

A Message from Our President Jim Bryant

Since this is our first newsletter following December's Holiday Party, I would like to take this time to thank John and Trish Land for hosting this year's gala. Their home was, simply said, beautiful. Many months of sanding, scraping, painting, and remodeling resulted in as fine a home as we could ever imagine as the setting for our year-end festivities. Their home was quite cozy and inviting. Guests had a chance to both freshen up relationships and to make new ones. Besides our current Board of Directors, we had several former directors and a whole bunch of members. John and Trish invited a number of their neighbors to come over and join the fun. Many were new to Corona and thrilled to find such fine historic houses to make as their new homes.



The Monteon's Home


We also had some of Corona's native citizens attend, such as, Mayor Karen Spiegel and Mayor Pro Tem Eugene Montanez and his wife, Paula. We greatly appreciate them taking time out of their busy schedules for some food, refreshment, dessert, and chatter. Unlike most of us who get to go home and relax after the workday, our elected officials "make the rounds" amongst their constituents. I believe they must do this for the glory and the betterment of Corona, because it sure isn't for the pay. I could deliver pizza part-time and pull in more dough, probably. Whether you agree with their ideas and decisions, you have to respect them and their peers for accepting the responsibilities.

One of the other reasons we do hold our annual party is to publicly recognize deserving historic homeowners, CHPS members or not. Later that evening, John Land presented one of CHPS's Heritage Home Awards to Raymond and Cheryl Monteon. If you get a chance, take a look at their refurbished yellow and white home at 1839 S. Main Street. Another piece of Corona's history has been made to look like new, just as it did many decades

ago. It's on the east side of the street, south of Grand Boulevard. Another activity we hold at this event is the election of Board members to succeed those whose terms are ending or to fill open positions. All CHPS members in attendance had the opportunity to vote, with the results announced at our January Board meeting.

Adding to the 60 or so guests we had that night were the Corona High School Madrigals. As you probably guessed, they provided us with many old, and relatively new, holiday favorites. The architecture of the Land's home enhanced the acoustics as they sang; the young men in black tuxedos and the young ladies in dark red gowns. As always, they heightened the spirit of this seasonal event and reminded us that youth are such a big part of this holiday.

Another event that occurred on December 22 was the announcement by Congressman Ken Calvert that he was removing the proposed Prado Dam name-change from consideration in the Senate version of the bill. CHPS, as you probably know, was against changing the name, both for historical and financial reasons. We were able to deliver just under 1,000 signatures to the congressman in early December and many more followed. Apparently, citizens from all over the Inland Empire and southern Orange County heard about the proposed change and contacted Ken's office with their opinions as well. To them, we say "Thank you." We owe an even bigger "Thanks!" to Mary Winn and Lennie Kessler. Mary spearheaded this drive from the moment she heard about it in August, and Lennie joined her just as soon as she did, too.

For Lennie, this hit closer to home than for most of us. Her family had lived for years in the former town of Prado and experienced everything there was in saying goodbye to it. Sixty-five years had passed for them, but it still hurt too much to see it gone completely and forever. The Corona Historic Preservation Society and its members greatly ap- 

A Message from Our President continued

With all the water resources, transportation, and infrastructure construction going on in the Inland Empire, there is surely a project worthy of Victor V. Veysey's name.

Moving on to upcoming events, we have some new ones scheduled early this year. The first one has already come and gone. That was our tour of Uncle Bud's Garage and the Oval Office, both located at Quality Toyota in Corona. This was held on January 21st. Coming up in February will be the Oral History Seminar on the 18th. This is a co-operative venture with Corona's Genealogical Society, held at the Corona Public Library. Also coming up this quarter is our first-ever Historic Marker Tour. CHPS is hosting this on Saturday, March

25th. Information about both events is located in this newsletter.

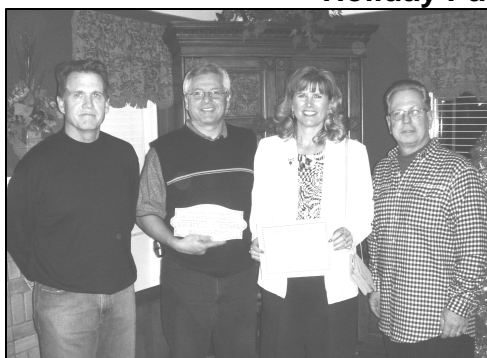
And with that, I thank you for your membership in the Corona Historic Preservation Society. I hope you are able to make it to some of our upcoming activities. Be prepared for an announcement in our April-May Newsletter regarding our 2nd Quarter Activity. We don't have anything definite, yet, but we've got a bundle of energy, Chifra Holt, searching high and low for something to entertain you. Whatever it is, I guarantee you it will be something we've never done before and, hopefully, as much fun as we can handle.

Jim Bryant



Photos of Our December Activities

Holiday Party at the Land's Home



Presentation of Heritage Home Award to Ray and Cheryl Monteon by John Land (left) and Jim Bryant (right.)

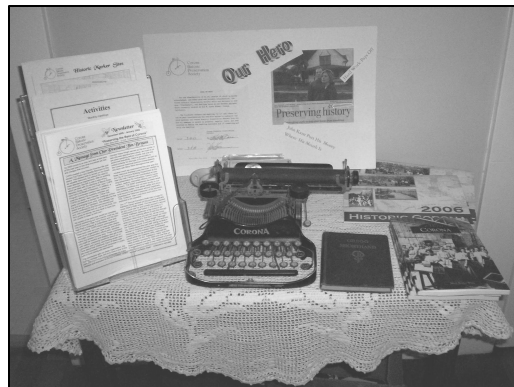


CHPS members enjoying themselves (L-R) Joan & George Thacker, Sydney & Kathleen Dever and Chifra Holt.

Open House showcasing the relocated and restored Harmony House now located at 609 East Grand Boulevard



Host John Kane relaxing next to fireplace in Harmony House.



Vintage items and CHPS materials on display.

In February You Are Invited To Attend

ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP*

Saturday, February 18 9 am - noon

Community Room of Corona Public Library

MEMBERS ONLY

Space is limited You must reserve a seat

Call Mary at 371-5291

CHPS is cosponsoring this workshop with the Corona Genealogical Society.

Oral history is a method of gathering and preserving historical information through recorded interviews with participants in past events and ways of life. CHPS is working to establish an Oral History Program to document the lives and memories of longtime Coronans.



CSU Fullerton's Center for Oral and Public His-

tory three-hour workshop gives an overall view of the oral history interview process including: locating sources for background research, selecting narrators, conducting the interview, various preservation and storage options, labeling material and establishing files for future access of information. Practice questions will be generated and various types of recording equipment will be discussed. Participants will receive written guidelines and sample forms to use in their own interview situations.

Stephanie George, collection curator for the Center, will be the presenter. She is currently working on her master's degree in history with an emphasis in public history.

Learn how to conduct a family interview or collect a meaningful oral history reflecting Corona's precious past.

Please Join Us In March

CARAVAN OF THE MARKERS*

Saturday, March 25

Meet at Heritage Park at 9:30 am

We will visit all 12 Historic Markers placed so far by CHPS and then return to Heritage Park for lunch, conversation and general merriment.

Bring a sack lunch and we will place it in a safe place to be eaten upon our return to the park.



Richard Winn and Jim Bryant will give brief explanations as to the significance of each site as well as what determined its selection as an historical landmark. Paper products and water will be provided.

Please call Chifra at 737-4566 to RSVP

FREE HOMES*

To Historic-Minded Property Owners

The Corona Historic Preservation Society is looking for new owners for local vintage houses in danger of demolition.

If you (or anyone you know) have ever dreamed of restoring an historic home to its original charm and have property or the financial means to purchase land and move a home ...

Call (951) 898-2044 for details

Leave a message



Our Visit to Uncle Bud's & the Oval Office



What gems we have right here in Corona! On Saturday morning, January 21, many of our members took advantage of our scheduled CHPS Quarterly Activity - a fun trip through America's past, investigating Americans' love affair with the automobile and a visit to "the Oval Office". An enjoyable time was had by all!

We first visited Corona's educational and technological venue known as "Uncle Buds" [part of the Bud Gordon (owner of Quality Toyota) automotive collection] where we were able to take a fun trip back through America's past and an exciting glimpse of the future. Some 25 vehicles ranging from a horse and buggy, dating from the early years of the last century, to a "Lexus" on a table, to a cut-away hybrid sedan of the present (with a sampling of typical personal vehicles, classic automobiles, motor cycles, scooters, street rods, unusual cars and race cars thrown in) were tastefully displayed in front of painted wall murals of the various time periods represented. We even got to step inside a soda fountain typical of what was a teen "hangout" some 60 or so years ago. Most visitors to the museum are groups of school children who see things they wouldn't see any place else. The purpose of Uncle Bud's is to nurture Americans' passion for cars while at the same time educating young people about the advances in technology and the many varied, challenging and rewarding careers within the automotive industry.

The second part of our tour was the Quality West Wing Oval Office Tour. Like Uncle Bud's the purpose of this slightly downsized replica of the Oval Office is to enhance school classroom curriculum on our nation's capital by providing a "hands-on" experience to make a memorable impression on students in the 4th, 5th and 8th grades, according to the docent. Most Corona students will never have an opportunity to visit The White House or Oval Office in Washington D.C., but they can get up close-and personal with the replica here in Corona and learn a great deal in the process. For students their visit also includes a brief film explaining how our nation's Constitution was written in the hot summer of 1787. A computer lab also allows students to live "A day in the life of the President" with a simulation of the variety of decision making opportunities occurring in a day in the life of the President. Other activities are also provided to encourage and assist students to learn about our nation's rich history.

The Board of Directors is working hard to provide you, our members, with fun and educational experiences to increase our appreciation of local historic resources. We were fortunate to not have to drive very far to visit these two points of interest.

I Remember When ...

Patricia Markowitz Barker was born on the Southland Jameson Ranch once located on West Ontario near Taylor Avenue. She attended grades 1 - 3 at Alvord School on Pierce Street, grades 4 - 6 at Lincoln School at 9th Street and Victoria, Corona Junior High where CFIS is now located and Corona High when it was located where the Historic Civic Center is now. She married John Barker and together they raised two daughters, Sharon and Patricia.



Patricia Markowitz Barker

?Gas rationing and coupons during World War II years and black out shades which were required on all windows.

?Dr. Hermann, founder and owner of Corona's first hospital, made house calls and always seemed to have to paint my tonsils with medicine when I had tonsillitis.

?Gas was 30¢ and when I heard that some day it would cost a dollar, I thought, "No way!"

I Remember When ...

?We used to climb on a big cannon or artillery gun located at City Park.

?We went swimming at The Plunge at City Park as well as playing on the merry-go-round and attending sports events there.

?Going to Girl Scout summer camp at City Park and eating snow cones purchased from a small building on Quarry Street.

?Riding horses to Norco and an area we once called Temescal Gardens.

?Convoys of Army boys going down Magnolia Avenue waving at the girls during the early 1940s.

?Pepper Corner, the Jameson Company's commissary, which was located on the corner of Fullerton and East Ontario.

?Typewriters we learned on in school were not electric and we used carbon paper to make copies.

?TV arrived during the mid 1940s and we all went to a neighbor's house to watch theirs.

?We used pincurls and rag curlers to make our hair curly.

?We wore mid-calf skirts and saddle oxford shoes to school and we used rollers, teasing and hairspray to create bouffant hairdos.

?Chase Drive went straight through east to west and there was no housing found south of the street; it was all citrus groves.

We Express Our Appreciation

?CHPS expresses its appreciation to all those who took the time and made the effort to contact Congressman Ken Calvert with their opinions and feelings regarding the proposed **renaming of the historic Prado Dam**. Mr Calvert has withdrawn his proposal. Special thanks go to Lennie Keesler and Mary Winn for their leadership and passionate efforts in providing Mr. Calvert with *numerous* signatures on petitions and calls to his offices objecting to the proposal.

?We're grateful to the Corona Chamber of Commerce and Corona's Circle City Kiwanis Club who gave us the opportunity to participate in the national **Dictionary Project** by sponsoring a local school's

third grade students and teachers receiving of dictionaries. The Board of Directors felt a historic connection with Lincoln Alternative School, the successor-in-name to Corona's first school, and we participated this year by making an appropriate contribution of \$175 to this end.

?A huge THANK YOU to CHPS members Eugene and Paula Montanez of ZAP Printing & Graphics for the **beautiful 2006 calendars** they published featuring vintage images of Corona. The selections came from *Images of America: Corona* book authored by Mary Bryner Winn. These calendars have been distributed throughout Corona. To obtain a copy from CHPS, call 898-2044 and leave a message.

The Harmony House by Kathleen Dever

This 1920s vernacular shotgun bungalow formerly located at 916 West Sixth Street is well-known in Corona as the Harmony House. It is currently located on the south west corner of Grand Boulevard and Fullerton Avenue. The house played a part in Corona's history by being the home and/or the business location of several family-owned enterprises. It is also significant for being the childhood home of Corona Postmaster George Prentice.



Martin and Filomena Frazer operated Frazer Realty from and lived in the residence for most of the 1950s. It was owned by the Frazer family from 1953 until 2003. From the early 1960s until 1978 the house served sporadically as a rental unit for young families or was vacant.

In 1978, the little house became the quaint quarters of Harmony Antiques.

In 1913, before any structure was built on the property; the small lot was valued at \$50 and owned by Stanley Garvey as a trustee. This lot was part of a subdivision called the Buena Vista Addition. Subsequently it was owned by several early Corona families including the Nunns, the Walters, the Brockmans and the Myers.

J.R. Myers is most likely to have built the home. Puzzling is the fact that Corona's tax records don't show a building on the property until 1927 although the City directory listed the property as J.R. Myers' home in 1924. He owned the property until 1928.

In the 1920s and well into the 1930s; J. R. Myers owned a successful trucking company in the Corona area and once lived on Myers Court (Harris Street today). Many of the homes on this block closely resemble the Harmony House although most have undergone cosmetic blunders and "remuddling" such as stuccoing over the wood siding or changing windows from double-hung sash to vinyl sliders.

George D. and Isabel Prentice bought the home in January of 1931. Isabel Prentice was widowed in 1939 but continued to live in the house with her children. She worked for several years at Corona High School as manager of the cafeteria. The Prentice children included George Jr., who was 11 years old when the family moved into the Sixth Street home. The new Prentice home was less than a block away from his soon-to-be Alma mater Corona High School (Class of 1937). During WWII he served in the US Army Air Forces. Later he and his wife Rita settled down in Corona and raised four sons. George became President of the Corona Rotary and Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus. George Prentice gave 36 years of service to the Corona Post Office starting in 1945 as a clerk and ended in 1981 as Corona postmaster. He worked in four different locations: Sixth and Ramona Avenue, South Main Street near Fifth Street, Seventh Street and Washburn Avenue, and the present site on West Grand Boulevard. In a 1980 interview George said, "I like to think I've contributed something to this community."

This modest house allowed working class families their dream of owning their own business.

This well-known antique store owned by Vaughn and Marlee Dixon specialized in Corona memorabilia and was open for 25 years. Harmony Antiques is still going strong on the Internet today.

In 2003, the Harmony House was sold to a dental group hoping to build an ultra-modern office in the midst of two other historic properties. The new plans were approved and the Harmony House was slated for demolition. (The office plans were approved before the final adoption of the City of Corona's Register of Historic Resources.)

John Kane, as a Historic Preservation Society board member, urged the dental group to reconsider their plans to destroy the house and tried unsuccessfully to talk them into restoring the Harmony House for use as a unique dental office. He also explained, to no avail, the monetary savings afforded by remodeling historically as opposed to the cost of new construction. With time running out for the house, John decided the only way to save it was to do it himself. He purchased vacant property on historic Grand Boulevard and the disused house was moved in the middle of the night to its new location.

After spending over two years steadily restoring while constantly overcoming obstacles; John Kane's dream of saving the home came to fruition in December of 2005. This thoughtfully restored home, complete with new kitchen, master bath, walk-in closet, garage, updated wiring and plumbing, is *better* than new as it retains a strong historic flavor while possessing modern amenities.

The Harmony House was sold in January of 2006 to a historic-minded owner who also is a genealogist. Both will start a new life in Corona while being a distinctive part of Corona's past.

At this time, the Corona Historic Preservation Society is trying to save a 2-story historic home that is slated for demolition in the immediate future. We need your help to find the special person it takes to accomplish this task. Call (951) 898-2044 (leave a message) for details including how Corona's historic house moving incentives may benefit the project.

Membership Information

When joining or renewing your membership, please make out your tax deductible check 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 for:

Programs ☐
Membership Activities ☐
Public Relations ☐
Board of Directors ☐
Other _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Gift from _____



Membership Status: Renewal ☐ New ☐

Please complete and mail to:

CHPS

**P.O. Box 2904
Corona, CA 92878**



We Welcome Our New and Continuing Members

Tony & Carol Ackerman
Mary Cox
Glenn & Christine Gary
Steve & Tracy Lech
Hazel & Barbara Lohman

Carl & Sue Simmons
Dick & Susan Tichy
Clyde R. Tracy
Akio & Helen Yoshikawa

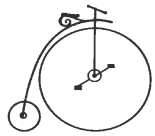
Annual Election of Board of Directors

The Election took place at our yearly Holiday Party on December 8, 2005. Directors elected to serve two years were: Marla Benson, Chifra Holt, John Kane, John Land and Myrna Rose. Janette Neumann and Ted Taylor were reelected to serve as Emeritus Directors, as our Bylaws require each year.

Board Member Beverley Scray was unable to continue on the Board and had to resign. At our January Board Meeting, Bret Keesler was voted upon by the Board and was elected to serve the remainder of Beverley's term. Bret has also agreed to be the CHPS secretary for the upcoming year. We thank Beverley for the months she served.

We also need to thank Diane Wright for the capable service she provided as a Board member during 2005. Diane plans to continue her involvement in CHPS projects as well as her many endeavors related to local history and genealogy.





Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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
Myrna Rose

Directors Emeritus

Janette Neumann
Ted Taylor



To contact us call
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

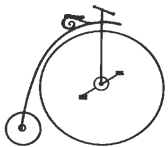
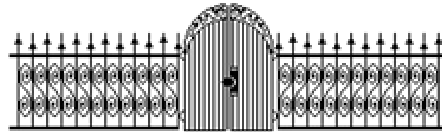
CHPS Board meetings are held each month to transact society business, discuss issues affecting the Society and preservation of local historic resources.

All members are invited to attend.

The next meetings will be

Thursday, February 16, 6:30 at Heritage Park

Thursday, March 16, 6:30 (contact us for location)



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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



Don't Forget Your Valentine on Feb. 14th