



CORNVILLE COURIER

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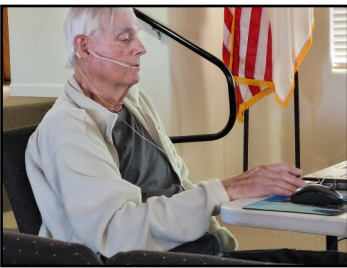
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Geologist Kip Williams Featured at Annual Meeting on March 17



The Annual Meeting of the Cornville Historical Society was held on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church at 1090 S. Page Springs Rd., in Cornville.

Following the business meeting, a program featured Kip Williams, a retired geologist with more than 40 years of mining experience throughout the world. Kip's experience spans the metallic and precious metals industries, industrial minerals, coal and environmental reclamation. He formerly served on the Board of the Clemenceau Heritage Museum in Cottonwood. His presentation covered the world-famous Gypsum Caves discovered in an underground lead-zinc-silver operation near Naica, Chihuahua, Mexico. Since the caves are not open to the public, the audience was treated to a breathtaking inside view in Kip's slide presentation.

The business meeting included CY 2021 reports, CY 2022 Budget approval and the election of board members. Board members unanimously elected were: Sharon Morehouse, Pat Nomm, Nita Rinehart, Diana Stipek and Karen Wilkens. Continuing Board members are Cheryl Chamberlain, Veronica Moody and Cindy Snyder. Immediately following the annual meeting the new board members met and elected officers for the 2022-2023 term. Sharon Morehouse will serve as President, Diana Stipek, Vice President, Cheryl Chamberlain, Secretary; and Cindy Snyder, Treasurer. The meeting was followed by refreshments and social time.

President's Message

THANKS to all of you who attended our March 17 Annual Meeting; and thank you to Our Shepherd Lutheran who let us use their lovely church for our meeting. We honored long-time members, Janet & Stephen Cassagio; and enjoyed a slide presentation by retired geologist Kip Williams about Mexico crystal caves.

We now have most of our files in a Storage Unit. Since it is not climate-controlled, we're still looking for a "place" so we can add our photos, projector, microphone and such. Please let us know any ideas! Have a great summer; and we'll see you in December!

—Sharon Morehouse

Farewell Janet & Stephen Cassagio

The Society will surely miss Janet and Stephen Cassagio, who recently departed Cornville for their new home in St. Augustine, Florida. Janet has served as a Society Board Member and Treasurer for many years. President Sharon Morehouse is shown presenting Stephen and Janet with a pottery bowl and set of mugs made in Cornville at Earth & Fire Ceramic Design Studio.



Janet served as the Society's lead researcher and has become well-known for her history presentations. She developed a "Cornville Family Tree" on Ancestry.com and compiled ranch histories that have been presented "on location" at several December fundraisers. She has also managed the website and edited the *Cornville Courier* newsletters since 2017. Stephen has served as liaison to the Board for the restoration and maintenance of the Old Cornville Post Office ever since its move "back home" to Cornville in 2012. Both have cared for the old structure by making good use of Stephen's carpentry skills and Janet's ability to find funds for exhibits. We extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Janet & Stephen as they begin life in their new home, with family nearby, including young twin granddaughters! We hope they will keep in touch!

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

OLD POST OFFICE: The restoration is almost complete. Additional cabinetry was built and added to the counter; including postage and money order windows and lock boxes. Some parts need to be stained and positioned properly. Additional and period appropriate items have been added to the case and counters. An outdoor display case will be added to the front to explain display items and hold announcements; and a window will be added to the front door to allow viewing from outside. Hopefully, the work will be done in 2022.

RESEARCH: Research of Cornville families, original land patent holders, and historic sites always continues. The Society joined with six other Verde Valley historical societies to participate in an Osher Lifelong Learning (OLLI) program at Yavapai College on a continuing basis. Each program runs for 6 weeks and each week a different historical society presents some facet of their history. The first program began in Fall 2019, with Janet Cassagio presenting for CHS. The programs were well received. Sessions began again in January 2020; and a Zoom presentation was done in March 2021. Janet also gave talks for Our Shepard Lutheran Church, Yavapai County District 2, Palatki Questers, and Clarkdale Historical Society.

2019 & 2021 HOLIDAY FUNDRAISERS: On December 8, 2019, the Holiday Fundraiser was held at Oak Creek School, featuring a presentation by Janet Cassagio on the history of the Tres Hermanez Ranch area. Following the presentation, the ranch resident cowboy poet, Phil, shared his poetry. Refreshments were provided; and 20 gift baskets filled with merchandise, wine and gift certificates were raffled, netting \$1,000 to support society activities. **Due to COVID, the 2020 holiday event was not held.** On December 5, 2021, the most recent fundraiser was held again at Oak Creek School, featuring the history of eleven different Cornville school locations, by Janet Cassagio. Holiday treats and beverages were served. The gift basket raffle brought in \$820. Two more highlights: (1) the first exhibition of a framed watercolor of West Oak Creek School painted by Winifred

Stryker, daughter of Reverend Jacob Frey, who built the school in 1921. The painting was donated by Debbie Veldhuis of Glendale, AZ, after she found it in a thrift shop near her home. (2) The display of a Christmas Gift Wreath from Cornville, Maine—the only other town named Cornville in the United States!

RECORDS MANAGEMENT: All the society's records, supplies and historical items are now being stored in a storage unit at Cornville Storage and the Old Post Office. Alphabetical "people" and "place" files are established. Permanent office and storage space, where the society can meet, store its growing collection of records and items, and invite researchers, is still urgently needed.

MEMBERSHIP: As of February 2022, there were 58 members in good standing, including 11 honorary members, 17 individuals, 13 families (26 members), 1 contributing member, and 3 businesses.

WEBSITE: The website is in its tenth year at www.cornville-historical-society.org with information about the CHS mission, goals, membership, site inventories, oral histories, newsletters, publications, minutes, current activities, and more. The website has received over 208,000 "hits" since it was established.

CORNVILLE FAMILY TREE: To assist in research of Cornville settlers, Janet Cassagio created a Cornville Family Tree at www.ancestry.com in 2014. Today this tree has grown to 9 different family trees with about 5,000 people listed. Descendants of our early settlers use these trees to connect with the historical society and exchange information. Most recently, descendants from the Lane, Page, Kelly, Witter, Dickinson and Hart families have contacted us and shared information, photos, letters and documents.

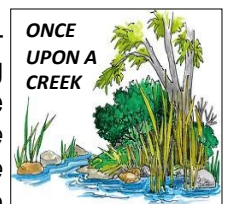
MEMORIAL BRICKS: The Memorial Brick Walkway, that meanders from the parking area to the front porch of the Old Post Office, was completed in 2021. Drop by and check it out!

CORNVILLE CREEKSIDE TALES

—Quoted from CHS presentation by William "Chili Bill" Brooks, former pilot & guide for "The Duke" (12-8-2008)

About 1939: "My first time in Cornville, Grandpa says, "We're going hunting ... taking an important man from California ... I want you to come ... We get there and ... camp was set up right down there by where the park's at, just on the other side of ... Oak Creek. [Later] this guy had about a three or four-day growth of beard—kinda scraggly looking ... My mother ... leaned over and says "I think that's **Clark Gable!**" And it was Clark Gable—in Cornville! And [he] had just finished "Gone with the Wind."

About 1947: While staying at the Cottonwood Hotel with his co-star during filming of "The Angel and the Badman," the Duke says, "Bill do you know any good place around here where we could go for a nice picnic?" Well [I said] there's ... a place called Cornville and there's a beautiful creek that runs along there and I was thinking in my head about Grandpa taking me hunting out there. So he says 'OK, let's go.' So I took them there, same place, just over the creek from the park. They got that blocked off now ... [Later] we came back [and] took them— **John Wayne** and **Gayle Russell** —back to the hotel."



Cornville Historical Society 2022-23 Board of Directors

Officers: Sharon Morehouse (President), 928-634-8927 or stevsharmor@msn.com —

Diana Stipek (Vice President), 928-639-3632; Cheryl Chamberlain (Secretary), 928-639-0865 or wormworm@earthlink.net; and Cindy Snyder (Treasurer), 928-649-9628 or CindySnyder9550@gmail.com

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