

March - April 2015

"Preserving the Best of Corona"

Editor: Mary Winn

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A Message From Our President Tom Richins

Dear Members:

On November 19, 2014, the Corona City Council called for a study session to present the two developers' proposals provided for the sale of the property at the north east corner of Sixth and Main Streets. At the end of the session, Foremost Communities was the selected developer to go forward with the purchase of the property. Foremost gave a very thorough presentation displaying their understanding of Corona's planning, history, and future needs as well as an understanding of successful downtowns such as Fullerton and Brea. Impressively, Foremost stated that they had read the Downtown Historic Design Guidelines and had incorporated the guidelines into their presentation. Foremost will be partnering with Architects Orange to go forward with the planning. Architects Orange is known for their master planning abilities as well their ability to incorporate historical architectural elements into their designs.

As Foremost recognized, the property at Sixth and Main will not transform the downtown by itself but it will be the catalyst that will, over time, transform the downtown. In order to be vital, Foremost is planning to build mixed use apartment, retail, and commercial buildings on the property. This will generate a 24/7 vibrancy for the downtown. Although controversial, statistics show that more high density residential units are necessary to support the retail and commercial business growth in our downtown.

Because the development of this property will be the catalyst for the redevelopment of our historic downtown, it is important that we stay involved and continue to remind the architects, developers, and planners of the Downtown Historic Design Guidelines. The Design Guidelines state that, "All new construction and development should incorporate representative characteristics of the surrounding area and historic architectural elements." This doesn't mean that the new buildings should look old. The guidelines simply establish an architectural style that will recognize our past



**CHPS Board Members at Corona High School's plaque dedication (L-R): Tom Richins, Richard Winn, Trisha Henson, Christine Gary, Paula Muñoz, Mary Winn, Doris Osko & Fred Parr.
Tom Muñoz was unable to attend.**

and give our downtown a character image and theme to go forward for future development.

Because preservation as well as revitalization of our downtown are so important, this quote by Architect William J. Murtagh, the first keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, describes it best: "Preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future."

May these words ring true as we go forward.

Sincerely,

TOM RICHINS



Historic architectural elements responsive to local design guidelines can be seen in these two photographs of a shopping center located in Lake Forest and designed by Architects Orange.



Dedication of Plaque - Corona High School #3 By Doris Osko

Friday, January 16, 2015 was a day of pride and preservation as a historical marker was dedicated at the site of the third officially designated Corona High School campus at 1150 W. Tenth Street. Corona Historic Preservation Society teamed with principal Dr. Danny Kim to make it a memorable occasion, a day of reminiscing and sharing information about an institution that has provided many civic, business, and cultural leaders for over a century. Two representatives of Assemblyman Eric Linder were present as well as Corona City Council members, Mayor Eugene Montanez, Jason Scott, and Karen Spiegel, and CNUSD school board members, Cathy Sciortino and Mary Ybarra. Also attending from the district were Dr. Lisa Simon, Cassandra Lewis, and Barbara Wolf.

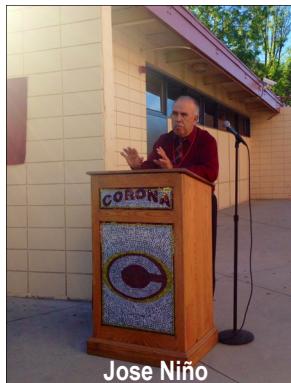


Under a brightly shining winter sun, the school's JROTC color guard presented the colors, and the Madrigals under the leadership of teacher Amy Eden sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and Corona High's Alma Mater. Principal Kim served as Master of Ceremonies and introduced CHPS treasurer Richard Winn who explained CHPS's marker program and noted that the day's program was the twentieth marker to be placed by CHPS. The marker is situated on an outside wall to the west of the Administration Building. The first two Corona High Schools were located at what are the present sites of Corona Fundamental Intermediate School and the Historic Civic Center. Cost of the marker was paid for both by CHPS and some Corona High School Alumnae.

Following Richard Winn's talk, CHPS Board member Trisha Henson, gave statistics about Corona High in 1961 when campus #3 was built. She compared the number of graduates in 1961—231—to the 2014 total of 650. Trisha was a graduate of Corona High School in the 1990s, and she paid tribute to two teachers who influenced her greatly and contributed to her love of her alma mater. Corona High teachers were repre-



Trisha Henson



Jose Niño

sented by Jose Niño who has taught at the high school for forty-five years. His speech was a combination of humor, pride, and nostalgia. "Why am I here?" he asked the citizens and students listening attentively. "Because of the sense of family. When we have problems we come together. Today there is a tapestry of cultures. I really believe the whole staff here has one purpose: What can we do to help the students? ... There is only one Corona High." Mayor Eugene Montanez, wearing his red and gold Corona High letterman's jacket, followed with congratulatory remarks regarding the dedication. He described Jose Niño as a "teacher of Spanish, Photography, Tennis and Comedy." Board member Mary Ybarra thanked all who attended and recalled her very fond memories associated with the experience of her two sons who graduated from Corona High School. She noted, "We take great pride in a school which has seen many accomplishments and changes."



Dr. Danny Kim

Those attending enjoyed refreshments as they mixed and mingled. Owen Crosby, a former principal of Corona High, now living in Huntington Beach shared memories with Coronan Jim Pauly whose father was Director of Activities at a much earlier time for a period of about six years. CHPS will continue its program of commemorating historical sites in the area.



Seen here after the unveiling (L-R): Mary & Richard Winn, Cathy Sciortino, Mary Ybarra and Eugene Montanez.

Recap of “Growing Up in Corona – 1950s” By Fred Parr

Our Panelists



Our first Quarterly Meeting of 2015, “Growing Up in Corona in the 1950s” was held on February 21st at the Community Room of the Historic Corona Civic Center. The six panelists all attended Corona High School in that same building when it was Corona’s only high school. CHPS Vice-President Tom Muñoz moderated and asked questions about their memories of childhood. Most in attendance could have stayed for hours and listened to memories of life in mid-century Corona.

•**Jennie Adamo** (Class of 1950) reminisced about the Italian restaurant her father built and opened in 1951. Her father hung a sign out front that advertised pizza and she recalled that “people used to come in and say; what is that that’s on your sign?” •**Mitch Salgado** (Class of 1952) discussed being transferred in 5th grade from Washington Elementary to Lincoln Elementary during desegregation. He fondly recalled his time at Lincoln as the “best time of his life.” •**Doris Baker Haddy** (Class of 1954) recalled going to the Corona Theatre every Saturday and seeing the “shoot-em up westerns.” •**Mary Raney Booher** (Class of 1954) talked about her favorite hangouts being the “drug stores because they all had soda fountains and they made the best banana splits”. •**Bob Garland** (Class of 1955) remembered “bonfires, pep rallies (and) it was just part of getting you all fired up for the big game, home-coming dances, track meets. Those were all some of

the really good times.” •**Ray Russell** (Class of 1959) echoed sentiments about fond memories of high school, football games and the camaraderie of the students. He loved playing in the band and reminisced that, “It was basically just a fun time to go to school in that era.”

So many wonderful memories were shared and if you were not able to attend, you can view the video recording on CHPS’s YouTube Channel in the near future. The link to the video will be included in a future CHPS Newsletter, on our website: www.Corona-History.org and on our CHPS Facebook Group site. “Growing up in Corona in the 1960s” is now being planned for 2016.



Cutouts from the past (made of foam core) provided fun photos of attendees.



In the Words of H. C. Kellogg Who Laid Out Corona by Tom Richins

On the date of Corona's first road race, September 9, 1913, the *Corona Daily Independent* printed an exclusive article authored by the engineer who designed and laid out the core of the city of Corona. In an effort to edit Mr. Kellogg's lengthy article, it has been divided into sections. His exact words are italicized just as he wrote them. (**Note:** Although originally named South Riverside, "Corona" will be used throughout this article.)

H.C. Kellogg meets town founder R.B. Taylor:

"R.B. Taylor who had purchased a 100 acres of land at Anaheim, I became acquainted with. Mr. Taylor in surveying this ranch. The first time he impressed me was the way when he walked in to my office and asked if I would guarantee the water to run along the red line shown on the map. After assuring him it would he said: "I am going to buy that land and will go east to organize a company. You can have the job of surveying and laying out the town. I will return to Anaheim on the morning train on July 1st. Meet me there and be prepared to go at once to commence work..."

At city founder R.B. Taylor's direction, Kellogg describes the laying out of the colony as follows:

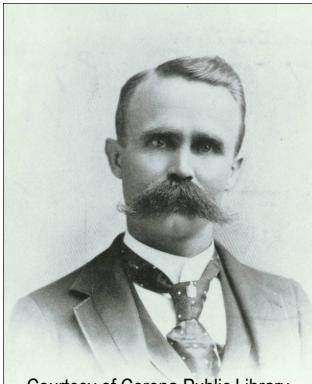
"My tent was pitched between two orange trees in the Harrington orchard. My drawing table was under one of these trees, and it was here that the surveys were platted and the plan of the town and colony made. As well as the preliminary map by which many of the lots were sold..."

"After completing the survey of the boundaries and water courses I put my men to making stakes and made the outline of the tract. During this period Mr. Taylor seemed very busy trying to get the water system started, spending about all his time traveling around with his hydraulic Engineer Mr. Dunlop and chief assistant Kelly..."

Creation of Grand Boulevard: "I think that Mr. Taylor mentioned a circle in the course of the discussion and said, 'Yes the Boulevard of Paris is a circular drive around a large portion of the city.' My instructions were to prepare a plan showing my idea of the subdivision and showing the town with a Boulevard three miles around..."

"I made a preliminary map of the colony and a pencil plat of the townsite on a common piece of paper showing the Boulevard 100 feet wide and approximately three miles long around the outer circle. I first made the streets circular inside the Boulevard with a park at the center, but Mr. Taylor thought this would waste too much land, and encumber business..."

With the city founders approving of H.C. Kellogg's drawings, he and his men were then employed to survey and lay out the town. "My general instructions now were to locate the circular town one-half mile from the railroad and one-half mile from east line of tract, with Main Street running from the depot through the center of the circle to the mountains so as to



Courtesy of Corona Public Library

miss the arroyo. Main Street and the Boulevard to be 100 feet wide. This accounts for Main Street running South 7½ degrees West..."

"The center of the circle was established with due ceremony. Large lumps of coal and bottles were placed four feet below the surface under a post six inches square, and at high noon observations were taken with a solar transit upon the sun and some of the surrounding peaks. We spent the remainder of the fall up to November 6th running out the center lines of the streets, putting in a piece of gypsum rock at each street intersection, with a cross cut for the

center. Stakes were also set at the corners of the blocks, as many town lots were already being sold..."

It didn't take long before settlers started to arrive in Corona. For this purpose a well was dug and built to supply the small population with water.

"During the summer a well was dug behind where the Citizens Bank building now stands. Water was found in a gravel and boulder strata at a depth of 74ft. A 7 inch well was bored in the bottom to a depth of 140 feet. In February of 1887, a pump with windmill and tank put in. This well furnished domestic water for the next three months. The supply was marvelous, it supplied water to 200 people and about 80 horses..."

With the surveying work finished, Kellogg returns to Anaheim to finish his map. "On November 6th, I returned to Anaheim to make the map for record and also to look after my work at home. As the map and setting corner stakes would complete my contract. About January 7th, I sent for Mr. Taylor to name the streets..."

"He went out and got Mr. Rimpau and with his assistance we named the streets in less than an hour..."

Joy, and Merrill gave \$900 to the first organization to build a church..."



This 12" by 14" bronze plaque is embedded in the pavement of the Corona Mall. Wording indicates the exact center point of the Grand Boulevard circle lies 65 feet southeast from the plaque's location. This places the center to be adjacent to an irrigation box in the median.

H. C. Kellogg Continued

H.C. Kellogg was almost always under the employment of Corona for one reason or another. Continuing on in his article, he explains the growth of the early days in Corona. *"Arrived there (Corona) about February 1st, 1887 and the map was recorded on February 12. At this time the town was the scene of great activity. Every man seemed to be a human dynamo. Streets were being graded, lumber hauled from Riverside, building in process of construction; last but not least selling land and lots. Charley Wall who had been with us from the beginning became a salesman. Harry Woodal was at his desk from early morning until 12 and 1 o'clock at night. There was not room enough in the hay loft of the Smith Barn for the men to sleep... It was said that Mr. Taylor often slept on his desk. More than once I was over to see him at 1PM because I could not get near him sooner...."*

"The barn and the office were the only buildings furnished. The restaurant and apartment house on southeast corner of Sixth and Main was about completed. We had all types of men, each striving in his own way to get on the ground floor. Messrs. Taylor and Rev. Holden for the Congregationalists was the first on the ground and secured the purse. It was a wonderful thing to observe the personal factor in the shaping of affairs and the general development...."

"About this time I first met Mr. Joy. I was greatly impressed with his clear insight and ability to quickly reach a decision and stay by it. I did not attempt to keep a record of all those early pioneers who by their energy and faith contributed largely to the development of the town. I think P.M. Coburn, O.A. Smith, F.H. Robinson and M.M. Dyer were the first families I saw arrive, about in the order named. O.A. Smith was my nearest neighbor. I see him yet going by dressed in a gray suit and silk hat to supervise the construction of the Temescal Hotel...."

Once construction of Corona commenced, H.C. Kellogg was again under contract to layout the community of Auburndale.

"I then laid out the town and colony of Auburndale in August of 1887. It was about this time that Messrs. Hudson and Jameson arrived. They were first directly identified with this new company which was formed from all the original territory north of the Temescal wash. I found them to be thorough business men and pleasant to deal with..."

Mr. Kellogg loved Corona and loved that his efforts and drawings were realized. As he was finishing his written article for the Corona Independent, he closed with this thought.

"The Boulevard made a pleasure drive with the four parks highly improved, so that the old in the evening of life may enjoy it, and those who are making the wheels of progress go take a pleasure drive in the evening after a busy day..."

Save the Date

Vintage Home Tour

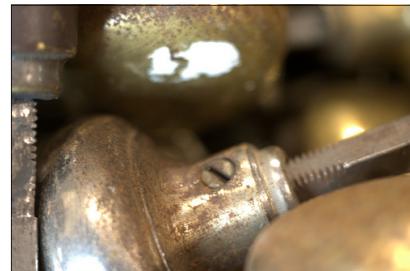
Saturday, May 2, 2015

1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

For information call Paula at
951.734.1437



Architectural Salvage Available



CHPS has limited amounts of architectural salvage items or materials available to those of you who may be restoring your vintage homes. Included in the inventory are vintage windows, shutters, doors, cabinets, molding and hardware.

If you need such items, call CHPS at 951.898.2044, leave a brief message (< 1 minute) and be sure to leave your name and telephone number.

Editor's Note: Please Consider This



For you who receive this publication as a hard copy, please consider making a change and instead receive it in digital format via email. The emailed digital version of the *CHPS Newsletter* is in full color so photographs are more visually interesting to see and you can enlarge the size to view all contents more clearly. In addition, it saves money as well as paper resources. If you'd like to receive via email, please contact me at toothladytwo@aol.com or 951.371.5291 to let me know.

We send our appreciation to all who have decided to switch to the more colorful digital version. Mary Winn, Editor

CHPS Activity Updates

Preservation Grant Program

Work was recently completed on our most recent Home Preservation Grant application to reconstruct the original masonry chimney on city founder George L. Joy's home. This home at 1127 East Grand Boulevard was modified from its original Queen Ann style about 65 years ago but the masonry chimney remained. Due to its age (it was initially built in the late 1880s), the chimney was falling apart, literally from the inside out. The problem was discovered when the plaster lining the chimney flue began dropping into the firebox.

This image shows CHPS President Tom Richins providing homeowner Mike Downs with a check covering part of the material cost for the reconstructed chimney.



W. D. Addison Heritage Room Donation

We are happy to report that once again the Corona Historic Preservation Society has been able to make a donation to our Corona Public Library, W. D. Addison Heritage Room to assist our Heritage Room Librarian meet the needs of those who use this tremendous resource in their studies, research, or just for fun.



The image above shows Heritage Room Librarian, Jennifer Marlatt receiving a check for \$500. from CHPS Director Fred Parr, which will be deposited into the dedicated fund for the Heritage Room, overseen by the Library Foundation.

Remember that Heritage Room hours are from 3-7 P.M. Monday and Tuesday, and 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. on Thursday.

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

<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Nancy Adrian

Jim & Patti Anderson

David & Sylvia Barnett

Sally Ann Carlson

Richard & Martha DeBlois

Rebecca Dell

John & Catherine Downs

Mike & Julie Downs

Ed & Linda Faxon

Nita Grantham

Judy Guignard

Lee Hansen

Kent & Ginette Lillibridge

J.D. & Debbie McBriety

Tom & Paula Muñoz

Jerry & Jean Neumann

Ken Park

Nathan & Roberta Reed

Bonnie Schoof

Gretchen Scoggins

Tamie Segert

Fran Tassin

Joan Thacker

Dick Tichy

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 love to assist local homeowners in making exterior 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 Vicentina, 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

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President - Tom Richins
Vice-President - Tom Muñoz
Secretary - Doris Osko
Treasurer - Richard Winn

Directors

Christine Gary
Trisha Henson
Paula Muñoz
Fred Parr
Mary Winn

Advisors

Marla Benson
Janette Neumann
Ted Taylor

To contact us call
951.898.2044



Please leave a brief
message



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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

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, Mar 19, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office

Thursday, Apr 16, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office



Visit us at: www.Corona-History.org



Save the Date - Vintage Home Tour on May 2