



November- December 2009

"Preserving the Best of Corona"

Editor: Mary Winn E-mail: Toothlady2@juno.com

A Message From Our President Christine Gary

Dear Members,

Fall is here and I see dark, damp clouds on one side of the yard and sunshine on the other. I run outside to catch a rainbow but, no luck this time. Fall is the time to reminisce and review our activities of the past year. Board members attended many meetings of the Corona Community Development Department, Planning Commission and City Council to express CHPS views on changes affecting historic resources. The design guidelines for Downtown Commercial areas suggested by the Society have been evaluated by staff, modified as necessary and adopted as a part of Corona City Building Design Guidelines.

The "History of Corona" curriculum, authored by Mary Winn, is now in use by third grade teachers in the Corona Norco Unified School District. We have received many positive responses from teachers and students regarding how interesting the lessons have been. Students especially enjoy seeing old photos and maps and learning about how the area evolved.

Our Grant Program is ongoing from last year. We recently approved a grant for the Fisher family on Ramona Avenue for this year. Please be sure to spread the word about this terrific program so we can continue to help others in their restoration efforts. The city's Economic Development Department will be assisting the Society in spreading the word of this grant resource.

CHPS Board members recently attended a very informative practicum sponsored by the City of Riverside's Cultural Heritage Board at the historic Arlington Carnegie Library on Magnolia Avenue. The CHPS contingent was joined by Terri Manuel, Planning Manager in the



Heritage Park on Foothill Parkway was among the ten stops we made at our recent Caravan of the Markers tour.

Corona Community Development Department.

The CHPS Web site is frequently updated with lots of great information and photos, including the bimonthly newsletter with pictures in color. We continue to receive positive comments and have had new members sign up after downloading membership forms.

The Historic Preservation Society participated in numerous events again during 2009. We sponsored two booths at the Antiques & Col-

lectibles Fair in June and presented Heritage Home Awards and plaques to the Morris and Land families. Fourth of July proved to be a very busy day for CHPS as we rode "in style" in the parade and sold lemonade and cookies at afternoon and evening festivities at Santana Park. Quarterly Meetings were a lot of fun and were well attended. They included: 1) a visit and tour of Heritage Park and Museum with fabulous presentations by Noella Benvenuti and John Quinn; 2) a very informative tour of the Heritage Room led by Heritage Room librarian, Jennifer Marlatt; and 3) a repeat of the "Caravan of the Markers" tour of all 14 Historic Marker sites the Society has placed throughout town, led by Richard Winn. We wish to publicly thank Jackie Bland who plans and makes arrangements for our Quarterly Meetings.



Practicum attendees (L-R): Judy Hrabak, Terri Manuel, Jackie Bland & Christine Gary. Doris Osko also attended but is not pictured here.

Our final meeting of the year will be the Annual Holiday Party to be held on Friday, December 11 at the Woman's Improvement Club

at 1101 South Main Street. **This is a different date than was mentioned in our previous newsletter.** Mark your calendar now and I will hope to see you all there.

Warm regards,

Chris Gary



Historic Marker Tour Revisited

On Saturday, September 19th, CHPS conducted our second organized driving/walking tour of the Society's 14 current historic markers. The first "Caravan of the Markers" tour took place in March 2006. Prior to the tour, we met at the Blands' home to stow our lunches and organize carpools. After being provided with maps and a list of ten stops, members of our group enjoyed genuine camaraderie as we learned more about significant sites in the city. We organized the tour into 10 stops to view the 14 markers. For our first stop, we crossed the street to visit and admire the Woman's Improvement Club, the most recently added marker. Richard Winn was our guide and healthy discussion took place at each destination as many members added information that they knew to that which was presented. We noticed many Coronans take notice of our group while driving by.



The picture above shows some of the members of our group at the site of Marker #1 commemorating the location of Corona's historic second high school and long-time civic center located on Sixth Street between Vicentia and Buena Vista Avenue. This marker was placed during Corona's Centennial celebration in 1996.

Seen below is the Second Corona Santa Fe Railroad Depot which saw passenger and freight pass across its loading platforms from 1937 to 1987. It replaced a wooden Victorian styled depot built in 1887.

The unique marker commemorating Corona's first fire house, located at the north-east corner of Main and Eighth Street is



adorned with a brass fire hydrant on top and four etched granite plaques on the base.



The gabled entry to the Woman's Improvement Club clubhouse, which took its design from an old Welsh church, is seen below. It can be found on the southeast corner of Main Street and Eleventh Street and is where our upcoming Holiday Party will be held.



The best question of the day was, "What used to occupy this lot?" (the empty lot south of 8th, between Main and Ramona) The answer, of course, was that Corona's Carnegie Library occupied the site from 1906 until 1978. CHPS hopes to place an historic marker on this site sometime in the future.



At the end of the tour we were pleased to gather again at the historic home of the Bubba and Jackie Bland for our lunch. The front porch served for some time as Corona's post office, when the Postmaster resided here.





Our Traditional Holiday Party and Annual Meeting



Friday

December 11

6:30 - 9:00 pm

**Annual Board
Election
will be held**



Woman's Improvement Club
1101 South Main Street

The club was founded
in 1899.

This vintage postcard
shows the clubhouse
when construction
was nearly completed
in 1913.

Its Craftsman design
was based upon a
Welsh church.

Corona High School's



Madrigal Choir



**Potluck Dinner
Food Assignments**

Based on first letter of last name

A-E Salads / Vegetables

F-Q Desserts

R-Z Appetizers



**Important: If you plan to attend, please call
Doris at 737-1766 by December 7th**



Annual Election of Board of Directors

The Election will take place at the Annual Holiday Party on December 11, 2009.

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate:

Directors

Jackie Bland
Wayne Hrabak
Doris Osko
Richard Winn

Emeritus Directors

Marla Benson
Janette Neumann
Ted Taylor

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

Our Preservation Grant Program by Bubba Bland

The CHPS Grant Committee along with the Board of Directors of the Corona Historic Preservation Society has amended the Grant Program to assist applicants in a more timely manner.

We realized the need for people to get started on projects without having to wait a whole year to get reimbursed for 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 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 primar-



ily 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 me, Bubba Bland at <oobubba@ca.rr.com> or by phone (951) 734-3166 or cell (951) 833-1756. I will help in any way possible to provide the information you need.

Grant applications are available at the Community Development Department at City Hall, 400 South Vicentia and the Heritage Room at the library.

Applications and information may also be downloaded from our Web site <<http://corona-history.org/grants.html>>.

Please feel free to share this information with others.

Clean up! Paint Up! Fix Up! By Doris Osko



Members of the CHPS Bucket Brigade were up bright and early on Saturday, October 3, 2009 laboring at the historic Benedict House on S. Vicentia Avenue. The "buckets" in this case contained a cheerful yellow paint to freshen two walls of the Benedict House that had gotten too much attention from sun, wind, and water. Board members Richard Winn, "Bubba" Bland, and Wayne Hrabak also added a coat of white paint to the some trim and the front door. In the meantime, the women of the "Brigade" trimmed rose bushes, bougainvillea, lavender, and pepper trees of both the Benedict House and the Settlement House. Mary Winn, Judy Hrabak, Jackie Bland, and Doris Osko were there at 7:00 A.M. to clip and rake. All were sustained by muffins, cinnamon rolls and juice contributed by Mary and Jackie. Doris was the only one who was a complete novice at gardening, and when she was through clipping the lavender, Mary Winn was heard to remark, "Don't ever ask Doris to give you a haircut." After a few hours of hard work made pleasant by the camaraderie and the lovely weather, the troop headed to the Grinder for lunch. Both the Benedict House and the Settlement House are looking much better through the Bucket Brigade's efforts.

I Remember When . . . Letha Raney

As recorded in the May 4, 1961 issue of the Corona Daily Independent

Letha Fern Raney was born in Albany, Oregon in 1894 and moved to Corona with her family in time to start the first grade in 1900 at Corona School which was later named Lincoln. She graduated from Corona Senior High School in 1912. After a couple of years of teacher training, Miss Raney began her teaching career at the Rugby School in the Temescal Valley. Two years later she transferred to the old Washington School on West Grand Boulevard as a teacher. Two years later she was appointed principal. Five years later, when the new Corona Junior High School was formed, she was made principal of that institution and held the job for almost 30 years, until her retirement in 1952.

When she returned to Corona to teach at the old Washington School (on West Grand Boulevard north of Third Street) she found that the teacher in the next classroom was her own fourth grade teacher at Corona's old brick two-story grammar school and that her third grade teacher was teaching upstairs.

In 1966, Miss Raney attended dedication ceremonies at the junior high named for her. During her retirement years, she resided in Villa Park and Banning and died in 1983.

Miss Raney remembered when ...

- Her two older brothers escorted her to her first day of school at the turn of the century and she was told to stand at the foot of the steps until the bell rang and the teacher came for her.
- The six other little girls, who stood there also with her on that first day, were also graduated with her twelve years later from Corona High School.
- The old brick school building on Tenth Street which housed all the children in town from the first grade through the twelfth grade until 1907.
- The bell in the tower started us to school each morning, tapped us in and out during the day and sent us home in the afternoon.
- The bare gravelly school playground was a real hazard to skinning elbows and knees.



This 1970 photo is courtesy of the
Corona Public Library

- Play space on the schoolyard playground was allocated by the sexes so that children would be separated, with the east side for boys and the west side for girls.
- The football field was located in a field north of the Santa Fe Railroad depot.
- There were stables along Tenth Street where students who lived at a distance parked their four footed transportation.
- The ease with which parents supervised their children's trips to and from school through the vacant blocks.
- The dignified high school students upstairs were addressed by the faculty as "Mr." and "Miss".
- When the first bungalow was built and the six or more times that it was moved from school to school as needed.
- The pride of the students and townspeople in their new high school on Main Street which occupied for the first time in 1907-1908.
- The awesome county examinations and one of the questions posed to her in the oral quiz. The question was, "What was the pen name of Samuel Clemmons?" and she knew the answer.
- The entire high school student body of Corona High School on Main Street was allowed to climb the ladder through the attic to the flat roof in order to see a hot air balloon ascension.
- The sad day when the grand old pillars of the high school were razed.
- The World War II years, bond sales, crop picking gangs, airplane spotting, winter-time daylight savings time, students, parents and teachers off to the armed services, the blackouts, rationing, etc. all having their effect on the boys and girls still at home or in school.
- She especially remembered with affection and respect the hundreds of parents, board members, fellow workers as well as the fine boys and girls with whom she was privileged to associate during her 50 wonderful years in Corona schools.

Providing Dictionaries to Third Graders By Judy Hrabak

As Christine Gary showed CHPS members the historic picture of Lincoln Elementary School and its many students taken in 1939, the teachers and third graders



filed into the multi-purpose room of the school. On Tuesday, October 6, five members of CHPS were at the school to hand out dictionaries CHPS purchased for every young person in 3rd grade classes. This is the fifth year the Society has participated in the Dictionary



Project by sponsoring Lincoln Alternative Elementary School. Our group included Christine Gary, Doris Osko, Jackie Bland, John Wiles, and Judy Hrabak.

One of the teach-

ers introduced John Wiles who then talked to the children about the purpose of having a dictionary saying, now each one of the young people would have a book of his very own to take home, use at school, and to generally take care of so it would be of good service for a long time. There were about 150 students who received dictionaries that morning. Then John asked if there were any questions. To my surprise many hands went up in the air. They asked questions like ... "Who

makes up a new word?" ... "What was the first word?" ... "How many words are there in the dictionary?"



John did a great job answering each question. One really good question was, "How would you know the meaning of a word if you didn't have a dictionary?" A student answered, "Read the sentence before the

word and the sentence after the word and try to figure out the meaning." "Pretty smart for a 3rd grader," remarked Doris Osko, a seasoned teacher and the secretary of CHPS.

Christine showed the students the picture of Lincoln School the way it looked many years ago and said they could take a look at it any time since it would be hanging in the school office under the picture of President Lincoln.



Finally, it was time to pass out the dictionaries that were in shipping boxes on the stage. Each student received a bookmark along with the dictionary and was told

to sign their name on the bookplate provided inside the cover. Eager hands picked up the shiny yellow book and marker. Our Board members were happy to hear thank you, thank you, thank you, as seemingly every child individually thanked us for the gift. This group of third graders was a fine example of hope for the next generation.

When leaving, we encouraged the teachers to enjoy using the 3rd grade curriculum on the history of Corona, written by Mary Winn of CHPS, which is in use at all elementary schools within the area. We left satisfied that we had in part helped advance education in our city one more year, as well as stimulated interest in learning about the history of our city.



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**



Newsletter in Electronic Format

This newsletter can be sent to you via e-mail with photos in full color. This helps CHPS economize in printing and postage costs and lessens the effort it takes to mail out hard copies. If this is of interest to you, please send a message to Toothlady2@juno.com.

Architectural Salvage Shoppe

As a service to our members, 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 are in need of such items, please call CHPS at 898-2044 and leave a detailed message along with your phone number.





Board of Directors

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

Directors

Jackie Bland
Thurston "Bubba" Bland
Lauralynn Hake
Judy Hrabak
Wayne Hrabak

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, November 19, 6:30 at CHPS office

Friday, December 11, 6:30 at WIC



Visit us @ www.corona-history.org



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



**Woman's Improvement Club
Location of Holiday Party**

Our Annual Holiday Party
Friday, December 11 See Page 3