

A Message From Our President Don Williamson

Dear Members:

We will start our final newsletter of 2012 with an invitation to ALL CHPS members to attend the Annual CHPS Holiday Party. Join us for a potluck dinner on Thursday, December 6 at the Woman's Improvement Club from 6:30 to 9:00.

The outstanding Madrigals from Corona High School will be performing a variety of seasonal appropriate selections. The party is our Society's "annual meeting" and is where our board members are voted on for the coming year. This is a fun event and a great opportunity to see friends and neighbors as well as a chance to make new acquaintances. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

CHPS is ending a very busy 2012. We will carry several projects over into the New Year including the effort to create Palisades Road into a historic district, signage around Grand Boulevard identifying it as a historic landmark, a namesake to honor Frances Aldama Martinez, the relocation of the historic marker for California State Serrano Adobe historic site and the dedication of new local historic markers.

We have enjoyed a productive 2012. As an example, the Vintage Home Tour achieved the highest number of attendees to date. Other activities this year included the placing of a historic marker at Lemonia Grove, our thriving lemonade stand and antique booth at the Heritage Park Antiques Fair and the release of Mary Winn's third book, *Then & Now: Corona*. For those of you that are not aware, Mary generously donates all proceeds from each of her books to the CHPS. Because of this, CHPS is able to move forward with projects that otherwise would be cost prohibitive. We truly appreciate Mary and all that she has done for the cause of preserving Corona's past.

In February, we all watched with interest as a television crew came to Corona to search beneath the grounds of the Historic Civic Center, which was the campus of Corona High School from 1923 to 1960. It was a tradition for each Corona High graduating class to place a time capsule near the school's entrance. None of the capsules have ever been found. The television crew's professional archeologists using advanced technologies could not find any of the missing time capsules. We are left with only theories as to the fate of these relics.

We were very happy in April when a piece of Corona



history was restored at the Corona City Park. The original bronze plaque affixed to the Founder's Rock in 1936 was stolen at some point. Mayor Eugene Montanez, as he said he would, had the plaque replaced. A material that has no scrap value was used. Thanks, Eugene.

One of the most significant years in Corona history was 1913; hence, in 2013 we are due some centennial celebrating.

Most are aware that it is the anniversary of the first Road Race but it was also 100 years ago that the Corona City Park was established and the Corona Woman's Improvement Clubhouse opened.

The City of Corona Parks and Recreation Department is in charge of producing the Race centennial festivities. We are participating on the committee that is planning this event.

For our 2013 Vintage Home Tour we are seeking residences along Grand Boulevard. Please contact a CHPS board member if you can help us to add a home to the tour. When you receive your 2013 calendar, mark May 4 and make plans to take the Vintage Home Tour.

Next year is also the 125th anniversary of the first public school class in Corona. Instruction began with a few students in an upstairs room in a downtown feed store. Look for the Corona-Norco Unified School District commemoration events celebrating the commencement of local public education, which was vital to the development of this area.

Please join me in thanking our Board members for their hard work this year in promoting CHPS activities. Without Chris, Doris, Jackie, Mark, Mary, Paula, Richard and Tom there would be no CHPS accomplishments.

Finally, "Thank You" our members for your dues and support of the Corona Historic Preservation Society. Whether you spent a lifetime in the Circle City or just slowly drove past on the 91 freeway, we are thankful for your encouragement and endorsement of our collective goals.

Here is to another year of "Preserving Our Past and Planning for Our Future."

Sincerely,

Don Williamson



“Lights, Cameras, Inn-Action” By Mary Winn

An enthusiastic audience gathered in the Community Room of Corona's Historic Civic Center on Saturday, September 22 for viewers interested in learning more about the motion picture legacy of Riverside's Mission Inn. This spacious room, Corona High School's former library, served as a theater for our meeting “Lights, Cameras, Inn-Action: Movies Made at the Mission Inn.”

Mission Inn docent, historian and author Steve Lech and former Mission Inn Curator of History Education, Nancy Wenzel, provided the audience with many photographic images and movie clips showing “Inn-Action” referred to in the title of their presentation.

The beautiful and historic Inn served as the backdrop for a variety of motion pictures, television shows, commercials and music videos from 1913 until late in the 20th century. The duo provided us with a handout listing films from the Mission Inn's past including 21 motion pictures, 13 television shows, 5 music videos and 22 movies that were filmed in and about Riverside.

Early motion picture director D. W. Griffith directed the first silent film utilizing the Inn's premises, *The Crooked Road* in 1913. Some of the stars that performed in these movies are not familiar names, others are: Frances McDonald, Richard Barthelmess, Dorothy Gish, and Richard Dix appeared in early silent films. Later films and TV shows featured many artists whose names are well known such as Charles Boyer, William Demerest,



Leo G. Carroll, John Carradine, Raquel Welch, James Coco, Jim Kelly, Aldo Rey, Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau, Paula Prentiss, Lee Horsley, George Maharis, Jeff Goldblum, Cyndi Lauper, Peter Falk, Anthony Hopkins, Joan Allen, Ed Harris, Powers Boothe, Mary Steenbergen, Hugh O'Brien, Tony Franciosa, Doug McClure, Burgess Meredith, Stuart Whitman, Armand Assante, Eli Wallach and many more. Noted director Oliver Stone directed the biographical film, *Nixon*, partially filmed at the Mission Inn in 1995.

Several films attributed to the Mission Inn but not filmed there were also mentioned.

One of the more interesting anecdotes about the Inn was the use of the subterranean catacombs. By looping the footage filmed there in one film, the catacomb tunnel system was made to appear almost endless.



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, 400 South Vicentia, and at the Heritage Room of the Corona Public Library.

More information and grant applications can be downloaded from our Website:
<<http://corona-history.org/grants.html>>

Please share this information with others!

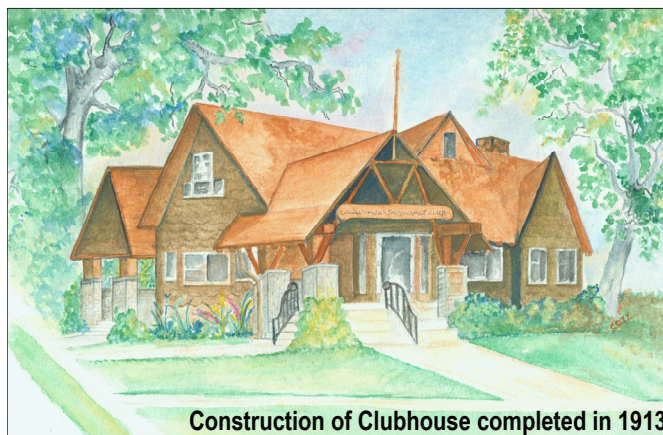


Our Traditional Holiday Party and Annual Meeting



Thursday
December 6
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

**Annual Board
Member Election
will be held**



Construction of Clubhouse completed in 1913

Woman's Improvement Club
1101 South Main Street

The Woman's
Improvement Club
was founded in 1899.

The Centennial of the
clubhouse will be
celebrated in 2013.

This magnificent
structure will be
featured on our 2013
Vintage Home Tour.

Potluck Dinner Food Assignments

Based on first letter of last name

A-H Salads / Vegetables
I-Q Desserts
R-Z Appetizers



Corona High School's



Madrigal Choir



Important!

**If you plan to attend, please be sure
to call Doris at 737-1766 by December 1**



Annual Election of Board of Directors

The election will take place at our Annual Holiday Party on December 6, 2012.
The Nomination Committee presents the following slate for your consideration:

Directors

Christine Gary
Mark German
Paula Muñoz
Tom Muñoz
Mary Winn

Emeritus Directors

Marla Benson
Janette Neumann
Ted Taylor

Per CHPS Bylaws, the Director term is for two years; Emeritus Director term is for one year.

Heritage Home Award Recipients for 2012



This two-story vernacular wood frame farmhouse, built in 1910, stands on the northwest corner of Garretson Avenue and Olive Street. It has been lovingly restored and preserved by current owners Dale and Elva Delgado. Originally built in the midst of the citrus groves, this structure represents one of the largest rural farmhouses of the period. It had a gable roof sheathed with wooden shingles which now have been replaced with composition shingles. It has a wrap around porch with second floor balcony, exposed decorative rafter tails, wide clapboard siding. The original double-hung sash windows have been replaced with metal sliders but the decorative wood moldings and narrow shutters remain. Original wood railings and posts on the second floor balcony were replaced with metal railings during a conversion to apartments some forty years ago. An exterior back stairway and second floor screened porch were also added. A gable roof garage stands on the rear of the lot facing Olive Street.



Chris and April Bowen have worked hard to restore this large 2,500 square foot, two-story Crafts-



man bungalow style home, built in 1916. The original gently pitched multi-gabled roof with wide overhangs, exposed rafters and purlins, purlin braces and a pair of front facing dormers demonstrate the best evidence of this architectural style. The roof was originally sheathed with cedar shingles but now has a composition shingle roof. This home has a large front porch with brick piers and battered porch posts, and criss-cross railings with a decorative trellis, an exterior brick chimney and bay window. The windows are a mixture of double-hung sash and wood casement, many with diamond shaped panes typical of the early part of the twentieth century.



The Humberto Gomez family recently occupied this unique two-story brick Colonial Revival style home, built in 1927-8, by the Kelley family. It stands off the north side of West Olive Street and was formerly sited in the midst of the Kelley citrus groves. This home was built with plans drawn on the east coast and there is no other like it in Corona. It has a gable roof, exposed rafter tails that resemble corbels, double-hung sash windows with six lites in the top pane with lambs tongue frame and a single pane below. The brick walls are built with shallow keystone arches over each window and operable recessed hinge wooden shutters flanking each window. There is a pediment arch over the entry door with a pair of columns and tall narrow windows flanking the doorway. Outbuildings include a



brick four car garage and a brick pool house. It was the first "all electric" home in Corona.



This beautifully preserved two-story Provincial revival style house, built in 1937, belongs to Don Dix and Annette Pompeo. It stands on the south side of Kendall Street, in the second block east of Main Street. It has a steep gabled roof and wood casement windows in front and wood casement mixed with wooden double-hung sash windows in the rear and side elevations. The finishing of the windows to the exterior walls is done with bull nosed stucco framing instead of stucco molding and gives the home a European flavor. The detached double garage is finished in harmony with details found on the house.



David Correia and Niki Duffy are proud of their one-story Victorian Hipped-roof Cottage, built in 1907. It is built entirely of brick, including interior walls which have been plastered; exterior walls have been stuccoed. It has a hip roof with flared eaves and sculpted rafter tails extend beneath the main roof. It faces north and the entry door is flanked with asymmetrical double-hung sash windows. All the windows have concrete sills. About one foot above ground level at the top of the brick foundation is found a brick/stucco cornice running around the periphery of the house.

This structure is significant because it represents an architectural type, infrequently found on the west coast, or period. It has distinctive design and detail. It also represents the working man's home found inside the town's circular roadway as it was 50 to 100 years ago.



I Remember When ... Wanda Cleveland By Richard & Mary Winn

Wanda was born August 11, 1919 in Mutual, Oklahoma (near Ponca City, OK, near the panhandle). She came to California in 1936 with her aunt and uncle. The original intent was to help out an aunt, who lived in Ontario, CA for three months. She first came to Corona in August 1937 to visit a girlfriend when the city's population was around 6,000 souls. She commented that she grew frustrated living here because all of the extended family members in the household expected her to do all the work and whatever else they told her to do. They made no efforts to share any household tasks and she decided she didn't want to work for family that behaved this way.

Her friend later encouraged her to pick up some in home jobs her in town caring for children, house cleaning, etc. and she found out that it was not too difficult to do so. She returned to Ontario in October to take care of her aunt who just had a baby and remained there to assist her until November. She accompanied a friend to Los Angeles to interview for a job and Wanda was offered two jobs while her friend was unable to secure employment. Wanda took the job she preferred with the Markwell family and was able to refer her friend to the job she didn't take. She worked for this family for 4 months. Then Wanda got a job as a companion and caretaker for Mrs. Isaac. A. Newton whose home was located across Sixth Street from what is now Eduardo's restaurant. She performed caretaker duties for this fragile lady as well as housework and cooking.

In 1938 she met her future husband Gilbert Cleveland and they were married in September 1939. Gilbert was drafted into the Army at the end of World War II and served in the Philippines (1945-1946). They had three children, daughters Revone and Donna and son Rick. She recalls bringing her youngest daughter to start Kindergarten in 1946 and meeting Laura Bench (the cafeteria was located next to the Kindergarten) who invited her in to meet the other girls. Then Mrs. Moffett asked her if she would like a job in the cafeteria, and could she start that day. She was wearing heels and declined to start that day but began by helping cook lunch in the Lincoln School cafeteria on Tenth Street the next day. She shared the **photo below** of the 1946 cafeteria crew (L-R): Susie Moffett, Laura Benedict (Bench), Berna Bartlett, herself, Mrs. Burns and Mary Robertson. She spent 5 years working in the district cafeterias at Lincoln, Washington and Jefferson Elementary Schools, Corona Junior High School and Corona High School. Mrs. Noriega was the head of nutrition for the District. In those days student menus and meals were prepared on site so they baked cakes and pies, made salads, baked spaghetti in large trays in the oven, well covered with cheese. Mashed potatoes and



meatloaf were also on the menu. Bread was the only staple that was purchased. School rules required that students couldn't leave the table until their plates were clean. She recalled that Bob Piester, who was a recent high school graduate but had a job as a school bus driver, would stop by the high school cafeteria daily to see what was cookin', hoping for a free sample.

She left her school district job in 1951 when expecting her son. She spent the next few years as a homemaker then in 1961 went to work for Dr. John Prichard doing just about everything: front office, back office, bandaging "owies" etc. She spent 19 years with Dr. Prichard and retired in 1980. Her husband Gilbert was a career civil servant, working in the Public Works department and completed his employment as Superintendent of the city's water treatment plant in 1978.

One of Wanda's recollections was that there was nothing to do here, meaning that there were no destination resorts, amusement parks or other self-contained attractions to which kids and adults could go. Kids and families would walk to City Park and hang out enjoying the cactus garden, wading pools, shady grassy areas, picnic shelters and swimming at the Plunge. She recalls that she and her girlfriends did a lot of walking. They would also walk downtown to enjoy movies at the Mexican movie house on the west side of north Main Street or Corona Theater or just walking and talking around the downtown with their friends. Favorite shopping places included C. W. Harris department store, Vogels, Woolworths, JCPenney and the Frock Shop. She had fond memories of "shivareeing" newly married couples first by having the groom push the bride down the street in a wheelbarrow, then or separating them and stashing them in different parts of the city, for a time. She had especially fond memories of what happened to newlyweds Everett and Mary Rogers.

Wanda's favorite places to eat in town were the Wagon Wheel Café on West Sixth Street, Cupid's, where a hamburger was her favorite entrée, and in the summertime ice cream from the Mava on Sixth Street near JCPenney and the Kinney Hotel.

Continued on page 7



Lincoln School cafeteria crew in 1946

Reception Honors Frances Martinez By Doris Osko

Corona Historic Preservation Society Board of Directors and many of its members attended a special reception at Corona Public Library on August 18, 2012 to tribute Frances Martinez, a person who was a mover and shaker for the Hispanic community throughout her life. Don Williamson, president of CHPS, acted as Master of Ceremonies to commemorate what would have been Mrs. Martinez' one hundredth birthday.



Frances' children L-R: Fran Tassin, George Martinez Jr. and Sylvia Barnett

in Corona, convincing the local newspaper to stop identifying those in news articles by their Mexican background, etc.

Mayor Eugene Montanez was present and gave praise to Mrs. Martinez for her constant concern for the citizens of Corona. Many relatives of Mrs. Martinez were also on hand to greet visitors including her three children, Sylvia Barnett, Fran Tassin and George Martinez Jr.

It is a goal of CHPS and the family to name a public place in honor of this remarkable woman.



Many persons who had known Frances during her ninety-one years shared stories of her presence at all the important occasions in their lives, playing the piano and singing, and helping to organize events. There were many more scrapbooks filled with newspaper clippings, photographs, and accounts of her accomplishments in the area of social change—registering voters, establishing the Joe Dominguez American Legion Post, bringing Senator Ted Kennedy to the armory

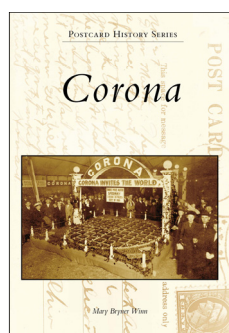
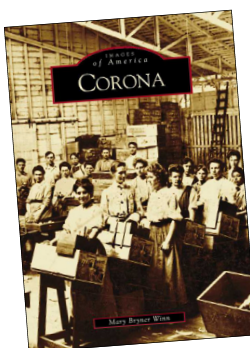


Fran Tassin, Jennifer Marlatt (Heritage Room Librarian) and CHPS president Don Williamson at the event.

Looking for Holiday Gifts?

If you are having trouble thinking of a holiday gift for someone you know who has roots in Corona, look no further.

The Corona Historic Preservation Society is proud to offer any of Mary Bryner Winn's pictorial books about Corona to fulfill this need.



Whether you like photo images, postcards or contrasting vintage photos with the same location now, as in the recently released *Then and Now: Corona* book, one of these books or any combination of them

would make a perfect holiday gift. All book proceeds go directly to the Corona Historic Preservation Society.

Call 951.371.5291 to place your order.

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

John & Carolyn Coutts
John & Jane Farr
Mark & Cindy German
Gloria Herrera

Katharine Hyett
Stephen & Sandy Klein
Randy & Cathy Leonti
Gary & Doris Osko

Richard Polen
Paula Ruscigno
Tracy Lelevier-Taylor

Wanda-Cleveland continued: The Corona Post Office was located on the corner nearby, until it was relocated to the south side of Seventh Street near Washburn.

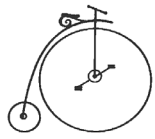
She worked for the telephone company for a time and was happy to recount the city's use of a large red light suspended over the intersection of Sixth and Main Streets. When the lamp was illuminated volunteer firemen could call the operator to find out the location of where they needed to respond. Police officers on patrol would call in to the police station from a direct-line telephone located on the corner of Sixth and Main Streets, when the lamp was illuminated.

She recalled the Pacific-Electric inter-urban trolley depot at Third Street at Main, but never rode on it. She did take the train from the Santa Fe depot west of Main Street a few times. She recalls the changes in clothing, fads and hair styles over the years and especially that women and girls always wore dresses in public up until the late 1960s.

She attended church in many different buildings: The Free Methodist Church on Belle, The Pentecostal Church, the Four Square Church, First Baptist Church, Evangelical Free Church (now called Northpoint) and the Nazarene Church, to name a few.

When asked what she liked/loved best about growing up in Corona she said that she liked its small town atmosphere and growing up with the town and meeting great people and friends here. She expressed her opinion that the town's lengthy history of parades contributed to the "sense of community" found here. She was heartbroken about the destruction of the old downtown during the urban renewal phase. She wished that we had better shady areas downtown.

Wanda attributes her long life to clean living, neither smoking nor drinking for her entire life.



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

Board of Directors

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

Directors

Jackie Bland
Christine Gary
Mark German
Paula Muñoz
Tom Muñoz

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

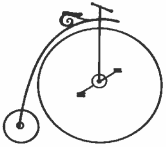
CHPS Board meetings are held each month to transact Society business, discuss issues affecting the Society and preservation of local historic resources.

All members are invited to attend.

The next meetings will be:

Thursday, Nov 15, 7:00 p.m. at CHPS office

**Thursday, Dec 6, 6:30 p.m. Annual Meeting
and Holiday Party
at Woman's Improvement Club**



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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



In need of a holiday gift or two?
See page 6 for ideas.

**Our Traditional Holiday Party will take place
on Thursday, December 6 See page 3**