

A Message From Our President Wes Speake

Dear Members,

Welcome to July-August Newsletter and our 16th month of COVID-19 in the twilight zone of history. I hope you continue to be safe and healthy, hopefully vaccinated, and able to venture out into the world a bit, safely of course! For the second year in a row, I will not be talking about our amazing Vintage Home Tour or Gala; however, the VHT committee has been working hard to acquire some fabulous houses for 2022.

Normally, I'd be talking about what an amazing May and June we had, from our Vintage Home Tour and Gala. I am pleased to say the board had our first in person meeting in May and celebrated the Corona Historic Preservation Society's 38th Birthday at the Woman's Improvement Club with delicious Lemon Bundt cakes baked by Heather Bolle. The Big Squeeze at the Antiques and Collectibles Faire went off without a hitch this year as Mary Rigg and I were able to pick and juice over 11 gallons of lemon juice, mostly from Corona's Heritage Park. Those amazing Corona lemons mixed with 22 pounds of sugar, 160 pounds of ice made over 35 gallons of refreshing ice cold lemonade. All of the yummy liquid was offered free! Over the years, the Society has given away thousands of gallons of lemonade. THANK YOU to all who came by and we sincerely appreciate your generous donations.

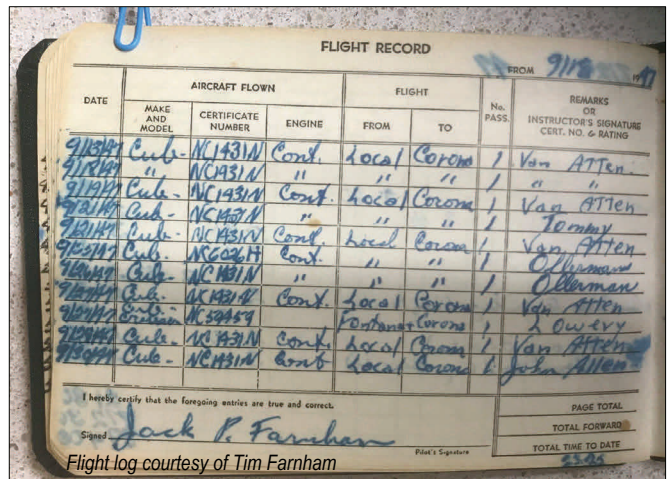
It was a truly beautiful day, seeing so many smiling faces, talking Corona history and giving away lemonade. Thank you to Rich Winn, Parks Commissioner Tomas Muñoz, Amelia Rowe-Nieves, Shaylene Cortez and the Yoshikawas for helping with our lemonade booth and information and "wares" booth!

We are looking forward to making announcements about easing back into CHPS functions; however, we certainly want to be mindful of our members' health and well-being. June provided the second year of drive-through graduations and a somewhat distanced Father's Day activities. This brings me to my topic for this issue's President's Message. One of the best things about serving as the president of the society is getting to answer email that comes to the CHPSINFO@yahoo.com email. Back in May, Ms. Raven Fischer emailed us and asked about an airplane that she just bought and it had a connection with Corona history:

"Good morning! I just got the FAA owner report for my Cessna 140, and it appears I bought one of the Corona Police Aero Squadron planes!"

For those of you not familiar with The Corona Aero Squadron, In September 1947, 6 Corona PD officers,

Chief Lowery, Officers Joe Greer, Howard Van Atten, Leonard Cox, Paris Williams and Lt. Jack Farnam got together, pooled \$1,300 and bought a Luscombe-Silvair, nicknamed "La Scumba", to use for their flying club. This plane could be used for search and rescue and other police functions without cost to the city. Four of the men had pilot licenses and flew during World War II. Lt. Farnham a decorated veteran of many missions over Germany served as the flight instructor for the remaining officers.



The page of the flight record above shows the training history of flight instructor Lieutenant Jack Farnham from Sept. 1, 1947 to Sept. 30, 1947 in three different aircraft. After the date in the left hand column is the "type" aircraft, the aircraft identification number, the type of engine: Cont. (Continental), the flight route(s), number of passengers and the flight student's name(s) in the right column. Officers Van Atten and Lowery's names are found there.

On August 22, 1957, the original plane was struck by a train after one of the wheels was torn off when it struck a tree and cartwheeled on to the adjacent Santa Fe train tracks near the KBUC station near Thursby Field (Corona's 2nd airport located on Parkridge Avenue with an associated Heliport located off Grand.) The plane was not only used for Police duties such as hunting criminals hiding in the hills, civic uses, finding lost hunters and dropping flyers over the city, but as Officer Joe Greer said, "Many of us guys depended on that plane to get our kicks." Since the insurance didn't cover being hit by a train, it would take 3 years before a new plane was acquired. This second plane, a 1947 Cessna 140, was purchased in 1960 and later sold in 1962 for \$10!

Sincerely,

WES



Recap: 2021 Antiques & Collectibles Fair by Amelia Nieves



Spring 2021 has brought a sense of renewed spirit, and anticipation, that can be felt throughout the community. We are proudly active within our community, as we emerge from the COVID-19 struggles of 2020 and early 2021.

The 20th Annual Antiques and Collectible Faire sponsored by Corona Heritage Park and Museum was open from 8 AM to 3 PM on June 5.

The Corona Historic Preservation Society Lemonade Stand was a big hit. The stand used more than 11 gallons of fresh lemon juice, and 22 pounds of sugar to make approximately 100 gallons of lemonade. Throw in 160 pounds of ice, and the stand was busy. Many thanks to our CHPS volunteers: Shaylene Cortez, Tom Muñoz, Wes Speake, Richard Winn, and Helen and Akio Yoshikawa.

The Fair exhibited numerous wonderful displays. There was such a wide array of items, spanning practically all categories of antiques and collectibles and giving interested parties a plethora of choices. There were displays of vintage yard art, memorabilia, glassware, clothes, toys, furniture. It is easy to say that there was something there for everyone, but it sure had all the appearances of such.



Citrus crate labels, Corona books and Huell Howser DVDs of "Road Races" were for sale at the CHPS booth. Corona memorabilia (match books, Corona currency) were displayed. Newsletters, historic site maps and other materials were also available.



CHPS members Amelia Nieves and Tom Muñoz are well prepared to serve free lemonade to attendees at this year's Antiques & Collectibles Faire.

The Faire was a trove of hidden treasures.

As is the case with all Corona events, there are those working tirelessly behind the scenes to make it hap-

pen. A big shout out to the crew for the aesthetic improvements to the booth. After cancellation of last year's event, the improved booth and space allotment seemed like a natural, and welcome backdrop, as the Faire served as a pretext into safer, and more prosperous times ahead.

This 20th Annual Faire was a great deal of fun. It was so encouraging, and inspiring to see the turnout from the community. People of all ages en-

joyed the day and there were items that appealed to the wide age range in attendance. Those in attendance ranged from the browsers, to the serious collectors. The items on display were a reel of our lives. Many items sold very quickly.

Memories were awash everywhere. There were items that took everyone back to their childhood, and fond memories of days, years, gone by. the Model Railroad Club and Art Association had spectacular displays. The Museum opened a new exhibit in the barn. It consisted of numerous items from the days of early Corona citrus ranch operations, including a horse and buggy.

The event served as a foundation for better times ahead. Everyone sacrificed throughout the pandemic. We all know the importance of having normalcy return, schools reopening in the Fall, restaurants open, social events conducted freely, and economic growth for the community, and nation. However, we are not there yet. We must remain vigilant. Things are trending in the right direction, but danger still is present. Now is not the time to relent on safety and precautionary measures. Be safe. Always.

More Faire images follow on next page:



Thank You to Heather Bolle by Mary Winn



Corona Historic Preservation Society would like to say merci, gracias, and a big ol' thank you to our member Heather Bolle!

This year we were able to offer a slightly different menu than in past years. Heather baked several dozen luscious lemon bundt cakes and donated them to the Society so that we could sell them as unexpected treats to Faire goers. They were more than well received. In fact, they sold like hotcakes because we sold all of them by noon. Many thanks to Heather for her generosity and foresight, and sharing of her culinary skills.



Antiques and Collectibles Faire Potpourri by Amelia Nieves



Virtual Grand Tour Recap by Wes Speake

On May 8, 2021 I attempted to do a Facebook Live version of The Grand Tour - a walking and driving tour of The History, Heritage and Architecture of the Circle City. It was a learning experience, for sure. From camera placement, connection, and sound issues I want to thank the almost 1,000 people who viewed it. I hope to do better next time.

The Tour started on South Main, showing the Main Street Historic Palm Tree District, one of three historic tree districts. The cluster of three historic homes on south Main Street, including the Stoner House designed by Leo Kroonen, a citrus ranch house built in 1904, a 1931 Spanish Revival home. Next stop was 11th Street to show the cast iron streetlights that are oldest in the city originally placed in 1915-16. Then a quick drive down the almost closed canopy tree-lined street 11th Street to Jefferson Elementary School, recently nominated by the CHPS to the National Register of Historic Places and beautifully maintained by the Corona-Norco Unified School District. Then a quick drive down 10th Street and their stately Oak trees around which the city routed the sidewalks.

I resumed down Grand Blvd which was used as a racetrack in 1913, 1914 and 1916. Crossing the 1916 start/finish line, the Grand Blvd Pump house. Then to the Lucas Oil Building which was the third packing house on the site and was built in 1947. Discussion of the Railroad coming through Corona and how it was an economic engine for Corona was presented. Then we saw Corona's second Railroad Depot built in 1937, in the Mission Revival style.

Grand Blvd. traveling east followed and I talked about the remaining Grand Blvd. Palm Trees and 1920's concrete streetlights. Then the 1916 Road Race crash that basically ended racing in Corona. Then a discussion of the oldest restaurant in Corona, the Silver Dollar Pancake House! City Park



and Armory, the trees that were planted over 100 years ago.

Then south on Grand to talk about some of the homes on SE Grand Blvd., Garretson, Palm, Ramona and several houses in the circle. Then the First Congregational Church, First Baptist Church and then finally Corona's second High School (1923-1960), which later served as Corona's City Hall (1962-2005) and now is known as the Historic Civic Center. I am looking forward to honing my skills and focusing on a few specific areas. If there is something you'd like to see please write me at CHPSinfo@yahoo.com.

The link on Facebook to reach our CHPS Group is:

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/207314265980718>

Scroll down to three posts made by Wes on May 8.

Images of some of the classic historic homes seen on the tour follow:



Progress Report on Update of Site Marker #5 by Chris McCoy

Every neighborhood has a story, and often that history can be inspiration for new construction. There is a great story to tell about how CHPS and your donations helped us turn the new Starbucks store at 8th & Main to harken back to our history in Corona. It also gives an idea of what CHPS does besides preservation. It is a victory for the community, and for Starbucks.

About 18 months ago Starbucks began the process of planning for a new store location at 8th and Main in the 99 cent store parking lot. When they did their initial plan check, they noted that we (CHPS) had an historic marker there. The City Planning Department referred them to CHPS. Starbucks architect reached out to us and asked us for our comments and suggestions for their new building located in the city's historic downtown. We were asked to give feedback on possible historic architectural elements that could be incorporated into their plan.

After reviewing the plans at a board meeting, CHPS asked Starbucks if they could design the façade materials to those of similar structures previously located there. Corona's first fire house (1908), memorialized by CHPS Historic Site marker No. 5, the first Baptist Church (1937) and Corona's first City Hall (1911-1962), the Carnegie Library (1906-1971) offered a variety of styles and architectural elements but the mortuary building previously at 714 Main that had been there since 1908 offered the greatest possibilities. In addition to its mortuary functions, this building had quite a local history as the city morgue, a furniture shop and as the Baptist Church Sunday School building. It was finally torn down in the 90s but many photographs showed it off well.

Being a responsible corporate partner, Starbucks took our suggestions and those of the city planning staff and designed their building to incorporate the dark masonry of the Mortuary, arched windows and other elements. They also agreed to help move our existing marker if necessary and add additional signage commemorating our first city hall. In these ways, CHPS helps to ensure new construction in historic districts does not change the historic look and feel of

our great community.

Starbucks has done this several times before. We are proud that the downtown Corona store is # 6 on the list:

- Zuilily, Seattle,
- Richmond & Spadina, Toronto,
- 11 Penn Plaza, New York,
- Addison & Sheffield, Chicago,
- Highland & Willoughby, Hollywood
- 8th & Main, Corona



Above: Views of the historic marker in 1998 when it was dedicated



Above is a view of the drive-through lane with respect to the historic marker location



Above is an in-progress view of the existing historic marker. Main Street is at the left.



Above is a view of historic architectural elements incorporated in the Starbucks design: dark red brick masonry wall treatment, deep set arched windows, and a red tile roof overhang above the door.



CORONA CITY HALL
1911 - 1962

Architect - Leo Krouson Sr.
Construction Superintendent -

For more than fifty years this iconic public building, located at 719 Main Street (the northeast corner of Main and Eighth streets), built in the Neoclassical Style, served as the seat of government for the city of Corona. Police and fire department headquarters were also located here. The City Council chambers were located on the second floor, department offices on the first floor and fire and police in the basement. By 1962 it just didn't have enough space to house city staff so city offices were relocated to the former Corona High School buildings located at 815 West Sixth Street.

In December 1949, during the filming of *Snow White*, starring Ronald Reagan, Ginger Rogers and Davis Day it served as the Courthouse featured in the movie. Corona residents got to see and rub shoulders with the movie stars, cast and crew during the shooting.

At the time, no one thought to repurpose the building and in September 1962 this unique and beautiful building was demolished.

CORONA HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Historic Site Marker #5b

On the left is the proposed Historic Marker plaque for Corona's first City Hall once located at this corner.

Reflections on Corona's Urban Tree Plan by Tom Muñoz

In 1913, the poet Joyce Kilmer, wrote a poem titled "TREES". The poet shares:

I think that I shall never see
a poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest [sic]
against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
and lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
a nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me;
But only God can make a tree.



The poem is exquisite in its simplicity, and at the same time, the poem is deeply intuitive in understanding.

The lines: "a poem as lovely as a tree" and "only God can make a tree" lend themselves to those that wish to listen!

Landscape Architects and Designers have listened to Joyce Kilmer's poetic lines for many years as they design with a palette of trees in our communities. Our communities have been designed with a vocabulary of trees like words in a poem. Landscape Architects and Designers have painted the blank canvas of our communities with living, breathing, and colorfully poetic trees on the landscape of our communities. Street trees, medians, parks, private residences, and open spaces have become the canvas by which we have been blessed to work with by using a poetic palette created by God.

An early 1930s pioneer in Planning and Landscape Architecture, City of Corona Planner and Landscape Architect, Ralph D. Cornell, developed a booklet that provided recommendations for street tree planting in the City of Corona. Because of the intrusive nature of tree roots, Mr. Cornell designated which trees would/would not be appropriate for a five foot wide or a fifteen foot wide parkway. The booklet, with the list of street trees for every street that existed in Corona of the 1930s, currently resides in the Corona Public Library. The booklet titled 'Corona Trees' illustrates on the first page that, "The co-operation of citizens in all future planting is earnestly asked, and with consistent planting, a little each year, the future beauty and desirability of Corona as an inviting hometown will be assured." By developing the Corona Trees booklet and providing an extremely eloquent opening paragraph, Mr. Cornell may have been asking us to lend an ear and be a poet and a painter of trees in the community.

Prior to this booklet being created, surely afterwards,

trees were planted throughout Corona. Magnificent Palm trees that touch the clouds can be seen as you drive along Main Street and Chase Drive. Trees that provide personality and character can be found in older parks and private residences along Grand Boulevard and Rimpau Avenue. The glorious trees appear to be dancing with the breeze. Taking in a leisurely drive through Corona, you will discover a living testament to poets

and painters of bygone days. Trees such as oaks and cedars are magnificent and timeless. Many of these trees within the Historic District have been crowned with the title of Heritage Trees or Historical Trees.

In 2020, an article pertaining to the City of Corona, showcased Corona for creating a healthier urban forest. The article highlights the fact that the City of Corona has teamed with other Southern California cities to "improve the long-term health of our urban forests." The article continues to state that the City Forest Renewal Project, through a grant program, will be removing trees that are dead or posing a risk. The article continues by stating that any trees removed through this program will be replaced with two more trees planted in the city. Finally, the article addresses sustainability and evaluation, and that the City of Corona will be working with the California Urban Forests Council to improve the management of our urban forest. The creative influences and energy of Ralph D. Cornell are alive and well in the City of Corona.

Because of citizen requests and safety concerns many Corona street trees have been removed creating some 14,000 empty tree wells. The City Council has recently taken action to correct this by updating its Urban Tree Plan. The intent is for requests to remove a tree on a resident's whim will be denied. As we look ahead, and in addition to teaming with other cities, the City of Corona is collaborating with local Scout Troops, local historians, and the Corona Parks Foundation to bridge the past with our future. For example, at Joy Park (at the corner of South Joy Street and East Grand Boulevard), a portion of an 1892 Lemon tree, previously owned by Corona pioneer A. J. Ware, was grafted onto a younger Lemon tree planted at the park as part of an Eagle Scout project.

In closing, where poets paint the canvas of our community, "Only God can make a tree." We have been tasked to paint the community with an urban forest.

Membership Information

When joining or renewing your membership, please make your tax deductible check payable to "CHPS"

Individual Member \$30.00
 Family \$40.00
 Student \$15.00
 Business \$60.00
 Patron \$125.00
 Life \$600.00

I'd like to volunteer!

Hospitality refreshments
 Newsletter writing articles
 Vintage Home Tour docent / volunteer
 Board of Directors

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

Bennie & Marla Benson – Patron Membership
 Dr. Robert Brandt Benson
 Roger & Noella Benvenuti
 Gary, Juanita & Susan Bergreen
 Heather Bolle
 John & Catherine Downs
 Bob Garland - Patron Membership

Bob & Charlene German
 Helen Hughes
 Randy & Cathy Leonti
 Bonnie Schoof
 Jim Steiner
 Michele Watts

Home Preservation Grant Program

The CHPS Grant Committee along with the Board of Directors of the Corona Historic Preservation Society would love to assist local homeowners in making exterior 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 contact CHPS Home Preservation Grant Program Coordinator Rich Winn at rwinn141@gmail.com/714.328.0010. We will assist you in any way possible to provide the information you need to complete the application process.

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>](http://corona-history.org/grants.html)

Please share this information with others!



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

Board of Directors

President - Wes Speake
Vice President - Eric Bergreen
Secretary - Shaylene Cortez
Treasurer - Richard Winn

Directors

Chris McCoy
Paula Muñoz
Amelia Nieves
Mary Winn

Advisors

Marla Benson
Ted Taylor



To contact us call
951.898.2044

Please leave a message



Our Mission Statement

The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) is an active nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the PRESERVATION, PROTECTION and PERPETUATION of Corona's historic sites, buildings, neighborhoods and resources. We do this through education, community events, preservation projects and tireless advocacy for the benefit of present and future generations.

Monthly Meetings

We are resuming our pre-COVID-19 meeting schedule. 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 15, at 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office
Thursday August 19, at 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office

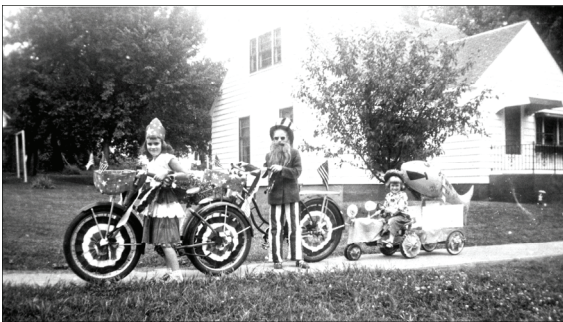


www.Corona-History.org



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Preservation
Society

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Happy Independence Day to one and all!