



A Message From Our President Christine Gary

Dear Members,

Here we are beginning another new year, 2010. I remember George Orwell's 1984 being futuristic. 2009 was a challenging year for most of us in many varied ways. I am confident that this year will be a banner year for us at CHPS. We have many terrific members who serve on the Board and are enthusiastic and dedicated to succeed even in troubled times.

We have a long list of events and accomplishments for 2009 which were mentioned in the last President's Message from the November-December 2009 Newsletter.

During 2009 we also received two important recognitions that were left out. Early in 2009, CHPS received the Quarterly Award for Outstanding Non-Profit from the Corona Chamber of Commerce. This award was presented at a luncheon held at Eagle Glen. A few months later, the City Of Corona honored the Society with a Proclamation in recognition of over 25 years of service to the community. This was presented at a meeting of the City Council.

The CHPS Holiday Party at the Woman's Improvement Club was a fantastic success and fun for all. We had a great turnout of over 90 guests, including the 20+ Madrigals from Corona High. We especially appreciated the attendance of four elected officials who also maintain membership in the Society: Mayor Karen Spiegel, Mayor Pro Tem Stan Skipworth, City Council Member Eugene Montanez and CNUSD Board President, Michell Skipworth. Terri Manuel, from the city's Community Development Department, with whom we work on historic matters, was also in attendance. The historic building was the perfect venue where everyone had room to talk, eat and be entertained by the extraordinarily wonderful Madrigals. They and the music they



Members of the Board of Directors pause long enough to be captured in a photo. Front row (L-R): Lauralynn Hake, Christine Gary, Doris Osko & Marla Benson. Back row (L-R): Mary Winn, Janette Neumann, Jackie Bland, Bubba Bland & Richard Winn. Not pictured here are Judy & Wayne Hrabak (who were out of town) and Ted Taylor (who left a bit early).

provide have truly become part of the tradition of our annual festivities. Members of the Society showed their appreciation for the performance by contributing generous donations to assist the Madrigals in funding their activities. We thank you all for your generosity. The funds they receive from their performances go toward paying for their 2010 trip to Chicago over Spring Break.

At the party and General Meeting, the annual election of our Board of Directors was held. We also discussed ideas for this year's Quarterly Meetings which all members are invited to attend. A very special thank you to all those who

helped set up and clean up the party. We especially thank Doris Osko, who coordinated and chaired the event and Lee Hansen, who certainly went the extra mile to assist us on the day of the party.

CHPS has received many positive comments on our Vintage Home Tour Program as well as requests for another tour. A major goal for 2010 is to present another memorable Vintage Home Tour, on May 1st. This fund raising event doesn't take place without teamwork and the efforts of many. First, we need your help to enlist a few more homes for the tour. We are also in need of volunteers to act as docents on the day of the event. If you have questions or wish to help in any way, please call Christine at 734-0977 or Mary at 371-5291.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy new year. Please watch for our e-mails and notices of upcoming Quarterly Meetings and other events. I guarantee you will enjoy them, meet other members and maybe even learn something new and interesting.

Warm regards,
Chris Gary



What to Preserve - Some Food for Thought by Doris Osko

CHPS Board Members, who were fortunate enough in October to attend the Second Annual Practicum sponsored by the Riverside Cultural Heritage Board at the historic Arlington Library, came away not only with valuable knowledge, but also with a pertinent question for Corona preservationists.



With the addition of a new wing, the newly renovated and expanded Classical Revival style 1909 Arlington library, funded by Andrew Carnegie, is now over 13,000 square feet. The library was added to the National Register of Important Places in 1993.

Question: Should the city of Corona have a Cultural Heritage Board?

The Riverside Board is comprised of a highly qualified group of experts who issue a "Certificate of Appropriateness" for proposed building or renovating projects to see that they comply with a number of criteria for restoring or remodeling a vintage site. Buildings or areas may be examined in terms of an historical designation either in an individual light, a thematic light, or a geographic light. A single building may be involved (such as the Mission Inn), a whole area might be involved (such as the packing shed area,) or a geographic area might be involved, such as Victoria Avenue.



Speaker Anthony Beaumon

Speaker Anthony Beaumon, Deputy City Attorney, explained the process by which a "Certificate" gets assigned. The Board must examine a proposal relying on both federal and state standards. (For example, Federal standards state vinyl windows are not allowed, and fencing must be wood rather than chain link in a vintage home.) The Board must also be clear about CEQA (The California Environmental Quality Act). Design Guidelines (Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations [CCR]) must be clearly defined in as simple language as possible so there is no doubt if a proposed project is to be issued the Certificate of Appropriateness. Old ordinances must be constantly updated. The Board must also tailor the criteria to fit the community. A house may be considered a *cultural resource*, important to the community in this regard.

Although the Riverside City Council makes the final decision, and is the final authority, Beaumon noted that it is hard to distinguish between the Board's function as an advisory group and the end result which is decision

making action of the City Council.

During the Practicum, a discussion also ensued about how significant a place should be to be given *Landmark* status. On the opposite side of the coin, the question arose as to whether a landmark should be "delisted," and taken off the Landmark list. The example was presented regarding the giving of landmark status to a tree planted in honor of the Chicago White Sox when the team visited Riverside in 1914. The general feeling was

that a separate list could be made for those landmarks of lesser status which could become "structures of merit." The tree represented a time in the history of Riverside in which the visit of a baseball team was culturally important.

The greatest significance of the Practicum could be awareness of what an important role a Cultural Heritage Board plays in the preservation of the history of a city. Corona, with its rich historical past, would benefit from the expertise of such a Board. It would greatly assist the Planning Commission in the evaluation process of this very important task. In these present difficult times, it could be argued that it is not feasible to create this advisory group. But wouldn't it be a significant, rewarding addition to Corona's government and history sometime in the future?

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Arched windows provide display areas for photos as well as control of light entering the meeting room.

I Remember When . . . Dan & Moses Cortez

The Cortez family has been in Corona for over 100 years. Cortez Jewelers, once located on the west side of the 700 block of South Main Street, opened its doors in October of 1962. The city's urban renewal efforts in 1969 caused father Sal to relocate his business to the new "Corona Mall", where it still operates today. Sons Dan and Moses did not initially plan on assuming the family business. The brothers grew up in Corona, attending Lincoln, Corona Junior



Dan and Moses inside Cortez Jewelers located at the Corona Mall on Main Street

High and Corona High School. Growing up in Corona, they played sports in high school, usually baseball and football. For summer jobs they both worked at C. W. Harris and Son doing odd jobs as well as working for various citrus growers. Their home life was pretty traditional, dad worked and mom was a homemaker when they were small, home was a "safe" place in the "Leave It To Beaver" model with no harsh words from their parents heard by the children, if uttered at all. Mom, Jessie, later joined Sal working at the jewelry store. They don't have any serious recollections of discrimination other than the knowledge that until after World War II no hispanics lived south of Sixth Street and a junior high school counselor required Moses to change his class schedule from "college prep" to something she considered to be less rigorous. He went on to college, became a teacher and taught history at Auburndale Jr. High School for a few years before a career change brought him into the family business. Dan prepared for a career in dental prosthetics after his service in the U.S. Navy but later joined the family business as well.

Dan & Moses Remember When...

- Our shoes came off the day after school was out and didn't go back on until school started again in the fall
- Major holidays meant large family gatherings and a lot of fun
- Local fishing trips meant treks to Railroad Canyon (now Canyon Lake) and stops at Glen Ivy to swim for 50¢
- The Corona Mall was filled with retail and professional offices, including 3 shoe stores (Carl's, Henson's and another), 3 jewelers, two furniture stores (Swartz and Keller's), Rexall Drug Store, Mode O'Day, Juanita's dress store, Emerson-Paully and many more
- There was a road race in the early 50's which started on East Grand Boulevard; drivers ran from a standing start to their cars, started their engines, (just like some

of those European races) and then they headed off around the "circle" in a cloud of smoke

- Going to a double feature at the Corona Theater for just 25¢
- Summertime meant going to the plunge nearly every day and having a great time all summer long

- After going to the Plunge in the 1950s and playing in the water; everyone seemed to suffer from a bad hacking cough resulting from the high levels of pollutants from

the smog at the time

- The *Daily Independent* held a turkey race on Thanksgiving and asked merchants to sponsor a turkey. The race was held on Belle Street between Seventh and Eighth streets. Dan won the flower wreath prize by effectively wielding his trusty fly swatter to urge his "steed" (his turkey named Rough Diamond) across the finish line
- Good food could be found at Colony Kitchen on the south side of W. Sixth Street, Lindy's and Hickory Barbecue on the east side of town
- We loved eating at Cupid's on the way home from a swim at the Plunge
- Local news during the 1970s featured daily updates in the *Daily Independent* of Big Foot sightings in South Corona (this arose out of a youthful prank involving a teenager in a gorilla suit); sightings came to halt when the kids were apprehended
- There was a 10-speed bicycle race around the circle in 1958 or 1959
- Our parents were big supporters of "family values" and often closed the store early to watch their children's athletic events; It sometimes happened that Dad would watch one event while Mom Jessie went to another
- Dad told of his elementary school experiences at Washington School, on Grand Boulevard, when most of the boys attended school barefoot
- There was a "Corona City Limits" sign just three blocks south of Corona Junior High School
- Their grandfather worked for the Foothill Lemon Company for some 62 years and we spent many a summer day trekking through the Cleveland National Forest with our trusty BB guns, hunting lizards and buzzards (turkey vultures) and were amazed never to have received a rattlesnake bite
- The Cold War brought regular "duck and cover" drills while at school so we would know what to do in case of a nuclear attack
- Donning Levi's and white t-shirts to head off to school

A Most Festive Holiday Party By Doris Osko

The winter rain did not dampen the spirits of the seventy members and their guests who attended the Quarterly Meeting of CHPS on Friday, December 11th at the historic Woman's Improvement Club of Corona. The occasion was the Annual Holiday Party and the Election of Directors. Santa's elves, Jackie and Bubba Bland, Christine Gary, Richard Winn, Lee Hansen, and Coordinator Doris Osko, decorated the tables and the hall to heighten the spirit of the season. The Madrigals, who have been active ambassadors of Corona High School for more than 25 years, inspired the guests with a variety of selections that included seasonal songs and songs from a number of different cultures, performed under the leadership of Choral Director, Amy Basilan. The Madrigals, a prestigious, award-winning acapella choral group, have graciously entertained CHPS members for a number of years at our holiday parties.



Guests praised the delicious potluck food made by those attending. Along with turkey, ham, rolls, potatoes, fruit and vegetable salads, and yummy homemade desserts, a special batch of President Christine Gary's macaroni and cheese was provided especially for the always hungry teenagers of the Madrigal group. Christine also conducted the general meeting using the sound system furnished by Director Wayne Hrabak, courtesy of the Yamaha Music Company.

Special guests of the evening were Dale and Edna Fisher, recipients of a \$500.00 Historic Preservation Grant for their home improvement efforts of their Victorian home on South Ramona Street. Bubba Bland, Chair-



man of the Award Committee presented the Fishers with the check and urged all those present to consider applying for the grants or sharing the knowledge of the availability of such grants with their friends and acquaintances who may also own homes worthy of preserving or restoring.

In attendance at the meeting were Mayor Karen Spiegel, City Council members Eugene Montanez and Stan Skipworth, Corona-Norco Unified School Board President, Michell Skipworth, and Terri Manuel from the city's Community Development Department. Terri has been an enormous help to members of our community seeking to officially recognize their historic homes, and as the Society's point of contact in the area of historic preservation of worthy structures within the city of Corona.



Vice-President Mary Winn, Chair of the Nominations Committee, conducted the election of Directors of CHPS. The committee's slate consisting of Bubba Bland, Wayne Hrabak, Doris Osko, and Richard Winn was elected for a two-year term. Marla Benson, Janette Neumann, and Ted Taylor were re-elected for one year terms as Emeritus Directors.

A special thanks is accorded to Woman's Improvement Club for allowing the Corona Historic Preservation Society the use of the clubhouse at no charge because of its dedication to the culture and history of the city of Corona.

Editor's Note: We also appreciate the generous donation of historic calendars provided yearly by Eugene and Paula Montanez of ZAP Printing & Graphics. They were distributed to all party attendees. If you'd like one, feel free to call ZAP at 734-8181, e-mail Paula at paula@zapcolor.com or simply stop by the business to pick one up. ZAP is located at 127 Radio Road in Corona.

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 associated with a CHPS Grant. So, we will now 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 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 me, 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 at the library.

For more information, applications and additional details on the grant can be downloaded from our Web site: <<http://corona-history.org/grants.html>>

Please feel free to share this information with others!

More Holiday Party Diners & Revelers



Corona High's Madrigal Director Amy Basilan is seen relaxing (on left above), enjoying the ambiance of the parlor, and chatting with several singers prior to the performance.

Ripples of Reform From the Death of Ray Mora

By David J. Aguayo

My father passed away in 1977 and I saved his small library, including a collection of miscellaneous newspaper clippings. Just recently I reviewed the material and found a short article dated February, 1967, from the *Corona Daily Independent* reporting the shooting death of Ray Mora by Riverside police officer John P. Willis. Ray and a friend, Gerald Munoz, were stopped in Casa Blanca for allegedly driving a stolen car. The information in the article was minimal.

In 2005, however, I had attended the funeral in Corona for Ray's mother, Angelita Mora, a long-time family friend. Amongst the floral arrangements was a memory wall displaying photos of her life. I noticed a single letter addressed to Mrs. Mora from Tom Bradley, the late mayor of Los Angeles. I did not read the contents.

Much later I questioned Mary Helen Martinez, a sister of Ray's, about the letter. What she shared amazed me. Following the death of her brother, Tom Bradley, then a member of the Los Angeles City Council, and a former lieutenant for the Los Angeles Police Department, paid a visit to the family home at 916 W. Sixth Street, sat in their living room, and offered personal condolences for their loss. He assured the family that there would be a review of police procedures in Los Angeles.

The story continued to intrigue me. I learned there was additional information. Mary Helen sent me a May 6, 1967, article from the newspaper *People's World* containing detailed information about the shooting and its long-term ramifications. The newspaper reporter, Sam Kushner, quoted the officer's statements at the coroner's inquest. Among them: Ray "offered no resistance and cooperated fully; the car was not stolen; there

were no weapons." The reporter also wrote that the officer was irritated that the suspects spoke Spanish, a language he did not understand (Ray happened to be bilingual). When Ray broke from the car and hid behind a nearby cactus, the officer fired in that direction and Ray fell to the ground.

This event, preceded by the death of a 16-year old while at the Corona police station, galvanized the Mexican-American community to form the Citizen's Committee for Justice. At the inquest the Committee held demonstrations and monitored the coroner's proceedings. They were able to pressure the Riverside Police Department to implement a regulation that barred police from "firing a gun except in self-defense or in defense of other persons or when it is the only method of stopping a person who is known to have committed a 'serious' felony." Other ramifications from this case included new training methods and an increase in police-sensitizing human relations programs in other communities. Equally important was a new unity and self-assertiveness within the Mexican-American community.

Forty-two years later, I'm glad to offer a new perspective on the death of Ray Mora and Mayor Tom Bradley's compassionate, history-making visit to Corona. Unfortunately, tragedies of all kinds sometimes compel changes to our systems, including those of the justice system. There is consolation in knowing that the untimely death of Ray helped trigger advances towards improved treatment of all people, including minorities throughout Southern California.

David is a member of CHPS and is a noted genealogist and Southern California historian.

Recent Corona Book Signing at Costco



A few months ago, Arcadia Publishing invited author Mary Bryner Winn to do a book signing at the Corona Costco. This opportunity was not to be passed up since it certainly would boost sales of the two books penned by Mary. As it has been since the release of the books, all funds earned go directly into the Society's treasury. CHPS also has books to sell to our members and others. Mary is always happy to autograph copies whenever asked. At the signing on December 5th, while she autographed books, she chatted with many holiday shoppers about local history as well as the Society, and provided a current newsletter to those interested in learning more about CHPS.

Membership Information

When joining or renewing your membership, please make your tax deductible check payable to "CHPS"

Individual Member	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer!	
Family	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospitality refreshments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter writing articles	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vintage Home Tour	
Patron	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	docent / volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 New and Renewal Memberships

Brian Belnes & Lindsey Miller
 Margaret Jameson

Jon & Donna Miller
 Carl & Sue Simmons

Architectural Salvage Shoppe

As a service to our members, 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 are in need of such items, please call CHPS at 898-2044 and leave a detailed message along with your phone number.





Board of Directors

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

Directors

Jackie Bland
Thurston "Bubba" Bland
Lauralynn Hake
Judy Hrabak
Wayne Hrabak

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, January 21, 6:30 at CHPS office
Thursday, February 18, 6:30 at CHPS office



Visit us @ www.corona-history.org



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



Sentiment from vintage postcard on left:

**With the passing of the Year
May your sorrows disappear
And New Year's morn
With all its pleasures
Bring you health and
Many treasures**

Save the Date Now - March 6th @ 10 A.M - First Quarterly Meeting

Ocie Taylor Songer* (daughter of Corona founder R.B. Taylor) will share many memories and details of early Corona.

Her portrayal will be done by CHPS member Diane Wright, dressed in vintage attire.