

### A Message from Our President Julie Stern

Dear Members:

As we move further into the year of 2007, we at CHPS will be inspired by the history of this community to move forward with our efforts to preserve Corona's important history and resources. One of our most important resources, our heritage homes, will face challenges and threats this year. As the city moves forward to bring us into the successful business world of this century, a block of 7<sup>th</sup> St. turn-of-the-century homes, will be demolished, as well 911 Main Street and a Vernacular Wood Frame home on the corner of 9th and Ramona. Also, there will be two very large modern office buildings beginning construction sometime within these impending two years across the street from the hospital on Main Street.

Our best strategy to save these resources at this time, is to call for community support and request that members of CHPS, who are interested in saving these homes and contributing to the design of downtown, contact city officials and make them aware of your thoughts and desires for the Historic District of Downtown Corona.

Thankfully, the city has agreed to move one of these landmarked homes, of which we are very thankful and we appreciate this sincere effort to support preservation by the City of Corona. This home is the Joseph Brumbaugh home located at 322 W. 7th St. This home is one of 25 official city landmarks. The house is a Victorian Folk House constructed sometime between 1894 and 1907. Joseph Brumbaugh was one of Corona's first fire-fighters and a painter by trade. He was a member of The International Order of Odd Fellows, an organization of men that gathers together to help others in need. He built and painted the house himself. We hope that you will drive by and see this charming and important home.

These last two months have been very successful and eventful for CHPS. We had the Vintage Home Tour, which was an unprecedented success, with hundreds turning out as well as city officials to tour and support five vintage homes. I would like to thank all of the homeowners for their generosity and community spirit in



CHPS Vice president Chris Gary at 2007 Antiques & Collectibles Faire

opening their homes to the public.

We participated in the 120th birthday of the First Congregational Church and assisted them with beginning the landmarking process offered by the City of Corona. Wonderful vignettes of the Platt Sister's lives, the founders of the church, were presented by Corona Civic Light Opera players.

CHPS presented Heritage Home Awards at the Olde Tyme Community Picnic to four vintage homeowners who have lovingly restored their vintage homes and have preserved beautifully a slice of Corona's past contributing an invaluable resource to their neighborhoods.

We had booths at the Olde Tyme Picnic and The Antiques & Collectibles Faire and met many old friends and made new ones too and discussed the history of Corona and how CHPS is working to preserve our past.

Mary Winn, one of our longest and dearest members had a book signing at the Corona Barnes & Noble for her newest *Corona Vintage Postcard Book* and the original *Corona Images Book*. Their sales have supported our preservation efforts as well.

In closing, I would like to thank Chifra Holt, John Land and Kathleen Dever for their service to CHPS. These individuals spent precious long hours working with the Board of CHPS on various preservation events and projects over past years. A very special thank you to Kathleen Dever, who has been with CHPS for many years and is a valued and respected historian in our community. Kathleen coordinated our Cemetery Walk program, worked tirelessly to move several vintage homes and made a significant impact on the preservation process in Corona. She will be sorely missed.

We now welcome CHPS members Doris Osko and Jim Bryant who have volunteered to serve on our Board. We are excited to have Doris and Jim with us to continue our work preserving Corona's history.

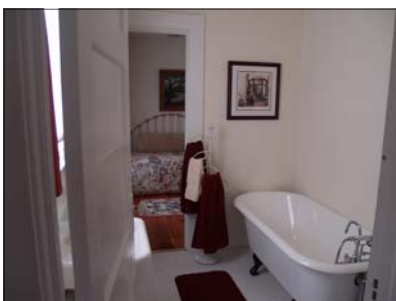
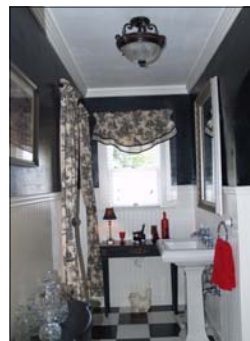
Yours In preservation,  
*Julie Stern*



# Views of Our Vintage Home Tour

The weather couldn't have been more perfect on May 12 as visitors enjoyed the ageless charm of the homes on the tour which were on Grand Boulevard and Palm Avenue. We would like to publicly thank the generous vintage homeowners for opening their doors to those interested in seeing what lies within. Shiny antique automobiles added to the experience and for this we thank the Riverside-Corona Model-T Ford Club for displaying their treasured vehicles during tour hours. Volunteers dressed in vintage garb definitely added to the ambiance of the day so we thank all who served enthusiastically as docents. Several visitors commented on what a wonderful feeling it was to stroll along The Circle, surrounded by a gentle breeze as they made memories that will last forever. Thanks to all who supported the event. We are pleased to report that several historic home owners have already offered to have their homes be included in the next tour.

Photos are courtesy of CHPS member Akio Yoshikawa



# Quarterly Meeting - Tour of City Archives Center

## Tour courtesy of Vicki Wasko, City Clerk & Lorena VerduSCO, Records Specialist Historical documents and materials will be available for viewing

In order to properly preserve the City's documentary record and realizing the critical need to preserve and protect the City's historical legacy, the City Council funded the construction of a state-of-the-art archives facility which was completed in June, 2002.

The City Archives were designed in compliance with established National Archives recommendations. All archival records are carefully preserved in acid and lignin-free folders and archival boxes and containers in a 40' x 48' area that is climate controlled and protected by a Fenwalnet fire alarm/suppression control system. The room is designed for the Spacesaver storage system in order to maximize storage capacity. The temperature in the Archives is maintained at a stable temperature of 68° F, so a sweater is recommended.

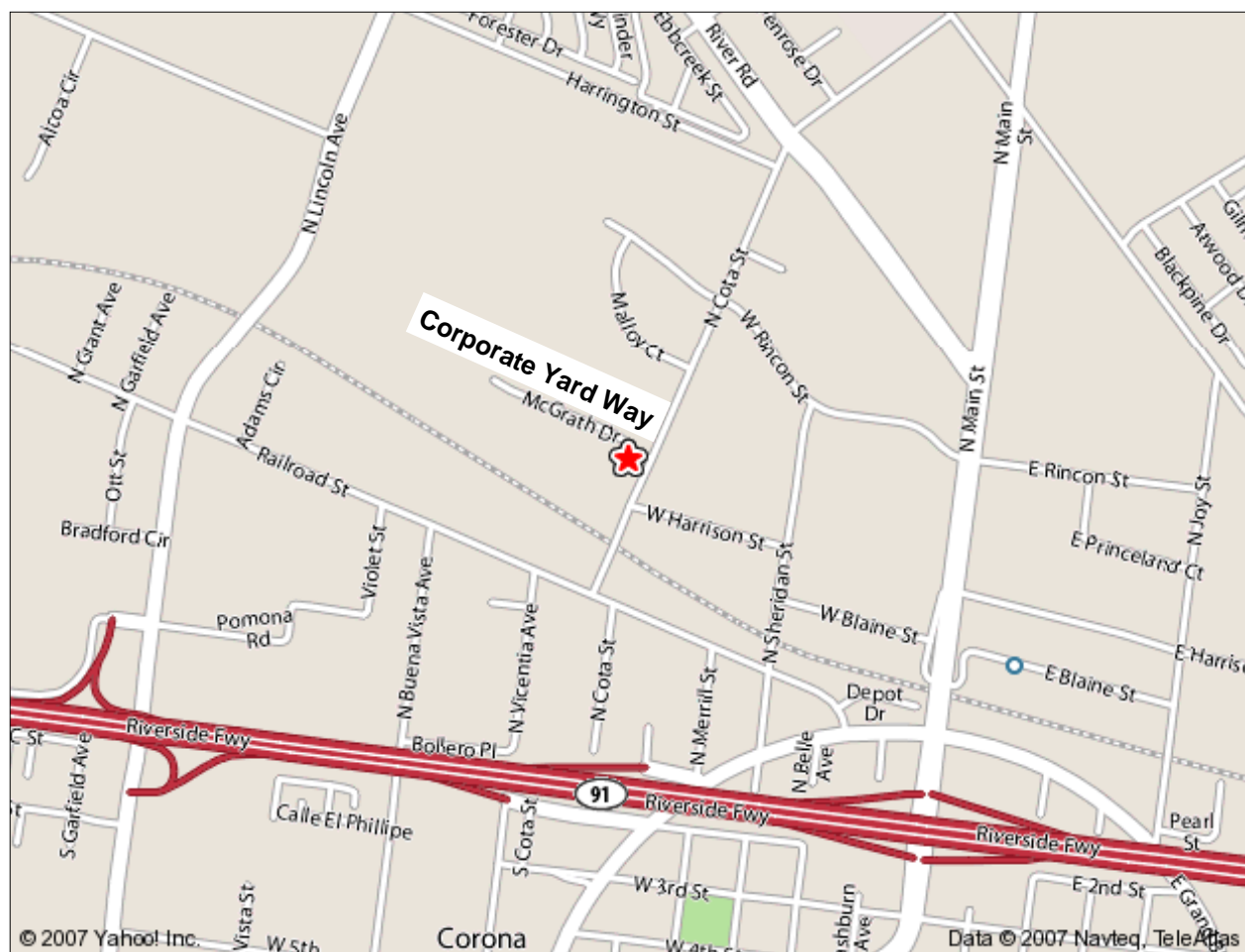
The Archives Center is designed to house legislative documents dating back to the City's incorporation in 1896. Many of these documents are important to retain indefinitely as archives because of their continuing value for providing evidence of the existence, functions and operations of the government of Corona.

**Saturday, August 18, 2007 at 10:00 am sharp**

**770 Corporate Yard Way (formerly McGrath Drive)**

**Space is limited – You must RSVP to Mary Winn at 371-5291**

**The City Archives is located at the warehouse at the end of the street at 770 Corporate Yard Way, on the left side of the street. There is ample parking.**



# The Olde Tyme Community Picnic & 2007 Heritage Home Awards



The CHPS booth at the City's Olde Tyme Community Picnic was very popular with all who attended, offering a sampling of posters depicting our previous events and other historical materials. The Society's Heritage Home Awards were given to four owners who have beautifully maintained their homes, paying tribute to the early citizens who built and lived in these homes.



## Heritage Home Award plaque



**1022 South Ramona Avenue:** This 1893 2½ story vernacular wood frame residence was built by George Brown, an early South Riverside Postmaster. He and his wife Nellie lived there and it was used for the Post Office for a time. Attorney Charles Carter and his wife Virginia lived there for many years. Mr. Carter was active in community affairs and served on the Board of Trustees of the Corona-Norco Unified School District. The current owners are Thurston and Jacquelyn Bland.

**1402 South Main Street:** This Mediterranean-Mission Revival, one-story home was built in 1940 for Marion Featherston and his wife Laura on this corner site when the ranch house formerly located on the corner was moved about a hundred feet west on Kendall Street. Mr. Featherston was a citrus and property developer, tinkerer and inventor and served on the City Council 1938-1940. Glenn and Janet Johnson currently reside there.



**2038 South Main Street:** This vernacular wood frame residence was built by Marion Featherston in 1927. He and his wife resided there till 1940 when it was sold to citrus rancher Charles Verity and his wife Margaret. Mr. Verity served on the City Council from 1942-1948. His wife served on the School Board from 1956-1974. Current owners are Carlos and Kathleen Levalle.

**1147 East Grand Boulevard:** This prominent Colonial Revival residence was built in 1916 by Fred Roberts on property owned by his wife Birdie. He served as Station Agent for the Santa Fe Railroad, manager of the local Wells Fargo Co. offices and Queen Colony Fruit Exchange. He was a leading figure in horticultural affairs. After a succession of prominent owners, Kathryn Sinkovich and Dana Sutton have resided here since 1996.

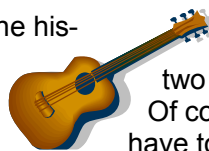


## Corona's Latin-American Pentecostal Church by David Aguayo

This is but a brief "snapshot in time" of the history of this church at the corner of Fourth and Joy Street. To write this I was assisted by Norma Enriquez Stratton and her sister Stella McCorkle. My earliest recollection is of a newspaper clipping from the *Daily Independent* showing a picture of the building being moved down Main Street to its present location. My sister Jennie kept the article in her King James Bible. I believe the original church had been on Victoria where the 91 Freeway now runs. Brother Pete Martinez, Antonio Mori, and my father (David E.), among others, helped in the reconstruction. While awaiting the completion of the church, members attended the local *Church of the Sons of God, Moses and Aaron*, located on the corner of Railroad and Grant. The congregation was African-American and Brother Fellmore (with his trademark cigar) was the Founder and President. The building still exists in that part of town facetiously called "*El Jardin*", "*The Garden*."

The small congregation returned to their Pentecostal Church. Members included Pastor Martinez and his wife, their daughters Mary Correa and Magdalena Perez and their families; the Enriquez family (Procopio, Herlinda, Norma, Dorá Arrowood and Stella McCorkle); Angelita Mora and her daughter; Ronaldo and Ysidra Salinas; Sister Mary Delgado and Benita Cortez; the Reyes (Antonio and Antonia) Valentin Garcia.

A salient feature of the church was, and still is,



the music that poured into the street. There were drums, a piano, a guitar or two and tambourines made from real goatskin. Of course, there was much singing. People have told me that my mother's voice always stood out and in fact brought some people inside. The Pastor, Pedro Martinez, was sightless and dressed impeccably in three-piece suits with a "kerchief" in his suit pocket. He helped in the reconstruction of the church and helped with the yard work. He could always be counted upon to preach at length against sin and about redemption.

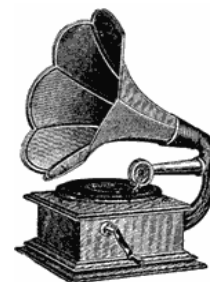
My special memories are the wakes celebrating the "going home" of church members suffused in joyful music; the prayer services leading up to the arrival of the New Year; the colorful Christmas pageants overseen by Sister Mary Delgado and Mary Correa; the church service exchanges with the churches of Upland, Indio, Colton, Santa Ana and El Monte. I will never forget walking into the church for a Sunday morning service having just heard that Jack Ruby had shot Lee Harvey Oswald. The church was abuzz with varying opinions and much commentary.

Growing up in an "Aleluyah" church was a unique experience and was not easy. We were a minority within the larger Catholic population. The church formed the early and, I believe, strong foundation for my life and the others too. I cherish and retain the friendships formed there. The current and long-serving pastor is Rev. Paul Araujo, the paternal grandfather of my nephew and niece.

## The Society's Ongoing Activities



- Monthly Board Meeting
- Bimonthly Newsletter
- Historic Marker Program
- Annual Cemetery Walk at Sunnyslope Cemetery
- Vintage Home Tour
- Annual Heritage Home Awards
- Oral History Program
- Annual Holiday Party
- Educational Seminars and Field Trips
- Community Preservation Projects
- Vintage Home Relocation Assistance



# At 98, Mickey Wiles Savors the Past While Actively Relishing the Present by John Wiles

Mildred ("Mickey") Wiles is not a native of Corona, having been born in Salt Lake City, UT, and raised in Hemet. After nearly 60 years as an active member of the Corona community, however, she is regarded by many as one of the Circle City's golden "elders."

Mickey was serving as a Red Cross recreation worker in Europe during World War II when she met Raldon Wiles, an army officer from Arkansas.

The couple fell in love and married after the war. They lived briefly in Hemet, where older son John was born, then moved to Arkadelphia, AR, so that Raldon could complete his degree in chemistry at Ouachita Baptist College.

Returning to Hemet, Mickey and Raldon began their search for a permanent home. They decided to settle in Corona where Raldon received a promising offer from Sunkist's Lemon Products Division, located in the small, citrus-rich city then known as the "lemon capital of the world." He accepted the offer, launching a career as a research chemist that saw him become a world-renowned expert on pectin (a byproduct of lemon peel).

In 1948, the young family moved into the first of a series of one-room apartments which served as their earliest Corona homes. Another son, Jim, arrived the following year. Raldon and Mickey bought their first house on W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, upgraded several years later to a residence on W. Olive, and eventually moved to S. Normandy Terrace, where Mickey continues to live.

Once the boys were old enough to attend school, Mickey decided to resume her career as a professional educator. Prior to WWII, she had earned her teaching credential from UCLA and held positions as teacher and/or principal in Ojai, Moorpark, Perris, Elsinore, and Rosemead.

Mickey remembers learning from Fanny Andrews, a home teacher for secondary students unable to attend school, that the Corona-Norco School District was in need of an elementary home teacher. She sought and got the job, which conveniently allowed her to set her own hours.

For the next 28 years, Mickey taught numerous homebound students with health problems ranging from arthritis to nervous disorders, broken limbs to cancer, pregnancies to cystic fibrosis. She had to prepare carefully to meet each student's individual needs -- academically, physically, and psychologically.



One of the pupils she remembers most vividly was a Norco seventh grader named Glenna Crickett. Glenna had been kicked in the head by a horse, sustaining injuries so severe that she could no longer remember the names of everyday items such as clothing, furniture, or her own body parts. Mickey worked extensively with Glenna for more than a year, helping her regain her memory and learning abilities --and

felt proud when Glenna rejoined her classmates in 9th grade and went on to graduate with them from high school.

Mickey also took on many requests for private tutoring, continuing that sideline after her official retirement in 1972. She still hears from former pupils who credit her with helping them master everything from basic reading skills to American history to multiplication tables.

"Each of my students was different," Mickey recalls, "but one thing I did with all of them was take them to the Corona Public Library to get library cards. There is no greater gift you can give a child than to help instill a lifelong love of reading."

Mickey encouraged both her sons to develop their own academic abilities, as well. Among her favorite memories is the day she attended the Corona Junior High promotion featuring younger son Jim as the 9th grade valedictorian, then a few hours later heard John deliver the valedictory address for Corona Senior High's graduating Class of 1964.

Other fond memories include regular lunch dates with Raldon at the Corona City Park, site of Sunkist's annual employee picnics. She also liked picnicking as a family at Husted Park, Green River Park and Riverside's Fairmount Park.

Mickey was active in the PTA. at both Jefferson Elementary School (where she served a term as president) and Corona Junior High. In appreciation for her exceptional service, she was awarded a life membership in the California PTA. She also enjoyed serving as a Cub Scout den mother and as the junior high youth advisor at the First Congregational Church, where she and Raldon were members and belonged to two couples clubs.

Mickey has been a member of the Woman's Improvement Club of Corona for more than 40 years, and has belonged to P.E.O., a national organization promoting education for women, CONTINUED →

# Membership Information

**When joining or renewing your membership, please make out your tax deductible check to CHPS.**

Individual Member	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>I'd like to volunteer for:</b>	
Family	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Relations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patron	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____	

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Gift from \_\_\_\_\_



Membership Status: Renewal  New



**Please complete and mail to:  
CHPS  
P.O. Box 2904**

## We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Jennie & Ann Adamo  
Roger & Janet Becker  
Dr. Robert Brandt Benson  
Richard Birkmann  
Thurston & Jacquelyn Bland  
Cynthia Donald

Carlos & Kathleen Levalle  
Jim & Paulette Shryock  
Alisa Thorpe  
Dick & Susan Tichy  
Larry & Marcelle Turk  
John Wiles

since 1959 (serving twice as chapter president). She volunteered as a Meals on Wheels driver for 25 years, and in the records department of the Corona Regional Medical Center for 15 years.

Mickey has seen countless changes in the community. She regrets the demolition of so many historic structures, but gives the city credit for maintaining a basic sense of security. She is **not** thrilled with the city's ongoing "overgrowth," nor the volume of traffic it has spawned.

"I've always liked the feelings of peacefulness and friendliness I've experienced in Corona," Mickey says. I remember when you could go to the bank and know everyone else in line. I'm glad there's still a semblance of small-town affability here."

She also continues to value Corona's unique scenic views of the mountains to the north and east, and the foothills to the south. She's glad that older, picturesque homes, yards and trees still grace Corona's signature Grand Boulevard (especially the southeast quadrant). What does she miss the most? "Those lovely green citrus groves!"

With characteristic modesty, Mickey doesn't think of herself as one of the community's leaders or "movers-and-shakers." At 98 years young, however, she remains active, interested and involved -- and has earned the respect, admiration and affection of countless fellow Coronans.



Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

## Board of Directors

President - Julie Stern  
Vice President - Christine Gary  
Secretary - Jim Bryant  
Treasurer - Richard Winn

### Directors:

Aaron Hake  
John Kane  
Doris Osko  
Mary Winn

### Directors Emeritus

Marla Benson  
Janette Neumann  
Ted Taylor



To contact us call  
**951.898.2044**  
*Please leave a message*



## Our Mission Statement

The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) is a nonprofit tax-exempt organization dedicated to preservation and revitalization of Corona's historic buildings, neighborhoods and sites.

Through education, legislation and organization, CHPS acts as an advocate for the preservation of Corona's historic resources.

## Monthly Meetings

CHPS Board meetings are held each month to transact Society business, discuss issues affecting the Society and preservation of local historic resources.

**All members are invited to attend.**  
The next meetings will be

**Thursday, July 19, 6:30 at CHPS office**  
**Thursday, August 16, 6:30 at CHPS office**



**Website: [www.coronahistory.org](http://www.coronahistory.org)**



Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

P.O. Box 2904  
Corona, California 92878-2904



**Don't miss our upcoming visit to the City Archives Center**

See page 3 for details