

## A Message From Our President Christine Gary

Dear Members,

Hello to you all and genuinely wish for a safe and happy New Year to everyone.

Our holiday party at the Woman's Improvement Club was great. There was good music, food, and the Corona High Madrigals to enjoy. The next Quarterly Meeting will be on February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Historic Civic Center Community Room. The movie "Storm Warning" will be shown. Much of it was filmed in Corona in 1949. We will have refreshments and popcorn to relive that old time movie feeling. Hope to see you all there.

This will be my last Presidents Message in the CHPS Newsletter. After nearly four years, I will be passing the presidential torch to Don Williamson. Has served as a board member for the past year and has spent his entire



Christine Gary receives her recognition plaque from Mary Winn at the Holiday Party.

life in Corona and has many experiences and memories to pass on to us all. I remain on the board and will volunteer and contribute as before.

2012 should be another busy year for us. There are several ongoing projects and, of course, another exciting Vintage Home Tour to plan. Mary Winn's third book *Then & Now: Corona* will be available to purchase in May. The completion of several Historic Markers is in the works. We will continue to work with all departments of the City of Corona to maintain and preserve our historic landmarks and districts.

Again, I send best wishes to you all. We appreciate your support of CHPS.

Sincerely,  
*Christine Gary*



## Quarterly Meeting Matinee - "Storm Warning"

**Filmed in Corona in 1949, the showing of this film will serve as our first Quarterly Meeting of 2012. Of course, popcorn will be served.**



**Date:** Saturday, February 25

**Time:** 10:00 A.M.

**Location:** Community Room  
of Historic Civic Center  
815 West 6th Street, Corona

### Starring:

Ginger Rogers, Ronald Reagan, Doris Day  
& Steve Cochran

Released in 1951, this film about the Ku Klux Klan was quite controversial at the time.

Ronald Reagan served as the 40th President of the United States from 1981-1989.

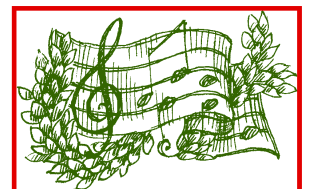
Doris Day's first non-singing role was in "Storm Warning".



# Scenes from Holiday Party Festivities



**CHPS Board of Directors L-R:**  
**Marla Benson, Ted Taylor, Christine Gary, Bubba Bland, Jackie Bland, Doris Osko, Richard Winn, Mary Winn, Paula Muñoz, Don Williamson and Janette Neumann**





# The Founding of CHPS

On May 14, 1983 a meeting was held with 35 volunteers who had participated in the footwork of completing Corona's historic structure resource inventory and other interested persons. They met to discuss means of preserving Corona's historic structures, means of educating residents and others of the city's unique heritage and other preservation opportunities.

An overview of what other cities were doing and what other things could be done was provided. There was a great outpouring of interest. People found great value in having a common interest and sharing the goal of serving Corona by saving and restoring things of an historic nature, to perpetuate the history for future generations of Coronans. At a subsequent, well publicized meeting in the multipurpose room of the Public Library, on June 8, 1983, the Corona Historic Preservation Group was organized. This Group was instrumental in bringing together the enthusiastic and diverse volunteers, who had worked on the survey, members of the Historical Society and others for monthly meetings where the preservation of Corona's heritage was the topic of interest. Attendance at most meetings was typically 30 to 40 persons.



CHPS founders Gloria Scott Freeland and Vincent Bautista as seen at a get-together in October

Local resident and urban planner Vincent Bautista and Heritage Room Librarian Gloria Scott Freeland were key leaders of the group. Other early members of the Society were: Val Plumley, Don & Cindy Johnson, Sandie Everson, Cindy Alvitre (a native American representative), Kent Hansen, Roger Verity, Nita Grantham, Nita Young, Sharon Bautista, Ann & Don Barber, Lois Shockley and Richard & Mary Winn.

On April 21, 1984 a meeting was held between members of the old inactive Historic Society of Corona and members of the Corona Historic Preservation Group. The Historic Society leaders proposed deactivating their organization and conveying all

remaining funds to a new organization with a new name, and combining their resources so that there would be "one voice" advocating preservation of Corona's heritage. What emerged was the current Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS).

For more details see the "CHPS" tab and click on the "ABOUT CORONA" button on our website home page <corona-history.org>.



Marta Neely/Independent

## Historic board

The Corona Historic Preservation Society has named its first board of directors. They are, left to right: Vincent Bautista, president; Gloria Scott, director; Donald Johnson, director; Cindy Johnson, secretary; Sandie Everson, director; Val Plumley, treasurer; and Richard Winn, vice president. The board has adopted the first annual budget for the newly formed society and is in the process of completing paperwork to incorporate the society as a non-profit organization.

## 1983 Board

This undated newspaper clipping from 1983 shows the first Board of Directors of the Corona Historic Preservation Society. The Society's first meetings were usually held in a small conference room near the elevator from the subterranean parking area at what was then Corona's second Public Library. The library we know today replaced it at the same site at the southwest corner of Sixth and Main Streets.

Historical photographs of all three Corona Public Libraries are found on the south wall of the library's entry vestibule.

Board members' titles are listed in the caption of this photograph.

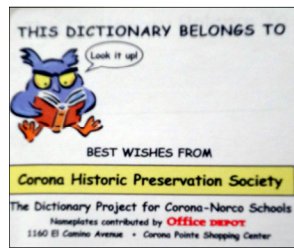


# Providing Dictionaries to Third Graders By Mary Winn



CHPS President Christine Gary shared a 1938 photo of students from the first Lincoln School during a school assembly that was part of Corona's Dictionary Program, led by

project founder, CHPS member, and emcee John Wiles. This was the sixth year in which the Society sponsored the school by providing around 300 books to students.



For the 2011-12 school year, the Dictionary Project has partnered with Corona Elks Lodge which assists with storage of the books, sorting books by schools, inserting sponsor-specific nameplates (as seen on left) into each book, and physically delivering books to schools. Two Elks members also joined us at the assembly the day CHPS members were at Lincoln to hand out the dictionaries.



Adults L-R above: two Elks Lodge members, Don Williamson and John Wiles.



L-R: Tom Muñoz, Christine Gary, Jackie Bland, Richard and Mary Winn.

A total of eight CHPS members were on hand on December 2, 2011 at Lincoln Alternative School to participate in the distribution held in the multi-purpose room of the campus. Our CHPS contingency included principal Jason Scott, John Wiles, Christine Gary, Don Williamson, Tom Muñoz, Jackie Bland, Richard and Mary Winn.

On the right, students are seen accepting dictionaries from CHPS and Elks members.



## Would You Like to Receive This Newsletter by E-mail?

With the cost of postage continually rising and in order to "save trees" and reduce print costs, you can elect to receive your **full color** bimonthly copy of the CHPS Newsletter by E-mail. While we are happy to send out a printed newsletter to every member, we can achieve significant labor savings and establish some cost controls to preserve the use of available funds to better fulfill our Mission Statement. If just one half of our members were to elect electronic transmission of their newsletters, it would free enough funds for one additional historic site marker every other year.

If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, please send a brief message to Editor, Mary Winn at <toothladytwo@aol.com>, or a telephone call or voice mail message at (951) 371-5291 and your name will be added to the E-Newsletter list.



# I Remember When... Mary Stein

By Don Williamson

For over 20 years the Wagon Wheel Café and Motel was owned and operated by the Hecer family which was comprised of Clem, his wife Dorothy and their daughters Mary & Joyce. The Hecer girls, Mary Stein and Joyce Jenkins still live in Corona. We asked Mary to share some recollections from the days when the Wagon Wheel was one of the popular eateries in the Circle City. It stood near what was then the edge of town at 1502 West Sixth. It was on the corner of Sixth and Yorba, streets that no longer intersect at this location. The telephone number in 1949 was just three digits, 735.



In the 1960s, Clem Hecer sold the business and retired to the property the family had long utilized as a get away near Crown Ranch at the base of the foothills. Clem loved to grow things on his ranch (named the "H Over H") and produced lovely orchids.

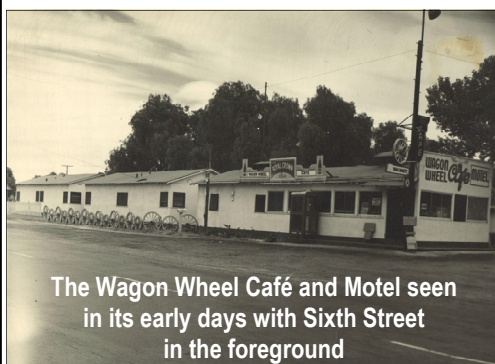
To learn a bit more about Mary, the Corona High yearbook, the Coronal from her senior year was perused. She was an active and popular student participating in several clubs and service organizations on the Tenth Street campus. Mary received the honor of election to the "Hi Jinx" Court,

a prom celebration that CHS still observes. Her friends today will attest that she still possess a trait that her classmates at CHS also recognized as she was voted the girl with the "best personality".

Growing up in what was then a very small town Mary enjoyed the available recreations including movies at the Corona Theater and indulging at the Mava Ice Cream Company which was just down the street from the Wagon Wheel. To escape the hot summer days she said that a trip to the beach always brought welcome relief.

Mary identified a few things she misses from the days before the 91 freeway sliced through town, "There was no smog or traffic. The citrus trees and ranches were beautiful. When the trees were in bloom, the whole town smelled gorgeous."

The Wagon Wheel and the Hecer family are recalled with affection by long time Coronans.



The Wagon Wheel Café and Motel seen in its early days with Sixth Street in the foreground

Running a business at a location that was also the family residence meant there was always work to do. Mary explained how she felt about having her room and job in the same

location, "I worked there a lot growing up. It was just part of being a member of the family. You just did it and you never complained."

For the thousands of us that will never dine at the Wagon Wheel, she filled in some details of the business. "The Wagon Wheel was a truck stop, it was open 24 hours a day. We offered a place to sleep in rooms that my dad moved behind the restaurant to increase available parking near Sixth."



L-R: Sisters Mary Stein and Joyce Jenkins with two friends from a *Coronal*, the Corona High School yearbook  
(Courtesy of Corona Public Library)

How was the food? Mary recalled, "My mom used her Dutch recipes a lot. Her chicken and dumplings were very popular." She added, "We did a very good business with both truck drivers and local residents, we had many regulars."



Wagon Wheel Café in mid-late 1960s at Sixth and Yorba - the streets have since been realigned



# Annual Meeting / Holiday Party Report By Richard Winn

On December 8, 2011, President Christine Gary welcomed more than 80 members and guests to the Society's Holiday Party in the historic Woman's Improvement Club room located at 1101 S. Main Street.

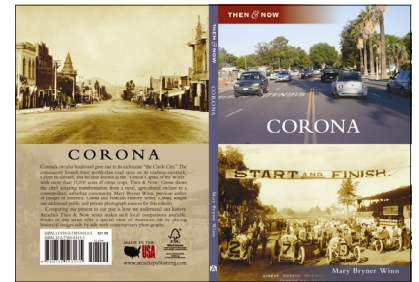
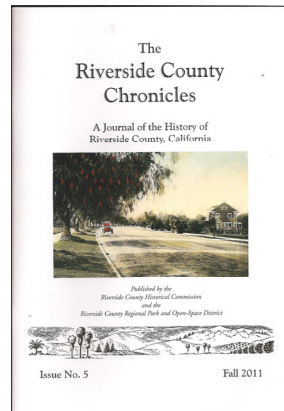
Dignitaries present included City Mayor, Eugene Montanez, Councilpersons, Karen Spiegel, and Stan Skipworth, and CNUSD School Board member Michell Skipworth as well as 11 of the Society's 12 Directors.

During the business portion of our annual meeting, the following directors were elected: 4 Directors for regular two year terms: Jackie Bland, Doris Osko, Don Williamson and Richard Winn; one to fill an unexpired term, Mark German, and three Emeritus Directors for one (1) year terms: Marla Benson, Janette Neumann and Ted Taylor.

Bubba Bland was recognized for his service on the Board and outgoing President Christine Gary was presented with a laser-etched on alder plaque acknowledging her service for 3½ years as CHPS president and her many contributions to the community.

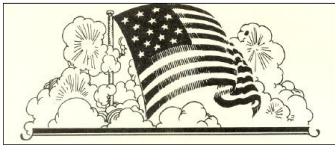
**Announcements:** An extensive article on Corona's Historic Grand Boulevard, was recently published in the Fall 2011 (Volume 5) of the *Riverside County Chronicles*, copies of which have been provided to the Society to sell. The price is \$10.

Mary Winn's third pictorial book about Corona entitled *Then & Now: Corona* is scheduled for release on May 7, 2012.



The Corona High School Madrigal Choir entertained all present with the National Anthem, a variety of seasonal selections as well as songs from other lands.

## Woman's Improvement Club: Salute to U. S. Military Past & Present



On February 18, 2012, the Woman's Improvement Club will host a Salute to **U. S. Military Members Past & Present** from 7:00 - 11:00 pm at the Clubhouse located at 1101 South Main Street, Corona,

All are invited to come **DANCE, LISTEN and ENJOY BIG BAND MUSIC** by SOZO, the Shandrells, Sydney and a Bob Hope (impersonator).

Red, white and blue attire is suggested.  
Military Uniforms are welcome.

There will be drinks and appetizers.

Admission for one is \$20 or two admissions for \$35.  
Both come with a complimentary drink.

Proceeds go to scholarships, Settlement House and other worthy community services.

**For tickets and other information:** contact Alicia at (951) 735-3228, Nan at (951) 737-4729 or Yolanda at (951) 733-1201

## Historic Preservation Humor



This cartoon was submitted by CHPS member Dottie Reichard

# 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

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**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

Carol Ackerman  
Patricia Barker  
Judy Biggs  
Wanda Cleveland  
John Garton  
Glenn & Christine Gary  
Nick & Michelle Koranda

Katharine Nichols  
Fred & Vicki Parr  
Gretchen Scoggins  
Carl & Sue Simmons  
Jay Stemska  
Frances Tassin  
Don & Diane Unkenholtz

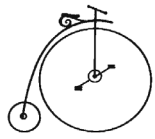
## Architectural Salvage Shoppe

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.





Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

## Board of Directors

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

### Directors

Jackie Bland  
Mark German  
Paula Muñoz  
Tom Muñoz  
Don Williamson

### Directors Emeritus

Marla Benson  
Janette Neumann  
Ted Taylor



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.**

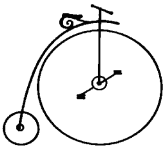
The next meetings will be:

**Wednesday, January 18, 7:00 pm at CHPS office**

**Wednesday, February 15, 7:00 pm at CHPS office**



Visit us @ [www.corona-history.org](http://www.corona-history.org)



Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

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



Corona's first City Hall in 1949 played a prominent role in "Storm Warning"

**Join us on February 25<sup>th</sup> to view "Storm Warning" - a movie filmed in Corona over 60 years ago. See page 1**