



A Message From Our President Christine Gary

Dear Members,

I can feel the Spring season approaching. That means we are very busy getting ready for our Vintage Home Tour and other annual projects to which we dedicate our time.



On April 2nd, a group of members toured the unique Quality West Wing and Uncle Bud's Auto Museum. We started with a his-

tory of the White House and an interesting display of photos and facts about several of our presidents. We also were able to spend time in a replica of the Oval Office and learn more about that special room. This history lesson was given by our host volunteer speaker Tom Gate. I believe many of us had forgotten our fifth grade US history, except Aaron Hake who could answer any obscure question fast and accurately. The group next went on to Uncle Bud's collection of vintage "modes of transportation." This is a fantastic collection from the horse and buggy to current automotive technology. We also visited "Rosie's Diner" which is part of Uncle Bud's. There was so much to see that the tour took several hours, and every minute was interesting.

Our next Quarterly Meeting will be on July 16th in the Community Room of the Historic Civic Center. Our very own Mary and Richard Winn will be giving a presentation on Corona's history "Then and Now." So again, mark your calendar for this fun event.

Our Vintage Home Tour is days away, and what a treat we have in store for those of you who can make it. It will take place on May 7th, from 1pm-4pm. See inside information on page 3 for specifics. Pre-sale tickets are available online at our Web site <corona-history.org> as well as at several Corona. locations. Come spend a relaxed, fun afternoon touring outstanding homes as well as the unique garden and carriage house at Lemo-nia Grove.

Warm regards to all,

Chris Gary



Scenes from Rosie's Diner at Uncle Bud's



Corona . . . Then and Now

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, July 16, 2011 ~ The Winns will present a PowerPoint slide show "**Corona-Then & Now**" depicting views of 60 or more sites of yesteryear compared with the same views today. This presentation will serve as our 2nd Quarterly Meeting of 2011.



The First Baptist Church seen here: on the left is the building that existed until 1937, when a fire occurred after Sunday services and the church burned to the ground.

On the right is the structure today.



Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader by Doris Osko

If you are familiar with the television show above that pits celebrities against fifth graders in many categories of learning, then you will know how many of those who attended the CHPS First 2011 Quarterly Meeting felt. The group had the interesting and informative experience of touring "Uncle Bud Gordon's Quality West Wing" at 1705 West Sixth Street in Corona.

The highly knowledgeable docent, Tom Gate, notified us that one hundred thousand students, mostly from grades five and eight, had been through the tour which is a dynamic, interactive program. As adults making the tour, we were often put to the test to answer questions about the structure of government, the history of the White House and the presidents, and a bit of geography to boot. CHPS members came through with many answers, but also gathered much more from the presentations. The tour began with an up-to-date video depicting a tour of the White House and its history entitled "Where History Lives." The tour progressed to the "Presidents' Hallway," with pictures and autographs of prominent presidents. Docent Gate again narrated stories and presented highlights of the lives of the presidents.

Next, the group was shown models of the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Supreme Court, and with each came valuable information on the structure of government. Tour members were then given a test of physical agility - they had to put on booties over their shoes while standing in the hallway. The reason for the booties was apparent as the group stepped into the reproduction of the Oval Office. A light, tan carpet with the Presidential seal covered the floor, and it was apparent that it would not take the constant shoe traffic of tourists. The office is an exact reproduction from the time of Pres. Ronald Reagan. Many of the artifacts remained as new presidents took his place. The centerpiece of the office is a large desk called "The Resolute." It has been used by twenty-two presidents since 1880 when it was presented to Pres. Hayes by Queen Victoria. *The Resolute* was the name of a British ship that had been encased in ice in the Arctic, and its crew abandoned her. The desk was from this ship, and had been altered with front panels to hide Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt's infirmity. The particular desk in the Quality West Wing display actually was a reproduction that



In the Oval Office with President Obama

belonged to Pres. Bill Clinton. On the desk sits a genuine invitation to the inauguration of Pres. Reagan which was given to Bud Gordon.

Following the tour of the Oval Office, group members then were ushered into a computer lab and were given an overview of a program which allows students to pretend they are running for president on a particular platform—a real test

of their knowledge of how important and difficult a role it is.

The two and a half hour tour was not over until members got a chance to see the second half of the presentation - a tour of the automotive museum in a separate building



which housed vehicles from 1906 to modern times. It was déjà vu as the group sat in "Rosie's Diner" listening to the juke box play a song by Roy Orbison and learned from Docent Gate that the booths and formica tables came from a genuine 1950s diner in Ames, Iowa. The vehicles are beautifully restored, and the wall murals depict wonderful scenes of American life including the Grand Boulevard road races of 1913. We also learned more about our amazing docent Tom Gate, who with his wife, rode a tandem bicycle from Corona to Washington, D.C. and also has ridden across China and New Zealand, a total of 150,000 miles. He was quick to praise his "boss," Uncle Bud Gordon, who has provided free the West Wing experience and the Automotive Museum to children for many years. CHPS members are now much better able to compete with fifth graders.



Vintage Home Tour

Presented by **Corona Historic Preservation Society**

Saturday, May 7, 2011 • 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.



1939 South Main



1934 South Main



2750 Rimpau (*Lemonia Grove*)



2750 Rimpau (*Carriage House*)



1314 South Victoria

Antique Automobiles on Display

Pre-sale tickets \$15, \$18 day of event available at 1939 S. Main St.
For information call Chris at 951.734.0977 or email: vintagehometour@aol.com

Pre-Sale tickets available online for day of event will-call at 1939 S. Main St.

Deadline 11pm May 6 • www.Corona-History.org

Pre-Sale Tickets
available after
March 10th at:

Greater Corona Valley Chamber
904 E. 6th. St.

• Corona Heritage Park
510 W. Foothill Parkway

• Allegra (formerly ZAP)
127 Radio Road

How Grand is Grand Boulevard By Dottie Laird

At some time or another, most Corona residents have traveled Grand Boulevard in Corona. Most of us are aware that it was once a very well-known race track that rivaled the one in Indianapolis so it was not too surprising this month when a historian who is working on the nomination of Grand Boulevard for the National Register stopped by the Heritage Room and worked with Librarian Jennifer Marlatt to find the information to make this happen. This is what they found: the design of Corona's circular street has been an element of some debate. Some have maintained the circular design was the idea of Corona Founder R. B. Taylor while others believed it to be Civil Engineer H. Clay Kellogg's design. This distinction may seem trivial, but Grand Boulevard is soon to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places and such details are critical for the nomination process. As it turns out the Heritage Room had the answer all along...In the R.B. Taylor Manuscript Collection there is a carbon copy of a handwritten letter from Mr. Taylor to Capt. Merriam of Corona. In the letter Taylor describes a brief visit to Omaha, Nebraska where the citizens were busy planning a "grand boulevard" that would encompass the

entire town. Taylor immediately contacted Civil Engineer H. Clay Kellogg and requested that a similar boulevard be designed for South Riverside. In addition to the information in the manuscript collection Jennifer located a plant survey from the Woman's Improvement Club and a design guide developed by a horticulturist from the 1930s which identify the existing plant life on and within the circle and outlined how the landscape will be altered over the next several decades. There was also in the Heritage Info Files a lighting guideline for the installation of electric lights along Grand Boulevard.

When you consider that 90% of the incredible materials in the Heritage Room have been donated by local citizens, it is amazing what the Corona Public Library has in its collection.

Editor's Note: On Thursday, May 19, 2011 the California Historic Commission will meet in the historic Santa Monica City Hall to vote on the nomination of Corona's Grand Boulevard Historic District to the California and National Register of Historic Places. **We'll keep you posted on details and the outcome.**

Mark Your Calendar!

CHPS will sponsor two booths at the Antiques and Collectibles Faire

- 1) Our old-fashioned lemonade stand will be offering fresh lemonade squeezed from Corona lemons.
- 2) A booth offering architectural salvage materials (see page 7 for list of items)

JOIN US FOR OUR OLD TYME CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF CORONA FOOTHILL LEMON COMPANY'S 100th ANNIVERSARY



**TENTH ANNUAL
CORONA
ANTIQUES
&
COLLECTIBLES
FAIRE**

CORONA HERITAGE PARK
510 W. FOOTHILL PKWY

**SATURDAY
June
4th**
9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

**Q - U - A - L - I - T - Y
ANTIQUES ONLY**
No Garage Sale
Rubbish

- Railroad Club Model Layout Display
- Garden Club Plant Sale
- Hot Dogs, Kettle Corn, Cookies and Lemonade
- Fine Art Show

CORONA HERITAGE PARK & MUSEUM
510 W. Foothill
Corona, Calif.

Info: Shellie Norland
(951) 302-0080
www.coronaheritage.org



Map showing streets: Grand Blvd, Mountain Hwy, Foothill Parkway, Corona Blvd, Taylor St, DePaul Way, Leland Ave, Broadway, and Corona St. A location marker points to the event site near Foothill Parkway and Corona Blvd.

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

I Remember When... Dixie Howell by Don Williamson

The vicinity of West Grand and South Main is among Corona's most historical neighborhoods. The city's first high school stood here as well as a new junior high school. The Start/Finish line for the world famous road races is just yards from the streets' intersection.

The CHPS is currently striving to have Grand Boulevard included on the National Register of Historic Places. Successful inclusion will increase the profile of all property adjacent to the old race track including the field behind Corona Fundamental Intermediate School (CFIS).

Used mostly for soccer, softball and basketball, these days signs are clearly visible identifying this area as Dixie Howell Field. Though encompassing a significant amount of CFIS real estate, it is likely that most who drive by do not know who Dixie Howell is or why the field is named for him. Enter the CHPS.

Donald "Dixie" Howell is well known to the students who attended what was then Corona Junior High School (CJHS) from the early 1960s to the mid-1980s. He taught physical education, health studies and coached the interscholastic sports teams. During his tenure, the school included 7th to 9th grades. Just as 9th graders (freshmen) today compete against other high schools in sports, so did the 9th graders at CJHS.

"Coach Howell", as he inevitably became known, recently explained how he came to settle in Corona from his native Iowa. "My wife answered an ad in the *Des Moines Register*." Phyllis Howell was offered a teaching position at Norco Junior High School. He added, "The district said they could place me too." Phyllis taught at NJHS during the years Dixie was at CJHS.

Dixie coached basketball, baseball and track but be-



came renowned for his football teams. During one run, his teams went six straight seasons without a defeat, amazing at any level. Dixie remembered, "We played schools in Rialto, Redlands and all over the place." Another team had an undefeated season with just 13 players.

In the den of the home where Dixie and Phyllis have lived for 50 years is a wall displaying some of Dixie's tributes and mementos. Dixie points to one frame with the modest comment, "This was something nice to get." Hanging there was a certificate proclaiming his induction into the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Hall of Fame.

When asked how the field came to bear his name Dixie said, "Dennis Akren and some people at the district office made the arrangements."

Dennis Akren has taught PE at CFIS, the same campus that Dixie did, for the past twenty years. He told us, "I love Dixie. I heard about all the contributions he made to so many people in this community and thought it would be a great tribute."

One of Dixie's former students made this observation, "He really cared for us. He even gave us rides home after practices. He would joke around but made it clear when it was time to be serious. If you stepped out of line Coach was quick to give you an extra lap or a swat. He was able to constructively channel the passions of adolescence and develop productive results. His legacy goes far beyond sports."

Dixie and Phyllis will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary in May. A leap year baby, Dixie let us know with a smile that he will have his 22nd birthday in 2012. Think of him the next time you happen to go past Dixie Howell Field.

ORF Vintage Home Tour, Restoration Faire & Vintage Mercantile

Sponsored by Old Riverside Foundation, this event will take place on Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 10 am until 5 pm. Ticket price includes a self-guided home tour of six lovely examples of Riverside's rich historic architecture, one gratis raffle basket ticket, along with a restoration faire including suppliers, artists and craftspeople. Vintage mercantile features antiques and collectibles.

Tickets are \$15 pre-sale and \$18 on day of tour. Tickets may be purchased at many Riverside locations as well as at <www.olderiverside.org>. Check ORF Web site for location addresses. If ordering by mail, send a S.A.S.E. with a check made out to "ORF" to Home Tour Tickets, 8410 Cleveland Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504.



For additional information: contact: Nancy Parrish at Factsgirl@aol.com
Phone: 951-509-7682 or <www.olderiverside.org>

CPL's New Local History Resources by Jennifer Marlatt



In May and June two new databases will be available at the Corona Public Library. In May, our collection of *South Riverside Bee*, *Corona Courier*, *Corona Daily Independent* and *Norco Beacon* newspapers will be available online. The digital newspaper archive will be provided by NewspaperArchive.com. In October 2010 the Library's collection of microfilmed newspapers was sent to NewspaperARCHIVE for digitization. Each reel of microfilm was scanned, the resulting image was converted to PDF and an online archive of the newspapers is under development. When complete, the collection will be full-text searchable and will contain newspaper articles, obituaries and birth notices for the Corona area from 1887 through 1977. The *Corona Digital Newspaper Archive* will only be available to library patrons and to those who have a private subscription with NewspaperARCHIVE.

In 1999, Heritage Microfilm launched the brand NewspaperARCHIVE.com, the world's largest historical newspaper database online. NewspaperARCHIVE.com contains tens of millions of newspaper pages from 1753 to present, spanning almost 3,000 newspaper titles and 762 cities. Every newspaper in the archive is fully searchable by keyword and date making it easy to quickly explore historical content.

Cedar Rapids Public Library participated in NewspaperARCHIVE's digitization offer and the *Cedar Rapids Digital Newspaper Archive* is already available online at: <http://crpubliclibrary.newspaperarchive.com>.

In June, the Library will debut its new Enterprise & Portfolio user interface for the library catalog and for Corona Heritage Online. Users will be able to search the library's circulating collection and the local history collection in one click. To focus a local history search on the available digital photographs, finding aids and artifacts just select "Asset Search" or "Digital Assets" from the dropdown menu near the search box. Digital Assets will be the term used for the Heritage Room's digital material.

Portfolio, the digital asset element of the interface, also has optical character recognition (OCR) software that will make any digital documents searchable. On the Heritage Room's list of upcoming projects is the digitization of the city directories which are incredibly helpful to genealogists and property researchers. The directories will be scanned and run through Portfolio's OCR program and added to the database. What does this mean? When you search the library catalog for "Grace Taber" it will pull up any books, photographs, oral histories and city directories where Ms. Taber's name is listed. For a sneak peek at Portfolio & Enterprise's possibilities take a look at this Australian website at <http://sde9.ent.sirsi.net/client/australia> or at SirsiDynix's Portfolio Demo Video at <http://www.sirsidynix.com/products/portfolio/experience-portfolio>.

Stay tuned, the arrival of the databases will be announced on the Library's website and user guides will soon follow.

A Sprucing Up of the Benedict House



Six CHPS members spent a few hours on Saturday morning, March 5 toiling away at Benedict and Settlement Houses on Vicentia Avenue, across the street from Corona City Hall. They are located next door to each other. CHPS planted and has maintained the landscaping since 2004.

These photos show the entire crew as well as a

few brave volunteers working from atop ladders. The major task of male crew members was repainting weathered trim on the west side of the Benedict House. Female members vigorously pruned rose bushes, trimmed vegetation, raked, swept and did a general cleanup of garden areas at both historic properties.



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 form and mail to:

CHPS
P.O. Box 2904
Corona, CA 92878



We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Carol Ackerman
 JaNell Acosta
 Allegra Marketing (formerly ZAP)
 Richard & Carol Appel
 Rich & Tacy Bensiek
 Beverly J. Bloch
 Jim & Marie Cambruzzi
 Sally Ann Carlson
 Corona Public Library Heritage Room
 Nita Grantham

Joan H. Hall
 Trisha Henson
 Raymond & Cheryl Monteon
 Jacob, Teresa & Delaney Morris
 Mike & Annette Rios
 Stan & Michell Skipworth
 Victor & Mary Ann Solorzano
 Peggy Temple
 Clyde R. Tracy

Architectural Salvage Shoppe: Visit Booth at Antiques & Collectibles Faire

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 need such items, call CHPS at 898-2044 and leave a brief message (<1 minute) along with your telephone number.



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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, 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:

Wednesday, May 18, 7:00 pm at CHPS office
Wednesday, June 15, 7:00 pm at CHPS office



Visit us @ www.corona-history.org



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



Don't Miss the Opportunity!
2011 Vintage Home Tour - May 7