

A Message From Our President Christine Gary

Dear Members:

I would like to start this message by honoring the memory of one of our outstanding Society members, Mr. Raymond Harris. His keen memory of the past here in Corona, and his kind and generous nature will be missed so very much. Our sincere condolences go to his two daughters. Mr. Harris will forever be an important part of the history of Corona.

We had an amazing year in 2008, with many significant accomplishments. During the year, the downturn in the economy had a marked effect on the ability of people to contribute to, participate and volunteer time to most non-profit organizations. The CHPS Board of Directors decided to defer the planned 2009 Vintage Home Tour to allow potential host families and volunteer docents to take care of a variety of personal commitments and other issues. We will look forward to a fabulous tour for 2010. We would like to thank the White family very much for their generous offer of the use of their beautiful home for this year's tour. We hope you will join us for a tour in 2010.

There are always ongoing projects that need our attention, such as, saving historic homes in the path of redevelopment: specifically, the California bungalow located at 312 W. 7th St., on property facing the Corona Public Library. It is a fantastic little house measuring 675 square feet and with most of the original Craftsman interior intact. If any of you are interested in moving it to your property as a "granny flat" or guest house, please call me at (951) 734-0977. It is owned by the City of Corona and will be sold for



Seated:(L-R) Doris, Jackie, Chris & Lauralynn. Standing: Mary, Richard & Bubba. Photographed by Jim Dorsey for the Chamber's monthly publication.

one dollar to an enterprising individual willing and able to relocate it. The Redevelopment Agency typically assists with \$10,000 of the cost to move and restore.

Of course, I am still working on the Brumbaugh House here on Grand Boulevard. It is a great feeling to have saved a piece of history. The foundation is complete. The house has been "dropped" down onto this foundation and is ready for utility hook up. We have one inspector from the City of Corona that is approving the work, Patricia Link.

She is very professional, helpful, and says she really appreciates historic homes.

The Society's Preservation Grant program is in full swing for those looking for financial assistance or incentives to improve or restore a historic structure. If any of you are ready to do a Spring project on a home at least 50 years old, you should apply. Refer neighbors or friends that meet the criteria to our Web site for information and a copy of the grant application paperwork.



The relocated Brumbaugh House on its new and very structurally sound foundation behind the Chris and Glenn Gary residence

We were very pleased to recently be recognized by the Corona Chamber of Commerce. On February 18, we were presented with the Outstanding Non-profit Award at the Chamber's first Quarterly Meeting of 2009. What a great honor for us all. More information and photos are found on the following page.

We are still working with the city's Community Development Department on comprehensive design

guidelines for infill development and construction within The Downtown Circle.

Thank you for your support.

With Warm Regards, *Chris Gary*



CHPS Receives Chamber Award by Doris Osko

Seven CHPS Board members were on hand February 18, 2009 at Eagle Glen Golf Club to accept special recognition at the Quarterly Membership Luncheon of the Corona Chamber of Commerce. The Society was given an Award of Excellence for Non-Profits, recognition proclamations from the city, the county, and the state. A video presentation about CHPS was shown for those in attendance while the following Board Members were receiving congratulations at the podium: Jackie and Bubba Bland, Mary Winn, Christine Gary, Lauralynn Hake, Doris Osko, and Director Emeritus Janette Neumann. Unfortunately, Board of Director members Jim Bryant, John Kane and Richard Winn as well as Emeritus Board members Marla Benson and Ted Taylor were unable to join us. The featured Speaker, County Supervisor John Tavaglione, offered an aside during his speech in praise of the intelligence and hard work of outgoing Director Aaron Hake, and his wife, incoming Director, Lauralynn Hake.

In addition to the honors above, CHPS was the subject of one of the feature articles in the *Corona Business Monthly* for February. In the article, CHPS Vice President, Mary Winn, pointed out that CHPS in its role as a preservation advocate has successfully identified 13 significant historic sites in the community, with markers, has lobbied against plans to remove the fountain and grass area in front of the Historic Civic Center and replace it with a parking lot, opposed a proposed name change for Prado Dam, and has been instrumental in recognizing and preserving the Historic Santa Fe Depot on its original site. In addition, CHPS members are currently working with the City on the development of design guidelines for the downtown redevelopment area. Among other things, the guidelines will provide developers a catalog of classic architectural styles that can be incorporated to evoke feelings of continuity and historic accuracy within the city's Grand Boulevard Circle.

The special awards will be on display in the CHPS office located at the Historic Civic Center. The Society is appreciative of this recognition and proud of its hard work and accomplishments over the last twenty-five years.



Board member attendees included (L-R) Jackie & Bubba Bland, Lauralynn Hake, Chris Gary, Janette Neumann and Mary Winn.



CHPS Secretary Doris Osko is now included in this photo. We had a wonderful time chatting amongst ourselves and networking with others.



CHPS member Patricia Barker and her friend, Darlene Fisher, joined us at the luncheon



Displaying our certificates from City of Corona, State Senate and award from the Chamber of Commerce are Chris, Janette and Mary.



Former CHPS Director Aaron Hake (representing RCTC) and his wife, Lauralynn, who recently joined our Board.

Quarterly Meeting: Please Join Us At Heritage Park



What does a museum curator do?

What does a 3-D model of Corona in the 1940s look like?

**For answers to these and other questions,
please plan to join us on Saturday, March 7, 10:00 a.m.
at Corona Heritage Park & Museum
510 West Foothill Parkway**

Our guest speakers and tour guides will be:

★Noella Benvenuti★
(Museum Curator)

★John Quinn★
(President of Corona's Model Railroad Society)

For more information, call Jackie at 734-3166

CHPS Preservation Grant Program Update by Bubba Bland

The Grant Committee, along with the Society's Board of Directors, has amended the Grant program to assist applicants with a more timely response to submittals.

We realized the need for people to get started on projects without having to wait a whole year to get reimbursed for a 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 would be made available upon completion, inspection and on-site final approval.

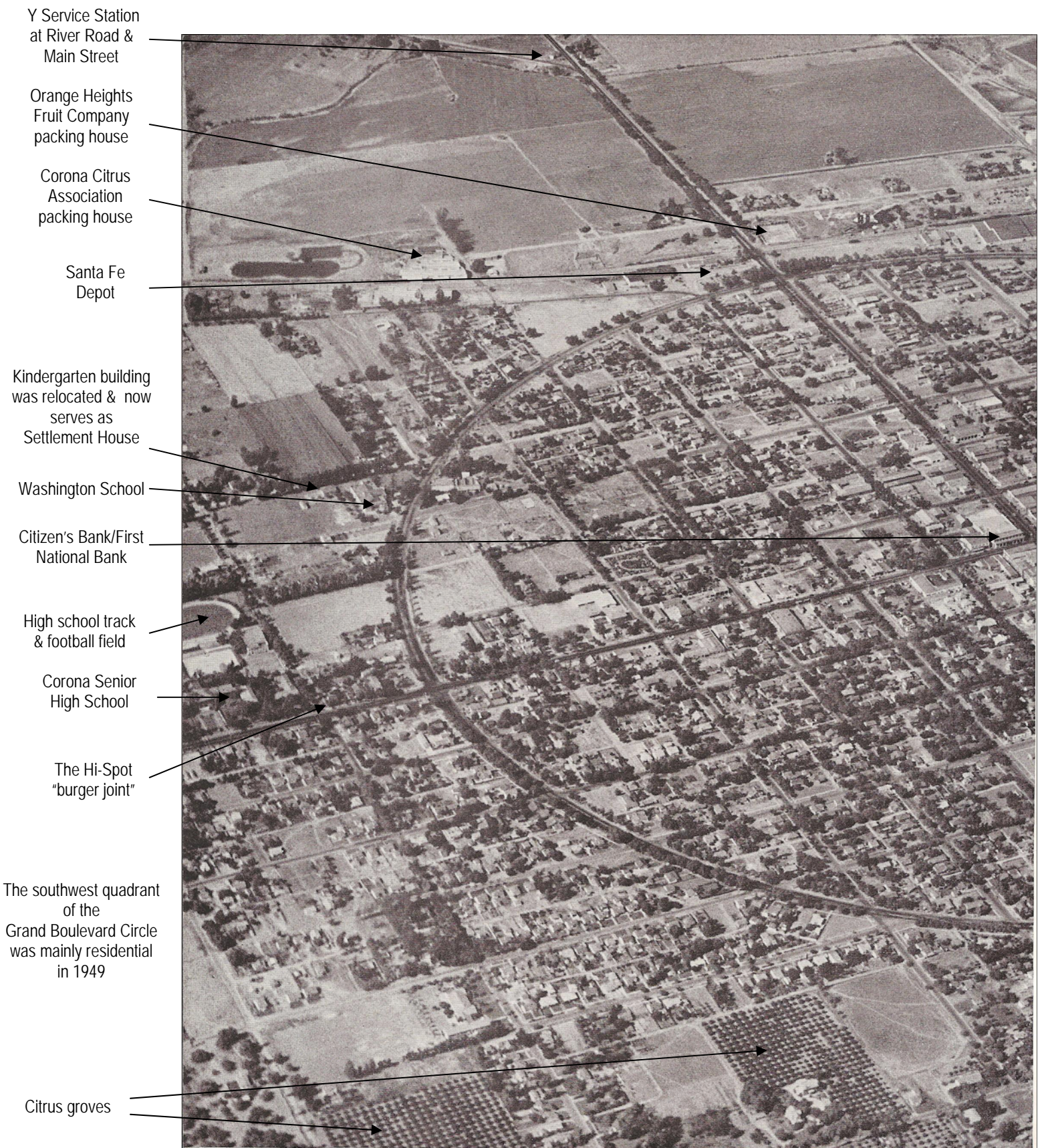
Questions have arisen regarding the location of



structures to which the grant will apply. CHPS knows that an important part of our Grant program is the need to improve historically significant homes, buildings and

properties throughout our entire city. So, as long as we see a need and it meets our guidelines, we have no problem accepting applications for any home, building or property within the City of Corona.

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 phone (951) 734-3166 or cell # (951) 833-1756. I will help in any way possible to provide information needed.



From 1,500 Feet, Southern California's "Circle City" Looks Like a Plane Geometry Problem

R. B. Taylor, who founded Corona, ringed his new town with a three-mile boulevard, an idea he picked up in Omaha. After 63 years the city covers 16 square miles; Grand Boulevard encircles business and older residential sections. From 1913 to 1916 auto races, attracting national attention, were held on the circle.

An aerial view of The Grand Boulevard Circle
The scanned pages above are from the



Exchange Lemon
Products merged
with Sunkist
in 1954

Corona City Park

The City Plunge

Corona Theater

Hotel Del Rey -
aka
Colonial Inn
In 1949

1st City Hall

Carnegie Library

Lincoln School
campus

Woman's Improve-
ment Club

Manhattan
Market

Corona Junior
High School

Citrus groves

101

After San Geronio Pass, Skyway Flyers "Hit" This Target on the Way to Los Angeles

Cross and circle make a distinctive check point. Citrus groves, lower left and right, make other symmetrical patterns. Corona, which calls itself "the lemon capital of the citrus belt," thrives on some 6,000 acres of lemon and orange trees. It ships 3,000 carloads of the fruit a year.

and Corona's Downtown from 60 years ago.
July 1949 *National Geographic* magazine.

Farewell To Our Very Special Friend, Raymond Harris

It seemed as if the lights in the City of Corona dimmed for a moment as one of Corona's early entrepreneurs passed away in January 2009. Raymond Harris was the grandson of C.W. Harris who founded the dry goods store on Main Street of the same name in 1914. The store remained a fixture in Corona's downtown landscape some 56 years until 1970, first as CW Harris Dry Goods, then CW Harris and Son Department Store. Raymond, as a third generation owner, took over the reins of the family business from his father.



Raymond was blessed with special loves in life: his high school sweetheart and wife, Virginia; their daughters, Marilyn and Helen; his hometown, the City of Corona; and his favorite vacation spot and second home on the beautiful island of Maui.

The Corona Historic Preservation Society was blessed with his staunch support including his attendance at many of our activities.

Many of us had a hard time calling him Raymond, preferring Mr. Harris to reflect the respect we felt for this kind and gentle man who was a giant in his own unique way.

He had an exceptionally keen mind right up to the end when, sadly, his body simply wore out.

Aloha, Mr. Harris

The above photo was taken at the wedding of his grandson. The photo to the left, taken in the 1960s, shows the interior of his department store.

"Everybody Loves Raymond" seems to have been coined with this sweet man in mind. He had the unique ability to make everyone feel as if they were his very favorite person. He was well known for his hospitality, a wonderful sense of humor, generosity with his time, and his willingness to share his considerable detailed memories of Corona.



Corona's Headlines From 60 Years Ago

Gleaned from the January & February 1949 editions of the *Corona Daily Independent*:

"Corona Naval Hospital Doing Much for California Polio Patients"

"\$450,000 for New Homes Approved in 1948"

"Minstrel Show To Feature Program at WIC Tuesday"

"Mayor Advocates City Manager Plan Be Used in Corona, Says Capable Executive Is Needed To Spend \$350,000 a Year."

"Clouds of Smudge Here Due Largely to Lack of Wind - Crews Out at 8:30 P.M. and Some Remained After 6:30 A.M."

"Planners Favor Lincoln School Site As Civic Center"

"Corona Library Need Replacing, Moving to Old Lincoln School Appeals"

"Menace of Brown Rot Is Increased By Rain"

"332 New Phones in Corona for 1948; 3,196 in Use Here"

"Wall Street Stocks Sag As Truman Still Insists Income Tax Boost Needed"

"Is There Re-adjustment or Recession Starting in Washington?"

Harris Department Store Celebrates 35th Anniversary January 31st

"Corona Smudging Costs As High As \$20,000 Per Night"

"GM Reduces Prices of All Cars & Some Trucks, \$10.00 to \$40.00"

"U.S. Is Paying \$40 Million Per Week for Some 2 Million Unemployed"

"What I Like and Dislike About Men, Is Women's Topic at Toastmistress Club"

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 and mail to:

CHPS

P.O. Box 2904

Corona, CA 92878



We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Jim & Patti Anderson
Beverly Bloch
Mike & Julie Downs
Dorothy E. Erick
Sandra Esparza (Life Member)
Aaron & Lauralynn Hake
Glenn & Janet Johnson (Patron Members)
Steve Lech

Kent & Ginnette Lillibridge
Richard & Patricia Luginbill
Tom & Paula Muñoz
John & Esther Prichard
Randy Rawson
Nathan & Roberta Reed
Jay Stemska
Diane Wright

Available for Purchase 60 Years Ago In Corona

Corona Shoe Store "Bargain Days":

Men's and Ladies leather soled, fur lined slippers, \$1.88; Silk hose: 49¢ per pair, Men's dress oxfords: \$4.85.

Eastern Furniture Mart Clearance Item :

2-piece Divan Set (Sofa and Chair) \$30., Trade-in allowance.

From a Private Seller:

1937 Plymouth Sedan, good tires and paint, perfect motor, radio: \$575.

Safeway Grocery Store:

Ground beef: 39¢ per pound, Avocados: 15¢ each; Sweet peas, 2 cans: 19¢; Peanut Clusters: 47¢ per lb.; Cabbage: 2¢ per lb.; Oranges: 7 lb bag, 33¢; Chicken, cut up: 69¢ per lb.; Eggs: 57¢ per dozen.

C.W. Harris Department Store

35th Anniversary Sale:

Dresses: \$1.00 (were \$8.00); Satin and lace trimmed ladies slips: \$1.39; 2-piece men's suit: \$24.50; Levis: \$2.98; Girdles: 98¢



Board of Directors

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

Directors

Jackie Bland
Thurston "Bubba" Bland
Jim Bryant
Lauralynn Hake
John Kane

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, Mar 19, 6:30 at CHPS office

Thursday, Apr 16, 6:30 at CHPS office



www.CoronaHistory.org



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

The Hardison House



Home of Corona Model Railroad Society



Interior of Heritage Park Museum

DON'T MISS OUT on MARCH 7: Special visit to Heritage Park Museum and Corona Model Railroad Society See page 3