

A Message From Your President Wes Speake

Dear Members,

Fall 2017 is going to be action packed! We have two free CHPS members only outings planned as Quarterly Meetings. The first is a private tour of the Riverside Heritage House. The other is an exclusive tour of the City of Corona Archives, a unique facility where documents that have helped shape our city are stored.

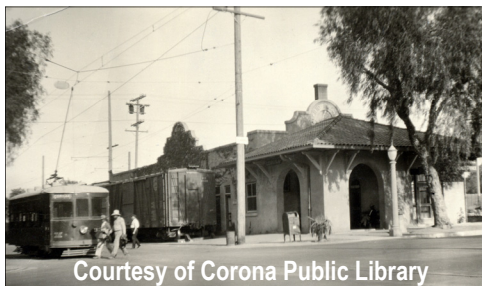
CHPS also achieved a major milestone by successfully pursuing a goal for 20 years: to place the 90 year old Thomas Jefferson Elementary School on the National Register of Historic Places. On July 28th, the first step in this process was accomplished when the California State Historical Resources Commission met, approved the application and voted to place Jefferson on the California Register of Historical Resources. It takes approximately 60 days after this meeting for the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places to take place.

CHPS was pleased to help with registration of volunteers in the City’s most recent clean-up event. On July 22, the second of four “Corona Beautiful 2.0 - Polishing the Crown” events took place and the southeast quadrant within the Grand Boulevard circle was targeted. Trash and debris were removed from empty lots, alleys, parkways and other cluttered spots. More Corona Beautiful 2.0 events are planned. See page 3 details.

Existing projects are progressing nicely. The CHPS marker committee has been busy: Three new site markers will be placed soon. **1) Municipal Plunge** located at City Park from 1925-1966, **2) Washington School** located on West Grand Boulevard from 1914-1950, and **3) The Pacific Electric Depot** located on the east side of Main Street at Third Street from 1915-1945. We encourage all to keep an eye out for the dedications of these markers as well our updating of



Municipal Plunge
Corona City Park



Courtesy of Corona Public Library

old markers with Quick Response (QR) codes so people with smart phones will be able to see research and additional information on all **25 of our CHPS Historic Markers.**

Veterans Memorial Wall at Butterfield Park: We are approximately 50% of the way to our fundraising goal with some wonderful community groups having recently pledged to assist in fundraising and construction. **Restoration of the West 11th Street light poles:** We have met with city staff regarding the restoration of the unique metal street lights on West 11th Street and hope to have final research ready in time for restoration and repairs to begin. We have two other projects that we will be kicking off in the coming months.

The Lake Norconian Club Foundation and City of Norco have nominated the US Naval Hospital-Corona and the Cold War weapons laboratories on the Norco site to join the Lake Norconian Club structures on

the National Register of Historic Places. CHPS was pleased to submit a Letter of Support for this worthy endeavor.

I am proud to announce that CHPS has partnered with the Off Broadway Corona Theater (OBC Theater) to facilitate backstage repairs and restoration for the nearly 100 year old Historic Civic Center Theater. This partnership was brought up to the CHPS board by our newest board member, Amanda Kalkanis. We are very excited about this project and hope to see you all at the special showing of the “Scarlet Pimpernel” on **September 27th at 7 PM** at the Historic Civic Center Theater. For more information please see the announcement on the next page or you may also go to OBCTheater.com. **The deadline to purchase tickets is September 12.**

Sincerely,

WES



Special Invitation Performance

you're invited
TO OUR SPECIAL PRIVATE PERFORMANCE
WEDNESDAY SEPT. 27 at 7:00pm

THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL
BENEFIT MUSICAL PERFORMANCE
September 27 thru October 2
HISTORIC CIVIC CENTER THEATER

Proceeds from Sept-Oct production will be used for much needed back stage restoration of one of our City's oldest historic buildings. The Corona Civic Center Theater continues to be available for public use for many community programs and local business since its construction in 1923. The Mediterranean Revival style building was first built as a part of the Corona high school at 815 West Sixth St. It was designed by G. Stanley Wilson, an exceptional architect from Riverside, California, who had also designed parts of the Mission Inn. Its rich history and beautiful architecture are a treasured asset to our City.

Please consider partnering with us to aide in keeping the theater available for use within our community by a monetary or raffle donation, by advertising in our program, or by attendance for this performance. For more information about Sept. 27th special invitation performance or any other inquiries call obctheater artistic director Amanda Kalkanis at (951)264-5794.

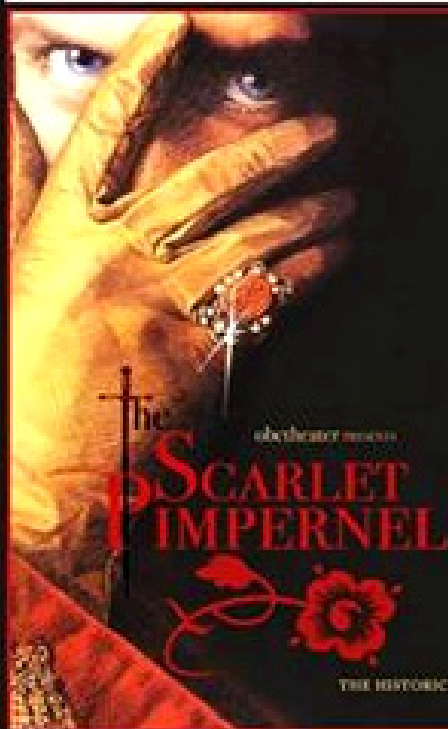


Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society



OBCTHEATER
OF THE HISTORIC CIVIC CENTER THEATER

Tickets for this event can be purchased at www.obctheater.com



*When the French Revolution
becomes a Reign of Terror
Someone must take a
Will ~~be~~ stand*

SEPT 27 thru OCT 2, 2017

Scandals Seduction Betrayal
and lots of Swashbuckling fun

**A THRILLING
MUSICAL ADVENTURE**

buy tickets online at
obctheater.com

for groups and special seating
call the box office at (951) 264-5794

THE HISTORIC CORONA CIVIC CENTER THEATER 815 WEST 6TH ST. CORONA, WWW.OBCTHEATER.COM

call Amanda Kalkanis (951) 264-5794 for seat selection and reservation
TICKETS FOR THIS SPECIAL PERFORMANCE MUST BE PURCHASED BY SEPT. 12TH

Quarterly Meeting: Private Tour of Heritage House



Riverside's Heritage House

Date: Saturday, September 9, 2017

Time: 9:45 A.M.

Our docent-guided tour will begin promptly at 10:00 A.M. and will last 45 Minutes

**Address: 8193 Magnolia Avenue
in Riverside**

**IMPORTANT: Call Eric at 951.310-9076
to make your reservations.**

Parking: On-site parking is available in the lot behind the House. The lot can be accessed by using the house's driveway located to the right of the house."

We look forward to having you join us!

"This 1891 Victorian showplace depicts life in turn-of-the-century Riverside. An elegant reminder of the affluent homes which once graced Magnolia Avenue...Restored and maintained in a manner reflective of its 19th century construction, this grand house is now a meticulously researched example of historic tastes, values, and lifestyle."

From Website of Heritage House

Check Your Calendars - Save the Date(s)



Corona Beautiful 2.0 *Polishing the Crown* - Community Clean-Up

Saturday, September 23, 7:30 A.M. Sheridan Park, 300 South Sheridan

Saturday, November 18 7:30 A.M, Senior Center, 921 Belle Avenue

Tour of Corona City Archives

A November date will be announced in the Nov-Dec *CHPS Newsletter*

CHPS Holiday Party

Monday, December 4, 2016 - 6:30-8:30 P.M. Corona Woman's Improvement Club
1101 South Main Street



A Quick History: The Chuck Wagon By Wes Speake

The Chuck Wagon Bar/Restaurant has been a Corona staple since October 8, 1938. That's over 78 years of serving hungry and thirsty Coronans! Although its name has changed a few times over the years, the Chuck Wagon has been continuously operated as a restaurant/bar since that date. In the 1939 telephone book, The Park Inn (original name of the Chuck Wagon) is noted as "Liquors-Retail", the only one of five listed as such in the 1939 phone directory, all others being grocery and liquor stores.



Before we get into the history of the Chuck Wagon, let's set the stage of what Corona was like in the 1930s. East 6th Street in the late 1930s was one of the last stops before one ventured through La Sierra and into Riverside, so building an "Inn" with a bar and a restaurant with modern cabins probably sounded like easy money for Fred Keltz and Marvin Colvin, both from Los Angeles. Though The Park Inn wasn't considered a motor court, it was clearly designed to capture travelers driving through Corona. Motor courts were very popular in the late 1920s and 30s, as the automobile became common and family vacations began to center around driving. Vacationers either didn't want to stop at hotels or couldn't afford to do so. Therefore, camp grounds and small cottages, with sleeping, cooking and bathroom facilities as well as a garage for the family auto, began to appear along the highways. Corona was no exception. There were several motor courts in Corona. The Tarrytown Motor Court opened just to the west of what would become the Chuck wagon in 1928, on East Sixth Street; Rainbow Court (later Rainbow Camp) was also on East Sixth Street; and on the west side of Corona was Wagon Wheel Cafe and Veach's Auto Court, to name a few. The Park Inn was a late-comer in 1938. In 1928, the site that would become the Chuck Wagon was operated as a service station by Ernest Mastin. Mr. Mastin lived in Home Gardens with his wife and he also operated the Temescal Service Station on Highway 71 (Temescal Canyon Road). In April 1933, the Temescal Service Station was granted one of first five "beer" licenses just outside of Corona after prohibition.

The motor court model faded during WWII. All mentions of the cabins ceased in 1940 as the cabins were advertised as "monthly rentals" in 1941. The remaining cabins were torn down at the request of the city in 1984 to make way for additional parking that was required as part of a driveway expansion.

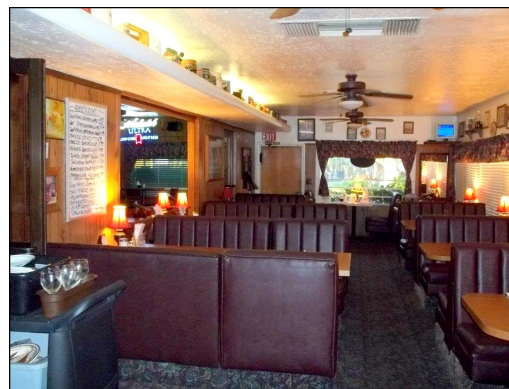
The Chuck Wagon started its life as The Park Inn, on Saturday October 8, 1938. The original design included a small bar and restaurant, the basic shape of which is still evident there today. The Park Inn also included five "modern three-room cabins." Fred Keltz and Marvin Colvin owned the restaurant and bar and Mr. George Powers owned the property, built and operated the cabins. Mr. Colvin's nephew, Charles "Chuck" Jordan, was the manager. Mr. Keltz worked at the Chevron Oil Refinery in El Segundo. The distance to work led to long nights so Mr. Keltz sold his interest in the business to

Mr. Colvin only a year later. Chuck Jordan was featured in newspaper advertisements for the new restaurant.

In 1939, the name "The Park View Inn" was used briefly but seemed to only reference the cabins. The five cabins that were built in 1938, sat in a row along the southern edge of the property. Later on, two additional cabins were built. The cabin built in 1939 still remains and is located at the western edge of the property. The second remaining cabin, located on the east side of the prop-

erty, appears to be built at a later date.

Ownership of the Park Inn changed many times over the years but the name remained basically unchanged. The Park Inn name continued until 1945 when Park Inn became the Park Inn Café. This name lasted until 1956 when "The Park - Fine Dining" was advertised repeatedly after a renovation. The Park was known for its prime rib and its specialty "Chicken in the Rough" which consisted of a fried half-chicken, shoestring potatoes and a biscuit with honey. The restaurant served as a location for retirement parties as well as a meeting place for local clubs such as the Corona Boat and Ski Club throughout the 1950s and 1960s. It was in 1957 that the first mentions of the "Chuck Wagon" showed up in newspapers as an "all you can eat" businessman's lunch buffet special "served chuck wagon style." A total of 34 different foods were offered for \$1.95. In Oct 1957, the *Corona Daily Independent* praised owner Jerry Parks and Gene Boudin's Chuck Wagon idea: "This CHUCKWAGON idea is catching on and spreading faster than the Asian flu," and was called a "click-smash" hit. In April 1958, the name changed to The



Chuck Wagon (formerly the Park Inn) for the first time. The bar remained a focus of advertising though the 1950s and 1960s as the word "bar" or "cocktail" was used regularly in advertising.

Music became a staple, as a pianist was introduced in 1958, and live music was regularly featured, which continues to this day.

This successful business elicited expansion. Building permits, issued in 1958 and 1959, added a significant amount of area used for dining and doubled the kitchen space. A gas fireplace was added in 1968. It was later removed to make way for a door to the outdoor patio in 2003. A neon sign was permitted and added in May 1955. In 1958, the sign was altered and became the unique Chuck Wagon sign we know today - as seen above. The sign (and its neon) was restored in 2002 and again in 2014.



I Remember When... Bob & Ruth Kremer By Eric Bergreen

Recently, the CHPS had the wonderful opportunity of interviewing two longtime Corona residents, Robert and Ruth Kremer, who have been a part of our community for over half a century. Bob was born and raised on a farm in Jesup, Iowa, the youngest of 12 children in his Catholic family. After graduating from high school and college, he worked construction for a time before moving to Corona in 1959 and taking up a job at Corona High School (located where the Historic Civic Center is today) teaching History, Latin and Drivers Training.

Ruth was raised in an Episcopalian family in Waterbury, Connecticut and moved to Corona in 1961 where she was hired on at Jefferson Elementary and taught first grade. Bob and Ruth met at a staff welcoming party for teachers and crossed paths at Friday mixers but didn't begin dating for a couple of years afterward and didn't become serious until 1964. When the time came for the two to tie the knot, they did so in Ruth's home state of Connecticut but felt that their hearts belonged in Corona where they knew they would spend the rest of their lives and go on to raise their three children.



Bob eventually went on to become the president of the Teacher's Association for CNUSD while Ruth took a dozen or so years off to raise their kids. He even travelled to Europe and the Middle East as part of a Teacher to Teacher program. They gave a lot to our community through their teaching with Bob putting in 45 years as a teacher and counselor and Ruth with 26 years of her own. They were also active in the community and helped organize the very first St. Patrick's Day parade in 1963 where Bob drove his own '57 Corvette.

Some of Ruth's fondest memories here are holidays spent with friends, where they would all walk

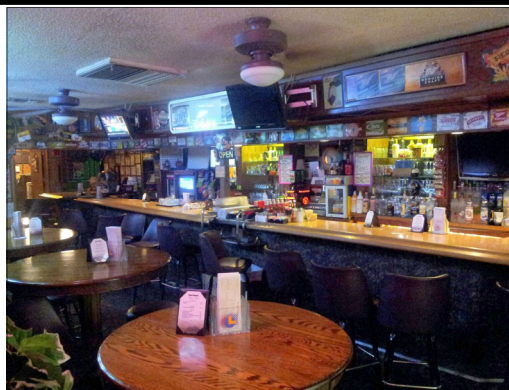
to each other's houses spreading cheer and good will. Bob recalls America's 200-year anniversary and the painting of the mural on the Prado Dam as one of his favorites. When asked what Corona means to them, they simply said: home. After 50 years of living in the same house they couldn't imagine any other place to live where they would feel more welcomed. Coming from true Coronans like them, that is not a surprise.

The Chuck Wagon continued

In the late 1960s and 1970s the Chuck Wagon was owned by Kerith Liston. Mr. Liston and Mr. Boudin owned race horses so photographs of some of these winners still adorn the walls of the bar today.

The current owner is Pat Drake. Ms. Drake purchased the business from her father Frank Capodanno in 2000. Mr. Capodanno started as a manager in the 1970s and purchased the Chuck Wagon from Mr. Liston in 1980. Today Ms. Drake runs the business with the assistance of her niece, Michele Capodanno, loyal staff and long time employees. Ms. Drake speaks fondly of the time that her father owned and managed the business.

According to Ms. Drake, the bar and restaurant was run as an unofficial social club for her father and his friends in the



1960s and 1970s. She bought the land and the rights to the business in 2000. She has always kept an eye toward keeping the spirit of the Chuck Wagon alive, that being good food and good drinks. Frequent guests include current Mayor Dick Haley and former Mayor Jason Scott. In fact, they can both be found at the Chuck Wagon on Monday nights to enjoy the restaurant's famous "Taco Monday". Pat promises to keep the Chuck Wagon, part bar/part restaurant as long the city lets her, until progress comes knocking in the form of the affordable housing project slated for this section of East 6th Street. Until that time, stop in for good home-style breakfast, try a \$1.00 fish taco on a Monday night or have a drink and give a toast to the Chuck Wagon, Corona's oldest bar/restaurant before this local icon closes for good.

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CHPS YouTube Channel Offerings



Jefferson Elementary School application summary at State...
17 views • 1 week ago



Beautiful Corona: Through the Lens of Barbara Becker - Video 5
206 views • 1 month ago



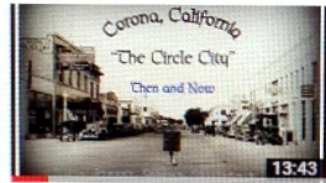
Vibrant Corona Citrus Labels and More
147 views • 3 months ago



Corona Historic Preservation Society presents "Growing Up in...
303 views • 4 months ago



Corona Beautiful community cleanup events #1-9
249 views • 4 months ago



Corona, California: Then & Now video
4,241 views • 6 months ago



Beautiful Corona: Through the Lens of Barbara Becker - Video 4
384 views • 8 months ago



Growing Up in Corona in the 1960s - Part Two
201 views • 1 year ago



Growing Up in Corona in the 1960s -- Part One
433 views • 1 year ago



Beautiful Corona: Through the Lens of Barbara Becker - Video 3
375 views • 1 year ago



Beautiful Corona: Through the Lens of Barbara Becker - Video 2
612 views • 2 years ago



Beautiful Corona: Through the Lens of Barbara Becker - Volum...
1,125 views • 2 years ago



"Growing up in Corona in the 1950s" Panel Discussion - ...
415 views • 2 years ago



"Growing up in Corona in the 1940s" Panel Discussion - ...
527 views • 2 years ago

CHPS began creating videos in 2014 to provide entertaining and informational reminders of Corona's precious past. As of publication of this *Newsletter*, there are 14 videos for you to view.: • Five videos featuring Barbara Becker's wonderful photographs • "Growing Up in Corona" videos focusing on the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s and & 1970s • "Corona, CA: Then & Now" • "Vibrant Corona Citrus Labels & More" • "Corona Beautiful Cleanup Events #1-9" • A summary of Jefferson Elementary School application was read at a State meeting.

TO ACCESS CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCwmlr2zWcFViDoVk1YXnoQ>

Our 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 feel free to contact CHPS Home Preservation Grant Program Chairman Tom Richins at thomasrichins@outlook.com or call 949.231.8596. We at CHPS 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!

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

Carol Ackerman
Janell Acosta
Jennie Adamo
Janet R. Becker
Larry & Janice Coplen
Shaylene Cortez
Caren Miller Erickson
Ada J. Hand
Aaron & Lauralynn Hake

Dick & Christine Haley
Charles Jameson
Dr. James & Amanda Kalkanis
Rita (Brooks) Johnson
Robert & Ruth Kremer - Patron
Stephen & Erma Paloma
Fred & Vickie Parr
Clarcy A. Phillips
Nariman Rahmon

Kathy Sinkovich & Dana Sutton
Jeremy & Cari Smith
Wes J. Speake
Jay Stemska
Juergen & Gerlinde Stens
Elizabeth M. Taylor
Marcelle Turk & Eveline Zadeyh
Peter & Connie Weber
Scott Weigold

* 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.



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

Board of Directors

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Treasurer - Richard Winn

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Trisha Henson-Cabrera
Amanda Kalkanis
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, September 21, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office
Thursday, October 19, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office

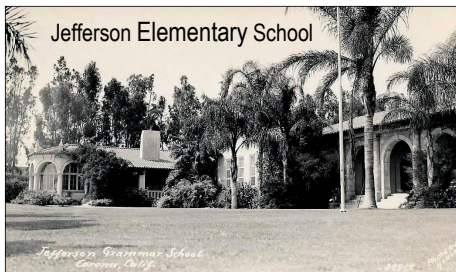


Our Website at www.Corona-History.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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



Jefferson Elementary School

Soon to be included on the
National Register of Historic Places!

Watch us on



See Page 6 for details

**Thomas Jefferson Elementary School will
receive national recognition in late September!**