

A Message From Your President Wes Speake

Dear Members,

First, I want to say I am humbled by the honor of being nominated to serve as CHPS President for 2017. I have looked at the list of great men and women who have served in this role, I know I stand on the shoulders of giants. I want to thank the board for its faith in me and it is my pledge to continue with the outstanding projects and programs the Society has championed throughout its almost 34-year history.



I was fortunate to serve as Vice President to Fred Parr. Fred's leadership was instrumental in getting our Strategic Plan finalized, and this document will carry the Society forward for years to come. Fred is a truly great leader and left some big shoes for me to fill. He will be sorely missed. However, Fred will remain with the CHPS in an advisory role and has promised to help man the Lemonade Stand at the Antiques and Collectibles Faire again this year.

2017 will be just as 2016 was, a year of great projects, programs and wonderful people and hopefully a few surprises as well. Volunteers are our backbone so we will be reaching out to longtime members to serve on committees as well as looking to grow our ranks throughout 2017 with new members. We will continue with and strengthen our many partnerships with the City of Corona and the many wonderful organizations in Corona. We will build on

the legacy of the Corona Historic Preservation Society.

Efforts in 2017 will be centered on the three basic tenets of our strategic plan: Preservation, Education and Advocacy.

Corona history to me has always been about layers, from our newest residents and elementary school pupils eager to

learn about Corona and its great history to our longtime residents with so much “back story”, personal experiences, history and wisdom to share. There is so much to explore, uncover and most of all SHARE. I've read and heard so many great stories about Corona that I look forward to peeling back those layers and sharing with you all. I am truly blessed with an amazing board and advisers that are truly Corona experts.

I am the first to acknowledge that there is much history of Corona that falls outside of the knowledge and experiences of our members and can only hope that others will feel it in their hearts to share their historical information with the community so we all can benefit.

Sincerely,

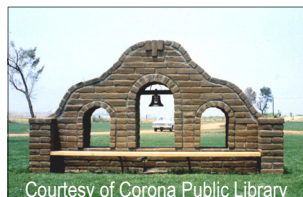
WES

NOTE: In lieu of a 2017 Vintage Home Tour, we are exploring a new tour idea and will be presenting this idea very soon.



Help Preserve Corona History and Donate Now!

The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) is sponsoring the preservation / restoration of a forgotten piece of Corona history. We are seeking the community's assistance in contributing funds or donating materials in order to preserve for future generations the rapidly deteriorating Veteran's Memorial Wall at Butterfield Park.



vandalized, abandoned and left to deteriorate (image on right). Bricks are \$100 each and can be purchased through Paypal as described on page 7 of this issue of the CHPS Newsletter. Additional sponsorships are available, please see page 8 for

details.

The Memorial Wall was dedicated on Memorial Day 1969 by Rena Parker, Corona's first female mayor. The wall was subsequently

A December 15, 2016 posting on the City's *Inner Circle* electronic newsletter has additional details: <http://www.innercirclecorona.com/help-rebuild-coronas-forgotten-veterans-memorial-wall/>

First Quarterly Meeting - "Growing Up In Corona In the 1970s" By Doris Osko

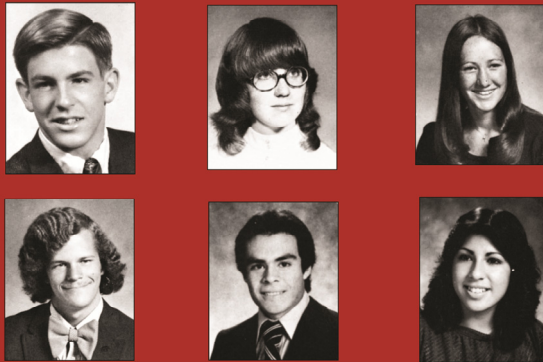
The opinion was unanimous. Growing up in Corona in the 1970s was wonderful, or as a participant stated, it was really "cool." This conclusion was reached by the five panelists who participated in the first Quarterly Meeting of CHPS on Saturday, February 18, 2017 in the Community Room of the Historic Civic Center. Describing a city where "everybody knew everybody else," were Randy Rawson '70, Elaine Bechtel Norland '74, Bret Keesler '76, Peter Espinoza '78 and Cecilia Esparza Arias '80. Paula Danner Montanez was unable to participate due to the memorial service of Dee Scott.

graduating classes of 1973 and 1974. The artifacts table included a letterman's jacket, high school annuals, photos, scrapbooks and other memorabilia.

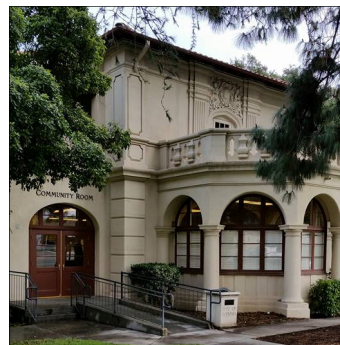


The panel discussion was the fourth in a series of "Growing Up in Corona" discussions which began in 2013 with panelists from the 1940s era. In successive years, the 1950s and 1960s were featured. All four discussions have been organized by Board member and author/historian Mary Winn. In both 2016 and 2017, our CHPS past president Fred Parr served as the moderator par excellence.

Our Panelists



It was "standing room only" for the approximately 70 people who attended the presentation. The personal anecdotes of the participants provided humor and insights reflecting diverse backgrounds but similar activities in Corona. There is no doubt that the now extant orange groves were a real part of the social scene, a place to gather before or after a sporting event or a school activity. The word "simplicity" was used to describe a life style of school, bowling, babysitting, hiking, or socializing in City Park. Peter Espinoza described being able to walk down the street as a twelve-year-old carrying a twelve-gauge shotgun and never being



stopped by the law. Corona was a place where a child was free to walk safely or to enjoy the music of the Eagles, or the Beatles, or another favorite musical group. City Councilman Eugene Montanez and his wife Paula, both Corona High School graduates in the 1970s, provided pictorial banner displays of people and events from the

the interesting, warm, and insightful impression of life in Corona in the 1970s.



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Note: Another video camera was recording the goings on as well. A final video is IN PROGRESS and will soon be available on our CHPS YouTube channel.



Audience getting seated

CHPS Accomplishments During 2016

•**CHPS Home Preservation Grant** was awarded to John Nanfro for painting his home at 1156 East Grand Blvd.

•The temporary podium/obelisk monument for the site of the Carnegie Library (Historic Site Marker 15) was relocated to the corner of Third and Main Streets where it will be repurposed for Marker 25, the Pacific Electric RR Depot. Later in the year the permanent **Carnegie Library granite marker was finally placed on the northwest corner of the Carnegie Medical Plaza office building.**

•**January 20**, A City proclamation was awarded to the **Leo Kroonen Family** in recognition of their donation of early Corona drawings, blue prints, plans and documents to the Heritage Room. The donation was facilitated by Tom Richins who made sure the documents were digitized for wider dissemination and research.

•**Saturday, February 18** For our 1st Quarterly Meeting CHPS hosted a successful panel discussion with six Corona High School alumni of the era on **“Growing Up In Corona In the 1960s.”**

•**Throughout 2016**, CHPS responded to various requests from Community Development Department for advisory opinions, usually related to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.

•**Saturday, April 9** CHPS sponsored a booth at the commemoration event of the **final Corona Road Race** held April 8, 1916. CHPS wares and 1916 Road Race themed T-shirts were sold.

•**Saturday, April 30** Another successful **2016 CHPS Vintage Home Tour** was presented. It featured three historic homes and an historic church.

•**Saturday, May 7** The Riverside County History Symposium was held at Murrietta Hot Springs Resort.

•**Saturday, June 4** Participated in the 15th Annual Antiques & Collectibles Faire at Corona Heritage Park with a lemonade stand and architectural surplus booth.

•**Saturday, June 18** For our 2nd Quarterly Meeting CHPS hosted a **walking tour of the historic Claremont Village and Claremont Packing House.**

•**Throughout 2016**, research work, photographs and measurements continued on the nomination of **Jefferson Elementary School to the National Register of Historic Places.**

•**Historic District signs**, funded by CHPS, were placed around the **Grand Boulevard Circle** in recognition of the roadway’s placement on the local, state and National Register of Historic Places in 2011.

•**Saturday, Aug 6** Family History Discovery day event sponsored by the local Family History Center offered 12 seminars and local history table-top presentations by CHPS. Those representing the Society were Tom Richins and Mary and Richard Winn. The theme was **“Closing the Circle with Family History.”**

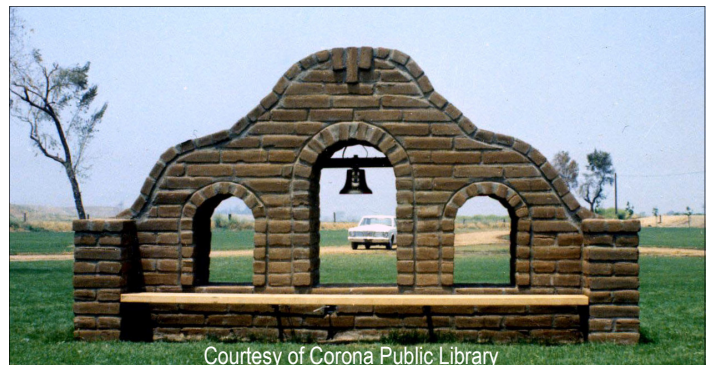
•**Saturday, October 22** Our 3rd Quarterly Meeting of 2016: A visit to Corona’s special oasis at **Lemonia Grove**. This historic estate is located at 2750 Rimpau.

•**Worked with Corona Code Enforcement** and homeowner at 1214 Belle Avenue regarding resolution of a code infraction affecting historic status of the home.

•Several meetings were held to **develop a Strategic Plan** for Society operations now and into the future.

•**Historic Sites and Markers Committee** met to brainstorm how to correct unintended errors in text of markers already placed and how to prevent such in the future.

•**“Beautiful Corona: Through the lens of Barbara Becker” (Video 4)** was added to the CHPS YouTube channel.



•Corona’s forgotten **Veterans Memorial at Butterfield Park** was rediscovered and researched.

•**Monday, December 5** Annual Holiday Party at the Clubhouse of the Corona Woman’s Improvement Club from 6:30 - 8:30 PM.

•**CHPS Home Preservation Grant** was awarded to Christine and Glenn Gary for the repainting of their home at 1052 East Grand Boulevard.

•**Throughout 2016**, CHPS responded to PRC (Project & Environmental Review Committee), and DPR (Development Plan Review Committee) agenda items of possible historic interest as well as correspondence from developer consultants regarding these proposals. CHPS regularly communicated matters of historical interest or related activities to the City Council, Chamber of Commerce and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Relics of Corona's Past: Hitching Posts & Mounting Blocks By Richard Winn



A hexagonal cut granite hitching post with square base with steel ring on the front side about 8 inches below the top and a Mounting Block are located at 1124 Ramona. The carriage step/mounting block has a block letter "T" within an oval on its face for the name of the original owner Mason Terpening.



Steel tubular post with a loose steel ring at the top is located at 806 Joy Street.



Square cut stone hitching post with steel ring on top is located at 813 E. Grand Boulevard.



Cut stone square hitching post with a loose metal ring is found at 811 Joy Street.



Square concrete post with steel ring on top located at 1108 Victoria to the right side of the left driveway entrance



Concrete flattened pyramid mounting block/hitching post with steel ring on top is located at 1140 S. Garretson.

A cut granite hitching post with a steel ring at the top previously located at 1157 West Grand Boulevard was donated by Frank and Belvia Emerson to Heritage Park and stands alongside the entry driveway.



Corona's Own Currency By Tom Richins

In 1905 when Corona National Bank opened its doors for business, one advantage they had over their competition was the fact that they were chartered by the United States Government. What this meant was that they were officially recognized by the U.S. Treasury to distribute federal bank notes to the public.

The way the system functioned, Corona National Bank would distribute money to the public at full value and only have to deposit 90% of the note value in the U.S. Treasury. Thus, the bank would make a handsome 10% profit on every note it distributed. On a Federal level, the system was genius. Not only did it help to control wildcat counterfeiting, but upon receipt of deposit funds from National Banks, the government would then in turn use those funds to pay down national debt.

Although the actual bank notes themselves were not printed in the city of Corona, they were certainly distributed within our city. In addition, they were also signed into circulation by the Corona National Bank President and his Secretary. Overall Corona National Bank released \$225,100.00 into public circulation.

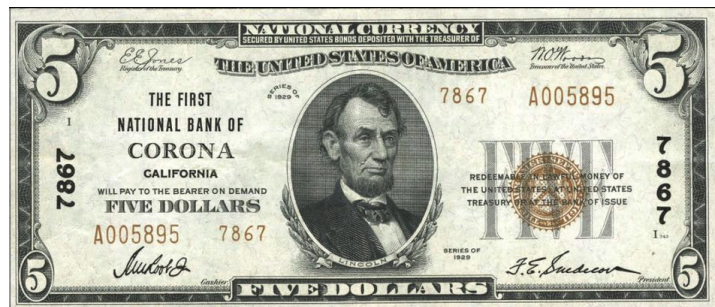
Just like all National Bank Notes across the country, Corona Bank Notes were retired as currency type by the U.S. government in the 1930s during the Great Depression. Currency in the United States was then consolidated to Federal Reserve Notes and later accounted for under the Gold Reserve Act.

Nowadays Corona Bank Notes are extremely rare. They tend to sell at 100 times their value. It is the hope of the author that should any of you old-timers still have any of these old Corona Bank Notes, please share [them with the author.] They truly are a part of our beloved history. [CHPS is trying to collect a variety of bank notes for a shadowbox display to then share the actual notes with others.]

History of Corona Note: Corona National Bank charter number was #7867 This same number can be found stamped on each Corona Bank Note. Sometimes twice.

"History of Corona" Facebook page *
Note: The distribution inventory is as follows:

1902- 307 Sheets of \$10 Red Seal
1902- 307 Sheets of \$20 Red Seal
4195 Sheets of \$10 Blue Seal
4195 Sheets of \$20 Blue Seal
Unknown quantity \$5 distributed



* It is reported that there were no denominations of Corona Bank Notes larger than \$20.

An Introduction to CHPS Strategic Plan By Fred Parr

Our **Mission Statement** can be found in the top of the right hand column on page 8 of this *Newsletter*.

Our **Vision** is to build connections that raise awareness of and appreciation for our shared history.

Our **Goals** are:

A. We provide educational opportunities that focus on Corona's unique heritage.

B. We work to preserve Corona's buildings, sites, artifacts and memories that hold historic value.

C. We advocate for the protection and preservation of our historic resources.

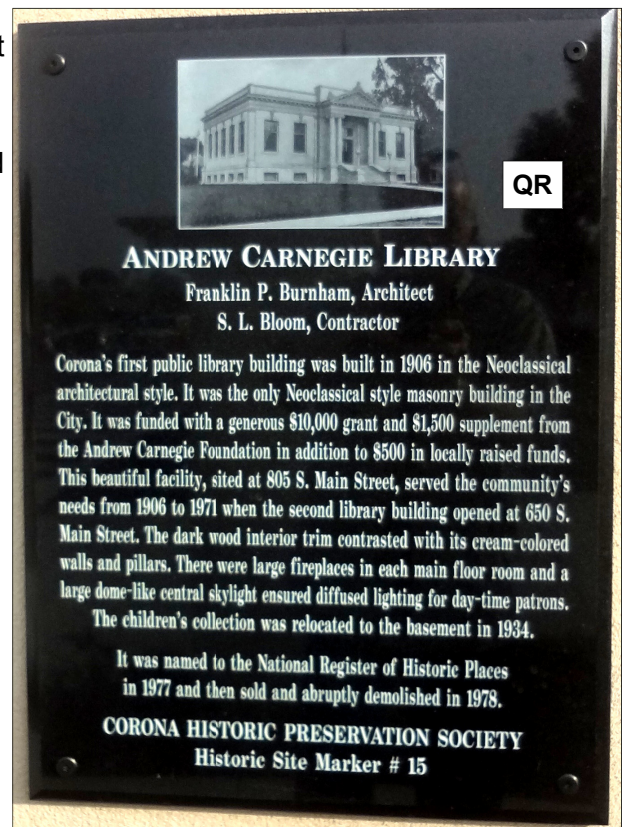
To view the complete plan which includes objectives to meet our goals, please visit www.Corona-History.org and click on "Strategic Plan" under the CHPS tab.

Plans for Corona's Historic Site Markers By Richard Winn

The CHPS Historic Site Marker Committee has worked diligently to ensure that our site markers are accurate and provide sufficient information to visitors to satisfy their curiosity. Marker plaque text was thought to be accurate at the time any marker was placed but may need to be corrected from time to time as technology and more comprehensive research brings new information to light.

Rather than replace marker plaques we have determined that there are measures that will permit us to correct and amplify historical information on the marker plaques. Advances in technology have allowed the use of "QR" codes to tie markers to the internet. By placing a "QR" coded tile on the marker plaque, visitors will be able to use smart phones to obtain supplemental historical information directly to the visitor's smart phone when the phone is passed over across the tile.

We intend to start with the most recent marker plaques and then move to the older plaques. Many of these older plaques are bronze and the tiles cannot be embedded in the bronze casting. In these cases, a QR tile will be attached to the site marker monument into the concrete, masonry, stucco or whatever the finished surface might be. We welcome comments from our members as this project moves forward.



Trading Signs at Trader Joe's By Eric Bergreen



If you've ever been to Trader Joe's, at Dos Logos, you may have noticed the signs hanging above their

checkout registers. If you haven't or are not aware the signs depict well-known historic avenues and streets in our city such as Taylor Ave. and Joy St. named for some of our founding fathers. One of the street signs, though, was misrepresented: Grand Ave.

But Grand is our most famous street, you might say. And you'd be right. It is. But it is Grand Boulevard not an Avenue. It is the circle that surrounds the heart of our city. Our only boulevard and the very first street laid out as the city of Corona (then known as South Riverside) was born.

Hiram Clay Kellogg, a civil engineer from Anaheim, was commissioned with constructing a one hundred-foot-wide, three mile perfect circle by Robert B. Taylor. Kellogg had it ready for him in four days and proclaimed it a "grand boulevard" and the name stuck.

It also appeared that two of the founding father's street

names, Merrill St. and Rimpau Ave. were absent as well. The CHPS brought this to the attention of Trader Joe's through email messaging and within a 24 hour period got a response letting us know that the head of the store would be in touch. Within another day Store Captain Armando Marquez contacted us to ask what he could do. After meeting with him it was decided that he would promptly have the Grand sign fixed and the Merrill and Rimpau signs added. Talk about customer service!

We were very pleased at the quickness and eagerness of not only Trader Joe's but Armando too at rectifying this slight typo and making things right at their Dos Logos store. The CHPS has thanked them with a complimentary one year membership in the Society.

Stop by Trader Joe's and check out these awesome new signs and remember to thank them for keeping the spirit of the Circle City alive.



Membership Information ❄

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

Individual Member	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer!	
Family	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospitality refreshments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter writing articles	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vintage Home Tour	
Patron	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	docent / volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Gift from _____



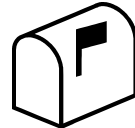
Membership Status: Renewal New

Please complete form and mail to:

CHPS

P.O. Box 2904

Corona, CA 92878



We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Jim & Patti Anderson
Cecilia Arias
Sylvia Barnett
Barbara Becker
Gary, Juanita & Susan Bergreen
Wendy Bohulano
Betty Bowers
Michael Carey & Ana Brown
Sally Ann Carlson
Carola Cavasos

Wanda Cleveland
CJ & Caitlin Chacon
Ken & Jana Cline
Mary Conklin
John & Catherine Downs
Peter & Cathy Espinoza
Nita Grantham (Patron)
Margaret Jameson
Bret & Lennie Keesler
Stephen & Sandy Klein

John & Barbara McCawley
Jami Merchant
Jeffrey Nelson
Elaine Norland
Shawnie Querner & Michele Jackson
Steve & Karen Shultz
Jim Steele
Peter & Connie Weber
John & Eileen Zickefoose

❄ Donating, Renewing or Joining CHPS Online

The following explanation has been added to the CHPS website home page to explain how to join or renew your membership in the Society electronically using PayPal or in the traditional manner with a hard copy application (located at the top of this page) that is printed, filled out and then mailed to the CHPS P.O. box.

HOW TO JOIN OR DONATE:

To join electronically, you may use the PayPal "Add to Cart" **PayPal** button at the top of the CHPS home page or you may obtain a membership application from the website or from any issue of the bi-monthly *CHPS Newsletter*.

The completed application, or donation in any amount, may be mailed in with a check, in the correct amount for the desired category of Membership, to:

Corona Historic Preservation Society
P. O. Box 2904
Corona, CA 92878

To donate electronically please use the "Donate" **PayPal** button at the top or bottom of this page. If the donation is to be directed to a special project or activity (historic markers, road signs, Veteran's Memorial Wall, etc.), please describe the activity or project in the "Message" block.



Time to Restore

HELP PRESERVE CORONA HISTORY BUTTERFIELD PARK MEMORIAL WALL

Please join the Corona Historic Preservation Society in restoring the Memorial Wall at Butterfield Park. Bricks are \$100 each, however, any amount is welcome.

- Arch Sponsor- \$5,000
- Wingwall Sponsorship- \$1,000 (2 left)
- Meditation Bench- \$500
- Adobe Brick Sponsor- \$100 Donations \$500 or more will get their name on the plaque commemorating the project. All donations will be included on the Memorial Wall Webpage

To donate please go to <http://corona-history.org/> and click on DONATE or mail a check to:

**Corona Historic Preservation Society
P.O. Box 2904
Corona, CA 92878-2904
Attn: Memorial Wall Fund**

All Donations Are Tax Deductible.
CHPS is a 501(c)3 non-profit serving the City of Corona since 1983.



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

Board of Directors

President - Wes Speake
Vice President - Eric Bergreen
Secretary - Doris Osko
Treasurer - Richard Winn

Directors

Trisha Henson-Cabrera
Paula Muñoz
Mary Winn

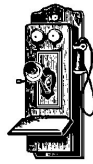
Advisors

Marla Benson
Tom Richins
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 501(c)3 non-profit 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 Board meetings will be:

Thursday, March 16, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office

Thursday, April 20, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS Office

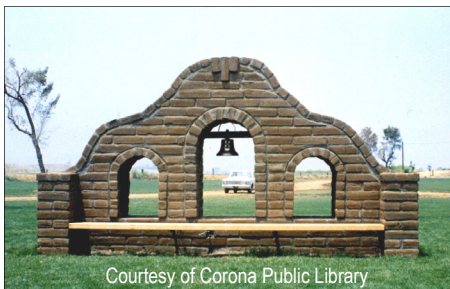


Visit our Website at www.Corona-History.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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



Courtesy of Corona Public Library

Veterans Memorial in 1969



Veterans Memorial in 2016

We have a great opportunity to preserve this wall!