

A Message From Our President Wes Speake

Dear Members,

May is National Preservation Month! Usually, both May and June are very busy months for us however, with COVID-19 restrictions still in place our traditional events are being muted slightly.

We kicked off National Preservation month a little early this year by virtually presenting “1949 Corona - A Snapshot in Time” on March 20th. Councilman Tom Richins and I were privileged to host the event. We presented a wonderful view of film clips converted to digital media of Corona in 1949. We had about 70 viewers and we are hoping to get the presentation on the CHPS’s Youtube page soon where it can be watched at your leisure.

Also in March, the 2021 Riverside County History Symposium was held virtually, hosted by noted historian and author Steve Lech. Three topics were covered: "Willie Boy from Native American Voices," by Dr. Clifford E. Trafzer, “Edna Hall Swanguen,” portrayed by Michele Elling and “E. Hale Curran,” portrayed by Mindy Johnson. More details follow in a separate article.

On May 8th starting at 9 am, the CHPS will be hosting Virtual GRAND TOUR of Historic Homes in Corona. The tour of various historic Corona homes will be hosted via Facebook Live.

The 38th Anniversary of the founding of the Corona Historic Preservation Society follows on May 14, when 35 concerned and interested citizens met on that date in 1983 at the Corona Public Library

to form this new preservation group. Attendees of that meeting became Charter Members of CHPS, and received commemorative membership

certificates.

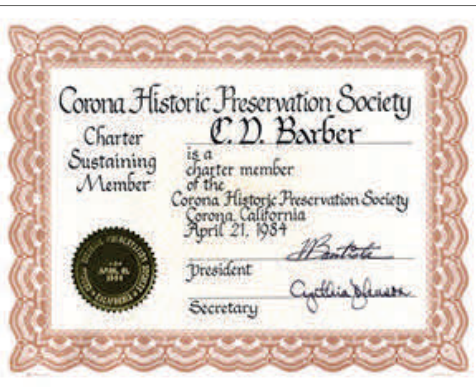
In a step toward normalcy, June will start off with Heritage Park’s, 20th annual Antiques and Collectibles Faire on June 1st. CHPS will again host our historic lemonade stand with freshly squeezed Corona Lemons, squeezed by yours truly.

To provide freshly squeezed lemons for our free lemonade offered at the CHPS Lemonade Stand, we are in need of fresh Corona lemons. We typically utilize 10-15 gallons of fresh lemon juice for this event. If you have a lemon tree or lemons you wish to donate, please contact me at CHPSInfo@yahoo.com or message me through the CHPS Facebook Group and I will come and pick them.

A little history to close... Did you know Bob Hope’s real name was Leslie Townes Hope? He changed it to Bob Hope in the 1930s. Did you know why he picked the name Bob? Mr. Hope, gave two different versions. He said he chose the name because he wanted a name with a "friendly 'Hi ya, fellas!' sound" to it. The other, was because his favorite auto racer was Wild Bob Burman. Bob Burman was killed in the 1916 Corona Road Race.



Bob Hope appears above
Bob Burman appears below



Sincerely,

WES



Recap: Riverside County History Symposium by Wes Speake

On Saturday, March 7th, Several CHPS members watched three virtual presentations sponsored by the Riverside County Heritage Association. The first by Dr. Clifford E. Trafzer, Professor of History and Rupert Costo Chair in American Indian Affairs at the University of California, Riverside, who presented an in depth view of "Willie Boy from Native American Voices." The story of 28-year-old Paiute-Chemehuevi Indian, in 1909, who apparently shot and killed the father of a 16-year-old girl he loved and then led lawmen on a deadly desert pursuit. This definitely was a love story that went awry. A book and the 1969 movie "Willie Boy was Here" was told from a non-native perspective that portrayed Willie Boy as a villainous character. Professor Trafzer retold the story from the Native American perspective and from his interviews with Native Americans in both the California and Nevada deserts who knew Willie Boy and details of goings on after the murder. It was a story I wasn't familiar with but enjoyed thoroughly.

A second presentation followed dealing with the life and times of "Edna Hall Swanguen" – portrayed by Michele Elling. An image of Edna can be seen at the



right. Edna Hall Swanguen was a colorful character who was a wife, mother, and owner of Hall's Café, the first restaurant in Temecula. Edna was also the switchboard operator for the entire Temecula area for over 25 years. Told in the first person, this was a fascinating look at Temecula at the turn of the century.

Lastly, we heard from "E. Hale Curran" – portrayed by Mindy Johnson. E. Hale Curran was a business-woman who grew up in the Fountain



Fountain House Hotel in Murrieta

House Hotel and was employed at Guenther's Murrieta Hot Springs Resort.

We are very happy to share that next year's symposium, scheduled for **Saturday, March 5, 2022**, will be an in-person event to take place here in Corona at the historic Corona Theater on East Sixth Street. Details regarding the 2022 Symposium will be announced in December of 2021 or January of 2022. Of course, we will provide pertinent details in this *CHPS Newsletter*.

Lemons? Lemons? Lemons Anyone?



In order to provide freshly squeezed lemons for our free lemonade offered at the CHPS Lemonade Stand, we are in need of fresh Corona lemons.

We typically utilize 10-15 gallons of fresh lemon juice for this event.

If you have a lemon tree or lemons you wish to donate, please contact Wes Speake at CHPSInfo@yahoo.com or message him through the CHPS Facebook Group and he will come and pick them.



Join Us on the Virtual Walking Tour

On May 8, 2021, starting at 9:00 AM, Corona Historic Preservation Society will be

hosting a Virtual **GRAND TOUR** of a number of Historic Homes in downtown Corona.

The tour will feature the homes via Facebook Live. Brief histories of each home or historic location will be part of the virtual presentation. All can be seen on Facebook Live and CHPS President, Wes Speake will be the host of this visit to downtown Corona..

THE
GRAND TOUR
PRESENTED BY CORONA HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY

If you have any suggestions of homes or locations to include, or if you would like

your home to be included on the tour, contact Wes Speake: CHPSInfo@Yahoo.com.

Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 9: 00 AM



Antiques & Collectibles Faire

TWENTIETH ANNUAL

CORONA
ANTIQUES
&
COLLECTIBLES
FAIRE

SATURDAY
June 5th

CORONA HERITAGE PARK & MUSEUM

Saturday, June 5, 2021 • 8am - 3pm • 510 W Foothill Pkwy • Corona, Calif.
More info? Call Shellie at (951) 314-0441 or visit www.coronaheritage.org

LOOK FOR US AT THE FAIRE!

After more than a few years, CHPS has perfected the recipe ("Made in the shade and stirred with a rusty spade" is a description heard more than once) for icy cold lemonade made exclusively with Corona lemons and offered from our old-fashioned lemonade stand.

This tart, refreshing popular and icy beverage will 'wet your whistle' once again and will be served from gents such as the two pictured below Tom Muñoz and Rich



Winn, or other CHPS volunteers.

On the left, Mary Winn can be seen in the shade of our Information Booth, adjacent to the CHPS Lemonade Stand.



Stop and say hello when you're at the Faire!



Meet Helen Engle Stanley by Doris Osko

As I walked along Palm Avenue in Corona, next to the lengthy wrought iron fence surrounding the home, built in the Provincial Style, at 1205 Palm, I had no idea of what grandeur awaited me inside the gate. Inside the fence a gigantic pine tree swept its branches downward and almost obscured the two-story vintage home, built in 1935, behind it. As a member both of Corona Historic Preservation Society and also Woman's Improvement Club of Corona, I was greatly interested in Helen Engle Stanley, President of WICC from 1938-39 and also her home which often played an important part in community events. The Stanleys moved into the house in 1944.



After returning from the 1976 GOP convention, Helen Stanley appeared in the August 24, 1976 *Corona Daily Independent*

Corona's history has been filled with amazing women who have contributed to the community and at the same time made their mark serving as examples to women everywhere who are giving, creative, dynamic and all-around. Helen Stanley is one such woman, born March 17, 1903 and deceased September 18, 1995 at the age of 92. She was born in Highland Park and majored in Art at the University of California Southern Branch (now UCLA.) After she married George Edward Stanley on June 8, 1923, they came to Corona in 1925, where her husband was to oversee citrus groves owned by his father. This began his forty-one year career with Sunkist at Exchange Lemon Products. Helen began her 70-year career as wife, mother, and community leader. The Stanleys had two daughters, Mimi Nunley and Margaret Freeman, six grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, and were married for sixty-two years.



Helen Stanley and Nancy Reagan appeared together in this image from the May 14, 1976 *Corona Daily Independent*

Helen was very active in politics and was president of both the Corona and Riverside Republican Women's Clubs. She

was also a delegate to the National Federation of Republican Women. Helen was on the Executive Committee of the Republican State Central Committee. Among her other accomplishments and contributions in the community are:

- President of Woman's Improvement Club (service organization) 1938-1939

- President Girl's Work Council
- Director and Founder Corona USO, World War II (Free Day Nursery was sponsored by the USO and the Baptist Church for ages 5 months through 5 years, April 5, 1946)
- Judge Advocate, Navy Mothers Club. (Made and delivered 308 pumpkin pies and one birthday cake for the patients at the Naval Hospital, October 31, 1947. Made bandages, created a recreation center.), Treasurer of club 1949.
- Commissioner, Riverside County Status of Women
- Girl Scout Council, PTA
- Gray Lady, US Naval Hospital, World War II, 1942
- Secretary, Corona Pioneer Memorial Fountain Committee
- Leader—Corona Concert Association, Drama Clubbers Starlite Toastmistress Club of Corona
- Corona Players Ensemble; Norco Players, 1950, a theater group
- Readers Club - Woman's Improvement Club of Corona
- First Congregational Church.

Helen hosted countless large and small parties in her classic home with its extra-wide front door, (a "casket door" in the vernacular of the time) with its oval etched glass window, vaulted ceilings, "Juliet Balcony", period furniture and many other historic and eclectic features. Throughout the entire exterior garden area, graceful and charming neo-classical statues were to be found. She organized fashion shows, costume parades, home tours, plays, and rummage sales. The Heritage



MEETING REAGAN

This photograph appeared in the May 28, 1976 issue of the *Corona Daily Independent*. Coronan Helen Stanley has just been named a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Kansas City and shakes hands with Republican Presidential candidate Ronald Reagan following his address to more than 700 supporters gathered for a \$25. a plate luncheon in Riverside.

Museum in Corona houses her collection of fashions from many eras which she originally donated to the Woman's Improvement Club of Corona.

Helen Stanley left her mark on Corona's history and serves as a role model for any Corona woman who wants to serve others and to be involved in making changes.

Quarterly Meeting Recap by Chris McCoy

CHPS had an amazing Quarterly Meeting event on Saturday, March 20, 2021. The event took place over a Zoom internet connection and covered a digital presentation of recently restored movies taken by Harold Rawson in 1949. Harold had a car dealership on 7th and Washburn back then. The 27 minute video gives a rare glimpse into how Corona looked in the past. District 3 Councilman Tom Richins joined us on the call to narrate with CHPS President Wes Speake. Tom wanted to make sure we thanked Jennifer Marlatt from the library's Heritage Room who applied for the grant that allowed these films to be digitized and put in the effort to make this possible.

The films were amazing. "I have watched this 10 times and I am still finding things in the content that amaze me," commented Wes.

It provided a glimpse of Corona in the late 1940s, before the 91 freeway. The initial view down East Sixth street included pictures of the theater and a narrower roadway. A view down Main Street (northward) clearly showed Beacon Hill in Norco. There were also views of Corona High School when it was on West Sixth Street with all the verdant landscaping and the flagpole (all since removed). It also included pictures of Corona's first city hall (1912-1960), designed by Leo Kroonen, to compliment the nearby Andrew Carnegie Library.

We also got to view some amazing footage of our firehouse and fire trucks from 1949. In addition, there was unique footage of municipal plunge activities. This facil-

ity was also designed by Leo Kroonen.

A highlight for this writer were the views of the Sunkist packing facility and the people working there. As the anchor industry this city was founded on, there is a surprising lack of footage of every-day life and operations around the plant. It was wonderful getting to see and connect with average citizens of our fair city going about their jobs in 1949. Towards the end of the film there was more footage of orange processing that really showed how the building was utilized. The packing house still stands today, but it has been converted to the corporate headquarters for Lucas Oil.

The same can be said for the footage of the historic Corona Independent building and its operations as our local newspaper. The footage included aspects of newspaper production operations, including typesetting.

There was also a good segment showing our own National Guard company training and marching. The company was established in Corona even before they had a facility for them (the Armory on the east end of City Park.)

Another part of Corona life in 1949 was seeing the theater during a double-feature on August 21st through the 24th. At that time, the movies were: "The Girl from Jones Beach," starring Virginia Mayo and Ron Reagan. The second feature was a Ray Bolger movie called: "Look for the Silver Lining." Not only the movies, but the concession stand and how ushers dressed was included.

The Rawson dealership (then located approximately where our Library is today) was shown as a full-service dealership with repairs and polishing on-site as well as sales. The footage was clearly meant to be used for advertising and commercials. There is even a portion that looks very much like an "full sales experience" demonstration. Fun!

The video is currently being processed and will be made available to view at www.corona-history.org soon. We hope you will join us there to see our city, as it used to be, for yourself.



Courtesy Corona Public Library

An Almost Lost Local Historic Site Marker By Rich Winn

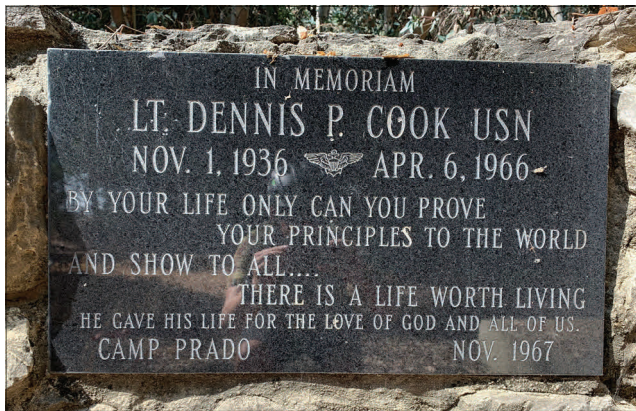
The facts as we know them are that there is a memorial marker to Lt. Dennis Philip Cook, USNR, back in the woods in the water retention basin behind Prado Dam in western Corona. It is currently unkempt and in a restricted area overseen by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. At the time it was built it was located at the end of Rincon Road in the Boy Scout Camp (Camp Prado) located there. The coordinates of the exact site are: Latitude: 33.8902 and Longitude: -117.6268.

This monument was dedicated on Veterans Day 1967 to a former resident of Corona. Before he received his overseas assignment, he was stationed here at the Naval Weapons Center (by 1967 the name had changed to the Naval Ordnance Laboratory). The current name is the Naval Surface Warfare Center. He lived in Corona with his wife and two daughters Laura and Christa. While here in Corona he was the President of the Corona Active 20-30 Club, which instigated the memorial fund drive in the summer of 1966. Funds were gathered locally and from Cook's hometown of Santa Barbara, California.

Lieutenant Cook was a member of Attack Squadron 212, Carrier Air Wing 21 aboard the Aircraft Carrier USS Hancock (CVA-19) at Dixie Station in the South China Sea. On April 6, 1966, he was the pilot of a Douglas A-4E Skyhawk preparing for an attack mission when the catapult failed to launch his aircraft with enough force for it to remain airborne and his aircraft fell into the sea beneath the carrier flight deck. His remains were not recovered. In addition to this local monument Dennis Philip Cook is memorialized at Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial, an American Battle Monuments Commission location, and on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall in Washington D. C. His name is found on Panel 06e, Line 89.

His Awards, Decorations and Qualification badges include the: Combat Action Ribbon, United States Naval Aviator Badge, National Defense Service medal, Vietnam Campaign medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Navy presidential Unit Citation, Vietnam Gallantry Cross, Navy Good Conduct Medal and Navy Expeditionary Medal.

This monument was to be the focal point of the parade ground at the Prado Boy Scout Camp, which no longer



Memorial Plaque Text

exists. The monument consisted of a flag pole base, reached by two off-center concrete steps with black granite facing and backed with a field stone wall containing the memorial plaque. Each of the two steps contained Boy Scout symbols. Cook was a Life Scout and Explorer and belonged to the Order of the Arrow.

Work on the monument was largely donated, mostly by members of the Corona Active 20-30 Club. They

members of the Corona Active 20-30 Club. They



Monument and flag pole as seen in 2019, after some of the brush had been removed

began their efforts in the evening of July 20, 1967. Work on the monument took the place of regular Thursday evening meetings for most members and some Saturdays were taken up as well.

General Chairmen of the project were Augie Ramirez and Frank E. Emerson with Jim Rudeen heading the memorial committee and Bob Hall the site committee.

All information collected from the internet by searching his name and articles in the *Corona Daily Independent* July 21, 1967, pg. 3 and October 26, 1967, pg 3.

Note: Augie Ramirez became the Superintendent of Schools for the Corona-Norco Unified School District. Frank Emerson owned and operated a men's store with Jim Pauly (*Emerson-Pauly*) in downtown Corona for many years.

Membership Information

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

Individual Member	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer!	
Family	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospitality refreshments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter writing articles	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$60.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vintage Home Tour	
Patron	\$125.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	docent / volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$600.00	<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 and mail to:

CHPS

P.O. Box 2904

Corona, CA 92878



We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Jim & Patti Anderson
 Richard & Carol Appel
 George & Ruth Beloz
 John & Cathleen Cleghorn
 Mike & Mary Coe
 Ed & Joy Dillon
 Mike & Julie Downs

Nita Grantham *Patron Membership*
 Stephen & Sandy Klein
 Kent & Ginette Lillibridge
 George Martinez
 J. D. McBriety *Business Membership*
 Jim & Marsha Morrell
 Tom & Paula Muñoz

Robert & Darlene Schelke
 Michael Scott
 Mike & Tamra Segert
 Wes J. Speake
 Frances Tassin
 Steven & Peggy Temple
 George & Joan Thacker

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

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Treasurer - Richard Winn

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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*

CHPS Board meetings are held each month to transact Society business, discuss issues affecting the Society and preservation of local historic resources. [*During the COVID-19 Pandemic while Stay-At-Home orders are in effect, meetings may be held via electronic means.

Contact CHPS President Wes Speake if you wish to be included in an electronic meeting.]

All members are invited to attend.

The next meetings are scheduled for:

Thursday, May 20, at 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office
Thursday June 17, at 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office



www.Corona-History.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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

MAY
is
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
MONTH



See an Almost Forgotten Historic Site Marker Pg. 6