clarkdale on **September 17**, which brought together forty representatives from ten museums throughout Yavapai County. On **October 18**, the Board held its meeting at Oak Creek School, where Principal Julie Tatum hosted lunch and a tour of the school, along with District Superintendent Steve King. Also, Board members, past and present, "single-handedly" planned and carried out the annual fundraiser on **December 3**, which (*for the sixth time since 2014*) featured a Sunday afternoon visit to a local historic ranch.

"A HISTORY PLACE" IS (STILL) NEEDED: The Society has long been keeping an eye out for suitable space for lease to store records and supplies, hold meetings, and provide a visible presence in the community. Grant applications have so far been unsuccessful, but if opportunity knocks, we stand ready! If anyone knows of space (*about 500 square feet*) that comes available (*perhaps in cooperation with others?*) within the Cornville community, let us know!