

A Message From Our President Don Williamson

Dear Members:

This exciting year for CHPS continues. Our May, Vintage Home Tour was a tremendous success. Hundreds of people took advantage of the rare opportunity to enter some of Corona's most historic homes, along with the Corona Woman's Improvement Clubhouse and inspect their classic workmanship and styles. Our sincerest thanks to all that attended and endorsed our goal of preserving Corona's past. CHPS returns the proceeds from the Tour to preservation projects throughout the community.

Without the hard work of our gracious homeowners, the Woman's Improvement Club members, CHPS Board members and volunteer docents, the Vintage Home Tour would not happen. We appreciate your efforts and truly value your dedication and support.

Our lemonade stand at the Antiques & Collectibles Faire, held the first Saturday in June at Heritage Park, did a brisk business. Board member and immediate CHPS past president, Chris Gary, along with Board member Doris Osko and former Board members Bubba and Jackie Bland, ran a busy booth filled with delightful antiques and architectural salvage. Getting ready for the Faire includes setting up the space the evening before, spending the night on site and the whole day explaining the wares to potential buyers. All this work and donating the antiques for the benefit of CHPS, are above and beyond job titles. We thank you for your incredible generosity of both your time and donations.

The deadline for moving the historic church on the corner of Ninth and Sheridan is fast approaching. A plan must be in place by September to save this venerable relic from demolition, making way for Corona Regional Medical Center (CRMC) expansion. If you can help find them a new spot or would like more information, please contact, Jeff Tupper, (951 808-6783) at CRMC.

Do not forget, the 100th Anniversary of the first Corona Road Race celebration on September 14 at Corona City Park. The Corona Parks and Community Services Department, under the direction of Corona Mayor Ja-



Can you help?
This former Free Methodist Church and Temple Beth Shalom building is in need of being moved to a new location.

son Scott, is planning a spectacle that will itself become part of our historic legacy.

The day will begin with a "lap" around the old racetrack. Everyone asks if there will be an actual race. Because that would be crazy, the answer is, no. However, beginning at the original Start/Finish line marker on West Grand next to Corona Fundamental Intermediate School, there will be vintage automobiles traveling the entire Circle.

Corona City Park will be the venue for a car show, live bands, food trucks and dozens of activities and

displays. No traffic will access Sixth Street between East Grand and Rimpau. Parking will be available at the Park & Ride lot on North Main, with shuttles traveling between the lot and City Park.

CHPS is selling several items including t-shirts, mouse pads and coffee mugs to commemorate the Race Centennial. There is ordering information in this issue on page 6. We have a licensing agreement with the City of Corona to sell products that have the official race logo.

Each year I meet a surprisingly high number of Coronans that are not familiar with the Corona Road Races. Many, at best, only have vague information of their existence. I hope that this year's Road Race Centennial will focus attention to this era of our history. This racing past makes Corona unique to any other town. While other cities held races in their bygone days and there are other circular streets, no other downtown was built inside a circular boulevard that hosted races around it that exceeded 100 mph, only Corona. Remember, when the founders established this circular boulevard in 1886, automobiles did not exist. The facts set us apart and keeping them in the collective thoughts of our citizens makes the job of the Corona Historic Preservation Society essential. I am looking forward to all of us to continue working together toward that goal.

Stay cool during the hot summer.

Sincerely,
Don Williamson

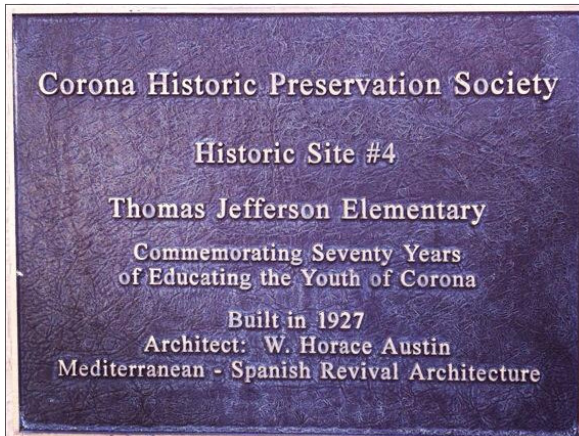


Recent CHPS Activities



Antiques & Collectibles Faire on June 1, 2013: CHPS members once again enjoyed the camaraderie of Faire attendees as well as each other as they served icy cold lemonade and sold architectural salvage items and antiques. CHPS has participated in this fun annual event since its inception in June 2001 at Corona Heritage Park and Museum. Persons shown (L-R): 1) Steve Ruth, Mark German & Trish Henson. 2) Jackie Bland on right at Salvage/Antique Booth. 3) Richard Winn & Steve Ruth. Photos courtesy of Doris Osko.

85th Anniversary Celebration of Jefferson Elementary School on May 23, 2013: Several CHPS members were among the throng attending festivities held on campus on Thursday, May 23, 2013. Program entertainment included selections by the school band and traditional Mexican folk dances performed by first grade students. This campus has been in use for educational purposes longer than any other school site within the Corona-Norco Unified School District. Photos courtesy of new CHPS member Merrilee Howard.



Our Preservation Grant Program

The CHPS Grant Committee along with the Board of Directors of the Corona Historic Preservation Society would like to assist local homeowners in making necessary 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 Chairman Mark German (951) 500-2767 or send him an E-mail at <mgerman@ca.rr.com>. He will help in any way possible to provide the information you need.

Grant applications are available at the Community Development Department at Corona City Hall at 400 South Vicentia, 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!

2013 Vintage Home Tour

By Mary Winn

Photography by Alexandria Stern



An American flag proudly displayed, a penny farthing bicycle, a City Proclamation presented by Mayor Jason Scott, Woman's Improvement Club ladies with Mayor Scott, fabulous vintage automobiles, classic architectural detailing, enthusiastic volunteers and guests, a stunning garden...

The success of this event was accomplished due to terrific teamwork by many Coronans dedicated to "Preserving the Best of Corona" and sharing the Circle City's distinctive history. The tour was a true walking tour this year as we featured properties along or near Grand Boulevard. Three notable Centennials were our focus: 1) The anniversary of the first Corona Road Race, 2) The 100th birthday of the Woman's Improvement Clubhouse, and 3) The "Barth-Stallings House" (a.k.a. the Richins Residence) 100 year mark since its completion in 1913.

I would like to extend sincere appreciation to all tour participants, especially the very generous homeowners and leaders of the Woman's Improvement Club. They quite literally opened their doors to help CHPS raise funds to continue our ambitious preservation efforts. Many took time out of their busy schedules to serve as volunteer docents and greeters. **We especially thank Alexandria Stern of "Allie Rose Media" for her contributions as the photographer of the tour.**

To view more images, visit: [<http://www.corona-history.org/corona-vintage-home-tour.html>](http://www.corona-history.org/corona-vintage-home-tour.html)

Corona Teaching Pioneer Helped Kids Continue Studies at Home By John Wiles

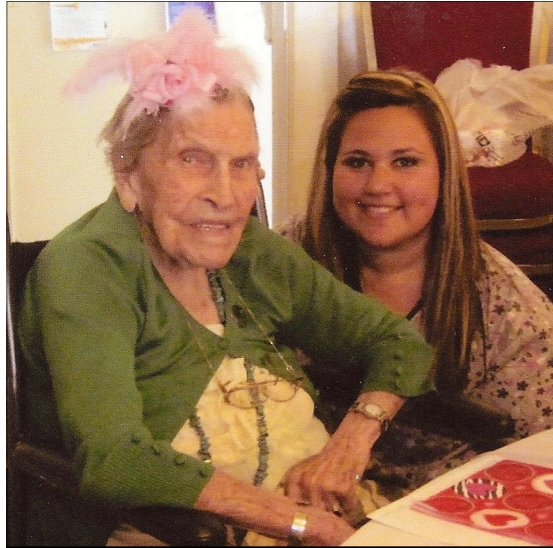
Until the mid-1950s, Corona-Norco students who couldn't attend school because of major, long-term health issues had no official resources to help them keep up with their classwork. This changed, thanks to the pioneering efforts of two local educators - Fanny Andrews, who initiated district-salaried home teaching at the secondary level, and Mildred "Mickey" Wiles, who became the community's first home teacher for primary (pre-high school) students.

Mickey had moved to Corona in 1948, when her husband, Raldon, was hired as a research chemist by Sunkist's Lemon Products Division (the landmark plant that towered for decades on Joy Street, just north of the railroad tracks). While single, and prior to serving for 18 months as a Red Cross recreation worker in France and Germany at the end of World War II, Mickey had taught school for 13 years. From Ojai to Moorpark (13 weeks in a migrant workers' camp) to Perris to Elsinore to Rosemead, she had especially liked teaching 7th grade classes because "the kids were beginning to mature, but could still be motivated and enthusiastic about learning."

Mickey had fully intended to resume her educational career, but after the war she found herself busily employed as a full-time stay-at-home mom, parenting two sons through toddlerhood. During the boys' early years, she did occasional private tutoring in reading and math - using her kitchen table for side-by-side lessons with youngsters up through 5th grade. These opportunities came through friends, parents, and teachers who knew of her past experience as an educator.

In 1954, with both sons attending Jefferson Elementary School, Mickey decided to take up her career again. Because of a lifelong hearing impairment, she opted not to return to regular or substitute classroom teaching - preferring instead to build upon the one-to-one interactions she enjoyed as a tutor. Word of her availability and interest reached the district administration, and she was approached to become Corona's first primary-level home teacher.

Over the next seven years, Mickey taught students with conditions that included prolonged illnesses, debilitating diseases, severe fractures, "nervous" problems, and unplanned pregnancy. She drove all over the sprawling



Mickey Wiles (wearing a "fascinator" hat) is seen here with her caretaker, Cheryl. The photo was taken at the Woman's Improvement Club. Mickey turned 104 on February 9, 2013.

district to reach her homebound pupils (negotiating no fewer than 17 traffic stops en route to one particular Norco destination).

Mickey typically taught a single student at a time, for three mornings a week, in sessions lasting from one to three hours. In addition to preparing thoroughly for each child's academic needs, she considered it essential to get to know her pupils (and their families, too) on a personal basis - in order to contribute individually-tailored support and encouragement, sometimes in daunting circumstances.

One of her most unforgettable students was a 7th grader with knee cancer and given a bleak prognosis for survival. The girl had emphatically rejected advice that she undergo amputation, insisting that she "would rather die." Mickey worked with her as she and her family sought treatment from specialists in Los Angeles - and rejoiced with them when the cancer was miraculously eradicated. The girl grew up, married, and raised her own family - and her sister was among the many who hailed Mickey while she was being chauffeured along Sixth Street as Honorary Grand Marshal of the 2009 Cinco de Mayo parade.

Another notable student was a plucky girl afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis, whose parents were friends of the Wileses. Courage similarly graced a brother and sister who were both battling cystic fibrosis - and Mickey fondly remembers one spunky 5th grader who refused to feel sorry for himself, stoutly declaring that "everyone has to be educated, even a garbage collector."

Mickey doesn't recollect how she came to be assigned to two pregnant high school girls, but she remembers learning that one of them had been concentrating on commercial subjects - so she taught herself the rudiments of shorthand in order to help the girl get ready to look for a job.

Her most challenging - and most memorable - student was a 7th grade Norco girl who had been kicked in the head by a horse on her family's ranch. The trauma resulted in a drastic loss of memory, leaving the girl unable to recall everyday vocabulary for body parts, items of food and clothing, basic household objects, etc. Mickey spent hours at night going through magazines and other publications, cutting out pictures to review

Corona Teaching Pioneer Helped Kids Continue Studies at Home (continued)

with the girl - a few at a time and with patient repetition. Happily enough, the girl's injury did not affect her ability to do her schoolwork - so she was able to make progress on both mental fronts over the year she worked with Mickey.

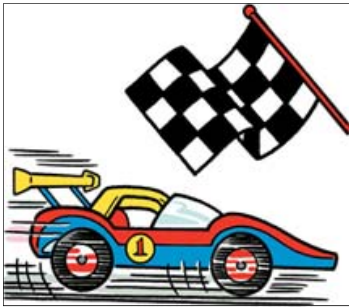
Incidentally, the accident occurred during the spring of the girl's 7th grade year. When summer came, and the school district lacked funds to pay Mickey to keep on teaching, a generous "angel" in the community stepped forward to privately underwrite Mickey's salary, thus enabling her critical work to continue. The girl steadily improved, returned to school by the end of her 8th grade year. Her parents exchanged warm Christmas

greetings with Mickey for many years thereafter.

Mickey finally retired in 1961, having earned her state pension for 20 accumulated years of teaching service. She continued to take on private tutoring requests, always willing to assist any struggling students who were willing to work at bettering their scholastic performances.

Mickey pinpoints her greatest satisfaction as a home teacher with a characteristically modest simplicity: "the feeling that I was actually able to help some kids no one else was helping." Her distinctive career is proof that it doesn't take legendary pioneers to blaze illustrious trails.

100th Anniversary Celebration of the 1st Corona Grand Race



Calling All Racers – Pinewood Derby Car Racers that is!

The City's Parks and Community Services Department in partnership with Boy Scout Troop 125 are hosting Pinewood Derby Car Workshops to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Corona Grand Race. Children will learn to build and customize their own pine cars during these workshops and be invited to race them on September 14th at the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the 1st Corona Grand Race being held in City Park. The class is FREE with a \$20 materials fee payable to the instructor at the first class. The workshops will be

held in July and August and registration can be done through the City's Recreation website at: www.DiscoverCorona.com.

At Uncle Bud's on September 9, 2013,

the actual 100 year anniversary of the first Corona Road Race, the City of Corona and Uncle Bud's Foundation will be hosting an evening of entertainment and racing at Uncle Bud's Automotive Museum. For more information on this event, contact Dallas Tuff at: dallas@qualitytoyota.com.



Join the City of Corona in Celebrating the Corona Grand Race on Saturday, September 14th!



The day will begin with a ceremonial lap of era race cars around Grand Boulevard. The procession will begin at the race starting line located next to Corona Fundamental Intermediate School and complete a full lap of Grand Blvd. prior to driving to City Park where the festival and car show will take place. The festival will feature the Pine Car Race Championship, vendors, entertainment, and a display of unique vehicles for attendees to view. The car show will take place on Sixth Street fronting City Park and will be an open event to the public who want to display their custom cars. For more information on the September 14th event, contact the Parks and Community Services Department at: lanay@DiscoverCorona.com.

CHPS Members Assist with School District History Book

Since January 2012, a committee of volunteers met to develop a book chronicling the history of the district starting in 1888. The book is entitled ***From One Room... An Amazing Journey through the 125-Year History of Corona-Norco Schools***. This fundraising project will benefit Corona-Norco Schools Educational Foundation and will be available for purchase in the fall. (CHPS members' names are below in bolded font.)

Lower left photo: **Mary and Richard Winn** methodically researching old school board minutes.

Lower right photo: On February 14, 2013, Bill Newberry signed the contract with the publisher who will print a hard cover, high-end book detailing the 125 year history of the Corona-Norco Unified School District. Those present at the signing are pictured below (L-R): **Nita Grantham, Mary Winn, Richard Winn, Kevin Bash**, publisher Charles Allen and Bill Newberry. Other team members include: **Don Williamson, John Farr, Judith Horan, Ken Kammeyer**, Mary Brownlow and Dave Lavelle.



Corona Road Race Items Available

The Corona Historic Preservation Society is offering the items below for purchase. CHPS has a licensing agreement with the City of Corona to sell products that have the official race logo; it is the rounded image. T-shirts (in several colors), two types of mugs and mouse pads are available to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first Corona Road Race.

For prices and ordering information, please contact Christine at (951)734-0977 or send an e-mail to <catloverchris@gmail.com>.



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

Jennie Adamo
ALLEGRA Marketing•Print•Mail
Roger & Janet Becker
Benny & Marla Benson
Dr. Robert Brandt Benson
Roger & Noella Benvenuti
Dennis & Nikki Corriea
Ben Gonzalez
Joseph & Doris Haddy
Ada Jeanne Hand
Charles & Anne Hirbour

Circle City Foods
Marty & Merrilee Howard
Glenn Johnson
Susan Kleszewski
Rebecca Arend Knott
Robert & Ruth Kremer
Larry & Teresa Lavorgna
Hazel & Barbara Lohman
John & Barbara McCawley
Jacob & Teresa Morris
Stephen & Erma Paloma

Fred & Vicki Parr
Scott & Nancy Richardson
Paula Ruscigno - *Life Member*
Bonnie Schoof
Herman Seidman
Michael & Tamra Segert
David Shreve
David & Lynette Tougas
Bob Wallace
Bill & Vickie White
John Wiles

Receive This Newsletter in Full Color!

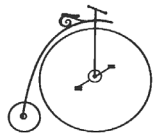
When you elect to receive CHPS Newsletters through E-mail, the Society can save on postage, printing costs, as well as save time on the time it takes to prepare newsletters for mailing. Converting to digital or electronic transmission also provides environmental benefits by "saving trees" and eliminating waste paper.

We are happy to send out a printed newsletter to you, but we can achieve significant labor savings and establish cost controls to preserve the use of available funds to better fulfill our Mission Statement.

The E-mail version of the CHPS Newsletter is always in full color!

If just one half of our members were to elect E-mail 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 call (951) 371-5291 and your name will be added to the E-Newsletter list.



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

Board of Directors

President - Don Williamson
Vice-President - Mary Winn
Secretary - Doris Osko
Treasurer - Richard Winn

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Tom Muñoz
Julie Stern

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, persuasion, legislation and organization, CHPS acts as an advocate for the preservation of Corona's historic resources.

Monthly Meetings

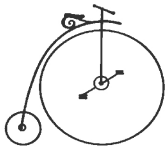
CHPS Board meetings are held each month to transact Society business, discuss issues affecting the Society and preservation of local historic resources.

All members are invited to attend.

The next meetings will be:

Thursday, July 18, 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office
Thursday, August 15, 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office

Visit us at: www.Corona-History.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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



CHPS parade entry in 2009



Road Race Celebration activities
are found on page 5

**Be sure to look for the CHPS entry in the
4th of July Parade on Main Street**