

May - June 2014

## "Preserving the Best of Corona"

Editor: Mary Winn

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### A Message From Our President Julie Stern

Dear Members:

This year, 2014, has been a fantastic year so far, here at Corona Historic Preservation Society. We started the year off running and have already had a busy and exciting New Year.

First off I would like to welcome our two new board members and introduce them to our members.

Please welcome Tom Richins, a true preservationist. He and his lovely wife, Sunny, agreed to feature their historic landmark-worthy home last year on our Vintage Home Tour. Tom and his wife undertook this painstaking labor of love and beautifully restored their home while maintaining the architectural and historic integrity. Tom is also an adept researcher, writer and historian. We enjoy his regular posts on Facebook about his travels throughout Southern California with his young family to interesting and important history sites. I've learned so much just by following Tom's wonderful posts about Corona history.

Please welcome Fred Parr, a prestigious local historian and one of Corona's finest. Fred is a Fire Captain and Acting Battalion Chief for the Corona Fire Department. He is the Fire Department historian and has been working on a priceless collection of oral histories from some of the volunteer and retired members of the Corona Fire Department. Fred and his lovely wife Vickie have lived in Corona with their three sons since 1989. His first home in Corona was located on the historic "Speedway Track" on West 11th Street, where the Road Race drivers would make pit-stops. Fred has been generous in sharing the wealth of information he has gathered about Corona history over his 25 years of living and working in Corona.

And now for more CHPS news: We started off the year with our first Quarterly meeting - a private tour of the Corona Public Library and its W.D. Addison Heritage Room. The Heritage Room is a treasure trove of history. We found multitudes of documents and various journals that provide a look back into turn-of-the-century Corona and the city's growth throughout the decades. Even today, information is collected everyday, that will be stored and available for future generations. We are very fortunate to have such an extensive archive of historical artifacts. A huge thanks goes out to Heritage Room Librarian Jennifer Marlatt for the fascinating tour and priceless information.

CHPS members also attended the Riverside County History Symposium. This was an eventful and interesting day with various unique topics about our local history. Inside this newsletter you will find a great article about the Symposium and the great time had by all who attended.

Our next big and exciting events are in the works and coming your way. The 2014 Vintage Home Tour on May 3, 2014 and our next Quarterly Meeting "Growing Up In Corona -1940s" on June 21, 2014.

The Vintage Home Tour will feature four beautifully restored vintage homes built between c. 1920 and 1946. Musicians from the Corona Symphony will be joining us, as well as Habitat for Humanity and Glen Ivy Hot Springs. The Symphony will be providing elegant orchestrations to accompany your tour of the homes. Habitat for Humanity will have an information booth to promote restoration and preservation. Glen Ivy Hot Springs has made it possible for all ticket purchasers to be entered into a raffle to win two entries to the spa and a basket of spa goodies.

Our next Quarterly meeting, "Growing Up In Corona in the 1940s", will present a panel of six longtime Corona residents who will share their memories of Corona during the World War II era and participate in a discussion. We are looking forward to hearing the panel and sharing in their treasured memories of an exciting time in Corona's past. We anticipate a fun and lively event!

My last and very important announcement, May is National Preservation Month. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has declared this year's theme "Celebrating America's Treasures" to bring awareness to the preservation of irreplaceable and tangible reminders of our roots. We, at Corona Historic Preservation Society, strive to honor this theme and know that our current projects will support local and national preservation efforts. We work hard at this and remain dedicated to this cause. We deeply appreciate our members support and strive to be worthy of the title "preservationists." Living in Southern California, history is made everyday. We live in a region that is growing at a furious rate. Cities are rebuilding their interiors and expanding their borders. Vast projects to build transportation corridors that are modern, efficient and safe are underway and right beneath our noses. As you drive west on the 91, past the Main St. exit, look over the rail to your right and you will see a new and different Corona. A portion of the interior of the historic circle is now gone and new development is being prepared. You will also find this right in the center of the historic core. Blocks of turn-of-the-century bungalows are now gone, making way for new development. Fortunately, due to local historians, we will have records and photos of the original Corona and several threatened structures have been moved and saved. Preservationists know beyond all doubt that progress and change will forever go on and society will move forward. Cities that honor, cherish and preserve what made them strong in the beginning will carry that strength forward into the fabric of its future. At CHPS, we will continue to work towards this goal. We thank our members for their support, which gives us the opportunity to accomplish this very important work of documenting and preserving Corona's past.

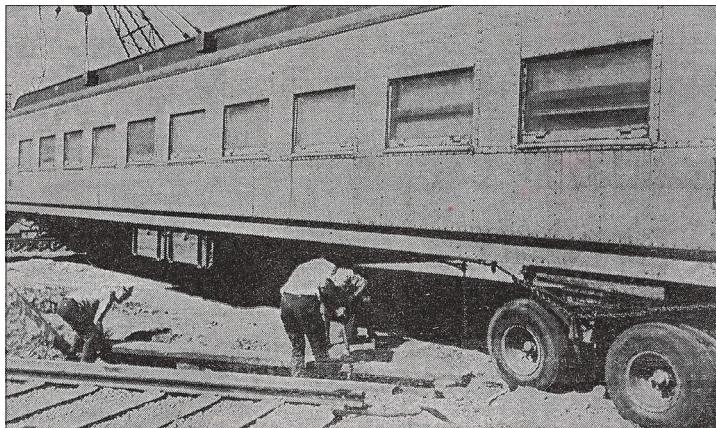
Yours In Preservation,

*Julie Stern*



# The Choo Choo & Deerfield Station By Mary Winn

"Adaptive reuse" is a term often used by historic preservationists referring to the repurposing of an older structure to a new use. Such is the case of this combination of dining cars and cabooses which some refer to as a landmark on the west end of town. This unique structure, incorporating real train cars and tracks from the 1930s, has stood at the southeast corner of East Sixth Street and Smith Avenue since April 1972, as seen in the scanned image below.



Dr. Charles Gunnoe and Alex Trougas were partners in the unique business venture some 42 years ago. Trougas (the former maitre d' at the Hickory restaurant) was quoted in the April 6, 1972 *Corona Daily Independent* article, "Choo Choo is the name and food is the game." The restaurant began as a steak house contained within two dining cars and two cabooses once used by Santa Fe Railroad. During WWII, the train cars doubled as hospital transports. A stationary structure in the likeness of a small town Victorian train depot was added to house the kitchen and offices. The cars were completely restored to railroad specifications.

Dr. Gunnoe's desire was to keep memories of railroading alive with the unique design of the restaurant. He is quoted as saying, "I felt with trains going out, that at least this way, kids in the future will know what they look like, and get an idea of what it was like to ride in one."

Charles and Becky Gunnoe sold the restaurant in 1982, but then took it back when the new owner died. They closed it, remodeled and re-opened it on August 19, 1982 with a new name, Deerfield Station, and a new chef from Orange County offering first-class cuisine and fine dining. Dinners started at \$9.95 and lunches from \$5.45. The posh Deerfield Station, which featured an extensive wine list in addition to elegant cuisine, received a silver award from the Southern California Restaurant Writers Association.

The Gunnoes closed the restaurant again in 1985 due to

the challenges of running a busy medical practice as well as a restaurant at the same time. Chuck and Carol Swanson, who owned the Corona Steak Co., ran it for a period of time until their lease ran out.

In 1986, the landmark restaurant was purchased by Tammie and Robin Clarke of Corona, who made changes to the menu and lengthened operation hours to seven days a week from 10 A.M. to 2 A.M. serving lunch and dinner. The scanned interior image below accompanied a 1986 article about the restaurant's reopening.



The last year Deerfield Station was listed in the Corona telephone book was 1991. Since that time, these unique structures have undergone another "adaptive reuse" process to house a variety of offices and services.



The entry foyer as it appears today is seen below with cabooses on the left and the dining cars on the right.



# Vintage Home Tour

Presented by



Saturday, May 3, 2014 • 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Proceeds benefit the CHPS Home Preservation Grant Program



1411 S. Main St.



1305 Kellogg Ave.



127 W. Kendall St.



Antique Automobiles on Display

Pre-sale tickets \$15, \$18 day of event available at 1052 East Grand Blvd.

For information call Chris at 951.734.0977 or email: VHTcorona2014@gmail.com

Pre-Sale tickets available online • Will-call day of event at 1052 East Grand Blvd.

Pre-sale deadline 11pm May 2 • [www.Corona-History.org](http://www.Corona-History.org)

Pre-Sale Tickets  
available after  
March 19th at:

Corona Chamber of Commerce  
904 E. 6th. St.

• Corona Heritage Park • Allegra (formerly ZAP)  
510 W. Foothill Parkway 127 Radio Road

# Quarterly Meeting: "Growing Up in Corona - 1940s"



The Corona Historic Preservation Society's second Quarterly Meeting will present a panel discussion on life in Corona during the World War II period. The decade of the 1940s was a tumultuous time for local citizens. The second half of this time period welcomed increased growth and development of the city along with returning veterans.

The discussion will feature panel members who graduated from Corona High School during the 1940s: Phil Newhouse (1940), Carmen Orozco Cordova (1945), Jim Pauly (1945), Char Leeson Killingsworth (1948), Clancy McCord Phillips (1949), and David Rawson (1949.)

**When: Saturday, June 21, 2014 starting at 10:00 A.M.**

**Where: Community Room of the Historic Civic Center  
(the high school library during the 1940s)  
815 West Sixth Street**



**This meeting is free of charge and is open to the public**

## The Heritage Room Visit was Wonderful!



The photo to the left shows the current CHPS Board of Directors. It was taken on March 22 at the W.D. Addison Heritage Room of the Corona Public Library. {L to R: Doris Osko, Tom Muñoz, Christine Gary, Fred Parr, Richard Winn, Mary Winn, Paula Muñoz, Julie Stern and Tom Richins}

Jennifer Marlatt, the Librarian at the Heritage Room, provided a private tour of the library and the Heritage Room to many fortunate "official" members of our society at our first Quarterly Meeting of 2014. We are very fortunate and grateful to be able to do research in this special archive of Corona's history. All attendees that day were quite impressed and shared their appreciation of the wealth of information that is available and accessible to all.



# I Remember When... Jim Pauly

By Richard & Mary Winn

Jim is a native Californian, having been born in Bakersfield and moving to Corona as a 10-year old in 1937. He first lived on East Olive and remembers well the first Lincoln school (the current location of Victoria Park) where he attended fourth grade. There were two large buildings: the one-story structure on the south side of campus which housed the auditorium and cafeteria; and the U-shaped 2-story classroom building, on the north side of the site, where the older students met in classrooms on the second floor. The campus playground consisted of the "upper" area, covered with asphalt, where soccer was played and the "lower" area where swings and pull-up bars were located. Long-time Corona teacher Bernice Cadger taught in a second floor classroom. His father taught at the high school, such subjects as print shop, mechanical drawing & English.



- My favorite cafeteria offering at Lincoln grammar school was mashed potatoes and gravy
- He attended classes at Corona Junior High School in the basement of the old high school building and also attended classes in the bungalows, which were "hotter than Hades" in warm weather. Mr. Andrews taught wood shop. English and Spanish were taught in classrooms facing onto "the Boulevard." Teachers remembered were: 7<sup>th</sup> grade Katherine Robbins, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Sarah Thrasher, 9<sup>th</sup> grade Grace Brooks.
- As for memories of Corona High School: Jim attended the high school at 815 West Sixth Street, played football and basketball. In those days Corona played in the Tri-County League against teams from La Puente, Citrus, Bonita and Claremont high schools. War years football great Glen Davis (who later went to Army) played for Bonita. Playing against him was like playing against an NFL running back. During WWII years, schools did not have gas stamps to pay for fuel to transport school teams to games so local clergy, who always seemed to have gas stamps, loaded up the boys in their personal vehicles and transported them to the games. He remembers being released from classes to harvest citrus crops when local manpower was absent due to war, and one year they were released to travel to Chino to pick tomatoes.
- At 15 he went to work part-time at Emerson's Menswear and often had to take care of customers that were participating in the bracero program. They spoke little English and always seemed to ask for shoes in size 6 no matter what the size of their feet. Emerson's did not carry men's shoes in size six and at first he would respond, "No tenemos tamaño numero seis" then he realized that by looking at their feet, he could roughly guess the size of their feet and provide them with properly sized shoes. When asked if these were size 6, he would say, "Sí! Son tamaño seis" with a straight face, and

make the sale, and everybody was happy.

- When the class of '45 graduated, Jim was not present at the graduation ceremony. He was on the island of Guam, courtesy of the U.S. Navy.
- During the filming of the movie *Storm Warning* in 1949, he remembers that Main Street between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> streets was washed with hoses every day for filming.
- Corona's first airfield, Kuster Field, was located parallel to Magnolia and ended at Sixth Street (in the area formerly occupied by the Yama's Tea House and the Hickory) and now occupied by Angels Sports Bar. When the mobile home park went in, it shortened the length of the runway and the airfield moved across Magnolia to the area near the radio station below the Cresta Verde development. He became acquainted with Clarence Steves who provided him with his first airplane ride (in an open cockpit biplane), his first and only opportunity to shoot a shotgun, and a trip to Perris to attend greyhound dog races.
- In 1947, he went to work full time at Emerson's Menswear and recalls that about 40% of the inventory was work clothing. Levis as well as Arrow dress shirts were priced at \$1.95; the shirts only came in three colors: white, ecru and blue. He subsequently bought out Mr. Emerson's interests in the store and kept the store downtown after Urban Renewal. He remembered that after the Corona Mall shops opened, customers were amazed at how nice the stores were. He was disappointed that some of the former downtown businesses: Corona Hardware, Stutsmans Sporting Goods, Mejia Appliances, Gunderson TV and C. W. Harris and Son Department Store either closed or chose not to come back to reopen in the downtown area.
- Jim was appointed to the Corona Unified School Board in 1966, replacing Board Clerk Glen Day, who had died. At his first School Board meeting, both the Board President and Vice President were absent, so as clerk, he had to run his inaugural meeting. To complicate matters the majority of those attending were fired up and angry parents. Supt. Stallings assured him everything would be OK and it was. He served on the Board until 1977 and remembers issues of YRS (Year Round Schools 45-15 program), when faced with double sessions and more bungalows needed, integration of Hispanic children under Supt. Stallings, alternative high school programs focusing on vocational assistance for students not oriented toward college, and the CHS swimming pool as a school and city partnership.

**Note:** Mr. Pauly will participate in the panel discussion at our upcoming meeting **Growing Up in Corona in the 1940s**. We invite our members and others to attend what will certainly be a lively and memorable meeting.

# Riverside County History Symposium



On Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup>, CHPS Board members, Mary and Richard Winn, Paula and Tom Muñoz, and Doris Osko enjoyed an informative and interesting look into regional history at the Riverside County History Symposium held at Dales Center, White Park, Riverside. Member Lee Hansen joined them to learn about the early roads that shaped the Pines-to-Palms Highway, the histories of

Murrieta Hot Springs, March Air Force Base, White Park, and the "Jim Crow Era" in the Lake Elsinore Community. The Symposium provided knowledgeable speakers, interesting exhibits, and a lovely setting in White Park. Riverside Councilman, Mike Gardner, welcomed the 90 persons attending. Power point presentations offered numerous graphics to make the talks come alive. We encourage you to attend this event in the future.

## Please Consider This Request from the Editor

For those of you who receive this publication as a hard copy, please consider making a change and instead receive it in digital format via email. The email version of the *CHPS Newsletter* is in full color so photographs are more interesting to view and one can also enlarge the size so you can view all contents more clearly. In addition, it also saves the editor and her dutiful husband from having to prepare the hard copies for mailing. With stamps at 49¢ apiece, it is costly to mail our newsletters and by printing fewer, the society will also save on printing costs. For those who do not have access to a computer, we understand and are happy to continue mailing them to you. Please contact me at: toothladytwo@aol.com or 951.371.5291.

With appreciation ~ *Mary Winn*

Visit CHPS Booths

The poster features the word "CORONA" in large, bold, serif capital letters at the top. Below it, "THIRTEENTH ANNUAL" is written in a smaller, sans-serif font. A central graphic includes a sign that reads "CORONA ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES FAIRE" and a date banner below it that says "SATURDAY June 7th". An illustration of a bulldog is at the bottom of the sign. The lower half of the poster has a striped background and the words "Antiques & Collectibles FAIRE" in large, stylized, serif capital letters. At the very bottom, it says "CORONA HERITAGE PARK & MUSEUM".

## Update on Preparation of Sheridan Houses for Moving

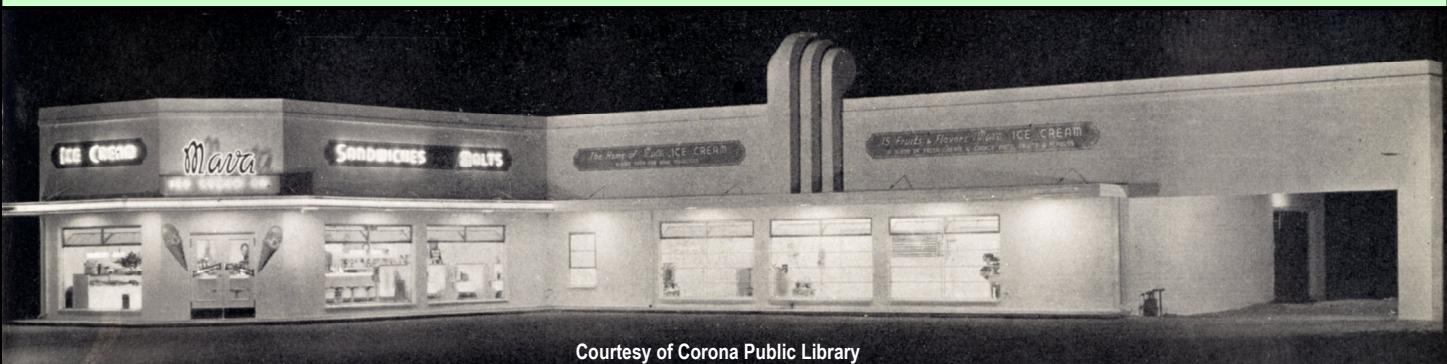


Both of these homes are now off their foundations and on steel beams supported by wooden cribbing. The next step will involve lifting the beams an additional amount and placing wheeled dollies under the beams for movement on the street. It has taken a



year to get to this point. There are so many "ducks to line up in a row" that each step in the process of relocating a house that the whole project seems to move at a snail's pace. We're very grateful that the snail just keeps moving and we will continue to provide updates.

# Mava Ice Cream Anyone?



Courtesy of Corona Public Library

Look for more historical information about our hometown ice cream manufacturer in a future CHPS Newsletter.

## Old Riverside Foundation's Vintage Home Tour on May 17

### May is Historic Preservation Month



Many historic preservation oriented organizations hold tours to commemorate the month. The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) will celebrate the month with a tour on Saturday, May 3rd. Details are found within this newsletter, visit our Website at [www.Corona-History.org](http://www.Corona-History.org) to learn more, or call Christine at 951.734.0977 for questions.

Likewise, Old Riverside Foundation (ORF), a "sister organization" of CHPS, will present an architectural tour for lovers of old houses to feature various styles of homes from the 1890s to the 1930s on Saturday, May 17 from 10 am - 5 pm. The tour includes a self-guided home tour and Restoration Faire and Vintage Mercantile featuring raffle prizes, antiques & collectibles, suppliers, artists and craftspeople.

For more information call 951.509.7682, visit the ORF Website: [www.oldriverside.org](http://www.oldriverside.org) or email Nancy Parrish: [factsgirl@aol.com](mailto:factsgirl@aol.com) or [ORFMail@aol.com](mailto:ORFMail@aol.com).

## Tidbits from 60 Years Ago in the *Corona Daily Independent*

► From a CDI article "148 from outside Corona register at picnic" dated May 4, 1954, page 2: "There were 242 former citizens present at the annual picnic of the Corona Pioneer Society at the City Park Sunday." The text of the article indicated that 148 of the 242 attendees were from outside Corona and then went on to painstakingly list the names of the "outsiders" and where they lived.

► In 1954, the *Corona Daily Independent* published names of those who had undergone surgery at Corona Hospital and often the surgical procedure that was done. Regular lists of those celebrating their birthday also appeared in the newspaper. School lunch menus were published weekly.

► Two lists appeared in each issue. One featured the scheduling for the five radio channels and the other for the seven TV channels. The list of TV programming started at 5:00 P.M. Some memorable programs from a daily listing were: Pinkey Lee Show, Howdy Doody, Webster Webfoot, Sheriff John, Little Rascals, Chet Huntley, Perry Como Show, George Putnam News, Liberace, My Little Margie, Orient Express, Jimmy Wakely, Crisswell Predicts, Sky King, Hopalong Cassidy, Terry & the Pirates, Eddie Fisher, This is Your Life, and Dragnet.

► During this era, stores advertising in the newspaper offered S & H Green Stamps as incentives for purchases. Stamps were collected and pasted in books and then redeemed for merchandise at a redemption center. Blue Chip Stamps became a competitor.



# Membership Information

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

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Individual Member | \$20.00  |
| Family            | \$30.00  |
| Student           | \$10.00  |
| Business          | \$50.00  |
| Patron            | \$100.00 |
| Life              | \$500.00 |

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|-----------------------------|
| I'd like to volunteer!      |
| Hospitality refreshments    |
| Newsletter writing articles |
| Vintage Home Tour           |
| docent / volunteer          |
| Board of Directors          |

|                          |
|--------------------------|
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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



Membership Status: Renewal  New

Please complete form and mail to:

CHPS  
P.O. Box 2904  
Corona, CA 92878



## We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Carol Ackerman  
JaNell Acosta  
Richard & Carol Appel  
Carmen Orozco Cordova  
Catherine Elayne Cover  
Peter & Cathy Espinoza  
Ed & Linda Faxon  
Peter & Nancy Grigas  
Judy Guignard

J.D. & Debbie McBriety  
Janette Neumann (Patron member)  
Phil Newhouse  
Fred & Vickie Parr  
Jim Pauly  
Clancy A. Phillips  
Patty Rappoport  
John Rasso  
David Rawson

Dottie Reichard  
Steven & Meg Ruth  
Robert & June Shelly  
Alexandria Stern  
Clyde R. Tracy  
Patricia Wallace  
Terry & Nancy Wilkeson  
Harold & Beryl Williams

## Our Home Preservation Grant Program

The CHPS Grant Committee along with the Board of Directors of the Corona Historic Preservation Society would like to assist local homeowners in making necessary improvements to their historic homes.

We will process any application within 60 days after submittal. 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

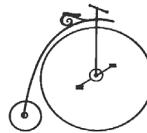


own or a neighbor's, please feel free to contact CHPS Home Preservation Grant-Program Chairman Tom Richins at trichins@dbacinc.com or 949.795.2288. We will assist you in any way possible to provide the information you need to complete the application process.

Grant applications are available at the Community Development Department at Corona City Hall at 400 South Vicentia, and at the Heritage Room of the Corona Public Library.

More information and grant applications may also be downloaded from our Website:  
<http://corona-history.org/grants.html>

**Please share this information with others!**



Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

## Board of Directors

President - Julie Stern  
Vice President - Mary Winn  
Secretary - Doris Osko  
Treasurer - Richard Winn

### Directors

Christine Gary  
Paula Muñoz  
Tom Muñoz  
Fred Parr  
Tom Richins

### Advisors

Marla Benson  
Janette Neumann  
Ted Taylor

To contact us call  
**951.898.2044**

Please leave a brief  
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, persuasion, 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 15, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office**

**Thursday, June 19, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office**



**Visit us at: [www.Corona-History.org](http://www.Corona-History.org)**



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



In recognition of Memorial Day

## Vintage Home Tour

Saturday, May 3, 2014  
1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Proceeds benefit the CHPS Home Preservation Grant Program



Don't miss out!

**Quarterly Meeting: Saturday, June 21 (See pg. 3)**  
**"GROWING UP IN CORONA - 1940s"**