

A Message from Our President Julie Stern

Dear Members:

Time is flying by and here we are already in the lovely month of May. At CHPS we are very excited about our walking Vintage Home Tour, that is to be presented on May 12, 2007. We will be presenting five vintage homes in the historic district that have significant history and are treats for the eye if you love old architecture. We hope to see many members there and encourage you to spread the word to support CHPS and its endeavors to promote preservation of Corona's vibrant past. The houses are all on Grand Boulevard or just steps away on Palm Avenue, so it will be a pleasing and relaxing stroll through our history.

These past four months have been a very pro-



Elegant stained glass window at the Sinkovich/Sutton residence, 1147 E. Grand Blvd. This home is on our upcoming Vintage Home Tour

ductive time for our organization. We have participated in the Chamber of Commerce Mega Mixer and made many new friends. We hosted a presentation on the Mission Inn History at the Historic Civic Center. We worked with Eagle Scout Cameron Blair to place a Bronze Marker at the Historic Train Depot. We also met with City officials about saving our historic trees, homes and landmarks on several occasions and provided important, helpful infor-

mation to the City to assist the City with these types of endeavors.

It has been a great year so far and we are all looking forward to the coming months and especially our Vintage Home Tour! Hope to see you there.

Yours In preservation, *Julie Stern*



Santa Fe Depot Marker Dedication



Eagle Scout Cameron Blair next to the granite CHPS Historic Marker #13

A sizeable crowd attended the dedication of our 13th historic marker which was held on an unusually warm but breezy March 5th afternoon at the Corona Depot.

Boy Scout Troop 399 provided a flag ceremony. Speakers included in the festivities were Cameron Blair (the Boy Scout whose Eagle Project involved the refurbishing of the Depot's exterior and placement of the marker), Mayor Eugene Montanez, and CHPS Treasurer Richard Winn, who provided an overview of the Society's marker program and identified all previous sites.

City Council Member Karen Spiegel, City Manager Beth Groves, many City Staff members, members of the Corona Model Railroad Society, CHPS members and interested citizens joined in the throng.

A reporter and photographer from the *Press-Enterprise* were present to capture this historic event for posterity.

Budget for 2007

Corona Historic Preservation Society 2007 Expense Budget (Adopted)

Expense Items

Telephone Charges	180.00
P. O. Box Rental	65.00
Corona Chamber of Commerce M'ship	175.00
MegaMixer Co-Host fee	250.00
Secretary of State filing (bi-ann)	0
Board of Equalization (sales tax filing)	400.00
History Day Awards	200.00
Newsletter Printing	600.00
Postage	400.00
Printing, Other	600.00
Stucco Flyer	0
Membership Flyer	120.00
Stationery	250.00
Riv. Heritage Home Tour Acty Invitations	0
Walking Tour Brochure reprint (1000)	155.00
Vintage Home Tour tickets & booklet	700.00
Website maintenance and development	680.00
Office maintenance Fee (City of Corona)	450.00
Key deposits	0
Office Equipment (Office set up)	0
Settlement House/511Vicentia support	50.00
Recognition Awards	175.00
Liability Insurance Policy	1,000.00
Historic Markers No. 14 & 15	1,100.00
Cemetery Walk (advertising, costumes, etc.)	250.00
Olde Tyme Picnic	20.00
Lemon Festival	
Exhibitor fee	40.00
Lemonade Supplies & Ingredients	55.00
Antiques & Collectibles Fair	50.00
Holiday Party	60.00
Arcadia Publishing (Images & Postcard books)	3,650.00
Promotional Sportswear (T-Shirts)	0
Starr Sign Design – additional Heritage Home Award plaques	0
Supplies	50.00
Heritage Home Cash Awards	1,000.00
Total	12,825.00

Donations

Corona Public Library	25.00
<i>Olde House Journal</i> magazine	
Corona High School Madrigals	250.00
3 rd Grade Dictionaries Lincoln School	200.00
Total	13,300.00



Architectural Salvage



As a service to our members, CHPS has architectural salvage items or materials available to those of you who are restoring your vintage homes.

Included in the inventory are windows, shutters, doors, cabinets, molding and hardware.

If you are in need of such items, please call CHPS at 951.898.2044 and leave a detailed message along with your telephone number.

Upcoming Events

Olde Tyme Community Picnic June 3, 2007



From 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at City Park. The event will consist of live entertainment, children's craft workshops, face painting, classic & antique car display and much more.

Antiques & Collectibles Faire June 10, 2007

There's nothing quite like a cup of icy lemonade and maybe a cookie or two from the CHPS lemonade stand. Our architectural salvage booth and information table are always



popular with historic home owners. You never know when you may find a bit of treasure on the table or in our salvage storage receptacle!

I Remember When ... Nellie Orozco Esparza by Lennie Esparza Keesler

Nellie Orozco Esparza is one of 13 siblings and the sixth child born to Maria and Maximiliano Orozco on January 23, 1934. "Dr. Hermann was the physician who delivered me, at home in Prado" where three of her siblings were also born. She lived in Prado until 1939 when the floods became so severe they were forced to move to Corona so the Corps of Engineers could build the Prado Dam. Her parents then purchased two huge lots in Corona for \$200.00 per lot from a realtor named Mr. Thompson. The property is located on the corner on Railroad and Vicentia, near the train tracks. This is where the Orozco Family settled for the last time and raised their children



**Taken at the Esparza's
50th Anniversary Party**

Nellie remembers there being a one room school house in Prado where her older brother and sisters attended. She would have been the only child in that area that had to be picked up to attend kindergarten in Corona. The school district told her parents she had to wait one year because there was not a bus available to pick her up and return her home to Prado.

Her parents had a pottery stand in Prado where they made and sold pottery. She remembers the "tornos" that were used to shape the pots as well as the various types of molds used to make different kinds of pottery. She remembers her dad going to an open field where he would get the clay for the pots to be made. An important Prado memory is the dangerous "road" which was right above where their home and pottery shop sat. It was known as "Dead Mans Curve" and was where many accidents took place "and a lot of people lost their lives on Dead Man's curve."

The Orozco Family was large and each family member had an assigned chore. "My chore was to make sure there were enough tortillas for the entire family each day." She really enjoyed this chore because "I would have free time, after my chore was done." She would tend to her flowers in a space given to her by her parents. She liked to embroider dish towels for her "Mama Maria." Her day always started by attending daily mass at St. Edward Catholic Church. Growing up she really enjoyed singing with Mr. Farmer in glee club and also in the church choir.

Nellie attended Washington Elementary, Corona Jr. High, and Corona Sr. High schools. She graduated in 1953 and received a scholarship to attend beauty school in San Diego. She lived with her Godparents in San Diego and graduated from Broadway Beauty School in 1954. Nellie then returned to Corona to start her profession and her family.

Nellie worked for various businesses in Corona: La Tapatia Pottery Shop, Sprouse-Reitz, La Belle Beauty Shop, Carmen's Beauty Salon, and Corona Norco Unified School District before retiring from EPE in Costa Mesa along with her husband Louie Esparza in 1999.

She worked at La Tapatia Pottery Shop located on the corner of W. 6th Street and Lincoln. "I started working there at the age of 12 and continued off and on part-time, working for Jose and Ysidra Arreola." The owner used to send her to Mava to buy ice cream as a treat.

"I remember my dad bought my first car from Mr. Parker. It was a Model A, cost \$90.00 and I would drive it from home to work at the pottery shop."

"Ysidra would ask me to come and help her even after I had graduated from beauty school and was already married. I would do whatever needed to be done" which included pottery sales, dusting, rearranging pottery and running errands.

Nellie also worked for Mr. and Mrs. Hamm at Sprouse-Ritz. Along with most of my brothers and sisters we worked for the Hamm's while growing up.

After graduating from beauty school and with the help of her older sister Carmen Orozco Cordova (who was already working there), she began working at La Belle Beauty Shop in Corona. Her sister Carmen later purchased her own shop in 1958. After Nellie had her first born daughter in 1958 she began working at Carmen's Beauty Salon which was located on 6th Street in Corona and worked alongside her sister for 20 years.

She has many wonderful memories from Carmen's Beauty Salon: The price of perms was based on the type of solution used and ranged from \$5.00 to \$10.00. Our customers were called patrons. We were called beauty operators or beauticians.

"When Carmen would go on vacation, I got to style the well-known Corona residents such as Gladys Kimbell, my principal at Washington Elementary, Letha Raney who was my principal in junior high and Anita Benedict who was the owner of the only stationery store in town known as Robinson & Benedict."

"When the parades would go down Sixth Street, Carmen would pull the curtains from the big window of the shop so our patrons could see the parade, as we fixed their hair."

"I remember one of the saddest days at the shop was seeing some of my patrons crying and upset the day Carnegie Library was demolished."

"I remember leaving our patrons under the hair dryer and leaving the shop for lunch for a quick bite to eat. We did not use blow dryers in those days. Hair rollers and bobby pins, pin curls, and waveset for waves were some of the techniques we used."

"One of the first places that gave me credit was England's Jewelry Store where I purchased my husband's wedding band for \$35.00 on credit." It was the best investment Nellie ever made since she and Louie celebrated their 50th year wedding Anniversary in February.

Nellie married Louie B. Esparza, a long time Coronan, on Feb. 16, 1957 at St. Edward Catholic Church and they still reside in the area. Their children are Lennie and Bret Keesler, of Menifee, Victor Esparza, of Menifee; and Sylvia and Raffi Samerdijan, of Riverside.

Nellie and Louie have been blessed with seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Past Tidbits of Corona News

Is This Record Hollyhock Heighth?

Believing that he has the tallest hollyhocks in the city, Charles R. Miller, of Eighth and Joy Street, declared today that his giant flowering plant is exactly 13 feet seven inches high.

If any resident of Corona has a hollyhock that tops that altitude, *The Independent* will be glad to hear about it and publish the record plant.

Last year, Miss Katherine Gray, of 1110 Ramona Street had a plant that towered 14 feet two inches in the air. This was the largest that season, so far as it is known.

Get that yardstick!

(*Corona Daily Independent*, July 7, 1932)

Note: Charles R. Miller is a former mayor of Corona and was also the editor of the *Corona Daily Independent*.



Fred Keast Has Hollyhocks Near Present Record

If ample water and much cultivating will make'em grow, Fred Keast, son of Mr. and Mrs. H.J. Keast of 615 Harris Street, is going to have some hollyhocks that will equal or top Charles R. Miller's record-heighth plants.

Young Keast, who is an *Independent* carrier, said yesterday that his hollyhocks are now just four inches under Miller's 12 foot seven inch plants.

"And they're growing fast now," the boy declared.

Until some resident of Corona notifies *The Independent* of hollyhocks topping Miller's plants, he will be given the credit for a record of some kind or other.

(*Corona Daily Independent*, July 9, 1932)

There's a Circle in the Town But What Is It to Be Called?

What shall the name of Corona's Circle, famed since the racing days of Auto Speed Demon Barney Oldfield be?

There appears to be quite a difference of opinion.



Postcard of Corona's "Circle Drive" c. 1920s

Should it be Grand Circle, Grand Boulevard, Corona's Circle, Corona Circle -- or what?

James B. Harker appeared before the council last night.

"The City of Corona has awakened to the realization that it has a unique street -- a Circle boulevard," he said. "Consequently we are changing the street name. The numbering system is being revised on the Circle and in the immediate vicinity."

A letter to the city council signed by Irma and James B. Harker read: "The name CIRCLE BOULEVARD actually describes what we have, while Grand Boulevard is just another name. A combination of the two names is long and cumbersome. Please give the name 'Circle Boulevard' two votes for us. It is descriptive, simple, and is unique, as is the street itself. We urge the Council to adopt it."

Councilman Charles T. Verity asked that some wide publicity be given the proposition. The *Daily Independent* is considering doing that emphatically.

There were cards or letters from George and Marion Snedcor, Mabel H. Johnson, L.C. Lillibridge, Harris Klaser and Nellie M. Gibbs urging that the present Grand Boulevard name be retained.

There has been considerable "discussion and electioneering" going on (with) the proposed change in the name .

The City Council unanimously referred the matter to the City planning commission to make a study of the name and report back to the City Council.

What name will publicize Corona best?

(*Corona Daily Independent*, May 29, 1946)

The Crow's Nest by David Aguayo

Our family moved to a different part of town in the early 1960s – from a Mexican-American community around City Park to Olive Street, one block west of Corona Junior High School.

We were soon well accepted as most residents were older and voiced pleasure at having young people around them. Our landlord was Mr. Turpin and his wife, Ina. Mrs. Turpin was in a wheelchair and my mother, Jennie, provided attendant care for her.

Across the street lived the Dotsons. Mr. Dotson taught social studies at the junior high. Next to them lived his mother-in-law, Mrs. Beckwith. A block away lived Mrs. Farmer, mother of Albert Farmer. She kept me in pocket change by letting me do her yard work weekly.

A most unusual man was our next door neighbor, James Clark. He lived alone in a big house with old eucalyptus trees in the front yard. His daughter was Miss Riddle, an elementary school teacher [at Lincoln Elementary School.] He always said he was from the “old country” (England?).



Mr. Clark picked the guavas from his trees and made strawberry guava jams. He would share his canned fruit with the neighbors. I can still recall the strong, sweet smell as the fruit was being cooked. He liked sharing his collection of *National Geographics*. They dated from the early 1900s and were in

black and white.

Mr. Clark was in his late 80s or early 90s but he was quick and agile. He had a monkey bar in the side yard and would pull himself up and flip over the bar. I especially envied his trips up the eucalyptus tree where he had built a wooden platform. He never let me put a foot on the metal spikes that formed the stairway up to his crow's nest.

Mr. Clark was clever and practical in many ways: for years he used the same razor blade for shaving. He repeatedly sharpened it after use from his little tool shed.

When we moved away to Victoria Avenue, he gave my mother a set of yellow carnival glassware which I now have in the dining room of my Hollywood Hills home.

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
Historic Preservation Information and Assistance



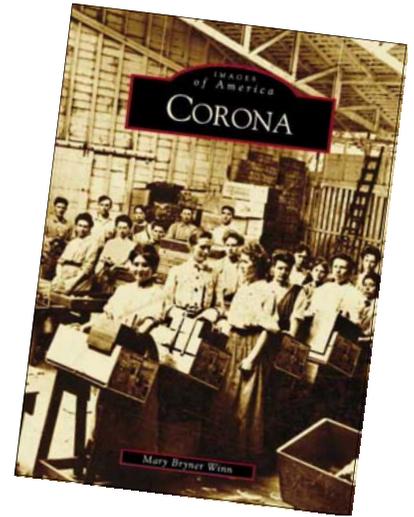
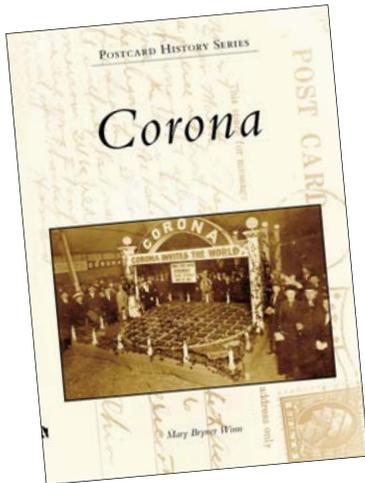
Speakers and Slide Presentations are Available to Schools, Service Clubs and Social Organizations for Meeting Programs

Book Signing & Bookfair at Barnes & Noble

Do you need a gift for Father's Day or a graduation?

Author Mary Bryner Winn has been invited by Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Corona to sign books starting at 2:00 p.m. on June 9, 2007.

The proceeds of the two Corona books about Corona's past, written by Mary Bryner Winn and published by Arcadia Publishing, continue to provide funds to our treasury.



On Saturday, June 9th there will be a Book Fair benefiting Corona Historic Preservation Society at Corona's Barnes & Noble from 9 am - 11 pm. Use a voucher when you pay and a portion of sales will be returned to CHPS. Vouchers may be used on most items sold at the store. In special consideration of CHPS members, orders may also be phoned in or faxed to the store and CHPS will also receive credit for the purchases. See enclosed flyer.

This is a wonderful opportunity to raise funds for our organization!



**Q-U-A-L-I-T-Y
ANTIQUES ONLY**

No Garage Sale
Rubbish

•
Architectural and
Structural Components

•
Garden Club
Plant Sale

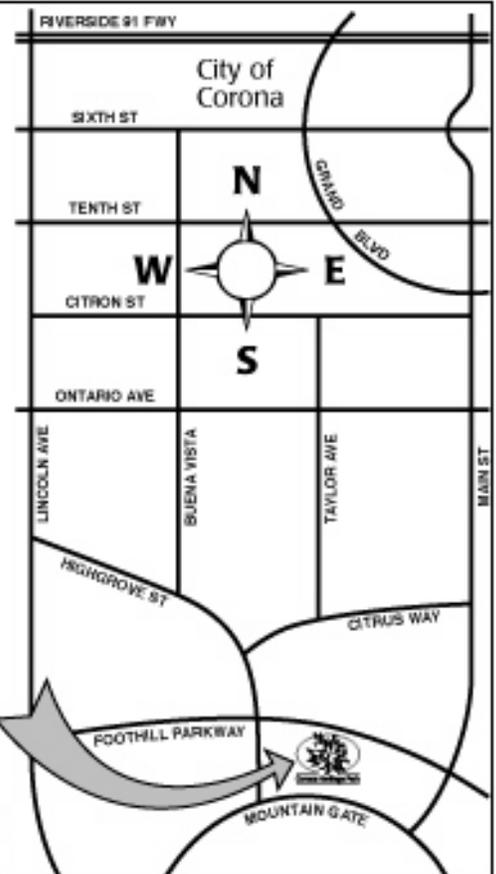
•
Fine Art Show

•
Exotic Bird Show

•
**CORONA HERITAGE
PARK & MUSEUM**
510 W. Foothill
Corona, Calif.

•
Info: Shellie Norland
(951) 737-3020
www.coronaheritage.org

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING



Membership Information

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

Individual Member	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer for:	
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
Corona, CA 92878



We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Gilbert Belcher
Roger & Noella Benvenuti
John & Carolyn Coutts
Lloyd & Joy Dunn
Louie & Nellie Esparza
Nita Grantham - Patron
Kate Hyett
Bret & Lennie Keesler
Art & Therese Marquez (Gold Star Productions)
Mary L. Jones

Michelle Krickl
Mitch & Karen Lloyd
Gary & Doris Osoko
Richard Polen
George & Carrie Pope
Harry & Paula Ruscigno
Jason & Dee Scott
John & Sheila Semola
Kathy Sinkovich & Dana Sutton
Bill & Vickie White

Don't Miss Old Riverside Foundation's Event

Vintage Home Tour, Restoration Faire and Vintage Mercantile
Saturday, May 19, 2007 10 am - 5 pm

Tickets are \$15 pre-sale and \$18 day of tour. Tickets may be purchased at www.olderiverside.org and are also available at these Riverside locations: Mrs. Tiggy-winkles, Mission Galleria, Center Lumber and A to Z Printing. Tour includes self-guided visit to seven historic structures, Restoration Faire, including suppliers, artists and craftspeople, and the Vintage Mercantile, featuring antiques and collectibles.



Board of Directors

President - Julie Stern
Vice President - Christine Gary
Secretary - Kathleen Dever
Treasurer Richard Winn

Directors:
Aaron Hake
John Kane
Mary Winn

Directors Emeritus
Marla Benson
Janette Neumann
Ted Taylor



To contact us call
951.898.2044
And 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, May 17, 6:30 at CHPS office

Thursday, June 21, 6:30 at CHPS office



Website: www.coronahistory.org



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



Aerial view postcard of Corona c. 1927



**For information on Vintage Home Tour,
Book Signing & Book Fair - see enclosed flyers**