

## A Message From Our President Christine Gary

Dear Members,

It is that time of year again. The Society is busy preparing for our big Spring Event, the 2011 VINTAGE HOME TOUR. Mark all your calendars for Saturday, May 7th from 1pm to 4pm to attend and have a great time! Information on the tour is found on page 3 of this newsletter.

We are still in need of docents as this year's tour is going to be quite extensive and interesting. There will be four unique homes, a carriage house as well as a garden to explore. We will be honoring all the hard work and craftsmanship of current owners and the past owners and builders of these homes. You will not want to miss these spectacular homes so get your family, friends and neighbors to attend with you. In addition to the home tour, we will again have a variety of antique automobiles on display. The Corona Heritage Garden Society will be joining us at Lemonia Grove, located at 2750 Rimpau, to provide a tour of the diverse gardens

there. They will also have an information table for participants to learn about their organization and their activities. It is sure to be a fun day for all!

We continue to advertise our Society's Historic Preservation Grant Program. We want to return the funds we earn back to preserve, restore and beautify our community.

We are also working on preparing the next of the Historic Markers in Corona. Selection of the next group of homes to be recognized with our Heritage Home Awards for 2011 is in progress as well.

A long-range plan is to celebrate the 100 year anniversary, or centennial celebration, of the first Corona Road Races held in September 1913. We all can look forward to this commemorative event in 2013.

Warm regards to all,

*Chris Gary*



## A Visit to Quality Toyota's Oval Office & Auto Museum

**Our first Quarterly Meeting for 2011 will be a visit to one location to see two venues:**

### 1) Quality West

**Wing**, a hands-on tour of Capitol Hill, including an exact replica of the Oval Office.

Visit:

[www.qualitywestwing.org](http://www.qualitywestwing.org)  
for a preview



**2) Uncle Bud's - A Journey Through Automotive History**, a vintage automotive experience. See modes of transportation from the horse and buggy through today's 21<sup>st</sup> century technological marvels.

Visit:

[www.unclebuds.org](http://www.unclebuds.org)  
for a preview



**When:** Saturday, April 2nd at 9:30 am

**Where:** 1705 West Sixth Street

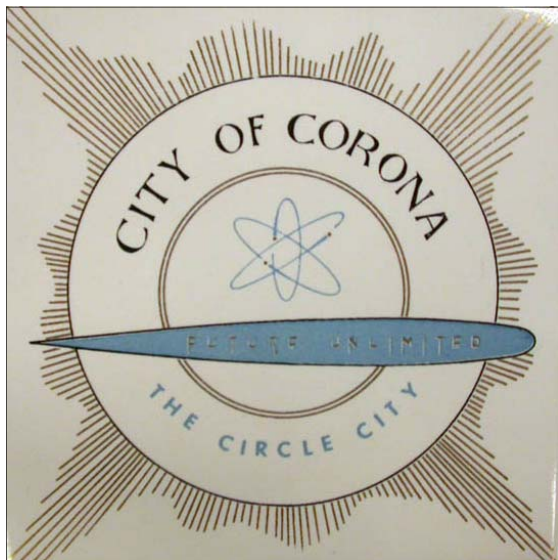
**TOUR SPACE IS LIMITED to 30 people**

**Call Jackie at 734-3166 ASAP to make your reservation.**

# City of Corona's City Seals



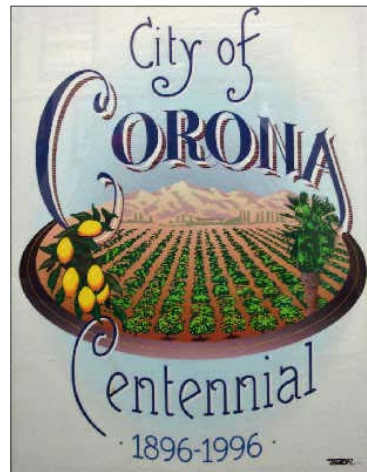
#1 - Corona's first City Seal was made by an embosser and reflected the fact that the city's economy was based upon the citrus industry for close to 80 years. The central image is a lemon with leaves. On the outside it reads: "City of Corona Riverside County California". On the inside it reads: "Incorporated July 13, 1896". Some lettering is difficult to read because the embosser was in use for many decades.



#2 - This is a photograph of a ceramic tile from the Corona Public Library's Collection bearing the image of Corona's second City Seal. It was adopted by the city in 1962 and is the only seal that does not pay homage to Corona's citrus heritage. The circle is symbolic of Grand Boulevard. The atomic symbol and "Future Unlimited" wording on the blue airfoil suggest Corona was striving to be seen as a progressive community looking towards the future. An airfoil is the shape of a wing or blade as seen in cross-section.



#3 - A contest was held in 1986 to design a third Corona City Seal as the city celebrated its first Centennial to commemorate its founding as South Riverside. This is the winning entry and it also incorporates symbolism. The circle represents Grand Boulevard. The orange and blossoms represent the city's citrus heritage. Corona means "crown" in Spanish. The word "Corona" in motion perhaps emphasizes speed and the famous Corona Road Races. "The Circle City" has been a nickname since the early days. "Incorporated July 13, 1896" is very significant as this is when the community's name officially changed from South Riverside to Corona. The city's motto "To Cherish Our Past - To Plan Our Future" appears for the first time on this City Seal.



Corona celebrated two centennials, one in 1986 and the other one in 1996. This is the **Centennial Seal** used in the celebration of Corona's 1996 centennial year. It was designed by local graphic artist and CHPS member, Ted Taylor. Note the circular road, lemons, citrus grove, palm tree, citrus theme and the Santa Ana Mountains in the distance.

**Permission to use City Seals was granted  
by the Corona City Council**



# Vintage Home Tour

**Presented by Corona Historic Preservation Society**

Saturday, May 7, 2011 • 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.



**1939 South Main**



**1934 South Main**



**2750 Rimpau** (*Lemon Grove*)



**2750 Rimpau** (*Carriage House*)



**1314 South Victoria**

## Antique Automobiles on Display

Pre-sale tickets \$15, \$18 day of event available at 1939 S. Main St.  
For information call Chris at 951.734.0977 or email: [vintagehometour@aol.com](mailto:vintagehometour@aol.com)  
Pre-Sale tickets available online for day of event will-call at 1939 S. Main St.  
Deadline 11pm May 6 • [www.Corona-History.org](http://www.Corona-History.org)

**Pre-Sale Tickets  
available after  
March 10th at:**

Greater Corona Valley Chamber  
904 E. 6th. St.

• Corona Heritage Park  
510 W. Foothill Parkway

• Allegra (formerly ZAP)  
127 Radio Road



## 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 covered by a CHPS Grant. We will 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 on-site 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

Corona Historic Preservation Society



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 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 of the Corona Public Library.

More information and grant applications can be downloaded from our Web site:

<<http://corona-history.org/grants.html>>

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

## Corona Landmark Property Update

In 2010, a highly significant home was added to Corona's Landmark List of Historic Resources. It was the home of one of Corona's founders and a principal in the South Riverside Land and Water Company: George L. Joy and his family. Title passed to Dr. Bernice Todd and it is now the home of the Mike and Julie Downs' family.

Of all the homes in Corona, this is one that clearly surprises many because the curb view today does not appear to resemble the original structure. This is because the beautiful 3-story Queen Anne Style Victorian residence, built between 1890 and 1893 and seen below, was modified in the early 1950s when Dr. Todd felt the home was too large for her to keep up. She had the second and third stories removed, flattened the roof and enlarged the front porch with cut stone pillars, thus creating a new descriptive style.



Courtesy of Corona Public Library

The current building appearing at the right is better described as a flat-roofed 1-story Vernacular Stone structure incorporating early Classical Revival features (cornice roof-

line and entry porch balusters and balustrades) as well as pre-existing Victorian and incidental Craftsman elements. For the most part, these changes were made more than 50 years ago and do not detract from the historical importance of the structure; the architectural significance is simply described differently. The cut stone foundation has been preserved. The façade, incorporating a somewhat enlarged porch with squared stone pilasters supporting the cornice and entry and screened porch areas, permit a view of the base of the original Victorian circular central turret and the smaller turret on the left corner. The first floor rooms maintain their Victorian characteristics. Some of the original details were preserved by expanding their use on the new front elevation. The duplicating of the "as built" low porch balustrade, with scroll cut shaped balusters and rail to the cornice/parapet roof line, enhances the use of this unique element. The open porch retains the original detail as well.



## I Remember When... by Don Williamson

At the December meeting of the CHPS I was thrilled to be elected to your Board of Directors. I am eager to join those that have donated so much of their time and talents to preserving the historic mementos still found, sometimes hidden, throughout Corona.

While I was not born in Corona, any memories I have of not living here are the dreamlike bits and pieces from the

life of a toddler. In 1957, my family came to Corona from the San Fernando Valley with the opening of Libbey Owens Ford Glass Fibers Company (sold to Johns Manville Fiberglass in 1958) on Magnolia. Lowe's Home Improvement store is now at this location.

We rented a house on Lime Street before moving to 1446 Fullerton which sat in the middle of three houses surrounded on all sides by orange groves. Our mailing address was Rural Route 2 Box 9. My dad drove to work on "Old Magnolia" which was still a dirt road through the groves between Ontario and Rimpau.

I started kindergarten at Lincoln Elementary in September 1959 when Corona was still very much a small community. I am sure some people must have commuted out of town but I was not aware of any grown-ups that did not work locally.

I grew up with the children of the city's merchants, business people, laborers, civic leaders and multi generational residents. In the course of everyday events you were surrounded by people you or a member of your family knew or knew about.

For example, one afternoon in third grade, one of my Lincoln classmates thought it a good idea to ride his bike in a traffic lane. Two or three cars ended up creeping behind him for a couple of blocks before he maneuvered out of the way. By the time he got to his Ford Street home his mother had received a phone call detailing his feat and was waiting anxiously to dole out the appropriate punishment. The adult network was swift and unforgiving.



Don, a first-grader in 1961, is seen here as he's walking along Fullerton Avenue on his way to Lincoln Elementary School (0.4 miles away).

Civic events were always momentous for a youngster, be it the Christmas parade that finished near the steps of the original City Hall on Main Street, Splash Night at the Corona Plunge or the annual Knights of Columbus circus event.

I especially liked the circus held on the Corona High football field, now where the current City Hall is located. Toward the end of the show the

ringmaster would invite the boys and girls in the audience to test how many could ride on the elephant. It was hilarious to see what seemed like fifty of my peers jammed sitting in a line facing east and west on the back of the tolerant creature. The performance concluded with the elephant standing, walking a few steps and lifting one small kid up with its trunk.

I suppose that from the day Corona city founder Robert Taylor completed the papers of incorporation anyone that has lived here for any period of time has bemoaned the changes caused by constant growth. I am no different. I know having a lifetime of Corona memories means I am living in a completely different city than most citizens. It also means it's easy to feel a little sad.

Preserving Corona's past is a tribute to the good people of any era that lived here, worked here and raised their families in the unlikely proximity of an old race track. Compared to those that have contributed to these pages with their memories of Corona, I am not in anyway an "old timer". I certainly do not consider myself such, but I have lived here for over fifty years and if everything works out, I will never move.





## Society Updates

● Rebecca Ittner, editor-in-chief of *Victorian Homes* magazine, attended our 2010 Vintage Home Tour last May. As a result, the magazine photographed and did a profile of two homes featured on the tour. Georgia Lambert's unique and whimsical home was featured in the current February issue starting on page 48; the cover is shown here.



● Christine Gary's lovely home, and many of her collections, will be featured in the April issue of *Victorian Homes* magazine.

● Permission has been granted for these articles, complete with fabulous photos, to be posted on our CHPS Web site <corona-history.org> so that they will be able to be viewed by one and all.

● If you are on Facebook, we encourage you to join our "group" entitled Corona Historic Preservation Society where event updates and other items of interest may be found.

● In the past, CHPS has provided monetary awards to recognize worthy History Day projects focusing on local history. Although we have contacted CNUSD over the past few years, those in charge of the program have reported there have not been any such projects on local history for us to even consider.

## Corona . . . Then and Now

It is unlikely anyone is still living that remembers the Richfield service station on the southeast corner of Fourth Street and Main as seen below:



Courtesy of Corona Public Library

Looking at the same view today, one could safely say that a certain character (or maybe characters) is missing.



**Mark your calendars now for Saturday, July 16, 2011** when we will be favored with a PowerPoint slide show entitled **Corona-Then & Now** depicting views of 50 or more sites of yesteryear compared with the same views today. This presentation will serve as our second Quarterly Meeting of 2011.

## The Society's Ongoing Activities



Monthly Board Meeting  
Bimonthly Newsletter  
Historic Marker Program  
Vintage Home Tour  
Annual Heritage Home Awards  
Historic Preservation Grant 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

Architectural Salvage Items and Materials Available to Members

Consulting with City Departments and Planning Commission on Historic Preservation Issues

# 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

JaNell Acosta  
Jim and Patti Anderson  
Mike & Julie Downs  
Jerry & Sandra Fleming  
Ken & Carol Kammeyer  
Steve & Tracy Lech  
Kent & Ginnette Lillibridge  
J. D. & Debbie McBriety  
Tom & Paula Muñoz

Jerry & Jean Neumann  
Michael Owens  
John & Esther Pritchard  
Nathan & Roberta Reed  
Michael & Tamie Segert  
Dr. Dina Stallings  
Ted & Cindy Taylor  
Peter & Connie Weber

## Architectural Salvage Shoppe

CHPS has limited amounts of 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 need such items, call CHPS at 898-2044 and leave a brief message (<1 minute) along with your telephone number.





## Board of Directors

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

### Directors

Jackie Bland  
Thurston "Bubba" Bland  
Paula Muñoz  
Don Williamson

### Directors Emeritus

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, 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:

**Wednesday, March 16, 7:00 at CHPS office**

**Wednesday, April 20, 7:00 at CHPS office**



**Visit us @ [www.corona-history.org](http://www.corona-history.org)**



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



Quality West Wing's Oval Office



Uncle Bud's ~ A Journey Through  
Automotive History

**Join us on April 2<sup>nd</sup> for our first  
Quarterly Meeting of 2011 *see pg. 1***