

Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society



Newsletter



November - December 2007

"Preserving the Best of Corona"

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

A Message from Our President Julie Stern

Dear Members:

The holidays are here and CHPS is moving into the remaining months of the year with great energy and excitement. We just participated in the Lemon Festival. Upcoming events in which we will participate include: The Riverside County Historical Commission's 5th Annual History Symposium, the Ribbon Cutting at the Historic Civic Center which is now on the National Register and our annual Holiday Party to be held at the beautiful Victorian home of Glenn and Chris Gary on Grand Boulevard. Our first 2008 Quarterly Meeting is planned for January 12 featuring Kevin Bash speaking on preservation of the Norconian Resort Supreme.

As the New Year quickly approaches, I look back on this year of old and new challenges for CHPS. We are always working very hard to preserve Corona's history and make this work as accessible to the public as possible. Additions to our Web site have been added throughout the year. Mary Winn's books on Corona history are continuing to sell well and add funds to our coffers. We have also started a small archive of histories of Corona's historic homes which is available to our members and the community. Our Quarterly Meetings this year included a pictorial presentation on Riverside's Mission Inn, a tour of Corona's state-of-the-art Archives Center which is comprised of historical city documents from our founder's days to present, and, most recently, a presentation on Corona's historic citrus labels. We also conducted a very successful Vintage Home Tour in which the public was able to visit five lovely historic homes

As for new challenges, we have met with city officials on several occasions to work as a team on the following projects: saving and moving three historic structures slated for demolition, the restoration of the



Board members at recent Lemon Festival (L-R): Richard Winn, Mary Winn John Kane, Chris Gary & Julie Stern.

Historic Civic Center, plans for redevelopment in the Historic District and plans for new buildings currently being built in and around the Historic District. We also participated in roundtables with other city leaders and discussed the future plans for the historic core of Corona, the downtown. Lastly, we reviewed and discussed several applications for landmark status of a number of historic homes resulting in the landmarking of most of the homes. In all these meetings and discussions, we have continually advocated to preserve the

best of Corona history.

We are very proud to say that we have met several of our preservation goals this year and have stayed committed to our mission statement. We look forward to representing historic-minded community members again next year and working with the community as a whole to promote the diverse and interesting history of Corona.

In closing, I would like to encourage all members of CHPS to talk to their friends and neighbors about preserving our old homes and encourage people to join the effort to save our old downtown. I would also like to thank all the members of CHPS who came out to support local preservation efforts and attended our events. I would like to thank our dedicated Board members who have unselfishly given their time to keep CHPS an active and important community service organization in Corona. The Board's efforts have resulted in many good works and accomplishments this year. Finally, I would like to thank the Board for giving me the opportunity to serve as the president of CHPS for the year 2007.

Yours In Preservation,

Julie Stern



Fascinating Sharing of Citrus History by Richard Winn

On Saturday, September 15, the Community Room at Corona's Historic Civic Center was the scene of a lively lecture and slide presentation on Corona Citrus Labels. The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) hosted the event by inviting long time Corona resident Linda Faxon to share her knowledge and expertise on the history and variety of citrus labels used by Corona packing houses during the heyday of citrus ranching in Corona.

Linda herself has an extensive personal collection of citrus labels acquired over the 35 years she has lived in Corona. Her collection notebooks are shown in photograph. She reported that some 243 different citrus labels have been identified as appearing on the crates of Corona citrus crops. This included Corona's lemon, orange and grapefruit crops. The earliest labels appeared in the early 1890s when Corona was known as South Riverside. These labels are quite rare and are very valuable. Linda's collection includes all but 36 of the identified labels.

Some of the packing house names are still familiar to Coronans, others are not. Some packing houses changed names over the years. American Fruit Growers, Call Ranch, Charters Davis, Corona Citrus Association, Corona Lemon Company, Corona Foothill Lemon Company, Flagler Fruit and Packing Company, Orange Heights Fruit Association, Queen Colony Fruit Exchange,



Corona citrus label collector Linda Faxon displaying her favorite label "Silence", from the Flagler Fruit and Packing Co.

R.H Verity and Sons, Sparr Fruit Company, Sunkist Growers, Thieme Fruit Company, W.H Jameson were just some of the names of the packing houses.

Each packing house had a variety of brands which were packed there. Some familiar brand names can still be seen in street names in the local area: Ambassador, Consul, Diplomat, El Cerrito, Envoy. Older crate labels were lithographed and were often rich in vibrant colors and designs while later labels were simplified with large text replacing multi-color pictures. Linda shared with attendees the means of determining the age of many

of these labels and whether a label was for the best of the crop or from the 2nd grade of the crop. Most were printed on "good" paper and survive to this day in the hands of collectors, libraries and museums.

Faxon suggested that if one wishes to see some of these labels, many are available on-line from the Pomona Public Library Collection. The Allman Collection is housed in the collections found in the Riverside County Public Library. Others can be viewed on the web site of the Corona Public Library. General information on citrus crate labels can be found in a book by Gordon McCullen, entitled *Fruit Crate Art*, which covers examples of crate art from all over the western United States and include apple crate art, pear crate art, and other fruits in addition to citrus fruit.

Thirteenth Annual Victorian Twelfth Night Celebration



The Old Riverside Foundation, a non-profit organization for historic preservation, is planning its 13th Annual Victorian Twelfth Night Celebration for Friday, January 4th and Saturday, January 5th, 2008. The evening will include a four-course progressive dinner hosted in some of the Heritage Square Historic District's most illustrious vintage homes with transportation between the homes provided by horse-drawn carriages. Seating will be at 6:30pm or 8:30pm. Make your reservations early, as Saturday tickets sell quickly! Tickets are \$85 per person. Proceeds benefit historic preservation in Riverside and the Inland Empire.

Please check our website or call for more information. Tickets may be purchased at www.olderiverside.org. If ordering by mail, send a check made out to "ORF" at Old Riverside Foundation, P.O. Box 601, Riverside, CA 92502.

For additional information contact:

Nancy Parrish, Factsgirl@aol.com
Phone: 951-683-2725 or www.olderiverside.org

Our Holiday Party and Annual Meeting

Thursday

December 6

6:30 - 9:00 pm

**Annual Board
Election
will be held**



**Chris & Glenn
Gary's
Picturesque &
Lovingly
Restored
Historic Home**

1052 East Grand Boulevard

**Corona High School's
Madrigal Choir**



Musical Entertainment



**Potluck Dinner
Food Assignments**

Based on first letter of last name

A-H Desserts

I-O Appetizers

P-Z Salads/Vegetables



**Important: If you plan to attend, please
call Chris at 734-0977 by December 2**





Historic Civic Center Ribbon Cutting

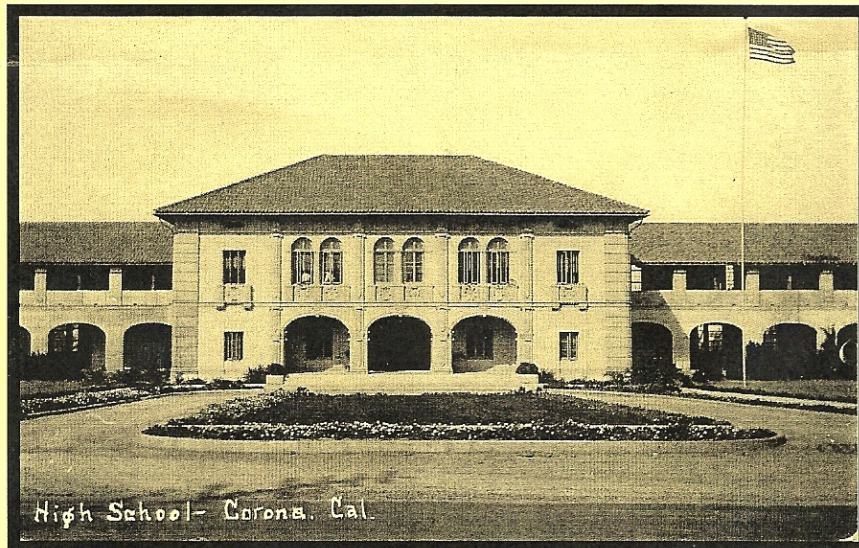
Tuesday, November 6, 2007

10:30 am

Historic Civic Center

Main Entrance

815 West Sixth Street, Corona



Please join us in celebrating the recent completion of the Historic Civic Center's auditorium and lobby renovation and the designation of the building to the National Register of Historic Places. The City of Corona, in partnership with the community, recently completed a two-year renovation of this historic landmark in order to preserve its magnificence and have it continue serving as a resource to the community in the decades to come.

Highlights include...

- ◆ Ribbon cutting & plaque unveiling
- ◆ Tour the renovated Auditorium and selected areas
 - ◆ Historic Exhibits
 - ◆ Refreshments

For more information, please call 951-736-2374

Great Ideas for Holiday Gifts



**Start & Finish Line
Corona Road Race**
B&W image on natural shirt

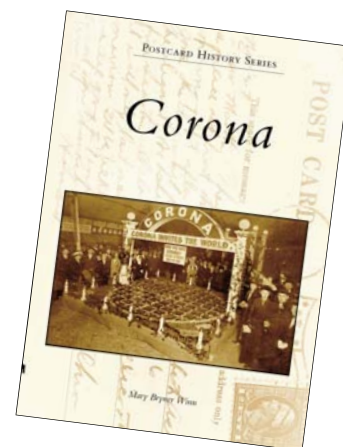
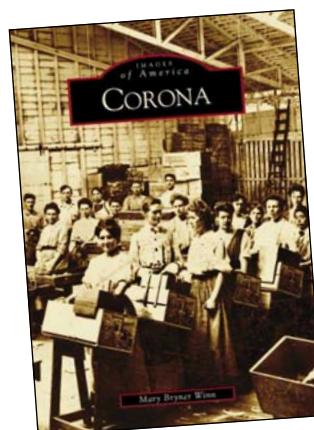
**All T-Shirts
\$15.00**
(Includes tax)



Corona Road Race
Colorful image on white shirt



"I wasn't born in Corona"
Wording on light blue shirt

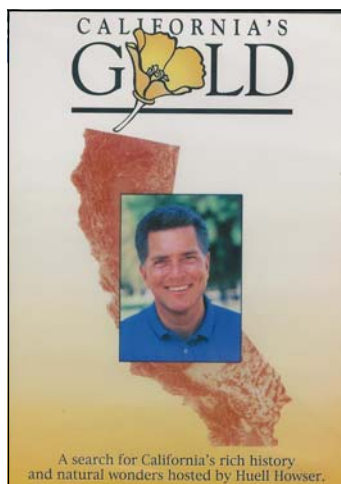


Corona Books

Signed by Author Mary Bryner Winn
\$21.50 (includes tax)

A few of the hardbound
Corona history books authored by
Diann Marsh are available for \$40.00,
includes tax.

If you are interested in any of these
items, call 951-898-2044 and leave a
message. We will return your call and
personally deliver our CHPS items to
you within the local area.



**Huell Howser's
"Corona Road Race"**
Episode in DVD Format
\$25.00 (includes tax)



The sun is shining; The grass is green: The orange and palm trees sway. . .
There's Never Been Such a Day . . . by John Wiles

Christmas in Corona during my childhood was something of a mixed bag (or stocking). As a kid, I plunged into the spirit of the season practically as soon as the Thanksgiving leftovers had been packaged and fridged away. I loved the almost tangible sense of anticipatory excitement, as well as the pervasive cheer that seemed to transform a hopelessly troubled planet into a world of compassion and good will. I approached the myriad of holiday activities and observances with exuberant joy and delight. Yet something seemed to be missing...

The season was officially launched when the city put up its street decorations. Back then, swaths of tinsel, lights, and plastic ornaments were strung across lampposts for blocks along Sixth and Main Streets. Even when buffeted by gusting Santa Ana winds, these colorful festoons made a drive through the center of town an uplifting visual treat. Store windows displayed hand-painted holiday art (remember sponge stenciling?), and the ringing appeals of Salvation Army bells greeted the passing cars of downtown shoppers and strollers. Yet something seemed to be missing. . .

Christmas at home began with the hauling out of boxes of ornaments, lights and beloved family treasures that soon made everyday spaces into a festive yuletide wonderland. Dad capably supervised the trimming of the tree, while Mom turned out aromatic batches of cookies, candies, and other tasty concoctions. My brother and I were each given an Advent calendar with numbered doors to look forward to opening, one per day. Yet something seemed to be missing. . .

Our house's exterior was always rather modestly be-decked -- but then, I don't remember anyone back then mounting the sort of elaborate, energy sapping excesses that clutter many yards today. There was still plenty to see -- and an entire evening was devoted to cruising around town to savor eyefuls of oohs and aahs. Christmas Eve traditionally found us dining at a favorite Mexican restaurant, then attending the special, music-filled service at the First Congregational Church. There was usually at least one group outing to share carols



Looking north at the intersection of Main and Sixth Street where "swaths of tinsel, lights, and plastic ornaments were strung across lampposts for blocks"

Photo courtesy of Corona Public Library

and seasons greetings with shut-ins, senior citizens, and friends. Yet something seemed to be missing. . .

I had digested many accounts and depictions of Christmas -- from Dickens to Dr. Seuss, from *Miracle on 34th Street* to *The Gift of the Magi*. An inexhaustible medley of holiday melodies played merrily on my mental turntable -- and I could recite Clement Moore's classic "A Visit from St. Nicholas" by heart. I cherished these works -- but felt disconcertingly disconnected from them. The Christmases

they described seemed significantly more authentic than mine.

One critical deficiency was the lack of a chimney in my family's home. My anxiety over how Santa could get in to deliver gifts was far from assuaged by my parents' assurance that he was an exceptionally (and mysteriously) resourceful individual who would figure out an alternative route for his strategic entrance and exit. As valiantly as I tried, I couldn't overcome an insistent skepticism, and my belief in Santa Claus suffered an irremediable reality check.

The biggest disparity, however, was an absence of genuinely wintry weather. Jack Frost might occasionally nip at noses -- triggering an urgent "orange (and lemon) alert" to fire up smudge pots in the city's then abundant citrus groves -- but I don't recall any bouts of truly bitterly biting cold. It wasn't until I went off to college in Iowa years later that I learned firsthand the value of a heavy winter coat, a thick scarf, furry earmuffs, and a pair of comfortably well-lined gloves. In Corona, most folks just temporarily retired their T-shirts, shorts and sandals.

Christmas Eve might be starlit and chilly (as well as calm and bright), creating a fittingly atmospheric mood -- but Christmas Day itself always felt too warm, too dry, and entirely too green-and-brown. No frozen ponds or puddles invited a slippery slide. No glistening icicles fringed roofs or adorned bare branches. Frosty the Snowman was nowhere to be found.



Membership Information

When joining or renewing your membership, please make out your tax deductible check to CHPS.

Individual Member	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer for:	
Family	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Relations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patron	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____	

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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 & Continuing Members

Rich & Tacy Benziek
Beverly Bloch
Wanda Cleveland
Ed & Linda Faxon
Joan H. Hall
Glenn & Janet Johnson
Katharine Nichols

John & Ester Prichard
Randy Rawson
Roberta Reed
Bruce Rouman
George & Pat Scott
David & Diane Wright

There's Never Been Such a Day continued

There were no snowball fights, no skiing or tobogganing, no dashing over drifted fields in a one-horse open sleigh. I never learned to ice skate (probably just as well, since I was wobbly enough on the roller variety). In short, I felt deprived of the full glory of Christmas -- and envied kids who were fortunate enough to live where the seasons distinctly changed.

I was duly enchanted by my four winters in Iowa. I'll never forget the first time I beheld falling snow -- or the exasperated look on my Indiana-bred roommate's face as he observed my ecstatic rapture. I continued to experience the seasons after college, settling in Philadelphia for 27 years. Interestingly enough, I discovered that even East Coast Christmases are not always

white -- and that snow loses much of its allure once the holidays are over. Trudging around the city through dingy mounds of treacherous slush made me increasingly nostalgic for those stark streets and sidewalks of Southern California.

I've now been back in Corona for a full decade -- shamelessly basking in consistently balmy temperatures and pleased to be able to don my own shorts and sandals for most of the year. I'm as passionate as ever about Christmas -- and the eternal child in me never ceases to marvel at the magic of the season -- but I no longer feel even wistfully inclined to wish *"Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!"*

Then again, like Irving Berlin, sometimes I can't help dreaming...



Board of Directors

President - Julie Stern
Vice President - Christine Gary
Secretary - Jim Bryant
Treasurer - Richard Winn

Directors:

Aaron Hake
John Kane
Doris Osko
Mary Winn

Directors Emeritus

Marla Benson
Janette Neumann
Ted Taylor



To contact us call
951.898.2044
Please 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

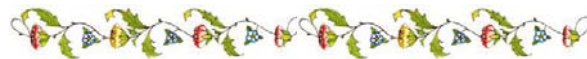
CHPS Board meetings are held each month to transact Society business, discuss issues affecting the Society and preservation of local historic resources.

All members are invited to attend.

The next meetings will be

Thursday, November 20, 6:30 at CHPS office

Thursday, December 6 at 1052 East Grand Blvd.



Web site: www.coronahistory.org



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



**Corona's 2nd High School
AKA Historic Civic Center**



Holiday Party Location

Don't miss out!

Ribbon Cutting at Historic Civic Center see pg. 4

Annual Holiday Party see pg. 3