



A Message From Our President Wes Speake

Dear Members,

Happy New Year!!! 2023 is here.

Before I begin my message for this newsletter. I wanted to give a big thank you to all that came out to the Holiday Party. It was truly special to see so many smiles, wonderful desserts, good friends, and, as always, great music from the Corona High Madrigals. More on all of that on page 3.

One of the time-honored traditions in celebrating the New Year is reflecting on your accomplishments. 2022 was year 2+ of COVID-19 time with so many of our traditions were altered. I am looking forward to 2023 and getting back to normal including having a robust Vintage Home Tour in May 2023. We currently have three great homes committed and we are looking for at least two more. Although, this organization has been muted slightly we continued to direct our efforts and fundraising toward the preservation and protection of Corona’s historic sites, buildings, neighborhoods, and resources. Giving you not only value for your membership but protecting, preserving and celebrating Corona’s rich history. To this end, we produced six very entertaining newsletters, CHPS board member Rich Winn volunteered uncounted hours working with the City on the City Historic Register and Historic Resources List as we edge closer to revising the aging Historic sections of our municipal code to codify the protection and preservation of our historic sites and buildings. We were able to finally get approval from the city for the placement of Historic Route signs along the old US Highway 91, and State Highways 71 and 18 through the city, the repair and preservation of the 1930s guardrail in the historic district along Palisades, the replacement of the roof at the Woman’s Improvement Club, the refurbishing of the West 11th Street Lights (the oldest street lights in the city), and the decision to clean and repair the Woman’s Improvement Club’s World War II Victory Flag. Especially important all researchers is the city’s decision to expand and provide additional access to the Heritage Room at the Corona Public Library which is well on its way in planning. Even with that impressive list we have much on our plate for 2023: including new historic markers, repair of existing markers, and the rebuilding of the Vietnam Era Memorial Wall at Butterfield Park.

George LaPorte Proposed to be Added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial

In December, as editor of this *Newsletter*, Mary Winn was contacted by Senior Special Agent Brenda Contreras of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Police, the successor to Santa Fe Railway. Mary responded and referred the inquiry to me since Agent Contreras had read my article about the death of Santa Fe Railroad Watchman George LaPorte in March 1914 detailed in the March - April 2019 *CHPS Newsletter* https://www.corona-history.org/assets/chps-newsletter-mar-apr-2019_x.pdf. She wanted to verify some information and see what additional details I could share in addition to official documentation she had found in her agency. After a few emails, and a couple of phone calls, Agent Contreras confirmed that George LaPorte was indeed a Railroad Police Officer who was killed at the Corona Depot on March 20, 1914. Based on this additional information, BNSF will be submitting Mr. LaPorte’s information to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial for inclusion in Washington DC Memorial. www.nleomf.org

George LaPorte’s death was the second on-duty law enforcement death to occur in Corona. Officer LaPorte and Marshall Alexander’s death, just 4 short months prior in December 1913, are still the only two law enforcement deaths to occur in Corona in its 135 year history. George LaPorte’s final resting place is fittingly located right next to Marshall Alexander.

It is a privilege and pleasure to serve as president for these past six years. I would like to thank the Board and membership for their support, help and friendship. Happy New Year and I wish all of you a HEALTHY and prosperous 2023.

WES



Home-Moving Projects

By Janette Neumann



Howard Street Project

The **good news** is that someone loves the threatened house and wants to move and to refurbish it after a potential move. As well, an owner of a lot in

town wants to move it to their property.

The **bad news** about moving a house: all the up-front planning, fees, and costs. The City of Corona Planning Department continues to be a resource. Time constraints, and budget demands weighing down, we are not yet assured of any success for the house. Kathleen Dever and I continue to learn more about how to make house-moving viable. We've spent hours attracting potential new owners and we continue to work with the city.

Other future construction sites threaten more homes. Three boarded up homes at 8th and Ramona stand close to their doom, unless new sites can be found. One of these homes, the two-story Victorian on the corner, is of significance to the city, having been built in the late 1800's by one of the first developers in town, A.A. Cross. He was a City Councilman in the 1910's and helped to develop Corona's long-missed downtown.

His house has seen better days. But the quality of construction, and the amount of detail put into its finishing, is in evidence today. Drive by this once spectacular house. Then, telephone us at **898-2044** with your plans to move it.

Our organization is already working with several developers. We want to enhance any moving of a threatened house with monies from the current property owners. We also want to work with the city to help with fees for rehabilitation of the moved structure.



Landmark Tree Ad Hoc Committee

By Jean Neumann



The Landmark Tree Committee is in the process of writing the Landmark Tree Criteria. Upon its completion, hopefully by early spring, the criteria will be submitted to the City Council for approval. At that time the criteria will be implemented and landmark trees can be determined. This committee meets on a monthly basis.

We are Proud!

The Corona Historic Preservation Society's accomplishments in 2002 included:

- ◆ **CNUSD History Day:** Student awards were given in recognition of outstanding projects on local history topics.
- ◆ **Dedication of Historic Marker #10:** Identifying the Start and Finish line of Corona's historic Road Races in 1913 and 1914.
- ◆ **1st Annual Antiques and Collectibles Faire:** In addition to lemonade, we sold salvaged materials for reuse in restoration of historic homes.
- ◆ **Third Annual Lemon Festival:** Provided CHPS information booth and sold lemonade.
- ◆ **Corona Beautiful VIII:** Co-sponsored this annual community cleanup event, provided recruitment of nearly 1,000 volunteers and coordinated registration of participants.
- ◆ **8th Annual Cemetery Walk:** We honored the memory of five deceased Coronans who played significant roles in the famous Corona Road Races.
- ◆ **Annual Holiday Party:** Many members of CHPS enjoyed the charming ambience of one of Corona's premiere historic homes owned by Kathy Sinkovich and Dana Sutton.
- ◆ **Heritage Inventory Committee:** Assisted the Planning Department with updating the Heritage Inventory list (more information will appear in the next CHPS newsletter).
- ◆ **Landmark Tree Committee:** See article located above for details.

“Joy Shall Be Yours” By Doris Osko

Joy was abundantly present for those thirty-six of our members who attended the CHPS Annual business meeting and Holiday Party on Monday, December 5, 2022 at the Woman’s Improvement Club of Corona.

The meeting was convened at 6:30 P.M. by President Wes Speake. The following directors and officers were present: President Wes Speake, Vice President Eric Bergreen, Secretary Shaylene Cortez, Treasurer Richard Winn, Board Members: Paula Muñoz, Amelia Nieves and Mary Winn. No Advisors were present.

Pres. Wes Speake welcomed those in attendance, introduced Board members present, and acknowledged past CHPS president and Corona City Council member, Tom Richins, and Supervisor Karen Spiegel. Wes gave a summary of the Society’s numerous activities and accomplishments which have been presented throughout the year in the *Newsletter*. These included :the completion of CHPS Historic Route signage project. Examples of the three signs identifying the routes of State Highways 18 and 71 and US Highway 91 were displayed on the stage. Wes turned the microphone over to Rich Winn to explain the routes identified and to relate other accomplishments. Rich also pointed out that one of our long-term projects was to restore the wooden traffic barricades in Historic District No.10. He was pleased to announce that a concerned resident took a photo of the dilapidated rail along Palisades Drive, submitted it to the city’s “See, Click, Fix” application and the city repaired, rebuilt and restored the barricade. He also related that Wes had researched the location of the city’s first residential street lights and the city took it upon itself to restore and preserve the 15 street lights on West 11th street between Merrill and Vicentia. CHPS is working on applying for this area to be Corona’s eleventh Historic District.

Rich turned the mike over to Wes and a member asked him for an update on the Prado Dam Spillway patriotic mural. Wes then invited Supervisor Karen Spiegel to explain. She reported on the degree of progress made and what could be expected in the near future. Wes then allowed member Michelle Watts to recount a story about the dam spillway as a one-time youth “skate park” when it was first constructed. Wes then invited City Council Member Tom Richins to provide an update on the reroofing of the historic Woman’s Improvement Club’s clubhouse using historic cedar shingle material to maintain its historic status.

Wes then turned the business portion of the meeting over to Vice President Eric Bergreen who announced that action on minutes of previous meetings, a treasurer’s report and



The annual picture of the CHPS Board of Directors was taken in front of the WIC Club stage featuring (l to r): Eric Bergreen, Paula Muñoz, Amelia Nieves, Wes Speake, Mary Winn, Richard Winn, Shayene Cortez, Fred Parr. Examples of the HISTORIC ROUTE signs can be seen behind them.

membership update report would be deferred until the next scheduled Board meeting in January.

Election of Directors – Vice President Bergreen opened the director elections portion of the meeting and presented the slate prepared by the Nominations Committee of 4 Directors for regular two (2) year terms: Eric Bergreen, Shaylene Cortez, Paula Muñoz and Mary Winn and 2 Advisors for one (1) year terms: Marla Benson and Ted Taylor. Nominations were opened from the floor for any other nominations to fill vacancies on the Board. Mary Winn placed the name of former CHPS Director and President Fred Parr into nomination.

He was agreeable and the nominations were closed on a motion by Richard Winn. The slate proposed and the additional nominee were approved by voice vote.

Corona History Quiz – Our annual Corona History Trivia game was also conducted by Vice president Eric Bergreen. A copy of the Corona Trivia questions can be found later in this newsletter. The trivia game offered opportunities for all to reveal their knowledge about little known facts about Corona, and was enjoyed by all. Do you know what type of mine was discovered in the hills of South Riverside (Corona) in the late 1800’s? If you know the answer is “tin” then you would have scored one point on Vice-Pres. Eric Bergreen’s Trivia Quiz. Attendees were then able to sample the desserts and drinks available for consumption.

The **Corona High School Madrigal Choir**—In keeping also with an annual tradition, the Corona High School Madrigals under the leadership of teacher Amy Eden also performed, choosing as one of their selections the song mentioned in the title, *Joy Shall Be Yours*. Twenty-two of the total 24 Madrigals (2 were absent) sang in their usual superior style, excitedly anticipating a trip to New York to compete in the spring with other vocal groups from throughout the world. The repertoire of the Madrigals usually includes a patriotic song (The program began with the Madrigals unique rendition of “The Star Spangled Banner”) and progressed to songs in other languages from other countries (Hungarian and African pieces were noted favorites) - Mrs. Eden’s goal to provide a program with diversity. The Madrigals were invited to enjoy the numerous delicious cookies and sparkling apple cider enjoyed by all the guests at the party.

The halls were decked, the tree brightly lit, and the gathering again of old and new friends made the Holiday party filled with joy for all.

2022 Corona Holiday Party Images Taken by Eric Bergreen



2022 Holiday Party Corona Trivia Quiz Compiled by Eric Bergreen

- What type of mine was discovered in the hills of South Riverside in the late 1980s?
 - Gold
 - Tin
 - Silver
 - Iron
- What type of crop destroying insect invaded South Corona in January 1889?
 - Beetles
 - Crickets
 - Grasshoppers
 - None of the above
- Corona holds the world record for the number of time capsules lost. How many were lost?
 - 12
 - 14
 - 16
 - 17
- What is the name of the trophy given to the winners of Corona's historic road races?
 - Flagler
 - Fowler
 - Franklin
 - Farmer
- How many trophies were created and awarded for 1st place winners of the three road races?
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
- In what month in 1887 did the first train pull into South Riverside?
 - March
 - April
 - May
 - June
- In what year did South Riverside's first murder take place?
 - 1886
 - 1888
 - 1892
 - 1896
- Which month in 1896 did city founder George L. Joy die?
 - April
 - May
 - June
 - July
- What was Corona once known as?
 - Citrus capital of the world
 - Lemon capital of the world
 - Orange capital of the world
 - None of the above
- People who live in Corona are known as:
 - Coronians
 - Coronans
 - Coroners



Save the Date: Riverside County History Symposium



The Riverside County Heritage Association will resume its in person gathering for the Riverside County History Symposium

When: Saturday, March 4, 2023

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
(doors open at 8:00 a.m.)

Location: American Legion Post 79
Fairmount Park, Riverside
(2979 Dexter Drive, Riverside, CA 92501)

Program Outline

9:00 a.m.—"Corona's Hidden Figure—Judge Mary Alice Sutter"

Presenter: CHPS Secretary, Shaylene Cortez

In the 1940s, Mary Alice Sutter was appointed as judge of the Corona City Court, and also acted as justice of the peace for the Temescal Township Justice Court. Her accomplishments were amazing in an era where were not usually accepted in such positions. She was respected by leaders in the community and known for issuing alternative sentences when appropriate. We will discuss her career and perseverance, and why her significance has been hidden in local history.

10:00 a.m.—"The Beginnings of the Ortega Highway"

Presenter: Steve Lech

The creation of the Ortega Highway, linking Orange and Riverside Counties, was a hard-fought effort by residents on both sides of the Santa Ana Mountains. Many wanted it, but getting it was another story. Riverside County historian Steve Lech will discuss the thirty-year struggle that led to the eventual opening of this scenic road — a turning point in transportation history for both counties.

11:00 a.m.—"Nellie Coffman and her Beloved Desert Inn"

Presenter: Will Kleindienst

When Nellie Coffman arrived in Palm Springs in 1909, the small village was just barely hanging on. Through hard work and perseverance, she opened

the famed Desert Inn to health-seekers coming to the desert. Over the years, she saw Palm Springs grow into a major resort and helped to steer the town's development, all while running one of its premier resorts. Local historian Will Kleindienst will explore Nellie Coffman the person, and the resort that made her and Palm Springs famous.

1:00 p.m.—"Riverside's Fairmount Park"

Presenter: Glenn Wenzel

To arrive at the site for the 2023 Riverside County Heritage Association Symposium you must travel through at least a portion of Riverside's Fairmount Park. Fairmount park is the second oldest but the largest of Riverside's many parks. Learn about the start of the park beneath a quarry hill, prodded by the efforts of Civil War veteran Captain Charles Dexter. Hear how the Olmsted brothers drew up designs for this park. See photos of early portions of the park and find out what has changed. Enjoy some of the history of this beautiful park which you are visiting for the symposium.

2:00 p.m. — Self-guided tour of Fairmount Park

Registration information and speaker biographies are or will be available on the Riverside Heritage Association website.

Answers to Corona Trivia Quiz Questions on page 4

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| 1. (b.) | 6. (d.) |
| 2. (c.) | 7. (d.) |
| 3. (d.) | 8. (a.) |
| 4. (a.) | 9. (b.) |
| 5. (a.) | 10. (b.) |

CHPS Accomplishments During 2022

●**Saturday, February 19** Our 1st Quarterly Meeting, a successful tour of the Model Railroad Club HO scale railroad layout of Corona in 1949. This took place at Corona Heritage Park.

●**CHPS Home Preservation Grant** was awarded to Chris Macias to assist in the reroofing of the historic Jameson home located at 1136 East Grand Boulevard.

●**Historic Site Markers** Twenty-five granite and Bronze site markers were cleaned and spruced up last year but an act of vandalism took place on Marker No. 5 (Corona's first Fire Station), requiring rebuilding of the entire marker. This marker was located at the corner of Eighth and Main streets adjacent to Starbucks. Plans were obtained from Baxter Miller then revised to allow for incorporation of another marker commemorating the location of Corona's first City Hall at 719 Main Street.

●**Heritage Home Awards** We were able to make presentations to five homes identified in 2019-21 but delayed due to the Pandemic restrictions to remain in place. The locations were: 1926 South Main Street, 1118 and 1124 South Vicentia, 712 East Sixth Street and 1002 Victoria Avenue..

●**Throughout 2022** CHPS searched for a contractor (s) for the restoration of the **Veteran's Memorial Wall** monument at Butterfield Park. 100% of the funds for construction have been raised and construction is anticipated to begin in 2023.

●**Throughout 2022** CHPS responded to various requests from Community Development Division for advisory opinions, on actions involving Heritage Properties, usually related to application of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

●**Saturday, March 5** The Riverside County History Symposium was held via Zoom technology. It was scheduled to be held at Corona's historic Theater at 211 East Sixth Street, but pandemic assembly restrictions overrode in person meetings at that time.

● **Woman's Improvement Club clubhouse roofing restoration and preservation** Throughout the year CHPS had numerous opportunities to consult with the club's Long Range Planning Committee as to the type (s) of roofing materials that would preserve the structure's historic status and the amount of roofing material needed for its 8,000 square feet of roofing surface. The project was completed in July with a new cedar shingle roof, good for another 40 years or so.

●**Saturday, June 3** CHPS participated in the 21st

Annual Antiques & Collectibles Faire at Corona Heritage Park. A lemonade stand and area for looking at some Corona Collectibles and for purchase of CHPS **reproduction citrus labels**, suitable for framing and hanging, as a fund raiser were offered this year.

●**CHPS Newsletter** and **Social Media** Our informative bi-monthly *Newsletter* was sent to every member throughout the year. Mary Winn was able to post numerous images capturing "Then" and "Now" images, with explanatory captions, from her *Then and Now* pictorial book published in 2011 on the CHPS Facebook Group page.

●**Saturday, June 11** CHPS' 2nd Quarterly Meeting was held as an opportunity to tour the restored and relocated Desi Arnaz Horse Ranch house in Eastvale.

●**Grant Application** CHPS applied for a grant provided by the Federal Government and administered by the City to partially make up for loss of non-profit income as a result of restrictions that prevented full CHPS activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. CHPS applied for \$13,000 (estimated lost revenue from activity curtailment (Vintage Home Tour, Grand tour, architectural surplus sales etc.) and was awarded a grant in the amount of \$6,500. which was used to defray part of the costs of the purchase of historic signage. Early in December the signs were in the possession of the city and awaiting installation by city crews.

●**Saturday, September 24** For our 3rd Quarterly Meeting CHPS hosted a "Take a Peek at the Past" show and tell opportunity for members to bring their prized historic artifacts to the Historic Civic Center Community Room and share them with others.

● **Historic Route Signage** After five years on the drawing board, Historic Route signage, marking the historic routes of California State Highway 18 and US Highway 91 (from Green River Road and Palisades Drive and along Sixth Street to Magnolia Avenue), State Highway 71 (Yorba Avenue to Sixth Street, Sixth Street to Main Street, Main Street to Ontario Avenue, Ontario Avenue east to I-15) and its continuation as Temescal Canyon Road was presented to the Department of Public Works. Corona's City Council finally approved CHPS plan to recognize these routes' importance in the development of Corona and to inform residents and visitors of the historic routings. The city will install the signs within the next few months.

●**Annual Meeting and Holiday Party** On Monday, December 5 CHPS Annual Membership Meeting and Holiday Party took place at the historic Woman's Improvement Club clubhouse.

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

Tom & Cathy Alton
Sherry Baldwin
Beata Bizal - BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP
Jim & Marie Cambuzzi
Patricia Campobasso
Richard & Martha Deblois - PATRON MEMBERSHIP
Rita Koch
Mitch & Karen Lloyd

Fred & Vicki Parr
Tom Richins
Nancy Royce
Mitch & Carol Salgado
Bonnie Schoof
Mike Ugalde
Michele Wentworth
Cole & Christina Zehnder

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>>

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

Paula Muñoz
Amelia Nieves
Fred Parr
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.

All members are invited to attend.

The next meetings are scheduled for:

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

Thursday, Feb. 16, at 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office

www.Corona-History.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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



Corona: Once the "Lemon Capital of the World"

Happy New Year to one and all!