

A Message From Our President Don Williamson

Dear Members:

The 100th Anniversary of the first Corona Road Race will be September 9, 2013. That first race began at noon in 1913 with three separate contests occurring at the same time. The "Light" car contest went 37 laps, the "Medium" motor sized cars, 91 laps and the "Free for All" open to all vehicles, 109 laps. A lap around "The Circle" is 2.768 miles, making the Free for All, 301.81 miles long.

Following 37 laps, all the Light car racers rolled off the track. A fellow named, Earl Jackson won \$1,000 for winning in this group. The Medium and Free for All races continued. One of the star drivers of the era, Earl Cooper was ahead after 109 laps winning the Medium class, but stayed on the track to grab the Free for All win as well. He won \$1750 for the Medium win and \$3000 for the Free for All.

There are many different versions and claims of occurrences surrounding the Road Race in 1913. They are found in books, articles and on the internet. For example, some sources claim the track was dirt. However, the local newspapers report the expense and activity surrounding the pouring of the macadamized surface of "asphaltum oil and broken stone".

Perhaps the most famous racer of all, Barney Oldfield, crashed in that race. While the great driver was unharmed, his ride along mechanic, Frank Sandhoffer, suffered a head injury. The next day's newspaper story claimed that Sandhoffer had little chance of survival and his demise from the injury is often reported as fact. In reality, the fortunate motor man fully recovered. The loss of lives would not affect the Corona Races until the third and last one in 1916.

The official Corona Grand Race 100th Anniversary Celebration will be on September 14 at the Corona City Park, 930 East Sixth Street. Sponsored by the City of Corona, the event will include a car show, pinewood derby, music, entertainment, gourmet food trucks and more, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

First though will be a "Victory Lap" around Grand Boulevard starting at 9 a.m. A vintage automobile will begin a slow speed journey around the venerable course at the site of the original Start/Finish Line near Grand & South Washburn. A small procession will travel the entire Circle,



Janet W. Gould at original marker dedication

cross the Start/Finish line and then continue to the City Park.

For more information, call the Recreation Services Office at (951) 736-2241. You may register to participate in the car show at this link:

www.worldclassmotoring.com or call (818) 706-9999.

The 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. We have a licensing agreement with the City of Corona to sell products that have the official race logo.

Please join Glen Ivy Hot Springs Resort and CHPS on Saturday, September 7 from 9 to 10 a.m. for the dedication ceremony to re-establish a plaque marking the Old Temescal Road. This marker will replace one that has been missing for years on Temescal Canyon Road, about 200 feet south of Glen Ivy Road, the original entrance to the resort. The site is California State Landmark 638. Take care to park as instructed.

Our next Quarterly Meeting will take place on Saturday, October 5 at 2 p.m. in the Community Room of the Historic Civic Center. Dr. Richard A. Santillan, author of "Mexican- American Baseball in the Inland Empire", will be discussing the role of baseball in the Mexican-American communities of California. Coronans that participated in the games here and in other towns will talk about the memories they have of playing in games more than sixty years ago. In a similar presentation last year at the Joe Dominguez Legion Hall, fans could be seen pestering the former ballplayers to sign their photos in Dr. Santillan's wonderful book. And I hope to get some more on October 5.

We were thrilled to hear that a member of our community, Helen Hughes, generously donated her impressive library of vintage home magazines including, "Old House Journal", "Victorian Homes", "This Old House" and others. Sincere "Thanks" to Ms. Hughes for making this valuable literature available for all of us to reference and enjoy.

It is a busy time in Corona, mark your calendars and we hope to see you at all the dates, planned just to enhance your late Summer.

Sincerely,

Don Williamson



Preservation Grant Awarded

By Mark German



TO UPDATE ONE & ALL:

During the month of June CHPS awarded Bill and Vicki White \$1,000.00 for a preservation project on their historical home on Grand Blvd. The award was made through the CHPS Preservation Grant Program. Money for the grant program is raised primarily through the CHPS Vintage Home Tours. This money is provided to vintage home owners to assist in the completion of projects that benefit the home owner and are viewable to the general public. Such projects would include but are not limited to exterior improvements and/or repairs to structures and landscaping. The grants will pay for 50% of the material costs up to \$1,000.00 maximum in grant money. The process involves completing a relatively simple application, including a description of the proposed project. The project site is inspected by a CHPS Board member prior to approval. Once the project is complete, a receipt is presented to the CHPS Board and the project is inspected. A grant check is written shortly after inspection.

Bill and Vicki utilized this process to replace a deteriorating entry sidewalk in their front yard. The concrete was

removed and replaced with pavers that improved both the appearance and the safety of their property. The sidewalk is viewable to the public from Grand Blvd. Bill and Vicki's project is an excellent example of what the Preservation Grant Program is all about. CHPS members work hard to raise the grant money and are anxious to assist vintage home owners with their projects. More information on the Grant Program is available in the CHPS Newsletter and on the CHPS web site.

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!

Corona City Park in Its Glory Days

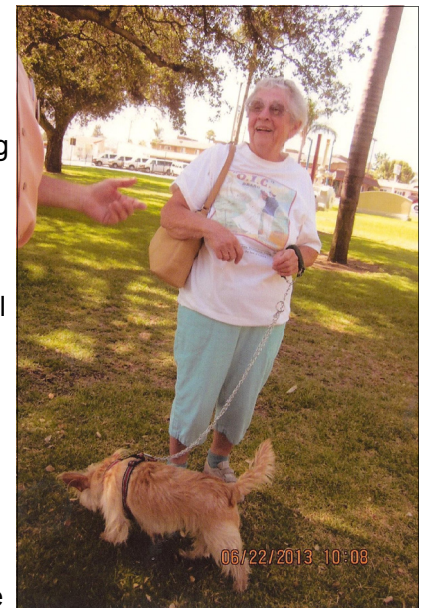
By Doris Osko

Although afternoon temperatures reached ninety degrees, the morning was pleasantly cool as a small group of CHPS members meandered through Corona City Park on June 22nd to learn about its history for the Second Quarterly meeting of 2013. Those attending could almost hear the shouts of the baseball players from years gone by, or hear the splash of the water in the wading pool, as children happily played in it on other warm, sunny days. President Don Williamson, using his own experiences growing up in Corona, made the park come alive through pictures and stories of the park celebrating its one hundredth anniversary this year.

His presentation began at Founders Rock, a giant rock which now has a reproduction of the plaque placed there in 1936 to honor the city's five founders. It is listed by the state as California Historic Landmark No. 738 CORONA FOUNDERS MONUMENT. Corona's 20-30 club, comprised of men between the ages of twenty and thirty-nine, had placed the first bronze plaque which was stolen and recently replaced by the City of Corona.

It was déjà vu for some of the listeners like Jennie Adamo, accompanied by her dog "Squeeks," as Don described the two most dangerous areas of the park -- the merry-go-round, and the baseball diamond scoreboard. Don described children getting the merry-go-round going so fast that kids would go flying off and hurt themselves. Jennie added that the same would occur when kids tried to stop it by dragging their feet on the outside and ended up with cuts and bruises. The baseball players would often run into the scoreboard, placed too close to the field, while making a play, and kids would climb the scoreboard and injure themselves in the process. Both are gone now, along with the traditional see-saw in the playground area. A colorful plastic slide replaces the former metal one that seemed so tall to a child. Many majestic trees remain, especially the enormous Moreton Bay fig that used to shadow the front of the old Plunge, a water fountain from 1919 and grassy areas still remain.

The magnificent cactus garden has disappeared, along with the wading pool(s), the historic castle-like plunge building and the large cannon that sat near the front of the park until World War II, when it was melted down for the war effort. The long Spanish tile-covered picnic shelters have been replaced by pavilion style shelters, the plunge by a more modern swimming pool complex, and the cannon by the air compressor, from the Sunkist plant, that powered the whistle, heard throughout the community for many decades.



Jennie Adamo sighs and says, "I lived a few blocks from here when I was a child, and I was allowed to walk here alone and stay all day by myself if I wanted to." To Don Williamson, the park will always remain a place of lively activity, not just for children, but for adults, too, who loved to picnic, or play a sport, or while away a fun day. The park will be the setting for the celebration of the Grand Boulevard Race Centennial celebration in September.



Drinking fountain dated 1918

I Remember When ... Mr. Reynaldo Aparicio By Julie Stern

Recently I was given the honor of interviewing one of Corona's most prominent citizens, Reynaldo Aparicio. Mr. Aparicio has lived in Corona since 1940, and has a long list of achievements that have contributed to the welfare, livelihood and education of the people of Corona.

Mr. Aparicio loves the City of Corona, and is thankful to have had the opportunities that have led to a wonderful life for him and his family here in Corona.

Mr. Aparicio moved to Corona in 1940, after the great flood of Orange County. He moved to Corona, because of the year round citrus harvest, and he was taking care of his mother who had asthma. Our climate at that time was better for his mother's health.

In the 1940's, Corona was still a segregated community. Signs were posted at public facilities, posting rules based on your race. This era was also a time of great change for Corona. We were in the midst of war and people feared daily that our country would be attacked by our enemies. Men and women, regardless of race, were recruited for the war effort. This was the catalyst for change. People became enlightened that if a person could die for his country, he or she should have a hero's welcome and have the same rights as their brothers on the battlefield.

It was in this spirit that Mr. Aparicio, a citrus worker at the Blue Goose Packing House on the Corona Plantation, became a leader of the community and a positive agent for change in Corona. During the strike of 1942, he was fired for answering a simple question honestly, "What do you think of the list of demands the strikers are asking for?" Mr. Aparicio replied to the plant manager, "I don't think they are asking for too much."

Not letting this incident crush his spirit, Mr. Aparicio went to work for Consolidated Vultee to fabricate B-24 Bombers in San Diego, and began taking correspondence courses. But soon, Mr. Aparicio was drafted. In 1944 he was deployed to a fighter squadron in Glendale, CA after passing a battery of tests with high marks. He served his country until 1946, when he was honorably discharged.

That same year, Mr. Aparicio contacted Mr. Frasier, the principal of Corona High School and he was awarded his high school diploma. He remembers vividly the ceremony, where he wore a cap and gown and received his diploma. It was a great accomplishment for a young man who had been taken out of school during the 7th grade to go to work. The graduation was an event that marked the beginnings of an illustrious career in education. Mr. Aparicio went on to earn a degree in Business Administration and his Master's in Education from Claremont Men's College.

While going to school, in 1947, he became the First Commander of the Joe Dominguez American Legion Post #742.

After graduating, Mr. Aparicio, became a teacher at Lincoln Elementary School. He served as president of the

Association of Corona Teachers, now known as Corona Norco Teachers Association, and has received a life diploma from the State of California Board of Education. His teaching credits include, Lincoln Elementary, Corona Jr. High, Corona Sr. High school and Chaffey College. Mr. Aparicio went on to become a Public Accountant in 1951, and opened a successful practice that is still operating today.

Mr. Aparicio has also travelled the world playing tennis on the senior tennis circuit at such venues as Stanford University and the Senior Olympics in Texas and Kentucky. One of his most memorable matches, was when he played a 100 year old opponent. Mr. Aparicio is a champion tennis player and has won several championships and a gold medal.

Some of Mr. Aparicio's favorite memories of Corona are:

- Going out for family dinners at Gelpi's Restaurant, which used to be directly across from The Silver Dollar Pancake House on 6th St.

- The Cinco De Mayo Festival.

- Being President of The Jolly Makers, a club that organized dances held in the old Glass Brothers building that has since been demolished, that was located on Main Street.

- Frequenting The Hot Spot for sodas and milkshakes, directly across from The Old Corona High School, now known as the Historic Civic Center.

- Taking swimming lessons at the Old Plunge before the pool was desegregated. He was allowed to come only on Monday nights and after the pool had closed.

- Being the first teacher in Corona to teach women accounting. He is very proud to have opened the door for women pursuing careers.

- Being a radio announcer in the 1950's for the local Corona Radio Station K-BUC for ten years in the morning before teaching class.

- Serving as the Grand Marshall of the Cinco De Mayo Parade in 2012.

- Being a Charter Member of the Circle City Kiwanis and President for two years, presently serving as Program Chairman for the past twelve years.

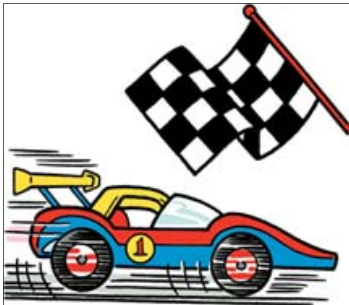
- Living in a city, which according to him, has the prettiest women in all of California.

Rey, as his family and friends fondly call him, continues to live in Corona with his wife of 68 years, his 2 children, 3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. He remains active in the community with the Circle City Kiwanis and American Legion Post 742 and you can still find him on the tennis courts two times a week.

Significant Photos of Rey Aparicio



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.

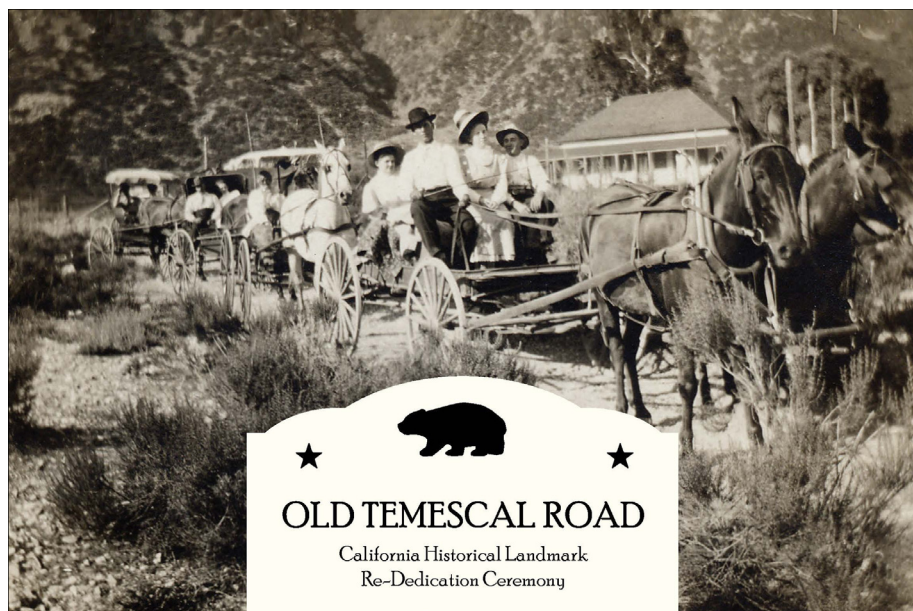


Join the City of Corona in Celebrating the Corona Grand Race on Saturday, September 14th!



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 Pinewood Derby 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.

Re-Dedication of Temescal Road Plaque



Please Join Us
at the Old Temescal Road
plaque re-dedication
ceremony to
re-establish the marker
and commemorate the use
of this road by generations
of local people.

Saturday, September 7, 2013 from 9am to 10am
On Temescal Canyon Road
200 feet south of Glen Ivy Road in Corona.

Event parking will be marked.

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 with 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 send an email to <safetyguy141@juno.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

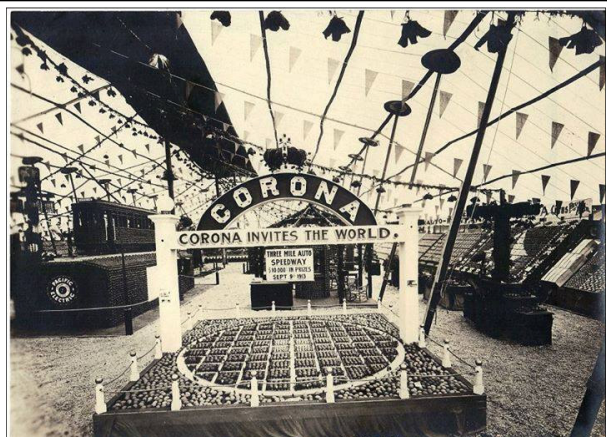
Rich & Tacy Bensiek
Chris & April Bowen - Life Membership
Kevin & Beth Button
Richard & Angela Harris
Charles Jameson
Margaret Jameson
William & Monica Pope

Marjorie Smerber
Mary Ann Sherman
Roberta Stambaugh
Donna Stark
Marcelle Turk
Don & Marina Williamson

Corona's Entry in the 1913 Orange Show

In 1913, local residents created this masterpiece "Corona Invites the World" as a way to promote the first Corona Road Race with those attending the Orange Show in San Bernardino. The circular Grand Boulevard grid as well as the surrounding area are filled in with oranges and there are also model race cars found along the speedway.

Sergio Gutierrez recently placed this image from his personal collection online and it is printed here with his permission.





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Marla Benson
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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:

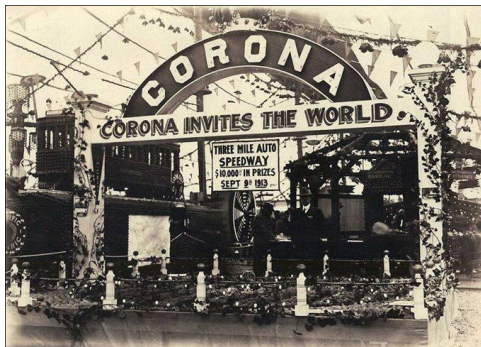
Thursday, Sept 19, 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office

Thursday, October 17, 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office

Visit us at: www.Corona-History.org



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



Our city's entry in 1913 Orange Show



Road Race Celebration activities
are found on pages 1 & 5

**Quarterly Meeting: Author Richard Santillan
to speak on October 5th at 2 p.m. See page 1**