

A Message From Our President Don Williamson

Dear Members:

Celebrating Corona history throughout 2013 has made this a memorable year. The 125-year anniversary of the first school, the 100-year birthdays of the City Park and the Woman's Improvement Clubhouse as well as the first Road Race around Grand Boulevard. It has been an honor to participate in the recognition of each of these milestones.



Board members at CHPS booth

In this issue, you will be updated on recent CHPS activities. Included is a recap of our third quarter meeting, a presentation by author, Richard A. Santillan on his book, "Mexican American Baseball in the Inland Empire", our financially successful booth at the Centennial Road Race Celebration (**see photo above**) and the replacing of the *Old Temescal Road* historic marker near Glen Ivy Hot Springs.

Each of these occasions shares at least one thing in common, the dedication of our CHPS Board of Directors. Their diligence in preparing and promoting this Society and our events is why we have been successful.

Please do not forget, all members of CHPS are invited to attend our Holiday/Annual Meeting and pot luck dinner on December 5 at the beautiful and historic Woman's Improvement Clubhouse on December 5. More information is also located elsewhere in this newsletter.

At this year's annual meeting, members of the Board of Directors will be elected/re-elected and in January the Board will select new officers. While I am not seeking another term, I am confident a qualified individual will make it a seamless transition and all will be very well in 2014. That means this is my final CHPS Newsletter message and I would like to spend the space with some thoughts on local history.

In the field of professional historians, local history is the least respected. Among their observations (complaints), "It [local history writing] is often in the hands of dedicated amateurs. It is often lacking in fundamental research techniques with clumsiness in composition and usually exhibits a parochial approach." I cannot deny this and I repeatedly encounter textual content as described. Despite my best attempts, I can-

not even say that it does not describe my own feeble efforts.

I constantly encounter local history research obstacles: incomplete or limited documentation, contradictory recollections, misinterpretations of previous researchers and on and on. Perhaps the biggest hindrance in accurate local histories is that there is no money in it. By default that leaves the field wide open

for "dedicated amateurs" like me, we work free of charge. Don't you get what you pay for?

Scholarship aside, what actually makes local history important is a mathematic equation, that the sum of the parts constitute the whole. Local histories reflect the true shifts in culture and the evolution of social mores. Through these histories alone, it is possible to trace the origins of everything, such as rock and roll. Right in Corona, the past explains who and where we are today. Just look at the partially occupied strip mall that was once a thriving downtown business district.

A poignant example of the value of local history to our collective heritage is the effect of wars on communities. To know that a Corona boy died at Pearl Harbor, another fought on Iwo Jima and that a young man from Norco that visited my house 50 years ago was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in Vietnam, brings international turmoil right to Main Street. It unifies us and establishes our identity as Americans.

It is encouraging to realize that most people can find at least one element of local history that interests them.

After skedaddling, I will continue pursuing my passion for Corona history. In October, I was appointed to the Riverside County Historical Commission and am eager to work with other historic entities and individuals throughout our region.

The time I have spent with the Corona Historic Preservation Society has been invaluable. I have gotten to know and work alongside wonderful people. I will treasure the memories. I wish each of you all the best and encourage continued participation in preserving Corona's past. Remember, ours is the nation's only Circle City. Thank you for allowing me this experience.

Sincerely,

Don Williamson



Third Quarterly Meeting Summary

By Don Williamson

The CHPS Quarterly Meeting on October 5 featured a presentation by Dr. Richard A. Santillan of his book, *Mexican American Baseball in the Inland Empire*. Dr. Santillan detailed the important role that baseball has played in Southern California's Hispanic communities as far back as the 1890s. A number of photos in the book are dedicated to men and women that lived and played in Corona.

A highlight of the afternoon was the attendance of two Corona natives and former players, Carlos Uribe and Jim "Chayo" Rodriguez. Both men offered some reminiscences of their playing and coaching days.

Carlos Uribe was one of four brothers signed to contracts by major league teams. He graduated from Corona High in 1949 and went to join a Cleveland Indian minor league team the following season. His professional career hampered first by injury was virtually ended by a military call to duty in Korea during that War. He did play baseball in the service and in the professional Arizona-Texas League the year he was discharged.

Carlos treasures his memories and time playing baseball. He recalled, "We worked six days in the groves and played baseball all day Sunday. Getting the field ready for the game was hard but we didn't mind because we loved to play."

Chayo Rodriguez related his years of developing suc-



Former Corona baseball players, a widow, and author Dr. Richard Santillan (standing at right).

cessful tournaments and interjecting the sport into the lives of Corona's at risk young men. The widow of one of Chayo's players, Genovieve Brock, took the microphone and expressed to him how much he had meant to her late husband, Nick Serrato.

From Little League to college, Chayo has coached all ages and teams of both sexes. He touched the lives of countless Corona children for over 50 years. His home contains a collection of photos and letters of gratitude from play-

ers that he helped to develop into scholarship receiving collegiate athletes.

The topic of Dr. Santillan's next book is Mexican-American Baseball in the military. Addressing that area of the game was Corona resident, Remi Alvarez. He too expressed his love for playing baseball and how important it was in his life.

Corona is a big city now, but a small town moment occurred when Board member Richard Winn and Remi Alvarez saw each other. They first met when both were employed at Disneyland and had not seen each other for many years.

The book *Mexican-American Baseball in the Inland Empire* is available on Amazon.com. The proceeds from Dr. Santillan's three books on Mexican-American Baseball are donated to the Latino Baseball History Project.

Our Preservation Grant Program

Also see pg. 6

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 Chairman Mark German (951) 500-2767 or send him an E-mail at <mgerman@ca.rr.com>. He will help in any way possible to provide the information you need.

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!



Our Traditional Holiday Party and Annual Meeting



Thursday
December 5
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

**Annual Board
Member Election
will be held**



The Woman's
Improvement Club
was founded in 1899.

The Centennial of the
clubhouse was
celebrated in 2013.

This magnificent
structure was
featured on our 2013
Vintage Home Tour.

Woman's Improvement Club
1101 South Main Street

Potluck Dinner Food Assignments

Based on first letter of last name

A-H Salads / Vegetables

I-Q Desserts

R-Z Appetizers



Corona High School's



Madrigal Choir



**If you plan to attend, please be sure
to call Doris at 737-1766 by December 1**



Annual Election of Board of Directors

The election will take place at our Annual Holiday Party on December 5, 2013.

As of the publication of this Newsletter, the Nomination Committee presents the following slate for your consideration. One Director position remains to be filled.

Directors

Doris Osko
Julie Stern
Richard Winn

Advisors

Marla Benson
Janette Neumann
Ted Taylor

Per CHPS Bylaws, the Director term is for two years; the Advisor term is for one year.

Corona's Wealth - Its Citizens: A Local Marine's Journey By Doris Osko

In November, we celebrate Veterans Day so this newsletter shares the recent experiences of one of our local veterans: Captain Gilbert Lopez, United States Marine Corps Retired.

He was uniformed in WWII era correct U.S. Marine combat uniform and gear—herringbone twill utilities, boon-dockers, leggings, helmet, haversack, blanket roll, cartridge belt, M1911.45 caliber holster, M1 magazine pouches, canteen, and e-tool. The uniform and gear were exact mil-spec reproductions specifically purchased by Captain Gilbert Lopez of Corona for a pilgrimage in March to Iwo Jima and Peleliu. To commemorate the 68th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, he along with Marines of the “Old Breed” now in their late eighties and nineties, would return to the most hallowed grounds in United States Marine Corps history. He would walk on volcanic black sand beaches of Iwo Jima and the white coral beaches and battle sites of Peleliu.

As the summer of 1944 neared, the war in the Pacific was nearing its end. Though the end was near, major battles were still over the horizon for the Marines. To drive the Japanese out, U.S. Marines would spearhead an amphibious operation campaign strategy that would come to be referred to as the “Pacific Island Hopping Campaign.” The first major operation had come in August of 1942 with Operation WATCH TOWER, the “Battle of Guadalcanal.” Guadalcanal would be followed by the Battles of Tarawa, Kwajalein, Saipan, Guam, Peleliu, Iwo Jima and finally Okinawa.

Iwo Jima

The pilgrimage started with a return to the volcanic black sand island of Iwo Jima. Operation DETACHMENT, the Battle of Iwo Jima, February 26-March 1945, had been assigned to the Fourth and Fifth Marine Divisions with the Third Division in reserve—35,000 Marines with some 22,000 Japanese defenders would occupy the island on the first day of the battle. Among the “Old Breed” who returned to Iwo Jima were Don Graves, Bill Schott, and William Montgomery. These Marines were assigned to the 28th Marine Regiment, the unit that had assaulted Mount Suribachi. All distinctly recalled the assault and recalled vividly the historic flag raising of 1945. Although transportation was available, the Captain chose to “route step” the six plus miles from the airfield to the top of Mount Suribachi. As he moved to his objective, images of the battle had filled his head. He was walking on the same ground the 28th Marines had covered in 1945 and would stand on the exact spot where the iconic photo of the US flag raising on Mount Suribachi was captured by Joe Rosenthal on February 23, 1945.

After reflecting and standing in silent tribute, the Captain unfurled his authentic 1941, 48-star flag star in the breeze



atop Mount. Suribachi before descending down the mountain.

A joint American and Japanese commemorative ceremony was held at noon during which wreaths were laid at the Island's memorial site. The Marine Corps was represented by the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General John Paxton and retired Iwo Jima veteran Lt. Gen. Lawrence Snowden. Lt. Gen. Snowden, a company commander at the time of the invasion, is the senior surviving

Marine of the battle and is currently Chairman Emeritus of the Iwo Jima Association

For the Captain, the Iwo Jima tour would come to an end after several hours of retracing the amphibious assault across the three mile stretch of black volcanic beaches; Green, Red, Yellow and Blue. He would stand silently at the base of Mount Suribachi, humbled by an almost mystical experience. He gathered sand from all four landing beaches in honor of those Marines of Iwo Jima. As he returned for the journey home, the Captain was well aware that he had walked on hallowed ground, ground that had cost this Nation and her Corps 6,821 killed and 19,217 wounded.

Peleliu

Operation STALEMATE II, the Battle of Peleliu, September 15th to November 27th, 1944, was assigned to the First Marine Division. The Island of Peleliu is a mere twelve square miles in size (two miles by six miles). It was hard to envision that such a small area could contain simultaneously some nearly 28,000 U.S. and 11,000 Japanese combat troops and support equipment. The Captain related that some caution was called for as he and the “Old Breed” explored the island because unexploded ordinance was still abound throughout. Rusting remnants of U.S. and Japanese equipment were strewn about. Captain Lopez would enter the cave where the island's Japanese Commander, Colonel Nakagawa, would commit suicide rather than surrender. He along with others retraced the 1944 battlefield routes into the Umurbrogol Ridge, Bloody Nose, Death Valley, the Horseshoe, the Pocket and Pope's Ridge.

A commemorative ceremony was held at the First Marine Division Monument at the base of Hill 300 and directly across from Pope's Ridge. A flag raising ceremony was conducted using the Captain Lopez's 1941 flag. The ceremony culminated with the reading of Captain Everett Pope's Congressional Medal of Honor Citation. Captain Pope along with seven other Marines would be awarded the MOH for conspicuous gallantry. This was a very moving experience. (See photos on next page). At the final evening meal of the tour, a special tribute was observed in memory of the Marines who fought and died on Peleliu.

Corona's Wealth Continued

That evening the Governor of Peleliu served as the Guest of Honor. The Battle of Peleliu which was expected to last only four days would ultimately come at a heavy price; 1,252 Marines would be killed and 5,274 would be wounded.

Note: Captain Gilbert Lopez served 25 years in the US Marine Corps. During his last 18 years of his career, he had deployed somewhere on the globe every year before retiring. He saw combat on Grenada, in Lebanon twice, Panama, Desert Storm, and twice in Somalia.. The Captain credits his family for making it possible for him to selfishly go where Marines are supposed to go, "Every Clime and Place."

Captain Lopez has created several associated PowerPoint presentations and welcomes requests for their presentation to local organizations and groups.



Corona's First Synagogue By Julie Stern

I've lived in or near Corona since 1986, that makes it 27 years. I'd travelled the world extensively and then returned to the US to be near family, particularly my parents, who had settled in Corona. I love Corona's small town, down home feel and the warm dusty streets lined with ancient palm trees and lilac trees. I don't remember exactly when, but one day, way back then, I drove by the



Temple Beth Shalom. To be honest I was shocked and pleasantly surprised to see that that there were enough Jewish people in Corona to have their own temple. The building was like a story book picture of an old-fashioned, turn of the century, house of worship. The trim was painted in a lovely blue, the color of the Jewish people. Corona was much smaller in 1986 and only had just set out on its quest to develop extensive suburbs where the citrus groves used to be. It was comforting to see that all religions were welcome in Corona. I was raised in the Jewish faith until I was 8 years old. We went to temple every Friday night and I was learning Hebrew in Saturday school. Seeing the temple warmed my heart and brought back many fond memories of belonging to a Synagogue.

So you can imagine how disappointing it was to see that the historic Vernacular wood-frame structure, built before 1920, that housed the Temple Beth Shalom for 31 years, was to be demolished. It seems so strange that this absolutely lovely and story book perfect, antique house of worship, is subject to this fate. What memories this Temple must hold. Several of our prominent local leaders who have made significant impacts on the growth and development of Corona, Riverside County and the United States Government have worshipped here. I thought this building's unique architecture and history contributed to the community as did that of the First Congregational Church and First Baptist Church.

The Temple Beth Shalom congregation bought the building

and property in 1969. It had previously housed the Free Methodist Church. The kitchen in an adjacent structure was made kosher by the sisterhood. The men plumbed, painted and repaired this structure, to prepare the building for worship. The congregation was able to celebrate its second High Holy Day services in their own synagogue. Some of the original founders

were the Schwartz family, the Tarshis family and the Halperin family, Obbie Agins, George Fox and Sol Karl. Rabbi Marcus Simmons acted as their spiritual guide. After Rabbi Simmons went back into retirement, Henri Sinasohn led services while other members contributed readings and D'var Torah interpretations. Moshe Eisen was also an important spiritual leader.

The Board sold the building at 9th Street and Sheridan in 2000 to build a new temple and now meets in another location.

Memberships in the early days were composed of Holocaust survivors. Today, the mix is smaller, as many survivors are aged or deceased. The second and third generations of survivors pledge to continue to educate the community to protect and ensure history does not repeat itself.

I hoped that somebody would save this cherished former temple and house of worship. It would be lovely to see a plaque commemorating the temple, the founding members and the members who have significantly impacted our community and government. What a beautiful landmark it would be, establishing that diversity is truly honored and cherished in our city.

Note: Since early 2013, CHPS has worked with Corona Regional Medical Center to find an entity willing to relocate this structure. At this time, Corona Heritage Park will have architectural salvage rights to remove items to be used in a future building on Corona Heritage Park property.

Need a Great Idea for a Holiday Gift?



These beautiful limited edition T-shirts are still available to purchase until we run out.

CHPS has a licensing agreement with the City of Corona and is the only group offering T-shirts with the official Corona Grand Race logo

You may order them by sending an email to: safetyguy141@juno.com.

You may also buy them at the Gift Store at Corona Heritage Park & Museum
510 West Foothill Parkway.

Preservation Grant Program Update



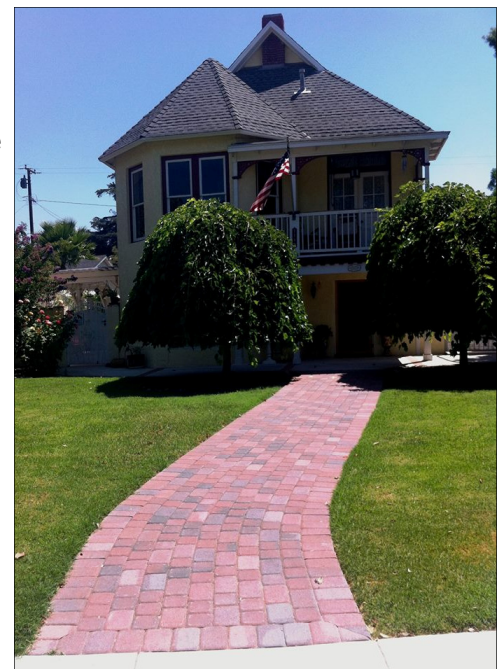
Photo courtesy of Alexandria Stern of Allie Rose Media

Since 2008, five home preservation grants have been awarded. The three homes above, the Fisher home, located at 911 S. Ramona, the Delgado home located at 1228 South Garretson and the "Barth-Stallings House" occupied by the Richins family at 1031 East Grand Boulevard, were repaired; prepped and painted and the grant funds partially reimbursed the homeowners for the cost of the paint and related materials. Below left is seen the restored stairway to the second floor apartment located in the historic carriage house, built in 1893, at Lemonia Grove, 2750 South Rimpau Street, owned by Jim & Patti Anderson. In this case the grant funds partially offset the cost of construction materials used to recreate the original stairs. To the right is seen the walkway leading to the front door of the historic "Dyer-Foster House" currently occupied by Bill and Vickie White and located at 1169 East Grand Boulevard. The grant funds, in this case, partially offset the costs of the pavers used to replace



the damaged and raised concrete sidewalk sections forming the old walkway.

Some time ago, one additional preservation grant project was approved but was never completed so that grant funds could be awarded.



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

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

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

Roger L. Atkinson

Judy Horan

Wayne & Judy Hrabak

Eric Johnson

Jacquelyn Lacera

Randy & Cathy Leonti

Gary & Doris Osko

Richard Polen

Randy Rawson

Nancy Royce

George & Pat Scott

Peggy Temple

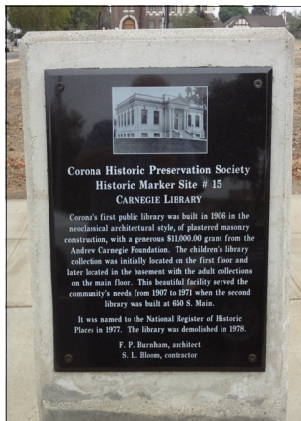
Andrew & Donna Vermette

John & Lorna Wardell

Michelle Watts

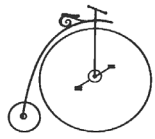
John Zickefoose

Historic Marker Now at Carnegie Library Site



The Site Marker at the left now marks the site of Corona's Carnegie Library formerly located at 811 South Main Street. With the cooperation of the City's Public Works Department, it has been placed in a vacant tree well in the midst of the sidewalk in the public right-of-way. When Dr. Houtman's project, Carnegie Medical Plaza, is complete, the marker plaque can be relocated to the lobby of the proposed medical office building.

This monument was conceived, designed and constructed by Life Scout Spencer Eccles from Crew 399. Due to the landowner's project scheduling conflicts and potential safety issues, the monument and marker could not be placed on the property. Subsequently, the City of Corona approved an alternate proposal to place the monument in an empty tree well in the sidewalk. The concrete monument and granite marker were placed August 19-20, 2013. Please drop by to check it out!



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

Board of Directors

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

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Christine Gary
Mark German
Paula Muñoz
Tom Muñoz
Julie Stern

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

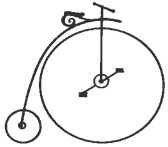
CHPS Board meetings are held each month to transact Society business, discuss issues affecting the Society and preservation of local historic resources.

All members are invited to attend.

The next meetings will be:

Thursday, Nov 21, 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office
Holiday Party: Thursday, Dec 5, 6:30 p.m. at
Woman's Improvement Club

Visit us at: ww.Corona-History.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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



We Give Thanks...



Happy Holidays!

Join in the Fun at Our Annual Holiday Party!

See pg. 3 for details