

A Message From Our President Tom Richins

Dear Members:

For 2015 we start the year with a full Board of Directors. Selected by our Nominations Committee and voted in by our membership, Trisha Henson is now serving as our newest director. Trisha has lived in Corona since 1988. She attended Raney Junior High School and is a graduate of Corona High School. Trisha is self-motivated in every way. She is passionate

about serving the community and has a love for local history. In addition to serving on the board she researches genealogy, is involved with the homeless ministry at her church, and is a docent for the Heritage House in Riverside. I asked Trisha why she wants to participate in the Corona historic Preservation Society. She answered, “I have always loved history, so I decided to get involved with my town’s history.” It was the perfect answer, and we are lucky she has joined us.

Part of our city’s motto is to, “Cherish our Past.” Fortunately, what an amazing past we have. For 129 years our town has continued to thrive, prosper, and continually reinvent itself. From blooming groves and orchards, to international road races, to reconfiguring our city to a bedroom community, our city has much for which we can be thankful. We also have much that needs to be preserved. But, preservation can oftentimes be tricky. For one it can be expensive, and two not everyone shares a preservation vision. However, preservation can also be very rewarding.

For the last nine years I have spent my professional career as a general contractor. Most of those nine years have been spent under the assignment of building for the Irvine Company. It was 1866 when James Irvine founded his over 80,000 acre ranch in what is now known as the city of Irvine. At first he tried to manage his ranch from his residence in San Francisco, but soon realized that in order for the ranch to be successful, he needed to relocate to the ranch. For this purpose, in 1876 James Irvine had his mansion house built on the edge his property closest to the stage coach stop in nearby Tustin.

For almost 90 years the Irvine Mansion served as headquarters for the Irvine Company. The ranch continually prospered, and the family business was passed down from father to son for over four generations of Irvines. Unfortunately, in 1965 the mansion burned to



Current leaders of Corona Historic Preservation Society

the ground. It was a great loss for the city and its citizens. However, it also became a rallying point for Irvine’s future leaders.

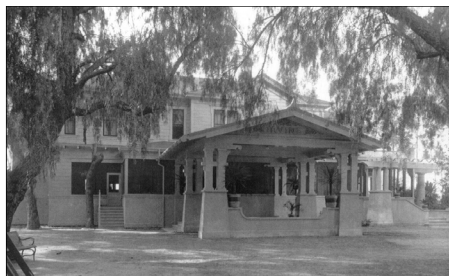
In 2003, the Irvine Historical Society, the City of Irvine, Orange County Public Library, Joan Irvine Smith (granddaughter of James Irvine), Katie Wheeler (great granddaughter), James Irvine Foundation, and Donald Bren (sole owner of Irvine Company) agreed to come together and donate

the 6.5 million dollars needed to rebuild the Irvine Mansion. It was also decided that mansion would be rebuilt in the form of a library for all to use.

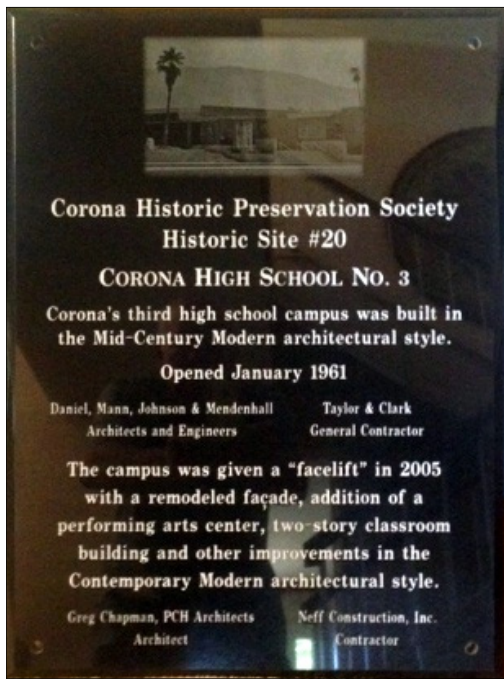
A few years back, I became interested in the reconstruction of the Irvine mansion and started to ask some of my Irvine Company colleagues about the building. They relayed to me that it was the greatest preservation effort the Irvine Company had ever undertaken. It was said in casual conversation that Donald Bren personally instructed the architects to design the mansion to the most exact detail. That they did. Using old photographs and original blue prints the designers went to work. Exact locations for the corners of the building were placed using GPS technology. Details such as the depth of the window frames and the banisters were analyzed and copied from old photos. The grand staircase is an exact replica of the original, and from what I understand, even the bird bath outside was reconstructed to look just as it did in old photographs.

Although this message talks about Irvine and not Corona, the point of the story is to demonstrate the value and rewards that are derived from historic preservation. The simple truth is that even though Corona has lost architectural treasures, we still have many that serve us well. As the weather of spring starts to approach and the air turns warm, please find the time to visit them, read their plaques, enjoy the history that made them and the preservation efforts that continue to maintain them.

Sincerely, TOM RICHINS



Invitation to Corona High School Marker Dedication



Please join us at Corona High School for the dedication of our Historic Site Marker #20.

The students, staff, alumni as well as all members of the community are invited.

When: Friday, January 16, 2015 at 9:30 AM

Where: Corona High School

At the front of the school 1150 West Tenth Street

Park in front of the Administration building.
Enter through the gates to the right.

← Plaque is shiny black granite, hence the reflection.

First Quarterly Meeting: "Growing Up in Corona - 1950s"



CHPS will present a panel discussion made up of graduates from Corona High School who will share and describe what it was like to live in Corona during the decade of the 1950s.

When: Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 10:00 A.M.

**Where: Community Room of the Historic Civic Center
815 W. Sixth Street**

This meeting is free of charge and is open to the public.



An Old-Fashioned Celebration By Doris Osko

The setting was a 101 year old building, with the fireplace flickering in the parlor, the seven foot tree alit, and the carolers joyously singing. The event was the CHPS annual Holiday Party on December 4, 2014 at the Woman's Improvement Club of Corona. An old-fashioned potluck provided by the guests held a variety of tasty homemade fare along with delicious appetizers and desserts. (This marvelous meal was coordinated by Doris Osko.) Apple juice took the place of wassail, but no one complained.



The Corona High School Madrigals, 32 strong, under the expert and enthusiastic direction of Mrs. Amy Eden, proved once again why they are an award-winning choir heading once again for competition in Chicago during their Spring Break. (The choir members were invited to feast after their performance, and attendees donated pocket change and cash to help defray the cost of their tip to Chicago.)



Among the guests for the evening were City Council members Jason Scott (with his wife Dee), Randy Fox (accompanied by wife Karen), Karen Spiegel, and new Mayor, Eugene Montanez. Paula and Eugene Montanez

once again delivered Historic Corona calendars for 2015 titled "Made in Corona" and compliments of ALLEGRA Marketing•Print•Mail. The Montanezes have outdone themselves with another treasured keepsake featuring images of businesses from the Circle City's past. CHPS members were once again the first to receive them and we thank them for their generosity. Also attending were Kevin Button, outgoing member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, as well as Aaron Hake (along with his family), outgoing member of the Planning & Housing Commission. We so appreciate them taking time out of their busy schedules to join us. Board Advisors, and esteemed past officers of CHPS, Marla Benson (with husband Benny,) and Ted Taylor (with wife Cindi) were present. Both keep Corona Heritage Park and Museum running smoothly.



Everyone joined in on a fun "Who Am I?" activity planned by Mary Winn and facilitated by Trisha Henson for uncovering the identities of vintage movie stars such as Bette Davis, Mickey Rooney, or Greta Garbo.



Pres. Tom Richins entertained the group while adding humor to his Corona Trivia contest which also revealed some interesting historical facts. Vice President Mary Winn conducted the Society's General Meeting which included election of directors for 2015-2016. Trisha Henson is the newest member to the Board of Directors and has served on the Membership Committee for the past several years.



Mary thanked member Barbara Becker for providing the excellent photos of Corona sites that were shown in

the slide show created by Tom Muñoz. Board Member Paula Muñoz provided details on the 2015 Vintage Home Tour and requested that owners of historic homes share their homes on future Vintage Home Tours. Paula will again chair the tour in 2015. The ambience was warm and friendly, and the camaraderie of the members was refueled once again as 2015 lies just around the corner.



Corona Profiles: Fire Chief Jim Johnson By Fred Parr

I had the honor and privilege of interviewing retired Fire Chief Jim Johnson and his wife of 61 years, Barbara, in June 2011. City Manager Glenwood Wilson hired Chief Johnson on July 1, 1965 to lead the department and develop a plan to improve service delivery. At the time, Corona's population was 10,600 and the only fire station was located at 10th and Belle, now home to the Senior Center. Corona was booming with significant development on the west end as well as north of the railroad tracks. There were no railroad track-roadway grade separation overpasses at this time, which caused significant response delays whenever a train passed through town. At the time, the department had 12 full-time firemen on two platoons working a 72 hour work week and up to 15 volunteer firemen. Citizens had passed a \$365,000 bond measure in the spring of 1965 to build a second fire station, make improvements to the existing station and buy two new fire engines.



Chief Johnson began his fire service career in 1949 as a fireman for the Division of Forestry under the California Department of Natural Resources (currently CAL FIRE.) State firefighters at the time worked ten days on and four days off and he told me that he fought nearly every fire in California during his time there. During one very active fire season, he spent seven weeks on duty without going home. In November of 1956, he was a Crew boss working the Plunge Creek Fire east of San Bernardino when his fire truck was burned over by the fire. Chief Johnson recalled that "we were up on the road and it spotted over the road and we took a hose line down to try and pick up these spot fires and the whole canyon went "boom." He suffered burns over 50% of his body and spent three months in the hospital. I have heard, over the years, about the strong will and determination of Chief Johnson and this was confirmed when he informed me that a month after getting out of the hospital he was back at work. When he applied to lead the CFD, he had risen to the rank of Assistant Ranger (today's Battalion Chief) and worked in San Bernardino "running the office and communications, dispatch, warehouse, all of that."

Chief Johnson was a man who knew how to get things done and was astute at forging mutually beneficial relationships with other City Departments, neighboring fire departments and businesses and took advantage of surplus equipment available from the state and federal government. The department incident volume and workload was much lower back then and the Chief put his Firefighters to work. As the Chief put it," One of the

things we had going for us among the Firemen was that every trade was represented. We had painters, plumbers, welders, carpenters, mechanics. I was nickel and diming it." It is impossible to highlight all his achievements in this short article, but he made that bond money last into the 1970s. He not only opened Station 2, improved Station 1 and purchased two brand new Van Pelt fire engines, but he also converted the department to a 3-platoon system, developed completely new policies and procedures and developed a fire prevention program.

He purchased Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for each seat on the fire engines to protect his firemen (prior to that there was only one per rig and they were not often used.) He was able to get a dedicated radio frequency, our first Dispatch Center and completely upgraded the system including base, mobile, and portable radios and installed radio repeaters to improve coverage. One repeater was located in his garage in Cresta Verde. He worked with the water department to install fire hydrants, which were few and far between at the time and had very low water volume and pressure.

Chief Johnson staffed each fire engine with four personnel. He pushed for higher education and training and was one of the founders of the Chaffey College Fire Technology program and Fire Academy. He established the department's first Truck Company, a 1969 Crown Snorkel with a 75-foot aerial boom. He developed hiring and promotional procedures and a master plan for the department which included four stations.

Within a couple of weeks of coming to Corona the Johnsons purchased a home on Termino Avenue in Cresta Verde. From there the Chief had a bird's eye view of the entire city and responded to most incidents. I heard many stories from my predecessors describing working fires when Chief Johnson would broadcast from home, "Dispatch, Chief 1, I can see it from the hill, sound a general," (which meant to recall all off-duty personnel.) Chief Johnson served as Corona's Fire Chief until 1981, when the city's population had nearly doubled to 37,986, and led the transformation of our Fire Department into the modern and professional agency it is today.

The Corona Fire Department is conducting an oral history project to better understand and document our 116 year history from the perspective of those who served. If you have any questions or know of any retired volunteers, or paid members or their families that would be willing to be interviewed, please contact Department Historian Fred Parr at (951) 533-6202 or at Fred.Parr@discovercorona.com.

A Video Series from Corona Heritage Park & Museum



For the past 15 years, CHPS has been proud to collaborate and work closely with our “sister history organization” Corona Heritage Park & Museum. Marla Benson and Ted Taylor played

significant roles as past officers of the Corona Historic Preservation Society. Ten months ago, Ted posted the first interview on “Isle of Corona,” and the video series now consists of eight episodes. Of particular interest are episodes on the CHPS “Vintage Home Tour” and “Corona Theater”.

The following is written by Ted Taylor of Corona Heritage Park & Museum and a CHPS Advisor:

We tend to see architecture as icons of history because we’re

able to preserve some of it for a time. Most people actually responsible for our history invisibly pass. It’s rare that any are referenced outside their family chronicles.

The Corona Heritage Museum has been gathering local artifacts for 15 years now, with many collectors and creators of history deprived of any documentation. During that relatively short time I’ve watched individuals come and go through the park and around town, leaving impacts on the collage of culture which is the true essence of Corona. So much of their inspiration, impetus and intellect has no prospect of examination from the future.

Isle of Corona

I’ve been stumbling through the technologies of digital encoding with the simple desire of capturing

the animate substance of local non-celebrities who make a difference. The emerging series is viewable at

www.youtube.com/isleofcorona.

Looking Back A Century Ago



Slightly more than 100 years ago, Eddie Pullen in his #4 Mercer was the big winner at the 1914 Corona Road Race held on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1914. Pullen received \$4,000. for first place and \$2,000 for breaking a world record with his average of 87.7 miles per hour around Corona’s Grand Boulevard race course. This speed fest was the second auto race held in Corona. For his win, Eddie Pullen’s name, car type and speed were engraved on the Flagler Trophy seen above.



RAID MADE ON “BLIND PIG” JOINT

Saturday evening Chief Ramsey and his assistants raided a house near the cemetery, where it was charged that liquor was being sold. The place had of late been frequented too often by others than the occupants and suspicion was aroused. The officers arrested [redacted] and [redacted] and when the premises were searched the following was secured: Two barrels of bottled beer, one-half sack of bottled whiskey, two demijohns of whiskey, two sacks of bottled port wine and one jug of brandy. Three guns and considerable ammunition were also secured.



The article on the left and the column headline on the right are found on the front page of the January 16, 1915 *Corona Courier*. Corona was a “dry town” in 1915 so finding a liquor cache was newsworthy. Coincidentally, the topic “Made in Corona” was discussed at a library meeting in 1915 and it is also the theme of the 2015 calendar created by ALLEGRA Marketing•Print•Mail owned by Eugene & Paula Montanez.

CORONA PUBLIC LIBRARY HAS A VERY FINE MEETING

“Made in Corona” Was Subject of Program for Weekly Meeting at Library Thursday Evening of This Week.

Architectural Salvage Available



CHPS has limited amounts of architectural salvage items or materials available to those of you who may be restoring your vintage homes. Included in the inventory are vintage windows, shutters, doors, cabinets, molding and hardware. If you need such items, call CHPS at 951.898.2044, leave a brief message (< 1 minute) and be sure to leave your name and telephone number.

Editor's Note: Please Consider This



Greetings and Happy New Year! For those of you who receive this publication as a hard copy, please consider making a change and instead receive it in digital format via email. The email version of the CHPS Newsletter is in full color so photographs are more visually interesting to see and you can enlarge the size to view all contents more clearly. In addition, it saves money as well as paper resources. If you'd like to receive via email, please contact me at toothladytwo@aol.com or 951.371.5291 to let me know.

Thank you! *Mary Winn*

Riverside County History Symposium



the
Riverside County
History Symposium



is coming to

HIGHLAND SPRINGS
THE FRIENDLY RANCH



March 7, 2015

Check our website for more information:
RivCoHistorySymposium.weebly.com

BEAUMONT
80 Miles from L. A.

NIGHT SWIMMING — MOONLIGHT RIDES

Sponsored by Riversidecountyhistory.org - RivCoHistorySymposium@gmail.com

Save the Date!

Save the Date!

On Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 8:45 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. the third annual Riverside County History Symposium will take place at the Highland Springs Resort, located at 10600 Highland Springs Avenue in Beaumont, California.

Scheduled topics and speakers are:

- *Riverside County Through the Lens of Burton Frasher* by Steve Lech
- *The Famous Fliers' Wall at the Mission Inn* by Walter Parks
- *The Story of the Ramona Pageant* by Phil Brigandi
- *Women Built This Town (Palm Springs) 1884-1914* by Renee Brown

For further information and registration please visit the website: www.RivCoHistorySymposium.weebly.com

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

George Beloz
Betty Bowers
Wanda Cleveland
Mark & Cindy German
Ben Gonzalez
Gary & Trisha Henson
Linda Holmes
Charles Jameson

Georgia Lambert
George & Carrie Pope
Ruth M. Rhoades
Steve & Karen Shultz
Sue Simmons
Jay Stemska
Steven & Peggy Temple
Marcelle Turk

Our Home Preservation Grant Program

The CHPS Grant Committee along with the Board of Directors of the Corona Historic Preservation Society would like to assist local homeowners in making necessary 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.

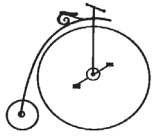
Take this opportunity to do some fixing up and have part of the material cost covered by CHPS. Remember we are interested in helping people beautify their homes for others to see, so applications are primarily for curb appeal projects. If you have a place that you feel needs help, either you

own or a neighbor's, please feel free to contact CHPS Home Preservation Grant Program Chairman Tom Richins at **tom@alignarc.com** or **949.231.8596**. 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 - Tom Richins
Vice President - Mary Winn
Secretary - Doris Osko
Treasurer - Richard Winn

Directors

Christine Gary
Trisha Henson
Paula Muñoz
Tom Muñoz
Fred Parr

Advisors

Marla Benson
Janette Neumann
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 organization dedicated to preservation and revitalization of Corona's historic buildings, neighborhoods and sites.

Through education, persuasion, legislation and organization, CHPS acts as an advocate for the preservation of Corona's historic resources.

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.

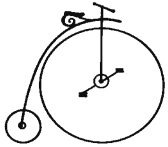
The next meetings will be:

Thursday, Jan 15, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office

Thursday, Feb 19 at CHPS office



Visit us at: www.Corona-History.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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



Norman Rockwell

CHPS sends our best wishes for 2015