



Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

# Newsletter

October — November 2006

## "Preserving the Best of Corona"

Editor: Mary Winn E-mail: Toothlady2@juno.com

### A Message from Our President Jim Bryant

October always brings two exciting events to Corona. The first is Corona Heritage Foundation's **Lemon Festival**, on the first Sunday of the month, and the Corona Historic Preservation Society's Annual **Cemetery Walk** on the last Sunday of October. The annual festival is held on the front lawn of the Historic Civic Center at 815 W. Sixth Street from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and focuses on celebrating our citrus industry history as "The Lemon Capital of the World." Of course, for newcomers, this probably seems like an oddity since the few remaining citrus groves all appear to be comprised of orange trees, not lemon. However, Corona at one time in her history did have a high concentration of lemon groves, shipping tons of the little yellow fruit throughout the world. We can be as proud of that as we are of our road races around Grand Boulevard. If you get a chance, come enjoy the variety of booths on the lawn and see what's going on in Corona. CHPS will have its Lemonade Stand, *Images of America-Corona* book, Huell Howser DVD's, t-shirts, and other items for sale. You might also get a chance to talk to some politicians running for office in November and meet members of various City and private organizations.

The SE Corporation has invited all CHPS members to attend the **rededication of the Butterfield Stage route commemorative marker** along old Temescal Canyon Road at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 7, 2006. Our Vice President, Mary Winn, will be delivering an overview of the history of the area. A stage coach will be present, early settlers will be portrayed by society members and a plaque will be presented to

Ali and Aida Sahabi for their interest and commitment to preserving Corona's history. We hope you will be there to support this historic event.



The **12th Annual Cemetery Walk** will be Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, at the Sunnyslope Cemetery on Rimpau, just north of Magnolia Avenue. This year, tours will occur more frequently at thirty-minute intervals. Entrance to the tour will be, as before, off the south dirt parking lot. Signs will be posted on the fence and near our admissions table. Kathleen Dever, our wonderful Cemetery Walk Committee Chair, has provided a copy of the flyer for the event which is included in our newsletter. This is one of our most successful events each year; one we all look forward to as an entertaining way to reveal a little bit of the lives of some of Corona's former citizens. If you can only attend one CHPS event a year, this is the one you want to make it to as they're informative and revealing. Plus, each year's program theme is different from the previous ones.

[www.coronahistory.org](http://www.coronahistory.org) is the URL for the CHPS website which is under construction. We invite all to check out

the home page. Our Webmaster, Lynda Brown of *wowwebs*, has added a link to the Library's site for a snapshot of Corona's history, and a copy of the last newsletter have already been added. Additional information on Historic Markers, Society Officers and leaders, and various activities are pending addition and will be added as we provide it to her. Each week that goes by, look for new additions. We're quite excited about this site and anxious to get our first phase completed as soon as possible.

As we approach another year's end, we are reminded it is time for our annual election of Board members. We do have several open **CHPS Director positions** and hope anyone who is interested, contacts us by November 1<sup>st</sup>. You can leave a message at 951.898.2044 with your name and phone number or contact our Nominations Committee Chairperson Mary Winn at 951.371.5291. We'll be happy to provide you with information on responsibilities, requirements, bylaws and other information so you can better understand how the Board functions.

Don't forget our new **CHPS Office Open House** on Saturday, November 25, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Suite 170 at the Historic Civic Center at 815 West Sixth Street. We will be selling the latest Arcadia Publishing Historic Postcard Series book by our own Mary Winn. She will be present to autograph and personalize any books sold that day.

*Jim Bryant*



# City Council Election Information

On Aug 24, 2006, questions were mailed to the four candidates running for Corona City Council. The candidates were given almost four weeks to respond. We express our deep appreciation to the three candidates who took time out of their busy schedules to respond. This process is done to help you, our members, to be better informed of the candidates' positions when it comes to historic preservation issues. Please keep this information in mind when you cast your vote on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> and **PLEASE BE SURE TO VOTE!**

## QUESTIONS

- 1) What role should the City play in preserving historic buildings that still stand and how important is it to you to preserve and protect structures from Corona's past?
- 2) The City recently purchased the historic Corona Depot, and some have suggested that it be relocated. Given the fact that grants would almost certainly not be available for restoring a relocated building, what is your position regarding preservation, relocation and possible uses of the Depot?
- 3) What are your thoughts on the redevelopment of the downtown or "Inner Circle" area? Please explain your opinion on whether the current revitalization plan adequately addresses both commercial and residential concerns.
- 4) There is currently a lack of available space inside the Grand Boulevard Circle and elsewhere to which historic homes could be relocated and saved from the wrecking ball. What insights or ideas do you have on this predicament and solutions to the problem?
- 5) Many historically significant homes still stand in neighborhoods that need help to be safe and attractive. What do you feel needs to take place so that Corona's historic neighborhoods could be promoted by the City and rehabilitation and preservation could be a City goal? Please state your opinion regarding the use of low-interest loans or house preservation grants that could bring more homeownership back to the core.
- 6) If elected, what commitment are you going to personally make towards historic preservation in Corona?

***Responses from the candidates are printed below and are in reverse alphabetical order***

### **KAREN SPIEGEL**

1) We have very few existing landmarks left in Corona. Each vanished landmark has a story of its life and demise, but that is all we have - a story. We have photos and a chapter in books, but very little living legacy to pass on to our children and future generations. The City needs to continue taking an active role and join in partnership efforts, as best we can, to preserve and protect structures.

Thanks to the efforts of Richard and Mary Winn, the fate of our second Corona High School building and now our current Historic Civic Center has been determined to remain an integral part of Corona. The maintenance and upkeep will be tremendous and very few entities would be able to commit to this. Some had wanted to bull doze City Hall to make it a parking lot, but it survived this. Having served on the City Hall Re-use Committee, we held firm to make the best use by the City so that there is not a threat. Using the facility as a home for many non-profit organizations serves the community very well! This historic structure is one of the unique buildings that identifies Corona.

2) As most of you know, I have worked very hard to ensure that we kept the Corona Depot from it's possible demise. It truly is one of the last buildings that is an "icon" for our City and its rich heritage. I strongly have supported that it remains in its current location or move to the "other side" of Main Street and Grand Blvd. on the RTA property. I continue to work hard on this project.

The Depot property will enter escrow next month and will take approximately 60 days to close. I continue to work with RTA and the architect currently working on their plans to keep a footprint of the Depot for future use. I am seeking funding from several sources to help with this project. This will be a difficult task, but I am committed to see it through.

I think that bringing it to a more visible location, next to the railroad tracks (where it belongs), will help preserve its heritage. Utilizing it as a Transit office and possible sandwich shop will ensure its upkeep and offer

## City Council Election Information (continued)

the residents of Corona to see its beauty.

**3)** Since we are currently in the process of evaluating several submittals of proposed ideas for the downtown, this is difficult to answer. We have sought information and are utilizing the “experts” to offer their suggestions and more importantly, from their experience, what would work, financially and realistically. Grandiose ideas are intriguing, but unless they are possible, they will remain intriguing.

I have strongly expressed my concern that we need to keep the historic element as we redevelop this area. I have gone to other cities and have observed their use of building new, but “looking historic.” I have looked at cities with high density and how the traffic concerns are mitigated. There truly is great potential for our downtown area to add life and viability to an area that has become old and is seen as worn.

**4)** Whether inside the circle or in other areas of the City, it is difficult to find space, reasonably priced to relocate historic homes. It is not impossible, just challenging. As I drive around, there are some locations within the circle but ownership will remain the hurdle. If money were not a problem, neither would be finding a new location.

As revitalization and redevelopment of the downtown occur, we need to identify those homes that can and should be moved. We all recognize that we cannot save each home, but efforts need to be made on those truly “worth” saving. Once identified, relocation efforts would be pursued. Ideally it would be great to save all homes and relocate them, however this doesn’t seem possible.

**5)** When we revitalize areas, it is more than just to clean up the homes. Homeowners are “scared off” with the cost of refurbishing. There is Federal funding available as well as tax incentives. We, the City, need to work with these homeowners to find these funds as well as provide funds from our Redevelopment. Since part of the goal of the Redevelopment Agency is to provide housing programs including improving neighborhoods in and adjacent to the Circle, there is a definite possibility to seek funding for loans to home owners within the historic core to refurbish their homes.

**6)** My actions over the past few years are evident that I have already made a commitment to our community towards historic preservation in Corona. I have personally taken stands even when I was the only one, financially contributed to the preservation and continue to be involved in this effort. I proudly share our City motto *“To Cherish Our Past... To Plan Our Future.”*

As a 21 year resident, I have seen Corona’s growth over the past decade - a 100% population increase since 1987 - which has brought us to a pivotal point in our history. Our growth has created tremendous opportunity, and also produced some challenges. As we continue to grow and develop, we must remember not to get so busy planning our future, that we have forgotten our past. Newcomers love the “charm” of our city. We need to preserve our heritage to enhance community pride and ensure that our rapidly growing city retains its “small town” friendliness. I submit to you to continue to fight for preserving Corona’s heritage.

I believe you first need to know our history. We need to understand that the history of Corona began long before we became South Riverside in 1886; although it was at this time when our rich heritage had begun. By the turn of the century we were incorporated and changed our name to Corona. We were recognized as The Lemon Capital of the World. Then came the exciting era of the Corona Road Races in the 1910’s. This fascinating and unique history is rapidly slipping away. The preservation of this irreplaceable heritage should be of interest to all of us so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, inspirational, economic benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Coronans. Again, I pledge to you my continual support – what I need from this organization is your vote of confidence to return me to office to assist you in protecting our history.

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### STAN SKIPWORTH

**1)** My family and I chose Corona as our home in 1992, and much of our immediate appreciation for our community was in the many structures of historic significance that punctuated a variety of locations throughout the City. Corona had clearly shown a value and dedication in preserving its history.

I have seen the City take a leadership role in supporting the preservation of many precious buildings, and in turn, capture a key piece of our City’s history and culture for years to come.

I believe leaders in the community should have the opportunity to participate in the process of distinguishing

## City Council Election Information (continued)

these deserving properties, and to revitalize them in a manner that underscores our commitment to “*Cherish Our Past*”. Certainly, this leadership must continue to include representatives of the City, who can provide clear levels of guidance and support that will facilitate the preservation/restoration processes that a qualified structure may require. In very special cases, these processes may also call upon additional resources and commitments to accomplish a relocation of an historic structure. Again, such a venture should warrant the perspectives and contributions of key organizations and individuals, and the City should continue to be a partner.

**2** I believe this question brings us all to the very essence of the concept of historic-structure preservation: *Purpose*. The Depot, like a good number of other structures, is deserving of extensive conversation and effort to determine the most comprehensive understanding of its original purpose and its goal in serving future generations and visitors.

I feel very strongly that the Depot’s future purpose (and in turn the perception of its role in the past) may very well be influenced or impacted by the very site that ultimately may be chosen for relocation. Should the future site of the Depot not be supportive of the historic value of the Depot, the efforts to restore and then preserve, and to communicate and share in its history, role and relationship to the Corona of yesterday will be compromised.

To stem the possibility of a “lesser success” for the future of the Depot, it is important to identify the intended objectives for the relocation and preservation of the Depot by knowing the preferred uses of the structure and assessing any and all environmental attributes that any future site will have. To seek support of an investment of this form should understandably include an effective representation to the community of what the project will provide. This will develop a greater level of confidence and most certainly additional means of support for the future of the structure.

**3.** As Planning Commissioner, I have sought a model that brings a responsible combination of commercial and residential elements that will truly serve one another, the community at large, and those who will discover the area in the future. The ability to develop designs that recognize contemporary live-and-work attitudes and that effectively recaptures a sense of history and local culture will be among the most valuable resources we call upon in any future action to revitalize any portion of the downtown area. And certainly, the designs must incorporate superior public safety components in terms of physical features and technologies; people must be able to see the area one that is not only welcoming and exciting, but safe and accessible as well.

It is my intent that we pursue the highest quality form of redevelopment. I truly believe that we have the responsibility and some very specific opportunities to redevelop some areas of our city, and if we should opt to do so, we must do it in the spirit that the finished product would be just as deserving of preservation for historical purposes as those properties and structures we are seeking to protect today. That should be our standard for construction; a lofty goal, indeed—but one quite worthwhile.

**4.** Grand Boulevard/Circle has long been a significant destination within our city. It captures so much of our community’s history and it evokes a very distinct feeling when we drive or walk a greater portion of it. Many cities have successfully recognized and dedicated their energies to establishing zones that identify the importance of their historic structures, and Corona would do well to seek a similar setting for homes of a very distinct class. I believe we have some choices to accomplish this.

But to achieve these objectives requires us to also ensure that the infrastructure supports both the look and feel of a time in the past, while meeting the needs of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century population. An historic district must be supported by a contemporary infrastructure, and we must recognize that physical resources will remain at a premium. Having this in mind, I would propose that permanent locations within our City be identified as the final ‘home’ of those most deserving structures that could then be preserved and appreciated for generations to come. To accommodate this, it is essential that the infrastructure be in place to utilize modern instruments and resources to support the preservation process.

**5.** As a person with 25 years of law enforcement and public safety service, I know that every section of our City deserves to enjoy an environment free of crime and hazardous conditions. While there are regions of

## City Council Election Information (continued)

Corona that are more highly-traveled, it is clear that well-established and historic locations have appropriately high expectations for crime prevention because the losses of a landmark site are irreversible.

Concerning the shared value between the City and those who seek to preserve more deserving structures for future appreciation, I would suggest that seeking opportunities to actually promote the existence of historic landmarks within the City, and too their respective neighborhoods, would be an effective starting point.

**6)** I have actively supported the dedication of several properties for landmark status; a privilege that I consider one of my highest as a member of the Planning Commission. I have long held an immense appreciation of architecture, a deep sentiment to history, and a lasting quest to preserving the best a community has created.

Since choosing Corona as my home these values have been supported by the work of many, who like me, enjoy the conveniences of a modern community and the personal sense of pride knowing that our City has sought to identify appropriate structures for preservation, restoration, and even relocation in an effort to extend the connection from Corona's past to its future.

The growth and success of Corona over the last several years was in large part positioned for by the work and vision of many who came decades before. It is appropriate and right that we determine now, and in the future, a means to preserve significant people, places and structures that capture the rich and important heritage of the city. I am committed to supporting the process that assures us all of continuing to dedicate those deserving a permanent presence for us to inform future generations and to share our values of community and history.

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### PHIL BREITENBUCHER

**1)** "The past is prologue" is etched in the stone of the National Archive. Our Depot was prologue for the importance of quality roads for Corona's future.

The City must draw from other successful community improvements like holidays from permit fees, or amnesties for bringing code violations into compliance. In the case of Anaheim, the City has led to the re-creation of long established neighborhoods – adding vitality to the entire City.

**2)** Fullerton restored their historic facilities, like their Depot (adjacent to the original home of Fender Guitar), by using civic authority to encourage private investment. For our Depot to expand its significance, the City must expand the value of the Depot for investors who will share it through positive uses.

**3)** Where the City has encouraged enterprise, Corona has flourished. That has not happened at the Corona Mall or other areas because policy makers have spent their talents dictating the future instead of drawing commercial and residential interests to all areas of Corona.

**4)** The situation facing some homes is that their economic value has not kept pace with their land. By reducing the permitting, fees, and the paperwork associated with restoration, we will attract more interest in these facilities or identify more advantageous locations on a case by case basis.

**5)** Neighborhood residents understand more acutely the needs of Corona's many historic treasures than do well meaning officials sitting in our City Hall, Sacramento, or Washington D.C. Let's cut through red tape by waving unnecessary fees, and allow greater flexibility in achieving our vision, and we will create a renaissance of appreciation.

**6)** My commitment to every member of Corona's community is the same. By reducing the up front costs and intimidating paperwork associated with wanting to improve the community, we will revitalize historic structures and continue our outstanding growth. Then, Corona will have more funds for improving public safety and expanding the roads as necessary to Corona's future as the Depot was in our past.



Again, we thank Phil Breitenbucher, Stan Skipworth and Karen Spiegel for answering questions regarding pressing historic preservation issues.

## Home, Sweet Home Depot by John Wiles

Like many kids, I was fascinated by trains from an early age. I was much too young to sing along to “Chattanooga Choo Choo” or “On the Atchison, Topeka, and the Santa Fe,” but I’m among the generation of Southern Californian baby boomers who were fans of TV cartoon host Engineer Bill. One of the first movies I can remember



seeing is *The Greatest Show on Earth* — whose climactic train crash left a more lasting impression than any other part of that Oscar-winning film.

Another vivid memory is of gazing rapturously one Christmas as my father assembled a simple oval track for the model passenger train Santa had delivered the night before. Thanks to Dad’s innate creativity, it wasn’t long before that little train was whizzing through a landscape of miniature plastic trees, fences, lamp-posts, and billboards, all scenically arranged amid banks of white, cottony “snow” (a sight I’d yet to encounter in real life).

I enjoyed collecting trains throughout my childhood. There were small plastic trains to be excavated from boxes of breakfast cereal. A rustic train fashioned from segments of bark-covered tree limbs was a treasured souvenir from Redwood (or was it Sequoia?) National Park. Oversized cardboard cartons were handily converted with a little ingenuity (and lots of imagination) into an improvised backyard railroad.

Naturally, I also relished books about trains. One particular favorite starred an undersized, “misfit” locomotive who suffered scornful harassment from a roundhouse gang of bigger, bullying engines until being triumphantly transformed into the leader of a festive circus train. Another was all about a little blue caboose. And, of course, that famous “little engine that could” was nearly as heroic a role model as Superman, the Lone Ranger, or Davy Crockett.

I remember lying awake listening to the haunting bleats of train horns piercing soundless summer nights. For a special treat — if my brother and I had been good, that is — my parents would bundle us into the car, both of us dressed in our pajamas and ready for bed, and drive down to the Santa Fe Depot to watch one of the evening trains

rumble by. Freight trains were always the best — lumbering chains of massive containers in a variety of colors, shapes, and sizes. Signaling the end of each rail-bound parade was a homey-looking red caboose (Mom had once ridden in one, while training for Red Cross duty during World War II, and I secretly longed to do so, as well).

I don’t recall ever departing from Corona to the classic cry “**All aboard!**” — but I’ll never forget mounting the steps of the train that transported me from Riverside to my freshman year at Iowa’s Grinnell College (a two-day adventure in cross-country travel and a first stimulating taste of independence). Grinnell’s tiny Rock Island Depot was crowded with new arrivals and welcoming upperclassmen — and it would later see me leave for and return from a succession of Christmas and summer vacations. Those time-consuming journeys were eventually abandoned for the greater efficiency and convenience of air travel — but at a price of immediate, eye-gorging vistas and an intangible touch of romance.

Corona’s own humble little depot remains among the indelible images of the city I grew up knowing. Can I picture that depot being moved to City Park or some other incongruous location? Definitely not. Can I picture it being preserved where it has stood and served for nearly 70 years — for generations of future Coronans to appreciate? I think I can, I think I can... Can you?

## Our Office Open House & Book Signing



**Vintage Corona Postcard Book Release Date Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Be the first to have a signed & personalized copy!**  
**Great for gift-giving at \$21.50 (tax incl.)**

**Our doors will be open from 10 am - 1 pm on Saturday, Nov 25th**  
**Historic Civic Center, Suite 170**  
**815 West Sixth Street**

# CHPS 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 Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Membership Status: Renewal  New



**Please complete and mail to:**

**CHPS**

**P.O. Box 2904**

**Corona, CA 92878**



## We Welcome Our New and Continuing Members

Jim & Patti Anderson  
 Benny & Marla Benson  
 Jim & Marie Cambruzzi  
 Wanda Cleveland  
 Dorothy Erick  
 John & Jane Farr  
 Jerry & Sandra Fleming  
 Margaret Stanley Freeman

Charles & Ann Hirbour  
 Chifra Holt  
 Margaret Jameson  
 Glenn & Janet Johnson (Patron)  
 Robert Joor (Patron member)  
 Richard & Patricia Luginbill  
 J.D. & Debbie McBriety

Jeff & Debora Miller  
 John & Esther Prichard  
 Bruce Rouman  
 Janet Scanlon  
 Gretchen Scoggins  
 George & Pat Scott  
 Michael & Tamra Segert

## Mark Your Calendar! We'd Love for You to Join Us!

**Sunday, Oct 1 LEMON FESTIVAL 10 am - 4 pm Historic Civic Center, 815 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.**

**Saturday, Oct 7 REDEDICATION CEREMONY of the Butterfield Stage Station site 2 pm  
 At The Lakes at Dos Lagos off Temescal Canyon Road (CHPS will participate)**

**Sunday, Oct 29 CEMETERY WALK 1:30 - 3:30 pm Tours every 1/2 hour  
 Sunnyslope Cemetery at 1125 South Rimpau, Corona (see enclosed flyer)**

**Saturday, Nov 25 CHPS OFFICE OPEN HOUSE & BOOK SIGNING for *Vintage Corona Postcard Book* by Mary Bryner Winn Historic Civic Center, 815 W. 6th St., Ste 170 10 am - 1 pm**

**Thursday, Dec 7 ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY 6:30 pm  
 Details in next newsletter**





## Board of Directors

President Jim Bryant  
Vice-President Mary Winn  
Secretary Bret Keesler  
Treasurer Richard Winn

### Directors:

Marla Benson  
Kathleen Dever  
Chifra Holt  
John Kane  
John Land  
Trish Land

### Directors Emeritus

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 discuss issues affecting the Society and preservation of precious local historic resources.

**All members are invited to attend.**

The next meetings will be

**Wednesday, October 11 at 6:30 pm**

**Thursday, November 16 at 6:30 pm**  
at CHPS office, 815 W. 6th St., Suite 170



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



**Open House & Book Signing**  
**Vintage Corona Postcard Book**  
Saturday, Nov 25 10am - 1 pm  
Historic Civic Center, Suite 170



**Annual Cemetery Walk**  
Featuring Citizens Behind Street Names  
Sunday, Oct 29 1:30 - 3:30 at Sunnyslope Cemetery