

A Message From Our President Christine Gary

Hello Members,

Oh Happy Days! The Vintage Home Tour is here and will take place on May 1st. There are five very interesting homes to walk through for the community’s enjoyment and education. This is our major fund raiser for the year to support our Preservation Grant Program and we hope to see as many people attend as possible. For more information, see the copy of our flier accompanying this newsletter.

I have my favorite historic home on the tour and have been preparing for several months to be ready for the big TOUR. I would like to thank the other homeowners that have opened their homes for this tour. All their hard work in preparation for the tour is very much appreciated.

Summer is almost here. That means that the An-



At a recent Corona’s Farmer’s Market, Christine Gary and the Winns promoted the 2010 Vintage Home Tour

tiques and Collectibles Faire, sponsored by the Corona Heritage Foundation, is right around the corner, on the first Saturday in June (June 5th). It is lots of fun to just walk around in the sun, talk to people and have an ice cold glass of homemade lemonade from the CHPS old fashioned lemonade stand that Richard Winn so expertly manages. You can find many unique vintage and antique items in the booths and visit the wonderful museum, all on the

grounds of Corona Heritage Park. The Society will once again sponsor two booths: one selling lemonade and the other offering architectural salvage items and Society information to the public. Hope to see you all there.

With warmest wishes,

Chris Gary



Our Next Quarterly Meeting



Walking Tour of Riverside’s Mission Inn

Saturday, July 10th at 9:45 AM

Led by author and CHPS member Steve Lech

Space is limited so please plan early to attend

Call Jackie at 734-3166 to make a reservation



Ocie Taylor Songer Visits Corona by Doris Osko



Ocie Taylor Songer

Can you imagine a time in Corona when there were only twelve children in the entire town? Of course, it was called South Riverside at the time, and one of the children was Ocie Taylor, daughter of Corona founder, R.B. (Robert Brown) Taylor.

Members of CHPS and others from the community had an opportunity to learn all about Ocie Taylor Songer at the Society's

Quarterly Meeting on March 6, 2010 in the Community Room of the Historic Civic Center. Member Diane Wright, dressed in a long black dress with matching ruffled cap, kept the audience spellbound for an hour as she portrayed the original Ocie Taylor Songer and regaled listeners with tales of the early Corona founders during the 1870s and 1880s. CHPS President Christine Gary introduced Ms. Wright who noted that Ocie, as the last member of the Taylor family, kept scrapbooks of both family and Corona events. She was a good friend of Janet Gould, Historian of the Woman's Improvement Club of Corona, and shared her love of history. Diane shared childhood memories of Ocie as she created a "charm string." A girl would collect a button from each person she met, and string them together starting with a "nice button." When she had collected her thousandth button, she would then meet her Prince Charming. A person would typically keep her long charm string out in the

open and would know who gave her each particular button. Since the original Ocie lived ninety-four years, (died in 1971,) she experienced personally the living history of the Flapper Age (the 20s,) the Great Depression, (the 30s,) World War II (the 40s,) and the following Korean War. She witnessed the creation of schools and churches, the prosperity of the citrus groves, and the races around Grand Boulevard.



Diane Wright as Ocie

Vice-President Mary Winn presented Diane with a thank you gift from CHPS which was a small wooden reproduction of the Woman's Improvement Club, and a topiary for decoration. Mary also shared three pairs of shoes on display purchased from the estate of late member Raymond Harris. Mary also noted Diane Wright's part in creating the Cemetery Strolls at Sunnyslope Cemetery where Ocie Taylor Songer is buried. Available also at the meeting was information about CHPS's Vintage Home Tour on May 1st.



Refreshments were provided by Jackie Bland, CHPS Board member, who is in charge of the Quarterly Meetings.

Our Preservation Grant Program* by Bubba Bland

The CHPS Grant Committee along with the Board of Directors of the Corona Historic Preservation Society has amended the Grant Program to assist applicants in a more timely manner.

We realized the need for people to get started on projects without having to wait a whole year to get reimbursed for cost that would normally be associated with a CHPS

Grant. So, we will now process any application within 60 days after submittal, starting on April 1 of any year. Once a grant has been approved and reimbursement limits established, funds will be made available upon completion, inspection and onsite final approval.

Take this opportunity to do some fixing up and have part of the material cost covered by CHPS. Remember we are interested in helping people beautify their homes for others to see, so applications are primarily for curb appeal projects. If you have a place that you



feel needs help, either your own or a neighbor's, please feel free to contact me, Bubba Bland at <oobubba@ca.rr.com> or by phone (951) 734-3166 or cell (951) 833-1756. I will help in any way possible to provide the information you need.

Grant applications are available at the Community Development Department at City Hall, 400 South

Vicentia and the Heritage Room at the Corona Public Library.

For more information, applications and additional details on the grant can be downloaded from our Web site: <<http://corona-history.org/grants.html>>

*** Please share this CHPS Grant information with others!**

History of Corona City Park & Revamp Plans by Baxter Miller

Baxter Miller, the city's consultant, Mark Wills and Steve Lawson from the city's Parks and Community Services Department visited our January CHPS Board Meeting, as a part of the community outreach requirement on any public project, and reviewed potential improvements. Baxter provided a presentation on the history of and proposed revitalization plans for Corona City Park. Here is his historical narrative on the park:

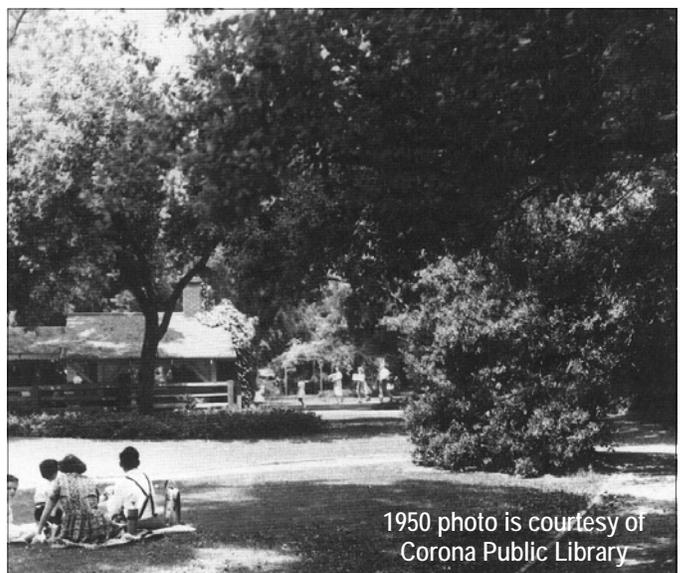
Established as a public grounds park in 1913 through city acquisitions of multiple parcels of private land, east of Grand Boulevard and north of Sixth Street, the City Park remains as one of the oldest facilities in continual use within the city of Corona. The advent of this public space was directly linked to the hosting by Corona of its international auto races that drew competitors from around the world. It is estimated that during these road race events which occurred in 1913, 1914, and in 1916, the population of the city would inflate by as much as 3 fold in the days and weeks surrounding the events. The grounds of the park were used by visitors as staging areas as well as an informal gathering space for locals. After the large crowd use during the first decade following the parks completion, the 1920s and 1930s saw a shift in nature of the public space.

Becoming more neighborhood and community oriented took a front seat as sheltered areas, play equipment and public wading pools began to evolve into the fabric of the park. Community sensibilities and ownership began to increase through major renovations such as historical designations, demonstration gardens, and a municipal plunge. From the 1930s thru the 1950s and after, the park was a favorite gathering place for public community events ranging from scrap rubber drives to support the war effort, to Thanksgiving day public meals and parades. The park has shifted along with the culture of the city of Corona throughout the years. At times, new venues have been added as well as older ones being removed so that the public space could respond to the needs of the community. Sports activities have been prominent from the early 1920s when the first baseball diamond was built up through the 1990s when the skate park was commissioned. Both programmed as well as spontaneous activity areas have been heavily used throughout the years. The continual updating of children's play equipment and play zones have concentrated most of the current informal family activities near to them while more wide open and passive areas have long been the areas of choice for the staging of community events and large group gathering.

The social context and fabric of the park has gone through some major shifts in the nearly 100 years since the park's inception. Once being situated along a major

thru traffic highway that ran from the coastal cities all the way out toward Palm Springs, the nature of the park's patrons changed with the development of the 91 and the 15 Freeways, making it far less of a "visitors" park and far more of a "neighborhood" park. Much evening and sustained use began to taper off in the 1980s as a growing transient population and area crime rate became noticeable elements within the park. While relatively newer developments like the fiesta bandshell have sought to draw back in a tight neighborhood connection, other aging and disconnected elements have hampered the re-emergence of the park as a community center and anchor for development of the east end of our town.

Proposed plans include reducing the number of driveway access points onto adjacent highways for safety reasons, relocating parking areas, creating a "great lawn" area in the middle of the park, measured walking/running paths, a garden area and restoration of the "Plunge" façade of yesteryear along with other architectural elements with ties to the past. Additional restrooms, a gymnasium, cultural arts structure and a stage have also been proposed.



"The Readers" Organization in Corona by Judy Hrabak

"The Readers," an organization of Corona women, grew out of the nationally known Delphian Society. A chapter of the Delphian Society was formed on April 11, 1923 at the Woman's Improvement Club. The purpose of the Society was primarily educational and for the personal development of its members. On November 13, 1929, the group withdrew from the Delphian Society and the name of the club was changed to "The Readers," and the interest directed to the study of contemporary history, art, literature, poetry and ideas. Outside speakers were invited and a circulation of new books was begun.

Mrs. T. C. Jameson was the first President of the Delphian Society And Mrs. Chester Gould, Vice-President. Membership was twenty-three. The Woman's Improvement Club and this group were early promoters of culture and arts in the community.

A review of files in the Corona Public Library includes minutes of the club from 1923-2001, along with Treasurer reports. Current membership in this club is confined to twenty. This is a comfortable size for most homes, where they meet. Yearly membership is \$20, and each member takes home one book at the end of the season.

From the files, interesting notes include that membership dues in 1946 were \$2.50, and a bill paid for four books was \$13. Books for reading are always hard cover and printed that year. In the early years of the club, monthly book reports covered topics such as: the Victorian Era in English History, Religion of the Victorian Era, Victorian Art, Flower Arranging and Wild flowers, Styles of the Victorian Era, Tracing the Descent of Queen Victoria, and Legends of the San Jacinto Indians.

The Secretary's notes in October of 1961 tell of a book review on, "Chairman of the Bored," By Edward Streater. The Secretary writes, " The less said about this review the better. The speaker apparently was carried away by the sound of her own voice, and did not confine herself to the right time-range, for which she should be penalized by not being allowed to give another review for two or three years. She apologizes. Her only alibi: She tried to glance at her watch now and then but could never read the time exactly." As a result of this happening, the Program Chairman now stops the book review if it gets too long or boring.

The following charming and somewhat nonsensical poem, dated May 22, 1933, was written about the first readers club by local historian Janet Williams Gould. It was meant to be a toast from the old members of the club.

From Delphians to Readers. From Readers to _____?

Although our name was Delphian
We do not trace our origin
To far-off Greece.
Nor tho' we delve

In bookish lore
We did not spring,
Medusa-like
From the stern brow
Of Zeus.
But from the out-pouring and tumultuous
Of one Page Matron,
And our own desire for knowledge
Was born the club
Which through the years
The paths of wisdom
Has traversed
So Faithfully.
Yes---
We've walked with Queen Hatshepsut
On the Nile- (page the crocodile)—
We've studied all
About Victorian style.
We know the daily life
Of Napoleon's favorite sister—
We have absorbed the American scene
From Poe to Owen Wister.
We've drifted in a gondola
In Venice ere Il Duce,
Know Nicolle loved Aucassin—
The date of England's truce.
The Cid is nothing new to us,
Dos-toi-ev-sky is simple.
And furthermore we have found out
That nuns adore a wimple.
We've scanned the Cloister and the Word
The Hudson River School;
And Moliere's wit's assured us
The bourgeois's not a fool.
If we had been the Consulate
We'd surely have gone far:
We might have even curled the plume
Of Henry of Navarre.
Mrs. Rapson calmly told us how
The Erectheum to know,--
Mrs. Gilliland has taught us
Where furniture should go.
Mrs. Hancock has skipped lightly
O'er happenings of the day.
And of the crowning of Queen Vic
Mrs. Davis had much to say.
Though we've read Bertrand Russell,
Dear sisters, 'tis a fact
That up to current writing,
Our families are intact.
With Go(u)lden guide
We've chanted
Poets of the U.S.A.
From grand old cosmic Whitman
To Edna S. Millay.
She whose name is called T(h)ome



"The Readers" continued

Like any ancient book
Has taught how to look at stars
And see how light waves crook.
Cathedrals-- ancient cities—Ah,
You ask what do we do
With such a fund of knowledge.
Dear—if we only know!
And so we simply do protest
A browningsque enjoyment
Of all we've said or done
And confidently in the Va(i)le
Expect a lot of fun.
Perhaps if sometimes grow rosy,
Inflated money high,
Be bright enough to carry us
To something derriere cry,
With new glands just discovered
To make us young and fair,
Our minds already up to date,
Perhaps it will transpire
That we decide to emulate
Some dames of whom we've read
And make our programs concentrate
On something besides head.
Shall it be milk-baths at the home
Of our hostess of the day?
Who knows when one has once embarked
With company so gay?
Alas, you cry---
FRIVOLITY!
From old member too!
Not so, fellow members—

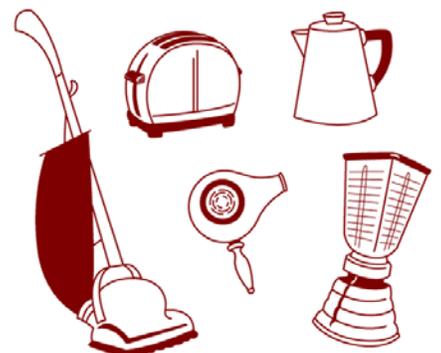


What would be the use
Of ten long years of study
If it made us all abstruse
And stern and without humor
So we forgot to smile.
Hasn't it been worthwhile?
Hmm, I have it.
We're oracles forsooth,
Not unconvincingly Delphic,
But Dudleyized—
Wise enough in truth (4)
To tell as 'twere a saga
The beginning of a saga
The beginning of a club.
So we four and no more,
Toast the new members,
Tilson, Miller, Knauer,
Snedecors, Williams et al.
Lifting our glasses of H.2 O.-- 3 point two,
We drink the toast,
WHAT COULD WE DO WITHOUT YOU?

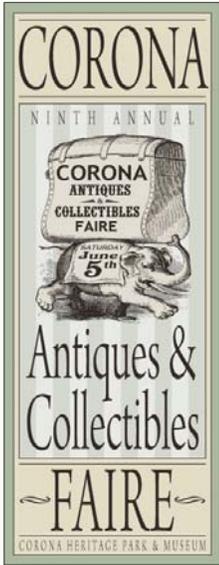
The last page in the library file on the Readers Club is a letter from the Friends Of The Corona Public Library, dated May 10, 2001, which thanks the Readers for their generous donation of \$75 to the Adopt-A-Book Program. Material they will purchase will be both in print and audio books. "We've come a long way baby," since 1923 and we are proud to have this historic club still active in our community promoting thoughtful reading and inspiring conversation.

The Electric Transformer in 1886

Much of America was still in the dark in the late 1800s when Corona was founded. Yes, Thomas Edison had perfected his lightbulb, and power plants were being built, but there was a link missing between the two -- a way to convert the higher voltages into lower ones. Then Westinghouse engineer William Stanley tweaked an inefficient transformer invented in the United Kingdom. His revolutionary device led to a system that, to this day, supercharges the volts surging through power lines and tames them into the 110 volts needed to run home appliances.



Antiques & Collectibles Faire



Corona Heritage Park's Annual Antiques Faire Saturday, June 5, 2010 8AM - 3PM

The annual Corona Antiques and Collectibles Faire at Corona Heritage Park (510 West Foothill Parkway) features everything from antiques to original pieces of art and plants for sale. In its ninth year, the Faire is a popular venue for collectors as well as those seeking something unique.

Held at Corona Heritage Park, the Faire is a great opportunity to explore this hidden gem nestled in the city. For more information on the Park or the Antiques and Collectibles Faire, visit their website at <www.CoronaHeritage.org> or call (951) 898-0687. What undiscovered treasures will you discover at this year's Faire? Reminder: be sure to visit both CHPS booths while strolling through the event.

May is Historic Preservation Month

It is a rare opportunity for LOVERS OF OLD HOUSES to be able to visit older homes in our area and learn of each structure's illustrious past.

Many of our sister organizations throughout the nation hold such tours during the month of May, and for good reason.

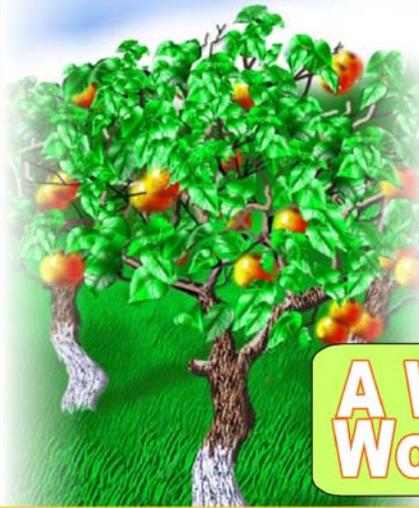
May is designated as the month to pay particular attention to historic preservation. The weather is usually delightful as it is conducive to strolling outside in more comfortable temperatures with a decreased chance of precipitation.

Old Riverside Foundation member and Chair of their tour, Nancy Parrish, is also a member of the Corona Historic Preservation Society. Nancy has become a good friend and graciously assisted us with her expertise and advice when we re-established our Home Tour program in 2007.

We encourage you to attend the CHPS on May 1st as well as the ORF tour just two weeks later on May 15th.

Old Riverside Foundation

for historic preservation presents...



2010

**VINTAGE HOME
TOUR**

Saturday, May 15
10 am to 5 pm

**A Walk in the
Wood Streets**

An architectural tour for LOVERS OF OLD HOUSES featuring various styles of homes from 1910 to the 1930s in the "Wood Streets" area of Riverside. Includes self-guided home tours and Restoration Faire & Vintage Mercantile featuring raffle prizes, antiques & collectibles, suppliers, artists and craftspeople.

Tickets available at:

Mrs. Tiggy Winkles 3675 Main Street	A to Z Printing 4330 Van Buren Blvd.	Center Lumber 7550 Jurupa Ave.	Woodcrest Library 16625 Krameria
Mission Galleria Antiques 3700 Main Street	Moreno Valley Flower Box 12625 Frederick Street	Gardener's Cottage 5225 Canyon Crest Drive	

For more info call (951) 683-2725 or the ORF web site: www.olderiverside.org or email Nancy Parrish: Factsgirl@aol.com or ORFMail@aol.com
Pre-Sale tickets: \$15; Day of Tour: \$18 Online sales with PayPal

Membership Information

**When joining or renewing your membership, please make your
tax deductible check payable to "CHPS"**

Individual Member	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer!	
Family	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospitality refreshments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter writing articles	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vintage Home Tour	
Patron	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	docent / volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 New and Renewal Memberships

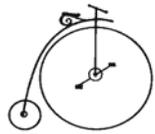
Richard & Carol Appel
 Jerry & Sandra Fleming
 Gary & Trisha Henson
 Charles & Anne Hirbour
 Glenn & Janet Johnson (Patron Members)
 Ken & Carol Kammeyer
 Susan Kleszewski
 Steve & Tracy Lech

Richard & Patricia Luginbill
 Janette Neumann (Patron Member)
 Tim O'Donnell
 John Quinn
 Dottie Reichard
 Bill & Karen Stein
 Ola Talbert (Patron Member)
 Clyde R. Tracy

The Status of the Toothbrush in 1886

When South Riverside (as Corona was known until 1896) was founded in 1886, oral hygiene in America was nothing to smile about. Thanks to soaring sugar consumption and fluoride-free water, dental decay was commonplace. Jars of tooth-cleaning paste went for jaw-dropping prices -- roughly half a day's wages for a manual laborer -- and expensive. Hand-carved toothbrushes were as likely to appear in the average home as the tooth fairy. Then Manhattan, NY dentist Meyer Rhein of the Florence Manufacturing Co. of Massachusetts entered the scene and engineered a mass-produced, budget-friendly brush such as the one seen here. Crafted of animal bone and boar's-hair bristles, it indeed had its drawbacks -- the bristles trapped bacteria and often fell out -- but for 35 cents, it helped many retain their molars, bicuspids, canines and incisors more than a century before the numerous power toothbrushes available today in 2010.





Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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President - Christine Gary
Vice President - Mary Winn
Secretary - Doris Osko
Treasurer - Richard Winn

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Thurston "Bubba" Bland
Lauralynn Hake
Judy Hrabak
Wayne Hrabak

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.

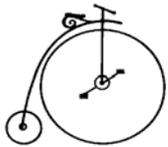
All members are invited to attend.
The next meetings will be:

Wed., May 12, 6:30 at 1052 E. Grand

Wed., June 16, 6:30 at 1052 E. Grand

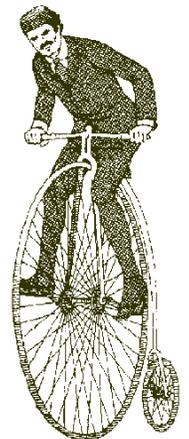
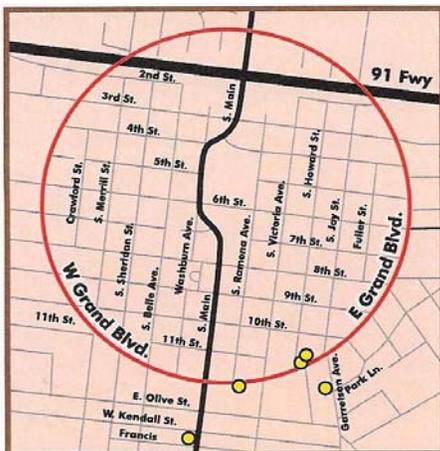


Visit us at www.corona-history.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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



Don't Miss the Vintage Home Tour on May 1st

See map above ~ Small circles indicate home locations